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## IT ALL ADDS UP TO FRIENDSHIP

# S.D. Eggheads Mind Ps and IQs

**RECREATION**—Bill Hayes, head of a local Mensa club, plays Scrabble with his wife, Sondra, during his lunch break from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Sondra is a candidate for club admission.

By JAMES FRAMPTON
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Poodle lovers, button collectors and wine tasters are organized — so why not eggheads?

As Adlai Stevenson once observed, they have nothing to lose but their yolks.

An organization that started in England in 1945 and in recent years spread to the United States has taken root in San Diego. In less than a year, local members have increased from two to 100 with nearly as many awaiting results of a qualifying test.

### Name from Latin

The group is Mensa, the name taken from the Latin word for table.

"We are a roundtable society where no one has special precedence," said Bill Hayes, a young and articulate Scripps Institution of Oceanography scientist who is local secretary. His job, the chief elective office, means to get stuck with handling chapter records and correspondence with North American headquarters in New York.

### IQ Is Main Thing

"Since debate is an essential characteristic of Mensa, the job carries maximum responsibility and minimum authority," Hayes noted.

There's only one qualification for Mensa. A score on an IQ test in the 98th percentile. That's the upper 2 per cent on a scale approximating the brainpower of the general population in Western society.

The test favored by Mensa is the Cattell Intelligence Quotient Examination, an English-developed test supposed to rely to the smallest extent on culturally acquired information. That is, an uneducated person with smarts should do just as well as a Ph. D., Hayes explained

### Test Minimum Set Up

Mensa sponsors periodic supervised Cattell exams to qualify applicants. But results of previous accredited IQ tests are accepted for admission.

Minimum qualifying score on the Cattell test is IQ 148. Hayes said numerical scales vary according to the test. Qualifying level on the Wechsler test, more widely used for adults in this country, is 130. On the California Test of Mental Maturity, 132.

An average IQ is 100.

The San Diego County roster is heavily weighted toward engineers and technical professionals but includes housewives, retired and active military men, both officers and enlisted, salesmen, investment and real-estate brokers, students and educators at all levels, executives and clerical and office workers. The membership ranges from wealthy to poor, in age from the 70s to the subteens and includes two husband-wife pairs.

The youngest member is Andy Yellen, 11, a pupil in the gifted program at Farnum Elementary School and the son of insuranceman Andrew Yellen, also a member.

What does Mensa do?

### Tells of Challenge

"That's a good question," Hayes answered.

"First of all, we are a loosely knit, diversely interested group of people who find it challenging to meet with others of different backgrounds and training but with the same capacity for thinking. Unlike many other societies which recruit people who think the same way, Mensa scientifically selects people who are able to think for themselves.

### New Ideas Offered

"Though there is little surface agreement among members on most subjects, we find there is an underlying unity which has given an unexpected strength to Mensa. We believe we have a great poten-