

A new connection for all members! See p04

from the editor... development news



Hello, All,

I hope all of our readers are safe and well in this time of international crisis. If you are in a position to do so, please reach out to your neighbours, friends, and fellow members to offer them whatever help you can. Some of you must be isolated and alone; there's a wonderful new Mensa Workplace forum to which every member is invited to share thoughts and ideas (see p04 for details).

We meet our first DIM Member Profile (2014) on p05 to catch up with what he's been doing in the years since then, and Kishore Asthana, former President of Mensa India shares with us his views on the algorithm of life on p09.

All our regulars are with us - Therese's Teasers, Supplementally, Member Profile, and the Feature article, this month delving into the belief in fake news.

Happy reading and stay well, Kate

I can report another wonderful achievement: we will extend the IBD table by one chair. After being a Provisional Mensa for quite a long time, Mensa Mexico has achieved Full National Status!

Our Executive Director Michael Feenan has checked the application materials of Mensa Mexico against the requirements of ASIE 06-21, and following the result, ExComm unanimously approved Mexico's recognition as a Full National Mensa.

This achievement is the result of the diligent work of many volunteers, and the concerted efforts of former chair Ilsa Ruiz, current chair, Guillermo Vázquez and their devoted helper, ex-chair Cinthia Reyes.

I am particularly happy about this achievement as this is another parabolic story. Mexico became an Emerging, then Provisional Mensa chaired by Cinthia, while I was Director of Development. Now, I can witness their attaining full status.

Mexico started its activities in 2008, became an ENM in 2008 and a PNM in 2010. It has 370 active members and a great potential to grow.

Congratulations to everyone who made that happen!

Floreat Mensa! **Bibiana Balanyi Director of Development**

MWJ Poetry Competition

The Mensa World Journal is proud to announce its 2020 Poetry Competition for members worldwide.

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, mwjeditor@ mensa.org, by August 1, 2020.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length. There are no limitations on the theme/topic.

All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into.

By submitting an entry (maximum of three entries) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the Mensa World Journal or in any other National Mensa journal at the editors' discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged. Please include your

National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

Log into the International website www.mensa.org for the calendar of (online) national events

from the excomm...

From the Director of Development

I am happy to report that a lot has been done since my first report to you. I reached out to all emerging and provisional groups via email, Facebook, Workplace and WhatsApp to give them a kind 'push' to move to higher status and asked if they needed help. All responses were highly positive. Groups felt energized and appreciated 'being talked to'. They especially appreciated prompt answers and 'instant' help. All the groups wanted to move to higher status. I provided all necessary documents, explained the procedure and answered questions.

This approach proved to be fruitful: India achieved Provisional status in January, after several decades of being ENM. (For me, this was a dream coming true.) Peru is new on the map of Mensa community: it received Emerging status in January. In March, Mexico achieved Full status after many years of being provisional. But more is yet to come: India aims at full status; Peru, Taiwan and Luxembourg are heading towards becoming provisional. I am in active contact with Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Bosnia.

There are many new opportunities as well. Some national groups became so energized seeing development successes that they decided to lend a helping hand in establishing Mensa in other countries. Turkey is again on the way; there are activities in Russia (helped by Spain), Albania (Montenegro) and Ukraine (Poland). Unfortunately, Colombia had to be downgraded to ENM status at the request of its national chair, the main reason being inactivity. We will work with them in the future to explore if it can be invigorated again. I have created welcome ('mom-



my') letters for the countries receiving a new status.

The welcome letter congratulates them and outlines the next steps. I also introduced the idea that the MI office sends out a signed certificate for the groups achieving an elevated status. This can serve as a memory item helping them to remember and be proud of their achievements. It can be displayed for the members, urging volunteers to work on the next level. All that, and some other documents, will constitute a welcome package.

As promised, I created a Facebook

group 'Mensa Development Forum' to connect national chairs and their appointed development co-ordinators worldwide, where they can exchange ideas, transfer know-how and share best practices. It is up and running.

The pandemic has changed the premises and arena for development, and has put social interaction and programmes on hold (resulting in fundamental problems for many groups). It is hitting Mensa where it hurts the most: social events can-

continued on p04

(from p03)

not take place. Our organisation is based on socializing, being together and being in an intellectually stimulating environment with each other. Development work has become harder to meet status requirements. There is uncertainty about any future development travels of the Executive Director, and this makes planning almost impossible.

However, I try to view that as an opportunity. I am confident that a part of the development job can be performed even in times of lockdown. Active work is going on, primarily based on reaching out to groups via various platforms, and being present with assistance on an immediate service basis.

I strongly hope that by the time you read this article, all that will be a bad memory. We can all take energy from the hardships of being isolated and jump into Mensa again, moving it forward hand in hand!

Please do not leave Mensa in these hard times. Mensa needs you more than ever. And you need Mensa and the inspiring community it provides. Please stay and stick together!

Floreat Mensa

Bibiana Balanyi Director of Development

Cover photo courtesy of BKGOH on Unsplash

Workplace for all members!



In the midst all that is happening around us, here is some good news to help us through this together. More than ever, members yearn for and seek the world class connections, experiences, networks and activities that our society has been known and cherished for and there can't be a better time than now to experience that.

We are proud to invite you to Mensa's truly global online membership platform where groups, events and conversations can exist exclusively for members.

Today, we introduce to you Mensa International Workplace. To access, simply use your Mensa International Member Email (https://www.mensa.org/user/ vanity-email) and log in at mensainternational.workplace.com.

The goal of the Mensa International Workplace is to create an exclusive platform where every member around the world can connect and collaborate with other members in a safe and secure way. Members can take advantage of this platform by having access to features like groups that can act as SIGs or National Mensa groups which only members can be a part of. They can also host events and invite other members to participate.

Find features such as a dedicated main app AND chat app, groups, polls, video streaming, photos, tags and so much more in a format that is powerful, secure and best of all, familiar to all. That is because Workplace is effectively the same as Facebook, but for companies and organisations.

There is never a better time than now; to be even more connected with the largest and most established High IQ society in the world, than now; in a time when everyone is far apart.

Bring your membership to new heights. Welcome to the Mensa International Workplace!

Tan Kee Aun	Björn Liljeqvist
Chair, Malay'n Mensa	Chairman MIL

Joint initiators of the Mensa Workplace Project

Hello again!

Six years ago, Nghia Doan was the very first Direct International Member to feature in the MWJ Member Profile feature. I caught up with Doan for an update on his life...

Doan is a 49 year-old Vietnamese/ Canadian, born in Hanoi, Vietnam, and currently living in Ottawa, Canada. He spent almost 13 years in Europe, achieved a M.Sc. degree in programming theories and numeric analysis from Eotvos Lorand University in Hungary, worked as an IT architect for several international corporations in Hungary and Finland, and travelled to most European countries before going back to Vietnam in 2002. He spent 12 years in Vietnam, building up a company providing IT, media and telecommunication solutions in government, education, finance and healthcare sectors. He is known as a trusted supplier of cyber security solutions for the government, healthcare software for hospitals and health organizations, and e-learning systems for universities.

His work was officially recognized with numerous awards and patents.

After settling in Canada at the end of 2014, he worked from 2015 to 2019 in research and development to solve some fundamental data science problems for the Canadian federal government. He was a member of several government R&D and funding programs. Recently he founded Agiga Quanta, a new busi-



ness venture focused on application of data science for emerging business development.

During the years in Hungary he discovered Mensa from his close friends, who were Mensa members. He was fascinated by their capabilities, and in 2013, he decided to join Mensa and did the testing in Vietnam. It was difficult since there was no Mensa Vietnam and no one in Vietnam was a Mensa member. Being a DIM is difficult to keep in contact because of immense geographical distances.

He is married to a beautiful Vietnamese lady. They have a 23 yearold son, who has just graduated as a mathematician from the University of Waterloo; a 15 year- old girl, who has beautiful paintings (https://catheringallery.wordpress.com) and who wants to be a scientist. For over five years, Doan has run a number of mathematical clubs for middle- and highschool students. His students have performed very well, winning medals at provincial and national levels in national (Canada) and international competitions. His other hobbies include reading, walking, astronomy and cooking. KN

(pictured left, the family in Mexico)

Writing for the MWJ

The Mensa World Journal is your magazine and it would be wonderful if you were to share your thoughts with the rest of the Mensa world. By and large, most of the articles are written by Mensans for Mensans - and the opportunity is there for you to be one of these authors.

Topics can cover reports of Mensa events you've attended, your achievements, unusual hobbies and interests, or your successes.

Please limit your article length to 600 words and send it to mwjeditor@mensa.org. Please also include your National Mensa and your membership number.

Digging up the Raj

Following extensive research at Deansgrange Cemetery, Dublin, Shabnam Vasisht, a member of Irish Mensa, discovered the remarkable achievements of a wide range of Irish people who lived and worked in India during British rule.

There were servicemen who fought in the Indian Mutiny, hard-working civil servants and eminent judges, and missionaries who aimed to convert sun-worshipping heathens to 'muscular Christianity'. Shabnam's quest was to bring these extraordinary people to the attention of future generations.

Her book, *Digging up the Raj in Deansgrange Cemetery* was supported by a Heritage grant from her local County Council. The book launch, by the Chairman of the County Council, took place in the Lexicon library in Dun Laoghaire, a seaside district of County Dublin.

The guest speaker was Brigadier General Paul Pakenham (ret'd) Director, Military Heritage of Ireland Trust, who first invited Shabnam to post military biographies on the MHIT website. She has been writing a blog for the military website for the past three years under 'DIGGING UP THE RAJ'. As a result, she has been contacted by descendants of her subjects from as far away as New Zealand.

An exhibition showcasing a selection of biographies accompanied the book launch and ran for the month in the Lexicon before beginning its tour of Dublin libraries.

Shabnam first considered this fascinating topic following a walk through Deansgrange Cemetery with her sister who was taking photographs of elaborate tombstones. They came across a particularly ostentatious one for a Captain James Vaughan who had fought in the Indian Mutiny. Further exploration yielded inscriptions such as 'Madras Army', 'Indian Staff Corps', 'Died in Red Sea on way home from India' etc. With the help of the cemetery supervisor, she found nearly eighty graves. She began to research the lives of the soldiers, including information on regiments and campaigns and family members who warranted attention.

Shabnam's father was an Indian army officer and her mother a historian, so she always had a keen interest in military history. Her parents were married soon after Indian Independence, their wedding plans delayed by Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Their postings took them to stations all over India as well as the Indian Military Mission in Nepal.

Apart from army quarters in cantonments, Shabnam lived in tents, palaces and houseboats, so was familiar with many of the places, both in India and Ireland, mentioned in her book.

A Member Profile of Shabnam will be included in the July MWJ. Ed.

thoughts...

From the deeper layers of the human psyche, beautiful, ethereal and creative images *may flow into the stream of* consciousness. The pilot of the mind may fashion these verbal outpourings into poetic structure. The feelings generated by this process may be spiritual or mystical as a direct result of a higher consciousness state emanating from the brain. The spirit, in my case, is not from an external, supernatural power, but is an inner response to the self in relation to the stimuli of the external world. I have been lucky to leave nine books behind on Amazon as a result.

In my perception the inner core being, the existential psyche, is well served by self-belief. With the rise of covid-19, mental well-being is threatened by anxiety, depression and stress generated from both within and without. It is time to be pragmatic and to practise calm contemplation of a thoughtful and philosophical nature. Assess what personal survival needs you have and try to meet them. Many people will become more inward-looking, turn to spiritual matters and the human condition. The world, the outer world has changed and consciousness of humans will evolve in the face of crisis.

Jim Emerton

Member Profile

by Susan Jensen

Dr Frank Luger was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1946. His parents (father an eminent ophthalmologist, mother a Sorbonne philologist) were both from nobility and therefore suspect in the eyes of the Communist government. Frank could read before he could speak and was writing fairy tales by age four.

Frank was imprisoned by the Communists from age 14-16 but managed, upon his release, to pass all exams for the remaining high-school grades, qualifying for university by age 17. His parents worried about such freakish abilities and sent him to a psychiatric institute for a full evaluation. The psychiatrist warned that Frank's estimated IQ of 196 was way beyond what tests could measure (at that time, the highest the tests went was to 175) and explained that Frank might have a boring, difficult, and lonely life.

Frank applied to medical school, but because of his "undesirable" political past, was relegated to studying Laboratory Medicine. He completed a five-year program in three years with a doctoral dissertation and did part of his internship in clinical laboratories.

On October 8, 1966 Frank took a train to visit his girlfriend in southern Hungary, but then escaped the Iron Curtain through Yugoslavia to Italy. On October 12, 1966, Frank arrived in Italy and soon continued, via Switzerland, to a refugee camp in Germany, where he received political asylum.

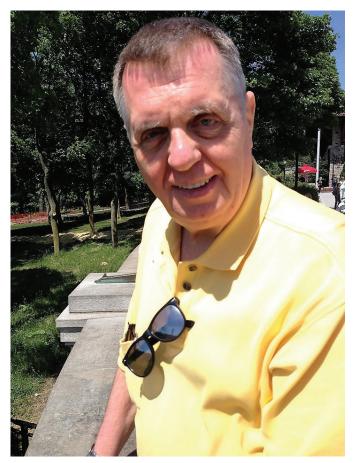
After finishing his internship he emigrated first to Miami and then, in February 1968, to Montreal. He was in charge of exfoliative cytopathology in a private hospital; and taught clinical biochemistry at university. Later he completed undergraduate and graduate psychology studies with first-class honours.

In 1995, Frank stumbled upon a book of enjoyable

Mensa brain-teasers and became a Mensa member. He has been editor of PhiSIGma (British Mensa physics SIG journal) and contributes regularly to the Mensa Canada journal.

In 1989, Frank converted to Reform Judaism and moved to Jerusalem in 2002. He founded Mensa Israel which became exceptionally active in community outreach to gifted Israelis. Frank returned to Montreal a few years later and sadly, Mensa Israel foundered soon afterwards.

Frank is now a retired widower who keeps active writing [23 books in all genres, even Ultimate Reality,



published on www.lulu.com (type "Frank Luger" in the Search box)]. He has won awards in scholarship, leadership, writing, and science. He is an advanced chess player and treasures fine art (his deceased sister Maria Lugossy was a famed glass artist). His older brothers were also imprisoned for a while but later one became a noted cinematographer, the other a successful novelist.

Frank agrees with the psychiatrist who suggested an exceptionally high IQ makes it hard to fit in with society. He treasures his hard-won intellectual freedom, and appreciates his many friends in Mensa.

Why do People Believe Fake News?

On a bright summer's day in 1955, Pan Am flight 914 took off from New York to its destination in Miami, with 61 people onboard. Mysteriously and unexpectedly, the plane vanished from the air traffic controllers' radars. An extensive search revealed absolutely no evidence of a crash anywhere along its flight path. There was no fire, no dead bodies and not a single piece of evidence to locate the vanished plane.

The air traffic controller on duty at Venezuela's Caracas airport was stunned when he saw a mysterious spot on the radar; attempts to communicate with the plane were successful and the pilot identified it as Pan Am flight 914. Juan de la Corte, the ATC, cleared the plane to land for a quick stopover. The aircraft landed, the pilot dropped something and took off a few minutes later. This appears to be the story of just another plane that had flown off-course, except for one problem. The plane took off from New York in 1955 and landed in Caracas in 1985. 30 years later!

At least this is what one of the world's most popular urban legends expects us to believe. This story first appeared in print in *Weekly World News*, a publication of dubious repute, and was soon picked up by the press all over the world. Despite its being debunked over and over again, there are still thousands who refuse to accept the fact that this was fabricated.

Similarly, there are still millions who believe that a mystery surrounds the Bermuda Triangle (despite being debunked by ocean scientists), or childhood vaccinations can cause autism (despite being debunked by millions of doctors and scientists) and that the earth is flat!

This produces an interesting question. Why do people believe in blatantly inaccurate (fake) news? Is it ignorance, preset beliefs, lack of reasoning ability or something related to IQ? Recent research conducted by Gordon Pennycook and David G. Rand from Yale University, attempted to explore this problem through a sample of 3,446 random subjects via an online crowdsourcing platform.

The researchers applied a Cognitive Reflection Test (CRT), a test designed to measure a person's tendency to override an incorrect "gut" response and engage further in the search for truth. Pennycock and Rand's study unearthed two interesting phenomena. CRT performance was negatively correlated with the perceived accuracy of fake news, and positively correlated with the ability to discern fake news from real news - even with headlines that aligned with individuals' political ideology. What this meant was analytic thinking took precedence over one's own political ideologies and beliefs,

by Inham Hassen

in identifying fake news. In other words, correlation between CRT performance and perceived accuracy was not related to the headline's alignment with a participant's ideology. On the other hand, the second finding revealed that CRT is negatively correlated with the perceived accuracy of relatively implausible headlines, and positively correlated with perceived accuracy of relatively plausible (real news which appears to be dubious) headlines. This led the researchers to believe that it is laziness to explore further, rather than set political ideologies, which leads people to believe in fake news.

This research contradicts previous studies on similar lines, which concluded that believing fake news and one's own ideologies are positively correlated. The earlier studies are corroborated by examples such as certain members of the American public, consuming chloroquine as a remedy for COVID-19, after a speech by President Trump, despite the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases correcting him almost immediately.

Although isolated examples exist, general findings of Pennycock and Rand point to the contrary. If these findings can be replicated elsewhere and found to be universally true, it will bring in a completely new dimension to the fight against fake news.

The Algorithm of Life - you get what you focus on

Twitter, Facebook, Google etc use an algorithm to track who likes to see which posts. When we click 'Like' on any post, it is noticed and the program sends similar posts to our timeline. Google uses it to send more ads for things that we show interest in.

We thus get to see more of what the algorithm decides to send to us based on our expressed preferences. Unlike magnets, like attracts like in this case.

Life, too, has a similar hidden algorithm. It takes into consideration what we express more interest in. If we look more at positive things, it sends more positive things our way. If we look more at negative things, life throws more negative things our way. If we approach life with smiles, we encounter more smiles. If our preferred expression is a scowl, we encounter more scowls. This experiential loop tends to further strengthen our belief.

Some people are obsessed with disease lurking everywhere. As evidence they cite their own sad record of health. Indeed, they are prone to one disease after another, some real, others imagined. For them, this is enough to harden their belief into a conviction. They do not realise that their own focus on ill health is attracting ill health to them.

This is akin to someone who exclusively clicks 'like' on posts by one political party on, say, Twitter. As a result, the program eventually sends most of the posts from that one political party on his timeline. He is then convinced that most people on Twitter belong to that party. He is blind to the fact that he is the one who has caused this false belief by his own focus on that party ensuring that he mostly gets posts from that party and not from other parties.

The same thing is seen in WhatsApp posts and forwards. We tend to receive more posts that strengthen our own belief and fewer of those that are against our mindset.

Let's consider the case of someone who constantly complains about one thing or the other. Gradually all who are sick of his complaining will shy away and he will be left with those whose mindset is similar to his. This will further reinforce his belief that life is truly unfair. He can see this every day in himself and his belief is confirmed by all those around him.

One last example: a student is con vinced that his teachers are 'against' him. He ignores all those who say that this is not so. However, all those who think like him become his friends. He then moves around in an environment where his belief in the teachers' unfairness is strengthened by those around him and his belief is 'confirmed'. He does not realize that he has attracted those like him to himself. By shunning all those who could have upset his belief, he has eliminated any chance of examining it or changing it.

The other side of this is that



cheerful people meet more good cheer in their lives. They also tend to bring positivity to situations which are not innately cheerful.

I know someone who contracted cancer. I never heard her say, "Woe is me. Why did I get this disease?" Or "Life is so unfair. I don't drink or smoke or eat anything bad, why did I get cancer?" Instead, she said, "Thank God, I have recovered. Life is good." Even the doctors were impressed by her positivity and said this undoubtedly helped her recovery. Her positive attitude has indeed made life good for her and for others around her and has helped reinforce her belief.

This algorithm seldom fails. As on social media, in life we get what we focus on. It is up to us to take advantage of this by 'clicking' on good people and things in our life and giving short shrift to people and things that darken our lives.

Kishore Asthana

Kishore is a former President of Mensa India and now heads the Mensa Project Dhruv. He writes poems, essays and short stories and is involved in local civil society work.

supplementally...

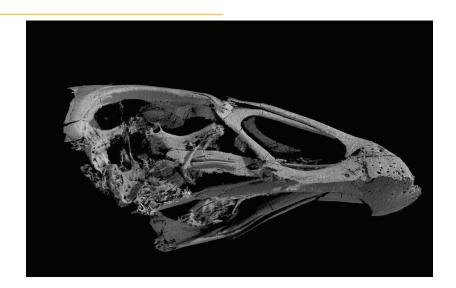
by john blinke

Lost and Found

New Scientist, February 29, 2020, pp. 40 - 43. "Lost in the Wild." How do you find a person who has become lost in the woods? We can't perform controlled experiments that put people in life-or-death situations. So, we need to learn how lost people have behaved when they got themselves into those fixes. Did they wander in circles? Did they head for the horizon? Did they freeze in place? Case histories show that different kinds of people do different things: Children look for shelter; demented people travel in straight lines; experienced male hikers just keep walking, and are very difficult to find while they are still alive. Many lost people try to follow fences or shore lines. If you realize you are lost, the best thing is to stop moving for a while. After your panic subsides, you can think more clearly and you might see landmarks that will get you home.

Turducken

www.sciencemag.org, March 20, 2020, p. 1290. "Oldest Fossil of Modern Birds is a 'Turducken.'" (Nature) Scientists from Cambridge University were poking through the collections of the Maastricht Natural History Museum when they found a small rock with bones sticking out of it. They put the rock in a CT scanner and then whooped so loudly that people thought they were in trouble. Almost by accident, they had found



the skull and leg bones of the oldest known fossil of a modern bird (*pictured above*). The creature's remains were embedded in 66.7 million-year-old sedimentary rock that was collected from fossil beds in the Netherlands. The exciting thing is that it has characteristics of turkeys, ducks, and chickens, making it a likely common ancestor of all three. The "turducken" was probably a long legged shore bird about the size of a gull. It lived at the very end of the dinosaur era.

Green Power

ScienceDaily, March 9, 2020. "Water Splitting Advance Holds Promise For Affordable Renewable Energy." (Nature Energy, March 9) https:// www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/03/200309130034.htm Hydrogen is a very "green" fuel because, when burned, its only waste product is water. But it is usually derived from natural gas, which is not environmentally friendly. You can make hydrogen without fossil fuels if you electrolyze water, but expensive catalysts are required to do it quickly. Scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory and Washington State University have created a catalyst made of nickel instead of platinum. It is cheap, yet it works as well as the costly materials. And, it can function in an alkaline environment. The idea is to create hydrogen gas by using excess electricity from solar and wind power sources. Then, the hydrogen can be burned to generate power at night and on windless, rainy days.

Sunny

ScienceDaily, March 19, 2020. "The Strange Orbits of 'Tatooine' Planetary Disks."

Most planets and planetary accretion disks orbit a single star. But, some of them orbit binary stars. It seems reasonable that the disks should orbit in the same plane as the binary pair. But astronomers from University of California at Berkeley

(from p09)

have found that this is only true for close binaries with orbital periods of a month, or less. Observations made at the ALMA interferometer array showed that, when the paired stars are more widely spaced, the disk and associated planets can be oriented at any angle. This information will be helpful in modelling the birth of planetary systems that have more than just one star and a few planets.

Tweaking C14

ScienceDaily, March 19, 2020. "Fine-Tuning Radiocarbon Dating Could 'Rewrite' Ancient Events." (March 18 Science Advances)

Archaeologists can tell the age of

any organic matter by measuring the amount of radioactive carbon 14 in it. The method works well for remains that are up to 50,000 years old. But there

have always been uncertainties at the fine scale of, say, 50 years. Scientists at Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences say C14

"If you were try-

ing to date, say,

the short reign

of Egyptian King

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Tutankhamen,

portant."

dating is calibrated from tree rings whose age is known by other methods. Trees inhale a lot of carbon when they are growing quickly. Peak growing weather is not the same everywhere: In North America, it is pretty much April through September. In the Mideast, it is October through April. Knowing this can help scientists fine-tune C14 dating for such regional effects. If you were trying to

date, say, the short reign of Egyptian King Tutankhamen, this could be important.

John Blinke

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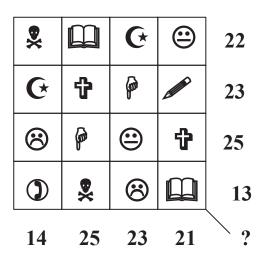
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THERESE'S TEASERS

Cryptosum

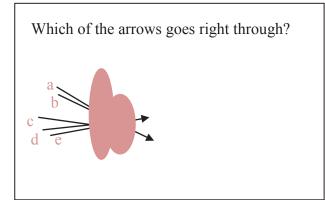
Each symbol represents a different digit from 1 to 9. The sum of the digits in each row and column is shown. Find the sum of the numbers along the diagonal line from the top left-hand corner.



Odd One Out



Piercing question



Rebus

Which old western phrase is represented below?

Meanwhile, ...HCNAREHTTA

Insect Anagrams

Each solution consists of two anagrams:

- a) Sunbronze picnic pest?
- b) Sham jumpers
- c) Chair for reigning stinger
- d) Grasshopper's wallops
- e) Exchange for stingers?

My place or yours?

Each of these cryptic clues yields a single letter; they spell a type of residence,

POLAR CAP THIRD GEAR CLOSE CALL FOURTH ESTATE FIRST COMMUNION CIGARETTE BUTT

Hustlers

Rearrange the letters of HUSTLERS to find a word which could describe them.

Answers

Cryptosum: 20 (2 + 7 + 9 + 2) **Odd One Out:** N. The others all read the same when flipped down. **Piercing question:** b and e **Rebus:** Meanwhile, back at the ranch **Insect Anagrams:** Tan ant; False fleas; Hornet throne; Locust clouts; Wasp swap **My place:** Palace **Hustlers:** Ruthless © Therese Moodie-Bloom