

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

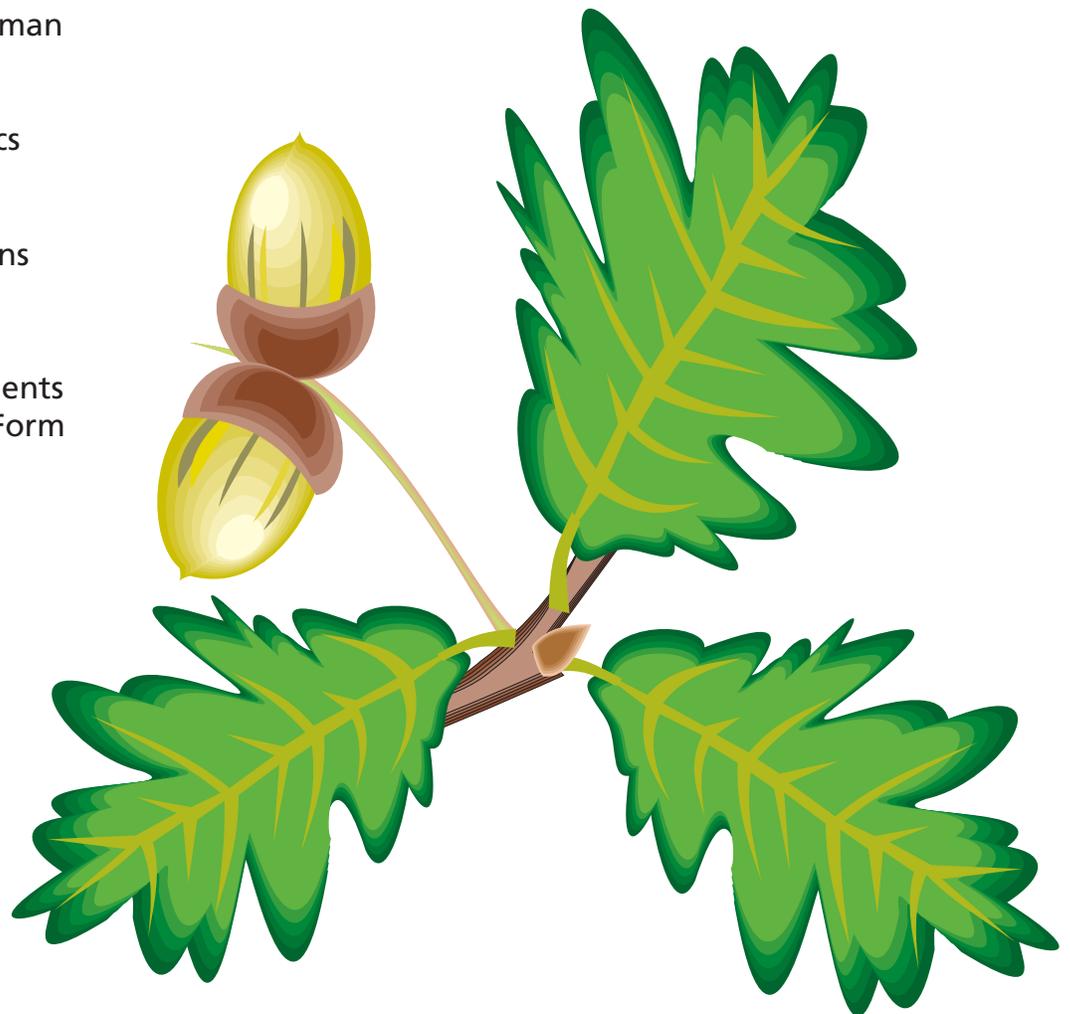
If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

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 SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 10, 7:00

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

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, September 18, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner

Come enjoy dinner in our private dining room at the Stony Hill Inn, 46 Stony Hill Road (right off Exit 8 on Rte. 84), Bethel, CT 06801, (203-743-5533). Our September speaker, local author and poet Gerard Brooker, will read some of his published work. Jerry's latest book of poetry, "Even Whispers Can Be Heard", came out in June, and he will have copies available. His first collection of poems, "A Quiet Conversation" (2002, Wing and a Prayer Press) is available at www.amazon.com. Dress is casual. Please contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations.

Directions from New Haven or Bridgeport: Take Route 25 into Newtown, where it becomes Route 6 West. OR take I-84 and get off at Exit 9 (Route 25 Brookfield). At the end of the ramp take a left. At the first light take a right on to Route 6 West. The hotel is located 2 miles on the right, not far over the Bethel line. From Stamford/Norwalk: Take Route 7 to I-84 and follow the above directions, turning right after exiting I-84.

Saturday, September 25, 8:00.

Theater Event: Euripides' Medea

performed by Theatreworks, 5 Brookside Ave., New Milford (www.theatreworks.usa). Tickets are \$15. The classic 2000-year-old story of love, betrayal, and tragedy. For info or reservations, please call Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959 or e-mail Jmizera@hotmail.com. To ensure seats, call a week early.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Friday, September 8, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.

See above listing for details.

Saturday, September 16, 7:00.

Monthly 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,

Mensans on the Radio:

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. 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.

SEPTEMBER

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 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

2, 9 (cancelled 16, 23, 30 for Jewish holidays)

Thursdays 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).

3 Friday 5:30-7:00 pm

Happy Hour (ME, 1st Friday)

in Meriden. Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or ann.polanski@rfsworld.com) hosts us at Jacoby's Restaurant, 1388 East Main Street, Meriden, CT (203) 634-3222. From I-91 Northbound: Exit 16. Turn right at end of exit and continue on East Main Street for 0.7 mi. Jacoby's is on the left. From I-91 Southbound: (Same exit as for the former Ramada.) Exit 17. Turn left at end of exit and continue as above.

4 Saturday 7:00 PM

We had so much fun celebrating Cinco de Mayo, let's do it again for the Wobblers!

¡Viva Braceros! International Workers of the World Unite! Labor Day Saturday at Puerto Vallarta (a great, reasonably-priced Mexican restaurant in Middletown, CT). To join the dinner celebration, please contact Ernest Adams by email at CTMnsn@Comcast.Net, or (860) 543-2334 (Hartford, CT; cell phone). Directions will be cheerfully provided (the Middletown location is not yet on the Web!).

4 Sunday Noon

The Aldermans Annual Labor Day Picnic

39 Lakeside Dr. Andover CT. For the seventeenth time you are all invited to assemble on lovely Andover Lake. All of you who have been here before know how much fun it is; the rest of you are invited to find out for yourself. We will not cook out this year again so bring a dish to share. Call 860 742 5265 Neil or Dory Alderman for menu coordination. Bring bathing suits, boats (no motors), and lawn games, if you wish.

Directions from Hartford: Follow I-84 East to I-384 East. At the end of 384 take the right fork (Route 6) toward Willimantic. After about 5 miles take a right onto route 316 at the first traffic light. After about 3/4 mile take a left onto School Rd. This changes name to be Lakeside Dr. with no turns. # 39 is on the left about 1 1/4 miles from the turn onto School Rd.

12 Sunday 10:00 pm

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 Books and Birds). Call Bill Vincent for details (860) 646-3007 or Wpvincent@aol.com

17 Friday 6:00-8:00 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

24 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 .

25 Wednesday 12:00 noon

29 Wednesday Noon

Middlebury Luncy (ME, last Wednesday)

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. Please call Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 if you will attend for the first time.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

The Ski SIG of American Mensa

invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a half-week or week+ of snow skiing the deep fluffy snow on the Rocky Mountains of Aspen and Snowmass. For details see [Http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce](http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/skisig-announce) or contact John Adams, rip2005@skisig.us.mensa.org, +1 713 666 9277, 8211 Fairhope Place, Houston, TX 77025-3201, USA.

2005 Post-AG Cruise

The 2005 Annual Gathering in New Orleans will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel. Extra-special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>



WORD ORIGINS

Some English words or phrases allude to nature, sometimes in curious ways. Here are a few.

Cloud nine - When someone is on cloud nine, they are euphoric or at least in a dreamy state. But cloud nine has another meaning for the U.S. Weather Bureau. The bureau divides clouds into classes and each class has 9 types. A "cloud nine" is a cumulonimbus cloud, a cloud that is a heaped-up white mass. This type of cloud 30,000 - 40,000 feet. Hence, if you're on cloud nine, you are very high, literally or figuratively. On the Johnny Dollar radio show of the 1950s, a running gag had one character knocked unconscious frequently, and when that happened, he went to cloud nine. It's been a popular line ever since.

Mustang - A mustang is a wild horse found in the Western plains. The word derives from mestengo, a Mexican word for a "stray animal." An earlier term is from medieval Latin, "animilia mixta" - wild animals that became mixed in a grazer's herd.

Once in a blue moon - This expression first appears in print during the 16th century, in pre-Elizabethan England. The Elizabethans did not see blue moons, so they used the expression to mean "never." Now, however, we know that dust, clouds, and ice crystals occasionally make the moon look blue. So, once in a blue moon has come to mean "rarely, hardly ever."

Stool pigeon - In olden times, people often tied pigeons to stools to serve as lures or decoys for other pigeons. Eventually, the term came to mean anyone who betrayed a cause, usually by ratting on his associates.

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

It's Summertime and the livin' doesn't seem quite as easy as it was when Gershwin wrote the tune. More and more people I meet have (or have just) been laid off and the separation packages are getting more and more meager. However, the tourists are back with a vengeance here in New York City and judging by their numbers and sizes, there are folks who are doing quite well economically. We've had so much rain that tomato plants are full of leaf rot (being watered at night is literally death to pommes d'amour). And the Republicans (and armed troops, surveillance helicopters, and "frozen zones") are coming to New York City.

On a happier note, I had a lovely visit to Syracuse, and met the charming members of Central New York Mensa. Paul Baxter (President) and his lovely wife Victoria Monroe (Vice President) were the epitome of hospitality. As the featured speaker at their meeting, I got a chance to answer questions about the structure of the AMC (American Mensa Committee), the future of SIGs (Special Interest Groups), and a host of others. A new member remarked that she found it difficult to understand the acronyms in Mensa publications (like RVC, AMC, AG, etc.), and another new member concurring. It's always important for any group to remember that not everyone is an "oldie", so including the full name of something as well as its abbreviation can go a long way in help the newcomers feel like welcome.

I got a chance to visit the Jerry Rescue Monument on Victoria's mini-tour of Syracuse. It movingly commemorates the rescue of an imprisoned fugitive slave, William "Jerry" Henry. On the first of October, 1851, Syracusans stormed his jail cell and help him to escape to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Syracuse was unique for its strong leadership against slavery and the stands that many of its citizens took in helping runaways escape to freedom. Its Syracuse Vigilance Committee was formed in 1850. The Wesleyan Methodist Church was a stop on the Underground Railroad and the Plymouth Congregational Church was the site of the first anti-slavery convention, at which Frederick Douglass, among other noted abolitionists, spoke.

Having received requests from two young Mensans to spread information about their groups, here are the details:

1. Lauren M. Rahn, the Editrix of The Oracle (Orange County [CA] Mensa), is asking Mensans born between 1976 and 1984, to get in touch with her, via email pourpree@yahoo.com or by visiting her GenYM website at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GenYMs/>
2. Marie Routhier, a member of Mensa Toronto, in Canada, is an active member of SAGE, a local young-adult M group, and will be starting THYME (<http://www.thymenl.ca>), a sister group to SAGE. SAGE has a brand new message board for young Mensans, located at <http://www.thymenl.ca/SAGEboard>, and it is open to young Ms around the world.

Here's a spicy and cooling dessert for the dog days of summer:

GINGER-MINT GEL

- 2 large bunches mint
- 1 5-inch piece ginger root, peeled and sliced thin
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 envelopes (2 Tbl.) unflavored gelatin

1. Place mint, ginger, 4 1/2 cups water, sugar and salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil, and set aside to steep until cool.
2. Strain liquid into a large bowl, and discard mint and ginger. [Actually it's good to eat. Waste not, want not :-)]
3. Measure 1 cup of the infused liquid into a bowl and sprinkle with gelatin. Set aside.
4. Bring 3 cups of reserved liquid to a boil; add to gelatin mixture, stirring until gelatin dissolves. Pour into a 13- x 9-inch pan. Cover and refrigerate until set.
5. Unmould by dipping the bottom of the pan into hot water, and cut into cubes. Serve with Ginger Cream (below) and fresh berries.

Ginger Cream

- 1-cup heavy cream
 - 2 Tbl. confectioners sugar, sifted
 - 2 2-inch pieces candied (crystallized) ginger, chopped fine
1. Whip cream with sugar until it holds medium-soft peaks. Fold in ginger.

POETRY CORNER

A CALENDAR OF SONNETS: SEPTEMBER

Helen Hunt Jackson

O golden month! How high thy gold is heaped!
 The yellow birch-leaves shine like bright coins
 strung
 On wands; the chestnut's yellow pennons tongue
 To every wind its harvest challenge. Steeped
 In yellow, still lie fields where wheat was reaped;
 And yellow still the corn sheaves, stacked among
 The yellow gourds, which from the earth have
 wrung
 Her utmost gold. To highest boughs have leaped
 The purple grape,--last thing to ripen, late
 By very reason of its precious cost.
 O Heart, remember, vintages are lost
 If grapes do not for freezing night-dews wait.
 Think, while thou sunnest thyself in Joy's estate,
 Mayhap thou canst not ripen without frost!

IN SEPTEMBER

Amy Levy

THE sky is silver-grey; the long
 Slow waves caress the shore.--
 On such a day as this I have been glad,
 Who shall be glad no more.

SEPTEMBER

Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942)

Lo! a ripe sheaf of many golden days
 Gleaned by the year in autumn's harvest ways,
 With here and there, blood-tinted as an ember,
 Some crimson poppy of a late delight
 Atoning in its splendor for the flight
 Of summer blooms and joys--
 This is September.

SEPTEMBER MIDNIGHTS

Sarah Teasdale

Lyric night of the lingering Indian Summer,
 Shadowy fields that are scentless but full of
 singing,
 Never a bird, but the passionless chant of insects,
 Ceaseless, insistent.

The grasshopper's horn, and far-off, high in the
 maples,
 The wheel of a locust leisurely grinding the si-
 lence
 Under a moon waning and worn, broken,
 Tired with summer.

Let me remember you, voices of little insects,
 Weeds in the moonlight, fields that are tangled
 with asters,
 Let me remember, soon will the winter be on us,
 Snow-hushed and heavy.

Over my soul murmur your mute benediction,
 While I gaze, O fields that rest after harvest,
 As those who part look long in the eyes they
 lean to,
 Lest they forget them.



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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

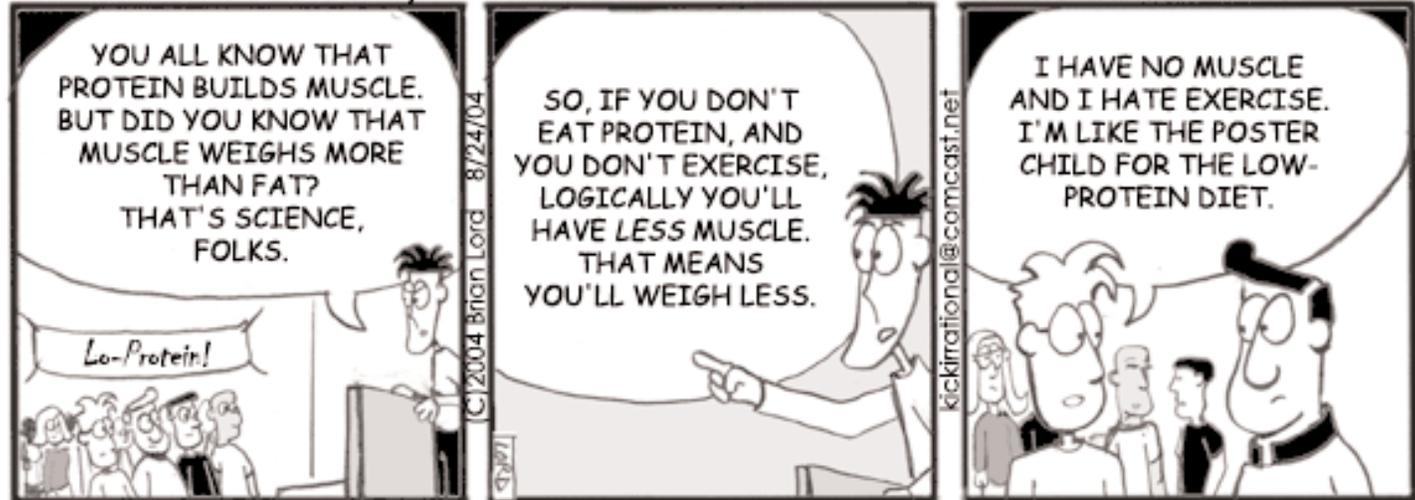
KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Today there is no safer place to hide an object of value than between the covers of a book. - *Rein Nomm, Estonian-American professor, economic analyst*

Time flies whether you are having a good time or not. - *Chief Anderson*

The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything, except what is worth knowing. - *Oscar Wilde, (1856 ^ 1900)*

Most people are subjective toward themselves and objective toward all others, frightfully objective sometimes - but the task is precisely to be objective toward oneself and subjective toward all others.

- *Soren Kierkegaard, (1813 ^ 1855), Works of Love*

Every moment is a moment.

- *Charlotte Selver, teacher*

See what will happen if you don't stop biting your fingernails? - *Will Rogers, (1879 ^ 1935), to his niece on seeing the Venus de Milo*

The key to success is opening the right door.

- *Jojo P. Alejar*

It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere. - *Written in the dust on the back of a bus, Wickenburg, Arizona*

The great never feel great; the small never feel small. - *Chinese proverb*

There are no winners in life; only survivors.

- *Anonymous ????*

Man can live three weeks without food, three weeks without water. But he can't live three minutes without hope. - *Rabbi Hugo Gryn*

Take my advice - I'm not using it. - *Anonymous*

As always, the British especially shudder at the latest American vulgarity, and then they embrace it with enthusiasm two years later. - *Alistair Cooke, (1908 ^ 2004), British-American broadcast journalist*

Civilizations can only be understood by those who are civilized. - *Alfred North Whitehead, (1861 - 1947), English philosopher-logician*

And what about these guys who say to you, 'Are they keepin' ya busy?' I happen to resent even the assumption that there are people who have the authority to keep me busy. - *George Carlin.*

You must work very hard to become a natural golfer. - *Gary Player*

Why should I write in paragraphs if I don't speak in paragraphs? - *Anonymous*

Courage is as often the outcome of despair as of hope; in the one case we have nothing to lose, in the other, everything to gain. - *Diane De Pottiers*

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 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

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How many situations can you think of where the honor system is used? How effective is it in these cases?
2. How many lies does the average person tell in a day?
3. In what ways is a lamp better than a candle? In what ways is it worse?
4. How many houses does the average realtor sell in a year?

5. What is the average area of a house in the United States today? What was it in 1960?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. Where is the of the United States, center of population?
2. What is the average speed of a housefly?

IS THAT RIGHT?

Are the following statements facts, fallacies, partial truths, or uncertainties?

1. Seattle is a very rainy city.

A: Seattle annual average rainfall, about 36 inches, is actually less than New York's, San Francisco's, Atlanta's, Miami's, or Washington's. In Seattle, though, precipitation comes in drizzles; it rains but it seldom pours. Seattle's rain falls mostly in the winter; December and January each average 16 - 18 rainy days, and there are only about 60 hours of sunshine in January. By contrast, in the summer, the city is sunny and nearly rainless. Seattle averages about 300 hours of sunshine in July and August, matching Los Angeles and Miami's sunniness.

Comparing Seattle with a sunny city like Miami is interesting. Miami gets more precipitation, 60 inches/yr. vs. 36 inches/yr., but Seattle has more rainy days, 153 vs. 131. Seattle has 71% clear days compared to Miami's 76%.

2. Jackie Robinson was the first African-American major league baseball player.

A: Jackie Robinson was the first 20th century African-American major league baseball player but there were 19th century black major leaguers. Most historians believe that the first black to play in the major leagues was Moses Fleetwood Walker, a catcher who debuted for the Toledo Blue Stockings in the American Associa-

tion in 1884. At the time, the American Association was one of baseball's major leagues. Later that year, Walker's younger brother Weldy played briefly with the Toledo club.

Moses Walker's baseball career was cut short in 1887 when bigoted white players, led by future Hall-of-Famer Cap Anson, pressured club owners to ban black players.

Right now, baseball historians are trying to find out whether there was actually an earlier black major leaguer, William Edward White, who played one game for the Providence Greys of the National League on June 21, 1879. Some think that White was the mulatto son of A.J. White of Milner, Ga.

3. We only use 10% of our brain.

A: No. While most people don't use all of their brain at any one moment, most brain activities use many parts of the brain. In a normal day, you use almost all of your brain. Brain imaging confirms this, as do the results of brain injuries. The ten-percent estimate may apply only to simple motor or sensory tasks, like walking or chewing gum. But when people talk or think abstractly, they use much more than 10% of their brain.

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

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.

Change of Address

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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Arlington, TX 76006-6103

ADVERTISEMENTS

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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. Gene McKenna's "Vocabulary Booster" CD can be purchased through his Web site, www.inhometutoring.com.

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