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The Fine Print

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Bauman's Quiver

LocSec John Bauman

Okay. So the White Sox won the whole thing, quite handily I might add, basically proving once more that good pitching is required to win a World Series. We didn't have the pitching this year, and it was nobody's fault that Schilling was brought back too early and that Foulke was allowed to not do the best thing for the team and have his knees operated on in the off-season, right? How can an owner or front office be expected to do the right thing all the time, or grow a spine and take on the Players' Association and lay down the law? Since Chicago made short work of Houston and swept us, they must be the best team in baseball, right? I mean, Red Sox Nation has nothing to be ashamed of, right?...they were beaten by the eventual World Champions and we have no reason to hang our heads. It was just their time, not ours, right?...that is the answer, right?? We take solace in knowing that we threw a much better "rolling pep rally."

Turning to things Mensa, National Testing Day is in the rear view and we were able to outdo our results from last year, testing over 20 folks during the timeframe of the initiative. The lion's share of the people who were able to attend a testing session were residents of Maine, hopefully indicating a newfound buzz among the general public in our Northeast corner. New Hampshire Mensa was singled out for its efforts in the October issue of *AML Today*. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this particular publication, it is a one-page broadsheet, also available online, which has a recurring Mensa's Top 10 List, a la David Letterman. The category changes each month and local groups are identified as the leaders in that category. New Hampshire Mensa was tied for third in the category of Most NTD Sites by Group, with 9 sites being organized for NTD. (There was a late add-on for a media-only session in Manchester which did not make the list, so in my heart of hearts, I know that we have a claim for an uncontested hold on third place.) To put this in perspective, Minnesota Mensa led the nation with a claim for 21 sites (although only 18 sites appeared on their list on the American Mensa website) and my hat is off to them. This category is kind of a misleading indicator, since it really is no more than a recognition that spaces have been reserved, Proctors have been organized to assure coverage at each location, candidates have been contacted and publicity has been arranged. I do not want to minimize the effort - I did most of it myself - but frankly, I would rather have one location and have 100 people show up. I will accept the attaboy for the group and admit my delight at being on the list - it is always satisfying to be singled out.

That being said, I would like to thank the group's Proctors who participated in this NTD - Bromley Baril, Meg Brodhead, Beverly Bryant, Laurie Levesque, Adam Smargon and myself. I feel personally that recruiting and testing

candidates is one of the most important functions that a local group can undertake; it injects fresh perspective into the usual suspects and new members are needed to stir the stew and add some spice. So huzzah and many thanks to the Proctors for taking time out of their lives to enable the group to have a chance to keep reinventing itself. Please - if you have the opportunity to spend time with any of these individuals at an upcoming event, thank them for their efforts. I would also like to commend David Hallmark for his good offices as the PR honcho during NTD - we never did convince WMUR to give us some airtime, but Mensa was mentioned over the airwaves at several radio stations in the region and there were articles published in newspapers big and small.

Returning to the Top 10 list, it is instructive to look at the list for November, Offers of Membership extended during October. For those of you who long ago became members and are shaky on the details of the process of entering the Mensa family, I will remind you that once an individual has tested or submitted his prior evidence of having undergone a standardized test, he is proffered a letter which is an Offer of Admission if the score is in the top 2%. Greater Los Angeles Area Mensa showed the rest of the country how to do it with 34 offers. New Hampshire Mensa did not make the list, but was not far from cracking it in consecutive months. The submitted testing materials from New Hampshire Mensa that reached Texas in time to be considered before the deadline yielded 12 offers of admission - 10 NTD test-takers out of 17 submitted were graded acceptably. To put this in perspective, the aforementioned 21 testing sites of Minnesota Mensa yielded 14 Offers, coming in at number 11 on the Top 10 List. New Hampshire/Maine was that close.

I would like to use this forum to speak to the subject of the Executive Committee. Per our Bylaws, we hold elections in even years and are mandated to seat an Election Committee comprised of at least three members by 01 December of the preceding year. In accordance with that requirement, I am proud to announce that Ric Werme, Bromley Baril and Linda McCracken have offered their services as the committee with Ric serving as Chair. If you are interested in being considered as a candidate for any of the ExComm positions, if you would like to nominate any member in good standing for a position, if you are in the process of submitting a petition candidate, please contact any member of the Election Committee at your earliest opportunity. Nominations close on 01 April, but there is no reason to wait until the deadline - beat the rush and file your candidacy now!

Finally this month, I am at long last able to inform you of the identities of the second and third place local winners for the 2005 scholarship program. Samuel Moore of Loudon, New Hampshire was awarded \$200 as the second-place finisher. He is studying graphic design in his first semester at Colby-Sawyer College and reports that he is enjoying the college experience thoroughly. Sheila Fenderson of Falmouth, Maine is another nursing student at the University of New England in Portland, the same institution attended by our inaugural Zanca Scholar, Heather Crosby. Sheila received \$100 as the third-place winner. Some points of interest - with Heather, Jodie and Sheila,

three of our 2005 recipients are women above the age of 30 studying nursing; with the Karen Cooper Memorial regional winner being considered, three out of the five competitors receiving awards were from Maine. I see some trends developing...

On behalf of the entire ExComm of New Hampshire Mensa, let me extend our wishes for a safe and satisfying holiday season. I hope that everyone is able to rest in the bosom of their family at this time of year, and if you find yourself at loose ends during the month, please take time to check the calendar and consider spending some time with your Mensa family, as well. Peace to you all and contentment during these times. **BEAT ARMY.** 🇺🇸

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we report the death of James Ingerson of Meriden, New Hampshire. James had been a member of Mensa since 1986; he was 70 years old. Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends.



What's Cooking in Region 1

Region 1 Vice Chair Marghretta McBean

I visited Chicago for the first time and attended Chicago Mensa's HalloweeM RG. What a blast! All the reports about this being the largest Regional Gathering in the country were true. Over five hundred Mensans of all ages partied and partied some more. Of particular interest to me was the large number of younger members: well over 100 GenXers and GenYers. Their presence seemed to make it a more lively affair: dancing to MP3 tunes and Pretentious Drinking were just a few of the crowd pleasers. Excellent organization of dedicated volunteers was the key to the 30th production of a Mensan tradition.

The waning days of autumn have always been a time of reflection for me. For many, it marks the gearing up for holiday festivities, which seem to start earlier and earlier; I saw Christmas decorations in a store on October 15th, two weeks before Hallowe'en. Scary! Every day the news brings information about yet another natural or man-made disaster: it is hard at times to find anything for which to be thankful. But as year-end draws near, items do come to mind: the wonderful gift of higher intelligence; good health, particularly for uninsured folks like myself; the ability to run in the crisp sunlight; a wonderful daughter; my dozens of houseplants. The more thought we give to what we do have, the less time we can take to worry about what we don't have. Give thanks and give it often.

The smell of gingerbread means cold weather to me. These pancakes are great for a weekend brunch, or even for dessert.

Gingerbread Pancakes

1 cup all-purpose flour	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup (packed) brown sugar	3/8 cup sour cream
1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/2 cup milk
1/4 teaspoon baking soda	4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
2 teaspoons ground ginger	2 tablespoons molasses
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon	1 large egg
1/2 teaspoon dry mustard	Ice cream (french vanilla or eggnog are especially yummy)
Pinch ground cloves	
Pinch freshly grated nutmeg	

1. Heat a griddle. Whisk together all dry ingredients, making sure brown sugar does not clump.
2. In another bowl, whisk together all the remaining ingredients except ice cream. Pour liquid ingredients over dry, and mix gently with a whisk.
3. Grease the griddle, if necessary. Spoon 1/4 cup batter onto griddle for each pancake, allowing space for spreading. Lightly press batter into rounds with a spatula. Cook until undersides are very brown and tops are lightly speckled with bubbles. Flip pancakes over, and cook second side until light brown.
4. Serve hot, topped with ice cream. Yields about 12 medium-size pancakes. ■■



Local Kudos

Ralph A. Sperry's science fiction story, "Cosmic Profiles," appears in the November 2005/January 2006 edition of the on-line journal *Ad Hoc Monadnock*, a publication of the Monadnock Writers' Group. Sperry is a member of the Science Fiction Writers of America.

Ken Lindell received recognition in the November 17 issue of *USA Today*: "Rep. Kenneth Lindell proposed a combination of a low-cost catastrophic insurance policy with employee-owned health savings accounts as expanded options for the DirigoChoice program. Lindell's plan will go to a legislative committee that is examining proposals to improve the two-year-old program that extends health coverage to the uninsured and underinsured." ■■



Executive Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary Claire Natola

Date: 17 October 2005

Present: Bill Alleman, Darlene Alleman, John Bauman, Wayne Eddy, David Hallmark, John Lewicke, Claire Natola, Joel Rausch, Walter Wakefield, Ric Werme

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 p.m.

John Bauman reported that our chapter has two reinstated members, three renewing members, one foreign member moving in, and five members moving out for a net gain of one member and a total of 466 (329 in New Hampshire, 137 in Maine).

Resurrected was the previously tabled discussion about reimbursing event hosts for postcard reminders of their events. Ric Werme said that label generation for specific geographic areas would not be too difficult. Claire Natola moved that our Executive Committee consider such requests for reimbursement on a case-by-case basis. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ric will send renewal notices to people with expired *Momentum* subscriptions.

John Bauman reported that (a) the call for entries has been issued for nominees for the Copper Black, Lifetime Achievement, and Distinguished Teacher Awards; (b) the Publication Recognition Program guidelines for 2006 have been issued; (c) American Mensa will provide assistance to local chapters that wish to participate in the annual Make-A-Difference Day, and (d) New Hampshire Mensa ranks third in the number of sites offering admissions testing on National Testing Day.

John Bauman reported that American Mensa has announced that many local chapters are not in compliance with minimum standard bylaws. Wayne Eddy volunteered to compare our bylaws with the minimum standard requirements, and will report back to the November Executive Committee Meeting.

John Bauman reported that eleven people were in attendance at the Leaf Peepers' Weekend in Dexter, Maine. John stated that Scott Cayouette has come up with some good ideas for future fundraising events. The Executive Committee thanks Scott for his efforts in putting together the Leaf Peepers' Weekend.

John Bauman reported that the first of the 2005 local scholarship winners has been vetted; we await proof of registration from the other two.

John Bauman moved to send 25th Anniversary commemorative keychains to our chapter's Life Members. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed.

Claire reported that Perry and Kim Barnett will be unable to run the Children's Room at the 2006 RG. John Lewicke and Darlene Alleman recommended possible volunteers, whom Claire will contact.

John Bauman reported that four people tested in Dexter and two people tested in Cape Elizabeth thus far this month. No prospects are as yet signed up for testing in Augusta and Bangor.

The Executive Committee thanked David Hallmark for his public relations efforts leading up to National Testing Day.

Claire Natola moved to adjourn. Bill Alleman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m. 



Notes from National

Project Inkslinger Coordinator Michael Paul Beetham provides this hurricane relief update:

The American Library Association website (<http://www.ala.org>) has a front-page link to its updated information on Hurricane Katrina news and relief. At present it has a statement asking that no more books be sent to the area library associations for the time being. Financial donations are still welcome. Many schools and libraries have been damaged or destroyed. Information is given on the number and status of many of the schools and libraries. The ALA will periodically update the information so that we will know when and where to continue donating books. Project Inkslinger will continue to monitor and report the relief situation as it evolves.

Shortly, redevelopment will begin on the philanthropic side of Project Inkslinger. The process will provide methods by which a Mensan can provide a single student with a single book, or a Local Group can choose to improve the lot of a community that suffers a chronic shortage of library books. One or more Local Group(s) can choose to improve a community up to the modern Library of/for the Future standards, in which the library is both a modern information center and a cultural center. For the most part, the concept is consistent with the original, and successful, work of Project Inkslinger in the early 1990s.

The philanthropic side differs from the basic book-donating side in that it suggests that a Local Group take ownership of a project, and follow up after the initial work is complete. The process and methods will be designed consistent with Library of Congress and other guidelines. Stay tuned. Please save your books.

AMC Membership Officer Heather Miller and the Membership committee are proud to announce American Mensa's three newest member benefits:

National Car Rental: As an American Mensa member, you'll get unlimited mileage and year-round discounts off National's rates at approximately 3,000 locations in 72 countries across the globe. For information or reservations, call your travel agent, visit National® online (<http://www.nationalcar.com>), or call 1-800-CAR-RENT®. Be sure to request Contract I.D. Number 5002924 at time of reservation.

Alamo Car Rental: Welcome to Alamo Country® where American Mensa members get unlimited mileage and year-round discounts off Alamo's already great rates. Book with your travel agent, visit Alamo® online (<http://www.alamo.com>), or call 1-800-354-2322. Be sure to request I.D. Number 7011601 at the time of reservation.

Popular Science: *Popular Science* is the "what's new" magazine of science and technology. Each entertaining issue covers the latest developments in cars, electronics, communications, tools, energy, aviation, science, space exploration, and much more. Get the future now and enjoy a special Mensan annual subscription rate of \$10 – that's almost 80% off the cover price! Visit http://subs.timeinc.net/CampaignHandler/POmisc?source_id=5 to subscribe today!

AML's National Marketing Director Jim Blackmore passes along information on auditions for a new reality show:

Have you come up with the greatest new product since the Post-It®? Simon Cowell (*American Idol*) wants your brainchild for his new show, *American Inventor*. This new ABC reality series will undertake the biggest search ever for America's best new invention. Open to people of all ages including kids! With one million dollars at stake, *American Inventor* is open to anyone with a great idea. No invention is too big or small!

Prospective contestants can enter with a sketch, a prototype or even just a concept. The competition is open both to individuals and teams. The invention must be something that can be mass-produced and sold to consumers in a retail outlet. Expert judges will narrow down the initial entries to a group of finalists, who will each be given \$50,000 dollars to develop their product, refine it, and take it to the next level. But in the end, it will be up to America to call in and vote on which invention is worthy of the one million dollar prize.

For more information visit <http://www.AmericanInventor.tv> or call 877-255-8009. This competition is subject to applicable rules, which are subject to modification at any time in the producer's discretion. Casting calls are being held in eight cities, including Denver on 12/1, Chicago on 12/4, New York on 12/7, Washington, DC on 12/11, and Atlanta on 12/14. ■



A Tale of Two Mensas

Claire Natola

I recently received two letters containing sentiments that are worth sharing. The first is from someone I will refer to as Member A. Member A wrote to me, requesting “the right to redress certain ‘mumbled innuendo’ and outright lies that have been strewn about regarding me by one of my fellow members.” In this letter, Member A indicates that this other person (whom I will refer to as Member B) has publicly accused him of engaging in illegal activity, which Member A categorically denies. The letter also asserts that Member B verbally disparaged one of Member A’s family members; Member A wanted to use the Letter to the Editor to come to her defense. I spoke to Member A and advised him that I could not publish his letter as written. I did not want *Momentum* to turn into a forum that could potentially escalate this dispute, nor did I want the printing of the details of the dispute to lead to a perpetuation of the false rumors. (“A lie told often enough,” etc.)

Contrast this with another letter I received from a member of our local chapter who recently began a long-term temporary work assignment in Phoenix, Arizona:

“Hello from sunny Arizona! I am pretty well settled already. I spent the first two nights with a lovely lady named Pat Hull whom I located through an inquiry to the Mensa SIGHT coordinator out here. She offered to put me up for a few days while I was waiting to move into my apartment. She has shown me how to get around out here with their very easy grid setup for the streets.

“My apartment is very nice: kitchen, living room with dining area and large bedroom. Pat took me around and showed me where all the best consignment and goodwill shops are (they are everywhere out here). I bought a matching set of dishes, glassware, flatware, pots and pans, bed linens, coffee maker, towels, wastebaskets, color TV and a few decorative items for a grand total of under \$120.00.

“Last night I went to FSM with Pat and met some wonderful Mensans. They really have a large group. FSM was held at the home of one of the members and she put on a HUGE buffet dinner of roast beef, grilled chicken and roast pork along with a vegetarian dish, pasta salad, tossed salad and a choice of two vegetables. Apparently she enjoys doing this and the club pays for the food. We collated about 1,000 copies of the newsletter. The members are very friendly and welcoming.

“There are some interesting mountains out here and they are calling to me. Well, gotta run...Take care and write soon.”

Now I ask you: Which chapter sounds more inviting? Which sounds more like the kind of chapter that would entice first-time eventgoers to come back out for a second event? ...to want to volunteer for an appointed position? ...to want to run for elective office?

Mensa is supposed to be a positive and enriching experience for us all - from the member who is content simply to receive the *Bulletin* and the local newsletter to the member who attends as many social functions as possible. No one would want to spend membership dues in an organization that wasn't enriching his life in some way. Therefore, I ask that we please treat each other with respect, bring a sense of positivism to the Mensa table, and dispel unnecessary negativity. To that end:

Question what is purportedly told to you as fact. Does it sound like gossip instead? Ask for proof. Would the person telling you this be willing to say it directly to the person about whom he or she is "gossiping?"

Change the subject. If what you are being told isn't any of your business, and you don't think it's any business of the person telling it to you, then just change the subject. A polite "I'd rather not discuss this" should do, and if it doesn't, just walk away. There are enough positive people in Mensa that it should be easy to surround yourself with like-minded individuals who are also here to have fun.

Create your own positive Mensa experience. Plan an event of something fun that you like to do: bowling, playing poker, ice skating, watching *Mystery Science Theatre 3000* DVDs, attending lectures on cultural anthropology, etc. You'll know that the Mensans who join you also like the same activity, and you'll be sharing that positive experience.

I hope that the holidays bring you joy, and that the new year brings us all peace (in many ways). 🍷



Upcoming Testing Sessions

Tell Your Friends!

Information on testing and prior evidence can be found at nh.us.mensa.org. Anyone 14 or older who wishes to take the Mensa Admissions Test should pre-register with the respective proctor listed below, who can provide testing site information. The test costs \$30; a photo-ID is required.

Date	Location	Proctor
Saturday, 03 December 9:00 a.m.	Keene, N.H.	Meg Brodhead 603-242-3367
Wednesday, 07 December 7:00 p.m.	Nashua, N.H.	John Bauman 603-883-7494
Saturday, 17 December 10:00 a.m.	Portsmouth, N.H.	Bromley Baril 603-749-1088



Letter to the Editor

(and one to our LocSec)

Dear Editor,

In regards to the recent article "The Suicide Club," I found this rather disturbing. Although the article shed light on an issue that should be dealt with, the timing was horrible. As we approach the Holiday season (the confirmed dates of increased suicide rates), the author gave no options for help or treatments but rather ended with a note of gloom that this will happen anyway. A depressed, suicidal person reading this may find further justice in performing the "deed."

As a Mensan I would rather seek answers and offer hope to those around me if they were in such "dark territory." I would urge the author to follow up with a series of helpful articles if he wishes to shed light on this topic and not end with "he would definitely suicide."

*David Hallmark
Portsmouth, N.H.*

To John Bauman of New Hampshire Mensa:

I received the memento of 25 years that you sent and I thank you very much. It is very attractive and whoever designed it did an excellent job.

Thank you again.

*Alfred O. Anderson
Palermo, Maine*

[The design of the commemorative keychain was by Kathy Farrington of the Mensa Boutique. We all thank her for her beautiful handiwork! -- Ed.] 🏠



Our Northeast Corner

Claire Natola

October's Dinner and Pub Quiz brought out a Mensa team more than double the size of that which competed in the September event! Host Sue Flaherty was joined by Gary Baxter, Bev Bryant, Claire Natola, Linden St. Clair, Neal Weinstein, and special guest Amy Barnett, a reporter for *Portland Magazine* writing a story about Mensans in Maine. Be sure to keep an eye out for that story in the next issue of *Portland Magazine*...and don't forget to join us back at *Rí Rá* on November 29 and December 27!

A look at the calendar entry for the Central Maine Dining event reveals that the event's new mascot has arrived! Host Scott Cayouette is holding a contest to name the mascot, with a gift certificate going to the creative winner! So put your thinking cap on, and join the Central Maine gang on December 18 for a nice social break from pre-holiday madness. 🏠



The Alchemist

Al Thomas

Investment Rowing

You have rowed a boat at some time haven't you? Yes, put the oars in the water and pull. Of course, you don't know where you are going because you are sitting backwards. Every so often you have to turn to look ahead to see if you are pulling in the right direction.

Reminds you of the stock market doesn't it? You have your money invested and you are pulling hard (working) trying to get to that rainbow where the pot of gold is supposed to be, but you are sitting backwards and you can't see where you are going.

The stock market is more like one of those Olympic shells with a bunch of people rowing together to the finish line. Unfortunately, in the stock market each person is putting his oar in the water at a different moment and some are even pushing on their oar. What a mess. How is anyone ever going to win if they don't all pull at the same time? Let me give you a clue. They won't.

And why won't they?

You, the little guy in the row boat, doesn't have a coach or the coach you might have doesn't know what he is doing. Those coaches have been taught how to row by the big guns on Wall Street and the big guys don't care about you. In order to become a stock broker the person must pass a very tough test. That test has nothing to do with helping investor make money. It is all about rules to keep them from lying to you and cheating on your account. That's good and it works, but they are not taught how to trade or protect your money.

When the broker or financial planner does pass that test he is given two manuals. The first one is a copy of all those rules and regulations. The second is how to open account in other words get you to send him your money.

There is no third manual on how to protect a customers' money. You can't expect to row your boat in the right direction if your coach doesn't know what he is doing. When your boat starts to leak (the market starts down) your coach has no idea how to patch those leaks and you slowly sink. Does this sound familiar?

You have to learn how to row your boat in the right direction by steering through the maze of Wall Street lies. The first rule is not to let your boat sink. When you see a leak you must patch it immediately. In the stock market that is called selling a losing position. Stop the leak so your boat won't sink.

Wall Street coaches are not taught this simple technique and the brokerage house always wants you to have a position. When you sell you have cash and learn this - CASH is a position. Many times it is better to be out of the market than sinking with it.

That way you will still have a boat to row. 🚣



2005 Local Scholarship Winning Essays

First Place: Jodie Ingram of New Hampton, New Hampshire

My career goal is to become an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, dedicated to providing quality medical care to the under-served areas of New Hampshire. This is a long-term goal which must be approached with smaller steps. My immediate academic goal is to complete my Associate's Degree in Nursing, followed, I hope, by the attainment of my license as a Registered Nurse. Once I have achieved the licensure of Registered Nurse, I hope to be able to apply my experience as an Emergency Medical Technician, together with my newly acquired nursing skills, in an Emergency Room environment in a local hospital. While continuing to improve my knowledge and skills is a priority, I realize that working in a fast-paced, yet varied environment, will allow me to exercise my critical thinking skills and apply what I have learned to date. I secretly hope to obtain my Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification prior to completion of my Associate's Degree. I firmly believe that there is no such thing as too much knowledge when it comes to providing quality health care.

Reaching my goals has been one of the things that I put on hold in 1990, while my children were small, making ends meet by working odd jobs that allowed me to schedule work around my children's school and activities. Now that my youngest is in Middle School, I have more time to devote to my own academic success. I enrolled in New Hampshire Technical Institute in June of 2003 and completed most of the co-requisite course work for my Nursing degree before I was officially accepted into the program. My daughter and I often sit at the table to do our homework at the same time. I believe that deferring my education has intensified my appreciation of the experience. I love to learn, the subject matter is stimulating, and the instructors at my school are very knowledgeable and committed to helping the students learn. The more I put into my education, the more I get out of it.

I am currently a freshman in my second semester of the Nursing program. Although I realize that there are many years of education ahead of me before I reach the level required to become an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, I am confident that, slowly but surely, I will get there. I appreciate all the support that I receive from my family, my community, my instructors, and my fellow students. As part of my clinical review, I was told, "You're going to be great at this." With that kind of positive reinforcement it is impossible to believe anything else. I will be great at this. I have much to give. I look forward to the opportunity to give it.

Second Place: Samuel Moore of Loudon, New Hampshire

Dreaming in Design

When I was little, one of my favorite activities was looking out the car window at all the signs along the road. Ask my Dad, and he'll tell you all about a trip we took where I read every sign for 200 miles. While this gave me great practice in the reading department, I realize now that it also piqued my interest in art and graphic design. The geometric shapes, intriguing designs, and the ability to convey a message visually, are all traits that I realize now gave me great joy. I believe that this "sign reading" is what sparked the basis for my career goal of opening my own graphic design business.

Graphic designers are artists who organize ideas visually in order to convey a specific message or image. In today's world of entertainment there are an increasing number of opportunities available for graphic designers. Despite the growth of the field, competition for jobs is tough (Carlson, 2003). That is why the path to my goal starts with getting a Bachelor's Degree in graphic design. Once I graduate, I hope to be employed by one of the over 200,000 graphic designers in this country, possibly at a place of prior internship (Bureau of Labor, 2004). Throughout this learning process, I plan to lend my skills to my family's business as well as our church, giving me more experience while helping a good cause. After several years working for someone else, I hope to one day become the boss, opening my own graphic design business.

In my quest to attain these goals I have focused my high school elective courses in the area of design and computer technology. Throughout high school I have taken all three art courses offered, as well as a computer graphics course and a course focusing on Microsoft Office™ software. In addition, I have spent the last two years in the Graphic Arts program at the Concord Regional Technology Center (CRTC). This program has fully introduced me to the graphic design field while helping me to develop many of the skills I will need in the future.

I have already been fortunate enough to put the skills I have learned into real world practice. Some of the outside jobs I have done include: a brochure for my family's farm and maple business, business cards, and the 2004-2005 basketball program for my high school. In addition to these projects, in the coming months I will also be interning at a local design studio through the CRTC program. The experience I have gained through these projects is proving very valuable and I am very grateful for each opportunity that has been presented to me.

I am very excited for the future and what it holds in store for me. The qualities required of a good graphic designer - dedication, physical and mental endurance, creative discipline, and the ability to multi-task - are all traits that I feel I possess (Carlson, 2003). As the hardworking and persevering person that I am, I believe I will be able to achieve my goals no matter what problems are presented before me. Designing is something that I truly love to do, and in the end this is what will help me to achieve my goals.

Third Place: Sheila Fenderson of Falmouth, Maine

My Vocational Goals

After over eight years of being in the workforce in a variety of vocations, from working in an emergency department to teaching CPR and First Aid for the American Red Cross to directing various programs at the YMCA, I am now committed to becoming a Registered Nurse. I see each of my experiences as pieces of a puzzle and I know that once I become a nurse, the puzzle will be complete.

The decision to become a nurse is based on a variety of reasons and experiences. First and foremost, I believe that nursing is a wonderful vocation for me because of my desire to help others. I am a very caring, nurturing person and I believe that this is the single most important trait in being an excellent nurse. I have had many personal experiences as a patient and I know how vital a role the nurses played in my situations. In particular, when I was 35 weeks pregnant with my oldest son, I was hospitalized for pre-eclampsia. I was very sick and scared for the well-being of my baby. The nurses who cared for me not only took care of my medical needs, but they comforted me: held my hand, spoke words of comfort and encouragement, made me laugh and took diligent care to ensure that I was as comfortable as possible. I will forever be indebted to them for making me feel so loved and cared for during such a traumatic time in my life. I want to have the same impact on my patients as those wonderful nurses had on me.

I also have experience teaching for the American Red Cross. For the past six years, I have been an instructor in CPR for the Professional Rescuer, First Aid, AED, Oxygen Administration, Lifeguarding, and Water Safety. I really enjoy teaching others what I know and applying that knowledge in everyday situations. This knowledge came in handy many times during my tenure as Director for the YMCA. I had to respond to many medical situations from scrapes and bruises to broken bones, seizures, and accidental ingestion of medication. I took great pride in responding in a composed, knowledgeable manner. I look forward to vastly expanding my knowledge as I continue through nursing school.

Lastly, I have also taken a phlebotomy course at Southern Maine Technical College. I enjoyed learning a new skill and I took pride in doing a good job during my practicum at Maine Medical Center.

I am confident that I will make an excellent nurse. I have had an extremely successful first semester, which has only cemented my decision and my commitment in fulfilling this goal. I find the human body to be a miracle and the wonders of modern-day medicine fascinate me. I aspire to use my knowledge, experience, maturity, and ability to teach and learn in order to provide for patients in the best possible way. I also strive to be a lifelong learner. I want to seize opportunities to expand my knowledge in the health field, such as becoming a nurse practitioner one day. I hope to positively impact the lives of others and to become a leader in my community. ■



The Beginning

John Francis McGondel

It really could not be called a ship, as it was an actual living organism. It hosted other living organisms within its protective layers of what some might call flesh. But flesh was a gross understatement. The parasites which existed at their host's expense were extremely well advanced, in matters of mathematics, physics, theory, and such. However, they did have one shortcoming, which they had dedicated themselves as a race, to conquer. Their corporeal individual structures prohibited them from acting in what other organisms might have called a "physical" way.

Granted, they had circumvented most of the inadequacies of their physical abilities by increasing their ability to use their minds, singularly and collectively, to basically will their desires into becoming. Which, of course, is why they had a biological entity which functioned admirably as a vehicle and as a surrogate home and provider. The surrogate had access to its own memory banks and could do above average extrapolations when it came time to follow direct orders, but it was not quite sentient.

The other living organisms, which referred to themselves simply as "we," had coaxed the surrogate home into creating itself, in order that the "we" might further their own knowledge of their surrounding universe before their time ran out. They were on a one-way exploration toward their neighboring stars and hopefully beyond, as their own system had died many centuries ago. They had one single, commonmost thought shared among their collective consciousnesses and sub-consciousnesses: That they would pay back the universe in kind for the supreme luxury that they had been afforded by nature of their very existence. The "we" sought not to conquer, for that they left the less intelligent races. The "we" wanted to replace themselves as expediently as possible before they as a race ceased to exist.

That was why the host organism was now hovering over a tiny planet on the outskirts of civilized planets. It had been tested and had been found to be of suitable climate and atmosphere to allow personalized exploration.

Thus it was that a five-organism landing crew of the "we" were disgorged from the hosting organism to an area that theoretically posed the greatest mathematical chance of harboring whatever was the most likely intelligent form of life to inhabit this planet.

There was a splash in the water, followed by five more splashes. Clubfoot looked up abruptly and signaled his tribe instantly. All in the tribe knew enough that when Clubfoot signaled by rapping his leg on a piece of tree, all able-bodied members of the tribe were to assemble with him at once. The non able-bodied scrambled back, to between Clubfoot and the females and young ones. It was a perfect coordination of activity, born out of centuries of survival against the harshest of environments.

From the swamp emerged five shapes; Clubfoot could not pick a place in his mind to ascribe any other word than "shapes." The shapes approached the water's edge, then stopped, a safe and respectful distance away. That was when the sixth shape floated to the surface of the muddy swamp and just floated there.

Clubfoot and the shape nearest him tried to discern and categorize each other. The lead member of the "we" fathomed Clubfoot easily, and in less than an instant, stretched an arm from his amoeba-like structure to push the floating package toward Clubfoot. Clubfoot, who had not survived his almost record 27 years alive for no reason, pointed to the package and gruffly barked at one of his warriors to retrieve it. This pleased the "we" to no small extent.

Clubfoot then carefully examined the contents of the container, once his sharp mind figured out how to open it. The "we" watched on, pleased. The container contained a metal type of knife, which could be used as a tool or a weapon. Clubfoot, as was his right, promptly confiscated this. Then there were various lenses, mirrors, other tools, and sugary foodstuffs. Clubfoot, as befitted his position as patriarch of his tribe, distributed the great quantity of foodstuffs to his warriors first, then barked orders to the effect that the rest be brought back to the women and children, who were sheltered and protected under an overhanging ledge some distance away. Clubfoot was about to attempt to give his badge of tribal honor, a large stick with rocks tied to it, to the leader of the "we," but was surprised when the "we" collectively banded together and, after pointing to the sun, which was on high, disappeared from view.

The next day, when the sun was on high, Clubfoot and his tribe gathered in total, without weapons, to await the coming of the "we." They did not wait long, as the "we" appeared before them almost magically. This time it was Clubfoot who approached the "we." He held out a precious piece of fruit. The leader of the "we" took it and manipulated it within his outer membranes, finally pronouncing it to be good to his fellow "We." That was when Clubfoot bent low and offered his staff of honor to the lead "we." It was accepted with grace and dignity, and all of a sudden four other objects splashed in the water. Instantly and intuitively cautious, Clubfoot waited with clenched fists, which slowly unfurled as the lead "we" gently pushed the objects toward Clubfoot and his tribe. Clubfoot opened each one, and was pleasantly surprised at each one.

They contained foodstuffs and tools and seeds and more things which they would not figure out for a while.

That was when Clubfoot raised his muscular hand, and all of the members of his tribe brought all manner of goods and foodstuffs to present to the "we." The "we" crawled the rest of the way out of the water, and consciously molded themselves to approximately represent the tribe members. Mutual touching was done, gifts of food and trinkets were exchanged, and the leader of the "we" had a very long, silent communication with Clubfoot.

It was not long after that that the "we" signaled that they must leave. Clubfoot and his tribe cheered them on their unknown journey, happy to have

at least gained knowledge from them, and for having shared in the first of what would hopefully be many more chances to give thanks for what was, as opposed to ruing what was not.

Clubfoot never saw the “we” again, but his tribe went on to dominate their territory, and later the world in which they lived.

As for the “we,” it can only be assumed that they either still sow their seeds of progress and intellectuality, or they accomplished their race’s purpose and spread intelligence throughout the known, and unknown, universe.

Happy Thanksgiving: The McGondel Family. 🏠



David Hallmark’s
continuing series
“A Search Engine Primer”
will return next month



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WANTED: All publications of MENSA, INTERTEL, I.S.P.E. new or old. Especially need all pre-1980 Mensa Bulletin, NH/ME/VT/MA local publications, Registers, other paper material and pins. Wanted for preservation and access for research to members of these organizations. I will pay \$ for your items, but donations greatly appreciated. Help preserve our past.

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CultureQuest® Sampler

Each spring, Mensa runs a contest of cultural knowledge called CultureQuest®. Each month, we publish 10 questions from the 2005 CultureQuest® so you can quiz yourself. Mensa will shortly be announcing plans for the 2006 CultureQuest®. Do think about joining a team of New Hampshire and Maine Mensans in 2006 as we compete for cash prizes! (Answers can be found on Page 22.)

1. Not counting honorary awards, who was the youngest person ever to win an Academy Award?
2. Not counting honorary awards, who was the oldest person ever to win an Academy Award?
3. What significant incident took place on March 16, 1968, in a small village in Vietnam?
4. What public university was involved in the 1978 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court determined that racial quotas were unconstitutional in public school admissions?
5. Who were the antagonists in the War of the Roses? Who were the victors?
6. Jean Cocteau wrote and directed an adaptation of the 18th-century fable of Madame Leprince de Beaumont 45 years prior to the animated version. What was the name of the film?
7. To whom is the following quote attributed: "Catch a man a fish, and you can sell it to him. Teach a man to fish, and you ruin a wonderful business opportunity."
8. This famous Washington hostess was known for her signature line, "If you don't have anything nice to say about someone, come and sit next to me."
9. Which The Simpsons character joins the local Mensa society? Also which real-life celebrity is noted as the smartest man in the world on the show?
10. This mammal, a two-horned native of the Arabian peninsula, is believed by many to be the source of legend of the mythical unicorn? 

Granite Gathering 2006: Return to Middle Earth February 17-19, 2006



Your presence is kindly requested at New Hampshire Mensa's 16th Annual Regional Gathering! Our growing reputation does not rest solely on being the northeasternmost RG in America, but on being one of the best: stellar hospitality, ample food and libations, scintillating speakers, music, games, contests, book sale, silent auction, and more! Medieval or Tolkienian garb encouraged; rentals benefiting our scholarship fund will be available.

Location: Crowne Plaza Nashua, 2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, NH 03063. Room rate of \$94 (exclusive of 8% NH Rooms Tax) per night guaranteed until 1/18/06. Call 603-886-1200 and ask for the Mensa rate. Complimentary indoor parking garage. Complimentary shuttle service to and from Manchester Airport *when prearranged*. Complimentary full service health club.

Registration: \$65 until 1/15/06; \$75 thereafter or at the door. Children 8-17 \$15 less than regular rate; children under 8 free. Saturday rate is \$10 less than regular rate in effect at time of registration. Saturday evening buffet \$28.* Mail your form and fee to our Registrar: Deb Stone, 24312 Spartan Street, Mission Viejo, CA 92691-3921. (email: debstone@cox.net) Do not mail registration after 2/1/06; please register at the door instead.

*All registrants who buy their Saturday evening buffet tickets before 1/15/06 will be entered into a drawing for fabulous prizes, including free registration for the 2007 Granite Gathering!

Questions, concerns, criticisms, compliments? Contact Claire Natola at rgchair@nh.us.mensa.org or 603-279-9986. For latest details, see www.nh.us.mensa.org/rgnews.shtm. See you in February!

✂-----

Name	Name on Badge	Tell us something(s) interesting (or not) about you for your badge...
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children's Names: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

email: _____

Telephone: _____

Type	Qty	Rate	Subtotal
Adult Registration			
Child 8-17			
Child under 8		Free	
Saturday Buffet		\$28.00	

Total: \$ _____

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Good Wine Cheap

(and good food to go with it)

John Grover

This month we go far afield to find wine that is both good and cheap. With rising gas prices and the general inflation that Washington, D.C. claims is not really happening, it is getting increasingly difficult to find acceptable inexpensive wine. My old limit of \$10 a bottle is being strongly challenged. But, Argentina, Spain, Chile and Eastern Europe all hold forth the hope of decent wine at a reasonable price. This month's recipe continues our crusade to contend with all those pesky vegetables that show up this time of year.

The wine this month is from Eastern Europe. And, I must say that my experience with much of the wine that has been imported to the United States from this region in the past has not been worthy of recommendation. BUT, with this wine, *au contraire*. It is a 2003 Aligoté grape from a producer called Corten located in the Cahul region of Moldava near the Black Sea. This simple light dry wine has a nose and taste that both clearly emote spice and flowers. It is a perfect wine for those late summer and fall evenings while contemplating the end of the day on the back porch. This wine should retail for \$6 to \$8 a bottle.

Zucchini with Rosemary

2 small or 1 medium zucchini, sliced
2 tbsp of olive oil
1 clove of garlic, minced or crushed
2 or 3 sprigs of fresh rosemary
Salt and fresh ground pepper to taste

Add the olive oil to a non-stick pan. Add the zucchini, garlic and rosemary that has been stripped from the sprig. Sauté for 5 to 10 minutes (until it just starts to go limp). Add salt and pepper.

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

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

Answers to CultureQuest® Sampler

(See Page 20 for the questions if you're reading *Momentum* back-to-front.)

1. Tatum O'Neal
2. Jessica Tandy
3. My Lai Massacre
4. The University of California
5. House of Lancaster (victors),
House of York
6. *La Belle et la Bête (Beauty and the Beast)*
7. Karl Marx
8. Alice Roosevelt Longworth
9. Lisa Simpson, Stephen Hawking
10. Arabian Oryx



Calendar of Events

December 2005

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2 Temperance League	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Immoveable Feast	10 Books and Brunch Film: <i>Chronicles of Narnia</i>
11 Second Sunday Brunch Bunch Roving Salon Candlelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke Boston Horns Big Band	12	13	14	15	16 WinnepaSupper	17
18 Central Maine Dining	19	20 FSM/ ExComm	21	22	23 Appetite for Discussion	24
25 <i>Christmas</i>	26	27 Dinner and Pub Quiz	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>

Mensa members are welcome to submit calendar listings to the Calendar Editor (calendar@nh.us.mensa.org) 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. Abundant and continued thanks to our event hosts!

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