

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://scm66.org> (Note: this is a new URL). 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 - OCTOBER

Friday, October 12, 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 20, 6:30

Monthly Dinner at Tonelli's Restaurant

41 Grassy Plain St, Bethel, CT 06801. Have you ever wondered what it is like to work for a global humanitarian organization? Lee Steuber, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Save the Children, Westport, CT., will give us an inside look at how this agency uses technology at home and abroad to aid the poor in their daily lives and during emergencies. Lee has been a technology officer for Pepsi, an entrepreneur, and president of Southern CT Mensa. Be sure to come and get her insights on how technology can help relief efforts across the world.

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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. Restaurant review: <http://acorn-online.net/acornonline/bestbets/bbets05-04-21.htm> You can rate the restaurants we have attended at various web sites such as www.restaurantratingz.com, www.dine.com, www.menutopia.com, If you have suggestions for other places we can meet or how we can run our dinners better, please contact chapter President Rick D'Amico at usamarbiol@aol.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.

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 Tpke. / CT-58. Follow CT-58 about 15 miles. Turn LEFT

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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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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER

Friday, November 9, 7:00

Southern Connecticut and Connecticut/Western Massachusetts Joint Dinner

See information above

Saturday, November 17, 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.

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.

C&WM Mensan 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.

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OCTOBER

11, 18, 25 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, canceled on Jewish holidays.)

October 5-7

MENSAUTUMN Fabulous Fifties

The 2007 Regional Gathering of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa, Manchester, CT. Register now if you haven't already, and have a blast from the past with old Mensa friends and make some new ones, too! <http://www.cwm.us.mensa.org/RG2007.htm>.

5 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.

10 Wednesday 6:00 pm

Happy Hour

in Madison (ME, 2nd Wed) 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!

12 Friday 6:00 pm

Diner Dinner

(semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) 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. Questions? For info, contact Howard Brender at 860-635-5673 or howiebren@aol.com

13 Saturday 2:30 pm

Book Discussion

Son of a Witch by Gregory Maguire (fiction), followup to *Wicked* from last June, and just in time for fall frivolity. Join us at the home of Bob Smith and Gisela Rodriguez, contact Lilith@snet.net or 860-872-3106 for directions, questions, etc.

14 Sunday Noon to 5

NEW!! Oktoberfest.

We have moved, the date has moved but the party goes on. Continue the RG feeling for another week by coming to Neil & Dody Alderman's new condo in Hebron for our party, the 20th in the series. We ask everyone to bring a dish to share. Call 860 228 2678 for menu coordination and other directions.

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

18 Thursday 6:00 pm

Dinner in downtown New Haven

(ME, 3rd Thursday) We'll try a new restaurant each month! This month at Sahara Mediterranean Cuisine and Pizza, 170 Temple Street, New Haven (203-773-3306). Minutes from I-95, Exit 47. Street parking or municipal garage at Crown and Temple Sts. Questions? Contact Mindy Hoffer at 203-785-1075 or mindyhoffer@yahoo.com

20 Saturday various

National Mensa Testing Day

We are hoping to have several locations running today, and are getting details together at press time. Have your brainy non-Mensa friends and relatives check with www.us.mensa.org/MTD as the date approaches for specific locations, times, and contact details. Walk-ins will be welcome in some venues, but email reservations are encouraged.

20 Saturday 12 noon

Mensa Goes To A Football Game

(Northeastern U at UMass) Join Tom Thomas (UM '72) and Otto Kunz (NU '90, '93G) at Alumni-McGuirk Stadium in Amherst (well, technically, Hadley) when the Minutemen host the Huskies. Buy a general admission ticket, climb up to Section 17, look for us. Heady, thought-provoking post-game analysis at the Ground Round, sponsored by draught beer. More info: tom.thomas@the-spa.com

26 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.

24 Friday 6:00 pm

26 Friday 6:00 pm

Diner Dinner

(semimonthly, 2nd and 4th Fridays) 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. Questions? For info, contact Barb Holstein at 860-632-7873 or 860-793-4410 or email BarbCPA@att.net, Subject: Diner Dinner

31 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.

REGIONAL GATHERINGS

November 23 - 25, 2007

2007 BRILLIANCE BY THE BAY

REGISTER BY AUGUST 15 FOR BEST \$65 RATE

All the fun happens again at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, 1500 Van Ness (at Pine), San Francisco, CA 94109. To reserve a room, call 800-HOLIDAY or 415-441-4000 and mention Mensa Brilliance by the Bay and our group code "AME" to get the RG rate. SR/DR/TR/QR only \$97 + tax (20th floor & above \$119). Room rates guaranteed to Oct.31. Parking \$23/night for overnight guests with in/out privileges.

Register online at www.sfmensa.org/rgreg.html and use PayPal® or send completed form with a check payable to "San Francisco Regional Mensa" to: SFRM RG, c/o Susan Heimlich, Registrar, 1960 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Registration: (check all that apply)

Meals: (check all that apply)

FULL WEEKEND

DAY TRIPPER

Children 17 and under: half price

Nov. 22 (details will be provided)

FROM THE REGION 1 VICE CHAIRMAN*Lori Norris*

I attended the September AMC meeting in Arlington, Texas and met the National Office staff. I'm no fool, a long weekend in Texas, across the street from Six Flags. It sounded like quite a deal. Swimming pool, hot tub - now this is life. Only problem, there was business to take care of Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Where did my vacation go? There was the AMC meeting, committee meetings, RVC meetings, planning meetings and precious little sleep. Fortunately, I had a late afternoon flight out Sunday so I spent a couple of hours with a book at the pool. Very strange. From the pool, I could see the roller coasters and other thrill rides. Periodically I would hear someone screaming. It tempted me to consider a trip to an amusement park when I got home, but who am I kidding, I don't like heights. As a kid I rode roller coasters at Conneaut Lake Park and Cedar Point. In college, I was thrilled by the Cyclone at Rocky Point in Rhode Island and Space Mountain at Disney World. I don't know why but now I'm terrified of roller coasters. Maybe I'll try again and get beyond the kiddie roller coasters at Six Flags New England. No, this isn't a challenge just an observation that life continues to evolve and challenge.

In October, Ron and I will be attending MensAutumn's "Fabulous Fifties" in Manchester, Connecticut from October 5 through 7. For more information, check out C&WM Mensa's website at www.cwm.us.mensa.org. We will be reading (okay, I've already read them, but Ron will be

reading) *Son of a Witch* and *Light on Snow* for two different Mensa bookclubs. We'll be dining with fellow Mensans at a Portuguese restaurant, a "real" New York diner and at a pub. And we'll be hosting one of my favorite events, a games night at our house on October 12th. If you're in the area give me a call, we'd love to see you. Since Mensans like books and collect many more books than their homes can accommodate, we are starting a book adoption program to find good homes for some of our favorite books. It will begin at our games night.

And what will you be doing?

I am interested in finding out what you are doing with Mensa. When and how did you first hear about Mensa? What prompted you to join? (I first heard of Mensa through a Readers' Digest article in the late 1980s. My husband heard about Mensa 'reading' Playboy's Women of Mensa article which prompted him to join and then he met me 20 years later.) Drop me an e-mail (RVC1@us.mensa.org) or a snail mail and let me know what brought you to Mensa.

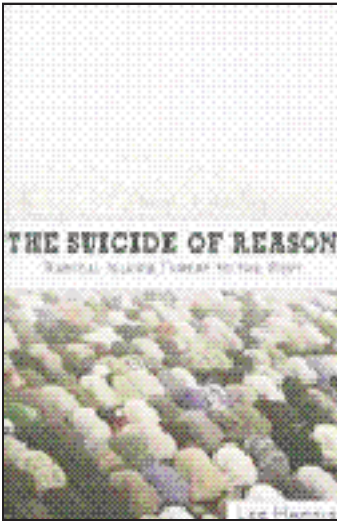
Check out the updated Region 1 website at <http://region1.us/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>. Suggestions and photos are requested.

Lori Norris
RVC - 1

The September Southern CT Mensa dinner was cancelled because of a meager response.

BOOK REVIEW

By Rick D'Amico



The Suicide of Reason: Radical Islam's Threat To The West: The Return of Fanaticism and the Death of the Liberal West

by Lee Harris

Lee Harris is the author of *Civilization and Its Enemies: The Next Stage of History*, and a contributor to several publications, including the *Wall Street Journal's* "Opinion Journal."

The major thought of this book is that Western Civilization is threatened more by its own ethos and beliefs than it is from cultures such as Islam. The West may have lost the ability to understand Islamic culture, and therefore may be at a disadvantage if there is a clash of civilizations.

I found this book to be very clear and forthright, and it should be of interest to both the history novice and the history buff. Harris makes his points by giving us a history of events leading up to our situation today; and providing an interesting and original analysis of future scenarios and possible outcomes.

In an early chapter entitled "The Denial of Fanaticism," Harris discusses how it was perplexing to the West that in a fair and democratic election in Palestine, Hamas won. We (the West) have failed to recognize the passionate convictions of other cultures and that our values are not universal.

Harris classifies human societies in two ways. "Rational actors" are the product of Western culture and thinking, and emerged where civilizations could expand (i.e., the New World). "Tribal actors," on the other hand, had less ability to

expand and had to live more by a "law of the jungle." Harris compares the two groups and analyzes their strengths and weaknesses. While rational actors have produced an era of enlightenment, tribal actors may have created a society that is better fit to survive a conflict.

The author draws on the Crusades, Fascist Germany and Stalin's Soviet Union to make comparisons with the contemporary Islamic cause and its dedication. However, he cautions that the West's previous victories over fanaticism do not necessarily guarantee future success.

Harris makes one point that I find particularly truthful yet disturbing. In America and many other western countries, we seem to be raising our "alpha males" by giving them Ritalin to make them more passive. In Islamic cultures, by contrast, "alpha males" are recruited and given the finest training to be warriors. In a Darwinian struggle, this would put the West at a decided disadvantage.

I suspect that some will find the message in this book too outrageous to consider. Nonetheless, I see it as an excellent commentary about the current war of cultures.

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

This month's column is devoted to the wisdom of sloth. Or in this case, the fact that I never properly pruned our dwarf pear tree yet there was some delightfully ripe fruit not harvested by the deer. The result is one of our all time favorites recipes.

The wine this month is a Viognier from Australia. This is a grape that I occasionally buy, mostly out of faith, but with a bit of trepidation. My tightfistedness has rarely led me to a good and inexpensive Viognier. (I really am cheap; just ask the Boss.) A bad Viognier can make what should be a complex and aromatic wine into something that tastes like medicine or cheap perfume.

So when I bought this bottle from Oxford Landing, a lower priced line of wines produced by the Yalumba Wine Company of South Australia, I did not expect much. But I was pleasantly surprised by their 2006 Viognier - this white wine knocked my socks off. It has a distinctive floral nose, followed by a fresh peach and apricot taste. The smooth fruit flavor makes you expect sweetness, but its nicely balanced acidity tames it. This is a very good wine as an aperitif or with the first course listed below. It is sold widely for \$7 to \$8 a bottle.

PEAR, WALNUT AND BLUE CHEESE SALAD

makes six first course servings

Dressing:

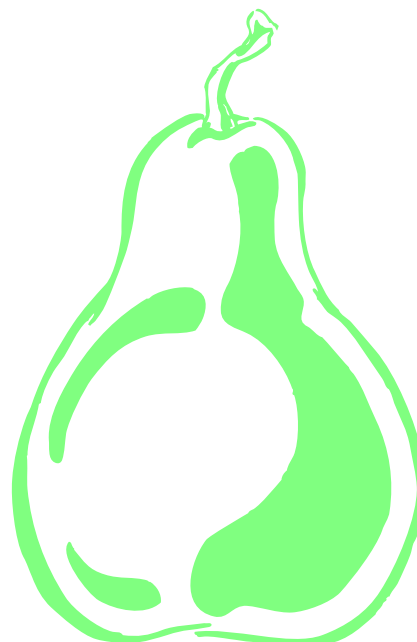
3 tbsp fresh lemon juice
 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
 1 medium shallot, minced
 1-1/2 tsp chopped fresh thyme
 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
 salt and pepper to taste

Salad Fixings:

5-6 ounces of baby or mesclun greens
 2 large rip pears, halved, cored and thinly sliced
 1 cup crumbled blue cheese
 1 cup walnuts, toasted and coarsely chopped.

Whisk the first four ingredients of the dressing in a small bowl to blend. Gradually whisk in olive oil. Season to taste with salt and fresh ground pepper.

Toss greens in a large bowl with enough dressing to coat. Divide greens among 6 plates. Top with pear slices. Sprinkle with cheese and walnuts. Drizzle lightly with remaining dressing and serve. The result is absolute heaven.



RUMINATIONS

THE PHILOSOPHY OF STYLE

Herbert Spencer, (1820 - 1903)

PART I., Sections i- iii

CAUSES OF FORCE IN LANGUAGE WHICH DEPEND UPON ECONOMY OF THE MENTAL-ENERGIES.

i. The Principle of Economy.

1. Commenting on the seeming incongruity between his father's argumentative powers and his ignorance of formal logic, Tristram Shandy says: - "It was a matter of just wonder with my worthy tutor, and two or three fellows of that learned society, that a man who knew not so much as the names of his tools, should be able to work after that fashion with them." Sterne's intended implication that a knowledge of the principles of reasoning neither makes, nor is essential to, a good reasoner, is doubtless true. Thus, too, is it with grammar. As Dr. Latham, condemning the usual school-drill in Lindley Murray, rightly remarks: "Gross vulgarity is a fault to be prevented; but the proper prevention is to be got from habit - not rules." Similarly, there can be little question that good composition is far less dependent upon acquaintance with its laws, than upon practice and natural aptitude. A clear head, a quick imagination, and a sensitive ear, will go far towards making all rhetorical precepts needless. He who daily hears and reads well-framed sentences, will naturally more or less tend to use similar ones. And where there exists any mental idiosyncrasy - where there is a deficient verbal memory, or an inadequate sense of logical dependence, or but little perception of order, or a lack of constructive ingenuity; no amount of instruction will remedy the defect. Nevertheless, some practical result may be expected from a familiarity with the principles of style. The endeavour to conform to laws may tell, though slowly. And if in no other way, yet, as facilitating revision, a knowledge of the thing to be achieved - a clear idea of what constitutes a beauty, and what a blemish - cannot fail to be of service.

2. No general theory of expression seems yet to have been enunciated. The maxims contained in works on composition and rhetoric, are presented in an unorganized form. Standing as isolated dogmas - as empirical generalizations, they are neither so clearly apprehended, nor so much respected, as they would be were they deduced from some simple first principle. We are told that "brevity is the soul of wit." We hear styles condemned as verbose or involved. Blair says that every needless part of a sentence "interrupts the description and clogs the image;" and again, that "long sentences fatigue the reader's attention." It is remarked by Lord Kaimes, that "to give the utmost force to a period, it ought, if possible, to be closed with that word which makes the greatest figure." That parentheses should be avoided and that Saxon words should be used in preference to those of Latin origin, are established precepts. But, however influential the truths thus dogmatically embodied, they would be much more influential if reduced to something like scientific ordination. In this, as in other cases, conviction will be greatly strengthened when we understand the why. And we may be sure that a comprehension of the general principle from which the rules of composition result, will not only bring them home to us with greater force, but will discover to us other rules of like origin,

3. On seeking for some clue to the law underlying these current maxims, we may see shadowed forth in many of them, the importance of economizing the reader's or hearer's attention, To so present ideas that they may be apprehended with the least possible mental effort, is the desideratum towards which most of the rules above quoted point. When we condemn writing that is wordy, or confused, or intricate - when we praise this style as easy, and blame that as fatiguing, we consciously or unconsciously assume this desideratum as our standard of judgment. Regarding language as an apparatus of symbols for the conveyance of thought, we may say that, as in a mechanical apparatus, the more simple and the better arranged its parts, the greater will be the effect produced. In either case, whatever force is absorbed by the machine is deducted from the result. A reader or listener has at each moment but a limited amount of mental power available. To recognize and interpret the symbols present-

ed to him, requires part of this power; to arrange and combine the images suggested requires a further part; and only that part which remains can be used for realizing the thought conveyed. Hence, the more time and attention it takes to receive and understand each sentence, the less time and attention can be given to the contained idea; and the less vividly will that idea be conceived.

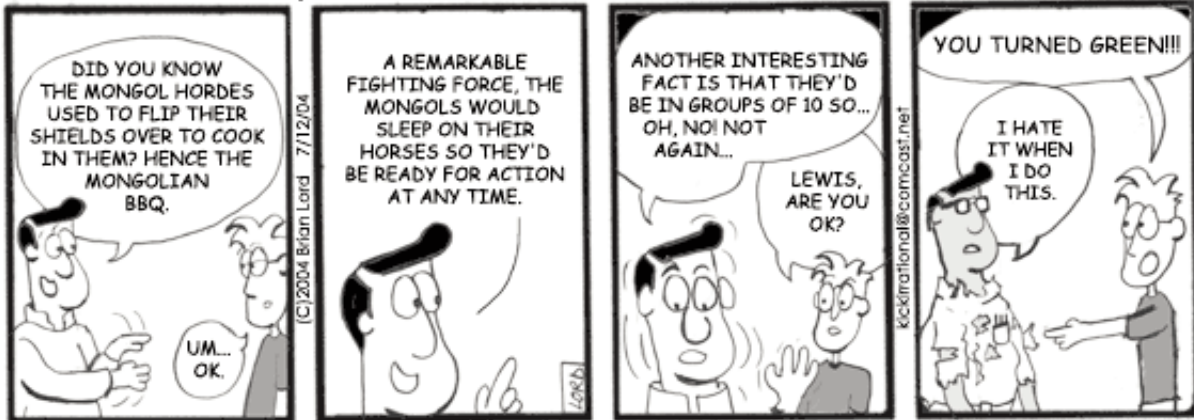
4. How truly language must be regarded as a hindrance to thought, though the necessary instrument of it, we shall clearly perceive on remembering the comparative force with which simple ideas are communicated by signs. To say, "Leave the room," is less expressive than to point to the door. Placing a finger on the lips is more forcible than whispering, "Do not speak." A beck

of the hand is better than, "Come here." No phrase can convey the idea of surprise so vividly as opening the eyes and raising the eyebrows. A shrug of the shoulders would lose much by translation into words. Again, it may be remarked that when oral language is employed, the strongest effects are produced by interjections, which condense entire sentences into syllables. And in other cases, where custom allows us to express thoughts by single words, as in "Beware, Heigho, Fudge," much force would be lost by expanding them into specific propositions. Hence, carrying out the metaphor that language is the vehicle of thought, there seems reason to think that in all cases the friction and inertia of the vehicle deduct from its efficiency; and that in composition, the chief, if not the sole thing to be done, is, to reduce this friction and inertia to the

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

KICK IRRATIONAL by Brian Lord

www.KickComics.com



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www.KickComics.com



smallest possible amount. Let us then inquire whether economy of the recipient's attention is not the secret of effect, alike in the right choice and collocation of words, in the best arrangement of clauses in a sentence, in the proper order of its principal and subordinate propositions, in the judicious use of simile, metaphor, and other figures of speech, and even in the rhythmical sequence of syllables.

ii. Economy in the Use of Words.

5. The greater forcibleness of Saxon English, or rather non-Latin English, first claims our attention. The several special reasons assignable for this may all be reduced to the general reason - economy. The most important of them is early association. A child's vocabulary is almost wholly Saxon. He says, "I have," not "I possess" - "I wish," not "I desire;" he does not "reflect," he "thinks;" he does not beg for "amusement," but for "play"; he calls things "nice" or "nasty," not "pleasant" or "disagreeable." The synonyms which he learns in after years, never become so closely, so organically connected with the ideas signified, as do these original words used in childhood; and hence the association remains less strong. But in what does a strong association between a word and an idea differ from a weak one? Simply in the greater ease and rapidity of the suggestive action. It can be in nothing else. Both of two words, if they be strictly synonymous, eventually call up the same image. The expression - It is "acid," must in the end give rise to the same thought as - It is sour; but because the term "acid" was learnt later in life, and has not been so often followed by the thought symbolized, it does not so readily arouse that thought as the term sour. If we remember how slowly and with what labour the appropriate ideas follow unfamiliar words in another language, and how increasing familiarity with such words brings greater rapidity and ease of comprehension; and if we consider that the same process must have gone on with the words of our mother tongue from childhood upwards, we shall clearly see that the earliest learnt and oftenest used words, will, other things equal, call up images with less loss of time and energy than their later learnt synonyms.

6. The further superiority possessed by Saxon English in its comparative brevity, obviously

comes under the same generalization. If it be an advantage to express an idea in the smallest number of words, then will it be an advantage to express it in the smallest number of syllables. If circuitous phrases and needless expletives distract the attention and diminish the strength of the impression produced, then do surplus articulations do so. A certain effort, though commonly an inappreciable one, must be required to recognize every vowel and consonant. If, as all know, it is tiresome to listen to an indistinct speaker, or read a badly-written manuscript; and if, as we cannot doubt, the fatigue is a cumulative result of the attention needed to catch successive syllables; it follows that attention is in such cases absorbed by each syllable. And if this be true when the syllables are difficult of recognition, it will also be true, though in a less degree, when the recognition of them is easy. Hence, the shortness of Saxon words becomes a reason for their greater force. One qualification, however, must not be overlooked. A word which in itself embodies the most important part of the idea to be conveyed, especially when that idea is an emotional one, may often with advantage be a polysyllabic word. Thus it seems more forcible to say, "It is "magnificent,"" than "It is "grand."" The word "vast" is not so powerful a one as "stupendous." Calling a thing "nasty" is not so effective as calling it "disgusting."

7. There seem to be several causes for this exceptional superiority of certain long words. We may ascribe it partly to the fact that a voluminous, mouth-filling epithet is, by its very size, suggestive of largeness or strength; witness the immense pomposity of sesquipedalian verbiage: and when great power or intensity has to be suggested, this association of ideas aids the effect. A further cause may be that a word of several syllables admits of more emphatic articulation; and as emphatic articulation is a sign of emotion, the unusual impressiveness of the thing named is implied by it. Yet another cause is that a long word (of which the latter syllables are generally inferred as soon as the first are spoken) allows the hearer's consciousness a longer time to dwell upon the quality predicated; and where, as in the above cases, it is to this predicated quality that the entire attention is called, an advantage results from keeping it before the mind for an appreciable time. The reasons which we have given for preferring short words evidently do not

hold here. So that to make our generalization quite correct we must say, that while in certain sentences expressing strong feeling, the word which more especially implies that feeling may often with advantage be a many-syllabled or Latin one; in the immense majority of cases, each word serving but as a step to the idea embodied by the whole sentence, should, if possible, be a one-syllabled or Saxon one.

8. Once more, that frequent cause of strength in Saxon and other primitive words-their imitative character may be similarly resolved into the more general cause. Both those directly imitative, as "splash, bang, whiz, roar," &c., and those analogically imitative, as "rough, smooth, keen, blunt, thin," hard, crag, &c., have a greater or less likeness to the things symbolized; and by making on the senses impressions allied to the ideas to be called up, they save part of the effort needed to call up such ideas, and leave more attention for the ideas themselves.

9. The economy of the recipient's mental energy, into which are thus resolvable the several causes of the strength of Saxon English, may equally be traced in the superiority of specific over generic words. That concrete terms produce more vivid impressions than abstract ones, and should, when possible, be used instead, is a thorough maxim of composition. As Dr. Campbell says, "The more general the terms are, the picture is the fainter; the more special they are, 'tis the brighter." We should avoid such a sentence as: - "In proportion as the manners, customs, and amusements of a nation are cruel and barbarous, the regulations of their penal code will be severe." And in place of it we should write: - "In proportion as men delight in battles, bull-fights, and combats of gladiators, will they punish by hanging, burning, and the rack."

10. This superiority of specific expressions is clearly due to a saving of the effort required to translate words into thoughts. As we do not think in generals but in particulars - as, whenever any class of things is referred to, we represent it to ourselves by calling to mind individual members of it; it follows that when an abstract word is used, the bearer or reader has to choose from his stock of images, one or more, by which he may figure to himself the genus mentioned. In doing this, some delay must arise some force

be expended; and if, by employing a specific term, an appropriate image can be at once suggested, an economy is achieved, and a more vivid impression produced.

ii The Principle of Economy applied to Sentences.

11. Turning now from the choice of words to their sequence, we shall find the same general principle hold good. We have "a priori" reasons for believing that in every sentence there is some one order of words more effective than any other; and that this order is the one which presents the elements of the proposition in the succession in which they may be most readily put together. As in a narrative, the events should be stated in such sequence that the mind may not have to go backwards and forwards in order to rightly connect them; as in a group of sentences, the arrangement should be such, that each of them may be understood as it comes, without waiting for subsequent ones; so in every sentence, the sequence of words should be that which suggests the constituents of the thought in the order most convenient for the building up that thought. Duly to enforce this truth, and to prepare the way for applications of it, we must briefly inquire into the mental act by which the meaning of a series of words is apprehended.

12. We cannot more simply do this than by considering the proper collocation of the substantive and adjective. Is it better to place the adjective before the substantive, or the substantive before the adjective? Ought we to say with the French - un "cheval noir;" or to say as we do - a black horse? Probably, most persons of culture would decide that one order is as good as the other. Alive to the bias produced by habit, they would ascribe to that the preference they feel for our own form of expression. They would expect those educated in the use of the opposite form to have an equal preference for that. And thus they would conclude that neither of these instinctive judgments is of any worth. There is, however, a philosophical ground for deciding in favour of the English custom. If "a horse black" be the arrangement, immediately on the utterance of the word "horse," there arises, or tends to arise, in the mind, a picture answering to that word; and as there has, been nothing to indicate what "kind" of horse, any image of a horse suggests itself. Very likely, however, the image will

be that of a brown horse, brown horses being the most familiar. The result is that when the word "black" is added, a check is given to the process of thought. Either the picture of a brown horse already present to the imagination has to be suppressed, and the picture of a black one summoned in its place; or else, if the picture of a brown horse be yet unformed, the tendency to form it has to be stopped. Whichever is the case, a certain amount of hindrance results. But if, on the other hand, "a black horse" be the expression used, no such mistake can be made. The word "black," indicating an abstract quality, arouses no definite idea. It simply prepares the mind for conceiving some object of that colour; and the attention is kept suspended until that object is known. If, then, by the precedence of the adjective, the idea is conveyed without liability to error. whereas the precedence of the substantive is apt to produce a misconception, it follows that the one gives the mind less trouble than the other, and is therefore more forcible.

13. Possibly it will be objected that the adjective and substantive come so close together, that practically they may be considered as uttered at the same moment; and that on hearing the phrase, "a horse black," there is not time to imagine a wrongly-coloured horse before the word "black" follows to prevent it. It must be owned that it is not easy to decide by introspection whether this is so or not. But there are facts collaterally implying that it is not. Our ability to anticipate the words yet unspoken is one of them. If the ideas of the hearer kept considerably behind the, expressions of the speaker, as the objection assumes, he could hardly foresee the end of a sentence by the time it was half delivered: yet this constantly happens. Were the supposition true, the mind, instead of anticipating, would be continually falling more and more in arrear. If the meanings of words are not realized as fast as the words are uttered, then the loss of time over each word must entail such an accumulation of delays as to leave a hearer entirely behind. But whether the force of these replies be or be not admitted, it will scarcely be denied that the right formation of a picture will be facilitated by presenting its elements in the order in which they are wanted; even though the mind should do nothing until it has received them all.

14. What is here said respecting the succession

of the adjective and substantive is obviously applicable, by change of terms, to the adverb and verb. And without further explanation, it will be manifest, that in the use of prepositions and other particles, most languages spontaneously conform with more or less completeness to this law.

15. On applying a like analysis to the larger divisions of a sentence, we find not only that the same principle holds good, but that the advantage of respecting it becomes marked. In the arrangement of predicate and subject, for example, we are at once shown that as the predicate determines the aspect under which the subject is to be conceived, it should be placed first; and the striking effect produced by so placing it becomes comprehensible. Take the often-quoted contrast between "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," and "Diana of the Ephesians is great." When the first arrangement is used, the utterance of the word "great" arouses those vague associations of an impressive nature with which it has been habitually connected; the imagination is prepared to clothe with high attributes whatever follows; and when the words, "Diana of the Ephesians," are heard, all the appropriate imagery which can, on the instant, be summoned, is used in the formation of the picture: the mind being thus led directly, and without error, to the intended impression. When, on the contrary, the reverse order is followed, the idea, "Diana of the Ephesians" is conceived with no special reference to greatness; and when the words "is great" are added, the conception has to be remodeled: whence arises a loss of mental energy and a corresponding diminution of effect. The following verse from Coleridge's 'Ancient Mariner,' though somewhat irregular in structure, well illustrates the same truth:

"Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide, wide sea
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony."

16. Of course the principle equally applies when the predicate is a verb or a participle. And as effect is gained by placing first all words indicating the quality, conduct or condition of the subject, it follows that the copula also should have precedence. It is true that the general habit of our language resists this arrangement of

predicate, copula and subject; but we may readily find instances of the additional force gained by conforming to it. Thus, in the line from 'Julius Caesar'

"Then burst his mighty heart,"

priority is given to a word embodying both predicate and copula. In a passage contained in 'The Battle of Flodden Field,' the like order is systematically employed with great effect:

"The Border slogan rent the sky!
"A Home! a Gordon!" was the cry;
"Loud were "the clanging blows:
"Advanced - forced back - -now low, now

high,

"The pennon sunk and rose;
"As bends" the bark's mast in the gale
When "rent are" rigging, shrouds and sail,
It wavered 'mid the foes."

17. Pursuing the principle yet further, it is obvious that for producing the greatest effect, not only should the main divisions of a sentence observe this sequence, but the subdivisions of these should be similarly arranged. In nearly all cases, the predicate is accompanied by some limit or qualification, called its complement. Commonly, also, the circumstances of the subject, which form its complement, have to be specified. And as these qualifications and circumstances must determine the mode in which the acts and things they belong to are conceived, precedence should be given to them. Lord Kaimes notices the fact that this order is preferable; though without giving the reason. He says: - "When a circumstance is placed at the beginning of the period, or near the beginning, the transition from it to the principal subject is agreeable: it is like ascending or going upward." A sentence arranged in illustration of this will be desirable. Here is one: - "Whatever it may be in theory, it is clear that in practice the French idea of liberty is - the right of every man to be master of the rest."

18. In this case, were the first two clauses, up to the word "I practice" inclusive, which qualify the subject, to be placed at the end instead of the beginning, much of the force would be lost; as thus: - "The French idea of liberty is - the right of every man to be master of the rest; in practice

at least, if not in theory."

19. Similarly with respect to the conditions under which any fact is predicated. Observe in the following example the effect of putting them last: - "How immense would be the stimulus to progress, were the honour now given to wealth and title given exclusively to high achievements and intrinsic worth!"

20. And then observe the superior effect of putting them first: - "Were the honour now given to wealth and title given exclusively to high achievements and intrinsic worth, how immense would be the stimulus to progress!"

21. The effect of giving priority to the complement of the predicate, as well as the predicate itself, is finely displayed in the opening of 'Hyperion': ""Deep in the shady sadness of a vale

Far sunken from the healthy breath of morn,
Far from the fiery noon and eve's one star
Sat" gray-haired Saturn, quiet as a stone."

Here it will be observed, not only that the predicate "sat" precedes the subject "Saturn," and that the three lines in italics, constituting the complement of the predicate, come before it; but that in the structure of that complement also, the same order is followed: each line being so arranged that the qualifying words are placed before the words suggesting concrete images.

22. The right succession of the principal and subordinate propositions in a sentence manifestly depends on the same law. Regard for economy of the recipient's attention, which, as we find, determines the best order for the subject, copula, predicate and their complements, dictates that the subordinate proposition shall precede the principal one when the sentence includes two. Containing, as the subordinate proposition does, some qualifying or explanatory idea, its priority prevents misconception of the principal one; and therefore saves the mental effort needed to correct such misconception. This will be seen in the annexed example: "The secrecy once maintained in respect to the parliamentary debates, is still thought needful in diplomacy; and in virtue of this secret diplomacy, England may any day be unawares betrayed by its ministers into a war costing a, hundred

thousand lives, and hundreds of millions of treasure: yet the English pique themselves on being a self-governed people." The two subordinate propositions, ending with the semicolon and colon respectively, almost wholly determine the meaning of the principal proposition with which it concludes; and the effect would be lost were they placed last instead of first.

23. The general principle of right arrangement in sentences, which we have traced in its application to the leading divisions of them, equally determines the proper order of their minor divisions. In every sentence of any complexity the complement to the subject contains several clauses, and that to the predicate several others; and these may be arranged in greater or less conformity to the law of easy apprehension. Of course with these, as with the larger members, the succession should be from the less specific to the more specific - from the abstract to the concrete.

24. Now, however, we must notice a further condition to be fulfilled in the proper construction of a sentence; but still a condition dictated by the same general principle with the other: the condition, namely, that the words and expressions most nearly related in thought shall be brought the closest together. Evidently the single words, the minor clauses, and the leading divisions of every proposition, severally qualify each other. The longer the time that elapses between the mention of any qualifying member and the member qualified, the longer must the mind be exerted in carrying forward the qualifying member ready for use. And the more numerous the qualifications to be simultaneously remembered and rightly applied, the greater will be the mental power expended, and the smaller the effect produced. Hence, other things equal, force will be gained by so arranging the members of a sentence that these suspensions shall at any moment be the fewest in number; and shall also be of the shortest duration. The following is an instance of defective combination: - "A modern newspaper-statement, though probably true, would be laughed at if quoted in a book as testimony; but the letter of a court gossip is thought good historical evidence, if written some centuries ago." A rearrangement of this, in accordance with the principle indicated above,

will be found to increase the effect. Thus: - "Though probably true, a modern newspaper-statement quoted in a book as testimony, would be laughed at; but the letter of a court gossip, if written some centuries ago, is thought good historical evidence."

25. By making this change, some of the suspensions are avoided and others shortened; while there is less liability to produce premature conceptions. The passage quoted below from 'Paradise Lost' affords a fine instance of a sentence well arranged; alike in the priority of the subordinate members, in the avoidance of long and numerous suspensions, and in the correspondence between the order of the clauses and the sequence of the phenomena described, which, by the way, is a further prerequisite to easy comprehension, and therefore to effect.

"As when a prowling wolf,
Whom hunger drives to seek new haunt for prey,
Watching where shepherds pen their flocks at eye,
In hurdled cotes amid the field secure,
Leaps o'er the fence with ease into the fold;
Or as a thief, bent to unhoard the cash
Of some rich burgher, whose substantial doors,
Cross-barr'd, and bolted fast, fear no assault,
In at the window climbs, or o'er the tiles;
So clomb this first grand thief into God's fold;
So since into his church lewd hirelings
climb."

26. The habitual use of sentences in which all or most of the descriptive and limiting elements precede those described and limited, gives rise to what is called the inverted style: a title which is, however, by no means confined to this structure, but is often used where the order of the words is simply unusual. A more appropriate title would be the "direct style," as contrasted with the other, or "indirect style": the peculiarity of the one being, that it conveys each thought into the mind step by step with little liability to error; and of the other, that it gets the right thought conceived by a series of approximations.

27. The superiority of the direct over the indirect form of sentence, implied by the several conclusions that have been drawn, must not, however, be affirmed without reservation. Though, up to a certain point, it is well for the qualifying clauses of a period to precede those qualified; yet, as carrying forward each qualifying clause costs some mental effort, it follows that when the number of them and the time they are carried become great, we reach a limit beyond which more is lost than is gained. Other things equal, the arrangement should be such that no concrete image shall be suggested until the materials out of which it is to be made have been presented. And yet, as lately pointed out, other things equal, the fewer the materials to be held at once, and the shorter the distance they have to be borne, the better. Hence in some cases it becomes a question whether most mental effort will be entailed by the many and long suspensions, or by the correction of successive misconceptions.

28. This question may sometimes be decided by considering the capacity of the persons addressed. A greater grasp of mind is required for the ready comprehension of thoughts expressed in the direct manner, where the sentences are anywise intricate. To recollect a number of preliminaries stated in elucidation of a coming idea, and to apply them all to the formation of it when suggested, demands a good memory and considerable power of concentration. To one possessing these, the direct method will mostly seem the best; while to one deficient in them it will seem the worst. Just as it may cost a strong man less effort to carry a hundred-weight from place to place at once, than by a stone at a time; so, to an active mind it may be easier to bear along all the qualifications of an idea and at once rightly form it when named, than to first imperfectly conceive such idea and then carry back to it, one by one, the details and limitations afterwards mentioned. While conversely, as for a boy, the only possible mode of transferring a hundred-weight, is that of taking it in portions; so, for a weak mind, the only possible mode of forming a compound conception may be that of building it up by carrying separately its several parts.

29. That the indirect method - the method of conveying the meaning by a series of approxi-

mations - is best fitted for the uncultivated, may indeed be inferred from their habitual use of it. The form of expression adopted by the savage, as in "Water, give me," is the simplest type of the approximate arrangement. In pleonasm, which are comparatively prevalent among the uneducated, the same essential structure is seen; as, for instance, in - "The men, they were there." Again, the old possessive case - "The king, his crown," conforms to the like order of thought. Moreover, the fact that the indirect mode is called the natural one, implies that it is the one spontaneously employed by the common people: that is - the one easiest for undisciplined minds.

30. There are many cases, however, in which neither the direct nor the indirect structure is the best; but where an intermediate structure is preferable to both. When the number of circumstances and qualifications to be included in the sentence is great, the most judicious course is neither to enumerate them all before introducing the idea to which they belong, nor to put this idea first and let it be remodeled to agree with the particulars afterwards mentioned; but to do a little of each. Take a case. It is desirable to avoid so extremely indirect an arrangement as the following: - "We came to our journey's end, at last, with no small difficulty after much fatigue, through deep roads, and bad weather." Yet to transform this into an entirely direct sentence would not produce a satisfactory effect; as witness: - "At last, with no small difficulty, after much fatigue, through deep roads, and bad weather, we came to our journey's end."

31. Dr. Whately, from whom we quote the first of these two arrangements, proposes this construction: - "At last, after much fatigue, through deep roads and bad weather, we came, with no small difficulty, to our journey's end." Here it will be observed that by introducing the words "we came" a little earlier in the sentence, the labour of carrying forward so many particulars is diminished, and the subsequent qualification "with no small difficulty" entails an addition to the thought that is very easily made. But a further improvement may be produced by introducing the words "we came" still earlier; especially if at the same time the qualifications be rearranged in conformity with the principle already explained, that the more abstract ele-

ments of the thought should come before the more concrete. Observe the better effect obtained by making these two changes: - "At last, with no small difficulty, and after much fatigue, we came, through deep roads and bad weather, to our journey's end." This reads with comparative smoothness; that is, with less hindrance from suspensions and reconstructions of thought - with less mental effort.

32. Before dismissing this branch of our subject, it should be further remarked, that even when addressing the most vigorous intellects, the direct style is unfit for communicating ideas of a complex or abstract character. So long as

the mind has not much to do, it may be well able to grasp all the preparatory clauses of a sentence, and to use them effectively; but if some subtlety in the argument absorb the attention - if every faculty be strained in endeavouring to catch the speaker's or writer's drift, it may happen that the mind, unable to carry on both processes at once, will break down, and allow the elements of the thought to lapse into confusion.

PLEASE NOTE:

In order to address privacy concerns regarding members' personal information appearing in the Chronicle, which is currently available to the general public through the Newsletter archive on the Southern Connecticut Mensa website (<http://scm66.org>), we are about to implement a "Members Only" area. When this feature of the website is activated, the Newsletter Archive will no longer be available to the general public - it will only be available to current SCM members.

During the next few weeks, SCM members who receive the Chronicle via email will receive an email message from Tom O'Neill, the SCM Webmaster. This will include instructions for accessing the "Members Only" area.

If you receive our newsletter via regular mail, we do not have your email address (or were asked not to use it). To gain access to the Members Only area of the site, you will need to contact Tom through the "SCM66 Webmaster" contact link on the homepage of the site.

Once the "Members Only" portion of the website is in place, there are plans to create an online hub, through which SCM members can communicate and exchange ideas and information with one another. Because this area of the site will not be available to the general public, members' privacy will be secured.

PUZZLES & QUESTIONS

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

1. Name as many museums in Connecticut as you can.
2. How many U.S. citizens live in Mexico? In Canada?
3. What countries do you think have the most homogeneous populations?
4. Which state in the U.S. has the most rivers?
5. What famous novelists were also acclaimed for their short stories?

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES:

2. Estimate the population of these major cities: Berlin, London, Madrid, Moscow, Paris, Prague, Stockholm, Tokyo, Warsaw.

A: Eurostat, the European Union's statistical agency gives these population estimates for 2001: Berlin, 3.39 million (m.); London, 7.17 m.; Madrid, 2.96 m.; Paris, 6.16 m.; Prague, 1.17 m.; Stockholm, 750,000; Warsaw, 1.61 m.. Moscow has a population of roughly 10.1 m., and Tokyo has about 8.4 m. people.

Other large European cities of interest:

Barcelona, 1.51 m.; Milan, 1.26 m.; Athens, 799,000; Rome, 2.55 m.; Hamburg, 1.73 m.; Naples, 1 m.; Budapest, 1.78 m.; Munich, 1.23 m.; Birmingham, 980,000; Valencia, 750,000; Turin, 870,000; Bucharest, 1.94 m.; Vienna, 1.55 m.; Cologne, 970,000; Copenhagen, 500,000; Brussels, 970,000; Lyon, 1.17 m.; Rotterdam, 600,000; Amsterdam, 730,000; Nuremberg, 490,000; Sofia, Bulgaria, 1.09 m.; Krakow, 740,000; Helsinki, 560,000; Lille, France, 1.09 m.;

4. Which country has lost the most manufacturing jobs since 2000?

A: In absolute numbers, mainland China has lost the most manufacturing jobs - an estimated 4.5 million, mostly from state industries. Of the top ten manufacturing countries (the U.S., Japan, Germany, China, Britain, France, Italy, Korea, Canada and Mexico), only Italy hasn't lost manufacturing jobs in the new millennium. The U.S. has lost about 3.1 million such jobs.

Slightly less than 20% of China's labor force works in manufacturing and about 50% in agriculture. The approximate manufacturing figures for some advanced countries are: the U.S., less than 12%; Great Britain, about 15%; France, 16%; Germany, 22%, Japan, 18%.

Over a different period, 1995 - 2002, a Conference Board study estimates that the U.S. lost 2 million manufacturing jobs while the Chinese lost 15 million, including 1.8 million in textiles, 588,000 in machinery, 557,000 in steel, and 429,000 in mining.

6. What is the difference between a reverberation and an echo?

A: A reverberation is a re-echo or a series of echoes.

8. What are the Connecticut towns with the smallest population?

A: According to the 2005 population estimate by the CT Department of Public Health, these are the 10 Connecticut towns with the smallest populations: Union, 744; Canaan, 1,101; Warren, 1,361; Cornwall, 1,489; Colebrook, 1,540; Norfolk, 1,676; Scotland, 1,699; Eastford, 1,761; Bridgewater, 1,898; and Franklin, 1,916.

NOTED AND QUOTED

Life is a handful of short stories, pretending to be a novel. - *Anonymous*

The essence of tragedy is to know the end.
- *Charles W. Ferguson, (1863 - 1944), U.S. clergyman, lawyer, economist and writer*

An essayist is a lucky person who has found a way to discourse without being interrupted.
- *Charles Poore, literary critic, NYTimes, May 31, 1962*

Art makes no laws - only very difficult complicated suggestions.
- *John Gardner, (1912 - 2002), U.S. writer, Secretary of HEW*

Yes, Socrates, you can easily invent tales of Egypt, or of any other country.
- *Plato, (428 - 347 B.C.E.)*

Although the world is very full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.
- *Helen Keller, (1880 - 1968)*

I am not interested in relationships of color or anything else ... I am interested only in expressing the basic human emotions - tragedy, ecstasy, doom. - *Mark Rothko, (1903 - 1970), Latvian-American painter, printmaker*

He that lives upon hope will die fasting.
- *Ben Franklin, (1706 - 1790)*

If you stay in Beverly Hills too long you become a Mercedes. - *Robert Redford, (1937 -)*

I went into the business for the money, and the art grew out of it. If people are disillusioned by that remark, I can't help it. It's the truth.
- *Charlie Chaplin, (1889 - 1977)*

When in doubt, make a western.
- *John Ford, (1894 - 1973), U.S. film director*

The world is before you, and you need not take it or leave it was when you came in.
- *Faith Baldwin, (1893 - 1978), U.S. fiction writer.*

Humility is the embarrassment you feel when you tell people how wonderful you are.
- *Laurence J. Peter, (1919 - 1990), author of *The Peter Principle**

Pollution is nothing but resources we are not harvesting. - *Buckminster Fuller, (1895 - 1983)*

It is foolish to tear one's hair in grief as though sorrow would be made less by baldness.
- *Marcus Tullius Cicero, (106 - 43 B.C.E.), Roman statesman, orator. Author of "Meditations".*

We make our fortunes and call them fate.
- *Benjamin Disraeli, (1804 - 1881)*

Never stand begging for that which you have the power to earn. - *Miguel de Cervantes, (1547 - 1616)*

Everyone believes very easily whatever they fear or desire. - *Jean de La Fontaine, (1621 - 1695), French poet, author of fables*

Every man has three characters - that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has. - *Alphonse Karr, (1808 - 1890), French critic, journalist, and novelist*

Everything has been figured out, except how to live. - *Jean-Paul Sartre, (1905 - 1980), French existentialist philosopher.*

Time is a created thing. To say, "I don't have time," is like saying, "I don't want to."
- *Lao-Tzu, (c. 600 B.C.E.), Chinese philosopher, founder of Taoism.*

The fire of glory is the torch of the mind.
- *Anonymous*

The city is permanently cruel.
- *Kurt Vonnegut, (1922 -), U.S. novelist*

Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.
- *Indira Gandhi, (1917 - 1984), Indian prime minister*

It is not so easy to know when you're deluding yourself and when you are finally seeing the light. - *Nidra Poller, U.S. novelist, editor, translator*

POETRY CORNER**AUTUMN**

George Sterling (1869-1926)

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

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

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

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

THE DREAM CALLED LIFE

Pedro Calderón de la Barca (1600-1681)

A DREAM it was in which I found myself.
 And you that hail me now, then hailed me king,
 In a brave palace that was all my own,
 Within, and all without it, mine; until,
 Drunk with excess of majesty and pride,
 Methought I towered so big and swelled so wide
 That of myself I burst the glittering bubble
 Which my ambition had about me blown
 And all again was darkness. Such a dream
 As this, in which I may be walking now,
 Dispensing solemn justice to you shadows,
 Who make believe to listen; but anon
 Kings, princes, captains, warriors, plume and steel,
 Ay, even with all your airy theatre,
 May flit into the air you seem to rend
 With acclamations, leaving me to wake
 In the dark tower; or dreaming that I wake
 From this that waking is; or this and that,
 Both waking and both dreaming; such a doubt
 Confounds and clouds our mortal life about.
 But whether wake or dreaming, this I know
 How dreamwise human glories come and go;
 Whose momentary tenure not to break,
 Walking as one who knows he soon may wake,
 So fairly carry the full cup, so well
 Disordered insolence and passion quell,
 That there be nothing after to upbraid
 Dreamer or doer in the part he played;
 Whether tomorrow's dawn shall break the spell,
 Or the last trumpet of the Eternal Day,
 When dreaming, with the night, shall pass away.

THE TIGER

William Blake (1757-1827)

TIGER, tiger, burning bright
 In the forests of the night,
 What immortal hand or eye
 Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies
 Burnt the fire of thine eyes?
 On what wings dare he aspire?
 What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder and what art
 Could twist the sinews of thy heart?
 And, when thy heart began to beat,
 What dread hand and what dread feet?

What the hammer? What the chain?
 In what furnace was thy brain?
 What the anvil? What dread grasp
 Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

When the stars threw down their spears,
 And water'd heaven with their tears,
 Did He smile His work to see?
 Did He who made the lamb make thee?

Tiger, tiger, burning bright
 In the forests of the night,
 What immortal hand or eye
 Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

MENSA MIND GAMES 2007 RESULTS

More than 200 Mensans gathered in Pittsburgh in April for Mensa Mind Games 2007. During the three-day event, members played and rated 59 board and card games. The top five games have earned Mensa Select distinction and may use the Mensa Select seal on their games.

**MIND GAMES 2008 will be held
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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

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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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