

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

AMERICAN MENSA LTD. NEEDS YOUR HELP to correct a technical inconsistency in its Certificate of Incorporation. The Board of Directors of AML wants to change the Articles of Incorporation to permit elections and referenda to be conducted by mail. In order to do so, they need your proxy vote. So please take time **NOW** to give your proxy by visiting <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>.

ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back a year to July 2002 are available on the Internet at <http://www.44ellen.com/mensa>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance of viruses accompanying the files.

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SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR MARCH

Friday, March 12, 7:00

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, March 20, 7:00

Monthly Dinner

John's Best Restaurant, 85 New Canaan Ave. (Rte. 123, just off Rte. 7), NORWALK, 06850, (203) 847-7414. COME TRY OUR NEW MEETING PLACE! DIRECTIONS from I-95: Merge onto US-7 N via exit number 15 toward NORWALK/DANBURY. Take the CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVENUE exit - #2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.30 miles). Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/ NEW CANAAN AVE. (0.09 mi). John's is on the left after Wendy's and the bank. FROM DANBURY: Take US-7 / CT-33/ DANBURY RD down to Norwalk. Turn RIGHT onto GRIST MILL RD/ US-7. Continue to follow GRIST MILL RD. 0.16 miles Turn LEFT onto the US-7 S. highway and go 1.68 miles to Exit 2. Turn RIGHT onto CT-123/New Canaan Ave and follow to John's Best. Dress is casual. Please contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR APRIL

Saturday, April 3, 8:00

Theater Event: South Pacific

at the Kveskin/Curtain Call Theatre, 1349 Newfield Ave., (Norht) Stamford, CT., 06905 Tickets are \$20. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Friday, April 9, 7:00

Southern CT and CT/Western Mass. Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, April 17, 7:00

Monthly Dinner Place to be announced.

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,

Mensans on the Radio: C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 2nd & 4th Friday 6-10 AM on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast — about 25 can listen simultaneously at www.wpkn.org. From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly cajun & zydeco.

Vice LocSec Will Mackey is hosting Friday Evening Classics from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. weekly on 91.3 FM, WWUH, in West Hartford. The name of the program is "What You Will" and its focus is chamber music.

What better company to get out of the week and ready for the weekend?

MARCH

4, 11, 18, 25 Friday 5:30-8:00 pm

Scrabble (WE) Ann Polanski, at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 (Please call first to make sure this is happening today).

5 Friday 5:30-8:00 pm

Happy Hour (ME, first Friday) at the Ramada Inn, Meriden Ann Polanski, (203) 269-4565 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

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

<p>Law Offices Gary Oberst A Professional Corporation 111 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851</p>	<p>Office (203) 866-4646 Home (203) 852-9571 Fax (203) 852-1574 sharon@oberstlaw.com</p>
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parking lot Inside Silver City Grill, ask the host/hostess for the Mensa table - they know us well!

5 Friday Prime Time

FOX special, Test the Nation

Mark Your Calendars for Test the Nation 2. Last June, thousands of people across the country tested their intelligence during the two-hour FOX special, Test the Nation. The show was so successful that FOX has scheduled Test the Nation 2 to air on Friday, March 5. American Mensa's supervisory psychologist Dr. Frank Lawlis will once again be a guest on the program to discuss Mensa and intelligence. This would be a great time to get together with your Mensa friends! Special thanks to proctors Martha McKeon, Dave Felt, Elissa Rudolph, Dan Burg, and Cindy Olgilvie who have been busy this past week helping FOX test their test.

And for those who want to watch together rather than at home, there's a special one time Happy Hour! We will start at 5:30 PM at George's Restaurant at the Quality Inn at 51 Hartford Tpk. (Rte. 83) in Vernon, CT (near exit 64 on Rt. 84 and the golf course). Before "Test the Nation 2" airs there will be time for some of the munchies provided by George's, or a real meal served right there. They have big screen TVs and enthusiasm to see how we do. This is the first event on the Eastern side of Hartford in a long time. We're looking forward to seeing you there. Contact Bob Smith 860-872-3106 or BoboRobDOS@snet.net

6 Saturday 9:30-11:00 PM

Mensa Qualification Test

A supervised test for membership in Mensa will be held from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at the Windsor Public Library, 323 Broad Street (Route 159 at Batchelder Road, south end of town green), Windsor, Connecticut. Please bring \$30.00, check to American Mensa, Ltd., cash, Visa, or Master Card. If you have any questions you may call proctor Dick Dolliver at (860) 688-0484 or email RDolli8239@aol.com

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

Diner Dinner (ME, 3rd Friday)

at Olympia Diner, Rte 5, Newington, just north of the Berlin town line and North East Utilities.

Menu 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 Nicole Michaud at (860) 434-7329 or email nirimi@snet.net, Subject: Diner Dinner

26 Friday 5:00 PM

Happy Hour, (ME, 4th 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.

31 Wednesday Noon

Middlebury Lunch (ME, last Wednesday)

Good food and good conversation available! Where? At Maggie McFly's in Middlebury, 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. 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.

Save these dates!

The Leadership Development Workshop (LDW)

for Region 1 is shaping up to be a terrific resource for our membership, and it's happening Friday through Sunday April 2-4, 2004, at the

brand new Super 8 Motel in Manchester (near exit 63 of I-84). Watch for news updates in the coming weeks for the details, but pencil in the dates now; you'll be glad you did!

17 Saturday 2 PM

Games Gathering at Bill Vincent's house for those who like to get home early and those who "love" games. Call 860-646-3007 or Wpvincent@aol.com for details.

Registration is \$60 before November 9, 2003; \$65 though March 31, 2004. On-site registration may not be available.

Registration fees include dinner Friday, lunch Saturday, and renowned Chicago hospitality 'round the clock.

<http://mindgames.us.mensa.org/participant/register.php>

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

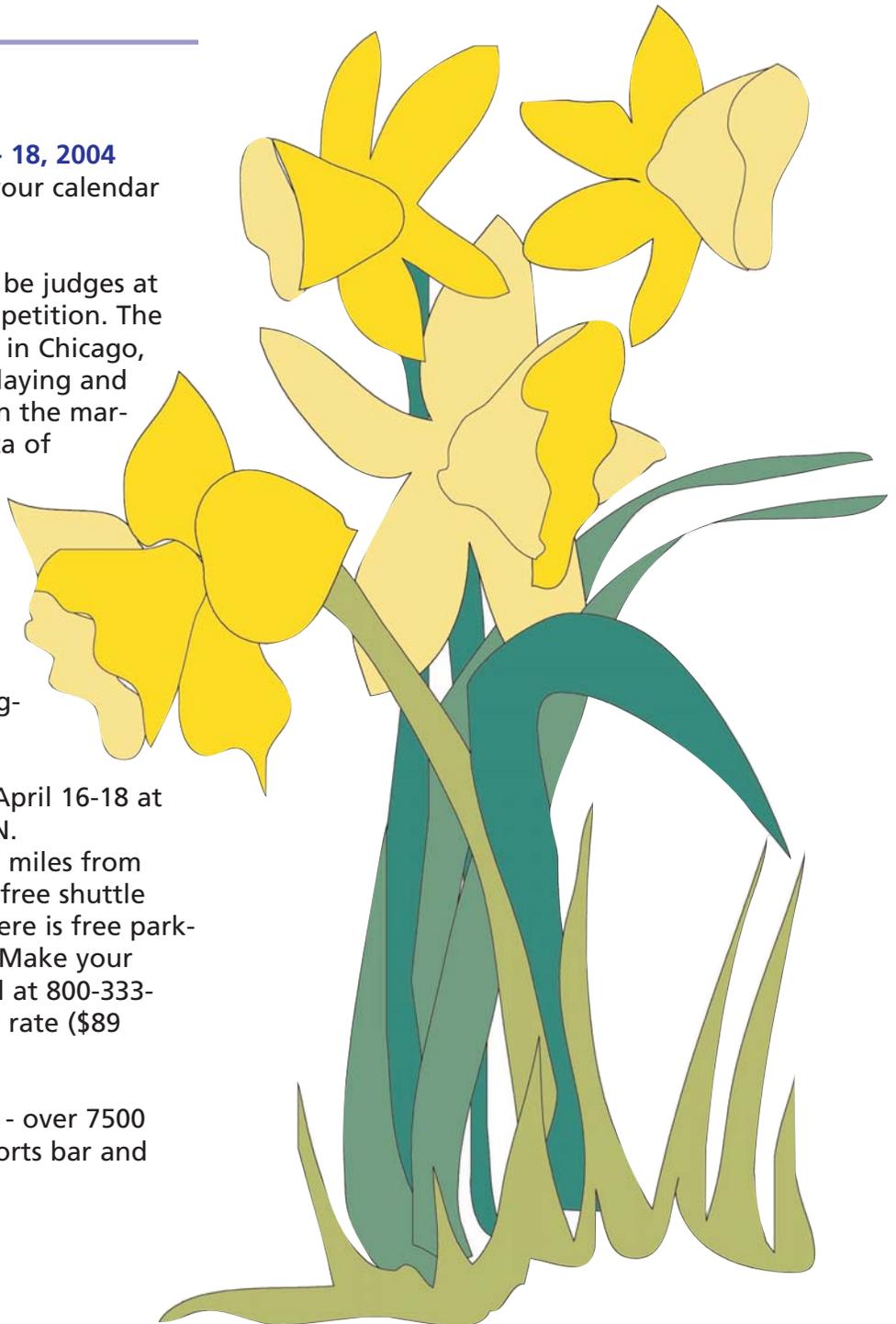
MENSA MIND GAMES APRIL 16 - 18, 2004

Do you love games? Then mark your calendar for Mensa Mind Games™ 2004!

Members of Mensa are invited to be judges at the 2004 Mensa Mind Games competition. The event will take place April 16 - 18 in Chicago, IL. Judges will spend three days playing and rating the newest board games on the market. Judges will play a large quota of games, maybe around the clock. At the end of the competition, each judge will rank his or her favorite games. The top-scoring games earn Mensa Selectr distinction and may use the Mensa Selectr seal on their packaging and advertising.

Mind Games™ 2004 will be held April 16-18 at the Radisson Hotel O'Hare, 6810 N. Mannheim Road, Rosemont, 2 1/2 miles from near Chicago's O'Hare airport. A free shuttle is available 24 hours a day and there is free parking for Mind Games participants. Make your reservation directly with the hotel at 800-333-3333 and ask for the Mind Games rate (\$89 S/D/T/Q).

There will be a HUGE game room - over 7500 square feet - and a restaurant, sports bar and lounge on-site.



FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

Are you Presidential Material (former, now or thinking about it)? Ever wonder what makes Mensa tick? How can your group get and keep members? These and many more topics will be featured at the Leadership Development Workshop to be held April 2 - 4 in Manchester Connecticut, just outside of Hartford. Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa is hosting what promises to be a thought-provoking weekend.

Unlike Regional Gatherings where the purpose is 24-hour fun, LDWs help focus on fostering present and emerging Mensan leaders. The skills learned can be used not only within your local group, but also in other facets of your personal and professional life. Mensa's President, Jean Becker Ph.D., will be leading workshops, as will staff from the national office.

In what may be a Mensa first, we will be having a Gifted Children track, with gifted children in attendance. Mensans are of all ages, and why just talk about gifted children without their input. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Deborah Ruf, the National Gifted Children Coordinator, who is also a parent of a gifted child, lead the presentations.

Registration information can be downloaded in .pdf format from the Region 1 website: http://region1.us.mensa.org/CWM_LDW.pdf

Membership renewal time is fast upon us. Those of you who have voted your proxy, please don't void it by not renewing. For you proxy fence sitters, please renew your membership and exercise your proxy at the same time (a card is conveniently included in the renewal package). Online voting is available at <http://proxy.us.mensa.org>

In celebrating Black History Month, two relevant quotations come to mind: "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." spoken by Martin Luther King, Jr. And from Vladimir Nabokov: "Genius is an African who dreams up snow."

Peanuts are a staple of West Africa. Here's an adaptation of

Senegalese Peanut Soup.

3 Tbl. butter (or peanut oil)
 3 Tbl. flour
 4 cups milk
 1 small chopped onion
 1/4 tsp. paprika
 1 tsp. curry powder
 1 tsp. (approx.) salt*
 1 cup peanut butter (unsalted chunky; *if you use salted, decrease/eliminate the salt)
 3 cups sieved tomatoes (fresh or canned)

Melt butter (or heat oil) and add flour, stirring until smooth.

Add milk and cook over low heat until slightly thickened, stirring constantly.

Add seasonings and blend part of hot mixture with peanut butter; then combine with the rest of the hot mixture. Heat tomatoes and add slowly, stirring constantly.

"The time is always right to do what is right." - Martin Luther King Jr.

If you wish to comment on articles or 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 e-mail address or 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.

ON THE 20TH CENTURY

The Skyscraper

The skyscraper was an invention of the 19th century, but it truly came of age in the 20th century, changing the skyline of virtually all of the world's major cities.

Men had built tall buildings before the modern era but skyscrapers were the first towers built for people to work or live in. In ancient times, the Egyptians had built the Great Pyramid of Cheops (482 ft. tall), and the lighthouse of Alexandria (c. 280 B.C.), whose height has been estimated by archeologists at 450 ft. In medieval times, great cathedrals, such as Chartres in France, Salisbury in England, and Cologne Cathedral, often reached 350 - 500 feet. The Mayan pyramids in Mexico, and Hindu temples in India also soared to great heights. But the modern skyscraper was the first multi-storied tower for habitation.

It took several inventions and technological advances to make the skyscraper possible. Certainly, skyscrapers would not be feasible without elevators. Before elevators, office buildings rarely were more than four stories. Freight elevators were used in warehouses beginning in the 1830s, but humans could not use elevators until the invention of the safety brake by Elisha Otis in 1852. In 1853, Otis demonstrated the steam-powered elevator at the New York's Crystal Palace Exhibition. The first building to use passenger elevators was the 8-story Equitable Assurance Society Building in New York City in 1870.

The elevator was rapidly followed by several other complementary developments that paved the way for the skyscraper: wrought iron that could support the great weight of floors, modern plumbing that could drain wastewater from upper floors, hydraulic systems that could pump pressurized water upward, light bulbs and electric power plants that could provide

light to all floors, methods of making huge sheets of glass for windows, and the steel frames that could bear the weight of the building, replacing the thick and heavy masonry previously used for support in walls.

Most historians agree that the steel skeleton is a defining characteristic of the skyscraper, and on that basis, call the Home Insurance Building, completed in Chicago in 1885, the first skyscraper. Although it was just nine stories high, smaller than several other buildings in Chicago, its steel frame structure separated it from other tall buildings, and made it the model for 20th-century skyscrapers. In 1890, the Rand McNally Building, designed by Burnham and Root, became the first tall building completely supported by an all-steel frame.

With the dawn of the 20th century, new construction equipment such as diesel earthmovers, pile drivers, and colossal cranes, new techniques such as fusion welding, and new materials such as thermal glass and plastic pipes let builders construct skyscrapers to undreamed of heights. The Woolworth Building of New York City, finished in 1913, was the first building to use all of the key technologies. It soared to 792 feet, clipping its city rivals the Fuller (Flatiron) Building and the Metlife Tower. Its foundation was built on concrete piers that went deep into the earth to the solid bedrock, supporting the building's massive weight. But in the next twenty years, the Woolworth Building was in turn eclipsed by the 1,046 ft. Bank of Manhattan Building on Wall St., the 1,048 ft. Chrysler Building (1930), and the 1931 Empire State Building, which stood at 1,251 ft. and was the last of the great buildings of the 1920s skyscraper boom.

Table 1 A CHRONOLOGY OF THE WORLD'S TALLEST BUILDINGS

Trinity Church, NY	1839-46	Richard Upjohn, architect.
New York World Building, NY	1889-90	George B. Post, architect.
Singer Building, NYC	1906-8	Ernest Flagg, architect.
Woolworth Building, NYC	1913	Cass Gilbert, architect.
Chrysler Building, NYC	1929	William Van Alen, architect.
Empire State Building, NYC	1931	Shreve, Lamb & Harmon.
World Trade Center, NYC	1971	Minoru Yamasaki, architect.
Sears Tower, Chicago	1970-74	Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.
Petrona Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1998	Cesar Pelli, architect.

Table 2 SKYSCRAPERS OVER 1,000 FEET TALL

LOCATION	YEAR	Stories	HEIGHT	Architect / Firm
Taipei Financial Center Taipei, Taiwan	2004	101	1,676 ft.	
Petronas Towers Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	1998	88	1,483	Cesar Pelli
Sears Tower, Chicago	1974	110	1,450	Bruce Graham
Jin Mao Building, Shanghai 1999		88	1,381	SOM
Two International Finance Centre (IFC), Hong Kong	2003	88		Rocco Design Ltd.
Sky Central Plaza (China Intl. Trust) Guanzhou	1997	80	1,283	DLN Architects
Shun Hing Square, Shenzhen, China	1996	69	1,260	K.Y. Cheung
Empire State Building, New York	1931	102	1,250	Shreve, Lamb, and Harmon
Central Plaza, Hong Kong	1992	78	1,227	Ng Chun Man
Bank of China Tower, Hong Kong	1989	70	1,209	leoh Ming Pei
T & C Tower Kaoshiung, Taiwan	1997	85	1,140	
Amoco Building, Chicago	1973	80	1,136	
Central Station, Hong Kong	1998	79	1,135	Ng Chun Man
John Hancock Center, Chicago	1969	100	1,127	
Shun Hing Square, Shenzhen, China	1996	69	1,066	
Critic Plaza (Sky Central Plaza), Guangzhou, China	1997	80	1,056	
Chicago Beach Tower Hotel, Dubai	1998	60	1,053	
Baiyoke Tower II, Bangkok	1997	90	1,050	
Chrysler Building, New York	1930	77	1,046	William Van Alen
NationsBank Plaza, Atlanta	1993	55	1,023	
Library Tower, Los Angeles	1990	75	1,018	
AT&T Corporate Center, Chicago	1989	60	1,007	
Texas Commerce Tower, Houston	1982	75	1,000	

Most of the early skyscrapers were built in Chicago and New York City, but the skyscraper soon became a citizen of the world. Indeed, a city today almost cannot be considered a major city without a skyscraper, and many judge the greatness of cities by their skylines. One common definition of a skyscraper is any building 500 feet (152 meters) or taller. (Buildings 35 - 150 meters are considered high-rises.) By this standard, there are almost 1,000 skyscrapers in the world, with the number growing most rapidly in Asia. New York City still leads the world with 159 skyscrapers, followed by Chicago with about 75, and Hong Kong with about 40.

The 21st century promises more towering structures, with several giants already under construction, including one that will surpass the 2,000 feet barrier. Even taller skyscrapers may become practical. Otis Elevator has invented elevators that can go up a mile, and new designs and materials may be able to withstand the greater than 100 mph. winds that would prevail at that height. A mile-high building would rise through the clouds, giving new meaning to the word skyscraper.

continued on next page

Building	Location	Completion Date	Stories	Height (ft.)
Lotte World 2 Tower	Busan, South Korea	2005	107	1524
World Financial Center	Shanghai, China	2006?	94	1529
Union Square	Hong Kong, China	2007	102	1575
Centre of India Tower	Katangi, India	2008	224	2222
New World Trade Center	New York City	?		1776

The skyscraper has allowed man to make much more efficient use of expensive city space. It is a city within a city, providing not just office space for up to 50,000 people, but apartment homes, stores, restaurants, hotels, and sports clubs - almost all the amenities of urban life. But the

skyscraper has been much more than a commercial success. It was not only one of the finest combinations of the 20th century's technological advances, but perhaps the century's most stunning aesthetic achievement, a true triumph of the imagination.

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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Brian Lord is a cartoonist and member of Middle Tennessee Mensa (Nashville area). His cartoon Kick Irrational is read weekly by people in 192 cities, 46 states and 9 countries via the Internet. You can see the Kick Irrational comics page at www.kickirrational.com

WORD ORIGINS

Last month's Word Origins column featured eponyms, words derived from the name of a real or fictional person. Here are some more eponyms.

maudlin - Mary Magdalen, who wept at the empty tomb after the resurrection of Jesus.

mausoleum - King Mausolus, ruler of Caria in ancient Greece.

maverick - Samuel Augustus Maverick (1803-70), American pioneer.

Melba toast, Peach Melba - Dame Nellie Melba (1861-1931), Australian soprano.

Mennonite - Menno Simons (1492-1559), Dutch religious reformer.

mesmerize - Franz Anton Mesmer (1734-1815), Austrian physician and hypnotist.

Mickey Finn - Mickey Finn, Chicago saloon-keeper at the end of the 19th century.

Molotov cocktail - Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov (1890-1986), Soviet statesman.

morphine - Morpheus, Greek god of dreams.

nicotine - Jean Nicot (1530-1600), French diplomat.

pander - Pandarus, character in poem *Filostrato* by the Italian Giovanni Boccaccio.

poinsettia - Noel Roberts Poinsett (1779-151), American diplomat.

pompadour - Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, Marquise De Pompadour (1721-64), French aristocrat.

pyrrhic victory - Pyrrhus (c.318-272 BC), king of Epirus.

quisling - Vidkun Abraham Quisling (1887-1945), Norwegian politician.

Rastafarian - Haile Selassie (1892-1975), Emperor of Ethiopia 1930, title Ras Tafari.

ritz - César Ritz (1850-1918), Swiss hotelier.

rodomontade - Rodomont, Saracen king of Algiers in Ariosto's *Orlando Innamorato* & *Orlando Furioso*.

Salisbury Steak - James J. Salisbury, 19th century English physician.

salmonella - Daniel Elmer Salmon (1850-1914), American veterinary surgeon.

sequoia - Sequoia (c.1770-1843), American Indian.

shrapnel - Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842), English artillery officer

sideburns - Ambrose Everett Burnside (1824-81), American general.

silhouette - Étienne de Silhouette (1709-67), French politician.

spoonerism - Reverend William Archibald Spooner (1844-1930), English churchman.

Stetson - John Bauerson Stetson (1830-1906), American hat-maker.

Svengali - Character in *Trilby*, novel by English artist and writer George du Maurier (1834-96).

Tasmania - Abel Janszoon Tasman (1603-59), Dutch navigator.

tommy gun - John Taliaferro Thompson (1860-1940), American army general.

Uzi - Uziel Gal (1923-2002), Israeli inventor.

Valentine - Valentine, 3rd century Christian martyr.

Vandal - Vandals, Germanic people that overran Gaul, Spain, North Africa and Rome in the 5th century.

wisteria - Caspar Wistar (1761-1818), American anatomist.

zany - Zanni, traditional masked clown in the Italian *commedia dell'arte*.

zinnia - Johann Gottfried Zinn (1727-59), German botanist and anatom

POETRY CORNER

THE IDEAL

by Francis S. Saltus, (1846 - 1889)

TOIL on, poor muser, to attain that goal
 Where Art conceals its grandest, noblest prize;
 Count every tear that dims your aching eyes,
 Count all the years that seem as days, and roll
 The death-tides slowly on; count all your sighs;
 Search the wide, wondrous earth from
 pole to pole,
 Tear unbelief from out your martyred soul;
 Succumb not, chase despondency, be wise;
 Work, toil, and struggle with the brush or pen,
 Revel in rhyme, strain intellect and ken;
 Live on and hope despite man's skeptic leers;
 Praise the Ideal with your every breath,
 Give it life, youth and glory, blood and tears,
 And to possess it pay its tribute--Death.

ON THE MISSISSIPPI

(from Prairie Songs, 1893)

by Hamlin Garland, (1860 - 1940)

THROUGH wild and tangled forests
 The broad, unhasting river flows--
 Spotted with rain-drops, gray with night;
 Upon its curving breast there goes
 A lonely steamboat's larboard light,
 A blood-red star against the shadowy oaks;
 Noiseless as a ghost, through greenish gleam
 Of fire-flies, before the boat's wild scream--
 A heron flaps away
 Like silence taking flight.

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY, (1890 - 1957)
 (from Chimneysmoke, 1921)

TWO O'CLOCK

NIGHT after night goes by: and clocks still chime
 And stars are changing patterns in the dark
 And watches tick, and over-puissant Time
 Benumbs the eager brain. The dogs that bark,
 The trains that roar and rattle in the night,
 The very cats that prowl, all quiet find
 And leave the darkness empty, silent quite:
 Sleep comes to chloroform the fretting mind.

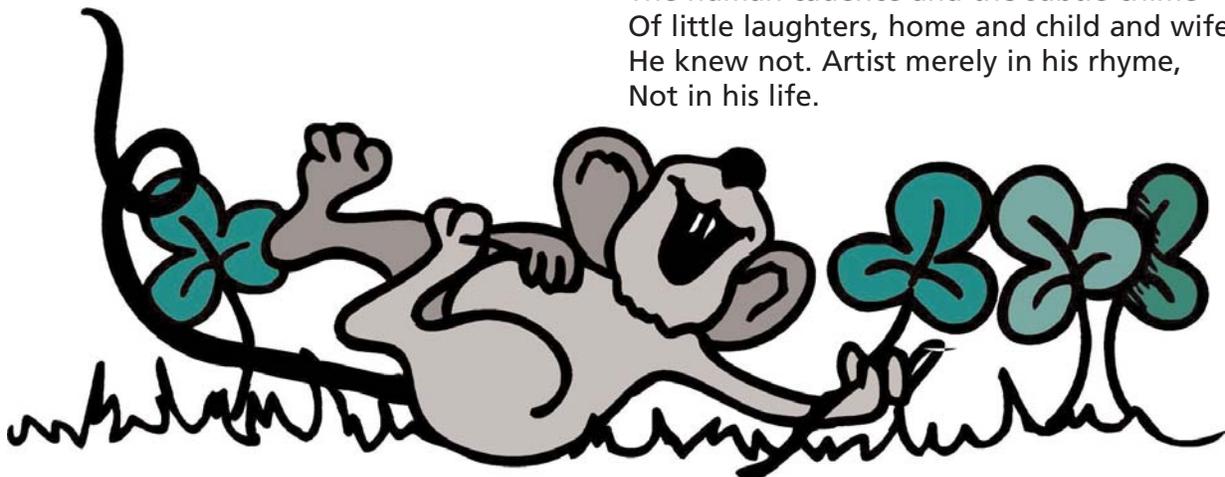
So all things end: and what is left at last?
 Some scribbled sonnets tossed upon the floor,
 A memory of easy days gone past,
 A run-down watch, a pipe, some clothes we wore--
 And in the darkened room I lean to know
 How her dreamless breath doth pause and flow.

THE POET

THE barren music of a word or phrase,
 The futile arts of syllable and stress,
 He sought. The poetry of common days
 He did not guess.

The simplest, sweetest rhythms life affords--
 Unselfish love, true effort truly done,
 The tender themes that underlie all words--
 He knew not one.

The human cadence and the subtle chime
 Of little laughs, home and child and wife,
 He knew not. Artist merely in his rhyme,
 Not in his life.



NOTED AND QUOTED

If all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be contented to take their own and depart. - *Socrates, (470 - 399 B.C.)*

The awareness of our own strength makes us modest. - *Paul Cezanne, (1839 - 1906), French painter*

The person who doesn't know where his next dollar is coming from usually doesn't know where his last dollar went. - *Anonymous*

We work not only to produce but to give value to time.
- *Eugene Delacroix, (1798 - 1863), French Romantic painter*

The universe is a big place, perhaps the biggest.
- *Kilgore Trout, (Kurt Vonnegut, 1922 -)*

When you stop drinking, you have to deal with this marvelous personality that started you drinking in the first place.
- *Jimmy Breslin, (1930 -)*

I don't like coming home. It keeps me from being nostalgic. - *Stewart O'Nan, (1961 -), author*

Courage and grace are a formidable mixture. The only place to see it is in the bullring. - *Marlene Dietrich, (1901 - 1992), Marlene Dietrich's ABC, 1962.*

Swift justice demands more than just swiftness.
- *Potter Stewart, (1915 - 1985), US supreme court justice, Time magazine, Oct. 20, 1958.*

Ambition is a dream with a V8 engine.
- *Elvis Presley, (1935 - 1977)*

I bet on a horse at ten to one. It didn't come in until half-past five.
- *Henny Youngman, (1906 - 1998), US comedian*

Nothing matters very much, and few things matter at all. - *Arthur Balfour, (1848 - 1930), British Prime Minister 1902-1904*

Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person? - *Francois De La Rochefoucauld, (1613 - 1680), French aphorist*

Hard work is for people who have no talent.
- *Anonymous*

Life is like a B-Grade movie. You don't want to leave in the middle, but you don't want to see it again. - *Ted Turner, (1938 -)*

There is creative reading as well as creative writing. - *Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)*

THE READING EDGE ^ WHAT'S YOUR READING SPEED?

Do you know what your reading speed is? There is an online test that can give you a quick estimate. The Reading Edge, a Wallingford, CT company, has a test at their website www.the-reading-edge.com. The tests take only a minute and calculate your reading speed instantly. For a more comprehensive test, the company offers a free demo that you can download that will test not only your speed but also your comprehension. The software can be set for different grade levels to test children as well as adults.

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

EDITING UGLY ENGLISH

Many awkward or wordy sentences make it into print or newscasts. Rewrite the following sentences to correct or improve them. Suggested answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. The Patriots practiced prior to the start of the game.
2. Their plan was rather impossible.
3. At this point in time, we will consider Chapter 4.
4. Our heavier weightings in these areas were largely responsible for the fund's outperformance versus the benchmark.
5. We believe the fund is well positioned with regard to the economic and political (geopolitical) factors likely to be in place in the next few years.
6. Sporadic outbreaks of firing occurred. They were scattered and elicited an immediate response from our soldiers.
7. He walked along in an idle and sluggish manner.
8. In most companies decisions on design are a function of top management.

SUGGESTED REVISIONS:

1. "Prior" and "start" mean the same thing. How about, "The Patriots practiced before the game."
2. "Impossible" is an absolute that shouldn't be qualified. The writer was probably trying to say that the plan was extremely difficult.
3. Simplify this to "Now we'll look at Chapter 4."
4. Outperformance? This word doesn't or shouldn't exist. Where's the action in this sentence? Try "Because of our investments in these areas, the fund beat the market."
5. "With regard to" is one of the most unnecessary phrases in the language. "We think the fund will do well in the next few years" or "We believe the fund will benefit from economic and political conditions" would be better.
6. "Sporadic" and "scattered" mean the same thing. "The enemy fired sporadically, and our soldiers fired back" would cut out the redundant words.
7. "He dawdled along" would be more direct.
8. Function? Is this a mathematical equation or a sentence? Improved: "In most companies, top management makes design decisions."

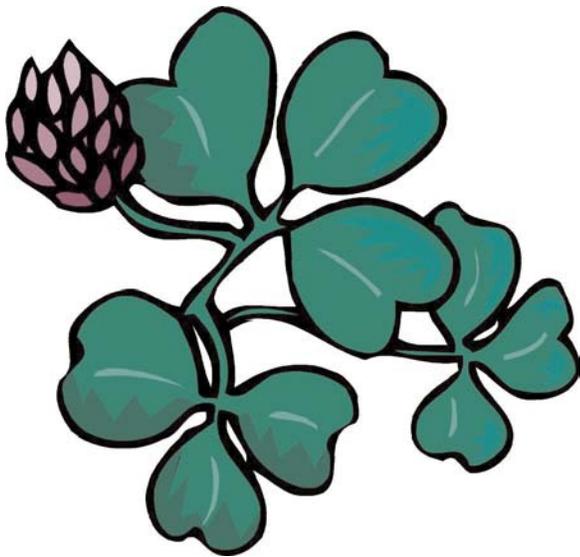


GOOD WINE CHEAP (AND GOOD FOOD TO GO WITH IT)

By John Grover

This month's wine comes from Catalonia, Spain. Catalonia, which borders France at the Pyrenees to the North and the Mediterranean Sea to the East, is world famous for its wines. We'll match this fine wine with some classic comfort food from the countryside of France.

The 2000 Sangre de Toro ("Blood of the Bull") from the winery of Miguel Torres remains one of the best affordable wines still available. The blend of Granacha and Carinena (Grenache and Carignan) grapes produces a deep red color and a spicy aroma. You can taste many flavors in it, including pepper, blackberries and perhaps a hint of licorice that finishes with a warm velvety feeling over the tongue. This wine goes well with the hearty dish below and is frequently used as the base for real Spanish Sangria. At \$8 a bottle, it makes for a great everyday wine.



Quick Cassoulet

(a recipe from our friend Mandy who is one of the true Kitchen Goddesses of the Hudson Valley):

Ingredients:

3 each chicken legs and thighs
6 Italian sausages
one 16 oz. can stewed tomatoes
two 20 oz. cans cannellini beans
2 tbsp. butter
1 onion, chopped
1 garlic clove, minced
1 tsp. thyme
1 bay leaf
one quarter cup white wine.

Sauté the chicken and sausage in butter. Brown the onions and garlic. Add tomatoes, thyme and bay leaf. Cover and simmer for ten minutes. Add beans and wine. Simmer until meat is done, about 45 minutes.

This produces a flavorful dish that serves 4 to 6 persons. The adventurous may want to mix in some hot Italian sausages.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines at jgrover@berk.com. I will be happy to share them with the broader Mensa group.

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

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PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How many active volcanoes are there in the world?
2. Which subject offers more insight, philosophy or psychology? Which purveys more non-sense?
3. List the fine arts.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. How are these digits ordered or arranged?

8 5 4 9 1 7 6 3 2 0

A: These digits are arranged alphabetically: eight, five, four, nine, one, seven, six, three, two, and zero.

RUMINATIONS

Excerpt from Pragmatism
by William James

Some years ago, being with a camping party in the mountains, I returned from a solitary ramble to find everyone engaged in a ferocious metaphysical dispute. The corpus of the dispute was a squirrel - a live squirrel supposed to be clinging to one side of a tree-trunk; while over against the tree's opposite side a human being was imagined to stand. This human witness tries to get sight of the squirrel by moving rapidly round the tree, but no matter how fast he goes, the squirrel moves as fast in the opposite direction, and always keeps the tree between himself and the man, so that never a glimpse of him is caught. The resultant metaphysical problem now is this: Does the man go round the squirrel or not? He goes round the tree, sure enough, and the squirrel is on the tree; but does he go round the squirrel? In the unlimited leisure of the wilderness, discussion had been worn threadbare. Everyone had taken sides, and was obstinate; and the numbers on both sides were even. Each side, when I appeared therefore appealed to me to make it a majority. Mindful of the scholastic adage that whenever you meet a contradiction you must make a distinction, I immediately sought and found one, as follows; "Which party is right," I said, "depends on what you practically mean by 'going round' the squirrel. If you mean passing from the north of him to the east, then to the south, then to the west, and then to the north of him again, obviously the man does go round him, for he occupies these successive positions. But if on the contrary you mean being first in front of him, then on the right of him, then behind him, then on his left, and finally in front again, it is quite as obvious that the man fails to go round him, for by the compensating movements the squirrel makes, he keeps his belly turned towards the man all the time, and his back turned away. Make the distinction, and there is no occasion for any further dispute. You are both right and both wrong according as you conceive the verb 'to go round' in one practical fashion or the other."

I tell this trivial anecdote because it is a peculiarly simple example of what I wish now to speak of as the pragmatic method. The pragmatic method is primarily a method of settling metaphysical disputes that otherwise might be interminable ... The pragmatic method in such cases is to try to interpret each notion by tracing its respective practical consequences. What difference would it practically make to any one if this notion rather than that notion were true? If no practical difference whatever can be traced, then the alternatives mean practically the same thing, and all dispute is idle.

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:
MensaSCT- subscribe@topica.com

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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 Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA 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 MENSA Bulletin.)

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BUSINESS OFFICE AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Phone: 817-607-0060
Fax: 817-649-5232
E-mail: AmericanMensa@mensa.org
Website: www.us.mensa.org

LIST OF SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA OFFICERS

President	Rick D'Amico	203-368-2778	usamarbiol@aol.com 1353 Brooklawn Ave. Fairfield, CT 06825
Vice-President	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Treasurer	Paul Passarelli	203-846-1623	paul@44ellen.com 44 Ellen St Norwalk, CT 06851-2520
Secretary	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net 110 Bart Rd. Monroe, CT 06468-1117
Editor	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com PMB #181, 7365 Main St. Stratford, CT 06614-1300
Publisher	Amy Harold	203-261-6517	amyharold@earthlink.net
Activities	Nancy O'Neil	203-791-1668	Nancyoneil@aol.com 8B Beach St., Bethel, CT 06801-2429
Gifted Children	Jim Wood	203-876-0031	Shambalajim@netscape.net 17 Clinton St Milford, CT 06460
Web Master	Thomas O'Neill	203-336-5254	Doctec@snet.net 68 Pierce Ave. Bridgeport, CT 06604-1607
Proctor	Joseph Howells	203-775-4291	Drjoe@snet.net 10 Old Woods Rd. Brookfield, CT 06804-3630
Ombudsman	Gary Oberst	203-853-1810	gary@oberstlaw.com 111 East Ave. Norwalk, CT 06851-5014
Membership Officer	Jim Mizera	203-522-1959	Jmizera@hotmail.com
Reg Vice Chairman	Marghretta McBean	845-889-4588	rvc1@us.mensa.org http://region1.us.mensa.org/