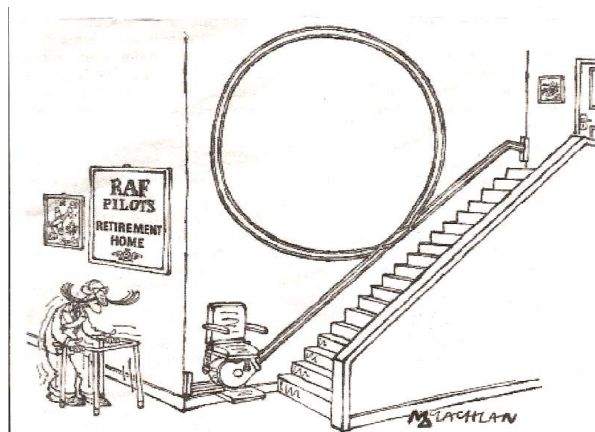


971 RCAF Air MARSHAL SLEMON WING

Air Force Association Newsletter September 2006



This RAF cartoon went from Wales to Western Australia then on to us. Cartoonist Ed McLaughlin lives in Great Glen, Leicestershire, and works for The Spectator, New Statesman, Sunday Times, and Canadian Childrens' TV.

Social Calendar

- July 22 50 of us thoroughly enjoyed our annual get-together at Charlene and Bill Champion's ranch. Contrary to our usual custom of each couple bringing a dish, the Champions elected to provide all the food. It was delicious and varied. We marvelled at Charlene's energy and Bill's heroic efforts in cutting so much grass. The area was immaculate!
- Aug 11 A most impressive, and well-attended, ceremony was held in the Officers' Club at Peterson AFB for the retirement of Wendy, and oh yes, Colonel Patrick Dennis after 37 years of outstanding service. They are now off to Kitchener, Ontario, and we wish them the best of retirements in the busiest of all occupations.
- Aug 19 Genie and Walter Kissinger are hosting us at their retreat in Divide. I hope to have this newsletter enveloped and addressed for your pick up at the party (and save the Wing \$20 in postage), so details of the party will have to wait until the November issue.
- Sep Battle of Britain ceremonies. TBA
- Oct 14 1700 at Judy and Lew Lomas's, 5060 Cliffpoint Circle East. 80919

SICK PARADE: Donna Levitt: See page 5.

Peter Rallis is now home recovering from having a large kidney tumour removed 2 August. Our thoughts are with both of you.

The Editor's Corner

Madness Triumphant A democratic, prosperous Israel is a world asset but, created in Arab land on which it still encroaches, its response to irritations with such massive force and destruction, increases hatreds and drags along with it the UK and US whose prestige in the area has never been lower. The current crimes being committed in Lebanon and Gaza cry out for prosecution by the World Court as our Louise Arbour (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) argues. Sadly, in human history, caring people who can see the broad picture are handicapped by doubts and indecisions so are easily manipulated by single-minded, uncaring people whose main desire is to entrench their own welfare.

Whether we look at Greek-Roman, Shang-Chou, male-female, human-animal, politician-soldier conflicts or at the liberal-conservative quarrels in Latin America and African tribal war lords, it is the same story. It was, if my memory is correct, Cicero who criticized the Roman Senate for spending so much time and wealth in prosecuting one man for one murder while accepting as natural the slaughter of thousands on the battlefield. In WWI, the Christmas truce initiated by German troops and embraced by their British opponents which could have ended the war was quickly smothered by the bureaucrats in their comfortable retreats. Fraternalization was severely punished which only increased the sympathy fighting troops had for the enemy and the hatred they had for their politicians back home.

It has also been said that you cannot kill a squadron. My WWII 419 RCAF squadron had its aircrew component destroyed at least 11 times over, yet it survived.

Likewise, you cannot destroy ideas. The world's religions and philosophies attest to that. Hamas and Hezbollah (Hizbullah) were born out of the desperation of oppressed peoples. You can cripple them, but they are too deeply rooted to be exterminated. New shoots will sprout. We can argue that Iran and Syria have armed them, forgetting that their feeble and inaccurate missiles are no match for the US-supplied jets, bombs, shells, and missiles of the Israelis. The kill ratio has been 14 to 1. In failing to immediately stop the Israeli incursions, we are guilty of the maiming and killing of many hundreds of children, as well as 9 Canadians. We do not seem to care or to notice the blood on our hands.

In the Middle East most atrocities are reprisals for previous atrocities from the other side.. It was Edmund Burke (1729-1797) who warned us, "The use of force alone is but temporary. It does not remove the need to subdue again; and a nation is not governed which is forever to be conquered." It was a Hezbollah raid into Israel for 2 prisoners to exchange for some of the 9,700 that Israel holds that was the Jenkin's Ear (see p. 4) of the current aggression that started 12 July, the anniversary of the 1690 Battle of the Boyne which still fuels Irish hatreds. Slowly, we plan an international force to separate combatants, but only on Lebanese soil? Unless the Israelis allow half of this force to be stationed on the Israeli side, it will simply continue the hypocritical imbalance, especially when the Israeli side is former Palestinian land.

With Greed uppermost, it is difficult for humans to agree at the negotiating table, but we must persist. As Winston Churchill said, "It is better to jaw-jaw than war-war." Israel has built a great nation, let us give others a chance.

An Inconvenient Truth, starring Al Gore: First, Al, a few of your quotes and comments that I liked:

- (1) It is not what we do not know that will hurt us. It is what we know for sure that ain't quite so.
- (2) We have all the scientific knowledge and technical knowhow to stop global warming. What we lack is political will. Political will, however, is a renewable resource.
- (3) We have left behind the generations of argument, indecision, and inaction. We are now in the generation of consequences. (borrowed from Winston Churchill).
- (4) My 6th grade geography class had a teacher who used a large world map. A classmate asked her, "South America and Africa could fit together. Were they ever together?" The teacher answered, "What a silly idea. Of course not. Continents do not move." Al added, "That science teacher is now science advisor for the current US administration."

Al, your much-needed and excellent presentation actually did not tell me anything new. Your comment on the difficulty of promoting action on the part of those whose salaries depend on the status quo is so true. Your scariest conclusions are the rise, in your lifetime, of world population from 2 to 9 billion and the billions of refugees that coastal inundations will cause. Your scenes of the submergence of Florida, Shanghai, Beijing, Bangladesh, Holland, Mumbai and other coastal areas should prompt immediate actions, but your film lacked concrete and enforceable proposals. You tend to rely on Yankee ingenuity, that put men on the moon and helped to reduce the ozone holes, to reverse the United States' role as the world's greatest polluter to the world's leader in fighting climate change. But, Al, this is a country that is selling its soul at the rate of \$2 billion a day. You can reverse that? Your numerous engagements around the world to present your findings are to be applauded even though your figures indicate we have already passed the point of no return. Tremendous life changes and sacrifices are called for now. Will they be taken and will they be enough or are we doomed to be another Venus? Our flawed human species is facing its most challenging hour. All other species rely on us.

BEER BOTTLE TOPS are in high demand in sub-Saharan Africa where crop yields are poor and fertilizer expensive. Five grams of ammonium nitrate, that just fill a cap, will feed 3 plants, increasing yield up to 50%. Apply to base of plants when knee high. This uses 20% of the fertilizer required with normal spraying.

CONTRAILS are beautiful, but they average a spread of 2 kilometres and contribute to global warming. A UK study reveals that, while only 25% of monitored flights were at night, they contributed 80% of the warming. On the US east coast it was determined that, while 36% were at night, they caused 53% of the warming. Daytime contrails have a net warming effect but less due to reflection of sunlight.

YES, WE HAVE NO BANANAS: Costs in Australia have risen 400%. Cyclone Larry destroyed the main growing area and imports are forbidden for fear of the fungus that is decimating crops elsewhere.

ARE YOU THE SAME PERSON I MET SO MANY YEARS AGO? Continuing research tells us that most of us is continually renewed. Cells that line our stomachs survive 5 days, our exterior-skin cells 2 weeks, red blood cells 120 days, bone cells 10 years. Our cerebral and visual cortexes are as old as we are. The cerebellum, which develops as we grow, is somewhat younger. So, why is my renewed skin not wrinkle-proof? They tell us it is all the fault of our mitochondria, that powerhouse of each cell that was inherited from our Mothers, that was once free living, but amalgamated with cells. It provides us with our energy and with the collagen that is the scaffolding of our skin. While the rest of the cell is renewed the mitochondria remains, with its DNA buffeted by time and mutating. Yes, they are looking for ways to repair mitochondrial DNA. How long can you wait?

ONE MAN'S VILLAIN, ANOTHER MAN'S HERO:

In May, Ireland honoured John O'Mahony, known to Canada as a terrorist. His anti-British actions caused him to be deported to New York where he helped to organize the Fenian Brotherhood, named for the ancient Fianna warriors. After serving as a Union colonel in the US Civil War, he rose to leadership with the Fenians who believed they could force rebellion in Ireland by attacking Canada. The United States did not prevent them from using US soil to attack Canada on a wide front. They were all defeated but caused damage for which the US has never compensated Canada. In 1866 O'Mahony had proclamations posted in Saint John ridiculing the proposed Confederation and urging Canada to join the US. He hired the ex-Confederate schooner *The Ocean Spray* to ferry troops to take Campobello Island. He was defeated but he aroused the Maritimes to support confederation. Discredited, O'Mahony died in poverty in 1877. His body was sent to Dublin.

THE FAMILY CLOSET: We all have interesting family tales we hide away in closets when they should be aired. Take **Paul Ellis**, for instance. If you study his great grandfather, you would realize that it is Paul who should be writing these newsletters.

In 1862 **John Valentine Ellis** became publisher of *The Globe* in Saint John, New Brunswick. He married Mary Caroline of the noted Loyalist Babbitt family of Fredericton. He was elected to the New Brunswick legislature in 1882, and by 1888 was the federal Member of Parliament for Saint John. He became embroiled in a heated argument over freedom of the New Brunswick press. The imprisonment of John Hawke for his criticism of the provincial government had aroused a hornet's nest that John, at first, was slow to join as he too was under the acute displeasure of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick over his outspoken criticisms of the 1887 elections. Finally coming to a head in 1893, John was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a fine of \$200 for contempt.

The outcry across Canada was such that he was able to hold daily court in the Fredericton jail amid luxuries sent by sympathizers. He was released 13 November and sent home by train. He was met in Saint John by 10,000 admirers and a torch-light parade through town.

Wilfrid Laurier (prime minister 1896-1911) in the House of Commons remarked, "This House must vindicate a man who assuredly, for a high sense of honour, is the peer of any man in this House or out of it." In 1900 Laurier summoned John Ellis to join the Senate.

John died at age 87 in 1922, the same year as his friend John Hawke.

No editor since Ellis has been so incarcerated, but also gone is the skulduggery and corruption that prevailed in the early days of Dominion political history that provoked such savage editorials.

ON THE QUEEN'S 80th BIRTHDAY, Buckingham Palace released 80 facts about her reign. Here are a few of them:

She has made 256 official overseas visits to 129 countries (23 to Canada, 15 to Australia, 10 to New Zealand, 6 to Jamaica). She has given audiences every Tuesday evening to 10 UK prime ministers. She is patron to 620 charities and organizations. She has launched 23 ships, opened 15 bridges, and conducted 540 investitures. She speaks fluent French, was a Girl Guide, a Sea Rover, and an Army driver. She has entertained 1.1 million people at garden parties. She travelled 1.6 million kilometres on the royal yacht *Britannia*. She has received over 3 million items of correspondence. She maintains 25 horses for each racing season. She also has racing pigeons and 5 Corgi dogs.

A TERRORIST'S GOAL IS TO TERRORIZE: The terror of flying after the 11 Sep 2001 attacks caused a spike in automobile travel and a corresponding spike in deadly accidents. Gerd Gigerenzer of the Max Planck Institute in Berlin analysed US air and automobile traffic and fatalities for years before and after the attacks. It took one year for the decline in air traffic and the increase in automobile traffic to return to normal. During that time an extra 1,574 people were killed in automobile accidents - six times the number killed in the hijacked aircraft. The terrorists exacted a higher toll than we have admitted. Yes, flying does have its dangers - the drive to and from the airport.

JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH, renowned economist, 1908-2006, told this tale of his teenage years in SW Ontario:

While sitting on a fence rail with his sweetheart, a nearby bull and cow began mating. He shyly enquired of his girlfriend, "Wouldn't it be fun to try that?" She replied, "Not at all, but you go ahead - it is your cow."

WOMEN KNEW IT ALL ALONG, but it took a UK study to convince men that they waste 6 million hours a year by averaging 20 minutes to admit they are lost and to ask for directions. Women average 10 minutes.

OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD CANADA: The Canadian Space Agency has designated 12 sites that bear resemblance to other planets and can be used for research. Among these are: **Borup Fiord, Ellesmere,** where bacteria thrive in sulphur springs and cold temperatures, and can help in **Europa** planning; **Houghton Crater, Devon Island,** described previously in these newsletters and where for years now experiments for **Mars** equipment have been conducted; **Pavillion Lake, Marble Canyon Park** (420 km north of Vancouver) where underwater carbonate formations could help interpret signs of life on Mars; **Kidd Creek Mine, Timmins, Ontario** where tiny rock cracks deep in the mine support bacteria; and **Mistastin Lake, Labrador,** where ancient lava beds resemble the **Moon** and **Mercury**.

Canada has budgeted \$800,000 annually to these studies and provides logistical support to NASA and the Planetary Society that have joined the research.

MELVILLE ISLAND, the world's 32nd largest, is a tad chilly these days at 75°N. It has a current population of six - all scientists from McGill University who are having great fun finding bones of ichthyosaurs, thalattosuchians, and plesiosaurs that romped the area some 120 million years ago. Some of these are previously-unknown varieties. For instance, the Ichthyosaurs found are only 4 metres long compared to the more southerly ones that reached 15 metres in length.

This could imply cooler temperatures this far north, but I seem to recall that the average temperatures in those days was, even up to the Pole, 23°C, as compared to -20°C today and the carbon dioxide concentration was six times as high (with humans not to blame). We are working towards those conditions, but uncluttered beach property on Melville Island is still a bargain.

LOW ON THE TOTEM POLE - THOSE WHO FACE THE DANGERS:

This is an old irritant with this scribe, so he is happy to see retired colonel Howard Marsh, a defence analyst, come up with some figures.

In 2004, only 42% of the defence budget actually went to the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It costs \$76 million per year, all inclusive, to field one 650-man mechanized infantry battalions equipped with LAVIII armoured vehicles. \$420 million per year will keep all 12 of our frigates at sea for 190 days.

Then, why do we have so few combat-ready, prepared-to-go-anywhere-anytime units?

Well, we need \$11 million to make military buildings easily accessible to wheel chairs. You do have to admire those wheel-chair regiments propelling themselves over the hill and into massed enemy tanks.

Careless housekeeping also costs more - like \$290 million to stop soil erosion at Gagetown, clean a fuel dump at Esquimalt, and groundwater contamination at Valcartier. Then there is \$900 million a year for information management when the Army can do it for \$80,000 with software bought off the shelf.

We do need to pay those 21,000 civilians we need to run our small forces. Lower-paid corporals and sergeants used to do this job quite effectively.

It cost \$93 million for two Challenger jets for VIP travel and \$43 million to provide security at the Kananaskis G8 summit.

The NDHQ staff of 11,500 is grossly disproportionate to the number of fighting forces. Wall-to-wall colonels and above, Marsh argues, are along for the ride.

JENKIN'S EAR: I have used this term to describe flimsy excuses for war such as the Israeli onslaught on Lebanon. Yes, I did explain it in a previous newsletter, but many of you have forgotten - so a repeat:

While establishing colonies in the Caribbean, Britain had many provocations from Spain but tolerated them because it was unprepared for war. Years later, when Britain felt it had amassed the strength, there were no excuses for war . . . until the brig, Rebecca, was boarded by the Spanish in 1731, its cargo seized, and Captain Robert Jenkin's ear cut off by the Spanish. In 1738 his encased ear was paraded in the House of Commons and used as an excuse to declare war on Spain in 1740 which merged into the Austrian Succession War, 1740-48. Jenkins became an East India Co. supervisor.

A DREAM TOO FAR - The Air Services Museum: On 1 July the museum had the look of a clean, tidy, most interesting, and highly-successful museum. A week later it was an empty shell. Many factors led to its sad demise. Roy is working on a full explanation, unfinished at press time, so here are a few late-breaking items to fill the space that was reserved for his article.

LEBANON EVACUATIONS: The greatest number of foreign nationals in Lebanon at the time of the invasion were Canadian, estimated to be 50,000, compared to 25,000 for the U.S. Less than half of these elected to be shipped out. Most felt they needed to share the dangers and privations with their Lebanese friends and relatives.

DOCTOR DAVID NIELSEN: On 03 August, Queen's University in Kingston awarded David, son of Art and Carol, a PhD in Chemical Engineering, a fitting tribute to 5 years of post graduate work. Congratulations, David!

HOME GROWN TERRORISTS: Thanks to good police work in the UK and Pakistan another bomb plot has been foiled. Yes, we are at war with angry young men who happen to be Muslim, but this, while world wide, is not a Muslim or national assault. To combat it we need to work with, and influence, Muslim mosques, schools, and populations. It was a muslim whose tip led to the investigation. There are many more of similar minds who need to be cultivated and appreciated. We then must address our behaviour world-wide that inflames Muslim passions.

We should never sacrifice our own values, hammered out over so many generations. One of these values is **FAIR PLAY**, our neglect of which is at the root of many foreign grievances.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN ceremonies and Sunday brunch will be held in the Retired Enlisted Association building, 834 Emory Circle (east off Murray near UPS) on Sunday, 17 Sep, starting at 1030.

971 WINGERS thank you for your generous support last season. Donations ranged from \$10 to \$100. We wore our jerseys with pride, but did lose out in the semi-finals to Summit Chiropractic.

The 22-game schedule, September 06 to March 07 will be played Sunday evenings at the AF Academy. The 2-day play-off tournament will be in April with a Saturday night social at the Overtime Sports Bar & Grill with food, drinks, and presentations.

Our team colours this year will be light blue with the now-famous Wingers Crest displaying the roundel with an attached wing.

Sponsorship costs will rise from \$350 to \$400, and we again solicit your help. Gary.



Once upon a time (15 July 2006) in a land far away (Calgary) two proud parents—Donna and Darrell Levitt attended the wedding of their son Christopher to the very lovely Monica Holding. Prior to the nuptials the Bride and Groom, along with bridal party and parents, were leisurely strolling the grounds of Heritage Park having formal wedding photos taken. Upon exiting one of the old buildings on the site, the gorgeous Donna missed a small step and subsequently undershot the runway, plummeting to the ground landing square on her derrière, in the process of falling her right undercarriage folded under her and she subsequently broke her femur.

Undaunted Donna (in a wheelchair) attended the wedding and the reception, stating that she was here to see “her son” get married. The wedding ceremony was held on the upper deck of an old 1890's paddle wheeler and therefore the brave Donna had to be carried up the ladder and once again placed in the wheelchair. Upon completion of the ceremony I told Donna that it was now time to depart for medical repair, but Donna was not going to miss the reception—Onward and Upward!

When the fall first occurred there was no sign of a break, no swelling, redness, or bruising. This led us all to believe that she had only sprained her (landing gear) knee. With the decision made (by Donna) it was off to the reception, where we were two of the last to leave.

We Left Calgary for Colorado Springs on Monday morning (17 July) with Donna stretched out in the back of a friend's mini-van. We departed Calgary at 0900 and arrived at the VA Hospital in Denver at 0630 Tuesday morning. You do the math and mileage!!

It was not until x-rays were taken that we learned the true extent of injuries. She had broken her femur just above the knee. Surgery was performed that evening at which time a rod was placed in the femur and secured with screws. Donna spent the next 9 days in the hospital undergoing physical therapy, general mending, and relaxation (yeah right). She is recuperating very nicely and is expected to make a complete recovery.

I would like to express our appreciation for the outstanding level of care that was provided at the VA hospital in spite of budget cuts. ... Darrell.

Intelligence - What is It? Who has it?

Is it needed to produce a newsletter or will nerve suffice?

The mess the world is in implies Intelligence is a very scarce attribute among those who could make a difference. Short-term Greed rules. Can it be otherwise? Yes, we have our Bill Gates, Al Gores, Prince Charles, and Albert Schweitzers, but are all of you out there listening?

Geneticists argue that **heredity** plays a major role and **Environmentalists** are just as adamant that the **environment** is the dominant shaper of behaviour. With our current mood of enhancing opportunities for minorities, the environmentalists are having a field day while the geneticists are being unduly criticized. In 1969 Dr. Arthur R. Jensen published his research. One of his conclusions was that Caucasians on the whole are somewhat better than negroes on the whole as far as the cognitive over the rote part of learning is concerned. A storm of protest forced him to hold classes in secret. We had not yet attained the intelligence to discuss things intelligently.

We are not all created equal. We have different mental and physical characteristics, some of which provide advantages in certain situations. If we were all created equal there would be no evolution.

What is intelligence? Can it be measured by individual, racial, or group prosperity, contentment, adaptability, sociability, or survivability? Does it bring the greatest return for the least expenditure? Does it seek challenges for the joy of overcoming them? Or, is it just the solving of IQ tests that can be slanted towards selected segments of humanity? The word "intelligence" was given to us by Cicero. His "inter legentia" is a close translation of Aristotle's "dia noesis" which includes sensation, perception, memory, imagination, and reasoning. That covers a broad field.

Are all these qualities affected more by heredity or more by environment? Our body chemistry varies from day to day, sending us to extremes of joy or despondency. History shows that nations endure the same cycles, exhibiting tremendous spurts of activity followed by long periods of quiescence. Is body chemistry a result of our heredity or of our environment in the form of food, rest, and recognition? Is body chemistry itself part of our environment?

GENETICS: Selective breeding can change animal and plant characteristics dramatically within a few generations. We took scrawny cattle, and ended up with superior Angus, Jersey, and Guernsey varieties. Any of us can produce new strains of guppies over a few generations. In an uncontrolled human environment it takes about 3,000 years for a mutation, advantageous to survival, to become a racial characteristic. The mobility and promiscuity of man have kept the human gene pool well mixed, yet we have always believed we recognized differences in intelligence among individuals, among races, and among nations. Our attitudes are still affected by these beliefs.

In Rome, Cicero did not need IQ tests to be convinced that Britons were well below the intellectual levels of Mediterranean races. Even when tutored, Britons remained dim-witted slaves. A hundred years after Cicero's death, Queen Boadicea of the Norfolk Britons was robbed of her birthright by provincial governor Seutonius Paulinas who thought her incapable of governing. She showed some intelligence by organizing a revolt that took 70,000 Roman lives, but she also slaughtered lots of Britons, and was defeated in the end. The Irish must have thought the British rather stupid, as they raided Britain at will for 300 years, and set up vassal kingdoms in west Britain, sending home thousands of Britons as slaves. They did however let a Briton, St. Patrick, convert them to Christianity. Then from the 6th century, until curbed by Viking raids in the 9th, Irish monks spread their superior learning throughout Britain and Northern Europe. Meanwhile declining Roman vigour ushered in a long period of Italian decadence, and it was 500 years before Italians again became leaders. The fleets of Pisa, Genoa, and Venice made the Crusades possible, but it was yet another 500 years before the Italians gave us the Renaissance. Then, something happened to the dim-witted Britons. They blossomed, pioneered the Industrial Revolution, led in parliamentary government, collected the world's largest empire, and outshone the Italians in two world wars. How much was due to chance, environment, and a few good leaders, and how much to the slow maturation of all those genes that make up the modern Briton: Picts, Celts, Belgics, Romans, Angles, Saxons, Jutes, Vikings, and Normans?

The Bronze-Age Irish (Atecotti) were an enterprising people who imported tin from Cornwall and who exported gold ornaments as far as Hanover. The Celtic invasions of 1,000 B.C. and 500 B.C. brought turmoil, and it was another thousand years before the Atecotti-Celtic mix produced the scholars mentioned above. The subsequent Viking and Norman-English invasions in Ireland is just now producing a superior genetic mix. In 1750 England and Ireland had the same population (8,000,000). Today England has 50,000,000 while Ireland has 4,000,000. Is this big difference due to coal and iron in England compared to peat in Ireland, or to a better genetic mix?

If we take a closer look at Cicero's Rome we can detect a mingling of Latium, Etruscan, Celtic, Greek, Ligurian, Carthaginian, Raetian, Veneti, Iapygian, and Messapian genes. Can periods of Italian glory be matched to maturation points of these genes? After the fall of Rome, German, French, Spanish, and Asian genes were added, but it took 500 years for the new mix to flourish.

A few boatloads of Polynesians reached Easter Island about 300 A.D. and again about 1200. They had remarkable ingenuity to prosper with the limited resources of a small island that is 2,100 km from the nearest land. They built giant statues and invented pictographic writing. But, they also had periods of decline (1100-1200 and 1680-present). Since 1722, Easter-Island women have actually begged genetic donations from foreign visitors. The current population,

remnants of plagues and massacres, is mainly half-breed, but it has not shown the inventiveness of the purer stock. The world's first mariners, Polynesian feats of long-range ocean navigation required considerable intelligence. Yet, long periods of stagnation separated sustained periods of activity which were about 1,000 B.C. to 500 A.D., the 900's, and 1100-1400. Except for the first period these activity spurts did not stem from the infusion of new genes.

Throughout our recorded history, all groups have outlawed mating with close relatives because undesired traits are accentuated. Exceptions were often made for royalty resulting in many bad and a few good products. Cleopatra was the product of a brother and a sister. Inbreeding lowers mental agility, so most groups had customs demanding that mates come from distant villages.

We look on Africa as the backwater of civilization. Man started there, but his best brains developed elsewhere. We forget that Egypt is African, and we now know that black African women discovered horticulture independently and that they instructed the Egyptians on cotton, sorghum, millet, rice, okra, yams, peanuts, watermelon, gourds, kola, tamarind, and sesame. Carthage-trained Africans developed their own iron works by 300 B.C., and conquered as far as Zimbabwe by 900 A.D. European-style civilization never did develop in black Africa, yet individuals excelled. The Turks used many castrated blacks as efficient administrators and many rose to high office. In the 1490's Crown Prince Mbemba-a-Nzinga of the Congo became an intelligent Portugese African king (Alfonso 1). One of his sons became a Catholic bishop. In Senegal, M. Blaise Diagne in 1914 tricked the French into making all Senegalese of the original four communes French citizens. Diagne rose to high office both in Senegal and in France. The Hadendoa (Fuzzy Wuzzy) were extolled by Kipling as the bravest and most intelligent enemy ever faced by British troops.

The Chinese are hated in Malaya, the Indians in East Africa and Fiji, and the Jews almost everywhere because they exhibit superior intelligence in obtaining better living conditions than the indigenous people. The Japanese have had a long invasion-free history, and are still loathe to marry outsiders. These isolated people have proven to be adaptable, resilient, intelligent, and productive. Superior intelligence has not always meant dominance. With less cluttered minds the Chou conquered the Shang and the Romans beat the Greeks. The Nazis came close. The Chou and the Romans did have sufficient intelligence to recognize they had defeated superior cultures, so they used them as tutors.

Genetics is complicated. Races and nations are like plants: there are times to grow, bloom, and rest. Racial purity is hard to find. Most U.S. blacks, for instance, have some white genes. Race itself is merely an episode in the history of a people. All living things can be improved by selective breeding. It has yet to be applied intelligently to the human species. Superior parents, on the whole, should produce superior children. Yet, characteristics usually skip a generation, making children more like their grandparents than their parents. This dictates the right choice of mates to perpetuate and improve characteristics. Could all this explain love? Our genes recognize the carriers of compatible genes and order us to fall in love and seek to mate with them? **ENVIRONMENT:** As one species, can we have significant differences in brain structure? Even our brightest use only a fraction of their brain capacity, so environment can be the controlling factor on how the brain is trained and used. Differences in intelligence is the manner in which experience is organized. We all have different wiring jobs, but the symbology is culturally governed, with varying advantages. Evolution, by shifting the interaction of brain components, altered the product as a whole, but there has been no major change since Australopithecus, two to three million years ago. Nevertheless, minor changes with Neanderthal 150,000 years ago and with us (Cro-Magnon) some 35,000 years ago have led to significant advances (*Origins of the Modern Mind*, 1991, by Canada's Merlin Donald). Environmentalists can point to the Aztecs, Comanches, and Soshones who, 800 years ago, were all lowly hunters and gatherers of the same racial stock. Moving south during the 12th-century collapse of the Toltec cultures, the Aztecs developed intensively what they adopted from the superior Toltecs, and rose to great heights within 200 years, just in time for the Spanish to topple them. The Comanches acquired Spanish horses and, from Canada, Hudson Bay Company rifles. The Soshones did not. The Comanches became fierce nomadic robbers and fighters. The Shoshones, mauled by Comanches and Blackfeet, became even more peace-loving and timid with a strong inferiority complex.

Stanley M. Elkins, 1963 author of *Slavery*, argued that slavery in the U.S. was the world's worst. To survive, negroes developed characteristics he calls 'Sambo': docile, irresponsible, loyal but lazy, humble but given to lying, full of infantile silliness, and utterly dependent on the all-wise master. Elkins compares the shock of capture, the ocean passage, and the denial of human rights to the methods used by the Nazis to break proud, educated Europeans. Survival in a concentration camp meant adopting many despicable characteristics. Whereas negroes, conditioned to village living, adapted, and survived, the nomadic American natives did not, and remain a pale shadow of their former selves.

Douglas MacRae Taylor (*The Black Carib of British Honduras*, 1950) studied the history of slaves rescued by the Royal Navy from various captors. They were settled in Dominica, St. Vincent, British Honduras, Guatemala, and Honduras. They stole the wives of the less aggressive Caribs. They found their greatest freedoms in British Honduras (Belize) where they became proud, capable, and independent. They now provide 60% of the school teachers, and they teach in English, Spanish, and Carib. 'Black Caribs' in other areas had less respect, and today exhibit less intelligence.

No humans were more primitive than the Ona of Terra del Fuego. Captain Robert Fitz-Roy (of Darwin's Beagle) had three of them educated in Britain (1829-31). They showed amazing adaptability, and acquitted themselves well, even with royalty. Returning home to uplift their brethren of whom they were now ashamed, they could not prevail against an entire culture. In a few years they reverted to their old ways, and lost all traces of their British training.

CONCLUSIONS are inconclusive. Heredity and Environment are both contributing factors, but complexities of the human brain, of human endeavours, and of environments make the assessment of intelligence most challenging. Variances among the same family suggest infinite differences in gene combinations. Environmental differences are also innumerable. Few of us find the right niche for our intellects to flourish as they could. A Canadian study reveals that apathy in the Military results from recruiting too many university graduates. Only 3,240 with bachelor degrees and 600 with advanced degrees can be adequately employed per 100,000 men. Hobbies and spare-time activities must be found to stimulate the minds of the inadequately-employed which encompasses most of us. Heredity and Environment both play important roles, and need more study. Should we control and try to improve both? And, if so, how?

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JIM STEWART and the SPORT JET: As reported in the Gazette, there was no mechanical problem and no pilot error in the crash, 22 June, of the experimental Excel-Jet Sport-Jet. Blame is laid on the wake turbulence of the Dash-8 that took off a mere 88 seconds earlier. Tower gave clearance too soon for Jim's take off. High praise is being given to the carbon-fibre cabin which remained intact under conditions that would have crushed a metal cabin and killed its occupants. Caught in the turbulence at 50 feet, the jet rolled to port, lost altitude, and the wing hit the runway causing a cartwheel.

In the euphoria over the success of the cabin, permitting a walkaway from the crash, too little credit is being given to a superb pilot with a long military and civilian record in the air. Much too modest, Jim claims no credit. In typing out a revised 971 Wing membership list it gave me no end of pleasure that I could leave Jim's name there.

THOUGHTFULNESS: On his trip to Poland, **George Szukala** took the time and trouble to visit Sagan, Germany (now Zagan, Poland), the home of Stalag Luft III and the Great Escape. He brought me back two sets of 26 photographs of the camp and surrounding area as well as a brick which was about all that was left of Hut 104, from which the tunnel, Harry, led to freedom and to death.

I sent one of these sets to a Toronto ex-POW friend who has taken them to several gatherings of ex-POWs (Kriegies). As they have with me, they brought back many memories and emotions to the few who still survive from those now-far-off days when 10,000 vibrant youths filled the Sagan compounds. The barren area we lived in is now forest and traces of the camp are barely distinguishable. Nature has erased that period of time and reminds us that all is transient. The stone memorial we built for the 50 who were killed after the Great Escape remains, surrounded by a fence. Across the road is a Soviet cemetery for the many who fell en route to Berlin and points west in 1945. In a nearby field, a lone cross marks the area where 13,000 French are buried, just a few of those who perished in the retreat from Moscow in 1813. George also included a photo of Görlitz where many of the 50 were shot by the SS and Gestapo (the Luftwaffe had no part in this slaughter). To me, Görlitz still has an air of foreboding.

As do many of my POW friends, I consider Sagan my Alma Mater where everyone there was part of the 17% who survived the trauma of being shot down. Sadly, the vast majority have now passed on. We few who have studied your photos, George, are most appreciative and wish we could adequately convey to you what they mean to us.

ZEUS IS STILL AT IT: Astronomers, worldwide, are tracking 9 suns that are individual projectiles, racing along at speeds up to 717 km per second, fast enough to shoot out of our galaxy. They are also tracking a star that, they say, encountered a black hole deep in the cosmos 160 million years ago. It was flung into our galaxy where, at 850 km per second, it is racing to get out. It is argued that it would take binary black holes to inject such velocities, and the race is on to compute origins. What are the odds they will find it is just Zeus, Mars, Hades, and the boys flinging projectiles at each other?

SUBMISSIONS: As soon as one newsletters is mailed it is necessary to start of the next one, so the sooner you get your inputs in the better are your chances for space. Next deadline is 15 October. Send inputs to gsweanor@pcisys.net.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN: Having written extensively in previous September newsletters on the various battles of Britain (Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, French-Spanish, Luftwaffe), my neglect this time does not indicate the latest one is not still very fresh in my mind. Those of us, who are still living on borrowed time, raise a glass to, and shed a tear for, all those who were denied the privilege. We thank them while also remembering their grieving parents, sweethearts, wives, siblings, and children.

INFORVORE: The great pleasure you obtained by reading this newsletter is due to human hunger for information triggering the neural pleasure pathways that are also triggered by drugs like heroin. The term "inforvore" has been coined by scientists at California and New York universities. Sorry, not enough room left to give you full details.