

More discussion on MENSA

Dear Sir:

I wish to thank Mr. Rhineland for his excellent reply to my letter of October 9. He's right, of course. I.Q. is not the be-all and end-all of intelligence measurement. It has some uses; there is some positive correlation between

success on I.Q. tests and success in certain academic pursuits. At the same time, I.Q. testing has been abused. Though the first tests were developed in France, it is now nearly impossible to find one designed for any but WASPS, that is to say, "culture fair". What, too, about "idiots

savants", those who, while profoundly retarded in most respects, are highly skilled in some discipline? This is often very complex mental math. Where do they fit in? Certainly neither common sense nor horse sense nor gumption nor creativity is measured by I.Q. tests.

Nor is a high I.Q. of much practical use. It makes learning easier, removing some of its drudgery, but is no guarantee of success, either in society's terms (money, fame, power) or in more personal ones (freedom, happiness, love). Many Mensans, like many non-M's, have severe problems. Some are schizophrenic, or murderers, or ugly, or unlucky in personal relationships, just like "normal" people. My non-M father has a tendency to look at my

sister and me, sigh deeply, and say, "There's a very thin line between genius and insanity." From what I've seen, I think he's right.

Even so, I don't think it's fair of Mr. Rhineland to call Mensa a "dubious organization." It serves several purposes, for me and for others. If it didn't, it wouldn't exist. It's an ego-boost, for one thing. This is crass and petty, but a factor to

be acknowledged. It is a social organization. It is nearly an axiom that any two Mensans, no matter how different they are, can always find something to talk about for hours. This is not to say that all Mensans become friends or that they have no non-M friends, but it is a fact that one gets lonesome to talk to someone who

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Finnan a cunning linguist

Sir:

Just a brief note to let you know that "wimperish" has never before been used as an English word on this planet. May I offer my heartiest congratulations to the new President of the UNB Student Union for his courageous work in

pioneering new forms of communication. My, but he is a cunning linguist!

Signed,
Smedley P. Balderdash
Lexicographer

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Congrats Foley!

To the Editor:

I congratulate Carol Foley on her election to the Board of Governors, and I look forward to working with her for the best interest of the university.

I thank Michael Crawford for

a good campaign, and finally, I thank all the students who voted for me in my attempt for a seat on the Board of Governors.

Many thanks,
David Kay
University Senator

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