

Mblem

Crooked Progress

David Skaar

This month, I thought I would consider straight lines. The thought first occurred to me while I was doing some woodworking, and having great difficulty cutting a straight line. I fully intend to deal with the topic of the mechanics and engineering required to make a straight line, but not right now. I was diverted from my line of thought by some ideas about a more metaphorical straight line. The real world doesn't seem to work in straight lines, and seems to actively thwart our attempts to make them. I've tried to consider where in the real world straight lines are to be found, and it's hard. Moving objects continue in straight lines unless interfered with, which they always are, through friction, wind resistance, and many other factors. Light follows a straight path, unless it hits something, which it will except in a perfect vacuum. Of course, if it's in a perfect vacuum, it's hard to use it to make a straight cut in a sheet of plywood.

But, back to the metaphorical straight lines that never seem to happen. I got to thinking about science, because in retrospect, the history of science gives the impression of progress occurring in a straight line, as an inevitable chain of events. That tends to be the perception, because it's much easier to teach history as the chain of successful events, leaving out all the false leads, mistakes, time wasted because the right people didn't get information that would have been useful to them, and arrogant personalities that ignored things that didn't fit the truth they wanted to see.

Epidemiology is a good place to look for straight lines. The basic premise of epidemiology is to draw straight lines between cause and effect by figuring out what is causing a disease. In its purest form, epidemiology doesn't concern itself with reasons or mechanisms, just correlations. A good example of this is Reye's syndrome. Reye's syndrome is a potentially fatal mystery illness, determined to be triggered by aspirin given to children with chickenpox or virus-like illnesses. Why aspirin in combination with the illness is so bad is still not clear.

What is clear, is that if you don't give children aspirin, this doesn't happen. End of story.

That is a recent triumph of epidemiology showing the power of correlation, devoid of theory and understanding. There may yet come a greater understanding of human metabolism and toxicity if Reye's syndrome is unraveled. A classic example of an epidemiological breakthrough that could have led to greater things, but didn't (with the benefit of hindsight) is the story of John Snow and a cholera outbreak in London, 1854. People were dropping left and right of cholera in a certain area of London, which at the time, was thought to be transmitted by bad air. John Snow actually got systematic about it, sat down with a map to plot cases, and started interviewing people to find a common cause, which he determined to be the Broad Street water pump. The handle of the water pump was removed, and the cholera outbreak ended shortly thereafter (people were already fleeing the neighborhood, so the epidemic seemed to be ending anyway). Snow's success was certainly helped by his belief that cholera was transmitted through water that had been contaminated by cholera sufferers, so he went in trying to prove his preconceived notions, which turned out to be right, luckily for him.

This astounding breakthrough did not really go anywhere, however. Snow's examinations of the water were unable to identify any particular causative agent, and scientific progress in disease theory continued to go nowhere for some years. The germ theory of disease had yet to be established, so Snow had no basis to work from in establishing a cause, and no one else followed up on his work to identify a cause.

A similar example is Edward Jenner and his description of a smallpox vaccine even earlier, in 1796. It is likely that Jenner was not the first to realize that catching the rather benign cowpox (from a cow) would protect a person from catching the often fatal smallpox, but he published it, and got all the credit. In fact, inoculation by deliberately infecting people with minor cases of smallpox dates back to somewhere around 1000BC.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

We have many entries in this issue, . In fact, almost all of them came before my call for Mblem entry in last issue. It shows we MENCans genuinely love our news letter.

We have new authors, new publications and some election time candidate announcements.

A cryptogram seems to be a forecast of puzzles. Please do construct puzzles, words plays, and/or crossword puzzles.

Thank you, thank you!

Conti. From Page 1, Crooked

Given this knowledge, the fact that it took almost 3000 years to connect cowpox infection to smallpox immunity is a little depressing. And again, despite these successes, there was no coherent theory about what actually caused cowpox and smallpox, and why having cowpox was protective from smallpox, just that a solid correlation was established, and it worked.

An actual understanding of what caused contagious disease would come along in 1890, as Koch's postulates. Robert Koch established these postulates from his work with anthrax and tuberculosis (both very hazardous diseases to research, even today), bringing about a revolution in disease research, providing solid evidence that microorganisms were responsible for disease. Koch's postulates are:

1. The organism must be found in all animals suffering from the disease, but not in healthy animals.
2. The organism must be isolated from a diseased animal and grown in pure culture.
3. The cultured organism should cause disease when introduced into a healthy animal.

The organism must be reisolated from the experimentally infected animal.

Postulate 1 had to be revised a little bit, as it turned out that there were diseases that could be carried and transmitted without any apparent ill effect to the carrier – cholera is one, typhoid another (Typhoid Mary being a great example of this), and many sexually transmitted diseases can also be transmitted by an apparently healthy person.

Why the delay between Snow and Koch? (Although, in the grand scheme of things, 36 years is not so much.) I don't know, and at the moment, I'm not willing to do enough digging to try and figure out why. This delay is more interesting, given some other bits of background. Starting from the 1660s and 1670s, Robert Hooke (also of Hooke's law of elasticity, for the mechanical engineers in the audience) and Antony van Leeuwenhoek were making microscopic observations. Van Leeuwenhoek gave astoundingly good descriptions of all sorts of microscopic animals, and was even able to describe what turned out to be bacteria. In the case of cholera, the idea that bad water made people sick was nothing new, it is not a hard thing to figure out. Going back to the Romans, Greeks, and before, this was known. The Greeks and Romans mixed water and wine as a tradeoff between good health and constant drunkenness. They didn't know the alcohol from the wine was killing pathogens, it was just that experience had shown what kept people healthy and what got them killed. John Snow knew this, he was a proponent of boiling water to prevent illness, but he didn't know why, and the follow-up work on cholera that could have found the responsible bacterium just didn't happen.

Why was Koch successful when Snow wasn't? Remember, Snow did look at the water to try to find something in it that caused cholera, but he couldn't. I can postulate a few things. Koch was probably lucky, it may just be that it's

easier to isolate anthrax than cholera. The way science tends to work is that a lot of people are working on the same problem from a lot of different directions, and it's the one who just happens to have chosen the best place to look, or has one technical edge, that wins. What also matters, perhaps even more, is to go in with the correct preconceived notions. If Snow had gone in looking to isolate and test all the bacteria he could find, he may have found what he wanted.

The scientific method requires a hypothesis that is to be tested by experimentation. In theory, the hypothesis is to be revised based on the results of the experiments, but it's much easier to just jump to publishing the experiments with a hypothesis that is right in the first place. I would guess (since I don't want to research, and the background on 350 year old experiments may be a little confused) that Koch had done the synthesis, combining the knowledge of microorganisms with the ideas of contamination spreading disease, and he was lucky enough to look at diseases for which it was easier to spot and isolate the bacteria responsible (not an easy task, even now). There was no hope for Jenner, as viruses (such as smallpox) weren't even visible until well into the 20th century with the advent of electron microscopy.

Looking back at just the significant achievements, it looks like a straight line of accomplishments. The initial identification of microorganisms that showed life of a kind that had never been imagined before, the idea that disease is spread from sick people through some sort of contamination, to Koch's postulates that these microbes are spreading disease, and his demonstrations of these postulates in practice. But in reality, there are significant gaps in progress, with significant leaps like Jenner's and Snow's not immediately leading to the "obvious" next step of Koch's postulates. There was not a straight line followed then, and straight lines are still not followed now. To get anywhere, a lot of factors have to work in combination: the right ideas, the right technology, the zealotry to keep trying to prove the ideas, and something I haven't really mentioned, the right publicity, so that others can pick up the research and keep going. And while it's those who are right that get the glory and remembered, those who had the wrong idea should also be remembered for their contributions. The usual routine is that someone who has the wrong idea and follows a false lead has nothing to publish, and their failure is forgotten. This allows the failure to be repeated, as each successor has to reinvent the wheel, and eliminate the wrong ways to do things on the way to the right path. Therefore, my closing advice, is to swallow your pride, be wrong and be proud, and try to save others from all your troubles. I'm sure there's a future column in this somewhere – the perpetual struggle of parents to use their mistakes (the ones they're willing to talk about) to teach their children, and the constant unwillingness of children to believe that they can learn something from their parents.

They!

Kevin Hughes

"They" are a powerful group. Even more powerful than what "They" say; is what "They" do. "They" steal your dreams, make you feel small, stop you from taking life in big chunks. "They" make you aware of all of your shortcomings - weaknesses - character flaws, in order to keep you from trying to grow, expand your horizons, lift your spirit free of the mundane, to live. How powerful are "They"? Incredibly powerful; for "They" do not even exist.

"They" exist simply because we allow them to exist. We give them substance, power, influence over our thoughts, actions and deeds, by acknowledging their existence. We stay small (most of us) barely noticed in our own realities. Why? Because we are afraid of what "They" would do if "They" ever found out who we really are. A famous poet once said: "Most men live lives of quiet desperation." Why is that? Fear of what; "They" might say; is the reason. Fear of "They".

Who are we to think we might be smart? To have a great idea? To open our own business? To learn to sing, speak another language, graduate from College? Who are we to think we might become wealthy? Successful? Funny? Interesting? Who are we to think our lives might make a difference? We are afraid that if we do succeed in life; "They" would show up. "They" would start right in on us; He did this at twelve. He said that at twenty. He made a mistake at twenty-five, he was just lucky, he did not deserve that award, acclaim or fame. "They" are relentless in stacking what-

ever ammunition "They" need to suck the joy or effort out of our efforts to better our lives. "They" will make it clear to the world; he is not worthy of your admiration, love, or success. "They" will convince you that you failed at your marriage, career, at being a Mother or Father. "They" will use any trick, any small opening, any lingering doubt to try and convince you "They" are right. YOU are not worthy.

I am fifty - four years old. I have battled "They" many times. I can tell you that to defeat "They" you need to know a few things. One: nothing in your past can be undone. It is done. It is over. It is behind you. No amount of regret, guilt, or shame, can undo a single thing about your past. Leave your past there, behind you, in your past. If you didn't like something in your past, then do not repeat it in your present, or give it power in your future. Leave it in your past, where it belongs (because that is where it happened!). The past is all memory. Two: your future is actually - today. Tomorrow it will be your past. This is not some weird word play. It is the actual truth. If you want a better Tomorrow, then Today is the day to act. Because, tomorrow, today, will be your past. Want a better past? Build a better today. After enough days pass, your past will be one of fruitful endeavor, love, passion, commitment, contribution, growth. This silences a lot of what "They" say. "They" cannot handle change, growth, the future. "They" mostly live in the past.

Three: since you cannot undo the past, but, you can change your present to in-

clude your future, make a new past, today. From this day on, refuse to be small. Declare in a strong, clear, powerful voice: "I will no longer be small. I will not think small thoughts. I will not undertake small activities. I will not be small anymore!"

Once this is done with conviction. "They" disappear. In fact, even if "They" do appear again in your life, you can dismiss them. Banish them from your day. Exile them from your life. Let them talk. You have removed their power. Oh, "They" can say what "They" want about you, "They" always have. What "They" don't realize, is you now know who "They" are. Once that happens; it no longer matters what "They" say; because you no longer care. You have chosen to grow, to live, to love so much, "They" leave.

Now all that is left, is you. How wonderful!

+++++

Editor's note, on March 23, Kevin entered the above article with the following self introduction:

Who I am?

I am a comedian. I am also funny. How many married guys who are wildly in love with their wife for over 25 years, who also happen to be; MENSA, Master's Degree holders, inducted into the Academic Hall of Fame, Comedian of the year, Lecturer of the Year, Microsoft Most Innovative Small Business Award Winner, Home Office Computing top 100 Home Businesses, published book author, published magazine article writer, radio show host (KCCN Hawaii) are there?? Well...I am one!

Remember? We have talked about printing a **directory**? I have putting it off because some members said they have not completely taken their private information out. Please go check your PDQ at the Natonal Office. You can specify what should be blocked and what can be on members only directory.

Gifted Child Looking for Friends, an Announcement

My name is Dr. Heather Scheffler, and I am a pediatric psychologist (and former MENSAN) in Sanford, NC. I am in search of an intellectual peer group for a delightful & gifted 5th grade boy. Proximity in age, gender, and geography preferred but not essential. Any help would be appreciated. If you have a gifted child, know of one (or more), or know of groups/activities that could provide this child with some exposure to other kids like him, please contact me. My email is hbscheffler@earthlink.net. My cell phone/work number is (919) 548-5612. Thank you. Smiles, Heather Scheffler, Ph.D.

"Spring Doubleheader" Mensa Announcement

During the month of May, home tests will be sold for \$13. (The regular price is \$18.) Then, if you return the completed Home Test before June 30, you'll receive a coupon worth \$5 off the Mensa Admission Test. The coupon will be valid until August 31. Contact:

Catherine Barney, Marketing Director,
American Mensa, Ltd.
MarketingDirector@AmericanMensa.org

Coordinator's Corner

Ellen Muratori

We've added 3 more Wednesday lunches to the calendar for Triad area Mensa members. Some of you will remember the weekly Piccadilly Cafeteria lunches where we often had 10-12 at table. We would call it our "fix" for the week. Well, BB Byrd and yours truly thought we would bring a lunch to other locations so that more of you could partake of the Mensa Experience. Timothy Joseph, and Chet Hasert took advantage of the email announcement of the First Wednesday Lunch at the Food Court at Four Seasons Town Center (Mall) and joined Max and Cathy Harless, and Ellen. The calendar informs of the new schedule. If you need further info call 336 292 3754. If

you're not on Ellen's email list, give a call. Don't miss out on the Mensa doings in the Triad.

Games Night at Mandy McGehee's in March started slowly. Players trickled in, starting with Ellen, then Susan (a friend of Mandy's), then Melinda Kite, and David and Margaret Roberts, Ray Burton, and Tom Zavist. We had two tables going: one with Anagrams, the other with Perudo, and Carcassone. Some had to leave (long drive home), but four of us lasted till 2am with Spades. Mandy's refreshment table conferred upon her the title of "Ultimate Hostess". Thank you, Mandy for a delightful evening!

The change to McAlister's Deli for our Saturday Supper promises to bring a larger crowd. Certainly the gargantuan baked Spud servings (which required

take-home boxes), will beckon vegetarian gourmands. The ease of giving one's order at the bar, then having one's dish brought to the table, makes for a gracious dining experience.

The location for Games Night in May, scheduled on the Memorial Day weekend, hasn't been set yet - sometimes we're not ready to commit. Certainly understandable considering the varied and busy schedules Mensa members keep. So watch for the email announcement, or give me a call. If you're headed for CAROLINAH RG 007, held in Spartanburg, S.C. this year from May 4 through 6, please give us a report. What happens at an RG? (I know! but lots of others don't.) You'll miss Triad's Saturday Supper, but we'd love to hear from you. So please share! Take notes!

On the Arts: The Art of Listening

David Ridgeway

Who hasn't wanted to be a better listener? Weren't listening eh? So who hasn't wanted to be a better listener at some point; like just now?

Probably no one for the sake of this column which will address the art of listening; how to be a better listener and how to use better listening skills to further one's enjoyment of the arts. Particularly music.

I once had someone ask me how musicians knew when to play the same songs at exactly the same time. Just how did they synchronize their respective notes into recognizable forms ?

Now this was a gentleman who professed to be a music fan. Who frequently bragged about having a wall shattering home sound system and often stayed up all night listening to rock and roll records. And I was a little floored when he asked his question. I couldn't imagine what he heard or didn't hear in music that left him wondering how musicians kept time. I imagined that he heard only rhythmic noise and that the stops and starts and all in-betweens didn't register at all.

My point is I don't know what people hear when they listen to music. However, I do know how I trained myself to listen to music and if you have the most basic sense of rhythm and can truly tell the difference between different pitches or notes, you can learn to listen too. So draw nigh and lend me your ear. This is how it's done.

First, you must pay attention to what you are listening too. Be aware of the different sounds that make up the sounds you are hearing. Quite often, a pitched tone or note

will be comprised of two or more sounds from one or more instruments. Try to train yourself to follow one instrument throughout the piece you are listening too. Learn what different instruments sound like and follow them as they are played, or not. Silences in music are important too.

A very important man once said, "Music is the absence of silence." Or something silly like that. In fact, I'm not aware that anyone ever said anything like that at all but when you are trying to fill a very important column with very important things, artistic license in the form of very important verbiage is encouraged and perhaps, even allowed. As a matter of fact, it is probably an art form in itself and may be addressed in a later column.

But returning to a belated point, sitars are an instrument to listen to which illustrate very clearly the parts of musical sound. A sitar has strings that drone in response to the strings that are plucked. A sitar melody can weave in and out of the resonant droning and all the different parts of the song are clearly different from all the other parts.

Quite often, you will hear Indian music played on sitar with a percussion accompaniet (try and spell that one – not "that one" but accompanient) played on a drum called a tambla. These have a sort of "whoomping" sound that is precise and expressive.

I don't listen to much Indian music anymore. I only mention it as an excellent way to train your ear and mind to identify the different sounds of music and to follow them throughout the tune you are listening too. These lessons are easily applied to any other songs ... including music you can actually enjoy. I think correct anticipation of the next note in an unfamiliar piece is indicative of good musical training.

And with that I beg your leave until next we meet.

Author's Bio

Editor's note: Our own Chris Barnett whose name you probably have seen often when he announces Wilmington area TGIF dinner time and locations, has a new publication. As he put it, "My first published book is now available online at the Publisher Xlibris. (Finally!!)." You can actually read a few sample pages (just to get you hooked) of the science fiction, "Wrangler Joe and the Orb of Levanah", at their website. The URL is:
<http://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/bookdisplay.asp?bookid=37406/>

Website Author Biography – J. C. Barnett

As an avid reader of a multitude of Science Fiction and Fantasy novels, J.C. Barnett has been fascinated by stories of unlikely heroes in incredible places doing incredible things against incredible odds. This fascination coupled with an over active imagination has led him down a thirty year road of creating and telling fantastic stories, and we do mean some real "whoppers".

Fortunately, for his family and loved ones, along the way he also managed to acquire a Bachelors Degree in Biology, twenty years experience in several major chemical companies, and a Proctor post for American MENSA.

His background is fairly modest and uneventful. He

was born and raised in southwestern Virginia, graduated High School in 1982, graduated college in 1986, and moved to the beach in 1995. He's lived in Wilmington, NC ever since. The environment here and a decent day job have allowed him to indulge himself in his favorite pastime, telling stories.

"Wrangler Joe and the Orb of Levanah" is an entertaining tale that is truly an exercise in this personal indulgence. In his own words:

"I've always wanted to write a Sci-Fi yarn that took you to a dangerous space locale and placed you in the life of a fairly average individual that was faced with a classic crisis. When writing 'Joe', I found myself back in the heyday of "Star Trek", and the early Science Fiction giants such as Heinlein, Asimov, Clarke, Niven, Anthony, etc. Not that I could ever dream of walking in their shoes.

"This book is my humble first attempt to become a published writer and possibly embark on a career that will allow me the luxury of writing forever.

It has been a wonderful experience putting together such a fantastic story and to make it available to others. I hope that someone out there finds it as enjoyable to read, as it was to write."

People I Have Known - Archie and Lucky Roosevelt

Ed Williams

When I was stationed at the US Embassy at Madrid (1956-60), I didn't have very much to do, officially, with our CIA guys. I did come to have a good friend who was CIA under cover as a businessman. He collected great, old cars as a hobby, and one of the biggest mistakes of my life was turning down his offer to sell me a 1937 Mercedes SSK for \$1000, when he needed money to buy another car. But this is beside the point. In 1958, a new CIA Station Chief arrived - Archibald Roosevelt, with his wife, Selwa - better know to us as Lucky (I wish I knew the origin of that nickname!). Archie was a grandson of Theodore Roosevelt. He had a 1st cousin, Kermit, who was also a CIA guy and who became well known for orchestrating the overthrow of Prime Minister Mossadegh in Iran to return the Shah to the throne. Archie was never involved in anything so spectacular. He had normal CIA jobs, including Station Chief at other embassies. He retired in 1974. after a final assignment in the CIA in WashDC. He became Vice President of the Chase

Manhattan Bank, and its Washington representative. He died in 1990.

Selwa, or Lucky, was born Selwa Showker in Tennessee of Lebanese parents. She was (and is still) a lovely, gracious and very intelligent woman. After graduating from Vassar, she became a journalist. She and Archie were married in 1950. In 1982, Pres. Reagan named her Chief of Protocol of the U.S., with offices in the White House and the State Dept. She remained in that office, with the rank of Ambassador, until the end of his presidency

But to get back to Madrid - the Roosevelts did not socialize very much, as was common for CIA people, especially senior ones. I did not often encounter them at the Ambassador's many social functions (I attended most of these, except the 18-seat dinners, to move around, introduce people, answer questions about American policy, and about America in general, etc.). The place where I most frequently saw Archie and Lucky was our Embassy coffee bar, where Lucky would come often to have morning and/or afternoon coffee with Archie, and where we would talk about whatever was going

on in the world outside the office. One of the things that was going on in the world was the first Lebanese civil war, between alliances of the multitude of different religious groups. I remember one morning I was sitting with Archie and Lucky in the coffee bar, and we were looking at the news in the International Herald Tribune. There was a picture of a couple of the Lebanese conflict leaders, and Lucky pointed at one of them (I think it was Walid Jumblat) and said, in her very distinct Southern accent, "Why, I know that man! He's my cousin!" She tried to explain to me what was going on in Lebanon, but I found it very difficult to sort out the Maronites from the Druze, the Malkites, the Shi'a, the Sunni, the Chaldeans, etc. In 1960, I was transferred back to the Dept. of State in Washington, and never saw Archie again. I did see Lucky in the early '80s in her office in the Dept. of State, but that was about it. I should mention that she is on the Board of Visitors of the North Carolina School of the Arts, and for some years served on the Advisory Board of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center. A very interesting couple indeed!

A CRYPTOGRAM

(Wherein substitute letters replace the actual ones)

Ellen Muratori

For the novice who needs more "how to", email summerellen@mymailstation.com
The solution is in the solving. Two spaces are allowed between the lines, so there is room for writing and erasing.

Here's a limerick for the cryptographers among us. The first three letters have been provided. [Printed as she sent in, editor]

the
VANZN JPF PD TXI MPZVU TC XULN

JAT LPZZGNI VAZNN JGSNF PV TDN VGLN.

the
JAND PFBNI: "JAU VAN VAGZI?"

AN ZNMXGNI: "TDN'F PHFKZI,

PDI HGQPLU, FGZ, GF P OZGLN."

PDTDULTKF

Press release

[Editor's note: this is a press release about Kevin Hughes, the author of "They!" on page 3 of this issue.]

Wilmington, North Carolina, (PRWEB) March 1st, 2007 -- Can one million copies of a book be sold - ONLINE - in 100 days – using only the principle of Six degrees of separation? It can be done - if the message in the documentary DVD; The Secret, is accurate. One man decided to put The Secret, to a public test.

The book is called, Translated: The Beginning. A book with a deceptively simple premise; what if someone dropped dead, but did not die? What if, when he awakes, the only emotion he can experience is love?

Would he then be the first true human being? Would he be worshipped? Or would he be reviled? Adored? Hated? The answer may be in the book. The Book explores the science of a mind redesigned to feel only love. A human being translated into the perfect Lover of Mankind. Will mankind love him back?

Can a Meta-physical thought or desire, be manifested in the "real" world? Science would predict that thoughts do not become things, therefore trying to manifest a desire into a tangible factual accomplishment is nonsense. On the other hand, Meta-physics predict that all thoughts become reality through a process called: The Law of Attraction.

The Law of Attraction simply says: whatever you think about the most, you attract into your life. The scientific community has a simple law of its own; it is called: Six Degrees of Separation. Simply stated, Six Degrees of Separation says; between any two people on the planet, there is only six degrees of separation. You can reach any other human being with only five intermediary steps.

It should be possible then, for someone to reach some one who can contact a million people in only five steps. Combing this with the Law of Attraction should produce One million books sold Online in one hundred days. Visit: www.staytogether.us for more info.

Contact: Kevin Hughes (704) 236-3114

The American Mensa election is coming up shortly

Three candidate announcements:

I (received on April 5)

Allan Derum, candidate for American Mensa Treasurer wrote in and asked us to check out his website:
www.allanderum.com

II (received on April 13 from Marghretta McBean

<VoteForMarghretta@fixedearth.net>)

I am a non-traditional candidate. My running for election as your Chairwoman is unconventional: while having the requisite service (four years as Region1's AMC representative), I am not waiting to slowly move up, finally acquiring the top position when I may no longer be at the peak of my powers.

I am running because I have a dream: that with my energy, hopefulness, and passion, I can lead you and American Mensa towards a new direction, one more in tune with America's social and cultural climate.

An active Greater New York Mensa Inc. member since 1976, I fully understand the dynamics of local group leadership and politics.

I have served Region 1 with diligence and fairness. Through my support and encouragement, groups have produced a LDW, a Colloquium and hosted an AMC meeting. A true leader makes leaders of others and becomes a better leader in the process.

As an outspoken member of the AMC, I have acquired experience and insight into Mensa's national and international inner workings. I also bring a perspective that has not been tarnished by political allegiances or personal grievances.

I am fortunate to enjoy excellent health and superb stamina, necessary components for an active leader.

Some ideas that bear consideration: Student and Senior reduced_fee membership classes; "bundling" testing/prior evidence with membership; truly broadening our outreach to underrepresented groups. I would love to hear your suggestions and comments; reach me at campaign@fixedearth.net.

To visit my campaign headquarters go to <http://www.inch.com/~taurus/BrightNewDay.html>

Please vote for Marghretta!

III According to Howard Prince, Director of Operations, American Mensa, Ltd, Candidate bios and statements are now available online at [Http://insideaml.us.Mensa.org/](http://insideaml.us.Mensa.org/)