



THE MEGAPHONE



A Vestigial Organ of the Rascals, Rogues, and Rascalions

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HAYES LEWIS ZOOMS TO LANDSLIDE VICTORY Mass Challenge Win Brings Landgraf Prize to Texas

Hayes Lewis has never attended an RR&R meeting in person. He lives in the Lone Star state and is on the fast track to launching Lair No. 4. And in a slam-dunk, he won the Jon Landgraf Prize at the 2021 Mass Challenge contest.

Mass Challenge XXXV was to write a poem. Lewis's entry, "Tolstoy's Paradelle," was a cerebral and amusing satire. Lewis explained the paradelle is a poetical form invented by US Poet Laureate Billy Collins as a parody of formal poetry. One reviewer called it "intentionally terrible."

Lair No. 3 met on Saturday, December 11, 2021, inside the flag-bedecked barn at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church. The evening air was balmy, and the barn door was left open.

Sixteen men were in person and four zoomed in, including **Mark Jordan**, a first-time Rascal visitor from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, **Peter Marino** of Lair No. 3, who lives in Georgia, and Peter's son-in-law **Bryan Laudermilk** from Oregon.

A new and fear-inducing feature of this year's contest was the addition of the James Buchanan Prize, a handsome award in honor of the worst US



Hayes Lewis wins the 2021 Mass Challenge with his poem, "Tolstoy's Paradelle." He zoomed into the Lair No. 3 meeting from Texas. It was his first Landgraf Prize win.

President, for the man with the worst Mass Challenge entry.

The prize, a large bronze medal of Buchanan suspended from an Odd Fellows collar, will be a traveling trophy, worn by the winner at RR&R meetings until the next winner earns the right.

Opening the poetry reading was **Dan Bramer** with a stinging indictment of cyber-perversion which said, among other things:

*It is always preferable to
manipulate
One's own genitals.*

As the crowd recovered, **Sam Clover** rose to offer his folk ballad about Centralia.

Woody Cunningham wasn't present but his "Clerihew for Tim" was read, one of several poems saluting **Timons Esaias**. Esaias's "Why I Will Not Blurb Your Novel" was also read.

Seth Fluder was in town and joined the fun with "Traffic Haiku." **Charles George** drove in from Pittsburgh and read a poem in praise of his grandson and a couplet for **Tim Esaias**.

Jordan Goretti presented his "Lament for the Rohingya," a threnody for the victims of genocide. **Jon Haines** read, but didn't sing, his "Ode to My Guitar," and **Rich James** honored his late mother with his touching poem "Kensington Mom."

Zooming in from Canada, **Mark Jordan** had the room chanting along to his “The Greatest of Ships,” a poem about Christmas dinner, not a ship in Her Majesty’s Fleet.

Mike “Hinterlands” Landis was an English major and it showed in his two poems with a Gary Snyder eco-vibe.

Bryan Loudermilk amused us with “The Scholar,” a poem about an app to learn Italian.

Mark McDowell read two poems: one angsty, one schmaltzy.

Peter Marino sang of the glories of Rascaldom with his “The Rascal International.”

David Rowland cajoled his listeners to, if not give him the Landgraf Medal, then to spare



Calvin Morrison flaunts his James Buchanan Prize. Dan Bramer and Charles George, left, and Roger Hull, right, celebrate with him.

him the Buchanan Prize.

It was **Calvin Morrison** who earned the James Buchanan Prize with “Fridge – a haiku.” Let the reader judge:

*open the fridge door
see ice cream and grab
a spoon
oh no! it’s melted!*

His second poem, “not heretic,” was an unorthodox screed about the un-virgin birth of Jesus.

Dan Morrison tried hard with his “The Widdershins and Shitter Wins Cantos.”

Michael Moscherosch read “The Timeless Battle,” a poem about and the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

Not present, **Lee**

Wolfson was represented by his “A Rascal Limerick.”

Ray Hull read his “Mass Challenge Poem,” a prose song in praise of the Rascal life.

Jim Barr and **Roger Hull** recalled the late **Ray Hull II**. Jim read “Our Last Cigar,” a haiku, and Roger talked of his father, who celebrated the winter solstice each year, in his “Solstitium.”

Once each man had read his competition poem, several men returned to the podium to read a second: **Landis, McDowell,** and **Calvin Morrison** have been mentioned. **Dan Bramer** was the encore standout with his “What the Bones Know” recited from memory.

This meeting was a marked success as every man attending participated. A chapbook of all poems read at the meeting will soon be published.

♣ ♣ ♣

Tolstoy’s Parabelle by Hayes Lewis

God sees the truth, but waits.
God sees the truth, but waits.
We also wait for the truth still we do not see it.
We also wait for the truth still we do not see it.
The truth also waits, but still we do not see God;
Wait for it! The Truth sees!

How much land does a man need?
How much land does a man need?
Six feet of dust, a little more if taller.
Six feet of dust, a little more if taller.
Man of dust does need six feet.
If taller, how much land? A little more?

A talk among leisured people.
A talk among leisured people.
The preacher repeats that all is vanity.
The preacher repeats that all is vanity.
The leisured people talk among vanity.
A preacher repeats all that is.

All that, still we also do not see the truth.
The leisured people talk if God is vanity,
But a preacher waits a little more.
The taller Truth repeats--wait for it!
If the man of dust does need land, how much?
Six feet.

RAPSCALLION, RABSCALLION OR RASCALLION?

Unraveling a Satirical Etymological Mystery

It's a terrible moniker, no matter how you spell it. And no doubt the men (surely, they've always been men) to whom this name has been applied never won a spelling bee.

While "rapscallion" is the highest rank in the RR&R, it also is a lexical tidbit, deriving from earlier English words.

The earliest Oxford English Dictionary citation for "rapscallion" is Edward Ward's *London Spy* of 1699. Ward (1667–1731), a satirist, first published his work about life in the great city in 18 monthly parts, beginning November 1698. There we read, "... we saw a parcel of ragged rapscallions, mounted upon scrubbed tits ..." The latter, by the way, are not freshly washed breasts but some kind of horse.¹ We hereby challenge anyone to discover a print appearance of rapscallion before 1699.

Seventeen years before Ward's "rapscallion," we find the word "rabscallion," clearly related, perhaps indicating the word was still in phonetic flux. Interestingly, this "rabscallion" appears in a reportorial quote of actual speech, in this case a summons by a Bristol magistrate. It appears in *The Distressed Case of the People Called Quakers in the City of Bristol* (London: Benjamin Clark, 1682). A lawman said to a crowd: "Come all ye tinkers, cobblers, weavers, pin-makers, tailors, rabscallions and tatterdemalions, that I may take your names." A tatterdemalion is person in ragged clothes.

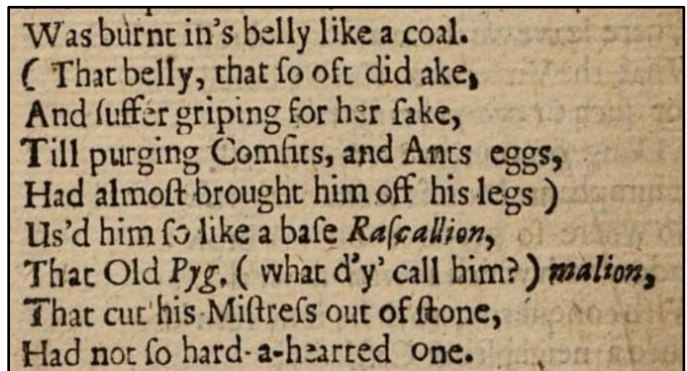
Earlier yet, in 1663, we find "rascallion" in the satirical poem *Hudibras* by Samuel Butler (1613-1680). Butler writes:

(That belly, that so oft did ache,
And suffer griping for her sake,
Till purging comfits, and ant eggs,
Had almost brought him off his legs)
Used him so like a base rascallion,
That old Pyg (what do you call him) malion,

That cut his mistress out of stone,
Had not so hard a-hearted one.

Even earlier still is the 1622 appearance of the word "rascabilians" in *Strange Newes out of Divers Countries* by Nicholas Breton (1545-1626).

Breton's work, like the works of Ward and Butler, is a satire. With three of the four early citations of "rapscallion" and its related words coming from literary satirists, one is led to wonder about the relation between the RR&R and satire. Certainly, we have a legitimate, website-certified satirist in our ranks: **Timons Esaias**.



Lines from Butler's 1663 *Hudibras* with the word "Rascallion."

In the journal *Modern Philology*, we find "Iteratives, Blends, and "Streckformen,"² by Francis A. Wood of the University of Chicago. In it Wood suggests "rapscallion" is a twice blended word. It begins with "ramscallion," defined as "an offensively dirty person." This word is a blend of "ram," which is "offensive in smell or taste," and "scallion," which is an onion or leek. Thus a "ramscallion" is a stinky onion.

Ramscallion, a blended word, then is blended again with "rap," which means, "a cheat, imposter, a person of bad character." Thus a "rapscallion" is a person who is dirty, stinky, and dishonest. Which seems about right.



¹ Throughout I update the orthography and typography.

² *Modern Philology*, vol. 9, no. 2 (October 1911), p. 11.

WILD BEES AND BOARS GALORE

Typical Topics in 2021 Research Reports Meeting



Michael Moscherosch looks on while Roger Hull discusses how he captures bee swarms.

Normally sedate, Rascal scholars of Lair No. 3 showed a wild side at the September 18 Research Reports meeting of Lair No. 3. Untamed bees and the threat of wild boars were discussed under balmy skies at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church's barn.

Following in the footsteps of his father, the late **Ray Hull II**, who kept bees on his rural New Jersey estate, **Roger Hull** has an apiary at his Ottsville, Penna., farm. But rather than purchase bees from the usual bee mongers, Roger prefers to capture swarms of wild bees looking to establish new hives. He claims capturing swarming bees is not the same as "bee rustling."

Wild boars were the topic of the newest member of Lair

No. 3. **Jordan Goretti** brought the threat of feral swine to the Lair's attention.

Dan Bramer told of his trials in restoring a century-old lathe. He described the contraption as the kind of machine a farmer might have.

Recently-retired radioman **Sam Clover** discussed his plans for a podcast on old and forgotten music halls in Philadelphia.

Mark McDowell told tales about the defunct Adirondack Railroad. The Baptist pastor was aboard the rail line's final run and derailment, midway across a lake. The railroad right-of-way since has been converted into a trail.

One of three holders of a Master of Divinity degree at the meeting, **Mike Landis** talked about eco-tuned epistemologies.

Soon-to-be-married **Calvin Morrison** reviewed his efforts to rebuild a BMW fuel-injection system for a friend.

His father, **Dan Morrison**, discussed

the possibility of a syphilis diagnosis for a woman who died in an Arkansas mental hospital in 1933.

Having presented an oven that burns human waste at an earlier Research Reports meet, **Michael Moscherosch** showed pictures of his latest cooker, a backyard wood-fired pizza oven.

And, finally, **Noel Wolfe**, who is not a bachelor, chatted about his idea for a cookbook for bachelors.

Others at the meeting not presenting: **Jon Haines**, **Rich James**, and **Leon Moscherosch**.

Food was delivered from Iron Hill Brewery. No business was transacted. No action was taken on the feral hogs.



Jordan Goretti, far left, and Michael Landis listen as Sam Clover discusses long-lost music halls.

Jim Barr and his son Galen are laboring to bring the Van Lieus Brewing Company to life. The Barr men are renovating a former gas station in Perkasio to house their brewery and restaurant. Supply-chain issues have bedeviled their efforts.

Dan Bramer continues to teach philosophy at Holy Family University. He will be the Associate Director of Lair No. 3 in 2022.

Timons Esaias still teaches writing at Seton Hill University, as he has for the past two decades. In February 2021, he appeared in *The Writer* with his piece "The Final Spellcheck."

Charles George has five Lair No. 3 meetings on his record. He was at the inaugural meeting in 2000. Ten years later he showed up for the RR&R outing to the Franklin Inn for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia. And then another decade later, in 2020, he zoomed into the 20th anniversary meeting of Lair No. 3. He joined the 2020 Mass Challenge (held March 2021) via zoom. And then in his third live appearance in as many decades, Charles attended the 2021 Mass Challenge meeting in December 2021.

Jordan Goretti received his Rascal Challenge at the recent meeting of Lair No. 3. He is slated to presented in June 2022. He recently was elected an Elder of Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church.



Karl Halter was nowhere to be found at Neshaminy Manor in Bucks County when cousin Dan Morrison stopped by to visit. Karl has been in this nursing facility for a long while following a number of strokes.

Ray Hull III has been beset with troubles that kept him away from RR&R meetings twice in 2021. On the upside, he lost a 30 pounds and looks like a million bucks.

Roger Hull does specialty masonry work on historical buildings. At the December 2021 meeting, he brought a box of bricks to Dan Morrison, who is collecting bricks these days.

Hayes Lewis is slated to make his Rascal Challenge presentation in March 2022. We expect the Lone Star resident will be live and in person in Pennsylvania for the meeting.

Peter Marino spent three weeks in Italy where he and his wife hope to buy a house. He still lives and drums in Smyrna, Georgia.

Sean McVan, GOP nominee for Doylestown Mayor, did not win in the heavily Democrat

borough in the November 2021 election.

Calvin Morrison married Cheryl Zarcynski-Heady on October 9, 2021. Officiated by his father **Dan Morrison**, the wedding took place on a farm in Stewartstown, Penna.

Dan Morrison still hasn't finished his dissertation. Being the Lair No. 3 Director in 2022 probably won't help.

Leon Moscherosch missed the recent Lair No. 3 meeting for a date with his girlfriend. The He-Man Women Hater's Club is investigating.

Michael Moscherosch was elected Lair Treasurer for 2022. Which is no problem as his doctoral dissertation, *Paramagnetic Intermediates and Products of Electron Transfer Reactions*, was done in 1993.

Mark McDowell was elected a member of Lair No. 3 at the December 11, 2021, meeting. Mark is a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary and is the pastor of Abington Baptist Church.



LAIR NO. 3 ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

First Post-COVID Class of Rascal Leaders

It had been three years since the last time Lair No. 3 elected new officers when the Lair met at its Fourth Quarter 2021 meeting. COVID partly was to blame as the pandemic interrupted the normal life of the Lair.

Director **Calvin Morrison** insisted it was time for change and the Rascals agreed on a new slate of officers for the 2022 season. They are:

Director, **Dan Morrison**

Assistant Director, **Dan Bramer**

Secretary: **Ray Hull III**

Treasurer: **Michael Moscherosch**

Keeper of the Humidor: **Roger Hull**

Archivist: **Dan Morrison**

It also was decided dues for 2022 would remain at \$100. Treasurer-elect **Michael Moscherosch** said he would use a cash box system in the coming year, eliminating the need for a checking account.

In other business, the Rev. **Mark McDowell** was elected a member of Lair No. 3.



Lair No. 3 Archivist Annual Report 2021

Meetings

Under the continuing press of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lair No. 3 conducted four meetings in 2021. All four were held at the Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church barn.

March 13, 2021. This was the delayed 2020 Mass Challenge, which was to produce a chain of an unusual substance. **Michael Moscherosch** was declared the winner, his second Jon Landgraf Prize win. A total of 18 men attended, 15 in person and three by zoom.

June 12, 2021. **Sean McVan** made his Rascal Challenge presentation about his ancestral home in Ireland. Following his presentation, the Lair voted to elevate **McVan** to the rank of Rogue. A total of 13 men attended, 11 in person and two by zoom.

September 18, 2021. Our annual Research Reports meeting was attended by 13 men, all in person.

December 11, 2021. The 2021 Mass Challenge was the thirty-fifth running of that competition. **Hayes Lewis** won the Jon Landgraf Prize for the best poem; **Calvin Morrison** was saddled with the James Buchanan Prize for the worst. A total of 20 men attended, 16 in person and four by zoom.

Officers

Officers for 2021 were carried over from the previous year and were: Director, **Calvin Morrison**; Assistant Director, **Leon Moscherosch**; Secretary, **Jim Barr**; Treasurer, **Ray Hull III**, Keeper of the Humidor, **Roger Hull**; and, Archivist, **Dan Morrison**.

On December 11, 2021, new officers were elected for 2022: Director, **Dan Morrison**; Assistant Director, **Dan Bramer**; Secretary, **Ray Hull III**; Treasurer, **Michael Moscherosch**, Keeper of the Humidor, **Roger Hull**; and, Archivist, **Dan Morrison**.

Membership

Membership as of 1/1/2021 was 11. **Jordan Goretti** was elected a member on March 13, 2021, and **Mark McDowell** was elected a member on December 11, 2021. Membership as of 12/31/2021: 13.

Respectfully submitted by, Dan Morrison, Archivist

Moscherosch Surpasses 75 Meeting Milestone



Moscherosch with his bottled air artwork at the 2002 Mass Challenge at the Moose Home in Doylestown.

Michael Moscherosch, cofounder of Lair No. 3, is the first to attend 75 meetings of the Doylestown group. He attained this milestone at the December 20, 2020, Research Reports meeting.

Since its founding in November 2000, Lair No. 3 has hosted 82 events, including 20 Mass Challenge gatherings and 19 Research Reports confabs. We have record of **Moscherosch** at 79 of those 82 meetings.

Moscherosch entered at least 11 of the Mass Challenge competitions, winning honors twice, first with his patentable cigar apparatus in 2003 and then 17 years later in the 2020 running with his chain made of animal parts. Lair archives contain records of **Moscherosch** presenting in at least 11 of the 19 Research Reports meetings.

His Rascal Challenge was to uncover the story of a human skeleton found under a Doylestown farmhouse, a challenge he completed at the December 11, 2004, meeting.

He is working on his Rogue's Challenge to build a boat and circumnavigate Pennsylvania.

Moscherosch also gave non-Challenge presentations about the Australian diggeridoo, on

May 5, 2001, and his Indian adventure with **Ray Hull II** and **Jim Barr**, on April 20, 2013.

He has served the Lair as Assistant Director, Director, and Keeper of the Humidor. He is a member of the Ephorate. **Leon Moscherosch**, his son, joined the Lair in 2018.

Moscherosch has attended so many Lair No. 3 meetings it is easier to list the ones he missed. They are: 1) **Calvin Morrison's** Rascal Challenge presentation to roll his own Pennsylvania cigar on November 5, 2016, at Hull Haven, 2) the 2013 Mass Challenge (self-propelled boat) held September 10, 2013, at Hull Haven, and 3) a poorly attended meeting for the 2009 Mass Challenge (rites of passage), held February 21, 2009, at an unrecorded location. Bad weather limited attendance and the results did not count. **Moscherosch** did attend the second and official 2009 Mass Challenge meeting the following month on March 28, 2009.



Moscherosch holds his winning entry in the 2020 Mass Challenge at Huntingdon Valley Presbyterian Church.

SECOND ROGUES DINNER ON TAP IN 2022

First Rapscallion May be Created



First Rogues Dinner, at which the first Rogue Challenges were distributed. L. to r.: Jeff Campbell, Don Kellander, Brian Holly, Lee Wolfson, Dan Morrison, Don Pickerine, Glenn Vernon, David Dunn, Greg Scheer, and Denis Looney. Photo by William Moul.



A first-class relic, ex capillis, of Timons Esaias will be displayed at Second Rogues Dinner.

On January 18, 1997, ten Rogues gathered for the first Rogues Dinner. There the first batch of Rogue certificates and Rogue Challenges were given to members of the RR&R who had completed a Rascal Challenge.

At first, it was thought a

Rogues Dinner would happen once a year, each time a Rogue Challenge was met. The Rogue Challenge has proven far more difficult than initially imagined. To date, no one has completed the test that makes a man a Rapscallion. For years, **Charles George**, who has a geocaching Rogue Challenge, was rumored to be on the verge of finishing.

Twenty-five years after the first Rogues Dinner, on January 8, 2022, Rogues will meet for a second Rogues Dinner. If all goes well, they also will witness the creation of the RR&R's first Rapscallion.

Doylestown Maennerchor, site of the first meeting of Lair No. 3, will host the dinner. **Dan Morrison** will make his Rogue Challenge presentation. His

challenge is: "Prepare first-class relics of all current RR&R members, confecting them in accord with customary procedures, using standard thecae."

Morrison has been working on his project since 2019. All living and two dead Rascals are in his set of relics. Each Rogue attending will receive a Rascal relic of his own to venerate.



The Megaphone

"Mostly True ... Since 1994."

Pliny Miles, editor

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