

MOMENTUM

The Voice of Mensa in New Hampshire and Maine

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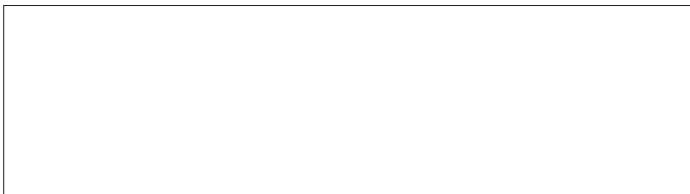


Will We See You This Month?

Do you have yet to attend a NH/ME Mensa event? Perhaps the good weather is encouragement enough to get out and join us at one or more of these great events! No matter where you are in our vast region, you may be surprised to find something happening at a location near you:

- Saturday, 5/1:** All-You-Can-Eat Buffet in Concord, N.H.
- Friday, 5/7:** Temperance League in Manchester, N.H.
- Saturday, 5/8:** Central Maine Meet and Munch in Bangor, Maine
- Sunday, 5/9:** Monthly Dinner in Portland, Maine
- Friday, 5/14:** Appetite for Discussion West! in Derry, N.H.
- Fri-Sun, 5/14-16:** Spring Mountain Climb Weekend in Woodstock, N.H.
- Monday, 5/17:** FSM/ExComm/Business Meeting in Manchester, N.H.
- Friday, 5/21:** Dinner with Eric in Nashua, N.H.
- Sunday, 5/23:** Fourth Sunday Lunch in Brattleboro, Vt.
- Friday, 5/28:** Appetite for Discussion in Portsmouth, N.H.
- Saturday, 5/29:** "Derry-Air" Party in Derry, N.H.

Newcomers are especially welcome at all of these events...we were all newcomers once! And don't let some of the titles fool you: It's possible to attend the Spring Mountain Climb Weekend without actually climbing any mountains. Temperance League has a treacherously teetotalling title. FSM (our monthly Fold, Spindle, Mutilate event to prepare *Momentum*) is much more fun than work! Hope to see you out there!



New Hampshire Mensa

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The Fine Print

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Having recently returned from the Region 1 LDW hosted by Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa, this event is somewhat uppermost on my mind. I was joined by Walter Wakefield, Assistant LocSec, and Claire Natola, Secretary and Editor, in representing NH Mensa. If memory serves, there were representatives of at least 8 different chapters located within Region 1, and with only 12 chapters in the entire Region, it is evident that the publicity for this event was heeded and the idea of local leadership joining to exchange ideas was well received. The New Hampshire contingent arrived together somewhat late on Friday evening, at a time when ostensibly the mixer should have been getting underway. As we rounded a corner and peered into a small conference room, we were greeted by the sight of no less a Mensa luminary than Jean Becker, AMC Chair. She was in the midst of moderating a program on the schedule, which had been suddenly reshuffled to accommodate for the fact that a speaker scheduled for the next day was still circling in the air over Hartford and they wanted to plan for the contingency that her late arrival might throw off all the rest of the program. So this was my introduction to Mensa Leadership Development Workshops – things constantly evolving on the fly.

The program continued on Saturday with workshops of general interest interspersed with topics of more specialized participation. As might be expected, there was discussion of how to run a more effective meeting and how to become more involved on a Regional and National level. Editors

huddled together to exchange ideas about publishing, Proctors gathered to explore ways to improve testing and expand Proctor networks, and in probably the most sparsely attended workshop, Treasurers talked about financials. (My thoughts on this are that since Mensa is a not-for-profit, those holding Treasurer positions seem intent on keeping their amateur standing.) There were some eye-openers – the workshop dealing with how to handle problem members was nothing like what I had anticipated and drove home the fact that Mensa is a large organization open to potentially a broad cross-section of the population, with the attendant considerations that need to be addressed because of that fact. Fortunately, to my knowledge, these types of issues have never required consideration in NH Mensa and I trust that this will continue to be the case.

Dealing with some of the specific conversations that took place over the weekend, I would like to share with the readership one meeting that took place very early on. After coming downstairs after checking in to the hotel, I was set upon by the RVC, Marghretta McBean, who evidently had just begun to enter into a conversation concerning the fate of Vermont Mensa with Jean Becker. In fairly short order, those two were joined at a table by the entire NH contingent, along with the sole attendee from Vermont, Jeanne Thompson. Jeanne has been the Membership Officer in Vermont for quite a while and was recently appointed as the Editor and Proctor Coordinator, as well. When the acting LocSec stepped down, Jeanne took the initiative to personally survey the entire membership of 83 dispersed throughout the state and received

replies from 20. Of those responding, 18 voiced the opinion that they were intent on keeping Vermont Mensa viable and did not wish to be merged with NH Mensa. Jeanne has published the first issue of The VerMonter after a considerable hiatus and is making efforts to revitalize the testing program to attract new members. Vermont Mensa was obviously on the mind of the AMC Chair, since she had brought a draft of a letter that she intends to forward to the Vermont membership along with her to the LDW. This is a follow-up to a similar letter that had already been sent by the RVC. In the same way that there is not a unanimous consensus on our ExComm concerning the question of the dissolution of Vermont Mensa, there seems to be a difference of opinion as to how to proceed even between the RVC and The Chair. The gap does not seem to be an unbridgeable chasm, and the feeling at the end of the discussion was that there is a large enough sample of respondents to work with to enable the minimum number of officers to be seated to get back into compliance with Minimum Standards. In the meantime, the RVC is the de facto LocSec and Treasurer. As I stated last month, continue to watch this column for news of future developments.

This is dues renewal time of year and, as usual, we dipped about 100 members who either decided not to renew or who did not get their payment sent in on time to be counted before the cutoff. Hopefully, the latter category is the prevalent one. I have not received the most recent membership list from AML as of this writing, but an AML website tally has us down to 387 from 486. The Proxyquest section of the website shows us having 222 proxies submitted, whereas it was 223 when I took a count for last month's column.

One thing that I learned at the LDW is that if you submitted a proxy prior to 01 APR and then lapsed, your proxy will then be deemed not valid at the AG in July, when the actual Business Meeting will take place. I do not see this particular issue addressed at any point on the Proxyquest web page, so if you feel that you lapsed prior to 01 APR and then sent in your dues, please submit another proxy to be on the safe side. The tally is showing us at 103% of required amounts, but obviously the greater the excess of valid proxies that we possess, the better for all involved. We **do not** want to have to repeat this process.

Other administrative matters involve recent topics – surveys and the election for LocSec, which is underway. To my knowledge, we have received on the order of a dozen responses to the survey which was included in the MAR Momentum, despite the fact that we extended the deadline for submission of the surveys. To state that I am disappointed in the level of involvement of our readership is inadequate. Frankly, I do not know how to proceed from here. It is not often that I hear complaints or criticism from a member about how matters are being handled at the chapter level – truthfully, I think it is seldom that we receive this type of feedback. The response to the survey indicates to me that the ExComm is free to operate however we see fit; obviously, we will discuss that topic at the next convening of the ExComm.

Likewise, the reported number of ballots received is woeful. By the time that you receive this Momentum, there will be a slight window of opportunity to vote. Remember, you must be a member in good standing to vote – if your dues were not timely,

please do not submit a ballot. If you are a member, please vote.

The appeal this month is for the same positions that have gone begging for too long a while. John McGondel is unwilling to remain as the Scholarship Chair and asks someone to step forward to take up the challenge. If last year's timetable remains the same, we must have a chair in place by 01 AUG, which will be here before you know it. The procedure set forth by AML is that if we do not have local participation, then anyone living in the geographic area served by our local is ineligible for any Regional or MERF funds. Since our local is two entire states, a large number of students will be affected if we do not participate. We also need a new person in the Gifted Children's Coordinator slot to be responsible for the state of Maine. At the end of the current membership year, we had 155 members residing in Maine, only two of whom were appointed officers. We are not asking for Maine to step up and take over all the ExComm slots, just find a respite person for this one appointed position. Anyone even marginally interested is requested to contact

Ann Kucera – there really is not much of an ongoing demand on your time to fill the post, but we need the point of contact for the occasional help that is requested.

A last appeal is to help out Boston Mensa through increased participation at the Spring Mountain Climb at Woodstock on 14-16 MAY. The last couple of years have seen a marked decline in attendees, and this intensifies the evening discussions centered about the good old years in Twin Mountain when upwards of 40 hearties would turn out. To restate what may not be obvious, hardcore climbing is *not* required – you do not have to come with me to bag another 4000 footer. If you want do no more than walk for a few tenths along the banks of the Pemigewasset right outside the cabin door, that is perfectly acceptable. If you want to catch up on your reading or do needlepoint out on the porch in preparation for a marathon discussion into the night, that has been done, as well. At \$60 for two nights' lodging, two breakfasts and a supper, it's hard to beat this deal. See you there!! 🏠

What's Cooking in Region 1

*Region 1 Vice Chair
Marghretta McBean*

Spring has supposedly sprung, but as I write this in early April, the temperature is hovering at freezing, with wind chills in the twenties. The soil in my garden plot is icy and rock hard; no early tomatoes this year!

Charlottesville Virginia, however, was full of budding trees while I was down there for the AMC meeting March 20th - 22nd. Topics covered included increasing the prior evidence fee to \$30; a motion to

increase dues to \$52 beginning in 2005 was postponed as was one to increase the local group subsidy to \$8.64/member; and what has drawn a great deal of attention, that SIGs (Special Interest Groups) be made a membership benefit (for reasons too numerous to mention here, I abstained from the vote). This action, which came at the recommendation of the SIGs Committee following the Risk Management Report, has

generated enormous discussion among many members. Details are to be presented at a later date.

Also, following the recommendation of the AAA (American Arbitration Association) Task Force, of which I am a member (I was an arbitrator in a past life), a choice of arbitration for finding of fact will be offered to someone against whom charges have been leveled.

April 2nd - 4th found me up in Manchester, Connecticut where Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa hosted a wonderful Region 1 Leadership Development Workshop. Representatives from New Hampshire/Maine, Boston, Northeastern New York, Vermont, Mid-Hudson, Greater New York and of course, C&WM Mensas convened for a weekend of workshops covering topics ranging from Financial Basics to Getting PR for Mensa to Dealing with Problem Members. Stellar presenters included our president Dr. Jean Becker, Cookie Bakke (the *Bulletin* associate editor), and Catherine Barney (Mensa's PR manager). Dr. Deborah Ruf, the national Gifted Children Program Coordinator, led a Gifted Children track in which several children and their parents participated. A HUGE tip o' the hat goes to C&WM Mensa for the excellent job they did in planning and hosting!

My end of the fiscal year allocations to the groups who expressed an interest were:


- o **Boston Mensa** - \$100 (RG supplies: \$50 for a crockpot, \$50 for game containers)
- o **Central New York Mensa** - \$125 (newsletter production: copy of Adobe Acrobat Professional)

- o **Connecticut & Western Massachusetts Mensa** - \$100 (promotional video and cable TV show)
- o **Greater New York Mensa** - \$106.37 (Peggy Deane Memorial Scholarship Fund)
- o **Mid-Hudson Mensa** - \$75 (non-specified)
- o **Mensa of Northeastern New York** - \$100 (items from Mensa Boutique for speakers, Anniversary Picnic, etc.)
- o **New Hampshire Mensa** - \$95 (\$20 reimbursement for postage and copying costs, \$75 non-specified)

Eggs are a symbol of spring and renewal. Here they are in a classic Italian soup.

STRACCIATELLE ("rags") ALLA ROMANA

- 6 cups broth
- 2 cups chopped fresh spinach
- 2 eggs
- 3 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese
- Grated rind of 1 lemon
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Juice of ½ lemon (about 1 Tbsp.)

Bring broth to a slow boil and add spinach. In a bowl thoroughly blend eggs, cheese, lemon rind, salt and pepper. Lower heat under broth and as soon as it stops boiling add egg mixture. Turn up heat and stir. Add lemon juice and serve with additional grated Parmesan cheese. 

Letters to the Editor

Most people reading this have never met me, and many will probably not. Some of you may recognize my name from some short stories I have published in *Momentum*; others may recognize my name from my being a Member-at-Large, or from my being the current Scholarship Chair, or perhaps from my being our Young Mensa Coordinator/Young Mensa Advisor. I would like to commend our chapter LocSec for accepting his current assignment. I would also like to commend the contender in the upcoming election, Lynn Pina, for being willing to step up to the (figurative) plate. I have always believed that competition is not only healthy, but necessary and desirable. I wasn't going to ask for this insertion, but I figured that after

I would like to thank the many Mensans, from New England and from across the country, for contributing to the list of possible submissions [for a collection by Mensa authors]. The collection should be awesome to say the least. Because of this turnout, and because of the difficulty in narrowing down which authors/stories can be included in this first PlatoEuclid Press collection of Mensan authors, the deadline has been officially extended to June 25, 2004. We are hoping for more NH Mensans' works, as we would like it to reflect our region as much as is possible. However, all works by registered Mensans are (as

two other members' endorsements were included in the last *Momentum*, it was only proper to include something, if for no other reason than for a primary sense of balance. But, I must also add, please: It isn't about whom we vote for, it is about our voting. Although personally I plan to vote for Lynn, I am much more interested in seeing as many of us voting as is possible. It's good practice for November.

And, while I'm at it, to Joe Zanca: You described yourself, in last month's *Momentum*, as a "has-been in Mensa." I would like to opine that I view you as more of a "Is-Still" and "Will-Be" than I do of the other. I believe you proved that, once again, at the RG. ☺

John McGondel

always stated) admissible and welcomed.

Some of my and PlatoEuclid Press' other works may be found at the Southern New Hampshire University (Follett's) Bookstore. Any/all are directly available to NH Mensans at cost. Please contact John McGondel at (603) 434-0222.

I am also happy that some have actually already responded to Eileen and my invitation to our "Derry-Air" party on May 29th!! We are calling it "Our House-2004." Way too cute, huh?

Oh yeah, ouch!, okay: Yes also please vote.

John McGondel

Officers Present: Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, Bromley Baril, John Bauman, Ann Majeske, John McGondel, Claire Natola, Lynn Pina, John Sheehan, Tom Shiel, Walter Wakefield, Eric Werme

Members Present: Sue Barnes, Jeff Jennings

Others Present: Jim Barnes, Curry Bartlett, Eileen McGondel

The meeting was called to order at 8:24 p.m.

Darlene Alleman reported that February 23rd was the date of the last bill sent to Brian Lerich for Vermont Mensa's newsletters. Darlene distributed a 2004 RG Treasurer's Report.

Lynn Pina advised that putting together an RG handbook would be useful. Ann Majeske suggested soliciting the input of past RG Chairs. Bill Alleman added that the sub-chairs (Games, Hospitality, etc.) should also have input. Lynn recommends having an RG past-deconstruction/future-planning session separate from the ExComm meeting.

Walter Wakefield moved for Lynn to fill the RG Chair position for 2005. Bromley Baril seconded. John Bauman suggested tabling this vote until after the election is decided, with Lynn as one of the LocSec candidates. Lynn offered to step aside as RG Chair if she is elected LocSec and the ExComm decides that she should. Walter repeated his motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

John Bauman reported that he spoke with Marghretta McBean about Vermont Mensa's situation. Marghretta has received very little response from Vermont membership to her appeal for assistance in running the chapter.

John Bauman reported that we have gained 7 members, bringing our total to 486. One member passed away, and John suggested we acknowledge her passing in some fashion.

John Bauman passed along information from National on the Community Activities Program, the Abbie (Proctor of the Year) and the Dr. Salny Awards.

John Bauman reported that *Momentum* has been entered for consideration in the 2004 Publications Recognition Program.

John Bauman reported that he told Marghretta of our decision not to bid for the AMC meeting.

Ann Majeske re-introduced the issue that was tabled at the Special ExComm Meeting on March 5th regarding Marghretta's correspondence with Vermont. Lengthy discussion ensued.

2003 Scholarships: John Bauman and Darlene Alleman both reviewed last year's issues of *Momentum*, and did not see any reference to 2003 Scholarships. It is the understanding of the ExComm that the 2003 essays were forwarded to Regional for consideration for regional scholarships.

Tom Shiel moved to return to Milly's for May FSM/ExComm. Walter Wakefield seconded. The motion was approved.

John Bauman reported that we gained one Young Mensan, born in 1996. He also reported that several Young Mensans born in 1986 will drop off the Young Mensan rolls this year. John McGondel reported that he will be attending an alumni networking meeting this month at Austin Preparatory School, where he will continue to promote Mensa.

Walter Wakefield moved to adjourn. Tom Shiel seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m. 🏠

In Memoriam

With a heavy heart we note the passing of two of our members from Maine. Anne G. Reinhardt of Portland was a Mensan since 1975. Jerry Durnbaugh of Blue Hill was a Mensan since 1993. Our condolences go to the family and friends of Ms. Reinhardt and Mr. Durnbaugh.

Attention Maine Mensans!

Cookie Bakke

As of 3/31/04 we have attendees preregistered from 45 of the 50 states for the 2004 Annual Gathering in Las Vegas (June 30-July 5). One of the five states that has not yet checked in is MAINE.

Please!!!! We would really like to stage a photo of 50 Mensans, one from each of the 50 states. How can we do that if there is no Maine person there?

Some of you must want to see the bright lights of Las Vegas! And join 2,000 Mensans for 5+ days of fifth gear overdrive events and activities! Check out www.us.mensa.org (follow the ExtravAGanza prompts) and please join us!

We NEED you!

Cookie Bakke
2004 AG Chair

Scene: Leadership Development Workshop; Manchester, Connecticut Super 8 Motel; April 2-4, 2004; sponsored by Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Mensa

Waiting for a week after the close of the LDW seemed like a prudent thing to do; but with that lapse, I still feel pretty much the same about my experience: good. While our original planned contingent was larger, it came down to We 3 Troupers of New Hampshire Are, heading off to parts unknown in my trusty Trooper. The deal was that if we could go at 6PM or a bit later on Friday, I would drive. It's difficult for me to close my store during posted hours, and this Saturday was only the second in about 3 decades (the other was NH Mensa's RG in February).

During the trip, we decided to indulge ourselves in sprightly exchanges, often spontaneously bursting into song, with themes like: "We're on the upward trail now" and a robust rendition of the Stein Song. Ignoring all posted speed limits when possible, and occasionally seeing moose, jackalope, and Burma Shave sign progressions, we managed to traverse the 142 miles in relative ease, arriving a little before 9PM.

While my memories of the driving might be a little flawed, the weekend venue rings true as follows, at least as I saw it. Once there, we found a workshop in progress on organizing activities between groups, so we decided to postpone check-in, finding value in this decision. As I had been made aware of during the trip, apparently I had torn large gashes front and back of my new shirt, so I decided to wear my greatcoat during that workshop. I had been a bit too

vigorous in preparing for the trip and had perhaps zipped and zagged into sharp edges somewhere.

After that workshop, I found it surprisingly easy to blend in and serendipitously get to know people like us. This started a bonding process I wasn't prepared for in such a small period of time. I met those among this group who, after only a few hours, I felt I want to know all the rest of my life. No antipathies like what I am used to encountering among the populace in general almost daily. I came here to learn; and I did, both in workshops and socially.

Come midnight Friday, we 3 NHs still hadn't eaten, so I unwisely promoted we go find a Denny's. A friendly lobby clerk told us of its existence, so off we went. John Bauman wisely didn't want to eat so late, so he was appointed our food monitor. The lobby clerk had told us she likes Denny's cheesecake, so she got the best one upon our return. What seemed like a very short time was 3 hours (a lot of 3's in this piece!).

It was a little difficult rising Saturday morning; but we did, and found huge boxes of really fresh "Big Y" pastries, which I managed to feign disinterest in, at least this morning, settling for OJ and a bagel. (I wasn't resistant enough Sunday morning, finding NEW boxes of them waiting!) Then had a good session with Marghretta McBean formally, with everyone else for the Orientation Session at 8:30AM. I saw some new people this morning who came just for this day apparently, for workshops starting at 9 and 9:30AM, so I elected for Fast & Effective Business Meetings, where I learned helpful skills.

I got to meet American Mensa's President, Dr. Jean Becker, and her

husband Ed. I had never expected to meet this person anytime in my life. It wasn't long before I realized why she is our leader. I am honored; and that was enough in itself. But, no, I got to take other workshops, six in all (partly due to differentials in beginning/ending times).

The workshops were over by 6PM and I had by now been invited to 3 separate dinner arrangements. Not wanting to miss any, I went to all! (No, I didn't eat at all...only one.) The last one was at an unusual Indian restaurant 3 miles distant: Taj Mahal. The first one drew the biggest crowd, a fairly short walk to one of those almost-always oddly named Oriental restaurants, where about 20 people came, including Cassie, a mnemonics instructor. I later found out 28 people (mostly LocSecs, Assistants, Editors, Treasurers, Proctors, and Coordinators) had come to the LDW, not including our 7 instructors/speakers, so 35 in all. I tried to get to meet everyone, and nearly did.

During our peregrinations, I spotted in the motel parking lot a rare 1960 Lincoln Continental. I later learned, from an ad board in the elevator, that it was for sale, so I inspected. It had a crudely written sign in a window stating the price was only "\$30000." I decided this might mean an encounter with a genuine redneck, so I refrained. When I was in my 20's (not so long ago geologically), I had several of these land barges (I think it was the largest American production car ever made), which accommodated my voracious book buying. I think I actually got close to 1,000 hardcover books in the car on a trip!

I discovered at the LDW that Mensa leaders are often Taurus born! By the way, does anyone out there have access to a list of how many Americans, living now, were born on

each calendar day of a year, by gender? (I don't need the birth years.) The Census Bureau has not been helpful.

Saturday night late was prime time for a bit of imbibing; and so the night gaieties passed. Strangely, I think, I only drink when in Mensa events. Otherwise, my life has been as an abstainer, though on no moral principle. Fortunately, I am a nice drinker.

Sleep was welcome those few hours of Saturday night, and waking to rejoin friendly co-conspirators I had already grown fond of seemed just natural. I had gotten up at a time that seemed early, sort of expecting a big test on the workshops; but no. (I was ready!) Several hours of fun interaction on everything and nothing ensued that Sunday morning, and by noon we were saying rather difficult goodbyes, going back to a world of everydayness and struggle.

There is a bond in this Mensa Family unlike any other I have ever encountered. It starts before we are actually in each other's physical presence... The knowing, the lack of in-the-way movements clears a quick path of mutual acceptance and caring. We just accept each other, knowing we all have faults seen and unseen. So much inconsequential behavior between those of very uneven intelligence just doesn't happen in Mensa gatherings. The emotion flows as an unseen river, understood by all. There is a mystical acceptance of each other. A mindful and mindless co-existence that brings closeness without much ado. Maybe that's why I am a proud Mensan. Bless You All. I hope we get to see each other again not too far along...

P.S. (Members from all 7 attending groups are always welcome in New Hampshire!)

Over the next few months many of my friends and former co-workers will be working on grant applications. During that stressful time my advice is to stay calm, stay on track and when you are done – HAVE A PARTY! This month's wine and recipe should help in the planning of that party.

The wine is a 2002 blend of Chardonnay and Viognier grapes from the Tourtoise Creek vineyard

located in the Languedoc region of France. This winery is owned by a family of British transplants who have produced a wine that is both very good and very affordable. The Chardonnay juice in the wine gives it a rich fruit flavor of peach and pear, while the Viognier makes the wine more complex with distinct floral characteristics. This wine is good with food or as an aperitif and is a good value at \$7 a bottle.

Mushrooms Stuffed with Feta Cheese

(from *The Frugal Gourmet Cooks Three Ancient Cuisines*
by Jeff Smith; attributed to a cookbook prepared by
members of a Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle)

15 large fresh mushrooms	1/4 cup milk
1/4 cup melted butter	3 tbsp. finely chopped parsley
salt and freshly ground pepper	1 clove garlic crushed
2 tbsp. butter	3 tbsp. crumbled feta cheese
3 tbsp. chopped green onions	1/4 cup grated kasseri cheese
1 tbsp. flour	(grated Romano will substitute)

Clean the mushrooms. Remove the stems and reserve them. Brush caps with melted butter. Arrange hollow side up in a baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Mince reserved mushroom stems. Heat small frying pan and add butter. Add stems and onions and sauté until the liquid has been absorbed. To the frying pan add the flour and mix well. Add the milk, stirring until thickened a bit. Add the parsley and garlic; salt and pepper to taste. Mix well. Add feta cheese to mixture and fill mushroom caps.

Top with the kasseri cheese and small dots of butter. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until the stuffing has browned slightly and the cheese has melted. This appetizer was a real hit at our last party.

I hope that you will contact me with your comments and favorite wines. 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. ■■

On the small hill above the village, hidden in a scraggly stand of dried out trees, the Colonel looked through his oversized field glasses, pleased with what he observed. He counted less than twenty soldiers, all with automatic rifles. And two machine-gun nests, one in the church steeple, the other inside the bank's lobby. He smiled at the thought of such a small garrison guarding a seemingly deserted little French village. He clicked his teeth together twice, and the transmitter in his jawbone sent the attack signal to his men. Then he settled back, to wait, a Stinger missile cradled comfortably in his lap.

He heard his tank's big Detroit Diesel long before he could see it. Then it was lumbering down to the village, as his handpicked team of thirty-four worked their way in through a fruit orchard. The colonel sweated lightly, as his blood pressure rose. He had waited years for these moments. The enemy saw the tank, as it clambered into position to take aim at the steeple, which then disappeared in a cloud of smoke, and orange flames. By that time, the foot soldiers were into it and a fully pitched battle raged on. It was music to his ears. The tank raked the village with 20mm canon rounds, from end to end.

Suddenly there was silence. The colonel was happy that he had gone for the extra draw for the tank, although he was saddened to see that the battle was now over, especially since he hadn't had a chance to fire off the Stinger...

Just then his driver started waving at him wildly. He lifted his glasses and turned pale at the deafening scream of a Mirage fighter

flying low over his head. Before he could compose himself, the fighter jet took out the tank in one pass, after which it banked, obviously intent upon coming in to finish him off. The colonel fumbled with the controls, unaware that the jet had already received coordinates from an AWACS jet far above. The strand of trees erupted into explosions and flames, sending black oily clouds slowly up into the sky, and the Mirage did a roll off on its way out of there.

A loud clarion sounded, and all weapons became inoperative. Choppers with medical personnel came in and performed a quick dust off. Then the War Inc. corporate Harrier jump jet landed, to pick up the village team captain, giving him his video of the battle, along with his trophy- an Oscar-like human figure with a bull's-eye on it. It was numbered 240. Ten had been awarded each year since the last year of the war in Vietnam. Their owners spent between one and five million on them...

Back at War Inc. headquarters, conveniently located in the Swiss Alps, Bruce Castleton, chairman of the board of directors (as well as founder and majority stockholder), spoke to the other board members.

"Okay people, we have a different type of request before us, and we need to vote on it. Here it is: An unspecified party wants to attack the president of the U.S. His proposal is impressive, and I think it would be good business."

He could hear derisive comments about the president, but chose to ignore them. "Now, here's the offer: The attack has to happen in Washington, D.C. The attacking party can use only non-armored, unarmed

motor vehicles, and no guns, knives, bombs, missiles, or any other weapon. The assassination must be accomplished with bare hands. Not even a Boy Scout knife. As well as a stipulation that neither side can employ air support. And there is a twenty-four-hour window clause built in. I think it's an excellent contract, considering that the attacking party is offering to put up twenty million dollars." He paused for effect. It was a lot of money.

"What if the White House objects?"

"I've already cleared it through them. Once the President heard the terms, and that he would personally receive ten of the twenty million, he agreed immediately. That greedy weasel will surely be planning on leaving town for those twenty-four hours."

The president of the U.S. was whisked into a limo and was headed for Camp David within one and one half minutes of signing the contract. He had secret service men and U.S. Marines all around him, and he felt very secure. No one, with or without weapons, could get anywhere near him.

When they hit the traffic jam-up, they joined the many other stalled commuters. When they learned that it was an accident, and that an ambulance was there and preparing to leave with the injured party, the bodyguards looked at each other and thought that it would be a great idea for the, by then rather nervous, president to hop in with the ambulance attendant, and ride off to the hospital. They would meet him at the hospital, and then escort him to Camp David.

At approximately 4:37 p.m. that day, the president of the U.S. was killed by strangulation. By an unknown party dressed as an ambulance attendant...

War Inc. had to keep things moving along. "Do we have any feasible proposals?" The chairman asked, as usual.

Director Fitzwilliam cleared her voice and spoke up: "This is the most lucrative one pending. I am sure that all of you will agree. Now then, it appears that this group of Jewish folks wish to blow up the city of Mecca." She had their attention.

"Their offer is this: It must be strictly an air battle. Both conventional and nuclear bombs are legal. The Islamic are to fight a strictly defensive war. For this, the Jews will put up one billion American dollars in gold. The Islamic get plenty of notice to evacuate their city. And if the Jews lose, the Islamic get one hundred million of the billion, and Israel. We keep the rest, minus expenses and overhead, of course."

The details were formalized, the contracts were signed by all necessary parties, and the battle began. At first, it appeared that the Arabs would knock all of the Israelis' planes and missiles down. But the clever Jews had already smuggled a nuclear warhead into Mecca. They had delayed setting it off for fear of retaliation. But the contract with War Inc. took care of that. And Mecca went into orbit.

(One Year Later)

"I want to welcome you, and to thank you for coming to this emergency meeting. Dispensing with any further formalities, I ask you to look at the folders in front of each of you. Please take the time to read them, while I take a phone call. Thank you." Chairman Castleton then had strode purposefully from the room, to talk with the young King of England.

One by one, the other directors opened and read their folders. Some were in states of disbelief. One turned

pale. One even fainted dead away, and had to be ministered to by a company doctor. When it finally dawned upon them that this wasn't a joke and was real, they looked from one to another, speechless.

The chairman walked in, clearing his throat. "As you have read, there seems to be an alien force about to arrive here to invade us. We are told that they need the planet mostly intact. And I think that that's nice to hear. Apparently, they don't want to waste time fucking everything up. They're offering us a fair fight. The world leaders have agreed to allow War Inc. to assume the role of intermediary. And that is why we are here. To issue the rules for the fight." He sat down, to let the others iron out the details.

The final draft included information about things like the geographical areas in which the actual fighting would be held, as well as where it would not. It wouldn't make sense to ruin that which you desired. Both sides knew this. All parties agreed that the fight would take part over Canada, whom had already signed the contingency plan.


"What about our cut? We're doing all of the legwork and set up! What's in it for War Inc.?"

"A very valid point William as well as a point well taken, let me add. War, Inc. will receive deed to the country of Canada, should the Invaders fail to conquer us! How's that, my boy?"


Bruce was cheered soundly. And then when he brought in his plan to whack the aliens with nuclear bombs aboard space shuttles before the battle, he was hailed as a genius.

Then the battle started. Three major cities in Canada vanished. Vancouver. Montreal. Toronto... followed by four huge flashes in the night sky over North America. And War Inc. released a news report. The enemy was gone. Earth had won an expensive battle, with no radiation sickness, diseases, or extermination. War Inc. owned Canada. And all was well.


Only War Inc. chairman of the board Bruce Castleton knew the real truth. That the 'Alien Invaders', never existed. It was all a scam. And now the company owned Canada. Which was as good a place as any to retire to.

Bruce relaxed in his big, comfortable easy chair, and thought to himself: "Fear is money..." 

Election Underway

Our election is well underway; don't forget to mail in your ballot (included in the April *Momentum*). As of press time, the Election Committee is leaning towards opening the ballots on Monday, May 10. If you would like to know the date, time, and location of this meeting of the Election Committee, please contact Editor Claire Natola at (603) 279-9986 or mensabear@hotmail.com . 

NHPTV Auction!

New Hampshire Public Television's Spring Auction is running from May 7-15. Bromley Baril is fielding a team of NH/ME Mensans to volunteer on Wednesday, May 12, and she'd love for you to join us! You can go to www.nhptv.org/auction/volunteer.htm to register. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bromley Baril at (603) 749-1088 or polgara@ttlc.net. 

Special Events

Cape Cod Mini-RG: A Whale Of A Good Time May 7-9, 2004

Join us on beautiful Cape Cod for a weekend of dining, shopping, swimming (heated indoor pool), socializing and great hospitality. Take a day trip to Provincetown, go whale watching, antiquing, bicycling, or just sit back and listen to the ocean!

Hotel rooms are only \$59.95 until 3/31 and \$64.95 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 quickly. Hotel information: 800-332-2279.

Adult registration is still only \$35 until 3/31; \$40 from 4/1 until 4/30; \$45 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: Al Beecy, Registrar, 32 Bromfield Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

Spring Mountain Climb Woodstock, New Hampshire May 14 - 16, 2004

Our venue is Pembroke Lodge. Home base for many Appalachian Mountain Club trips, Pembroke Lodge is surrounded by woods with a snow-fed brook flowing by, with the Pemigewasset River a short walk away. It has country bedrooms and a deck, a homey dining room open to a large kitchen, a secluded sitting room, and a basement with its own refrigerator and shower. It also has a clock that each hour chirps out the sounds of different birds, including, of course, a Mensa owl!

The weekend is low-key and basically unstructured. The one major piece of structure is; you guessed it, hiking! We generally have two hikes. One goes to a mountain peak or other destination worthy of a good day hike. The other takes a few hours over easier terrain to reach a viewpoint, waterfall or other point of interest. Of course, there's also the 'null hike': a short walk or drive amidst the new leaves and flowers, some shopping, or relaxing around the lodge.

The weekend includes two nights' accommodations, two full breakfasts, Saturday dinner, and snacks and soft drinks (BYOB for anything stronger), for just \$60 per person. For Saturday lunch, the hike groups stop at a store for people to buy sandwiches and the like before heading out on the trail.

Once the sleeping spaces at the lodge, around 15, are full, registrations without accommodations are \$30 (the town of Woodstock with a number of inns and motels is a couple of miles away). There are also some good nightspots in town.

We generally pick out the hikes on Friday night. The mountain hike leaves right after Saturday breakfast while the shorter hike leaves an hour or so later. As for the cooking and housekeeping, we do them cooperatively using a chore sign-up sheet, which definitely increases the feeling of closeness and camaraderie.

To sign up and reserve a place, send a check for \$60 per person to David Heimann, 149 Water St. #5, Wakefield, MA 01880. You'll receive confirmation and directions to the lodge by return mail, e-mail, or phone call. If you have questions or need more information, call David at (781) 245-2087, send him e-mail at heimann@world.std.com, or call Bob and Brendy Horn at (781) 843-5581.

So there it is: wonderful weather, wonderful mountains, invigorating countryside, and Mensa friends, all in one wonderful weekend. Be sure to sign up early to guarantee a place!

**Bonaire SCUBA Trip
May 29 - June 5, 2004**

The SCUBA SIG of American Mensa invites Mensa members worldwide to join us for a week of SCUBA diving the Caribbean island of Bonaire May 29 to June 5, 2004. Details at <http://lists.us.mensa.org/mailman/listinfo/scubasig-announce> or contact Brian Bloch at SCUBASIGTrip2004@scuba.us.mensa.org or (818) 840-8450.

**Private Showing: Audubon's
Elephant Folio Collection
June 16 and 22, 2004**

A private showing has been arranged of of Audubon's Elephant Folio Collection at Union College in Schenectady. Containing nearly 400 pieces of art (each 30" x 40"), the Collection is available for our viewing at 3:00 p.m. on June 16 and June 22, 2004. There is space for 20 people at each showing. After viewing the collection, the group can move to Brandon's Steak and Seafood at 1725 Van Vranken for dinner. For more information, or to reserve your place, please call Priscilla Sweet of Mensa of Northeastern New York at (518) 864-5366 after 4:00 p.m. weekdays or anytime weekends, or e-mail her at priscilla.sweet@agmkt.state.ny.us.

**Pow-Owl CaMp
Buffalo Gap Camp
August 20-22, 2004**

This delightful new annual event is like a mini summer camp for Mensans and

friends/family of all ages. (Yes, including children by popular demand—there will be a cluster of family cabins.) Buffalo Gap Camp is located west of Winchester, Virginia; the camp is wonderful and the food is excellent. Planned activities include a variety of RG-like programs, a dance sampler series making use of the fine floor, and traditional camp activities like swimming, singing, and s' mores around the campfire. Cabins will be set aside for games, a book swap, and the children's clubhouse. All we need is YOU! Registration is \$165 until May 28 or \$185 until July 19. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is requested, with the balance due by July 19. After that, registration is \$205 until August 13. Registration for children: 75% for ages 13-17, 50% for ages 6-12, free for children under 6. Includes pleasant cabin space (private room extra), tasty meals/snacks from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, and all the fun you can handle! For more information, contact event sponsor Jenny Foster: pinc@xecu.net or (301) 371-4312 (e-mail preferred).

**Cancun Club Med SIG Gathering
September 4 - 11, 2004**

Mark your calendars for a splashing good time at the Club Med SIG Gathering in Cancun the week of September 4 to 11, 2004. Enjoy sailing, windsurfing, waterskiing, kayaking, snorkeling, tennis, dancing, and French food (with wine). All lessons are included. All sports equipment is included, even sailboats. All meals and bar drinks and snacks between meals are included! Registration is free. For more information, e-mail Erica Byrne of the Club Med SIG at EMByrne@attglobal.net. Or, check out the SIG website at www.MensaClubMed.org.

Calendar of Events

May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 25 Fourth Sunday Lunch Early Music SIG Concert	26	27	28	29	30	May 1 All-You-Can-Eat Buffet
2	3	4	Mensa Testing in Nashua	6	Temp League	8 Central Maine Meet and Munch
9 Brunch on the Cape Portland Dinner Mother's Day	10	11	12	13	14 Appetite for Discussion West! Spring Mountain Climb	15 Mensa Testing in Weare Spring Mountain Climb
16 Spring Mountain Climb	17 FSM/ ExComm/ Business Meeting	18	19	20	21 Dinner with Eric	22 Mensa Testing in Portsmouth
23 Fourth Sunday Lunch	24	25	26	27	28 Appetite for Discussion	29 "Derry-Air" Party
30	31 Memorial Day	June 1	2 Mensa Testing in Nashua	3	4 Temp League	5

Calendar listings must be in the hands of the Calendar Editor before the first of the month prior to the cover date. It is NH/ME Mensa policy to avoid conflicts as much as possible, but no conflicts are allowed to group-sponsored events. Mensans, members of their household, and invited guests are always welcome at NH/ME Mensa events. Many thanks to our event hosts, without whom this calendar would be quite barren. E-mail your events to Calendar@nh.us.mensa.org.

The National Nominating Committee is finally operational. We have a committee of over 60 people with more being added.

We are looking for qualified candidates to run for all positions of the American Mensa Committee. This includes Chair, 1st Vice Chair, 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Also, there are 10 Regional Vice Chairs. Our goal is to try to have at least two candidates that have gone through the NomComm process for each position on the ballot. That means we are looking for 30 people to run in the election.

Could you be one of the select few? Have you ever thought about taking a more active role in the management of Mensa? This could be the time for you to fulfill that thought. All you have to do is decide to put your name in for consideration to the NomComm.

First, you should read the American Mensa Bylaws, sections 3-6. These describe in detail the qualifications required to be an officer of Mensa. And it's not very hard to meet these qualifications.

Next, you should contact someone on the NomComm and ask for a Candidate Information Form.

Of course, if a NomComm representative approaches you and asks you to run, you should be complimented. It means people think highly of you and feel you would do a great job as a Mensa officer.

Fill out the CIF, using more paper if you run out of space. I expect most people in Mensa can write a lot about themselves, their accomplishments both inside and outside of Mensa. Of course, you can always download the CIF online at the Mensa website, then fill it in and e-mail it to me.

Now, isn't that simple? I know you have questions. I probably have some of the answers. So here goes!

Where do I find the CIF? Go to the Mensa website. You can access the CIF in the Officer Resources section of the Web site (us.mensa.org/officerresources). It's the first file in Other Forms and Documents when you *List All* files. Can't get to that section of the website? Send me an e-mail and I'll send you a copy.

All CIFs need to be postmarked no later than midnight, July 31, 2004 (snail mail *and* e-mail). Anything received after that will be discarded.

How do I get in touch with you? Send me an e-mail at nomcomm@us.mensa.org. Send me a letter by snail mail at the address listed below. You can possibly find me at an RG. I will be attending the AG in Las Vegas. Just look for the somewhat blonde lady wearing a purple hat and having a look on her face that says "What the &*)#\$^# have I done?"

The assistant chair to the NomComm is Steve Burnham. He has been a valuable resource and help in these first couple of months. Steve can be reached pretty much the same way I can, and can answer all the same questions (and probably a whole lot more). His e-mail is asstnomcomm@us.mensa.org.

Okay, now keep us busy! Start contacting those NomComm reps; listen to them when they contact you. Fill out the forms and send them in! We want to hear from you!

Stormie Kullman
Nominating Committee Chair
nomcomm@us.mensa.org
59 Washington Drive
Piedmont, SC 29673