

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.



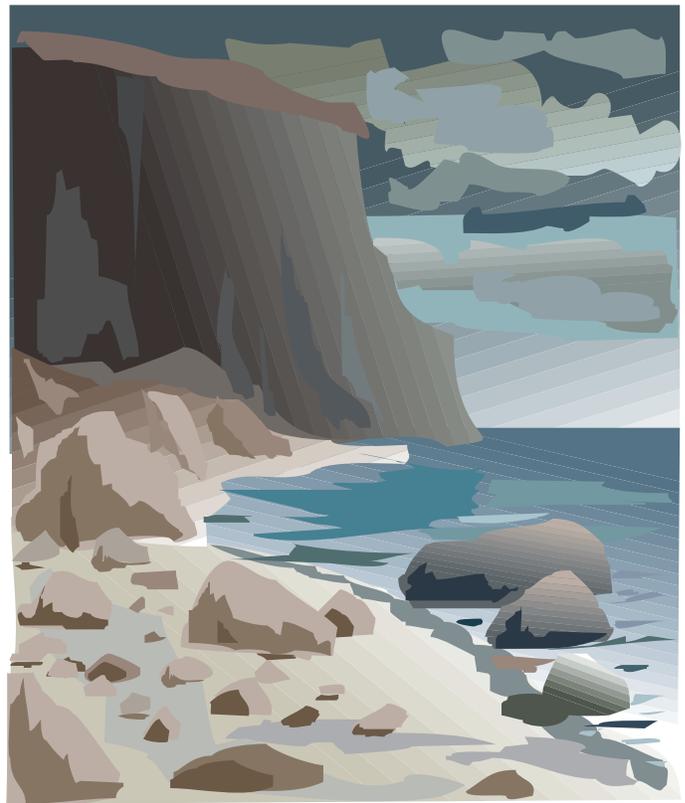
ARCHIVED COPIES OF THE CHRONICLE

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

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

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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 - MAY

Friday, May 11, 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, May 19, 6:30

Monthly Dinner at Tonelli's Restaurant
"Cleaning your Windows - Improving your PC's Performance."

Is your computer bogging down? Southern CT Mensan Ilan Woll will explain how you can invigorate it. Come enjoy our May dinner and learn more about your PC. Dress is casual. Before the presentation, we will enjoy dinner. Choose what you like from the menu; restaurant adds tip onto the bill. You can bring a donation of money or food to benefit the Connecticut Food Bank. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations. Guests are welcome.

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 Home (203) 852-9571
 Fax (203) 852-1574
 sharon@oberstlaw.com

Directions FROM STAMFORD: Take I-95. Merge onto US-7 Connector NORTH via EXIT 15 toward NORWALK. Take US-7 Connector to MAIN AVE / US-7. Continue to follow US-7 North about 2 miles. Turn LEFT onto US-7 / CT-33 / WESTPORT RD & continue to follow US-7 about 5.5 miles. Turn RIGHT onto SCHOOL ST / CT-107 / CT-57. Follow CT-107 about 1.5 miles. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto REDDING RD / CT-107. Follow REDDING RD. 5.7 miles. REDDING RD becomes CT-53. Go about 3 miles to the Restaurant, on the left at 41 Grassy Plain St. Bethel, CT 06801-2001, US Map FROM BRIDGEPORT: Take CT-15 SOUTH / MERRITT PKWY Exit 44 toward CT-58 / FAIRFIELD / REDDING. Turn LEFT onto CONGRESS ST. Turn RIGHT onto BLACK ROCK TURNPIKE / CT-58. Follow CT-58 about 15 miles. Turn LEFT onto CT-302 / MILWAUKEE AVE. Turn LEFT onto GREENWOOD AVE / CT-302 and go about 1.5 miles. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto GRASSY PLAIN ST / CT-53. <0.1 miles Map Go about .1 miles to the Restaurant, at 41 Grassy Plain St.

FROM HARTFORD & I-84: Take I-84, EXIT 8 toward NEWTOWN RD / BETHEL. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto US-6 W. 0.1 miles Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto NEWTOWN RD. 1.2 miles Turn LEFT onto OLD SHELTER ROCK RD. 0.5 miles Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto CROSS ST. 0.1 miles Turn LEFT onto SHELTER ROCK RD. < 0.1 miles Stay STRAIGHT to go onto SHELTER ROCK LN. 0.4 miles 13: Turn RIGHT onto GREAT PASTURE RD. 0.2 mi. 14: Turn LEFT onto SOUTH ST / CT-53 / LOWER SOUTH ST. Continue to follow CT-53. 0.7 mi.

Saturday, May 26, 7:30

Music Event

Mad Agnes at the Good Folk Coffeehouse,

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.

Rowayton United Methodist Church. Fellowship Hall, 5 Pennoyer Street (on the corner across from Pinckney Park), Rowayton (Norwalk), CT. Doors Open at 7:30 p.m. Music Starts 8:00 p.m. Adult Donation: \$20. No Reservation Necessary. Folk-rock trio blends folk, pop, classical, and Celtic music to come up with their unique sound. Contact Jim Mizera, jmizera@hotmail.com, 203-522-1959, for information and reservations.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR JUNE

Friday, June 8, 7:00.

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

Saturday, June 16, 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.

MAY

3, 10, 17 Thursdays 7:00 pm

Scrabble

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

4 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.

6 Sunday 1:35 pm

Mensa Goes to a Ballgame

Join fellow Mensans for a minor league baseball game in New Britain Stadium, as the Rock Cats host the Yankee's farm team the Trenton Thunder. Buy a \$5 general admission ticket, and bear left to Section 213. Climb up toward the top, we should be in about the fourth highest row. Be prepared to have fun. More information from tom.thomas@the-spa.com or www.rock-cats.com

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6 Sunday 2:00 pm

Rolling Card Party

The rolling card party's rolling once again - wooops! the spoke's busted, May's card party will be held on May 6th at 2:00 pm at the home of Pamela Guinan in Wethersfield (CT). For RSVPs and directions, call 860-563-5761 or email Pamela.Guinan@po.state.ct.us (email is available during business hours only).

9 Wednesday 6:00 pm

Happy Hour (NEW!)

in Madison (ME, 2nd Wed) New! This one is at the Dolly Madison Inn in south-central CT. The Dolly is located just off Route 1 at 73 West Wharf Road, Madison 06443, phone 203-245-7377. We'll meet around 6 PM. There is free lounge food for patrons, and there are burgers and salads to order if you like.

Directions: Take I-95 to exit 61 Rt. 79. Go south on Rt. 79 toward Rt. 1 and Madison center for 0.5 mi. Take a right (west) onto Rt. 1 and drive 0.4 mi. to West Wharf Road. Take a left (south) on W. Wharf and drive 0.3 mi. to the Dolly Madison Inn. Parking is available next to the Inn and across the road in the large lot. Questions? Contact Joe Wonowski at 203-785-2998 weekdays, and 203-457-9770 evenings. Hope to see you there!

17 Thursday 6:30 pm

Pioneer Valley Dinner

(ME, floats) We will be meeting tonight at Roberto's on Pleasant Street in Northampton MA. Join us. Conversations, friendship, solve the world's problems, drink and eat. Questions? MargotZalkind@aol.com

18 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 toast-ed 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

25 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.

30 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.

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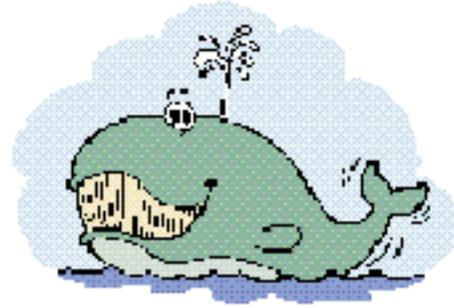
Regional Gatherings

A Whale Of A Good Time Cape Cod Getaway Weekend May 11-13, 2007

Join Boston Mensa on beautiful Cape Cod in Dennisport, MA for "A Whale Of A Good Time." Plan on a weekend filled with dining, shopping, swimming (heated indoor pool), socializing, and great hospitality. Optional (on your own) activities on Saturday include trips to nearby Provincetown or Hyannis, whale watching, antiques, bicycling, or just sit back and enjoy the beauty of the Cape.

Hotel rooms are only \$69.95 until 3/31 and \$74.95 after 4/1. Send your check, made out to "Resort Motels," directly to them at 41 Chase Avenue, Dennisport, MA 02639. Make your reservations early as the Corsair and Crossrip fill up fast. For more hotel information call 800-332-2279.

Please note that the hospitality house and all hotel rooms at the Corsair and Crossrip are non-smoking. Smoking is allowed outside only. Those wishing to smoke in their hotel room should call 800-332-2279 to discuss alternatives.



Adult registration is only \$40 until 4/30 and \$50 at door. Children under 6 are free. Ages 6-20 are \$1 per year of age.

Send your name(s), age(s) of children, and a check, payable to "Boston Mensa," to the registrar: Sean Guerino, 7 Dinsmore Court, Cambridge, MA 02138 or register online at www.caperg.org.

For more information:
Rick Kovalcik (rk@mit.edu) or
Susan Mozzicato (smozz@comcast.net),
617-244-4560, <http://www.caperg.org>.

WHAT'S COOKING IN REGION 1

Margheretta McBean

At the March AMC (American Mensa Committee - Mensa's board of directors) meeting, we voted to formally designate the Mensa Foundation as the sponsor of our Colloquia. With the Foundation's 501(c)(3) status, the board hopes that the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution might encourage more corporations and individuals to donate. The AMC also discussed how to make clearer the lines of communication and responsibility for producing a Colloquium. The 2007-2008 budget was also approved; I cast one of the dissenting votes. While budgeting is an art not a science, I felt that the income forecasted was far too optimistic - a 32% increase over this year's budgeted income, which is itself short of the actual amount. Hopefully I will be proven wrong: despite the increase in testing fees and prior evidence evaluation, many more people will continue to take that first step towards membership.

If you are reading this column, it probably means you were a member as of April 1 and entitled to vote in both our national and international elections (full disclosure: I am running for National Chairwoman). Look for the ballots in your April issue of the Mensa Bulletin. In addition to the traditional paper mail-in ballot, you have an Internet option as well.

It's Taurus Time, and I would like to wish all of my fellow bulls the Very Best in Birthday Wishes. Of special note, may Oleg Bayborodin and Lorenzo Perez (Boston Mensa); Jack Peregrim (Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Mensa); Christopher Neylan, Traci Nagy, Kevin Thompson, and Salvatore Negri (Greater New York Mensa); M Lee Ribblett of New Hampshire & Maine Mensa; Alex Peters and Harvey Nisselson (Northern New Jersey Mensa); George Merusi III of Southern Connecticut Mensa and of Jacques DuPuis of Vermont Mensa enjoy our Day of Days - May 7th.

Maria Gaetana Agnesi (1718-1799), another brilliant Taurus, was an Italian mathematician who is credited with studying planar cubic curves, which are symmetric about the y-axis and approach the x-axis as asymptotes. The so-called "Witch of Agnesi" got its name from a Brit who did not speak Italian too well and mistook versiera ("that which turns" or "sine curve") for avversiera ("witch"). I'm in high geek(ette) mode now, just having finished reading "She's Such A Geek!", edited by Annalee Newirtz and (Ms.) Charlie Anders.

I made this Finnish Pancake as part of my Mother's Day brunch for my mother when I was six and considered old enough to use the oven. It's really easy and delicious.

FINNISH PANCAKE

2 oz. (1/2 stick) unsalted butter
8 oz. milk or half-and-half
4 eggs
1 cup flour
pinch of nutmeg

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
2. In a mixing bowl, combine flour, milk, eggs and nutmeg and whisk lightly, leaving batter a little lumpy.
3. Melt butter in a 12-inch cast-iron (or one with a heatproof handle) skillet. When very hot, pour in batter.
4. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown and puffy.
5. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar if desired and serve with jam, preserves or marmalade.

To see this and past articles visit
<http://region1.us.mensa.org/cooking.shtml>

MENSA ELECTIONS

It's election time, and the American Mensa and Mensa International board election materials are mailing with the April/May issue of the Mensa Bulletin. The American Mensa election period begins on April 15 and ends May 31, 2007.

The Bulletin mailing includes a ballot for each member and will be sent to all members who renewed on or before March 31. This year, members have the option of casting their votes online! This option is only available for the American Mensa election, and instructions are included on your white (national) ballot. If you renewed your membership on or before March 31, 2007, and you do not have the white (national) and blue (international) ballots included with your April/May Bulletin, please contact the National Office by email at operations@americanmensa.org or call 817/607-0060 ext. 5502.

Official List of Candidates for National Mensa Offices:

Chairman/woman - Russ Bakke
Chairman/woman - Marghretta McBean

1 Vice-Chairman/woman - Elissa Rudolph

2 Vice-Chairman/woman - Dan Burg
2 Vice-Chairman/woman - Charlie Bruce

Treasurer - Cyndi Kuyper
Treasurer - Ray O'Connor
Treasurer - Allan Derum

Secretary - Judy Vasiliauskas - withdrawn
Secretary - Marc Lederman
Secretary - Mike Seigler

Region 1 Candidates:
RVC 1 - Lori Norris
RVC 1 - Walter Wakefield

NATIONAL OFFICE STATEMENTS:

Marghretta McBean

Candidate for NATIONAL MENSA CHAIRWOMAN

I am a non-traditional candidate: while my candidacy for your Chairwoman is unconventional: I have the requisite service (four years as Region1's AMC representative), and I am not waiting to slowly move up and finally acquire the top position when I may no longer be at the peak of my powers.

I am running because I have a dream: that with my energy, hopefulness, and passion, I can lead you and American Mensa in a new direction, one more in tune with America's social and cultural climate.

An active Greater New York Mensa Inc. member since 1976, I fully understand the dynamics of local group leadership and politics. I have served Region 1 with diligence and fairness. Through my support and encouragement, groups have produced a LDW, a Colloquium and hosted an AMC meeting. A true leader makes leaders of others and becomes a better leader in the process.

As an outspoken member of the AMC, I have gained experience and insight into Mensa's national and international inner workings. I also bring a perspective untarnished by political allegiances or personal grievances.

I am fortunate to enjoy excellent health and superb stamina, necessary qualities for an active leader.

Some ideas that bear consideration: Student and Senior reduced-fee membership classes; "bundling" testing/prior evidence with membership; and truly broadening our outreach to underrepresented groups. I would love to hear your suggestions and comments - reach me at campaign@fixedearth.net.

To visit my campaign headquarters go to <http://www.inch.com/~taurus/BrightNewDay.html>

Please vote for Marghretta!
Marghretta McBean

Russ Bakke

Candidate for AMC Chairman

EXPERIENCE! An effective Chairman must know how every part of the organization functions. This knowledge is best gleaned from doing, not simply observing. Having served AMC as an RVC, Secretary, Second Vice-, First Vice- and Chairman, I bring a wealth of knowledge of its procedures and the responsibilities and duties of each office holder. Thirty-seven years in Mensa has given me a deep understanding of how it works. "We've always done it that way" doesn't justify continuing a policy, however, history must be mixed with vision when considering change.

I'm proud of our accomplishments during the past term. Our current growth and retention rates are the highest they have been in twenty years. To maintain this progress, Mensa needs a collegiate AMC atmosphere. The ability to work cooperatively in a team is extremely important. Recent leadership has clearly shown that an AMC with a cohesive spirit and dedication to teamwork gets things done. We've shown that we can discuss matters and express differing opinions in a civil manner, and that we can disagree without being disagreeable.

Mensa is on a health and vibrant road. if re-elected I pledge to continue this course of progress. -Russ

**Allan Derum**

Candidate for Treasurer of American Mensa
Web site www.allanderum.com
(contains resume and campaign platform)

Hi, I'm Allan Derum, (standing) candidate for Treasurer of American Mensa.

I have several specific goals that I would like to accomplish as treasurer, more on that later.

At the moment, I would like to ask the members if they have any specific things they would like to have done, or not done, or changed by the new board that will be elected in 2007.

Question: Can 51,000 Mensans operate an investment fund in a way that out performs Warren Buffet? Should Mensa be making dividend payments to its members instead of charging dues? This may be far fetched, but is it possible?

Personally, I would love to own an investment fund managed by thousands of geniuses. Would those members that have the following credentials identify themselves to me for further discussion:

- 1) Doctorate in finance, accounting or economics
- 2) Masters in finance, accounting, economics or MBAs.
- 3) Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA's)
- 4) Accountanting Certificate (CPA, CMA, CA, EA, CFE, or auditing experience)
- 5) Strong interest or experience with investments.

My Bio is posted in the American Mensa Directory.

I would like to thank the many people who have taken the time to send me emails discussing their concerns and priorities. They have been very helpful.

Dallas, Texas

E-mail address : allan@allanderum.com

GOALS

My primary concerns for Mensa members are: Management one of Mensa's most valuable assets - the name Mensa itself.

Career Enhancement - Too many members

choose not to list Mensa on their resumes. This is related to the impressions people and employers have about Mensa and those impressions need to improve. We need to create awareness among people, particularly employers, that make them seek out Mensa members for key positions. Mensa can, and should, do more to assist its members in their careers.

Credibility: If we are going to convince the financial community that we are more capable than most we must produce tangible results. I would like to see Mensa's investment portfolio managed with as much brain power as possible, as a way to demonstrate what a bunch of smart people can do when they get organized and work together. It should be a model of portfolio management.

Strategic Plan: (Budgets can only be established after the strategic plan is in place.)
The strategic plan should be focused on providing compelling benefits to the members. This should lead to membership growth.

Full Disclosure: I support full disclosure of all financial information to the membership.

Thank you,
Allan Derum



RVC1 Campaign Statement from
WALTER S. WAKEFIELD

Hi! I've met many of you at RGs and at the Leadership Workshop, etc., but many more of you are as yet un-met Friends I can only reach via print. Our Region has about 6,500 members, so you can see it is not easy to meet each of you, at least in a short period of time. Who am I and what am I doing here? I'm a motivated, dedicated, competent 27-year member, active on many levels during the past 16 years, hosting many events and dinners, as well as serving as co-Chair for several RGs. (By the time you read this, many of you will know I can produce a large, fun, RG.)

Behind the scenes, I solve short and long term problems without delay, to help all sides gain fruitful resolution. I have written numerous published articles, bringing humor and (common?) sense to often prickly subjects. Personally I am a widower (but promise not to disappear if I meet 'the one'), and have been a self employed businessman since age 11, founding a bookstore that has been at the same location in Portsmouth, NH for the past 34 years, dealing with individuals, professionals, and institutions in America and abroad. I share Elvis' motto of "TCB" - "Taking Care of Business" (For decades, he wore a necklace with "TCB"). I often travel 500-1,000 miles monthly for Mensa, and expect more travel if I am elected as your representative in RVC1. I have reliable transportation, which I have provided to others. I am attentive and even-tempered. It is easy to reach me day or night, and I have a MENSA DEDICATED TOLL-FREE PHONE, (877) 436-7250.

I promise to bring insight, philosophy, and a humane approach to all conduct and writings. And last, but not least, I promise NO recipes or sports. Please consider me for your VOTE in the April election (ballot and envelope scheduled to be in the April "Mensa Bulletin").

With Care, Walter S. Wakefield



Lori J. Norris

Candidate for Regional Vice Chairman

Dear Fellow Mensans:

I am a candidate for Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) for Region 1. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. My husband, Ron, and I live in Rhode Island. We have also lived in Troy, NY, and as we both have traveled around the region and enjoyed events and RGs hosted by many of the local chapters, we have already met members from many local groups.

I joined Mensa in order to meet people and make new friends and I can honestly say that Mensa has exceeded my expectations. Not only have I made many friends throughout the region, but I also met my husband at a regional gathering in 1998. We enjoy participating in Mensa events, locally, regionally, nationally and, occasionally, internationally.

I have been an active member of Mensa since I joined in 1990. I have served in many capacities with Rhode Island Mensa including LocSec, Membership Officer, Proctor Coordinator, proctor and acting editor. I have participated in judging scholarship essays and have served as the

Chairman of the By-Laws Committee. In 2000, I temporarily relocated to the Albany, New York area and served as proctor and Proctor Coordinator for Mensa of Northeastern New York. Mensa has been a wonderful influence on my life. I am running for RVC to give something back to Mensa. I believe that both my educational background (food service management, managerial technology and a law degree) and work experiences (currently I am a lawyer) will serve me well in the position of RVC. I think that I can do the job well. I believe that the most important issues facing both Region 1 and the AMC now and into the future deal with membership: 1) retaining our existing members by meeting their needs; 2) recruiting new members, especially "young blood"; and 3) improving public perception of Mensa.

I hope to become your representative to the AMC and would appreciate your vote in the upcoming election. Please feel free to e-mail or telephone me to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Lori J. Norris
294 Parkside Drive
Warwick, RI
401-781-3247
lorijnorris@hotmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

By Rick D'Amico



Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking
By Malcolm Gladwell

Malcolm Gladwell is a journalist who has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1996. In 2005, *Time Magazine* named him one of its 100 Most Influential People. A while back, I reviewed another of Gladwell's books, *The Tipping Point*, and found it so interesting that when I saw *Blink* in a store, I made it a point to get and read it.

Essentially, the book is about rapid cognition, a type of snap decision-making. Rapid cognition bypasses the thinking process, and, as the book points out, is faster and often more correct than logic and analysis. Throughout the book, Gladwell uses anecdotes, statistics, and theory to make his case, and also issues some caveats, with examples of where this technique didn't work.

The book begins with a story of how a museum had an opportunity to acquire an apparently rare statue from the sixth century B.C. After thoroughly examining the statue, including chemically analyzing its surface to determine its age, the museum concluded that it was genuine. However, an outside expert determined on first glance that the statue was too "fresh" to be genuine. The statue was a forgery, and someone with the proper expertise was able to see that immediately.

This approach that allows people to make quick

decisions is called "thin-slicing." From just brief experiences, people can judge what is really important. Gladwell illustrates this with several examples. When a fire lieutenant in Cleveland saw something that just didn't look right, he immediately ordered his men out of the building. Moments later, the floor on which the firefighters had been standing buckled. It turned out that the fire was not in the part of the building that they'd thought, but in a vulnerable area which triggered the collapse.

By contrast, Gladwell gives an example where blinking failed - Coca Cola's misinterpretation of the "Pepsi Challenge" of the early 1980's. Pepsi has a flavor that favors it in a single-sip test. However, Coke took this to mean that more people would choose a Pepsi over a Coke. They launched the "New Coke," which turned out to be an abject failure.

I enjoyed reading this book. Nonetheless, I found Gladwell's hypotheses to be incohesive and flawed. He takes several examples and attempts to produce a unified theory. However, he seems to underestimate the failures of his theory. Hence, I found this book to be less successful than *The Tipping Point*.

COMMENTARY

A Visit to Iwo Jima

By Jerry Brooker

Standing on the grainy black sand of Iwo Jima beaches and looking south towards Mt. Surabachi where U.S. Marines raised the American flag on February 23, 1945 is an almost surreal experience. I recently had this privilege, on the one day a year that the Japanese open the island to American tourists.

Iwo Jima, Japanese for "Sulphur Island," is a tiny speck of a rock, as islands go. It is about 650 miles southwest of Tokyo and strategically set in the northern Pacific. The island was defended by 21,000 mostly seasoned Japanese troops who were hidden in caves, spider-holes, and tunnels, some of which ran the entire length of the island. It is the place where 6,821 Americans and roughly 20,000 Japanese were killed in a battle that lasted for 36 days. Many of them are still entombed in caves. The place is still a bit raw, and we were asked to inform the authorities if we spotted any human remains on the island, especially where they might be in the caves.

Ironically, the island was returned to the Japanese in 1968, not before all American bodies were disinterred for burial in public and private cemeteries back home. It is interesting to note that the island is also a special place to the Japanese, as it was a part of the Prefecture of Tokyo in 1945, and the first place where the American flag flew on Japanese soil during the war. There are many small obelisk shrines around the island, placed there by relatives of dead Japanese. Each one has a traditional cup of water placed at the base of the shrine.

I have always been fascinated by the heroism of soldiers in war. The courage and the love they show are of the highest order of bravery. Twenty-two Marines and five Navy personnel received Medals of Honor in the battle for Iwo Jima. The dominant act of heroism was throwing oneself on a Japanese grenade that landed in a foxhole in order to save one or two buddies. I asked a Marine about the extraordinary courage this took. He said it wasn't courage, that it was a bonding that no one could understand unless

they had the experience. Perhaps calling it "bonding" is a manly euphemism for "no greater love has any man than that he lays down his life for his friend."

Ordinarily, the island is fairly deserted. A small garrison of Japanese military runs a weather station and cares for the airport runway and a few small airplane hangars. In order to prepare for the day that American tourists are allowed on the islands, U.S. Marines come from Okinawa by ship with troop trucks, food and water for the visitors. It was in these trucks that we got around the island.

After a two-hour flight from Guam, we arrived about 7:30 a.m. The Japanese battle hospital is set in a long cave on the northern end of the island. Marines light up a few of the more notable caves with hanging bulbs powered by portable generators. In this way, we could walk deep into this cave and see the remaining artifacts such as cooking utensils, shoes, saki bottles, and the leftover bric-a-brac of surgery. The thin and low tunnels grew hotter the deeper I walked into them until they became like a sauna. It was hard to imagine how the men withstood the heat and the pounding of U.S. naval bombardment.



I got on a truck heading to Mt. Surabachi. I had planned to walk up the mountain, but the day was hot and there was little time to explore. The monument to the famous flag raising is a small one, about eight feet long and four feet high. A simple dedication to the men who died in the battle marks the spot. A small dot behind the monument marks the exact place where the men raised the flag, a moment frozen in time by Joe Rosenthal on the 4th day of the battle. I brought my family's American flag with me, one that had already flown over the White House. I asked one of the Marines on duty this day on Surabachi if he would hoist the colors for me. "We'll take special care of this one, Sir," he responded. I took photos of Sgt. Frisvold of Tacoma, Washington running up the flag, and he took a few of me bringing it down. It was a special moment.

The eastern part of the island where the Marines landed that day long ago is a two and a half mile stretch of beach that has grown some fifty-one feet wider since 1945 from the grains of black volcanic sand washed up by the churning ocean. Iwo Jima is part of the Volcano Islands, which is still adding to its cluster. I felt proud to stand on Beach Yellow where my friend Frank Rapp logged up the deep and slippery dunes in

the first hour of the landings on February 19, his mission to help cut the southern part of the island in half and to secure Motoyama Airfield No. 1, one of three on the island at the time. He received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star on Iwo, "just doing my job," as he puts it. Having him with us on this trip was a gift because to know Frank is to love him.

To stand on Beach Yellow, Red, Green or Blue, Marine code names for the landing sites, and look up at Mt. Surabachi, to be at the sites of a battle so savage in its engagement and so fabled in its place among the great battles of history, is to be in the presence of myth. It has been said that getting off these beaches that were enfiladed by small arms, mortar and artillery fire, was like trying to avoid raindrops in a rainstorm.

I promised myself before going to the island that I would at some point during my visit be still and ponder the sacredness of where I was. I found a part of the beach close to Surabachi where so many young Marines died during the first few days. Except for the hissing sound of the waves, all was quiet now. I tried to hear their sorrow, and hoped that my tears might seep deep into the sand to mingle with the blood of their sacrifice. Who among us would not want to say Thank you.



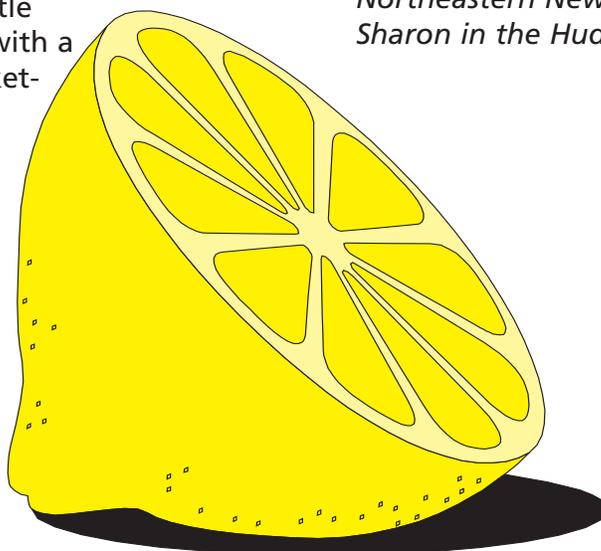
GOOD WINE CHEAP**(and good food to go with it)**

by John Grover

One of the fond memories we have of our children growing up was their calling out, "The fire alarm just went off. Mom must be done with dinner." Of course this earned a rather stern look that dared anyone to laugh out loud through the smirks and giggles. This month's recipe inspired one of these moments. We frantically turned off the fire alarm and opened the windows, but we were rewarded with some of the most tasty and moist chicken we ever had. The kids recommended that the next time we do this recipe, we do it on the grill or when we were planning on cleaning the oven.

The wine this month is a 2005 Chenin Blanc from Kanu Vineyards, located in the Stellenbosch region of South Africa. While Chenin Blanc is famous as the grape of the great wines in the Loire Valley in France, in the United States its reputation has been sullied by its use in cheap jug wines. Once again the desire for quantity ensured the loss of quality. Fortunately many South African producers have developed this grape into a delightful and fruity wine that can be served as an aperitif or with food. South Africans refer to it as "Steen" and label it that way on many of these wines that they export to the U.S.

The Kanu Chenin Blanc begins with a floral and tropical fruit nose. It follows with a complex combination of tastes that includes melon, pineapple, a hint of mineral, and a subtle sweetness that is balanced with a crisp finish. It is widely marketed for \$8 to \$10 a bottle.

**ROAST CHICKEN LEGS WITH LEMON & THYME**

(adapted from Gourmet magazine)

Ingredients: 4 chicken thighs and 4 drumsticks
 3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
 5 sprigs fresh thyme; 2 garlic cloves smashed
 3/4 tsp of salt
 1/2 tsp of fresh ground pepper
 4 (1/4 inch thick) lemon slices.

Put oven rack in upper third of oven and preheat to 500 degrees F. Toss chicken with oil, thyme sprigs, garlic, salt and pepper in a large bowl, then transfer to a large (17 by 12 inch) shallow baking pan (1 inch deep). Bake chicken 10 minutes (yes at the 500 degrees), then add lemon slices to pan. Continue to bake until chicken is golden and cooked through (about 15 to 20 minutes more). Serve chicken with lemon slices. This recipe should serve four.

The high heat has an effect similar to searing, keeping the meat moist. We have done this on the propane Weber grill cooking Tandoori chicken at high indirect heat. Hopefully you have an old metal baking pan that you don't mind sacrificing to the discoloration of the grill.

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.

RUMINATIONS

PART IV. LIFE OF THE RAT-CATCHER

from Full Revelations of a Professional Rat-catcher After 25 Years' Experience (Published 1898)

by Ike Matthews

This work will not be complete if I do not deal with the Rat-catcher's life. The profession is a peculiar and exciting one, but all right if pursued in the right way. Although the calling takes one into dirty and obnoxious places, there is no reason why the Rat-catcher should not always appear respectable. The Rat-catcher has many temptations to dishonest conducts, for instance, when Rat-catching on a farm or private estate where there are numerous rabbits and game. It looks rather hard lines for the Rat-catcher to come off a farm with his cage full of Rats and see rabbits running about whilst he has all the requisites in his possession for catching them; and yet he must not touch one, but go home and merely reflect on what a good Sunday's dinner he is leaving behind. This I have experienced many a time, but I have always found even from the business view-point that the old advice still remains true, "Honesty is the best policy." Leaving the rabbits to themselves has always turned out to be the best, for to take a rabbit worth a shilling, and get caught in the act, means that you can never go on the same estate again. And from that same estate you might have got 500 Rats in a year, worth four shillings a dozen.

I must also put in a good word here for the gamekeepers. My opinion is that if you go on a keeper's ground and do what is right, you will be able to go again, for in the whole of my experience never having carried any nets but Rat nets when on private estates, I have the consolation of knowing that I should always be welcome on going again to such estates.

Of course there are inconveniences that the Rat-catcher has to put up with. Whatever engagements he takes in a town, the only time he can catch Rats with a good result is in the night. On one occasion, when going round with my bull's-eye lamp to examine the traps, I was taken for a burglar by the policeman on the beat, and he

doubted me so much that he would not release me until I had shown him my cage with Rats in and my traps set all over the place. Then he took almost as much interest in the catching of Rats as myself, and also brought in the other policemen who were outside waiting for me to attempt an escape. Ever after that, when I had a night's engagement in any town, I always went to the police station to tell the man on that beat where I was.

It behoves the Rat-catcher to be always attentive to his customers, those, I mean, who want live Rats wherewith to try their dogs. Amongst mine I have the honour to include clients of highest rank and position, barristers, magistrates, solicitors and a host of sporting gentry. If the Rat-catcher's efforts commend themselves to such gentlemen, and he always maintains a respectable appearance, he will obtain some very nice outings in the country. Oft-times a party of gentlemen have sent for me in the summer, having arranged with me to bring four or five ferrets and Rattling appliances, and we have gone 50 miles up the country. They would bring their terrier dogs, and we would hunt all along the brooks and rivers, and round the corn and wheat fields, putting the Rats we caught into the cage, and after lunch, taking the Rats to a meadow and coursing them with their dogs, which I think it real good sport. We would put up at the best hotels and repeat the procedure next day, very often taking a drag or coach, and driving ten or a dozen miles farther up the country.

I can assure my readers that the Rat-catcher is well remunerated for the trouble he undertakes in these cases, and moreover this is the class of people he requires to fraternise with. There is always a plentiful supply of "refreshments" on these outings, and I would therefore advise the Rat-catcher not to indulge too freely.

The foregoing is, of course, a brief sketch of the pleasantest part of a Rat-catcher's life, and to complete the picture I may as well describe some of the other features, and the way he has to rough it sometimes. Well, Rat-catchers are generally called upon to supply Rats for the Rat coursings usually held at beerhouses, etc., on Saturday afternoons, which one often sees advertised. Now, if he binds himself to supply a coursing at a certain date, the bills announcing the event are

printed and posted, all of which means expense. Then you are bound to secure the live Rats, whatever be the weather. In doing this I always followed the threshing machine to the bays and stacks. (Anyone that catches Rats regularly can tell by looking at the bays or stacks whether there are many Rats in or not.) I remember many times when the men have started threshing a bay of wheat in which were a great many Rats, and by dark they have threshed only half of the bay. At such times the Rat-catcher must not leave the remaining half, no, not for half-an-hour throughout the whole night, for if he does the Rats will run out. To stop the Rats from leaving, the Rat-catcher has to lie on the top of the bay or go about every thirty minutes and beat the bottom with sticks until daylight, in order to keep the Rats in. Then, after the machine re-starts, and the bottom of the bay is reached, the Rat-catcher will be well paid for his trouble, for he may get, say, 150 good Rats for the coursing, at six shillings per dozen. The reason I call them good coursing Rats is because they have not been handled, and that enables them to run well.

Now, when you go to these coursings (which are mostly in the colliery districts) you will find about 60 dogs entered. It is the Rat-catcher's business to measure and handicap the dogs, and a very unpleasant job it is. He has also to be the referee at these coursings, and if it is a "near thing" with two dogs running at one rat, and you decide to award the victory to a given one, then the owner of the other dog will probably accuse you of wrong-doing and favouritism. Then is the time the Rat-catcher has to be prepared to pull off his coat and start fighting before, perhaps, 500 spectators. This has often occurred with me. This, I can assure my readers, is what I call "roughing it."

Of course, what I have just related occurred a few years ago, but when the Muzzling Order came into force, the authorities practically stopped Rat coursing, for they would not let a dog run at a Rat unless the dog was muzzled. This was about the worst thing that the authorities could do for Manchester and district, for at that time I was supplying for coursings about 100 Rats per week, and at the same time sending 50 Rats a week into Yorkshire, and all the Rats I supplied were caught within 15 miles of Manchester. This in my opinion, speaks very bad of the Muzzling Order, which I think is nothing but a farce, for at the very time I

was going ratting, dogs were muzzled in some parts of the country but not in others. My opinion of dog muzzling is, muzzle all or muzzle none.

You will see by what I have said respecting these coursings, etc., that the Rat-catcher has plenty of work to supply so many live rats, and he has also to mix with company high and low. He also sometimes experiences difficulties in travelling on the railway. I have often entered an empty third-class carriage, sent my dog under the seat, and put the Rat cage there also. The carriage would fill with passengers, and upon reaching my destination I would take from under the seat my cage full of live Rats, to the amusement of some and the disgust of others.

I have also entered a railway carriage with my cage of rats when there were passengers in, one or two of whom would generally object to live Rats being in the same compartment, and on enquiring of the railway officials, I have found that any one travelling with live Rats is expected to put them in the guard's van.

I have also had a few good customers in my business, one or two in particular. Gentlemen have often sent me post-cards instructing me to take six or twelve Rats to their residences. I would run them out on the lawn in front of the house with their dogs, and generally I have received good remuneration for my trouble. These are the customers who should be looked well after, for they are the sportsmen who do not consider expense, though of course there are others who are just the opposite.

Further, Rat-catching is a business in which one is not called upon to allow credit. It is all a ready-money trade, and as there is not much competition, the Rat-catcher can command a good price for his work. He has always one resource open to him when he has finished a job according to contract (catching say 40 or 50 Rats), should there be a dispute about the price and the people decline to pay the bill, then he has the expedient of letting the Rats at liberty again in the place where he had caught them. Most people will pay the price you send in rather than have the Rats turned loose again.

Although I am showing how the Rat-catcher can always have the advantage of stubborn payers, I

may as well assure my readers that in all my experience such an occurrence as the above has never happened with me, simply because I always make my arrangements beforehand, which course I always find the best and most satisfactory all round.

Another matter I may mention. If any one could find out a sure way of catching Rats so that he could give a guarantee to clear large buildings, my opinion is that he would make a fortune in a very short time; for I know firms in Manchester alone that would pay almost any amount to be rid of the Rats; not only because of what they consume, but more for the damage they do to their goods.

I have referred to the Rat-catcher obtaining good pay. The reason he commands such a big price for his work at the present time is because there is not much sale for live Rats. The trade is not what it was some years ago when Rat-pits were allowed. I think it was one of the worst things they ever did for this country when the authorities stopped the Rat pits, for when Rat killing was allowed in pits, it was a common thing for a Rat-catcher to receive an order for 100 Rats, all to be killed at one time; then the Rat-catcher would get the Rats and wherever he got them from he was ridding that district of a nuisance. But when the authorities stopped Rat-pits and Rat-coursing, the consequence was that the Rat-catcher left the Rats to breed in thousands. Rats being vermin, I don't see why they should not be killed 50 or 100 at a time in the pit, but the Humane Society maintain that it is cruelty to dogs to put them in a pit with a lot of Rats. I don't see where the cruelty comes in, but from what I have seen of Rat-pits during my time I approve of them, and I think if they were in existence again there would be a clearing of many thousands of Rats. Some 15 or 20 years since, I supplied 400 Rats in one week, all to be killed in Rat-pits.

Many of my readers may not understand what a Rat-pit is, and so I will just give an outline as well as I can.

The Rat-pit is of circular construction, say ten feet diameter, and about four feet six inches deep, the sides being perfectly smooth to prevent the rats climbing up and making their escape. A certain number of Rats are placed in the pit according to

the arrangements made with the owner of the dog. Then the dog is put in the pit with the rats to kill them, which a good dog does very quickly.

The reason the pit is built circular is so that the Rats will keep running round, for if it were square they would all run in a corner, one on the other, and then the dog would have no difficulty in killing them. It is better to have the pit fairly deep; if not, the rats might escape.

I think the best dog, within my recollection, that I have seen was a bull and fox terrier, which killed 40 good Rats in three minutes and 21 seconds. I have read and heard of dogs doing better feats, but I am only writing of what I have myself seen. I may say that the records for Rat-killing in Rat-pits are held by a dog called Jacko, which killed 200 Rats in 14 minutes and 37 seconds, and 1,000 Rats in less than one hour and 40 minutes.

The Rat-catcher has also some very dirty jobs to do sometimes. Often he has to go under all sorts of cellar floors, both wet and dry, but the majority of places are very wet and dirty, for the Rats nearly always come out of some filthy drain, and very often near a water-closet, the abominable smell arising from these places being sufficient to cause a fever.

I remember being once employed at a hospital, and I was paid at the rate of 5s. per visit for trapping Rats. Well, I found that 5s. per visit did not pay me (I had about 120 traps set all over the place), so I went before the committee and requested 8s. per night. The committee said they thought 5s. per visit was enough, and one or two of them said they thought 8s. per night was above a Rat-catcher's pay. Now, as I was not depending on that particular job at the time, I turned round and told them what I thought. I told them I considered Rat-catching was a skilled occupation, and I also offered any of them a five-pound note if they would only follow me under the floors at midnight, not to speak of taking the live Rats out of the traps in the dark; but I can assure you that none of these gentlemen would venture to undertake the task.

Now, if any of these gentlemen had to do this a few times they would not refuse to pay the Rat-catcher the sum he asks, viz., 8s. per night.

I remember more than once in big places such as bonding warehouses, when I have been under the floors, my candle or lamp has gone out through being knocked over with grabbing at Rats, and I have not had a match in my pocket, and have had to grope about in the dark trying to find the trap-door where I have got under the floors, more often than not putting my hand in a set trap. It would be of no use shouting for a light simply because I have been alone. It is always better for a Rat-catcher to have assistance for night work, but I have done it myself very often.

Now, the expenses of travelling come very heavy sometimes, for wherever the Rat-catcher goes he always has to pay railway fare for himself and his dog.

Another thing I must tell you. Often when I have gone to inspect a small building I have found that there were a great many Rats in, but I have also known, after inspecting the place, that they have all come from the one place, out of the drain. Well, if I have contracted to do this job for a lump sum, I could easily clear this place and not catch an odd Rat, simply by ferreting them all back into the sewer in the daytime, and then making it good; but in most of these cases they

do not like to pay your bill because you have caught no Rats. Still, you have driven them all down the drains, and after making the drain good they cannot get back again into the building.

Now, in a case like this I always trap them two or three nights and catch a few, just to give satisfaction to those engaging me.

Sometimes gentlemen will write inviting me to meet them at a certain farm, and bring my ferrets and a good supply of nets, alleging that there are "hundreds of Rats in the stacks." I just relate this to indicate how anyone not regularly amongst Rats can easily be deceived as to their numbers, for a couple of Rats on the thatch of a stack, especially when they have young ones, will probably have twelve holes eaten in the thatch and underneath the stack, and anyone not understanding their habits would think there were a lot of Rats in it.

And it is much the same with workpeople; if they chance to see two or three Rats at once, they will say there are "scores" of them. You would also be surprised to see the awful dread that tenants have of the Rat-catcher in private houses. When ferreting these places they think

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that if a Rat-catcher has once put his ferrets under the floor they will never see another Rat in the place; but depend upon it they are very bad to catch in these places.

I have often had much trouble respecting houses, warehouses, etc., to know whose duty it would be to pay the Rat-catcher for his work, the landlord's or the tenant's, but I think that the landlord should pay. I have had many engagements to catch Rats in newly-built houses before they were tenanted. The time the Rats get into these places is whilst the workmen are putting the drains in the back yards, leaving the drains open at nights. Thence the Rats come out and get under the floors, sometimes having to stop there, too, simply because the next day the joiners board up the floors and thus block the Rats in underneath, and then the Rats can always get into the kitchens up the back of the fire-place. Most property owners would do well to take note of this fact.

I must tell my readers, especially those having large shops, etc., that it is a good plan, if possible, to turn off the gas and water every night and week-end, for I have seen a good many cases where the Rats in the night-time have eaten through a water-pipe, and the place has been flooded by morning. It is just the same with a gas-pipe, and my opinion is that it is quite possible for fires to be caused by Rats in the night-time. Rats are very fond of nibbling and scratching at soft wood, and it would be an easy matter at a grocer's shop for a Rat to bite or scratch through the package of a gross of matches and ignite them, and the same cause may prove disastrous with any other inflammable goods.

Respecting the conveyance of live Rats, the Rat-catcher should always be particular to have good strong cages and bags, because if he had a number of Rats in an unserviceable bag which happened to break open at a railway station or in the street, I think he could be summoned for the damage the escaped Rats might do. Still, I have not in my time had or heard of a case of this sort.

Speaking of bags, a good many people seem to think that if a man puts his hand into a bagful of Rats they will bite him, but I can assure you that

a child could do the same thing and not be bitten. Should there be only two or three in the bag, then they will bite, but not in the event of there being a good number. The same rule applies to Rats stored in a cage, where there is open daylight--if there be 40 or 50 Rats together, it is then the habit of the Rats for all to cling together, and they will let you handle them anyway if only you will have sufficient courage.

It is very good sport for gentlemen who want a good day's outing to go to farms when threshing is on, and also to go hunting and ferreting round the corn and wheat fields, and I think many sporting gentlemen who have not seen such sport would indulge in it freely after they had once witnessed it. I think it is much better and healthier sport than rabbit-shooting, especially in the summer when the farmers are cutting their corn and wheat.

When catching Rats as a regular pursuit, one is surprised at the queer places in which he finds them. I recollect ferreting seven full-sized Rats from under the floor of a built dog kennel not above four yards square, where a large mastiff and a terrier dog slept every night, only a 3/4-inch board dividing them from the Rats, and the Rats having eaten holes through the boards in the kennel! I have also found at an out-house an old bitch Rat and nine young ones in an old tin trunk without a lid. I have also caught Rats and taken young ones out of the nest from under railway sleepers where trains have been running and shunting operations carried on every day. And I have even taken old and young ones in their nest from a pile of Cheshire cheese, at a wholesale cheese and bacon factor's!

And mentioning cheese in this connection reminds me that once I discovered that Rats had scratched and eaten a hole direct through the bottom lot of cheese in a pile which had only been there three weeks.

A word or two about what a Rat will do with a ferret. I have often seen a Rat run a ferret out of the hole, and then wait with its head out of the hole until the ferret has come to it again. I remember once ferreting at a hencote, and put the ferret behind the hen nest, whereupon the Rat attacked the ferret, which then jumped back

and died in five minutes, the Rats having given only one bite behind the ferret's ear! Of course this is a very rare occurrence. True, I have had many ferrets killed by Rats in my time, but it has always occurred through the poisonous bite first swelling and then "taking bad ways," the ferret dying in probably a week or so.

You must understand that if you put a Rat and a ferret together in a tub the ferret would kill the Rat in nine cases out of ten, the nature of the Rat being to get away from the ferret if possible; but if it cannot it will fight, and I think a Rat, for its size, is of a very vicious nature, for I have often seen when trying a puppy at killing a Rat in a pit, that a game Rat will run the puppy all round the pit. The best way to try a pup to kill a Rat is to draw the teeth of the first Rat it secures for sometimes if a pup gets a severe bite from a Rat it will never look at another. It is a very bad plan to let a pup play with a Rat too much, for this causes the pup never to put a hard mouth on the Rat. When this latter occurs it is the best plan not to allow the same pup to see another Rat until it is a month or two older. If you will take care and trouble with a pup you can bring it up to your own liking, and to do anything you want. I have worked seven years with a curly-coated retriever bitch, and when ferreting a brook she would stand in the water and catch the Rats that escaped from the nets into the brook and bring them to me alive in her mouth. I have sold hundreds of Rats she has caught in this manner, and to show you how the dogs can be brought up with the ferrets I need only mention that this bitch would lie down and let two ferrets kill a Rat on the curly coat of her back.

Farmers know too well of the many restless nights the cows and horses experience through Rats. I have seen when trapping all night at a farm the Rats running over the cows and horses whilst sleeping: and when horses have been working in the field all day they want better rest in the night. I have known when farmers would not let the Rat-catcher ferret their buildings gratis, simply because they have a few hens sitting. They don't consider that when the hens have hatched the eggs the Rats will take the chickens. Whenever a farmer has refused to let me ferret at his farm I have passed that farm ever afterwards. To show you the different dis-

positions of farmers I have met, I may mention that when once ferreting at a farm, we caught nine rats and lost the ferret, and two days afterwards the ferret was found on the farm, and I sent for it, but the farmer demanded two shillings of me for the ferret's keep. This same man I may add farmed about two hundred acres.

Of course, there are other farmers just the opposite, who will not only pay you for your trouble, but take great interest in helping you to catch the Rats. I relate these facts and incidents to show you the contrast in the disposition of different people one meets in this business. I don't think the Rat-catcher's life is one of the worst if he looks well after his business, for he has a few advantages over other occupations. In the first place, he is his own master, and need only doff his coat when he chooses, there being for him no such summons to work as a factory bell. And if he fancies a day's outing in the country he can always take his dog and ferrets with him, and make a day's pleasure into a remunerative business, by reason of the income from the Rats, and I find from experience that the best friends he has are his dog and ferrets, if he will look well after them and treat them kindly, for I think that a Rat-catcher in the country without a good dog might walk over scores of Rats and never know they were there, so you will see that his dog is chiefly what he has to trust to.

And now, in conclusion, let me express the hope that this book will prove instructive, entertaining, and profitable to my readers, inasmuch as I have endeavoured to make it so to the best of my ability and within the somewhat limited scope and sphere of a Rat-catcher's calling. Of course, I might have made the narrative portion of the book more startling and exciting, had I drawn upon my imagination, but I have thought it best to adhere to cold fact and actual experience.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. What qualities must a great novel have?
2. Estimate the population of these cities: Abilene, Texas; Reno, Nevada; Syracuse, New York; Charleston, South Carolina; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; Jacksonville, Florida; Duluth, Minnesota; Tulsa, Oklahoma.
3. What is the difference between juggling activities and balancing them?
4. Which number does not belong in this series: 111, 222, 333, 444, 555, 666?
5. What are the pros and cons of Chinese food?
6. Who was the shortest U.S. president?
7. Which streets in Connecticut have the most restaurants per mile? Which areas have the best restaurants?
8. Which area of Spain gets the most rain?
9. How many dreams are nightmares?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Which of these expressions is grammatically correct: "Woe is me" or "Woe is I"?
A: According to strict grammar, the sentence should be "Woe is I" or "Woe is unto me" rather than "Woe is me". The rule is that a pronoun that follows a form of the verb "to be" should be a subject and not an object. However ... most grammarians today find "is me" acceptable. Shakespeare used it in Hamlet, where Ophelia cried "Woe is me."
4. How many teaspoons are in a tablespoon?
A: In most places of the world, a tablespoon is three teaspoons. In Australia, however, it is four teaspoons. Australia defines a tablespoon as 20 ml., while the U.S., Canada, and Great Britain define it as only 15 ml.
6. What family of birds does the robin belong to?
A: The thrush.
8. Which planets in our solar system have rings?
A: Four have rings - Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
10. Name the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.
A: The oldest surviving list of Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is one done by the poet Antipater about 140 B.C.E. Earlier scholars, such as Herodotus, composed lists of wonders but these have been long since lost. The list we have today was compiled about the 6th century A.D. by scholars who read the ancient Greek writings and it differs slightly from Antipater's:

The Great Pyramid of Giza - Built about 2650-2500 B.C.E. This is the only one of the Wonders that still exists.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon - Built 600 B.C.E., destroyed by an earthquake sometime after the first century B.C.E.

Temple of Artemis at Ephesus - Built 550 B.C.E. by the Lydians, Persians, and Greeks. In 356 B.C.E., a young Greek Herostratus burned it down in an attempt to achieve lasting fame. The Greeks executed him and enacted a law prescribing the death penalty for anyone who uttered his name.

Statue of Zeus at Olympia - Built 435 B.C.E, destroyed by fire in the 5th or 6th century.

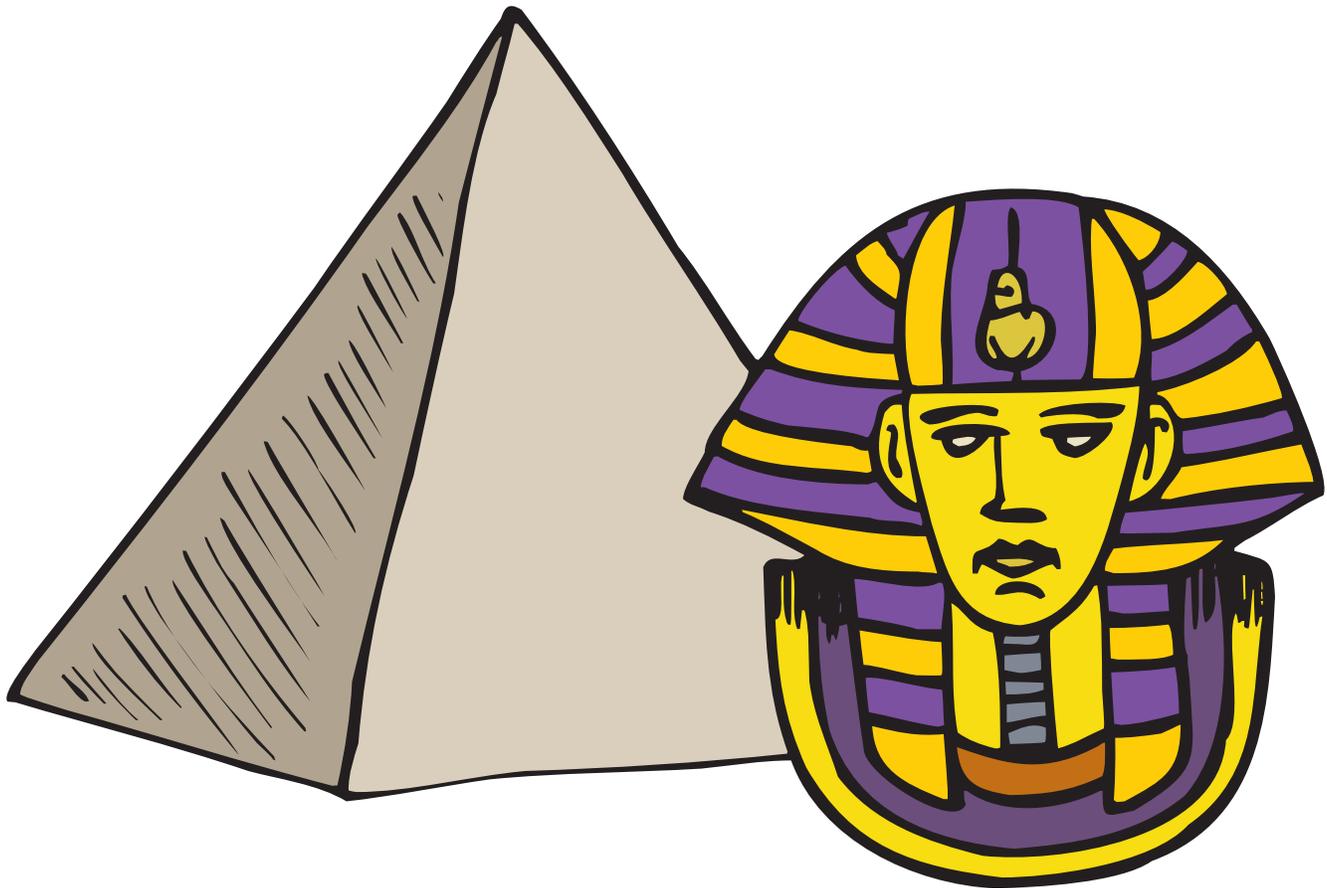
Mausoleum of Maussollos at Halicarnassus - Built 351 B.C.E. by the Persian and Greeks, destroyed by an earthquake sometime before 1494.

Colossus of Rhodes - Built 292 - 280 B.C.E. by the Greeks but destroyed in 224 B.C.E. by an earthquake.

Lighthouse of Alexandria - Built in the 3rd century B.C.E. It too was destroyed by an earthquake, in the period 1303 - 1480.

Antipater's list had the Ishtar Gate, the eighth gate to the inner city of Babylon, instead of the medieval writers choice of the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The Ishtar Gate was constructed about 575 B.C.E. at the behest of King Nebuchadnezzar II.

Various writers and organizations have put together other "Seven Wonders" lists for the Middle Ages, the Modern World, the Travel World, the Natural World, and the Underwater World.



NOTED AND QUOTED

Unless commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes ... but no plans.

- Peter F. Drucker, (1909 - 2005)

Wouldst thou both eat thy cake and have it?

- George Herbert, (1593 - 1633), Welsh poet

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

- Dr. Loretta Scott, motivational speaker

Nothing makes one feel so strong as a call for help.

- George Macdonald, (1824 - 1905), English journalist, novelist

The un-lived life is not worth examining.

- Tom Morris, philosopher, author, business consultant

No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.

- Heraclitus, (544 - 483 B.C.E.)

The person who has stopped being thankful has fallen asleep in life.

- Adlai Stevenson, (1900 - 1965)

The goal of all inanimate objects is to resist man and ultimately defeat him.

- Russell Baker, (1925 -), humor columnist

I am an artist. What that word implies is looking for something all the time and never finding it in full.

- Vincent Van Gogh, (1854 - 1890)

No one is born prejudiced against others, but everyone is born prejudiced in favor of himself.

- David Stafford-Clark, MD, (1916 - 1999), psychiatrist

Experience teaches only the teachable.

- Aldous Huxley, (1894 - 1963)

Better halfe a loafe than no bread.

- William Camden, (1551 - 1623), English historian, *None at All*

The stoical scheme of supplying our wants by lopping off our desires, is like cutting off our feet when we want shoes.

- Jonathan Swift, (1667 - 1745)

A new broom sweepeth clean.

- John Lyly, (1554? - 1606), English dramatist and novelist, *Euphues* (1579)

You're born with intelligence, but not with ethics.

- Massad Ayoob, (1948 -), self-defense instructor, police captain

Originality exists in every individual because each of us differs from the others. We are all primary numbers divisible only by ourselves.

- Jean Guitton, (1901 - 1999), French Catholic philosopher and theologian

If you can't imitate him, don't copy him.

- Casey Stengel, (1890 - 1975)

Dreaming men are haunted men.

- Stephen Vincent Benet, (1898 - 1943)

Always obey your superiors - if you have any.

- Mark Twain, (1835 - 1910)

Today is yesterday's pupil.

- Thomas Fuller, (1608 - 1661), English clergymen and historian

Everybody ought to have a Lower East Side in their life.

- Irving Berlin, (1888 - 1989)

It is always your next move.

- Napoleon Hill, (1883 - 1970)

All know the way, few actually walk it.

- Bodhidharma, (c. 6th century), monk, founder of Zen Buddhism

Throw out the lifeline, throw out the lifeline. Someone is sinking today.

- Edward Smith Ufford, (1851 - 1929)

The mystery story is two stories in one: the story of what happened and the story of what appeared to happen.

- Mary Roberts Rinehart, (1876 - 1958), U.S. mystery writer

My experience of ships is that on them one makes an interesting discovery about the world. One finds one can do without it completely.

- Malcolm Bradbury, (1932 -), English novelist and critic

Facts do not 'speak for themselves.' They speak for or against competing theories. Facts divorced from theories or visions are mere isolated curiosities.

- Thomas Sowell, (1930 -), U.S. economist, author

POETRY CORNER**WAKING FROM DRUNKENNESS ON A SPRING DAY**

Li Po (701-762)

"LIFE in the World is but a big dream;
I will not spoil it by any labour or care."
So saying, I was drunk all the day,
Lying helpless at the porch in front of my door.
When I woke up, I blinked at the garden-lawn;
A lonely bird was singing amid the flowers.
I asked myself, had the day been Wet or fine?
The Spring wind was telling the mango-bird.
Moved by its song I soon began to sigh,
And as wine was there I filled my own cup.
Wildly singing I waited for the moon to rise;
When my song was over, all my senses had gone.

ON PARTING WITH SPRING

Wang Wei (699-761)

DAY after day we can't help growing older.
Year after year spring can't help seeming younger.
Come let's enjoy our winecup today,
Not pity the flowers fallen!

BEFORE THE RAIN

Thomas Bailey Aldrich (1836-1906)

WE knew it would rain, for all the morn
A spirit on slender ropes of mist
Was lowering its golden buckets down
Into the vapory amethyst.
Of marshes and swamps and dismal fens -
Scooping the dew that lay in the flowers,
Dipping the jewels out of the sea,
To sprinkle them over the land in showers.
We knew it would rain, for the poplars showed
The white of their leaves, the amber grain
Shrunk in the wind--and the lightning now
Is tangled in tremulous skeins of rain!

REDBIRDSFrom Flame and Shadow
Sara Teasdale (1884 - 1933)

REDBIRDS, redbirds,
Long and long ago,
What a honey-call you had
In hills I used to know;

Redbud, buckberry,
Wild plum-tree
And proud river sweeping
Southward to the sea,

Brown and gold in the sun
Sparkling far below,
Trailing stately round her bluffs
Where the poplars grow -

Redbirds, redbirds,
Are you singing still
As you sang one May day
On Saxton's Hill?

CALM SOUL OF ALL THINGSfrom "Lines Written in Kensington Gardens"
Matthew Arnold (1822-1888)

CALM soul of all things! make it mine
To feel, amid the city's jar,
That there abides a peace of thine,
Man did not make, and cannot mar!

The will to neither strive nor cry,
The power to feel with others give!
Calm, calm me more! nor let me die
Before I have begun to live.

MENZA MIND GAMES 2007

will be held April 20-22 at the Holiday Inn Pittsburgh Airport, 8256 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA 15108; 412/262-3600. Mention Mensa to get the special hotel rate of \$75 per night (plus tax). The cutoff date for getting this room rate is March 31, 2007. Friday dinner and Saturday lunch will be catered by the hotel. Register before Oct. 31 to receive the early registration rate of \$60. (Registration will be \$70 starting Nov. 1.)

Mind Games® is an intense weekend of play. Mensans judge and critique games released in the past year and award the coveted Mensa Select® seal to the top five. Past winners include Scattergories™, Trivial Pursuit™ and Taboo™.

Mind GamesÆ begins on Friday afternoon and ends Sunday morning. Participants, called "Judges," tend to play around the clock, breaking only for food, drink and sleep. Hospitality is open 24 hours, but it is intended for quick refreshment between games.

For more information about Mind Games, or to register for the event, visit www.mindgames.us.mensa.org.

Registration is \$60 through Oct. 31, 2006. On-site registration may not be available.

MENZA 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.

THE WINNERS ARE:

Deflexion by Deflexion
(www.deflexion.biz)

Hive by Smart Zone
(www.smartzonegames.com)

Keesdrow by Pywacket
(www.pywacketgames.com)

Pentago by Pentago
(www.pentago.com)

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.

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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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 Please allow four weeks for the change in MENSA Bulletin (the National Magazine) delivery, and eight weeks for the Chronicle. Remember to give your membership number to facilitate this process (This number appears on your membership card and labels affixed to the Chronicle and MENSA Bulletin.)

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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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