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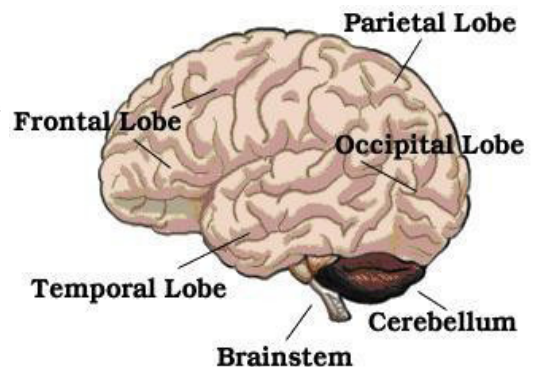
## left brain/right brain: one, two - or three? by Thomas Hally

**Concepts of the duality of human nature, such as Yin and Yang have been hypotheses of philosophers from time immemorial.** Humans have been preoccupied with their intelligence in the practical sense since the days of the first troglodytes, and in the aesthetic and theoretical sense since a Cro-Magnon artist painted the bison on a wall of Altamira Cave, near Santander, Spain.

We are all endowed with one brain - or is it really two? The right brain controls the left side of body and the left controls the right. The right brain is creative, spiritual and emotional, while the left brain analyzes and judges. The cerebrum, the seat of complex thought, is divided into two hemispheres. Each hemisphere of the brain is dominant for its behaviours, and most of us tend to favor one style of thinking. Our choices in life depend on a particular dominance; and it is generally believed that highly creative people are right brain dominant, while most scientists and mathematicians are considered left brain dominant.

Lefties *were* considered “smarter” than righties. Left brains tend to be objective, logical, analytical, and sequential, generally favoring careers such as law, accounting and science. They tend to be skeptical of anything new and untried; and many are also likely to eschew traditional religious beliefs. Most are lovers of classical music and are not as apt as righties (who favor rock and roll) at “thinking outside the box”. When a left brain does come up with something innovative, it is likely that it is an original idea of a right brain. The left brain individual might not have been prone to create whatever it was in the first place. The left, Academic Brain, sees the components of the picture.

Rights think in visual, kinesthetic and audio images. Abstract math is often not brain compatible. Right brains process information in a random manner, going from point A to point D without the necessity to read a detailed list of instructions, getting the whole picture in one quick scan. They are seen as non-judgmental and often have no opinion on many topics. The right brain mode is the holistic mode, incorporating intuitive and non-verbal functioning. A bilateral transfer is achieved by an unconscious process shared with the left hemisphere and the corpus callosum, the arched bridge of nerve tissues that connects the two. Full consciousness arises from the collaboration of the two sets of processes. The four active parts in the right



brain/left brain hemispheres are the frontal lobe, which controls personality; the temporal lobe, dealing with long and short term memory; the parietal lobe which manoeuvres the hands, while the occipital lobe guides our vision. The right, Artistic Brain, is global, seeing the whole picture.

In the left brain dominant individual, emotions become a symbolic memory (“I was happy/sad yesterday”) and not a feeling sensation of the actual experience. When a

*(continued on p02)*



(cont. from previous page)

person is in a right brain mode of emotional turbulence, such as rage, grief - or even love - a person is often left speechless. How did we become such a bundle of confusion? Left brain dominance probably came about as a result of the basic need to survive in a primitive and physical world, from food gathering to killing as a survival tactic. To do this man had to turn off feelings that would prohibit killing of animals and fellow humans. We had to sacrifice for the good of society, which meant organizing in larger groups and giving up our autonomy.

The right brain (awareness) takes those facts developed by the left brain (consciousness), and makes the proper connections from them, in turn making things meaningful. Again, this is achieved through bi-lateral transfer. And

there is now considered to be a third brain, kinesthetic thought, a combination of the verbal and visual together. Both sides of the brain can interchange roles. This is the whole-brain pattern.

It would be interesting to know what percentage of Mensans is left brain dominant and what percentage fits the "right" pattern. My opinion is that there are more whole-brained members of our society than the strictly right and left varieties combined.

Just a guess!

*Thomas Hally is a Direct International Member (DIM) who lives in the town of Ajijic, in the state of Jalisco, Mexico.*

### **IBD meeting 2007**

**Venue:** Royal Plaza Hotel, Hong Kong.

**Date:** Thurs 20-Sunday 23 September 2007



**Almond Wong**, Chairman of Hong Kong Mensa writes:

*I had a chat with a European Mensan when I was in Oslo for the IBD meeting. "... in Hong Kong, you can get anything you want even at 3a.m."*

*Hong Kong is a non-stop city that runs 24/7 without any sign of slowing down. Hong Kong Mensa has close to this characteristic as well. It has about only 400 members now, which is a comparatively small Mensa, but it has 1-2 events every week on average. That means every Hong Kong Mensan is given the chance to meet the old fellows as well as the new members every week.*

*Hong Kong is also a compact city. The strong coffee in the morning and the traditional Chinese feast in the evening, the crazy shoppers in the mall and the leisure hikers in the countryside, the tranquil temple and the amazing skyline, depict a dazzling Hong Kong in different ways, from different angles. Hong Kong Mensa also wows people with its wide variety of activities: tennis, sport climbing, table tennis, bowling, boat cruises, golf, badminton, hiking, dinner, drinks, Talk for Thought (talk & seminar), Mensaccino (Mensans & coffee & games). No matter how picky the member is, there is always an activity that fits.*

*"Wow, 3a.m!" said the European Mensan, "what if I just want some rest?"*

**For further details, contact [simon.clennell@mensa.org.hk](mailto:simon.clennell@mensa.org.hk)**

Members'-  
only access  
to the MIL  
website:  
User name:  
IntMensaMem  
Password: Int  
(numeral '1')



## Mensa @ Cambridge 2007 - Even bigger and better this year

**T**his year's Mensa at Cambridge prospects are looking great, ready to take your minds to pastures new. More diverse, and more talks. The title this year is **The Seven Ages of (Wo)Man** and the event takes place from **2nd-6th August 2007** at the very prestigious Magdalene College, Cambridge.

We have another array of clever insightful, great speakers. Jack Cohen and Bob Waters will chair again and speakers lined up include *Prof Russell Coope, scientist, Prof Helen Haste, Professor of Psychology at the University of Bath, and Visiting Professor at Harvard Graduate School of Education, Robert Anderson, archaeologist, John Adams, creator of the future is wild project, Charles Martell* who researched lost and unrecorded techniques for training and working draught oxen by practical application, *Rosemary Wilkie, now a writer and story teller, and Carrick McDonald* who has practised psychogeriatrics, writing and researching in the area of the dementias.

And then we have the man who puts all this together, *Dr Jack Cohen* who is an

internationally known reproductive biologist. He has a laboratory in his kitchen, helps couples get pregnant, invents biologically realistic aliens for science fiction writers and, in his spare time, throws boomerangs.

Eight lecturers, three days of thinking, discussing and arguing, as well as some punting and boomeranging. Oh, and a paper aeroplanes competition.

Add to that the ambience of Magdalene College, good food and excellent company and a great dinner. On the other hand, some of you might just want a taster (see Booking Form for Saturday banquet option) - you'll want more next year.

**Hurry! Bookings close Wednesday 18th July 2007.**

Booking forms can be downloaded from the members' area of the British Mensa website, or requested from Diane Salter at the Mensa Office - email [diane@mensa.org.uk](mailto:diane@mensa.org.uk) or telephone +44 (0)1902 772771.

### member network

Australian Mensan moving to Papua New Guinea with wife and family to take up an appointment assisting the PNG government wishes to make contact with other M's. Please contact [personal@m-strad.com.au](mailto:personal@m-strad.com.au)

Seeking information on the vessel, the *Gargarine*: along the coast of Canada in October 1568; crew seen again 15 years later at Haver (France). **Laura Hill** at [hill@spacestar.net](mailto:hill@spacestar.net)

Have you ever been to a Medieval or Renaissance festival? Maybe you're involved in the production of such an event? Perhaps you've recently gone to your first? I'm interested in your experiences, good or bad, with this kind of celebration of history. Get in contact with me! **Jessica Kelley** [be.good.cat@gmail.com](mailto:be.good.cat@gmail.com)

### Erratum:

*Last month's IJ mistakenly advertised the 2007 IBD meeting as being the first time this meeting's been held in Asia. This was incorrect. The IBD meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur in 1994 and also in Singapore in 2000.*



## international calendar

**July 21-28** Summer University of **Mensa France** in the Alps. Drop in for an hour, a day or the week. Contact Jean-Marc BAGGIO, +33612368392, jmbaggio@aol.com

**August 24-26, 2007 Brabant Weekend, Mensa the Netherlands.** Join us for games, good conversation, walks in a National Park, and anything else you like. thessa.vanaerde@mensa.nl

**Aug 24-27, 2007 Scottish Mensa Annual Gathering.** Join us in Aberdeen for a weekend of events Email: mensa@rowancott.f9.co.uk. www.smag2007.blogspot.com

**September 20-23, 2007 International Board Meeting: Royal Plaza Hotel, Hong Kong**  
**Contact: simon.clennell@mensa.org.hk**

**October 26 - 28, 2007 Australian Mensa's Annual Conference** weekend, to be held in Brisbane, Queensland. Contact tableaus@mensa.org.au for more information!

**October 26 – 28, 2007 Dutch Annual Gathering weekend,** to be held in conferencehotel Mennorode in Elspeet. Contact jacqueline.bonkenburg@mensa.nl for more information.

**March 9-16, 2008** Join the Ski SIG of British Mensa in Courchevel 1650 for a week of skiing The Three Valleys of the French Alps. Email John Adams at france2008@skisig.us.mensa.org.

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