

# THE BUGGETTE



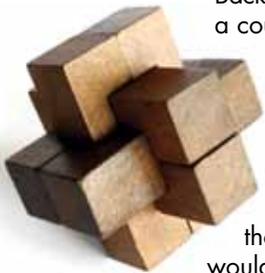
## Bare in Mind by Dick Bare

Hi, everyone! Hope all is well with you and yours. We have nine grandchildren now, ranging in age from thirteen down to nine months. It is very interesting to observe them as their brains develop, along with their personalities.

It got me to thinking about intelligence, memory, personality, experience, and how these combine to create smarts or even greatness, like with Steve Jobs.

Do we really know how to measure intelligence? Is it the Intelligence Quotient (IQ) test? Or is it the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test)? Let's start by defining intelligence. Webster's dictionary defines it as the ability to figure out something, i.e., problem solve; the capacity for learning, understanding, reasoning and similar forms of mental activity; an aptitude for grasping truths, relationships, facts, meanings, etc. It would seem straightforward and simple to create tests to measure intelligence, but it is not so simple.

Back in 1884, Sir Francis Galton, a cousin of Charles Darwin, opened a lab in London to measure intelligence. Galton felt the key was to measure the senses, namely, smell, vision, and hearing. He reasoned that those with more acute senses would take in more information and that this would impact mental



ability and performance. Galton tested subjects on such tasks as describing color differences of clothing swatches and guessing the weights of various objects. Over the years, the Galtonian tasks fell out of favor in academia because they didn't work at all.

Another European scholar, Alfred Binet, took a different tact. Focusing on children, he reasoned that intelligence would be associated with cerebral volume: the greater the cerebral volume, the higher the intelligence. He also measured their ears, palms, and everything else but to no avail. He found no relationships between any of those things. Finally, he decided to test judgment, comprehension, reasoning, and memory, as well as how quickly and accurately kids absorbed new information. With this new approach he was able to classify children by age. In other words, he identified certain things normal children of specific ages could do.

For example, normal three-year-olds should be able to identify their nose, eyes, ears, etc. by pointing to them. Four-year-olds should be able to recite back numbers in the order that they are

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## WINTER Plant Tip

Plants continue to need water during the winter. Following sound irrigation practices is essential to maintaining healthy, cold-hardy plants. Prior to a predicted cold snap, you should make sure your plants have enough water. Moist soil absorbs more heat, helping to maintain an elevated temperature around the plants. Mulching the base of plants helps retain moisture.

## Customer Kudos

"I'm very happy with Joel and Arbor-Nomics. Joel is very punctual, and I am always able to reach him when I have questions. He is easy to understand; he explains things in layman's terms, and I'm very pleased with the way the lawn is coming up."

Stephen Abernathy, Brentwood

"Arbor-Nomics has great service, and I am really pleased with it."

John Vest, Brentwood

## What can I do about moles, gophers and deer?

by Joel Holcomb, Technician

### Moles and Gophers – Underground Excavators

Moles and gophers may be two very different animals, but they share some very similar behaviors. Both are expert excavators, tunneling underground in pursuit of grubs and earthworms. It's easy to spot the damage they cause by the telltale mounds of dirt and grass they leave on your lawn.

Some of our customers have experienced extensive mole and gopher damage this past year. Arbor-Nomics doesn't trap moles or gophers, but we can check for and eliminate grubs, one of their main food sources. We don't recommend eliminating earthworms, however, since they help keep your soil healthy. You can call us for an estimate or if you're a do-it-yourselfer, you might want to consider a product called Gopher Gasser. It contains a mixture of potassium nitrate, carbon, sulfur (all components of gunpowder) and dextrin (a polysaccharide), which when used sparingly, is not harmful to soils. The toxic gas it produces fills the tunnels and exterminates or repels the pests. Please follow directions carefully when using this.

### Deer – Determined Eaters

As foliage becomes harder for deer to find this winter, they will often eat your plants and grass. Although there are many suggestions for preventing deer from eating your yard, most do not work or require continuous application. Here is a review of the most commonly tried tactics, along with a surefire way to protect your yard this winter.

- Contrary to popular belief, planting deer-proof plants is not really an option. Deer will eat any green plant, especially in the winter, when other food is scarce.
- A dog who stays in the yard will usually keep it free of deer. A larger dog will be a better deterrent than a smaller one — unless you have a large, friendly dog that makes friends with the deer.
- Deer repellents, which you can purchase online or at garden supply stores, have to be reapplied frequently, and they only keep the deer away from the areas where it is applied.
- The only surefire way to keep deer out of your yard is to build a fence that either is too high for them to jump over (about 7 ft) or blocks their view of your yard. Deer won't jump over a structure if they can't see where they will land.

While deer are beautiful, gentle animals, they are, in deed, very determined feeders and can eat their way through your yard.

## New Year's Eve Traditions Around the World

**England:** First-footing, an ancient custom practiced even today, holds that for good luck and prosperity, the first person to enter a house after midnight should be a dark-haired male carrying coal, bread and salt.

**Greece:** At the center of a Greek tradition is a cake called Vasilopita. The head of the house cuts the first two pieces and dedicates them to Christ and the house, respectively. The remaining pieces are shared among the family, and the one who gets the piece with a coin hidden inside can expect good luck and wealth throughout the new year.

**Netherlands:** For five decades, the Dutch have heralded the new year with oudejaarsconference, a comedy program featuring a cabaret performer, who in the spirit of Dutch tradition and custom, satirizes the prominent events and personalities of the past year. It is also tradition to clean the entire home before the arrival of New Year's Eve.

**Romania:** In the Bear ritual, groups of people dressed in vibrant clothing made of fake fur dance throughout the neighborhood, visiting each house to drive away any evils and negative energy for the coming year.

**Iceland:** Áramótaskaupið (The New Year's comedy) is an annual television comedy that focuses on the past year. With little mercy towards its victims, the show satirizes politicians, artists, prominent businesspeople, activists and other personalities. A large bonfire, with everyone from the community participating, is another, warmer tradition.

by [www.123newyear.com](http://www.123newyear.com)



What is a mole's favorite kind of soda?

Coca-mola



## Top 5 Cities for Celebrating New Year's Eve



1. New York 2. Sydney 3. Paris 4. England 5. China  
by [www.123newyear.com](http://www.123newyear.com)

## Application #1

### What we did today to your lawn:

1. We applied a pre-emergent for grassy weeds (which includes crabgrass) and a broadleaf weed control. The pre-emergent is a preventative and will prevent the grassy weeds from springing up this spring. The broadleaf weed control will take care of the broadleaf weeds that have germinated. If you see green broadleaf weeds in your dormant lawn, you should see those weeds start to die within two weeks of the treatment.
2. All of the lawns in Nashville receive the pre-emergent and broadleaf controls. Bermuda and Zoysia lawns will also receive a potassium fertilizer to enhance the root structure so your grass grows stronger and thicker.
3. To your trees and shrubs: (if you are a tree and shrub customer) Believe it or not, we have such mild winters in Nashville that certain bugs live through it. And they like to live in your trees and shrubs. That's why we put "dormant oil" on them. It encapsulates the leaves and stems and smothers the insects until the next time we visit. Protecting your trees and shrubs from bugs will make them stronger and healthier so they can resist disease and drought in the future.

### What you need to do until our next visit:

1. Remove your leaves as often as possible. They'll smother your lawn and damage the grass.
2. If you are going to mow your lawn during January and February, do not cut it too short or scalp it. You don't need to collect clippings as they "recycle" back into the soil providing some extra nutrients. It is safe to mow immediately after we've applied our products. If you have any questions concerning your lawn, trees, shrubs or our service, please call our Customer Service Department Monday – Friday, 7:00am - 4:00pm at 329.4151. If you call after hours, please leave a message and your call will be returned the next business day.

## Lawn Care Doesn't End in the Winter

by Chris Griffin, Technician

Just because your warm season grass is dormant during winter, it doesn't mean that your lawn care responsibilities are over. Follow these tips this winter, and your lawn will be stronger this spring:

- Keep your lawn clean and clear. Do not leave debris, leaves, or toys out on the lawn. These things can smother the grass, create disease conditions and invite insects, mice and other damaging pests.
- Make sure to lower the height of your mower by a notch or two the last couple of times you mow. Excessively long grass can smother itself, is more disease prone, and is at risk of damage from freezing and thawing conditions. However, be careful not to scalp your lawn by cutting the grass too short – this will leave the crown of the plant vulnerable to extreme conditions. Grass either stops growing, or grows incredibly slowly, during the winter months, so it is best to reduce the height of your grass gradually.

## Tree Pruning - Winter or Spring?

by Chris Griffin, Technician

The ideal time to prune most trees and shrubs in Nashville is late winter, just before growth begins. Pruning can be done anytime of the year, but often the tree or shrub will not heal as quickly as it does during the winter. In addition, pruning before the arrival of spring will reduce sap loss, again because wound healing is faster in winter.

Pruning during the winter is ideal for crepes (Crepe Myrtles), roses, butterfly bushes, trees indigenous to Tennessee (like many types of oaks and pines) and all deciduous trees (trees that shed their leaves at the end of the growing season).

However, plants that bloom off of older wood, like azaleas, forsythias and rhododendrons, should be pruned after they bloom.

## Helpful Phone Numbers

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## Bare in Mind CONTINUED

read to them. Using appropriate tasks for each age, Binet devised a method for measuring what he called a child's "mental age." An eight-year-old who could do things that were normal for the average eleven-year-old would have a mental age of 11. Likewise, a six-year-old who performed more like the average four-year-old would have a mental age of 4. Children who lagged behind could be put into special classes to be brought up to speed.

The years that followed saw the rise of the eugenics movement. Eugenicians felt that we are all born with a certain intelligence level that was determined by background and bloodline. If you were from nobility or if your ancestors were famous warriors or business titans, then you were in the chips. If you were descended from a minority group or from immigrants, you were toast mentally.

In 1916, a Stanford University psychology graduate named Lewis Terman modified the Binet test to create a new test. He named it the Stanford-Binet test; we know it as the IQ or Intelligence Quotient test. To get a ten-year-old student's IQ, you take his mental age (let's say 12), divide it by 10, and multiply that by 100; in this example, the student would have an IQ of 120 (12 divided by 10 then multiplied by 100 equals 120).

Binet's test was designed to identify children who needed extra help in learning so they could be brought up to the level of their classmates. But Terman was a eugenics guy, and he had an agenda that would cause Binet to spin like a top in his grave. Terman felt that intelligence was set at birth, and no amount of coaching, education, or tutoring could improve one's lot. He believed in testing every child so that feeble mindedness and ignorance could be stamped out through birth control of the dumb. Crime, poverty, and industrial inefficiency would be eliminated with his test. Truth be known, he probably sowed the seeds for Hitler's Aryan Nation. Here's a direct quote from one of Terman's papers, entitled *The Menace of Feeble Mindedness*: "Organized charities often contribute to the survival of individuals who would otherwise not be able to live and reproduce."

In 1917 the U.S. entered World War I, and the head of the American Psychological Association felt that psychologists could contribute to the war effort by administering IQ tests to the military recruits. This man, an associate of Lewis Terman, was a eugenics proponent. The tests had little effect on the outcome of the war, but they did generate huge amounts of data.

One man who interpreted the data was Carl Brigham. After studying the data, he concluded that the early immigrants to the United States from the Nordic areas of Europe (England, Germany and Scandinavia) were smarter than the later ones from southern and eastern European countries (Italy and Russia). On closer examination, however, performance on the

tests had more to do with how long an immigrant had been in the country than with country of origin. One question, for instance, had to do with American baseball teams, another with American gun manufacturers. People who were newer to the U.S. understandably were less likely to answer these kinds of questions correctly, as they were less familiar with American culture.

In 1921, Congress passed a law establishing "national origin quotas," which restricted immigration to 3% of the number of nationals already living here, with census figures from 1910 used to set the quota for each individual country. This was supposed to be a temporary law but in subsequent years it was strengthened. I believe it is still in use today.

To make a long story short, in the mid-1920s, colleges and universities began to hire Brigham and other IQ experts to administer IQ tests to college applicants. Brigham had to upgrade the tests used in World War I to a form more suited to better-educated applicants to schools such as Princeton, West Point, and the U.S. Naval Academy. Thus was born the Scholastic Aptitude Test, or SAT. As the popularity of the SAT grew, Brigham divided it into two parts, one to establish mathematical ability and one to establish verbal ability. By the 1930s, the SAT was well on its way to becoming a major factor in U.S. college life.

But here's the irony: Brigham had begun to question all that he had believed about intelligence testing. He came to believe that eugenics was false and unfounded. In 1928, he publicly recanted his theories at a meeting of eugenicists, and two years later, he published a formal retraction of his own book denouncing it as "without foundation."

Brigham had not lost faith in his tests for measuring academic ability, however; he had come to realize, through painful experience, that innate intelligence could be improved through study and education.

His last battle was to prevent nationwide use of the IQ and SAT tests. He felt that in the hands of wrong-minded administrators, the tests would become an entity unto themselves, a self-propagating tool that could become a huge bureaucracy and not as effective as a test given on its own merits.

Due to Brigham's stature, the ETS (Educational Testing Service) never became a reality in his lifetime. But alas, Brigham died at the age of 52 on January 24, 1943, from heart failure. A few years later, his worst fears were realized. On January 1, 1948, the ETS became the start of a behemoth, which today administers over 11 million tests worldwide every year.

For an example of an IQ test, see the questions below or take one on the Internet. My grade was "Dumber than a box of rocks!"

1. Which one of the five choices makes the best comparison? PEACH is to HCAEP as 46251 is to:

- Ⓐ 25641 Ⓑ 26451 Ⓒ 12654 Ⓓ 51462 Ⓔ 15264

2. Mary, who is sixteen years old, is four times as old as her brother. How old will Mary be when she is twice as old as her brother?

- Ⓐ 20 Ⓑ 24 Ⓒ 25 Ⓓ 26 Ⓔ 28

3. Choose the word most similar to "Trustworthy":

- Ⓐ Resolute Ⓑ Tenacity Ⓒ Relevant Ⓓ Insolent Ⓔ Reliable

4. If you rearrange the letters "LNGEDNA" you have the name of a(n):

- Ⓐ Animal Ⓑ Country Ⓒ State Ⓓ City Ⓔ Ocean

5. Ralph likes 25 but not 24; he likes 400 but not 300; he likes 144 but not 145. Which does he like:

- Ⓐ 10 Ⓑ 50 Ⓒ 124 Ⓓ 200 Ⓔ 1600

6. Which one of the following things is the least like the others?

- Ⓐ Poem Ⓑ Novel Ⓒ Painting Ⓓ Statue Ⓔ Flower