

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT MENSA CHRONICLE

If you or someone you know would like to be a speaker at our monthly dinner, please contact Jim Mizera at 203-522-1959 or Jmizera@hotmail.com. The dinner is held the third Saturday of the month.

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.

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Southern CT Mensa is looking for an Activities Coordinator.

If you would like to fill this position, please contact President Rick D'Amico at usamarbiol@aol.com

SCHEDULE OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1, 8:00 pm

Theater Event: Mayhem at Midnight

a live recreation of vintage radio dramas based on Edgar Allen Poe's work, will be performed at the Black Box Theatre in Fairfield University's Quick Center, 200 Barlow Road, Fairfield, CT. Complete with music, commercials, and live sound effects. Tickets are \$15. General seating. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

Thursday, October 6, 6:00 pm or 8:00 pm

Concert: Vadim Serebryany Recital, piano

Yale University, Morse Recital Hall in Sprague Memorial Hall, 470 College St., New Haven, CT, (<http://www.facilities.yale.edu/campus/zoommaploc.asp>) Doctor of Musical Arts Recital, Vadim Serebryany, piano. Admission is free. "This 'uniquely gifted' Russian-Canadian pianist was born in St. Petersburg, Russia and immigrated to Canada at a young age. After graduating from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, where he was a student of Marina Geringas, he went on to complete his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at New York City's Juilliard School, under the tutelage of renowned pianists Oxana Yablonskaya and Jacob Lateiner. Recently, Mr. Serebryany completed his doctoral studies with Boris Berman at Yale University. Since graduating, Mr. Serebryany has been highly sought after as both a soloist and chamber musician. He has performed in Europe and throughout North America, and last summer completed his third consecutive recital tour of Japan. In recent seasons Mr. Serebryany has embarked on many interesting and challenging projects, including performing the complete Beethoven sonatas for piano and violin, as well as presenting various solo and chamber works of the second Viennese school composers in creative programs." We are also meeting beforehand at 6pm at Caffè Bottega, 910 Chapel St., New Haven, for camaraderie and

Admitted in CT, NY & OR

Sharon Oberst DeFala, Esq.
GENERAL PRACTICE OF LAW

<p>Law Offices Gary Oberst <i>A Professional Corporation</i> 111 East Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851</p>	<p>Office (203) 866-4646 Home (203) 852-9571 Fax (203) 852-1574 sharon@oberstlaw.com</p>
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appetizers or dinner, as one prefers. To RSVP or for additional information contact Bruce Granville at (cell#) 203-947-0897 or BGranville@usa.net. (Look for the little yellow smiley man to locate us.)

Friday, October 14, 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.

Saturday, October 15, 7:00.

Monthly Dinner

Jerry Brooker will speak on the efforts to help the thousands of people devastated by hurricane Katrina. Jerry recently spent three weeks in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, working with the Red Cross to help move victims north to a new life. 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). You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank or the relief efforts for Katrina. Dress is casual. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Please try to MAKE RESERVATIONS by FRIDAY, October 14 so we can assure that the restaurant can provide seating in the main area for everyone. Guests are wel-

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.

come. 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.

Friday, October 21, 9:00 pm

Concert: Grupos Los Santos

Silvermine Tavern, 194 Perry Avenue, Norwalk, CT, (888) 693-9967 or (203) 847- 4558, (<http://www.silverminetavern.com>) "Relaxed, authentic Latin grooves underpin an open-ended, intimate jazz quartet setting to create a truly unique and satisfying kind of jazz.. Four American musicians devoted to the impassioned and serious investigation of traditional Cuban and Brazilian rhythms, in order to incorporate them into their own jazz-based compositions. These interpretive experiments have succeeded in creating a mix at times explosive and sizzling, like the Brazilian coastline or Afrocaribbean flavor. others exude melodies that produce that certain languid sensation which beckons us to more intimate places." Of particular note is the percussive richness of the drummer, William Bausch, who is also the new foundation of the sensational Harvie S band, of whom we experienced last month! We can gather for dinner and jazz or you can just drop in for drinks in the lounge. There is a \$5.00 music charge in the lounge and a one item minimum. To RSVP or for additional information contact Bruce Granville at (cell#) 203-947-0897 or BGranville@usa.net, particularly if you'd like to gather for dinner as well, so I can get a count to reserve a table. (Look for the little yellow smiley man to locate our table.)

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Sunday, October 29, 8:00 pm

Theater Event: Black Coffee by Agatha Christie at the Weathertone Studio Theater, Darien Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Rd., Darien, CT. In this little known 1934 mystery, physicist Sir Claude Amory comes up with a formula for an atom bomb. But Sir Claude is poisoned in his coffee and Hercule Poirot is called in to solve the case. Tickets are \$20. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Friday, November 11, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner.

See above listing for details.

Saturday, November 19, 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.

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.

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 simultaneous-

ly 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.

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OCTOBER

7, 8, 9 • 5:00 pm Friday - Noon Sunday

C&WM Mensautumn

Vernon, CT We'll be at the Quality Inn, 51 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 860-646-5700, and the special Mensa room rate is \$80 per night. RG Registration for the whole weekend is \$75.00 per person in advance, or \$85 at the door, which includes the usual continuous munchies, beer, wine and other beverages. The big difference this year is that registration also includes a buffet lunch and dinner on Saturday. Don't delay. Send your check payable to C&WM Mensa to: Ed Sisson C&WM Mensa RG Registrar 25 Boulder Circle Glastonbury, CT 06033-4101 To avoid confusion and expedite your registration, please don't forget to include your phone or email as well as your name and address, and the names of any guests you're registering besides yourself. Questions? Ed Sisson 860-633-3387 or evsission@snet.net

2 Friday 5:30 pm

Happy Hour

Join us at Mensautumn this month!

1 Saturday 1:00 pm

Mensa goes to a football game

Alumni-McGuirk Stadium, Amherst; MA. UMass hosts Northeastern U., co-sponsored by Tom Thomas, UM '72 and Otto Kunz, N.U. '90, '93G. Meet in Section 13. More info? tom.thomas@the-spa.com

October 15 Saturday 3:00 pm

Book Discussion: Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

in Vernon, CT. Amazon.com sez: "Atlas Shrugged is the astounding story of a man who said that he would stop the motor of the world--and did. Tremendous in scope, breathtaking in its suspense, Atlas Shrugged stretches the boundaries further than any book you have ever read. It is a mystery, not about the murder of a man's body, but about the murder--and rebirth--of man's spirit. *Atlas Shrugged is the "second most influential book for Americans today" after the Bible, according to a joint survey conducted by the Library of Congress and the Book of the Month Club." What does this book have to say about the nature of creativity, intelligence, and social responsibility? How do these ideas relate to how our country operates, now and in the past? Let's get into it and see what we find. It's widely available from libraries and in paperback. Originally published in 1957. Please call Bob Smith 860-872-3106 or BoboRobDOS@snet.net for directions or info.

21 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.

22 Saturday various

National Testing Day

(YE) Mensa chapters all over America offer admissions tests today. We're participating too in several locations. For more specific information, contact Richard Dolliver 860-688-0484 or RDolli8239@aol.com

22 Saturday 7:00 pm

The Rolling Card Party

rolls back to where it all began - at Barb Holstein's in Cromwell. As usual, BYOB and a snack to share. Contact Barb at BarbCPA@att.net or 860-632- 7873 for reservations and directions.

28 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.

26 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.

27 Thursday 7:00 pm

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

LOOKING AHEAD

October 7-9, Fri. - Sun.

C&WM Mensautumn RG is coming! Register now, if you haven,t already. Includes Friday evening chow, sit down buffet lunch, sit down buffet dinner, refreshments, and speakers. Registration is \$75 beforehand, \$85 at the door. Mail check payable to C&WM Mensa to: Ed Sisson, C& WM Mensa RG Registrar, 25 Boulder Circle, Glastonbury, CT 06033-4101.

November 18-20, Fri. - Sun.

New England Pilgrimage 2005 • Boston Mensa

www.neprg.org

Whatever Comes to Mind

Sheraton Braintree Hotel

37 Forbes Rd.

Braintree, MA 02184

Mensa Room Rate guaranteed until 11/7:

Single \$84, Double \$84, Triple \$94, Quad \$106

Guest speakers, movies, games, and music. Karaoke, arts & crafts, a full kids track, plus Boston Mensa's signature hospitality: plentiful, food, beer, & wine. Two open- bar mixers, chocolate orgy, shrimp fest, Irish coffee, and more.

REGISTRATION ^ Adults received by 11/5: \$55; after 11/5: \$65. Children under 6: free. Ages 6-20 are \$2 per year of age. T-Shirts \$14. No meal plan. Registration includes food available in Hospitality for Fri. dinner, Sat. lunch, and continental breakfast Sat. and Sun. Dinner Saturday is on your own. Full-size .pdf registration form online ^ or provide the following information for everyone you are registering. "Name for badge" can be your first name or a nickname, to appear in larger letters on your badge.

FULL NAME: _____

NAME FOR BADGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

CHAPTER: _____)

AGE: _____ (IF under 21 yrs)

AMOUNT YOU OWE: _____

OTHERS: _____

TOTAL: _____

The contact information you supply above will be used only for confirmation of registration or other information about New England Pilgrimage. Send check payable to "Boston Mensa" to: New England Pilgrimage Paul Mailman 17 Eskimo Way Billerica, MA 01862

BOOK REVIEW

by Rick D'Amico

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything*Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner**Hardcover: 256 pages**Publisher: William Morrow (May 01 2005)**ISBN: 006073132X*

The cover of this book shows what appears to be a green apple. However, a slice of it is removed, and it has the inside of an orange. This is one case where the cover does set the tone for the book. Although this work is co-authored, it becomes very apparent early on that Prof. Levitt, the 2003 John Bates Clark award winner for outstanding young economist, is really its principal author.

The authors look at various situations to uncover a reality that some might not want to admit exists. They explain and illustrate their points so effectively that even those who might not want to believe them can't help but re-evaluate their beliefs.

What do sumo wrestlers and teachers have in common? Here's a clue; an algorithm can be used to demonstrate whether or not they cheat. Why do most drug dealers live with their mothers? The reason isn't that the drug dealers feel close family ties. What caused the massive drop in crime in the U.S. during the mid-1990s? It actually has to do with an event that took place during the early 1970's. Most economists probably wouldn't care about such things, but these are just some of the questions that this book addresses. What unites all these questions is that our world can be explained, but only if the right questions are asked.



The book also deals with perceptions and reality. For example, a child is far more likely to die visiting a friend whose parents own a swimming pool than one whose parents keep a gun in the house. Sometimes the risks that scare people and the risks that harm people are totally different.

A significant portion of the book is dedicated to parenting. In these chapters, the writers analyze issues such as whether or not reading to a child will improve their academic achievement and what effect the name parents give their kids has. Besides providing theoretical explanations, Levitt and Dubner test the hypotheses, in many cases with strong statistical analyses. Besides correlation, however, they provide an argument as to the causal link for the relationships. I'm not sure that I buy into everything that they're saying, but it is thought provoking. I enjoyed this book immensely, and I'd strongly recommend it to anyone who likes to analyze social questions.

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GOOD WINE CHEAP (and good food to go with it)

By John Grover

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Connecticut to give a talk about wine and conduct a tasting. Connecticut has a fledgling wine industry with 14 wineries and several more under development. The Boss and I traveled to several wineries in the Western Highlands of that state and were very pleasantly surprised. The two wineries that impressed me the most were Hopkins in New Preston and McLaughlin in Sandy Hook. Both displayed a wonderful quality and refinement in their wines

The wine this month is 2003 "Vineyard Reserve" from Hopkins. This white wine is a blend of two French-American hybrid grapes, Seyval and Vidal Blanc. The result is a delightful combination of fruit and crispness dominated by the taste of pears with a hint of apple. It sells for \$9 a bottle, but it might be a little hard to find outside of Connecticut. I would also recommend looking for some New York wines from the Finger Lakes such as Hosmer's Seyval Blanc and Swedish Hill's Vidal Blanc.

French-American hybrid wines have been pooh-poohed by the wine establishment for years. But, many of the wineries working with these grapes have found the right balance of sugar and acid to produce some truly fine wines. Their intense fruit is a perfect complement for spicy Asian, Cajun and Mexican foods.



BARBECUED SHRIMP

(adapted from Chef Paul Prudhomme's Louisiana Kitchen, William Morrow and Company, New York, 1984)

Ingredients:

2 dozen large shrimp still in shells (about 1 lb.)
1 / 4 lb butter (1 stick)
1 1 / 2 tsp minced garlic
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
1 / 2 cup clam juice (or shrimp stock or fish stock)
1 / 4 cup warm beer

Seasoning Mix:

1 / 2 tsp* ground cayenne pepper
1 / 2 tsp* black pepper
1 / 4 tsp* crushed red pepper
1 / 2 tsp dried thyme leaves
1 / 2 tsp dried crushed rosemary
1/8 tsp dried oregano leaves
1 / 4 tsp salt.

Combine the seasoning mix in a small bowl. In a large skillet over high heat combine the butter, garlic, Worcestershire, and seasoning mix. When the butter is melted add the shrimp and cook for 2 minutes shaking the pan in a back and forth motion. Add the stock or clam juice, cook and shake pan for 2 more minutes. Add the beer and cook and shake pan for 1 minute longer. Remove from heat. Serve immediately in a bowl with crusty French bread on the side or on a plate over cooked white rice. Serves two (with lots of napkins).

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

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

FROM THE VICE CHAIR

Marghretta McBean

I just got back from Mid-Hudson Mensa's Autumn in New York RG. What a wonderful weekend!!! Although the title is a misnomer, since it is still summer (and we had gorgeous warm sunshine as proof), nothing else about this gem of a Regional Gathering is in the least misleading.

Set in the picturesque Hudson Valley at the foot of the Catskill Mountains, the location is perfect for any outdoor enthusiast, whether ardent hiker, casual stroller, canoeist, or just sit-on-the-porch-and-watch-the-deer-and-chipmunks nature lover. Accommodations are in cabins reminiscent of your summer camp days, albeit with plenty of hot water and comfortable bunk beds. Delicious meals are prepared by a Culinary Institute of America-trained chef, with special dietary requests (vegetarian, kosher, etc.) also available. This year's theme was "Eat Your Way Through the Catskills" and all attendees heroically tried to do just that.

In addition to the outdoor attractions, folks played a variety of card and board games, put puzzles together, and discussed myriad topics like St. Paul's personality, the dynamics of smoking, SAT test scoring, and bus driver pension plans, to mention just a few overheard conversations.

Mark Adams, whose family has farmed in the Hudson Valley for almost a century, gave a fascinating presentation on 'Foods of the Hudson Valley'. As president of the Dutchess County Farmers Association, Mark is in the forefront of promoting sustainable agriculture and educating consumers on the benefits of locally produced foods. His lecture included tastes of heirloom tomatoes and apples, cheese, honey and even venison sausage (for the meat eaters). A lively discussion about genetically modified foods rounded out his talk.

Tim "Merf" Murphy's presentation on 'Knife Safety' was most informative. As a cook in a large restaurant, he has had ample opportunity to observe the correct (and incorrect) ways knives are handled, from cutting to carrying to sharpening.

Yours truly gave a talk on 'Blue Ribbon Baking -

How to Win Recipe Contests and County Fairs'. Having done the former and judged at the latter, I passed on some tips for would-be contestants.

The featured speaker was Geraldo "Dr. Demento" DeMenna Ph.D., whom I met at the 2000 Philadelphia AG, when he gave a standing room only presentation on the chemistry of chocolate. Jerry, who has a doctorate in Food Chemistry, had all of us enthralled with his lecture 'Culinary Spectroscopy: Organic Synthesis with Edible Reagents or Clinically Correct Cooking'. Why alkaline foods taste better with white or black pepper while acidic foods need red pepper, the evils of hydrogenated oils, a chemical analysis of french fries: these topics and more were explained clearly for even the chemistry-challenged.

I urge all of you to seriously consider marking your calendars for next year's RG (8-10 September 2006) - your psyche will thank you!

New York apple farms produce the greatest variety of apples in the United States. Since autumn is apple time, here is a delicious omelet using apples in a non-traditional way.

CHEESE AND APPLE OMELET

2 tart (Northern Spy, Jonathan, Granny Smith) apples, pared, cut into 1/8-inch slices
 3 Tbl. unsalted butter
 5 eggs, lightly beaten
 2 Tbl. water or milk
 Salt
 Ground white pepper
 1/2 cup crumbled sharp blue cheese (Fourme D'Ambert Bleu, Roquefort, Silton) (about 3 oz.)

1. Saute apples in 2 tablespoons of the butter in large omelet pan over high heat until just fork-tender, about 1 minute. Transfer to plate.
2. Whisk eggs, water or milk, salt and pepper in medium bowl until blended.
3. Heat remaining tablespoon butter in omelet pan over high heat, tilting pan to coat sides with butter.
4. Add egg mixture; cook, stirring with fork, until eggs begin to set.
5. Sprinkle cheese over one half of the omelet; spoon half the apple slices over cheese. Fold omelet in half; transfer to warm platter. Garnish with remaining apple slices.

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

www.KickComics.com



KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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. What is the difference between a stalagmite and a stalactite?
2. What are the most frightening phobias?
3. What things are you most gullible about?
4. Who is worse, a procrastinator or an impulsive person?
5. What is the difference between reparations and restitution?
6. True or false: In the 19th century, the U.S. Patent Office Commissioner recommended that the office be closed down, saying, "Everything that can be invented has been invented."

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

1. What does the word 'fulsome' mean?

A: "Fulsome" means "cloying, offensively excessive." It does not mean full or complete.

3. What percentage of high school varsity athletes in the three major sports (baseball, football, and basketball) go on to play varsity sports in college? What percentage of varsity collegiate athletes go on to play professionally for at least three years?

A: Only about 5% of male high-school athletes go on to play college ball. Only about 1.7% of these players go on to play in the major leagues. About 40% of these athletes have big-league careers of more than three years. This means that approximately .03% of male high-school athletes end up having major-league careers of more than three years.

5. What is the only country with a single-colored flag?

A: Libya. It's flag is simply plain-green, the traditional color of Islam, the state religion. It adopted this flag in 1977, after it left the Federation of Arab Republics.

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 know by sending two copies to the Editor (one copy for the Editor, one copy for the Au-
 thor).

NOTED AND QUOTED

If you never assume importance, you never lose it. - Lao Tzu, (6th cent B.C.E.?)

Habits are like supervisors that you don't notice. - Hannes Messemer

A habit is a shirt made of iron. - Harold Helfer, author

Dream as if you were to live forever, live as if you will die tomorrow. - Anonymous

It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them. - Anonymous

Procrastination is giving up what you want most for what you want now. - Charlotte Taylor

Optimists and pessimists are concerned with the future. Only the realists deal with the present. - Raymond Aron, (1905 -1983), French author, journalist, and political philosopher.

Everyone carries around his own monsters. - Richard Pryor, (1940 -)

The natural flights of the human mind are not from pleasure to pleasure but from hope to hope. - Samuel Johnson, (1709 - 1784)

In the face of uncertainty, there is nothing wrong with hope. - O. Carl Simonton, radiation oncologist, author

Hope is the feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent. - Jean Kerr, (1923 -), U.S. author, playwright

At times there is nothing so unnatural as nature. - Carolyn Wells, (1869 - 1942), U.S. writer of mysteries and verse

Age is a very high price to pay for maturity. - Tom Stoppard, (1937 -), English playwright

The best fame is a writer's fame: it's enough to get a table at a good restaurant, but not enough that you get interrupted when you eat. - Fran Lebowitz, (1951 -), American writer, humorist

Nothing on earth consumes a man more completely than the passion of resentment. - Friedrich Nietzsche, (1844 - 1900)

Time is a dressmaker specializing in alterations. - Faith Baldwin, (1893 - 1978), American author of light fiction

The ego is a self-justifying historian which seeks only that information that agrees with it, rewrites history when it needs to, and does not even see the evidence that threatens it. - Anthony G. Greenwall

The desire to believe the best of people is a prerequisite for intercourse with strangers; suspicion is reserved for friends. - Eugene McCarthy, (1916 -)

To have a crisis, and act upon it, is one thing. To dwell in perpetual crisis is another. - Barbara Grizzuti Harrison, (1934 -), American author

Tomorrow doesn't matter for I have lived today. - Horace, (65 - 8 B.C.), Roman lyric poet

Under pressure, people admit to murder, setting fire to the village church or robbing a bank, but never to being bores. - Elsa Maxwell, (1883 - 1963), U.S. socialite, radio host, and gossip columnist

The wicked are always surprised to find that the good can be clever. - Marquis De Vauvenargues, (1715 - 1747), French soldier and moralist.

One may be better than his reputation, but never better than his principles. - Nicolas Latena, (1790 - 1881), French magistrate

What a fine comedy this world would be if one did not play a part in it. - Denis Diderot, (1713 - 1784), French editor, philosopher.



RUMINATIONS

ESSAYS ON WORK AND CULTURE (excerpt)

by Hamilton Wright Mabie, (1845 - 1916)

Chapter I Tool or Man?

A COMPLETE man is so uncommon that when he appears he is looked upon with suspicion, as if there must be something wrong about him. If a man is content to deal vigorously with affairs, and leave art, religion, and science to the enjoyment or refreshment or enlightenment of others, he is accepted as strong, sound and wise; but let him add to practical sagacity a love of poetry and some skill in the practice of it; let him be not only honest and trustworthy, but genuinely religious; let him be not only keenly observant and exact in his estimate of trade influences and movements, but devoted to the study of some science, and there goes abroad the impression that he is superficial. It is written, apparently, in the modern, and especially in the American, consciousness, that a man can do but one thing well; if he attempts more than one thing, he betrays the weakness of versatility. If this view of life is sound, man is born to imperfect development and must not struggle with fate. He may have natural aptitudes of many kinds; he may have a passionate desire to try three or four different instruments; he may have a force of vitality which is equal to the demands of several vocations or avocations; but he must disregard the most powerful impulses of his nature; he must select one tool, and with that tool he must do all the work appointed to him.

If he is a man of business, he must turn a deaf ear to the voices of art; if he writes prose, he must not permit himself the delight of writing verse; if he uses the pen, he must not use the voice. If he ventures to employ two languages for his thought, to pour his energy into two channels, the awful judgment of superficiality falls on him like a decree of fate.

So fixed has become the habit of confusing the use of manifold gifts with mere dexterity that men of quality and power often question the promptings which impel them to use different or diverse forms of expression; as if a man were born to use only one limb and enjoy only one resource in this many-sided universe!

Specialisation has been carried so far that it has become an organised tyranny through the curiously perverted view of life which it has developed in some minds. A man is permitted, in these days, to cultivate one faculty or master one field of knowledge, but he must not try to live a whole life, or work his nature out on all sides, under penalty of public suspicion and disapproval. If a Pericles were to appear among us, he would be discredited by the very qualities which made him the foremost public man of his time among the most intelligent and gifted people who have yet striven to solve the problems of life. If Michelangelo came among us, he would be compelled to repress his tremendous energy or face the suspicion of the critical mind of the age; it is not permitted a man, in these days, to excel in painting, sculpture, architecture, and sonnet-writing. If, in addition, such a man were to exhibit moral qualities of a very unusual order, he would deepen the suspicion that he was not playing the game of life fairly; for there are those who have so completely broken life into fragments that they not only deny the possibility of the possession of the ability to do more than one thing well, but the existence of any kind of connection between character and achievement.

Man is not only a fragment, but the world is a mass of unrelated parts; religion, science, morals, and art moving in little spheres of their own, without the possibility of contact. The arts were born at the foot of the altar, as we are sometimes reminded; but let the artist beware how he entertains religious ideas or emotions today; to suggest that art and morals have any interior relation is, in certain circles, to awaken pity that one's knowledge of these things is still so rudimentary. The scholar must beware of the graces of style; if, like the late Master of Balliol, he makes a translation so touched with distinction and beauty that it is likely to become a classic in the language in which it is newly lodged, there are those who look askance at his scholarship; for knowledge, to be pure and genuine, must be rude, slovenly, and barbarous in expression. The religious teacher may master the principles of his faith, but let him beware how he applies them to the industrial or social conditions of society. If he ventures to make this dangerous experiment, he is promptly warned that he is encroaching on the territory of the economist and sociologist. The artist must not permit himself to care for truth, because it has

come to be understood in some quarters that he is concerned with beauty, and with beauty alone. To assume that there is any unity in life, any connection between character and achievement, any laws of growth which operate in all departments and in all men, is to discredit one's intelligence and jeopardise one's influence. One field and one tool to each man seems to be the maxim of this divisive philosophy--if that can be called a philosophy which discards unity as a worn-out metaphysical conception, and separates not only men but the arts, occupations, and skills from each other by impassable gulfs.

Versatility is often a treacherous ease, which leads the man who possesses it into fields where he has no sure footing because he has no first-hand knowledge, and therefore no real power; and against this tendency, so prevalent in this country, the need of concentration must continually be urged. The great majority of men lack the abounding vitality which must find a variety of channels to give it free movement. But the danger which besets some men ought not to be made a limitation for men of superior strength; it ought not to be used as a barrier to keep back those whose inward impulse drives them forward, not in one but in many directions. Above all, the limitations of a class ought not to be made the basis of a conception of life which divides its activities by hard and fast lines, and tends, by that process of hardening which shows itself in every field of thought or work, to make men tools and machines instead of free, creative forces in society.

A man of original power can never be confined within the limits of a single field of interest and activity, nor can he ever be content to bear the marks and use the skill of a single occupation. He cannot pour his whole force into one channel; there is always a reserve of power beyond the demands of the work which he has in hand at the moment. Wherever he may find his place and whatever work may come to his hand, he must always be aware of the larger movement of life which incloses his special task; and he must have the consciousness of direct relation with that central power of which all activities are inadequate manifestations. To a man of this temper the whole range of human interests must remain open, and such a man can never escape the conviction that life is a unity under all its com-

plexities; that all activities stand vitally related to each other; that truth, beauty, knowledge, and character must be harmonised and blended in every real and adequate development of the human spirit. To the growth of every flower earth, sun, and atmosphere must contribute; in the making of a man all the rich forces of nature and civilisation must have place.

Chapter II The Man in the Work

The general mind possesses a kind of divination which discovers itself in those comments, criticisms, and judgments which pass from man to man through a wide area and sometimes through long periods of time. The opinion which appears at first glance to be an expression of materialism often shows, upon closer study, an element of idealism or a touch of spiritual discernment. It is customary, for instance, to say of a man that he lives in his works; as if the enduring quality of his fame rested in and was dependent upon the tangible products of his genius or his skill. There is truth in the phrase even when its scope is limited to this obvious meaning; but there is a deeper truth behind the truism,--the truth that a man lives in his works, not only because they commemorate but because they express him. They are products of his skill; but they are also the products of his soul. The man is revealed in them, and abides in them, not as a statue in a temple, but as a seed in the grain and the fruit. They have grown out of him, and they uncover the secrets of his spiritual life. No man can conceal himself from his fellows; everything he fashions or creates interprets and explains him.

This deepest significance of work has always been divined even when it has not been clearly perceived. Men have understood that there is a spiritual quality even in the most material products of a man's activity, and, even in ruder times, they have discerned the inner relation of the things which a man makes with the man himself. In our time, when the immense significance of this essential harmony between spirit and product has been accepted as a guiding principle in historic investigation, the stray spear-head and broken potsherd are prized by the anthropologist, because a past race lives in them. The lowest and commonest kind of domestic vessels and implements disclose to the student of today not

only the stage of manual skill which their makers had reached, but also the general ideas of life which those makers held. When it comes to the higher products, character, temperament, and genius are discerned in every mutilated fragment. The line on an urn reveals the spirit of the unknown sculptor who cut it in the enduring stone. It has often been said that if every memorial of the Greek race save the Parthenon had perished, it would be possible to gain a clear and true impression of the spiritual condition and quality of that race.

The great artists are the typical and representative men of the race, and whatever is true of them is true, in a lesser degree, of men in general. There is in the work of every great sculptor, painter, writer, composer, architect, a distinctive and individual manner so marked and unmistakable as to identify the man whenever and wherever a bit of his work appears. If a statue of Phidias were to be found without any mark of the sculptor upon it, there would be no delay in determining whose work it was; no educated musician would be uncertain for a moment about a composition of Wagner's if he heard it for the first time without knowledge of its source; nor would a short story from the hand of Hawthorne remain unclaimed a day after its publication. Now, this individual manner and quality, so evident that it is impossible not to recognise it whenever it appears, is not a trick of skill; it has its source in a man's temperament and genius; it is the subtlest and most deep-going disclosure of his nature. In so far as a spiritual quality can be contained and expressed in any form of speech known among men--and all the arts are forms of speech--that which is most secret and sacred in a man is freely given to the world in his work.

Work is sacred, therefore, not only because it is the fruit of self-denial, patience, and toil, but because it uncovers the soul of the worker. We deal with each other on so many planes, and have so much speech with each other about things of little moment, that we often lose the sense of the sanctity which attaches to personality whenever it appears. There come moments, however, when some intimate experience is confided to us, and then, in the pause of talk, we become aware that we are in presence of a human soul behind the familiar face of our friend, and that we are

on holy ground. In such moments the quick emotion, the sudden thrill, bear eloquent witness to that deeper and diviner life in which we all share, but of which we rarely seem aware. This perception of the presence of a man's soul comes to us when we stand before a true work of art. We not only uncover our heads, but our hearts are uncovered as well. Here is one who through all his skill speaks to us in a language which we understand, but which we rarely hear. A great work of art not only liberates the imagination, but the heart as well; for it speaks to us more intimately than our friends are able to speak, and that reticence which holds us back from perfect intercourse when we look into each other's faces vanishes. A few lines read in the solitude of the woods, or before the open fire, often kindle the emotion and imagination which slumber within us; in companionship with the greatest minds our shyness vanishes; we not only take but give with unconscious freedom. When we reach this stage we have reached the man who lives not only by but in the work, and whose innermost nature speaks to us and confides in us through the form of speech which he has chosen.

The higher the quality of the work, the clearer the disclosure of the spirit which fashioned it and gave it the power to search and liberate. The plays of Sophocles are, in many ways, the highest and most representative products of the Greek literary genius; they show that genius at the moment when all its qualities were in harmony and perfectly balanced between the spiritual vision which it formed of life, and the art form to which it commits that precious and impalpable possession. One of the distinctive qualities of these plays is their objectivity; their detachment from the moods and experiences of the dramatist. This detachment is so complete that at first glance every trace of the dramatist seems to have been erased. But there are many passages besides the famous lines descriptive of the grove at Colonus which betray the personality behind the plays; and, studied more closely, the very detachment of the drama from the dramatist is significant of character. In the poise, harmony, and balance of these beautiful creations there is revealed the instinct for proportion, the self-control and the subordination of the parts to the whole which betray a nature committed by its very instincts to a passionate devotion to beauty. In one of the poems of our

own century which belongs in the first rank of artistic achievements, "In Memoriam," the highest themes are touched with the strength of one who knows how to face the problems of life with impartial and impersonal courage, and with the tenderness of one whose own heart has felt the immediate pressure of these tremendous questions. So every great work, whether personal or impersonal in intention, conveys to the intelligent reader an impression of the thought behind the skill, and of the character behind the thought. Goethe frankly declared that his works constituted one great confession. All work is confession and revelation as well.

Chapter III Work as Self-Expression

The higher the kind and quality of a man's work, the more completely does it express his personality. There are forms of work so rudimentary that the touch of individuality is almost entirely absent, and there are forms of work so distinctive and spiritual that they are instantly and finally associated with one man. The degree in which a man individualises his work and gives it the quality of his own mind and spirit is, therefore, the measure of his success in giving his nature free and full expression. For work, in this large sense, is the expression of the man; and as the range and significance of all kinds of expression depend upon the scope and meaning of the ideas, forces, skills, and qualities expressed, so the dignity and permanence of work depend upon the power and insight of the worker. All sound work is true and genuine self-expression, but work has as many gradations of quality and significance as has character or ability. Dealing with essentially the same materials, each man in each generation has the opportunity of adding to the common material that touch of originality in temperament, insight, or skill which is his only possible contribution to civilisation.

The spiritual nature of work and its relation to character are seen in the diversity of work which the different races have done, and in the unmistakable stamp which the work of each race bears. First as a matter of instinct, and later as a matter of intelligence, each race has followed, in its activities, the lines of least resistance, and put its energies forth in ways which were most attractive because they offered the freest range and were nearest at hand. The attempt of some

historians of a philosophical turn of mind to fit each race into a category and to give each race a sharply defined sphere of influence has been carried too far, and has discredited the effort to interpret arbitrarily the genius of the different races and to assign arbitrarily their functions. It remains true, however, that, in a broad sense, each race has had a peculiar quality of mind and spirit which may be called its genius, and each has followed certain general lines and kept within certain general limits in doing its work. The people who lived on the great plains of Central Asia worked in a different temper and with wide divergence of manner from the people who lived on the banks of the Nile; and the Jew, the Greek, and the Roman showed their racial differences as distinctly in the form and quality of their work as in the temper of their mind and character. And thus, on a great historical scale, the significance of work as an expression of character is unmistakably disclosed.

In this sense work is practically inclusive of every force and kind of life since every real worker puts into it all that is most distinctive in his nature. The moral quality contributes sincerity, veracity, solidity of structure; the intellectual quality is disclosed in order, lucidity, and grasp of thought; the artistic quality is seen in symmetry, proportion, beauty of construction and of detail; the spiritual quality is revealed in depth of insight and the scope of relationships brought into view between the specific work and the world in which it is done. In work of the finer order, dealing with the more impressionable material, there are discoverable not only the character and quality of the worker, but the conditions under which he lives; the stage of civilisation, the vigour or languor of vital energy, the richness or poverty of social life, the character of the soil and of the landscape, the pallor or the bloom of vegetation, the shining or the veiling of the skies. So genuinely and deeply does a man put himself into the thing he does that whatever affects him affects it, and all that flows into him of spiritual, human, and natural influence flows into and is conserved by it. A bit of work of the highest quality is a key to a man's life because it is the product of that life, and it brings to light that which is hidden in the man as truly as the flower lays bare to the sun that which was folded in the seed. What a man does is, therefore, an authentic revelation of what he is, and by their

works men are fairly and rightly judged.

For this reason no man can live in any real sense who fails to give his personality expression through some form of activity. For action in some field is the final stage of development; and to stop short of action, to rest in emotion or thought, is to miss the higher fruits of living and to evade one's responsibility to himself as well as to society. The man whose artistic instinct is deep cannot be content with those visions which rise out of the deeps of the imagination and wait for that expression which shall give them objective reality; the vision brings with it a moral necessity which cannot be evaded without serious loss. Indeed, the vitality of the imagination depends largely upon the fidelity with which its images are first realised in thought and then embodied by the hand. To comprehend what life means in the way of truth and power, one must act as well

as think and feel. For action itself is a process of revelation, and the sincerity and power with which a man puts forth that which is disclosed to him determine the scope of the disclosure of truth which he receives. To comprehend all that life involves of experience, or offers of power, one must give full play to all the force that is in him. It is significant that the men of creative genius are, as a rule, men of the greatest productive power. One marvels at the magnitude of the work of such men as Michelangelo and Rembrandt, as Beethoven and Wagner, as Shakespeare, Balzac, Thackeray, Carlyle, and Browning; not discerning that, as these master workers gave form and substance to their visions and insight, the power to see and to understand deepened and expanded apace with their achievements.



POETRY CORNER**October**

Helen Hunt Jackson (1830-1885)

THE month of carnival of all the year,
 When Nature lets the wild earth go its way,
 And spend whole seasons on a single day.
 The spring-time holds her white and purple dear;
 October, lavish, flaunts them far and near;
 The summer charily her reds doth lay
 Like jewels on her costliest array;
 October, scornful, burns them on a bier.
 The winter hoards his pearls of frost in sign
 Of kingdom: whiter pearls than winter knew,
 Oar empress wore, in Egypt's ancient line,
 October, feasting 'neath her dome of blue,
 Drinks at a single draught, slow filtered through
 Sunshiny air, as in a tingling wine!

The Owls

Charles Baudelaire, (1821-1867)

UNDER the overhanging yews,
 The dark owls sit in solemn state,
 Like stranger gods; by twos and twos
 Their red eyes gleam. They meditate.

Motionless thus they sit and dream
 Until that melancholy hour
 When, with the sun's last fading gleam,
 The nightly shades assume their power.

From their still attitude the wise
 Will learn with terror to despise
 All tumult, movement, and unrest;

For he who follows every shade,
 Carries the memory in his breast,
 Of each unhappy journey made.

Autumn Movement

Carl Sandburg, (1878 - 1967)

I cried over beautiful things knowing no beautiful
 thing lasts.
 The field of cornflower yellow is a scarf at the neck of
 the copper sunburned woman, the mother of the
 year, the taker of seeds.
 The northwest wind comes and the yellow is torn full
 of holes, new beautiful things come in the first spit
 of snow on the northwest wind, and the old things
 go, not one lasts.

Autumn (1911)

George Sterling (1869-1926)

NOW droops the troubled year
 And now her tiny sunset stains the leaf.
 A holy fear,
 A rapt, elusive grief,
 Make imminent the swift, exalting tear.

The long wind's weary sigh--
 Knowest, O listener! for what it wakes?
 Adown the sky
 What star of Time forsakes
 Her pinnacle? What dream and dreamer die?

A presence half-divine
 Stands at the threshold, ready to depart
 Without a sign.
 Now seems the world's deep heart
 About to break. What sorrow stirs in mine?

A mist of twilight rain
 Hides now the orange edges of the day.
 In vain, in vain
 We labor that thou stay,
 Beauty who wast, and shalt not be again!

CHAPTER NOTES

Southern CT Mensa is looking for an Activities Coordinator. If you would like to fill this position, please contact President Rick D’Amico at usamarbiol@aol.com

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