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PARTY SMART

2512 Glenarm Ave
Dayton, Ohio 45420-2733

What Costs What

T-shirts are available without joining the HELL's M's SIG.

The HELL's M's logo can be printed for \$3.50 *plus postage* on any black item you provide.

T-Shirts

Size	Membership and shirt	Additional shirts	Add'l postage to Canada
S to XL	\$18.00	\$10.00	\$2.10
XXL	\$20.00	\$12.00	\$2.30
XXXL	\$21.00	\$13.00	\$2.65

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Size	Membership and shirt	Additional shirts	Add'l postage to Canada
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XXXL	\$25.00	\$17.00	\$4.30

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Size	Membership and apron	Additional apron	Add'l postage to Canada
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Starting a New Chapter

All new chapter names must be approved by Skinner.

To start a new chapter the first order must be for a minimum of 18 shirts at full price. If you cannot meet the minimum, send \$1.00 per shirt not ordered. Example: Order 10 shirts and send \$8.00 to cover the difference. This is to cover the cost for the new pattern.

The minimum is for the first order only. After the first order, shirts can be ordered individually.

HELL'S M's

Membership Application

Name _____

Mensa # _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Dues: \$8.00 per year (does not include shirt). Membership runs 6/30 to 6/30. If you join after 4/1 your membership runs through 6/30 of the following year.

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Days: (937) 258-0745

For tank tops or sweatshirts, put a "T" or an "S" next to the order.

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Contact Skinner for postage costs to countries other than the US or Canada.

Note: Shirts are custom printed; it can be 1-3 months before your shirt arrives.

PARTY SMART

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 views.

Submissions

Hell's M's is the Party SIG—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.

Deadline for the Winter issue: November 15, 2004

Deadline for the Spring issue: February 15, 2005

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 Mary Lee Kemper for providing pictures, to Debbie Brown for picture editing, and to Dorine Sharp for helping me keep track of Party Animals. A special thank you goes to Marcia Mariacher, my proofreading angel from hell.

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To keep track of the AMC agenda and the Committee Reports, go to <https://secure.us.mensa.org/members/index.php>. You'll need your user-name and password. Follow the link to Committee Reports. The ASIEs are under Member Resources.



Volume 16
Number 3

PARTY SMART

Fall 2004

Skinner Sez

*Skinner, Dayton Area Mensa,
skinner@hellsms.com*



This is Beth's last issue as our Editor and I want to start out thanking her for the job she has done. Zarya Steele has volunteered and will be our next Editor.

I have not been to any RGs since SEMMantics; I did not go to the AG and right now I am feeling Mensa-deprived. It has helped me realize how much a part of my life that Mensa is and how much I enjoy the time I get to spend with my Mensan friends. I don't have much to say for this issue. For many of you this will be your last copy of Party Smart—unless you send in your dues. Look at the address label; if it says 06-30-2004 then send in your dues. The rest of you can hold onto your money a little longer.

We have 2351 Hell's M's with 188 paying dues, supporting the SIG, and receiving Party Smart. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the fall RGs here in the Midwest. Till then, have fun and party!!!!

Skinner

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.

Sanctioned Event Report

At the Queen's Croquet

Queen Mary Lee Kemper, Cincinnati Area Mensa,

Well, this one was certainly notable! Seventy-six Mensans went to the Queen's Croquet. Oh sorry, have the Music Man running in my head :-). But there were 76 attendees and we had a blast!

This was the 14th Annual Queen's Croquet. The meal managers: Beth Weiss & Sandy Johnson, Virginia Plottel, Misty Richmond & Partner (ok—so his name is Steve Fletcher), and Long John Massura & Jamie Longstreth did a fabulous job feeding us all. John Parnell, Lee Berkovits, and Mikey Wolstein managed snack replenishment. The Sir Walter Raleigh Society, with 'Leader of the Pack' Merrilee Tanner kept us in ice for the weekend.

We played a lot of games and tournaments. We danced 'til the wee hours of the morn. We watched (and some cried) as Smarty Jones lost his bid for the Triple Crown at Belmont. And, as always, we held Court.

Court brings great laughter every year. Some of the petitions are so wittily crafted. As a sample, Brea, who runs the registration desk for me and is therefore the gatekeeper of the event, requested to hold the position of *Wicket Which of the Rest*. Mikey Wolstein, knowing that the Court already has a *Grillmeister*, lauded John Massura as the *Grillfriend of the Queen*. The Brood X Cicada invasion was noted when Barry Austern petitioned to include *Down for the Count*, *Sid Cada*, *Court Buzzer*. Five wonderful people were honored for taking care of me, way above and beyond the call of duty. They are: Misty Richmond, Brendan O'Brien, Elizabeth O'Brien, Tim Link and Part-

Check your mailing label; if the date is this summer, your Hell's M's membership is about to expire. You wouldn't want that to happen. So, pick a shirt—we have black, black, and black. You can have a t-shirt, tank top, or sweatshirt, or even send in a golf-style black shirt to have the logo put on it.

- "Consideration is being given to requiring certification of hospitality chairs and workers at the major Mensa events."
- "[RVC 5] SEIGLER said he favors having the hotel serve the alcohol, which is happening at this AG, but it is prohibitively expensive for smaller gatherings."
- [Executive Director] Donahoo: "Transfer the risk if possible; hire a bus company; don't use members' vans and cars."
- "[Past Chairman] REMINE said we should ban any mention of ride sharing mentions in local publications"

The September AMC agenda includes a proposal that Hospitality Chairs for AGs, RGs, LDWs and Colloquiums must complete a (federal, state, county, or Mensa) food safety course prior to the gathering or workshop.

The SIGs Advisory Committee has moved that membership in SIGs be limited to members of American Mensa, with the SIG coordinator determining if non-Mensans or members of International Mensa could participate as guests

The AMC is talking about these issues and committees are being asked to make recommendations. Decisions will be made. Policies may be created. The burning question, then, is who will make the decisions? How can we, as the ones who like to party, be sure any policies that are written support the Hell's M's goal of good times and good memories?

I am someone who makes tacos and cookies, who likes an occasional glass of wine, and has shared transportation and accommodations. I want to continue to do those things—that means I want an AMC that supports my right to party.

The election of the new AMC is this spring. I will be paying attention to who is running and what they think. I want to know who will support our right to party—and who is going to hurt us by voting for policies that limit our freedom to make good memories.

I'm going to be asking questions—and then I'll vote accordingly. I hope everyone else does, too.

Beth's Turn



*Beth Weiss, Dayton Area Mensa,
mbeth@bweiss.com*

American Mensa, Ltd. is the real name of U.S. Mensa. The governing body of AML is the American Mensa Committee (AMC). AML is an organization. The AMC is made up of people. A Hell's M can go forever not knowing that—it's easy for Ms to ignore Mensa politics. The AMC can have its quarterly meetings—and we can continue to have our parties.

But when the AMC's business meetings address party topics, Hell's M's need to pay attention. Statements in the minutes of the July AMC meeting included:

- "[Chairman] BECKER said we need policy and member education."

A New Level of Customer Service

After ordering from cdbaby.com, a Hell's M's friend received this email:

Your CD has been gently taken from our CD Baby shelves with sterilized contamination-free gloves and placed onto a satin pillow.

A team of 50 employees inspected your CD and polished it to make sure it was in the best possible condition before mailing.

Our packing specialist from Japan lit a candle and a hush fell over the crowd as he put your CD into the finest gold-lined box that money can buy.

We all had a wonderful celebration afterwards and the whole party marched down the street to the post office where the entire town of Portland waved 'Bon Voyage!' to your package, on its way to you, in our private CD Baby jet on this day, Tuesday, April 13th.

I hope you had a wonderful time shopping at CD Baby. We sure did.

Your picture is on our wall as 'Customer of the Year'. We're all exhausted but can't wait for you to come back to CDBABY.COM!!"

"CD Baby: a little CD store with the best new independent music."

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ner. They joined Virginia Plottel, Ted Harkey, Julie Harkey and Greg Crawford as members of *The Royal Order of the Golden Soul*. And a new order was established, *The Order of Chiron*, whose first inductee was Long John Massura.

Court can also bring tears. Happy tears!!!! The final petition was from Bob Fritz, *The Duke of Earl*, requesting that the title of the *Duchess Treat* Jamie Longstreth be changed to *The Duchess of Earl*. At that point he turned to her, went down on both knees and proposed marriage. Jamie demurely accepted with a resounding "Yes!" This brought everyone to their feet, clapping and hurraing and there were many tears of joy. Bob and Jamie plan to marry at the Croquet next year.

All in all, the Fourteenth Annual Queen's Croquet was a great success.

Recent Party Animals

Terry Graham

Col-M-Pics: It's All Greek to Me

Columbus, OH, July 30 - August 1, 2004

Terry Graham ran away with the Party Animal vote at the Columbus RG. She seemed to be in a hundred places at once—Hospitality, the Hearts table, the Deuchre tournament, the Opening Ceremony...and in all those places, she helped people enjoy the wonderful party going on!



Debbie Omel

Alabama RG

Huntsville, AL, August 13 - 15, 2004

Debbie Omel was known as the "RG Ottoman". Lesser mortals might have called her the RG Chair, since she ran the whole event. The weekend in Huntsville was enjoyed by all who attended.

Please send pictures of new Party Animals and write ups to the Editor at PARTYSMART@hellsms.com.

Party Report: The FōJ

Fourth of July Party

Mary Lee Kemper, queenmarylee@cinci.rr.com

It was born during a discussion last July at the Columbus RG. Greg Crawford thought a party should be held for those who could not attend this year's AG. He talked it over with Mary Lee Kemper and soon after Nancy Heller was named Hospitality Chair. So Greg and Mary Lee and Nancy, with a lot of help from their friends, threw a four-day party that included speakers, two dances, tournaments, a movie room and the typical running around and hilarity found at Midwest Gatherings.

Nancy did a spectacular job with the food. I can't find the words to truly describe it. It was simply spectacular. Nan Harvey, Joan Russell, Red Bellamy, Virginia Plottel and Beth Weiss also cooked for the party. Greg brought the Woodchuck Amber cider which was well received! He also made most of the additional food runs for the weekend. Thanks also to Lee Berkovits, Loretta Olson and Bruce Ellington for additional store jaunts.

The Sir Walter Raleigh Society did the ice runs. I want to thank Jamie Longstreth for heading that up all weekend. She made numerous ice trips and cried "Cheeble Run" with each delivery. Though she personally packed a lot of ice into Cyd Chartreuse, she never had to carry a single bag up the stairs to the beverage tubs. The Cheebliers were wonderful!

We had a great team of workers on Thursday. Long John and Sandi Massura, Greg Crawford and Marcia Mariacher, Nancy Heller and Bob Osterman, Ted and Julie Harkey and Misty Richmond and her daughters Sarah, Rachel and Maggie made the move-in and setup possible. Three cheers for the Muleteers!

And then there was the budget. I'm happy to report that we made a grand total of 15 cents. Yes, we counted pennies!

The FōJ was a success and I hope other folk will host parties like it.

As with any great AG, I ran into friends I hadn't seen in years, and got to put faces to people I'd "met" online or had heard about through mutual friends. Smoking Hospitality was a huge room in an ideal location—a short stagger from regular Hospitality, but separated by a heavy-duty door. The non-smokers didn't have to deal with the smoke, but they missed the late night musicfests.

Miscellaneous wondrous things: LUK, with Belgian chocolate and without crutches!! Hospitality and all meeting rooms in close proximity, and the ladies' (oops mesdames') room in the meeting area that had 50+ stalls! Apparently there were sufficient programs and events for children, because I didn't see any munchkins until Saturday night. They had been entertained in a location that kept them away from those of us who prefer to socialize with adults in a kid-free environment—everybody's happy! Even the weather cooperated; afternoon highs were only 96-98F.

Oh, and if you're wondering why I called this a "win-win-win" situation instead of the more traditional "win-win", see above reference to time spent in Paris' sport book.

Cookie, ya done good!

Chapter Being Formed

Tucson Margaritas

Cheryl Stewart and Peggie Dearden of Tucson Mensa are opening a new chapter to be called *Tucson Margaritas*. Anyone in the area should immediately join us! Just call me, Peggie, at (520) 795-0234 or email to peggiedear@ultrasw.com.

Blessed be!

The Winter Issue

Welcome our new editor, Zarya Steele, by sending her something for the next issue

Use the address PARTYSMART@hellsms.com

Been to any good parties lately? Share!

Las Vegas ExtravAGanza

Fourth of July with 1800 of my closest friends!

Rochelle Lefarth, Isolated M, gahlka@earthlink.net

In 2002, soon after learning that the 2004 AG would be in Las Vegas, I started what would be a two-year argument with myself. Las Vegas in July? Oh joy, another AG in the desert. Guess I'll be skipping this one too. But I love Vegas. Yes, but previous visits have been during winter months. AG events will be predominantly indoors, in the a/c. *But it's Vegas, baby!! You can't go to Vegas and not "do Vegas"—that would be a sin against Sin City.* If I'm going to be stuck inside in a/c avoiding heat, I can stay home in St. Louis and avoid both heat and humidity. Hmm, Cookie just announced that we can get from the Paris hotel rooms to the meeting rooms without going through the casino...a definite plus (I love casinos, but the lights and noises don't like me). Of course, at night, the temperature does go down to the 70s. And most of the nifty Vegas stuff is after dark anyway. Oooh, the program schedule has been posted.

Fortunately, when I argue with myself, I always win.

This proved to be a win-win-win situation. As usual, with multi-track programming, decisions have to be made, but this was the first time the dilemma of having to decide between three or four concurrent events presented itself multiple times. Three dances kept even MJ Tala happy! We didn't find time to visit sport book until Sunday afternoon.

The highlight of the AG for me was a tour of Sheri's Ranch—a brothel about 40 miles from Las Vegas. The manager (aka madam) had presented a program Thursday, and there was an optional tour and lunch at the Ranch the next day. It was intriguing, fascinating and just plain fun! (The fun continued when I returned to St. Louis and showed the brochure/menu to my male co-workers, and told them the details of the tour, like about the "employees" who had been sunning themselves by the pool...but enough about this part of the AG.)

Party Peripherals

From Beth Weiss, Dayton Area Mensa

Hi all!

There was a green extension cord that really liked my orange extension cord, so they came home together. I explained to my orange extension cord that it wasn't permitted to have houseguests, and that the green extension cord would have to go home. However, the green extension cord refused to tell me where home was. So, if someone would be willing to enlighten me, we can make arrangements for the green extension cord to be sent home so that it doesn't continue this inappropriate friendship with my orange extension cord.

--Beth

From Mary Lee Kemper, Cincinnati Area Mensa

Beth,

The green extension cord is mine. And I am happy that it has found a friend in your orange extension cord. So as to not cut short (pun intended) its relationship with orange, please feel free to let them spend time together until the FōJ. If they seem welded together at that point, we can arrange custody just so they are happy together.

Mary Lee

From Virginia Plottel, Western PA Mensa

There seems to be an awful lot of permanent-relationship-formation going on...and now I see it has even spread to our peripheral Gathering-assistance equipment. We may need to come up with some sort of ceremony or ritual suitable for entities whose primary energy form is electrical.

At least those two don't have to drive back and forth on I-70.

Virginia

The Queen's Croquet Surprise

Bob Reveals the Surprise



It is with great pleasure that I reveal the Queen's Croquet Surprise....

At the end of Queen Mary Lee's court, I asked Jamie to marry me, and she accepted.

QML was the only person I let in on my surprise during the planning stages. Jamie said several times during the weekend that she thought I was being sneaky about something,

and I wasn't about to let on. :) I simply could find no better time or place to propose than among the greatest friends anybody could have.

But wait, there's more! Our tentative plan is to have the wedding at next year's Queen's Croquet, and everyone is invited! The Queen's Croquet wedding tradition continues.....

My deepest thanks to all who have given us their best wishes, and I hope to see all of you at QCXV!

Bob

As you get one step closer to the aisle

Jamie Chimes In

Everyone's chimed in but me on this so I guess I'd better say something.

I had no idea what was going to happen. Bob had been acting like he was up to something all week, but I had no idea what. He said "all would be revealed" and I said "of course it will, but what are you up to?" (tee hee) Patience is not my strong suit.

Even when he got up before the court, I didn't know what he was

any fun....but it was a blast! I'm hooked.

Adina Sobo did a wonderful presentation on "How Critters Do It," and managed to present it on an intellectual level, while interjecting humor and fun facts. I believe that the audience was truly disappointed when it was over!

I was the "food and drink police" for the Thursday night entertainment, manning the door for the programs. All were very well attended. The Platters were very good and just as professional as the originals. The crowd was really impressed with their talent. It was fun to see the audience participation during the Neil Diamond impersonator....he really did look like Neil Diamond, and I thought some of those women were going to toss their panties on stage—they were really getting into it! I only had one young woman ask me who Neil Diamond was. The Steinhiccapades were, as usual, very entertaining and they had added a few new songs since I had heard them last. The place was stuffed....even Mensans who just wandered by to see what the entertainment was ended up getting pulled right in!

Like most people, I spent some time exploring the rest of the hotel, and some of Vegas. I saw the Bellagio fountain show (which was directly across the street from the Paris) from several different angles over the course of the week. I went up in the faux Eiffel Tower at night, which was very cool! I walked through the faux streets of Paris and saw Mensans in every window!

All in all, this was a very successful AG, and everyone I ran into was having a good time!

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)

STORMHENG (XL)

Joy Boy GayM Toy (2 M)

THE PRIMORDIAL OOHs

AND AAAHs (XL)

Party Report: The AG

Barbara Kryvko, St. Louis Area Mensa,
barbarastl@charter.net

I just returned from the AG, and I am worn out. I'm not one to stay up to all hours like I used to, but there was so much going on, I barely even noticed the time (speaking of time, it was a continual problem for me, as I took four watches with me, and kept forgetting on which ones I had changed the time. If you asked me the time at any point in the AG, I apologize!).

Of course, my #1 priority was the volunteer situation, so I spent a lot of time running between volunteer hotspots and making sure that there was coverage. I was very inspired by the huge interest in signing up for volunteer shifts before the AG even started, and that spirit of helpfulness continued all weekend. I was constantly approached by people wanting to volunteer, and had sign-up sheets in the registration room that were almost full. I never—not once— saw more than two people in line at registration all weekend!

Hospitality was l-a-r-g-e, and I never lacked a drink, a snack (yay! dried fruit!) or anyone to talk to. The "lobby" part of the conference center had never-ending padded French benches that always held many conversations, and the potential for many more. The Games Room was well used, and there was always an available table. I learned to play *Palabra*, and even played in the tournament (and didn't do too badly). There was a super-stocked craft corner in the Games Room, and there were always great works of art being created....hats, centerpieces, decorated badges, anything! It was a pretty innovative idea that people really seemed to enjoy.

I attended a few programs, and enjoyed each one. Author Neal Shusterman kept me enthralled for four hours. Yes, I know...I can usually barely make it through an hour-long program, but he was incredibly interesting. His first two hours were about his book writing and screenwriting career, and the second two hours were about his "How to Host a Murder" games. The last hour was spent playing the games, and I never thought anything scripted like that would be

up to. I started realizing when I saw he had a ring in his hand; it took that long. Maybe I'm dense. Anyway, there wasn't a doubt in my mind I'd say yes.

It was the most romantic thing I'd ever experienced, and it meant so much for everyone to be there with us when it happened... and I really hope everyone comes next year for the wedding.

Thanks to Mensa and Hell's M's, I've met my life's love. Life is good.

Jamie, future *Duchess of Earl*

Booteak

In addition to the traditional t-shirts, the following Hell's M's items are also available. Order something new to go along with your renewal this year—don't you need a Hell's M's tie? Or perhaps a patch?

One new option is to print a small logo (no chapter) on a golf-style shirt. You provide the shirt. The cost is \$3.50 *plus postage*.

Tank tops, sweatshirts, and aprons	See the order form
Hell's M's Stickers	10 for \$1, 60 for \$5, 100 for \$8, 200 for \$15
Temporary Tattoos	1 for \$2, 6 for \$10, 10 for \$15, 15 for \$20
2"x3" patch	\$5
Ties	\$15
Belt buckles, black and pewter	\$15
Embroidered logo	\$40.00 - you supply a black jacket or material \$12.00 - for chapter name \$4.00 - for your name
Print the logo on your shirt or jacket	\$3.50 <i>plus postage</i>

Would you like to converse with your party friends between RGs and other events? Join Hell's M's on-line:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HellsMs/>

SETI

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

Did you ever want to be involved in serious scientific research, maybe help to explore deep space for the betterment of all the people of Earth, but you just couldn't tear yourself away from your day job at Burger King? Or maybe you watched the movie *Contact* and thought that the work they were doing in the desert with those big dish antennas was really cool and you'd love to try something like that yourself. Well, now you can help in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) from the comfort of your very own home or office (and even when you're not in your home or office!)

The University of California Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory (SSL) is looking for "a little help from their friends" to analyze data from the big radio telescope located at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. All that is required for your participation is an internet-accessible PC or Macintosh with a few billion free cycles you'd be willing to donate (the cycles, not the computer).

The SSL provides the software and the data and then you can provide a piece of what is probably the largest data analysis project the world has ever seen. Currently there are nearly five million computers in homes and offices around the world working on the project. There are all types of computers—from a child's old 386 system that takes a week to analyze one sky location to supercomputers which do a hundred locations or more a day. The neat part about the software the SSL has written for personal computers is that it runs in the background at a low priority so it never interferes with normal usage.

Making things a bit more interesting is that there is an informal competition between analysis teams. There are all types of teams, from large corporate teams to school teams to city teams to clubs. Currently the Hell's M's team has seven members and we've con-

Rather than stock up ahead of time, the AG Committee chose to keep careful track of what was and wasn't "going" in Hospitality, and made daily orders (usually on Sam's website, although not this day) to restock; the flexibility paid off. The amount of pork rinds purchased, which was initially small, was increased rapidly, as pork rinds and nuts were the only protein snacks available in Hospitality.

Hospitality was pretty much what we had been told to expect—chips, dried fruit, Hershey's kisses, M&Ms, nuts, and pork rinds on the snack table, and a good selection of beer, wine, soft drinks, and bottled water (both by jug and by individual bottle). One of the more surprising (and successful) options was that about half the water jugs were left unplugged and thus at room temperature—something desired by many attendees. I can't honestly say that I missed having "meal" foods served in Hospitality, but I did miss having dips for the various chips.

The layout of the rooms in the convention area worked well. The Games/Tournaments/Crafts Room were close to Hospitality, as were the Smokers' Suite, the Registration/Boutique Room, the Teen/Tween room, and most of the program rooms. The leadership academy and SIG programs were held in meeting rooms in Bally's connected hotel—given the layout, they were about the same distance from Hospitality as was the elevator bank to the sleeping rooms in the Paris. The program highlight was the M&M Reaffirmation of Vows—I attended and watched as a non-participant; you couldn't help but be moved by the ceremonies. The Annual Business Meeting, normally a non-event, proved unusually satisfying, as ProxyQuest came to a successful conclusion (yes, there were two dissenting votes!).

The Games Room was constantly busy (sometimes busier than Hospitality), and I partook heavily of the selection of tournaments.

All in all, it was a good but not great AG. It will make neither my list of best AGs I've attended, nor my list of the worst AGs I've attended. A lot of friends (over 1800 attendees, I understand), a lot of activities, and an interesting city to visit—I had a good time, and I'm glad I went.

Party Report: AG

Rick Magnus, Cincinnati Area Mensa,
rmagnus2@juno.com

Texans claim that everything is bigger in Texas. In fact, it's Las Vegas where everything is bigger.

Things are on such a large scale in Las Vegas that you can't help but lose perspective. Something like eight of the ten largest hotels in the world are on the Las Vegas Strip, and it affects everything. My room, on the 14th floor of the Paris, was less than halfway up. A block in Las Vegas is a mile long. I went to pick up a show ticket 1½ blocks from the Paris, a distance that appeared easily walkable; ½ hour later, I was still walking. The good news is that i) the exercise was good for me and ii) I drove back that night, parking for free.

The shows I saw in Las Vegas ranged from very good to truly great. Blue Man Group was, IMHO, the best theatrical performance I've ever seen, and I'd gladly go see it again every month for the rest of my life. Penn & Teller (the only show I saw that wasn't booked through the AG) were highly enjoyable, Lance Burton was a little too juvenile for my tastes but still quite good, and the Tournament of Kings was a guilty pleasure (suffice it to say, the writers probably all have experience writing for pro wrestling).

After losing the lottery for a seat on the nuclear test site tour, I managed to win the last seat available through the MERF auction. The test site is truly unique, and seeing it with a bunch of Mensans (who asked questions as only Mensans can) made for a fascinating tour. When all was said and done, the tour was a great combination of a history lesson, a lesson in applied nuclear physics, and a view of spectacular desert scenery.

I volunteered through Hell's M's for a two-hour shift in hospitality, and ended up doing 3 hours, most of it off-site. I accompanied the local Mensan who was chairing Hospitality on a shopping trip to Sam's Club (he suggested my black "Hell's Mensans" t-shirt was a rarity in Las Vegas in summer!), where we did the day's buying.

tributed over twelve *CPU-years* to the effort which translates into almost 6000 *Work Units*. Our most senior team members have been doing this for many years.

But our Hell's M's team needs help—the main Mensa team has over 200 members and has contributed over 600 *CPU-years* and 465,000 *Work Units*. It'd be nice to show them we're not just another pretty face.

Let me know if you have questions or need help getting started and I'll be glad to help. For more details, see the main SETI site:

<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>

If you want to see how we're doing, or if you have downloaded the SETI@home software and want to join the Hell's M's team go to:

http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/stats/team/team_183120.html

Oh, and one last thing—I'm sorry to have to report that batteries and Jody Foster are not included.

Party Animal Hall of Fame

Remember that these people are now ineligible to be selected as Party Animal at future RGs. (I know this makes selecting the Party Animal a little difficult because there have been many times when I have had to ask people for a second name when I am collecting the votes because these Party Animals are still helping people have a good time.)

Robert Andrus

Rochelle Lefarth

Red Bellamy

Ray O'Connor

Cher Burnham

Loretta Olson

Greg Crawford

Dave Plottel

Niki Foor

Yvonne Porter

Rob Foor

Mary Jane Tala

Linda Hathaway

Debra Williams

Mary Lee Kemper

Party Report: Las Vegas AG

Maureen Henderson, Plains and Peaks Mensa,
EveningStarTwo@yahoo.com

Hmmmm, well we all knew that this one was going to be different. The organizers said so and different is not always good or bad, just ... different.

My husband and I arrived around 11 p.m. We drove 14 hours so we were a bit frazzled. We checked in and went looking for the AG—not expecting too much at that hour but hoping to find out when registration opened the next day. Well, we had no sooner gotten to the convention area than a hotel security person told us that this was a “controlled area and that we had to leave”. It would have been nice had he let us check the bulletin board for when registration opened but we were too tired to argue. We went downtown and ate and came back and collapsed.

The sleeping rooms at Paris are nice, expensive but nice. The ones at Cincinnati were just as nice and I think larger. But then I couldn't see the corner of the fountain of the Bellagio from Cincinnati. The convention area was quite spacious and the Hospitality room huge. The organizers used a business model (or so I heard, I could be wrong) for Hospitality and that is what it felt like. There were soft drinks and beer—and a wonderful draft root beer for as long as it lasted—and snacks like potato chips, nuts, and granola bars. But for me, the fun is the people. I almost always meet several people in Hospitality by sitting down at a too-full table and striking up a conversation. I did that this time too but only once because there just was no reason for people to hang around Hospitality.

I went to a couple of programs: one by a professor at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas on the history of the strip that was quite good. Another one that I went to wasn't so good but I'm pretty sure the guy was a volunteer and doing his best. I was disappointed that the program by the madam was Wednesday—we arrived Thursday—so I missed it. I'm not a good person to judge programs because I rarely go to many of them. I just have other things I'd rather

do and I didn't see where the organizers spent all the money saved from hospitality but then I'm no expert on this.

All in all, I had a good time and I think that most people get out of an AG what they want to. But if this particular model is to be used again, and announced beforehand, I probably won't go.

Party On!!!

Heard on Hell's M's Yahoo!

Ugly Wedding Dresses

Beth Weiss shares: Fortunately for all of us, Marcia and Jamie both have too much taste to purchase any of the gowns shown on this site. However, the owner of this site gives a new meaning to “LOL”—it turned into guffaw out loud—she is hysterical!

<http://www.uglyweddingdress.com>

Peep Peep Peep

Bob Osterman shares: On another board, I found information on Peep jousting:

Have any of you tried Peep Jousting? All you need are two Marshmallow Peeps, two toothpicks, and a microwave oven.

First, you insert a toothpick under the “wing” of each Peep so that it looks like a little jousting lance. Next, put the Peeps into a microwave oven so that they are facing each other an inch or two apart. Then, turn on the microwave.

As the Peeps heat up, they begin to expand, thus getting closer and closer to their opponents' “lance”.

Well, I think you can all see where this is going. A couple of tips:

- If you have a microwave with one of those rotating plates then you might want to use different colored Peeps so you don't lose track of yours during all the excitement.
 - If you have a wife, then you might want to try this at your friend's house. If he has a wife, then try the company break room.
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