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The
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Newsletter

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We will appreciate your submissions **legibly handwritten, typed, in e-mail text, or on 3.5 disk in IBM text or word-processing format.** We can receive your submissions by mail at: **P. O. Box 457, Sharpes FL 32959**, or submit via e-mail to: **morwood@brevard.net**
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Happy October Birthday



- 01-Ronald Kinner
- 01-James Staal
- 04-Frank Camaratta, Jr.
- 05-Mary Artz
- 07-Dylan Marchetti
- 08-Rex Repich
- 09-Philip Devlin
- 13-Jack Galpin, Sr.
- 17-Rudolph Hardick
- 18-Barbara O'Donnell
- 19-Pat Bender
- 21-Lynn Fugate
- 23-Barbara Byrnes
- 31-David Cashman
- 31-Colette Zahm



Welcome to Mensa & SCAM

Christopher Hersey - Vero Beach



**On the
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran
SCAM Editor**

The artwork you see on the cover of this month's SCAM was contributed by Susan Hornak, the 14-year-old daughter of SCAMster Kathy Hornak. I mention this because it is something that needs to be said. If you look around at any social event in SCAM, or almost any Mensa event anywhere, the first thing that may come to mind is the old saying "We ain't getting any younger, you know." And, especially among the active membership, that is the gospel truth. Since I joined in 1992 we have had active members pass away, move away, or just drop out. Unfortunately, they have not been replaced in either number, or youthfulness. It is understandable, since people in their teens and 20's have other things to do than hang out with a bunch of 40-plussers. But it is those in their teens and 20's that we most desperately need, for they are the future of the group, and of Mensa. So when you find a Susan (who is not yet a member, but will be when she decides that she wants to be) treasure her and encourage her to be the intelligent person she (or he) is, without forcing her into any particular mold. Make the youngsters welcome, without conditions. We need them a lot more than they need us.



**Minutes of
the ExComm
Meeting**



**Fran
Hinson,
RecSec**
(bhinson01@
earthlink.net)

On a somewhat different note, you may have noticed that the Minutes of the ExComm Meeting seem to be missing from this issue. That's because there weren't any!

Due to a number of factors, a quorum of the ExComm could not get together in September. This is perfectly acceptable (especially to your Editor, who *HATES* attending meetings of all kinds), since the bylaws of Space Coast Area Mensa only require a meeting once every three months.

The next meeting of the ExComm will be held at 2:00 PM, on the 2nd of October at the home of J.T. and Clara Moran. All members and interested parties are welcome to attend.



**Doug in
Deep(er)**



**Douglas
Paul,
LocSec**

October is on its way, and Broward Mensa is preparing for their RG – Hollywood Beach is the venue this year, and our friends **Dan** and **Robin Rhea** promise to have quite a party ready for all their guests. The last chance to register is now!

Speaking of RGs, SCAM will be holding its 2000 RG in one year, and things have already started to fall into place. We still need volunteers to round out our slate of helpers, so please give **Ellen** a yell and let her know you're ready to jump in.

We skipped the ExComm meeting in September due to schedule conflicts, so on the off chance you had something to present, we'll be meeting again in early October. See the calendar for details.
See you out there.



Broward Mensa's RG - Florange 99!

October 15 thru 17 on Hollywood Beach, FL

For Info contact Dan and Robin Rhea at

florange99@mindspring.com



We've Got...



**The
Answers!**

Doug's Dilemmas

1. D - Chicago, IL
2. E - Mobile, AL
3. B - Nashville, TN
4. C - Milwaukee, WI
5. A - Deerfield, IL

Ellen's Enigmas

1. Naples
2. Margate
3. Leon (County)
4. Rock Springs
5. Melbourne

***A Cat-Tale Rede:
The Assistant
Speaks***



***Clara Woodall-
Moran***
(cew@palmnet.net)

Leave it to the con men of the world to figure out how to use the Y2K problem to their advantage. The old con wherein the pigeon is asked to help catch an embezzler by removing all monies from the bank and giving it to the bank representatives (who quickly disappear) have started using Y2K testing as the reason to withdraw everything to give to the thief. Good grief! As we all are, I am so tired of hearing about Y2K problems. The date 9/9/99 was our first target date for potential shutdowns. Nothing happened. We checked with Bob and it seems that the planet kept right on course.

Another thing that had to the potential for knocking the Earth out of orbit was the fact that SCAM did not hold an ExComm meeting for the month. The bylaws require one meeting per quarter so without a requirement for holding the meeting and scheduling problems to do so, we simply dispensed with the scheduled meeting altogether.

However, on the 12th of September, the stalwart road warriors met for the highway cleanup patrol. Since it was pouring we decided that, as Mensans, we had enough sense to come in out of the rain. We agreed to meet on the next scheduled day and will have to put in sufficient effort to finish both sides at one time.

One of our new members who has become very active managed to change my mind about quitting at the end of the Millennium plan. I had decided to not renew this coming March. The reasons were the new, higher cost of the dues, and a distaste for the politics. Well, this member pointed out that too many of the ones who have been the main supports of the group are leaving at one time. This was hammered home when we had so much trouble getting the newsletters sorted out for mailing. This member felt it was unfair. I agreed and therefore, am announcing that I will stay in at least one more year and will also be willing to serve on the ExComm again (hence, I will again be a candidate).

The Broward group will be holding their RG this month. Please try to attend. They are our sister group, sharing the month of October for the RG, using the odd numbered years and we use the even numbered years.

And, of course, let none of us forget that our very own RG will be arriving next year at this time. It should be a really great time.



Bob-at-Large:

Home (Hapless) sapiens
(40,000 yrs. ago to present)



Fellow Apes Making Monkeys of Themselves

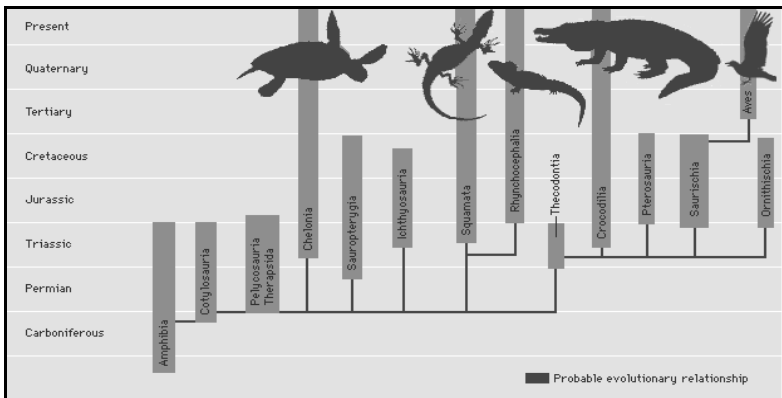
Bob Tuck,
Member-at-
Large

©1999

About half-dozen years ago, I gave a series of talks and workshops on dinosaurs around the county. The times were ripe for the subject, and most of these events, usually held in public libraries or at the now-defunct science store that sponsored me, drew full complements of eager youngsters. Throughout each talk, I outlined dinosaur characteristics and developments during the extant of their documented existence, but carefully avoided using the “E” word. Oh sure, I mentioned that many experts now think that birds really are highly derived living dinosaurs. Still, I mainly stuck with such matters as “the biggest,” “the longest,” “the heaviest,” “the fiercest,” and “the fleetest.” This, the usual kid’s fare, satisfied them and mollified any anxious parents.

At the end of one particular session, however, a serious seven-year-old approached me. She clearly had been pondering my survey of enormous time-spans, changing environments, and ever-more-varied parades of saurian forms. She had a question. A thought had occurred to her. “If,” she asked, “different kinds of dinosaurs kept appearing over time as the earth’s plants and other animals changed, doesn’t that mean that earlier dinosaurs and other animals (she didn’t specifically mention plants) gave rise to new types of dinosaurs and other animals as time went on?”

She didn’t get it from me, at least not directly, but she had put together my general, simple, vague comments concerning dinosaur times, natural history, behavior, and varieties and had come up with her own explanation. She may not have known the “E” word, but

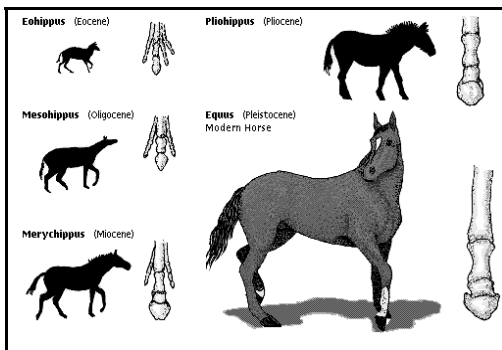


she'd figured out its basic meaning on her own.

For me, this puts into perspective the recent flap over events in Kansas, where the State Board of Education passed new science education standards. Here are excerpts:

“The students will observe the diversity of living things and relate their adaptations to their survival or extinction...”

“Over time, genetic variation acted upon by natural selection has brought variations in populations. This is termed microevolution. A structural characteristic or behavior that helps an organism survive and reproduce in its environment is called an adaptation. When the environment changes and the adaptive characteristics or behaviors are insufficient, the species becomes extinct...”



“As a result of their activities in grades 9-12, all students should develop an understanding of the cell, molecular basis of heredity, biological evolution...”

“The students will understand ... that biologists recognize that the primary mechanisms of genotypic change are natural selection and random genetic drift...” “Natural selection includes the following concepts: 1) Heritable variation exists in every species; 2) some heritable traits are more advantageous to reproduction and/or survival than are others; 3) there is a finite supply of resources required for life; not all progeny survive; 4) individuals with advantageous traits generally survive; 5) the advantageous traits increase in the population through time...”

“Students should develop an understanding of the universe. The origin of the universe remains one of the greatest questions in science. Studies of data regarding fossils, geologic tables (and) cosmological information are encouraged. But standards regarding origins are not mandated.”

In other words, Kansas isn't stifling inquiring young minds and preventing them from discovering ideas and concepts on their own. Kansas's public libraries won't be burned to the ground. The airwaves and Internet will continue to penetrate the Sunflower State. Kids who seek out information will find it. Modern scientific thought isn't necessarily doomed, even in Kansas.

Let's face it. How many of us received instruction about organic evolution in high school? How important would such specific information have been? As long as public schools teach methods of critical inquiry, provide guidance for undertaking additional research, and allow access to resources, motivated youngsters will seek out answers.

Now, a lot of the ongoing debate regarding teaching evolution centers on whether evolution is "just" a theory or a "fact." Foes of evolutionary thought seem to enjoy making "theory" sound like a nasty word. Furthermore, many confuse organic evolution as a concept, or model, that successfully embraces multitudes of facts, observations, and data with theories as to how and why evolution takes place.

First, of course, we need to agree what the word "theory" means. Definitions include "systematically organized knowledge applicable in a relatively wide variety of circumstances, especially a system of assumptions, accepted principles, and rules of procedure devised to analyze, predict, or otherwise explain the nature or behavior of a specified set of phenomena." A theory can be "such knowledge or such a system," or refer to "abstract reasoning; speculation," "a belief that guides action or assists comprehension or judgment," or "an assumption based on limited information or knowledge; a conjecture." As you might suspect, the history of the word goes back to Greek, and "theory" made its way into English through Latin and French. Hence, "Greek, *theorein*, to look at, has derivative *theorema*, a seeing, a sight, an object of study, hence a speculation, hence a theorem: Latin *theorema*, Early French-French *theoreme* and, perhaps independently, English theorem." Also, Greek *theorein* has another derivative, the noun *theoria*, a looking, a seeing, an observing, or a contemplation, hence a speculation. Late Latin gives *theoria*, late Middle French-French *theorie*, whence English theory. The Greek adjective *theorikos* became Late Latin *theoricus*, thus Middle French-French *theorique* and the obsolete English word "*theoric*." The current English adjective, theoretical, is an -al extension of the English theoretic, which, like the French *theoretique*, derives from Late Latin *theoreticus*, a translation of the Greek *theoretikos*, the adjective corresponding to *theorema*. Whereas the obsolete English *theorician* derives from Early French-French *theoricien* (*theorie*+*mathematicien*), theorist is a native English formation (*theory*+*agentialist*).



Now, Charles Darwin (1809-1882) didn't invent organic evolution. The idea had been around among thinking, observant people since at least

the time of Empedocles (ca. 494 B.C.-ca. 432 B.C.?), a Greek philosopher who speculated that, through time, some creatures arose or perished according to their fitness to their environments. By Darwin's time, many naturalists and philosophers already accepted some form of organic evolution in principle, but had no clear-cut data or facts to back their speculations. Studies of plants, or animals, or fossils, or rocks had, over previous generations, led such eighteenth and early nineteenth century science luminaries as Georges Louis Leclerc, comte de Buffon (1707-1788), Darwin's own grandfather Erasmus (1731-1802), Jean Baptiste Pierre Lamarck (1744-1829), and the Scottish geologist Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875) to conclude that life had evolved through time. It was the younger Darwin, however, who labored twenty years to amass data on variations, vestiges (like your appendix and hidden tailbones and horses' cannon bones), and dog breeding, and cattle breeding, and pigeon breeding, and came up with his theory of "natural selection" as the mechanism of evolution. The list goes on, and Darwin would have gone on longer, except, in 1858, Alfred Russel Wallace (1823-1913) sent Darwin a letter from Borneo in which he spelled out (after two days' thought while suffering from malaria) the very same theory of "natural selection" that Darwin had been working on. Wallace had no idea Darwin was onto the same idea; he only wanted Darwin's opinion of his manuscript.

Wallace's letter spurred Darwin to action, and he finally published his *Origin of Species* in 1859. Thanks to Darwin and Wallace, biology



gained an overall model that made comprehensible an enormous welter of data, and allowed room for understanding new discoveries during the past century and a half.

Other all-encompassing models, painstakingly forged, tested, and reworked by scientists, thinkers, and philosophers through the ages have made our universe accessible to study. They give us hope that

Australopithecus
(3-2 million yrs. ago)



we may understand the workings of the world we inhabit. Plate tectonics, a theory of the earth, cannot yet predict particular earthquakes, to be sure. Atomic theory has helped us unleash terrible destruction, but also has given us insights into the innermost operations of matter and the workings of the sun and other stars. Einstein's relativity theory continues to pass cosmological tests, yet one day may be superseded, just as it swallowed

Newton's theory of gravitation. Cosmological theory continually undergoes flux, while the unfortunately named "Big Bang" theory currently abides, and theoretical "black holes" begin taking on guises ever closer to reality as new instruments and a growing army of scientific investigators look deeper into the makeup of the cosmos.

Any number of state school boards can downplay the teaching of these theories. Any number of youngsters can become worthwhile citizens without learning them, or believing them.

Homo erectus
(750,000 yrs. ago)



While the Kansas State Board of Education made its politically driven decision, headlines announced new discoveries of fossil hominids closely related to us and still another early form near the base of our family tree, new finds of liquid water -- the *sine qua non* of life -- trapped within multi-billion-year-old meteorites, and new evidence for flourishing life on earth more than two thousand seven hundred million years ago. Meanwhile, it's already old news that our genetic makeup differs by a mere two percent from other apes. Not even Kansas can change demonstrable facts.

Homo (sapiens) sapiens
(100,000-40,000 yrs. ago)



The real danger lies not in failing actively to teach such concepts, since questing minds will seek them out elsewhere, but in suppressing such ideas and punishing those who would dare to consider them valid working models of reality.

A mere four hundred years have passed since Giordano Bruno (1548-1600) died at the stake for believing that space is infinite, that other worlds are inhabited, that the earth moves, and that matter consists of atoms. It took the Inquisition seven years to condemn him to being burned alive. How quickly will today's irrational elements decide it's time to dispense with what they consider unpleasant ideas and odious theories-- and with those daring to utter them?



***A View
from the Right:***

***Sed Quis
Custodiet Ipsos
Custodes?****

by


***J.T. Moran
(buckmaster***

@juno.com)

Attorney General Janet Reno has vowed that she will “get to the bottom” about the use of flammable tear gas grenades during the siege of the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas in 1993. Sure she will.

What gives anyone the idea that this investigation will prove any more fruitful than the others undertaken by the “Law Enforcement” agencies of the Clinton administration, especially the “Justice” Department? I would hope that everyone will remember the solid results that were NOT obtained in the investigation of

Vince Foster’s “suicide”. Remember? No bullet found; no dirt on the soles of shoes after supposedly walking down a dirt path; the weapon still in his hand (how television *that* is) and best of all, no suicide note found... until later, in a briefcase already searched twice by police investigators. A typed note, torn to pieces, and the only piece missing was the piece with his signature. And when the police wanted to search his office, they were denied entrance by Clinton staffers, until so-called “sensitive” files were removed. Possible evidence was removed from the office of a “suicide” victim. Anyone with two eyes open and three brain cells working would have alarms of suspicion going off in their skulls, but it was declared a suicide even before the investigation was completed.



Then there was the White House travel office (Travelgate) firings. Harry Thomason, a Clinton friend and associate, allegedly sought the firings after Travel Office employees rejected his plan to get the White House's charter business for a company he partly owned. Thomason raised allegations, which later proved unfounded, that Travel Office employees were seeking kickbacks. Charges were trumped up against the staff doing the job and they were summarily fired. Criminal charges were filed, charges that it took an honest judge less than five minutes to exonerate the accused of. Who replaced these innocent folk? Well, the initial new head of the Office was a relation of the Prez. On the day of the firings, Catherine Cornelius, 25, a distant Clinton cousin, was put in charge of the office. According to press reports, Cornelius had written a memo proposing the White House dismiss the employees and put her in charge of the operation. An investigation was launched after Congress decided to look into it. Testimony and internal memos were produced pointing a neon arrow at Hillary Clinton as

October 1999 Calendar of SCAM Events

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call. *S-Smoking; NS- No Smoking; SS-Separate Smoking Area; P-Pets in the home; NP-No Pets present; BYO-Bring Your Own: _Snacks, _Drinks, _Everything.*

1st Friday **6:30 p.m.** **Firearms & Fried Rice**
\$3.00 + Meal Cost **S/NP**

Fire off a few rounds; have a bowl of fried rice. Come join us at The Gun Site Range, 125 S. Banana River Dr., Merritt Island
 J.T. Moran

2nd Saturday **2:00 p.m.** **ExComm Meeting**
Free **SS/SP (Cats)**

The Executive committee will be meeting this afternoon. Members and interested friends are encouraged to attend.
 Doug Paul (LocSec)
 J.T. and Clara Moran (Hosts)

2nd Saturday **5:00 p.m.** **Party/Games Night**
\$3.00 **SS/SP (Cats)**

After the ExComm meeting, J.T. and Clara are having a Party/Games Night at their home. So even if you aren't interested in the business side of SCAM, come check out the fun social side.
 J.T. and Clara Moran

4th Monday **7:00 p.m.** **C.A.B.A.G.E. North**
Free **SS/NP**

Treat yourself! Coffee, games, books, at Barnes & Noble, Merritt Island.
 Doug & Ellen Paul

6th Wednesday **6:30 p.m.** **Woebegone Wednesday**
Meal Cost **SS/NP**

Vinnie's Italian Restaurant at 2137 N. Courtenay Parkway, Merritt Island, is being terrorized... er, I mean "visited" by us once again. Come on by and enjoy the demol... um, dining.
 Wynn Rostek

9th Saturday **7:30 p.m.** **Games Night**
\$3.00 **SS/NP**

George is opening his new house for a Games Night. Let's all go over and help him celebrate his mortgage. Take a dip in the pool, too!
 George Patterson

10th Sunday Newsletter & Calendar Deadline
Call Jon, 635-8581 to schedule an event; see page 3 for NL submission information

13th 7:00 p.m. C.A.B.A.G.E. South
Wednesday Free SS/NP

Treat yourself! Coffee, books, games, at Books-a-Million, Melbourne.
Doug & Ellen Paul

15th, 16th, and 17th 7:00 p.m. Florange '99
Fri, Sat, & Sun

Broward Mensa's last RG of the Millenium. This is our sister group and they really support our Gatherings, so let's show our support for them. For contact info see the ad on page 5 or contact Merrell Fortner, mini@mindless.com

18th 7:00 p.m. C.A.B.A.G.E. North
Monday Free SS/NP

Treat yourself! Coffee, games, books, at Books-A-Million, Merritt Island.
Doug & Ellen Paul

24th 11:00 a.m. Brunch with Jim
Sunday Meal Cost SS/NP

Jim's going to be continuing the Sunday brunch at The Colossus, 380 N. Wickham Rd., with one little change ... you MUST be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you won't sit with us. We can't save any seats for latecomers.
Jim Trammell

26th Tuesday RSVP for Friday's Dinner

Please let Pat and Rita know if you will be attending, as the Caf e is small and will need to hire on extra help if the crowd will be big enough.
Pat and Rita Aronna

27th 7:00 p.m. C.A.B.A.G.E. South
Wednesday Free SS/NP

Treat yourself! Coffee, books, games, at Barnes & Noble, Melbourne.
Doug & Ellen Paul

29th 6:30 p.m. Friday Dinner
Friday Meal Cost SS/NP

Shakiba's Caf e at 2955 Pineda Causeway (corner of Wickham & Pineda) is a small restaurant whose chef has more than 24 years experience in Perssian, French, & Italian cuisine. Fine dining at its best. RSVP by Tuesday required.
Pat and Rita Aronna

30th 6:30 p.m. S.N.O.R.T.
Saturday Meal Cost SS/NP

We're back to our favorite restaurant for the best in Sushi, Sashimi, Tempura and Teriyaki. Join us at Miyakos Restaurant at 1511 S. Harbor City Boulevard (US-1), Melbourne.
J.T. Moran



the person who ordered the firings. She herself says she expressed concern about allegations of mismanagement in the office but never ordered the firings. She said aides may have misinterpreted her comments. I sincerely doubt that Mrs. Clinton permits *ANY* misunderstanding of her desires among her subordinates. David Watkins, the White House chief of administration, who actually fired the staff, told a House committee that Hillary Clinton didn't directly order the firings but pressured him to take the action. "Did I feel pressure? Yes, I did."

Follow the bouncing ball to Filegate. Or should it be the *Bouncer* ball? Craig Livingstone, a former restaurant bouncer, is placed in charge of White House personnel security access and calls up the confidential FBI files on over 900 Republicans, including former members of Congress and Cabinet members. The official reason (at first) was that the clearances for these people needed to be reviewed to see how much access they would be permitted in the White House. Further on down the line it became clearer and clearer that these files were an information gathering for somewhat more nefarious reasons... a political "hit" list. Of course, the Big Cheese himself called it an "honest bureaucratic snafu." White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum, Livingstone's boss, said he had not known underlings had used preprinted forms with his name on them to ask for the files. During the Congressional hearings, Livingstone testified that he had not known that an aide he had hired was requesting the files. The aide, Anthony Marceca, later claimed he didn't know he was working from an outdated list. Marceca appeared before a congressional committee on June 18, 1996, but pleaded Fifth Amendment rights against self-incrimination. The (supposed) head of the operation had no experience in security operations. Nor did his aide. Strangely enough, nobody knew who hired him, much less why. After much investigation by the Justice Dept., it was again suggested that Vince Foster had been the authorizing individual. Gee, I wonder why his name came up again? *ESPECIALLY* since news reports, a former White House FBI agent, and the diaries of the mistress of Bill Clinton's close friend and counsel, Dick Morris, all showed that "Hillary wanted him" (Livingstone).



For another piece of Clinton legerdemain, we need look no further than the mysterious case of the Rose Law Firm records. Missing for two years after being requested by Congress, The records were found by Caroline Huber, a White House aide and a former

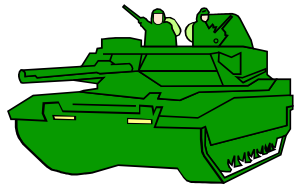
office manager at Rose Law Firm, who testified before the Senate Whitewater Committee she found the records lying on a table in the Book Room of the White House residential quarters in August 1995. Strangely, her fingerprints were *NOT* among those found by FBI experts. No serious investigation was ever undertaken of just how these records suddenly appeared in the residential quarters of the White House, without being seen by some of the most alert and dedicated security agents in the world, the Secret Service, all of whom are trained to be observant.

Of course, no compilation would be complete without the noting of the events at Ruby Ridge. The B.A.T.F. (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms), in an attempt to infiltrate a white supremacist group, repeatedly badgered Randy Weaver about selling them illegal weaponry. After numerous refusals, he finally did sell them TWO illegal, sawed-off, shotguns. WOW! What an arsenal! They then attempted to coerce him into cooperating, but he refused. So it eventually came down to the 1992 Siege, where Four hundred armed federal agents armed with automatic weapons, sniper rifles and night vision scopes conducted an assault of the Weavers' mountain home. During the Siege, a federal agent shot and killed the Weaver's dog. Randy Weaver's son shot at the agent responsible, went down the hill, picked up his pet, and was shot from behind as he made his way back to the cabin. Later in the siege, a trained FBI sniper, Lon Horiuchi, assassinated Vicki Weaver as she stood in the doorway, holding their 10-month-old baby. Although the feds later claimed Vicki Weaver's killing was an accident, the New York Times reported in 1993 that an internal FBI report justified the killing by saying she put herself in danger. After all was said and done, in a 1993 trial, Randy Weaver was found innocent of weapons and murder charges. Weaver was found guilty of not appearing in court on the original charges. The Justice Department's own report recommended criminal prosecution of the federal agents; none were convicted of anything serious, yet the surviving Weavers won \$3.1 million in civil damages.

So, now we revisit Waco, where over 80 American citizens, men, women, and children, died because "law enforcement" wanted a televised event, so they attempted to arrest David Koresh, leader of the Waco Branch Davidians sect, at his fortified compound, even though they were aware that he had been warned of their coming, and even though they could easily have arrested him in town on numerous occasions. They instead began a 51 day siege of the compound which ended in the tragedy. All this for an affida-

vit that mentioned only one weapons violation, that it is illegal to supply an alien with a firearm. New revelations from FBI agents who were at the scene have cast doubts (once again) on the veracity of the statements made by the government at the time. So, now Attorney General Janet “I am responsible” Reno is appalled. Bill “That depends on what the meaning of the word “is”, is” Clinton is appalled that the FBI might have lied. And Louis “I wasn’t even in the FBI then” Freeh is the obvious scapegoat whose only possible guilt is: that he didn’t know. Even though he did not become FBI director until 5 months after Waco, he will be held responsible. Not Janet Reno (who said she was – then) or Bill Clinton (who never is). Nope, those two need a scapegoat and Mr. Freeh now-Director of the FBI, is it. Or soon will be.

However, something that should concern all American citizens, no matter their race, creed, color, national origin, gender, political affiliation or sexual alignment, is the possible use of the United States Armed Forces against American citizens on American soil.



The Pentagon’s Delta Force was on the scene of the massacre. Military equipment was utilized against the Branch Davidians inside the compound, and it was not limited to the now-revealed tear-gas canisters. Why should this worry anyone? Well, just look around the world. The usual cause of a government’s downfall is from within, via a military coup. The *Posse Comitatus Act* of 1878 prohibits the use of the Armed Forces to act as policemen on American soil except through the direction of the Congress. This is wise, for the trouble *always* begins when the military becomes involved with politics or is used as a political tool on the home front.

The sands of democracy are running out of the hourglass known as the United States. When the agencies charged with the protection of the rights and lives of American citizens, *ALL* American citizens, can ignore the laws that give them the authority to do so, then freedom is in trouble. Janet Reno is the *NATION*’s lawyer, not Bill Clinton’s. Yet she has been almost motherly in her efforts to look out for *HIS* interests before the *PUBLIC*’s. Do not all dictatorships start with the subordination of the military and law enforcement? These are the people empowered to watch over our rights and our safety.

However, the question posed in the title of this article remains unanswered... *who will watch the watchers?



**Signifying
Nothing:**

2% Dog

By

Ivan

Gottasecret

All day long, I am astounded by the contrasts in my two dogs.

Sleep:

Dumb dog: While they're asleep I'll hop on the bed.

Smart dog: While they're asleep I'll hop on the bed and inch my way up between them until I have all the pillows, most of the blanket, and my butt in her face.

The Morning Walk:

Dumb dog: I wonder if we'll stop by the hydrant.

Smart dog: Look, a butterfly. A cricket. A feather. Wait, is that a gum wrapper? Hold on tight, I see a squirrel!

Sit:

Dumb dog: What?

Smart dog: In a minute.

Unattended Daytime Activities:

Dumb dog: I think I'll sleep in the sunny spot on the bed

Smart dog: I wonder if the inside of the blue sofa is the same as the inside of the green chair.

The Afternoon Greeting:

Dumb dog: Wag, Wag, Wag, I'm glad you're home.

Smart dog: Wag, Wag, Wag, look how high up I am when I stand on the kitchen table.

Bath:

Dumb dog: You'll be just as wet as me when I am done shaking.

Smart dog: I'll just dash to the Persian rug to shake.

Table manners:

Dumb dog: Mikey, can I have a bit of carrot?

Smart dog: First, I'll pee on the rug to distract them. While they're cleaning it up, I'll nab the pot roast.

Treats:

Dumb dog: If I roll over and play dead they give me a Milk Bone.

Smart dog: I can't believe they threw away six perfectly good eggshells.

Behavior with House Guests:

Dumb dog: What are you staring at? If you could do this you'd never leave the house.

Smart dog: Look what I found in the cat box.



RVC Update

By

***Ike Kullman
RVC 5***

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com***

I have promised myself that I will get this column written in time for the October deadlines, but there is little new in the region to report. There is an AMC meeting September 18th, and I should have some news following that, which I'll get to all of you as soon as I can.

The annual MERF scholarship program is underway, and many groups have indicated that they will participate. This is a good way to get your group in the news locally, as MERF awards the scholarships, but the local group does the initial publicity and selections. My thanks to all of you who are helping with this.

National Testing Day is another hot project, which benefits local groups, by bringing in potential members. If your group doesn't have a proctor, you need one. The requirements are: The candidate must be a college graduate, and have experience in timed testing. If you meet the first requirement, you can be trained to administer tests by an experienced proctor. But, since you don't have one, you need to borrow one from a neighboring group to get you started. This is a good reason to foster friendship with your Mensa neighbors. So far, twenty-three of our thirty groups have signed up for NTD. Thanks.

Last, but not least, I mentioned earlier this year that some groups don't have the required three officers. This is a requirement of American Mensa, and must be adhered to, or the group can lose funding from AML. I know from personal experience that being a local officer takes very little time and work. The problem is, that the same few people in most smaller groups, do all the work and just get tired. If your group has one or two names listed in the newsletter under officers, or you don't have a newsletter, maybe you could make a critical difference in your group.

As I have said in the past, I am open to suggestions and comments from all members. If you have something to tell me, please do. I can't promise to give everyone everything they want, but I can take the information to the AMC for discussion. There are a few things that I can change myself, and I look at every suggestion.

Remember the Broward Mensa and Mensa in Georgia Regional Gatherings, both October 15-17. These are a good chance to meet other Mensans and have a great time.



**Gourmet's
Guide:**

**Beef
Stroganoff**

by

Arthur

Belefant

(a.belefant@
ieee.org)

Many restaurants, particularly in Europe, serve what is getting to be known as Continental or International cuisine. That means they serve food of no particular national character. The dishes served originated in many countries but have become so well known outside of their places of origin that they can no longer be considered local specialties. Usually in English language menus the names of the dishes are presented in a pseudo-French fashion by putting the adjective after the noun and mixing languages. Sometimes the languages are corrupted. A common example is "roast beef with au jus". "Au jus" means "with gravy" so the complete menu item becomes "roast beef with with gravy". This type of nomenclature is supposed to turn the dish into French or exotic food. These names abound with denominations such as: pie a la mode, chicken Kievski, spaghetti Milanese, chicken a la king, and other mixtures of English, French and other languages.

One of the best known of these linguistic and culinary combinations is Beef Stroganoff, a supposedly Russian dish. Everyone everywhere seems to know of the dish, and its origins are claimed by many, but my research has led to no definite source. However, it is a popular dish and one that is easy to make.

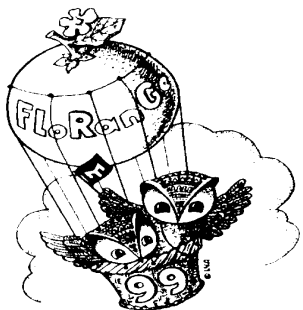
Sauté three chopped onions in about a quarter cup of oil. When the onions are soft add two pounds of round steak sliced very thin and continue sautéing. Add a cup of fresh mushrooms and two-thirds of a six-ounce can of tomato paste after the meat has been browned. Then add a teaspoon of caraway seed and a cup of sour cream, butter-milk, or yogurt and simmer for an hour or longer. Add water as needed.

This can be served over rice, noodles, mashed potatoes, or if you want to keep the Russian theme, buckwheat. Buckwheat is a grain that grows best in the harsh cold climate of north central Europe and the U. S. It is not well known here except as an additive to certain pancake mixes. It has a more robust flavor than wheat and therefore does perk up the usually bland pancakes. As a grain to accompany meat, buckwheat makes a difference worth trying. In the U. S., buckwheat is sold as fine ground, coarse, or as groats (whole). I find that the fine ground tends to become mushy when cooked, though it may appeal to those who like mashed potatoes. The texture is somewhat similar. I prefer the groats, where each grain stands by itself and can best be compared to rice in texture. The Russian name is kasha.

To make kasha, first sauté some chopped onions in a little oil or fat. Add the buckwheat groats when the onions are soft, but not yet brown. Continue browning the onions and buckwheat a few more minutes. Then add some stock, chicken is my favorite, and let the buckwheat absorb the liquid over a low heat.



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***On The Road
with Ann and
Dennis
Schindler:***



***This Wasn't a
Ticket to Ride!***

Dennis and I vacation each summer in Denver. We plan various activities, like last years adventures with Rocky Mountain Oysters (see SCAM October 1998). This year we planned to drive to the top of Pikes Peak, visit NORAD, tour Denver Botanical Gardens, and visit the State Capitol. We even planned a visit to another restaurant that serves Rocky Mountain Oysters.

I would like to relate one incident from our recent vacation. Our choice of which rental car agency to use is determined by the suggestion of our travel agency and the current advertised rental prices. The result is that over the years we have dealt with a variety of rental companies, but we have never had an experience such as the one we had this year. Dollar Rent-A-Car was our choice this year.

We flew into Colorado Springs on August 13 and called Dollar to let them know that we had arrived. We were picked up by the shuttle bus and taken to the agency where we signed our rental contract. We were told that our wait would be about 10 minutes while the car was made ready and brought to us. After about a half hour, the car arrived. We were surprised to see that our "full-sized car" was a 4 cylinder Daewoo. We were told that the Daewoo is their full-sized car.

Our vacation days were full and carefully planned. On August 19 we set out for a full day of sightseeing in Denver. We first went to the Denver Firefighters Museum, parking in front of the building and putting 3 quarters into the parking meter for 45 minutes. We knew exactly when we needed to return to the car to avoid an expired parking meter. When we returned to the car, 38 minutes later, there was an



envelope on our windshield. We were quite upset at seeing that the envelope read "Parking Ticket" as we had 7 minutes left on the meter. We desired to have a witness, so went back into the museum to ask the female attendant to come out to see the meter. She then directed us to the City County building, about 2 blocks away, to resolve the issuance of the undeserved ticket. We put another dollar in quarters into the meter and walked the 2 blocks. When we arrived,

we found that the correct place to go for Parking Tickets was about 8 blocks in the opposite direction. We went back to the meter and put in another 6 quarters and set out again. We found the correct build-

ing, went to the 7th floor, took a number, and waited for our number to be called, all the time worrying about the time left on the parking meter. After 30 minutes, just as we were discussing which of us would walk back to the car to put in more money, our number was called. We related to the Traffic Mediator that 7 minutes remained on our parking meter and we had a witness. She looked at our ticket and told us that if we had taken a careful look at the ticket, we would have seen that the ticket was for an *expired license plate*. We could not have been more shocked. Never have we ever been given a rental car with an expired plate. Not only that, but the plate had expired about a week before we rented it. We told the lady that the car was a rental. She explained that the ticket is written to the car, not to the driver. She suggested that we give the ticket to the rental agency and have them give us a different car as soon as possible as we probably would continue to be ticketed. We walked back to the car, put more money into the meter, and went back into the museum to use their phone to call Dollar on their 800 number. Dennis spoke with a Dollar employee and explained our situation. He then transferred Dennis to a lady in Colorado Springs. Dennis was told that the company would take care of the ticket, but that we would have to bring to car to Colorado Springs for exchange. My husband became upset at the absurd request to drive such a long way with an unlicensed car, and he asked why an exchange could not be done in Denver. We found out that the rental office in Colorado Springs is not a corporate office and we were told the Denver office could not handle the problem for us. Dennis said our returning the car to Colorado Springs was not acceptable, as he was not driving an unlicensed car that distance. He said the problem was caused by incompetence on the part of a Dollar employee. He also stated that we were on vacation and our plans for the day were rapidly disintegrating. With almost 2 hours spent on the ticket problem so far, he insisted that the problem be solved immediately and wanted to know how the company was planning to compensate us for our time. The lady offered to discount our total rental price by 15%. She also changed her mind and said that she would arrange for the car exchange to occur in Denver after all. The only rental office in Denver, however, is at Denver International Airport, which is not in Denver. By the time we arrived at the airport, an hour drive from where we started, we were even more upset, and anxious to see how the problem would be solved. A gentleman named Keith Johnson greeted us. He was professional, effective, and even used well-placed humor to dispel our anger. He quickly had the problem solved



and the paperwork completed. He has the ability to be in Public Relations and we feel he was an excellent employee. We left in a much better mood only because of the actions and manner of this one man.

The second car, a Plymouth Breeze, was nicer than the Daewoo. It had a larger 4-cylinder engine, the interior was nicer, and it rode more smoothly. Upon our return to Colorado Springs on August 22, we were indeed given the 15% discount as promised, and an apology.

Dollar Rent-A-Car has given us a vacation story we will not forget. I have learned that a pre-rental vehicle inspection should include a look at the license plate, along with a check on the condition of the automobile's body.



What Goes Around...



***Wynn Rostek,
Circulation
Chief***

It was a dark and stormy night. Suddenly a dog shot out. I knew I'd have to solve this one fast because I was going to be the prime suspect. It was my dog, and someone was trying to frame me.

I eliminated the Fortners right away, both of them had been in the driveway, and nobody's arms are that long. I knew it wasn't me or Val, we both have had Dog training recently, and would never point a loaded dog at anyone, especially that dog.

Kathy, Susan, and Helen claimed to be inside at the table, knee deep in FS&L at the time. They sounded kinda suspicious to me, but Val insisted she had been watching them the whole time.

I immediately thought of Doug and Ellen. They were known to have handled this particular dog on many occasions, and their prints would be all over her, but they had lots of witnesses to testify that the prints had been placed there earlier. It was the perfect alibi. I had almost wrapped up the case when Val pointed out that everyone had seen them sitting in the living room the whole time.

Jim Trammel was unlikely to have been the culprit; I had seen him in the living room while I was there, and he didn't pass me on the way, so he had to have been behind me the whole time. This narrowed the list of suspects. Peg claimed to have "not arrived yet," but she couldn't find anyone willing to testify to that.

Just as I was about to reveal the guilty party, a wild card entered the equation. It turns out that JT had been in the kitchen the whole time. I should have known it from the start. The editor did it.



**Quirky
Definitions:**



**Ellen's
Baffling
Brain-Buster**

by
Ellen Paul

This quiz will test your ability to think about words and their definitions in a manner different from that which you usually do. Below you will find five items that, when each portion is redefined, will produce an entirely different word. The / designates each portion of the new word to be formed. An example is “**prisoner/portion of land.**” The answer is “*contract*” as a prisoner can also be called a *con*, and a portion of land is also known as a *tract*. To add a bit of local interest the answers are all Florida place-names.

Got it? Good. Try your hand at these:

1. siesta/ ____ Mis
2. scar/ Water ____ complex
3. French article/ atop
4. music variety/ pounces
5. Gibson/ carried

(The answers will be found on Page 5)



**Where Do I
Go To
Complain?**



by
Doug Paul

Oh, my... Doug's not feeling at all like himself. In fact, he is feeling downright “il”, because all of his complaints this month go to a place that has those two letters in the address.

But, let's see if you can help him feel a little bit better by matching the company with its corporate headquarters city.

- 1) Sara Lee
- 2) Ruby Tuesday's
- 3) Service Merchandise
- 4) Midwest Express
- 5) Walgreens

- A) Deerfield, IL
- B) Nashville, TN
- C) Milwaukee, WI
- D) Chicago, IL
- E) Mobile, AL

(The answers will be found on Page 5)

