

# Excerpts from the June 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.

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## MY PIECE OF MIND

GEORGE DUNN

Missed it by THAT much

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## LOCSECTION

## RVC.Comm by Will Steinke

The 2000 Annual Gathering (AG) in Philadelphia is almost upon us. Last year Philly's ad in the Long Beach AG program started by mentioning Taskykakes bakery products. I may be biased (I grew up in the area), but I think these are the best commercially made bakery goods. I thought this was a good sign of things to come. From the quarterly updates by Region 2's RVC, Steve Slepner, he and his wife Leslie (they are the co-chairs) are putting together a bang up event (No pun intended -- this is Philadelphia around the Fourth of July.) Hope to see you there.

The remainder of this column will be who's who and what's what at the National Office. I hope to demystify the working of our office in Arlington, TX. The following job descriptions and personal bios have been provided by the Mensa staff.

Pamela L. Donahoo is the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR of our organization. Her job is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the National Office. She works with other professional staff members to carry out the policies of the AMC and to develop new programs and services that benefit the members and our local groups. Before coming to Mensa, Pam served a year-long stint as Director of Meetings for the National Independent Automobile Association and eight years as Executive Director of the International Furnishings and Design Association.

Pam also worked for several years in hotel management with the Radisson hotel in Dallas. Pam is an alumnae of the University of North Texas. She is an active member of the American Society of Association Executives, Texas Society of Association Executives (TASE), Dallas-Fort Worth Society of Association Executives (DFWAE) and Toastmasters. She is past president of the DFWAE and currently serves on the board of TSAE and as a member of the Finance and Administration Council for ASAE.

Mark Witter is our MARKETING DIRECTOR. He oversees the marketing and public relations for Mensa. He coordinates the Mind Games competition and National Testing Day, as well as AML's national advertising campaign. He develops recruitment materials for use by local groups and is the staff liaison to our licensing agency, book publisher and freelance publicist. He handles issues pertaining to name and logo use. He is also responsible for the Mensa Bulletin advertising. Mark has been Marketing Director for three years. Prior to joining the Mensa staff, Mark was the Public Information Officer for the LaMarque Independent School District where he coordinated the public relations and communications activities of the 7,000-student district and its school board. He has an under graduate degree in Journalism and Political Science from Southern Methodist University.

Mark is currently a member of the Marketing Committee for the Dallas 2012 Olympic Bid Committee. He is a member of the Public Relations Society of America, SMU Alumni Association and American Society of Association Executives.

That's all for this month, I'm closing in on 500 words.

Until next time, have fun and be safe.

Will

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## Bob Thomas

### Billionaires

Lately in the faculty lounge there has been talk of billionaires, disproportionate wealth and hints of how much good their wealth could do if the poor had it or it were distributed to the rest of us.

Consider the following:

Granted, there were only 20 billionaires two decades ago and there are now 300. That means that 0.0001% of the US population are billionaires.

If we distributed one billion among all the US citizens, each and every person would get \$3.33. One billionaire now gives \$5 billion each quarter to charity. If he would just give that to everyone in the US instead everyone would receive \$16.17 each quarter.

One billionaire mentioned in an article has \$35 billion. If he gave all his money to the people in the US each would receive a one-time gift of \$110.

But if every billionaire distributed a billion each person would receive \$1,000. (That would be quickly spent on trivia, and would mean millions would not be given to charities.)

*[Interesting math, Bob. I wonder if we worked it the other way and everyone paid \$10 extra for a PC with Windows®, would that improve society by enabling Bill Gates to give more to charity? -Ed]*

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spurious advertisement

### **MENSANS! EMBARRASSED BY YOUR IQ? ACT NOW!**

Remember those great days when people thought being in the top 2% meant you were a Genius? Have you had it with smart asses claiming to be in Intertel, Mega or ISPE? Are you weary of snotty socialites who used to go big-eyed when you flashed your pin now sneering, "Just Mensa?" Are you suffering low self-esteem because you can't crack the fifth standard deviation? Well, your troubles are over! You can now be an applicant for **TANTALUS!**

**TANTALUS** is the most exclusive IQ Society possible. Our standards are very high and completely subjective. Frankly, we don't think you'll make the cut -- but, all those swollen cerebrum types in ISPE, Mega, Triple Nine and Four Sigma -- they won't either! By just applying for **TANTALUS** you instantly elevate yourself above those snobs who don't dare put their brains to the real test. And who knows, even though no one has ever made it in, and we don't expect anyone to, you might be the one! You won't know unless you try, so

don't delay! Send seventy-five dollars, cash or postal money order made out to "boxholder" to POB 50946 and copies of the five or six toughest questions you've ever answered and we'll process your application the next business day. Don't worry if you don't make it; we won't embarrass you by sending you a rejection, so you can go right on telling your friends, "I applied for **TANTALUS!**"

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## Dom Jervis

### Message to the Women of Mensa

Thank you very much! You are the reason that I can maintain any hope that men and women can communicate in an open sincere, mutually-beneficial manner. Sadly, I have experienced far too much behavior by Non-Mensan Women (NMW) which is woefully antithetical to yours.

Too often, NMW refuse to openly express interest in a man, opting instead to play coy head games. Self-help books ranging from mingling to husband procurement promote this behavior. It allows them to avoid responsibility by being vague and noncommittal. When men miss the nebulous signals, one might lament to her girl-friend, "I did everything but throw myself at him!" It's too bad he didn't notice. She could have been more direct, but chose not to, and had only herself to blame for her frustrating, dateless life.

Often, the NMW who act thusly are approached solely by poor prospects for relationships, the only type of men who permeate the filters they create. Whose fault is that? This may be one reason why many women claim they wish to marry, turn thirty-five without ever having done so, and unjustly blame men for their plight. These are the same women who say all of the good men are taken. They won't admit that too many of them are pursuing too few of the men, and they refuse to give many men who would make excellent husbands a chance.

Worse yet, the same books encourage NMW to flirt with men in whom they have no interest, in order to practice their techniques for the day they meet a good prospect. If the victim of this trial run infers interest and acts on it, she accuses him of "getting the wrong idea." Such deceitful behavior is simply nefarious!

Many men have difficulty approaching a woman, due to a lack of social skills, despair from repeated rejections, and the inability to decipher the NMW's secret code. The same NMW who wants to be treated as an equal might miss out on meeting her soulmate, simply because she will not take the first step.

Power is the goal of the NMW who play these games. A very popular book (one I found quite objectionable) titled *The Rules* admits this objective, and delineates tricks for attracting a man and gaining power by appearing to be unavailable and playing other tacit games. How vehemently would the NMW object to our regressing to the behavior of fifty years ago in other ways? Why is this particular reversion copacetic? Is it because it works to their advantage? I would never tolerate these tactics. One must wonder if this book has actually prevented marriages from occurring, simply because a man refused to endure these shenanigans. One could surmise that, in at least a few cases, using *The Rules* resulted in the man of the NMW's dreams marrying their

unpretentious best friends.

Thankfully, without exception, every woman I have met in Mensa seems to refrain from such behavior. When I first joined, I was told that it was common, especially at RGs, for women to initiate conversations, and hugs with men, even those they had not previously met. I must admit I was incredulous, but this doubt was quickly dispelled, and Brad Pitt I'm not! I found it wonderful that women in Mensa had the confidence and self-esteem to comfortably take the initiative. This is just one of many reasons that I wish I had joined Mensa twenty years ago.

I'm not saying that all NMW should act this way all of the time. But, losing the cold, aloof facade would be a vast improvement. Have they ever "put out signals," only to have them missed? I dare say that they have. Would there be the occasional rejection? Yes, but are their lives devoid of rejection now? I doubt it. The only people who never miss are those who never attempt.

The antiseptic status of inter-gender relations has metastasized in the workplace, which has become ground-zero in the new Cold War. A man risks sexual harassment (SH) charges if he tells a female co-worker, "You look nice today." Whether it is done for others or only for herself, a woman can expend great effort and expense to optimize her appearance. However, the NMW seem to refuse to understand that these four innocuous words might not be an advance, but simply an acknowledgment of and appreciation for the extra effort she exerted to look her best. Unfortunately, they can put a man's career in jeopardy, especially if the wrong man says them.

The original noble goal of SH laws, the protection of women, has been contorted to an illogical extreme! Federal law now says that SH is whatever a woman says it is, if she can show that the conduct, in any way, creates a "hostile work environment." Virtually any statement could be twisted to fit this criterion! Seven million (look it up) married people in our nation met at work. Imagine the number of men who risked being branded as perpetrators of SH, especially if she rejected his initial advance!

Lastly, NMW will not be credible until they openly rebuke the diatribes on man-bashers such as Marilyn French ("All men are rapists, and that is all they are!") and Andrea Dworkin. Their condoning of these hatemongers will keep them out of venues ranging from a happy marriage to a corporate boardroom.

If the genders are ever to harmoniously coexist, it will only happen when NMW decide to meet men halfway, as I have seen the women of Mensa do, without exception. In the song, "Anything She Wants," George Michael tells a woman, "You've shown me you can take. You've got some giving to do." Until this happens, inter-gender relations will continue to be strained, and that is most unfortunate, for both sides.

Everyone in the lives of NMW, including themselves, would benefit if they would emulate the women of Mensa. By your apparent (by my witness of 4+ years) refusal to act like them, you have proved to be smarter than they are, in a way that no test can measure.

Women of Mensa, for being so open, genuine and warm-hearted, I can never thank you enough!

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## To Keep In MIND

## Upcoming Gatherings and Events

*** 2000 ***	
<b>June 9-11</b>	<b>DAMNations Lucky 13</b> , 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, <a href="mailto:Needtoread@aol.com">Needtoread@aol.com</a> .
<b>June 30 - July 2</b>	<b>Canadian AG</b> Torono, Ontario; dharris@eco-on.net
<b>July 5-9</b>	<b>Philly Phrolics 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.
<b>July 28-30</b>	<b>Mensalympics Down Under</b> , Columbus, OH, Days Inn, 1212 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, Columbus, OH 43229; (614) 885-9696; rooms \$39; RG registration: \$50 to 5/31. \$55 after; Steve Herrick, <a href="mailto:Steve_Herrick@compuserve.com">Steve_Herrick@compuserve.com</a> .
<b>August 25-27</b>	<b>Gemutlichkeit</b> , Westwood Hotel and Conference Center, 201 N. Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53226; (414) 771-4400; rooms \$67 (reserve by 8/1); Registration \$40 to 7/10, \$45 to 8/10, \$55 after; Elisa Weeks, Mensa of Wisconsin RG, _____, Caledonia WI 53108; (262)-____-____ email: <a href="mailto:registrar@wi.us.mensa.org">registrar@wi.us.mensa.org</a>
<b>Sept 15 - 17</b>	<b>Outdoor Gathering</b> , Versailles State Park; Registrar Nancy White, 624 North Dearborn, Indianapolis, IN 46201; \$40 until 1 August, then \$45. 317-632-4747.
<b>December 1-3</b>	<b>Millennium Madness</b> , Comfort Inn, 11440 Chester Road, Cincinnati, OH 45246; (513) 771-3400; rooms \$39.95; Registration Not Available at Press Time, contact Andy Badger, _____ Cincinnati, OH 45231; (513)____-____; email: <a href="mailto:andybadger@aol.com">andybadger@aol.com</a>

*** 2001 ***	
<b>February 2-4</b>	<b>Richmond UG</b> , Holiday Inn, 5501 National Road East, Richmond, IN 47374; (765) 966-7511; early registration \$25; Greg Crawford, 8262 Sobax Dr, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1728; (317) 872-3749 or POB 50946, Indianapolis, IN 46250

<b>Mar 30 - Apr 1</b>	<b>Grand Illusions</b> , Ramada Inn Six Flags, I-44 and Allentown Rd, Box 999, Eureka MO 63025, (636) 938-6661; Registrar Ann Seward, _____, St. Louis, MO 63108; (314) ____ - ____; email: <a href="mailto:AJ1120@canoemail.com">AJ1120@canoemail.com</a>
<b>July 4-8</b>	<b>North Texas Mensa AG</b> (Dallas)

<b>*** 2002 ***</b>	
<b>July 3-7</b>	<b>Phoenix AG</b>

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by Basil Wentworth

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## Random Sample

© by Julie A. Yates Harkey

### You CAN get there from here?

A week in Albuquerque, New Mexico sounded good. I was to attend a course, "Human Factors for Accident Investigators," and Ted was on vacation. We decided to save some money and go standby on Southwest. The price was right, and we were optimistic about our chances of getting there without problems. The trip started well, with no trouble getting on the first flight leg out of Indianapolis to Kansas City. There, a 3½-hour wait. Have you ever been to the Kansas City airport? I don't recommend it. This is an airport built before security barriers were necessary. It's laid out in a large circle, now bisected by high glass walls between the gate area and a too-narrow walkway. There are two places to eat, featuring chicken and pizza. The chicken sandwiches were good, worth the long wait in line.

The next long wait in line got us on the standby list for Albuquerque. The flight was full, and our names were not called. As we sat contemplating another three or four hours in this dismal place, the gate agent announced that standby passengers wishing to get to Albuquerque should hurry to the next gate and get on the plane for Las Vegas. A transfer, she said, would be available in Las Vegas. That was an easy decision! Yes, we might be stranded yet again. All things considered, I'd much rather be stranded in Las Vegas than Kansas City. Vegas has lots of good food, good motels, and entertainment. Who cared if we didn't get to Albuquerque until Sunday? We got on the plane and found seats together all the way at the back of the 737. In Las Vegas, we rushed to the next gate with our transfers, and got on the plane for our chosen destination. We were in and out of that airport in about 15 minutes.

Ah, finally, landing in Albuquerque. Now we could get to our hotel and relax. As we taxied up to the gate, the Captain announced that there might be some inconvenience, as the power was off at the airport. Not to worry, the jetway worked on emergency power, so we could deplane. Our bags arrived quickly, and we trudged through the airport with the help of emergency lights. A shuttle took us to the rental car place, whose power had just been restored. After a bit of fiddling, we realized that the car radio did work—there were simply no radio stations broadcasting. How widespread was this power outage? City street lights were lit in some areas, and a few traffic signals were working. A large traffic snarl was unraveling, albeit slowly. With a little luck and some ingenuity, we arrived at our hotel, and the power was on. We checked in and went to the restaurant, where service seemed inspired by the recent lack of power. Cold sandwiches tasted good, when we finally got them.

The next day, on our drive to Santa Fe, we learned that a brush fire had downed power lines and knocked out power for most of the New Mexico and part of Colorado. Voters had said no to backup power lines, so once the outage began, it kept rolling. In Santa Fe we walked, bought jewelry, walked, shopped, walked, ate lunch, walked, and visited the Georgia O'Keefe museum. I have never seen paintings with such intensity. You could stand in front of one of her paintings and get lost. I'd seen photos of one painting of a large, black flower. The photos didn't prepare me for the reality, the amazing depth of color and feeling. I can't seem to find words to describe the experience, though I'm sure it's one I want to repeat.

The next 4½ days were taken up with coursework, where we talked about the psychological, social and physical reasons why people make mistakes and

don't correct them. I learned a lot, and met some interesting people.

The climate in Albuquerque, a mountain city, is cooler than I had remembered. The days were rainy, with some snow. One evening we went to dinner partway up the mountainside. Soon after we arrived at the restaurant, it began to snow heavily. On the downhill drive back the snow turned back to rain.

We did have one day of nice weather, Friday, and we enjoyed walking around and shopping in Old Town Albuquerque. The turquoise museum was informative, and we learned that much turquoise that is for sale has been altered to be a richer color. Unaltered turquoise is labeled "Natural." Words such as genuine, real, etc. probably mean that the stone is not the highest quality.

Saturday, and it was time for the trip home. Getting out of Albuquerque was the hardest part. What a mess! Between a marathon bowling tournament, and some kind of basketball playoffs, almost every flight out of town was overbooked. We bounced from Albuquerque to Houston, through Dallas, to Oklahoma City and Kansas City, and finally home to Indianapolis. The trip took about 18 hours, and our longest layover (of course!) was in Kansas City. The chicken place was closed (at 6:00 pm!), so we ate greasy pizza. Through-out the trip we were only bumped from one flight, the first leg to Houston. We were able to get there on the next flight and catch up with our itinerary and our luggage. I have to give the people at Southwest credit, they were very nice to us throughout the whole ordeal, and they didn't lose our bags. That was quite an accomplishment! Still, I think next time we will pay more for our tickets, and avoid the standby stress.

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### **BASIL NOMINATED**

"The mills of the gods grind slow..." but the 2000 Publications Recognition Committee has nominated that most subtle lexicist, CIM's master of the pentrain, Basil Wentworth, for an Individual Achievement Award in the "Poetry" category. This is, of course, only a nomination, and in the broad category of "Poetry" rather than the home court of "Limerick," but it certainly warms this Editor's heart to find the genius of MIND's most reliable contributor recognized.

Other nominations in the same program include:

Entertainment - Theme

Entertainment - Fiction

Entertainment - Poetry

Individual Achievement - "My Piece of MIND"

Special Mention "Literary Facts"

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## Upcoming Monthly Meeting Speakers

- JUNE** - "You Are What You Drink, Or Is That Eat?" Tony Havics from pH Environmental on pollution.
- JULY** - "You Better Be the Fighting Kind" Tony Gregory on self-defense.
- AUGUST** - Campaign Speeches and "Do You Want To Be A Mensan," a send-up of the "greed" Quiz Programs
- SEPTEMBER** - "Get on a High Horse" Agape Therapeutic Riding Center on riders with disabilities.

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### Frances (Hartman) Pinczewski:

#### House for Rent

Available July 1: Nice 2 BR house w/basement, front porch, fenced yard, on bus line. \$500 month, no utilities paid. 3328 Wilcox Street, Haughville area near Tibbs and Michigan Streets. Call (800) 949-8773 or (606) 278-7776, or email [francesp@iglou.com](mailto:francesp@iglou.com)

### 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

**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, June 9, 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.

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)

**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.

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## Later, the Tuscarora George Dunn

### Mars and Venus in the Brain

Some unfortunate people have a kind of brain damage that garbles the words they hear. Their *hearing* is OK, but the words don't make sense to them because they're not being processed correctly in the brain. When this condition, called dysphonia, is severe, it can be profoundly handicapping, but it can also occur in milder forms, some even below the threshold of "learning disability," which can nevertheless cause problems.

Other brain function disorders recognized by science include dyslexias, pagnosias and all matter of "hard of grasping" conditions. We call them "disabilities" because only a few people suffer from them severely; if *most* people couldn't understand words, those few who could would be called either "gifted" or "demons," depending on how secure the social leaders were feeling. Of course, the society wouldn't actually *call* them anything, but you get the point.

But what if humankind were about equally divided between the "gifted" and the "disabled" on some subtle ability? It might be a long time before anybody tumbled to the idea that their differences might be "real."

Ahem. Now shift for a minute and consider a visual phenomenon: those raised field stereo pictures which look like so much garbage until your left and right eyes focus *just* so. You need two eyes to see the figures that emerge because the critical information is in the interplay of the visual patterns.

I maintain that in certain forms of information processing, which we loosely identify as "intuition," women are physically "gifted" while men are "handicapped." The *corpus callosum*, a structure which bridges the right and left cerebral hemispheres and lets one communicate with the other, is up to 25% thicker in women.

If that seems less a qualitative than a quantitative distinction, consider that there are lots of two-eyed people who can't work the stereo pictures; they haven't the "knack." In specific circumstances a little difference in ability can make a big difference on performance.

When a woman deals with a situation that carries substantial amounts of both right-brain and left-brain information, she sometimes (much more often than



Treva Marks		♥H										
Bob Thomas	♥											
Doris Thomas	♥											
Nancy White	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec

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