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SYNAPPSIA

THINKING

BRAIN POWER

THE MIND



THE OLYMPICS OF THE NEXT MILLENIUM

MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

EXPAND YOUR MEMORY POTENTIAL

BRAIN OF THE YEAR

BUSINESS BRAIN

UNITED STATES MEMORY CHAMPIONSHIPS

MIND SPORTS: CHESS • BRIDGE • GO • CROSSWORD

THE 2nd MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD



ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL LONDON, 24-30 AUGUST 1998

- The 2nd Global Mind Sports Event
- Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals
- Four London/NY Concorde returns
- £100,000 in prizes awarded in 1997
- Chess
- Card Games
- Games Workshops
- Mental Skills

Abalone	Entropy	Memory Skills
Backgammon	Gin Rummy	Mental Calculations
Bridge	Go (19x19)	Othello
Chess	Go (13x13)	(Reversi)
Chess Problem Solving	Go (9x9)	Owari
Chinese Chess	Hare and Tortoise	Pentamind
(XiangQi)	IQ Competition	Rummikub
Computer Programming	Japanese Chess	Scrabble
Continuo	(Shogi)	Skat (German rules)
Creative Thinking Tests	Jigsaw Puzzles	Speed Reading
Crossword Puzzles	Lines of Action (LOA)	Stratego
Decamentathlon	Magic – The Gathering	(l'Attaque)
Draughts (8x8)	Mah-Jongg	Twixt
Draughts (10x10)	Mastermind	Zatre

OPEN TO EVERYONE!!

The Mind Sports Olympiad is organised by Tony Buzan, Ray Keene OBE, David Levy, Don Morris, David Pritchard and Sir Brian and Lady Mary Tovey. In year one, 1997, competitors included Zia Mahmood, Michael Adams, Ron King and Robert Sheehan.

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SYNAPSIA EDITORIAL

An Olympian Effort

The Mind Sports Olympiad, held in August this year, was an outstanding success, and I would like to record my thanks, as a Director and Company Secretary of Mind Sports Olympiad Ltd, to all those of you who came as visitors, observers or participants. It was a great privilege to be associated with such an event, the first of its kind anywhere in the world. In this issue Raymond Keene gives us the full story – game, set and match, so to speak – with photographs as well! We could not have staged this event without the support of our main sponsors – Skandia – and we all owe them a huge vote of thanks for allowing us to make this event the success it was. After reading this edition of *Synapsia*, we hope that you may be inspired to take part in next year's Olympiad.

There were a great many moments that I will treasure from this week, but I think the overall picture of people from all over the world playing their hearts out at whatever game, test or competition they had entered, was very uplifting and energising. Brain power was almost palpable, as each participant sweated away (and it was the hottest week of the year!) at their chosen pursuit. You will see from some of the photographs the degree of dedication put in by the entrants.

Behind the scenes, there were a great number of arbiters, markers, organisers, setters of questions, press room boys and girls, the *Olympiad News* team, the receptionists, the information girls, the stand-holders, who each contributed to making this event the success it was. To all of you once again many, many thanks indeed for your hard work and support.

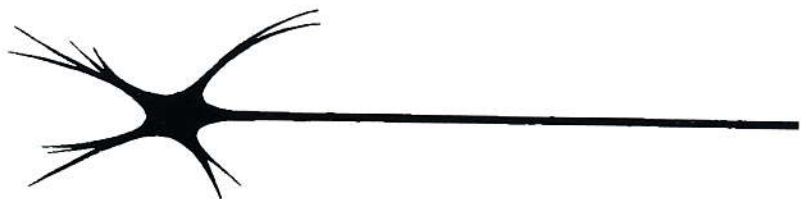
Just to give you a flavour of what went on, I quote from the last issue of the *Olympiad News* dated Sunday 24 August: 'A week of frenetic activity drew to a close with the final medal ceremony honouring the many winners of the first Mind Sports Olympiad. There have been 65 events, 39 disciplines, and over 2,000 competitors from 58 countries. Players from age 6 to 88 have taken part, watched by television crews from Brazil to China.' We look forward to seeing you

all next year for the second Mind Sports Olympiad: 24-30 August 1998.

But I must not let you imagine that this issue of *Synapsia* is all about the Mind Sports Olympiad and nothing else. Far from it: on 8 November the first American Memoriad took place in New York. We report on this in detail. The event was organised by Tony Dottino who, as you will see, is a co-author (with Mary Vassa Ortega) of the business section article. We also have a fascinating contribution from Ed O'Grady about the martial art, Aikido. I have had some experience of this skill, as a spectator, and the way in which an Aikido contestant achieves victory by turning aside aggression is enthralling to behold. I would also like to draw your attention to the Mind Map gallery where you will find many of the entries for the London Brain Club's annual competition. This was held on the 26 November and is thus hot off the press. As you will see, these Mind Maps provide excellent examples of this highly creative skill. And, I need hardly add, all our regular features are also to be found in the pages of this issue. Many thanks to all the contributors.

I would be very glad to receive your comments on this issue – your feedback is vital! In our next issue I would like to start a letters page, so please write, ring, fax or e-mail me.

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BRAIN OF THE YEAR

Previous winners include Gene Roddenberry, Garry Kasparov, Dominic O'Brien, Marion Tinsley, Lana Israel and Steve Redgrave. Who will join this select group?

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SYNAPTIC FLASHES

Latest Brain News

Life Begins at Ninety

Although child prodigies are often featured in daily newspaper articles, the feats of those of more advanced age are often overlooked. One remarkable example of the virtues of experience over youth is ninety-year-old Donald Coxeter, one of the world's greatest masters of geometry. After sixty years of teaching and research at the University of Toronto he is still going strong, with three mathematical papers in production. Born in England and educated at Cambridge, he emigrated to Canada in the 1930s. He is held in such regard by his colleagues and former students that a special scholarship fund, set up to celebrate his 90th birthday, has raised over £100,000 from individual contributions. He will be remembered primarily for his work on regular figures and polytopes, but for him that is a bonus: his only goal has always been to reveal the beauty that lies hidden in numbers and shapes.

It's Good to Talk

A UK computer program called 'Converse' has won the 7th annual Loebner Prize (based on the famous Turing Test) for programs that are able to mimic a human conversation. The contest was held at the Salamagundi Club on New York's 5th Avenue. Converse is the brain-child of Intelligent Research Ltd., a London-based company in collaboration with a team from Sheffield University Computer Science Department. Intelligent Research is headed up by David Levy, a co-founder of the Mind Sports Olympiad.

The Turing Test was first suggested as a test for computer intelligence by the British mathematician, code-breaker and computer scientist Alan Turing. Turing suggested that if someone was communicating via a terminal with either a computer or human in another room, and could not tell if their conversational partner was human or computer, then the computer – if indeed, it were a computer – could be deemed to have achieved a degree of intelligence.

Converse's persona is an English-born journalist called Catherine who works as

a sub-editor on a New York astrological magazine. Converse responded well to questions from judges about her date and place of birth, the Whitewater controversy and Bill Clinton's attempt to capture the gay vote. Converse has potential applications as a virtual friend, but Intelligent Research anticipate that the main commercial use may be as a front end for help systems.

Book of the Century

As we head towards the Millennium, everyone's thoughts are turning to the century ahead...and the century that is just coming to a close. Earlier this year two independent major polls were carried out, by Waterstone's/Channel 4 and the *Daily Telegraph* respectively, in an attempt to discover which book deserves to be heralded 'The Book of the Century'. Interestingly, the two polls came up with exactly the same top three titles:

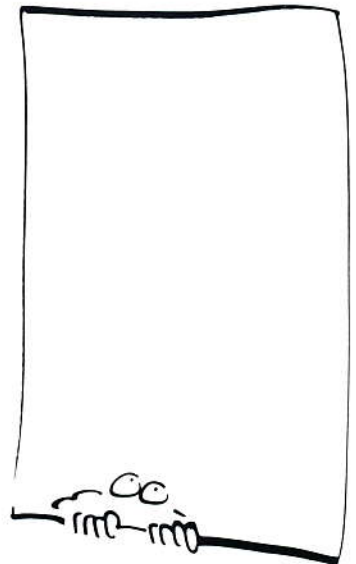
1. *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien
2. *Nineteen Eighty Four* by George Orwell
3. *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

James Joyce's *Ulysses* and John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* were the only other titles to feature in the top ten of both polls.

Readers are invited to write to *Synapsia* nominating their top three (in order). The results will be published in the next issue.

Bigger and Better

The 3rd UK Schools Chess Challenge will take place in 1998. Last year, 727 schools and 24,114 children competed in this tournament – the largest in the world. Next year's event should see this record broken. The competition is sponsored by Rotary Clubs in aid of Save the Children. The chief organiser is the energetic international chess master Michael Basman who is issuing invitations to every school in the country to compete. Details are available from M. Basman, 7 Billockby Close, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2ED (0181 397 1826).



THE FIRST MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Raymond Keene reports on a spectacular success



A Dream Come True

The first Mind Sports Olympiad at London's Royal Festival Hall, overlooking the River Thames and facing the Houses of Parliament, was the culmination of a dream that had persisted for several years. For some time, I had been working with Tony Buzan and David Levy to transport this vision from the realm of hypothesis to reality. However, it was only in the late summer of 1996, when we took the Goethe-inspired decision that the event really would take place the following August, that the juggernaut was finally set in motion.

First of all, the Royal Festival Hall, one of the world's premier venues, offered us their facilities. Then, entrepreneur and experienced event organiser Don Morris joined us as a Director, and then Sir Brian and Lady Mary

Above: MSO Directors Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene and Sir Brian Tovey open the Olympiad

Right: The Royal Festival Hall from across the Thames



Tovey accepted the respective posts of Chairman and Secretary. With renowned games expert David Pritchard also on board, the stage was set for a blitz on commercial sponsors to provide the wherewithal to stage the Olympiad to the desired standards.

Amongst the illustrious team of sponsors who lined up to support the Olympiad concept were Silicon Graphics, *The Times*, Fujitsu, British Airways and the Buzan Centres. Above all, the Swedish and international financial giant, Skandia, enabled us, by generous input, to offer £100,000 of prizes both in cash and in kind.

Up and Running

Festivities commenced on the morning of Monday 18 August, as Mind Sports players, champions and hopefuls, poured in through the different entrances of the Royal Festival Hall to take up cudgels in their respective activities. Almost immediately, the roles that the organisers were to assume throughout a hectic week took on concrete shape. Don Morris, as floor manager, set up shop in the main foyer, in plain sight for all to see, establishing a nerve centre of couriers, message takers and general helpers fanning out around the extensive building to ensure that the wheels turned smoothly. David Levy vanished into a hive of statistical activity where results were logged, new records noted and the award of gold, silver and bronze medals in each discipline carefully charted. Sir Brian Tovey and I found ourselves on the main stage, in front of a huge depiction of the Mind Sports Olympiad logo, Ajax and Achilles playing a mind sport at the siege of Troy, based on a 2,500-year-old vase by the Greek sculptor, Exekias. There we declared the Olympiad open and made the ceremonial



Competitors enjoying two of the numerous events at the Mind Sports Olympiad
Above: Stratego
Left: Othello

'The biggest games-fest ever to hit these (or perhaps any other) shores. The first Mind Sports Olympiad is a great celebration of the power of the human mind.'

- The Independent

first move on a crystal chess set, donated by Glass Distinction. We were joined here by Tony Buzan who, though, was soon to be whisked off, the prey for a ravenous horde of national and international representatives of the gigantic press, TV and radio corps, which hovered constantly around the event. By the end of the event TV coverage was registered as far afield as Tokyo, Singapore, Delhi, Vancouver and Madrid, whilst our log of press cuttings turned out to kilogrammatic. Official estimates were that 1.5 billion people around the world had heard of the event by the time it was over.

The seal was set on first day of the Mind Sports Olympiad by the official opening party on Monday evening. Skandia executives jetted in on their private plane to attend a 300-strong moonlight and champagne celebration on the terrace of the Royal Festival Hall. Brain stars, organisers and business executives mingled and exchanged ideas up to the point, coincidentally, when the final drop of champagne was consumed, after which the assembled throng gradually melted away.

Strength and Depth

The strength of the entry in this first year matched its depth. All in all over 2,050 competitors entered during the week-long period of the event, while no less than 58 countries were represented and 16 separate World Championships were contested. Of the brain stars who competed, perhaps individually the best known to a London audience were Dominic O'Brien, the defending world memory champion, chess grandmasters Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler, the co-British champions and world 8x8 draughts champion Ron King from Barbados. Other brain stars included a group of former world 10x10 draughts champions (this version of the game is very popular in Holland and Russia), namely Harm Wiersma, Guntas Valneris and Anatoly Gantvarg. Furthermore, the competition in the game of Othello was probably the strongest ever held outside Japan, and included the reigning world champion as well as a number of very strong players. In chess terms it would have been a category 18 tournament.

Mind Sports Olympiad Prize Fund

Event	Prize	Event	Prize
Abalone	MSO Medals	Magic - the Gathering	MSO Medals
Backgammon	MSO Medals	Mah Jongg	MSO Medals
Bridge	MSO Medals & £9,500	Mastermind	MSO Medals & £425
Chess	MSO Medals & £10,000 & Concorde ticket	Memory	MSO Medals & £2,000
Chess Problems	MSO Medals	Mental Calculation	MSO Medals & £700
Chinese Chess	MSO Medals & £5,400	Othello	MSO Medals & £7,000
Computer Programming	MSO Medals & £1,250	Owari	MSO Medals & £250
Continuo	MSO Medals	Rummikub	MSO Medals & £3,500
Countdown	n/a	Scrabble	MSO Medals & £5,400 & Concorde ticket
Creative Thinking	MSO Medals & £750	Shogi	MSO Medals & £5,400
Crossword Puzzles	Prizes supplied by <i>The Times</i>	Skat	MSO Medals
Decamentathlon	MSO Medals	Speed Reading	MSO Medals
Draughts (8x8)	MSO Medals & £1,100	Stratego	MSO Medals & £2,500
Draughts (10x10)	MSO Medals & £5,900	Twixt	MSO Medals
Entropy	MSO Medals & £500	Zatre	MSO Medals & £700
Games Workshop	n/a	Pentamind	MSO Medals & £750 & Concorde ticket
Gin Rummy	MSO Medals	Cash part of prize fund	£73,000
Go	MSO Medals & £8,300	Total value Concorde tickets	£24,000
Hare & Tortoise	MSO Medals & £175	Total value book prizes	£3,000
IQ	MSO Medals & £1,500 & Concorde ticket	Total value prizes offered by <i>The Times</i>	£10,000
Jigsaw Puzzles	MSO Medals	Total value prizes offered by Heart Radio	£3,000
Lines of Action	MSO Medals	Grand Total	£113,000

Jan R. Carendi's inauguration speech at the first Mind Sports Olympiad

The 2,500-year-old Greek vase says it all. Mind sports are as old as man. From the day and age of our vase, man's knowledge had doubled by the year 1750. Now it doubles every five years! Could anything be more relevant than the Mind Sports Olympiad? It is an idea whose time has truly come!

So it is my pleasure to bid you welcome to the first global intellectual battlefield.

Traditional Olympiads reward trained bodies. Mankind knows quite well how to train bodies, but very little about training brains. We know that stretched bodies can take more strain. Likewise we know that stretched minds expand the brain – a stretched brain will never return to its original size. Another advantage of the Mind Sports Olympiad compared to physical sports Olympiads, is that the risk of injuries in mind sports is very low. As an insurer this point is not lost on me.

Money can be borrowed. Processes can be copied. But brain power evades trapping. An original is always better than a good copy. Uniqueness is priceless. Stretching your mind is like a stellar explosion – nobody knows the limits.

Although brain power evades trapping, the results of good thinking can be shared. If you give me a pound coin and I give you one back, we only have £1 each. But if you give me an idea and I give you another, we both have two each.

As I see it, the challenge of leadership is to unleash human potential. It is said that employers only ever use about 20% of their employees' potential on a regular basis. Let's assume that we manage to create an environment that increases that usage to 30% – that's a 50% increase!

The true value of an organisation is much more than financial results. It is not only to make money but to make sense and meaning. A company cannot be assessed purely on its book value; one also needs to take the sum of human and structural capital (or Intellectual Capital) into account when calculating the true market value. An average successful company is traded at between four and nine times its book value. That's the importance of Intellectual Capital – it is like running at the limit of your ability and then accelerating.

So let's stretch our minds. We cannot afford not to. It makes money and sense.

Many thanks to Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene and Sir Brian Tovey for inviting me here tonight. To all of you I say good luck on the intellectual battlefield. Go for it! Just do it!

Jan R. Carendi is Chief Executive Officer at Skandia's head office in Stockholm.

One contestant who has transcended the normal parameters of games playing to become an international celebrity in his own right was Zia Mahmood, bridge correspondent for the *Guardian* and famous for his bet of one million dollars that no computer would ever defeat him. He may be immune to computers but, as he admitted in his column in the *Guardian*, the vagaries of card distribution can lead to upsets in competitive bridge. At the MSO Zia participated in one of the less serious bridge events – a tournament consisting mainly of amateurs – and he and his partner actually finished in last place. As he emphasised in his *Guardian* column, in such events it is not the winning that counts but the fun of participation. A singular transplant took place when bridge expert Robert Sheehan, who writes both for *Synapsia* and *The Times*, was found playing in the backgammon section.

The £1 Million Brain

Dominic O'Brien was once again triumphant in the memory championship and now both Olympiad and World Memory Champion. Dominic said: 'The experts tell you that, as you get older, your brain shrinks and you can't memorise so much. But it's actually the reverse. If you compare my results with 1993, the amount of information that I memorised this year has doubled since then, even though my brain is supposedly shrinking. So it's simply not true. It's a case of – if you don't use it, you lose it. The answer is: exercise your brain daily as I do, and it will get stronger.' In recognition of his achievements Skandia presented him with a certificate insuring his brain for £1,000,000. Thoughtfully, Dominic donned a protective crash helmet during the ceremony to reassure his underwriters that their investment was being well looked after.

'What a concept, what an event! The brains behind this remarkable event have to be congratulated on creating a work of sheer genius.'
– British Chess Federation

Mind Sports Olympiad – Entrants by Country

Antigua	3	Canada	3	Germany	47	Italy	16	Poland	4	Uganda	1
Armenia	10	China	18	Guadeloupe	1	Japan	23	Russia	3	Ukraine	27
Australia	15	Croatia	5	Holland	69	Kenya	8	Scotland	4	USA	18
Azerbaijan	15	Czech Rep.	16	Hong Kong	1	Latvia	2	Sierra Leone	1	Uzbekistan	2
Bangladesh	1	Denmark	2	Iceland	1	Lithuania	2	South Africa	5	Vietnam	1
Barbados	3	England	576	India	7	Malaysia	14	Sri Lanka	2	Wales	1
Belarus	3	Estonia	2	Iran	4	Mongolia	17	Switzerland	2	Zambia	2
Belgium	4	Finland	7	Ireland	16	New Zealand	9	Turkey	1	Unknown	7
Bermuda	4	France	24	Israel	10	Nigeria	4	Turkmenistan	2		



Games guru and Mind Sports Olympiad Director David Pritchard tries his hand at Owari

Out of Africa

Also striking was the group of Owari players, who set up camp in the centre of the main hall. Owari boards are giant, ornately carved wooden edifices, sewed rapidly and in alternation by two players armed with beads or seeds. African in origin and likely to be at least 7,000 years old, the game has symbolic overtones of early mathematics, the harvest and the importance of agricultural management in the context of the seasons and change. Possibly no game attracted so much journalistic attention and the Owari players became, perhaps, the most popular and sympathetic group of the entire undertaking.

The beautifully ornate Owari boards



Draughts King

Ron King from Barbados (world 8x8 draughts champion) also impressed with his command of his game and his jovial nature. He came armed with two missions, to win every gold medal available in his discipline, which he did, and to persuade the organisers to set up a match between himself and Kasparov play alternately at chess and draughts. This one will be more difficult to achieve.

In the numerous chess sections Michael Adams impressed and carried off not just the main gold medal but also the return London/New York Concorde flight offered by British Airways. Although the chess competitions were studded with grandmasters and British champions, it was eight-year-old Murugan Thiruchelvam who really grabbed the headlines. Displaying amazingly mature insight for one so young, Murugan played one game of such depth that it was published in many of the major UK chess columns (this remarkable game is to be found in this issue's chess column).

Nevertheless, Murugan was not the youngest competitor. As an extraordinary testimony to the universality of mind sports, the age range of contestants spanned five to 81! The final photograph resembled nothing more than a joyous microcosm of the United Nations – as it should be, not squabbling over minutiae in New York but expressing the multivariety of races, creeds and ages, as well as the different ways in which the human face can smile.

Creative Play

Activities in the Mind Sports Olympiad divided broadly into pure games, such as chess, bridge and backgammon, and mental skills such as memory and speed reading. In a game the winner is clear (barring some unforeseen dispute). For mental skills, the opponent is not defeated, per se, but an objective point scoring system irrevocably determines the victors. However, there is one fascinating domain of mental skills which corresponds to those somewhat grey areas of Olympic judgement for physical sports, where winners' totals are determined not by an objective scale, but by the subjective opinions of the judges. This was creativity. The creativity questions were set and marked by William Hartston, international chess master and general intellectual factotum of the *Independent* newspaper. This was a mammoth task and the



Above: Bill Hartston receives thanks from Raymond Keene and Tony Buzan

Below: Dominic O'Brien protects and insures his most valuable asset



Final Medal Table

	G	S	B	Tot
England	29	40	40	109
Holland	9	3	4	16
Japan	4	5	1	10
USA	4	0	0	4
France	3	1	1	5
Barbados	3	0	0	3
Germany	2	2	4	8
China	2	2	1	5
Wales	2	0	1	3
Belarus	2	0	0	2
Ireland	1	2	0	3
S. Africa	1	1	0	2
Scotland	1	0	1	2
Antigua	1	0	0	1
Cyprus	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Latvia	0	3	1	4
Finland	0	2	1	3
New Zealand	0	2	1	3
India	0	1	2	3
Italy	0	1	1	2
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Guadeloupe	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	3	3
Czech Rep.	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1

eventual winners were: P. Bateman of S. Africa, B. Birchall and D. Holloway (both England). Amongst the most imaginative answers to the question: uses for a seashell, was the response, so that dolphins can listen to the sound of the land.

Although there were monetary and material awards on offer, including Concorde flights, bottles of champagne, crystal decanters and learned tomes on thinking and the brain, the most cherished awards in the Olympiad were the gold, silver and bronze medals, awarded for superlative achievement in each category. As befits the importance of such occasions, when the medals are handed out, every ceremony was preceded by a three-minute full rendition over the public address system of *Fanfare for the Common Man*, the signal that everyone should drop what they were doing at the time and assemble at the podium. Since the decision was taken to award medals en masse during non-playing periods, the awards themselves became somewhat of a test of endurance for the award team, which usually consisted of myself, Tony Buzan and Sir Brian Tovey. Two hours under arc lights, during the hottest summer in

recorded history, handing out up to 100 medals per session was a stiff test of our own stamina. Amongst those VIPs who joined us on the stage to assist in presenting the medals were Lars-Eric Petersson, the Chairman of Skandia, Bob Bishop, the head of Silicon Graphics, chess-loving Euro MP, Alf Lomas, and executive director of the World Chess Federation, Emmanuel Omuku.

It is a notable fact that the Olympics and games of Classical Greece and Rome were not solely confined to overtly physical activities such as chariot racing, running and throwing of the javelin and discus. They also included artistic elements such as competitive performance of tragedies, music and declamation of poetry. In line with this, there were evening recitals of music at the Mind Sports Olympiad, for example, during a reception for Mensa, the high IQ society; artist Lorraine Gill was commissioned by Tony Buzan to paint the Mind Sports Olympiad triptych (see the front cover of the previous issue of *Synapsia*) while artist Barry Martin organised on the topmost floor of the Royal Festival Hall an art exhibition consisting entirely of pieces devoted to the mind sports theme.

BRAIN INSURANCE



SKANDIA INSURANCE COMPANY
INSURES THE BRAIN OF

DOMINIC O'BRIEN

AGAINST ACCIDENT FOR ONE YEAR
INSURED VALUE

£1,000,000

Lars-Eric Petersson, CEO
LONDON, 21 August 1997



Skandia

Doing the Knowledge

An innovation created by the sponsors was the Knowledge Café, which might well form the template for future endeavours of this nature. One entire level of the Royal Festival Hall was transformed into a genuine café, but with a difference. Banks of computer screens lined the walls, to accompany the coffee and croissants on offer. Here it was possible to access all types of information as well as to link up and converse around the world or play games against opponents in far-flung destinations. For example, one player from the chess tournament, having concluded his day's efforts over the chessboard in the main tournament, transferred to the Knowledge Café and proceeded to play for another three hours against an opponent in Beijing! On another occasion I conducted a blindfold chess game against a sighted group of spectators, Skandia operatives and organisers on the floor of the café.

Left: Dominic O'Brien's insurance policy

Mental Marathon

A particular brainchild of co-organiser David Levy was the Pentamind, designed to parallel the pentathlon in athletic events. Aspirants for the Pentamind title were allowed to nominate any five non-conflicting disciplines and points were totalled at the end, based on respective places. Naturally, the point of the Pentamind was to test versatility as well as specific expertise. Taking this concept five steps further, Tony Buzan came up with the notion of the decamentathlon. Choosing ten games which did not conflict on the timetable might have been worthy of a gold medal in itself. Instead we decided to pick ten specific mental tasks or games and focus them over a morning on the penultimate day of the competition. The distinguished field for the decamentathlon included chess master Malcolm Pein, the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, Byron Jacobs, who produces this magazine, while the ultimate winner was Andrew Dyson, a former chess junior champion and currently a bridge international. It is my belief that the decamentathlon is definitely an area of future expansion and may well become one of the most popular activities in Mind Sports Olympiads to come.



Above: The Mind Sports Olympiad also hosted the final of The Times crossword competition

Below: The assembled prizewinners at the closing ceremony





MIND SPORTS OLYMPIAD

Abalone Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Tastet (France) | gold |
| 2 | A. Perelson (S. Africa) | silver |
| 3 | G. Cottogni (Italy) | bronze |

Backgammon Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | J. Clark (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Barkwill (England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Barron (England) | bronze |

Backgammon Beginners

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Biddle (USA) | gold |
| 2 | A. Baron (England) | silver |
| 3 | P. Martin (England) | bronze |

Backgammon Weekend

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 | G. Christofides (Cyprus) | gold |
| 2 | S. Rimmer (England) | silver |
| 3 | L. Geoghegan (England) | bronze |

Bridge Duplicate Pairs

- | | | |
|---|--|--------|
| 1 | M. Gold/D. Higginson (England) | gold |
| 2 | P. Hecht-Johansen/K. Blakset (Denmark) | silver |
| 3 | M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar (Holland) | bronze |

Bridge Swiss Pairs

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Horscroft/M. Walsh (England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Gold/D. Higginson (England) | bronze |

Bridge Team Ch'ship (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|---|--------|
| 1 | S. Burn/P. King/T. Townsend/N. Sandqvist | gold |
| 2 | S. Dannel/P. Shepperson/M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar | silver |
| 3 | R. Eaton/A. Salem/Bharat/T. Nnando | bronze |

Bridge Team Ch'ship (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|--|--------|
| 1 | S. Burn/P. King/T. Townsend/N. Sandqvist | gold |
| 2 | S. Mohandes/A. Bowles/D. Stoev/H. Iukovici | silver |
| 3 | M. Gold/D. Higginson/M. Beyer/J. Tesselaar | bronze |

Chess 30-minute

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Adams (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Sadler (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Gormally (England) | bronze |

Chess 30-minute Junior Ch'ship

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | L. McShane (England) | gold |
| 2-3 | K. Chakraborty (India) | silver |
| | D. Tan (England) | silver |
| 4 | G. Jones (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | W. Watson (England) | gold |
| 2 | K. Arkell (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. Plaskett (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute juniors (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | G. Jones (England) | gold |
| 2 | D. Edwards (England) | silver |
| 3 | S. Ghasi (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Adams (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Sadler (England) | silver |
| 3 | S. Conquest (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute juniors (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | D. Tan (England) | gold |
| 2 | T. Dougherty (England) | silver |
| 3 | N. Frost (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Conquest (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Adams (England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Hebden (England) | bronze |

Chess 10-minute juniors (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | G. Jones (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Broomfield (England) | silver |
| 3 | T. Hebbes (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Hebden (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Adams (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. Hodgson (England) | bronze |

Chess 5-minute juniors (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | T. Hebbes (England) | gold |
| 2 | T. Dougherty (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Tan (England) | bronze |

Chess Problem Solving

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Conquest (England) | gold |
| 2 | M. Pein (England) | silver |
| 3 | K. Chakraborty (India) | bronze |

Chess Terafinal

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Cleveland (Wales) | gold |
| 2 | N. Timms (England) | silver |
| 3 | R. Jones (Wales) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Chess Challenges

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | D. Hodge (England) | gold |
| 2 | L. D'Costa (England) | silver |
| 3 | L. Broomfield (England) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Chinese Chess Championship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | W.W. Cheung (France) | gold |
| 2 | F.Z. Chen (England) | silver |
| 3 | P.L.B. Young (England) | bronze |

Chinese Chess Euro Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|------|
| 1 | Say Ty Hua (France) | gold |
|---|---------------------|------|

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 2 | W. W. Cheung (France) | silver |
| 3 | Fa Zuo (England) | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Computer Programming Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Gardner (England) | gold |
| 2 | S. Smith (New Zealand) | silver |
| 3 | Hai Ying Liang (China) | bronze |

Continuo Championship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | O. Omodera (Japan) | gold |
| 2 | M. Nellthorp (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. Kwee (England) | bronze |

Creative Thinking Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | P. Bateman (S. Africa) | gold |
| 2 | B. Birchall (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Holloway (England) | bronze |

Crossword Puzzles

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--------|
| 1 | D. Howell | gold |
| 2 | A. Sutherland | silver |
| 3 | M. Wareham | bronze |

Non-Olympiad event

Decamentathlon

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Dyson (England) | gold |
| 2 | D. Hassabis (England) | silver |
| 3 | B. Jacobs (England) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) Championship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. King (Barbados) | gold |
| 2 | C. McCarrick (Ireland) | silver |
| 3 | D. Harwood (England) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) 10-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. King (Barbados) | gold |
| 2 | C. McCarrick (Ireland) | silver |
| 3 | P. Raivis (Latvia) | bronze |

Draughts (8x8) 10-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. King (England) | gold |
| 2 | D. Harwood (England) | silver |
| 3 | H. Jahu (Estonia) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | H. Wiersma (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 | I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) 10-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Gantvarg (Belarus) | gold |
| 2 | G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 | I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Draughts (10x10) 10-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Gantvarg (Belarus) | gold |
| 2 | G. Valneris (Latvia) | silver |
| 3 | I. Kirzner (Ukraine) | bronze |

Entropy Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Heasman (England) | gold |
| 2 | P. Horlock (England) | silver |
| 3 | S. Tavener (England) | bronze |

ROLL OF HONOUR 1997



Gin Rummy Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Kelly (Ireland) | gold |
| 2 | J. Bosley (New Zealand) | silver |
| 3 | R. Hellman (England) | bronze |

Go (9x9) Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Z. Guo (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | D. Ward (England) | silver |
| 3 | P. Margetts (England) | bronze |

Go (13x13) Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Zhang (China) | gold |
| 2 | Z. Guo (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | D. Ward (England) | bronze |

Go (19x19) Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Z. Guo (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | S. Zhang (China) | silver |
| 3 | A. Goddard (England) | bronze |

Go (19x19) Weekend

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Z. Guo (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | S. Zhang (China) | silver |
| 3 | V. Danek (Czech Rep.) | bronze |

Hare & Tortoise Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | C. Dickson (England) | gold |
| 2 | B. Croucher (England) | silver |
| 3 | S. Tavener (England) | bronze |

IQ Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Walker (Scotland) | gold |
| 2 | M. Isaac (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. McLeod (England) | bronze |

IQ 1-day

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Charisse (England) | gold |
| 2 | B. Pridmore (England) | silver |
| 3 | P. Smith (England) | bronze |

IQ 1-day juniors

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | W. Lo (England) | gold |
| 2 | D. Leaf (England) | silver |
| 3 | N. Eskuarzi (England) | bronze |

Japanese Chess Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | E. Cheymol (France) | gold |
| 2 | A. Hosking (England) | silver |
| 3 | S. Lamb (England) | bronze |

Japanese Chess 15-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Sandeman (England) | gold |
| 2 | Y. Sumi (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | D. Hassabis (England) | bronze |

Japanese Chess 15-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Sandeman (England) | gold |
| 2 | T. Shiose (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | P. Smith (England) | silver |

Tie not broken - two silvers awarded

Jigsaw Puzzles Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Harwood (England) | gold |
| 2 | A. Smith (England) | silver |
| 3 | P. Wood (England) | bronze |

Lines of Action Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | F. Kok (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | R. Wikman (Finland) | silver |
| 3 | J. Bosley (New Zealand) | bronze |

Magic - The Gathering Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Dannel (England) | gold |
| 2 | C.J. Tongue (England) | silver |
| 3 | K. Nicholson (Scotland) | bronze |

Mah Jongg Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | P. Leung (Hong Kong) | gold |
| 2 | A. Tan (Malaysia) | silver |
| 3 | R. Zuiverloow (Holland) | bronze |

Mastermind Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Coull (England) | gold |
| 2 | D. De Toffoli (Italy) | silver |
| 3 | B. Croucher (England) | bronze |

Mastermind 10-minute (Sat)

- | | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | O. Omodera (Japan) | gold |
| 2 | Y. Sumi (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | R. Franzkeit (Germany) | bronze |

Mastermind 10-minute (Sun)

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | K. Wilshire (Wales) | gold |
| 2 | R. Wikman (Finland) | silver |
| 3 | W. Lo (England) | bronze |

Memory Skills Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | D. O'Brien (England) | gold |
| 2 | A. Bell (England) | silver |
| 3 | D. Thomas (England) | bronze |

Mental Calculations Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | K. Galle (USA) | gold |
| 2 | R. Fountain (England) | silver |
| 3 | K. Wilshire (Wales) | bronze |

Mental Calculations Junior Ch'ship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | Hao Wu (China) | gold |
| 2 | D. Summers (England) | silver |
| 3 | J. Keval (India) | bronze |

Othello Championship

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Suekuni (Japan) | gold |
| 2 | T. Nakajima (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | M. Tastet (France) | bronze |

Othello Weekend

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------|
| 1 | D. Shaman (USA) | gold |
| 2 | T. Murakami (Japan) | silver |
| 3 | G. Edmead (England) | bronze |

Owari Championship

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------|
| 1 | J. Richards (Antigua) | gold |
| 2 | I. Pacquette (Guadaloupe) | silver |
| 3 | K. Bonsu (Ghana) | bronze |

Owari Junior Championship

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 | T. Low Ten Que (England) | gold |
| 2 | N. Low Ten Que (England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Cornelius (England) | bronze |

Pentamind Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | K. Wilshire (Wales) | gold |
| 2 | D. Hassabis (England) | silver |
| 3 | R. Wikman (Finland) | bronze |

Rummikub Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | M. Naito (Japan) | gold |
| 2 | G. Hassabis (England) | silver |
| 3 | H. Kitajima (Japan) | bronze |

Rummikub British Championship

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Burley | gold |
| 2 | J. Marchant | silver |
| 3 | A. Choudhary | bronze |

British Championship - does not count for medal table

Scrabble Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | E. Simpson (England) | gold |
| 2 | H. Lamabadusuriya
(Sri Lanka) | silver |
| 3 | M. Thompson (England) | bronze |

Scrabble Weekend

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | P. Appleby (England) | gold |
| 2 | A. Saldanha (England) | silver |
| 3 | A. Fisher (England) | bronze |

Skat Championship

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------|
| 1 | H.J. Schindler (Germany) | gold |
| 2 | N. Schäfer (Germany) | silver |
| 3 | Dr D. Beise (Germany) | bronze |

Speed Reading Championship

- | | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Jones (England) | gold |
| 2 | B. Mapp (England) | silver |
| 3 | M. Isaac (England) | silver |
| 4 | I. Stewart (England) | bronze |

Stratego Championship

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--------|
| 1 | P. Van Bodegom
(Holland) | gold |
| 2 | G. Franka (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | E. Van den Berg
(Holland) | bronze |

Stratego Junior Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | R. Becks (Holland) | gold |
| 2 | P. Mullenders (Holland) | silver |
| 3 | F. Poppelaars (Holland) | bronze |

Stratego Team Championship

- | | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 1 | Holland | gold |
| 2 | France | silver |
| 3 | Germany | bronze |

Twixt Championship

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|
| 1 | A. Randolph (USA) | gold |
| 2 | D. Hassabis (England) | silver |
| 3 | G. Hassabis (England) | bronze |

Zatre Championship

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | S. Ludwig (Germany) | gold |
| 2 | W. Witkowski (Germany) | silver |
| 3 | D. Steuerwald (Germany) | bronze |

EXPAND YOUR MEMORY POTENTIAL

In the first article in this series, which appeared in the Spring issue of *Synapsia*, Dr Sue Whiting GMM introduced memory systems, concentrating on the Major system. That article concluded with a challenge to readers to work out some really memorable mnemonics – how did you get on?

Name that Mnemonic!

Well – how *did* you get on? A word of caution – when you really get into the habit of 'twisting' names into mnemonics it really can get quite addictive.

Here are just some of the gems that I received. Unfortunately there isn't room to print them all – but they were all fun to read and a £5 book token will be sent to each of the lucky few whose contributions do appear in this article. Will it be your turn next time?

I haven't mentioned the violins specifically in any of these, since they must be in the beginning of the image for each and every one. This sophisticated system will not work unless you do put it in!

3. Sir Walter Raleigh

MA (number 3 in the Major system) driving in a car RALLY and getting splashed with WATER.

4. Francis Bacon

The Egyptian god, Ra, frying BACON in FRANCE. (An excellent one for using one's sense of taste and smell!)

5. William Shakespeare

A POLICEMAN angrily SHAKES a SPEAR at William the Conqueror.

6. Christopher Marlowe

CHRISTOPHER (the writer's brother in this instance) surfing on Marles beach and fracturing his jaw.

9. John Milton

JOHN (the writer himself in this instance, but you could use a friend) cleaning a whole BAY at the seaside with MILTON disinfectant.

11. John Dryden

DAD DRYing JOHN (the same writer as in 9 above – how fortunate he is to have such a common name!) after swimming when he was a toddler – DRYDEN. (Dry then!)

17. Alexander Pope

On the DECK of a ship called ALEXANDER there is POPEYE the sailor man

19. Benjamin Franklin

BEN (of the flowerpot men fame, if you are old enough to remember!) DABbing strawberry JAM onto his FRANKfurter.

20. Henry Fielding

HENRY the Eighth FIELDING in a game of cricket on top of a NASA rocket or perhaps you prefer a NASA space shuttle crashing into a field of HENS which then go squawking about all over the place! I loved both of these.

22. Thomas Gray

A huge NAN bread which has THOMAS the tank engine crossing it and turning from to GREY as he does. Alternatively, eating some delicious NAN bread while watching THOMAS the tank engine on a black and white TV.

25. Edmund Burke

EDMUND Blackadder being nailed to a wall by Mrs BURKE (the writer's French teacher!)

27. James Boswell

JAMES Bond NAGging and BOSSing Miss Money Penny to go out to dinner with him. 'Well?' he says.

29. George Crabbe

A small CRAB scuttling up to GEORGE (from the book *George's Marvellous Medicine*) and NABbing some of his drugs and turning into a huge CRAB.

30 William Blake

WILLIAM the Conqueror using a MACE and BLADE in the Battle of Hastings.

I would like to thank my contributors again and I'm sorry that there was insufficient room to print the all.

Inserting Extra Information

The fun really starts here. Don't do this part until you have 30 good images for the writers. You need to learn their names thoroughly before you can progress any further. So go back now and if you are unhappy with your image for any of them find another one. Remember to put violins in at the beginning of the image – if you don't you'll soon come unstuck!

Geoffrey Chaucer

Let's start with Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400). The first piece of information to be added is his dates. We use the images from the Major system (see Figure 1).

- 13 dam
- 40 race
- 14 dairy
- 00 saw

and all we do is to attach this new information to the old using the link system. Very simple and yet very effective.

My image for Geoffrey is someone I know who has that name – so this is my scenario:

The VIOLINS tune up on the A string and it's the beginning of a lovely DAY, the sun is rising. I suddenly 'see' GEOFFREY with a SAUCER on his head and what is he doing charging over Kariba DAM, taking part in a RACE where all the contestants are also balancing saucers on their heads! He passes the finishing line and instead of posts at either side there are two COWS who have the finishing ribbon attached to them. The ribbon is so strong that Geoffrey is unable to break it as he goes through and so he produces a SAW and saws his way through it to become the winner!

If you don't like my scenario then use your own which will obviously be much better for you. Try, however, to do the date in order.

Saving a Digit or Two

One other point worth mentioning is that we have learned some superfluous information here, i.e. all eight numbers of the date. If you know that Chaucer's birth date is 1340 and that the last two digits of the date of his death are 00 then *obviously* the two preceding digits are 14. Alternatively, you may wish to delete the 1 at the beginning of the date and just memorise the three digits 340 (Mars in the extended Major system) and 400 (recess or roses in the extended Major system) for his dates.

Now there is nothing wrong with either of these methods and I know people who use them both. However, I generally

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
00	saw	day	Noah	ma	ra	law	jaw	key	fee	bay
10	daze	dad	dan	dam	dairy	dale	dash	deck	daffy	dab
20	NASA	net	nan	name	nar	nail	niche	nag	navy	nab
30	mace	mat	man	ma'am	mare	mail	mash	mac	mafia	map
40	race	rat	rain	ram	rara	rail	rage	rack	rafia	rap
50	lace	lad	lane	lamb	lair	lily	lash	lake	lava	lab
60	chase	chat	chain	chime	chair	cello	chacha	check	chaff	chap
70	case	cat	can	cameo	car	call	cage	cake	café	cab
80	face	fad	fan	fame	fair	fall	fish	fag	fife	fab
90	base	bat	ban	bam	bar	ball	bash	back	beef	babe

Writers

1	Geoffrey Chaucer	1340-1400
2	Edmund Spenser	1552-1599
3	Sir Walter Raleigh	1552-1618
4	Francis Bacon	1561-1626
5	William Shakespeare	1564-1616
6	Christopher Marlowe	1564-1593
7	Ben Jonson	1572-1637
8	John Donne	1572-1631
9	John Milton	1608-1674
10	John Bunyan	1628-1688
11	John Dryden	1631-1700
12	Samuel Pepys	1633-1703
13	Daniel Defoe	1660-1731
14	Jonathan Swift	1667-1754
15	Joseph Addison	1672-1719
16	George Berkeley	1685-1753
17	Alexander Pope	1688-1744
18	Samuel Richardson	1689-1761
19	Benjamin Franklin	1706-1790
20	Henry Fielding	1707-1754
21	Samuel Johnson	1709-1784
22	Thomas Grey	1716-1771
23	Tobias George Smollet	1721-1771
24	Oliver Goldsmith	1728-1774
25	Edmund Burke	1729-1797
26	William Cowper	1731-1800
27	James Boswell	1740-1795
28	Fanny Burney	1752-1840
29	George Crabbe	1754-1832
30	William Blake	1757-1827

Table 1

try to remember all eight digits. The only time I don't is when they won't go into my scenario – I will then omit one set of the leading double digit to make memorising easier. I also tend to do it when the birth and death take place in the same century – such as in the next example I shall give you. I personally do not like merely omitting the first digit of a four digit number because I find it confusing and also I am very slow at recalling the Major system from 100-1000: I have always been too lazy to memorise these 900 numbers – but if you want to, go ahead! It will give you a far greater variety of images! Geoffrey in this instance would still have the saucer on his head but would be on the planet Mars (M-R-S = 340) with roses (R-S-S = 400) falling down on him. There are two fewer images to remember this way. Follow whichever you find easier.

Let's try one more together before you go away and complete the list yourself.

Edmund Spenser

Edmund Spenser (1552-1599)

15 dale
52 lion
99 babe

The violins strike up, we see NOAH and he bumps into EDMUND Blackadder outside Marks and SPENCERS (make a mental note that the spelling is different). A LION suddenly appears (was Edmund sitting on it instead of a horse? Noah wouldn't be such a good image here because it would not be so memorable) and takes Edmund to a DALE where a BABE is crying. Or you could perhaps have BABE the famous sheepdog pig.

In Table 1 I have listed for you all the writers in our first list along with their dates (extracted from *Master Your Memory*, as this book is still temporarily out of print). I suggest you aim to do something like two or three each day. Don't try to do them all in one go as it will be too much of a chore. You may also get rather bored revising them! One very interesting thing you will probably discover is that as you put new information onto each peg, you will find you are revising what you have already learned. So this second stage of the learning process will be really cementing the old information onto the peg. If you don't review this information frequently enough, although you will tend to quickly forget the dates, the original

mnemonic for the name will stick much longer. When you add further information to each writer subsequent to putting the dates on, you will discover that the dates will really stick because of the extra reviewing you are doing during that later learning session.

Composers

We now come to a very interesting phenomena. If we were to assign a different sound to our Major system matrix, we would then be able to use the same 100 Major system pegs for storing some totally different information. This is precisely what we shall do with our list of composers and the sound we will use is a roaring sound. This is why it was crucial to put the sound of violins in right at the beginning of the image for the writers.

1. Philippe De Vitry

The mnemonic I use for this name is the London PHILharmonic orchestra which is in a V TREE. So all I do is have a ROARING beginning to the DAY, which then triggers off this memory of the orchestra in a V TREE. Contrast this with the day which has violins tuning up on the A string and you immediately have the image of Geoffrey running in a race with a saucer on his head! Isn't it wonderful how it works?

2. Guillaume de Machaut

Guillaume is the French version of William and the image I use for this is an orange because of the link with William of Orange (although William the Conqueror is an excellent alternative). Machaut sounds rather like 'ma show'. So how about this – we start off with Noah, and we can hear a tremendous roaring sound – it's NOAH dancing around with an orange on his head (WILLIAM) and roaring (IT'S MA SHOW) in an Al Jonson type of voice. Contrast this with your Noah with the background noise of violins which immediately gives you the image of Edmund Blackadder outside Marks and Spencers.

The next thing to do is to go through the 30 composers I have itemised for you (see Table 2) and sort out mnemonics for them. Remember to associate each composer's image with both its relevant image for the number on the Major system and a roaring sound. If your roaring and violin sounds are not strong enough you will jumble up your composers and writers. To be safe, only memorise these composers after you have attached the dates to

the writers and I would suggest that you set yourself a target of five names a day. This should only take you six days. Do review some of the writers each day or else the information will slip. Then when you are secure with the names of the composers, attach their dates as you did with the writers. If you do three each day, this should take you a further 10 days.

More Writers to try

Unfortunately, the next issue of *Synapsia* will not be out within the 26 days it should take you to memorise the writers' dates (10 days) and the composers along with their dates (a further 16 days). I have, therefore, at the end of this article, given you the 70 remaining writers (as per *Use Your Memory*) along with their dates (14 days to learn the names and 35 days to learn the dates). You should be able to achieve this easily as long as you set yourself a daily target. Why not do it each day in the bath or while you are waiting for your train? Try to fit it into one of those moments of the day where you are not being particularly productive. You do not have to use so-called 'A Time' for this because the right side of your brain will enjoy doing it so much that you should not have trouble at all in concentrating!

In the next issue we shall insert more information on to the writers and composers. I shall also start you on a list of artists. Happy Memorising and Visualisation. I shall of course still be giving away £5 tokens if I publish any of your efforts!

The Remaining Writers

- 31 Robert Burns 1759-1796
- 32 William Cobbett 1762-1835
- 33 William Wordsworth 1770-1850
- 34 Sir Walter Scott 1771-1832
- 35 Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1772-1834
- 36 Charles Lamb 1775-1834
- 37 Jane Austen 1775-1817
- 38 William Hazlitt 1778-1830
- 39 Thomas de Quincey 1785-1859
- 40 Lord George Gordon Byron 1788-1824
- 41 James Fenimore Cooper 1789-1851
- 42 Percy Bysshe Shelley 1792-1822
- 43 John Clare 1793-1864
- 44 John Keats 1795-1821
- 45 Thomas Carlyle 1795-1881
- 46 Elizabeth Barrett Browning 1806-1861
- 47 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow 1807-1882
- 48 Lord Alfred Tennyson 1809-1892
- 49 Edgar Allan Poe 1809-1849

- 50 William Makepeace Thackeray 1811-1863
- 51 Charles Dickens 1812-1870
- 52 Robert Browning 1812-1889
- 53 Anthony Trollope 1815-1882
- 54 Charlotte Bronte 1816-1855
- 55 Emily Bronte 1818-1848
- 56 Walt Whitman 1819-1892
- 57 John Ruskin 1819-1900
- 58 Charles Kingsley 1819-1875
- 59 George Eliot 1819-1880
- 60 Anne Bronte 1820-1849
- 61 Matthew Arnold 1822-1888
- 62 Emily Dickinson 1830-1886
- 63 Lewis Carroll 1832-1898
- 64 Mark Twain 1835-1910
- 65 Algernon Charles Swinburne 1837-1909
- 66 Thomas Hardy 1840-1928
- 67 Henry James 1843-1916
- 68 Gerard Manley Hopkins 1844-1889
- 69 Oscar Wilde 1854-1900
- 70 George Bernard Shaw 1856-1950
- 71 Joseph Conrad 1857-1924
- 72 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle 1859-1930
- 73 J.M. Barrie 1860-1937
- 74 William Butler Yeats 1865-1939
- 75 Rudyard Kipling 1865-1936
- 76 H.G. Wells 1866-1946
- 77 John Galsworthy 1867-1933
- 78 (Enoch) Arnold Bennett 1867-1931
- 79 Walter de la Mare 1873-1956
- 80 William Somerset Maugham 1874-1965
- 81 G(ilbert) K(eith) Chesterton 1874-1936
- 82 John Masefield 1878-1867
- 83 E(dward) M(organ) Forster 1879-1970
- 84 James (Aloysius) Joyce 1882-1941
- 85 Ezra (Weston Loomis) Pound 1885-1972
- 86 D(avid) H(erb)ert Lawrence 1885-1930
- 87 Edith Louise Sitwell 1887-1965
- 88 T(homas) S(tearns) Eliot 1888-1965
- 89 (Arthur) Joyce (Lunel) Cary 1888-1957
- 90 Ivy Compton-Burnett 1892-1969
- 91 J(ohn) B(oynton) Priestley 1894-1984
- 92 F(rancis) Scott (Key) Fitzgerald 1896-1940
- 93 William Harrison Faulkner 1897-1962
- 94 Ernest Miller Hemingway 1898-1961
- 95 Noel Pierce Coward 1899-1973
- 96 Evelyn (Arthur St John) Waugh 1903-1966
- 97 George Orwell 1903-1950
- 98 (Henry) Graham Greene 1904
- 99 Cecil Day Lewis 1904-1972
- 100 Samuel Beckett 1906

Composers

- 1 Philippe de Vitry 1291-1361
- 2 Guillaume de Machaut 1300-1377
- 3 Francesco Landini 1325-1397
- 4 John Dunstable 1390-1453
- 5 Guillaume Dufay 1400-1474
- 6 Gilles de Bins Binchois 1400-1460
- 7 Johannes Ockeghem 1410-1497
- 8 Josquin Desprez 1440-1521
- 9 Heinrich Isaac 1450-1517
- 10 Andrea Gabrieli 1510-1586
- 11 Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina 1525-1594
- 12 Orlande de Lassus 1532-1594
- 13 William Byrd 1543-1623
- 14 Giulio Caccini 1545-1618
- 15 Tomas Luis de Victoria 1548-1611
- 16 Luca Marenzio 1553-1599
- 17 Giovanni Gabrieli 1555-1612
- 18 Thomas Morley 1557-1602
- 19 Carlo Gesualdo 1560-1613
- 20 John Bull 1562-1628
- 21 John Dowland 1563-1626
- 22 Claudio Monteverdi 1567-1643
- 23 Thomas Weelkes 1575-1623
- 24 Orlando Gibbons 1583-1625
- 25 Girolamo Frescobaldi 1583-1643
- 26 Heinrich Schutz 1585-1672
- 27 Francesco Cavalli 1602-1676
- 28 Giacomo Carissimi 1605-1674
- 29 Jean-Baptiste Lully 1632-1687
- 30 Dietrich Buxtehude 1637-1707

POETRY CORNER

The Wonder of the Yorkshire Moors

*If I could pack my bags and move house today,
The moors would be the place I'd like to stay.
With every turn there's something new,
The forest, waterfalls and moors majestic views.*

*Sitting upon the moors in solitude,
No one around to disturb my mood.
Reflecting on the day's events,
Which started with a stroll through the forest so dense.
The smell of the pine in your nostrils you inhale,
Your senses spring to life, your spirits soar,
The wonder of this place,
Who could ask for more.*

*Stroll carefully and you will see,
The wild life that the forest carefully conceals.
A pheasant takes to flight with its own unique sound,
That startles you and makes your heart start to pound.
Go carefully, don't make a sound and you will see the deer with his ears pricked in case
There's an unfamiliar sound.*

*The forest bed covered with every flower, in every colour and every hue,
Oh yes this too is a magnificent view.
Just a few steps more to the next turn, a waterfall!
Just stop and look at the wonder the waterfall beholds.
The sounds are so loud as it thunders down,
The cascading spray and foam thrown around.
Just look and wonder at these sights and sounds,
Plants that thrive in the moist air around,
In every nook and cranny a new shoot appears.
Encouraged by the vibrant atmosphere.*

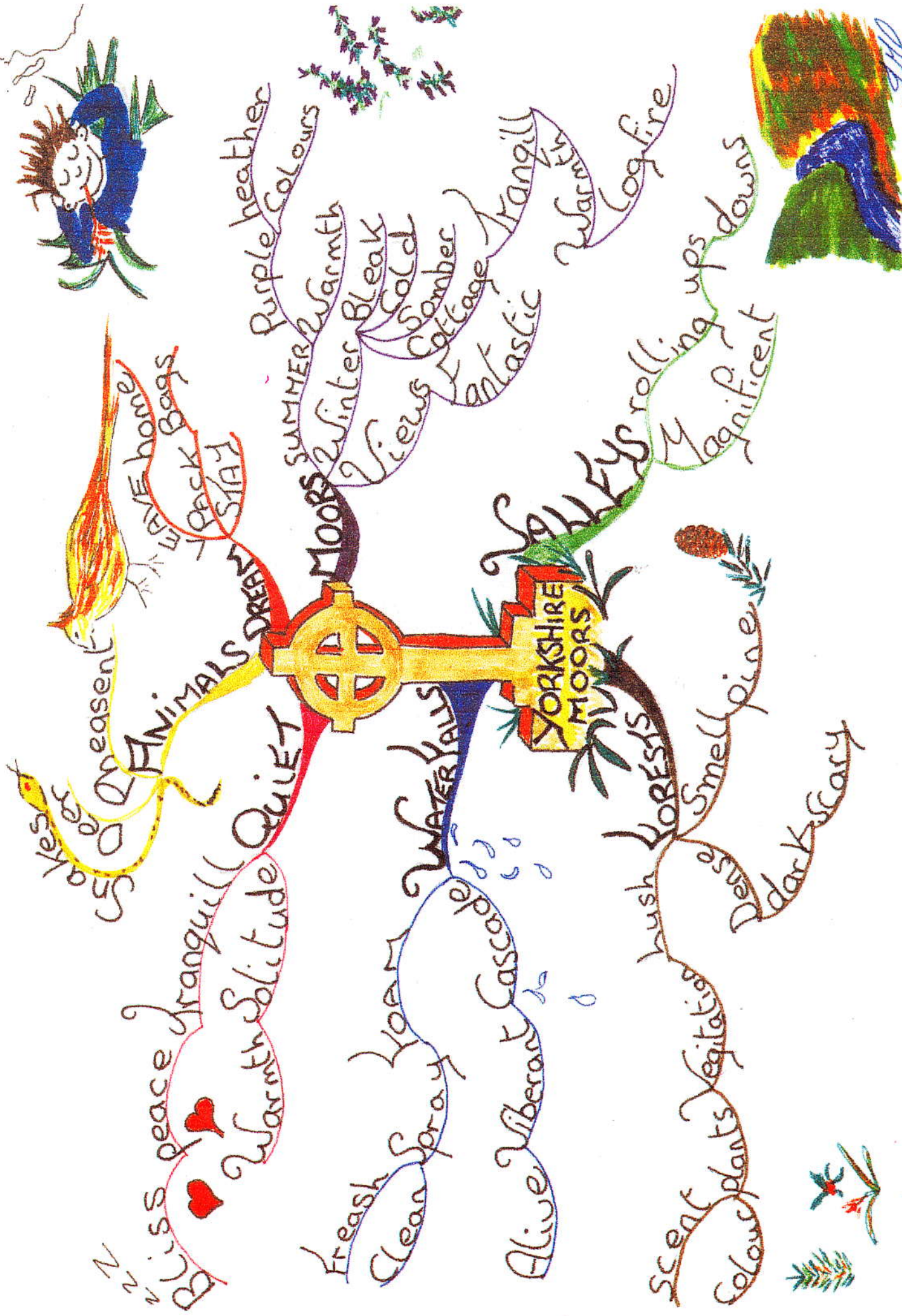
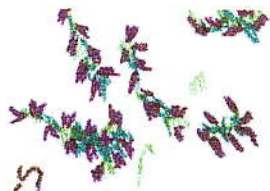
*Fantastic is the word that springs to mind,
To describe this feeling in my body and mind.
So thankful to be able to see, the wonder and pleasure the waterfall brings to me.*

*Moving on to that vast expanse of space,
That only the moors can create,
Look as far as your eyes can see,
A panoramic view of distant hills and valleys,
Covered in colours of purple, green, golds and browns,
That cover the land for miles around.*

*But back to reality I must return,
So slowly I stroll across the last stretch of moor,
Savouring the thrill of it all.
The last sound of heather beneath my foot,
I turn and smile, I will return to the wonder of the Yorkshire Moors.*

J M Cooke

Janet Cooke (see Synapsia Summer 1996) celebrates the beauty of the Yorkshire Moors. Her thoughts are further illustrated by her Mind Map (opposite).



La selva

WALD

URWALD

TSCHEUNGEL

DARBIETEN
VERSCHAFFEN
BESORGEN

Proporcionar

La selva: ¿por qué nos debemos preocupar?

La diversidad de la vida vegetal y animal de las selvas proporciona muchos beneficios al hombre. Las especies individuales, que sólo se encuentran en zonas y en cantidades relativamente reducidas, están en peligro de extinción cuando se eliminan selvas enteras.

Alimentos

Algunos alimentos que provienen de las selvas:

- Frutas: aguacate, plátano, coco, pomelo, limón, lima, mango, pina y mandarina.
- Especies: pimienta de Jamaica, pimienta negra, chile, canela, clavo, jengibre, nuez moscada, pimentón, sesamo, vainilla.
- Arroz y maíz.
- Otros alimentos: nuez de Brasil, anacardos, chocolate, aceite de coco, cola, pepinos, cacahuètes, pimientos, boniatos, tapioca.

Medicinas

El 70% de las plantas conocidas que poseen propiedades curativas contra el cáncer se hallan en la selva. Algunas medicinas hechas con estas plantas son:

- Curare: de un tipo de vid. Trata la esclerosis múltiple y la enfermedad de Parkinson.
- Cortisona, Diosgenina: de raíces silvestres. Se utiliza en píldoras de control de natalidad, hormonas sexuales, esteroides y tratamiento de asma y artritis.
- Quinina: del árbol chinchona. Trata la malaria y la neumonía.
- Vincristina: de la vincapervinica de Madagascar. Se utiliza en la lucha contra la leucemia y la enfermedad de Hodgkin.

Otros motivos

La deforestación puede alterar la capa de ozono, la frecuencia de la lluvia y las temperaturas de todo el mundo.

La tala quemada de la selva provoca el desprendimiento de grandes cantidades de dióxido de carbono, metano y óxido nítrico, contribuyendo así al calentamiento global de la Tierra.

Los indígenas

Las selvas son el hogar de miles de indígenas. El conocimiento que ellos poseen sobre el uso de las plantas y los animales se pierde cuando se extinguen estas sociedades tribales.

EIGENTUM
EIGENSCHAFT
ANGEMESSEHEIT
Propiedad

hecho - cha
(haber)

reif, erwachsen

GEMACHT

GETAN

VOLLENDET, FEHLE

hallar

FINDEN

ANTREFFEN

BEFINDEN

KRAUK SEIN

hallarse enfermo

hallazgo

FUND

ENTDECKUNG

tala

HOLZSCHNE

FALLEN

quemar

ABBRENNEN

VERBRENNEN

VERSENGEN

VERGEUDEN

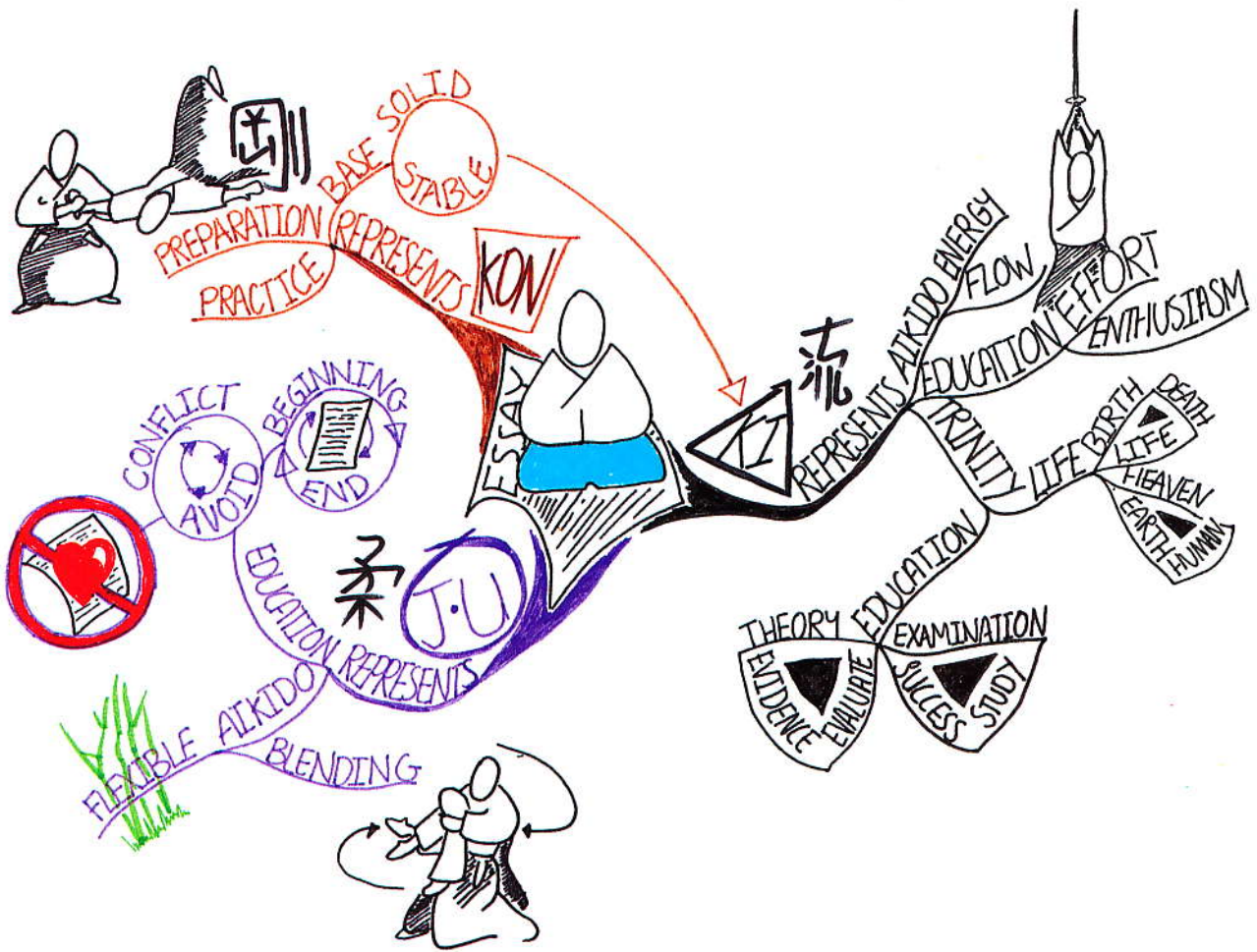
HEISS SEIN

BRAND

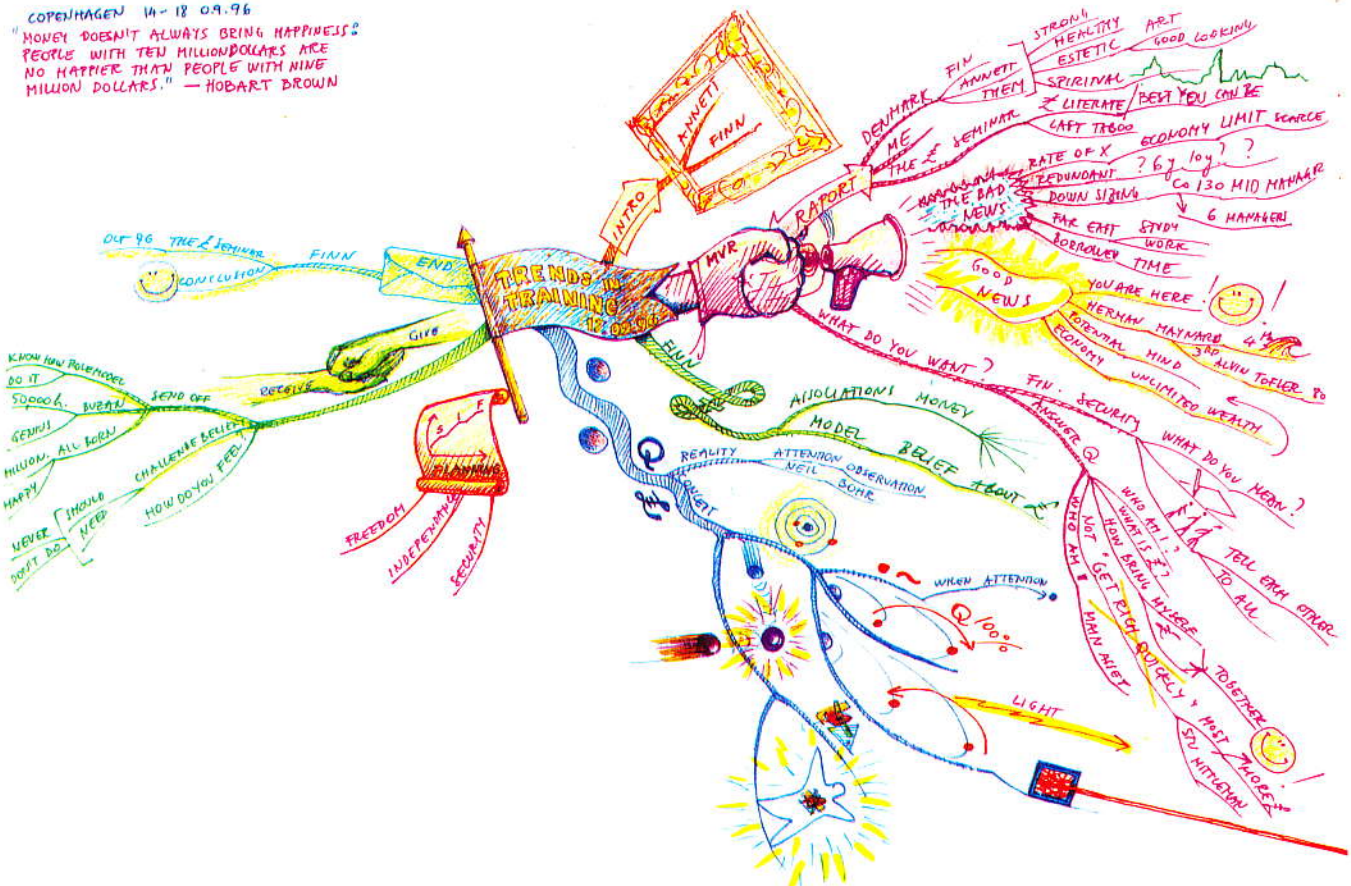
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COPENHAGEN 14-18 09.96
 "MONEY DOESN'T ALWAYS BRING HAPPINESS. PEOPLE WITH TEN MILLION DOLLARS ARE NO HAPPIER THAN PEOPLE WITH NINE MILLION DOLLARS." — HOBART BROWN



INTELLIGENCE ABOUT INTELLIGENCE

More News from the World of the Brain

Who Nose where I left it?!

Psychologist Frank Schab of General Motors' Perceptual and Cognitive Science Group has found, in recent experiments, that odours can improve recall by acting as retrieval cues. His findings are in complete olfactory harmony with the great author Vladimir Nabokov, who said 'Nothing revives the past so completely as smell.'

In his experiment Schab asked 72 Yale University students to generate a list of antonyms. The next day they were asked to recollect as many of the words they had created as possible.

Students who were exposed to aromas of chocolate while generating their lists and during their re-testing obtained higher scores than those who did not have the olfactory accompaniment. Interestingly, Schab also found that recall was just as effective when the words were associated with unpleasant odours such as those from mothballs.

These findings are consistent with earlier psychology theory, which suggests that that recall can be in large part *environment specific*. In other words, if you find yourself in the kitchen wondering what on earth you are doing there, go back into the living room where you first had your motivating thought. This environment (the living room), where you originally 'thought your thought', will trigger that part of the 'thought map' that was not available in the kitchen.

Photo Opportunity for the Brain

In the fifteen billion (15,000,000,000) year life of the universe, and the five billion (5,000,000,000) year life of the planet earth, life itself has existed for four and a half billion years. Amazingly, mankind has existed for only a few million years, the modern brain (the model you are carrying around with you at the moment!) a mere 50,000 years, and our global knowledge of where that brain is located a mere 500 years.

When do you think the brain first 'saw itself at work'? The answer, which will

certainly enhance your Cocktail Conversational Kit, is the summer of 1992.

At that time the British journal *Nature* and the *International Herald Tribune* reported that, for the first time, scientists had been able to view human thought processes directly, tracing the complex patterns of electrical and chemical reactions to small clusters of brain cells.

Was this done by x-ray? Or by sophisticated new technologies employing radioisotopes? Or pet scans?

No! The researchers at the University of Washington used a comparatively simple camera that during surgery records subtle differences in reflected light – too small to be seen with the naked eye – that flicker over the surface of the brain as thoughts occur.

In the future, the researchers said, this technique will provide a much more precise way of mapping various thought processes and physical activities to specific locations on the brain, a feat that will greatly increase the ability to understand and treat the biological brain.

Dr William H. Theodore, a neurologist at the Institute of Neurological Diseases and Strokes in Washington, said 'It's a very interesting technique whose advantage is that it records very rapid changes in brain function that cannot be monitored in any other way.'

The technique, called optical imaging, 'can be a very powerful research tool and is likely to have very real practical applications in brain mapping,' said Dr George Ojemann, a University of Washington neurosurgeon and head of the team that produced the report.

Since that report, over 50 international magazines have featured the brain on their front cover. Soon you may be able to purchase a machine that will allow you to watch *yourself* think. Think about that, and think about watching yourself thinking about thinking!

Stay tuned to *Synapsia* for further developments...

Schab also found that recall was just as effective when the words were associated with unpleasant odours such as those from mothballs

BUSINESS BRAIN

It is always gratifying to see someone take material from one of my workshops and use it in ways I never envisioned. I am always excited when a student takes the brain principles taught in the workshop and applies them to business issues in new and unusual ways. One example of this occurred with Mary Vasso-Ortega, a student in a Process Improvement Through Teams workshop that I taught at her company in 1992. Mary's story has become one of my favourites.

Mary Vasso-Ortega's Story

In 1996 Mary Vasso-Ortega was handed the professional challenge of a lifetime when she was appointed the plant re-engineering expert for her employer, a major American West Coast manufacturing company. In this role she was charged with turning around low employee morale and significantly improving one of 11 aspects of inferior plant performance – materials inventory accuracy.

The long-time manager plant manager had left, to be replaced by a 'floating' manager who was overseeing three different plants. Many employees had been shuffled into jobs that they had never done before and weren't sure how to do. Personal comfort levels were suddenly non-existent, and nobody was a happy camper.

Prior to her new assignment, I had trained Mary to access her natural intelligence and creativity. In the workshop, Mary had been taught to regard the model of the brain as a success-driven mechanism, illustrating the brain's TEFCAS success model. I convinced her to look at every problem as a fascinating challenge and to believe that if she could imagine it, she could do it.

'Tony taught us a fresh new perspective for dealing with failure. Whenever a student confronted him with what seemed to be an intractable business problem, he would always say, 'How interesting. How fascinating. What can we learn from this?' He taught us to look at mistakes not as failures, but as events from which we could learn to do things

better. Since failure was an event, not an outcome, by applying brain principles properly, success was not only likely but in fact inevitable!

'In his workshop, we also learned that increased intelligence and creativity were unleashed whenever we tapped into the intrinsic motivation of people. If we could make work more 'fun', we would generate enthusiasm and excitement, which would in turn fuel creativity. Creativity could also be improved by increasing the number of cortical skills that were used regularly.'

Mary believed that this philosophy was true, but it was going to take all the belief she could muster – not to mention a lot of creativity and hard work – to help turn around the plant's substandard performance.

The Turnaround of Inventory Record Accuracy Performance

The inventory accuracy rating (IRA) is used to measure how well the book-keeping records for inventory match the actual physical inventory. If all paperwork matched all physical inventory, the performance rating would be a perfect 100 percent. Along with several other standards, the IRA was a critical benchmark in measuring the plant's overall performance.

Unfortunately, performance was nowhere near the 100 percent ideal. In fact, the plant was struggling to achieve scores in the low to mid fifties. Mary was given four months to improve the performance rating from a dismal 56 percent to at least 95 percent.

'We needed to implement a plan to organise, establish procedures and create the structure of a controlled storeroom,' said Mary.

People were accustomed to helping themselves to the contents and telling no one, which often left the company in the lurch because they thought they had certain items on hand, such as shipping boxes, only to discover at critical times that they did not.

Tony Dottino continues his series on the practical aspects of brain training.

When orders couldn't be shipped on time, the shipping department was put under intense pressure, and clients got angry and went elsewhere.

There was lots of finger pointing, but the buck didn't stop anywhere. Mary knew that had to change. Everyone needed to get involved. But she also knew she couldn't wave a magic wand and make it all better. She had to get her whole team of 125 people enthused and eager to co-operate. Each individual needed to realise the part he or she played in both the problem and the potential solution.

The team was already accustomed to posting charts to display various measurements, but no one took much interest in these dry, dull presentations. Unless she could make everyone pay attention to these reports, improvement would be slow going, she reasoned.

It was winter, and the American football season was in full swing. Since American football teams play once a week, usually on Sundays, each Monday morning the shop floor would be abuzz with football talk. Everyone had a favourite team, and talk would centre on the weekend's games.

'I decided to take advantage of their football enthusiasm by associating inventory accuracy with football,' Mary related. 'I didn't want to cram it down their throats. Morale was already low, so I knew that if I could make it fun, it would work better.'

Mary decided to present the monthly chart as a football field. She purchased a five foot by three foot piece of green felt material and designed a 'field' with the help of three other employees.

Each performance percentage point was depicted as a 'hash mark', a football term for a measure of yardage. A football field has 100 hash marks, each representing a yard of territory. The 'end-zone' or goal line read 95 percent – the performance measurement goal.

The employees then created a 'quarterback' named IRA (for inventory record accuracy). IRA was placed on the appropriate hash mark each month to indicate the status of performance.

The chart was tacked up in the entranceway to the shop floor, becoming a focal point for employees and creating a lot of excitement. IRA's move each month was eagerly anticipated and made a much bigger impression than any set of dry, dull numbers ever could have done. It was

also impossible to miss, so no one had an excuse for not knowing where things stood. The chart had another purpose as well. Mary was going to expose the staff to inventory accuracy training, and this exercise served as a preliminary 'warm up' to get everyone psyched up.

But Mary, who was known around the facility as a 'spark plug' for her enthusiasm and ability to motivate people, didn't want to stop there. She suspected that the novelty of the football field might wear off, so she added one more item to her job description – plant poet.

Along with the football field, Mary composed a monthly poem that also created fun and excitement and stimulated conversation. The first one went as follows:

IRA takes the field

Team IRA is our name. Inventory Record

Accuracy is the game.

Education was the 'kick off' that placed us on the field,
with the 83% yard line being the team's first net yield.

To reach the goal of 95%, we'll do our very best,

but we also need YOUR support to help us in this quest.

This week we plan to teach our 'fans' the important rules of the game.

In hopes that they will cheer us on, yardage we must gain!

For the goal line lies ahead of us, a challenge we must meet,
we'll go the distance for the 'score', we'll not accept defeat!

'These approaches really piqued everyone's interest and people began asking all kinds of questions like, 'How can I help?' and 'How are we doing?', Mary remembered. 'It also brought smiles and laughter which raised morale – and with better morale I knew people would perform better.'

'Realising that we only had four "downs" (months) to make the "goal line", our employees began cheering each other on. Team spirit developed, because inventory procedures were being followed. People weren't just showing up to put in their eight hours. There was a real difference in the whole culture of the plant. Everyone began to see how each person contributed to the success of the company.'

'Information regarding inventory accuracy or Team IRA's progress became a

She had to get her whole team of 125 people enthused and eager to co-operate. Each individual needed to realise the part he or she played in both the problem and the potential solution.

'Efforts thus far had only produced a handful of teams. In the background I could hear the song "YMCA" playing on the radio. Suddenly, the answer to the question came to me ... in the form of music!'

topic at monthly meetings. We had them thinking about the problem, talking about the problem and taking action – willingly! Every month a banner went up alongside the football field, the poem was posted and 'fans' gathered around the field.'

Four months later the team had reached their goal of achieving an IRA of 95 percent, and six months after that overall plant performance improved to 95 percent. The employees at the plant maintained that level or higher for 17 months until the plant closed.

Along the way, Mary, who had started working for the plant 18 years earlier in an entry level position as a production line tender, spent hours coaching small group improvement teams. She achieved significant personal growth as a result of this challenge.

'During this time I became aware of my ability to envision, motivate and inspire,' she said. 'I could see myself becoming a catalyst – enabling employees to recognise their value and capabilities. I did this by asking questions and encouraging them to reach beyond their current experiences. The accelerated changes and high performance we subsequently experienced were due to teamwork and employee empowerment. Team synergism had developed.'

Mary energises the Small Group Improvement Activity (SGIA) Teams

When word came down that the company was consolidating facilities and would shut down Mary's plant, she was invited to remain with the company and work at corporate headquarters on the East Coast on a three-month assignment. There she was charged with a similar project at corporate level.

Mary again became involved in small group improvement teams. She sat on the SGIA (Small Group Improvement Activity) Steering Committee and was a member of an SGIA advertising and marketing team. Her task was to get employees to voluntarily become part of teams of 6-8 people, charged with solving a particular problem. The corporate office did not want to steam-roll anyone into these teams, as they knew the teams would be more effective if participants were keen.

For months before Mary's arrival, the company had been trying to put together 20 teams from among its 1,000 employees. This organisational effort had never generated much enthusiasm among the

workers, however. Most just wanted to go to work, bring home a paycheque and let 'the other guy' tackle the problems.

Mary had her work cut out. 'Sitting in my apartment one evening, thinking of the challenge ahead in reaching a plant goal of 20 active SGIA teams, the question came to me, 'What would motivate employees to join teams and get involved?' she explained. 'Efforts thus far had only produced a handful of teams. In the background I could hear the song "YMCA" playing on the radio. Suddenly, the answer came to me ... in the form of music!

'As I listened to the song, a familiar rush of energy and excitement returned. If this music could form a positive and uplifting association for me, it could very well affect others the same way. Before I went to bed, I posed another question to my brain – how to come up with lyrics to the song? By the time morning came, I was surprised and delighted to realise that I had those lyrics.

'Full of enthusiasm and bursting to share my idea, I presented, actually sang, "YMCA" with SGIA lyrics to a few of my peers that morning at the Steering Committee meeting. Speaking from past experiences, I stressed the value of creativity in attracting employee attention and involvement. Throughout the day, whenever the opportunity arose, I shared the song with my co-workers.

SGIA song (to the music of 'YMCA' by the Village People)

Hey there! Take a look at your job!
I said you there! Are there problems to solve?

You can do that through an SGIA.
It can start you off on your way.
Once you get involved with a team,
You'll see problems aren't as big as they seem.

You can solve them with the help of your friends,

We can get it done together!

SGIA, it's fun to be on an SGIA.

You'll learn everything you need to be on a team,

You can have your voice heard today!

SGIA, it's great to be on an SGIA.

For us all to succeed it is YOU that we need,

So get yourself involved right away!

Mary received mixed feedback. Some thought that this approach was a bit far out; others saw the potential.

'I knew it could work and suggested making it into a music video,' said Mary. While a decision about what to do with it was debated, Mary's three-month assignment with the company expired. Homesick, Mary decided to leave the company and return to the West Coast. Little did she know, however, that her 'far out' creativity would have a major impact on her old company.

Four months after leaving the company, Mary received a phone call. The voice on the other end said, 'Mary, I have something for you to hear!' As she listened, she heard the familiar SGIA words – put to music. She was told that with the help of a few 'inspired' team members, the video had been created. It was first shown on SGIA Day, a day designated to celebrate and promote small group improvement teams. The celebration took place in the corporate cafeteria, with employees from all shifts.

When the video was played, employee reaction was electric. The song was also voice mailed to each plant Profit Center manager. The next day, people flooded the switchboard with calls requesting copies. The result? Over 150 employees signed up to become involved in 30 teams. The goal of 20 SGIA teams, that had once seemed insurmountable, was

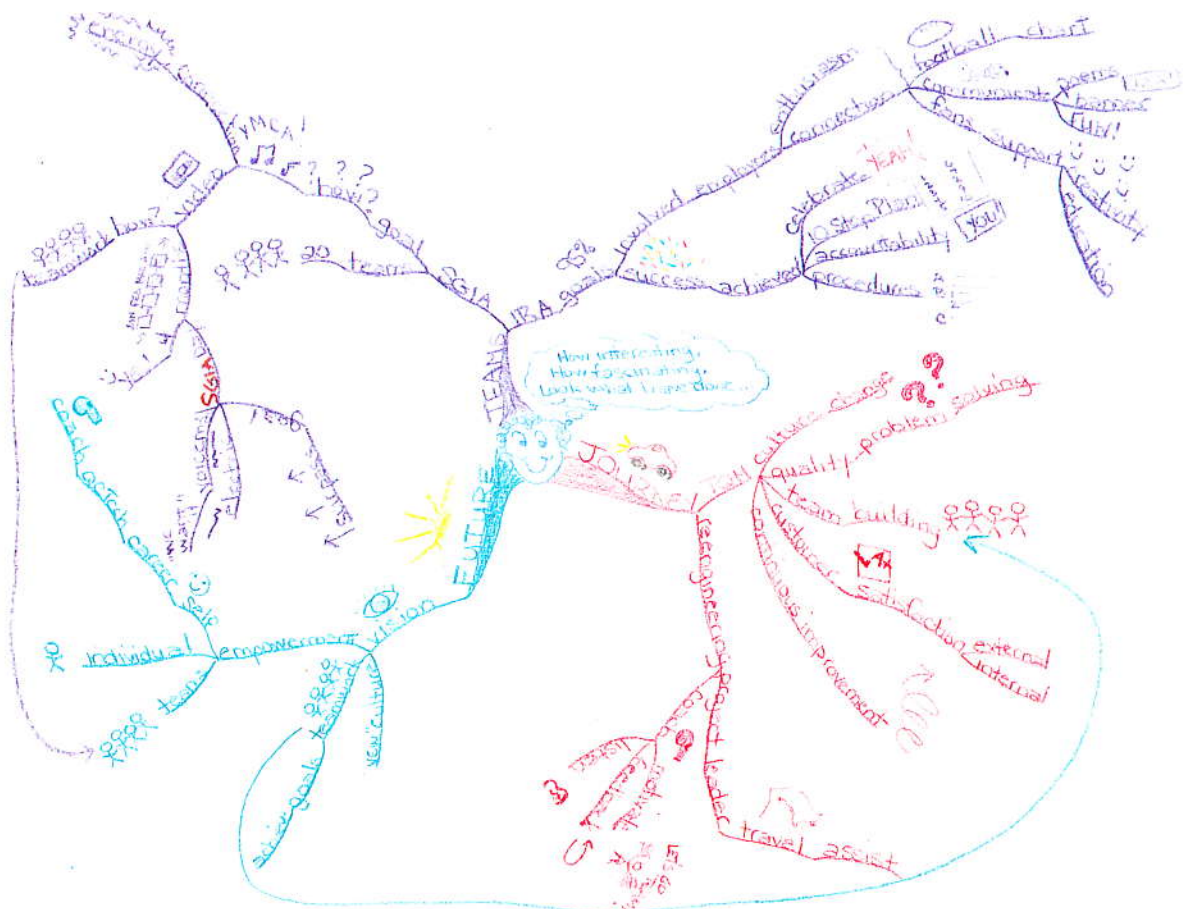
surpassed practically overnight, and Mary's creative management style and innovative ideas for sparking the SGIA programme are still talked about even now, several years later.

After leaving her long-time employer, Mary decided to embark on a business of her own, and today is a professional job coach, still employing many of the wonderful lessons she learned at her old job.

'I know that the delightful "gift" of creativity resides within each of us, and I've seen first hand its power in motivating, inspiring and educating,' she said. 'Now I hope to continue teaching it to others.'



Above: Mary Vasso-Ortega
Below: Mary's Mind Map



ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE

Antelligence - Termite Pharaohs

Old Mutual, an insurance and real estate conglomerate, had set Pearce the challenge: build an office block that will be liveable with no air-conditioning and almost no heating!

The original human masters of those marvels of architecture and engineering, the builders of the Great Pyramids in the 26th century BC, may finally be meeting their match. The *International Herald Tribune* of 14 February 1997 reports that the 'Genius of Termites' is providing models for 21st century office complexes.

The termite mounds found throughout Africa are wonders of engineering. Deep inside the mound, the insects farm a fungus that is their only food. The fungus must be kept at *exactly* 87 degrees Fahrenheit (30.5 degrees centigrade) while the temperatures on the African Veld outside the mound range from 35 degrees Fahrenheit at night to 104 degrees Fahrenheit during the day (1.6 to 40 degrees centigrade).

How do these miniature Corbusiers do it? By venting breezes in at the base of the mound, down into chambers cooled by wet mud which itself has been carried up from water tables far below, and finally up through a flues to the peak. Toiling with complete commitment, utter dedication, and unmatched persistence, they display the tirelessly compulsive work ethic of all ants, constantly digging new vents and plugging old ones to regulate the temperature.

Temperature regulation is one of the prime struggles for any architect, particularly in Africa. However, a brilliant architect, Mike Pearce of the Pearce Partnership, has solved it by mimicking the termites' masterpieces, and applying them to Harare's newest office complex, said to be the first in the world to be designed on the basis of exploiting insect intelligence.

Old Mutual, an insurance and real estate conglomerate, had set Pearce the challenge: *build an office block that will be liveable with no air-conditioning and almost no heating!* In the short nine months of the new building's existence, the results have been extraordinary. Eastgate, as the building has been called, has been using less than 10% of the energy of a conventional building of the same size. Old Mutual saved \$3.5 million on a \$36 million

building because they did not have to import an air-conditioning plant. The savings on electricity are being passed on to the tenants (not termites!) so rents have been slashed 20% lower than those in other, similar buildings.

The Eastgate complex is actually two buildings linked by bridges across a shady, glass-roofed atrium open to the breezes. Fans suck fresh air in from the atrium, blow it upstairs through the hollow spaces under the floors and from there into each office through baseboard vents. As it rises and warms, the air is drawn out through ceiling vents. Finally it exits through 48 round brick chimneys that make the roof look to some like the chimney pots of Dickensian London, to others like the smokestacks of Mississippi river boats.

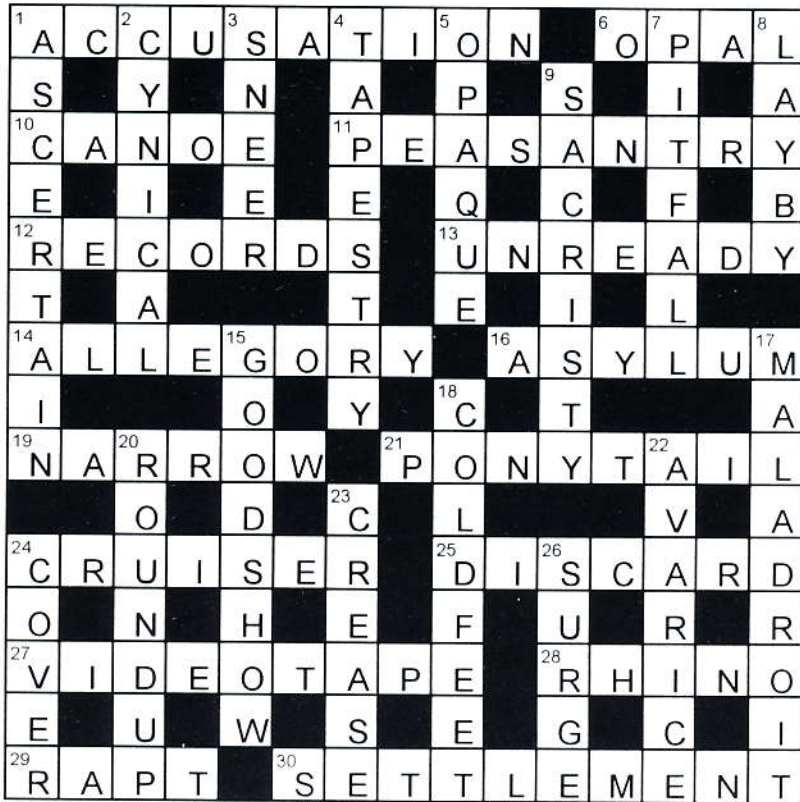
To keep the harsh highveld sun from heating the interior, no more than 25% of the outside is glass, and all the windows are screened by an unusual form of sunshade: racks of cement arches that jut out more than a yard.

During the cool nights of summer, big fans flush air through the building seven times an hour to chill the hollow floors. By day, smaller fans blow two changes of air an hour through the building, taking advantage of what Mike Pearce calls 'the coolth in the slab'. For winter days, there are small heaters in the vents.

Daily temperatures are monitored outside, under the floors, at knee level, at desk level, and at ceiling level. 'This is not all dancing around in the moonlight,' Pearce says, complementing the termites, 'it's real science.'

The monitoring graphs show that the building has generally fluctuated only between 73 and 77 degrees (about 23 to 25 centigrade) with the exception of the annual hot spell just before the summer rains in October and three days in November when a janitor switched off (a termite would not have!) the fans at night.

Pearce, paying further complement to the termite brain, said that each termite building, and his own Eastgate, was a 'natural machine'.



Solution to crossword from Summer issue





Above: Tatiana Cooley receiving her first prize from Tony Buzan

Below: (left to right) Tony Dottino, the three winners, Tony Buzan and the organising committee



UNITED STATES NATIONAL MEMORY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Human Rolodex

The first American National Memory Championships took place on 8 November 1997 at the Park Central Hotel, New York. A wide range of individuals attended and the event received extraordinary press attention, including nationwide television coverage and a feature article in the *New York Daily News*.

The 18 participants included students from Purdue University in Indiana, a 'brain training' gang of students from Puerto Rico, a doctor of bibliography, a salesman, an English graduate and an executive secretary.

The competition was extremely hard fought and close to the very end with some extraordinary performances. For example, in the five-minute long number memorisation competition, Wallace Bustello, a 17-year-old Puerto Rican, reeled off 109 digits perfectly, shattering the previous US all-comers record of 25.

The overall winner was Tatiana Cooley, a 26-year-old executive assistant in New York City who is known by her work colleagues as 'the human rolodex'. When asked what had inspired her to enter, she replied 'because ever since I was a little child I have been in love with memory. My father, realising this, used to play memory games with me whenever we were together.'

Tatiana excelled throughout the competition, taking the lead from the second event onwards and placing first, second or third in every stage. She has already gone into hard training for the next world memory championship and is already approaching international grandmaster of memory standard.

The Puerto Rican brain gang performed brilliantly under guidance of mentor Noel Alicea. Their national championships were held within the US Championship, gold being taken by Wallace Bustello to add to his overall bronze.

The event was organised by Tony Dottino, Managing Director of Dottino and Associates, who, apart from bringing together a superb group of competitions and triumphing with his media coverage, also attracted major sponsors: British Airways, who gave return tickets from

New York to London to the gold, silver and bronze medallists for them to enter next year's world memory championship to be held at the Mind Sports Olympiad in August, IBM, Kodak, and Pepsi Cola. Mr Dottino, who is a regular *Business Brain* contributor to *Synapsia*, said after the event 'These results dramatically emphasise the power of the human mind and demonstrate the brain's tremendous potential in people's lives. The energy and excitement at this weekend's competition reflect the fact that human capital, memory and creativity have become major focus areas in personal pursuits as well as in corporate America.' New York has already been confirmed as the site for next year's event.

Results

Names and Faces (100 names and their related faces; 20 minutes for recall)

Gold Bethany Bull
Silver Rich Dombroski
Bronze Tatiana Cooley

Random Words (memorisation of a long shopping list of words)

Gold Tatiana Cooley
Silver Bethany Bull and Barry Surran
Bronze Kelvin Wu

Speed Numbers (memorisation of long numbers)

Gold Wallace Bustello
Silver Tatiana Cooley, Barry Surran
Bronze Sylvain Henry

Unseen Poem (long poem to memorise in 15 minutes)

Gold Tatiana Cooley
Silver Noel Alicea
Bronze Emmanuel Diaz

Speed Cards (memorisation of a shuffled deck of 52 cards in five minutes)

Gold Barry Surran
Silver Wallace Bustello
Bronze Tatiana Cooley

Overall Results

Gold Tatiana Cooley
(New York)

Silver Barry Surran
(Pennsylvania)

Bronze Wallace Bustello
(Puerto Rico)

AIKI AND ESSAY WRITING

Mind Mapping and Martial Art

Ed O'Grady explains the links between two apparently diverse topics.

On this page we see Ed's own Mind Mapped interpretation of the Book of Five Rings, while opposite is that of his student, Nikunj Khutti

A precise definition of Aikido is difficult as every time you think you might have gained an understanding, it turns out to be so much more. Developed by Morihei Ueshiba, it is not just a sophisticated martial art based on concepts of non violence, it is also a spiritual system aimed at unifying body and mind. Ueshiba, often referred to as O Sensei, explained how principles of Aiki (spirit and harmony) could guide our daily lives.

As a student and teacher of Aikido for the love of it and a teacher of psychology to earn a living, I have tried to apply Aiki principles to the tasks and challenges my students are faced with. I am still a novice in the grand scheme of things and I do not claim anything but a rudimentary understanding of Aiki philosophy, but here I shall present some of the basic Aiki principles and how I use them to describe an effective approach to essays.

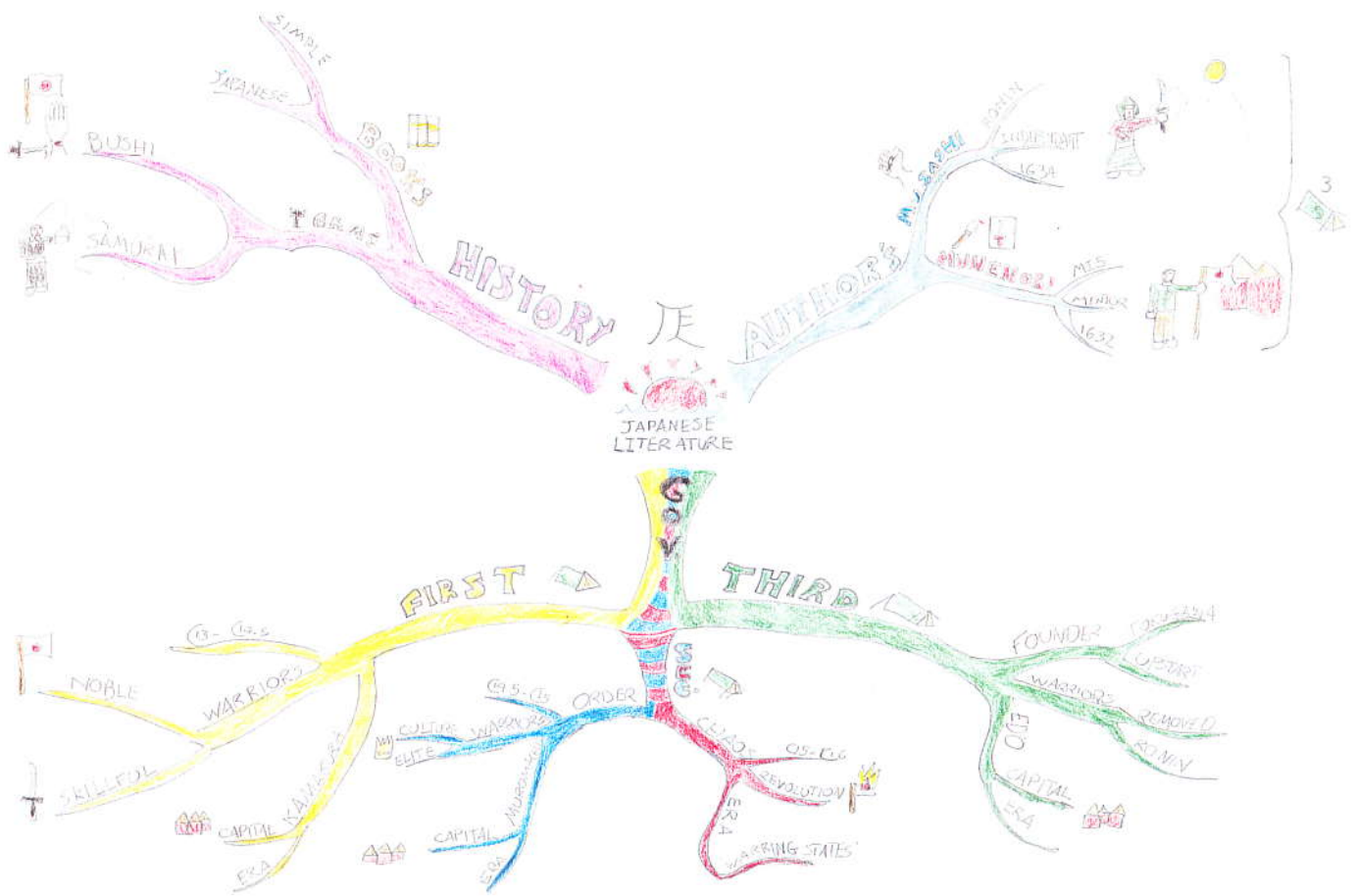
O Sensei said that one of the ways he could explain Aikido was by means of a

triangle, a circle and a square.

The triangle represents the principle of Ki, the generation and flow of energy. For a student this could be seen in terms of enthusiasm and effort. It also represents the trinitities one finds in life: birth, life and death; heaven, earth and human kind; student, teacher and examiner; study, examination and success! As far as essays are concerned, this could be the trinitities of theory, evidence and evaluation or theory, methodology and ethics. Whatever the discipline I'm sure one could apply this idea.

The circle represents Ju, flexibility and suppleness. The principles of circularity and blending are probably the ones most obvious in the practice of Aikido. The most basic application to the essay here is something teachers have been telling students for years: Don't learn essays off by heart! If in training one plans a defence before the attack then you cannot be open to the unique nature of each attack.





Similarly if a student has a prepared essay in advance of an exam then they may be in conflict rather than harmony with a question. Any subtleties of wording in the question may then be missed and we end up with the 'everything I know about...' essay. More generally we could think of conflict in the classroom. A confrontational student is unlikely to get far. Similarly, if a teacher is confrontational with a student, even though they have the balance of power, what will be achieved? You may be able to break a brick in two but what do you have? A broken brick.

Another application of circularity is the relationship between the beginning and end of the essay. When starting an essay, know what your conclusion is going to be. If you know where you're going, it is easier to plan a route (apologies if that sounds corny). Also if faced with a question, why not answer with a question?

The square represents *Kon*, the diamond element. This signifies the solid, stable basis of all techniques. In essays and exams we can clearly see this in solid effective preparation. As Aikido skill develops through training, so will academic skill. Develop skills like Mind Mapping that will help you deal with the volume of information you have to cope with; study

the demands being made on you by familiarising yourself with the syllabus; and practice your examination technique under timed conditions.

Mind Mapping in Practice

In general, I feel that we spend far too much time passing on data rather than developing the necessary skills to handle that data. One of the most satisfying aspects of my job, therefore, is when I can show students the potential they possess and encourage them that effort in the right direction will bring reward.

Above is the first Mind Map of a year 11 (GCSE year) student, Nikunj Khutti, which was produced after about 15 minutes' instruction on the basic rules.

As an experiment the subject of the Mind Map was a section of the author's introduction to two Japanese texts: the *Go Rin No Sho* or *Book of Five Rings* and *The Book of Family Traditions on the Art of War*. While producing my own Mind Map on the same reading I thought that this subject matter was a bad choice – the text was far too difficult. However, not only is Nikunj's Mind Map interestingly similar to mine, but on a spot test he also surprised himself with the amount of information he was able to recall!

BRAIN OF THE YEAR 1998

The winner of the 1998 Brain of the Year will be announced at a Brain Trust Charity dinner AT Anton Mossiman's restaurant in London on 16 January 1998. Past winners include Gene Roddenberry, Garry Kasparov, Dr Marion Tinsley, Dominic O'Brien and Lana Israel, while the current incumbent is the quadruple Olympic gold medallist, rower Steve Redgrave. Here we preview the leading contenders for 1998.

To recognise Superlative Mental Achievement each year, Tony Buzan, Raymond Keene, Vanda North, Sir Brian Tovey and Lady Mary Tovey inaugurated the Brain Of The Year Award, sanctioned by the Brain Trust Charity in 1990. To qualify for and to receive this prestigious award, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. The candidates must be pre-eminent in their chosen field of endeavour.
2. The candidates must have contributed major new creative developments to their field of endeavour.
3. The candidates must have made a notable effort to educate others in their chosen discipline.
4. The candidates must have incorporated the principle of *Mens sana in corpore Sano* (a healthy mind in a healthy body) in their lives.
5. The candidates must have exhibited persistence and stamina over time.
6. The candidates must have demonstrated a general cultural awareness.
7. The candidates must have demonstrably contributed to their society.
8. The candidates must have also demonstrated a concern for humanity.
9. The candidates must be active and known on a global level.
10. The candidates must be a good role model for those in their field and for youth in general.

Paul McCartney

Paul McCartney is perhaps the most successful pop musician alive today. He was co-leader of the biggest pop group ever and author of many of the most enduring and frequently played songs in pop history. He is the second wealthiest (behind David Bowie) pop musician in the country, he has received a knighthood and the National Trust has bought his childhood home to maintain as a national monument.

Musically, he is generally regarded as one of the finest bassists ever and is also highly proficient on many other instruments, including guitar and piano. Additionally he has, unlike many of his contemporaries, enjoyed a highly successful and stable marriage and raised his children impeccably.

Jane Goodhall

Jane Goodhall is a world renowned expert on the behaviour of chimpanzees, having studied them for more than 35 years. She is the author of numerous award-winning books on the subject and her career has inspired many people to follow in her footsteps. She has received honorary degrees and awards from numerous universities and colleges around the world including Cambridge University, the National Geographic Society and the Encyclopaedia Britannica Award for excellence on the dissemination of learning for the benefit of mankind.

Deepak Chopra

Deepak Chopra is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Institute for Mind Body, Medicine and Human Potential. He

is a best-selling author of many books on health and the mind, including *Ageless Body Timeless Mind* and *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*.

Michael Gelb

Michael Gelb is a black belt and teacher at Aikido as well as being the author of four best-sellers on the body, the brain and thinking. Gelb is a master juggler as well as being a TV brain star and top mental coach to Chief Executive Officers in the USA. His book, *Body Learning*, has become an international best-seller, while his publication *Thinking for a Change* concentrated on the concept Synvergent Thinking. His most recent publication (with Raymond Keene) is *Samurai Chess*, an exploration of the links between martial arts and chess. Michael once juggled on stage in front of an audience numbering 25,000.

Susan Greenfield

Susan Greenfield is a Professor of Pharmacology at Oxford University, where she is Fellow and Tutor in Medicine at Lincoln College, and Professor of Physics at Gresham College, London. In 1994 she gave, on BBC television, the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures on 'The Brain', the first woman to deliver these lectures since they began in 1826. A leading researcher into Parkinson's disease, she is author of *Journey to the Centres of the Mind: Towards a Science of Consciousness*. She writes a column on science for the *Independent on Sunday* and appears regularly on radio, television and as a lecturer. Her latest book, published in July this year, is *The Human Brain: A Guided Tour*.

Glenn Hoddle

Glenn Hoddle's football playing career spanned nearly 20 years. During this time he played for England over 50 times, took part in the World Cup and scored the winning goal in the FA Cup final. He was one of the few British players whose talents have been recognised on the European stage and he had a successful period with the French club Monaco.

Hoddle enjoyed successful managerial spells with Swindon and Chelsea and has, for the last 18 months, held perhaps the most difficult job in football – manager of the English national team. In this role he has, by general recognition, performed brilliantly. Not only has he taken England to the World Cup finals, he also master-minded the English success in the Tournoi

de France during the summer of 1997. Hoddle has a very deep understanding of football and is respected around the world for his tactical acumen. He is also renowned for his ability to nurture young talent and has been successful in the tricky department of maintaining excellent relations with the media – a stumbling block for many of his predecessors.

Ron King

The game of draughts is the number one mind sport in the State of Barbados, as was recently seen when Ron King (World Free-Style Champion and legendary Champion of the Caribbean) held his title against the challenge of the great Derek Oldbury of England. Ron (Suki) King is sponsored by the government of his country to promote draughts – and this he does in a big way. The match between King and Oldbury received daily and hourly coverage from TV, radio and newspapers, and aroused the interest of the whole population of the island. Suki King is already the greatest sports star ever in the history of Barbados and this fact was reiterated by their Sports Minister, Mr Wes Hall, who was himself a former star cricketer in that beautiful island. Suki King also won a gold medal at the Mind Sports Olympiad for the Draughts 8x8 10-minute event.

Andrew Wiles

'I have discovered a truly marvellous proof, which this margin is too narrow to contain.' With this tantalising note (possibly the most famous marginal note ever written), the 17th century French mathematician Pierre de Fermat threw down a challenge for future generations. Although extremely simple to state, the problem defeated the finest mathematical minds for the next 350 years.

Andrew Wiles had dreamed of proving the theorem ever since he first read about it in his local library. While the hopes of others had been dashed, his dream was destined to come true. Wiles devoted his attention to the problem for seven years, during which time he experienced both huge frustration and exhilarating breakthroughs. In 1993 he announced his proof to the world, but rigorous examination exposed a fatal flaw in his reasoning. Undeterred, he resumed work and finally, in 1995, he cornered his prey. This time there was no flaw. Wiles' proof – which, *en passant*, opened up many new areas for mathematical research – must surely rank

as one of the great intellectual achievements of the 20th century.

Bill Bryson

Bill Bryson is the author of a number of hugely successful travel books. He has single-handedly re-invented the genre of travel writing with his accounts of his journeys through the UK, continental Europe and America. For the past year he has also contributed a weekly column to the *Mail on Sunday*. Comments on his perceptions of contemporary society include: 'a brilliant piece of travel writing and a wonderfully funny and perceptive view of small-town America' (*Publishing News*) and 'Not a book that should be read in public, for fear of emitting loud snorts' (*The Times*).

The Deep Blue Programming Team

Chess is one of the great intellectual pursuits of our time and the current world champion Garry Kasparov is regarded as one of the world's brain stars. He is, indeed, a former winner of the Brain of the Year award. However, in 1997, he lost a six-game match, not to a fellow human, but to a chess-playing computer program, Deep Blue, developed by an IBM research team. The development of Deep Blue was an eight-year team effort and the victory against Kasparov the culmination of profound new insights into the development of computer hardware and software.

The current version of Deep Blue can analyse an extraordinary 200 million positions per second. Experts on the scene of the battle in New York expressed the thought that one could almost 'smell' the computer's intelligence. Deep Blue's exceptional number-crunching ability will now be harnessed for problems that arise in complex areas such as those of weather prediction and chemical modelling. The Deep Blue team is Feng-Hsuing Hsu, Murray Campbell, Jerry Brody, Joseph Hoane Jr and Chung-Jen Tan. They were assisted in their preparation by chess grandmaster Joel Benjamin.

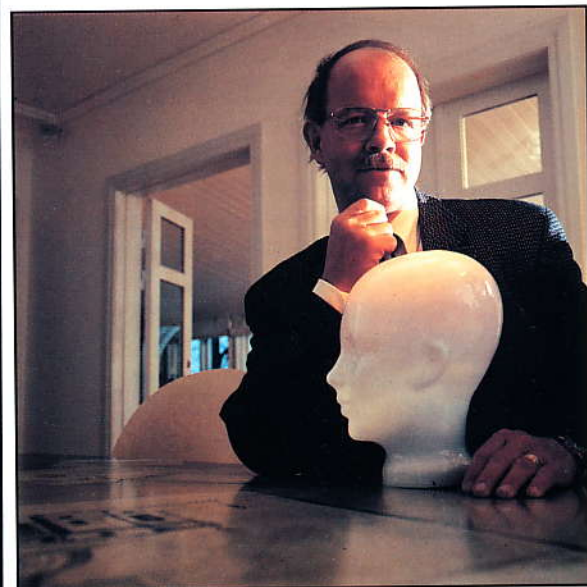
Leif Edvinsson

Leif Edvinsson is Corporate Director of Intellectual Capital at Skandia AFS, a financial services company based in Stockholm. He is the world's leading expert on



Left: The Brain of the year trophy

Below: Leif Edvinsson

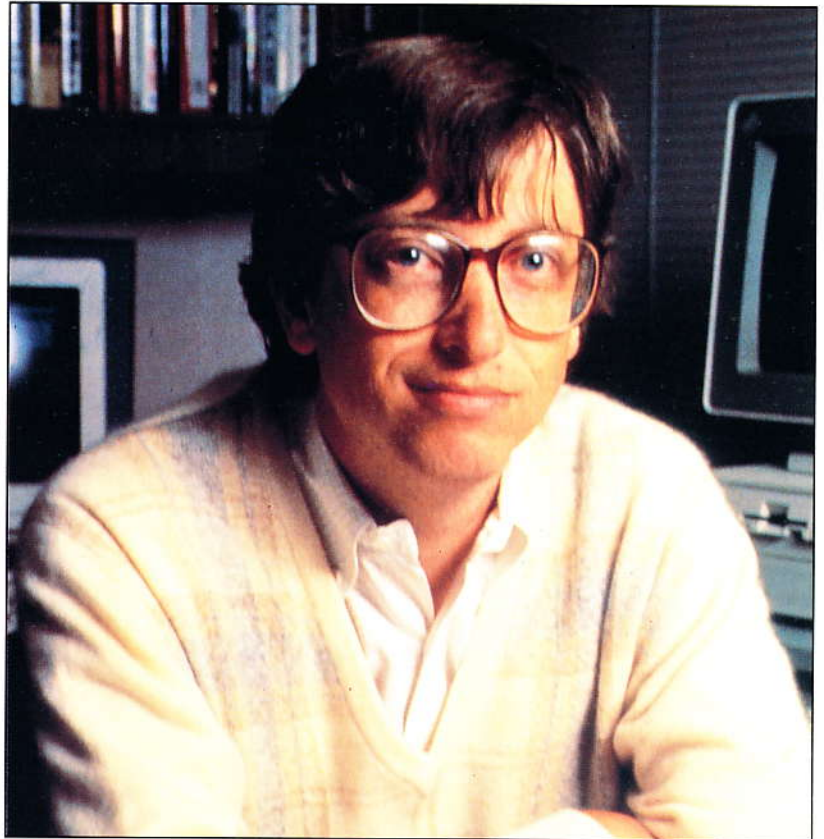


Intellectual Capital, a revolutionary new concept which *Synapsia* explored in its Spring issue. His latest book, co-authored by Michael S Malone, is called *Intellectual Capital: The Proven Way to Establish Your Company's Real Value by Measuring its Hidden Brainpower*.

Bill Gates

Bill Gates is the founder and chairman of the Microsoft company which designs the software that runs on the great majority of the world's personal computers. At the age of 36 his business success made him America's youngest billionaire. His shares in Microsoft make Gates the wealthiest man in the world with a current net value in the region of 35 billion dollars.

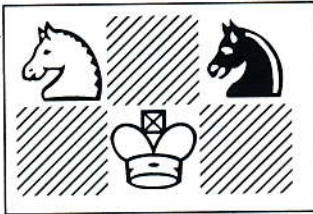
Gates' motto is 'I can do anything I put my mind to' and he is well known for encouraging greater intelligence and cultural awareness within his company. Earlier this year Microsoft made a substantial commitment to furthering research work in Cambridge. Gates is also noted for a prodigious memory, astounding energy and stamina.



Right: Bill Gates

Below: Steve Redgrave, last year's winner





MIND SPORTS: CHESS

Grandmaster Raymond Keene OBE

In the various chess sections at the Mind Sports Olympiad grandmasters Michael Adams, Matthew Sadler, William Watson, Stuart Conquest and Mark Hebden were the dominant figures. However, in a sign of things to come, nine-year-old Gawain Jones picked up two gold medals in the junior tournaments while 11-year-old Krishnan Chakraborty took bronze medal in the problem-solving contest. Perhaps the most remarkable achievement by a young player was the following strategically controlled win by an eight-year-old against an experienced opponent.

White: Matthew Broomfield
Black: Murugan Thiruchelvam
Mind Sports Olympiad,
Royal Festival Hall, August 1997
English Opening

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7
5 d3 Nge7 6 e3 0-0 7 Nge2 d6

White has selected a quiet line of the English Opening, one in which he reserves the options of a later advance either on the queenside, or in the centre.

8 0-0 Bf5 9 Rb1 Qc8 10 b4

Also worth considering is 10 e4 Bh3 11 Be3, aiming for central play.

10 ... Bh3 11 b5 Bxg2 12 Kxg2 Nd8
13 d4 f5 14 dxe5 dxe5

Black's chosen method of recapture gives White some pressure, but the alternative 14 ... Bxe5 15 Bb2 is very clumsy for Black.

15 Ba3 Re8 16 f4

This is a gratuitous weakening of his king's position. The simple 16 Nd5 Nxd5 17 cxd5 would give White excellent play in the open c-file against Black's weak pawn on c7.

16 ... Nf7 17 Qb3 e4

White's position is still comfortable, but he does suffer from an incipient and self-inflicted weakness on the light squares.

18 Rbd1 c6 19 Rd2 Qc7 20 Rfd1 Rad8
21 Nd4

The threat to invade at e6 forces Black to capture.

21 ... Bxd4 22 Rxd4 Rxd4 23 Rxd4
Rd8 24 c5

At a stroke White converts a playable position into an inferior one. The text blocks his own bishop and positively encourages Black to create a passed pawn. Any sensible move would be quite enough for a draw.

24 ... Rxd4 25 exd4 Qd7

Instituting a blockade of the light squares which ultimately secures him an advantage.

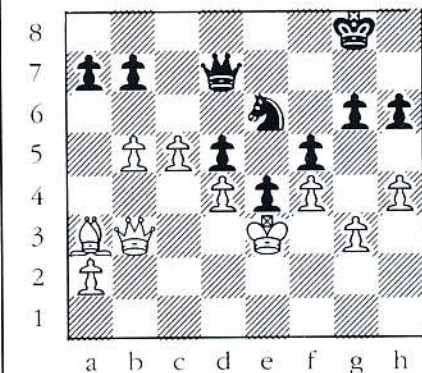
26 Qc4 Nd5 27 Nxd5 cxd5 28 Qb3 Nd8

Squashing any idea of White playing c6.

29 Kf2

White should at least regroup by means of 29 Bc1 Ne6 30 Be3 followed by a4.

29 ... Ne6 30 Ke3 h6 31 h4



31 ... g5

Black strikes at just the right moment. White's pieces are out of play on the queenside, and his king is exposed.

32 hxg5 hxg5 33 fxg5 Qd8 34 Kd2

A sign of desperation.

34 ... Nxd4

On the surface Black has merely re-established material equilibrium. In fact, White is left with weak pawns, Black's knight has broken through to command the central light squares, and on top of this Black has two connected passed pawns in the centre. The outcome is no longer in doubt.

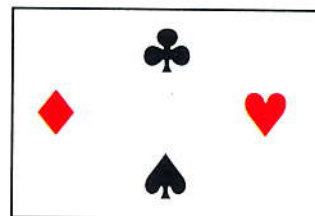
35 Qb2 Qxg5+ 36 Kc3 Qe3+ 37 Kb4 Qd3 38 Ka4 a6 39 bxa6 Qxa6+ 40 Kb4 Nc6+ 41 Kc3 Qd3 checkmate

A crisp conclusion and a remarkably mature achievement for an eight-year-old player.

Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent of *The Times*, *Sunday Times* and *The Spectator*, reports on youthful success at the Mind Sports Olympiad.

MIND SPORTS: BRIDGE

Robert Sheehan



The world bridge championships are held every two years. The Open event is the Bermuda Bowl, and the Women's event the Venice Cup.

Traditionally the strongest teams in the Bermuda Bowl have been the USA, France and Italy, with Brazil and Poland the best of the rest. That pattern was repeated in 1997 – France beat the USA in the final. The British women have won the Venice Cup twice in the past twenty years, and are the current European Champions. However, they did not advance past the last eight this time. The USA were victorious, continuing their domination of women's bridge.

The hand in the next column is from the round-robin phase of the tournament. That takes about a week, and then the top eight teams go on to a knockout.

In the tournament game doubles of freely-bid slams have a conventional meaning. As the opponents are unlikely to fail by more than one trick, a normal penalty double is unlikely to gain much. So the double by the defender not on lead asks his partner to choose an unusual lead – in particular not a suit bid by the defenders, nor a trump. It is called a 'Lightner' double, after its inventor. For example, the doubler may have a side-suit void, and is drawing his partner's attention to the fact; on other occasions the doubler may be unexpectedly strong in one of dummy's suits.

Naturally, bridge being what it is, a Lightner double sometimes causes confusion. Though the doubler may consider it clear which suit his double calls for, it is often less clear to his partner. It is especially embarrassing when an accident takes place in front of a large audience, and you discover in the post mortem that while you have let through a doubled slam, your team-mates have been defeated in game. Such was the fate that befell Shivdasani and Ghose (India), East-West against the Polish team.

I can't say I think much of South's decision to drive to game with an ill-fitting ten-count; he seems to have overbid his hand by at least an ace. But when the auction reached the six-level it presented

Shivdasani (East) with a problem. Since he could see that a club lead was likely to be ineffective against the slam, he tried a Lightner double for an unusual lead, hoping that it would be clear to his partner that this was not based on a heart void. Alas for him, Ghose had enough hearts to suggest that it was indeed possible East wanted a heart lead, particularly as East might have doubled Three Diamonds.

Dealer North Game all

♠ 2
♥ AKQ102
♦ 10953
♣ AKJ

♠ 1043	♠ J96
♥ J8763	♥ 954
♦ 84	♦ AKQ2
♣ Q32	♣ 875

♠ AKQ875
♥ ----
♦ J76
♣ 10964

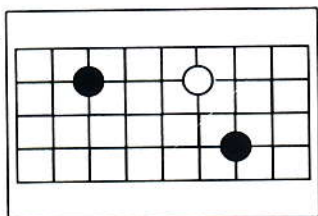
West	North	East	South
-	1♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♦	Pass	4♠
Pass	4NT	Pass	5♠
Pass	6♠	Double	All Pass

Contract: Six Spades doubled, by South

Lead: the three of hearts

So after much thought Ghose led a heart, giving Romanski a chance in his inelegant contract. He put up the ace and drew trumps, then crossed to a top club to take the discards of his remaining diamonds. Now he could ruff a diamond to hand and take the club finesse. With the cards lying so incredibly well that was all 13 tricks for Poland. And worse was to follow – at the other table where the Indians were North-South they played sensibly in Four Spades, which went one down when the defence started with four rounds of diamonds.

Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent of The Times, is our regular bridge contributor.



MIND SPORTS: GO

John Fairbairn

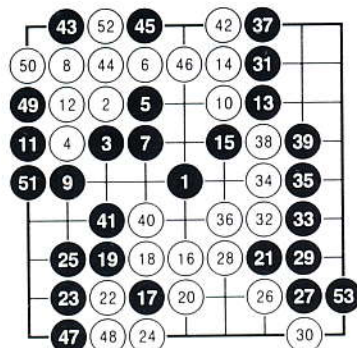


diagram 1

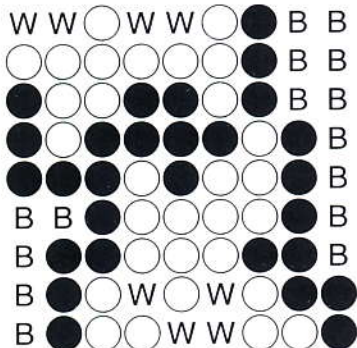


diagram 2

If you have followed us this far you will have played the Capturing Game Stages 1 and 2 and will have discovered that by creating 'two eyes' within one of your own groups, you will make it uncapturable. You will also have met the repeatable position called ko.

It is a small step to Stage 3 of this new way to teach go. Stage 3 in fact is real go. For this you need to observe the rule of ko (positions cannot be repeated until at least one move has been played elsewhere), and captures are unlimited. The only extra thing to learn is that there is another way to decide who has won apart from capturing. This is territory – the empty points you surround. To this you add the enemy stones you have captured. One stone counts the same as one point of territory. The one with the most combined points is the winner. A player can pass at any time and the game ends when both players pass.

Diagram 1 shows a game between two professionals played on a 9x9 board. One of them, Go Seigen, is perhaps the strongest player this century. He was born in China in 1914 but was spotted as a prodigy and invited to become a professional in Japan in 1928. He has lived there ever since, and happily is still with us. Indeed, there is great excitement among western go players because he has decided to visit Europe for the first time in February 1998 at the Barcelona go tournament.

In our example Go is Black. His opponent here is a Japanese, Miyamoto Naoki, holder of the highest grade, 9-dan – equivalent to grandmaster. There were 53 moves and Black won by 4 points. If you can play this game over, do so before you read on. See what conclusion you come to about the empty points around Black 1, the fate of Black 43 and 45, and also the point in the lower right corner. (Tip: play the game out a bit further.) You will come across all these features in your own games. Once you have absorbed what happens, you will have learnt to play go, even with much stronger players – go has an excellent handicapping system where the weaker player, who is always

Black, places between one and nine stones on the board before play begins.

The empty points marked B in Diagram 2 represent territory owned by Black, and those with W belong to White. The opponent is allowed to play on these points, but as the opposing groups in each case either have or can create two eyes without interference, capturing them is not possible. Such stones are 'alive'. Nor is it possible in such a confined space for each player to surround fresh territory of his own, though he is entitled to try.

The empty points around Black 1 in Diagram 2 are called neutral points, because neither player can gain any advantage from playing them. If Black plays two points above 1, for instance, thinking he is making an extra point of territory, White will play one point to the left of 34, threatening to capture the black stone 15. That would be a gain for White, so Black will try to stop it by connecting to the left of 15. In fact that would be disastrous. White would then play one point below 3, threatening to capture a clump of seven stones. Black of course can capture the white stone just played, but then White can play yet again below 3 and this time capture eight black stones. That delightful and common manoeuvre is called a 'snapback'. Black's proper procedure is to play below 3 himself first.

A similar consideration applies in the extreme right-hand corner. The fate of the black stone 43 is different, however. This is called a 'dead' stone. At the end of the game (when both players pass) it is simply removed and counted as a captured piece. Black here would be free to try to rescue it, but he recognises it is futile and he could end up increasing his loss, so he abandons it. Dead stones are common but if you are unsure if stones are alive or dead, feel free to play the position out.

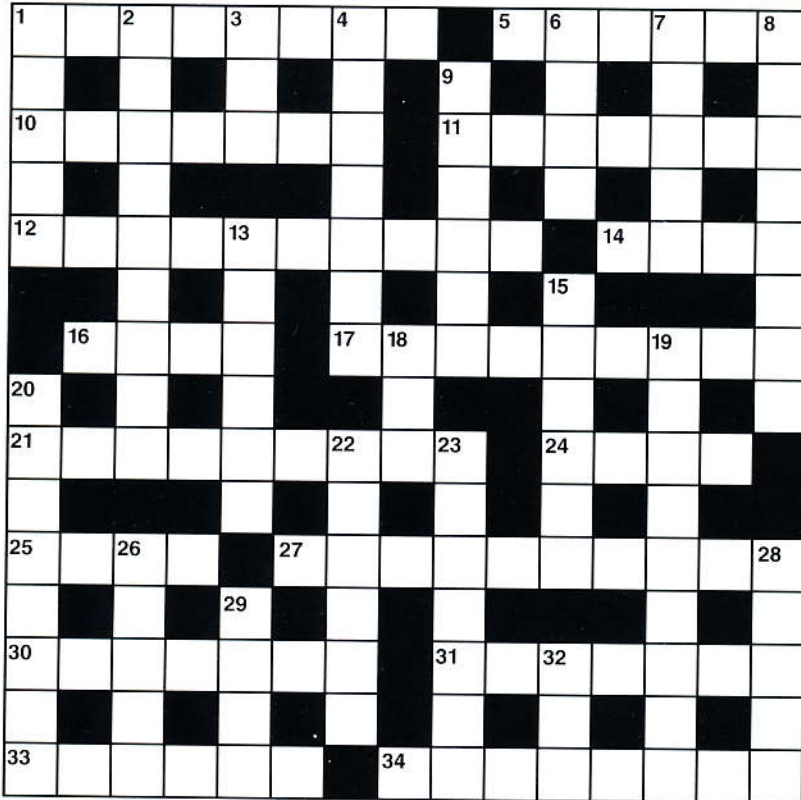
Note that Black 17 was captured and removed at once (and kept by White).

In the end White has 8 points of territory plus 3 captured stones (one actually captured, two removed as dead). Black has 15 points plus 0 captured stones. Black therefore wins by 4 points.

For further information on go, why not take a look at the web site of the British Go Association at www.britgo.demon.co.uk

MIND SPORTS: CROSSWORD

Fun and Games, by Richard Browne



ACROSS

- 1 Crowd, following leaders in secret corridor, has to grope (8)
- 5 First to brave the crest – it's the captain's place (6)
- 10 Think what a mirror does (7)
- 11 Tragic hero found in brothel? Lord! (7)
- 12 Where one may cut bacon and ham in dicey operation (10)
- 14 A mother? He never knew one (4)
- 16 Sort of drink, aerated? Primarily (4)
- 17 VIP is put on to this racecourse favourite (3,6)
- 21 Simply do a new form for competitions (9)
- 24 Send back a tiny bit of information (4)
- 25 Applicant's last request for job (4)
- 27 Genius in smart denim, perhaps (10)
- 30 Keep away from one piece of roof with a hole in it? (7)
- 31 Precisely transcribed sound of seashore (7)
- 33 Course introduction (6)
- 34 Hard guts needed for these drinks (8)

DOWN

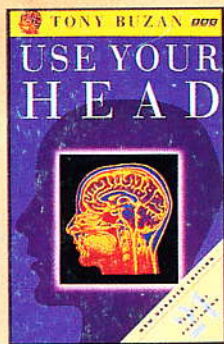
- 1 Scour the undergrowth (5)
- 2 Room for monastic intake (9)

- 3 Busy person had second letter read out (3)
- 4 The French watch a bishop burned at stake (7)
- 6 In German district, game takes an hour (4)
- 7 Dished out grief to head of department (5)
- 8 Wicked act, yet minor disaster (8)
- 9 Useless, being all bad, apparently (2,4)
- 13 Endless fruit every year made into brandy (6)
- 15 New driver on summer run (6)
- 18 Aim to finish (3)
- 19 Chair part-renovated for head of family (9)
- 20 Slow runner, too, tries to get moving (8)
- 22 Rouse for a wash before noon (6)
- 23 Colonist who always pays his bills? (7)
- 26 Second drink is fun (5)
- 28 Only daughter brought up in Greek island (5)
- 29 On the dog-track, it goes electrifyingly fast (4)
- 32 Letter from abroad, thanks to you, I hear (5)

Richard Browne is crossword contributor to *The Times* and the *Daily Telegraph*.

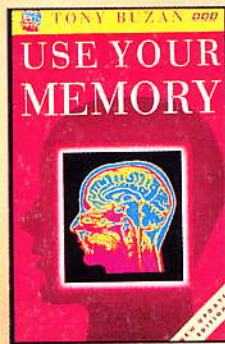
Solution next issue.

Solution to last issue's crossword is on page 31.



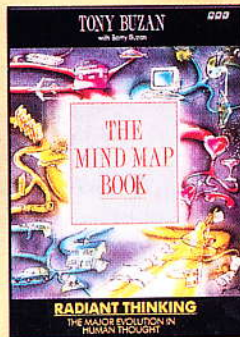
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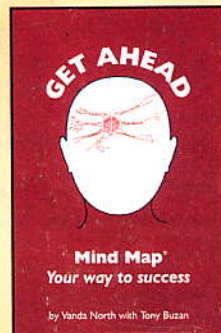
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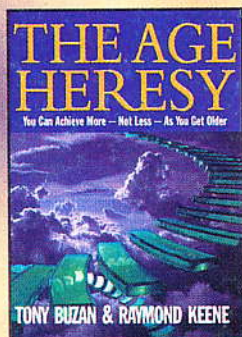
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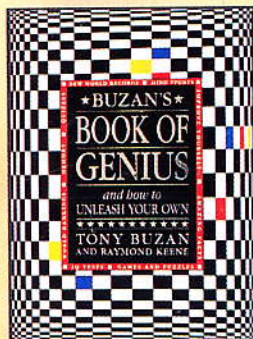
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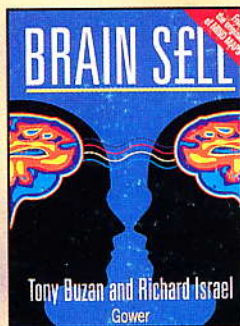
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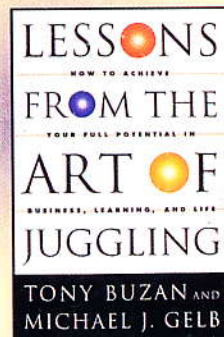
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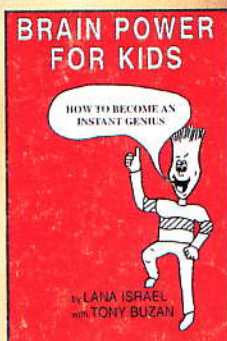
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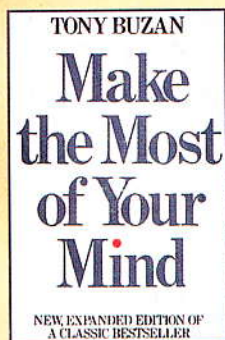
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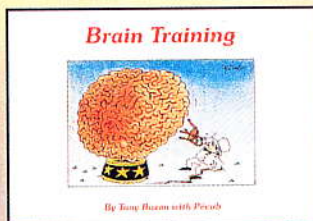
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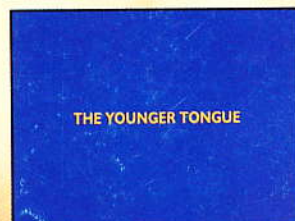
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