

# Excerpts from the January 2000 MIND

The Newsletter of

[Central Indiana Mensa](#)

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## 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

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## ADVERTISING

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## MIND STAFF

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

**Calendar Editor:** [Marion Harcourt](#)

**Proofreaders:** Rhoda Israelov, Russ Washburne

**Publisher:** Nancy White

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**This is Volume 35, Issue Number 1, January 2000**

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# CONTENTS

January, 2000

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

Well, the New Year (but *not*, I hope you all know, the New Millennium) opens with [Ye Editor](#) slipping back into his curmudgeonly ways. Read all about them on **Page 4**.

Much more uplifting is [LocSec Grace Falvey](#)'s column, filled with offers of new executive opportunities and an invitation to a month-end party. Check out **Page 5**.

Our Monthly Theme, "Sense of History," addressed by two of our most reliable contributors. See **Page 6** for [Dom Jervis](#)'s somber forecast, and then to **Page 7** for the hopes and regrets of [David Vaprin](#).

You may have heard about our **Regional Gathering**, the Y2K Survivor's Party: **Page 8** ([Upcoming Gatherings and Events](#)) reveals all the particulars you need to be there.

As is custom, the centerpages, **9** through **12**, feature this month's Calendar of Events, as compiled by Marion Harcourt.

Following which is a real treat: the inimitable [Basil Wentworth](#), having over the decades given us the greater part of a thousand limericks, has favored us with a **sonnet**. Don't miss **Page 13**.

["Later, the Tuscarora."](#) appears on **Page 14**, with a short homily on reward.

**Page 15:** [Bulletin Board](#). (Remember, you can post your stuff here, too.)

Sometime essayist [Robert Adair](#), having recently switched over to fiction, gives us a look at some more of his work with "The House of Hate," appearing promptly on **Page 16**.

**Page 18**, [MINDBender's Honor Roll](#), closes out the variable text portion of this MIND with a list of those worthies who have helped fold, staple, address, sort, stack and mail it so you can read it. Wish we could have filled up the page with the names, if you get my drift.

The **Inside Back Cover** contains the names of those folks you should call, write or e-mail with Mensa-questions. Note especially our latest addition, the Deputy Regional Vice Chair, **Joanna Soper**.

And by all means, take a gander at the **Back Cover**, which contains suggested themes for the next four months. Find some topic that appeals to you, write up 500 words on it, and send it in. Don't wait for the month to appear on your Day Runner®, do it now.

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## MY PIECE OF MIND

GEORGE DUNN

### Return of the Curmudgeon

Okay, I hope everybody enjoyed the two months' relief from the Editor's curmudgeoning (is that a word?) because it's back to the woodshed for the new year.

Oh, all right: it's not going to be that bad; I just need to point out that December's MIND lacked some of its usual features because of the Rule of Four (if I have to drop one page due to nondelivery, I may have to drop three others.)

\* \* \*

We also had a crisis with the December MINDBending, nobly solved once again by the Washburnes, which was in part due to the printer having nothing on her mind but starting her holidays early, but in part due to the fact that I wait too long for straggling contributions. I know I've made the point before that the deadline represents the end of the monthly submission period, not the midpoint of it, so let me describe the process in reverse:

1. In order to get your MIND to you by the first of the month, we have to fold, label and mail all copies in the last week of the previous month.
2. In order to do that, we need to get it to the printer in the next to last week of the month.
3. That means it should achieve final composition, including proofreaders' changes, the week before that.
4. That means all materials ought to be in hand a week earlier yet, and that is the first week of the month. There's some slack in this timetable, but not if writers use it up for mere convenience.

As I see it, a Local Group newsletter has two constituencies: the writers and the readers. The readers are the vast majority because - let's face it - for four-fifths of our members, the experience of Mensa is the National Bulletin and the local newsletter, period. I try to give the readers information, entertainment and stimulation. I don't know if I succeed, but I try.

The writers are a tiny minority, but I owe them a lot. Not only do they help make the MIND informative, entertaining and stimulating, but it exists in part to afford them voice. Beyond the necessary limits of space and time, I try not to do anything to stifle that voice. It's important that - even in the age of the Internet - those who wish to address their fellow Mensans have a forum.

I've tried to balance these two constituencies, but the very notion of balance supposes that things can go tippy. I'm sure the readers don't need a monthly harangue aimed at the writers, so let's just say that MIND's here for you both.

\* \* \*

Looks like this issue's going to be a slim one as well. Well, I understand: what with stockpiling food and ammo for the Y2Kaos plus Christmas shopping, we've all been busy.

\* \* \*

Those of you who survive the crashing aircraft and escape the mobs of techno-geeks dazedly muttering "reboot," "reboot" as they wander the streets will want to drop in on the Circle City RG Y2K Survivors' Party, 28-30 January at the Waterfront.

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# LOCSECTION

## Grace Falvey

In spite of the fact that I produced a monthly publication for nineteen years, I never have gotten used to the time lag involved. Right now, for example, I am still thinking of things to do with left-over turkey, but you will not be reading these words until after the arrival of the New Year that is upon us.

One thing I know I'm going to like about this year: it's a lot easier to say in Spanish. Another thing I've been waiting for is to see what Georges Y2K Bug has been preparing to do for all these months.

In honor of the new year, the ExCom has established a new volunteer position, and we are looking for someone to fill it. The title is Production Manager for MIND, and the idea is to enlist help for the current editor and publisher, whose responsibilities have grown beyond their job descriptions.

Candidates for this job must have reliable transportation, since producing the newsletter involves travel between the printer, the MINDBending site and the post office. Other duties are subject to negotiation, and your salary will be twice what it is now for regular members of Mensa. To apply, please contact me or any other member of the ExCom.

Now is the perfect time to register for our Regional Gathering which will be held January 28-30 at the Waterfront Plaza Hotel. Adren Yates has organized a program that includes some old favorites and some up-to-date topics, such as reflexology, Feng Shui, and anti-aging nutrition, and there will be activities for children.

The cost is only \$60 for the entire weekend, which includes all meals, the swimming pool, and the program. Overnight rooms at the hotel are \$62 per night for however many people come with you. To reserve a room call (317) 299-8400, and please be sure to say you're with Mensa. Registrar for the Gathering is Karen Wilczewski, kewski1@aol.com.

There may be some new members attending our activities this month. Russ Washburne tells me nineteen people showed up for National Testing Day, November 13, so we hope there will be some new faces in our group this year.

I have just arranged for us to continue holding our monthly meetings at Riley Towers on the second Fridays, only one of which falls on the thirteenth. We hope to see all of you there.

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## Dom Jervis

### A Sense of History

Decades and centuries are arbitrary and meaningless measures of time when gauging effects on history. A cyclical rhythm created by nature, not by man, provides a better measure. Man observed this rhythm, found that it worked, and adopted it. Thus were born systems ranging from the twelve-year Chinese calendar to the four-generation pattern of idealist/reactive/civic/adaptive as explained by Ron Dzwonkowski in the Detroit Free Press in January 1999. Generations actually provide the most meaningful unit of historical perspective.

Unfortunately, my age group belongs to what may be the most noteworthy

generation in American history, for a most saturnine reason. Most parents hope that their children will have a better life than they had. We will be the first generation to have the cards stacked against us in that regard. We may be more likely to have a living standard lower than that of our parents, for the following reasons.

\* Gone are the days of working forty years for the same company and retiring with a lucrative pension. Most of us will retire with no pension at all. Many will never be able to truly retire.

\* Despite the trend toward healthier living (fewer smokers and drinkers, better diets), health care costs continue to spiral out of control. How much will an ambulance ride cost when we are 60, before Medicare takes effect?

\* Eventually, college might only be affordable to those with wealthy parents, draining their life savings, or those paying their own way will have a crushing debt on graduation day. The resulting polarization between the "haves" and the "have nots" is a recipe for disaster.

\* We will never receive all of the money we put into Social Security, which involuntarily drains resources we could otherwise put toward retirement, and do so more profitably. Don't be surprised if the inevitable generational war, caused by too few workers supporting too many retirees, results in covert genocide of the elderly.

\* Many of us consider our homes to be our primary retirement asset. As we retire, the decrease in demand caused by fewer prospective buyers in the next generation will cause home prices to drop precipitously. The same could be said of our stock portfolios.

\* The obscene national debt will never be paid in our lifetime. In addition, future political leaders, regardless of the party, will maintain their greed for power and control through ever-increasing taxes. This will result in less money in our pockets for basic survival needs, and less capital available for the more-efficient private sector to create the means to enhance our lives, from safer cars to life-saving medical devices.

Forewarned is forearmed. It is not too late to start planning to take care of the future for yourself and your family. More than ever before, we cannot let ourselves be lulled by the belief that tomorrow will take care of itself. Ours is the first generation for which addressing this need may not be a matter of comfort, but one of survival.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

**IndyNet:** Effective February 1, 2000, IndyNet will no longer honor their trade agreement with Mensa. Customers should contact Senior Customer Service Supervisor, *Charles Isgrigg*, 317-251-5208, with questions or concerns.

**Nancy White:** *Good Homes For Your Used Books!* I still need used books in good condition for the Monthly Book Sale. Books that don't find a home at the Monthly Meetings will be offered to a wider audience at our Regional Gathering in January. Proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

**Petra Ritchie:**

## 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](mailto:pritchie@ibj.com)

**Marie Beltrame:** I miss my friends in Central Indiana Mensa! Even though I am now far away in real distance, won't you keep in touch with me in cyberspace? Either [MarieBeltrame@juno.com](mailto:MarieBeltrame@juno.com) or [Beltrame@fls.infi.net](mailto:Beltrame@fls.infi.net)

**Shirley Washburne: Cheap Movie SIG** will probably meet Thursday, January 20 at the Hollywood Bar & Film Works, 247 South Meridian St. (park in Union Station garage next door for \$1), but call Shirley Washburne at 839-9282 to make sure. Movie titles and showtimes change weekly, so check movies page of the Star.

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## DREAMS By Basil

Of course I dreamed -- I dreamed of mighty deeds,  
Of conquests of the mind and of the heart;  
I dreamed myself the harvester of art,  
And in my garden grew not even weeds  
Or thorns -- instead, it barely bore the seeds  
Of tiny, shiny trinkets -- just a start  
Toward mediocrity -- a simple smart  
Or tickle, where true inspiration bleeds.

Don't think because the dreams outreached the deed --  
Because I vainly dreamed -- my dreams were [in] vain,  
Those dreams have served me well; though it would seem  
My dreams were empty, yet they filled my need.  
Outreach indeed is vital -- life's worst pain  
Is not to dream in vain, but not to dream.

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## To Keep In MIND

### Upcoming Gatherings and Events

*** 2000 ***	
January 28-30	<b>Circle City RG:</b> Y2K <i>Survivors' Party</i> . Waterfront Plaza Hotel, 2930 Waterfront Parkway West, Indianapolis, IN 46214; (317) 299-8400; rooms \$62, mention Mensa; registrar <a href="#">Karen Wilczewski</a> . rates \$50 to K-31 (12/1); \$55 to 1/1/00; \$60 thereafter.
February 4-6	<b>RG 2000.1: A Space Oddity.</b> St. Louis, MO. Registrar <a href="#">Gary Gadeken</a> . Rates: \$55 to 1/31; \$60 walk-in. Hotel: \$59, guaranteed to 1/22. Ramada Inn Six Flags (314) 938-6661 (no address yet).

<b>March 24-25</b>	<b>AMC Meeting.</b> Norfolk, VA. LocSec Dave Gunderlach, davjoy@pilot.infi.net
<b>March 24-25</b>	<b>Mid-Michigan Millennial Merriment.</b> 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, <a href="mailto:sharonslp@aol.com">sharonslp@aol.com</a> ; rates: \$45 until 1 March, then \$50.
<b>May 5-7</b>	<b>SEMMantics 22,</b> Ann Arbor MI. Registrar: <a href="#">Betsy Y. Mark</a>
<b>July 5-9</b>	<b>Philly Phroics Delaware Valley Mensa AG</b> (Philadelphia) (Joint AG with Mensa Canada) <a href="http://www.libertynet.org/dvmensa/ag2k/">http://www.libertynet.org/dvmensa/ag2k/</a> . Register with American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. W., Arlington TX, 76006-6103.

**\*\*\* 2001 \*\*\***

<b>July 4-8</b>	<b>North Texas Mensa AG</b> (Dallas)
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**\*\*\* 2002 \*\*\***

<b>July 3-7</b>	<b>Phoenix AG</b>
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## Fiction by Robert O. Adair

title

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## MINDBENDING HONOR ROLL

[H = Host]	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dale Amlee			♥	♥		♥	♥	♥	♥			
Dave A.	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥		♥	♥		♥	♥	♥
Judy Baird											♥	
Alison Brown	♥H	♥H	♥H									
Rocio Carrasco											♥	♥
Greg Crawford	♥											
Bob Dill								♥				
Janette Greene Dollar												♥
George Dunn	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
Mack Earnhardt						♥						
Eric Ellis							♥					
Marcele Everest							♥H					
Grace Falvey			♥		♥		♥	♥				
Carol Gould								♥				
Marion Harcourt										♥H		♥
Jay Hayes								♥				
Jud Horning	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥		♥				
Jerry Hunter	♥	♥		♥								
Rhoda Israelov								♥H		♥		
Dom Jervis								♥	♥	♥	♥	♥

Jeff Lake		♥										
Larry Marcus		♥										
Treva Marks	♥	♥			♥H	♥H			♥H	♥		
Jean Miller		♥	♥									
Anna Marie Rutallie				♥H								
Sandy Sheehan											♥	
Bob Thomas											♥	
Doris Thomas											♥	
Russ Washburne							♥			♥	♥H	♥H
Shirley Washburne							♥			♥	♥H	♥H
Nancy White	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥			♥	♥	♥	♥	
Karen Wilczewski									♥			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

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