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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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TILY 1983

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, Judy is on vacation this month, and she asked me to fill in for her here on our usual page.

I've had an unusual (and very pleasant) experience of late, and I'd like to relate it to you. This past Memorial Day the Tampa Bay group sponsored the Beach Bash Regional Gathering. RG's are strange and delightful animals. Each one has it's own personality, and each one is an experience that should be enjoyed. Serendipity seems to reign supreme. I met Margaret Frazier of Knoxville, who, as an Air Force WAF served at the same base in Thailand I did (but unfortunately, not at the same time). It's been a long, long time since I could talk about what it was like to some one who fully understood what I was speaking about. Another delightful woman was drinking (coffee) out of a coffee mug that had emblazoned on its side:

Some Do, Some Don't, Some Will, Some Won't

When she tipped the mug to take a drink, a motto on the bottom was boldly exposed:

#### I MIGHT

It might have been the mood, the hour, the company or my own innate silliness, but I almost fell on the floor laughing. When I was finally able to compose myself to some semblance of propriety, the woman walked over to me, thrust the drained mug into my trembling hands, and said, "I think you need it. Here, it's yours." She then walked away. I don't remember ever being as touched by an act of kindness as I was at that moment.

RG's seem to epitomize Mensa. An extraordinarily diverse group of people who (at least at the RG itself) got along extremely well despite every difference that could be imagined. I suppose that's why I enjoy the organization as much as I do. It's provided me with delightful conversations I'll always remember, friends whose company I truly enjoy, and even a girlfriend who has actually made life much more pleasant (which has been quite a change of pace).

It's a shame that more Brevard Mensans were not there to enjoy it with me. It was an experience that I wish more of you had been able to enjoy. It was an experience that was the true touchstone of Mensa.

Steve Schneider

## HERE'S THE SCAM

The Pig SIG was convened at Madam Bordello's. The buffet dinner was surprisingly good and very modestly priced. However, being served by a waitress in dancehall underwear was an experience I blush to recall. I found it a little difficult to eat while a wide variety of winsome young women flung their clothes off in my face. However, other members of our party said they had no trouble eating at all.

Mary Anne O'Neill's Program and Party Night was one of the most pleasant and informative of the year. Sue Boyer of the School of Individual Education presented her school's philosophy and educational programs. We were all extraordinarily impressed. Many of our members found elementary school to be little more than physical and intellectual prison. We were thunderstruck to discover actual enlightenment in a recognized school system. In fact, the School of Individual Education's ideas are so good that they will probably never be generally accepted in our lifetime. And that's too bad not only for the students in traditional education programs, but for our nation as well.

The Young M Skating SIG had fun doing kid stuff: skating, attacking pinball machines, listening to weird music, and devouring hot dog after hot dog. Cheryl brought her daughter Christine; Roger and Carol their daughter Christie and friend Brenda; and the bigger kids included RJ, Michele, Pat. Eric. Rohn and Rickie.

(Rickie Wertz sent me this information on the Singles Camping Trip-- would someone please ask her what all this means? I'm in the dark, too! Ed.)

A group of hardy nature lovers breached the Outer Limits west to Yeehaw Junction (Yes, it really exists!) and got away from it all (?) for a weekend of relaxation with Simpson Grey, Pete Fountain (The End Of The Rainbow); Carrie And The Animals (Here Comes The Rain); and Was It The Wild Rice Or Your Blue Eyes That Made Me Come Back For S'more?

Unexpected excitement came our way with Scorp and The Wildfires (You Set My Spud On Fire, But That's The Way-mhmm-mhmm-I Like It!). In fact, the entertainment was too much for some of us who fled to the woods to get away from it some more. Either the sun or racing with the tortoises slowed them down; they were lucky to make it back to camp.

Are we ready for some encores? You bet! After all, we want to solve the Mystery of the Vanished Taxicab and find out if Sweet Armand really was such a baby after all!

#### SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

### JULY CALENDAR

#### 9th SATURDAY

7:30PM

PROGRAM AND PARTY NIGHT



Judy and Jim Peabody are hosting the party this month at 3407 Frankie Lane, Cocoa. The program speaker is Dr. Ross McCluney, a Mensan and principal research scientist at the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cape Canaveral. He has been

studying many of the societal and technological crises facing us at this time, and has discovered some of the reasons why it is often difficult to take effective action to deal with these large-scale problems. Dr. McCluney will share his views by means of a slide presentation that he has developed for this purpose. From I-95, go one



half mile west on SR 520, take Friday Road north (at the corner of the Astros Stadium), left at Frankie Lane into Apollo Trailer Park, go two blocks, it's next to laundry. Call Judy for directions, 632-9310. BYOB, \$2.

16th SATURDAY

8:00PM

PIG SIG

If you found last month's Pig Sig a bit unconventional, Martha has arranged something more traditional this time: the Acropolis Restaurant serves Greek and American entrées ranging from \$4.95 to 10.95 in a cheerful, family-style setting, at 428 US 1, Palm Bay, in the Port Malabar Shopping Center (corner of Port Malabar Blvd.). Reservations are required, so please RSVP to Martha by 12 June, at 453-4718.



16th SUNDAY

11:59PM

MIDNIGHT EXPRESS SIG

I just won't give up. If you don't have too much Ouzo with your dinner, you can join me in another try at the Midnight Movie. I'll have a schedule with me at the Pig Sig, so we'll be making decisions based on factual information, for a change. Like it's pozed to be.

24th SUNDAY

11:00AM

SUNDAY BRUNCH

Everyone should have an IRS refund by this time, and be able to afford traveling first-class again. We'll be at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, A1A, Melbourne. You MUST RSVP to me, Alex, at 727-5434 (day) by 20 June for reservations; this place is VERY busy. Meet in lobby. If you don't know anyone, act strange so we can recognize you. (Never mind, just act normal. We'll recognize you).

#### **NEUTRON BOMB**

Now that I have your attention -- volunteers are still needed to host Party Night; call Judy Peabody for details. In addition, if you know anyone who might be a candidate for program speaker, let me know. Alex, 727-5434.

# A WEEK OF FUN IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Last chance for September trip: forming two groups, one for the week of the 4th and one for the week of the 11th. Total of \$685 covers everything: flight, food, boat, good times, everything. Eight people max. Deposit of \$350 is required by 15 July. Call Alex for details, 727-5434 (day) or leave message on answering machine, 725-9862.

# A MEMBER SPEAKS by Mary Anne O'Neill

Well, I finally attended a Mensa function. I joined Mensa in October 1982 and since then I've been guilty of being one of those "new" members who never attend anything. I've become somewhat of an expert at non-attendance excuses.

"What if there is no one there that shares my interests?"

If one thing makes a Mensa gathering unique it's the diversity of the members. My greatest joy was discovering that each and every member had something to share. Their interests are so varied that there's a wealth of things to talk about.

"What if I do something stupid, like trip over my own feet or spill a drink on the carpet."

Just because we're more intelligent certainly doesn't prevent any of us from doing klutzy things, and just generally being human. But I think you'll find just being with Mensans will bring out the best in you.

"I don't like to attend things alone."

Then don't! Bring a friend, or call another Mensan to go with you. Feel free to call me at 777-2322 and if I'm able to attend we can meet somewhere and go together. If I'm not able to attend I'll help you find someone else to go with.

"The things I'd like to attend are all too far away." or "I don't drive, how do I get there?"

Do what I did. Offer your house as a meeting place or party room. It's a fine way to meet new people on your home ground. Or carpool. Others in your area would like to share a ride, too. If you live on the beaches, call me. You're welcome to ride with me.

Take it from a "new" member. Attending Mensa functions is a definite shot in the arm. I'll be at all I can find the time to attend from now on.

If your personal excuse is not above, do not despair. I can refute any and all. Please call me! I want to meet you!

(Every now and then an editor receives a letter sent straight from heaven. This letter is one of them. I'm quite sure that the members of the ExComm often wonder if their efforts on behalf of Mensa ever bear fruit. A letter such as this makes everything worthwhile. Mensa actually does serve a useful function beyond ego aggrandizement. I'm sure our readers must, at times, tire of hearing your humble editor gently flail at them for failing to attend various functions. Please believe me, it's not that "misery loves company", it's simply that "happiness is not solitary". Mary Anne is not alone. I want to meet you, too! Ed.)

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hello, fellow M's! What I have to say is directed mainly toward the younger M's, but it is not limited solely to them. Rohn Walter and I'have organized and actually pulled off (with considerable success, I might add) the first activity of the Young Mensans SIG. Now, I know that most of you reading this are wondering "What the heck is a Young Mensan?" Well, that is what I'm here to tell you.

If you extract from your bookshelf your trusty lexicon of the English language and look up the word "young", it will probably read as follows:

1. Early in the stages of life or growth.

Not old.

If you fit into either of these categories you are a Young Mensan and are, therefore, welcome in our group.

Our first activity was a skating party at the Galaxy Skating Rink in Melbourne, attended by more than a dozen people. We hope to see even more at our next activity. We're also looking for new ideas. If you have one, please contact the coordinators of the Young Mensans, Eric Peabody (632-9310) or Rohn Walter (252-2323). We would like to hear from you.

Eric Peabody



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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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