

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.

Membership Renewal: If you have an annual Mensa membership, your membership will be expiring at the end of April. You should have received a renewal notice in the mail in January. You can return that form or visit www.us.mensa.org to renew.

ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://www.solarandthermal.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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Schedule of Southern Connecticut Mensa Events Schedule of Connecticut and Western Mass Mensa Events Happy Hours & Get Together's
6	Regional Gatherings President's Column
7	June Dinner: David Barton
8	Kick Irrational Comics Death of a Speedster
10	From The Vice Chairman
11	Puzzles & Answers
12	Word Origins
13	Noted and Quoted
14	Mind Games
15	Ruminations
20	Poetry Corner
21	Book Review: First, Break All the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently
22	Good Wine Cheap
23	Commentary
24	Election Results
25	Chapter Notes Member Advertisements Change of Address Form
26	List of Officers



SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR JULY

Saturday, July 2 8:00 p.m.

Theater Event: Shakespeare's A Midsummer's Night Dream performed by the Putney Players (www.putneyplayers.org), Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford, CT. Tickets \$15 general admission, \$12 srs. and students. This is an outdoor theater so please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522- 1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations

Friday, July 8, 7 pm

Mensa Goes to the Movies

Join us at the fantastically restored Avon in downtown Stamford to see *Me and You and Everyone We Know*, "a poetic and penetrating observation of how people struggle to connect with one another in an isolating and contemporary world." Winner of four major awards at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival. Tickets: members/seniors \$6, non-members \$9, now on sale at the box office or call 203-967-3660 during show times. Coffee/victuals, etc. afterward at a local diner, coffee shop or restaurant (by consensus.) The exact screening time has yet to be announced, either check <http://avontheatre.com> or contact Catherine Musor at 203-856- 6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line) for further information.

Friday, July 8, 7:00.

Southern CT and Western MA 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.

Friday, July 15, 9:00 - 11:30 pm

Jazz

Join us for another rousing evening with the ever-impressive Chris Coogan Quintet at the historic Silvermine Tavern, 194 Perry Avenue, Norwalk, CT <http://silverminetavern.com>. This popular combo's repertoire includes straight-ahead jazz, New Orleans second line, Dixieland, blues, bebop, ragtime, gospel, funk and fusion - you won't be disappointed! \$5 cover (no charge for dinner guests - for reservations call the Tavern at 203-847-4558. We can get a table together for dinner beforehand if anyone is interested.) To RSVP or for further information contact Catherine Musor at 203-856-6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line.)

Saturday, July 16, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner

Nancy Carrington, Executive Director of the Connecticut Food Bank, will be the speaker.. Before the presentation, we will 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). Dress is casual. Contact Nancy O'Neil, Nancyoneil@aol.com, 203-791-1668, for information and reservations. You **MUST** call and **MAKE RESERVATIONS** by Friday, July 15 so we can assure that the restaurant can provide seating. If you make reservations and can't attend, **PLEASE** call and cancel.

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 if eastbound or a right if westbound. 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.

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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.

Tuesday, July 19, 7 pm

Mensa Goes to the Movies - Again!

This time we'll hit the Avon to see Grey Gardens and hear from director Albert Maysles himself. "Grey Gardens" is the unbelievable but true story of Mrs. Edith Bouvier Beale and her daughter Edie, the aunt and first cousin of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Mother and daughter live in a world of their own behind the towering privets that surround their decaying 28-room East Hampton mansion known as Grey Gardens, a place so far gone that the local authorities once threatened to evict them for violating building and sanitation codes. The incident made national headlines - American royalty, living in squalor! Together they descended into a strange life of dependence and eccentricity that no one had ever shared until the Maysles arrived with their camera and tape recorder." . Tickets: members/seniors \$6, non-members \$9, now on sale at the box office or call 203-967-3660 during show times. Coffee/victuals, etc. afterward at a local diner, coffee shop or restaurant (by consensus.) The exact screening time has yet to be announced, either check <http://avontheatre.com> or contact Catherine Musor at 203-856- 6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line) for further information.

Thursday, July 21, 8-10 pm

Jazz

Looking for something more casual? Stop by Caffeine, a comfortable coffeehouse replete with "cozy, eclectic chairs and couches, smiling service, fantastic fresh coffee, desserts and edibles in a smoke-free, café environment". Bring your friends and/or visit with your fellow Mensans to the jazz sounds of Jim Clark's saxophone. For further information contact Catherine Musor at 203-856-6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line.)

Saturday, July 23, 8:00 pm

Theater Event: Rodgers and Hammerstein's Oklahoma at the Thomaston Opera House, Thomaston, 158 Main St., Thomaston, CT (www.thomastonoperahouse.org). Tickets \$17 in advance. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Tuesday, July 26, 8:00 pm

Comedy Night Like to laugh? Join us at the Levitt Pavilion in Westport for a Comedy Club night under the stars. Bring a blanket to sit on. Admission is FREE, gates open at 6:30 pm for picnics. Rain location at Saugatuck Elementary School, 170 Riverside Avenue. The decision to move inside is usually made by 5:00 pm, call the Levitt Hotline at 203-221-4422 for updates. Look for the yellow balloons to find us. For further information contact catherine musor at 203-856-6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line.)

Friday, July 29, 5:00 pm

Happy Hour

The Black Bear Saloon, 80 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 203-299-0711, <http://www.blackbearsono.com> The Fairfield county Happy Hour returns! Join us for the scintillating dialogue or just because you have to eat eventually, so it might as well be with us. Look for the traditional "something yellow" on the table to find us. For details, contact catherine musor at rin@optonline.net (include MENSA in the subject line) or 203.856.6316. This time we may head around the corner afterward for dinner at Shacojazz <http://shacojazz.com/> for some yummy Caribbean and African food in a great atmosphere, with live music to boot. For further information contact Catherine Musor at 203-856-6316 or rin@optonline.net (please include MENSA in the subject line.)

EVENT FOR YOUNG OR SINGLE MENSANS

As a relatively new member of the CWM chapter, I have attended a few events and been surprised at the low turnout of young members. I am offering to start a monthly event that would appeal to the younger crowd, and also, am considering planning an event for singles only. Without an idea of how many people would be interested, it is difficult to plan. Please email me at winginit04L8@aol.com or call me at 860-309-2554 if you would be interested in either event. I will happily to organize it if there is enough interest.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR AUGUST

Saturday, August 6, 7:00.

Shakespeare's As You Like performed by Bridgeport Free Shakespeare at the Beardsley Park Zoo, 1875 Noble Ave., Bridgeport, CT (). Preliminary show put on by interns begins at 7:00, picnic grounds open at 6:00. Voluntary donation suggested. This is an outdoor theater so please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Friday, August 12, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.
See above listing for details.

Saturday, August 20, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner.

See above listing for details.

Saturday, August 27, 8:00.

Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet performed by The Elm Shakespeare Company will present William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at Edgerton Park, , New Haven, CT (), near the New Haven-Hamden town line. Suggested donation of \$10 adults, \$5 children. This is an outdoor theater so please arrive early and bring a chair. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

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.

We've got our third Rolling Card Party this month, our second Book Discussion group meeting, and our first Board Games Night (all floating events!), showing that our members are eager to interact in ways we'd almost forgotten about in the last few years, when it had seemed like many of us were cocooning full time. Sure, it's the warmer season, but it's also the fun! And not everything has to happen in Connecticut, ya

know. I want to encourage our Western Massachusetts members to peek out once in a while. That would be fabulous! The floating events are a particularly easy way to do so, as no one person has to make an ongoing commitment to sponsoring anything, and everybody has a good time. One-shot events are welcome, so let's hear from ya!

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.

For event listings in the Media, leave a message for me by the 10th of the previous month at (860) 872-3106 or email Lilith@snet.net Subject: Calendar There's also the [CWM-Announce] upcoming events reminder email list, which I send out *approximately* weekly. Subscribe and unsubscribe options are located at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/cwm-announce> for your convenience. And any Mensan who wants to notify their fellow Ms about any late-breaking event s/he wants to share with our delightful chapter, please email me ASAP with the details and I'll get it out to the list. You may also check the website www.cwm.us.mensa.org for our calendar updates.

JULY

1 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour in Wallingford (ME, 1st Fridays) Ann Polanski (contact her at 203-269-4565 or ann.polanski@rfsworld.com) hosts us upstairs at George's II Restaurant, 950 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 Phone: 203-269-1059 Directions: Exit 66 off Wilbur Cross Parkway. Turn left (south) onto Rte 5. Take first left that's not a highway entrance onto Yale Avenue. George's II is in the Yale Plaza on the right.

7, 14, 21, 28 Thursdays 7:00 pm

Scrabble (WE) at Emmanuel Synagogue, 160 Mohegan Drive, West Hartford. Ellen Leonard, (860) 667-1966 Cancelled on the 28th for Passover.

12 Tuesday 7:00 pm

Board Games Night (ME, 2nd Tuesday, location varies) We're having so much fun, we hope you can join us. July's BGN will be held at the home of Jeryl Sault in East Haven CT. Please RSVP to jmsault@snet.net or 203-469-6056. BYOB and bring a small munchie to share. Hope to see you!

14 Thursday 7:05 pm

Mensa Goes to a Baseball Game

Meet Tom Thomas in New Britain Stadium, Section 213, five rows from the top, and see the New Britain Rock Cats host the New Hampshire Fisher Cats (Toronto Blue Jays' Double-A farm club.) This game has a 7:05 scheduled start time, but if they are playing a double-header to make up a rain out, the first game will start at 6:00 pm. Info and confirmation of game time at www.rockcats.com If you can have more fun somewhere else for five bucks, please tell us about it. tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rockcats.com.

15 Friday 6pm - 8pm 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.

22 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 are now reserving the middle tables on the left as you walk in the bar. Dinner is a possibility if enough people are interested. Come on down and join us this month, we'd love to see ya. Contact Gail Trowbridge (203) 877-4472 or Gail.Trowbridge@att.net.

23 Saturday 4 pm

Games and BBQ

Join Ron & Lori Norris at their home at 294 Parkside Drive, Warwick, RI. Games (outdoor, weather permitting) to begin around 4:00; BBQ around 6:00; followed by more games (probably indoors as soon as the mosquitos begin biting). Please RSVP to ronnorrisjr@hotmail.com or by phone 401-781-3247. Please bring a potluck item for the BBQ (burgers will be provided). BYOB. Feel free to bring your own games.

Directions: From I-95 (south or north), exit @ Green Airport take Route 1 North (that's Post Road, left at the light). Turn right onto Airport Road (at light with Bickfords on your right, Carvel's on your left). At Dave's market turn left onto Warwick Rd (at light). Pass Cumberland farms to left and turn Right at Naragansett Pkwy (at light, with a "Quickie" oil change place). Go exactly 1.1 mile, turn left onto Parkside Dr. We are the first house on the right. OR from the west Take I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike) eastbound, toward Boston. Take exit 10A to (Worcester / Prov. & US-20) to Route-146 Southeast for ~36 miles. Exit 9A to I-295 south toward Warwick to Route 37 east to Route 1 South (that's Post Road, right off the ramp). Turn left onto Airport Road (at light with Bickfords on left, Carvel's on right). Continue as above.

27 Wednesday 12 noon

Middlebury Lunch (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. Contact Richard Fogg at 860-274-2370 for more info.

30 Sunday 2 pm

Rolling Card Party (ME, varies) at the home of Gisela Rodriguez and Bob Smith in Vernon, CT. BYOB and a munchie to share. RSVPs and directions: Lilith@snet.net or 860-872-3106. Hope to see you there!

LOOKING AHEAD

August 20 Saturday 5:30 pm (tentative)

Mensa trip to WaterFire Multi-Chapter Mensa trip to WaterFire After the great success of last year's Mensa WaterFire event, Tom Padwa, Rhode Island LocSec, is considering scheduling

another one this year. We'd meet for dinner at 5:30 PM, then walk or trolley to WaterFire at sunset.

What's WaterFire? It's Providence's summer festival - on many weekends, bonfires are lit on the rivers (yes, ON them, in floating braziers). There are street performers, music, food, and a carnival atmosphere prevails. More information can be viewed at www.waterfire.org.

Last year we had 25-30 Ms from five states! If this happens, Tom'd like the neighboring local groups to help publicize the event, and maybe car pool to Providence. We need RSVPs for dinner with that size group, also.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN BY RICK D'AMICO

Some Housekeeping Notes

We've been having some great monthly meetings and fun activities. If you haven't been to any of them, you should really get out and partake in one.

There are just a couple of quick reminders:

- It's important that anyone who wants to attend one of our monthly meetings contact Nancy O'Neil no later than the Friday afternoon prior to the meeting. This is important, since Nancy has to inform the Stony Hill Inn of how many people will be attending. In turn, the Stony Hollow Inn will place us in a room appropriate to the number of reservations received. Hence, a person who just shows up runs the risk of not being accommodated when they arrive.

- We encourage Mensans to bring family and friends to the events. If the event requires tickets or reservations, just let the sponsor know how many people you'll be bringing.

- It's great when members organize events for us, and we encourage it. We do, however, request that they contact Nancy O'Neil, our Activities Coordinator. This way we can avoid schedule conflicts.

That said, I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Hope you can join us for a meeting or activity.

Any takers? Local contact is our LocSec Bob Smith at 860-872-3106 or BoboRobDOS@snet.net

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

July 6-10

Laissez le bon temps roulez! Annual Gathering 2005 will take over New Orleans July 6-10. Adult registration is \$75 until April 8, which is a savings of \$15 from the door rate. Young Mensan registration is free for ages 4 and under, \$30 for ages 4-12 and \$50 for ages 13-20.

And what do you get for your money? Fun for both sides of your brain! Access to all the food, music and culture New Orleans is known for, plus the inimitable experience of spending a long weekend with more than a thousand of your favorite Mensans:

- *Take high tea at the Longue Vue house and gardens.*
- *Tour the Stennis Space Center and the Southern Regional Research Center.*
- *Step back in time at two of the plantations on the River Road.*
- *Play golf to raise money for the Mensa Education & Research Foundation.*
- *Ride a Segway.*
- *See the largest hypnotic production show in the world.*
- *Hear the secrets of "the Canal Street Madam," the Countess Pontalba and the voodoo queens.*
- *Learn about baseball, fencing and tae kwon do; about reality, adult stem cells, digital forensics, ancient Egyptian measurement of the planet...*

...And more activities are being added all the time. Don't forget about the full schedule of Leadership Development Workshops designed to make the jobs of Local Group officers easier. Workshops will focus on banking changes since 9/11, Web design, mailing newsletters and member privacy issues - and that's just for starters. Check it all out for yourself at www.ag.us.mensa.org, and while you're there, register online. We'll see you in the Big Easy!

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>

THE JUNE DINNER

David Barton

In June, Mensans enjoyed a special evening of art and insight as local painter David Barton displayed a gallery of his acclaimed paintings and talked about his artistic career, thinking, and techniques. David's work has been on exhibit in New York, Washington, DC, and in galleries in Connecticut and Cape Cod, as well as in international collections. The pictures he brought with him were a rich sample of his varied portfolio.

David explained that despite auspicious circumstances, his love of art bloomed belatedly. His father was an illustrator in Westport and as a child David posed for many artists, but he did not become interested in painting until he was 14. On a trip to New York City, he visited the Museum of Modern Art and saw the paintings of Van Gogh. He was transfixed, and it inspired him to take up the brush. He went to Cornell University art school on a scholarship but actually learned more outside the classroom from a maverick artist. After earning his Bachelor of Fine Arts, he lived in New York City, worked in a loft in Soho for many years, and eventually owned his own gallery. Here he developed his photo-realistic style by painting many architectural subjects, especially the cast-iron facades of buildings in lower Manhattan. He learned to capture the light and shadows on buildings, and to look at things from different angles to find the most interesting shots. As he noted, "I trained my brain to look at things." This was evident when he pointed out the subtle ways in which he altered pictures to highlight certain features, sometimes exquisitely refining images by shifting the view an inch.

David captured the facades of Manhattan's buildings beautifully, but he did not limit himself to urban settings. He traveled widely and painted diverse locales such as the historic village of Cooperstown in New York, Savannah, Cape Cod, and seaside Maine. In 2003, he finished a series of paintings of New Orleans. Whatever his subject, however, his eye looked for the best view to convey the details of form, color, and pattern that one might otherwise overlook. The dozen paintings David had on display, plus others he showed photographs of, all evinced this meticulous care.

The paintings we saw illustrated different phases in David's career, and demonstrated his point that he has always adapted as he has gone along, learning something new every day. Not content with masterfully painting cityscapes and historic neighborhoods, he also paints close-ups of plants, scenes from African villages, and stages for Broadway shows. In all these areas, he stresses color. He told us that, like the Renaissance artists, he usually starts with the darkest colors, and then proceeds to the lighter ones, and finally the shadows. He likes strong colors on black, which was very evident in his vivid portraits of plants and his striking pictures of African masks and garments.

Our speaker stated that much of the work in painting is making decisions, which is not easy because David is full of ideas. He never has artist's block; he simply has too many ideas. When he visits a site, he usually knows what he is looking for but walks around to see things from different perspectives and clarify his conceptions. He surprised many in the audience when he mentioned just how selective he is, saying that he took about 400 photos of Martha's Vineyard but decided that only one or two of them were good enough to devote a painting to. He has no trouble starting projects; indeed, he sometimes works on more than one painting at a time. The actual work may take as little as two weeks or as much as six months. His passion for perfection makes it a little difficult for him to finish projects, but after completing a major work, it doesn't take him long to start another. He pauses for a day or a week and returns to painting refreshed to pursue another of his seemingly infinite brainchildren.

David's lecture inspired many questions, and he answered with acute insights into his sublime creations. The concentration he puts into his works radiates from them. He loves painting, getting into "the zone" and creating his own world, and this zest opens up new worlds for his audiences.

You can view David Barton's paintings at his gallery in Westport across the street from the Saugatuck train station. Visit the website http://www.westportartscenter.org/site/z_artists/barton_david.htm to sample his work online.

DEATH OF A SPEEDSTER

By Brian Lord

Many times in a man's life something happens to him that means his life will never be the same. For some, it is the day he is married or the day his child is born. For others, it is the day he graduates from college, or perhaps when a loved one passes on. For me, one of those times occurred at dusk while standing on second base during a church league softball game. Our team had nearly accomplished an improbable feat, scoring 8 runs in the bottom of the last inning to pull within one run. As I stood there on second base contemplating the joy I would feel as I crossed home plate with the tying run, an unknown teammate from my dugout yelled into the oncoming darkness those two words I thought I would never hear "Pinch runner!"

At that moment, I knew in my heart of hearts that an era in my life was coming to an end. Being very, very fast has always been a big part of my identity. On the second day of my first attempt at kindergarten, we lined up at recess to race. I was side by side with a six-year-old, a giant blonde kid wearing

continued on next page

KICK IRRATIONAL 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

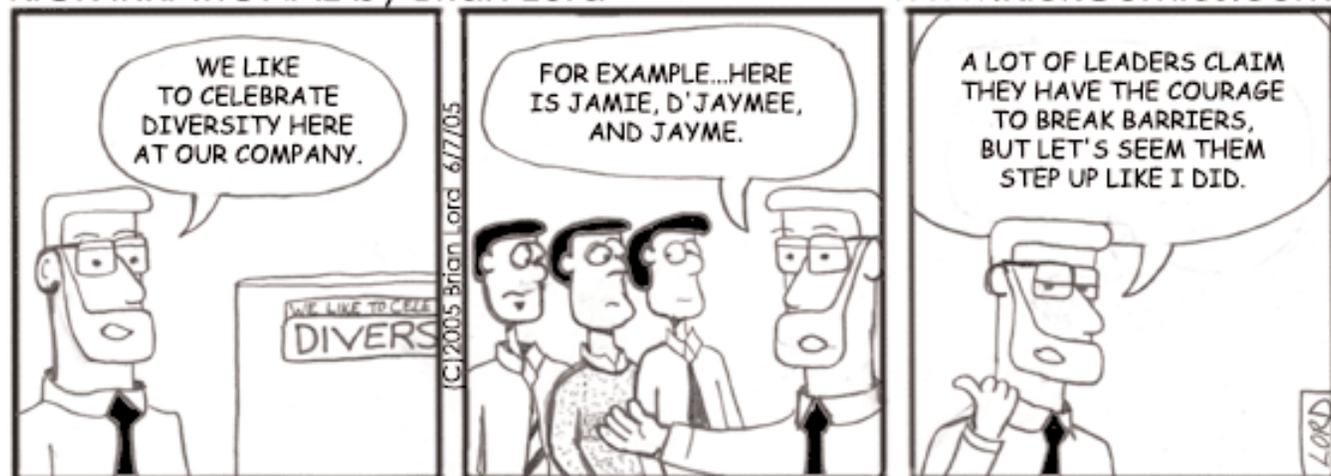
KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

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a Packers jacket who must have been at least 3'9. I was only five, but when my mom and siblings had been taking naps during the summer, I'd been sprinting back and forth down the kitchen-dining room-living room corridor that ran the length of our house. I knew I was ready for the challenge. I'd even invented 'super fast milk', a concoction of brown sugar, cinnamon, and whatever else I could find to put in milk, while my family slept. Despite my short stature and young age, I was about to teach this brash six-year-old a lesson about who the fastest kid was. As I crossed the finish line--second--I was so upset that I promptly tackled the kid and made him cry. Because of this and a few other improprieties (earlier that day I'd splayed out my arms and legs on the door of the bus as my mom tried unsuccessfully to push me in by the waist), it would be another year before I stepped foot in the hallowed halls of Greentown Elementary to attempt kindergarten.

My speedster image was furthered in grades 1 to 3, where the single most important characteristic in popularity was who could run the fastest. My best friend Greg Hullinger and I dominated the social scene with our blazing exploits during gym class. My obsession carried over into the summers as well. At the same time, my inner nerd began to blossom as I learned to do long division for the sole purpose of calculating my batting average based on the Little League statistics I meticulously kept. From age 8 to age 15, I accumulated over 300 consecutive stolen bases without being thrown out. (At this point, you may wish to enhance this story by listening to "Glory Days" by Bruce Springsteen while reading.) In high school, I was dubbed "Fastest White Boy" by my football teammates. Only a handful of guys could outrun me, and they went on to full-ride track scholarships to places like Stanford and Indiana State, while I went on to play wide receiver in college.

As I stood there on that dusty field, my life as a speedster flashing before my eyes, I could feel my identity faltering in the death throes of reality. Lengthening years, getting my kneecap broken in a car wreck, and gaining 50 pounds ("fifty pounds of muscle! Ha ha!" I'd rationalize to myself) had finally caught up with me. It's not like I was getting pinch run for by a slow guy. His name is Michael, but you can't just say his name, "Michael." You have to turn your head as far as you can to the right, then say "Michael!" as you whip your head to the left, as if you're watching A.J. Foyt drive by. He's that fast.

But that really didn't matter to me. For the first time in my life, for the first time in my life, my peers felt I wasn't fast enough to get the job done. I looked over at our coach, Doc Watson, who has a streak of his own (54 straight years of playing baseball/softball). He yelled, "Well, its up to you," in a way that meant, "I'm too nice to say it, fatty, but I think we should put the kid in." My heart sunk and my inner speed-demon flat lined as I slowly walked to the dugout. Michael, having turned into a beam of light running to take my place, actually passed through me.

As it turns out, the substitution was unnecessary. Michael scored on the next hit, but Jabba the Hut would have had time to clear home without even having to slide. However, the damage was done, and I must now begin my journey from 'natural athlete' to 'wily old veteran.' Of course, if I ever find out who first yelled 'pinch runner', they will never play on our team again. I am auxiliary assistant back-up coach, and we old fat slow guys can usually find a way to exact our revenge.

Brian Lord is a washed up weekend warrior in addition to being an internationally read cartoonist and writer. His work can be viewed at www.KickComics.com

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

I can't believe that it was just two years ago that I learned I had won the election for Vice Chair of Region 1. These have been "interesting times", to paraphrase the Chinese proverb. The positives have by far outweighed the negatives. My admiration for the devotion, resourcefulness and just plain true grit that local group officers (and members!) have is immeasurable. Here's to all you - you are all truly Number One in Region 1!

Donning my Geekette hat, I would like to note the recent death of George Dantzig, the famous mathematician who created the linear programming algorithm and the Simplex method. Portfolio selection, employee scheduling, optimal diet components: these are just some of the tasks that Dantzig's brilliance has made easier ^ thank you! His research in the related areas of nonlinear optimisation, decomposition theory, sensitivity analysis, and complementary pivot methods, to name just a few, revolutionised the mathematical and computer worlds. His optimal solutions will live forever.

I had the pleasure of meeting one of Region 1's younger members at the Greater New York Mensa Members' Art Show in May. Sabrina DeSouza-Fennelly, eight years old, took top prize with her intricately carved edible marzipan sculptures. Fruit, animals, a perfect replica of a Godiva box of candy - all fashioned, she told me, with kitchen utensils. Her creations have won blue ribbons at the Otsego County Fair. She has already given workshops at the Children's Museum of Manhattan.

Congratulations and best wishes are due to Christian Burns, 14 years old, (Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa) who graduated from Tunxis Community College. Starting this fall, he will be attending Cornell University where he hopes to get a doctorate in zoology.

It's not too early to start planning for Rhode Island Mensa's WaterFire event, tentatively scheduled for Saturday August 20th. WaterFire is Providence's spectacular summer festival. In this celebration, bonfires, in floating braziers, are lit on the river at sunset. Street performers, music, food, and a carnival atmosphere make for a truly

magical experience. Last year about 35 of us had a wonderful time - consider joining the fun! Visit <http://www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org> for info.

One of the best end-of-summer traditions is Mid-Hudson Mensa's Autumn in New York RG. This year's (9-11 September) is entitled "Eat Your Way Through the Catskills" (the chef is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America); the bucolic camp-style setting is sure to please any nature lover. Contact Bill Zigo <bzigo@optonline.net> for details.

June is the month of roses and so we journey to India, where rose water is an important ingredient in many dishes. Kulfi is the traditional Indian ice cream. Traditionally it is made it by slowly cooking a large amount of milk and reducing it to a small amount of condensed milk. This is a quickie version.

KULFI

5 cardamom pods
1.25 cups sugar
1 cup milk
1 tablespoon rose water
1 cup evaporated milk
1 cup heavy cream
drop of red food colouring, if desired

1. Remove the cardamom seeds from the pods and grind using a pestle and mortar.
2. Combine the ground seeds, milks, sugar, cream and rosewater, and stir until the sugar has dissolved.
3. Pour into individual moulds, or use a quart container, and freeze.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. How often should you check your e-mail?
2. What is the difference between boasting and gloating?
3. What crises have you averted?
4. What are the most winding roads?
5. What are the differences between disliking and resenting?
6. Name the top automobile producing countries and their percentage of world auto production.
7. About how many countries have literacy rates below 50%?
8. What is the average temperature of the earth?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

3. *Which language has the most letters?*

A: The Cambodian alphabet has the most letters. 74. The Rotokas language, one of the languages of New Guinea, has the fewest letters, 11.

6. *List as many social sciences as you can.*

A: The main social sciences are Anthropology, Communication, Criminology, Economics, Human Geography, Linguistics, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology.

7. *What is the percentage of Americans who are underweight?*

A: An estimated 2% of Americans are underweight. A body-mass index under 18.5 is considered underweight.

8. *Name the deserts of North America.*

A: There are four deserts in North America: 1) the Chihuahuan desert in North Central Mexico and Southwestern United States (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas); area of 175,000 sq. mi.; 2) the Great Basin Desert in the Western United States (Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah); 158,000 sq. mi.; 3) the Mojave desert in the Southwestern United States (Arizona, California, Nevada); 25,000 sq. mi. 4) the Sonoran desert in the Southwestern United States (Arizona, California) and parts of Mexico (Baja Peninsula, Sonora); 120,000 sq. mi.

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WORD ORIGINS

Several English words and phrases have come from Swedish, which is spoken in Sweden and parts of Finland. Here are some of them.

boulder - This first appeared in English about 1677, and descends from the Middle English word "bulder" (about 1300), which may come from the Swedish word "bullersten" - noisy stone, from "bullra" - to roar, and "sten" - stone. A large stone in a stream would cause water to "roar" around it.

dahlia - This flower was discovered by the Swedish botanist Anders Dahl, a pupil of the famous taxonomist Carol Linnaeus, in Mexico in 1791. Linnaeus named it after his assistant, and it entered the English in language in 1804. The term "blue dahlia," a nonexistent variety, is a figure of speech for something impossible or unattainable.

lug (to pull) - This word came into English about 1300. It derives from the Swedish word "lugga," "to pull by the hair".

mink - Derives from the Swedish "menk," "a stinking animal found in Finland."

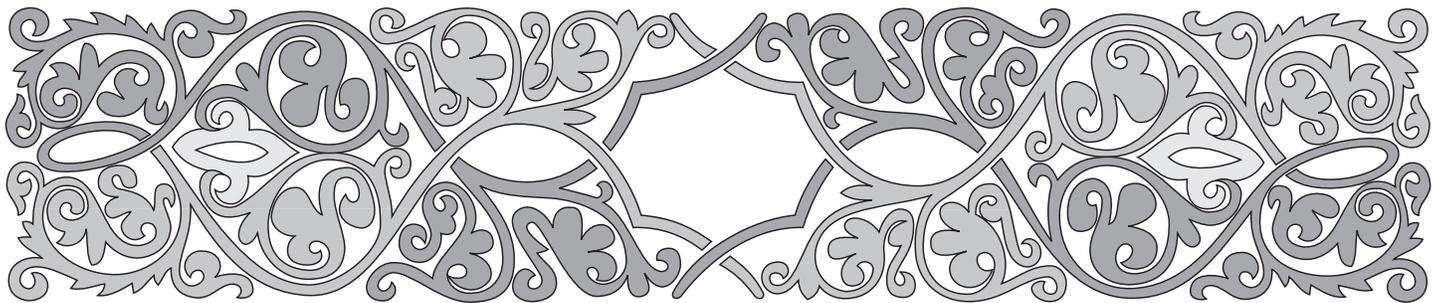
moped - Originated in Sweden in 1952. The first version of the moped had auxiliary pedals so it was called "tramp-cykel med motor och pedaller," meaning "pedal cycle with engine and pedals." The English version of the term borrowed and shortened this in 1956.

smorgasbord - Came into English in 1893 from the Swedish term for "an open sandwich table," or more literally a "butter-goose table", from "smor" - butter, "gas" - goose or clump of butter, and "bord" - table. The first English use of the word in the figurative sense of a "eclectic mix of things" is from 1948.

spry - Entered English in 1746, probably from a Swedish word "srygg," meaning "brisk, active."

tungsten - This element got its name from its discover Swedish chemist Karl Wilhelm Scheele in 1796. The Swedish "tungsten," for calcium tungstate, comprises "tung" - heavy, and "sten" - stone.

wicker - The Middle Swedish term "viker" was used to denote a willow branch. A related term is "vika," "to bend." The English word first appears about 1336.



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

NOTED AND QUOTED

A magician is a person who pulls rabbits out of hats. An experimental psychologist is a person who pulls habits out of rats.

- Anonymous

The instinct of a man is to pursue everything that flies from him, and to fly from all that pursue him. - *Voltaire, (1694 - 1788)*

In peace sons bury their fathers, but in war fathers bury their sons. - *Croesus, (6th century B.C.E.)*

Study without thought is vain; thought without study is dangerous.

- *Confucius, (551 - 479 B.C.E), Analects 2.15.*

Every man takes care that his neighbor shall not cheat him. But a day comes when he begins to care that he does not cheat his neighbor. Then all goes well.

- *Ralph Waldo Emerson, (1803 - 1882)*

It is feeling that sets a man thinking and not thought that sets him feeling.

- *George Bernard Shaw, (1856 - 1950)*

Those whose lot it is to ramble can seldom write, and those who know how to write very seldom ramble. - *Samuel Johnson, (1709- 1784)*

I made art a philosophy and philosophy an art.

- *Oscar Wilde, (1856? - 1900)*

Other men live to eat, I eat to live.

- *Socrates, (470 - 399 B.C.E.)*

The honest man takes pains, and then enjoys pleasures; the knave takes pleasures, and then suffers pain. - *Benjamin Franklin, (1706 - 1790)*

Duty is not beneficial because it is commanded, but is commanded because it is beneficial

- *William James, (1842 - 1910)*

I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.

- *Shakespeare, King Richard II (1595 - 96?)*

Many youthful men long for fame, and many famous men long for youth.

- *Dennis Ridley, Virginia Wesleyan College*

Our defeats are but stepping-stones to victory, and his victories are but stepping-stones to ruin. - *Winston Churchill, (1874 - 1965), after the Battle of the Marne, 1914*

When they are alone they want to be with others, and when they are with others they want to be alone. After all, human beings are like that. - *Gertrude Stein, (1874 - 1946)*

Life resembles a novel more often than novels resemble life. - *George Sand, (1804 - 1876)*

The man who fears suffering is already suffering from what he fears.

- *Michel de Montaigne, (1533 - 1592)*

If thought corrupts language, language can also corrupt thought.

- *George Orwell, (1903 - 1950)*

When gazing into a mirror, beauty looks for signs of ugliness, and ugliness for signs of beauty. - *Dr. Mardy Grothe*

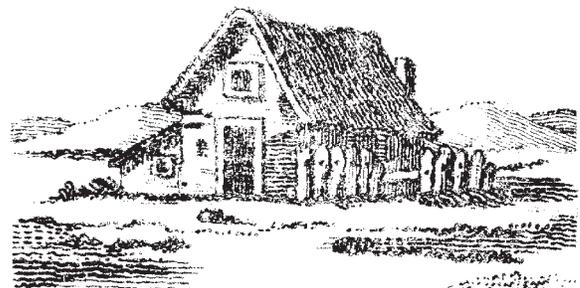
We should live and learn; but by the time we've learned, it's too late to live. - *Carolyn Wells, (1869 - 1942), U.S. writer of mysteries and verse*

An adventure is only an inconvenience rightly considered. An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.

- *G.K. Chesterton, (1874 - 1936)*

Beauty is truth, truth beauty, ~ that is all Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

- *John Keats, (1795 - 1821)*



MENSA MIND GAMES 2005 RESULTS

One hundred sixty-five Mensans gathered in Tampa in April for Mind Games. During the three-day event, members played and rated 51 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games. **The winners are:**

- DaVinci's Challenge - Briarpatch
(www.briarpatch.com)
 Ingenius - Fantasy Flight Games
(www.fantasyflightgames.com)
 Loot - Gamewright
(www.gamewright.com)
 Niagara - Rio Grande Games
(www.riograndegames.com)
 Zendo - Looney Labs
(www.looneylabs.com)

Mind Games 2006 will be held April 21-23 in Portland, OR. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.

If you would like to order any of these games from the Mensa web site, here is the information.

7892-DAVINCI'S CHALLENGE \$25

The ancient game of secret symbols is a classic strategy game with hidden mysteries as old as the pyramids! Take turns placing shapes on the board to reveal 9 different patterns. The more complex the design, the more points you score. 2 players or 2 Teams 8-Adult

7893-INGENIOUS \$35

Ingenious is the new abstract placement game. Players place colored tiles on the hexagonal board, scoring points, blocking opponents' tile placement, and trying to protect themselves from being blocked by their opponents. 1 to 4 players 8-Adult

7894-LOOT \$10

Yo-Ho-Ho and a Barrel of Fun! Set sail for an exciting adventure of strategy and skullduggery in this captivating card game. Storm your opponents' merchant ships and seize valuable treasure. But watch your back, matey ~ plundering pirates are out to capture your ships as well! The player with the most loot rules the high

seas. Learn in 10 minutes, 20 minutes to play. 2 to 8 players 10-Adult

7895-NIAGARA \$45

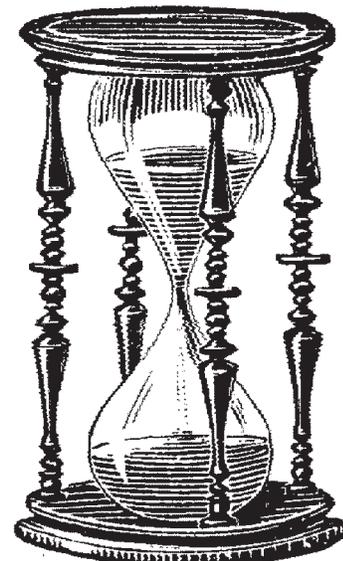
Players play on a 3D board, representing the Niagara River and the falls. Canoes float down the river as the riverflows, but players can row their canoes up-river or down-river to collect gems, to return them to shore, and to avoid the waterfall. This game is great fun for the family, but is strategic and gives players the chance to plan and steal from one another. 60 minutes to play. 2 to 5 players 8-Adult

7896-ZENDO (includes 4 sets of pyramids and book) \$44

Can you guess the master's riddle? What is the secret of the Buddha-Nature? One of today's most popular Icehouse games is now available. One player acts as the master, guiding the other players ("students") as they seek to unravel the secret rule by building little structures out of Icehouse pyramids.

PLAYING WITH PYRAMIDS-Your guidebook to the Icehouse gaming experience is this 128-page paperback containing the rules to ZENDO and 11 other Icehouse games. 3 to 4 Players 8-Adult

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RUMINATIONS

The Theory of Moral Sentiments

(1759), CH. 1 & 2
by Adam Smith, (1723-1790)

Chap. I Of Sympathy

How selfish soever man may be supposed, there are evidently some principles in his nature, which interest him in the fortune of others, and render their happiness necessary to him, though he derives nothing from it except the pleasure of seeing it. Of this kind is pity or compassion, the emotion which we feel for the misery of others, when we either see it, or are made to conceive it in a very lively manner. That we often derive sorrow from the sorrow of others, is a matter of fact too obvious to require any instances to prove it; for this sentiment, like all the other original passions of human nature, is by no means confined to the virtuous and humane, though they perhaps may feel it with the most exquisite sensibility. The greatest ruffian, the most hardened violator of the laws of society, is not altogether without it.

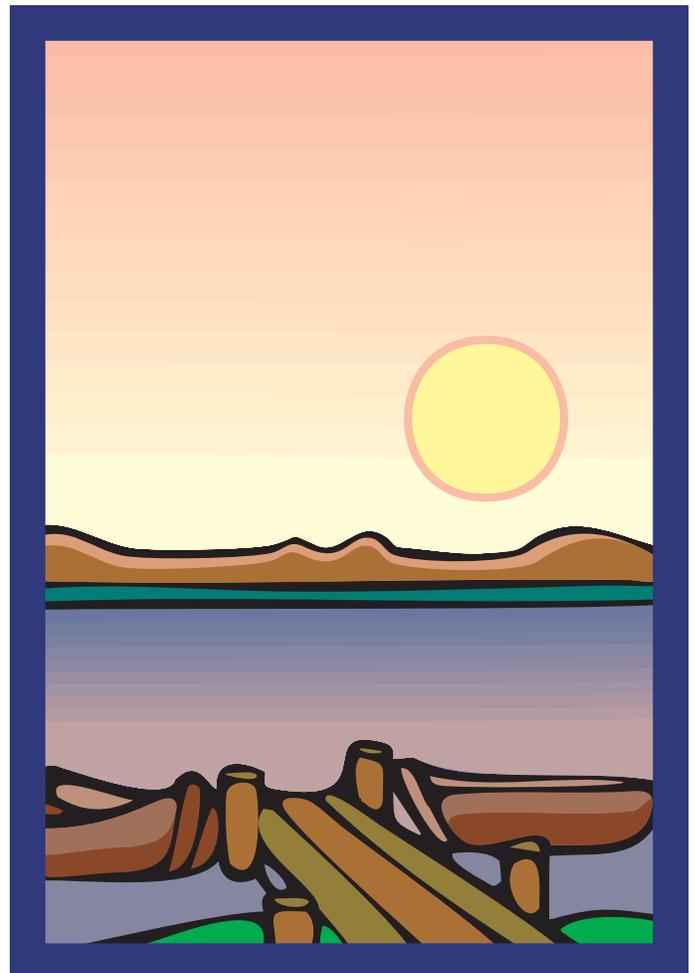
I.1.1

As we have no immediate experience of what other men feel, we can form no idea of the manner in which they are affected, but by conceiving what we ourselves should feel in the like situation. Though our brother is upon the rack, as long as we ourselves are at our ease, our senses will never inform us of what he suffers. They never did, and never can, carry us beyond our own person, and it is by the imagination only that we can form any conception of what are his sensations. Neither can that faculty help us to this any other way, than by representing to us what would be our own, if we were in his case. It is the impressions of our own senses only, not those of his, which our imaginations copy. By the imagination we place ourselves in his situation, we conceive ourselves enduring all the same torments, we enter as it were into his body, and become in some measure the same person with him, and thence form some idea of his sensations, and even feel something which, though weaker in degree, is not altogether unlike them. His agonies, when they are thus brought home to ourselves, when we have thus adopted and made them our own, begin at last to affect us, and we then tremble and shudder at the thought of what he feels. For as to be in pain or distress of any kind excites

the most excessive sorrow, so to conceive or to imagine that we are in it, excites some degree of the same emotion, in proportion to the vivacity or dulness of the conception.

I.1.2

That this is the source of our fellow-feeling for the misery of others, that it is by changing places in fancy with the sufferer, that we come either to conceive or to be affected by what he feels, may be demonstrated by many obvious observations, if it should not be thought sufficiently evident of itself. When we see a stroke aimed and just ready to fall upon the leg or arm of another person, we naturally shrink and draw back our own leg or our own arm; and when it does fall, we feel it in some measure, and are hurt by it as well as the sufferer. The mob, when they are gazing at a dancer on the slack rope, naturally writhe and twist and balance their own bodies, as they see him do, and as they feel that they themselves must do if in his situation. Persons of delicate fibres and a weak constitution of body complain, that in looking on the sores and ulcers which are exposed by beggars in the streets, they are apt to



feel an itching or uneasy sensation in the correspondent part of their own bodies. The horror which they conceive at the misery of those wretches affects that particular part in themselves more than any other; because that horror arises from conceiving what they themselves would suffer, if they really were the wretches whom they are looking upon, and if that particular part in themselves was actually affected in the same miserable manner. The very force of this conception is sufficient, in their feeble frames, to produce that itching or uneasy sensation complained of. Men of the most robust make, observe that in looking upon sore eyes they often feel a very sensible soreness in their own, which proceeds from the same reason; that organ being in the strongest man more delicate, than any other part of the body is in the weakest.

I.1.3

Neither is it those circumstances only, which create pain or sorrow, that call forth our fellow-feeling. Whatever is the passion which arises from any object in the person principally concerned, an analogous emotion springs up, at the thought of his situation, in the breast of every attentive spectator. Our joy for the deliverance of those heroes of tragedy or romance who interest us, is as sincere as our grief for their distress, and our fellow-feeling with their misery is not more real than that with their happiness. We enter into their gratitude towards those faithful friends who did not desert them in their difficulties; and we heartily go along with their resentment against those perfidious traitors who injured, abandoned, or deceived them. In every passion of which the mind of man is susceptible, the emotions of the by-stander always correspond to his, by bringing the case home to himself, he imagines should be the sentiments of the

sufferer.

I.1.4

Pity and compassion are words appropriated to signify our fellow-feeling with the sorrow of others. Sympathy, though its meaning was, perhaps, originally the same, may now, however, without much impropriety, be made use of to denote our fellow-feeling with any passion whatever.

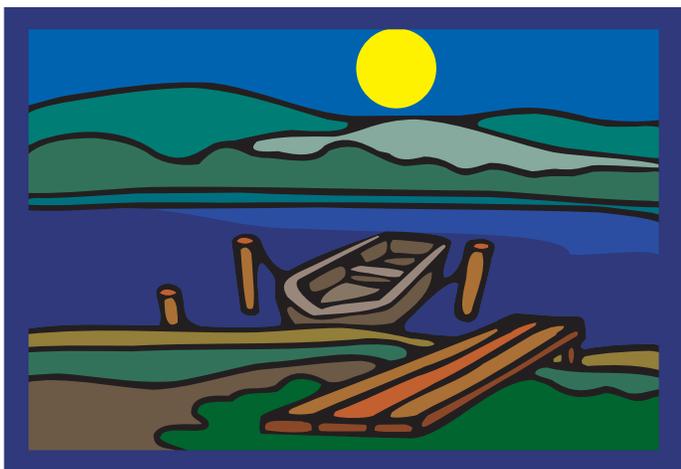
I.1.5

Upon some occasions sympathy may seem to arise merely from the view of a certain emotion in another person. The passions, upon some occasions, may seem to be transfused from one man to another, instantaneously and antecedent to any knowledge of what excited them in the person principally concerned. Grief and joy, for example, strongly expressed in the look and gestures of any one, at once affect the spectator with some degree of a like painful or agreeable emotion. A smiling face is, to every body that sees it, a cheerful object; as a sorrowful countenance, on the other hand, is a melancholy one.

I.1.6

This, however, does not hold universally, or with regard to every passion. There are some passions of which the expressions excite no sort of sympathy, but before we are acquainted with what gave occasion to them, serve rather to disgust and provoke us against them. The furious behaviour of an angry man is more likely to exasperate us against himself than against his enemies. As we are unacquainted with his provocation, we cannot bring his case home to ourselves, nor conceive any thing like the passions which it excites. But we plainly see what is the situation of those with whom he is angry, and to what violence they may be exposed from so enraged an adversary. We readily, therefore, sympathize with their fear or resentment, and are immediately disposed to take part against the man from whom they appear to be in so much danger.

I.1.7 If the very appearances of grief and joy inspire us with some degree of the like emotions, it is because they suggest to us the general idea of some good or bad fortune that has befallen the person in whom we observe them: and in these passions this is sufficient to have some little influence upon us. The effects of grief and joy terminate in the person who feels those emotions, of which the expressions do not, like those of resentment, suggest to us the idea of any



other person for whom we are concerned, and whose interests are opposite to his. The general idea of good or bad fortune, therefore, creates some concern for the person who has met with it, but the general idea of provocation excites no sympathy with the anger of the man who has received it. Nature, it seems, teaches us to be more averse to enter into this passion, and, till informed of its cause, to be disposed rather to take part against it.

I.I.8

Even our sympathy with the grief or joy of another, before we are informed of the cause of either, is always extremely imperfect. General lamentations, which express nothing but the anguish of the sufferer, create rather a curiosity to inquire into his situation, along with some disposition to sympathize with him, than any actual sympathy that is very sensible. The first question which we ask is, What has befallen you? Till this be answered, though we are uneasy both from the vague idea of his misfortune, and still more from torturing ourselves with conjectures about what it may be, yet our fellow-feeling is not very considerable.

I.I.9

Sympathy, therefore, does not arise so much from the view of the passion, as from that of the situation which excites it. We sometimes feel for another, a passion of which he himself seems to be altogether incapable; because, when we put ourselves in his case, that passion arises in our breast from the imagination, though it does not in his from the reality. We blush for the impudence and rudeness of another, though he himself appears to have no sense of the impropriety of his own behaviour; because we cannot help feeling with what confusion we ourselves should be covered, had we behaved in so absurd a manner.

I.I.10

Of all the calamities to which the condition of mortality exposes mankind, the loss of reason appears, to those who have the least spark of humanity, by far the most dreadful, and they behold that last stage of human wretchedness with deeper commiseration than any other. But the poor wretch, who is in it, laughs and sings perhaps, and is altogether insensible of his own misery. The anguish which humanity feels, therefore, at the sight of such an object, cannot be

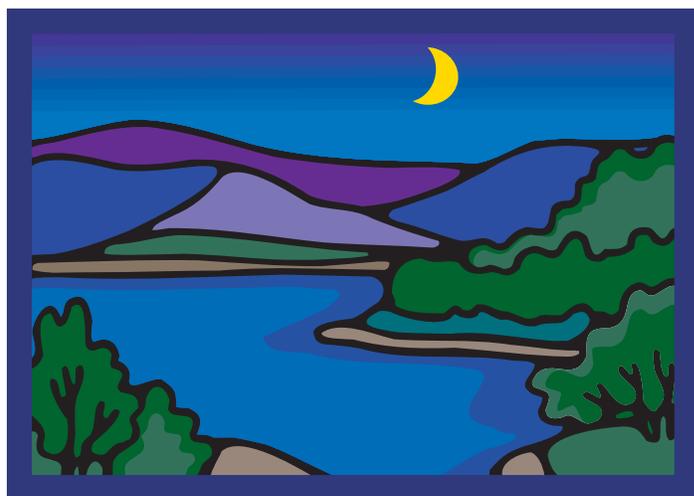
the reflection of any sentiment of the sufferer. The compassion of the spectator must arise altogether from the consideration of what he himself would feel if he was reduced to the same unhappy situation, and, what perhaps is impossible, was at the same time able to regard it with his present reason and judgment.

I.I.11

What are the pangs of a mother, when she hears the moanings of her infant that during the agony of disease cannot express what it feels? In her idea of what it suffers, she joins, to its real helplessness, her own consciousness of that helplessness, and her own terrors for the unknown consequences of its disorder; and out of all these, forms, for her own sorrow, the most complete image of misery and distress. The infant, however, feels only the uneasiness of the present instant, which can never be great. With regard to the future, it is perfectly secure, and in its thoughtlessness and want of foresight, possesses an antidote against fear and anxiety, the great tormentors of the human breast, from which reason and philosophy will, in vain, attempt to defend it, when it grows up to a man.

I.I.12

We sympathize even with the dead, and overlooking what is of real importance in their situation, that awful futurity which awaits them, we are chiefly affected by those circumstances which strike our senses, but can have no influence upon their happiness. It is miserable, we think, to be deprived of the light of the sun; to be shut out from life and conversation; to be laid in the cold grave, a prey to corruption and the reptiles of the earth; to be no more thought of in this world, but to be obliterated, in a little time,



from the affections, and almost from the memory, of their dearest friends and relations. Surely, we imagine, we can never feel too much for those who have suffered so dreadful a calamity. The tribute of our fellow-feeling seems doubly due to them now, when they are in danger of being forgot by every body; and, by the vain honours which we pay to their memory, we endeavour, for our own misery, artificially to keep alive our melancholy remembrance of their misfortune. That our sympathy can afford them no consolation seems to be an addition to their calamity; and to think that all we can do is unavailing, and that, what alleviates all other distress, the regret, the love, and the lamentations of their friends, can yield no comfort to them, serves only to exasperate our sense of their misery. The happiness of the dead, however, most assuredly, is affected by none of these circumstances; nor is it the thought of these things which can ever disturb the profound security of their repose. The idea of that dreary and endless melancholy, which the fancy naturally ascribes to their condition, arises altogether from our joining to the change which has been produced upon them, our own consciousness of that change, from our putting ourselves in their situation, and from our lodging, if I may be allowed to say so, our own living souls in their inanimate bodies, and thence conceiving what would be our emotions in this case. It is from this very illusion of the imagination, that the foresight of our own dissolution is so terrible to us, and that the idea of those circumstances, which undoubtedly can give us no pain when we are dead, makes us miserable while we are alive. And from thence arises one of the most important principles in human nature, the dread of death, the great poison to the happiness, but the great restraint upon the injustice of mankind, which, while it afflicts and mortifies the individual, guards and protects the society.

I.I.13

Chap. II Of the Pleasure of mutual Sympathy

But whatever may be the cause of sympathy, or however it may be excited, nothing pleases us more than to observe in other men a fellow-feeling with all the emotions of our own breast; nor are we ever so much shocked as by the appearance of the contrary. Those who are fond of de-

ducing all our sentiments from certain refinements of self-love, think themselves at no loss to account, according to their own principles, both for this pleasure and this pain. Man, say they, conscious of his own weakness, and of the need which he has for the assistance of others, rejoices whenever he observes that they adopt his own passions, because he is then assured of that assistance; and grieves whenever he observes the contrary, because he is then assured of their opposition. But both the pleasure and the pain are always felt so instantaneously, and often upon such frivolous occasions, that it seems evident that neither of them can be derived from any such self-interested consideration. A man is mortified when, after having endeavoured to divert the company, he looks round and sees that nobody laughs at his jests but himself. On the contrary, the mirth of the company is highly agreeable to him, and he regards this correspondence of their sentiments with his own as the greatest applause.

I.I.14

Neither does his pleasure seem to arise altogether from the additional vivacity which his mirth may receive from sympathy with theirs, nor his pain from the disappointment he meets with when he misses this pleasure; though both the one and the other, no doubt, do in some measure. When we have read a book or poem so often that we can no longer find any amusement in reading it by ourselves, we can still take pleasure in reading it to a companion. To him it has all the graces of novelty; we enter into the surprise and admiration which it naturally excites in him, but which it is no longer capable of exciting in us; we consider all the ideas which it presents rather in the light in which they appear to him, than in that in which they appear to ourselves, and we are amused by sympathy with his amusement which thus enlivens our own. On the contrary, we should be vexed if he did not seem to be entertained with it, and we could no longer take any pleasure in reading it to him. It is the same case here. The mirth of the company, no doubt, enlivens our own mirth, and their silence, no doubt, disappoints us. But though this may contribute both to the pleasure which we derive from the one, and to the pain which we feel from the other, it is by no means the sole cause of either; and this correspondence of the sentiments of others with our own appears to be a cause of pleasure, and the want of it a cause of

pain, which cannot be accounted for in this manner. The sympathy, which my friends express with my joy, might, indeed, give me pleasure by enlivening that joy: but that which they express with my grief could give me none, if it served only to enliven that grief. Sympathy, however, enlivens joy and alleviates grief. It enlivens joy by presenting another source of satisfaction; and it alleviates grief by insinuating into the heart almost the only agreeable sensation which it is at that time capable of receiving.

I.I.15

It is to be observed accordingly, that we are still more anxious to communicate to our friends our disagreeable than our agreeable passions, that we derive still more satisfaction from their sympathy with the former than from that with the latter, and that we are still more shocked by the want of it.

I.I.16

How are the unfortunate relieved when they have found out a person to whom they can communicate the cause of their sorrow? Upon his sympathy they seem to disburthen themselves of a part of their distress: he is not improperly said to share it with them. He not only feels a sorrow of the same kind with that which they feel, but as if he had derived a part of it to himself, what he feels seems to alleviate the weight of what they feel. Yet by relating their misfortunes they in some measure renew their grief. They awaken in their memory the remembrance of those circumstances which occasioned their affliction. Their tears accordingly flow faster than before, and they are apt to abandon themselves to all the weakness of sorrow. They take pleasure, however, in all this, and, it is evident, are sensibly relieved by it; because the sweetness of his sympathy more than compensates the bitterness of that sorrow, which, in order to excite this sympathy, they had thus enlivened and renewed. The cruelest insult, on the contrary, which can be offered to the unfortunate, is to appear to make light of their calamities. To seem not to be affected with the joy of our companions is but want of politeness; but not to wear a serious countenance when they tell us their afflictions, is real and gross inhumanity.

I.I.17

Love is an agreeable; resentment, a disagreeable passion; and accordingly we are not half so anx-

ious that our friends should adopt our friendships, as that they should enter into our resentments. We can forgive them though they seem to be little affected with the favours which we may have received, but lose all patience if they seem indifferent about the injuries which may have been done to us: nor are we half so angry with them for not entering into our gratitude, as for not sympathizing with our resentment. They can easily avoid being friends to our friends, but can hardly avoid being enemies to those with whom we are at variance. We seldom resent their being at enmity with the first, though upon that account we may sometimes affect to make an awkward quarrel with them; but we quarrel with them in good earnest if they live in friendship with the last. The agreeable passions of love and joy can satisfy and support the heart without any auxiliary pleasure. The bitter and painful emotions of grief and resentment more strongly require the healing consolation of sympathy.

I.I.18

As the person who is principally interested in any event is pleased with our sympathy, and hurt by the want of it, so we, too, seem to be pleased when we are able to sympathize with him, and to be hurt when we are unable to do so. We run not only to congratulate the successful, but to condole with the afflicted; and the pleasure which we find in the conversation of one whom in all the passions of his heart we can entirely sympathize with, seems to do more than compensate the painfulness of that sorrow with which the view of his situation affects us. On the contrary, it is always disagreeable to feel that we cannot sympathize with him, and instead of being pleased with this exemption from sympathetic pain, it hurts us to find that we cannot share his uneasiness. If we hear a person loudly lamenting his misfortunes, which, however, upon bringing the case home to ourselves, we feel, can produce no such violent effect upon us, we are shocked at his grief; and, because we cannot enter into it, call it pusillanimity and weakness. It gives us the spleen, on the other hand, to see another too happy or too much elevated, as we call it, with any little piece of good fortune. We are disoblged even with his joy; and, because we cannot go along with it, call it levity and folly. We are even put out of humour if our companion laughs louder or longer at a joke than we think it deserves; that is, than we feel that we ourselves could laugh at it.

POETRY CORNER**SONNET: JULY 18TH 1787**

William Lisle Bowles, (1762 - 1850)

O TIME! who know'st a lenient hand to lay
 Softest on sorrow's wound, and slowly thence
 (Lulling to sad repose the weary sense)
 The faint pang stealest unperceived away;
 On thee I rest my only hope at last,
 And think, when thou hast dried the bitter tear
 That flows in vain o'er all my soul held dear,
 I may look back on every sorrow past,
 And meet life's peaceful evening with a smile~
 As some lone bird, at day's departing hour,
 Sings in the sunbeam, of the transient shower
 Forgetful, though its wings are wet the while:~
 Yet ah! how much must that poor heart endure,
 Which hopes from thee, and thee alone, a cure!

ANSWER JULY

Emily Dickinson, (1830 - 1886)

ANSWER July -
 Where is the Bee -
 Where is the Blush -
 Where is the Hay?

Ah, said July -
 Where is the Seed -
 Where is the Bud -
 Where is the May -
 Answer Thee - Me -

Nay - said the May -
 Show me the Snow -
 Show me the Bells -
 Show me the Jay!

Quibbled the Jay -
 Where be the Maize -
 Where be the Haze -
 Where be the Bur?
 Here - said the Year -

A BOAT BENEATH A SUNNY SKY

(Through the Looking-Glass, and what Alice Found There, 1872)

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

A BOAT beneath a sunny sky,
 Lingered onward dreamily
 In an evening of July --

Children three that nestle near,
 Eager eye and willing ear,
 Pleased a simple tale to hear --

Long has paled that sunny sky:
 Echoes fade and memories die:
 Autumn frosts have slain July.

Still she haunts me, phantomwise,
 Alice moving under skies
 Never seen by waking eyes.

Children yet, the tale to hear,
 Eager eye and willing ear,
 Lovingly shall nestle near.

In a Wonderland they lie,
 Dreaming as the days go by,
 Dreaming as the summers die:

Ever drifting down the stream --
 Lingered in the golden dream --
 Life, what is it but a dream?

ON THE GRASSHOPPER AND CRICKET

John Keats

THE poetry of earth is never dead:
 When all the birds are faint with the hot sun,
 And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run
 From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead;
 That is the Grasshopper's - -he takes the lead
 In summer luxury, - he has never done
 With his delights; for when tired out with fun
 He rests at ease beneath some pleasant weed.
 The poetry of earth is ceasing never:
 On a lone winter evening, when the frost
 Has wrought a silence, from the stove there shrills
 The Cricket's song, in warmth increasing ever,
 And seems to one in drowsiness half lost,
 The Grasshopper's among some grassy hills. (1816)

BOOK REVIEW

Rick D'Amico

First, Break All the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently

by Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman
 Simon & Schuster, May 1999,
 ISBN 0684852861, 271 pp.

Marcus Buckingham led a twenty-year project by The Gallup Organization to determine what separates great managers and great workplaces from the others. Co-author Curt Coffman is the global practice leader for Gallup's Workplace Management Practice. Their book, *First Break All the Rules*, surveys more than 80,000 managers in 400 companies, and rates successful companies by measures such as sales, profit, and customer satisfaction. They then reach conclusions by interviewing managers in the most successful of these firms. Their discovery? The greatest managers do not have anything particular in common other than their willingness to thumb their noses at conventional wisdom in business.

We've all heard the expression that conventional wisdom became conventional for a reason; But Buckingham and Coffman claim the reason is that conventional wisdom is just easier, not wiser. It's easier to treat all employees the same way or to believe that every person has unlimited potential if they have the training. In reality, both of these beliefs may be counterproductive in the workplace.

Early on in the book, the authors provide twelve questions that they use to measure the strength of a workplace, namely its ability to attract, properly use, and retain the most talented employees. The questions look at four business goals: productivity, profitability, retention, and customer satisfaction. They go on to deal with subjects such as whether or not the employee knows what is expected of him/her, and whether or not the employee perceives that they have opportunities to learn and grow.

In discussing techniques of the great managers, the authors point out that they do not try to change people's natures. There are three assets that an employee can have: knowledge, skill, and talent. Knowledge and skill can be taught; talent is pretty much hard-wired. For example, the best managers won't try to make a person with detail-oriented talent proficient at looking at the big pic-

ture. Instead, they will give that person assignments that utilize their attention to detail. The authors sum up this strategy with the following:

People don't change that much. Don't waste time trying to put in what was left out. Try to draw out what was left in. That is hard enough.

The authors also point out that managers are not necessarily leaders. Great managers look inward, while great leaders look outward. It is possible for a person to be a great leader and a poor manager, and vice-versa.

One of the topics the authors spend a considerable bit of print dealing with is career paths. They use an analogy of climbing high mountains, where you can encounter "mountain sickness" if you don't get acclimated. Also, they express concern that there is sometimes too much pressure on an employee to take a promotion that they don't really want. A couple of other ideas that they examine are safety nets, and broadbanding of pay scales. A safety net is essential to provide an employee a way to gracefully go back to their old position if the new one isn't a good fit. Broadbanding is where the upper pay level of one position is higher than the introductory pay level of the next level. This prevents employees from taking a promotion just because it's there; they will make the move only if they're serious about it.

There are many more ideas, but you'll have to read the book to see them all. I liked the book very much, as I learned things about myself from reading about other people's outlooks. It should be required reading for any manager, or anyone who aspires to become one.



GOOD WINE CHEAP

(and good food to go with it)

By John Grover

This month's column continues to delve into the wonders of the backyard barbeque. We are going back to the basics, a good steak. Add to that the wonders of fine but affordable wine from South America and we have a marriage made in heaven.

The wine this month is a full-bodied red from the Central Valley region of Chile, the 2001 Carmenere by Terra Andina Vineyards. Carmenere is another grape originally from the Bordeaux region of France. In the mid 19th century it was all but wiped out in the blight that attacked grape vines throughout France. Fortunately, the variety was revived in Chile. This particular wine displays a nose combining plums, spice and cedar. The taste has an extraordinary depth and velvet smoothness that combines well with the spicy dish below. It should retail for between \$8 and \$9 a bottle.

**CHIPOTLE RUBBED STEAKS WITH GORGONZOLA TOASTS**

(from July, 2005 Bon Appetit magazine)

Ingredients:

4 or 5 bay leaves

1 1/2 tbsp sweet Hungarian paprika

1-1/2 tsp crushed chipotle peppe

≤ tsp cumin seed

4 1-inch thick T-bone, rib or sirloin steaks (about a pound each)

1 loaf ciabatta* bread halved the long way then halved again

olive oil

1 cup creamy gorgonzola cheese

1 tsp chopped fresh thyme.

*A good Italian or other peasant bread will do.

Finely grind the first four ingredients, reserve 1 tsp of this spice mixture. Sprinkle steaks with salt and pepper and then rub in spice mixture evenly. Grill steaks about 5 minutes a side on medium high heat. Brush cut side (or one side) of bread with olive oil. Grill cut side down about 1 minute, until slightly brown. Spread gorgonzola on grilled side of bread. Sprinkle bread with fresh ground pepper and reserved spice mixture. Return bread to grill until cheese begins to melt. Sprinkle bread with thyme. Serve steaks on top of the bread.

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.

COMMENTARY

Gerard Brooker

Several days after Cardinal Ratzinger was elected Pontiff of the Roman Catholic church, a picture appeared in a local paper of eleven Pre-K students celebrating the event. Each of them, including six girls, was wearing a Pope's hat they had made as a tribute.

I thought it a bit ironic that only the five boys in the photo might aspire to be a Pope one day. At least if Benedict XVI and his doctrinaire followers have their way.

As the leader of over one billion people, Benedict has reached the pinnacle of effective moral authority in the world. By experience, he knows the uses and abuses of authority, having served in the Hitler Youth and as a draftee in the German army where he knew about, but did not participate in, the shipment of trainloads of Jews to the death camps.

As a conscript, he must have known the squirming anxiety and the inner conflicts caused by serving under a man whose convictions were offensive to him. By the abiding character of his person, however, the new Pope has shown his repugnance for those days, a time of horrors so shocking that they elude our understanding.

It would be easier on us all to forget the Jews in those trains than to remember. Yet, the last car was unloaded within the lifetime of anyone over sixty years of age, which includes at least hundreds of millions of people, probably more. We know how hard it is to think of such things, yet we know that we must remember.

It would be easier for us, also, to gloss over Pope Benedict's participation in the German army because he is Pope, and because it was a reluctant service. Perhaps it is better, though, if we concentrate on it, at least for a while, because it is a striking backdrop to the possibilities for him to do good for the entire world.

As an ex-soldier in the Wehrmacht, and a German citizen now blessed with extraordinary moral authority, he will have a full plate of opportunities thrust upon him to atone for the past, especially with the Jewish community, and

to enlighten the future.

He must first accept the offer. Most importantly, in this regard, he must reconsider the way he has articulated the authenticity of his church as the true church and the only way to salvation. It is a fundamentally flawed doctrine, at least theologically. As if a God would establish a single path that leads to him or her, then create millions of people, innocent children and all who, through no fault of their own, might never have access to that path, or even an awareness of it. And then to condemn them all because of that. A God without integrity is no God at all.

We know that in the first week of his papacy, Benedict XVI has reached out to the Jewish body politic. His words, though, will have a hollow ring to that same community if he continues to imply that their path to salvation is the wrong path, one safeguarded by leaders who do not cast their own true light.

And what of the little girls in the photo? To promulgate that their roles as women are inscribed in their biology, as he has said, is to relegate them to an outdated way of life. To exclude them from priesthood on the basis of a never changing biological prescription is patriarchy at its worst. And to refer to gays as "disordered people" dislocates them from the humanity that some believe the Son of God has come to save. Although a doctrinaire approach can make us feel secure, it does not make us safe. It does not reduce the incidence of AIDS, or families too large to support, by prohibiting the use of condoms.

So it is, too, with a celibate priesthood that runs counter to the normal needs of "ordered" people. It is a turbulent time in the history of nations. While it is commendable for the new Pope to seek a baseline of truth for those who believe his way is the only way, a sort of life-saver to hang onto when buffeted about, let us pray that he uses the confidence and appeal implicit in that approach to address the issues of his time.

Absolutism precludes differences. It excludes the unsuitable and the unworthy, those who are not yet on the preferred agenda. These include civilians killed in pre-emptive wars, those whom subsistence eludes, and the disenfranchised.

He must embrace the earth as a living, breathing space of possibility that is slowly being killed. It is time for a Pope to speak forcefully against a rationale used for thousands of years to silence the spring, that the earth and everything in it is subject to man.

On the second day of his papacy, Benedict XVI indicated that his goal is "to listen to the word

and the will of the Lord." It would be encouraging to a world that is longing to hear a voice of moral goodness if he would sometimes try to find the Lord where he so often shows up, in the voices of other men and women, like the ones who long ago walked the dusty roads with Jesus of Nazareth.

The Election Committee has announced the winners of the 2005 election for the American Mensa Committee, who will take office in July. The new board includes:

Chair: Russ Bakke
 First Vice Chair: Jim Werdell
 Second Vice Chair: Elissa Rudolph
 Treasurer: Charlie Bruce
 Secretary: Judy Vasiliauskas
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 1: Marghretta McBean
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 2: Marc Lederman
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 3: Alan Baltis
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 4: Cynthia Kuyper
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 5: Mike Seigler
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 6: Ray O'Connor
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 7: Kevin Myles
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 8: John Recht
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 9: Henry Miller
 Regional Vice Chair, Region 10: Maggie Truelove

Continuing to serve on the AMC are:

Past Chair: Jean Becker
 Past Past Chair: Bob Beatty

The following four voting positions on the AMC are appointed by the AMC at their first meeting :

Director of Science and Education
 Communications Officer
 Development Officer
 Membership Officer

Also, the six proposed amendments to the American Mensa's Bylaws all passed.

Best regards,
 Howard

J. Howard Prince
 Director of Operations
 Election Committee Liaison

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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:
MensaSCT- subscribe@topica.com

If you would like to organize or sponsor a Mensa event, please contact Activities Coordinator Nancy O'Neil at NancyOneil@aol.com or 203-791-1668. 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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Don't Go Nuts, Inc. is a non-profit company whose mission is to educate people (especially restaurant owners) about people with food allergies & sensitivities, focusing on food that is not self-prepared. We are looking for support - either in time or dollars. 203-261-5990, amy-harold@earthlink.net, www.dontgonuts.org.

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