

The

SCAM

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2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee

Yee-Haw! The 2002 SCAM Rollback RG...



Is Finally Here!!!

Volume 20, No. 10

October, 2002

*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

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Happy October Birthday

- 01 – Ronald Kinner
- 01 – James Staal
- 05 – Mary Artz
- 07 – Matthew Diunizio
- 08 – Rex Repich
- 09 – Philip Devlin
- 13 – Jack Galpin, Sr.
- 14 – Ken Thornton-Smith
- 17 – Rudolph Hardick
- 19 – Pat Bender
- 25 – Doug Starke
- 28 – Anne Trese
- 31 – Colette Zahm



Welcome to SCAM

Jane Bryan – Indian Harbor Beach
Kevin Hall – Rockledge

Welcome Back to SCAM

Ahmed Ibrahim – Merritt Island



***On the
Firing Line***



J.T. Moran

SCAM Editor

Oppportunity is knocking!
On the weekend of October 18th will occur the only chance you will have for two years to experience the awe and mystery that reaches from the inner mind to... a SCAM RG!

I realize I have said this already in recent issues, but I think it bears repeating... a SCAM RG is synonymous with a great time. Those of you who have attended past RGs already know this. I am slightly jealous of those of you who have not attended a SCAM RG before, and even more envious of those for whom this will be their first RG anywhere. Because I remember my first RG, and those memories are wonderful.

What I remember most is hugs. Welcoming hugs, friendly hugs, and hugs just for the sake of hugging. I even got caught up in a spontaneous rolling hug, and I won't even try to describe that experience, other than to say it was truly unique and unforgettable.

Then there was the fellowship. Making new friends (lots of them) many of whom are people I am still happy to see when, by chance, we meet, usually at an RG somewhere. The conversations: learning how much alike our life experiences have been, even though those experiences may have taken place thousands of miles and dozens of years apart.

And most of all, just being able to relax among people you know are your peers in the area that it matters most: the mind. Finding out that, if there was one overwhelmingly common thread in our lives, it was the love of reading, of stimulating our minds by giving them the only exercise we can: using them. Discovering that the incredible mass of useless trivia that has been hidden in those mental nooks and crannies all these years is, after all, not completely useless, because knowledge of obscure facts is a necessity in the games Mensans play.

Imagine the horror as you first realize that you are surrounded by geniuses, and that many of them not only indulge in a habit that can cause others to flee screaming and groaning, they revel in it: they pun in public, usually to excess.

In other words, prepare yourself for a weekend filled with stimulation and new experiences, if you want them. Or for a weekend of relaxation and recuperation from just sitting in Hospitality watching the sun and moon rise over the ocean while the sound of the surf sings you a lullaby to ease your cares, even if only for a little while.

Dancing and disguises will be the order of the day on Saturday night as the costume ball lets you be anyone that you can be.

All this and more will be there for you on October 18, 19 and 20. It is up to you to take advantage of it.



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

Jon Warner has determined that, for personal reason, he cannot remain in Mensa. Leaving Mensa means that he can no longer serve as an officer and so we have to say a sad good-bye but also a very heartfelt “thank you” to Jon for his many years of service. Over the years he has served as a Proctor, as the membership and testing chairperson, and as the chairperson of four RGs. He has also served on the ExComm in several capacities and provided us with his time and efforts many times over the years. We should all extend a big “thank you”

to him and wish him well.

We hope you will not miss the RG. The 2002 Rollback RG is intended to kick off getting back to the basics of plain, old-fashioned RG fun. If you attend we are sure you will have a good time. We have several speakers lined up at this time, with more to come, and this RG coincides with the National Testing Day so we will provide any test takers with a “day pass” so they will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch, hospitality, the speakers, and to see just how weirdly normal we Mensans can be.

The December issue of *The SCAM* will have the winners of the competitions, etc. from the RG so, as they say: “watch this space”.

Due to Jon’s departure we have a vacancy on the ExComm. We need someone to volunteer to finish out the term of the Recording Secretary. We have historically filled vacancies from those members who were “also-rans” from the last election. The only balloted member receiving votes but not elected to office was not qualified to run at the time of the balloting. Three other members received votes but they were write-ins rather than balloted candidates. Therefore, we are putting out an appeal to the entire membership: please, volunteer for this position or I will have to call you to find out why not.

We are hoping for a large turnout for NTD at the RG. Helen says she’d like to see 60 or so. We will be giving the test takers a day pass (half a day in reality) so they can enjoy a fine Mensa RG.

I have set a personal goal for the RG that will most likely not be met. It is my hope that at least 40 members of SCAM will attend. I believe we have had some successes with past RGs; however, we will have some first time attendees from our group as well as other groups. This means we have to make this the most enjoyable of all RGs as you always remember the first one best. Everything seems to be on track for this RG and, if the “weather be good”, we might even get to have the second-ever sand sculpture contest. That was really a very nice competition, and we saw some really spectacular work. The dessert competition is still looking for a few brave souls to be the panel judges (need three). There will be a people’s choice selection on the desserts as well.



Minutes of the ExComm Meeting



September 8, 2002 15:09 at the home of Helen Lee Moore.

Members attending: **Clara Woodall-Moran, Helen Lee Moore, Rita Johnson-Aronna, and Joe Smith.**

Guests: Pat Aronna, Bob Tuck, J.T. Moran

Minutes of last meeting approved as written: **Move** Helen; **Second** Joe; **Passes** three ayes (Helen, Joe, Rita); Abstain (Clara)

Correspondence: None

Reports

LocSec -- Jon Warner resigned from Mensa. RecSec position will be discussed under new business.

Treasurer -- printed report distributed -- scholarship funds leftover are too little to purchase a CD so it has been put into a savings account

Scholarship -- Rocco Belotti announced as winner of this year's scholarship

SIG night -- Have to change the web page -- it can't be the second Saturday each month -- taking the 3rd Saturday

Testing/Membership -- Membership level still in the early 200's. No testing session this month to encourage testing in October at the RG,

Editor/Web -- PDF format RG flyer was giving a problem to one user -- turned out to be the user's browser -- we got it fixed.

Publicity -- still needs bios from two members of the ExComm -- PSAs have gone out and two signed up for the testing session saw the PSA in BBN
AsstLocSec, Member-at-large, Bylaws, SIGHT, RG: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business

Distributed edit copies of new members handbook for editing and additions, deletions, corrections to the new editorial guidelines added to the editorial guidelines. ExComm to approve, amend or remove at the next meeting.

Helen **moved:** All proctor fees received from the NTD be put into the RG fund. Clara **second.** Vote: **Unanimous**

Clara requested tabling decision on replacement for RecSec to the November meeting of the ExComm. Also, requested that the October meeting be skipped due to the RG. Clara **moved,** Helen **second,** vote: **Unanimous.**

Announcements

Bob talked about an upcoming movie from Disney regarding the Tuck family... discussed book from which the movie has been generated.

Next meeting -- Nov. 10, 1PM at Clara's

Move to adjourn: Helen **moved,** Rita **second,** vote: **Unanimous.** 15:36
RG meeting followed.



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



Ken Thornton-Smith

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The Wabasso Triangle: Episode 98.6

It's good to have you back again...

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Filled to the brim with wandering tenses, creative grammar and cheap liquor, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was another mundane Monday, and by late afternoon, that was it: I'd had enough. My preliminary inspection of the new Italian in Vero was so depressing that I called in the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad and let them do the cleaning up. Even so, it wasted a whole day. This restaurant was another one of those dreadful cookie-cutter franchises – no local color, no passion for food and soggy pasta. Whatever happened to the good old days of the Mom and Pop corner café?

This whole pasta detective business is starting to get me down – I've seen nothing but noodle abuse for years. It feels like I've been married to pasta for way too long and it's high time for a little diversion. Maybe even time for a mind meld with an apple fritter.

I fired up the faithful Buick Testudo, wound down the windows and struck out north for some edible elucidation. There was no point in going home as the cockroaches were dying of starvation, and me too. Fortunately, there on the corner was a convenience store – I remember grabbing a few things, and then going for a walk on the beach to clear my head and try to find the answer to life's important questions. Questions like: who *was* the platinum blonde during Paul Gonsalves set at the 1956 Newport Jazz Festival? That, plus I was stuck on 17 Down: 'First Lady?' – but it was only three spaces, so Laura Bush wasn't going to fit.

And that was it, until the next morning when I woke up on the beach with an empty bottle in my hand. I stared at the label, which wandered in and out of focus, and, yes, it was a bottle of the '87. That's right, 1987, the year that the dry summer and early frost devastated the vineyards of the lower Rhine, destroying the entire crop of Trockenbeerenauslesen. And it obviously didn't do much for 20/20 either.

At least I had an apple fritter left, I noticed as I blinked in the bright light. It was probably just an early morning mist, but the fog seemed to be getting worse. Something was wrong somewhere, and for once it wasn't Detective Inspector "Raving" Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad getting all bent out of shape at the wrong time of the month.

Ahead, there were strange sounds in the surf. I tried to focus, peering into the fog, until I felt like Owen Barfield's 'Camera Man'. Except, in my

case, I'd left the lens cap on.

I sat up and brushed off the sand. Didn't Kierkegaard say something about beaches? Or maybe that was Einstein. Or Bette Midler. Who cares, my head hurt – hardly a surprise after an intimate night with a pint of paint stripper.

“Hullo der!” said a broad Irish accent. A tall man stepped out of the surf, “Sure, and if it isn't himself, Bejaysus. Lookee, lads, look who's beaten us here to Mericky, it be none other than Christopher Columbus himself and he be getting here before us.”

A dozen strangely-dressed and heavily-armed men stepped out of a large wooden rowing boat and strode up the beach. With all those knives it looked like a dress rehearsal for Sabatier Meets The Pirates of Penzance. That, or the monthly outing from an institution, so I hid the crossword.

“I be Captain O'Polo, Mark O'Polo of the good ship Dublin Up.” He shook my hand with a grimy paw, “Lookee here, lads, it be the man himself; Christopher Columbus, meet our able Bosun, Jerry “Rigged” O'Springer.”

Jerry's hand was, if it was possible, even dirtier, and he struck me as hardly officer material, but what really caught my attention was his nose – a broken Romanesque monster that brought a whole new meaning to the term ‘racial profiling’. And if he didn't channel Hulk Hogan for a ladies' spiritualist circle he was missing a great opportunity.

After being introduced to the entire crew it was too late to do anything about the Captain's little misapprehension. Then, my years of experience as a Community Pasta Detective kicked in and I had a hunch: Judging by the lack of oral hygiene, pre K-Mart clothes and the medieval speech impediment, I had been catapulted into non-Euclidian space-time, and without my apple fritter. I should be home polishing the aspidistra by now, but it looks as if I'm AWOL in the Middle Ages and the Wabasso Triangle has struck again!

As the psychically gifted already know, the Wabasso Triangle is a magnetic anomaly so intense that during every washload one sock is transported through a wormhole in space. As there's always one sock left over, you can never tell if one went missing or an extra one came in. That's just one of the many unsolved mysteries that abound in the mysterious area known as The Wabasso Triangle.

“See, and we're none of us being Pirates, to be sure, are we lads?” Mark O'Polo looked around and they shook their heads, “Aye, it's that we're not.”

“So, yer see, as we're, like, honest explorers, just like yerself, does 'ee think ye could be finding a way to be telling us whereabouts be the lost treasure of the Wabasso natives – the Seminole mine? Or, as some folk calls it, the Semolina mine?”

Seminoles? Semolina? Things started to make sense – a minor etymological corruption, one of those little dyslexic verbal typos a few hundred years ago...

“Sure, and it’s that way,” I said, pointing south down the beach, “... about five miles as the crow be flying.”

“Tank ‘ee, tank ‘ee...” They ran, laughing, through the surf to their skiff and clambered in. I breathed a sigh of relief – that was pretty scary, but I knew they’d be going back. Schooner or later. The last two pushed off, and, when they were a few yards from shore, the fog cleared and, suddenly, they were gone.

I looked around – Ruddy Turnstones were busy in the surf, their little clockwork legs working overtime under a sky of powder-blue suede. It was beautiful and timeless, and, as if to complement this tropical paradise, there on the sand was the paper bag with my apple fritter.

Never mind the lost treasure, the Semolina tribe and one miserable apple fritter, I’d had quite enough of the Good Old Days – what about breakfast?

I fired up the trusty Testudo and turned north, but, hang on, there on the corner was a new diner – Carmichael Hoagies – they’d franchised my neighborhood Mom and Pop eatery from up North. This was more like it! After all those adventures I was starving. And no wonder – I hadn’t eaten since 1622.

I practically ran inside, found a seat and looked around – it was decorated with pictures from my favorite old TV shows, they even had Teenage Mutant Ninja Rabbis. In the corner sat a jukebox belting out an old Klesmer favorite: “I got you, Abe”.

I poured over the menu, which had hardly changed in all these years. They still had the Aloha Oy Hawaiian Bagel – matzorella, salt beef and pineapple – my childhood favorite. The waitress slowly wandered over, positively oozing New York hospitality:

“Do you think it’s fun bussing tables, already?” she glared at me, “... do you even remotely know what bussing tables is all about?”

“Sure,” I replied, “...it’s when they pick up all the black tables and take them to exclusive white restaurants in other parts of town...”

I’ve never tasted paydirt, but if it’s anything like Carmichael Hoagies’ parking lot, then I’m not interested. Yesterday’s apple fritter was starting to sound like a good idea. I brushed the dust off me and the sand off the apple fritter, stuffing my face as I headed home.

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

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





Stroke

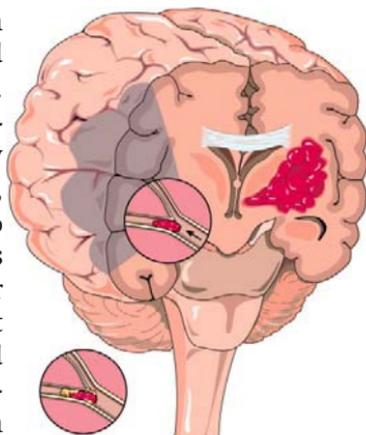
Ann Schindler

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Stroke, also referred to as “brain attack”, cerebrovascular accident, CVA, or apoplexy, occurs when there is an interruption of the blood supply to the brain. “Plesso,” the word ancient Greeks used for stroke, meant “to be struck with violence.” According to the Centers for Disease Control, over 160,000 people in the United States die from strokes each year and it is the third leading cause of death behind heart disease and cancer. Although about 600,000 people survive a stroke each year, there is continued risk of having a second or even third stroke within a year.

The American Heart Association has identified risk factors for stroke and grouped them into two categories, those that cannot be changed and those that can be changed. The risk factors that cannot be changed include age, heredity, gender, and race. The risk of stroke increases after the age of 55 and doubles with each succeeding decade of life. The risk of stroke is higher if other family members also suffered a stroke. Women, before the age of menopause, have less risk of stroke than men, but after menopause, the risk is comparable. Stroke risk is the highest for African-Americans. Risk factors that can be changed, controlled, or treated include cigarette smoking, high blood pressure (hypertension), high cholesterol level, diabetes, physical inactivity, obesity, excessive alcohol intake, and drug use such as cocaine. Other factors include blood disorders, as sickle cell anemia, climate (excessively hot or cold weather), and socio-economic influences where higher risk occurs at the lower income levels. Many sources point to cigarette smoking as the number one preventable risk factor for stroke. Nicotine and carbon monoxide reduce the amount of oxygen in the blood, damage the blood vessel walls, and cause the blood cells to become “sticky”, thus making blood clots easier to form. Birth control pills, in combination with cigarette smoking, especially after the age of 35, greatly increase the chance of stroke.

There are several types of strokes. An ischemic stroke is caused by blockages (blood clot or air bubble) or narrowed blood vessel. A hemorrhagic stroke is due to sudden bleeding or rupture of a blood vessel and is usually caused by hypertension. It is the more serious, though less common, causing only about 20% of all strokes. Hemorrhagic stroke causes blood to spill over the surface of the brain or into spaces within the brain. A transient ischemic attack, or TIA, sometimes called “mini-stroke,” is a temporary reversible episode that lasts only a few minutes and seldom



more than one hour. If all symptoms abate within 24 hours, it is categorized as a TIA. However, someone who has had a TIA is much more likely to experience a regular stroke within a period of one year.

When blood flow to an area of the brain is interrupted, brain cells die within several minutes to several hours.

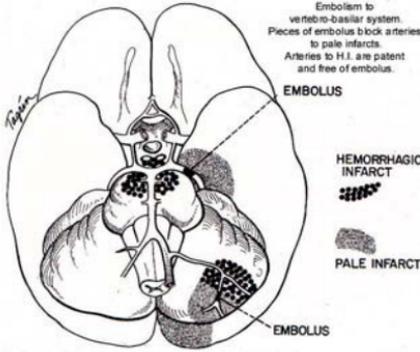
The area of dead cells, called an infarct, release chemicals that can injure the surrounding cells causing even more cells to die. This larger area is called a penumbra. The length of time to successfully treat the patient and re-establish circulation to the area is about six hours. After that time, permanent damage can occur. Loss of movement, speech, and memory can result. The damage may be mild to

severe or temporary to permanent. The earlier treatment is initiated, the better chance there is of restoring full function.

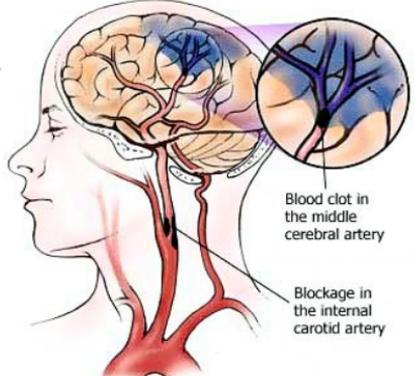
Symptoms of a stroke can vary greatly. These may include dizziness, headache, confusion, poor coordination, numbness or tingling, paralysis, vision changes, nausea or vomiting, convulsion, coma, or death. Since a stroke on one side of the brain causes symptoms on the other side, a left sided stroke causes right-sided paralysis. Speech may be affected depending on the area involved. Aphasia is the term to describe the loss of the ability to use and understand the written or spoken word, apraxia is the inability to perform certain movements but without paralysis or strength changes, ataxia is the inability to control muscles to walk or move, dysphagia is the inability or difficulty in swallowing, and hemiplegia is paralysis of one side of the body.

Diagnosis is made on the basis of history and physical examination. Tests may include a CT scan or MRI. A CT scan stands for computed tomography, where computers are used in combination with single plane x-rays of the body. MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging, a test that uses both the magnetic fields of the body and radio waves to produce a picture. An angiogram is an x-ray of a blood vessel after an injection of radiopaque dye. A variety of other tests may also aid the diagnostic process.

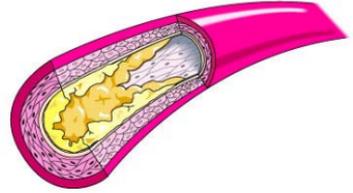
Prompt treatment is critical to prevent further brain damage and other complications. If the patient with an ischemic stroke arrives at the hospital within a few hours after the start of symptoms, medica-



Ischemic Stroke
Occurs when oxygen-rich blood flow to the brain is restricted by a blood clot or other blockage



tions called fibrinolytics can be given to dissolve the blood clot and improve the patient's prognosis. If the patient arrives more than 3 hours after the start of symptoms, the medication may not successfully dissolve the clot and damage to surrounding tissue will become more likely. Other treatments may include surgery to remove a blockage or to repair damaged vessels, and treatment of any condition that led to the formation of the clot, such as cardiac arrhythmias or abnormal heart valves. Anticoagulants may be given to decrease the formation of further clots. Treatment for hemorrhagic stroke includes medication to control hypertension, surgery to correct the ruptured blood vessel, and embolization, a procedure to stop the bleeding and block the abnormal vessel.



Rehabilitation, including physical, speech, and occupational therapy, is begun as soon as possible after the patient is stabilized, and may continue for months or even years. These therapies are important for the patient to re-establish function and to foster independence. Many patients become depressed about their condition, especially when they see little or no progress in overcoming their handicaps. Many remaining symptoms, as memory loss or communication problems, may be subtle and very frustrating for the patient. According to the National Stroke Association, up to 10% of stroke survivors recover with little or no disabilities, 25% have minor impairments, 40% have moderate to severe impairments, 10% require long term care in a nursing home or other facility, and 15% die shortly after the stroke. In February 2002, The American Stroke Association published a study that found Viagra, the anti-impotence drug, reduces the effects of stroke in rats. It seems that the drug improved brain function by growing new brain cells, possibly by restoring blood supply. Botox, the wrinkle removing botulism toxin, can relax rigid muscles. Research is continuing into various aspects of stroke risk, diagnosis, and treatment, however, to reduce your chances of a stroke, certain things have proven to be beneficial. Exercise regularly, keep a healthy weight and blood pressure, and quit smoking. Also avoid fatty foods, excessive alcohol and salt, and eat a diet high in vitamin C and folic acid (leafy green vegetables, legumes, citrus fruits, and berries).

Sources

All About Stroke. 2002. Online. National Stroke Association. 10 July 2002. Available <http://www.stroke.org/about.cfm>.

Rodgers, Ellie. Stroke (Cerebrovascular Accident). 7 Sept 2001. Online. Healthwise Inc. Internet. 14 July 2002. Available <http://my.webmd.com/encyclopedia/article/3053.972>.



***A View... From
Somewhere Else
Follow The
Money: Part I
by
Hank Rhodes***

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Here's an interesting study in Washington-style economics: Let's take an entity in the transportation sector. This organization has a reputation for mediocre service, rising costs, and an inability to consistently meet its published schedule. Some experts go so far to suggest its business model is outdated, and it can no longer compete in the marketplace. It has been subsidized by the federal government lately, and has an outstanding request for another federal grant, based on the premise that the organization can not survive without a further infusion of cash. Notwithstanding these problems, top management received generous compensation packages in recent years.

Another inefficient, subsidy-addicted, outmoded, quasi-governmental hybrid of the sort that conservatives love to hate? Could this be Amtrak? Or the U.S. Postal Service? Or the Space Program, as perceived by many people outside Brevard County?

Actually, we're talking about a public corporation in the "free" marketplace. The subject of our study is United Airlines. This corporation:

- ◆ had 21% of its flights either late or cancelled during a recent 30-day sampling period.
- ◆ laid off approximately 20,000 workers in the past year.
- ◆ has received \$652 million in grants from the federal government, and has requested more.

Obviously, United is an organization in trouble, which was the case well before inadequate security helped facilitate the September 11 attacks. As the economy has slowed down over the past few years, so has the volume of business travel declined, impacting United and the other major carriers who made money off the inflated prices it charged for business fares.

Yet, top executives were compensated in 2001 as follows:

- ◆ James Goodwin, outgoing Chairman and CEO. Salary: \$739,615, plus a bonus of \$742,192, plus \$5,763,598 in "other" compensation.
- ◆ John Creighton, interim Chairman and CEO. Awarded 400,000 shares, valued at \$14.48 per share. Also reimbursed for office space located in the vicinity of his personal residence, not to exceed \$3000 per month.
- ◆ Rono Dutta, President. Salary: \$600,000, plus \$65,374 in "other" compensation.
- ◆ Douglas Hacker, Executive Vice President. Salary: \$515,000, plus a bonus of \$192,880.
- ◆ Andrew Studdert, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Salary: \$515,000.

One would think if the federal government is handing out checks to a corporation in order to bail them out of bankruptcy, then the government

would exercise some measure of control. After all, it's only logical that we taxpayers receive some return on our dollars, when our government has made \$5 billion in grants and \$10 billion in loan guarantees available to the airline industry. The government could (and should) insist on fair labor practices and cost-cutting measures (like placing limits on the obscene scale of executive compensation- if some fat cat thinks he or she isn't making enough, they are welcome to go someplace else, just like the little guys are forced to do when the suits in the boardroom decide it's time to pump up the bottom line by initiating another round of layoffs).

The argument that loss of a major carrier will do grave damage to our economy is flawed. While most nations get by with one or two major domestic air carriers, in the United States we have at least six (American, Delta, Continental, Northwest, U.S Airways, and United). We have seen plenty of airlines go under in the past 30 years. And the argument that we need the competition in the industry to keep them honest doesn't hold water. Even if the federal government wasn't providing a safety net, the airlines' inter-corporate "alliances" are just a mechanism for legalized price-fixing.

Certainly, the intent is not to rejoice at United's problems, which will most likely lead to the life-disrupting trauma of unemployment for the workers, as well as irredeemable losses for the shareholders. But as a case study, United raises some questions worth exploring:

Amtrak and the U.S. Postal Service are quasi-governmental corporations filling economic niches that are not easily defined in simple terms of liabilities and net profits. They have their problems, which we constantly hear about. But why are Amtrak and the U.S. Postal Service regularly subject to criticism, yet when Uncle Sam props up a corporation supposedly in business to make money, with an excessively-compensated executive suite, no one seems to express any outrage?

Why do these big carriers consistently overbook existing gates at the major hubs, yet they ignore smaller regional airports?

Why do the airlines criticize the FAA for the inefficiencies of the antiquated air-traffic management system, yet the industry has failed to propose any consensus standards, donate any seed money for new technologies, or provide any design for improvements that are in their own economic interest?

Is it in fact, much easier and cheaper for corporations to blame the government for their problems, knowing certain politicians will be happy to take up the chorus, then go back later and ask Uncle Sam for money?

This example serves to demonstrate the fallacy of neo-laissez-faire economic theory, which is a favorite of conservatives. This theory decries everything associated with the government as evil, while promoting "outsourcing" and the "private sector" as a cure for all our society's ills. Not a peep is heard from them when the same government props up a failing, redundant corporation that is supposed to be in business for itself. Worse, they're not even willing to demand any accountability from those struggling corporate entities.

Politicians are free to use smoke and mirrors to hide their faulty logic,

October 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 7th & 21st

6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 2nd, 16th & 30th

6:00PM, Merritt Square Mall, Merritt Island

C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 23th

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

lizard_woman@hotmail.com

C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Clara Woodall-Moran

cew@cfl.rr.com

10th **NL and Calendar deadlines**

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

11th **6:00 p.m.** **Pub Night**
Friday **Food and Drink cost** **S/NP**
Helen Lee Moore takes us to the *Shamrock and Thistle Pub* in Titusville for a night of tasty ales and lively conversation. You can look for this event every other month, alternating with J.T.'s Firearms and Fried Rice. One month shoot darts; the next, bullets. The pub is at *2035 Cheney Highway, Titusville.*

Helen Lee Moore *76764.3242@compuserve.com*

12th **6:00 p.m.** **Great Books Discussion Group**
Saturday **Free** **NS/NP**

Come out to *Barnes and Noble on Merritt Island* to join in a discussion of the Great Books. Former local member and friend of SCAM, Luke Setzer, asks us to join him and others in this "shared inquiry" setting. This event will include Mensans and non-Mensans alike, and the recurring theme will be books of interest to Objectivists. The Great Books programs is what the group is currently exploring. Please feel free to contact Luke Setzer ahead of time for further information, or go to the URL listed below full details.

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

12th **7:00 p.m.** **Movie Night**
Saturday **\$3.00** **SS/NP**

Dan Lange invites us to his apartment for a night of movie watching. His DVD collection awaits. 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 *dlange@klx.net*

13th **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: we can't save any seats for late-comers.

Jim Trammell *dulabeans@aol.com*

18th, 19th, and 20th **2002 SCAM Rollback RG**
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday **SS/NP**

The party we have all been waiting for has finally arrived! Stretching over the course of three days, you will be able to enjoy speakers on various subjects such as the Civil War, Hand Weaving, Herbal Erotica, and a dissertation on personal waste disposal; have your horoscope read by a psychic, or for a mere pittance have a deep reading; be subjected to pundemonium; and enjoy hugs, fellowship, and food in the legendary 24-hour Hospitality Suite overlooking the ocean. You can even have a friend tested for Mensa membership, and then you both can enjoy the RG. Friday Registration runs from 3:00 - 9:00PM, and Saturday goes from 9:00 to 3:00PM.

Helen Lee Moore, RG Chair *76764.3242@compuserve.com*

J.T. Moran, Registrar *morwood@cfl.rr.com*

29th **6:30 p.m.** **Ptomaine Ptuesday**
Tuesday **Meal Cost** **SS/NP**

Great food and great company await us in Titusville as Clara Woodall-Moran invites us to join her at the El Leoncito Mexican Restaurant on U.S. 1 in Titusville. Join us for fajitas, margaritas, flan and more as we enjoy some of the best in Cuban and Mexican food.

Clara Woodall-Moran *cew@cfl.rr.com*

31st **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 the hot dogs and hamburgers of summer for some sushi and tempura. *Miyako's* is located at *1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne*.

J.T. Moran *morwood@cfl.rr.com*



while in the meantime taking care of their corporate friends. We the voters, however, are free to see the truth, and do something about it.

Notes and Sources

- Figures on Executive compensation are contained in company filings available at www.sec.gov. Note that companies are filed under their formal corporate name, which may be different than the name by which they do business. For example, to find "United Airlines" one must enter "UAL".
- Airline on time performance data is available at www.bts.gov.
- "Air Travel Gets a New Model," *Time* August 26, 2002.



My Point of View
The Overlooked
Tragedy of 9/11/01
by
Mike Moakley

It's been approximately a year since the greatest tragedy in America's recent history occurred. We as Americans are still greatly affected by the resultant trauma. I am certainly no exception. As a former New Yorker who spent his younger years working in and around the World Trade Center, 9-11 has especially hit home with me. Yes, all of us are too painfully aware of the tremendous destruction and loss inflicted by terrorists that day. It is not too difficult to grasp the loss of life and property, as most of us have seen it for ourselves. But what about the not-so-obvious? It is not my purpose here to rehash that unspeakable event, as it is my firm belief that we must look at what lies ahead instead of what we leave behind. It is in that spirit that I must point out that we have not yet fully experienced the larger tragedy.

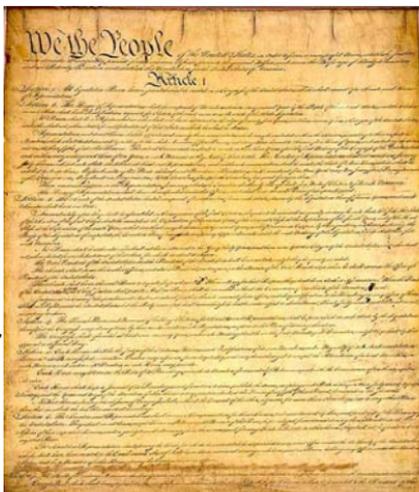
In the months that have followed the 9-11 attack, we appear to be exhibiting renewed patriotism. Practically everywhere, one can see the displays of American flags. Slogans such as "God Bless America", "United We Stand", and "One Nation Under God" have become almost universal in appeal. Yet, what about what it means to be American, that is, the freedoms we enjoy, the tolerance for people who are different from ourselves, the Constitution we are so proud of? Calls for investigation on what actually happened that fateful day are publicly regarded by our own Vice-President Dick Cheney as "Unpatriotic". I have noticed, even where I work, the increasing lack of tolerance for anyone whose expressed opinions are different from those deemed the new "national norm". On the national level, just look at the public outcry following the recent Federal Court "decision" declaring the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional.

It gets even worse. The general public, when emotionally charged, do tend to ostracize those who, for one reason or another, differ from them. With this renewed patriotism, many are turning to God for solace. Some have held liberals responsible for removing God's protection of our country. Such people are branding those who disagree (or perhaps only wish to reason) with them as "Godless atheists" who, along with the terrorists

(who, according to official sources are fundamentalist Muslims calling us Godless), are trying to destroy America! Now our own government is getting into the act; their representatives are implying to us that we cannot let an inconvenience like our Constitution get in the way of the War on Terrorism.

A case in point involves one person suspected of terrorism, Jose Padilla. He is an American citizen who had converted to Islam some years ago. He had traveled to Central Asia, and on his return to America, was arrested by federal agents as he stepped off a plane in Chicago on May 8th. Yet to date, he has not been charged with any crime, but is being held indefinitely in federal custody. He has not been permitted contact with the Public Defender attorney assigned to his case during this time. According to various news accounts, the government has no plans to bring up charges against Padilla, but to indefinitely hold him as an "enemy combatant" until the end of the War.

Now, what's wrong with this picture? First of all, to this writer's knowledge, no war has been declared. Our Constitution vests this power in Congress (See Article 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 11), not the Presidency or federal agencies. So far, Congress has not passed a declaration of war. Likewise, I do not recall a declaration of martial law. This leaves me to assume our Constitution has not been suspended, but is still in full force and effect. The Fifth Amendment provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law. Yet here we have a man, an American citizen, being deprived of his liberty indefinitely, without even being charged with breaking the law, simply because, in the opinion of the federal government, he is an "enemy combatant". Do I dare ask what is meant by the term, "enemy combatant"? Could it possibly mean anyone who is a Muslim? Of Middle Eastern descent (or those who associate with them)? Or is it one who opposes the Bush Administration policies?



Will I have reason to fear if any overzealous federal agent should happen to read this article or others I have written simply because I do not share their "official" opinion? It is clear to me that terrorists are hell-bent on destroying America and all for which America stands. Must we, in our "spirit of patriotism" aid and abet these crazed fundamentalists in their mission to destroy us? I fear that if we continue to follow our present course, the answer will be "Yes", and that would be the ultimate tragedy.



***A View
from the Right:
Dick the Butcher
was Right! Part I:
Criminal "Justice"***
by
J.T. Moran
(morwood@cfl.r.com)

If there is one single facet of America that threatens our way of life as much as government over-regulation, it is the explosion of litigation against individuals and businesses. It is not surprising, however: the majority of lawmakers in this country are... what else... lawyers.

The Clinton Administration, early on, attempted to enact their idea of a "fix" for health care in this country.

A big part of their fix proposed not only to limit the number of medical students, but also to determine what sort of medicine they would be allowed to study (and eventually practice). This was to be done because of what the Clintons considered a "glut" of doctors in the specialized fields.

Too bad they were not as anxious to address the absolute epidemic of civil lawyers willing, and able, to file a lawsuit for almost any reason whatsoever (not surprising, since both Clintons are lawyers.) Because this cancer of "ambulance chasers" is destroying the American way of life.

Up until the 1950s, liability law primarily ran under two basic concepts. The first, "assumption of risk," held to the basic tenet that many activities held inherent risks, such as being thrown while horseback riding, or slipping on toys underfoot while visiting a house with children, or being hit with a foul ball while attending a ball game, and that participation in such activities meant accepting those risks. The second tenet was that of "contributory negligence", where someone's own negligence had helped cause an accident, especially when someone's knowing or deliberate dereliction had placed him in physical peril, such as cases in which people sue over injuries sustained in the course of committing crimes or attempting suicide. These two tenets were part of the foundation for the business practice of issuing express contractual disclaimers or waivers of liability, so if a party was on notice that the other side in a transaction wasn't willing to assume a responsibility, it wouldn't be easy to tag them later with that responsibility in court.

By the 1950s, however, the lawyers began to realize that there was a veritable gold mine awaiting them in the courts, if only they could get rid of this unreasonable concept of "personal responsibility." So they began an assault on both tenets and their contractual offspring. Many states quickly shifted from "contributory negligence" to "comparative negligence", a situation whereby a suit could be filed, even though it was the complainant's own negligence that was the primary cause of his injuries/damages/loss. At the same time, "assumption of risk" was being systematically eroded to a state of negligible importance. The leading tort lawyer of the day, William Prosser, propounded that "implied reasonable assumption of risk should not be allowed to reduce a plaintiff's damage in any way." The disclaimers and waivers were struck down for a number of reasons, few of which had anything to do with legality and reasonableness.

However, the single biggest needed reform to existing tort law is to get

rid of the concept of “deep pockets.” It has allowed more liability suits to be brought to court than any other legal machination. This is because the lawyers who took the reasonableness out of personal risk and accountability knew that there was no profit in suing the little guy... they needed a bigger, wealthier target. So they managed to bring the makers of perfectly functioning equipment into the courtroom as co-defendants in liability suits, many of which were for actions or negligence that the plaintiff was solely responsible for! And, in many cases, for which the plaintiff did not have a prayer of winning... except that it was cheaper for the “deep pocket” to settle than it was to fight in court. And, of course, since the vast majority of lawyers take on these suits on a contingency basis, he or she usually walks away from the settlement with more than the plaintiff!

Unfortunately, where common sense has failed, the needed backup of judicial restraint has also gone walkabout. Liberal judges, appointed by liberal politicians, have consistently used their position to “legislate from the bench”, usually on behalf of the rather far-left activist groups. The result of these judicial fiats can have a reasonably thoughtful man tear his hair out. Such as:

- (1) A suit against the City University of New York on behalf of 2,200 ILLEGAL alien students. The reason for the suit? Not because CUNY wants to toss the illegals out, but because CUNY wants to charge them the same as any other out-of-state student, a cost about nine times higher than for residents. CUNY caved to the lawyers, as did the University of California in a similar case, allowing the illegals to continue paying the in-state tuition rate. Of course, the real question should be: Why are there ANY illegal aliens knowingly enrolled in US colleges?
- (2) On a similar note, fourteen persons died in May 2001 when smugglers led a group of illegal immigrants into an area of the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge known as the "Devil's Path", near the Mexican border between Tucson and Yuma. With the aid of two Yuma lawyers, the Mexican families of 11 of the invaders have filed a \$41 million dollar lawsuit against the Department of Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The suit asks for \$3.75 million for each of the deceased. The attorneys for survivors of the deceased said that U.S. Border Patrol policies had shut down more populous portions of the Arizona border and forced illegal aliens to enter through more remote areas.
"What these agencies knew — or should have known — is that by doing this, and with a history of deaths in the desert, these people would cross in these dangerous areas," said A. James Clark, one of the two Yuma lawyers filing the claim.

Pardon me... but just what part of the word *ILLEGAL* do these people

have trouble understanding? I for one would have a severe problem with any bureaucrat who, especially in this post 9-11 era, aided and abetted the invasion of our nation by undocumented and illegal aliens! By this form of reasoning, we should be held liable for failing to provide airplane hijackers with the firearms necessary to take control of the aircraft.

Similarly, many successful lawsuits these days are filed by... criminals. That's right, felons who were caught in the act, were tried in a court of law, and were sentenced for their misdeeds, have taken to suing... their victims!

Not their lawyers, who you would think would be the logical choice, but instead the people they victimized, and frequently the police who arrested them. And, the suit is not for criminal behavior, but usually for negligence or for deprivation of civil rights.

My favorite case here involved a mugging in a New York City subway. The perpetrator assaulted his 71 year old victim by strangling him, took his valuables, and fled. Unfortunately, he fled right by a NYC police officer (all former Transit Police and Port Authority police have been absorbed into the NYPD) who ordered him to stop, then shot him after he failed to comply, thereby enforcing his lawful order. For those who care, the mugger was not armed, but had to be considered so in light of his violent actions.

The shot wound up paralyzing the felon from the waist down. The upshot of the whole situation? The mugger was found guilty and sentenced to prison. He then filed suit against the police, on the grounds that excessive force was used. Unbelievably, a jury found in his behalf, saying that his paralysis was too great a punishment for the crime! You would have thought that the whole suit would have been tossed out on the grounds of being shot is an inherent risk for a committer of violent felonies, but in states like New York and California criminals apparently have a right to expect their victims and the law to let them do as they please. The jury awarded our poor felon a measly \$4.5 million in compensation, as he would no longer be able to work in his chosen profession. Not bad for a 23 year old who had never been gainfully employed in his entire life.

A similar attack of insane jurisprudence evoked an interesting response from a taxpayer. In 1992, after a Connecticut man tried to outrun a police car in a high-speed chase, crashed into a parked car, and then won half a million dollars for his troubles, a resident wrote a letter to the local paper: "I just read your article concerning Monte's attempt to evade the police and his subsequent accident. I just wanted to know if I understood the lesson.

"If an officer puts on his emergency lights and I stop, I pay \$117. If I run, I get \$500,000. That seems simple. Could you advise me as to whom to contact at the Waterbury Police Department to set up an appointment for a pursuit? I need the money to pay these ridiculously high taxes."

Crime doesn't pay... you do. Next time, I'll tell you how this stupidity and insanity costs you.



***The Gourmet's
Guide:***

***Dining In
Castelnau***

by

Art Belefant

©2002

Tired from our long journey from Florida to Castelnau, we accepted M. Calviac's suggestion that we dine in his restaurant that evening. The nearest other place to eat is five kilometers away, about three miles. That's not too far to walk, but not for our first evening. Dinners in the Castelnau restaurant are informal. The room is quite spacious with a high vaulted ceiling. There is a grand piano for an occasional concert. Tables are set for about 30 people, but more can be accommodated if necessary. The tables varied in sizes according to the desires of the diners. Rita and I sat by ourselves as there were no other English speakers that evening. The other tables that were occupied at 8:30, the earliest that we could eat, was a family of four including two young boys. On that table stood a large bottle of Coca-Cola (ugh!). The other table had three people that were on a walking tour of Gascony and who were staying only one night.

The service was strictly table d'hote, no menu, just wait and see what is brought in. On the table were a bowl of almonds and filberts. Another bowl had radishes that appeared to have been plucked from the ground only minutes before. There was a basket of sliced bread with a hard, crisp crust and a chewy interior. This bread was the same as the artisanal loaf that was left on the counter in our kitchen, and so delicious. Oh, that we could find such bread in Florida. A bottle of mineral water was also there.

M. Calviac inquired if we would like an aperitif. We had more than enough of an appetite than to require an aperitif, so we declined. Then came the question of the wine. Not whether we would like any, but what kind did we want, a named bottle or the local. We chose the local and it soon came out in a ship's decanter. The wine was deep red, mellow, and suited us perfectly.

The first course consisted of a duck liver terrine for which Gascony is well known. Interspersing the pieces of liver were layers of unctuous duck fat. The next course was roast duck accompanied by mashed potatoes and applesauce. We cleaned the platter. Three cheeses followed, a chevres, a Camembert, and a local cheese that was like a firm Camembert. Dessert consisted of fresh strawberries and a milk and cheese sauce. We also got another bowl of cherries.

We declined coffee or tea as it was after 10 and we were ready to fall into bed.

The next day we awoke late. The day was bright and sunny. We breakfasted in our patio surrounded by lush greenery. The loaf of delicious bread, tea, homemade strawberry jam, and butter served us well. It was late when we finished, long after our usual lunchtime. We spent the afternoon examining our village, walking a complete circle around the ramparts, both inside and outside the walls. Rita collected armfuls of

roses, red, pink, yellow, and white to decorate our house. Rose bushes, some seemingly ancient, were everywhere.

After our walk we had tea with more of the delicious bread and fig jam. The first dinner was so delicious that we decided to eat all our evening meals prepared by M. Calviac.

Dinner at eight thirty started with an aperitif made with Armagnac, white wine, blackberries, walnuts, and lemon, followed by smoked salmon and a shrimp and avocado salad. The mayonnaise was home made. Then we had broiled duck breast, seasoned with herbs and salt. Each breast had four crosswise slits into which duck liver had been put. The accompaniment was asparagus.

The cheese course consisted of two chevres, Camembert, Roquefort, a Montbathier, and a mild orange ball similar to an Edam.

The desert was fabulous; a traditional Gascony pastry called *croustade*. It is made of thin sheets of a flour and duck grease dough with apple on top. It was like a flat strudel. Of course, there was the local wine throughout the dinner. After dinner, coffee and Armagnac, the brandy made in Gascony. This Armagnac was made by of the uncle of our host.



The next day, as we knew that we would be eating lunch in Lectour, we asked that only a small dinner be prepared for us. For that we got a cheese omelet accompanied by some sliced salami. This was followed by the cheese tray and a pudding-like dessert. Still another bowl of cherries appeared.

For our last dinner we had cold boiled tomato in a sauce of white cheese, white wine, and herbs for the appetizer. That was followed by veal rolls filled with ground pork sauced with tomatoes, onions, and olives accompanied by boiled rice. On the cheese plate were Camembert, chevres, and a Rablechon. The dessert was *tarte aux poires*.

The quality of the meals was superb. If Michelin ever got to Castelnaud, I'm sure that M. Calviac would garner a few stars.



**The Gourmet
Goes To The
Movies:
Bad "Signs"
by
Art Belefant**

Rita and I don't often see first run movies, but when we do we usually agree on our opinions of them. I note that SCAM doesn't run movie reviews, but this one required me to put down my thoughts.

I would give this one star, just above a bomb, and that's only because the photography was acceptable. Mel Gibson plays a defrocked(?) priest. He sometimes wears a Roman collar

but has had a wife and has two children. It's not clear to what church he belongs.



The story centers about his farm on which crop circles mysteriously appear. They are created by evil aliens who have a taste for human flesh. How and why aliens developed a taste for human flesh when they obviously have never seen one before is beyond credulity. There is no subtlety, no nuance, just malicious aliens, not even any decent special effects such as showing the corn being trampled down by invisible forces.

The story fell apart when Gibson sees an alien in his veterinarian's office. It is stuck in a pantry. It can't break through the flimsy door. Gibson cuts off a couple of fingers of the alien and then he goes back to his house. The whole world is being attacked by these aliens, but Gibson goes back to his house so his family can vote whether to run or to stay. It isn't clear if anyone else has seen an alien, but Gibson doesn't pick up the phone and tell someone that he has an alien trapped in the vet's office.

Then, back at his house, the aliens attack. Again he does not call for help, but macho Mel is going to fight them by himself and his family using the knowledge obtained from a children's book on space aliens.

The aliens start to break into the boarded-up house, remember, they couldn't break out of a pantry, and the family retreats to the cellar.

Finally, the alien, the same one who had his fingers cut off miles away from Gibson's house and couldn't get out of the vet's pantry, has Gibson's son in his hands. Gibson's brother beats the alien with a baseball until the bat breaks but to no avail. Here's this alien, who can't fight his way out of a pantry door, withstanding the beating of a baseball bat to his legs, back, and head. Ultimately a glass of water left on some furniture upsets and spills on the alien. It must be holy water (see Roman collar, above) and the alien melts like the Wicked Witch of the West. End of story.

Most of the picture is spent on close ups of Mel Gibson's face. You see it when he is angry, surprised, afraid, shocked, thoughtful, reverent, puzzled, and almost every other emotion in an actor's repertoire. You don't see what causes the emotion, only Gibson's face. If it were not for the dialog and other clues, you could not discern what emotion Gibson is trying to portray. It's always the same face until the very end when he cries. I suppose this was to have been a tour de force for Gibson, but Claude Rains displayed more emotion in *Phantom of the Opera* wearing a mask.



Just Chillin'



A Great Video
by
Susan Thomas

Roller-blading demons wielding hockey sticks, George Carlin playing a golfing cardinal, and God (Alanis Morissette) as a skee-ball fanatic are some of the off-the-wall aspects of "*Dogma*," a controversial religious comedy by Kevin Smith of "*Clerks*" fame and the Silent Bob of Jay and Silent Bob.

Bethany Sloane (Linda Fiorentino), a Catholic who works in an abortion clinic in Illinois, was struggling with her faith and becoming skeptical of the beliefs she once cherished when a holy, fiery seraphim, played by Alan Rickman, appeared in her bedroom. After cowering in fear for about 10 seconds, she proceeds to douse the flaming angel with her fire extinguisher. Sounding annoyed and overworked, the soaked angel, Metatron, who acts as the voice of God, tells Bethany she is charged with a holy mission. She must stop two renegade angels from getting back into heaven, thereby preventing the end of existence.

The two angels (Ben Affleck and Matt Damon) were thrown out of heaven eons ago after getting drunk and insulting God. They were not banished to hell, but as the Metatron said, "Worse, Wisconsin." The two discover a loophole through Dogmatic law that would allow them to get back into heaven. What they don't know is that this would disprove God's infallibility, thus the universe, as we know it, would cease to be.

Helping Bethany on her quest is the muse stripper Serendipity (Salma Hayek); two "prophets," also known as Jay and Silent Bob (who are always in Smith movies); and a black 13th apostle named Rufus (Chris Rock), who is irritated at being left out of the Bible because he's black.

Although sometimes raunchy, this movie makes you think about organized religion, using odd takes on theology and unabashedly poking fun at church hierarchy. It gives a strange, new outlook to the Bible and beliefs that may have gone unquestioned.

The swear words are abundant, especially from the overly talkative Jay (Jason Mewes). The profanity and adult content are undoubtedly the reasons the movie is rated R.

Despite the vulgar language and crude innuendos, "*Dogma*" is worth seeing. It has the audience look at religions from a different, unconventional, perspective. It has a creative, though sometimes inappropriate, plot supported by a well-chosen cast, especially Rickman as the irritated, sarcastic Metatron.

I'm sure many people would be offended by this comedic religious fantasy, but it mustn't be taken seriously. It's a satire and spoof on organized religions. It takes well-known beliefs and uses them in tongue-in-cheek humor. The viewer must watch this movie with an open mind. As the disclaimer at the beginning says, "Remember: God has a sense of humor. Just look at the platypus." 

**The Alchemist:
Cattle Ranching**



Al Thomas

©2002

al@mutualfund
magic.com

If you owned a cattle ranch I think you would want to take care of all your animals from the head bull down to the smallest calf. They will need proper food, water and certain shots to prevent disease. You want them to grow so you will prosper.

If your cattle do well and your bull does his job you will grow your herd and your reputation among all the other cattle ranchers so people who are interested in buying stock will seek you out.

Here is something that is puzzling to me. When you have an account with a stock brokerage firm they don't seem to be interested in helping you preserve your capital or to make it grow. Of course, that is not what they say, but it is what they do. Yes, they inundate you with beautiful green sheets, pink sheets and multicolor brochures, annual reports and prospectuses all of which are supposed to make you a knowledgeable investor. About 99% of that stuff is information that has no bearing on the bottom line. What is even worse is if you do buy something they do not help you make any provision for selling out if the stock starts going down.

This is like not feeding your heifers, not giving water to the calves and not giving the bull his extra vitamins. The herd no longer is producing the way it should. The calves aren't growing and the bull is unable to perform. The farm is slowly going broke.

If the brokerage company took proper care of their customers they would have a happy group and their customers would bring new accounts to them. It is a shame that brokers are not taught the first rule of investing – to protect customers' capital. One of the finest basic rules is not to ever lose more than 10% of capital in any one position. The simple way to do this is with a stop-loss order that is put in every day and called an OPEN stop. The stop should be raised every week as your stock goes up and if you have mutual funds you will have to watch these yourself as your broker does not have time because most of them have several hundred accounts. Never lower a stop.

You will find that if you are stopped out and you look at the price 6 months from then that the price of the stock will be lower about 80% of the time.

Of 44,000 brokerage company recommendations last year only about 400 were to sell. You cannot wait for the broker to tell you this. You must let the market tell you and it will do it with a stop-loss order.

A smart rancher takes care of his cattle. You must become the foreman on your own money ranch if you expect to see it grow. And for sure you don't want the cattle to die off for lack of attention. That is up to you. Nobody else.



The 10th Story

by

Elissa Rudolph,

RVC10

RVC10@us.mensa.org

Happy Autumn to you! We know it's autumn because the colors of the license plates change... Snow birds return to swell the lines at the restaurants, groceries, post offices, banks, and theaters, but, hey, can we blame them?

New benefits have been added to your Mensa membership: An agreement was reached recently with Human Intelligence, a fee-paid employment service that looks to place Mensans, graduates of top universities (Harvard, Yale, CalTech, MIT, Sorbonne, etc.), and other "two percenters." Specifically, they seek to place individuals with backgrounds in mathematics, physics, engineering, information technology, biology, astronomy, finance and linguistics. American Mensa now offers the Capital for Knowledge® program, providing education financing for all of your family's needs. Visit www.capital4u.net to find out more. Loans are generally disbursed within 48 hours of final approval. As a member of American Mensa you have a choice with Choice Hotels International. American Mensa members save 20% (off the regular rate) on more than 4,000 participating hotels. For more details on these new benefits and all the others check "Member Resources" on Mensa's Web site, www.us.mensa.org. Love those benefits!

Is your group ready for National Testing Day, October 19? There will be a national publicity blitz that will no doubt result in lots of phone calls and e-messages from potential Mensans. Be ready!

Northwest Florida Mensa is in the spotlight this month, our next to last of the dozen Region 10 groups that I have covered in this column. Major cities in this group are Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, Destin, and Panama City. Being located in the Florida's panhandle and even in the next time zone, NWF members can't help but feel ... different. But do they ever bring titles, awards, and prestige to Region 10! A hard-working group, NWF won newsletter awards in the past 2 Publication Recognition Programs and copped the Group of the Year Award (GOTYA) in their size category again in 2001. Because you can't rest on your laurels, NWF is planning its first RG for February 2003 (details below). Last year, the group held an "Ungathering" to see if they had the energy and audience. And, of course, it was a rousing success. Onward and upward for **Northwest Florida Mensa**. All of Region 10 is proud of you!

See you all at SCAM's party!!

Coming Events

October 18-20, the **2002 SCAM Rollback RG**, <http://spacecoastareamensa.tripod.com/>, Holiday Inn Oceanfront in Indiatlantic.

January 31-February 2, **Smarti Gras 2003**, <http://www.centralflorida.us.mensa.org/> *Laissez les bons mots rouler!* Plan now to attend this RG organized by Central Florida Mensa!



It's Here!

***News from the
RG Front***

Mark 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 \$40! 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. Contact the hotel for more information.

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 \$40 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.

Please make out
checks to Space
Coast Area
Mensa RG

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, ST, ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____
E-MAIL _____

Double Takes



by
**Anne
Nonymuss**

Here's a quiz to while away a few minutes of your time. It will require vocabulary skills and the ability to anagram words.

For each pair of definitions, you are to find one word which can be anagrammed to fit both definitions.

Example: to discontinue - round, fairly deep containers. STOP means to discontinue and POTS are round, fairly deep containers; STOP and POTS are anagrams.

Got the idea? Now try these...

1. To leave by will - put through a network of meshes
2. Demeanor - belonging to me
3. Chlorinated antiseptic solution - a parasitic insect
4. The linden tree - a measure of distance
5. A war vehicle - kidney bean

(Answers will be found below)



Arachnae's Threads

by
**Clara Woodall-Moran,
Webmaster**

An interesting problem presented itself with the website. The RG flyer in PDF format opened as a black page for one user. I sent the file to him via email and it appeared black again. He finally opened the file with Acrobat Reader without being in the browser and, low and behold, it opened properly. There was a problem with the configuration of his browser that prevented him from opening the version of the Acrobat Reader we used for the flyer. We had a similar problem at work and I suggested checking the browser settings for the user experiencing the problem. Rather surprised folks since I'm not considered one of the "web gurus". I am taking a crash course in Dreamweaver so our permanent web site will be looking much nicer than the old one.

The months are linked on the website calendar. Just click on "August" at the top left corner to go to September; October is still in the forming stage. Check back often for updates.

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We Have....



The Answers!

1. devise - sieved
2. mien - mine
3. ensol - louse
4. lime - mile
5. chariot - haricot