

# THE first SEMI-ANNUAL WILLIAM M. BASS COMPETITION IN FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY

Participation in this competition is **OPTIONAL**. Students who correctly complete this task will be given 5 points extra credit and an award certificate. The scenario is as follows:

You are a Forensic Anthropologist. A suspected killer, Bart Blackheart, has been arrested by the police. A tip through the secret witness program led the police to Mr. Blackheart's basement where four skeletons were found. The skeletons had been bleached, and it is thought that Mr. Blackheart had a devious plan to get rid of the bodies by selling them to a biological supply house. The police have a missing persons list. They have been able to narrow the list down to six possible victims. The police want to know if any of the skeletons in the basement could be on the missing persons list. It is your job to determine which, if any, of the missing persons match with the excavated skeletons. You will, of course, have to determine the age, sex, race, and stature of each individual. Although information about the missing persons is somewhat sketchy, there are some clues [evidence of disease, arthritis, injuries, *etc.*] that may be helpful in further identifying the possible victims.

The missing persons list contains the following information:

1. **HARVEY SYLVILAGUS:** 21 year old White male, 5' 9" [175 cm] tall. Immediately after graduating from high school, Mr. Sylvilagus got a job as a parking valet at the Regency Hotel. He was recently promoted to desk clerk, but states he misses the fast cars. When he was 11 years old he fell off his bicycle and broke the distal end of his right radius at the epiphysis. The fracture was set by a physician and healed without consequence.
2. **BUFFY MANILLA:** 22 year old White female, 5' 3" [160 cm] tall. Ms. Manilla works as a file clerk for TransAmerica Insurance Company in San Francisco. She grew up in Petaluma where her family ran a small goat dairy. She helped care for and milk the goats since she was 8 years old. She told her best friend that she hates goats. Sitting on those little milking stools, she said, gave her a backache. Buffy was planing to get married in January.
3. **CLIFFORD CHRYSANTHEMUM:** 35 year old White male, 5' 7" [170 cm] tall. Clifford operates a mail order flower seed business specializing in petunias and pansies. His hobby was skydiving until he injured his hip in 1979 during a skydiving contest. He apparently landed too hard and tripped just as a gust of wind partially filled his parachute and dragged him about 30 feet. He suffered numerous injuries to his back and right hip.

4. **BUTCH NAILER:** 37 year old White male, 5'4" [161 cm.] tall. Mr. Nailer has been a roofer for 15 years. He is attending National University in the evenings, taking classes in Business Administration. He applied for a job as a firefighter but because of his slight build and short stature, he couldn't meet the physical requirements. He is married and has 3 children.

5. **CAROLYN CAULIFLOWER:** 38 year old Asian-American female, 5'3" [160 cm.] tall. Ms. Cauliflower works for the Sacramento Solid Waste Management Company in the Recycling Department as a bottle sorter. She sprained her ankle 6 weeks ago while being chased by a large dog as she jogged through the park.

6. **ROCKY SIERRA:** 39 year old White male, 5'5" [165 cm.] tall. Mr. Sierra works as a butcher/meat packer for a large meat packing company. He is an avid backpacker. He had an accident 5 years ago while hiking the Pacific Rim Trail. He fell from a steep ledge but managed to catch a small tree with his left hand. He was able to pull himself to safety, but the tendons in his elbow were pulled and his elbow was nearly dislocated.

The data taken in the Forensic Lab is as follows:

Skeleton No.	Cranial Breadth	Cranial Length	Nasal Breadth	Nasal Length	Femur Head	Femur Length	Misc. Observations
1	12.25	16.00	2.10	4.50	4.20	42.5	osteoarthritic lipping on vertebrae
2	13.50	16.00	2.10	5.00	4.30	43.5	trauma to left distal humerus
3					4.50	45.5	trauma to right femur head
4					4.00	42.0	patellar groove shows direct weight bearing

[all measurements in cm.]



**Notes/Reasoning #3**

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**Notes/Reasoning #4**

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