

Mblem

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Event Calendar **insert**

Vote! Vote! Vote!

Vote for the members of the Executive Committee: The ballot sheet is on page 7. The mailing label on the back of that sheet is the proof of your membership. Check (or put X in) the boxes next to the person (s) you vote for. You may write-in and vote for other people so long as they are valid members of MENC chapter of Mensa. You may write in the place provided or add boxes on your own. You may vote for at most seven (7) people. The ballot will be invalidated if more than 7 are marked. Three-fold the sheet with the ballot inside and Ed Williams, the Election Proctor's, name and address showing. Tape the open edge, put on 39 cents of postage, and send it by U.S. Post.

Vote! Vote! Vote! **Here 1**

Metaphor!Metaphor! **Here 1**
Metaphor!

St. Paddy's Day Celebra- **2**
tion, LG News

Greensboro Coordina- **2**
tor's Corner

Dictatorship is not Un- **3**
constitutional

People I Have Known **4**

Point and Counter Point **4**

Hunting Accident **5**

Butch the Rooster **5**

Volunteering Opportuni- **5**
ties

Officers **6**

Contacts **6**

E-mail lists **6**

Ballot 7

Mailing label **8**

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *This issue is loaded. Read every word.*
- *Vote! Ballot on P.7*
- *Give me Dictator (P.3) or give me Metaphor (P. 2)*
- *St. Paddy, Page 2*
- *Butch the Rooster*

Renew! Renew! Renew!

Don't forget to renew your Mensa membership. It is the time of the year again!

Metaphor! Metaphor! Metaphor!

by David Skaar

I am a detail oriented person. This probably comes as no surprise to those who read my previous mis- sives, and is probably why I enjoy Culture Quest so much. If it were an essay based contest, I doubt I would enjoy it so much. To label myself with a metaphor, I know the forest is there, but I'd much rather look at the trees. To abuse a metaphor, I worked with someone who I said was so obsessed with the forest, that he didn't realize it contained trees. To further bludgeon the metaphor, I would go so far as to say he didn't even know what a tree was, and, for the metaphor *coup de grace*, he was a 'lumberjack'.

One manifestation of detail orientation is, of course, information recall. I have found that upon re- reading a book, or more likely, listening to an audio book that I've read the print version of, I very clearly recall some things, and not others. I remember specific scenes, interactions, and events, as well as some segments of exact dialog. I do not, at all, recall other elements of the story, like the plot, storyline, or cli- matic scene. I recently listened to *American Gods* by Neil Gaiman, after reading the book a few years ago. It was interesting the parts I remembered and the parts I didn't. It turns out that I remembered where the climactic scene took place, scene, or the reasons for the Apparentlly it was not as inter- events leading up to that point, ment. I remember it well now, completely forgotten it before spurred me to pay attention; whether I'll continue to remember, I don't know. This seems to be relatively common, as people talk about memorable characters, or memorable lines in sto- ries. Something sets these apart from the rest of the book and makes them stick.

Culture Quest is coming up!!!

April 30

Registration in March.

This brings me to the interaction between author and reader. George Gopen, a professor at Duke Univer- sity, has spent many years studying the art of effective technical writing, and identified key points and rules. He gives seminars on the subject, primarily to lawyers and scientists, who write very convoluted pieces on very complex subjects, and it is critically important that they clearly make the point they need to. Naturally, the complexity of the subject can make clarity very difficult, with the reader getting the wrong message on occasion. Whose fault is this? Could it be that the reader is stupid? Professor Gopen gives examples of this in his seminars, handing readers paragraphs, and asking them what the author's point is. With a well chosen example, there are as many interpretations as there are readers, and none match the author's intent. The author's intent is known, because he/she are also in the room, and a colleague of the readers. This tends to be embarrassing.

The writer should know who the intended audience is, and should be writing appropriately. If they do not know their audience, they should not be writing. If they do know their audience, they have failed. Hav- ing taken Gopen's seminar, I am always on the lookout for the sorts of ambiguity that hinder understanding and getting the message through. I am frequently aggravated by poorly worded trivia questions on Jeopardy or in Trivial Pursuit; it takes a great deal of work to understand just what the question is. Newspaper and magazine columnists are also good for this, as there is such a spectrum of topics, authors, and styles. If I find myself rereading a sentence because I'm trying to figure out just what it's trying to say, either I'm hav- ing a really bad day, or there's something wrong with it.

(Conti. To P. 2. Metaphor)

Metaphor! (conti. From P 1,) If I finish the piece, and I can't sum up in one or two clear sentences what it was about, there's something wrong with it. A meta-example of this is an opinion piece I read during the last election season, with the topic of clarity of expression in campaign speeches. I can restate for you now the author's thesis (indicating he did a successful job of communication) – In the last few months leading up to the election, a successful candidate has a "stump speech" which they repeat at all their campaign stops. This speech is a concise repetition of the key points of the platforms in just a few minutes, and has been repeated so often that the audience can sing along. One of Professor Gopen's strongest points is that at the end of the first paragraph of an article, the reader is looking for the thesis statement that tells them what the entire point of the article is. Changing the sentence in this position makes a tremendous difference in the impact on the reader, without making any other changes. Now that we've all gone back to the beginning of my article to see what I put in this position, you (and I) may be a bit confused as to how that is my main point. Oh well, maybe it will still work.

One more Gopen story and I will quit. In the seminar that I took, he used a key paragraph from Watson and Crick's famous 1953 paper on the structure of DNA. He pointed out that this paragraph, which laid out the DNA double-helix did not use the phrase double-helix at all, when it could have had a great impact in the proper place. What Gopen did not notice, not being a scientist, was that this paragraph also stated something even more important - a proposal for the base-paired nature of DNA, and how the base-pairing and double helix could explain a great deal about the proper-

ties of DNA. They seem to have been right, and their explanation is what makes most of the work I do possible.

In summation – orientation to either detail or the big picture is neither good nor bad, but for either to be effective, communication must be clear to get across both specifics and greater meanings. And now, ten detail oriented questions and one applied knowledge 'bigger picture' question.

1. What chemical was called "dephlogisticated air" by the first person to isolate it?
2. What is the more common name of the "alligator pear"?
3. What is the brightest star in the nighttime sky (under 'normal' conditions, barring supernovas)?
4. What device did Philo Farnsworth work out the operating principles for?
5. What kind of cheese do purists insist must be made from water buffalo milk?
6. What kind of cheese can you live in?
7. What chemical is usually the primary ingredient in spray type mildew remover?
8. What chemical is usually the primary ingredient in spray type soap scum remover?
9. What happens when you use both of these cleaners at the same time?
10. What is the fastest growing living thing on earth.
11. Lithium carbonate was the first effective treatment for what psychiatric condition?

(See answers on P. 5.)

St. Patrick's Day Celebration LG News by Shiangtai Tuan

Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

For five or six years, our own Joe Supple has held a special St. Paddy's Day celebration every year. We are invited to his party along with many of his non-M friends, relatives, and neighbors.

St. Patrick, b. 387, d. March 17, 493 (or 461, from another account), was credited to have driven Druidism and snakes out of Ireland by a sermon given at a hill top. (Ahem, maybe that's why both came to America.) March 17 has been celebrated as St. Paddy's day for a long time. Shamrock is one of the symbols in the celebration because he used to use the three leaves of shamrock to illustrate trinity -- how three could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. (Ahem, beware if you found a four-leaf clover.) Like Christians who tried to do their conversion in many lands, he used local custom into Christian rituals instead of banished them. For instance, he used bonfire to celebrate Easter be-

cause it was used an Irish tradition to honor their gods. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, in the cross to form what is now known as the Celtic Cross. For some reason unknown to me, people who do not wear green on that day may risk to be pinched. So, watch out.

Whether St. Paddy drove snakes out of Ireland or not, we will help Joe to celebrate the special occasion, a good tradition in the U. S. started in Boston in 1737. He is preparing to feed and quench the thirst of thousands but you are welcome to bring some snacks and drinks though not required. Enjoy the evening with other friends, Mensans or not. (No need to ask: "Are you a Mensan" which serves no purpose.) There will not be a kitty. However, since he has a wonderful shepherd (or not) dog, don't forget your allergy pill if you need it. Come with family, significant others, friends.

Date: 2006. 3.18, the third Saturday.

Time: 7:30 PM till late.

Contact info, place and directions: See back of calendar page.

Greensboro Coordinator's Corner by Ellen Muratori

Where did January go?

We had a full house at the Saturday Night Cafeteria Cahoots-members and families popping in from everywhere-Greensboro, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Jamestown, Reidsville. After the relatively quiet time of food consumption, a game of musical chairs set in - without the music! If you wanted to get into the conversation about sci-fi books, you had to change chairs, because the other end was discussing yesteryear's films. Too many topics for me to keep up with. (Gotta remember to take pencil and pad along.)

Tweaky Tuesday WAS quiet. Hard to gauge the mid-week crowd.

And Games Night, as always, was a hoot. New-comers to Perudo catch on fast. No need for brains here! "Bluff and Grin" would be a better title for that game. I couldn't find "Ticket To Ride" locally, so missed the excitement of mind-travel. Mind-travel? Well, we see with our mind's eye. Even hear with our mind's ear. "Ticket To Ride" allows you to travel in your mind to distant places.

Come join us for an eventful evening!
summerellen@mymailstation.com

"Conservation of Energy" and "Action = Reaction"

It takes the same amount of energy to say something cheerful, to complain, or to be nasty -- it creates equal but different kind of energy in reaction.

Dictatorship is not Unconstitutional by Thomas More Zavist

President Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito, Jr. to the Supreme Court. He is an advocate of the *unitary executive doctrine*, which holds that each of the three branches of federal government has its own duty to follow the *Constitution of the United States of America* and consequently must make a separate determination of what is and is not constitutional. The doctrine permits the President to invalidate a law as being unconstitutional, regardless of the opinion of the Supreme Court, and thereby avoid the constraints of the law. The doctrine also holds that the vesting of executive authority in the President is exclusive and that the powers of the commander-in-chief are plenary, in the sense of being absolute and unqualified. The tyrannical and autocratic character of this doctrine is unmistakable.

The unitary executive doctrine is ridiculous. Executive authority is not exclusive. Federal law can invest executive authority in an official, e.g., a Governor of a new state or an officer of a new executive department. Although the commander-in-chief is superior to every other military officer, the federal government collectively, through treaties and federal laws, is superior to the commander-in-chief. Section 8 of Article I of the federal constitution empowers Congress to legislate in all matters pertaining to the government, including the military and other executive departments. Section 3 of Article II obliges the President to obey the law, and Section 4 permits Congress to remove the President from office if he does not. As the saying goes, the President is not above the law.

For decades, the White House has struggled against Congress. The two-party system is a distraction. The real struggle is between the executive authority—i.e., the commander-in-chief especially in regard to covert operations—and the legislative authority—i.e., democracy and the rule of law. The mindset of covert activity is to disregard the law, which can lead to autocracy.

While many liberals may view the *coup d'état* of November 22, 1963 as a watershed moment in our country's history, the Iran-Contra Affair arguably is more significant. Then as now the President aimed to contravene federal law. President Ronald Reagan, Lt. Col. Oliver North and many others conspired to smuggle narcotics, launder money and engage in other felonious activity in order to finance clandestine operations contrary to the will of Congress. Will history remember President Reagan for shattering the Soviet Union, only to import its secretive variety of tyranny to our shores?

Today, offshore casinos are havens for money laundering and clandestine activity, and they are central to the bribery scandals involving Jack Abramoff and Congress. The prohibition of narcotics links the drug smuggling, money laundering and covert operations of the Reagan era to the casinos and political corruption of today. The prohibition of narcotics fosters a vast criminal underworld, which facilitates both clandestine operations and the compromising of our government. This underworld can help an ambitious President corrupt Congress.

Congress is the only institution standing between the President and autocracy. In perhaps the most succinct description of autocracy, King Louis XIV of France once said "*L'État, c'est moi.*" Whatever tyranny the President cannot achieve by simply breaking the law—ridiculous doctrine notwithstanding—he can achieve with the express support of Congress. Establishing a dictatorship in the United States of America is easier than many think. In particular, no constitutional amendment is required. A treaty or a federal law will suffice.

On December 22, 2005, Russia's Constitutional Court upheld the constitutionality of President Putin's appointment of regional Governors, in accordance with federal law. In this regard, the *Con-*

stitution of the United States of America is no different. If the President were empowered by federal law of the United States to appoint Governors, the law would be constitutional. According to Article VI of the federal constitution, treaties and federal laws are superior to state constitutions. State constitutions currently determine how Governors are chosen.

The restriction against holding multiple offices, which is in Section 6 of Article I and Section 1 of Article II, applies only to Electors and members of Congress, e.g., the President can serve on the Supreme Court.

In the extreme case, suppose a treaty or a federal law were to transfer the entire authority of each state government to the President. The treaty or the law would be constitutional. After all, treaties and federal laws supersede state constitutions. According to Section 2 of Article I and Amendment XVII, Congress is elected "by the people" of each state, and the voters "shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch" of the state legislature. Since the President would be the most numerous branch of each state legislature, only a state's delegation to the College of Electors could vote in an election of a member of Congress. Consequently, Section 2 of Amendment XIV would restrict each state to one seat in the House of Representatives. According to Section 1 of Article II, the President could appoint each state's three Electors, specify by state law how they must vote (and the penalty for faithless voting) and thus determine Congress, as well as the next President and Vice President.

According to Article V, Congress could propose a constitutional amendment, and the President could ratify it. Controlling the membership of Congress and having power to amend the federal constitution, the President would effectively possess all the legislative, executive and judicial authority of the federal government. Thus, the President would be a dictator. Amendment XXII would limit the dictator to two terms, unless of course he and Congress should repeal it.

Section 4 of Article IV guarantees every state a republican form of government. The word *republic* derives from the Roman Republic. The word *dictator* derives from the office of Julius Caesar, the last official of the Roman Republic. Technically, therefore, dictatorship is a republican form of government, however inimical it may be to the perpetuation of a republic.

Section 8 of Article I permits Congress to pass laws to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States. Amendment X does not prevent Congress from passing a law that Article I permits. Section 2 of Article II empowers the President to make treaties (provided two thirds of the Senators concur). By means of such a treaty or a federal law, dictatorship can become a reality in the United States of America.

Dictatorship is not unconstitutional. The perpetuation of democracy depends on the attitude of the President and Congress and no one else. Each generation of Americans depends on the willingness of the President and Congress to resist the temptation to transform the republic, by treaty or federal law, into an autocracy.

Sample Legislation

Statute Authorizing Dictatorship (SAD)

Effective leadership and authority being necessary and proper to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States of America, every State shall be apportioned one Representative in Congress, no one except each State's three Electors shall vote in an election of a Senator or Representative, and the powers of the President of the United States of America (the President) shall

(Conti. To P. 4. Dictatorship)

Dictatorship (conti. From P. 3) include the following, anything in the Laws of the United States of America or in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding:

Section 1. *Legislative Authority.* The President shall have sole power to amend the Constitution and Laws of each State, including the power to specify for whom each Elector shall vote (in every election of a President, Vice President, Senator or Representative) and the penalty for faithless voting. No other person or persons shall pass a Law in any State or amend its Constitution or hold office in a legislative capacity. To all intents and purposes the President shall be the Legislature and sole Legislator of each State. Every order of the President shall supersede anything in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the contrary.

Section 2. *Executive Authority.* Every official of each State

and of the District constituting the seat of Government of the United States, including the Executive of each State (the Governor) and the Electors, shall serve at the grace and pleasure of the President, who shall have power to vacate any such office at any time and shall have power to fill any vacancy in any such office (by appointing either himself or another, except that the President shall appoint no Elector who is a member of Congress or a person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States).

Section 3. *Judicial Authority.* The President is permitted to serve as a Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States of America (the Court) in addition to no greater than nine other Judges. The President shall neither serve as Chief Justice nor vote, unless the Court shall have no other Judges due to the removal, death, resignation or inability of every other Judge.

People I Have Known by Ed Williams

My first civilian job with the "gub'mint" was at the Dept. of the Air Force in the Pentagon in 1954. I may have written about this some time ago. One of my assignments was to improve the spare parts supply movement for the Air Force's computer (singular) - an enormous machine which went through (mostly) vacuum tubes at a high rate. But that's beside the point. I lived in Washington and drove over to Virginia every day, usually across the 14th

Street bridge. At one end of the bridge, there was a fast food place called the Hot Shoppe. I often stopped there either in the morning for breakfast or in the evening for a hamburger. The proprietor was often there, and would frequently stop by and chat with customers - both "regulars" and new ones - to find out our likes and dislikes, and to ask how the menu or service could be improved. His name was Bill, and we chatted frequently. I recall suggesting that he get more than one flavor of mustard, which he did. He told me that he had (I be-

lieve) six more Hot Shoppes in and around DC. He said he was going to expand beyond the "hamburger" business, and was working on opening a hotel in Rosslyn, just across the Key Bridge from DC. After a few months, I was offered an assignment in the Foreign Service (in London) and resigned from the Dept. of the Air Force. So I did not see the Hot Shoppe guy again. It was years later that I connected his name with a growing chain of hotels around the country. He was J. Willard (Bill) *Marriott*.

Point and Counter Point At Large Column by Shiangtai Tuan

Being the editor has the unfair advantage of reading the material before the issue comes out. I would say it is almost like insider trading. Playing Martha, I get the chance to play "counter point" on two fronts from material in this issue.

In LG News, I mentioned that one of the virtues of Saint Patrick, perhaps the one that won him the sainthood, was to have driven snakes out of Ireland. It was and still is taken for granted that snakes are evil. Doing anything against them still commands respect. OK, snakes do look different. We all know that our society tends to discriminate against whoever looks different. We have been fighting this for a long time and still not having much success. Unfortunately, snakes also are victimized the same way. Being among the minorities in this society, I have first hand experiences and I give my sympathies. I would like to ask, to beg your company to form a league against discrimination towards snakes. Well, there is another theory against the snakes because some Christians say that snakes are

evil, quoting the Bible. In Genesis, I was told, the Devil came to Eve in the shape of the snake to tempt her. He lied (in fact, told the truth) about the Tree of Life, and lured her to eat the fruit, in the shape of the apple. Now, if you want to trick some one, would you appear as an ugly monster, or would you come as a trusted figure? Snake must be considered trustworthy in Adam and Eve's time. Now, if some thief come faking a friend of yours and cheated you out of your money, would you blame your friend to the point that you would beat him up every time you see him or swear to kill him the next time you meet him? (A mystery to me: why do people reject the shape of snake but still eat apples!) So, if you are a good, loving Christian, I ask you again, to stand up for your friends the snakes who were the victims of identity thieves.

The second "counter point" came from Daved Skaar's article, Metaphor. He mentioned a Professor George Gopen of Duke University. Prof. Gopen is known for establishing a freshmen English course in which the pupils learn to write term papers the correct way. For the young men and young women freshly out of high school, it is definitely a good thing someone tells them how to

write. So, what is the correct way? Well, it is like what the musicians have been calling the "sonata form" (not a sonata) for centuries. It is made of an introduction, an exposition (presentation of themes), the development section, and a recapitulation section (conclusion). Come to think of it, this is really the most logic way to write an essay. Now, you may have heard that the Chinese have adopted the "examination" system for over a thousand years. Young men would study for years to compete in examinations from local to national level. Those who passed the national level of examination were assigned major official duties (say, mayor level of positions). In Ming and Ching (Qing, in Pinyin) dynasty (a total of about 600 years), the major part of the examination was to write an essay in a special form called ba-gu-wen (the eight-sectioned paper). It was very specific that the paper consists of Qi (introduction and statement of themes), Cheng (development), Zhuan (turn, or look at the themes at a different angle), and He (conclusion) four parts, very similar to the above description. It became "the" writing form for everything.

(Conti. to P. 5, Point)

Hunting Accident

By Ed Williams

The news of Vice President Cheney having accidentally shot a hunting buddy, and the moronic blathering of the leftist media about "he should resign" brought to mind an almost forgotten incident from my adolescence. It was in the very early '40s, and I was a 14 year old high school sophomore. My family lived in Wilmington. I used to go hunting with a high school classmate named John who was a year or two older than I. He lived "out in the country", between Murraysville and the Old Gordon Road, a few miles northwest of Wilmington. I always rode my bicycle - it was about a 6 mile ride from Oleander. Now, there are a lot of developments in that area, but at the time John's

parents' farmhouse was the only dwelling for several miles. We would walk out into the "woods". The land was mostly white sand with a lot of scrub oak and occasional clusters of pine trees. We would keep a lookout for signs of quail or doves. On one of these occasions, we thought we heard some quail not far away, so we sat down and waited for them to come nearer. I was sitting with my single barrel 20 gauge, and John was sitting to my left with his grand-dad's old double-barrel, visible-hammer 12 gauge shotgun. which he had over his lap, with muzzles pointing to his right. Somehow, one of the hammers was tripped and a shot went off - pointed at my legs. Fortunately, I had my legs cocked up, knees bent. Most of the shot dug a hole in the ground right under my legs, but I took 18 no. 9 shot in my left calf.

John was more affected than I - he was more than apologetic. It hurt, but not all that much, and it did not keep me from using my leg. We walked back to his house, and I told him I was not going to tell his parents because they would never let him go hunting again. They were "old country" strict. I got on my bike and rode home. When I got home, I confessed to my mom what had happened. She put me in the car and took me to the hospital, where the doctor said he would not try to extract the shot since they were lodged in the muscle and would work their way out. Indeed that is what happened, though I did not notice it. When I went into the Army 4 years later, X-rays showed that none remained. All that, and we didn't get a single quail!!

(Conti. From P. 4, point)

After 600 years, people are really tired of the mechanical, bureaucratic writing form. It seemed all announcements, public documents, propaganda ... were cranked out of the same grinder. The term "ba-gu-wen" became the synonym of the most unimaginative, stamped out plastic pieces. Let me tell you something else. In more recent history, after "the" war (WWII), a Japanese musician called Suzuki started a simple but mechanical method to teach children to play violin. It was wonderful to see hundreds of kids could play "Bah, Bah Black Sheep" together. It even helped to raise their national spirit at the time. However, very few of those students could advance to become concert violinists. Studies concluded that their individual creativities were capped by the mechanical training. They became soldiers holding violins for swords. Industrial revolution is fine, grinding out interchangeable identical parts. However, the future of a generation of soldiers marching with word processor looks bleak though. Just hope not all of them turn out to be "ba-gu-wen" writers and at least some of the young men and women can grow out of the method and add some creative styles for themselves.

BUTCH THE ROOSTER

John the farmer was in the fertilized egg business. He had several hundred young layers (hens), called pullets and eight or ten roosters, whose job was to fertilize the eggs.

The farmer kept records and any rooster that didn't perform went into the soup pot and was replaced.

That took an awful lot of his time so he bought a set of tiny bells and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone so John could tell from a distance, which rooster was performing. Now he could sit on the porch and fill out an efficiency report simply by listening to the bells.

The farmer's favorite rooster was old Butch, a very fine specimen he was, too. But

on this particular morning John noticed old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all!

John went to investigate. The other roosters were chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing. The pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover. But to Farmer John's amazement, Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and walk on to the next one. John was so proud of Butch, he entered him in the county fair.

Butch became an overnight sensation among the judges. The result...The judges not only awarded Butch the "No Bell Piece Prize" but they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

"submitted by someone too modest to want attribution" - quote e-mail, editor

Volunteering opportunities (2)

Editor — posted for theMensa Volunteer coordinator :

1 There is a tremendous need for Speaker Liaisons for the MENSA World Gathering Diamond Anniversary to be held August 8-13, 2006, at Disney World in Orlando, Florida, USA. Being a Speaker liaison requires social skills, attention to detail, and WALKING SHOES. In addition to the health benefits from all the walking, you'll have the opportunity to meet some interesting people, not all of whom belong to MENSA.

The Liaisons will be giving some speakers their first impression of MENSA or, in some cases, of the United States. The Liaison will put speakers at ease, let them know that we don't eat humans (unless we're really hungry), that we're not all geeks, and that we're not as weird as we sometimes make ourselves out to be (although the author admits to being a bit twisted). contact Kay Klasen, website <http://wg06.us.mensa.org>

2 "Etiquette in South Florida" by Marion Gaskins

Imagine that you're giving a party. Thousands of people show up. Where do you put all their coats? Thank goodness the party's in Florida in August. No one will be wearing coats; shorts, t-shirts, bikinis and flip flops are de rigueur!

The party lasts a week! You have to get some sleep. Who will take over for you?

A good host greets his guests. A charming hostess makes introductions.

At the same time, they somehow manage to keep the coffee hot, the drinks cold, the snack platters filled, and all things tidy. That's a lot of work when you have thousands of guests.

Luckily, you have a lot of friends willing to help you out, and you won't have to worry about guests getting too rowdy. Florida has something called the Baker Act. Just tell Security that "they came back from the pool in heavy winter coats with mufflers" and they'll be put under psychiatric observation until the party's over.

To sign up to help with HOSPITALITY, contact Kay Klasen. For more details about the party, check out the website <http://wg06.us.mensa.org>.

Answers to Metaphor, P2.

1. Oxygen
2. Avocado
3. Sirius
4. Television
5. Mozzarella
6. Cottage cheese. Sorry, couldn't resist, and it's no threat to Ed's puns.
7. Chlorine bleach
8. Ammonia
9. At the least, a cloud of chlorine gas, at the most, an explosion.
10. Blue whale, goes from a single cell to 150+ tons in 2-3 years.
11. Manic depression, aka bipolar disorder.