

Armadillo Literary Gazette

A Publication of Lonestar Mensa

Volume XXVIII Number 8

August 2002

Lone Star Q IV: Pet Peeves Scholarship Quilt



- Quilt and photo by Kelly Wagner

Lonestar Mensa Officers and Staff

Web Site: <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org>

President †

John Neemidge
(512) 310-7863 neemidge@usa.net
1807 Messick Place, Round Rock, TX, 78681-7126

Vice President †

Dylan Warren
(512) 371-3948 wolfman01@austin.rr.com

Treasurer †

Midge Kocen
midserv@austin.rr.com

Member at Large †

Karen Werner
(512) 291-4677 wernernag@hotmail.com

Program Chair *

Karen Werner
(512) 291-4677 wernernag@hotmail.com

Publicity *

Paul Anderson
(512) 259-7824 wrdslngr@swbell.net

Newsletter Circulation Manager *

John Neemidge
(512) 310-7863 neemidge@usa.net

Gifted Children Resource *

Michele Vaughan
(512) 388-5970 michelerenee@austin.rr.com

Testing Coordinator *

Volunteer needed. Please contact John Neemidge if you are interested in coordinating and proctoring LSM's Mensa testing.

Membership †

Geri Neemidge
(512) 310-7863 gneemidge@usa.net

Bryan-College Station Area Coordinator

Jim Miller
(979) 777-9546 hj_miller@msn.com

Waco Area Coordinator *

Jerry Lenamon
(254) 399-9450

Ombudsman/Arbiter *

Kelly Wagner
(512) 443-9650 BunRab@aol.com

Regional Vice Chairman (RVC)

Dan Wilterding
(817) 573-4454 (before 10PM)
rvc6@us.mensa.org
504 Atchley Dr, Granbury TX 76048

† -- Elected position (voting) ‡-- Appointed position (voting)
* -- Appointed position (non-voting)

SIGHT Coordinator *

Steve Vaughan
(512) 388-5970 sv@blackhat.net

American Mensa, Ltd.

(817) 607-0060
AmericanMensa@us.mensa.org
www.us.mensa.org
1229 Corporate Drive West , Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Newsletter Editor *

Rachael Stewart
(512) 335-4409 bookbird@yahoo.com
13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin, TX 78729

Contributing Editors for August:

R. Kelly Wagner - Quilt photo, cover
Barbara Bartlett - Columnist, "Raising the Boom"
Margaret Wofford - Event Host, RG Baking Party
Shelley Sundermann - Event Host, *Metropolis*
John & Geri Neemidge - Event Hosts, *Into the Woods*

Publication Information

The *ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE* (USPS 554-650), the official publication of Lonestar Mensa, Group 786 of American Mensa, Ltd., is published monthly at 13106 Bidwell Dr, Austin, TX 78729. Periodical Postage Paid at Austin, TX.

Mensans who are not members of Lonestar Mensa may subscribe for \$10.00 per year. Send subscription requests to the publication address.

Submission Information: Submissions of all types will be accepted. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be by email (ASCII/text format only) to the newsletter editor or by snail mail in typed format. Anonymous submissions are not accepted, although the author's identity may be withheld upon request. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Items in this newsletter may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, with credit given, except for those works copyrighted by the author.

Advertising Rates and Policies

Non-commercial: Lonestar Mensa members may submit 2 per year at no charge. 4 line maximum, subject to editor's discretion as to date of publication.

Commerical: Business card sized (2" x 3") ads are \$10 for one month, \$25 for three months, and \$40 for six months. Publication may be delayed due to space considerations. Ads must be camera-ready, and should be submitted electronically if at all possible. We reserve the right to edit for content if necessary. Rates for other sized ads or other time periods are available upon request. The deadline for ad submission is 5 days before the general newsletter deadline.

Please submit ads to the newsletter editor.

Remembering, And Looking Forward

-by John Neemidge, President

Before I get to my usual reminders of events, cajoling to attend them, and so forth, I want to pause to remember Eve Nelson, who passed away in June. Eve was our testing coordinator, a frequent attendee at LSM events and RG's, and a contributor to the LSM chat list. Members of LSM got together and gave Eve a brick on the Walk Of The Minds at Mensa's National Office. Geri and I presented the certificate for her brick to Eve, and I know she appreciated it a great deal. My best to Eve's family at this time; her Mensa family joins in remembering her.

On a lighter note, and speaking of Mensa family, Geri and I just returned from the Annual Gathering, held this year in Scottsdale, AZ. Like any family reunion, there was all kinds of news (engagements, weddings, personal achievements, etc), seeing how everyone's fared over the past year, and watching the children grow up. Seeing all our friends from around the country, many of whom we see only at the AG, is wonderful, and we wouldn't dream of missing it. It was also wonderful to see so many Lonestar Mensans at the AG — a dozen members or so, and nearly two dozen with their families.

The next Gathering up is our own LonestaRG IV: Pet Peeves, held over Labor Day Weekend (August 30-31, September 1-2) in Austin. This is essentially the last column in which I get to expound the reasons why you should attend (September's newsletter will no doubt have a last-minute appeal). We're planning a great weekend — bountiful hospitality (all your meals, snacks, beverages, desserts, etc); excellent speakers; our usual mix of games and contests and other participatory events; costume dance; late-night swim and hot tub party; and plenty more. The rate is \$50 if you sign up by August 3rd (see the registration form in this issue); children 7-14 are half-price, and 6 and under are free. Where else can you get a long weekend including your meals and beverages, all your entertainment, dancing, and a plethora of interesting people to share it with for \$50? Past attendees have had glowing things to say about LonestaRG — later in this issue you can read some comments in their own words. I hope you'll register now and join us Labor Day Weekend — I really hate to see anyone miss out on all the fun.

Between now and LonestaRG IV, I also hope to see many of you at the Zilker Summer Musical, *Into The Woods*, which we'll be going to on August 3rd (I'll be accepting

RG registration forms there!), at the Monthly Meeting on the 12th, and at Games Night on the 24th. Or maybe TGIT is more your style — dinner and discussion with great people in a comfortable atmosphere. Whichever event you attend, I hope you'll come spend some time with your Mensa family this month and every month.

Happy Birthday!

8/1	Hugh Brown Ms Marion Alice Alpern Candido Lopez Krishnan Seshadrinathan
8/3	Betty L Wolverton
8/4	Jerrod S Kinnett
8/5	Mr Hugh James Miller Ms Audrey Diane Aucott-Meyers
8/7	Jonathan P Grabert Jason Rodriguez
8/8	Mr Martyn John Hitchcock
8/9	Allen E Boyles Jerry Dike Mr Leonard Joseph Doiron
8/10	Mr Brian Patrick Corcoran Dr Brian Martin Reeder Brian M Senn
8/13	Mr James H Schorr Mr James T Nicholopoulos Jr
8/16	Rosalie K Rogers Manu J Patel Gary Henry
8/17	Newell Starks Gilbert Wildin John Wesley Davis IV Charity Ruth Smith
8/18	James Y Wakefield
8/20	Mr James B Robinson Cynthia Hobson Contreras
8/22	Paul Robinson Wilson Daniel Zene Crowe
8/23	Matthew C Lawrence
8/24	Paula Blessing Beard
8/25	Keith Wilson Loring Wayne Johnnie
8/28	Ms Lucille S Russell Harry N Howell Sr W Randall Strahan Jr
8/29	Robert D Miller
8/30	Helen Ruth Siders
8/31	Stacey Marie Pieters



Raising the Boom

-by Barbara Bartlett

For the greater portion of my adult life, I have been admonished to “slow down” or to “take it easy”. Folks, it just ain’t that easy! There are things to do, places to go, people to meet, dishes to be washed, books to be read! How can I slow down? Still, I see the value of a slower pace to life where others are concerned.

I recently visited with a friend who said that she had asked her husband to slow down and just talk to her on three different occasions, and each time he replied, “I don’t have time; I’m just too busy!” Well, friends, that’s just too busy (but, I must admit that I find myself saying that occasionally to my family!)

My aunt once presented me with a placque with a portion of Edna St. Vincent Millay’s poem, *First Fig* on it.

“My candle burns at both ends;
It will not last the night;
But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends- -
It gives a lovely light!”

Later, the same erudite aunt penned this quote on a birthday card:

“Beware the barrenness of a busy life.” —Socrates

Do you think she was trying to tell me something?

It seems that these little messages keep being dropped my way. Not long ago a friend sent me a book entitled *Devotionals for Busy Women*. Hmmmmmm....

Then, today, when browsing through a 1951 Reader’s Digest, I came across this short story which is attributed to James Truslow Adams from *The Tempo of Modern Life*.

A distinguished explorer who spent a couple of years among the savages of the upper Amazon, once attempted a forced march through the jungle. The party made extraordinary speed for the first two days, but on the third morning, when it was time to start, the man found all the natives sitting on their haunches, looking very solemn and making no preparation to leave.

“They are waiting,” the chief explained.
“They cannot move farther until their souls have caught up with their bodies.”

I can think of no better illustration of our own plight today. Is there no way of letting our souls catch up with our bodies? If one thinks over the sort of life led in innumerable homes a generation ago, our immense speeding up in the process of living today is clear. People then, as we say, “had time.” Now, no one “has time.”

Well....an excerpt from a nearly fifty year old magazine certainly hit the nail on the head didn’t it? If we were too busy then, what does that say about our lifestyle now? I’m going to try... I really am..... to settle down and life a little bit slower..... but first, I need to.....



The Grand Canyoners

-by Douglas Williams and Rachael Stewart

-photos by Walter Stewart

The air itself was searing
but we went anyway.
Not a fearing.

Along the way
the lack of water became a blight,
but we kept on going
and in the end came out all right.

Five miles the ascent,
our frequent breaks did it prolong.
From a limestone cliff
the depths resounded with bawdy song.

And I must say:
(from every height)
It was a *grand* sight!

Spend your labor day weekend having fun the Mensa way!

- Kartik Jayanarayanan

*“Fun, frolicking, festivities, food and food for thought), friends old and new
— come join us for a fantastic Labor Day weekend.”*

-John Neemidge

*“Once again, Geri Neemidge has lined up an
incredible slate of speakers with intriguing topics.”
- Margaret Wofford*

**What can we say about
Lonestar Mensa's
Regional Gathering?**

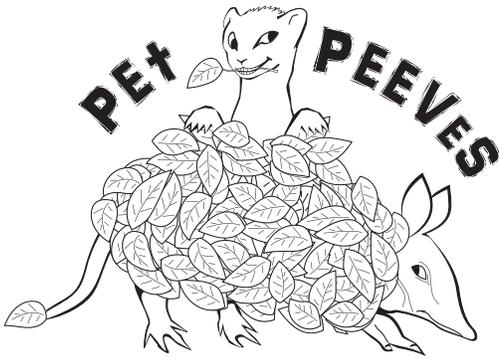
*“Hot bread,
warm hugs and
chocolate, it
doesn't get any
better than this!”
- Ray O'Connor*

*“Wholesome, What and Wealthy!
To whom do I write the check?” - Tammy Langley*

*“Costumes, games, chit-chat, and rugrats (human &
otherwise)!”*

- Rachael Stewart

***“If you've always felt sort of “different” or “misunderstood”, an RG
offers an opportunity to find people just like you who will “get” your
jokes and comments. Mensa is the best support group in the world!”
- Barbara Bartlett***



LonestaRG

LonestaRG IV: Pet Peeves Aug. 30-31, Sep. 1-2, 2002 Austin, TX

- Speakers on pets, favorite pet peeves, and more
- Pets welcome!
- Games and contests
- Costume Dance
- Abundant hospitality, with meals, fresh-baked bread, veggies, snacks, soda, beer, wine, and more
- Late-night pool & hot tub
- Discussion room
- Game room
- Scholarship raffle
- Goodies and Prizes
- And much more!

Register Now and Save!!!

Take a rest from your labors! LonestaRG moves to what we hope will be our permanent home, Labor Day weekend, with everything you've come to expect from us and more. Bring the whole family – we have discount rates for children. Our hotel (the same as last year) offers such amenities as: free parking, indoor/outdoor heated pool, hot tub and saunas, discounts at Arboretum area shops, coffee makers and hair dryers in every room, and many others. For more information, including preliminary programs, attendee information, photos of the raffle quilt, pictures from last year's RG, and more, see the web page at <http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>. Sign up now!

Our hotel is the Holiday Inn Northwest. Room rate is \$72 S/D/T/Q. Call 512-343-0888 and ask for the Lonestar Mensa rate.

Questions? Contact John Neemidge (ChairM) at 512-310-7863 or email to neemidge@usa.net

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please don't list my name and city/state on the RG web site attendee list

Please use paper mail (not email) for RG updates and correspondence

Names for Badges: 1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Registration is \$50 to 8/3 and \$55 walk-in. Half off for children ages 7-14 (children 6 and under are free).

Number of registrations: _____ @\$ _____ = \$ _____

Are you interested in volunteering for any of the following?

Hospitality _____ Prepare Food _____ Registration _____

Solicit Donations _____ Bring Games _____

Speaker Assistant _____ Logistics/Purchasing _____ Other _____

Send registrations to Mark & Janet Kres, POB 80635, Austin, TX 78708-0635
(registrar@lsm.us.mensa.org). Make checks payable to "Lonestar Mensa RG".

ALG 8/02

Hello Region 6!

-by Dan Wilterding, RVC Region 6

The Annual Gathering was excellent, although you will need to talk to others to get the best review. Region 6 was well represented; members from all parts of the region attended and enjoyed.

As the AMC met on Saturday we considered many motions and passed most of them. Among these motions was one from the Hearings Committee recommending expulsion of a member; due to procedural problems I voted against this motion. On a related note: the Chairman of the AMC (Dr. Jean Becker) noting that the current hearings procedures are difficult to interpret and follow has asked Nancy Heller (Interpretive Counsel njheller@email.com) and Sean Healy (Corporate Counsel) to look into revising the relevant ASIEs; please contact Ms Heller with any suggestions.

Editor's Note:

The Hearings Committee recommended that Carole Bell be expelled for "Acts Inimical to Mensa." Ms. Bell is the fourth person to be expelled from American Mensa.

Awards —

The region did well at the Awards Banquet, coming away with a baker's dozen prizes (triskaidekaphobes will understand!). The specific competition and awards are listed below. Congratulations to one and all for your recognized excellence!

CultureQuest —

Annual competition, held simultaneously across the U.S. and Canada in the spring, against other teams and raise money for local group scholarship funds.

Mensa76 (two teams placed in the top 20)

Publications Recognition Program (PRP) —

The American Mensa PRP annually rewards excellence in the newsletters and Web sites of American Mensa's local groups.

Print —

Found (Entertainment) - Central Oklahoma Mensa

Poetry - Central Oklahoma Mensa

Special Mention Award - New Format - Lone Star Mensa

Owl - Small Group Winner - Central Oklahoma Mensa

Electronic Publications —

Local Group Information - Mensa76

Recruitment - Gulf Coast Mensa

Presentation - Mensa76

Entertainment - Mensa76

Electronic Owl -

Large Group - Mensa76

Medium Group - Central Oklahoma Mensa

Owl Awards —

The Innovative Owl award is presented to the group demonstrating the highest membership retention compared to its previous year's membership numbers.

The Innovative Owl -

Honorable Mention - Panhandle Mensa

It's not too late for Colloquium 2002 (August 16-18 in Troy, Michigan); the subject is "Exploring Consciousness".

Comments, anyone?

Dan Wilterding - RVC6

rvc6@us.mensa.org

dtwtech@swbell.net

817-573-4454

504 West Atchley Drive

Granbury, Texas 76048

LonestaRG IV: Pet Peeves

August 30 - September 2, 2002

<http://www.lsm.us.mensa.org/lonestarg.htm>

Contact: Mark & Janet Kres

P.O. Box 80635, Austin, TX 78708-0635

registrar@lsm.us.mensa.org

Mensan Realtor

Austin area. Free referrals to other areas.

Shelley Sundermann

JB Goodwin Company

(512) 913-3108 (800) 900-9115

shelley@jbgoodwin.com

**Greetings
from the
Annual Gathering**

**T
H
E
R
O
Y
A
L
B
O
O
K**



Rob as "Secretariat"



Linda and Don

The Princess Penelope and the pee



**Ruth Ancona -
The "Nightie Night"**

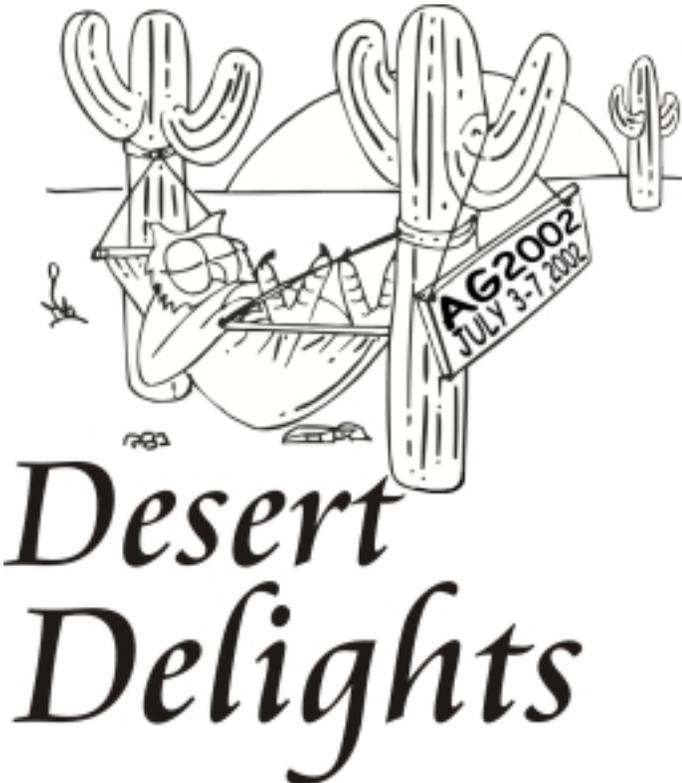
Games Room



**Rachael and Walter
“The Queen Mum” and her Knight Escort**



“A Tale of Two Tower Topplers”



Photos courtesy of Geri Neemidge and Walter Stewart

August Monthly Meeting

The speaker at our August 12 monthly meeting will be Caroline Huffman, LMSW-ACP, M.Ed., Director of Social Work for Hospice Austin. Ms. Huffman will talk about hospice care in general and Hospice Austin's services in particular. She will also talk about the two advance health care directives legal in Texas: the Directive to Physicians and the Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care (Living Will).

Ms. Huffman has been with Hospice Austin since March, 2002. She got her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Oklahoma, her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Master's degree in Education from East Texas State University. Ms. Huffman has a Lifetime Teaching Certificate in Texas in Secondary Social Studies, and maintains licensure as a Licensed Master's Social Worker-Advanced Clinical Practitioner. She has 23 years of clinical/management experience in healthcare, primarily in acute care hospitals.

Austin Public Library Book Sale Volunteers Needed

Once again Lonestar Mensa will be helping out the Friends of the Austin Public Library with their annual Monster Book Sale. Volunteering entails staffing an information table and talking to prospective members about Mensa, helping to keep the book sale tables in order, and helping the Friends to clean up after the sale. The volunteers at this event have always had a lot of fun and have gone home with lots of bargain books. The sale will be Saturday and Sunday September 14 and 15., at Crockett Center, which is a former Best Products store on Highway 290 just east of I-35. Please contact John or Geri Neemidge (512-310-7863, gneemidge@usa.net) if you can help out with this community service activity.

Mind Games™ "Gathering"

Mind Games™ 2003 will be held April 11-13 in Houston, TX.

Gulf Coast Mensa is planning a weekend of fun (and work!) testing dozens of the year's newest games. Each Mind Games™ participant will play games, fill out comment cards, and rank their favorite games; ultimately helping to name the 2003 Mensa Select® winners.

Register today to be part of the fun! Registration includes game participation, hospitality, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and an entry for door prizes. The games will be played at the Clarion Inn on I-45, just ten minutes from Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The Mensa room rate will be \$49 per night.

Registration fees are (postmark deadlines):

- July 16 - October 15 \$55
- October 16 - January 15 \$60
- January 16 - March 31 \$65
- No registrations on-site.

To register, visit mindgames.us.mensa.org or call 817-607-0060 x122 with your Visa or MasterCard.

For more information, contact Russell Thorstenberg at info@mindgames.us.mensa.org, or call 713-978-7711.

For hotel reservations, contact the Clarion Inn at 281-931-0101 and ask for the Gulf Coast Mensa rate.

Original Writing?

Are you a writer, or avid reader? **BestOfM** is a new facility, created by Ray Anderson of Mensa South Africa, for the submission and transmission of original writing - articles, essays, short stories, poetry, puzzles, etc. It is open to all Mensa members, and submissions will be released bi-weekly.

To submit articles email them to:

BestOfM@yahoogroups.com

To subscribe, send an email to:

BestOfM-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To set to "digest" (recommended), follow the above with:

BestOfM-digest@yahoogroups.com

What's Happening in August

Thank Goodness It's Thursday

Central Market Café

Every Thursday

6:00-8:00pm

4001 N. Lamar Blvd., Austin

(512) 206-1020

Meet us in the Café after work for fun, conversation & food. Prospective members welcome. Coordinator: Paul Pierce, (512) 990-2271. Central Market Café is located in the Central Park shopping center on the east side of Lamar Blvd between 38th and 41st Streets. Central Market is the anchor store. Central Market Café is adjacent to Central Market on the south side. We meet upstairs.

Zilker Summer Musical: *Into the Woods*

Saturday August 3rd

6:00pm

Zilker Hillside Theater

Zilker Park, Austin

This year's musical is *Into the Woods*. With a book and original direction by James Lapine, this Stephen Sondheim musical is a whirlwind journey through the fantastical world of fairytales and fables. Follow the cast of characters from some of Grimm's classic stories as they begin "Once upon a time," go into the woods and discover what's after "happily ever after." It's at Zilker Hillside Theatre, outdoors just up the hill from Barton Springs Pool. Parking is \$2.00 and admission is "pay what you wish". We're meeting at 6 pm to stake out our turf on the hillside - look for people in Lonestar Mensa t-shirts or for a Mensa flag. The show starts at 8 pm. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and/or low lawn chairs, plus your favorite games to play while waiting for the show to begin. Call Geri or John Neemidge at 512-310-7863 for more information.

ExComm Meeting

Monday, August 5th

5:30pm

Howson Branch Library

2500 Exposition Blvd., Austin

Contact John Neemidge at (512) 310-7863 to get an item on the agenda. All members welcome. The library is located one block north of the intersection of Windsor Road (west of MoPac) & Exposition Blvd, on the NW corner of Exposition & Bowman Road.

RG Baking Party

Sunday, August 11th

11:00am-3:00pm

Margaret Wofford's House

4900 Marshall Ford Rd.

Call 512-266-8065 if you get lost.

Help us bake up goodies for the RG. Bring your favorite recipe and any special ingredients. We will provide basics like flour, sugar (white, brown and powdered), eggs, chocolate chips, baking powder and baking soda. I have two mixers, lots of cake and pie pans, and several bowls. Snacks and sodas will be provided.

Directions: From FM 2222 and RR 620, take 620 2 1/2 miles toward Mansfield Dam. Pass the light at Quinlan Park Road. Turn right the SECOND time you come to Marshall Ford Road (it's a loop). Pass the wagon wheel fence, a vacant lot, and a blue canvas covered gate, all on your left. White house, blue trim, rusty roof.

If you get to the trailers or the Baptist Church, you've gone too far. From Hwy 71 and RR 620, take 620 past Mansfield Dam. Go about 1/2 mile past the dam. Get in the left turn lane after you pass the little grocery. Left on Marshall Ford Road. Pass the wagon wheel fence, a vacant lot, and a blue canvas covered gate, all on your left. White house, blue trim, rusty roof. If you get to the trailers or the Baptist Church, you've gone too far.

Monthly Meeting

Monday, August 12th

Dinner - Souper Salad

5:30pm

6700 Middle Fiskville Rd., Austin

Meeting - Austin Public Library

University Hills Branch

6:45pm

4721 Loyola Lane, Austin

Take 183 to Manor Rd. exit; go west on Manor Road past the HEB; turn left at the next light, which is Loyola. The library is on the right, less than one block up Loyola.

Waco Area Mensa Get-Together

Wednesday, August 21st

7:00pm

Barnes & Noble Café

4909 W. Waco Dr., Waco

Prospective members welcome. RSVP to Jerry Lenamon, (254) 399-9450.

Fold & Sticker

Thursday, August 22nd

(at TGIT)

Help us assemble the newsletter! See Thank Goodness It's Thursday for directions.

Downtown Movie Group: *Metropolis*

Friday, August 23rd

7:00pm

Paramount Theatre

713 Congress Ave, Austin

Contact: Shelley Sundermann 833-7370 or 913-3108
shelley@jbgoodwin.com

One of the most famous of silent films, *Metropolis* is Fritz Lang's fantasy of a futuristic city and its mechanized society. It is the story of an aristocratic young man who abandons wealth to fight with the poor masses. Incredible set design and special effects. Includes soundtrack of the original orchestral score. 1926, 118 min, restored B&W.

Meet us in the theater at 7:00. Cost: \$6.50/\$4.50 students. Film screens at 7:15. Free parking at meters after 5:30 PM.

LonestarRG IV: Pet Peeves

Friday, August 30th - Monday, September 2nd

Holiday Inn Northwest, Austin

See the registration form on page 6 for details.

Corner(Ed)!

Have fun boys and girls. See you next month!



August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Zilker Summer Musical
4	5 ExComm Meeting	6	7	8 TGIT	9	10
11 RG Baking Party	12 Monthly Meeting	13	14	15 TGIT <i>'Dillo Deadline</i>	16	17
18	19	20	21 Waco Area Mensa	22 TGIT <i>Fold & Sticker</i>	23 Downtown Movie Group	24
25	26	27	28	29 TGIT	30 Lonesta	31 RG IV: Pet Peeves

2002

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address to:
ARMADILLO LITERARY GAZETTE
 c/o American Mensa, Ltd.
 1229 Corporate Dr West
 Arlington, TX 76006-6103

PERIODICAL
 Postage Paid
 at **AUSTIN, TX**
 Permit #554-650