

That's Outrageous!

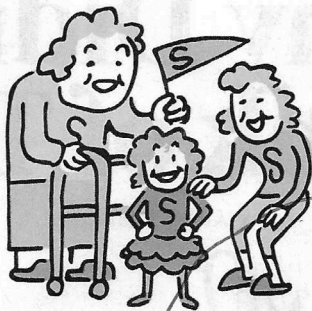
FIVE CLUBS WE'D LIKE TO JOIN

1 THE SHIRLEY CLUB As Shirley Temple rose to fame as America's curly-haired sweetheart in the 1930s, her first name became hugely popular, only to glide into obscurity along with the good ship *Lollipop*. Fortunately, there are

still enough of her namesakes to fill the Shirley Club. Members hold social events and sign their correspondence "In Shirley friendship." The lone rule: that you answer to the name Shirley (even if you spell it Shirlee or Shirlie).

2 THE PROCRASTINATORS' CLUB OF AMERICA It's never too late to join this group. The club was formed in 1956, and its members receive a circular called *Last Month's Newsletter*. One of the group's causes was a peace march on Philadelphia's City Hall in 1966. Its purpose: to end the War of 1812. (It was successful.)

3 MENSA—THE LOW IQ SOCIETY You've heard of Mensa, the club for geniuses? This ain't it. A riff on the smarty-pants set, it's for the 98 percent of us who don't qualify for Mensa.



You can take a gag test online. Sample question: Do they have a 4th of July in England? Answer: Yes. It comes after the 3rd of July.

4 THE DULL MEN'S CLUB

The club's estimated 5,000 members are

devoted to all that is mundane. One of their many mottoes: "Celebrating the ordinary." The group has chapters in America and Great Britain, and they celebrate rollicking holidays such as Clean Out Your Fridge Day and Fill Your Stapler Day.

5 THE ORDER OF THE OCCULT HAND

In 1965, a police reporter penned this overwrought sentence: "It was as if an occult hand had reached down from above and moved the players like pawns upon some giant chessboard." Thus was born the Order of the Occult Hand. The goal of its journalist members was to sneak a phrase featuring "occult hand" past their editors and into as many articles as possible. The group was exposed in 2004 but has subsequently chosen a new—and secret—purple phrase. **R**