

APRIL 1983

SCAM

SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 Pig SIG	2 Mensa Test
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 ExComm Program Night
10	11	12	13	14 Art Film SIG	15	16 Contro- versial SIG
17 Sunday Brunch	18	19	20	21	22	23 Party Night
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

FROM THE LOCAL SECRETARY

I'm looking for your help!!! It could be as much as 3 to 4 months before we start receiving a check from National to help offset the cost of the newsletter. Evidently the dues are paid on a quarterly basis but not in advance. This means we may have a few lean months between now and June unless CFM or David Mann can help us out. We are already in the red for the cost of printing and mailing the first 3 newsletters to the tune of \$150 plus the cost of this month's issue. At this rate we could have spent all of our front money as well as the dues money we will receive for the first quarter and not have any money left for the next quarter. Perhaps you might consider running an ad or have some other money maker in mind.

A mother of a gifted child called me concerning Mensa qualifications and activities available for children. I had to explain that at the present time, little was available short of joining mail SIGs. I have given some thought to adding an occasional activity to our calendar for Young Mensans and children of Mensans. Association with their peers at social functions such as a Pizza Pig Sig or skating party could make membership more fun. I do foresee the need for adults to provide transportation and to act as chaperons. Please call me if you think your child would be interested and/or if you could help.

Speaking of getting the most out of your membership, now is the time when many of us faced with another year of dues question its value. In many areas of the country Mensa offers little as far as social involvement, but I am proud to say that is not the case in Brevard. We do have an active viable group of interesting and diversified people available and willing to enjoy each other's company. What are you missing? The next time you have a free night check our calendar and see if you can join us. You may find that you will not want to miss out again.

Judy Peabody

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As I sit here in front of Quintus, furiously typing in the attempt to meet my own deadline, I'm trying to imagine what the SCAM will look like for the month of April. And I'm not sure. As an economy move (until National funds flow in to fill our coffers) we'll be Xeroxing this, and future, issues. Hopefully, the difference will not be readily apparent.

Also, with SCAM's official birth at the end of March, Mensans in the Space Coast Area will be receiving this publication instead of the FLAME. However, those of you who wish to continue to receive the FLAME have Dikki Jo's personal invitation to subscribe at a very reasonable \$6.00 per year.

Dikki Jo Schneider

HERE'S THE SCAM

The Pig SIG held at Desperados gathered 18 Mensans for Mexican food. The hot dip warmed our stomachs, soothed our souls and helped alleviate the current gas shortage.

The Art Film SIG viewed four films, each one dedicated to a different impressionist artist. Degas, Cezanne, Monet and the American Mary Cassatt were the featured artists.

The Program Night featured Elizabeth Muchow's talk on realizing your full potential thru positive thinking. It was an interesting topic convincingly presented.

The ever popular Sunday Brunch Bunch munched their way thru another outstanding buffet. The nine attendees included new members Giles and Tanya. The conversation covered everything between Scuba diving to obscure erotic literature.

The Bon Voyage party held at Maggi Tschirgi's and hosted by Bob Haley, was an adventure. Fifteen (count 'em, fifteen!) Space Coast Area Mensans made the trek to Orlando to join fifteen Central Florida Mensans for a FANTASTIC Bon Voyage Party. Never has partying been such sweet sorrow. Unofficial hugging contests sprang up, conversation abounded, and the food just kept coming. We will miss CFM, and this party was a loving farewell that will be remembered.

TRIVIA

1. Who first climbed Mount Everest?
2. Who "cracked" Egyptian hieroglyphics?
3. What did Aristotle consider the brain's function?
4. Which two Presidents died on the same day?
5. Who gets credit for the germ theory of disease?
6. Why is a wedding ring worn on the third finger of the left hand?
7. Whence the term 'honeymoon'?
8. Where did the Japanese sign the articles of surrender for World War II?
9. What special contribution did the the Navajos make to the World War II war effort?
10. How old was Nathan Hale at his execution?

1. Sir Edmund Hillary
2. Jean-Francois Champollion
3. An organ for cooling the blood. The seat of intelligence was thought to be the heart.
4. John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, fifty years to the day after signing the Declaration of Independence.
5. Louis Pasteur, who was a chemist, not a physician.
6. The Romans thought the vein in that finger went directly to the heart
7. In Old England, newllyweds would drink mead (fermented honey) for one month (moon) after marriage.
8. In Tokyo Bay, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri
9. Their unwritten language was used as an unbreakable code.
10. Only 21.

SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

APRIL CALENDAR

1st FRIDAY 7:30PM PIG SIG

The Pig Sig for April will be at The Blue Claw Seafood Inn, 5270 North US1, just south of the Pineda Causeway. Dishes range from \$4.95 to \$12.95 (price includes food). Good choice of seafood, and the salad bar features smoked oysters among other things. Call Martha Loss at 453-4718 for more information.

2nd SATURDAY 1:00PM MENSA TEST

The Mensa Test will be given at the Cocoa Beach Library, A1A and Minuteman Causeway. Call Proctor Steve Schnolder for information.

9th SATURDAY 7:00PM EXCONM MEETING

The ExConm meets before this month's Program, at the same place. All M's who abide by the rules of order are welcome to attend.

9th SATURDAY 8:00PM PROGRAM NIGHT

Brevard's premier calendar editor himself will present "The map is not the territory," a slide-show montage of visual and epistemological challenges. Rated G. At the Courtroom adjacent to the Eau Gallie Police Station and parking lot, 1483 Highland Ave., Melbourne. Call Alex Marton for directions. Refreshments will be served. \$2, BYOB.

14th THURSDAY 7:30PM ART FILM SIG

This month's feature is the highly acclaimed "Stroszek," by German director Werner Herzog. It's a "road" comedy about the adventures of three mismatched friends who leave Berlin to look for El Dorado -- in northern Wisconsin, in winter. Meet in the BCC Auditorium, Melbourne Campus, Wickham Road. If you call Alex beforehand, we'll save enough places to sit together.

16th SATURDAY 7:30PM CONTROVERSIAL SIG

Do you have controversial political, religious, or economic views? Would you like an open forum to express them? Meet Baron Elckhoff, our home-grown extremist and former talk-show host of Baron's Forum on WPIO, 89 FM. For thought-provoking verbal exchanges, meet at 1550 Powder Horn Road in the American Village development, Titusville. Call 267-2782 for better directions. Baron will tell you where to go!

17th SUNDAY 11:00AM SUNDAY BRUNCH

We'll give northerners a break again, and return to the Holiday Inn on A1A, Cocoa Beach, about a mile or so south of 520. Meet in lobby if you are early, or in restaurant if you are late. If you don't know anyone, look for people in the 98th percentile. Call Alex if you really need more help.

23rd SATURDAY 8:00PM PARTY NIGHT

Party night this month is at Jim Hooper's place, 111 River Heights Drive, Cocoa. From US1, River Heights Drive is the first street south of the Bennett Causeway (SR 528). Go east to #111; house is on south side. For information, call Jim at 636-1813 (night). \$2, BYOB.

29th FRIDAY

11:59PM

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS SIG

The turnout for Rocky Horror was such a success that I can't resist founding a new SIG. Throw away your Solinox. This time we'll sample either "Mad Max" or "Dawn of the Dead," both first-rate classics that you will want to add to your mental filmography. We'll take a vote at the last minute. Meet Alex and fellow Insomniacs by the theater entrance in the Merritt Square Mall at 1145 PM.

30th SATURDAY

3:00PM

SINGLES BEACH PARTY

This month's singles event will be at Bicentennial Park on AIA, Indian Harbor Beach, about two miles north of the Eau Gallie Causeway. Enjoy junk food and, hopefully, some Spring sunshine. Call Ricki (723-4371) or Rohn (259-2323) for more information. \$2, BYOB.

A MEMBER SPEAKS

By Jim Peabody

Among the large non-predatory mammals on this planet there are three basic systems for survival. One is to grow so large and strong that no predator dare attack. If you happen to be an elephant among men, read no farther.

I would like to discuss the other two most common lines of defense against extinction. The first is to gather into very large non-aggressive herds. In this group we find the animals that are usually portrayed as "nice". Deer, antelope, cows, and others that we think of as cute, or mild mannered. The evolutionary logic behind this behavior is simple: (A) If I am a member of a herd of three hundred such animals and the wolves only eat one of us, the odds are two hundred and ninety-nine to one that it won't be me. (B) If we, as a group, can reproduce faster than the wolves can eat, the group will survive. Since there are still deer left in this world, obviously this system works. The odds against being eaten are really pretty good so long as you survive to the age of maturity.

The other common group contains those animals that are portrayed as mean, vicious, or "ugly". In this group we find animals such as baboons, warthogs, and wild pigs. As you can see, these guys are not likely to be the stars of a Walt Disney flick. They share some things in common with the first group. They do band together in groups for mutual protection. The mainstay of their diet is not other animals. They do reproduce in larger numbers than those animals that are basically predatory. They have, however, one very large difference. Although they don't normally hunt wolves, if forced, they will eat wolf meat. The basic evolutionary logic here is: (A) if we get together in a group we are more dangerous than we are individually and (B) Mr. Wolf, go eat Group One.

The thing that impresses me about Group Two is that, unless driven by severe starvation, Mr. Wolf invariably follows the logic of Group Two. I think the time has come for the non-predatory members of our Society to move from Group One to Group Two. I have no desire to attack anyone, but I am tired of seeing the wolves of the species attack the weaker members with impunity.

REPORT FROM THE BOONDOCKS

To: S2, Esq., Central CABAL*
From: Earthmission #23
Subject: Monthly status #9578

Hall, Subaru-san. Am I glad that vaporiferous predecessor of yours is no more. The Guard Shack in the Outer Perimeter Project is just where he belongs. How long does his contract run? Megaeons, I hope.

After all, I have already done more than I signed up to do. And surely I have done more than the last guy before me. "For lack of a nail, the battle was lost." No, no, wait a minute -- this machine has gone crazy. Vulgarians! They are everywhere. All right, I've reprogrammed -- it should be fine now. About these Vulgarians, can you do anything? They've been around Earthlings so long now they even act like them. How about replacing them with Callipygettes? I could live with that.

Bad as they are, Vulgarians are still basically galactic stuff, constrained by timespace. On the other hand, there is a mutant strain of Earthling that has broken out in the last twenty-five years or so that has me very worried. I delayed reporting this dangerous development in the hope that it was a temporary aberration. I am afraid I was wrong. These mutants have been able to transcend timespace by practicing a highly esoteric religious discipline.

The most advanced of those Earthlings gather in large numbers, usually in a stadium. Their method of worship seems to center around a stage stacked high with sound equipment and extremely large, seismic-grade speakers. The air in the stadium is normally depleted and replaced mostly with a heavy fog whose chemical composition I am still trying to analyze. As the appointed hour approaches, excitement mounts. Often, apprentice priests officiate before the main service begins. They are frequently treated badly by the crowd, which has a very highly-developed critical taste in these things.

When the high priests appear, the crowd goes into a frenzy. The priests wear imaginative disguises that make them look like members of the underprivileged class. In an emergency, this allows them to escape without being recognized. They perform their rituals and incantations with a lot of energy and enthusiasm. Sometimes they become so feverish in their actions that they take their sacramental objects and destroy them right there on the stage. When this happens, a most intimate communion occurs between the priests and the faithful. The crowd ascends into a state of ineffable ecstasy beyond timespace.

I have seen this, Subaru-san, and I tell you, it is a glorious sight. But I am more than an observer here; I am an intelligence agent, and I must report that this emergent faculty in a group of Earthlings is a dangerous omen for our world. I have developed a plan for halting this entire development. Details will be forthcoming in my next report, but I can tell you in the meantime that it involves choking off the supply of electromagnets right at the source. Have I ever told you about Japan?

More later. Alex M signing off.

*Council on Alien Biologies and Linguistics

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MENSA is a non-profit organization whose sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of approved intelligence tests. Local admission tests are administered on the first Saturday on alternate months beginning in February. For more information, contact the SCAM Proctor at 783-8744.

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