
Southern Connecticut mensa Chronicle

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00. Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner. This regular dinner is now being held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Old Sorrento Restaurant, Newtown Road, Danbury, CT. Interested Mensans should contact Ward Mazzucco at (203) 744-1929, ext. 25, wjm@danburylaw.com, or Rev. Bill Loring at (203) 794-1389, frbill@mags.net.

Saturday, September 15, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport. Stratford/Milford Night. All Mensans from the Milford/Stratford area are invited to attend our September dinner to meet fellow members from the area and from other towns. Our speakers will be local musicians Walter Lewis and David Anastasia. They will be speaking about and performing blues music, with selections dating back to the early 1900's.

Please call Lee Steuber at 203-730-1634 for information and reservations. Dinner is \$10.00 and includes everything but the cash bar. Dress is casual and guests are welcome. Directions on page 8.

Saturday, September 22, THEATRE EVENT: Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*, 8:00 p.m., at the historic Puppet House Theatre, 128 Thimble Island Rd., in the Stony Creek section of Branford, CT 06405 (Exit 56, I-95) (www.puppethouse.org). Tickets are \$12 in advance. Meet for coffee before the show. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 10, 7:00. Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner. See above listing for details.

Saturday, October 20, 7:00. Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant, 1775 Madison Ave., Bridgeport.

Saturday, October 27, 8:00, THEATRE EVENT: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, performed by the New Canaan Town Players (www.tpnc.org) at Waveny Park, Powerhouse Performing Arts Center 681 South Ave, New Canaan, CT. 06840 Tickets are \$12. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 332-2548 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com.

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

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CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing. WE - Weekly Event , ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event

SEPTEMBER

2 Sunday 12 to 5 PM

Labor Day Picnic (YE) - It's the 14th annual edition Neal and Dory's Labor Day weekend picnic! It gets better every year. The regulars know this and newcomers are encouraged to find out for themselves. Come to the lake with bathing suits, boats (no motors), and any other sort of water amusement. It is pot luck as always so call ahead for menu coordination, **860-742-5265**.

Neal & Dory Alderman, 39 Lakeside Rd., Andover CT

DIRECTIONS: from Hartford: Take I84 East to I384 East. At the end of I384 take rt. 6 toward Providence. After about 5.5 miles, and just past a 7-11, take a right at the traffic light onto Route 316. Follow about 3/4 mile and take a left onto School Rd. which will change name to Lakeside without benefit of turns. #39 is about 1 1/4 miles past the turn onto School Rd. on the left.

5, 12, 19, 26 Wednesday Noon

West Hartford Lunch (WE) Wednesday lunch will be held at the Hometown Buffet in the Shaw's shopping plaza off Prospect St. West Hartford. Seven dollars buys all you can eat, and the service time is as fast as you can pick up your food!

From 84West take exit #44 (Prospect). Cross through the light right into the plaza. From 84East take exit#44 (Prospect). Take left at the light then a left at the next light (you will have crossed over Rte 84) and then a right into the plaza. There is a large selection of food for a modest cost. We will be seated at the front of the restaurant(away from the food counters). Contact: **John Bentley**, (860) 644-0435.

6, 13, 20, 27 Thursday 7:00 PM

Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. **Ellen Leonard**, (860) 667-1966

7 Friday 5:30 - 7:00 PM

Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden. **Ann Polanski**, (203) 269-4565. This monthly reunion usually draws 10-20 people, warmly welcomes newcomers, and is less than a mile from the I-91 and I-691 interchange.

DIRECTIONS: From I-91 north or south, or Route 15 north or south, take East Main St. (Meriden) exit, head east (away from Meriden Center). After the I-91 interchanges, take a right at the next light. There is a small Ramada sign at the corner. After you pass the Meriden Cinema Complex and the road curves to the left, take a right into the Ramada parking lot. Inside Silver City Grill, ask the host/hostess for the Mensa table - they know us well!

8 Saturday 9:00 AM

Second Saturday Breakfast (ME) G. Willikers, Rt. 184, Groton. **Marge Cohen**, (860) 887-1297

8 Saturday 5:00 PM

Bowling at T-Bowl Lanes, Rte 5 in Wallingford. June's event brought 7 of us to the alleys, (of very varying skills) and we enjoyed 2 strings before we reconvened for dinner. Please call **Beth Collins**, (203) 294-0503 (note different number) or email Player.Piano@Juno.Com to reserve your place. Cost of \$3.00 per string for 2 or 3 strings, shoe rental is \$2.50. Please note – the lanes can be a little bit smoky.

21 Friday 5:00 PM

Fourth Friday Happy Hour (ME, fourth Friday) Colonial Tymes, 2389 Dixwell Ave Hamden. Located about 1/2 mile north of Exit 60, Wilbur Cross Parkway. We have been able to sit at a nice big table and enjoy the good free food for a few months now. Come on down and join us. We also seem to be going out to dinner after, so if you plan to come and want dinner, too, let us know so we can reserve. **Gail Trowbridge** (203) 877-4472 or Gail.Trowbridge@att.com. I send out an e-mail reminder every month. Let me know if you'd like to be on the list.

22 Saturday 10:30am; no rain date. Rated 2-3

TAKE A HIKE to Mount Misery in Pachaug State Forest. Don't let the name scare you; the terrain is fairly easy (380' total elevation), but the 5.25 miles warranted a higher rating. From the intersection of CT 49, CT 165, and CT 138, head east on CT 165 to CT 49 north and turn left. Continue 0.6 mile to the Beachdale Pond boat-launching area parking lot. Bring lunch or snacks; we'll take a break at the summit to enjoy refreshments and the view. Plan on 3-4 hours. Contact Nicole Michaud for info: leave a message at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, subject "hike."

26 Wednesday Noon

Waterbury Last Wednesday of the Month Lunch (ME) at Maggie McFly's, Rt. 63, Middlebury, **Dick Fogg**, (860) 274-2370.

OCTOBER

12 Sunday 2:00 PM

HamSIG meets at **Beth and Charlie's** in Wallingford to continue plans for a play for the RG. Come join the fun, maybe even launch your acting / directing / producing career! All are welcome with their ideas and talents (even if it's just audience talent).

Please RSVP to Beth at 203-294-1994 or, better yet, email to Player.Piano@Juno.Com

12 Sunday 3:00 PM Rain date 8/19, same time. Rated 1

TAKE A HIKE, or more like a walk in the park, at Wadsworth Falls State Park. Walk 3 miles (includes view of the falls), 200' total vertical rise, 2 hours. Contact **Nicole Michaud** for info: leave a message at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, subject "hike."

DIRECTIONS: From the junction of CT 66 and CT 157 in Middletown, take CT 157 southwest and follow the signs. You will reach the park entrance on your left in 1.6 miles. There is a parking fee on summer days. Swimming, bathhouses, tables and fireplaces for picnics.

THE AUGUST DINNER

Indicators of Environmental Health in Long Island Sound

by Rick D'Amico

In 1985, the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) was launched. An act of Congress appropriated funding to examine water quality in Long Island Sound, and a cooperative effort between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the states of New York and Connecticut began. Citizen and environmental groups, business and industry, and academic institutions are also involved. In 1987, Long Island Sound was identified as an "Estuary of National Significance" under the National Estuary Program. LISS issued and began a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the estuary in 1994.

The LISS CCMP addresses a number of issues for Long Island Sound:

- Hypoxia, or low dissolved oxygen, a condition that persists in the Sound, particularly during the late summer months in the western portion;
- Toxic contaminants, in the water column, sediments, and marine organisms;
- Pathogens, microscopic organisms that pose a threat to human health;
- Floatable debris, which can damage property, hurt marine life, and spoil the beauty of the Sound;
- Living Marine Resources and habitat management;
- Land use and management; and,
- Public involvement and education.

It is important to assess on an ongoing basis how effective efforts to manage the Sound have been. Recently, LISS released a report entitled "Sound Health 2001" which highlights key indicators of the condition of the Sound, as well as the effectiveness of efforts to deal with the issues listed above. It would be foolish to attempt to summarize Long Island Sound's health in this short article. However, there are a few measurements worthy of note.

Hypoxia

Hypoxia, or low dissolved oxygen (DO), has been identified as the most serious water quality problem in the Sound. It is most often found in the bottom waters of the western portion of the Sound during the late summer. Hypoxia hurts reproduction and survival rates of marine life in an area. Although hypoxia may be natural in the western portion of the Sound due to the hydrodynamics there, the problem is exacerbated by nitrogen enrichment. High levels of nitrogen promote excessive growth of microscopic planktonic algae, or phytoplankton. Phytoplankton subsequently dies, sinks to the bottom, decomposes and reduces DO in the lower water column.

In 1998, LISS set a goal of reducing human-generated nitrogen loading to the Sound 58.5% over the next 15 years. Sewage treatment plants (STPs) are the major source of human-generated nitrogen to the Sound. There are 105 STPs in New York and Connecticut that discharge either directly into the Sound or its tributaries. Although other sources of nitrogen must also be considered, reducing nitrogen from STPs is clearly a priority. The most effective current technology to reduce nitrogen from sewage effluent is called Biological Nitrogen Removal (BNR). Using BNR, treatment plants can significantly reduce the level of nitrogen in their effluent. In 1990, no STPs used BNR

technology. By contrast, during 2000, more than 157 billion gallons of the nearly 450 billion gallons of sewage entering the Sound from New York and Connecticut received BNR treatment. As a result, nitrogen loading to Long Island Sound from STPs dropped 19.2% in the past ten years (Figure 1).

Storm water from urban and agricultural areas is also part of the human-generated nitrogen loading of the Sound, although nowhere as large a part as the STP effluent. Non-point nitrogen loading to the Sound fluctuates from year-to-year, mostly due to the precipitation that falls, but overall it has been decreasing. (Figure 2)

In evaluating a hypoxia indicator, it is necessary to consider its order in a series of outcomes. After reducing the amount of nitrogen loaded into the Sound, the next order outcome one would expect to see is a reduction in the amount of phytoplankton. Overall, this appears to be the case, except for this year, where there has been an apparent increase in phytoplankton. The relatively low water temperatures this past winter may account for this. There is a good possibility that the organisms that feed on phytoplankton had slower metabolic rates from the colder water, and therefore consumed less, leaving more phytoplankton in the water column. This is just one example of how any evaluation of indicators must look at all factors – no statistic should be viewed in a vacuum.

The severity of hypoxia may be judged by the size of the area affected, how long the condition persists, and the minimum DO values observed. Figure 3 shows the area affected and duration of hypoxia in Long Island Sound from 1987 to 2000. The maximum area of hypoxia has averaged 206 square miles from 1987 through 2000, with a low of 30 square miles in 1997 and a high of 395 square miles in 1994. The duration of hypoxia has averaged 56 days during that same period, with a low of 34 days in 1996 and a high of 82 days in 1989. Since the CCMP began in 1994, hypoxia appears to have become less severe on average. However, the reader is cautioned against drawing any conclusions about a trend because of the relatively short period observed.

Toxic Contaminants

Toxic contamination of Long Island Sound began with industrialization. The waters of the Sound became an easy place to dispose of chemical waste. Measurable levels of toxic contaminants have been found in sediments dating back to the mid-1800s. Federal and state programs have helped reduce the amount of chemical contaminants reaching the Sound.

One source of toxic contaminants to the Sound is STPs. In 1989, the effluent from 76% of Connecticut's STPs tested was non-toxic. By 2000, 95% were non-toxic. In New York, no STPs discharging into the Sound tested positive for toxicity during 1998 and 1999.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) is published by the USEPA and contains information about waste management activities and the release of toxic chemicals by facilities that manufacture or use them. Overall, toxic releases to the Sound and its watershed have declined since the late 1980s. This is consistent with national trends, and may be due to a decline in local manufacturing operations, as well as stricter regulations on contaminant releases.

Measuring water quality for toxic contaminants can be done effectively by analyzing bivalve mollusks, such as the blue mussel. The blue mussel stays in one-place and filters large volumes of water, so it can be an excellent indicator of relatively long-term water quality. Studies since 1986 show that, for the most part, there has been no trend for most of the metals and organic chemicals of

concern in a number of the Sound's harbors and embayments. On a positive note, a number of sites have shown decreasing trends for several chemicals, and only one site has shown an increasing trend, and that was for one chemical only.

Pathogens and Floatable Debris

Most of the microscopic organisms harmful to humans are found in such small concentrations in the Sound that the only really practical way to test for them is to indirectly check for coliform bacteria. High levels of coliform bacteria can indicate unsanitary conditions, which could support the harmful organisms.

Usually, when a swimming beach is closed, it is because of high levels of coliform bacteria, which is often caused by runoff from big rainstorms. There does not appear to be a trend in beach closing days. However, as more actions to control storm water are completed, we may see a decrease in the number of days beaches are closed.

Another indication of pathogen contamination is the trend in acres of shellfish beds that are open. Good water quality and low coliform levels are necessary to keep shellfish beds open. There has been a slight increase in the acreage of shellfish beds in Connecticut. In New York, there has been no testing of closed shellfish areas so we cannot be sure whether there has been an improvement.

Floatable debris can harm marine life, damage property, and create eyesores that discourage people from using shoreline areas. There are two basic strategies in dealing with floatable debris: prevention and cleanup. The MARPOL treaty of 1988 made much of ocean dumping illegal. During Coastal Cleanup weekend in September 2000, volunteers in Connecticut and New York cleaned more than 100 miles of beach and collected nearly 63,000 pounds of debris. But laws alone are not enough to stop pollution before it begins. Compliance, enforcement, and education are all important.

Living Marine Resources and Habitat Management

Oyster harvesting in Long Island Sound reached a peak in 1992, but has been declining through 2000. Two species of parasites have reduced the oyster population. However, the creation of new oyster habitats and the resistance of surviving oysters to the parasites give hope to the oyster industry.

By contrast, hard clam harvests in the Sound have generally increased since 1995. However, it should be noted that commercial landings are not necessarily related to populations, and the increase in hard clam landings may be a result of shell fishermen pursuing a different species following the decline of the oyster.

The Sound's lobster fishery showed regular increases from 1982 until 1998, when a die-off severely reduced the lobster population in the western Sound. Scientists are still trying to find what caused this.

Fisheries studies by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection have shown that the winter flounder and tautog populations are declining. By contrast, the striped bass population appears to be steadily growing.

Anadromous fish live in salt water but spawn in fresh water. Local examples of anadromous fish include salmon, striped bass, smelt, and several species of herring. Construction of dams has reduced populations of anadromous fish by blocking their spawning runs. LISS has set a goal of restoring 100 river miles of fish passage by 2008, using devices such as fishways and bypasses, as well as physical removal of obstacles. So far, 34.9 river miles have been restored to permit fish migration.

Land Use and Management

Forest cover in the Long Island Sound watershed, mostly in Connecticut, has shown a slight increase, although most coastal forests were lost to development many years ago. This is especially true in the Westchester County, NY portion of the watershed where only small parcels of forested land may still exist. Forest cover in Connecticut continues to grow as a result of Connecticut forest management practices.

Public Involvement and Education

An informed and involved public is essential if the Sound is to be restored and protected. One of the ways that the public has been involved is in volunteer water monitoring activities. For the most part, the staffs of government agencies monitor the open areas of the Sound, while most of the volunteer groups monitor its embayments, harbors, and streams. In all, volunteers man approximately one third of the monitoring stations.

More and more people are visiting the Long Island Sound Study's Website (<http://www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis>) each year. This indicates the success of the LISS's public outreach and education programs.

Overall

It is the author's belief that overall, Long Island Sound is headed in the right direction. As mentioned earlier, one must consider an outcome's order in evaluating its success. It appears that many of the earlier order activities are showing progress, for example, nitrogen reduction. However, it is too early to judge some of the later order results. We must also consider outside factors. As noted, parasites have severely reduced the oyster population but this is probably unrelated to human activities. Where nature has cooperated however, the LISS plan has improved the outlook for the Sound.

(Graphs are on next page.)

Figure 1

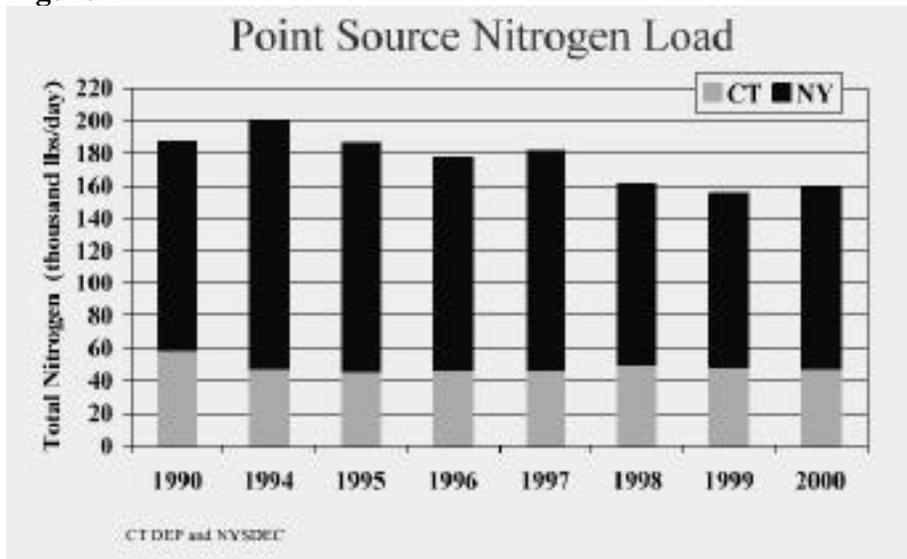


Figure 2

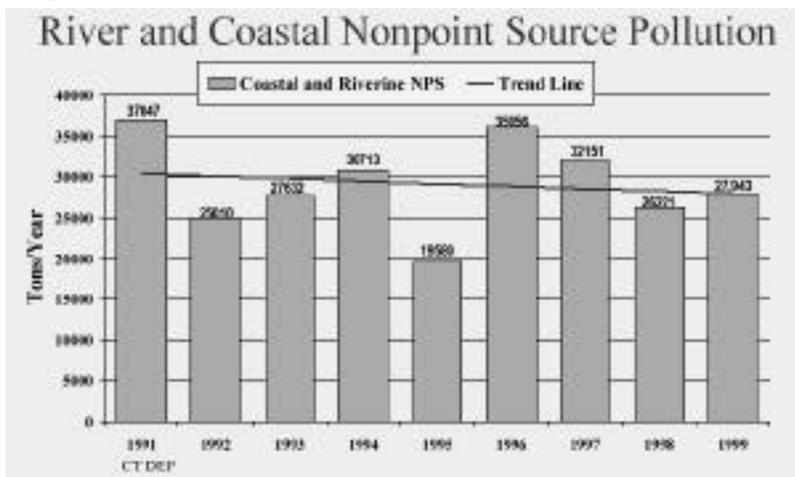
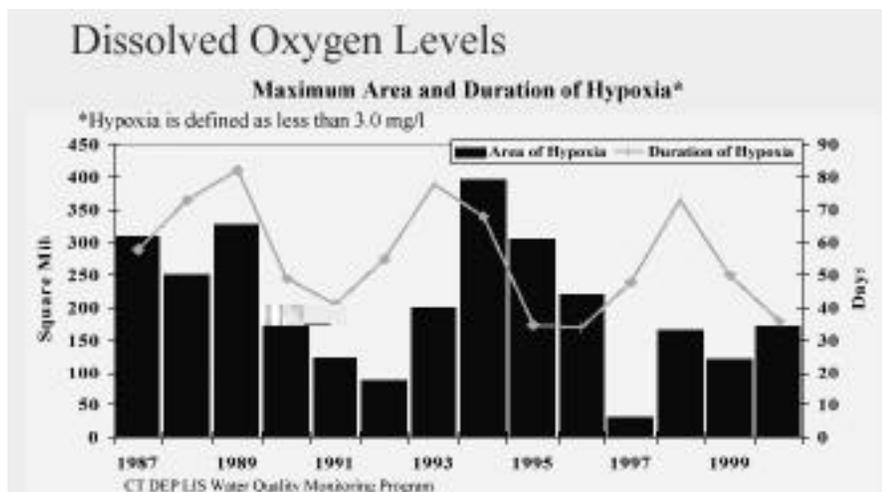


Figure 3



CIVIL WAR FACTS AND FIGURES

The population of the North at the start of the Civil War was 22 million, and that of the South was 9 million, 3.5 million of who were slaves. About 350,000 Southerners held slaves, and about 46,000 of them owned more than 20 slaves. In South Carolina, the first state to secede, the majority of white citizens owned slaves and slaves outnumbered whites. Slave ownership was even a prerequisite for holding some offices in that state.

About 80% of Americans lived in towns with populations less than 2,500 in 1860.

In 1800 the United States exported \$5,000,000 of cotton, 7% of total exports. By 1860, it exported \$191,000,000 of cotton, 57% of exports. The price of a healthy slave rose from approximately \$300 in 1800 to over \$1500 in 1860.

The North produced about \$1.7 billion of manufactured goods in 1860 and the South only about \$156 million. (The value of manufactured products in the U.S. first surpassed the value of agricultural output about 1860.) In addition, the North had 21,700 miles of railroad track compared to 9000 miles in the Confederacy.

About one-third of West Point graduates left the Army and joined the Southern cause.

An estimated 13% of the soldiers on each side deserted during the Civil War. More than half were never apprehended.

In the North, prices rose by about 50% during the first two years of the war while wages only increased by 10%. The Northern inflation rate peaked at about 80%. In the South, the inflation rate was 12% the first year of the war, but accelerated amidst the proliferation of state currencies and the military defeats of 1862. By war's end, inflation topped 9000%.

Abraham Lincoln and the Confederate president Jefferson Davis were both born in 1808 in Kentucky, within 100 miles of each other. Kentucky had a secessionist governor and a pro-Union legislature in 1861 and chose neutrality, but the warring armies often ignored Kentucky's non-aligned stance.

No European countries recognized the Confederacy except for Poland and the duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Great Britain came close to recognizing the Confederacy in 1862, but declined to after the Southern retreat from Antietam in September.

During the Civil War years of 1861-1865, more than 800,000 immigrants came to America, almost all of them to the North. Most of them were from England, Ireland, and Germany.

About 110,100 Union soldiers were killed, and another 224,580 died from diseases. The Confederates lost approximately 94,000 in battle and another 164,000 to disease.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MULTITASKING

People used to just call it juggling demands. When the Windows operating system came along, people adopted the computer term multitasking. Whatever you call it, however, recent psychological experiments confirm that people aren't very good at it. Studies at Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Michigan, and the Federal Aviation Administration show that switching between complex tasks is inefficient and that people do better in both the short-term and long-term concentrating on one task at a time.

In the study at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, researchers used magnetic resonance images of brain activity to compare what happened to subjects when they did one complex task, as opposed to two tasks at a time. Since more active brain cells use more oxygen and light up the images, the experimenters were able to map what areas of the brain were in use during different activities. From previous research, it was already known that when a single area of the brain tries to do two tasks at once, there are fewer brain cells active. The Carnegie experimenters sought to find out what would happen when two different areas of the brain tried to do two unrelated activities at the same time. They tested for the high-level cognitive tasks of language comprehension, which is carried out in the brain's temporal lobe, and the mental rotation of objects in space, a process that is done in the parietal lobe. When done independently, these tasks use the same volume of brain tissue. When the tasks were done simultaneously, the Carnegie team found that the brain didn't expand appreciably to meet the demands of multitasking. Instead, the brains of test subjects used just a slightly greater number of cells than when they performed one of the jobs alone. Just as with the Windows operating system, you really can't do two complex tasks simultaneously unless you have two brains. The brain does task switching instead of doing parallel processing and loses something in shifting between activities and in adapting to the rules of the new tasks. More time was lost to shifting with more complex or more unfamiliar tasks. "There are absolute limits to what we can do simultaneously," says Marcel Just, co-director of the Center for Cognitive Brain Imaging at Carnegie Mellon. "It's a question of sheer biological resources." The results show that even people who think they are very good at task-juggling do less well at each task and use up more brain power, make more mistakes, and become more exhausted and stressed than if they do each task separately.

People have overconfidence in their ability to multitask for a number of reasons. They may feel more active doing two things at once even if they are in fact less productive. They also may feel that since they can do two simple things at once, such as watching television and listening on the phone, they can also do two demanding tasks at once. Many overestimate their ability to multitask because they have bought into the much-repeated misconception that humans only use ten percent of their brains and reasoned that they have plenty of leftover capacity to handle concurrent jobs. But the ten-percent figure applies only when someone is performing simple motor or sensory tasks. Hence, the fact that people can walk and chew gum at the same time does not mean that they can drive and talk on a cell phone at the same time. When humans use language or engage in abstract thought, they are using much more of their brain. In fact, humans use almost all of their brain during the course of a day. They simply use different parts during different activities. There is no dormant part that waits for us to tap into it for multitasking.

The second study, in August's issue of the *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance*, confirms the results of the Carnegie tests. The experiments by the Federal Aviation Administration and the University of Michigan showed that switching between complex tasks is self-defeating. Pilots who juggle excessive amounts of information have faster heart rates, higher blood pressure, and slower reaction times to new events. They are easily thrown by surprises and forget more, and ultimately end up with cerebral overload. Although some people, particularly those under age thirty, can juggle better than others, no one can juggle well and remain at ease. The researchers found that some measures could improve multitasking abilities somewhat. For instance, having signals that appeal to more than one sense, such as a bell combined with a warning light, boosted response rates. But overall, the ability to multitask is very limited and cannot be stretched very far.

What can we learn from the experiments in multitasking? First of all, don't do it for mentally demanding tasks. If you must multi-task, try to combine a rote activity with a complex activity. You can do something while waiting on the phone line or read a book while walking a treadmill, but you probably cannot carry on very well two higher-level activities like doing complex calculations and conversing at the same time. Similarly, driving with a hands-free cell phone is not much better than driving with an ordinary cell phone, because using language is a complex mental task that distracts regardless of your hands. Secondly, if you are pressed to handle complex tasks at the same time, try to do two unrelated tasks that use different parts of the brain. The interruption from a dissimilar task won't hurt your performance of the current task quite as much. Finally, the best lesson is simply that multitasking is better left to computers.

NOTED AND QUOTED

- Moderation in temper is always a virtue; but moderation in principle is always a vice.
- Thomas Paine
- I've seen the future and it's much like the present, only longer. - Dan Quisenberry
- Humor is the ability to see three sides of one coin. - Ned Rorem
- The tormenting dilemma of the Middle East is this: Either we have one people too many, or one state too few.
- Anwar Sadat
- I've always wanted to be somebody, but I see now I should have been more specific.
- Lily Tomlin
- All blessings are mixed blessings. - John Updike
- Revenge has no more quenching effect on emotions than salt water has on thirst.
- Walter Weckler
- If you want your dreams to come true, don't sleep. - Yiddish Proverb
- I have been adrift, but I have always stayed afloat. - David Berry
- Bargain: something you can't use at a price you can't resist. - Franklin P. Jones
- Change, like sunshine, can be a friend or a foe, a blessing or a curse, a dawn or a dusk.
- William Arthur Ward
- All dogmas die of dogmatism. - Anais Nin
- When you choose the lesser of two evils, always remember that it is still as evil.
- Max Lerner
- Fame is the beauty parlor of the dead. - Benjamin DeCasseres
- Gossip is when you hear something you like about someone you don't. - Earl Wilson
- Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint. - Mark Twain
- Every age is fed on illusions. - Joseph Conrad
- Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment.
- Barry LePatner
- Everyone can't be rich, but everyone can be kind. - Margaret K. Harvill
- Before following the leader, find out who the leader is. - Dave Weinbaum

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FALL 2001 NOTICE The Connecticut Association for the Gifted needs people who are willing to teach youngsters in grades K-8 for their Minds in Motion classes tentatively planned for October, 2001, at Danbury High School. The CAG, a non-profit organization, sponsors classes in subjects such as rocketry, chess, math, drama, dance, the environment, art, and foreign languages. If you are interested or want more information, please call Susan Chapman at 778-0194 or Chris Cuhsnick at 778-0002.

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2001 MENSA SELECT SEAL WINNING GAMES**Brainstrain** by Chuckle Games Company

A unique game where players make up the words! You've got 60 seconds to ask questions fast to determine who, what, or where you are. Can't guess? We'll clue you!

Price: \$29.95

Web site: www.chucklegames.com

DAO by playdao.com

The game consists of only one simple rule and four ways to win... an engaging game of strategy, yet fun for the whole family! A real challenge for players of all ages that requires an ever-changing strategy and precise balance of movement.

Price: \$39.95

Web site: www.playdao.com

Metro (Paris, 1898) by Queen/Funagain Games

Engineer the most extensive network of track in the Paris underground while attempting to cut off your opponents' tracks. Play with 2 players for a brain-busting tactical duel, 3-4 players for a balanced strategic challenge, or with 5-6 players for chaotic fun!

Price: \$29.95

Web site: www.funagain.com

Shapes Up! By Educational Insights

A game of strategy and speed! Players fit shapes together, like a tangram, to cover their boards and form multicolored squares. The player whose board is filled first and yells "Shapes Up!" is the winner.

Price: \$19.95

Web site: www.educationalinsights.com

thepolicegame by thepollgame, LLC

Choose from 750 "Yes" or "No" questions or create one. The object is to guess how many players will answer "Yes" to the question. Surprising answers and revealing stories will entertain for hours.

Price: \$34.95

Web site: www.thepollgame.com

MENSA REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Mid-Hudson's Regional "Autumn in New York" Gathering

Can you survive a weekend at the Ashokan Field Campus of SUNY New Paltz? This year's theme is "Survivor", and we're calling it our Reality Gathering! It is quite different from others as its all-inclusive price of \$129 includes 6 meals, (prepared by a CIA graduate), as well as sleeping accommodations in the bunkhouses. Of course if you want to sleep in tents that's fine with us if you bring your own. Yes, we do have indoor plumbing! Come see if you can survive our luxurious Summer Camp type RG. Dates are from Sept 7th - 9th. Contact registrar Bill Zigo at 194 Roosevelt Road, Hyde Park, 12538 NY, 845-229-8729, mr.marmot@worldnet.att.net.

Mensautumn 2001

Connecticut and Western Massachusetts gathering will be in Harford, CT at the Hilton Hotel where the room rate is only \$70 with an additional \$5 per day for parking. Registration fee is \$55 through Sept 30. Contact Registrar Barb Holstein at 2 Colony Lane in Cromwell, CT 06416. Phone number 860-632-7873 or e-mail BarbCPA @ worldnet.att.net.

Pilgrimage - An AG to Die For

Boston's AG will be Nov 30-Dec 2 .at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers Ma. (800-325-3535). Registration fee is \$55 and room rate is \$82. Contact Wendy Birchmire, 70 Oak Hill Road, Needham, Ma 02492 (781/444-8213) or e-mail her at wab@birchmire.com.

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(Monthly)

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Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSА Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle. Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process. (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSА Bulletin.)

Member Number: _____

Name: _____

Old Address: _____

New Address: _____

Telephone Number: (____) _____

Please send form to: **American Mensa, Ltd.
Membership Department
1229 Corporate Dr. West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103**

If you wish to submit material, please write or e-mail Jim Mizera at PMB #181, 7365 Main St., Stratford, CT. 06614-1300, Jmizera@hotmail.com. E-mail submissions are preferred. Please include your name, address, and telephone number. Anonymous material will be rejected, although names will be withheld on request. Items will be returned if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Currently, the deadline for postal submissions is the 15th of the month preceding publication, and the 20th of the month for e-mail submissions.

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