

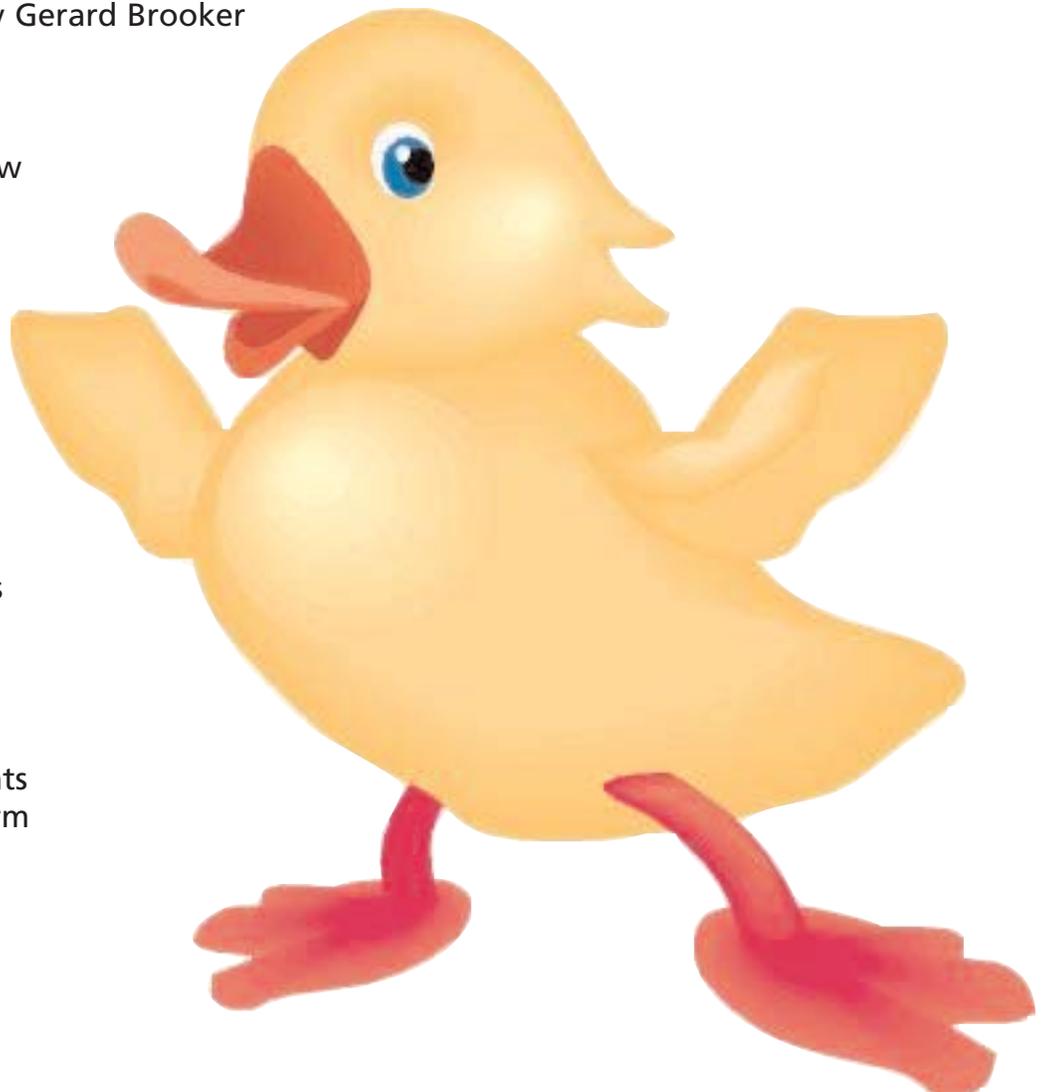
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

You should have received your **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL** form in early January. You can renew by mailing in your form, by renewing online at www.us.mensa.org, or by calling (817) 607-0060, ext. 199 and using your MasterCard or Visa.

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month at the Three Door Restaurant in Bridgeport

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR MAY

Friday, May 9, 6:30

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

This is the new date for this monthly dinner 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, May 17, 7:00

Monthly dinner, Three Door Restaurant

1775 Madison Ave., BRIDGEPORT

Games Night - Come play games like Set or Boggle, or bring your own game. Socializing starts at 7:00, followed by dinner at approximately 8:00 Please contact Nancy O'Neil at nancyoneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668 for information and reservations Dinner is \$15 and includes everything but the cash bar. Dress is casual and guests are welcome.

Saturday, May 31, 8:10

THEATRE EVENT: Art

at the Westport Community Theatre, St., Westport, CT. Winner of the 1998 Tony Award for Best Play, ART examines how the friendship of three men is tested when one of them buys a very simple painting for a huge amount of money. A sophisticated and perceptive comedy. Tickets are \$14. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com. Try to reserve tickets before Monday, April 21 to assure seats.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Friday, June 13, 7:00

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS MENSA CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela

Rodriguez, (860) 872-3106,
email: lilith@snet.net,

MAY

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Thursday 7:00 PM

Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue

160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

2, 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, Nov 2 we had 30! We warmly welcome newcomers, and it's 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!

3 Saturday 1 PM

TAKE A HIKE in Cockaponset State Forest

in Haddam / Chester, CT. Well-marked, scenic foresttrails, moderately hilly, medium pace, approx. 3 1/2 hours, must bring water. CT Rte 9, exit 8 and meet at commuter parking lot. Contact Nicole Michaud for info: leave message at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, subject "hike."

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

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Gary Oberst
A Professional Corporation
111 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851

Office (203) 866-4646
Home (203) 852-9571
Fax (203) 852-1574
sharon@oberstlaw.com

11 Sunday 10:00 AM

Breakfast (ME, 2nd Sunday)

VFW Hall in Manchester. Sunday Brunch hosted by VFW Post 2046 in Manchester, CT from 8 AM to 12 noon. Enjoy omelets made to order, scrambled eggs, pancakes, english muffins, coffee, tea, juices and more, all for \$5.00 pp. Meet you at the Post (608 E. Center St.) around 10 AM. Take Rtes. 44/6 east thru town until E. Center joins E. Middle Tpke. The Post is on the right side (across from Birds and Books). Call Bill Vincent for details (860) 646-3007.

16 Friday 6:00 - 8:00 PM or so

Diner Dinner

(ME) Third Friday of the month, at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities Meet at 6 PM or thereabouts Diner Dinner ranges from toasted cheese sandwich to steak and fish dinners. Basic bar menu available, no happy hour prices, but the food is good and very reasonable Please contact John Bentley at (860) 644-0435 or email BENTLEYJ860@aol.com, subject "diner dinner."

17, Saturday 6:35 PM

Mensa Goes to a Baseball Game

Meet Tom Thomas in New Britain Stadium to see the Rock Cats host the Portland Sea Dogs, the Double-A farm club of the Boston Red Sox. Buy a general admission ticket, go to Section 213, about six rows from the top and enjoy an evening of baseball and laughs. Need more info? Contact tom.thomas@thespa.com or www.rockcats.com

18 Saturday 1:30-3:30 PM

Join the MOB (Mensans on Bikes) for a

Trip down the Farmington Canal Linear Park.

For those unfamiliar with linear parks, they are miles and miles of old railroad rights of ways resurfaced and landscaped for bikers and joggers. It's an absolutely delightful way to spend a warm sunny spring afternoon. This path passes through woods, sunny glades, meadows, wetlands, some old canal locks, and past the base of Sleeping Giant. Since this is built on an old canal bed and railroad, it is very flat, so no worries about hills or difficult terrain, and it is 100% paved. Meet at Lock 12 Historical Park on

Rte 42 in Cheshire. Bring water bottle and a snack.

DIRECTIONS: From north, take I-691 to Exit 3, go south 5.5 miles to Rte 42 (N Brooksvale Rd.), turn right at gas station. Park is 1 mile on right. From south, take I-91 to Exit 10, continue to end of Rte 40 connector, go north on Rte 10 approx. 5.7 miles. Turn left on Rte 42 and continue as above. Look for blue (no, it's NOT purple) Subaru Forester with red bike rack (994-JVT). RSVP Rob Bernobich @ 203/393-9445, ernobic@adelphia.net, so I know who to look for.

23 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.

25 Sunday 12:30 PM

Fourth Sunday Lunch (ME)

Join tri-state Mensans (from MA, VT, and NH) for a good lunch and better conversation at The Marina Restaurant in Brattleboro. Afterward we can make the scene in town if something looks interesting. RSVP to Margaret.M.Brodhead @hitchcock.org or 603-242- 3367.

DIRECTIONS: Marina Restaurant, Putney Road (U.S.5/S.R. 9), Brattleboro, VT. 802-257-7563. I- 91 to Exit 3, Routes 9/5 south to restaurant on the right. If you come in and don't see us, ask for Meg.

25 Sunday 12:30 PM

Mensa Memorial Weekend Cookout

at Beth and Charlie's house in Wallingford. BYOB and food to share, but mostly bring YOU! There will also be a brief ExComm meeting and a briefer RG Committee meeting, so you can blend chapter business with chapter pleasures ad lib. Rain date: May 26th

28 Wednesday Noon

Middlebury Lunch (ME, last Wednesday)

Good food and good conversation available! Where? At Maggie McFly's in Middlebury. When? On the last Wednesday of any month from 12 noon to about 1:30 p.m. The number of attendees is growing; so, join the fun. Become a McFlyer. Maggie, in goggles and leather helmet, flying a red biplane, soars over your head. She is either your wingman or she provides ground support as you advance into your lunch! Please call Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 if you will attend for the first time. This will give him time to scramble for a larger table, or a longer lunch trench, as needed.

Directions: The restaurant is visible on the right from Rte. 63 just south of the Rte 63 and Rte 64 intersection. This intersection is at the end of a long ramp at Exit 17 on Rte 84 west. From this exit, turn left at the 63/64 intersection. If you use Exit 17 on Rte. 84 east (heading toward Hartford), turn left off the exit ramp and see Maggie McFly's on your left.

MENSA REGIONAL GATHERING

July 2 - 6, 2003

MENSAUTUMN 2003 OCTOBER 17 - 19

Cromwell, CT.

Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa is hosting its 26th annual Regional Gathering. Enjoy food and beverages galore, fascinating speakers, and wonderful conversation. Join us for a great weekend.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416. (860) 635-2000. SR/DR \$84. TR/QR \$94 + tax. Room rates guaranteed to 9/24. Hotel is off I-91, south of Hartford, north of New Haven.

Checks payable to C & WM Mensa RG. Contact William Vincent, 70 Weaver Rd., Manchester, CT 06040. (860) 646-3007, wpvincent@aol.com



Media

MINNESOTA MENSA and MENSA CANADA present LIGHT UP THE NORTH.

2003 Annual Gathering - St. Paul, Minnesota. Register online at www.ag2003.com.

The AG will have a full slate of speakers and activities to keep you occupied for the entire five days, along with nonpareil hospitality.

REGISTRATION: \$70.00 until 3/31/03. 1/2 price for ages 6-12, free for 5 and under. HOTEL:

Radisson Hotel Riverfront, located on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi in downtown St. Paul. 1-800-333-3333 \$84.00/night (+tax),

S/D/T/Q Meal Package: \$59.00 includes

Friday Awards Luncheon, Saturday Night Banquet, Sunday Brunch. Special Added

Attraction: Friday July 4th Riverboat Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi (\$35.00). REGISTRAR:

Jane Gmur E-mail: registrar@ag2003.com

Make checks payable to: 2003 Mensa Annual

Gathering Mail to: P.O. Box 2087, Minneapolis, MN 554002-0087

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Name on Badge _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Per Person Registration Rates:

Until 11/30/02: \$40 _____

Until 1/31/03: \$50 _____

Until 3/31/03: \$55 _____

After 3/31/03: \$60 _____

Sumptuous Saturday Buffet

Dinner \$36 _____

Splendid Sunday Brunch \$17 _____

TOTAL _____

I want to participate in:

_____ Helping in Hospitality

_____ Helping at Registration

_____ Helping to Introduce Speakers

_____ Presenting a Program

Please return this form and your check or money order - payable to GNYM RG 2003 to: Karen Coopersmith-Tobin, Registrar 20 Wisteria Court Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

QUESTIONS? Call Karen Coopersmith-Tobin at (732) 438-0067 or Brenda Giammanco at (718) 980-1686 llanasMom@aol.com

paleneka@juno.com

REVISITING VIETNAM

by Gerard Brooker

I recently returned from a trip to Vietnam, a trip where I got to know the people and see some of the sights. I lived in the old quarter, a part of Hanoi that is a thousand years old. Its narrow streets teem with life: pedestrians, motorbikes, shops, cyclo-rickshaws, busses and cars. The lake into which John McCain parachuted during the war sits on its outskirts.

The university students I met daily were exceptional. Although at first shy and a bit distrustful, they were curious about Americans, democracy, our way of living, culture, history, literature and ideas. In time, some told me about their thoughts about what they call the American War.

Most are willing to let bygones be bygones, a typical attitude of the Vietnamese who are a forgiving people. One bright young man who knew several elderly victims of the war told me privately that he thought the U.S. government owed his country an apology, adding that he knew it could not apologize because that would be disrespectful of the American veterans who fought in the war.

The Vietnamese were sensitive to how they might hurt our feelings about the war. One night, for example, I went to a music conservatory to hear four blind students play traditional Vietnamese music. When I asked about their blindness, I was told by different people that it could be explained by a variety of causes. I learned later that these young musicians were born blind, that their parents were victims of Agent Orange.



Near the end of the conference I attended, an American asked the assembly, which included Vietnamese professors and researchers, if they thought that America has established a good and just relationship with Vietnam since the war. The answer was decidedly affirmative. They spoke about the normalization of relations which occurred in 1995; the bilateral trade agreement of 2001; the debt payments that we have returned to Vietnam for education and health care. Most prominent in the restoration of good will has been the reconciliation work of American veterans who have returned to build schools, hospitals, churches and orphanages.

However, at the end of this exchange, a young Vietnamese researcher, who had her master's degree from the University of Notre Dame, declared her resentment that she and her fellow countrymen are thought of as "evil" by our government because they are communists, a courageous confession in the midst of an international peace and development conference.

Later, I asked her what she thought about President Bush. She thought about the question for so long that I imagined I could hear her brain calibrating, searching for an answer that would hold the line of suitability without compromising truth. She finally looked at me and said: "Arrogant."

Vietnam is a poor country with many problems: corruption; health care; gender and wealth inequities; regional security; pollution and poverty. They are quite open about their vulnerabilities, how poverty can afflict faith and will, how "it takes only a small wave to drown a man who is neck deep in poverty." A health official told a touching story of a farmer who sold his only buffalo to pay for his wife's dialysis.

Because of its spiritual values, limited ambitions, governable size, high literacy rate, and extraordinary work ethic, Vietnam will, in time, be comfortable with its quality of life.

Last week, the day after the war in Iraq started, I received an e-mail from one of the

continued on page 6

VIETNAM AT A GLANCE

Official Name:	Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Population:	79.7 million (2002 est.)
Population Distribution:	76.0% rural, 24% urban.
Capital:	Hanoi, population 2.67 million
Population Growth:	1.4% (2002 estimate)
Population Density:	622 people/ sq. mi.
Fertility Rate:	2.3 children per woman
Infant Mortality Rate:	30.0 deaths per 1000 live births
Life Expectancy:	68.0 years
Per Capita GDP:	\$435 (2002 estimate)
Major Exports:	Crude oil, clothing, seafood, footwear, rice, coffee, rubber, fruit.
System of Government:	One Party Rule
Language:	Vietnamese. A large number of educated people speak English as well as some French and Russian.
Ethnic Background:	Vietnamese (kinh) make up approximately 87% of the population. The remainder consists of various ethnic groups including Khmer, Cham, Muong, Thai, Cambodians, and Chinese.
Religion:	Buddhism (55%), Taoism (12%), and Roman Catholicism (7%). Regardless of religion, however, most Vietnamese continue to practice Ancestor Worship.
U.N. Human Development Index, 2000: 109 out of 173 countries (improving)	
Heritage 2002 Index of Economic Freedom Ranking: 3.7/5.0 (5=lowest), 135th out of 156.	
Freedom House 2002 Human Rights Rating: 6.5 / 7.0	

Vietnamese students who attended the

REVISITING VIETNAM CONT.

conference. She told me that the buzz around her campus was that the U.S. might decide, now that it was in a militaristic mood again, to invade Vietnam and complete unfinished business. The past had come back to haunt the young.

I told her not to worry, that the American people would rise up against our government like a dragon breathing fire before that would happen. I was reminded, though, of Russian students in Moscow during the Cold War telling me of their fear that they would be annihilated in the night by American A-bombs. And I remembered that the Vietnamese are part of the Evil Empire, and that we, the most powerful nation, have become the world's self-appointed judge, jury and executioner. So, I left my p.c. Wondering.

Chronicle is THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA #066

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SAVING MONEY ON GAS

Gas prices are falling again but there are still ways to save on fuel expenses for your car. The average car on the road now gets 20.4 miles per gallon, according to Consumer Reports, but some are not doing as well as they could because they're not being maintained well enough. Here are some steps that you can take to improve your own car's mpg and the possible savings.

1. Keep your engine tuned. A poorly tuned engine can increase fuel use by as much as 10 - 20%.
2. Check and replace the air filters regularly. The air filter keeps impurities in the air from damaging the engine. Clogged filters can increase fuel consumption up to 10%.
3. Use air conditioning when driving at higher speeds on the highway but shut it off and open the windows when you drive in stop-and-go conditions. Although air conditioning can decrease your fuel economy 10 - 20%, at normal highway speeds open windows create air resistance and drag down performance even more. (Sunroofs also increase resistance).
4. Keep your tires properly inflated. Under-inflated tires can inflate fuel expenses by approximately 2% for every pound below normal pressure.
5. Periodic wheel alignments can help improve fuel economy up to 10%, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.
6. Remove excess weight from the trunk. An extra 100 pounds in the trunk reduces a typical car's fuel economy by 1 - 2%. 250 pounds can cost your car about one mile per gallon. The trunk is better for mileage than the roof rack, however; the aerodynamics of the roof rack can cut mileage as much as 5%.
7. Driving at 55 miles per hour rather than 65 can improve your fuel economy by 10 - 15%, or two to three miles per gallon. Most cars get their best gas mileage traveling at 35- 45 miles per hour. Caution: This must be weighed against the time you save by driving 65. If your time is worth even \$10/hr., you save more in time driving faster than you do on gas by driving slower.
8. Buy the cheapest gasoline that doesn't make your car engine knock. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) says that 20% of all gas sold is premium grade but only about 6 % of the cars need it. Engines that are designed for regular gasoline won't run better on premium. You can save hundreds of dollars per year by just buying regular gas. Check your owner's manual to see what grade of gas is right for your car.
9. Use a multi-grade motor oil recommended by your car's manufacturer. An energy conserving (EC) oil can boost your gas mileage by 1.5% over a typical single-grade motor oil. An EC II oil can improve it by 2.7%.

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.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ECONOMIC TERMS?

Many economic concepts are ignored or badly understood in popular discussions. Here are some concepts that every person should know.

OPPORTUNITY COST

The opportunity cost is the value of your best alternative to the one you actually choose. Because time and wealth are limited, all choices, spending or otherwise, require passing something up in order to pursue something else. If you take golf lessons rather than tennis lessons, you are giving up the option of tennis lessons. If that is your next best option, that is your opportunity cost.

The true cost of anything is its opportunity cost. It is not accurate to say that if you bought something for \$100, you valued it at \$100. You actually valued it at more than \$100 because you would not trade things that were simply equal, you would trade the \$100 for something you valued more. Your cost is actually the next best option you had with the \$100. This makes the cost subjective, but that is unavoidable. What you forego is your opportunity cost.

MARGINAL COST

The marginal cost of something is the cost of the next item produced. The marginal price of something is the price of the next item purchased. The marginal cost is the additional or extra cost. Most decisions are made at the margin because most decisions are not all or nothing choices. Because of diminishing returns, the marginal value of an additional dish of ice cream after you have had two dishes already may be less than the marginal cost to you.

You shouldn't assume that the marginal benefit of something is the same as the average benefit. For example, you may not get as much benefit from the next \$1000 you spend on education as you did from the first \$1000.

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE

The principle of comparative advantage was first clearly formulated by David Ricardo in 1817. Although it forms the basis for international

trade and specialization, it is one of the most misunderstood ideas in economics. People may apply it semi-consistently in their daily lives, but they often do not apply it when thinking of larger groups.

Comparative advantage is the ability to produce one good at a relatively lower cost than other goods. Comparative advantage must be distinguished from absolute advantage. People, companies, and countries should produce what they have a relative advantage at, not what they have an absolute advantage at. If a company 1 can produce A at 3/4 the cost that company 2 can, it has an absolute advantage in producing A. But if it can produce good B at 1/2 the cost of company 2, then it has a greater advantage in producing good B. It has a relative advantage in B. If these are the only two goods, then company 1 should produce B and buy A from company 2. Company 1 gains more by specializing in good B, regardless of the fact that it has an absolute advantage in producing good A as well. Company 2 does best by specializing in good B. Both companies benefit most from producing what they have a relative advantage at, not what they simply has an advantage at.

The same idea applies to individuals. Bill Gates should not type letters even if he can type faster than his secretary. He produces and earns much more working as an executive than he could working as a secretary. His comparative advantage is in executive decision-making and it would be wasteful for him to work at other things just because he does them a little better than others.

Even if someone or some country is worse at every thing than every other person or country, they will still have a relative advantage at many things. Thus it is simply wrong to think that they will have no work because of disadvantages. Because human wants are infinite or virtually so and time and wealth is finite, it will always pay for others to buy some things from them even if others have an absolute advantage at producing those things.

HOW FAST DO ANIMALS MOVE?

The following speeds are the fastest speeds measured for short distances for these animals. Many animals do not run for long distances. Elephants can run, although their run looks much like a walk. As of now, they are not raced competitively.

SPEED IN MILES PER HOUR

RUNNING

Cheetah	70
Antelope	60
Gazelle	50
Wildebeest	50
Lion	50
Coyotes	43
Ostrich	43
Zebras	40
Hyena	40
Racing Greyhound	39
Race Horses	38
Kangaroos	35
Rabbits	35
Giraffe	32
Grizzly Bear	30
Langur	26
Humans	22
Asian Elephants	15
Wild Turkey	15
Squirrel	12
Sloth (on ground)	.6
Snails	.3
Tortoises	.2

MOVING THROUGH TREES

Gibbons	20
Sloth	1

FLYING

Peregrine Falcon	100 - 200
Spine-tailed swift	105
Frigate	94
Racing Pigeon	89
Dragonfly	36

SWIMMING

Sailfish	67
Bluefin Tuna	65
Sharks	44
Dolphins	37
Blue Whale	30
Sea Horse	.01

POETRY CORNER

My Prime of Youth is But a Frost of Cares

By Chidioc Tichborne, 1586

My prime of youth is but a frost of cares,
 My feast of joy is but a dish of pain,
 My crop of corn is but a field of tares,
 And all my good is but vain hope of gain.
 The day is gone and yet I saw no sun,
 And now I live, and now my life is done.

The spring is past, and yet it hath not sprung,
 The fruit is dead, and yet the leaves are green,
 My youth is gone, and yet I am but young,
 I saw the world, and yet I was not seen,
 My thread is cut, and yet it was not spun,
 And now I live, and now my life is done.

I sought my death and found it in my womb,
 I lookt for life and saw it was a shade,
 I trode the earth and knew it was my tomb,
 And now I die, and now I am but made.
 The glass is full, and now the glass is run,
 And now I live, and now my life is done.

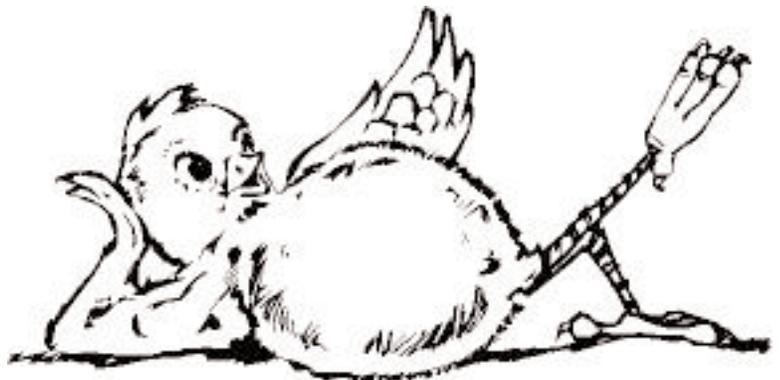
Chidioc Tichborne (1558 - 1586) was involved in a plot to murder Queen Elizabeth I of England. He was sentenced to death, and he wrote this poem a few days before his execution.

•••

First Fig

By Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1922

My candle burns at both ends;
 It will not last the night;
 But ah, my foes, and oh, my friends—
 It gives a lovely light!



WORD ORIGINS

buccaneer - The word comes from a colony of thieves and renegades, mostly Frenchmen, on the island of Hispanolia. They eked a living by stealing cattle and drying and salting the meat on a frame called the buccan. The Spanish put an end to the cattle rustling, but the thieves became sea marauders. In the West Indies, they became known as "buccaneers", although they were also called pirates and freebooters.

calculate - In ancient Rome, the citizens used to hire a two-wheeled vehicle which served as a "taxi" to give them rides. The vehicles had a device called a hodometer or "road measurer" that was their version of the modern "taxi meter." This was a tin pan with a revolving cover that held a quantity of pebbles. Each time the wheels of the vehicle turned, the metal cover also revolved and a pebble dropped from the can into a receptacle below. The Roman word for pebble was "calculus". At the end of the trip, drivers and passengers counted the pebbles to "calculate" their bill.

hippopotamus - the name comes from the Greek words "hippos", horse, and "potamos", river. A hippopotamus was a "river horse." Although the hippopotamus has more similarities to the pig than to the horse, it does spend a great deal of its time in or near the water. Hippos are good swimmers and can stay under water for five minutes, but they prefer to move slowly in the shallower waters. The word "hippodrome", a track for horse races, also comes from the Greek, as do the words "potable" and "potion."

beef, mutton, and pork - these words came to the English language from the French after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Although English retained the Old English words 'cow', 'sheep', and 'swine', the French names 'beef' (boef), 'mutton' (moton), and 'pork' (porc) were used when the meat from these animals was eaten because it was mainly the wealthier and noble families, who spoke French, who ate meats.

GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT) By John Grover

This month's wine comes from the state of Washington. Washington and Oregon often provide the best values in white wines on the West Coast. (Please note a degree of bias against California wines. That state is a source of good wines but frequently at exorbitant prices.)

Hogue Cellars' 2001 Fume Blanc is a wonderful example of a good wine at a reasonable price. Fume Blanc is typical Sauvignon Blanc. Hogue has all the subtle gooseberry and grass of the variety but with layers of lemon and herbs that raise it to an excellent wine. We find it locally for \$8 to \$10 a bottle.

Lemon Tarragon Roast Cornish Game Hens

Ingredients:

2 (1 1/4 to 1 1/2 lb.) Cornish Game Hens;
 1/2 stick softened butter;
 2 tbs chopped shallot;
 1 tbs. grated lemon zest;
 1 tbs. chopped fresh tarragon;
 1/2 tsp. salt; and,
 1/4 tsp. black pepper.

Preheat oven to 450 degrees; Rinse hens and pat dry; place skin side up in a 1 inch deep baking pan; stir together butter, shallot, zest, tarragon, 1/4 tsp. salt and 1/8 tsp. pepper in a small bowl. Loosen skin from meat all over hens including legs and thighs, being careful not to tear skin. Rub half of butter under skin and remaining half on top. Sprinkle hens with rest of salt and pepper. Roast hens in oven until cooked through and skin is golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. The Boss served this with a seasoned blend of wild and long grain rice available from Carolina Rice. The drippings make a nice gravy that is definitely "politically incorrect".

John Grover is a member of Mensa of Northeastern New York. He lives with his wife Sharon in the Hudson Valley in Kinderhook, New York.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

(Answers may be in next month's Chronicle.)

1. How tall does a building have to be to be a skyscraper?
2. When is the word creativity misused?
3. Jones and Smith each buy 100 feet of fencing for their gardens. Jones makes a square garden and Smith makes a circular garden. Which one will have a bigger garden?
4. In the last problem, assume Jones and Smith decide to turn their gardens into boxing rings. How would the square ring help some boxers and hinder others? How could some boxers benefit from the circular ring?



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Which word does not belong in this list: soccer, cricket, billiards, and hockey?

A: The answer is - a) soccer, because it is the only one in which the ball is not struck by an implement; b) cricket, because in all the other games the object is to put the ball into a net; c) billiards, because it's the only one that's not a team sport; d) hockey, because it's the only one whose name ends in a vowel; e) soccer, because it's the only one that's played with a hollow ball; f) billiards, because it's the only one in which the color of the ball matters; g) hockey, because it's the only one where the object hit (the puck) is not a sphere. So take your choice or come up with another reason.

This problem originally appeared on a British school exam in the early 1960's and was reported in the Times of London.

4. If there are 25 people in a room, what is the probability that at least 3 of them were born in the same month?

A: 100%. Even if the birthdays are distributed as evenly as possible, there will be 11 months that have 2 birthdays and one month that has 3.

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The company reports that the average person reads at a speed of between 200-300 words a minute but that people who enjoy reading can read more than 400 words per minute, and that some people can even read well at more than 800 words a minute.

The Reading Edge also offers books, tapes, tele-classes, and personal lessons to help people read faster and more efficiently. For more information, visit their website at www.the-reading-edge.com or contact them at info@the-reading-edge.com

NOTED AND QUOTED

Experience, to most men, is like the stern lights of a ship, which illumine only the track it has passed.

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *English critic & poet, (1772-1834)*

Adventure is worthwhile in itself.

- Amelia Earhart, *U.S. aviator, (1897 - 1937?)*

There are two kinds of people in this world: Those that enter a room and turn the television set on, and those that enter a room and turn the television set off.

- Laurence Harvey, *as Raymond Shaw, in the Manchurian Candidate, 1962 film*

There is no data on the future.

- Laurel Cutler, *advertising and marketing executive*

Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon or star.

- Confucius, (551 - 479 B.C.)

To overcome evil with good is good, to resist evil by evil is evil.

- Mohammed, (570-632)

You've got to continue to grow, or you're just like last night's cornbread - stale and dry.

- Loretta Lynn (1935 -)

Man is a rational animal who always loses his temper when he is called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason.

- Oscar Wilde, (1854 - 1900)

I know how men in exile feed on dreams.

- Aeschylus, *Greek dramatist, (525 - 456 B.C.)*

A city man is a home anywhere, for all big cities are much alike. But a country man has a place where he belongs, where he always returns, and where, when the time comes, he is willing to die.

- Edward Abbey, *U.S. novelist & essayist, (1927 - 1989)*

Thinkers prepare the revolution; bandits carry it out.

- Mario Azuela

You can't lead anyone else further than you have gone yourself.

- Gene Mauch, *baseball manager, (1925 -)*

Go and wake up your luck.

- Persian Saying

There are lots of people who mistake their imagination for their memory.

- Josh Billings, *U.S. humorist & aphorist, (1818 - 1885)*

All trees have bark. All dogs bark. Therefore, all dogs are trees. The fallacy of barking up the wrong tree.

- Anonymous

One thing you can't recycle is wasted time.

- Anonymous

It takes a thousand voices to tell a single story.

- Native American Saying

Small deeds done are better than great deeds planned.

- Peter Marshall, *Scottish-born Presbyterian clergyman, (1902 - 1949)*

VOCABULARY BOOSTER CD

The Vocabulary Booster CD is a great way to build vocabulary skills. Contains 200 of the most common and troublesome SAT words with definitions, contextual usage sentences, and various memory aids. Produced by Gene McKenna, a graduate of Georgetown University with a master's degree in education, who scored a perfect 800 on the verbal section of the SAT. As founder and director of Ace In-Home Tutoring, he has helped thousands of people improve their vocabulary strength. Now you, too, can get all the advantages of his expert one-on-one tutoring at just a fraction of the cost with the Vocabulary Booster CD. Just pop this CD into your car stereo or portable disc player for ten minutes a day, and watch your vocabulary grow. It's fast, easy, and effective. Guaranteed results. Full money-back guarantee if not more than completely satisfied. CD is only \$19.95, taxes, shipping and handling included.

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CHAPTER NOTES

Southern Connecticut Mensa has an e-mail server list on Topica where members can discuss topics with other Mensans on the list To subscribe, just send a blank e-mail to:
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BETHEL CINEMA FILM GROUP The Bethel Cinema is an independent art house movie theater in the town of Bethel, CT, just outside Danbury The Cinema will be running a Freudian Flicks psychological-film discussion group from now until May or June Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 11:00 am (Bethel Cinema 778-2100) If you are interested in participating in a Mensa group to see films in this series or any of the films on the theater's regular schedule, please contact Nancy O'Neil at Nancyoneil@aol.com.

If you would like to organize or sponsor a Mensa event, please contact Jim Mizera at Jmizera@hotmail.com The event can be posted in the Chronicle and announced at monthly dinners It can also be listed in the newsletter of the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa chapter, the Media, if enough lead-time is available.

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In **Don't Forget to Write!**, The 6' Ferret Writers' Group shares more than ten years' experience on how to start a local writers' group, add members, and avoid common problems Also included are writing exercises, events, recommended reading, and stories from a few exercises Order through your favorite on-line or local bookstore ISBN 0-7388-3698-2 Visit our website, too!
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