

Excerpts from the February 1999 MIND

The Newsletter of

[Central Indiana Mensa](#)

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CONTRIBUTION GUIDELINES

MIND accepts contributions from all interested parties, with preference for publication going to members of Central Indiana Mensa. **Contributions should reach the Editor's postal box 50946, Indianapolis, IN 46250 at least twenty days before the 1st day of the publication month. Materials must take the form of legible written copy and/or camera-ready art. Please do not submit items on magnetic media.** Contributions may undergo editing for length and to eliminate patently offensive remarks, including personal attacks. The Editor must know the name of any contributor before publication; however, he will withhold that name from the public on request.

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This is Volume 34, Issue Number 2, February 1999

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MY PIECE OF MIND

GEORGE DUNN

Ganesh

[There being a first time for everything, I deepsixed my intended column this month to do an entirely new one on current events. Curiously, I found the original title still works.]

As any of you who read much of this periodical would elsewhere in it learn, LocSec Greg Crawford packed it in at the last ExCom meeting. The proximate cause of Greg's resignation was that body's failure to enthusiastically put the kibosh on a number of faltering projects, but the real causes, as usual, are more complex.

Greg will, I've been assured, have a letter in this issue laying out his take on events, which I suggest everyone read, not so much for the purpose of taking sides, but to better grasp the dynamics of this Local Group.

I'm writing this column without seeing that letter to offer an independent observer's impression of events.

Whether Greg acknowledges it or not, I'm convinced that the dustup at the ExCom was "in the pipeline" for days or weeks before. In a phrase, Greg "burned out" with the duties of the office compounded by a perceived willingness of the members to sit by and watch him exhaust himself. I point this out not to invite debate on the accuracy of his perceptions but to remind us that it's not what we think of others' burdens that matters.

Greg didn't express any such expectations to me, but I hope he didn't believe his sudden resignation would "bring the ExCom to their senses" and shame them into taking care of neglected business. People's egos are far too well defended for the "They'll be sorry when I'm gone" gambit to generate much more than resentment and rationalizations. Those targeted for shame quickly find arguments to rebound it onto the accuser.

When he took on the LocSec's position Greg perceived a Group coasting on past glories, an ExCom eagerly approving ambitious projects without intending to contribute more than token labor to make them successful. He thought that he might force them to either invest themselves or reduce their grandiose plans. He felt that he failed.

This is not the place for itemizing griefs; trust me, there were many. The task now is to see whether or not someone has a plan to match the activities attempted to the available labor pool because it does not appear that another person is at hand to take over where Greg left off.

Being human, we're all pleased to have "someone take care of things; being human, we all tend to resent people who let **us** do the taking care of, particularly when they directly profit from our efforts.

When a Hindu prays, the first of his many gods he names is always Ganesh, the elephant-headed deity whose best-known sobriquet is Remover of Obstacles. The son of one of the chief gods, Lord Shiva, Ganesh is to the Hindus what Hercules was to the ancient Greeks.

Whatever our religion, we all respond to the appeal of a powerful personality who can smooth our path for us, nor is it wrong to do so. The error comes in when we begin to treat the hero as a servant, expecting him to do it all. Perhaps Ganesh helps those who help themselves.

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| Unity Commitment Purpose |
|---------------------------------------|

LOCSECTION

GREG CRAWFORD

I feel good. I feel really, really good. As I am composing this column somewhere early in January due to deadlines, I am lying - or is that laying* - on a bed at our friendly neighborhood blood bank doing one of the things I love to do best; to wit, being a blood donor. After all these years, and after all the gallons, I still feel like a hero every time I roll up my sleeve.

Someone, somewhere gets another chance because of me.

No larger than our Group is, we have many who are equally heroic. George faithfully reads for the blind. Each day he converts the printed word of the Indianapolis News into radio waves for CIRRI and monthly he audiotapes The Isolated M and The Mensa International Journal for our own sight-impaired folk.

Others are active with causes as diverse as the many shades of the rainbow. Dave (A.) earnestly promotes the city's computer society. Dave (Tess) is politically active and Rick backs drug reform. Peggy is D.A.R., Kishor raises funds for UNICEF, Chris sits on the board of her neighborhood association, Grace is a docent at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Marion is an Advanced Master Gardner who freely shares her expertise at various venues.

Our diversity hardly ends there. Janette is an outspoken advocate of home schooling. Rhoda visits shut-ins. Jean works with a Japanese/American cultural association. Anna Marie makes important contributions at Fire Base Indy. Bob is setting up a library at a Christian college.

The list goes on and on, and it does so without a great deal of overlap. Our activities reflect our uniqueness and our talents. I truly am glad to be part of Mensa, no matter how weird or dysfunctional we may be. As they say, "warts and all." I feel good. I knew that I would. So does James Brown and he's not even close to being a Mensan. He doesn't know what he is missing.

* For whatever it's worth, lying is what people do in bed or the White House.

LET'S DO IT!

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

Have you thought about hosting a Mensa event but were daunted by the difficulty or expense?

Well, we need places to hold MINDBendings. Ideally, there will be two areas to work (living room and dining room?), places to park about half a dozen cars, and a non-smoking environment. About 4-6 days from the end of the month works best. And up to \$25.00 of refreshments will be covered by Mensa.

Currently, March, April and June are open. Could you host us one of these months? If so, please call me at 632-4747 so that we can determine dates and times that are convenient for you.

This is an easy way to help the group without worrying about babysitters, road conditions, or a horde of people for hours -- normally we have about 7 - 8 people for about three hours.

Nancy White

BOOK FOR SALE -- "The Magnetic Double Helix" is a large series of common sense theories, the result of thirty-seven years of research in physical science. These theories are all based on the LeSage ether, invented in 1744 by George LeSage. There is no math beyond first semester algebra in this book's large number of beautiful revolutionary theories.

A 150 page book in a GBC slotted binding = \$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage and handling. Send money order or check to Herman F. Hagemier, P.O. Box 382, Pendleton, Indiana, 46064.

"CARTER DRUSE"

Crimes against Humanity. Could they happen here? The answer is yes, because they have; right here in Indianapolis, capitol of our sleepy Midwestern state, hundreds were systematically killed and crippled for unabashed greed and blatant revenge. The history follows.

U.S. Grant developed a strategy which affirmed his initials stood for Unconditional Surrender: surround and then conquer the Confederate States via a war of attrition. This war was waged against uniformed and civilian alike.

With the harbors blockaded and the Tennessee and Mississippi Rivers sealed to outside commerce, the CSA was effectively isolated. General Philip Sheridan was ordered to put the torch to the Shenandoah Valley, Breadbasket of the South, even as General William Tecumseh Sherman began his infamous March to the Sea. Much more than Atlanta burned.

Each army left incredible devastation behind as attested by the respective boasts of their leaders, "When I am done, a crow flying over will have to carry its own rations" and "War is hell!"

After enduring such absolute devastation, the seceding states were punished in defeat with sanctions which proportionately surpassed those which led to

Hitler's rise after Germany's WWI defeat.

Carpetbaggers and generals, no matter how great their graft and crimes against a fallen foe, are not the ultimate subject of this narrative, however. Ofttimes, Crimes Against humanity can be brought down to a personal level. That person is one Henry Wirz, commandant of Andersonville Prisoner of War Camp near Plains, Georgia.

In 1864, Wirz was put in charge of Andersonville just as the Confederate States were experiencing the worst of the war. The end was in sight and the picture was far from pretty. Famine was endemic, infrastructure non-existent, there were neither blankets nor medicines, and even firewood was in short supply. Nevertheless, Wirz was expected to adequately feed, house and hospitalize thousands of captured Union troops at a time when such amenities were not available -- by design -- for Southern children and wounded, much less able-bodied soldiers; their own or those in Andersonville. Shortly after the final surrender, Wirz was hanged as the only "war criminal" from either side of this bloody, fratricidal war.

How does this relate to Indiana? What part did we play in this scheme of things? As tales of the horrors of Andersonville made their way north, our governor, Oliver Perry Morton opted to retaliate. Though Indiana had virtually no battles fought on home soil, decisions were made to systematically starve prisoners held at northside Indianapolis POW Camp Morton.

Over 1,763 Confederate soldiers needlessly died of disease and starvation in Camp Morton. Over 1500 are interred in Garfield Park beneath a common marker. Many watched as their kin died... for no reason other than reprisal for events beyond the soldiers' control.

Henry Wirz was executed for failure to provide what he did not have for prisoners he did not want. His last words were that he followed orders. Governor Morton, who gave orders which deprived helpless men of their lives, has his statue at our state capitol. Wirz is the war criminal and Morton the war hero. Is it possible that a Higehr Power may judge Crimes Against Humanity differently?

Dom Jervis

Crimes Against Humanity

"What does it say to the boat of Civilization that history is tainted with attempts by one group to wipe out another?" Given the billions of people who have lived, it seems impossible to imagine human history with *no* attempts at genocide. This is nothing more than greed, spite and xenophobia in their most extreme forms. Indeed, one could justifiably marvel that more attempts were not more successful.

Now, before you accuse me of wearing a Swastika (You wouldn't be the first. Several members of my current local chapter have already done so, which is one reason why I don't waste my time writing for *their* newsletter.), I feel compelled to state that, in my humble opinion, the attempted eradication of the Jews was one of the most reprehensible ideas ever to emanate from the brain of a human being (term used loosely).

Fortunately, there is little chance that any such act will ever recur to this degree against a group of innocent people. Our instantaneous system of worldwide communication assists toward that end. Unfortunately, even the most noble of concepts can be bent, folded, spindled and mutilated into a

counterchanged sham of its former self. For example, this paragraph's first sentence has had its first and twentieth words removed, and a group of people who merit a demise by the most totuous means possible live a life of relative luxury.

I am referring to "violent and incontrovertibly guilty career criminals." Unfortunately many elected decision-makers have contorted the horror of taking a human life into the prevarication that state-sanctioned killing is wrong, regardless of the reason. These pointy-headed liberals deprave the Declaration of Independence as it pertains to the "inalienable Rights ... (of) ... Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Capital punishment, they argue, violates the inalienable Right to Life. The crime justifying the death sentence is of no interest to them. Taken to the extreme, they could argue for freeing all prisoners, who are certainly denied liberty. The unchecked Right to the Pursuit could result in acts beyond one's imagination. However, attempting to argue these last two points would blow their cover, and would expose them for the inane cretins that they are. Make no mistake. The proliferation of the liberal attitude against capital punishment after World War II was no coincidence.

In Colonial times, execution awaited men who stole property. Today, innocent people are killed for the coins in their pockets, while the perpetrator wails that he is a victim of society, that he had to steal and kill because he couldn't get a job that pays enough to feed his illegitimate children or his habit. Unfortunately, too often this egregious argument works. The pendulum has swung to the opposite radian, and American society is the worse for it.

It seems sadly ironic that these wretched wastes of human life have those who attempted [to] obliterate innocent cultures from the planet to thank for their air-conditioned cells with cable TV, exercise rooms and conjugal visits, paid for in part by the families of those they robbed and murdered. I would rather have my tax dollars pay for a hangman's noose. Eliminating these malefactors from our world could only be a vast improvement.

James M. Johnson

Herd Behavior in the 20th Century

It used to be so simple. You wander around the savanna with your tribe. You stay wary of other tribes because you've learned you can't always trust them. If another tribe does cause you trouble, you try to slay them.

Then things got complicated. Tribal groups got bigger and bigger. Their territories became fairly well defined. You still have these urges towards violence and sticking with the pack, but it's not clear anymore how to apply them. Sure, there's the occasional war, but these don't happen all the time, and actually, that's just as well because the ability to use technology has changed the weakest beast in the jungle into a killer of truly awesome proportions.

The very complexity of the world that's caused the confusion has provided a way to keep people in opposition to each other. With all of the diversity among people, there is an immense variety of groups available for people to divide themselves into. While the old basics of nationality and race are still available, people can also form herds based on more abstract ideas. If another group tends to practice a religion in a different way you've got a good basis to oppose them. If they happen to call God by another name, well, they're downright heathens, ain't they? The development of a wide variety of political views provides a multitude of opponents, ignoring the fact that the extremists at each end of the spectrum are nearly identical to each other. Given this potpourri of philosophies, there is never a shortage of opposing groups. If a

particular group is at a disadvantage, due to inferior numbers or being less technologically advanced, you have the perfect opportunity to convert them to your, correct, way of thinking or wipe them out. You can be sure that if they gained the majority they would do the same to you.

Is the continuing cycle of aggression and persecution the fault of a few groups that keep forcing this situation on the rest of us? No, that is the same old line of thought of blaming problems on some other tribe. The basic instincts toward violence and tribalism are ingrained into everyone.

The human intellect which is supposed to make us superior, in fact makes us more human, is too often used to justify attitudes which are based on more primitive emotions. Don't use it to justify what your emotions want you to do. Use it to analyze the validity of the emotions. The differences among people typically provide a learning experience rather than a threat.

It would be nice if the world got along peacefully, but it isn't going to happen. There will always be someone out there wanting to control others for profit or ideological reasons. At those times it's fortunate to have people with the will to use force to stop one group from dominating another, or an individual from preying on another individual. But don't manufacture divisions that are only based on matters of personal preference. Overcome the tendency to recreate the world in your own image.

[Competition is not necessarily synonymous with horror; authors such as Konrad Lorenz had noted that many lower species are able to exercise restraint in fighting with their own kind. -Ed]

Communications

by Will Steinke, Region IV RVC Apparent

Happy New Year and I hope your holidays were fun. I've just come in from uncovering my car of the 20 inches of white fallout we received yesterday. Now, I'm in the mood to make my 1999 travel plans. By the time you read this, Deb and I will have "partied like it's 1999" in Indy and are getting ready to visit the Gateway to the West in St. Louis. In July, we will take that hint and go way out west for the Annual Gathering in Long Beach, wing our way back to Wisconsin for another world tour at Gemutlichkeit, come home to Chicago for a howling good time at HallowweeM XXIV, and close out the year in December in Minnesota. Looks like a fun travel tour.

In the midst of this travelog, we'll take some time out for some serious fun. Heart of Illinois is planning to host a Leadership Development Workshop.

The purpose of this workshop is to improve the skills and knowledge of officers and editors of the local groups in the region. The workshop is actually open not only to current officers and editors, but also to members interested in local group leadership and administration. The best part about these programs is that what you learn can be used in everyday living.

This workshop is expected to be a single day of programs. Registration is free and meals will be provided. Also, if you wish to come in Friday night and stay through Sunday, other activities are being planned, and details will be announced.

What makes this such an important event is that this is Mensa's "Top Gun" training program -- "You're good, but we'll make you better." AMC encourages all of its regions to host an LDW because the AMC knows that training and

energizing our local officers and volunteers will create the strong local groups on which a successful national organization can be built.

If you have any questions, want to attend or just lend a hand, please contact Joanna Soper at 217-359-9680 or by email at osospoild@aol.com.

So come join Deb and me in Champaign/Urbana for an interesting, informative and fun weekend.

[Webmaster's note: The date for this is March 13, 1999.]

MINDBENDING HONOR ROLL

| [H = Host] | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dave A. | | | ♥ | ♥ | |
| Alison Brown | ♥H | | | ♥H | |
| Greg Crawford | ♥ | ♥ | ♥H | ♥ | |
| George Dunn | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | |
| Carol Gould | ♥ | | | | |
| Jud Horning | ♥ | ♥ | | | |
| Jerry Hunter | | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | |
| Treva Marks | ♥ | ♥H | ♥ | ♥ | |
| Nancy White | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | |

LATER, THE TUSCARORA

George Dunn

Crimes Against Humanity

War brings change, and change, growth - sometimes. In the aftermath of WW II, the victorious powers introduced a novel concept to the philosophy of conflict: that there were offenses which, though committed against selected groups, injured the whole of the human race. We live with this idea now, and it seems odd to think that it was not always obvious.

To be sure, civilized peoples have long reacted with horror to accounts of barbarism, but this was at best a sympathy for the victims and at worst a concern that something similar might happen to them; only a few minds harbored the notion that the slaughtering hordes had rent the fabric of humanity itself.

Stating a principle is of course not the same thing as adhering to it. Having just deplored the horrors of Nazism, Communist tyrants returned to their own oppressions, amassing body counts even more horrendous than those of the defeated Germans.

Fifty years after the Nuremberg trials, the World's Only Remaining Superpower reflects smugly on the moral superiority of our society, somewhat dimmed to the history of the Indian treaties, slavery, Jim Crow, the Tuskegee Experiment and the economic bargains made with powers who continue atrocities against their "ethnic minorities."

Patriots deny the relevance of these events because they differ in chronology, geography, scope, purpose or some other distinguishing characteristic. Well, of course: no two situations are precisely analogous, and the clever spokesman can always find some difference to separate *his* party's necessary practices from the evil ones of somebody else.

I believe that common characteristics underlie all forms of inhumanity, from engineered famine to schoolyard bullying. These vary in scope and sophistication, but not in essence.

First, the potential criminal must **desire some good thing**, usually wealth, but sometimes an abstract quality such as admiration, or even the desire to "save souls" for his religion. Alone, this desire doesn't produce evil; it merely provides the energy for it.

Next, he must come to regard other people as either **tools for** or **obstacles to** this good thing, to the degree that he denies the value of any desires they may have.

Finally, he needs to **screen out objections** to his practices to prevent the weakness of empathy in himself or his followers.

There is a comforting belief that some actions involve such innate horror that upright people could never do them, that conscience is a reliable warden. I have regretfully observed no objective boundary between atrocities and "sound business practices."

So what's the good of these observations? The good of keeping in mind that It Can Happen Here and that there are certain signals along the way. The production of atrocities does **not** require persons of monstrously evil nature, though these sometimes appear. While perhaps no Truly Good person can become a criminal, there are lots of people with a **little** good in them who mistakenly think that is enough to exempt them and their actions from criminal status.

B _____
A _____
S _____
I _____
L _____

by Basil Wentworth

142 A BRUSH WITH CULTURE - II

She whispered to van Gogh, "My dear,
I know history isn't your sphere,
But I'm moved to remark
In the words of old Marcus
Antonious, lend me your ear."

Said Rosemary, "off with van Gogh,
With Renoir and Cezannes and Corot.
We learn from the spiel
Of Shakespeare's Ophelia
Rosemary's for Rembrandt, you know."

The painting was well on its way
To completion, which moved me to say
"I fel that this one
Is the best he has done;
'Twill be known as the great feat of Klee."

The conductor explained, "Wot ze 'eck!
I 'ave work' my poor brain blue and bleck
Zere's a sway in the train
Zat I cannot explain --
It mus' be is too loose le treck."

Said Manet, "Elementary math
 Would account for the cause of my wrath --
 Two cooks, you would think,
 Used to filling the sink...
 But two Manet cooks spoiled the bath."

* * * * *

Here, young artists, is advice for you:
 Taking pains is what you should not do.
 If the pains that you take
 Make you take out the "ache",
 Then your gouache dries only to "gou".

To Keep In MIND

Upcoming Gatherings and Events

| *** 1999 *** | |
|-------------------------|--|
| February 26-28 | Wild Kingdom RG , St. Louis, MO; Holiday Inn Southwest/Viking, 10709 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63127; (314)821-6600 or (800)682-6338; rooms \$59; Registration: Gary and Sara Gadeken; ggadeken@inlink.com ; Web site . |
| March 26-28 | Tropical Paradise Cruise , Best Western Midway Hotel, 7711 West Saginaw Hwy, Lansing, MI 48917; rooms \$65; Registration \$45 to 2/28, \$50 after; checks to Mid-Michigan Mensa RG; contact: Elizabeth Evangelista. |
| April 30 - May 2 | SEMMantics 21 Contact Betsy Y. Mark. BetsyYMark@aol.com |
| July 1-5 | Orange County AG ; Hyatt-Regency Long Beach, (800)233-1234; rooms \$99 - \$119; Registration: \$49 to 12/31; \$59 to 5/31; Greg de Hoogh |
| October 1-3 | CAMbake Contact Concetta E. Bartosh or Dave Michel , or MensaPHone (216) 556-1333. |

| *** 2000 *** | |
|-----------------|---|
| July 5-9 | Delaware Valley Mensa AG (Philadelphia) (Joint AG with Mensa Canada) |

| *** 2001 *** | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 4-8 | North Texas Mensa AG (Dallas) |

LocSec's Resignation

Over the past several years, Central Indiana Mensa has lost just over one-fourth of its membership. Nearly half of our core members have moved along. Last year, despite Mensa growth on a national level, our Local Group was one of only five in our region that lost membership. A decade ago, Monthly Meetings surpassed 100 attendees, not just the 25 or so we average now. Compounding this is the stark fact that 78% of us are past 40, many of us way

past. We have little to offer folks in their 20's and 30's.

Once we had a number of active and thriving SIGs. We now have two. We once expected a goodly number to attend our two annual picnics. In 1998, we had 14 and 17. Our December holiday event had much lower attendance than in years past. Only three of us showed up for the Thanksgiving dinner. The Lafayette sub-Group has disappeared. How much more shrinkage can we stand?

Though our chapter has four separate pools of scholarship money, totaling several thousand dollars, no local scholarships have been awarded for years. Why? Far fewer of us contribute to the MIND than in past days. Why? Our Nominating Committee had a devil of a time fielding 12 candidates (for 9 elected positions) for our last election.

How did we get to this point? First, for years now we have had no Young Ms programs, no retention programs, no recruitment programs and no publicity programs of any great consequence. There have been small efforts, but nothing that has yielded results. The proof is in the numbers.

Furthermore, we have put little effort into recruiting and training a "next generation" of officers. Just look at the officer listing on the inside back cover of this MIND, then compare it to one from three, maybe four years ago. Most of the names are familiar; only the titles have changed. Some of those people have been with us ten, fifteen, even twenty years. Those people are burning out. Few of us have the energy we once had. Who will be there in the future?

As LocSec, I have recently learned what energy means. This month alone, January, I have been blindsided by one needless mess after another. Only days before the MIND deadline, I learned that we had no meeting place for February. But for a chance encounter, we would have arrived at our usual spot and found it taken!

Another time, a month before our Regional Gathering, our hotel called to say that only 17 rooms had been reserved by Mensans (as compared to the 50 which we had reserved and contracted for.) What should be done? Financially guarantee the remaining rooms, a sum that would break our local treasury, or release them, which might have meant attendees unable to get rooms (as happened in the past)? Guess who had to deal with it?

Yet another call from the hotel informed me that one of our members had taken it on herself on contact them -- in our name -- wholly unauthorized -- and request an alternate layout. Still another call brought news of a non-Mensan who was upset about the disposition of money donated to one of our several scholarship programs. (This money was, in fact, accepted by us under invalid pretenses.) Legal action was threatened.

Five, count 'em, five other January calls were from parents trying to get in our MERF Scholarship program, the one that had a December 31 deadline. Didn't I love dealing with them after they had been referred our way, a day late and a dollar short? Then there was the effort of cancelling our January meeting due to a massive snowfall. I'm still catching hell over it.

Speaking of hell, the champion on that score was the person who called four days in a row trying to convince me to book the February meeting at the Children's Museum, a venue beyond our budget unless we went without refreshments. This would not have flown with our general membership, especially since this would be our first monthly meeting iwth the increased door charge.

I finally had to hang up the phone to get rid of her, at 10:20 p.m. Then I had to hand up again at 10:25 to get rid of her a second time. I was not a happy camper.

What a month! When all this was shared with our ExCom, not one voice offered assistance. Not one. Later, during that same meeting, I informed the ExCom that we had drastic volunteer needs in a number of areas, and called for volunteers. Not one person offered to take over one of the positions that was lacking.

Those people on the ExCom were not alone. Our general membership has also ignored numerous calls for help. Published requests in the MIND by myself, my predecessor, the Editor and others have been ignored wholesale. Verbal requests, both on-on-one and as announcements during our Monthly Meetings, have fared no better. As a group, we have precious little commitment.

Commitment. Here is how it works: We have plenty of people who will be an RG Auctioneer; they get in the spotlight. A smaller number (one) has been willing to hustle up the auction items. We have plenty of folks who will cook a great (and cost-prohibitive) meal for our events for easy compliments; a smaller number (none) washes the dirty pots and pans.

As of this writing, our RG Hospitality Chair has received more offers of help from out-of-state Mensans than from our own Local Group. Why?

When I think about it, why should our members be committed? Why should they pitch in and work? Two facts are straightforward: One, the jobs will somehow get done, even if the average Mensan coasts along. Second, we are not a political cause, a religious movement or a life-saving charity; we exist primarily to amuse ourselves. Let's face it: our Monthly Meetings, picnics, gatherings and such do not change the world, they just give us a good time.

With all of the preceding considered, I cannot justify giving so many hours and days of my life just so other people can party. This is compounded by the many ungrateful complaints and the extreme lack of sweat-equity the complainers are willing to invest. When I look in the mirror, I have to realize that my family, my job and my life are being sacrificed. For what? Social activities. That conclusion reached, I resign as LocSec.

Greg Crawford

Dear Readers:

I've published Greg's resignation in full for several reasons, not the least of which is that he merits the opportunity through his previously unpublicized labors. I realize that his charges are going to ruffle some feathers (I'm also a member of that "do-nothing" ExCom) and I hope you realize that I expose myself to AMC flak when I allow discord to appear in counterpoint to the ever-shining public face of Mensa Officialdom. However, I feel in general that if people are to trust what they read they have to read occasionally of contention and unhappiness because we know these things occur. In this specific case I think an airing is all the more important because it is our willingness to ignore problems that this resignation alleges.

As always, readers are welcome to dispute the charges above, and as always, space will be available for answering disputants. Some, doubtless, will take what they see here quite personally, and I can only express a hope that their responses will not seek to escalate the clash of personalities.

*Against the backdrop of a national drama in which a man clings to office with preposterous rationales to repel the shamings of the self-righteous, we at least have a case of straightforward behavior, petulant as it may seem to those it indicts. To those considering presenting their side of the story, I recommend the counsel of George Miller: "Regard the statements of the other party as true, then try to understand what they may be true of." Since some people to whom I've told that claim not to know what it means, it means that people do not hold their opinions without some reason; the occasion of their opinions not conforming with **your** reasons does not invalidate them. -Ed*

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The Original Michelson-Morley Experiment And Its Algebra

When the Michelson-Morley experiment was first performed they were hoping that they could use the ether wind to measure the movement of the earth through a supposedly stationary ether. They expected to detect the difference between the speed of the earth through the ether and the speed of light waves through the ether. The ether was thought to be stationary and the breeze that we would detect would be similar to the breeze that we would feel when moving rapidly through still air. When this author first read about the null results of this experiment, 37 years ago, he considered this to be negative evidence for a stationary ether and strong evidence for an ether which included the speed of light and the movement of all energy.

The experiment was first performed in the early 1880's. A beam of light was split into two beams by a half-silvered mirror which allowed part of the light to be reflected at a 90 degree angle while the rest of the light passes straight through the mirror. After making the right-angled turn, the L beam, the lateral beam, will travel a distance, d , to a mirror and will be reflected right back on that path to the same half-silvered mirror. A portion of the L beam will then go straight through that mirror to the interferometer.

The S beam, the straight-ahead beam, passes through the half-silvered mirror without being reflected. It travels straight ahead a distance, d , to hit a mirror and is then reflected right back on that path to that same half-silvered mirror. This S beam, on the return trip, strikes the back side of the half-silvered mirror, where part of the beam is reflected and joins the L beam as it enters the interferometer. Here the light is analyzed to determine how far the two rejoined waves were out of phase.

The whole setup was mounted on a platform that could be rotated. By turning the platform in every direction they were bound to find a place where a light path between mirrors would coincide with the direction of the movement of the laboratory through the ether. The round trip in the line of motion was expected to take more time than the round trip in the lateral direction.

Expected Time for Lateral Round trip.

One method of illustrating the Michelson-Morley mathematics uses the following example. The time needed for a boat to cross the current of a river and return was contrasted with the time needed for a boat to move an equal distance up the current of a river and return. The boat, trying to reach a spot directly across the river, has to be aimed at a point that is upstream of that spot. The logistics of the

problem would be about the same as if there were no current and the banks of the river were moving upstream.

In this problem they considered the distance directly across the river to be rigid. At the time the experiment was first run it had not yet occurred to them that the equipment of the laboratory could shrink due to its motion through space. Instead, the paths of the light waves were thought to be lengthened. The failure to detect the movement of the earth relative to the movement of the light waves was very puzzling and it was only after several years that a contraction theory was advanced.

The perpendicular distance across the river was considered to be one side of a right triangle and is called X here. The distance that the current flows while the boat is crossing the river is called Y and the diagonal distance that the boat travels, relative to the current, is called Z . The ratio of the distances, Y/Z , is equal to the ratio of the two speeds, V/C , because the current and the boat move through the same length of time. The algebra below involves the Pythagorean equation.

$$Y/Z = V/C, \quad Y = ZV/C, \quad Y^2 = Z^2V^2/C^2.$$

The following is a standard Pythagorean equation and Z is the hypotenuse. The equality above is substituted for Y^2 .

$$\begin{aligned} X^2 &= Z^2 - Y^2, & X^2 &= Z^2 - Z^2V^2/C^2, \\ X^2 &= Z^2(1 - V^2/C^2), & X &= Z(1 - V^2/C^2)^{1/2}, \\ X / (1 - V^2/C^2)^{1/2} &= Z. \end{aligned}$$

this shows how much the diagonal distance, Z , increases over the direct distance, X , when the speed of the current, V , is a fraction of that of the speed of the boat, C . X , divided by a quantity which is less than 1, gives a value to Z , which is greater than the value of X . It was thought that the time for crossing the river would be increased by $1 / (1 - V^2/C^2)^{1/2}$ when there was a current. The trip back would be affected by that same factor.

The mathematics of the Michelson-Morley experiment indicated that the time for the round trip in the line of motion would be enough longer than the time in the lateral direction that their equipment could detect the difference. We have just covered the situation that existed in the lateral direction. At this time we will go over the mathematics that indicated a time expansion for the round trip in the line of motion.

Using the analogy of traveling against the current and returning with the current, the speed would be slower going upstream, $C - V$. The speed would be faster coming downstream, $C + V$. If we let $C = 1$, the term, $C - V$, can be written as $1 - V/C$ and the term, $C + V$, can be written as, $1 + V/C$. These speeds do not cancel each other because the time going at the higher rate of speed can be very much shorter. The time for the round trip in the line of motion can be calculated, using the following mathematics.

D is the distance traveled upstream and $2D$ equals a round trip. $D / (C - V) + D / (C + V) =$ time for round trip. In order to do this addition we must secure a common denominator. We can multiply the numerator and denominator of each fraction by the denominator of the other fraction. The product of the sum and

difference of the two quantities is equal to the square of the first less the square of the second.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & D(C-V) / (C+V)(C-V) + D(C+V) / (C-V)(C+V) = \\
 & D(C - V) / (C^2 - V^2) + D(C + V) / (C^2 - V^2) = \\
 & [D(C - V) + D(C + V)] / (C^2 - V^2) = \\
 & [(DC - DV) + (DC + DV)] / (C^2 - V^2) = \\
 & \quad 2DC / (C^2 - V^2) .
 \end{aligned}$$

This represents the total time needed for the light beam to make the round trip along the line of motion of the crystal. To arrive at the distance traveled we must multiply by the speed of light, C. The round-trip distance is 2D multiplied by $C^2 / (C^2 - V^2)$. A number divided by a number which is smaller than itself is a fraction which is larger than one. This increase in distance should have been accompanied by a corresponding increase in the time needed for the round trip. They expected that the time for the round trip in the lateral direction would be lengthened by the factor, $1 / (1 - V^2/C^2)^{1/2}$, and the time for the round trip in the line of motion would be lengthened by the factor, $1 / (1 - V^2/C^2)$. It was expected that the two beams would be out of phase. The fact that the light waves were in phase with each other when they returned was, according to many writers, the origin of relativity theory.

A fraction multiplied by its reciprocal would become 1. The contractions which would have cancelled the excess time, as shown above, would have been the reciprocals of the above fractions. The reciprocal would be $(1 - V^2/C^2)^{1/2}$ for the lateral contraction. The reciprocal would be $(1 - V^2/C^2)$ for the contraction factor in the line of motion.

It was in or about 1881 that Michelson and Morley first ran their experiment. They were dismayed at the null results. The two light beams followed paths of different lengths but still returned in perfect phase. In 1905 Einstein refused to accept the contraction theory which G.F. Fitzgerald advanced in 1892. Einstein preferred a fourth dimension of time.

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