

NOVEMBER 1983

SCAM

SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the SCAM will deal with its editorial policy, which remains largely unwritten, but very much in effect. There is a reprint of a joint letter from AMC Chairman Henry Noble and Past Chairmen Gabriel Werba and Charles Fallon on page five. They express the editorial policy of this publication more eloquently than I can. Although many may find it hard to believe, this policy has been tested in the Space Coast Area during the past year.

InterLoc is a national Mensa publication that is sent to all LocSecs, Editors, national SIG coordinators, national Mensa officers and the American Mensa Committee. In the October issue of InterLoc, Linda Kelso (InterLoc Editor) commented on the letter mentioned above. Her ideas also eloquently express your humble editor's policies. Here is her letter:

"Well stated, gentlemen, and I think most Mensans will strongly agree. But a word to the editors. While we can, to whatever degree each of us personally chooses, embrace as peers those who differ in belief, we have a legal and moral responsibility to consider which of these personal beliefs and opinions of members we publish -- render into print for posterity. In the communications field, it is axiomatic that whatever gets printed automatically gains authority. Moreover, our printed materials, from our Bulletin and brochures, right down to our most modest local newsletter, represent Mensa to the public at large. Editors have a responsibility to Mensa and to themselves, personally, to carefully distinguish between that which is simply different or generally unpopular opinion, and that which is just plain emotional bigotry or bias -- and to print the first, if they wish, but eschew the latter.

"An editor's responsibility is to the local group, not the individual member. No matter how scarce the contributions, the editor bears no obligation to print everything received. Further, there is a distinction between editing and censorship. Editing is fact checking, grammar, polishing, condensing, excerpting, and eliminating that which may be inaccurate, libelous or inappropriate. Censoring is just plain refusal to print something because the editor doesn't agree with the writer.

"Finally, the editor must distinguish between that which disagrees with an idea and that which attacks the idea's adherent(s). Reasoned debate about ideas and issues has a welcome place. Attacks, negative comments or emotional bigotry and bias accomplish nothing."

There you are. I couldn't say it any better than Linda. She has put in writing the editorial policy SCAM has followed in the past, and will continue to follow in the future.

Steve Schneider

HERE'S THE SCAM

The PIG SIG at the at the Colosseum Pizza gathered sixteen Mensans for every type of Italian food you can imagine. Don Argo, along with James Earle, were old guard members many had never had the pleasure of meeting. Don is beginning to plan for his annual two week vacation. He traditionally jumps on his motorcycle and travels any interesting highway he can find. That's what I call living! And James Earle had his letter concerning the inequity in the cost of a Mensa life membership, originally published in the SCAM, reprinted in the October issue of InterLoc, the national Mensa publication mentioned earlier. This is the second time that the SCAM has been quoted by InterLoc in recent months. I'd like to remind our readers that even modest Mensa publications such as our own are sent to (and read by) national officers and editors. If you want your voice to be heard, this is a good place to start!

Those attending the Pub Night witnessed a hard-fought dart contest that was completed without injury, either to the participants or the spectators.

The month of November will offer some new and unusual activities, such as Pot Luck Pics at the Cocoa Beach Drafthouse Theater. If you've never seen a movie at the Drafthouse, there is a treat in store for you. This is the way movies should be watched-- feet propped up on a table full of munchies with no fat heads blocking your view. Although the movies are not first run, they are the pick of the crop. And who can complain about \$1.50 for a great movie. Meet in front of the theater 15 minutes before the show.

There will be a most unusual PIG SIG in the month of November. Those who are turkey freaks will think that they have died and gone to heaven. Mary Anne O'Neill will host a PIG SIG that will feature Thanksgiving leftovers. So gather your unpremeditated leftovers, and show up for a feast. Actually, your humble editor will feel right at home. When he was growing up, he never could figure out who was eating all the meals he was getting the leftovers from. As a matter of fact, nothing but leftovers were served for a three year period between 1968 and 1971. You say you're having Thanksgiving with friends and won't have any leftovers? No problem! Cook some up and bring them with you.

And if you're into gourmet brunches, don't miss a return engagement to the Tea Room. Everything is made to order, and definitely worth the wait.

And if you've been reading the Wall Street Journal recently, Mensa has been mentioned. Well, sort of. Actually, under a story titled "Ever Lock Your Keys in Your Car? You May be a Candidate for Densa", our sister group (founded by a retired public relations man) has been receiving some publicity. Well, since Densa exists to offer an alternative to Mensa, and Densa is never mentioned without also mentioning Mensa, I guess we can't complain. At least not too much. If there's a local Densa chapter, maybe we could have a joint meeting. Does anybody know any good Densa jokes?

SPACE COAST AREA MENSA NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- 11th Friday 7:00PM POT LUCK PICS
Here is our newest activity. Let's all meet at the Beach Theater and Drafthouse in Cocoa Beach and view whatever is being shown. We can eat, drink, be merry and put our feet up in comfort. We will watch a "mystery" film (the mystery is that we don't know the title!). Admission is \$1.50 and pizza, sandwiches, munchies, beer and wine, are available.
- 13th Sunday 10:00AM PHOTO SIG
All you interested photographers, including interested beginners, let's get together at Kiwanis Island, Merritt Island, for a photo session. Afterwards, we will join the Brunch Bunch. We will meet in front of the main building, which is West of the tennis courts and near the softball fields. For more information, call Joyce Kirchner at 453-0610.
- 13th Sunday 11:30AM BRUNCH BUNCH
We're going to return to the Tea Room in the La Paz shopping center, 1.2 miles North of SR520 on A1A. We will again feast on the house specialties and gourmet delights. Call Steve Schneider at 783-8744 for more information.
- 26th SATURDAY 7:30PM PIG SIG
OK. Thanksgiving is over, and you have a refrigerator jammed full of leftovers. They tasted great Thursday, and weren't too bad on Friday, but another day is just too much. Well, we've got a solution to your problem. Come on over to Mary Anne O'Neill's house and bring those tasty, interesting (to the rest of us) viands for the rest of us to consume. We may have as many different types of turkey and dressing as there are people contributing. But as the French say, "Vive la difference!" Mary Anne lives at 623 DeSoto Lane, Indian Harbor Beach. Call her at 777-2322 for directions.

A MEMBER SPEAKS

by Henry Noble, Gabriel Werba, Charles Fallon

(This a slight departure from our normal format, but the letter that follows was sent to all local groups and reprinted in both the Bulletin and the InterLoc. It's reprinted here to complete the editorial policy statements found in "A Letter From the Editor". Ed.)

Dear Fellow Mensans:

A recent issue of the Mensa Bulletin carried a letter to the Editor that contained long-discredited anti-Semitic material. Earlier, an unofficial Mensa newsletter also carried a letter that was regarded by many readers as having anti-Semitic undertones. A few local group newsletters have carried material, at times, that could be interpreted as being bigoted.

Constitutionally, we cannot legislate against such writings. To attempt to do so would be contrary to the fundamental policies of Mensa. However, we personally deplore such material and we wish to reaffirm the fact that the American Mensa Committee does not condone or encourage its publication. Such writings are antithetical to the basic character of Mensa-- a character that respects the human spirit in all its facets.

The fact that the only criterion for membership eligibility is the ability to score in the upper two percent on a standardized I.Q. test is, in our opinion, Mensa's greatest strength. It insures that we will have the opportunity to encounter a wide variety of opinions, ideas and philosophies, and thus it enriches us all.

Most Mensa members are willing to embrace as peers those who differ in opinion, belief, and cultural, political, ethnic, religious, or national background. But not all. Mensa has always had, and will always have, a very small minority of members who are socially destructive and constantly obnoxious -- members who are bigots, racists, white supremacists, anti-religionists, anti-Semites, and others with a personal urge to sow hate and dissension.

We regard such destructive and bigoted individuals with the scorn and contempt they deserve. At the same time, we are grateful that of all people on this earth, Mensans, overall, are among the most intellectually curious, the most appreciative of differences, and the most tolerant of others.

(signed)

Henry Schofield Noble
Chairman

(signed)

Gabriel Werba
Past Chairman

(signed)

Charles M. Fallon
Past Chairman

TRIVIA

1. What does the movie title "Quo Vadis" mean?
2. Who discovered King Tut's tomb?
3. What is polyandry?
4. "Come with me to the Kasbah" is an old line-- what is the Kasbah?
5. Is the piano a string or percussion instrument?
6. Who was the second man to set foot on the moon?
7. How would you describe a vulpine woman?
8. What is mayhem?
9. What is a spelunker?
10. The song "Begin the Beguine" is an old favorite. What's a Beguine?
11. An enthusiast is often called a fan. Whence the term?
12. Who fired the first liquid fuel rocket?
13. What two letters are not found on the face of the telephone?
14. What two planets have rings?
15. Which U.S. state had its own monarchy?
16. Who was Norma Jean Baker?
17. What does "Auld Lang Syne" mean?
18. The Northern Lights are the Aurora Borealis. What are the Southern Lights?
19. What happens when you eructate?
20. Does the name "Quasimodo" ring a bell?

1. "Where are you going?"
2. Howard Carter in 1923
3. One woman having many husbands
4. The older, native quarter of Algiers
5. Percussion
6. Buzz Aldrin
7. As foxy!
8. Legally, depriving someone of a part of his body.
9. A cave explorer.
10. A native dance of Martinique
11. A contraction of "fanatic"
12. Robert Goddard in 1926
13. Q and Z
14. Saturn and Neptune
15. Hawaii
16. Marilyn Monroe
17. Scottish for "old long since", or the good old days
18. Aurora Australis
19. You belch
20. It should, he was the hunchback of Notre Dame

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Kulow	3rd
Mary Anne O'Neill	8th
Deane Jordan	10th
Richard Kugel	15th
Stephanie Wright	15th
Carl Watts	18th
Eric Peabody	21st
A. S. Martin	23rd
Elise Welden	27th
Christine Bennett	29th
Scott Slora	30th

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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 of alternate months beginning in February. For more information, contact the SCAM Proctor at 783-8744.

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