

Commander's Connection



Photo by Staff Sgt. Josef Cole

Col. Philip Ruhlman (left) and Mr. Paul White, whose birthday is the same as the Air Force on Sept. 18, enjoy the Air Force Birthday Ball in the Conference Center.

"Commander's Connection" is a link between Col. Philip Ruhlman, 20th Fighter Wing commander, and the Shaw community. Questions or concerns that can't be resolved through normal channels can be called in and recorded at 895-4611 or e-mailed to commandersconnection@shaw.af.mil.

*Callers should leave a name and telephone number in case questions need clarification. Comments of general interest may be published in *The Shaw Spirit*.*

Q

I was wondering why we never see any mosquito control trucks going through base housing. There seems to be a big mosquito problem there and I was just curious as to why there were no trucks. Thanks for your time.

A

Thank you for your concern regarding this matter. The 20th Civil Engineer Squadron's entomology section treats all base standing water for mosquitoes throughout the mosquito breeding season (March-October). The

standing water treatment lasts for about 150 days. The entomology shop fogs the base 5-7 a.m. as recommended by public health officials to minimize human and pet contact with the fog.

Due to the recent heavy rains, mosquitoes have found numerous locations to multiply.

We can all help fight this problem by removing standing water around homes and work areas.

The members of the 20th CES are working hard to control mosquitoes; however, they do recommend the use of a mosquito repellent when outdoors for extended periods of time.

Airmen on the street

If your house was on fire, other than your family, what would you take with you?



Senior Airman Aaron Dixon, 28th Operational Weather Squadron -- "I would take my important documents with me."



Airman 1st Class Kerwin Whitfield, 20th Component Maintenance Squadron -- "I would take my family photos."



Tech. Sgt. Jemal O. Cobb, 9th Information Warfare Flight -- "If I had to leave, I would take my bible with me."



Staff Sgt. Devina Hardin, 20th Comptroller Squadron -- "I would get my dog, Apollo, if I had to leave my home."

The Shaw Spirit

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Be good leader: set example, drink responsibly

By Capt. Nicholas A. Lind
20th Medical Operations Squadron
Mental health flight commander

A first-term Airman, let's call him Airman Joe Blow, shows up at a party and, never having been at such an event, scans the room to determine the most appropriate way to behave. He sees a majority of the people have a beer in their hand and he quickly concludes the party attendees are on their way to intoxication. He personally would probably consume about seven or eight drinks if he really wanted to get hammered. The majority of the people, Joe reasons, are therefore drinking about eight drinks each. Being a red-blooded American guy, he doesn't want to be considered abnormal, so he helps himself to the keg.

Meanwhile, a fellow first-term Airman arrives at the party, doesn't know quite how to behave, and sees Airman Joe Blow consuming what

appears to be a whole lot of beer. Being a red-blooded American guy, this Airman doesn't want to be abnormal, so helps himself to the keg. And so on and on.

Everyone follows the leader and, thereby, there is no leader. The truth is, most people don't drink that much. Those who do are the exception rather than the rule. The perception that others drink more, however, discourages the more responsible troops from publicly expressing their opposition to heavy drinking.

If we perceive something to be true, we often act in such a way that it actually does, in fact, become true.

This process is a little something that we in the business like to refer to as "a self-fulfilling prophecy." While most people are, at most, moderate drinkers, the misperception that others are drinking more causes us to drink more. We perceive the norm to be heavy drinking, so we drink

more and, low and behold, we've changed the norm to coincide with the perception.

Here at Shaw, if you consume more than 2.5 drinks per occasion, you're the exception rather than the rule. If your first reaction to this data is "this is bogus, the guys I hang out with drink much more than this," than the friends you drink with are part of this exception; you're hanging out with a high-risk group of people. You should consider why you joined the military in the first place. If you joined to become a leader you might view the expression of your preference for moderate drinking (or, better yet, not drinking) as an opportunity to lead. Rather than attempting to follow some collective standard, you can actually establish it. Sure, the perception that others are drinking more can lead to the uncomfortable and inaccurate impression that you're in the minority but, hey, who ever said leadership would be easy?

C R O S S W O R D

Hispanic-American history

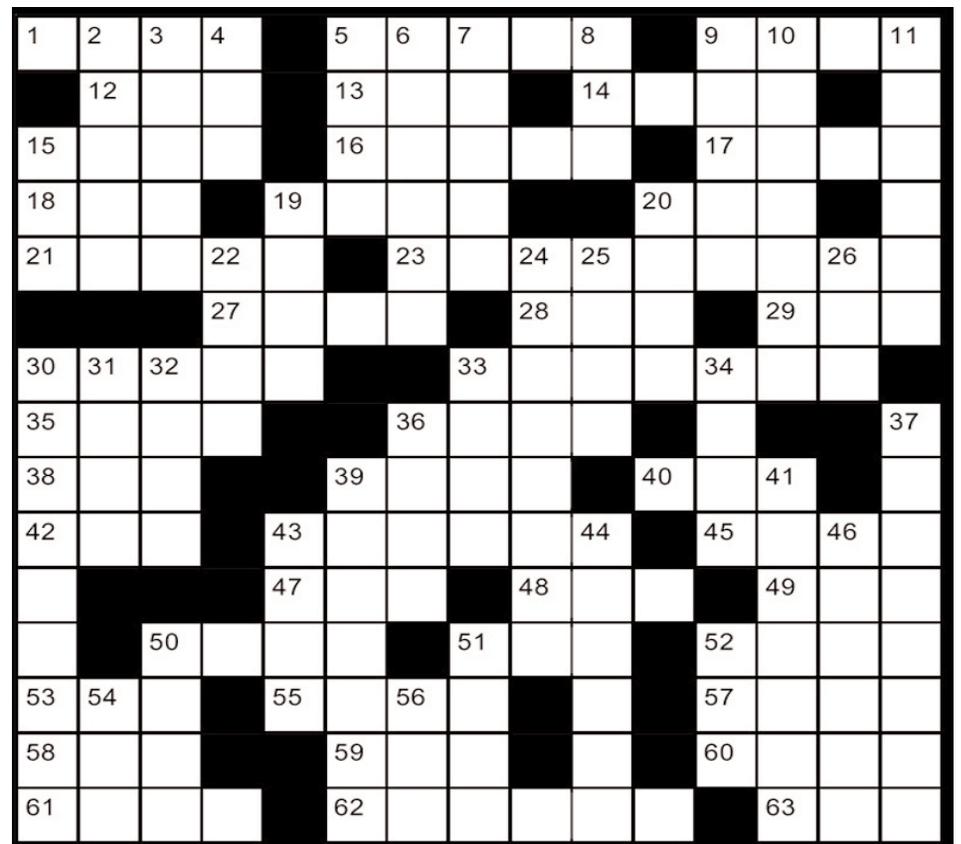
ACROSS

1. Mexican-American former U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Energy
5. Spanish-American Nobel Prize winner in Medicine and Physiology (1959)
9. First person
12. Allow
13. Musical group ___ Na Na
14. One of the five Ws
15. Inlet
16. Of the ocean below 6,000 meters
17. Shakespeare play King ___
18. Mock
19. Own
20. Mil. abbreviation for information gathering and observation
21. Concise
23. Bolivian educator who fought for equality; Stand & Deliver
27. "Queen of salsa;" Cuban singer Celia ___
28. ___ Abner
29. Promotions
30. Acquit
33. Massed closely together
35. Bridge
36. Florida school, in short
38. Internet provider
39. Alaska city
40. Sphere
42. Compass dir.
43. Puerto Rican actress is one of only two to win Tony, Grammy, Emmy, Oscar

45. Luxuriant
47. Alt. to street
48. Explosive
49. Type of plane
50. Assistant
51. Snakelike fish
52. Singer Braxton
53. Org. that governs Olympic Games
55. Italian-born fashion designer Schiaparelli
57. Soon
58. Everything
59. ___ Alamos, N.M.
60. Nothing more than
61. Supreme Greek god
62. Abided by
63. ___ Francisco, Calif.

DOWN

2. Run off, as in marriage
3. Definitive "no!"
4. Dined
5. Safety org.
6. Mexican-American leader who started United Farm Workers of America
7. Greek underworld
8. Auger
9. Popular form of Latin-American dance music
10. Forever
11. Cuban American playwright who has won six Obie Awards
15. Feline
19. German mister
20. Infections



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman

22. Racket
24. First Puerto Rican baseball player to be named MVP
25. Aboriginal of Japan
26. Mil. acronym for temporary assignment
30. First Costa Rican-American to become astronaut
31. Noted Cuban-American composer and conductor Tania ___
32. Fashion magazine
33. British title for a woman
34. British title for a man
36. Golf shout
37. First Cuban-American woman

- elected to Congress; Ros-___
39. First Puerto Rican and woman to become U.S. Surgeon General
41. Cuban-American ballet dancer to be first American to win Gold Medal
43. Earned
44. Connected, as in Internet
46. Spanish lady
50. Org. concerned with individual rights
51. Relieve
52. ___ o'shanter; type of hat
54. Bullring cheer
56. Cry