

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.

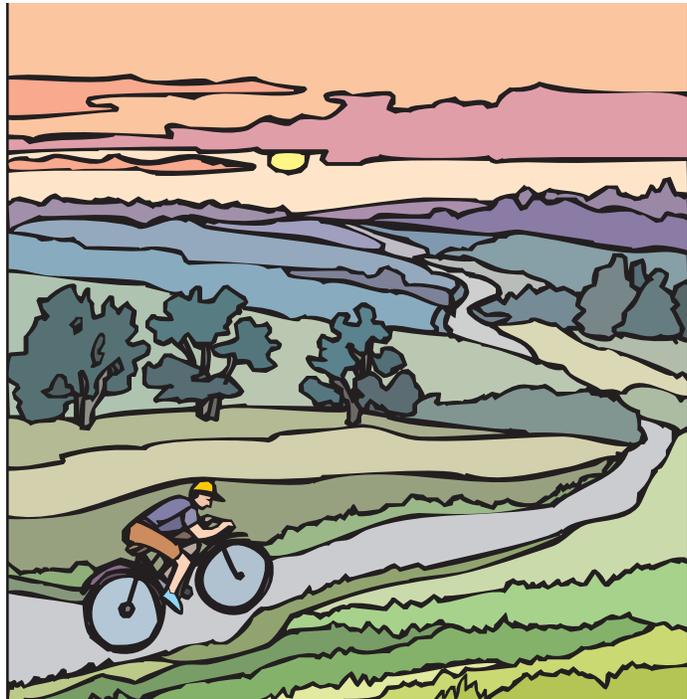


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going back to 2000 are available on the Internet at <http://www.doctechical.com/scm>. You can download the latest e-mail version of the Chronicle there, as well as previous issues. All issues are in read-only Adobe Acrobat format so there is no chance 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

Sono Caffeine in October

Sono Caffeine, 133 Washington St., (South) Norwalk has musicians performing four nights a week. Check the schedule at www.sonocaffeine.com. If you are interested in leading a Mensa outing there or to another area club, contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959. We will try to get a group together to attend these events and put out a notice inviting others.

Saturday, October 7, 8:00

Theater Event: Copenhagen

at the Westport Community Theatre, Town Hall Building, 110 Myrtle Ave., Westport, CT. 06880. Tickets are \$20. Winner of 3 Tony Awards, this play tells the story of a secret meeting between atomic scientists Neils Bohr and Werner Heisenberg on the eve of the nuclear age. Contact Jim Mizera at (203) 522-1959, jmizera@hotmail.com, for info or reservations.

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sharon@oberstlaw.com

Friday, October 13, 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 21, 6:30

Monthly Dinner

Steve Gould, Secretary of the Danbury Railway Museum, will speak on the history of the railroads in Connecticut. He will discuss the first railroads in the state, the coming of the New York, New Haven and Hartford lines, how the New Haven Railroad became dominant, the decline and bankruptcy of the New Haven and the Penn Central, and also the present and future of commuter trains, Amtrak, and freight railroads. Steve will also tell us about the Danbury Railway Museum and the activities of railroad buffs. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner in our private dining room at the Stony Hill Inn, 46 Stony Hill Road (just 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. Dress is casual. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Guests are welcome. If you make reservations and can't attend, PLEASE call and cancel.

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.

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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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Friday, November 10, 7:00.

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

See above listing for details.

Saturday, November 18, 6:30.

Monthly Dinner

See above listing for details.

CONNECTICUT AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

This is not a complete listing WE - Weekly Event, ME - Monthly Event, YE - Yearly Event CT & W. Mass Calendar Editor Gisela Rodriguez, (860) 872-3106, email: lilith@snet.net.

Mensans on the Radio:

C&WM Mensan Janine Bujalski is on the airwaves every 1st & 3rd Friday 6-10 a.m. on 89.5FM, WPKN in Bridgeport, CT. There is a limited internet broadcast - about 25 can listen simultaneously at www.wpkn.org. From 6-9 AM there's jazz, blues & music from Brazil and from 9-10 AM the music is from Louisiana, mostly Cajun & zydeco.

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

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.

OCTOBER

6 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.

13 Friday 5:00 - 11:00 pm

American Mensa Committee meeting

The October American Mensa Committee meeting will be held here in Rhode Island, at the Raddison in Warwick, on Friday Oct. 13 and Saturday Oct. 14. On Friday evening, the hospitality room will be open for members of the AMC to gather and meet local members of Mensa. Rhode Island Mensa will be staffing the hospitality room, and we need people to help host. Duties will include being there, greeting folks, keeping the bowls full of chocolate and perhaps running the occasional in or out-of-hotel errand. This is a wonderful chance to spend some time with the national officers, so come on down!. Another chance is to attend the Saturday night dinner; see the web site at www.rhodeisland.us.mensa.org. The room will be open from 5 PM to 11 PM. We plan to have

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two local hosts on hand through the event, in one-hour time slots. Questions? Please call RI Program Coordinator Tom Padwa 401-247-3004 or e-mail tomp@qis.net.

17 Wednesday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, 3rd Wednesday) at Aqua Vitae Italian Restaurant, route 9 in Hadley. We will meet there every month for a bit and hope to grow the ranks. Join us. Conversations, friendship, solve the world's problems, drink and eat. Once we grow in numbers, we'll explore other places to meet and consider other Western MA activities. Questions? MargotZalkind@aol.com

19, 26 Thursdays 7:00 pm

Scrabble

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

19 Thursday 9:00 pm

YAHH!

(ME, 3rd Thursday) Vegas has faded, Mexico is on the rise! Join us as we trade in our Gin and Tonics for Margaritas at Puerto Vallarta in West Hartford. This is a younger Mensan event, so is meant for the 21 to 35 crowd. Call 203-214-0125 or email Michael@MichaelFryar.com for details.

20 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

21 Saturday 3:00 pm

Best Movie Clips

It's time for a movie gathering and discussion like C&WM has never done before. What is your favorite scene from a movie? Bring it along (up to 5 minutes) and show it to the rest of the

bunch that will be gathering. Cue up a VHS tape, or be ready to find it on a DVD so we can play it and critique it. If possible, bring several favorite scenes from different movies, all genres welcome, the more the merrier. Let's make a long afternoon out of it, and bring some food you like and some to share. We will chow down with the covered dish stuff along the way. BYOB. RSVP 860-872-3106 or Boborobdos@snet.net for directions to the LocSec's house in Vernon.

25 Wednesday 12:00 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 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.

28 Saturday 10:00 am

Mensa Admissions Testing

at the VFW in Manchester. Have your brainy & potentially Mensan friends contact Gisela Rodriguez Lilith@snet.net for info and signing up.

Looking Ahead

November 4 Saturday 2:00 pm

Book Discussion Group: *The Good Earth*

We'll be reading *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck and meeting to talk about it at Pamela Guinan's home in Wethersfield. All welcome. For RSVPs & directions call 860- 563-5761. BYOB and a small munchie to share.

Regional Gatherings

COLLOQUIUM 2006 - "Revolution in Cosmology", OCT. 6 - 8, 2006

ALBANY, NY. Presented by Mensa and the Mensa Education and Research Foundation. Hosted by Mensa of NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK. Judy Keating and Harry Ringermacher, co-chairs.

Join us for a stimulating mix of information, revelation and discussion of the greatest mystery in the past 100 years - the recent discovery that a mysterious new kind of "dark matter" and "dark energy" makes up 96% of the "stuff" of the universe. Unforeseen by even Einstein, this demands a new unified Quantum Space Time Theory. Listen to internationally recognized speakers, then question these speakers in panel discussions. Share your thoughts with fellow Mensans, these experts, and others at this international gathering with a serious purpose.

Where? Marriott Hotel, 189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12205; 800/443-8952; \$109 S/D per night. (Mention the special "Mensa" rate through 9/15/06.)

Speakers:

- Dr. Brian Greene, Professor of Physics, and co-director of Columbia University's Institute for Strings, Cosmology, and Astrophysics. His book, *The Elegant Universe*, spent six months on the New York Times bestseller list, and also became a three-part NOVA special on PBS. George Musser, Popular editor and contributing writer for *Scientific American*, Musser has followed the Revolution from day one. He has edited, written or commented on nearly every *Cosmology Issue*.
- Dr. Jeremiah Ostriker, Professor of Astrophysics, Princeton University. One of the world's most influential researchers in Dark Matter and Dark Energy. 2000 winner of U.S. National Medal of Science. 2004 winner of

Royal Astronomical Soc. Gold Medal.

- Dr. Vera Rubin Astronomer, Carnegie Institute, Washington, DC. World-renowned astronomer, she fired the shot that kindled the Revolution by discovering conclusive evidence of Dark Matter in galaxies. 1993 winner of U.S. National Medal of Science. 1996 winner of Royal Astronomical Soc. Gold Medal.
- Dr. Lee Smolin, theoretical physicist, Perimeter Institute, Canada. Internationally renowned author of "The Life of The Cosmos" and "Three Roads to Quantum Gravity". Creator of the other competing "Theory of Everything" - Loop Quantum Gravity - to explain the universe.

REGISTRATION:

Register online at www.colloquium.us.mensa.org. Space is limited! "Revolution in Cosmology" will take place at the Albany Marriott in Albany, N.Y. To make your reservations, call 800/443-8952 and mention Mensa to get our group rate of \$109 per person for single or double rooms. If making reservations online, enter the code "amsamsa" to get the group rate.

The hotel provides free transportation to and from Albany International Airport; for pick up, use the courtesy phone kiosk in the luggage claim area. Hotel parking is free.

Albany Marriott
189 Wolf Road
Albany, N.Y. 12205
Phone: 518/458-8444
Fax: 518/458-7365
<http://marriott.com/property/property/page/ALBANY>

Adult member registration rates:

\$170 until April 30, 2006
\$220 until Aug. 31, 2006
\$270 after Sept. 1, 2006

Non-Mensa registration rates: add \$50
Student registration rate: \$220

Your registration includes lunch on Saturday and dinner on Friday and Saturday.

All Colloquium 2006 reservations must be made by the cut-off date of Sept. 15, 2006. Reservation requests received after this cut-off date will be subject to availability and rate review. All reser-

ventions must be accompanied by a first night's room deposit or guaranteed by a major credit card.

BOSTON MENSA RG "The Pilgrimage Game"
November 17–19, Braintree, MA

"The Pilgrimage Game" will have all the features of our best RGs (great food and beverages, open bar mixers, speaker track, activity track, games tournaments, Kids Academy, newly released movies, and more) plus a variety of individual games and puzzles running in the background. Mensa Dollars will be awarded to attendees during the convention based on which activities they choose to complete. Mensa Dollars can be used in a variety of raffles. For more information and to register online go to: <http://bostonrg.org>



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.

THE SEPTEMBER DINNER

Child Welfare in Connecticut

Because of a scheduling problem, Southern Connecticut Mensa held its September dinner at a different location, La Fortuna Restaurant in Bethel. However, this didn't stop fifteen Mensans from turning out to enjoy CT and Western Massachusetts Mensan Lisa Vincent's talk on "Child Welfare in Connecticut".

Lisa is a licensed foster and adoptive parent, the mother of four including one adopted child with special needs. She has also dealt with people with brain injuries and mental disabilities, so she knows not just about the ordinary problems of adoption and foster care but also the more difficult cases. She discussed these topics and how the Connecticut Department of Children's and Families (DCF) deals with these and other responsibilities.

Our speaker had some statistics that helped us appreciate the scope of the DCF's operations. DCF has over 3,000 employees, and spent \$586,834,068 in 2005. It tracks over 3,000 children in foster homes, close to 1,200 children who are staying with relatives other than their parents, nearly 1,000 youngsters in residential care, 254 in DCF centers, schools, or hospitals, 120 in independent living arrangements, and 156 in Safe Homes. The DCF also has a variety of mental health centers, including emergency mobile units, crisis stabilization beds, and day treatment centers.

Foster care and adoption are major parts of the DCF's mission. It licenses or approves all families who provide foster or pre-adoption care, and runs a detailed program for people who want to take on these roles. Families begin the process by attending an Open House at one of the DCF's fourteen offices throughout the state. After this overview of the procedures and requirements, those who decide to apply are screened. The department checks the finances, housing, health, references, and criminal record of all applicants. Prospective parents must attend DCF classes to make sure they understand the legal requirements and the potential problems they may encounter. Finally, a social worker conducts a thorough home study to assess the family's fitness.

The DCF first places children with adoptive families and then does follow-up checks. If custody is not contested, the department can finalize adoption within a year, although it takes longer to adopt older youngsters, children who are disabled, or those who have siblings also up for adoption. The state can provide subsidies for special needs children, including funds for medical care.

The department's Offices of Foster Care Services oversees all licensed foster homes in Connecticut, making sure providers have adequate training and comply with all regulations. The state has contracts with private agencies that provide foster care for youngsters with serious emotional or medical problems. Some well-known foster agencies in this part of the state are Casey Family Services of Bridgeport, Boys and Girls Village in Milford, and Jewish Family Services in New Haven. Groups like these either provide homes or seek foster parents for the children. If they place a child with a family, they provide support and training for the foster parents. You can get a list of these organizations and their contact persons at the DCF's web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dcf>.

While adoption and foster care are a big part of DCF's job, child abuse may be what generates the most controversy. The department's Bureau of Child Protection handles reports of child abuse and neglect in the state. The bureau has over 2000 employees and an average caseload of about 6000 children. If you suspect abuse or neglect, Lisa advised calling the bureau's hotline at 1-800-842-2288. The hotline operates around-the-clock, every day of the year. Callers may remain anonymous, but Lisa cautioned that one should not report spanking as child abuse; it is legal in Connecticut, and strict discipline per se is not mistreatment. If you work with children, however, you are required to report abuse and face penalties if you don't.

The Bureau of Child Protection investigates all reports to the hotline. It also has a Special Investigations Unit, which investigates abuse within state or state-financed homes or schools. The state has comprehensive standards for handling claims of abuse and neglect. It seeks to complete investigations within 45 days. It prefers

to place mistreated children with relatives, friends, former caretakers, or people whom the child knows. Whether the state places the child outside the home or returns the child to his family, however, it continues monitoring the situation.

Lisa talked about other work DCF and support groups do to help adoptive and foster families, and answered questions from the audience. After the dinner, she spoke with people who had further questions or comments. We may hear more about the topic at a future dinner, so watch our calendar for announcements.

NEXT MONTH: We will be back at the Stony Hill Inn to hear Steve Gould, Secretary of the Danbury Railway Museum, speak on the history of railroads in Connecticut.



KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord



Brian Lord is an internationally read cartoonist, writer, 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. His work can be seen at www.KickComics.com

GOOD WINE CHEAP**(and good food to go with it)***by John Grover*

This month we go to two different countries for our wine and the recipe. The wine is a red, Luzon Verde 2005, from the Jumilla region of Spain. Bottled by Bodegas Luzon from 100% Monastrell grapes, its label states that the grapes are all organic, for those who care about such things. Verde is a deep purple with an aroma of blueberry and floral notes, and you can taste its full fruit flavor that has a hint of spice at the end. This Spanish wine nicely complements the hearty Hungarian dish below. It sells for around \$8 to \$9 a bottle.

**HUNGARIAN STUFFED GREEN PEPPERS
(TOLTOTTAPAPRIKA)**

(from June Meyer's website "Authentic Hungarian Recipe Index" There are over 90 recipes listed by this Hungarian cooking Goddess)

Ingredients:

- 8 medium sized green peppers
- 1/2 lb. ground beef (or 1 lb. beef if you do not want to include pork)
- 1/2 lb. ground pork
- 1 raw egg
- 1 cup washed rice
- 2 28 oz. cans of crushed tomatoes (or 3 or 4 lbs. fresh peeled tomatoes)
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. good Hungarian Paprika (buy imported sweet)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. sugar (do not omit)
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper corns
- 2 whole Bay leaves
- 1 cup water only if needed

Cut off the tops of peppers and reserve. Take out the seeds. In mixing bowl, place the ground meat, raw egg, washed rice, salt and paprika. Mix well with clean hands. Stuff peppers, using all the meat mixture. If you have some left over, make a few balls. Set peppers upright in cooking pot. Add the tomatoes, sugar, onions and chopped tops of peppers over the peppers, toss in the black pepper corns and the bay leaves. Cover and slowly cook for about 1 1/2 hours. If it looks too thick add a little water. She says that this serves 4, but they must be huge eaters. Personally, I added some fresh ground pepper and a little salt when served at the table. An important cooking tip: be sure to use real Hungarian paprika - there is no comparison with the product produced domestically.

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.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Define tragedy.
2. What is pig iron?
3. Compare the original TV shows Dragnet and Adam 12.
4. What was the population of Rome at the height of its power in ancient times?
5. What features of city and country do suburbs combine?
6. When did Walmart first make the Fortune 500 list?
7. What talents do you think are the most rare?
8. What percentage of murder cases are solved?
9. What is the farthest you have ever walked?
10. Estimate the number of people in the United States who work in the following jobs: engineer, computer programmer, accountant, lawyer, actuary, carpenter, baker, auto mechanic, plumber, and mason.
11. What is the difference between a city and a town?
12. What is wrong with the phrase "opening gambit?"

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. What is the difference between being inaccurate and being misleading?
A: A statement that is inaccurate is factually wrong while a misleading statement might be factually correct but incomplete.
4. What nation has been at peace the longest?
A: Sweden - it has been at peace since 1809. Switzerland has not been in a war since 1814.
6. What country has the highest rate of homeownership?
A: The Singapore Census shows 93% of its citizens owned their homes in 2003, giving it the world's highest rate. About 86% own their own homes in Taiwan. In the U.S., approximately 67% of people own their homes. Spain has the highest homeownership rate in Europe, 83%.
8. On average, how long did the kings rule for in ancient Israel and Judah?
A: In Israel, the monarchy lasted for 212 years, nine dynasties, and 19 kings, who ruled an average of 11 years. From 933 B.C.E. to 586 B.C.E., 20 kings, all from King David's line, ruled for an average of almost 17 1/2 years.
10. What is the average yearly temperature in New York City?
A: The average temperature in New York City is 62° F.

NOTED AND QUOTED

I have never met an author who admitted that people did not buy his book because it was dull. - *Somerset Maugham, (1874 - 1965)*

It is a sign of a poor intellect to be always telling anecdotes. - *Jean de La Bruyere, (1645 - 1696), French essayist and moralist*

In youth we learn; in age we understand. - *Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach, (1830 - 1916), Austrian poet and novelist*

Everyone feels his own wound first. - *Irish proverb*

If you buy what you don't need you might have to sell what you do. - *Irish proverb*

To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all. - *Oscar Wilde, (1856 - 1900)*

You may delay, but time will not. - *Ben Franklin, (1706 - 1790)*

One falsehood spoils a thousand truths. - *African proverb*

We would rather be ruined than changed. - *W. H. Auden, (1907 - 1973)*

The only normal people are the ones you don't know very well. - *Joe Ancis*

Misery no longer loves company. Nowadays it insists on it. - *Russell Baker, (1925 -), columnist, author*

Hope is not a dream, but a way of making dreams become reality. - *Cardinal Leon Joseph Suenens, (1904 - 1996)*

Life begins at birth; the rest is up to our imagination. - *Infoism*

Nothing will protect an illogical idea from criticism like calling it practical. - *Thomas Sowell, (1930 -), economist*

Running into debt isn't so bad. It's running into creditors that hurts. - *Anonymous*

Bores bore each other too, but it never seems to teach them anything. - *Don Marquis, (1878 - 1939), American journalist and humorist*

Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do. - *Jean-Paul Sartre, (1905 - 1980)*

No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness. - *Mary Wollstonecraft, (1797 - 1851)*

I check myself every day just to make sure this is the same person. - *Tony Kanal, (1970 -), bass player*

Experience is what allows us to repeat our mistakes, only with more finesse! - *Derwood Fincher*

Always be a poet, even in prose. - *Charles Baudelaire, (1821 - 1867), French poet*

We are all difficult people. - *Judson E. Childress, Jr.*

Advice after injury is like medicine after death. - *Anonymous*

One always begins to forget a place as soon as it's left behind. - *Charles Dickens, (1812 - 1870)*

The theater, when all is said and done, is not life in miniature, but life enormously magnified, life hideously exaggerated. - *H.L. Mencken, (1880 - 1956), Prejudices: First Series (1919)*

Living people! We should show life neither as it is nor as it ought to be, but as we see it in our dreams. - *Anton Chekhov, (1860 - 1904), The Seagull (1896)*

We are all special cases. We all want to appeal against something! Everyone insists on his innocence, at all costs, even if it means accusing the rest of the human race and heaven. - *Albert Camus, (1913 - 1960), La Chute (1956)*

RUMINATIONS

CALLOWAY'S CODE

O. Henry, (1862 - 1910)

The New York Enterprise sent H. B. Calloway as special correspondent to the Russo-Japanese-Portsmouth war. For two months Calloway hung about Yokohama and Tokio, shaking dice with the other correspondents for drinks of 'rickshaws - oh, no, that's something to ride in; anyhow, he wasn't earning the salary that his paper was paying him. But that was not Calloway's fault. The little brown men who held the strings of Fate between their fingers were not ready for the readers of the Enterprise to season their breakfast bacon and eggs with the battles of the descendants of the gods.

But soon the column of correspondents that were to go out with the First Army tightened their field-glass belts and went down to the Yalu with Kuroki. Calloway was one of these.

Now, this is no history of the battle of the Yalu River. That has been told in detail by the correspondents who gazed at the shrapnel smoke rings from a distance of three miles. But, for justice's sake, let it be understood that the Japanese commander prohibited a nearer view.

Calloway's feat was accomplished before the battle. What he did was to furnish the Enterprise with the biggest beat of the war. That paper published exclusively and in detail the news of the attack on the lines of the Russian General on the same day that it was made. No other paper printed a word about it for two days afterward, except a London paper, whose account was absolutely incorrect and untrue.

Calloway did this in face of the fact that General Kuroki was making his moves and laying his plans with the profoundest secrecy as far as the world

outside his camps was concerned. The correspondents were forbidden to send out any news whatever of his plans; and every message that was allowed on the wires was censored with rigid severity.

The correspondent for the London paper handed in a cablegram describing Kuroki's plans; but as it was wrong from beginning to end the censor grinned and let it go through.

So, there they were - Kuroki on one side of the Yalu with forty-two thousand infantry, five thousand cavalry, and one hundred and twenty-four guns. On the other side, Zassulitch waited for him with only twenty-three thousand men, and with a long stretch of river to guard. And Calloway had got hold of some important inside information that he knew would bring the Enterprise staff around a cablegram as thick as flies around a Park Row lemonade stand. If he could only get that message past the censor - the new censor who had arrived and taken his post that day!

Calloway did the obviously proper thing. He lit his pipe and sat down on a gun carriage to think it over. And there we must leave him; for the rest of the story belongs to Vesey, a sixteen-dollar-a-week reporter on the Enterprise.

Calloway's cablegram was handed to the managing editor at four o'clock in the afternoon. He read it three times; and then drew a pocket mirror from a pigeon-hole in his desk, and looked at his reflection carefully. Then he went over to the desk of Boyd, his assistant (he usually called Boyd when he wanted him), and laid the cablegram before him.

"It's from Calloway," he said. "See what you make of it."

The message was dated at Wi-ju, and these were the words of it:

Foregone preconcerted rash witching goes muffled rumour mine dark silent unfortunate richmond existing great hotly brute select mooted parlous beggars ye angel incontrovertible.

Boyd read it twice.

"It's either a cipher or a sunstroke," said he.

"Ever hear of anything like a code in the office - a secret code?" asked the m. e., who had held his desk for only two years. Managing editors come and go.

"None except the vernacular that the lady specials write in," said Boyd. "Couldn't be an acrostic, could it?"

"I thought of that," said the m. e., "but the beginning letters contain only four vowels. It must be a code of some sort."

"Try em in groups," suggested Boyd. "Let's see - 'Rash witching goes' - not with me it doesn't. 'Muffled rumour mine' - must have an underground wire. 'Dark silent unfortunate richmond' - no reason why he should knock that town so hard. 'Existing great hotly' - no it doesn't pan out. I'll call Scott."

The city editor came in a hurry, and tried his luck. A city editor must know something about everything; so Scott knew a little about cipher-writing.

"It may be what is called an inverted alphabet cipher," said he. "I'll try that. 'R' seems to be the oftenest used initial letter, with the exception of 'm.' Assuming 'r' to mean 'e', the most frequently used vowel, we transpose the letters - so."

Scott worked rapidly with his pencil for two minutes; and then showed the first word according to his reading - the word "Scejtez."

"Great!" cried Boyd. "It's a charade. My first is a Russian general. Go on, Scott."

"No, that won't work," said the city editor. "It's undoubtedly a code. It's impossible to read it without the key. Has the office ever used a cipher code?"

"Just what I was asking," said the m.e. "Hustle everybody up that ought to know. We must get at it some way. Calloway has evidently got hold of something big, and the censor has put the screws on, or he wouldn't have cabled in a lot of chop suey like this."

Throughout the office of the Enterprise a dragnet was sent, hauling in such members of the staff as would be likely to know of a code, past or present, by reason of their wisdom, information, natural intelligence, or length of servitude. They got together in a group in the city room, with the m. e. in the centre. No one had heard of a code. All began to explain to the head investigator that newspapers never use a code, anyhow - that is, a cipher code. Of course the Associated Press stuff is a sort of code - an abbreviation, rather - but - The m. e. knew all that, and said so. He asked each man how long he had worked on the paper. Not one of them had drawn pay from an Enterprise envelope for longer than six years. Calloway had been on the paper twelve years.

"Try old Heffelbauer," said the m. e. "He was here when Park Row was a potato patch."

Heffelbauer was an institution. He was half janitor, half handy-man about the office, and half watchman - thus becoming the peer of thirteen and one-half tailors. Sent for, he came, radiating his nationality.

"Heffelbauer," said the m. e., "did you ever hear of a code belonging to the office a long time ago - a private code? You know what a code is, don't

you?"

"Yah," said Heffelbauer. "Sure I know vat a code is. Yah, apout dwelf or fifteen year ago der office had a code. Der reborters in der city-room haf it here."

"Ah!" said the m. e. "We're getting on the trail now. Where was it kept, Heffelbauer? What do you know about it?"

"Somedimes," said the retainer, "dey keep it in der little room behind der library room."

"Can you find it?" asked the m. e. eagerly. "Do you know where it is?"

"Mein Gott!" said Heffelbauer. "How long you dink a code live? Der reborters call him a maskeet. But von day he butt mit his head der editor, und - "

"Oh, he's talking about a goat," said Boyd. "Get out, Heffelbauer."

Again discomfited, the concerted wit and resource of the Enterprise huddled around Calloway's puzzle, considering its mysterious words in vain.

Then Vesey came in.

Vesey was the youngest reporter. He had a thirty-two-inch chest and wore a number fourteen collar; but his bright Scotch plaid suit gave him presence and conferred no obscurity upon his whereabouts. He wore his hat in such a position that people followed him about to see him take it off, convinced that it must be hung upon a peg driven into the back of his head. He was never without an immense, knotted, hardwood cane with a German-silver tip on its crooked handle. Vesey was the best photograph hustler in the office. Scott said it was because no

living human being could resist the personal triumph it was to hand his picture over to Vesey. Vesey always wrote his own news stories, except the big ones, which were sent to the rewrite men. Add to this fact that among all the inhabitants, temples, and groves of the earth nothing existed that could abash Vesey, and his dim sketch is concluded.

Vesey butted into the circle of cipher readers very much as Heffelbauer's "code" would have done, and asked what was up. Some one explained, with the touch of half-familiar condescension that they always used toward him. Vesey reached out and took the cablegram from the m. e.'s hand. Under the protection of some special Providence, he was always doing appalling things like that, and coming, off unscathed.

"It's a code," said Vesey. "Anybody got the key?"

"The office has no code," said Boyd, reaching for the message. Vesey held to it.

"Then old Calloway expects us to read it, anyhow," said he. "He's up a tree, or something, and he's made this up so as to get it by the censor. It's up to us. Gee! I wish they had sent me, too. Say - we can't afford to fall down on our end of it. 'Foregone, preconcerted rash, witching' - h'm."

Vesey sat down on a table corner and began to whistle softly, frowning at the cablegram.

"Let's have it, please," said the m. e. "We've got to get to work on it."

"I believe I've got a line on it," said Vesey. "Give me ten minutes."

He walked to his desk, threw his hat into a waste-basket, spread out flat on his chest like a

gorgeous lizard, and started his pencil going. The wit and wisdom of the Enterprise remained in a loose group, and smiled at one another, nodding their heads toward Vesey. Then they began to exchange their theories about the cipher.

It took Vesey exactly fifteen minutes. He brought to the m. e. a pad with the code-key written on it.

"I felt the swing of it as soon as I saw it," said Vesey. "Hurrah for old Calloway! He's done the Japs and every paper in town that prints literature instead of news. Take a look at that."

Thus had Vesey set forth the reading of the code:

Foregone - conclusion
 Preconcerted - arrangement
 Rash - act
 Witching - hour of midnight
 Goes - without saying
 Muffled - report
 Rumour - hath it
 Mine - host
 Dark - horse
 Silent - majority
 Unfortunate - pedestrians*
 Richmond - in the field
 Existing - conditions
 Great - White Way
 Hotly - contested
 Brute - force
 Select - few
 Mooted - question
 Parlous - times
 Beggars - description
 Ye - correspondent
 Angel - unawares
 Incontrovertible - fact

*Mr. Vesey afterward explained that the logical journalistic complement of the word "unfortunate" was once the word "victim." But, since the

automobile became so popular, the correct following word is now "pedestrians." Of course, in Calloway's code it meant infantry.

"It's simply newspaper English," explained Vesey. "I've been reporting on the Enterprise long enough to know it by heart. Old Calloway gives us the cue word, and we use the word that naturally follows it just as we use 'em in the paper. Read it over, and you'll see how pat they drop into their places. Now, here's the message he intended us to get."

Vesey handed out another sheet of paper.

Concluded arrangement to act at hour of midnight without saying. Report hath it that a large body of cavalry and an overwhelming force of infantry will be thrown into the field. Conditions white. Way contested by only a small force. Question the Times description. Its correspondent is unaware of the facts.

"Great stuff!" cried Boyd excitedly. "Kuroki crosses the Yalu to-night and attacks. Oh, we won't do a thing to the sheets that make up with Addison's essays, real estate transfers, and bowling scores!"

"Mr. Vesey," said the m. e., with his jolly-which-you-should-regard-as-a-favour manner, "you have cast a serious reflection upon the literary standards of the paper that employs you. You have also assisted materially in giving us the biggest 'beat' of the year. I will let you know in a day or two whether you are to be discharged or retained at a larger salary. Somebody send Ames to me."

Ames was the king-pin, the snowy-petalled Marguerite, the star-bright looloo of the rewrite men. He saw attempted murder in the pains of green-apple colic, cyclones in the summer zephyr, lost children in every top-spinning urchin, an

uprising of the down-trodden masses in every hurling of a derelict potato at a passing automobile. When not rewriting, Ames sat on the porch of his Brooklyn villa playing checkers with his ten-year-old son.

Ames and the "war editor" shut themselves in a room. There was a map in there stuck full of little pins that represented armies and divisions. Their fingers had been itching for days to move those pins along the crooked line of the Yalu. They did so now; and in words of fire Ames translated Calloway's brief message into a front page masterpiece that set the world talking. He told of the secret councils of the Japanese officers; gave Kuroki's flaming speeches in full; counted the cavalry and infantry to a man and a horse; described the quick and silent building, of the bridge at Suikauchen, across which the Mikado's legions were hurled upon the surprised Zassulitch, whose troops were widely scattered along the river. And the battle! - well, you know what Ames can do with a battle if you give him just one smell of smoke for a foundation. And in the same story, with seemingly supernatural knowledge, he gleefully scored the most profound and ponderous paper in England for the false and misleading account of the intended movements of the Japanese First Army printed in its issue of the same date.

Only one error was made; and that was the fault of the cable operator at Wi-ju. Calloway pointed it out after he came back. The word "great" in his code should have been "gage," and its complementary words "of battle." But it went to Ames "conditions white," and of course he took that to mean snow. His description of the Japanese army struggling through the snow-storm, blinded by the whirling flakes, was thrillingly vivid. The artists turned out some effective illustrations that made a hit as pictures of the artillery dragging their guns through the drifts. But, as the attack was made on the first

day of May, "conditions white" excited some amusement. But it in made no difference to the Enterprise, anyway.

It was wonderful. And Calloway was wonderful in having made the new censor believe that his jargon of words meant no more than a complaint of the dearth of news and a petition for more expense money. And Vesey was wonderful. And most wonderful of all are words, and how they make friends one with another, being oft associated, until not even obituary notices them do part.

On the second day following, the city editor halted at Vesey's desk where the reporter was writing the story of a man who had broken his leg by falling into a coal-hole - Ames having failed to find a murder motive in it.

"The old man says your salary is to be raised to twenty a week," said Scott.

"All right," said Vesey. "Every little helps. Say - Mr. Scott, which would you say - 'We can state without fear of successful contradiction,' or, 'On the whole it can be safely asserted'?"

POETRY CORNER**INTO MY HEART AN AIR THAT KILLS**

A. E. Housman, (1859 - 1936)

INTO my heart an air that kills
 From yon far country blows:
 What are those blue remembered hills,
 What spires, what farms are those?

That is the land of lost content,
 I see it shining plain,
 The happy highways where I went
 And cannot come again.

**DRYING THEIR WINGS
 WHAT THE CARPENTER SAID**

Vachel Lindsay, (1879 - 1931)

THE moon's a cottage with a door.
 Some folks can see it plain.
 Look, you may catch a glint of light,
 A sparkle through the pane,
 Showing the place is brighter still
 Within, though bright without.
 There, at a cosy open fire
 Strange babes are grouped about.
 The children of the wind and tide--
 The urchins of the sky,
 Drying their wings from storms and things
 So they again can fly.

THE NEW MOON

from Flame and Shadow (1920)
 Sara Teasdale, (1884 - 1933)

DAY, you have bruised and beaten me,
 As rain beats down the bright, proud sea,
 Beaten my body, bruised my soul,
 Left me nothing lovely or whole --
 Yet I have wrested a gift from you,
 Day that dies in dusky blue:
 For suddenly over the factories
 I saw a moon in the cloudy seas --
 A wisp of beauty all alone
 In a world as hard and gray as stone --
 Oh who could be bitter and want to die
 When a maiden moon wakes up in the sky?

WEI CITY SONG

Wang Wei (699-761)

WEI City morning rain
 dampens the light dust.

By this inn, green,
 newly green willows.

I urge you to drink
 another cup of wine;

west of Yang Pass
 are no old friends.

WIND AND RAIN

Li Shang-yin (813-858)

I ponder on the poem of The Precious Dagger.
 My road has wound through many years.
 ... Now yellow leaves are shaken with a gale;
 Yet piping and fiddling keep the Blue House merry.
 On the surface, I seem to be glad of new people;
 But doomed to leave old friends behind me,
 I cry out from my heart for Shin-feng wine
 To melt away my thousand woes.

**A FAREWELL TO SECRETARY SHU-YUN
 AT THE HSIEH TIAO VILLA IN HSUAN-CHOU**

Li Po (701-762)

Since yesterday had thrown me and bolt,

Today has hurt my heart even more.

The autumn wildgeese have a long wing for escort
 As I face them from this villa, drinking my wine.
 The bones of great writers are your brushes, in the school
 of heaven,
 And I am Lesser Hsieh growing up by your side.
 We both are exalted to distant thought,
 Aspiring to the sky and the bright moon.
 But since water still flows, though we cut it with our
 swords,
 And sorrow return, though we drown them with wine,
 Since the world can in no way answer our craving,
 I will loosen my hair tomorrow and take to a fishing-boat.

MENSA MIND GAMES 2006 RESULTS

One hundred ninety-eight Mensans gathered in Portland this weekend for Mind Games 2006. During the three-day event, members played and rated 62 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

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Wits & Wagers by North Star Games
(www.northstargames.com)

Mind Games 2007 will be held April 20-22 in Pittsburgh, PA. To register, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.



THE READING EDGE - WHAT'S YOUR READING SPEED?

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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

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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