

# SCAM

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2001 Newsletter Owl Winner

*In Congress, July 4, 1776*



*We, The People!*

Volume 20, No. 7

July, 2002

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**The  
Newsletter**  
**SCAM**  
Space Coast Area Mensa

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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@cfl.rr.com**

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

### *Happy July Birthday*

02 – Jay Wherley  
05 – Robert Tuck, Jr.  
08 – Helen Lee Moore  
13 – Charles Hager  
13 – Dale Irwin  
20 – Charles Baenen  
20 – Jeffrey Barbour  
20 – Phillip Coffin  
20 – Betty Valentine  
21 – Henry Politi  
24 – George D’Arcy  
24 – Sandra Hense  
26 – Joseph Matthews  
28 – William Anderson  
28 – Thomas Wheat  
29 – Ruth Cooney



### *Welcome to Mensa and SCAM*

*Keith Ledig - Melbourne*  
*Benjamin Miller - Vero Beach*  
*Jay Wherley - Melbourne*

### *Welcome Back to SCAM*

*A. M. Gehringer - Titusville*



**On the  
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran  
SCAM Editor**

**W**ell, the preliminaries are over, and once again *The SCAM* has fared well with the Publications Recognition Program judges. This year we have been nominated in four categories:

- (1) **FOUND** (Entertainment) – This has been explained to me as pertaining to almost anything derived from a non-member or non-local source. Having looked over the three issues I chose for consideration (November, December, and January), this looks to be either Ann Schindler’s “*Your Health*” column, or the clipart I used. At least, I can’t find anything else that fits the description.
- (2) **REPORTING** – This could be a number of things: the minutes of the ExComm meetings, the Membership column, or the Treasurer’s semi-annual audit report. Perhaps, as they say in the “haute cuisine” business, “presentation is everything”.
- (3) **CONTINUING ITEM** – Once again, Bob Tuck’s “*Bob-At-Large*” column has made the cut to the final round. That makes three-for-three (out of the past 3 years) on the nominations, and will break the deadlock between awards and nominations. I don’t know about you, but I find Bob’s breadth and depth of knowledge and experience to be nothing short of awesome, and he more than deserves the award.
- (4) **OWL** (Medium Groups) – For the second year in a row, *The SCAM* has been found worthy of consideration for the highest Print Newsletter award. I am aware of the honor this brings, and I can hardly wait for the Arizona AG to be over, as that is where the final awards will be announced. Look on the cover of the August issue for the result of this one.

Further notes of interest on the editorial front include a letter/response from former SCAMster Luke Setzer about Mike Moakley’s article of last month and a phone call from the Editor of Wyomensa’s newsletter requesting permission to reprint both Bob Tuck’s article about “almost-close encounters” and mine about congressional pork. It is always gratifying to know that there are people who appreciate your efforts.

As you might (or might not) know, the new ExComm was seated on June 9th. With the seating of the new committee, all appointed positions from the prior ExComm become vacant. The new appointments will be made at the July ExComm meeting. Anyone interested in filling a position, and thus helping keep this group running, should either be there or let one of the ExComm members know. That includes Editor. Although I will offer my services for one more year, if you think you might be interested in the position, let me know. I will be glad to help train my successor.



**Mewsing About**



**Clara  
Woodall-Moran,  
LocSec**

**A**ugust of this year will mark a milestone for me – this is the 20<sup>th</sup> year I’ve been a member of Mensa (without any gaps). Some years I would think long and hard about paying my dues, finally talking myself into it with the promise (to myself) that I would become an active member. One thing I did do, though, was to put in appearances at most of the RGs.

Frequently I felt somewhat like a stranger in a strange land. Many would talk of books and movies in the SCI-FI genre and that did not help, since I read mysteries for pleasure reading, but I eschew Sherlock Holmes as being more SCI-FI than mystery, while most Mensans I’ve met prefer Sherlock Holmes if they read mysteries. What could be worse?

Well, on the last Saturday of every month, the Editor (traditionally) hosts an event at a Sushi restaurant, to celebrate the publication distribution of the latest newsletter. I am allergic to seafood and refuse to eat bait, at any rate. That must be the worst. Fortunately the restaurants do serve “cooked” food. After paying dues and doing nothing for ten years I went to a SNORT (Saturday Night of the Round or Rectangular table). I met some fine folks there and have been friends with most of them for these last 10 years.

Notice who had to take the first step – I did! And, I would like so see a lot of “new timers” and old-timers at the RG this year. The hotel, Holiday Inn Ocean Front is giving us a serious bargain on the room rates and meal plan. Come out and party with your group. It is really worth it.

If you hurry with your registration, you can get the \$25 registration RG-AG special by making certain we get your registration during the week of the AG. The meal plan is \$36.00 for a banquet on Saturday night and a breakfast buffet on Sunday morning. Two big events during the RG: The costume parade and dance after the banquet and the awards ceremony on Sunday. We will certainly have something of interest for your tastes.



**The Final Results**

by

**Fran Hinson,  
NomElComm  
Chair(wo)man**

**T**he tabulations of all ballots cast for the 2002 Ex-Comm were, in numerical and alphabetical order:

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| (1) Jon Warner          | (6) Phyliss Cole |
| (2) Clara Woodall-Moran | (7) Dan Lange    |
| (3) Helen Lee Moore     | (8) Ellen Paul   |
| (4) Rita Johnson-Aronna | (9) Barbara Peer |
| (5) Joseph Smith        |                  |

We would like to thank all those who participated in this election as candidate or voter.



**Minutes of the  
ExComm Meeting**



**Jon Warner,  
RecSec**

**9** Jun 2002: 15:04 at Rita Johnson-Aronna's home.  
Members Attending: *Jon, Helen, Rita, Clara,* and  
*Bob.* Guests: Pat Aronna and Joseph Smith.

**Correspondence**

National Office - Jon - update listing for Mensa Bulletin  
Local Officer Update Form

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

**Move:** Helen - to approve as published. **Second:** Bob.  
**Vote: Unanimous.**

**Officer Reports**

**LocSec, Asst. LocSec, RecSec and Member-at-Large:** no report.  
**Treasurer:** Passed around printed report of accounts. Reported that the Post Office has sent out a notice of rate increase and our mailing rate will go up from \$.22.5 per piece to \$.23.

**Committee Reports**

**Bylaws, NomElComm, and Ways/Mean:** no report.  
**Editor:** We have been nominated for three categories; *Service – Reporting; Entertainment - Found (Entertainment); Continuing Item (Bob At Large)* plus another *Owl - Medium Group.* Wyomensa has requested permission to re-print one of Bob's and J.T.'s recent columns.  
**Membership:** Membership Chair has sent e-mail notices to all lapsed members with e-mail addresses and will write the rest. Membership is at 194.  
**Publicity:** Bob has sent out PSAs for our local SCAM Scholarship.  
**RG:** Things going very well, now have 77 registrations (eight more were collected at the Tampa Bay RG). The AG will be the last time to register at the \$25 rate.  
**Scholarship:** Have begun receiving requests and applications for the local SCAM Scholarship. The deadline is 31 July.  
**SIGHT:** The SIGHT Coordinator helped a local member get a ride to the CABBAGE events.  
**SIGs:** Second SIG meeting next weekend, photography is the subject.  
**Testing:** Still have only two proctors, will be sending out a direct letter to prospective/qualified proctor candidates. No one tested on 8 June.

**Old Business**

The report of the Audit Committee was read. No discrepancies were found. The members of the Audit Committee: Joe Smith, Sam Kirschten & George Patterson, were commended for the thorough audit.

**New Business**

Jon will contact Ellen Shipman-Paul about submitting information about the

Scholarship directly to the Editor for inclusion in The SCAM and the SCAM Webpage.

The Executive Committee for 2001 - 2002 wishes to thank all Committees and Committee Chairs for their work during the last year.

### Open Forum

The results of the Carole Bell hearing were announced by Helen.

Clara **moved**, Helen **seconded** to adjourn. Meeting will reconvene with new ExComm seated. Time: 15.36.

ExComm Meeting reconvened with new ExComm seated. Time: 15:56

*LocSec - Clara Woodall-Moran*

*Asst LocSec - Rita Johnson-Aronna*

*RecSec - Jon Warner*

*Treasurer - Helen Lee Moore*

*Member-at-Large - Joe Smith*

Old Business: None

### New Business

Clara will contact all previous appointed officers about continuing their duties for another year, as all appointments expire with the changeover of the ExComm.

Clara will contact Ellen Shipman-Paul about the full duties of the Scholarship Chair position, and her willingness to continue in that position.

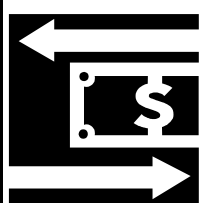
### Open Forum / Announcements

All the ExComm members should e-mail a short bio for Bob to use for a PSA.

Next Meeting: July 14, 2002, at Helen Lee Moore's house at 3:00 p.m.  
**Move** to adjourn: Helen. **Second:** Jon. Vote: **Unanimous**. Meeting adjourned at 16:10.



### **The Results:**



### **Of the 2002 Annual SCAM Financial Audit**

**M**ay 20, 2002

To: The Membership and Executive Committee of Space Coast Area Mensa

The Audit Committee has examined the records and all documentation of the financial transactions of Space Coast Area Mensa for the period from May 1, 2001 to April 30, 2002.

Examination of all journals, receipts, bank statements and Treasurer's Reports revealed no discrepancies.

The Audit Committee wishes to applaud Helen for outstanding work as Treasurer. Her documentation and record tracking has been excellent!

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph Smith 5/20/02  
Sam G. Kirschten 5/20/2002  
George B. Patterson 5/20/02

*(Signed original on file with the Treasurer)*



## **Semi-Annual Treasurer's Report** **December 1, 2001 - May 31, 2002**

<b>Certificate of Deposit, Beginning Balance</b>	3900.00
<b>Scholarship Certificate of Deposit</b>	<b>1250.00</b>
<b>General Fund Certificate of Deposit</b>	<b>3105.58</b>
<b>USPS Account Beginning Balance</b>	99.20
<b>USPS Account Ending Balance</b>	<b>222.82</b>
<b>General Fund Beginning Balance</b>	1391.03
<b>General Fund Ending Balance</b>	<b>875.21</b>
General Fund Activity, December 1 2000 - May 31 2001	
Income:	
Local Group Funding from AML	1079.59
Miscellaneous	79.34
Expenses:	
Printing The SCAM	719.04
Postage	625.00
10 year registration of Domain Name	79.45
Print Membership Roster	81.89
Refund to Scholarship CD	100.00
Miscellaneous	69.37
<b>2002 RG Fund Beginning Balance</b>	868.94
<b>2002 RG Fund Ending Balance</b>	<b>2223.95</b>
2002 RG Fund Activity, December 1 2001 - May 31 2002	
Income:	
Registration & meal receipts	1408.00
Expenses:	
Badge holders	52.99

*Physical property, costing SCAM approximately \$900 when purchased, is accounted for.  
Hand receipts are on file with the Treasurer.*

*The original Certificate of Deposit was cashed. Two new CDs, one for the Scholarship Fund and one for the General Fund, were purchased. This transaction included accrued interest.  
Current Certificates of Deposit are accumulating interest which will be included upon cashing out.*



**Let's Get Together!**

by

**Clara**

**Woodall-Moran  
Hospitality Chair**

**A**lthough the most readily apparent activity to observe in any RG Hospitality Suite is eating (followed closely by drinking and hugging) others have been known to occur. At a SCAM RG, these usually include a couple of competitions. And, this year, it is no different.

Beginning at 8:00PM on Friday night, three judges will award the following categories:

1. Most likely to appear on the President's table
2. Most like mom's
3. Tastes better than it looks
4. Most likely to appear in a fantasy

After the judging for those awards, the competition will be open for People's Choice:

The Voting Rules:

1. For People's Choice – purchase a “taste” for 25 cents
  - a. A full piece for a \$1.00
  - b. The entire dessert \$5.00
2. Put the money in the box labeled for the dessert you like best
3. Ballot box stuffing is encouraged

For the Other Categories

1. Judges will be selected from the attendees hanging out in hospitality – if you want to be a judge – hang out in hospitality
2. Judges will be given a taste of all desserts in competition (allergies, etc. considered).
3. Judges will select based upon the categories and appearance of the desserts.
4. You need not be there to win but the judges voting will take place at 8:00PM Friday night.
5. Judges' voting will take place before the People's choice judging commences (they have to have something to judge).

Another competition, the voting for which will be held in the hospitality suite although the actual items will be on the beach – weather permitting – is the sand sculpture competition. Digital photographs of the sculptures will be placed with voting boxes in the hospitality suite. Those wishing to participate will simply notify one of the staff in the hospitality suite when they have finished a sculpture. The photographs will be taken by 3:00PM on Saturday and the voting will commence at that time.

The winners will be announced on Sunday during the awards presentations.





**The Casebook of  
Anthony Chianti,  
Private Eye**



**Ken Thornton-Smith**  
© 2002

*Episode 21: It's 11pm... Do you know where your pasta is?*

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying FCC Regulations (Fellsmere Cricket Club) and the little button on my garage door opener, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was Monday. Another tough day – I spent the morning cleaning up a terminal pasticide in Melbourne and apprehended the culprits. They won't be overcooking orzo where they're going.

As if that wasn't bad enough, the crossword was tough – full of proper nouns, and my eyes wandered down the page. I was born in November, under the sign of Rigatonius, The Tube. Although I don't really believe in Pastrology, today, like most days, I read my pastascope:

**"Rigatonius – Your chart is looking well aspected, with Ziti trine Spaghetti Hoops and Canaletto in opposition to your Ascendant, Minestrone. So have fun, but don't take extreme risks like exposing a naked flame in a pasta factory or overcooking noodles..."**

Me? Overcook? Who writes this stuff? I set the timer – 4 minutes, 23.127 seconds: enough time for another crossword clue.

But first the new pasta: Gucci Faberge Fettuccini. *Mis en extrudée en chateau*. That's right, Chateau Squeezed Designer Pasta. I had to see what all the fuss is about – can this stuff really be worth sixty bucks a packet?

Turning the gas down, I picked up the box. It looked normal and innocent enough. Until I read the ingredients: Organic Durum Wheat, Dihydrogen Monoxide, Sea Salt and Aldentium Sulphate.

Aldentium Sulphate? That'd better not be another scary ingredient like that Genetically Modified Pesto that was in the news last year.

I logged on the Wibbly Wobbly Web. Turns out that Aldentium is a new additive to prevent overcooking. No wonder: "Gucci Faberge Pasta cooks up just right every time..."

Then the horrible reality dawned – this stuff will do me out of a job. Not only me, but thousands of hard-working community pasta detectives across the country will be unemployed, our only skill a forgotten footnote in history books, our only income a welfare check, our only food a sordid plastic bag of bright yellow macaroni cheese...

Back in the kitchen, the timer read minus 52 minutes. The new pasta had been simmering for nearly an hour, and sure enough, it wasn't soggy. So much for the overcooking warning – never believe that stuff, anyway. Hmmm. Not soggy after an hour – this can mean only one thing: This Aldentium stuff actually works. Either that or the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

Like last Wednesday, just another ordinary Wednesday in the middle of the week. Or was it? Kinda depends which day you start counting. The Wabasso Triangle is probably easier to understand if you think of the entire fabric of space-time as a cosmic macramé tea-cozy. Then the Wabasso Triangle is the spout. Anyway, by Wednesday lunchtime things had deteriorated so much that when I opened a new can of Spam, all that yucky jello stuff was actually *on the bottom!*

I scoured the pasta packet for more information, and there it was: Made in Italy. Imported by Dulchy Veeta Corporation, Malabar, Florida.

My trusty old Buick Testudo didn't want to start, but after some time cranking we were off. It seemed to be running well on five or six cylinders, which is plenty considering the cost of gas these days.

Fifteen minutes later I was in downtown Malabar. Nothing. It was a ghost town. The only building with any sign of life was Canadian Realty Investments, the big place next to the Mormon Microbrewery. There were some lights on so I wandered over. I remember hearing heavy footprints, then oblivion...

Some time later I woke up with a sore head, and now I know what oblivion sounds like. In the next office someone said:

*“Bien, bien, zat only leaves some pazetic creep that Pierre found being ze snoopy doggy – we takes care of ‘eem later. Call me back around dix-heure o’clock – we weel ‘ave another load zen... au’voir... click.”*

Then the lights went out and I heard doors slamming and cars driving off.

I waited a few minutes and started nosing around. There was a lighter in the top drawer of the desk and on top a folder with some interesting documents, including real estate purchases in Canada and an FDA report:

### **FDA Qualification for Aldentium**

<i>Test Supervisor:</i>	<i>Dr Zbignew Bunsenburner</i>
<i>Material under Test:</i>	<i>Aldentium Sulphate, Modified</i>
<i>Proposed Usage:</i>	<i>Food Additive</i>
<i>Contra-indications:</i>	<i>None.</i>

OK, maybe one itty-bitty one, but nothing to worry about. For doses in excess of 100 milliglobules per day, Aldentium thins the blood until the victim dies from hypothermia. But this is only a problem if you live North of Titusville.

And across the bottom, a big red stamp:

**REPORT SUPPRESSED**

So that was their little game... no wonder those snowbirds didn't go back this year. These guys are feeding people their tainted pasta so they feel the cold, and then, when they can't go back up North, buying their houses at rock-bottom prices!

A car drew up, so I slipped through the back door into a large ware-

house and hid behind a workbench. The lights came on and two guys walked past, too close for comfort;

*“Non, non, Pierre, we won ze game fair and rectangular...”*

*“Gimme une break, Jacques, zat was a good goal, ze ref is as blind as a racquet...”*

They loaded things out back and then drove off to continue their nefarious noodle business elsewhere.

It was dark again – I stood up and banged my head on a big board. I flicked the lighter to find out what it was. Hanging over me was a large sign and it read:

**RAW PASTA - HIGHLY FLAMMABLE - NO NAKED FLAMES**

Later, I could remember the explosion, but little else. Apparently I single-handedly wiped out an entire illegal pasta factory. Even Detective Inspector Ravioli reluctantly came to congratulate me on tidying up another impenetrable pasta mystery, and, to make a long story short, Jacques and the Montreal Mob are all doing time.

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, Bed 327, Indian River Memorial Hospital.



**Help Wanted!**  
by  
**Clara**  
**Woodall-Moran**  
**Testing**  
**Coordinator**

**H**ow did you get to be a Mensan? Did someone “proctor” the tests for you? We have a shortage of proctors and we need to get more qualified proctors certified.

The testing sessions cost \$30.00 of which \$12.50 is returned to the group as “proctor fees”. For many years our practice has been that the group gets to keep the \$12.50. This means for every person taking the test at Space Coast Area Mensa, we get \$12.50. This can add up to a tidy sum over the course of the year and helps defray the costs of publishing an award-winning newsletter.

One Saturday per-month we hold a testing session, so it is nice to have more than one proctor. Please consider helping out with this vital function.

You must have at least a BS/BA degree. You have to sit in on testing sessions twice and conduct one test session under the auspices of a certified proctor. That’s all that it takes.

Helen Lee Moore is our Proctor and we hold testing sessions the second Saturday of every month at the Cape Canaveral Hospital, Cocoa Beach, FL.

Contact Helen or me if you are interested.



## **Your Health**



## **Intelligence**

**Ann Schindler**

©2002

**F**or the past several years, I have been saving articles from newspapers and health sources on various things that affect intelligence. Believing that members of Mensa would be interested in such items, I thought I would write a column summarizing the contents of those articles.

Obtained from various sources, the same news item appeared in several newspapers and online news sources on the same date. Most of the articles appeared either in Florida Today, the Orlando Sentinel or on-line at Yahoo News or CNN.

Intelligence is defined in Webster's as the ability to learn and understand from experience; the ability to acquire and retain knowledge; mental ability; the ability to respond quickly and successfully to a new situation; use of the faculty of reason in solving problems. Many a parent has sought the "superkid." Parents have used various methods to increase their offspring's intelligence, from seeking the right partner, exposing the fetus to Beethoven or Mozart by using tummy speakers, and playing multilingual tapes. Parents try to enroll their children in the most stimulating preschools, purchase the most interesting pop-up books, or use flash cards and CD-ROMS. These attempts may simply produce more stress for both themselves and their children. Is it nature or nurture that produces higher intelligence and greater creativity? Genes (nature) are highly related to IQ, but without outside influence (nurture), an individual may not reach his or her full potential. Various studies have shown even small changes in environment can have an impact on IQ. The gains, however, may not be long-lasting if the stimulating environment is removed.

It is important for the brain to have a healthy environment to develop and grow. If certain foreign substances are present, brain cells may not know where to go or how to connect. The presence of drugs, alcohol, certain medications, nicotine, pollutants, and toxins can interfere with brain development and transmission of important chemical signals. Certain diseases, as German measles or toxoplasmosis, can likewise cause problems for the developing brain. Healthy nutrition is very important in order to supply proper nutrients. Prenatal vitamins and minerals are important to insure against any nutritional deficits. It has been found that breastfeeding for a period of 12 months resulted in a small but detectable increase in the cognitive function and educational achievement of the child throughout the school years and into young adulthood. Enhanced baby food will soon become available. It is touted to be as good as breast milk in providing both the nutrition and fatty acids that are believed to be essential for the development of the brain and vision. Eileen Birch, of the Retina Foundation of the Southwest, found that feeding the enriched formula for 4 months, when compared to regular formula, resulted in an increase of 7 IQ

points in a group of 18-month olds. Other studies found the chemicals N-acetylaspartate (NAA) and choline, which are present in nerve cells and their cell membranes, affect nerve functioning and memory. If the balances of these chemicals are affected by accident or injury, the ability to think properly is affected. A study done at Duke University found deficiencies in choline were more common in individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Foods high in choline include eggs, nuts, milk, and meats, especially liver.

The British Medical Journal reported in April 2001, that high IQ scores appear to be linked to longevity. This study, which took place in Scotland, analyzed results of 2200 elderly people who had taken IQ tests at age 12, and found that the higher the IQ score, the more likely the person was to be alive by age 76. Other social factors as social status and education did not seem to affect the IQ and longevity relationship. However, could it be that more intelligent people are simply more likely to make smarter lifestyle choices? A study at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, found there is less brain deterioration the more the brain is used, as when engaging in reading, doing crossword puzzles, or playing scrabble.

A study published in the British Medical Journal in January 2001 found the heavier a baby weighs at birth, the more likely the baby will become a brighter adult. The brain reaches its maximum weight of about 3 pounds around age 20. From then on, the brain begins to lose about 50,000 nerve cells per day. The loss of these billions of cells results in a total loss of about 3 ounces over the next 60 years of life. Larger the head size, particularly width-wise, has also been related to intelligence. The largest human brain on record, however, was of someone with severe mental retardation.

We all know that exposure to drugs and alcohol, both before and after birth, can affect the brain. The following are some interesting facts have been reported that may be of interest. According to a study reported in *The Lancet*, ecstasy, the party drug, causes more brain damage in women than in men. The American Heart association reported that moderate drinking may reduce the risk of strokes, but can result in shrinkage of the brain, a common problem in Alzheimer's patients. According to a study at the University of North Carolina, binge drinking both damages the brain and can interfere with new cell growth in the hippocampus, an area important to learning and memory.

Other items have been reported to have an effect on intelligence. The University of Northumbria in England found that the act of chewing gum has a positive effect on thinking and memory. This seems to be related to the repetitive chewing motion. A sociologist at Kansas State University found that pets seem to have an effect on cognitive functioning and boost the IQ test scores of children an average of 5 points as compared to children in homes with no pets. Exercise seems to stimulate brain activity. A study at the University of Illinois found that exercise has a positive effect on the speed of the decision making process in computer based testing. The participants scored higher in more difficult tests after 30 minutes of moderate exercise as compared to similar tests taken before exercise. A study at the Children's Hospi-

## July 2002 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. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. 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.

### Regular Events

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble: Monday the 1st, 15th & 29th**  
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 10th & 24th**  
6:00PM, Merritt Square Mall, Merritt Island

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 17th**  
7:00PM, Post Commons, Wickham Road, Melbourne

Spend the evening with friends playing games, drinking gourmet coffee, and devouring sweet treats, and perhaps even reading a bit. It's free (except for any purchases), no pets, and outside smoking.

**C.A.B.A.G.E. North Host: Karen Freiberg 639-6923**

**C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Jon Warner 635-8581**

<b>4th</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Fabulous Fourth Bash</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>SS/NP</b>

Please join Suzanne and Marc Leichtling for an Independence Day party not to be missed. Suzanne describes the event as a "pool/beach/hot tub party with games, food, and late evening fireworks from the Cocoa Beach pier [we are two miles north]". Sounds great to me! The Leichtlings live in a handicap accessible condo at the Ocean Oaks right on the beach. Feel free to park in any space not marked "Reserved." The address is *8700 Ridgewood Avenue, Building A, #406, Cape Canaveral*. Note: Beach chairs for fireworks viewing are a good idea.

**Suzanne and Marc Leichtling 868-5223 (suzl@cfl.rr.com)**

<b>10th</b>	<b>NL and Calendar Deadlines</b>
-------------	----------------------------------

All newsletter submissions must be to J.T. no later than today. Ditto for calendar events being to Ellen.

<b>12th</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Firearms &amp; Fried Rice</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Range &amp; Meal costs</b>	<b>S/NP</b>

Time to get your weaponry out of storage and loose a few rounds down range. Meet us at the *Gun Site Range, 124 S. Banana River Dr., Merritt Island*.

**J.T. Moran 632-0854**

<b>13th</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mensa Entrance Exam</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

Contact Clara Woodall-Moran for full information about testing for Mensa.

**Clara Woodall-Moran 632-0854**

<b>13th</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Great Books Discussion</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

Former SCAM member Luke Setzer invites us to join him and others in this "shared inquiry" setting exploring the Great Books. This event will include Mensans and non-Mensans alike, and the recurring theme will be books of interest to Objectivists.

**Luke Setzer** 639-9062 <http://WideSCOPE.tripod.com>

**13th** 7:00 p.m. **Movie Night**  
**Saturday** \$3.00 **SS/NP**

Dan Lange invites us to his apartment for a night of movie watching. A movie can be chosen by the group and munching and rehashing will, in all likelihood, be included. Dan has a third story walk-up, so the faint-hearted are forewarned! *Call Dan for directions.*

**Dan Lange** 757-9797

**14th** 3:00 p.m. **ExComm Meeting**  
**Sunday** Free **SS/NP**

The Executive Committee meets to conduct its monthly business. This month's meeting will also have the appointing of volunteer officers, and will be held at the *home of our Treasurer, Helen Lee Moore*, whose address is *5320 N. Cocoa Blvd. in Cocoa.*

**Clara Woodall-Moran (LocSec)** 632-0854

**Helen Lee Moore (Host)** 632-1831

**14th** **Following ExComm** **RG Committee Meeting**

The RG Committee will meet to work out the plans for the 2002 Regional Gathering. If you're on the committee, would like to join, or just want to volunteer help and ideas, come on out to Helen's (see above).

**21st** 11:00 a.m. **Brunch with Jim**  
**Sunday** Meal cost **NS/NP**

We'll join Jim for his monthly Sunday brunch at the *Colossus Restaurant at 380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne.* Note: you must be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you may not be seated with us, as we can't save seats for latecomers.

**Jim Trammell** 242-8985

**21st** 1:00 p.m. **SIG / Games**  
**Sunday** \$3.00 **SS/NP**

SIGs Afternoon at Rita's. Share your ideas. Emphasis on Photography, antique Cameras to modern equipment and techniques. If not in focus for you, come for the conversation, sharing ideas, snacks, play games and have fun. *151 Nemo Cir. Palm Bay.*

**Rita Johnson-Aronna** 676-5999

**27th** 6:30 p.m. **S.N.O.R.T.**  
**Saturday** Meal Cost **SS/NP**

Wasabi! Join us at our best-attended monthly event and sample some great Japanese fare; take a break from your mundane, humdrum daily fare with some sushi and tempura. *Miyako's* is located at *1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne.*

**J.T. Moran** 632-0854

**31st** 6:30 p.m. **Woebegone Wednesday**  
**Wednesday** Meal cost **SS/NP**

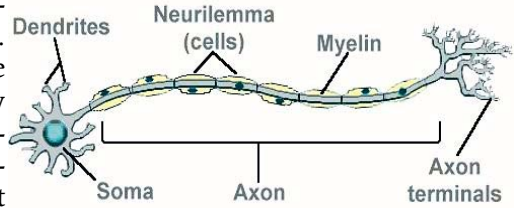
Come south of the Cocoa/Rockledge border for some of the best Mexican food around. Casual atmosphere, delicious fare, and yummy margaritas will be the order of the evening. Join us, amigos! El Charo's Mexican Restaurant is our venue, and it is located on S. Florida Avenue, just south of Cocoa Village.

**Ellen Paul** [epaul1@cfl.rr.com](mailto:epaul1@cfl.rr.com)



tal of Michigan in Detroit found that exposure to high levels of violence lowered IQ scores and affected reading skills. Exposure to lead paint was shown to significantly affect IQ scores. When elevated levels of lead were present in the blood of children, they scored an average of 11 points lower on the Stanford-Binet IQ test. Dr. Bruce Lanphear of the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio conducted the study. Iron was found to be important in learning. The June 2001 issue of *Pediatrics* reported that low iron levels affected a child's ability to understand math problems.

The brain is made up of 100 billion neurons, 100 trillion synapses, and 100 neurotransmitters. Intelligence does not result from using each one of these components, but rather from utilizing that which has been given to us and doing what we can to maintain and cultivate our resources. So read a book, own a pet, take an iron tablet, and stay away from lead paint, drugs and alcohol. You may also want to consider attending a Mensa event where you can stimulate those neurons, energize those synapses, and arouse those neurotransmitters by participating in intellectual conversation and challenging games.



**Sources**

Barclay, Laurie. How to Have Smarter Babies. 8 Oct 2001. Online. WebMD Health. Internet. Available [http://my.webmd.com/living\\_better\\_content/prt/article/3606.827](http://my.webmd.com/living_better_content/prt/article/3606.827).

Kluger, Jeffrey and Alice Park. The Quest For A Superkid. 22 April 2001. Online. Time.com. Internet. Available <http://www.time.com/time/education/printout/0,8816,107265,00.html>.



**We  
Get  
Mail!**

**from  
Luke  
Setzer**

**A**fter reading Mike Moakley's column in the June issue of SCAM, I find the "L" word to describe Moakley most accurately is "Luddite", not "Liberal". The dictionary definition of "liberalism" dates back to the old classical liberalism of the Enlightenment thinkers who became the Founding Fathers of the United States. Moakley's column correctly quotes these Enlightenment ideas from the Declaration of Independence and then incorrectly applies them. This theft and misuse of valid concepts to draw invalid conclusions dates at least as far back as *THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO*, and it has haunted the West for that many generations.



The concept of "freedom" means the freedom both to choose among various options and to experience the consequences of such choices. It does not mean that one's employer, government or society is necessarily obligated to provide every person an unlimited number of choices.

Moakley whines, "you cannot have freedom if you are hungry. You cannot have freedom if you have been 'downsized', 'outsourced', 'privatized', or 'globalized' out of your job." What in the world does he propose as an alternative? Does he propose government subsidies to businesses that operate inefficiently? Does he propose that food be wished into existence to fall from the sky like manna from heaven? Who will provide such food? If he suggests that some people be FORCED into providing it to others, then what of the freedom of those whom the government is forcing?

Moakley further complains, "You cannot be free if you have no voice in your workplace, especially if you're employed 'at will'. (Your employer might even FIRE you if he reads your letter to the editor that might not sit well with his interests.)" How else should life be? Is he proposing that employers should become slaves to their own employees? Is he rejecting the right of free association among people? Under what circumstances may an employer fire an employee? Who gets to decide those circumstances? Finally, what of the rights of the employer to run his own business as he sees fit?

Ayn Rand accurately identified that human reasoning is an individual quality and the source of individual rights. She further noted that the only two methods of interfering with reason -- and thus rights -- are the INITIATION OF PHYSICAL FORCE and FRAUD against people or their property. Rand saw government as a defender of individuals against these rights violations -- period. Yet Moakley wishes to expand government's role dramatically so that it may use force to interfere with employers' reasoning.

The only valid argument in Moakley's entire diatribe is his correct assessment of the evils of pollution. Yet this is itself an issue of initiating physical force, since the polluter is essentially trespassing onto another person's property. Government has a proper role in retaliating against such trespassers. Sadly, when government becomes so mired in the improper roles Moakley urges, it becomes incapable of performing well in its few proper roles, and everyone suffers.

For a complete treatise on individual rights, property rights, the role of government, and the debunking of many myths such as those Moakley regurgitates, consult Ayn Rand's book *CAPITALISM: THE UNKNOWN IDEAL*. To learn more about her revolutionary philosophy of Objectivism, join our monthly "Great Books Discussion" group. See the SCAM calendar for details.



**My Point of View**

**4th of JULY:  
A Suggested  
Birthday Present  
for America**

by

**Mike Moakley**

**B**y the time you read this article, we will most likely prepare for yet another Fourth of July celebration. Yes, once again we will commemorate the birthday of our great nation. We might do well to reflect on the reasons why the United States of America became a country in the first place. As I reflect on those reasons, one of the things that come to my mind is the battle cry of many of the early patriots, “*Taxation without representation is tyranny!*” Of course, during that time they were referring to the Townshend Acts, tax legislation imposed by the British Parliament. At issue was the fact that the colonists, who had no voice in Parliament, were still subject to the laws passed by that body.

It is, in part, for this reason, that our country was born. The Declaration of Independence states clearly that government is instituted with the consent of the governed, that is, the government is accountable to its citizens. This is why, a little over a decade into our new country’s existence, we chose the representative form of government that we have today. The underlying principle is that we, the people, are to be represented in any governmental matter that impacts us. Few would dispute that this is the way government should be: if our representative fails to represent us in the legislative process, out he (or she) goes, someone else is elected to the office.

At least, that’s the way it’s supposed to work.

The question I would pose at this point in time: Are *We, the People* currently being represented in our government? Well, we still have elections, where we vote for our legislators and executives for all levels of government. *Yet, do they represent us???* I think not. In my estimation, the oft-heard phrase, “Government of the people, by the people, and for the people” has become, at best, a cruel joke perpetrated on the public.

How many times have we as citizens been inundated with two slick images masquerading as candidates for a given office devoid of any substance spouting out feel-good half-truths vying for our votes? In the meantime, these candidates trip over each other trying to gain favor with the corporate community. Why? Money talks. The corporate community is by far the largest source of political contributions. For example, Florida Business United, the political arm of the Associated Industries of Florida, in its own literature claims its members have contributed in excess of \$10 million in the Florida legislative races in 2000 alone!

We already know that most election campaigns are prohibitively expensive, and that it is virtually impossible to win an election without corporate backing. Yet, when corporate interests conflict with the interests of the people, who usually wins out? I’ll give you three guesses, but the first two won’t count ... but that will be the subject of another article. Yet, isn’t that a form of tyranny?

Oh, did I mention a birthday gift for America? Here is my suggestion. Let’s have real campaign finance reform, in fact, the ultimate reform. Pub-

licly financed campaigns for qualifying candidates, and NO private donations whatsoever. Here's a partial list of what should happen:

1. All candidates for any given office will be granted an equal share of public funds allotted for that office.
2. The news and broadcast media will be required to give equal time (airtime or print space) to all candidate for each office. NO paid political advertising will be permitted.
3. All candidate debates will be sponsored by the public, and include all candidates running for the office. The candidates will be required to participate in those debates.
4. Election laws governing qualifying candidates MUST be made uniform and fair in order to encourage all serious candidates to run for office.

If we do this, government, at ALL levels, will once again be accountable to the governed. In other words, we would truly have "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people." After all, America IS its people. Could we, as America, ask for a better birthday gift?



***A View... From  
Somewhere Else***

***"So... What  
Went Wrong?"***

***by***

***Hank Rhodes***

***©2002***

**A**s our nation cleans up the rubble from the recent disaster we experienced, it is reasonable to ask:

So, what did go wrong?

The quick answer is "Lots!"

The smart answer is "Let's find out, and fix it."

The answer we don't need is "It wasn't us."

The failure to anticipate, detect, and guard against the recent incidents of terrorism can not be assigned to any one agency or department, and certainly can not be blamed on one individual, formerly in government or still serving. Acting as individuals and in teams, some U.S. government employees have actually done exceptional work. Unfortunately, in the past few months, we have become aware of several instances where the performance of the government agencies could stand improvement.

We have recently learned that agents of the FBI in the field identified potential threats in a timely fashion, only to be foiled by careerist managers who failed to support them, and who failed to make any reasonable effort to discern a pattern, an important function of a headquarters in assessing the enemy's intentions, and in developing effective warnings and countermeasures.

CIA officers accomplished the difficult task of identifying and tracking terrorists overseas. Despite the reassurances we have received about improved interagency cooperation, however, once these terrorists entered the United States, the CIA headquarters failed to provide adequate and timely notification to the responsible security agencies, allowing the terrorists a

free hand in our nation.

Our young people serving in Afghanistan have displayed heroics that will rank with anything in the annals of the American military. Their dedication, along with that of their comrades serving in the adjacent lands, in the Arabian Sea, and in the airspace above the theater, has been the deciding factor in the victories over the terrorists accomplished to date. One wonders, however, why their leaders needed a terrorist attack to spur a greater emphasis on homeland defense, and why the backward-looking Generals and Admirals have been so reluctant to abandon the concept of a “peer competitor,” such as the old Soviet Union.

And we must not forget that an alert officer of the much-maligned Customs Service in Washington State single-handedly foiled a terrorist attack planned for the millennium celebration.

A legitimate investigation of recent events should focus on identifying the failures and propose effective solutions. We should hold the responsible government agencies accountable, without embarking on a course of scapegoating, while taking stronger measures than cosmetic bureaucratic reshuffling. This accountability should provide a means for people and organizations to learn from their mistakes.

As we undertake a major realignment of the federal government, there are questions that still need to be answered. Among them:

- Will the upper-level managers who failed us, the citizens, and who failed their subordinates, be held accountable? Or will they be allowed to retire, collect full benefits from the government, start consulting businesses, and get government contracts to troubleshoot and “fix” their old departments?
- Will the rank and file government workers, mostly dedicated professionals, continue to be subject to spurious attacks by showboating politicians?
- When the CIA knows of clear and present threats to public safety, will they communicate with the responsible agencies?
- If the National Security Council doesn’t foster this sort of cooperation and communication among the various national security agencies, what use is it?
- Will the INS (or the new agency responsible for immigration services) have access to this national security information in order to screen out undesirable persons on their arrival? Or will we continue to accept murderers and terrorists because their identifying information “wasn’t in the database?”
- Why does the Justice Department seek broader police powers for the FBI, ignoring the fact that the problem was not the safeguards on civil rights, but rather, upper managers who actually impeded the legitimate course of the field investigators?
- Will we be able to employ the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) tech-

nology, that has proven its value in the war against the terrorists, as a tool to patrol and secure our land and sea frontiers?

- Will we get serious about guarding our borders, and pay the professionals who perform this difficult task a competitive wage? It should be noted that high turnover among border patrol agents actually costs the taxpayers in the long run as new agents must be recruited and trained. While some might “trust the people instead of government,” guarding our borders is an inherently governmental function and this mission needs to be properly supported. Why isn’t the federal government willing to pay these agents what they are worth?

As previously noted, this inquiry need not, and must not, be partisan in nature, but should be based on preventing another national disaster. After all, if the Whitewater land deal and Monica were worth paralyzing the government several years ago, certainly the events of the past nine months are a valid reason for an independent, non-biased inquiry.

That said, the author admits to the guilty pleasure of listening to those who are most responsible for the toxic political atmosphere of the 1990s whine about partisanship when they feel their man is coming under attack. As for the man in question, when discussing the current war in the Middle East, the President recently remarked that PLO chairman Arafat “had a chance to secure peace as a result of the *hard work of President Clinton...*”\* (Emphasis added)

When he actually sounds bipartisan and Presidential, this viewer takes notice!

\* *Florida Today, Monday May 27, 2002, p.3A*



### ***The 10th Story***

by

***Elissa Rudolph,***

***RVC10***

***RVC10@us.mensa.org***

**R**egion 10, stand up and take a bow!! Our region gathered 22 nominations in the 2002 Publication Recognition Program! Below is a listing of our regional PRP nominees; for a full listing, go to: [http://www.us.mensa.org/best\\_of/prp.php3](http://www.us.mensa.org/best_of/prp.php3) Nominees are listed by category, then newsletter name, then name of group.

#### ***REPORTING***

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

SCAM – Space Coast Area Mensa

#### ***PHOTOGRAPHY (SERVICE)***

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

#### ***EDITORIAL***

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

#### ***OVERALL SERVICE***

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**LAYOUT**

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**STYLE**

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**ORIGINAL (ENTERTAINMENT)**

Flamenco – Miami Mensa

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**FOUND (ENTERTAINMENT)**

SCAM – Space Coast Area Mensa

**THEME ISSUE(S)**

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**OWL (Medium Group)**

4M – Manasota Mensa

SCAM – Space Coast Area Mensa

**OWL (Small Group)**

PensaMensa – Northwest Florida Mensa

**ARTWORK**

BrowBeat (3 covers) – Broward Mensa

**PHOTOGRAPHY (ENTERTAINMENT)**

4M (Nice, France) – Manasota Mensa

PensaMensa (covers) – Northwest Florida Mensa

**CONTINUING ITEM**

Flamenco, “Just a Nanosecond....,” – Miami Mensa

Flamenco, “Spirituality,” – Miami Mensa

SCAM, “Bob at Large,” – Space Coast Area Mensa

Congratulations to all and may you all bring home awards from the AG! All of these nominations are for the printed newsletter. PRP awards are also given for electronic newsletters, but our region hasn’t conquered that goal.... as yet!

**More Congrats:** Region 10 received 11 scholarship awards including the \$1000 David Mann Scholarship. It was awarded to a participant in the Northwest Florida Mensa group. Participants in other groups (Space Coast Area Mensa, Broward County Mensa, Manasota Mensa, Tampa Bay Mensa, Southwest by South Florida Mensa, and Palm Beach County Mensa) received scholarships in the amounts of \$250 to \$500. Thank you to Ellen Paul (Space Coast Area Mensa) for serving as our regional scholarship chair.

You all make me very proud to be RVC of Region 10!!



**A View  
from the Right:  
Amend This!  
Part I**  
by  
**J.T. Moran**  
([morwood@cfl.r.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.r.com))

*"Do not imagine, comrades, that leadership is a pleasure. On the contrary, it is a deep and heavy responsibility. No one believes more firmly than Comrade Napoleon that all animals are equal. He would be only too happy to let you make your decisions for yourselves. But sometimes you might make the wrong decisions, comrades, and then where should we be?"*

George Orwell: Animal Farm

I am not one who thinks we should be monkeying around with the framework and foundation of our great nation, but the simple fact is that this nation is drowning in a cesspool for federal bureaucratic waste. And the most insulting part of this is that it is "We, the People" who are drowning. But the members of the three branches of our government, from the President on down to the most junior Congressman, barely get their feet wet. Why? Because, all too frequently, they exempt themselves from the laws, rules and regulations they insist, sometimes under threat of extreme penalty, that we mere peons must obey.

And it is not just those who make the laws who feel free to set themselves above us. It is often the lowliest civil "servant" who sets himself (or herself) up as the godlike arbiter of our fate.

Part of the problem is that those who "lead" us often don't seem to know what this country is about. The Senate Plurality Leader, Tom Daschle, addressed a group of Students at Harvard Law School in 2001. During that address, he related the famous story of Benjamin Franklin's response to a lady's question as he was exiting from the final Constitutional deliberations. She asked: "What kind of a country have you given us, Mr. Franklin?" According to Sen. Daschle, his response was "A *democracy*, if you can keep it." Yet the story itself gives the reply as: "A *republic*, madame, if you can keep it."

This is an important point. In the revisionist view of liberals like Tom Daschle, a false answer is better than the accurate one, if it conforms to your agenda.

What is troubling is the idea that he truly believes his response, because democracy is NOT a form of government. It is a method of governing, near the opposite end of the spectrum from an absolute dictatorship. Whereas our nation was actually founded as a representative republic.

Unfortunately, it is, more and more, being run as a bureaucratic dictatorship. One where almost half of the federal budget is the result of the costs of regulations. In fiscal year 2000 those costs – environmental, social, economic, and paperwork – added up to about \$788 billion.

To put that into perspective, the simple cost of doing business in the United States was more than the 1998 total gross national product of Canada (\$581 billion), and more than double the GNP of Mexico (\$349 billion). In fact, these regulatory costs were approximately \$70 billion higher than the 1998 pre-tax corporate profits for the entire U.S. It was also only

\$40 billion less than the sum of all individual income taxes paid in 1998!

The most revealing indictment of this “government of desks” is the Federal Register, the listing of all proposed and finalized federal rules. It is updated daily. And, in 2000, it reached a total of 74,256 pages of regulations.

Another list is the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations, a compilation of new rules going through the process of approval. In late 2000 there were almost 4,700 new regulations in the works, of which 158 had the classification of “economically significant”: they will impose annually recurring regulatory costs of at least \$100 million each. Each year. And this minimum of almost \$16 billion is on top of the \$788 billion already extant.

What makes this even scarier is that none of these new costs, and few of the old ones, require or receive any Congressional oversight or review. That means that people we did not elect have the power to effectively tax us. If I recall rightly, that caused a revolution once.

Yet there are those who not only say such rule making is a good thing, they demand it be done. These are the leeches of society, the ones whose votes are for sale. They have little concern, if any at all, for the good of society or of the country. JFK’s philosophy of “Ask not what your country can do for you” has no meaning for them; they adhere to the demand of “What’s in it for me?”

The federal tax code is the most complex and burdensome list of laws, rules, and regulations in existence today. But, if the bureaucrats have their way, it will never be replaced, or even simplified. Because it is the one sure method they have for buying the votes of the leeches. We hear the constant refrain of “tax cuts for the rich” from the left side of the aisle. What we never hear is the truth about who is paying those taxes. Class envy buys votes... but free money buys more. More than 40% of the populace pays no federal income taxes... yet a significant percentage of that 40% receives a “refund” each year. This is on top of the numerous other ways they have found to milk the productive people of the fruits of their labor and redistribute it to those who *will not* be productive, as well as to those who *cannot* be.

Social satirist P.J. O’Rourke said it well: *"When buying and selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought and sold are legislators."* But the Father of our Country said it best, over 200 years ago: *"Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."*

One reason no oversight is provided is that frequently Congress exempts itself, or is exempted from the laws and rules that We, the People, must obey under threat of fine or imprisonment. Next time, I’ll tell you what they are.





**The Gourmet's  
Guide:**

**Baklava**

by

**Art Belefant**

©2002

(belefant@juno.com)

It isn't always that I know the instant of inspiration for one of my articles. This is one case that I do. One late evening one of my sons, who resides in California, called me with a desperate request. He needed the recipe for baklava. He was going to a friend's house for dinner the next evening and wanted to bring the dessert. He remembered the many times as young child that we had made baklava, but couldn't find the recipe in my cookbook, an oversight that I will correct in the

next edition.

When all three children were young and at home, we made baklava many times. Not only because we liked the pastry, but it was one of those things that a parent would do to keep idle hands busy, have a family project, and utilize their dexterous small hands to manipulate the delicate pastry. Unfortunately, I neglected to put the recipe in my cookbook, a copy of which I gave to each child when they set up their own households.

Not having the recipe on hand, and not having made baklava in the many years since the children's grammar school days, I didn't want to rely solely on my memory, so I told my son that I would check and send him the recipe forthwith. I dove into my collection of cookbooks, read the recipes, and tabulated the ingredients listed in them and created a version for him.

As with all traditional dishes, there are many versions and variations. A brief history of the pastry will give you some idea of how far it can go. Although in America, baklava is considered the quintessential Greek pastry, it originated with the Ottoman Turks. Turkey ruled Greece for five hundred years and Turkish cuisine affected Greek cooking. The Greeks recognized a delicious pastry when they tasted it and made it their own. We do the same thing. Think of pizza.

Other countries that were conquered by, or had close economic and cultural ties to, the Ottomans also took the basic dish and modified it for their own uses. It is found in the Balkans, Egypt, Iran (Persia), and Lebanon. In Turkey and the Arab world baklava is often filled with pistachios or almonds and comes in various shapes, small tubular shapes like sausages, larger tubular shapes that are cut into slices, and other variations. The Austrians rolled it into a fat cigar shape and called it a strudel using apples and raisins as the filling. The Italians/French filled it with custard and called it a Napoleon. A Napoleon has nothing to do with the French emperor. It is a corruption of *Neapolitan*, from Naples, where it was popularized. In Gascony it is made flat and thin with only one layer of sheets of dough and it called a croustade.

The use of filo (sheets of dough) is not limited to sweet desserts. The Greek spanikopida (spinach pie) is an example of savory dish made with filo. The Turks make many savory dishes using filo. In England I had a

salmon pot pie that used filo for the pastry.

Baklava consists of three items, each of which is prepared separately.

First, the pastry. The making of a baklava is now not difficult because we need not make the pastry. Before filo dough was available commercially, the making of the sheets was a difficult and sensitive process. Some people still do make their own pastry, and it does taste better than when using the store-bought kind, but I never have done it and I would not recommend that you do. The filo of the croustade that I had in Gascony were hand made by pulling the sheets of dough. Rolling doesn't get them thin enough.

Start with a one pound package of filo. It can be found frozen or refrigerated in most supermarkets. If you are using the frozen product make sure that it is thoroughly thawed out. Frozen or refrigerated, bring the filo to room temperature before working with it.

Carefully unroll the filo so that you have flat sheets. Cover the sheets with a damp towel. The filo is so thin that they dry out quickly. Once dried they are brittle and cannot be worked.

The filling is usually chopped walnuts in the Greek version. Almonds, pistachios, and other nuts are common in Turkey and the Arab world. Mix the chopped nuts with sugar and cinnamon. A little rose water will give the baklava a Turkish touch.

Using a pan the size of the filo sheets, brush the bottom with melted butter. Place one sheet down and brush with butter. As you remove each sheet from the stack, immediately recover the stack with the wet towel. Continue with butter and sheet until you have ten sheets down (there should be about thirty sheets in the package). Put down a layer of filling, about five sheets of filo, buttered as before, another layer of filling, another five sheets of filo, another layer of filling, and then the last ten sheets of filo.

Cut the pastry in the traditional diamond pattern, put a clove in each diamond, and bake at 350 degrees for about one hour.

While it is baking, make the syrup by mixing and simmering the ingredients for about twenty minutes. Although there are many formulae, I use 3 cups each of sugar and water, to which is added 2 tablespoons each of lemon juice and corn syrup. A little honey added to the syrup makes it even sweeter and adds that distinctive honey flavor. Some prefer an all honey syrup, but I find that cloying. A little lemon gives a slight acid bite to the syrup. Other flavors are sometimes used, such as orange. Even chocolate is used by some. When the pastry is done, and while still hot, pour the syrup over it uniformly.

If you can wait that long, the baklava is best after resting a day to allow the syrup to cool and penetrate the pastry.



**It's Coming!**

**News from the  
RG Front**

**M**ark your calendar for the 2002 SCAM Rollback RG, happening on October 18th thru the 20th. Use **THIS** 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 **\$23** and the Sunday Buffet Brunch costs only **\$14**. And there is also a brought-back combo plan of a mere **\$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](mailto: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.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make out checks to **ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Space Coast **CITY, ST, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

Area Mensa. **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**The  
Also-Rans:**



**Ellen's  
Excellent  
Movie Quiz  
by  
Ellen Paul**

**S**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. Terrane & Phillip
2. Dr. Theo Calder
3. Gen. Rusty Castle
4. Richard Thorne
5. Ricky McKinney

*(Answers will be found below)*



**Arachnae's Threads**  
by  
**Clara Woodall-Moran,**  
**Webmaster**

**T**here might still be a bit of confusion about our web presence. Our web presence has undergone several iterations from a few pages attached to the home site of a member, to a site created at one of the hosting areas to what we have now. When the first site was created specifically for SCAM, the creator had the title of Webmaster and a parallel position to the newsletter editor. In January of this year Webmaster position was eliminated and the web officer became a part of the editorial staff, and the title was changed to curator. What this ultimately means is that items to be published go to one source, the Editor. Any material sent to the editor for publication will be published to the web as written unless otherwise noted by the author.

Phone: (407) 631-3548

FAX: (407) 690-2295

**focusonbrevard.com**

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Cyberspace HomeSites & Associates, Inc.  
(CH&A)

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Rockledge, FL 32956

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Created by www.chna.com



**We Have....**



**The Answers!**

1. South Park: Bigger, Longer and Uncut (1999)
2. Instinct (1999)
3. Strategic Air Command (1955)
4. Dantien: Omen II (1978)
5. Pay It Forward (2000)