

Excerpts from the February 2000 MIND

The Newsletter of

[Central Indiana Mensa](#)

After Viewing, Please Close This Window To Return

[Click here to see this month's cover.](#)

PUBLISHING STATEMENT

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa Ltd., publishes MIND monthly. Mensa, a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th percentile on a standardized intelligence test, neither endorses nor opposes the opinions reported in MIND, which remain those of the individual contributors.

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.

REPRINT INFORMATION

Other Mensa publications may freely reprint material in MIND. Please send a copy of the issue with the reprinted material to the MIND Editor. If a piece bears an individual copyright, obtain permission from the author before reprinting.

ADVERTISING

MIND accepts some paid advertising, with rates based on the next column inch of camera-ready copy. Minimum run is one quarter (three months). Send copy to managing Editor for exact quote. Do not send payment with ad. MIND will not knowingly publish ads containing misleading information; however, it is not responsible for enforcing compliance of the contract between advertiser and customer.

MIND STAFF

Managing Editor: George Dunn, PO Box 50946, Indianapolis, IN 46250

Calendar Editor: [Marion Harcourt](#)

Proofreaders: Rhoda Israelov, Russ Washburne

Publisher: Nancy White

This is Volume 35, Issue Number 2, February 2000

CONTENTS

February, 2000

(Some items have not been transcribed yet. -Webmaster)

Hmmm. A lean month; a lean MIND.

The [Editor's Column](#) is, as usual, on **Page 4**. A little winter wit and a plug for the LDWs.

No **LocSection** this month, but see the **RVC column** on **Page 5**.

Our Monthly Theme, "Doing Time," addressed by [Dom Jervis](#), **Page 6**.

Look ahead for those spring RGs with ["To Keep in MIND,"](#) Page 8.

The Calendar, courtesy of **Marion Harcourt** pages **9 - 12**

Miss the Limericks last month? [Basil's](#) back on **Page 13**.

[Bulletin Board](#), **Page 14**

A gifted children's announcement from Carmel Clay schools, **Page 15**. ExCom Minutes, pages **16 and 17**.

Treasurer's Report for the last Quater, **Page 18**.

Upcoming Themes on the **Back Cover**.

That's All Folks!

MINDBENDING HONOR ROLL - 2000

[H = Host]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dave A.	♥											
Alison Brown												
Janette Greene Dollar	♥											
George Dunn	♥											
Marcele Everest	♥H											
Marion Harcourt	♥											
Jud Horning	♥											
Dom Jervis												
Bob Thomas	♥											
Doris Thomas	♥											
Nancy White	♥											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

MY PIECE OF MIND

GEORGE DUNN

Rough Weather

Well, it's another thin issue, folks. Kinda surprising, too; this month's topic, "Doing Time," was supposed to be a big favorite of the regular writers. Maybe the contributor polling approach deserves some rethinking. There's no LocSection this month. No, I didn't forget, and it wasn't too late. Grace simply felt that she didn't have a message this time. In the place normally occupied, we have an item from our RVC, announcing the new Regional Deputy, Joanna Soper. Those of you who attend the Circle City RGs will recall that Joanna wed Paul Soper at the one two years ago.

Snow's here! Road hazards abound, mainly in the form of Carmel housewives trying to steer their new Navigators while dialing their cell phones. Oh, and the sudden appearance of F-150s with freshly mounted plows, driven by anxious owners dreaming of quick money clearing driveways and rushing about to find likely sources. There's something both terrifying and satisfying in the shriek of plow blades not quite correctly positioned as they gouge the pavement.

Memo for the Membership Officer and the Region III RVC: I've discovered an effective way to increase the Mensa population: contact the testees.

A young woman I met at the Cincy RG contacted me to wee what happened to her admissions test. She'd been told they'd have her results in two weeks, but it had been more than five.

Being an expert Mensa Officer, I knew exactly what to do: I called Russ Washburne. He quickly raised Fort Worth and transmitted to me the good news: she passed.

This is the interesting part: She passed all right, but not on the basis of her Cincy test, which was not yet graded. Seems she'd made a prior application in 1994! That was what had just been approved.

Good thing this isn't the new millennium yet, 'cause we're short on hopeful omens. Locally the big news has been about the Colts Cinderella season sputtering out at the Ball; the White River Fish Kill and the Bob and Tom TV spot in which they (apparently) admire Dennis Rodman's worm. Nationally, a six-year-old Cuban has become an international hockey puck and the last "Peanust" is this coming Sunday.

Now I'd like to say a little about LDWs (Leadership Development Workshops), Mensa's version of Management Seminars. RVC Steinke will flog one in his column, stressing the points your Group will get towards the Group of the Year Award if you go to one. He also mentions free food and "what you learn can be used in everyday living." To that I'll add if you go not just to listen, but to present, you can have an influence on the future of Mensa. At the least, go with a list of objectives: questions you want answered, commitments to be made. LDWs are a prime venue for active Mensans to make themselves heard.

Dom Jervis

Doing Time

Our prison system is just another bureaucratic institution, with one unique charge. It gleefully implements the terrorization of the American people by its own elected officials. It imprisons the highest percentage of its population by any country simply because many of its victims do not belong there. They are the casualties of our lawmakers' bloodlust for power, facilitated by the lie that

the answer to every societal ill is to pass more laws. The result is the criminalization of acts that are innocuous and victimless.

Once established, any institution's prime objective becomes self-perpetuation. Existence justification becomes a top priority, even at the price of the truth. Prevarication is rationalized as the end justifying the means.

Laws are rarely repealed. This would loosen our government's grip on power. Worse yet, it would be the tacit admission of a mistake. The sad truth is that the prison system revels in the fact that more laws create more prospective inmates.

At one time, even if only in theory, prison was intended to punish and rehabilitate. The only people who are punished are those who should not be imprisoned, but are, the victims of laws which do not belong in a nation which claims to be the world's bellwether for freedom.

Inmates are warehoused, not rehabilitated. People who aren't true criminals when they are imprisoned learn to become criminals by the time they are released. This, coupled with the fact that no one will give them a chance to earn an honest living, results in recidivism, and justification for more prisons, which might as well have revolving doors.

Those who do belong in prison enjoy a life better than they deserve, paid for by taxpayers. Air conditioning, weight rooms, and conjugal visits are among their ostensible benefits. More furtive perquisites include contraband, condoned by guards bribed to look the other way, often resulting in a better life than the criminals would have on the outside.

The end result is a lack of respect for authority, and a feeling of powerlessness over one's own life. Please recall my article from the September MIND titled, "There Ought to Be a Law?" Anyone could be imprisoned for violating the ludicrous statutes cited. Adding laws gives legislators their own vehicle for existence justification, and lets them sell their lie of trying to keep honest Americans safe. In reality, it is the honest people who have the most to fear.

The demagoguery surrounding drunk driving is a perfect example. The relatively few people responsible for a high percentage of societal harm from drunk driving are mollycoddled. However, those who test above the arbitrary legal limit one time (despite having caused no harm) are persecuted. Many people have been arrested for drunk driving in their own driveways, after having caused no injury or damage. These people have committed no crime. They are victims of oppression! They may have drawn attention for having a broken taillight, but the authorities won't let an opportunity to torment them slip by, thanks to the fact that they have convinced the public that such people are a menace. This makes as little sense as being arrested for legally carrying a gun into a bank and committing no criminal act. It is not politically correct to speak on behalf of anyone turned into a pariah by a drunk driving conviction, regardless of the circumstances. Yet, no one calls for sanctions against those who cause traffic deaths due to senility or stupidity. The majority of traffic injuries and deaths are not alcohol-related. Look it up!* Why is it okay to punish a person for one harmless mistake, but not an octogenarian who can't think or see clearly and causes a death? Because the system said so, that's why!

Lest you think this dissertation is born of self-interest, I don't drink. So, just get over that suspicion of my motivation. My underlying principle is common sense.

Sadly, other crimes which should not even be on the books, much less

mandate prison time, account for numerous other people behind bars who do not belong there. Worse yet, true criminals cannot be jailed because there is no room for them, their space having been taken by victims of pseudo-crimes. The fact that genuine criminals are walking our streets justifies politicians' clamoring for more police officers.

The ever-increasing intrusion by the authorities into areas which are none of their business is the very reason for the proliferation of militia and other anti-government groups. People are tired of living in fear of those whose salaries they pay with their tax dollars!

Interestingly, this intrusion by government into places where it doesn't belong emulates the behavior of the masses. This same mania for control takes place on the individual level. It can be overt, such as your boss firing you for simply showing some individuality and not fitting into the company mold. Or, it can be more furtive, in the case of your spouse berating you for harmless comments made at a party.

It is this pushing into a person's emotional space when one should not that results in nefarious consequences, from shooting rampages by disgruntled ex-employees, to schoolyard massacres, to uxoricide. Workplaces, schools, and spouses exert the most intensive peer pressure found in our society. While I abhor such egregious behavior, I can understand why it happens. Everyone has a breaking point, at which a law means nothing.

Please think about these things. Be very careful of intruding when you have no business doing so. For instance, you might consider refraining from asking questions that begin with "Why." The listener may feel as though you are asking for justification of a decision or an action which is none of your business. Worse yet, it may be inferred that you are questioning one's character. This perception could be harmful to a friendship, or worse. The next time someone tells you, "Don't go there," realize that heeding that advice might save your life.

[* According to the 1999 World Almanac, in 1996, 41% of traffic fatalities and 7% of all traffic accidents were alcohol-related -Ed]

[People and organizations behave according to how they're rewarded; if rewards are based on reports of activity, people will figure out the sorts of activities and reports that generate the most reward for the least effort. A different sort of behavior occurs when rewards are based on successful solutions to problems. -Ed]

BULLETIN BOARD

Treva marks: Games Night returns! Come Saturday, 5 Feb, 7:30 pm to the home of Treva Marks & Jerry Hunter (call for directions). We'll play Euchre, Scrabble™, Pictionary™, Clever Endeavor™, Reminiscing™ and Chauvinst Pigs™ or BYO.

Petra Ritchie:

Nancy White: *Good Homes For Your Used Books!* I still need used books in good condition for the Monthly Book Sale. Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

Shirley Washburne: **Cheap Movie SIG** will probably meet Thursday, February 17 at the Hollywood Bar & Film Works, 247 South Meridian St. (park in Union Station garage next door for \$1), but

Glee and Sympathy

If you know of a Mensan who has suffered a setback **or** who has something to celebrate, (*especially* to celebrate) please contact Petra with the information; she will send a card on behalf of the Local Group.

(address and phone # deleted for web page)

pritchie@ibj.com

call Shirley Washburne at 839-9282 to make sure. Movie titles and showtimes change weekly, so check movies page of the Star.

Joseph Zanca: After seven years, the Mensa Membership Directory is being revised! The 1999 edition will be available in late September from the Mensa Boutique. Order by credit card at 1-800-MENSA4U. \$30.

B _____
A _____
S _____
I _____
L _____

by Basil Wentworth

151 - Buy and Buy

A lot of my friends know that I
Am precisely that kind of a guy
Who would like to go down
To the center of town
Just to watch all the shoppers go buy.

But my wife -- though our credit card's maxed
And our other resources are taxed,
Prices seem to be dropping --
She has to go "chopping"
While all of the prices are axed.

The prices are subject to slash,
And a slash, of course, could leave a gash,
And the owners of stores
Take delight in such sores,
Since the suppurate you from your cash.

I accept it as part of my life,
But a pain stabs my heart like a knife
When she brings something home
She can't carry alone --
For someone has schlepped with my wife.

When they said they'd abolish all
Aimless walking in the hall,
We heard one old geezer
Compare it to Caesar:
No blessed roamin' of the Mall.

* * * * *

My wife wonders what she can do:
There are lots of good stores to look through.
She must visit each one,
Which can hardly be done
If she only arrives at two.

To Keep In MIND

Upcoming Gatherings and Events

*** 2000 ***	
February 4-6	RG 2000.1: A Space Oddity. St. Louis, MO. Registrar Gary Gadeken . Rates: \$55 to 1/31; \$60 walk-in. Hotel: \$59, guaranteed to 1/22. Ramada Inn Six Flags (314) 938-6661 (no address yet).
March 24-25	AMC Meeting. Norfolk, VA. LocSec Dave Gunderlach, davjoy@pilot.infi.net
March 24-25	Mid-Michigan Millennial Merriment. Lansing, MI; Midway Best Western Hotel, West side of Lansing, 7711 W. Saginaw Hwy, Exit 93B off I-96; Rooms: \$64; reservations (517) 627-8471; Registrar: Sharon Plavnick, sharonslp@aol.com ; rates: \$45 until 1 March, then \$50.
May 5-7	SEMMantics 22, Ann Arbor MI. Registrar: Betsy Y. Mark
June 9-11	DAMNations Lucky 13, Dayton, OH; Howard Johnson Lodge, 7575 Poe Ave, Dayton OH, 45414 (937) 454-0550; rooms \$45; RG Registration \$60 to 5/31, \$69 walk-in; contact Nita Fields, Needtoread@aol.com .
July 5-9	Philly Phroics Delaware Valley Mensa AG (Philadelphia) (Joint AG with Mensa Canada) http://www.libertynet.org/dvmensa/ag2k/ . Register with American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. W., Arlington TX, 76006-6103.
July 28-30	Mensalympics Down Under, Columbus, OH, Days Inn, 1212 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43229; (614) 885-9696; rooms \$39; RG registratio: \$50 to 5/31. \$55 after; Steve Herrick, Steve_Herrick@compuserve.com .

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

*** 2002 ***	
July 3-7	Phoenix AG

[Email us at: indymensa@yahoo.com](mailto:indymensa@yahoo.com)