



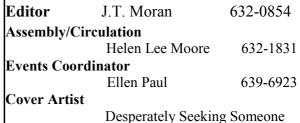
# IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO VOTE!

Volume 20, No. 5

May, 2002







Proofreader

The Crew Askew 632-1831

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@cfl.rr.com** Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

Happy May Birthday

- 02 Jean Marshall 17 - Douglas Dial 02 - James Pickett 17 - Nicole Smith 03 – Brian Conway 18 - Donald Elmore 04 - Adele Dace 19 - Kate Johannsen 04 - George Waters 19 - Mike Mathews 23 - Harold Crawford 06 - Barry Ebert 06 – Jeff Welch 23 - Kenneth Dimond 07 – Kenneth Kline 25 - Aimee Bergquist 09 – J. Douglas Raugh 25 – William Neill 12 – John McKeown 25 – James Stewart 12 - Martin Vanoy 27 - Karen Freiberg 17 – Parnag Adamian
  - 29 Donna Crowder
    - 30 Francis Stump

Welcome to Mensa and SCAM James Conklin – Palm Bay Matthew Diunizio – Merritt Island Anne Marie Trese – Merritt Island Welcome to SCAM David Meier - Melbourne Welcome Back to SCAM Robert Gray – Palm Bay William Gray – Indian Harbor Beach Betty Valentine – Merritt Island





It's been one of those months. You know the kind...

D not one where nothing goes right (I can live with that!) but where it is a roller coaster ride. Nothing but highs and lows.

Due to staffing at work, I never knew one week to the next what my schedule would be. So I couldn't plan ahead. That included for our Venison feast (if you missed Art's superb goulash, and Clara's fry meat, you missed a real treat) but happily, I could be there. We even had the house ready before people started to arrive!

**SCAM Editor** Much of the rest of my "other" (non-Mensa) life went that way. And, for a while, so did my Editorial life. At first, this looked to be a light issue, even if you bear in mind

that election issues are rarely small. Submissions were light, and those I received were of the difficult variety (about X plus 2/3 of a page - too big for font manipulation, too small for padding out with clipart.) But at the last minute, things became brighter.

I received an article from the Master of the Stars, Bob Tuck, and it fit easily into two pages! (However, if he had sent 7 pages, I would have made it fit!) I also received offers from Michael Moakley (to be published next month) as well as news that I now have available articles by young Mensan Sam Miorelli and Susan Thomas, both columnists for the *Florida Today* "Verge" section. You may also recognize Susan from her *SCAM* covers in past issues.

Ken Thornton-Smith returns with more high-carbohydrate adventures of our favorite Pasta Detective, and has sent two more for future issues! Perhaps he will work in my favorite Roman Emperor (Gluteus Maximus) as a character or restaurant in a future tale of saucy intrigue.

Even the campaign statements of the announced candidates formatted out to two pages without any nudging from me. Now that's a miracle!

So, in a nutshell, in a matter of hours I went from being concerned about a small issue to having so much material that I had to let my *View from the Right* column have a month off (it will return, however, so keep the applause down.) Ah, the lament of the over-submissioned Editor!

By the time you read this column the Mensa Publications Recognition Committee should have announced the nominees for this year's newsletter competition. It will be hard to match last year's eight nominations, but I submitted what I considered to be the three best consecutive issues of 2001, and I have high hopes for our prospects.

And in the center of this issue you will find the official ballot for this year's ExComm vote. Please follow the instructions exactly - any deviation can cause your vote to be rejected. Cast your ballot at the Moran home on May 4th and party for free!







J t's about time! I now have a completely working computer again. And, does this baby hum! It's an E-Machines, with a 1.2 Gig processor, 256 Mb of SDRAM, 40 Gb hard drive, and a 56K, V92 modem. I don't like paying the excessive costs for Roadrunner at this time. Perhaps if I hit the Lotto, then I'll think about it. For those of you who are still trying to get to me via my old email address, there has been a bit of a problem. I now have CompuServe 6.0 because I couldn't get the old 4.0 installed; I also have a new e-mail address and have no access to the old messages. Can you believe it. Compu-

Serve can't forward my messages from my old account to my new account? Anyway, my new address is: *jswcharger73@cs.com*. If you get a bounce-back then try a capitol "J", it should work then. Apparently, it sometimes works either way. Don't ask me, I didn't write this mess, I just use it.



Now for the official business, we have SCAM elections coming up in the near future, and we need to vote for a new ExComm. We on the Ex-Comm do the paperwork and such for the group, and your duty to us is to vote. It's not asking a lot, but we do require someone (preferably everybody) to vote for a new ExComm.

Now for some personal stuff. My 1973 Charger is in about a thousand parts right now, the engine is at my mechanic's shop for a complete rebuild, the body is at a paint & body shop for a complete rust repair, dent repair and paint. I have several hundred parts in my shop and house, being sand-blasted and re-painted, and ready for reassembly. I hope to have it ready by the end of May/early June. You can see it then at various functions.

Has anyone out there ever gone to any type of car races? Not the parking lot type of auto crossing, but the professional racing. In March I went to Gainesville to the Gatornationals Drag Races for the second time. It's about cars, very fast cars, noise, speed, people, and having a good time.



Imagine a type of car that can accelerate to 300 mph in a quarter of a mile! It takes an engine that produces almost 8,000 horsepower! To give you an idea of how much that is, the NASCAR racing cars only produce about 600 – 750 hp. But, they run for hours at a time,

whereas, the NHRA Top Fuel and Funny Cars only run at full throttle for about 4 seconds. And many of them blow up! As I said, for the spectators, if you like that kind of racing, it's a lot of fun. Also, I'm going back next year.

#### Minutes of the ExComm Meeting



pril meeting called to order: April 7, 2002 at 15:04. Clara Woodall-Moran hosting. Members present: All; 1 guest: Pat Aronna Minutes of the previous meeting, approved as published: **Moved**: Jon, **seconded**: Bob. Vote: Jon, Rita, Bob and Clara: **Ave**; Helen: **abstained**.

## Officer Reports

Clara Woodall-Moran, RecSec

LocSec: No Report. Asst. LocSec: No Report. RecSec: No Report.

Member-at-Large: No Report. Treasurer: Helen presented printed treasurer's report.

## Committees / Volunteers

Bylaws: No Report. Editor/Web: No Report.

Membership: No Report.

**Publicity**: No Report.

**SIGHT**: No Report.

Ways/Means: No Report.

**NomElCom**: No report sent

**RG**: Things are progressing slowly. Problem with the hotel reservations via the 1-800 number seems to be okay now. Tentatively Suzanne Leichtling has agreed to run the tournament games and Doug Starke has agreed to run the programs.

**Scholarship**: Report read in its entirety. MERF regional materials have been submitted. Ellen is gearing up for the next round for the SCAM scholarship essays.

**SIG**: A games night will be set on the May calendar with an emphasis on chess for those interested in restarting the chess SIG or other SIG including any book SIGs.

**Testing**: We are still getting one and two folks each month so it is still worth the effort to hold monthly testing sessions.

# Old Business

Audit Committee membership – one tentative yes (Debbie Saltzberg). Agreed to have an email vote on full membership for this committee when the committee is filled.

### New Business: None

**Next Meeting**: Helen's on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May at 15:00 **Move to adjourn**: Helen, **seconded**: Clara, Vote: AYE – **unanimous**.



The Casebook of Anthony Chianti, Private Eye



The Case of The Wabasso Triangle: Episode #n, where n is a positive integer

In which our Intepid Hero finds himself Knee-deep in Hot Water.

Jt should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying all known laws of Pasticle Physics and Enron's Employee IRA instructions, not to mention Swiss Territorial Fishing Limits, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

Anthony Chianti, Licensed Private Eye and Indian River Community Pasta Detective, reporting:

*Ken Thornton-Smith © 2002* It was Monday. All day. Things had settled down a bit after last month's chaos, and I was glad for some

peace and quiet so I could get back to work.

On the face of it, 23 Across looked easy: "God of War" - but you try squeezing *HUITZILOPOCHTIL* into four crummy little boxes. Out of frustration I bit off the corner of the newspaper.

No doubt about it, my stressful lifestyle was starting to tell. I need to get out more often - perhaps I'll treat myself to a meal and see if that cheers me up.

Uh-Oh... it's Monday, and that means everywhere sensible is closed. But I had heard something about the old Japanese Shotgun restaurant being re-opened. Funny place: food was OK, décor was wacky and the sign always said "Shogun" – obviously a typo.

It took me ages to extract the new number out of Inquiries, they must charge by the minute, and no, I don't know the name of the new restaurant, you're the phone company, you tell me, but we got there eventually:

"Hurro, Shy Knees Lester Want?"

"Huh?"

"Shy Knees Lester Want?"

"Is that the Japanese Restaurant?"

"No, you need risten more carefurry, we are Shy Knees Lester Want!"

As a Community Pasta Detective, that covers not only Italian, but also anywhere that serves noodles. So, 20 minutes later found me seated in the newly-decorated Shy Knees for another tax-deductible expense meal.

I glanced down the Menu. Hmmm... interesting:

#### Eight Friends Canton Chicken

When Gustav Mahler took the Uhrlicht Lieder from his Knabenwunderhorn Song Cycle as the basis for the fourth movement of his Second Symphony, little did he know that we would be following his inspiration for this dish. From the simplicity of humble chamber noodles our chef creates an entire neo-classical symphony.

I recognized the style immediately. This kind of pseudo-smorgasbord creative menu fiction can mean only one thing: The Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

Like, this Sunday: another perfectly ordinary Sunday. It started like any other Sunday: dawn. From then on it was downhill all the way. Breakfast was looking like another epicurean vegan delight as I still didn't have any eggs, but first there was a very important Mr Fixit Honey-Do. Carefully I hammered a six-inch nail into the ceiling and tied a thread to it. Then I suspended a large healing crystal immediately over the burned-out toaster. At that point the phone rang:

"Interpastapol here, International Durum Terrorism Division, Mastroianni speaking, eeza-a that-a-you, Chianti?"

I nodded.

"Chianti, you-a-there?"

"Oh, er, yeah." I replied sardonically.

"Chianti, he's made a run for it. After it looked like the extradition treaty with Albania would be ratified, he just-a bolted. We nearly caught him in Morocco, and apparently he's heading your way. Word on the street is, he's carrying a Liquid Manicotti bomb and he plans using it to blow-a up Orlando..."

Blow-a up Orlando? The words echoed around my empty head. Orlando would become an ugly mass of bright lights, incredible noise and flying metal.

I know what you're thinking: who could tell the difference?

In that case it's obvious you have no idea of the awesome power that can be unleashed from the trans-uranic elements, especially Manicottium.

It takes 42 tons of Manicotti to produce one drip of Manicottium 327. That is equivalent to 10,000 tons of PMS or enough pure energy to wipe out an entire Wal-Mart.

Orlando would be turned to glass, ironed flat like a sheet of Lasagna. Maybe that kind with a crinkly edge, where they didn't use enough starch.

"He's coming your way, Chianti... click."

"OK, I'll find him... click." I replied.

"He" is the middle-eastern pasta magnate that had turned to the dark side – now an international durum wheat terrorist and top of Interpastapol's Most Wanted List – the infamous El Beau McAroni! He had a police record as long as uncut ziti and as unsavory as a gallon of Dessert Marsala.

By now, Monday evening, we had heard nothing. Things were quiet. Too quiet. I pondered the new Shy Knees menu. The cover was garish, a large photograph of some kind of Oriental Ratatouille-stuff, prettied up like Liberace's underwear. But inside things were fascinating. Let's just say that whomever wrote this was not exactly unfamiliar with Marxo Polo and his revolutionary ideas on Collective Pastavism.

To make up for another vegan breakfast I ordered Taramasalata Szechuan and Running-Dog Lackey Fried Rice, then settled back to do the crossword. Looking around, it was the usual crowd. I knew practically everybody in there. All except for that tanned guy in the sunglasses nervously clutching a stainless thermos flask.

Why would anybody want to flatten Orlando? I mused. Who cares? Back to the crossword. I was cranking until I hit 33 Down: "Rousseau's savage?" It was looking like NOBLY, but I don't remember anything about knees in Anthropology 101. Something was wrong somewhere, and for once it wasn't Detective Inspector "Raving" Ravioli breathing his industrial-grade halitosis down my neck.

I was thinking hard, practicing my Stoned Prune yoga posture, leaning way back on the creaking chair when the seat parted company with the backrest, emitting a loud crack. I fell backwards across the floor as Mr Twitchy Sunglasses bolted for the door. His efforts to step over me were thwarted by my struggle to get up and save the coffee. We both went flying. Thank God for free refills.

His suitcase hit the floor and spread a map of Orlando and a pile of homemade electronics in front of us, pre-empting my embarrassed apology.

Enter Detective Inspector Ravioli, of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad, and a few of his bleating yes-men.

"Here's your man, Ravioli!" I pointed at McAroni cowering on the floor, "El Beau, your goose is cooked, your chicken is fried and your néné is sautéed."

And that was how I saved Orlando from a fate worse than Soggy Spirellas... although I've heard some nasty overcooking rumors about that new Cucina Mussolini on OBT...

Well, amazing but true, and it can only have happened here. That's about it for this month's update from the Wabasso Triangle.

Anthony Chianti, Indian River Community Pasta Detective, signing off.



Congratulations to our region—all of the local secretaries and most of the officers renewed their memberships before March 31! Ours was the ONLY region whose locsecs were legal on April 1—no foolin'! At the March AMC meeting in New Jersey there was huge agenda, but we got through it on Saturday by 5:30pm. The main item of business, which you proba-

bly already know about, is the unanimous passage of the increase in funding to local groups—from \$7.85 per member to \$8.15 per member. This increase of \$4,829 for all regions is simply a reallocation of funds, with most

of the new funds coming from a reduction in RVC funds. Most of the RVCs feel that this is a good use of funds. We spend it all helping out groups in trouble, visiting far-flung groups, and in our case, purchasing Region 10 Officer Pins.

Another "good thing" is a bequest to MERF for increased scholarships. Now a Mensa member or a child of a Mensa member may qualify for a \$500 award.

There will be one day of funding at the AG in Scottsdale for any Mensan who would like to chair an LDW. Don't know what an LDW is? A Leadership Development Workshop usually is a day of training for any local leaders be they locsecs, editors, proctors, treasurers, or even those members who are thinking of taking an office. The leadership materials are already thought out and outlined. Leaders from the national office or other national representatives will come to discuss a certain part of the workshop. All funding for the workshop is underwritten by the LDW project, so there is minimal cost to the local group that hosts it. Region 10 should be thinking about an LDW somewhere in the state. Anyone interested in learning more or knowing exactly what goes on at an LDW? Call or email me and I'll give you the lowdown.

Our regional spotlight this month is on our big west coast group, **Tampa Bay Mensa**. At around 500 members, this is a strong group with their share of, shall we say, unusual characters. They will be holding an RG, the All American Weekend, at the end of this month. This event used to be a the beach but is now at a quirky, fun hotel near Busch Gardens. See details at the end of this column. Tampa Bay's April newsletter, *Tampa Bay Sounding*, contains a little of everything: a calendar, of course, puzzles, election notice, poetry, a story about nurturing dolphins, ExComm minutes, and "Miss Piggy's Guide to Life." Sample question—How can you tell if you're physically fit? a) Can you make & eat a cake in under one hour?; b) Can you touch your toes with your purse?; or c) Can you lift at least five credit cards at one time? Got a laugh out of me! And a good job on a news-letter that has something for everyone! Keep up the good work, Tampa Bay!

#### Coming events

May 24-27, <u>Tampa Bay Bash "All American Weekend</u>," same hotel as last year, *www.thatparrotplace.com*; or Sylvia Zadorozny, 813-855-4939, *szadorozny@aol.com* 

July 3-7, <u>*AG 2002: Desert Delights*</u> in Scottsdale, AZ. Don't miss Mensa's biggest gathering of the year! Something for everyone - check out your *Bulletin*.

October 18-20, the <u>2002 SCAM Rollback RG</u>, *http://spacecoastareamensa. tripod.com/*, for details as they emerge.





lopecia means baldness, the loss of hair either partial or complete. The study of hair is called trichology. Though primarily thought of a male problem, women can also be affected. Throughout history, man has battled baldness through various means. Medieval medicine taught the use of magnets to prevent baldness. Romans used wigs to hide their bare heads. Caesar tried to conceal his by wearing a laurel wreath, and Caligula proclaimed it to be a capital offence for anyone to look down upon his head. Superstition in

Rome also proclaimed that baldness could be averted by cutting the hair only on the 17<sup>th</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup> days of the month. Rubbing animal dung into the scalp has long been thought to cure baldness, from the use of pigeon dung by Hypocrites, chicken dung in the 1800's, and camel dung well into the twentieth century.

Hair consists of two parts: the shaft above the skin, and the root beneath the skin found within the hair follicle. With the exception of a few cells at the base of the root, hair is dead tissue composed of keratin and other proteins. Hair growth occurs as a result of rapid division of cells (mitosis) within the follicle after which the cells harden, or cornify, pushing the hair upward. Hair color is a result of melanin, which is produced by cells called melanocytes. When these cells die, gray hair results. The shape of the hair follicle results in hair that is straight or curly. If the follicle is straight and perpendicular to the surface, the hair will be straight. If the hair follicle is curved, wavy or spiral hair will result depending on the amount follicle curvature. There is an average of 100,000 hairs on the normal scalp, however blondes have more at 120,000, redheads have less at 80,000, and brunettes in the middle at the average number. Our scalp hair is the second fastest growing tissue in the body, the fastest being bone marrow. Hair grows an average of .5 inches a month and each hair lasts about 3 to 5 years on the scalp. After a hair is shed, the follicle enters a dormant stage lasting 3 to 12 months after which a new hair will grow. On the average, we loose about 80 to 100 hairs a day. Hair loss is not apparent to others until we loose about half of it. Hair loss can be temporary or permanent and can be referred to as anagen effluvium or telogen effluvium. The growth phase of hair is referred to as the anagen and the resting phase the telogen. Normally about 90% of scalp hair is in the anagen and 10% in the telogen. With certain conditions as childbirth, chronic illness or stress, thyroid disorders, or crash diets, up to 30% of hair can enter the telogen. Instead of the normal 100 hairs lost a day, a person can loose 300 or more. Correcting the underlying condition often can decrease or stop the extra hair loss.

Hair loss is generally due to aging, family history, or hormonal changes. Normal thinning of the hair is called involutional alopecia. This

occurs gradually with age as more hair follicles enter the telogen and the remaining hair becomes fewer in number. The most common type of hair loss is due to androgenic alopecia. This is usually referred to as male or female pattern baldness and it is a hereditary condition. This condition is experienced by about half of man by the age of 50, but can begin many years earlier. Male pattern baldness generally begins as a receding hairline or a thinning of the crown, sometimes leading to a horseshoe shaped pattern around the sides of the head. Female pattern baldness manifests as a thinness of hair over the entire head that can begin by age 30, but increases in the 40's and especially after menopause. Alopecia areata is characterized by patchy hair loss. It is sometimes considered an autoimmune disease where the body fights itself and the hair follicles are prevented from doing their job of producing hair fibers. This condition can occur in children or adults and can occur once or numerous times, with hair regrowth occurring in most cases. Other types of alopecia areata include alopecia totalis where hair loss includes the entire scalp, alopecia universalis with hair loss over the entire body, and traction alopecia where the hair loss is caused by tension on the hair due to hairstyles such as braiding. Scarring alopecia occurs as a result of bacterial, viral, or fungal infections. Syphilis is one of the infections that can cause the hair to fall out in clumps. Trichotillomania is a condition, usually found in children, where the hair is rubbed or pulled out on purpose leaving areas of patchy baldness.

The search for a cure for alopecia has included centuries of unproven methods and deceptions. Some of these claims have included shampoos and lotions to unclog the hair follicles and release hair, special vitamins, and vibrators or massagers to stimulate the follicles to produce hair. Both hairpieces and scalp make-up have improved and look more natural in recent years. There are only two products approved for the treatment of alopecia. Minoxidil, originally marketed for the treatment of hypertension, was found to stimulate hair growth by reversing the shrinkage of the follicles. Marketed now as the over-the-counter product Rogaine, it is applied to the scalp and comes in two strengths. Younger persons with minimal hair loss seem to benefit the most. Both men and women can use Minoxidil, though it is not recommended for pregnant or nursing women. The higher strength may cause facial hair growth in women and skin irritations may also occur. Finasteride, originally used for the treatment of enlarged prostate, has been available since 1998, for male pattern baldness. Marketed as Propecia, it is not recommended for women. Propecia works by blocking the formation of a substance called DHT. Testosterone is broken down by the enzyme 5-alpha reductase and converted into dihydrotestosterone (DHT), a substance responsible for prostate health. However too much DHT within the hair follicle will cause it to deteriorate, producing finer and weaker hairs, and ultimately causing all growth to

cease. Propecia inhibits the production of DHT by about 60%. The benefits may include a smaller prostate, but it can also cause impotency in a small percentage of users. Both Rogaine and Propecia are dosedependent, meaning treatment must be continued to maintain hair growth. Several types of surgery have been used. Flaps are large portions of hair-bearing skin taken from the back or sides of the head, left attached at one end to maintain blood supply, and sutured into its new position at the top of the head. Scalp reduction is when a portion of bald scalp is removed and the remaining scalp is brought together and tightened to "reduce" the size of the bald area. Hair transplantation is when plugs of hair with skin and follicles are transferred from the back and sides of the scalp to the top. Since these hair follicles have their original genetic programming from their former site, they will continue to grow, as they would have at their prior location. Techniques for hair transplantation have improved greatly in recent years, however it is still extremely expensive, rarely covered by insurance, and requires multiple sessions.

Though many men fret over hair loss, remember not all people find baldness unattractive. Yul Brynner, Michael Jordan, Andre Aggassi, and Patrick Stewart, to name but a few, have been popular, admired, and have not lacked female companionship. They all carried their baldness with confidence and a positive attitude. These are qualities that make people attractive and sexy. If you decide to do something about your hair loss, be sure to check all the options available before making a final decision.

#### Sources

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Brain, Marshall. <u>How Hair Replacement Works</u>. 2002. Online. HowStuffWorks, Inc. Internet. 10 Feb 2002. Available *http://www.howstuffworks.com/hair-replacement.htm/printable*.

We Stand Corrected! A provide the policy of this fine newsletter that, whenever there is discovered an error in an issue, a correction is printed in the following month.

So it is this month, with this correction from Art Belefant:

"In the recipe for Venison Goulash in the March *SCAM*, the amount of tomato product for each pound of meat should be one-half pound."



reveryone who invests in the stock market wants to be a How To Be A winner. Each person's definition of a winner will be Winner by Al Thomas al@mutualfund

somewhat different, but there is hardly one who isn't looking for that stock that will double in price within one year. @2002 Can it be done? Yes, but when you look at the odds you may

want to find a better or maybe slower and safer way. The magic.com chance of finding that mother load is 1 in 200, about 1/2 percent. Of the 11,000 listed securities you have a choice of 55. Even the pros don't like those odds. What makes you think you are better?

We have been in a great bull market from 1982 to 2000. Then the bubble burst. Yet the investing public continues to believe that we are going to see double-digit returns every year. According to the Financial Research Corporation's study, the mutual fund pros return was only 10.92% and the average investor had gains of about 8.7%. The great Warren Buffett says the bull is over and that we will be looking at a 5% return, not the 12% to 15% that has occurred in the recent past.

As I mentioned in my recent column, the returns for the past 126 years has only averaged 7% with 2/3 of the return coming from dividends which are about nonexistent today. Instead of looking for the rainbow with the pot of gold at the end, my suggestion is to limit your losses and let your winners run. You have heard that cliché before, but have you every understood what it means in the stock market? The floor traders and hedge fund managers do not look for home runs. They look for slow and steady and never allow any major losses. The key to long-term investment success is to limit your losing positions and never give back profits you have earned.

If tech investors in 1999 had followed this principle they would have kept about 80% of their profits. Wall Street says you should Buy and Hold and they have told this lie so often that it has become conventional wisdom. It is absolute stupidity. A simple trailing stop-loss order would have protected the investor's capital. Almost no broker and certainly no brokerage house recommends loss limit orders. No one is taught the basic winning concept of the market – an exit strategy. Until that is learned you are doomed to give back your winnings and take losses when a stock doesn't go up and heads down.

Most investors have no plan as to how much money they would like to accumulate or how to intelligently go about it. They don't know where they are going and they don't want to be late.

When you have decided how much you need to save the next important step is not what to buy, but how to exit in the event what you do buy happens to go down instead of up.

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Meet The candidates! erenow, you will find the campaign statements from those candidates who sent them in.

No emphasis has been given to any candidate's statement, and they have been listed here in alphabetical order, and in the manner and format received.

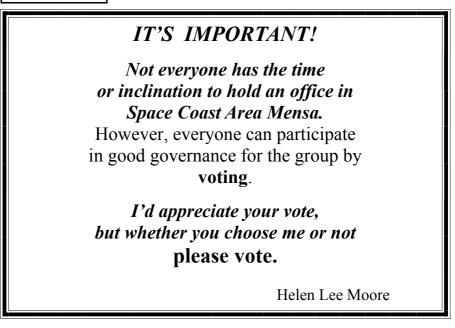
#### <u>Phyllis Cole</u>

No statement was received from Ms. Cole in time to be published in this issue. Editor

#### <u>Rita Johnson-Aronna</u>

I have been a member of SCAM for over a decade. I have enjoyed the opportunities to serve the group as a member of the ExComm during the past year. If elected, I will continue to use my energy and time to assist the ExComm to meet the needs of its members. I welcome the responsibilities and challenges that accompany the fun of being part of a very interesting and unique group of people.

<u>Helen Lee Moore</u>



#### Joseph Smith

Greetings fellow SCAM Members,

My name is Joseph M. Smith and I am presenting myself to you for consideration for the honor of sitting on your 2002-2003 Executive Committee.

I have been a member of Mensa for one year and my qualifications to serve on the ExComm include 14 years of management responsibilities in the high-tech Electronics Assembly business, 13 years in assorted board and advisory positions in the Florida Jaycees, current president of the North Eau Gallie Civic Association, Administration Vice-President of the Florida Jaycee International Senate and just being a good ole likable guy who you can trust to do whatever it takes to ensure the smooth operation of our local organization (this can be verified by my mom and sometimes my wife Rita - check with me first)

I know I haven't had the chance to meet many of you yet, but I am determined to become more active in the group and I am looking forward to meeting you all in the near future.

Thank you for your support and feel free to call me anytime - 259-4966

#### <u>Jon Warner</u>

Due to the overabundance of the normal-type of campaign statements, I decided to try something different. No hype, no bluster, no promises. I believe that the best leaders are the ones that govern the least. That's why I'm more of a paperwork kind of guy and not a take-charge kind of guy. If you like this style of leadership, then vote for me.

Jon S. Warner

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<u>Clara Woodall-Moran</u>	
SPACE COAST AREA MENSA	
	Serving Mensa Members on Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts since 1983
	CLARA WOODALL-MORAN'S CAMPAIGN STATEMENT
	It has been an honor and privilege to serve on the ExComm as an elected member and as volunteer.
spacecoastareamensa@yahoogroups.com	I look forward to again serving as a mem- ber of your ExComm. Please vote for me.

A View From	Fver had a work associate spend an unreasonable		
Somewhere Else			
"A Parting	the type. Self-important, tedious, inconsiderate. You get		
Look"	the benefit of this person's boring stories and inane obser- vations, long after you've had enough. But they continue		
by vations, long after you've had enough. But they co			
2	on, taking up productive time, ruining your good mood in		
Hank Rhodes	the process.		
©2002	Sometimes such a person arrives in the guise of a bad date.		

Or perhaps it's a malodorous houseguest, staying on well after good manners and good sense would have had them on their way.

Imagine how good it feels when they are finally, mercifully, gone.

That's the way it felt about a month ago when an entity that has long outlived any value it could provide, finally rose up and shuffled off to the boneyard. Here, the author is talking about the Whitewater investigation.

Yes, with a surprising lack of fanfare or notice, the Whitewater probe has finally reached its end, only fourteen months after the last day of the administration that it was supposed to be investigating.

In a spectacular abuse of the independent counsel statute (and due process), what was originally chartered as an inquiry into irregularities surrounding a failed land development deal in Arkansas quickly devolved into a wide-ranging inquisition. This proved to be a dissatisfied conservative minority's most effective weapon in a determined (but still unsuccessful) campaign to overturn the results of the people's choice in 1992, which We the People reaffirmed in 1996, when we reelected Mr. William Jefferson Clinton as our  $42^{nd}$  President.

It is not clear how a subdivision that was never completed could be used as a rationale for snooping into the billing and record-keeping inefficiencies of a Little Rock law practice. An even greater leap is that from matters of land titles to the former President's extramarital sex life, regardless of how curiously interesting or wretchedly pathetic (or both) one might find this topic.

The primary targets of the investigation seem to be doing rather well. The President's wife, Hilary Rodham Clinton, now represents New York in the United States Senate. Now some might consider Ms. Clinton guilty of high crimes and misdemeanors of such magnitude that they could not be enumerated in a ten-year run of *The American Spectator*, but the author here notes that Ms. Clinton has never actually been found guilty of anything other than the occasional bad-hair day. But of course, in the eyes of my conservative friends, when dealing with their opponents, the appearance of impropriety is sufficient to complete the offense.

Ms. Clinton's wayward husband hasn't fared any the worse. Joining Mr. Reagan and General Eisenhower as the only two-term Presidents since World War II, Mr. Clinton is making \$100,000 per speech, and is at work on a much-anticipated book. One must, however, acknowledge that my conservative friends still regard him as guilty of all sorts of misdemeanors

and high crimes too numerous for cataloging and too sordid for the eyes and ears of decent folk, etc... etc..

So, who really felt the wrath of Whitewater?

- \* Mr. Webb Hubble, an attorney, served 18 months in prison for defrauding his own law firm.
- \* Ms. Susan McDougal, sometime developer, whose primary offense was being married to one of the principals in the land deal. She was also imprisoned for 18 months.
- Us! After all, we the taxpayers were charged \$70 million to fund this free-ranging partisan fishing expedition. It was probably the best jobs program for second-rate conservative lawyers in history. (We saw their "dream team" here in Florida after the 2000 election. You can tell the difference The guys on the "A-list" can call their own shots and since they don't need to aggrandize themselves, they usually prefer a low profile.) And to think some people would have us believe that conservatives are the ones we should trust to prevent the profligate expenditure of our tax money.

To find a comparable case of such dismal return, self-defeating behavior, or simple sheer human foolishness, one must scour the pages of history and literature. The Whitewater investigation could rank with some of the following:

- Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, Spanish Conquistador. Based on a legend he had heard, he lead his Army in 1540 on a search for seven golden cities, during a trek that ranged from Mexico to modern-day Kansas. He didn't find a single nugget.
- \* Sir John Franklin, British Explorer. He set out in 1845 to find the northwest passage, even though the Lewis and Clark expedition of 40 years earlier had effectively disproved the existence of any such commercially-viable, ice-free trade route. He led 129 men to their deaths in the Arctic.
- Francisco Solano Lopez, Paraguayan Dictator. To aggrandize his reign, in 1865 he decided to provoke a war with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. Within five years, the population of Paraguay was reduced by 80% before Lopez was himself killed, thereby ending the war.

Just as Captain Ahab and the crew of the good ship *Pequod* went to bottom of the sea, never fulfilling their obsession of capturing the white whale, so went the great Whitewater Witch Hunt. "There she blows!" cried the Whitewater gang, and they were off, after "Slick Willie." While they were able to harpoon him, they could not to bring him in. And so, the jolly whale hunter *Whitewater* passed beneath the waves, never again to rear its ugly incompetent self...

...at least not until the next time we elect a Democrat to the White House!



Bob-At-Large:
Heavenfire
by
Bob Tuck,
Member-at-Large
© 2002
ing us across some five hundred light years.

Once regarded as one of the four "Royal Stars" of the ancient Persians, *Antares* (from the Greek *anti*, "against," and *Ares*, the planet "Mars,"; hence, "rival of Mars"), an enormous red supergiant, verges upon the cataclysmic finale of its stellar lifetime. Soon, on the cosmic timescale, this massive, bloated celestial object will undergo a colossal supernova explosion. The nature of the remaining debris – neutron star or black hole – will depend upon still incompletely understood astrophysical processes.

Regardless of the outcome, the event will be spectacular from our safe vantage point, temporarily illuminating the heavens with a brilliance rivaling the combined light of all the other stars within the Galaxy. Alas, however, the show will spell doom, or at least disaster, for *Antares*' neighboring star- and planetary systems.

Compared to our four-and-a-half-billion-year-old average, gardenvariety sun, *Antares*' mere twenty million years demonstrate a grim fact of stellar evolution. Huge stars die young. Many generations of yet-to-be-born *Antares*-like stars will come and go long before our little sun dies its own comparatively quiet death five billion, or more, years hence.

As with all stars, a gigantic molecular cloud gave birth to *Antares* and its stellar brethren, which together comprised an association of hot young stars when they emerged from their swaddling cloud of gas and dust. Furthermore, the group's birthplace lay far from *Antares*' present location.

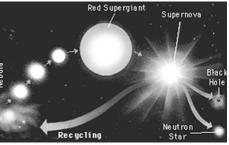
It turns out that the Scorpion's heart belongs to a large, scattered aggregation of young stars that spans about ninety degrees of the southern sky. The group includes many of the bright stars in the constellations of Crux the Southern Cross, Centaurus the Centaur, Lupus the Wolf, and Scorpius. Astronomers call these hundred or so related stars the "Scorpio-Centaurus Association." It forms part of the Local Star Cloud.

In 1914, the Dutch astronomer J. C. Kapteyn (1851-1922) first recognized the existence of the Scorpio-Centaurus Association. Subsequent studies showed that its members share a common space motion toward the southwest of about fifteen miles per second away from the sun. Association members, of which *Antares* shines brightest, now lie between four hundred and fifty and five hundred and fifty light years away.

Sometime in the last twenty million years – indeed, rather much less – this flying brood of boisterous young stars sped past our placid sun and its fragile third planet with its living cargo. It seems that some – or at least

one – member of the group already had reached the violent end of its profligate life.

A pattern of disaster here on earth two million years ago recently emerged from astronomical, paleontological, and geological clues that suggest that an ancient supernova may have damaged the protective



ozone layer around the Earth and wreaked havoc on terrestrial life.

In 1999, a team of German astronomers found an unusual variety of iron in samples drilled from the earth's crust below the ocean floor. The Germans hypothesized that the iron isotope originated from a supernova, but knew of no suspect stars in our celestial neighborhood when the strange metal was thought to have dusted the planet. Other researchers did some detective work and came up with the likely culprit: the Scorpio-Centaurus Association, which passed relatively near the solar system several million years ago.

Strong evidence suggests a catastrophe killed off a large population of marine organisms about two million years ago. At the time, the Scorpio-Centaurus horde was so close to the earth that if one of them had gone supernova, the powerful energy blast could have stripped away much of the ozone layer, which protects terrestrial life from harmful solar ultraviolet rays.

Fortunately, no nearby supernova candidate currently threatens us. If some manner of terrible doom comes from the sky, it most probably will take the form of a mountain-sized comet or asteroid.

Smaller objects needn't cause a planet-wide catastrophe, of course. Furthermore, recent findings indicate that a long-held belief (I've mouthed it many times) that no historic evidence exists that a falling meteorite ever killed anyone.

Geologists recently discovered a five-thousand-year-old meteorite that could explain the mysterious death of one of China's founding fathers, Huangdi, the Yellow Emperor. Legend says he was "taken away by dragons which destroyed the ancient town of Huangling."

The object that the geologists found measures large enough to have caused widespread destruction when it plummeted to earth on Yintai Mountain.

The nearby Mausoleum of Huangdi remains a sacred place for Chinese people, who hold an annual ceremony there to honor Emperor Huangdi's memory.

If the meteorite scenario holds up, it would be fittingly ironic that a royal personage considered to be a god on earth should have been removed by a fire from heaven.

The Gourmet's Guide:	It would seem incontrovertible that humankind ate raw foods before the invention of controlled fire and	
• 42407	cooking. In fact, we still do; vegetables in the form of sal- ads, meat as steak tartar, fish as sushi, and fruits, includ-	
	ing fruit of the sea.	
	In those dim, dark, and crude days, after the discovery of	
AIT BEIEIANI	the control of fire when cooked food began, the cooking of food no doubt was accomplished without the use of pots.	
	Meat or vegetables were placed in the fire or held before it to be cooked, a prehistoric barbecue, shish kebab, or roast	

pig on a spit.

The next step was boiling. Before the invention of pots, boiling was probably accomplished much as is done in some primitive societies today. A pit is dug, lined with leaves, filled with water, the food is put in, and hot stones from a fire was added to make the water boil. A comparable arrangement using hot coals without water, in which the food is placed in a leaflined pit and covered with more leaves, and the coals placed on top, is steaming. The water coming from the leaves. The Hawaiians call this a luau. There were probably hot springs and seeps in which primitive man cooked some foods. To this day, the Japanese produce "hundred-year-old" eggs that way.

Another cooking method, whereby the meat and vegetables are placed in the stomach or other hollow organ of the animal and held before a fire or boiled, shows itself in haggis and other dishes.

Then came pots.

The first pots were probably made of clay, a common and easily worked material. The Bronze Age and the Iron Age brought metal pots. Those materials, plus glass, are used today for cooking on stoves and in ovens. The first requirement for a pot is that it is fire and heatproof. Metals, ceramics, and some glasses suit that requirement. The pot must also be water proof and sturdy enough to withstand some handling.

Clay is the most fragile of contemporary pot materials. Clay is also a poor conductor of heat. The localized heating of the clay pot, if heated only from the bottom, would crack the pot because of the differential expansion of the material. Thus clay is rarely used on top-of-the-stove cooking but is used most often in oven-baked dishes such as the Greek chicken kleftedes (stolen chicken). In this case the unglazed clay pot is so inexpensive that the pot is broken open to access the food inside.

One step above plain clay are the glazed ceramic pots used for baking French onion soup and in the truly modern electric crock pots. In each case, the pot is uniformly and slowly heated to avoid destruction. Glazed ceramics are also used for baking pies and casseroles.

Glass is much like ceramics in that it is a poor conductor of heat. Ordinary glass cannot be used on top of the stove because it, like clay, would shatter. Modern "Pyrex" glass is made to have a very small rate of expansion with heat so that glass vessels can be used directly on a stove. Because of its poor heat conductivity, glass does not do well when uniform heating is required. It is acceptable for boiling water and cooking liquid foods where localized heating will be overcome by the thermal movement of the fluid. Thus most glass pots are used in ovens where the surrounding air heats the entire vessel.

Most contemporary cooking is done in metal pots. The usual metals are steel, iron, aluminum, stainless steel, and copper. The metals may be plain, coated, or formed into composites.

#### <u>Steel</u>

Sheet steel was once a common cooking pot material. It is cheap, easily formed, sturdy, and light weight. Usually very thin, its main draw back is its lack of uniform heating. The heat from the burner or electric element below transfers directly to the food in the pot with hot spots reflecting the heat source below. For boiling or cooking highly liquid foods at a low temperature, such as stews, steel pots are satisfactory. For frying, the hot spots create a problem for uniform cooking, yet in days gone by, every diner would have a few plain iron frying pans for eggs. The iron would develop a coating from the oil or butter that was never cleaned out. That black coating was a non-stick finish which stood up to the harshest treatment. The problem of non-uniform heating was mitigated by continuously moving the frying pan over the heat source.

Traditionally, Chinese woks are made of sheet steel. The hard black, non-stick finish that they develop withstands the constant beating of a spatula used in stir frying and the localized hot spot in the center is just what is required for Chinese cooking. Woks can be purchased made of coated or uncoated stainless steel and cast iron. I find them unsatisfactory.

For home use, often the steel pot is coated with porcelain. Porcelain is glass. A coating of glass frit is placed on the steel pot and fired until the glass is melted and forms a coating on the pot. The porcelain made the pot easier to clean and more attractive, but it did not build up the black coating. Also, the glass being brittle and the steel being flexible, the porcelain would often chip. Some modern steel pots are made of sheet steel with Teflon replacing the porcelain. Teflon is flexible so steel pots with Teflon coatings do not chip.

#### <u>Iron</u>

Iron in the form of cast iron is an old pot material that is still in use. Cast iron pots have some of the faults associated with steel. Although cast iron is also a relatively poor conductor of heat, the thickness of the cast iron transfers the heat more uniformly to the food at the bottom. Uncoated cast iron also develops a black non-stick finish after some use for frying. When used for boiling, it can become covered with rust. Cast iron is also sold with a porcelain finish. The porcelain on the cast iron is less susceptible to cracking and chipping than the porcelain finish on sheet steel. The rigidity of the cast iron makes a less flexible substrate. Cast iron is also sold with Teflon coatings.

#### <u>Aluminum</u>

Aluminum pots come in two forms, i.e. sheet aluminum and cast aluminum. Aluminum has the advantage of light weight as compared to other common metals. Although aluminum is a good conductor of heat, the thin sheet aluminum pots will have less uniformity of heating than the thicker cast aluminum pots. Thick aluminum pots are excellent for uniform heating and cooking. Uncoated aluminum is adequate for boiling. Cooking acidic foods in uncoated aluminum may stain or pit the pot. Frying leaves a residue that is difficult to remove. Uncoated aluminum pots may have a deleterious health effect. Some studies seem to connect the ingestion of aluminum with Alzheimer's disease. To counter these problems, most aluminum pots are now sold with Teflon coated interiors. For ease of cleaning, the exterior of some aluminum pots are anodized. Teflon outer coating is also available.

#### Stainless Steel

Perhaps most of the pots sold now are stainless steel. Uncoated stainless steel is not stainless. The cooking of certain foods will stain stainless steel. Excessive heat also stains stainless steel. Frying foods in uncoated stainless steel will leave a residue similar to the hard, black finish desired on cast iron and sheet steel. The cleaning of uncoated stainless steel is more difficult than the cleaning of uncoated aluminum; therefore many stainless steel pots are sold with Teflon interiors.

Stainless steel has as its greatest advantage its strength and toughness. Ceramics are fragile and easily shattered. Sheet steel pots are not fragile, but can be bent, dented, or twisted. Cast iron is strong but brittle. Pots made of cast iron can break if dropped on a hard floor.

Aluminum is soft. The thinner pots can be easily dented and aluminum pots do wear out from use. Stainless steel does not suffer from any of these defects, but it does have several major shortcomings.

It is difficult and expensive to cast stainless steel so pots made of that material are stamped or spun from sheets. The relatively low heat conductivity of stainless steel makes uniform heating difficult. To overcome that shortcoming, pot manufacturers rely on various composite structures to improve heat transfer.

Next month, you will learn about those structures, and more, and the manner in which they affect the foods you cook.



Let's Eat! by Clara Woodall-Moran Hospitality Chair Ward and coleslaw). As always, you will find a variety

of sodas and other potables. We will provide snack foods to round out the bill of fare.

On Saturday morning we will provide the usual fare needed to start an RG day off right: bagels, biscuits, sausage gravy, breakfast meats and such. Lunch will be an All-American picnic with grilled hotdogs, hamburgers, coleslaw, potato salad and baked beans. Serving will start at 11:30AM for those who like to eat early and run through 1PM (leftovers will be available from the previous nights' supper as well). We are not permitted to serve meals on Saturday night and Sunday during the brunch (the hotel makes their money on the meals) although the desserts and snacks will, as usual, be available.

For the OOOH-AAH we are going to present cookies from around the world. Now this is where we put out a call to all who will be attending and would like to provide some assistance: we need cookies from around the world – please contact Clara at *cew@cfl.rr.com* or call her at 632-0854 if you can provide a dozen of some specialty cookie with an international flair. Rita Johnson-Aronna is the hospitality co-chair and she can also provide information regarding these events in the hospitality suites. We will also have interesting coffees and teas available to enjoy with the cookies.

We are holding, now that we know how to run it, a dessert competition. The rules and categories will be published in the August issue of the SCAM. You will have an opportunity to win one of our lovely certificates and have your name listed in the SCAM as a winner. The voting will be explained at the same time. We need three volunteers to be judges for the category awards. This is an arduous task (tasting all of the desserts and then deciding amongst yourselves which ones win) but somebody must do it. There will be a peoples' choice award (which is where the voting enters into the picture).

And, while not really part of the hospitality suite, (generally the voting has been held in the suite) if the weather permits and there are contestants, we will have the sand sculpture competition again this year. We will provide pictures of the sculptures when we learn of them with voting boxes. Both competitions (dessert and sand sculpture) are in support of *The SCAM* and the publications from Space Coast Area Mensa.

Hope all of this sounds like a good time and that we will see you in October at the Rollback RG.





# Tampa Bay Bash

"All American Weekend" Friday, May 24 - Monday, May 27, 2002

(Memorial Day Weekend)

\*Delicious Catered Food: Friday night: Western BBQ till 10 pm; Saturday: Thanksgiving Dinner; Sunday: Columbus' Italian Buffet Dinner; Hot Breakfast Buffet for Hotel Guests; and we provide munchies in Hospitality

\*Heated Pool, Hot Tub, Tiki Bar, Pool Table, Ping Pong...
\*Fun Programs: "Acting for Fun and Profit", Mensa "Trash Bowl", Mystery Science Theater, Tai Chi, Spelling Bee, Video Game Tournament and more...

\*Great Games and Tournaments

**Best Western All Suites Hotel** (adjacent to Busch Gardens); 3001 University Center Drive; Tampa, FL 33612; *www.thatparrotplace.com* 1-800-SUNSHINE or 813-971-8930; **Rooms**: \$89 per suite per night; suites sleep up to 6 people; Room rates are guaranteed until 4/22/02.

**Full Registration: \$75 until March 31; \$80 April 1-30; \$85 after April 30 Partial Registrations**: Fri. \$30; Sat. \$40; Sun. \$40; Mon. \$10 Refunds must be requested by April 30.

Tampa Bay Bash T-Shirts are available, \$10-13.

Make check payable to: Tampa Bay Mensa

**Mail to**: Kathy Crum, Registrar; 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd; Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

Contact: Sylvia Zadorozny 813-855-4939; szadorozny@aol.com

It's Coming!

News from the RG Front ark your calendar for the 2002 SCAM Rollback RG, happening on October 18th thru the 20th. Use <u>THIS</u> form, or call the registrar for further information. Only \$35 until 9/1! It's the SCAM event of the year!

# Gimme That Ol' Time RGin'... It's Good Enough For Me!

That's right, it's time to roll out the way-back machine, and roll back... back... and even further back until we arrive at... FUN! In fact, all the way to the 2002 Space Coast Area Mensa Rollback RG!



Here at SCAM we have heard your cries and lamentations, and we have hearkened unto thee with rolled-back registration costs and rolled-back room costs.

The NEW management of our favorite hotel, the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Indialantic, has been most receptive to our negotiations, resulting in lower room costs, lower-cost meal plans, and a rejuvenated Penthouse suite. So, in the Rollback spirit, we are passing those savings on to YOU!

Room rates are only \$69 a night for up to four Rg'ers, with oceanfront rooms priced somewhat higher.

Even Meal plan prices have been rolled back to pre-'96 RG levels, with Saturday Night Buffet at a miniscule  $\underline{\$23}$  and the Sunday Buffet Brunch costs only  $\underline{\$14}$ . And there is also a brought-back combo plan of a mere  $\underline{\$36}$  for both meals!!! Full menus can be seen at our website:

http://spacecoastareamensa.tripod.com

Registration starts at \$30 thru 2/28/02, \$35 from 3/1/02 thru 8/31/02, and \$40 from 9/1/02 thru 10/20. Day rates will be available, and registration fees will be cheerfully refunded!

So contact the Registrar, J.T. Moran, at (321)632-0854 or by e-mail at *morwood@cfl.rr.com* to get in on this great deal. You can also send in the form underneath to: Registrar, P.O. Box 457, Sharpes FL 32959-0457.

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The Also-Rans:

Ellen's Excellent Movie Quiz <sup>by</sup> Ellen Paul o, you think you know the movies, huh? We know all the characters in our favorite films as well as the actors who portray them, but how much attention do we pay to the important, yet secondary, characters in the movies we watch? This quiz is designed to find out.

Below is a list of five characters, each from a motion picture. The named character was important, but secondarily so. His/her/its name is spoken in the film on several occasions, but no major stars will be found here.

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to name the movie in which the character appears. Good Luck!

- 1. Harold Zidler
- 2. John Thatcher
- 3. Jack Goodman
- 4. Skank Martin
- 5. Lester Townsend

(Answers will be found below)

Arachnae's Threads <sup>by</sup> Clara Woodall-Moran, Webmaster

J will be taking a short break from getting my Master's degree and will devote the time to creating the web pages for SCAM so they will be easier to navigate, will have all of the rules, policies and procedures in a logical progression, all of the

officers will be easily accessible through the web pages via email, but the newsletter will not be reproduced in its entirety. All of the columns will available under the names of the authors with break out by volume and





FAX: (407) 690-2295 issue in which they were printed. A feature that will be available in the future is a search engine for the site.

The splash page will still contain fast breaking information and updates on the events scheduled over the next few weeks.

I. Moulin Kouge (2001) 2. A Knight's Tale (2001) 3. An American Werewolf in London (1981) 4. Mystery, Alaska (1999) 5. North By Northwest (1959)