

The

SCAM

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2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee



Volume 20, No. 8

August, 2002

*The
Newsletter*
SCAM
Space Coast Regional Mensa

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Happy August Birthday

02 – James Vanaman
04 – Robert Johnson
09 – John Lurie
09 – James McNamara
13 – Ronald Gaynor
15 – William Lamoureux
16 – Robert Knox
19 – Ryan Gilmore
22 – Shirley Jones
26 – Ronald Wallace
28 – James Peabody
28 – Judith Spillers
29 – Chester Young
30 – James Conklin
30 – Michael Green
30 – David MacMakin



Welcome to Mensa and SCAM
Andrew Dickinson - Melbourne Beach

Welcome to SCAM
Beth Allen - Rockledge



**On the
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran
SCAM Editor**

Once again, the time has come. One more year has passed, and still you see (more-or-less) the same faces doing (more-or-less) the same jobs for the group. I have offered one final year as Editor of the award-winning newsletter you are reading, and my offer has been accepted by the ExComm. But, when I say final, I mean it.

I never intended to stay on as Editor this long when I accepted Helen Lee Moore's offer to train me as her successor back in April, 1999. I thought I could do a good job, and Helen was professing the desire to step down.

Well, circumstances caused me to assume the mantle of Editor much sooner than I would have preferred, with only the knowledge that Helen would provide me with as much help as I needed, whenever I asked. But, she made it perfectly clear – I was the Editor, not her.

I wasn't sure I was ready for the responsibility, but knew I would do my best. And, at the end of my first year I felt I had. I had accomplished all my personal goals and *The SCAM* had garnered a couple of PRP nominations and had won one (Bob Tuck's "Bob-at-Large"). So, for personal reasons, I decided to step down. And to ensure that I did, I let my membership lapse, thereby forcing the selection of a new Editor.

However, things don't always work out as you plan, and three months later I found myself renewing my membership and again accepting the responsibilities of Editor, which I have carried ever since. But, I am running out of steam.

Back when I was LocSec, I once told the (then) Editor of our newsletter that, when the job became work, and he no longer enjoyed doing it, to resign. I emphasized that I did not want to see the quality of *The SCAM* (which, as always, was very high) diminish as his interest in doing the job waned. I now find myself needing to consider my own advice.

So, officially, I am announcing that this will be my last year as Editor. And it is my sincere hope that, as the year goes by, someone reading this column will answer my call when I ask for a volunteer to be my successor. Because this newsletter, and this group, deserves the best we can give it.

As you can see from the cover, this year we did not take the Owl for best medium-sized group newsletter (it went to the Inland Empire newsletter of California). We were also unsuccessful in the other three categories. But we still have one of the best newsletters to be found in the entire organization, and I wish to thank all the people whose contributions over the years have made it that way.

You are the greatest.



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

This ExComm is getting off to a flying start. We are, however, still looking for a few stouthearted volunteers. The RG Committee can always stand to have extra hands. The RG is our single best-attended event but so many of the attendees are from other locations around Florida and other States. We have a membership of 200 and we would really like to see 20% of you at the RG. The price is very low and we believe we will have a great RG. Come and help us make it so.

Ellen Paul, after 10 years of dedicated service to the Jim Johnson-Doug Pearson Memorial Scholarship Committee is calling it quits. This ExComm looked back over the records and discovered that during her tenure the fund went from “just barely scraping by” to being a robust fund and has been maintained at about \$2000.00 even after the scholarship is awarded; nice job, Ellen. We are sorry you have decided to give up the job but we can understand after all those years.

Another 10-year veteran of the organizational end of SCAM has left the ExComm and committees. Bob Tuck decided against running for the ExComm for another term. His steadying hand will be missed. Bob was truly the Member-At-Large. Joe Smith has taken up the standard and we appreciate that.

What the second paragraph means to the group is that we are looking for a new Scholarship chairperson. Please contact any member of the ExComm if you have an interest in handling this job. The job is all encompassing: fund-raising to awarding the scholarship. The committee chair gets to set the standards for the award, as well.



Let's Get Together!

by

**Clara
Woodall-Moran
RG Hospitality**

Are you competing in the dessert judging? Contact me at cew@cfl.rr.com (321-632-0854) for complete instructions, rules, and such. The competition is done in two parts: *Judges awards* and *Peoples Choice award*. The Judges will assemble and make their awards Friday night at 7PM. The desserts will need to be ready and on display at that time. The categories for the judges were listed last month in this column. The people's choice is awarded by cash vote: a quarter a vote buys a sample of the dessert. \$1.00 buys a full piece.

The sand sculpture competition takes place on Saturday, if the weather is good. We need to know when a sculpture is ready for photographing and we will provide pictures in the hospitality suite. Again, 25 cents a vote.

Ballot box stuffing is always encouraged, and the proceeds from both competitions will go to the Jim Johnson-Doug Pearson Memorial Scholarship fund.



**Minutes of the
ExComm Meeting**



**Jon Warner,
RecSec**

14 July 2002 - 15:03 at Helen Lee Moore's Residence

Members Attending: **Jon, Helen Rita, Clara, Joe.**
Guests: Pat Aronna and J.T. Moran.

Correspondence

Clara received forms to register to run for National Office.

Minutes of Last Meeting

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

Officer Reports

LocSec, Asst. LocSec, RecSec and Member-at-Large: no

report.

Treasurer: Passed around printed report of accounts.

Reports - Committees

Bylaws, Publicity, SIGHT: no report.

Editor: Calendar Coordinator has resigned. Now looking for replacements.

Membership: Membership is at 200.

RG: Things going very well, now have 84 registrations.

Scholarship: Ellen has resigned as of 31 July. The ExComm will run the program until a replacement has been found.

SIGs: Still continuing, photography is again the subject.

Testing: Steve Schneider has asked for help in getting recertified as a proctor. No one showed for testing on 13 July.

Old Business - Officer Appointments

RG Committee - reappointed

Bylaws Committee - Dennis Schindler, Bud Swinson, Fran Hinson

Editor - J.T. Moran

Membership - Clara Woodall-Moran

Publicity - Bob Tuck

SIGHT - Karen Freiberg

SIGs - Rita Johnson-Aronna

Testing - Clara Woodall-Moran

New Business

MOVED - Helen, **seconded**, Jon - to rescind Web Page Guidelines, **vote** unanimous. **MOVED** - Helen, **seconded**, Clara - to incorporate Web Page Guidelines in the Publishing Guidelines, **vote** unanimous. New Publishing Guidelines will be presented at next ExComm Meeting for approval.

Open Forum / Announcements - None.

Next Meeting: August 11th, 2002, at Joe Smith's house at 3:00 p.m.

Move to adjourn: Helen. **Second:** Joe. **Vote:** Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 15:29.



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



Ken Thornton-Smith

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The Wabasso Triangle - Episode 3.14159
More Carbohydrate Capers from the Defective Detective

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying all known Laws of Physics, as well as United States Postal Service Mailbox height regulations and prune juice, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was Monday, still dark and way too early. So what was that noise? Oh – the alarm. I looked out of the window – an intense laser beam drew a circle within a circle. That’s right, the sign of the doorbell. That means someone was in trouble and it was time for Captain Ding-Dong, Doorbell Repairman, to spring into action.

I jumped out of bed and struggled into my purple spandex tights. It wasn’t easy being mild-mannered Anthony Chianti at this hour, let alone wriggle into this ridiculous outfit. Still, that purple matches my lava lamp.

By the time I was dressed, my faithful sidekick, Ding-a-Ling, the Boy Wonder, was already sliding down the chute on his way to the DongMobile, hidden deep in our underground garage. I landed smoothly in the driver’s seat and Ding-a-Ling nodded, “OK, Let’s go!”

I pressed the start button and the camouflage doors at the top of the ramp opened. From the outside it looked like a dense mass of Palmettos. On the inside it was a high-tech crime laboratory.

As we accelerated away on another crime-busting adventure, the emergency location flashed up on the dashboard display. I drove west on Che Guevara Avenue, turned left into Timothy Leary Square and hung a right onto Nelson Mandela Boulevard. Hardly know my way around town since those tree-hugging Liberals gained seats.

“Captain Ding-Dong, do you read me?” The secret Dong Radio echoed in the cool night air. It was Sam Enchantedevening, our friendly Police Commissioner.

“Loud and clear – we’re on our way,” said Ding-a-Ling, my fearless companion, “What’s the problem?”

“The emergency is a Mr.s. Eileen Dover. Apparently, she arrived home from her night job as a Jehovah’s Witness and found the doorbell stuck.”

“Leave it to us, Commissioner,” we both chimed in. We chime quite a lot. It’s what we do.

Poor Mr.s. Dover was beside herself, ringing doorbells for a living and then feeling deeply rejected when her own doorbell stuck. Ding-a-Ling made matters worse by reading her some of his Zen poetry. I examined the offending doorbell with a stethoscope – this looked straightforward enough – no evidence here of our wicked arch-enemy and doorbell debu-

tante: Avon Lady.

I reached into my utility belt and grabbed a can of WD39, our patent releasing fluid, since slavishly copied and popularized by evil bourgeois commercial influences. Remind me to tell you about my recipe for nine hundred and ninety-nine island salad dressing.

One quick squirt and then a firm press was all it took. I tucked the can away in my belt and looked up as Mr. Dover opened the door. He took one look at his tearful wife and said:

“What did they do to you, honey?”

At that point a fist about the size of a car battery came at me from nowhere...

What? Where?

The alarm woke me up. Dreadful – what a nightmare. And purple Spandex? Me? Nothing made sense, and for once it wasn't Detective Inspector “Raving” Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad interfering with me, just because I was interfering with police business. Come to think of it, that ugly Mr. Dover looked just like Detective Inspector Ravioli...

But the alarm kept going. I lifted one sleepy eyelid and looked out of the window to see a large white tube projected onto a cloud. Yes, the Pasta-sign meant that Captain Rigatoni and Ziti-Boy, the crêpe crusaders, were needed again.

I slipped out of my jammies and into my chartreuse Spandex pantyhose. Ziti-Boy was already in his Daffy Duck UnderRoos and together we hit the chutes that took us deep down to our secret underground Pasta-Cave. ‘Deep’ is the operative term – we landed with a splash in four feet of water, and this cape is just back from the cleaners.

“The PastaMobile is here somewhere...” said Ziti-Boy, “...whose idea was it to build an underground garage in Florida?”

We bumped into the PastaMobile and clambered aboard. I pressed the start button and the camouflage doors at the top of the ramp opened. From the outside it was disguised as a dense mass of Palmettos. From the inside it was a dense mass of Palmetto bugs and four feet of water.

I paused at the top of the ramp to finish my coffee and allow the water time to drain out of the car. After we finished arguing over the car radio and the merits of Pariah Scarey's latest hit, we pulled our masks down and zoomed off on our mission of mercy.

Would our Jamaican nemesis, Pastafarian, find some more Red Crou-tonite and bring us to our knees? Would tonight be another Semolina Incident? Or would we catch our evil arch-enemy, Durum-Guy, transporting Tapioca across State lines?

The secret wavelength PastaRadio crackled as if in response:

“You masked morons still interfering in police business? As long as you don't get in the way you can take a look over at IBM – Israeli Bacon Manufacturing – we had reports of suspicious activity there...”

It was the evil drone of corrupt Police Commissioner, Ronald “Byron”

Getronfree.

“OK, leave it to us!”

Ziti-Boy’s naïve invertebrate enthusiasm can be infuriating.

Fortunately, Ziti-Boy was driving and this gave me time to think – just as well as I was still stuck on 73 Across: “Chartreuse Spandex Pantyhose?” From the crossword letters it was looking like ‘TASTELESS’, but they’re not supposed to be edible. This can mean only one thing: The Wabasso Triangle has struck again!

As you know, inside the Wabasso Triangle, things are different. For a start, the Lasagna Sprocket Neutrinos are packed so densely that some of them decay into Oldtrinoes and drive a Caprice at 25mph in the fast lane of US1.

The Pastamobile screeched around a bend and I looked up from the crossword, wondering what I was doing at 3 a.m., cold and wet, risking my life in a car with this loony instead of snuggled up with Lana Turnip, wench du jour.

Ahead was a large commercial complex. Only this was the wrong one.

“You lost again, huh, Ziti? This isn’t the Israeli Bacon plant!” I said in a superior tone.

“Of course not, Captain Rigatoni,” retorted Ziti-Boy, “That was just a smokescreen – Byron wanted us out of the way so his stooges could pull off a pasta heist, right... here!” He slammed on the brakes and tires squealed in protest as we slithered to a halt outside the ugly Bauhaus monolith that was home to Amish Semiconductor.

“We’re too late, look!” I pointed at a helicopter taking off from the roof.

“I don’t think so! Pow-Zap!” said Ziti-Boy, as he pointed his Patent Pending Pasta Pistol and fired. Large strings of spaghetti tangled up the rear rotor. The chopper spun round and round to a messy landing in the front parking lot, spilling boxes of looted linguini right in front of us. Out stepped the bent County Planning Commissioner, Bill Dingpermit, just as a dozen police cars of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad pulled in.

“Nice work, boys – we’ll take over from here!”

We recognized the voice of Detective Inspector Ravioli over the police megaphone as we left.

“Thanks for helping wrap this up before that idiot Private Eye ‘Charisma-Bypass’ Chianti stuck his nose in... “

“Is that...? ‘Charisma Bypass’? – is that what they call me?” I looked at Ziti-Boy, who sat there grinning. I was fuming, but we can never reveal our secret identities...

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 and part-time Superhero, signing off from the PastaCave.



Your Health

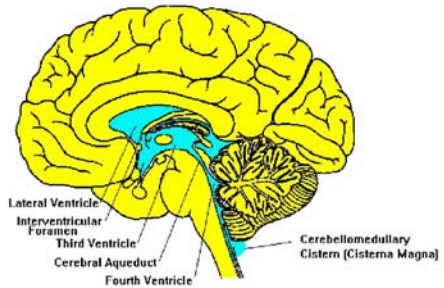


Hydrocephalus

Ann Schindler

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Hydrocephalus is a term derived from the Greek word *hydro* meaning water and *cephalus* meaning head. The condition, once referred to as “water on the brain,” is really a neurological condition in which there is an excessive accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) in the brain. CSF is a clear fluid produced within the brain comprised of water, proteins, electrolytes, and nutrients. It circulates through the ventricles, or spaces, of the brain and down the spinal cord to provide nutrition, remove waste, and provide buoyancy and cushioning for protection from injury. The fluid returns upward, bathing the surface of the brain, and is reabsorbed into the venous system. There is a delicate balance between the production (400 and 600 cc's per day) and re-absorption. If this balance is disrupted and the rate of production exceeds the rate of absorption or if the flow is blocked, hydrocephalus occurs. The fluid accumulates in the ventricles of the brain causing swelling and compression of surrounding brain tissues. In an infant, this accumulation of fluid will result in an enlargement of the skull. This is due to the fact that the skull of an infant is not fused as it is in an older child or an adult. The bones are held together by fibrous elastic tissues, called cranial sutures, which allow the skull to expand. Fontanelles, or soft spots, are areas within the sutures between the bones. These areas will fuse together after 12 to 18 months and will remain fused throughout life.



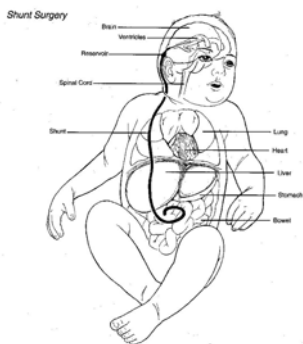
Hydrocephalus can be congenital (present at birth) or acquired. Congenital hydrocephalus, which occurs about one in one thousand births, can be caused by a variety of factors in the mother including rubella (German measles), cytomegalovirus (part of the herpes family), toxoplasmosis (from infected uncooked meat), and genetic disorders. These conditions can cause changes in the anatomy and physiology of the fetus resulting in the impedance of the flow of CSF, as stenosis (narrowing) of the pathways and spina bifida (an opening in the spinal column with protrusion of spinal membranes or cord). Acquired hydrocephalus can occur as a result of injury, infections as meningitis, or cysts and tumors. These can result in an increase in resistance to the drainage of CSF. Normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH) occurs when there is an accumulation of CSF causing the ventricles to enlarge. There is little or no increase in intra-cranial pressure. NPH is usually found in the elderly and is frequently caused by obstructions in CSF pathways.

Symptoms of hydrocephalus vary with the age of the patient and the

type of hydrocephalus. Since an infant's skull expands to accommodate the increased pressure, the most frequently seen symptom is an increase in skull size. Other symptoms include irritability, vomiting, high-pitched cry, and bulging fontanel. The three classic symptoms of acquired hydrocephalus are gait disturbances, cognitive changes, and impaired bladder control. Other symptoms may include headaches, nausea and vomiting, blurred or double vision, dizziness, poor balance, hypertension, lethargy, and seizures. When NPH is present in the elderly, these symptoms may be confused with the normal aging process and diagnosis is frequently delayed. Early diagnosis and treatment is an important element in prognosis.

Diagnosis is made by evaluation of symptoms, measurement of intracranial pressure, and cranial imaging techniques that may include ultrasound, computed tomography (CT), and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Misdiagnosis of hydrocephalus is rare, but you may wish to consider getting a second opinion before proceeding with further treatment. Benefits of any surgery should always outweigh the risks.

Some forms of hydrocephalus are temporary and can be treated with drugs, and some forms may require no treatment. In most cases, however, the surgical insertion of a shunting device is needed to drain the excess CSF and relieve pressure. A shunt is a flexible silastic tube that diverts the accumulated CSF around the obstructed pathways of the brain or spinal canal to another part of the body where it is absorbed into the bloodstream. A one-way valve controls the rate of drainage. Most commonly, one end is placed into a ventricle of the brain and the other end into the abdominal cavity. This type is called a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt. Another type is a ventriculo-atrial shunt where the distal end is placed into the right atrium of the heart. The shunt may also be placed into the jugular vein (ventriculo-jugular) or the outer lining of the lungs (ventriculo-pleural). The most common placement is done by making small incisions in the skull and abdomen,



passing the shunt under the skin between these openings, then passing one end into the ventricle of the brain and the other end onto the abdominal cavity. The shunt is designed to remain in place for life. When a shunt is placed into an infant or child, extra length is placed into the abdominal cavity to allow for growth, however as many as 4 or 5 shunt replacements may be done in a lifetime to allow for normal growth and proper functioning. Complications of shunt placement may include valve or shunt malfunction,

obstruction, and infection.

Prognosis of hydrocephalus depends on numerous factors including the presence of other associated anomalies. Without proper treatment, hydrocephalus can have a 60% death rate with survivors displaying numerous

physical, intellectual, and neurological impairments. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential to improving outcomes. Many individuals are able to lead normal lives with few restrictions.

Research is being conducted in various ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent brain disorders. There have been astounding advances, especially in the last 40 years, since shunts were first introduced for treatment. Various groups, such as the Hydrocephalus Association, provide support and education to individuals and groups, both professional and private. Their toll free number is 888-598-3789 and can be found on the web at www.hydroassoc.org. Hydrocephalus is a chronic disease; it need not be a fatal one.

Sources

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Your Health: EMERGENCY!



Life Jackets Ann Schindler

Each year, hundreds of boaters drown needlessly because they were not wearing a life jacket. According to the US Coast Guard, 8 out of every 10 victims in fatal boating accidents were not wearing life jackets and of the 519 boaters who drowned in 2000, life jackets could have saved the lives of 445. Many people do not wear life jackets because they are thought to be uncomfortable and unsightly, but for many newer styles, this is no longer true. Please be smart and have a life jacket available and wear it. It could save your life.

A very close friend of mine was recently not so lucky. While testing out a newly acquired 14-foot boat with 3 other people, the motor failed and the boat began drifting in the choppy inlet waters. To stabilize the boat, my friend threw an anchor over the stern. The boat took on water, upended, and immediately sank. Two of the four people drowned, including my friend. Life jackets were onboard, but were in a locker that went down with the boat. My friend was 24 years old with 2 very young children, and a wife who is 3 months pregnant. Please be smart. Wear a life jacket.



**I WANT YOU
TO WEAR YOUR
LIFE JACKET**

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

***"The Public
Be D---d"***

***by
Hank Rhodes***

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Here is something that doesn't happen every day: On Friday, June 28, 2002, the Standard & Poors 500 Index, widely regarded as the best gage of the broader stock market and an important economic indicator, closed at 989.42. This represents the lowest end-of-quarter close of the S&P 500 in four and a half years, and represents a 34% decline since that index reached its peak in late 2000.

The reason for the lack of confidence in corporate America isn't difficult to surmise, for in recent months there has been a revelation of incompetence and malfeasance by the leaders of numerous large companies. The rogue's gallery includes Enron, Global Crossing, Arthur Anderson, Tyco, Adelphia, Xerox, Halliburton, ImClone, CitiGroup, and most recently, WorldCom. No doubt, there are more to come.

The misconduct can generally be characterized in six broad areas. These are:

- Misstatements of performance (either by accounting gimmicks or outright falsehood).
- Failure to assure an accurate and independent audit.
- Failure of corporate directors to perform their fiduciary duties.
- Insider trading.
- Conflict of interest on the part of investment advisors, resulting in false statements of confidence.
- Misuse of corporate assets for personal gain, such as CEOs receiving loans from the corporation at unusually generous terms.

While a full discussion of the details and various methods used to accomplish this misconduct could probably fill a thick book, and its actual practice in the individual companies noted above would easily fill a shelf (assuming the documents haven't been shredded), the root of this can be boiled down to two words: Greed and Arrogance.

The net result is loss of livelihood for the employees, the vast majority of whom played no role in the misconduct. Investors, both little people and institutions (such as pension funds), lost significant sums of money.

The Social Darwinists among us tend to shrug their shoulders, and say, "So what? It's not my problem!" Even accepting the first premise of the Darwinists, that someone else's unemployment and victimization by fraud are not themselves things to be concerned about, the second premise is utterly false.

Economic activity does not occur in a vacuum. While incidental unemployment has a negligible effect on society's well-being, large scale job loss has a detrimental impact, as the pool of consumers for goods and services is reduced, and the social costs begin to add up. This effect is worsened where the unemployment is concentrated geographically.

Any free-market system requires capital. When investors have lost

confidence in the integrity of the system, they naturally withhold capital, which impedes economic activity.

To paraphrase John Donne: No man or woman or public corporation is an economic island unto itself.

It is important to briefly mention, that with few exceptions, while employees and individual investors bear the brunt of the misconduct when it comes to light, those most responsible, the corporate officers, frequently avoid any sort of punishment and are often able to retire with more money at their disposal than many of us will earn in our lifetimes. Despite all their purported intelligence and educational achievements, their strategy has been a rather simplistic game of “take the money and run.”

Also worthy of brief mention is the fact that these people have been given a license to steal by the politicians they have bought, which should give us some reason to favor restrictions on campaign financing (and we should regard the recent legislation as far from the solution, but merely as an important first step).

Recently, there has been a tendency in the popular media and among politicians to endow business people with unusual wisdom and judgment. This needs to be reexamined.

If these people have done such a poor job of fulfilling their responsibilities, we must question the wisdom of allowing them unfettered control over issues such as safety, health, and environmental protection. And, we should wonder why the guardians of the public interest are so often portrayed as the villains? This is perhaps the greatest of the con games being played by the businesspeople and their political allies, and of course, we the citizens are again the victims.

Despite this, many still tout the “free market” and the private sector as the cure for all society’s ills, including functions that are inherently governmental.

The President has described the recent scandals as “deeply troubling,” and vowed not to tolerate violations of the public trust. It should be interesting to see if his proposals have any substance, or whether they are just a cover for business as usual.

Recently, for example, the President has stated his intention to relieve corporations of the burden of the costs of toxic waste cleanup. Any clue as to who will have to pay more, fellow taxpayer?

And, we must not ignore the President’s own convenient sale of his holdings in a plummeting oil company, on whose board he was serving, in 1990. Nor should we forget his subsequent failure to properly disclose the transactions. One wonders why the “Harken Energy Corporation” is not the household word that “Whitewater” became, especially since the alleged misconduct occurred about the same time. Could it be that somebody’s Daddy was President in 1990? Or is this simply further evidence of the “conservative bias” of the media? It is interesting to note that when questioned about this topic, the current President Bush’s knee-jerk response was

to blame the government bureaucrats.

The recent period has been compared with the era of the robber barons of the late 19th Century, whose attitude was expressed as "The public be damned." (With Victorian sensitivities, the four medial letters were usually blanked out in the publications of the day.) Eventually, the public was outraged, and that era gave rise to anti-trust legislation, regulation of certain industries, and organized labor, all of which served to curb the power and excesses of the corporate bosses.

The question is: How outraged are we ready to be?



My Point of View

***What Happened to
Our Work Ethic?***

by

Mike Moakley

Yes, I know, this question is one that might be posed from the Right rather than the Left. Yet, I believe it is a question well worth asking. In its June 5, 2002 *Money* section, *Florida Today* ran this article, "Brevard Execs Cite Questionable Work Ethics at Work Summit". According to the article, this very question was a major topic at the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast 2002 Chief Executive Officer Summit, an invitation-only meeting held the previous day in Melbourne. One such business executive in attendance, Michael Adamcheck, President of Hetra Secure Solutions Inc. of Palm Bay, complained to his peers that he could only count on less than 10% of his employees. Other execs echoed his sentiments. Other than the perceived failure of our school system to teach the job skills they wished for the graduates to have, they offered no other possible answer to explain this state of affairs.

What is this "work ethic"? My understanding, dating back nearly 40 years ago when I was in school, is that it went something like this: "If you work hard and were loyal to your employer, you would be promoted to president of the company one day." This translated roughly as follows: If you were a slacker, you would be fired (and be disgraced). If you did what was expected of you, you could count on having a steady secure job to support your family, and then count on having a decent pension when you reached retirement. If you excelled, you could move up through the ranks. In short, it is loyalty to your employer and his goals.

When I first entered the work force, it was not unusual to see people who worked at the same company for 30 years or more. It was also pretty much a given that the better companies took care of its employees. Now, however, our children, upon graduating high school or college, are advised to keep up their resumes, as they should not expect to keep their jobs for more than two or three years. Further, the star employee may well work his way out of a job, as the efficiencies he introduces make his position no longer necessary. Moreover, thousands of employees routinely lose their jobs to cheap labor in third world countries and in our privatized prisons, or

to downsizing designed to enhance short-term profits and fatten the CEOs' paychecks. What happened?

We too often forget that working for a living is not an exercise in character building or self-actualization, but is strictly economic in nature. We work so we can live. Hard work must have tangible rewards. Loyalty must be reciprocal. Both elements appear to be missing in today's workplace. In 1980, a CEO made \$40 for each \$1 a typical factory worker earned. Today, the ratio is more like \$531 to \$1. According to the stock markets, our economy tripled in the last ten years. The average worker is fortunate if he has held his own or made modest gains during that time.

Then the employers have the audacity to ask, "What happened to the employees' work ethic?" My question is, what happened to the employers' business ethics? Just look at some of the news items surfacing over the last few months. By the beginning of this year, the Enron and Global Crossing scandals came to light. In recent weeks, Martha Stewart is suspected of insider trading in her dealings with ImClone stock. As I write this article, the Worldcom \$3.8 billion "error" is the current news item. It appears that in at least three of the four examples, it cost the employees dearly. Not only did many lose their jobs, but their 401-(k) "retirements" were all but wiped out, in part because they were not allowed to sell the company stock when they realized the impending disaster. To sum up, it's not difficult to figure out what happened to the employees' work ethic. In my estimation, most current employers do not deserve employees with a work ethic.



The 10th Story

by

***Elissa Rudolph,
RVC10***

RVC10@us.mensa.org

An article in an Arizona newspaper quoted an AG attendee: "I look at this as a family reunion with all the relatives you like." And that's what brings us back again and again, that undeniably sweet feeling of coming home. Yes, even to Scottsdale in July where the temperature at 6:30 in the morning could be 91. At the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, however, there were three swimming pools to cool you off and the Willow Stream Spa to help you really feel rejuvenated. Then there were the AG programs for mental stimulation, tours to Taliesin West, the Grand Canyon, and Sedona, plus horseback riding to expand your horizons, and we haven't even begun to describe the gustatory delights of the 2002 American Mensa AG. In the seven restaurants and bars on site at the Princess, Mensans received a 50 percent discount—right—50 percent! Then there were those infinite choices in Hospitality... To see over 400 photos of Mensans having fun go to: <http://www.or.us.mensa.org/pix/ag2002/rainey/2/index.htm>. Thanks to Scott Rainey, RVC8, who was extremely busy with his digital camera.

Results of the Publications Recognition Program can be found at http://us.mensa.org/best_of/2002printwinners.php Despite the fact that our

region's wonderful newsletters were nominated for 22 awards, we came away with only a couple: *PensaMensa*, newsletter of *Northwest Florida Mensa* won an award for their photographic covers and *BrowBeat, Broward Mensa*, won for their cover art, Lya Korda, artiste. While the number of awards was small, our nominations were large—we have to look on the bright side!

On the other hand, the AMC had a unpleasant decision to consider based on the Hearings Committee's recommendation. You will no doubt hear and read many, many opinions on this (how many Mensans are there?), but the fact is that the HC rendered an unanimous decision that a member committed an act inimical—harmful—to Mensa. Acts inimical may result in expulsion from the society. This is what happened when the vote was tallied on Saturday, July 6, 2002—15 for and 4 against expulsion. The vote was taken by written ballot, as is called for in our bylaws. One AMC member recused himself and one abstained; neither took a ballot to vote. The Hearings Committee did a fine job with what had to be a very disagreeable chore. If you would like to read the bylaws and/or the ASIEs (actions still in effect) concerning the “acts inimical” area, let me know and I'll point the way. This is over, time to direct our energies to more progressive ways to improve our organization.

Mini-Minutes and the full minutes of this AMC meeting should be available by the time you read this in your newsletter.

A very tentative bid has been put together to invite Mensa's International Board of Directors to conduct their 2006 meeting in Orlando along with a celebration of Mensa's 60th anniversary. During the IBD's meeting this coming October, they will consider American Mensa's bid; there may be others from various Mensa world chapters. This bid is really an invitation from Region 10, because I would expect that all our groups would be involved in some way. Much of the administrative and contract work will be done by the National Office, leaving Central Florida Mensa and our other groups free to be creative with programming and hospitality. Already Florida Ms are volunteering to be part of this World Gathering; I hope you will want to be part of it too!

This past year has just flown by and I still have many goals to reach for in Region 10. I hope to continue as your RVC for an additional two years (2003-2005) in order to complete my goals, one of which is to visit your group at some point in my tenure.

Coming Events

Looking for intellectual stimulation, yearning for that brain tickle you joined Mensa for? Here's a deal for you—“Exploring Consciousness,” the 2002 Colloquium in Troy, Michigan August 16-18. Check their Web site: <http://www.colloquium2002.org/> for descriptions of “thinking on the edge.”

October 18-20, the *2002 SCAM Rollback RG* - details on page 30.



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

Last month I expounded on the horrendous costs to our liberties and the financial well-being of the country imposed upon us by the over-regulation, over-ruling, and over-lawing by our “Overlords” in the federal bureaucracy, whether elected, appointed or employed. I concluded with the note that our “Overlords” frequently exempt themselves from the very rules they impose upon us... rules, laws, and regulations such as:

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* - requires each covered employer to provide a place of employment free from recognized hazards that may cause serious physical harm or death, and to comply with the Act's occupational safety and health standards. The Act is intended to protect employees from personal injuries and illnesses resulting from work situations. This act created a burden on business that branches out far from the work-site. It is the basis for numerous “negligence” and “product liability” lawsuits. It is a primary cause of business closings and higher prices due to the sometimes unbearable costs to comply with the local bureaucrats' interpretation of its nearly innumerable standards. OSHA applies to “any person engaged in a business affecting commerce who has employees.” Under the Act's definitions, the term employer “does not include the United States.” Congress is thereby specifically excluded from the need to comply with OSHA's requirements.

The *Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act* provides a statutory right of access to a wide range of government information to allow citizens to be informed of government affairs. Although the stated purpose of the Act – “ensuring an informed citizenry, vital to the functioning of a democratic society” sounds good, for some reason it was passed with wording that specifically insures that Congress is not subject to it (although they made sure the Executive branch was.)

The *Ethics in Government Act of 1978* was passed exempting “Members of Congress” from its provisions. After amending in 1989, said “Members” were no longer exempt from all the provisions. Which is a polite way of saying that they still are not required to be as ethical as the other branches of government.

The *Ethics Reform Act of 1989* provides a statutory provision barring the receipt of gifts from persons with certain interests in or business before one's agency. That provision covers all officers and employees of the government, including Members of Congress. However, the rules adopted by the House and the Senate are much more generous than those applied to the other branches.

For the Executive Branch, gifts to employees from prohibited sources are permitted as long as a gift does not exceed \$20, and if all gifts from the same source in a year do not exceed \$50.

For Congress, however, there is a \$250 yearly aggregate limit for gifts

from a single source. However, only gifts which have a value in excess of \$100 will be counted in the \$250 yearly aggregation, which leaves lots of room for fudging. And they also allowed themselves exemptions, such as gifts of local meals (unless they are in connection with an overnight stay), the expenses of a reception honoring the Member, and the “necessary expenses” of travel and transportation for the Member's participation in a conference or the like sponsored by the party providing such expenses, for a limited time period.

Non-Official Activities As Agent or Attorney, with or without compensation, are prohibited by Section 205 of 18 U.S. Code when such activities are given more importance than service to the United States Government, and in court when the United States is a party or has a direct and substantial interest. At least they are for officers and employees of the Federal Government. The Code does not apply to Members of Congress, the President, the Vice President, or to Federal judges.

The principal *Financial Conflict of Interest* law for Federal employees, 18 U.S. Code 208, prohibits officers and employees of the executive branch from taking official governmental action on any matter in which they have any personal financial interest. Government officials are barred from participating in any matters in which they have any personal financial interest. The statute does not apply to any elected officials of the Federal Government, so Members of Congress, the President, the Vice President, and Federal judges are exempt.

Section 209 of 18 U.S. Code prohibits employees of the executive branch of government from receiving private compensation or salary supplementation (Honoraria) for their government work or as payment for activities within the scope of their official governmental duties. This statute restricts the payment or reimbursement of travel expenses, including food and lodging given directly to a Federal employee if the activities in which the employee are to engage are within the scope of the employee's official government duties. Under existing law however, as well as House and Senate rules, Members may accept reimbursement directly from a sponsor for necessary expenses, or the provision of transportation, food, and lodging when giving a speech or participating in a conference, even if the subject matter or the duties performed could arguably be considered “official” or officially-related.

Many other Federal laws do not apply to Congress, such as *Title VI of the 1964 Act*, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in “any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Similarly, the *1975 Age Discrimination Act* bans all arbitrary age distinctions in the operation of Federally assisted programs aid.

The *National Labor Relations Act*, as amended by the *Labor Relations Act of 1947*, guarantees the right of employees to form, join, and assist the collective bargaining of labor organizations. It also protects the right to strike. At least, as long as the employer is not the “United States or any wholly owned

Government corporation.” Likewise, the *Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act* requires any employer with 100 or more employees to provide at least 60 days notice of any plant closing or mass layoff involving 50 or more employees. Unless you work for Congress or the Office of the President.

The *Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988* prohibits employers from utilizing lie detectors except as expressly permitted by the Act. It does not apply to employees of the Congress.

The *Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974* governs all aspects of employee benefit plans established or maintained by employers, labor organizations, or both. It does not apply to any plan established or maintained by the U.S. Government, and thus has no application to Congress or the Executive branch.

This isn't all, not by a long shot. Imagine if Congress had to retire only under Social Security, rather than their plan, which allows them to retire after only five years of service (which includes time served as a legislative aide), and guarantees annual COLA increases. Also imagine if the IRS were held liable for the incomprehensible tax code they insist every taxpayer adhere to exactly. Basically, imagine if the Government had to behave just as we do. Also imagine if, for the past 50 years, Big Brother had to live by the same rules they now accuse Big Business of not living by. For one thing, there would actually be a Social Security Trust Fund, and it would be overflowing, with absolutely no threat of ever “running out... in fact, FICA taxes would have to be reduced

At the beginning of this article I quoted from George Orwell's biting satire of communism, *Animal Farm*. Unfortunately, there is much of that book that is readily applicable to the America of today. One quote that I consider to be particularly appropriate is: “*All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.*” Because, as long as we allow ourselves to be treated like sheep, like second-class citizens, the pigs in power will continue to create a society where we will be ruled according to our status in the government.

It can stop. It can be changed. And all it would take is twenty-three words: “*The Government of the United States, and all the members thereof, shall be subject in full to all Federal Rules, Regulations, and Laws.*”

Twenty-three words. That's all. But, in my humble opinion, the enactment of those 23 words as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States would do more to preserve this nation than any amendment since the Tenth. Preserve it, and enable it to flourish as never before. Because the proper quote is: “*All men are created equal, and they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*”

THOSE are words to live by!



**The Gourmet's
Guide:**

**Rice: Varieties
and Uses**

by

Art Belefant

©2002

(belefant@juno.com)

There are more than 80,000 varieties of cultivated rice and 1500 wild rice varieties in the germ plasm collection of the IRRI (International Rice Research Institute). The one species of cultivated rice grown in the US is generally divided into no more than seven categories.

Long grain rice is the most common rice found on grocery shelves and in home kitchens in the U.S. The kernel is four or five times longer than its width. When cooked, the grains tend to remain separate and are light and fluffy.

It is suitable for Western dining practices whereby a fork is used to pick up a portion of the grains.

Medium grain rice kernels are two to three times as long as they are wide. The cooked kernels tend to cling together more than the long grain varieties. This type of rice is found in much less quantity in American grocery stores and generally is more expensive. Medium grain rice is the preferred rice for recipes that have a creamy consistency, such as rice pudding. It is the rice used to make Rice Krispies.

Short grain rice has an almost round kernel. Because the cooked grains are soft and cling together it is the preferred form for eating Eastern style, with chopsticks. It usually can be found only in specialty stores in the U.S.

In Japan there are varieties of sticky rice especially bred for use in sushi. One variety that can be found in the U.S. is *Koshi-Hikari*. Can you imagine trying to pick up with chop sticks a sushi made with long grain rice? There also are very glutinous rices used for making mochi, the rice cakes served on New Years Day for good luck.

"Sweet" rice is rarely found in retail stores. Although sweet rice is often characterized as a glutinous rice, there is no gluten in any rice. The so-called glutinous rices have a higher ratio of amylopectin to amylose, two starches, than the non-glutinous rices which give them a glutinous-like characteristic and lose their shape when cooked. They are used most often commercially for binders and fillings because they stand up to freezing and thawing better than corn or wheat starches.

Aromatic rices are grown in the U.S. in imitation of some of the Asian rices. They are specialty rices that can be found in gourmet shops and high-end groceries. *Jasmine* rice, originally from Thailand, cooks moist and sticky. A U.S. grown variety is *Jasmati*.

Basamati rice from northern India is a long grain rice that cooks dry, separate, and fluffy. *Texmati*, and *kasmati* are American grown Basamati-type rices. *Della* rice also cooks dry, separate, and fluffy. In India there are numerous varieties of aromatic rice.

Arborio rice is classified as a medium or short grain rice. When cooked, it has a creamy, translucent texture with a chewy white center. It is a specialty rice that finds its most common use in making risotto. Other Arborio-type rices are *Dragoni*, *Padano*, *Carnaroli*, and *Vialone Nano*.

Valencia or *Bahia* rice is the Spanish rice use in making paella. It is a

medium grain rice and slightly sticky when cooked. The grains are firm, not mushy.

Rices are usually sold as milled rice. Milling removes the outer husk and the bran. Long grain rice is also sold as brown rice, a partially milled rice where only the outer husk is removed. The bran layers, which are rich in vitamins and minerals, are retained. Throughout the world, milled white rice is the preferred form although in those areas where rice forms the major nutritional intake, brown rice is becoming more common. Until recently, because of the preference for white rice (unfortified in Asia), beri beri, a vitamin (niacin) deficiency disease, was common. Since the 1940's the Japanese government has promoted the enrichment of rice and beri beri has been eliminated there since 1965.

All rice types and varieties have essentially the same nutritional values. Except for Connecticut, Florida, and South Carolina there is no mandatory enrichment of rice even though there is a Federal Standard for enrichment. Even so, white rice grown and sold in the U.S. generally is enriched with iron, niacin, and folate to levels in excess of those found in brown rice. As rice is not a major constituent of the American diet, enrichment, although desirable, is not now critical. This was not always the case. Beri beri was common in some parts of the U.S. earlier in the last century.

As most non-U.S. rice is not fortified, rice preparation is different for those rices. Outside of the U.S., the cook is admonished to rinse the rice before cooking because the rice may not be clean. In the U.S. we are advised not to rinse the rice before cooking or to cook it in excess water because the added nutrients that are coated on the surface of the grains will be washed away.

Milled long grain rice is also sold as converted or parboiled and pre-cooked rice. Parboiled rice is soaked, steamed, and dried before milling. This does not cook the rice, but hardens the grain to make the rice more separate after cooking. Precooked rice is cooked and dehydrated before packaging. The consumer does not cook the rice but is actually only rehydrating it when it is put into boiling water.

The milling process to make white rice yields only about 55% whole kernels.

The rice hulls (about 20% of the raw rice) removed from the rice during the milling process are inedible. They are, however, burned for fuel in rice mills and power plants and have other minor industrial uses.

Rice bran (10%), the outer layer of brown rice, removed to make white rice, is highly nutritious containing vitamins, minerals, and fiber. It is used in making cereals and for livestock feed. Recently, rice oil has been extracted from the bran but this has not yet reached commercial viability.

When rice is milled for white rice, kernels are broken. This amounts to about 15% of the raw rice. The broken kernels are removed before the rice is packaged and sold in the U.S. The broken kernels are not discarded but used in the brewing of beer and in making rice flour. In poorer parts of the

world, rice with broken kernels is sold as a lower cost food (*SCAM*, 8/98). Rice flour is used in prepared foods; especially breakfast cereals, and baby foods.

In Japan, rice has an exalted status. The word “rice” is used for “food” or “meal”. It is the only foodstuff that takes an honorific (*o-gohan*). It is presented at temples in ornate rice straw bags as an offering. People in Japan will discuss different rices the way Frenchmen discuss wine and Greeks discuss olives. They distinguish between this year’s rice and last year’s rice. They will look for rice from certain areas, even certain paddies.

The various names for rice in Western languages derive from a Dravidian (Indo-European) root *arisi*. Thus we have English *rice*, French *riz*, Spanish *arroz*, Italian *riso*, Russian (phonetic) *rees*, German *Reis*, Greek (phonetic) *oreeza*, and Portuguese *arroz*.

Some of the best known traditional rice dishes outside of Asia are:

Dolmades (*Greece*): grape leaves stuffed with a mixture of rice and meat.

Dolmas (*Turkey*): almost any vegetable stuffed with rice, meat, and vegetables. (*SCAM* 2/96)

Paella (*Spain*): rice cooked with saffron and chicken, seafood, sausage, and vegetables. (*SCAM* 8/94)

Arroz con pollo (*Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central America*): rice cooked with saffron or turmeric and chicken.

Jambalaya (*Louisiana*): rice cooked with tabasco and meats, seafood, sausage, and fowls.

Risotto (*Italy*): rice cooked with stock, onions, and Parmesan cheese.

Pillaff (*France*): any dish prepared with rice. The name derives from pillau, a variety of rice of several grades rarely seen outside of India. In American cuisine it is usually spelled “pilaf”.

Rice pudding (*U.S.*): a sweet desert made with rice, milk, and sugar.

Risi e pisi (*Italy*): rice and peas.

Riz {a} l’imp[le]ratrice (*France*): a very elaborate rice pudding.

Black bean soup (*Cuba*): black beans poured over a bed of rice and garnished with chopped onion.

Since, because of a computer glitch, the full table of ingredients didn’t get printed in last month’s issue, the list of ingredients for making baklava was not included with the recipe. This is what I suggest:

PASTRY

filo 1 lb
butter 1/2 lb

FILLING

walnuts 1 lb
sugar 1/4 cup
cinnamon 1 tsp

SYRUP

sugar 3 cups
water 3 cups

I apologize for the mishap. Enjoy!



401K - itis



Al Thomas

©2002

**al@mutualfund
magic.com**

Are you one of those many people who dread reading their 401K statements? You have been watching it decline for about 2 years and are wondering if will ever stop. Just about everyone says the market will come back. Brokers say you are in for the long haul so don't worry. Any account that drops to a 50% loss has to go up 100% to get "even" and that is a very difficult phenomenon. If you have an 80% loss as has already occurred in the Nasdaq you would need a 400% rally to get "even". At 90% you have to see a 900% rise to that mythical "even".

Buy and Hold has been preached so long and so loudly that everyone believes it. As Adolph Hitler said when you tell a lie tell a big one. Wall Street has been screaming this one down the throats of investors for so long it has become conventional wisdom. Look at your 401K today and compare it to 2 years ago and tell me you believe in Buy and Hold. Common sense will not allow it.

Every broker has been taught that market timing doesn't work. Yes, they teach them that and they have been good students. The problem is they have had a bad teacher. Within the funds you now own the fund managers buy and SELL many times during the year because there is a time to sell. Selling is the key to successful stock market investing.

A friend mine came to me with his wife's 401K from United Airlines. It is composed of 8 Fidelity mutual funds. The employee can pick any one or more. Since the first of the year six of the eight are down from 3% to 27% (average 10.77%) and the other two were up an average of 3%. The two that are up are fixed income funds otherwise known as bond funds. If you have a 401K, IRA or SEP or almost any mutual funds the only place to preserve your capital during this secular bear market is in a bond fund - a no-load bond fund. Do NOT pay commission for these. And there are many of them.

For years Wall Street has condemned those of us who use market timing. Well, you can call me what you want, but I will have my money when the Buy and Holders are broke.

Stock mutual funds do not work in a long-term bear market. Mutual funds, as we have known them for the past 20 years, are dead. You now have only two choices within your retirement account for your money - a bond fund or a plain money market account. Don't cry that you will only make 5% on your money. Think about the 20% to 40% you will not lose. According to Lipper, 99% of U.S. equity funds lost money in the second quarter. I have been telling investors for years - cash is a position.

Enronitis broke thousands of people because they would not (could not) sell as the stock broke down. Don't let 401K-itis break you.

All rights reserved. Author of "*If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!*" www.mutualfundmagic.com





**100... 99... 98...
and Counting!**

**J.T. Moran
RG Registrar**

We're having a party!
Yep, in just 100 days from now (as I write this, it is July 10th) the 2002 SCAM Rollback RG will be getting underway. And what a party it will be!

This will be the third SCAM RG in which I have taken a personal involvement. The first was in 1994, and I was a very novice Registrar. Along with then RG Chairman Jon Warner, the two of us spent months promoting the RG. And, we did one hell of a job, if I say so myself. On Friday night, 149 attendees showed up, and the whole shebang had a total of 163 attend. All at the same place as this year, the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Indialantic.

Then, in 1996 I got shanghaied into being Co-Chair for the RG. We had other changes too, such as a change of hotel and a near-miss by a hurricane (Broward made up for it in 1999 with a direct hit by Irene. What a blowout!) Even with those problems, we still had a wonderful weekend with 124 of our closest friends.

If you were at either of those, you know what a great time was had by all; if you have not yet attended a SCAM RG, you have an opportunity for a super weekend.

Take advantage of it. We all hope to see **YOU** there!

FEELING LONELY?

Just who attends SCAM RGs?
Here's a partial list of previous attendees:

Godzilla
Rodan
She
It
Them
The Thing
The Blob

The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms
The Creature from the Black Lagoon
The Brain from Planet Arous
The Creature with 1,000,000 Eyes
The Phantom of the Opera
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Dracula
Frankenstein
The Wolfman
The Mummy
Darph Nader
and, of course,
Sorhed and the Nine Nozdru!

So, don't be antisocial. Get in with the **IN** crowd! Come to the **2002 Space Coast Area Mensa Rollback RG** and have a monstrously good time! You never know who (or what) will show up, but rumor has it that Elvis will be bringing Amelia.

October 18, 19, and 20, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Indialantic, Florida.

(Name dropping not permitted)

For further information contact:

J.T. Moran
P.O. Box 457
Sharpes, FL 32959-0457
(321)632-0854
morwood@cfl.rr.com



It's Coming!

***News from the
RG Front***

Mark your calendar for the 2002 SCAM Roll-back 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 rates are currently \$35 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.

NAME: _____

Please make
out checks to

ADDRESS: _____

Space Coast
Area Mensa RG

CITY, ST, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____

**The
Also-Rans:**



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

So, 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. Thade
2. Bill (a pony)
3. Terry Benedict
4. Sutter Cane
5. Sister Angela

(Answers will be found below)



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

The newsletters are now becoming available on our website in .PDF format. This format requires an Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available as a free download from the link provided on the front page of the newsletter pages on the web.

I will be on a short hiatus from school and hope to get the official web site set up and running properly before I return to school in January 2003. The redirection site will be the official site for the group. This will make it easy for changing from one web curator to another and the site will belong to the group rather than be the property of the web curator or any one member. Anyone wishing to link to our site or to have us provide a link to their site will need to send a request for such to the editor and web curator for consideration and recommendation to the ExComm.

Phone: (407) 631-3548

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We Have....



The Answers!

1. Planet of the Apes (2001)
2. Lord of the Rings (2001)
3. Oceans II (2001)
4. In the Mouth of Madness (1995)
5. Heaven Knows Mr. Allison (1957)