

The

SCAM

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2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee

IT'S THAT TIME ALREADY??? OH, WELL...



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Volume 21, No. 1

January, 2003

*The
Newsletter*
SCAM
pace coast region mensa

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

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

Happy January Birthday

- 02 – Rose Marie Martinez
- 04 – Joseph Richardson
- 08 – Ramon Vicioso
- 11 – Timothy Trese
- 12 – Arleigh Sharpe
- 12 – Albert Thomas
- 14 – William Gray
- 14 – Lee McLamb
- 14 – Barry Signorelli
- 19 – Lynette Johnson-Maynard
- 23 – Rita Johnson-Aronna
- 27 – James Druckenmiller
- 28 – Joseph Carrier



Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

- Kathryn Juarez — Titusville*
- Chiluwata Lungu — Melbourne*
- Robert May — Melbourne*
- Bruce Fitzgerald — Satellite Beach*

Welcome to SCAM

Michael Fuller — La Habra

Welcome Back to SCAM

Clara Gill — Mims



**On the
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran
SCAM Editor**

I just wanted to say a few short words here, as I write this just prior to my departure for the cold north woods of western Pennsylvania. Editing this issue, under the watchful auspices of Editor Emeritus Helen Lee Moore, is Marc Leichtling, husband of SCAMster Suzanne. Marc stepped up and volunteered when he heard that it would be nearly impossible for me to edit this issue because of the dates of hunting season.

I appreciate Marc's help more than I can express. But it would have been nice to not need his aid, if a SCAMster had volunteered to take over *The SCAM* when I step down this June. Someone missed an opportunity for a great learning experience.

Thanks again, Marc!



**FROM THE TREASURER:
THE SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT ON
THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF SCAM**

1 June 2002 - 30 November, 2002

Scholarship Savings Account	1259.26
General Fund Certificate of Deposit	2136.60
USPS Drawing Account	276.86
General Fund Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	875.21
Ending Balance	1557.14
RG Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	2223.95
Ending Balance	1025.71

The Savings Account and Certificate of Deposit are earning interest which will be included upon further activity in these accounts.

Physical property is accounted for.



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

The Holidays are pretty much a mere memory. JT is back from his hunting trip and I've had my vacation and miscellaneous time off from work. Now it is time to get back into the school cycle (for me at any rate). I have two classes to finish and then complete the 6000 project (Integrated Project – show what all I've learned) and then collect my Master's. Piece of cake – a walk in the park...but, how the heck did I go to school before? I've not had any time to do anything for the two terms I've been off from school and I'm scared

to go back.

The first of the year marks the approaching end of my tenure on the ExComm. I'll not be running for the ExComm this time. It is time for someone else to take over the reins of this group and lead us on into the future.

J.T. is also retiring from the Editorship of the newsletter. He has had a good run, including winning the Owl in the publications competition. I never entered our website as it is not up to the standards for awards. I had hoped to work on the website more with the time I had off between terms but that was just not to be.

It is very easy for those who have taken up the reins of the ExComm to begin to take a proprietary view of the organization and to even take certain things as a personal affront. For instance, the lack of interest in the SIGs events we tried to get started, the low attendance at the various CABAGE events, and so forth can be seen as the fault of the ExComm in general and the LocSec in particular. However, I do not believe that everyone is staying home or going elsewhere simply because I'm LocSec or due to the membership of the ExComm. It is a conscious decision by each-and-every person who does not attend. Complaints about the events on the calendar are beneath notice.

On the subject of events on the calendar -- I am hoping that while the weather is cool someone will schedule some out-of-doors events. I'll happily go walking through the Nature parks that abound in this area if anyone would like to set up the event. While I could be the one to schedule all of the events -- that would really not be in the best interests of the group. Call or email me to get something on the calendar for all to enjoy.

Our young Mensan's have been offered an opportunity to get together with young Mensan's from Central Florida Mensa for a trip to Kennedy Space Center. I'll be interested in reporting on the trip. And, even if I did not put my email address in the letter printed by the editor, you all know how to reach me – my address, phone number and email address are available in the newsletter.

Hope you had a safe and happy Holiday season.



**Minutes of the
ExComm Meeting**



November 24, 2002 call to Order at 13:05

Members Present

Clara Woodall-Moran, Helen Lee Moore, and Joe Smith

Guests Present

J.T. Moran

Minutes of previous meeting - None

Correspondence - LocSec has one but will include it in Old Business

Officer Reports

LocSec; Member-At-Large; Bylaws

No Report

Assistant LocSec; Publicity

No Report Sent

Recording Secretary

Position Vacant

Editor

An Assistant Editor has come forward to help produce January's issue – but only for the one issue. J.T. still looking for his successor.

Membership/testing

214 Members at this time and we tested 7 at the RG and 4 at the November session.

RG

Helen provided a close-out on the final tally – sent an online *motion* to move \$500.00 of profits to scholarship even though no fund-raising had been done. Motion *seconded* by LocSec and was *unanimously* approved.

S.I.G.H.T.

Karen has new email address and a home computer so she is more in-touch.

Old Business

Audit Committee has three volunteers: Fran Hinson, Joyce Drew and Bob Johnson – *motion* to accept: Helen Lee Moore, *second*: Clara Woodall, *unanimous* approval.

NomECom partially filled: Fran Hinson and J.T. Moran. *Motion* to accept: Helen Lee Moore, *second*: Joe Smith, *unanimous* approval

New Business - none

Announcements - none

Next Meeting - January 5th, 3PM at Helen Lee Moore's in Hardeeville.

Meeting adjourned at 13:21



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



Ken Thornton-Smith

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The Wabasso Triangle

Episode Warp Nine: Start Wreck, The Next Degeneration

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying Relativity Theory and the Quantum Pasta Paradox, the Wabasso Triangle has struck the mother lode. Again.

Captain's Log: It was Monday, Stardate 2002. Captain Pecan speaking:

Decrepit Starship Bent Surprise was on routine patrol in quadrant 17 when an urgent message came in from Galactic HQ. I immediately dropped the crossword – I'd been stuck on 17 Down all morning – and called the flight deck crew together for a mission briefing:

"Remember all that fuss a few years back about an idiot that was too nice to incarcerate, but too stupid to let out? The one they eventually exiled to a randomly-selected delta level planet on the edge of the galaxy?"

"You don't mean...?"

"Yep – Gary Shandling..."

"Wasn't there another one?"

"...And that's our mission – his sentence is up, and we have to get him out of there before he does any more damage. The good news is, they sentenced him to our favorite comedy planet, Earth-Sol-3..."

"Beats me how that dump ever made it to delta classification – it's illogical," my trusty sidekick Lieutenant Schlock joined in, "That planet is so retarded they still think SUVs are a good idea..."

"Yes, Schlocky, they are primitive, but the rest of us have a sense of humor and we think they're funny. Remember that we are bound by the Zambucini Protocol, and that prevents us from interfering with their culture. And that includes explaining elementary physics, like why their ridiculous SUVs fall over on the highway... Not like the '72 Mustang. Now that was a real car..."

"Cool wheels..." Schlock nodded.

"Anyway, the other guy is a character you may remember – 'Mr Rogers'. We have to pull him out, too – apparently he's moved into an influential position. Maybe he's a dictator or emperor or something. Oh, and then we deliver a couple of pizzas in sector Q on our way home. Any questions?"

"Blurk, blurk, blurk – Wheelbarrow overload on deck three!" The siren sounded.

"Deck three again? Number Two, take a security patrol down there and find out what's going on."

"On my way, Captain," replied second-in-command Lieutenant Biker.

As Biker stood up to leave, Scotty rushed in with a tray, "I dinner

think she's gonna make it, Captain."

"Dinner?"

"Yeah – we're out of broccoli."

"What the hell is 'broccoli'?"

"It's an Earth food, Captain – we are adjusting our diet to Earth-native to prepare for the landing. I was on my way to offer you another Earth delicacy when the alarm went off – here, try this."

"What's this yucky red stuff? It looks like that latex paint they used in the deck nine bathrooms... is this safe, Scotty?"

"It's an Earthside drink, Captain. It's called 'V8'... "

"V8? Oh, yeah? Tastes more like a Briggs and Stratton single-cylinder out of a lawn mower... "

"Oh, and sorry about the alarm in the galley – we're trying to make a batch of pasta." Scotty was always apologizing.

"Pasta?"

"It's an Earth carbohydrate-source thingy... sort of."

"Scotty – why do I get the impression you're off your noodle? Do you have any idea what you're doing?"

"Er – not really, Captain."

"OK, as soon as we get within range, let's beam up someone sensible. And straighten out deck three or you're back on the engines, especially after that breakfast this morning, I don't care what your di-lithium levels are... and don't forget about the eight-track in my 455 – it ate my Sergio Mendes tape!"

Meanwhile, back on Earth: Anthony Chianti, Licensed Private Eye and Indian River Community Pasta Detective, reporting:

I was boldly going to my mailbox. Mission: to seek out intelligent correspondence. Mission Impossible. There was more junk mail every day – but what's this? Kewl – it's my package from the Month of the Book Club. The cover letter read: 'We trust you enjoyed last book's month, September. Soon it will be the first day of Lorna Doone and this book we bring you the fascinating month of October, by delicate orange-brown leaves...'

At that moment things went very wobbly. It felt like I turned to lime green jello and was miming along with Ravi Shankar, my arms swinging wildly as I played the air sitar. It stopped. I blinked to find myself in a large room with a Scottish cook, which many of us consider an oxymoron.

I instinctively knew something was wrong, but they reckoned without years of undercover pasta detective experience – there was no mailbox around here. This can mean only one thing – The Wabasso Triangle had struck again...!

As you know, inside The Wabasso Triangle, the four primary particles of matter: glue, pasta, crayons and underwear, all combine under pressure to form a Late Bronze-Age paper-doiily proton placemat, and right now yours truly was part of this cosmic table setting. Either that, or I had acci-

dentally wandered onto Paramount Studio's soundstage 7. Something was wrong somewhere, and for once it wasn't that loony Detective Inspector "Raving" Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad standing in my aura adjusting his halitosis.

In walked a six-foot pointy-eared pixie. "Welcome aboard, Chianti – we found you in the Yellow Pages – it said we should mention that. You will be assisting Scotty here. By the way – what do you drive?"

"Er... Testudo, Buick Testudo, the '76."

"Pity – the '69 was my favorite... those were the days – 400 cubes, 400 horses and 400 fins... "

Schlock showed me around for a while, then handed me over to Scotty. As soon as we were alone, a nervous Scotty pulled me to one side, "You have to help me – these guys are control freaks. Unless I deliver something edible for dinner they'll send me back to the engine room. They only put up with me because I keep their muscle cars running. I'm an engineer, not a cook, but too much di-lithium exposure will fry my brains..."

"It will? How could you tell? I mean, er, no problem – what's the menu?"

"Normally Monday would be Compound M over Organo-substrate, which in Earth terms would be sort-of pond scum on bread pudding, but starting today we're going ethnic with portabella and broccoli fettuccini..."

Pond scum on bread pudding? And he's worried about di-lithium? Now I know why there are no Scottish restaurants... We turned a corner into a large steamy kitchen. It didn't take long to find out where he was going wrong – soggy pasta and tasteless generic olive oil. I had him straightened out in no time flat, and dinner was ready just as we arrived in Low Earth Orbit.

I was guest of honor and the food was a big hit. During the cheese course I introduced the crew to Earth on a large monitor, "That area over there is called China, heavily populated, and Mandarin is the most widely-spoken language on Earth..."

"You mean... those little tangerine things speak to each other? Open hailing frequencies... get me an orange on the line... " Captain Pecan was a hoot after a couple of bottles, even if he did opt for a rather immature Liebfraumilch to accompany his main course, Philistine.

"Blurk, blurk, blurk – Toaster on overload on deck three... !"

The crew rushed off, led by a furious Captain Pecan.

"We'd better get you back – there's going to be a lynching, and you're already guilty by association... " I turned around to find that one technical assistant remained.

"Association? But they wouldn't let me join... " I stopped mid-sentence. White-faced but pretty, she looked very curvy in her blue skinny-rib top and revealing skort. I moved in to study the suspect – undercover Pasta Detectives are trained to be observant. Her eyes were set to stun, and,

despite her ridiculously pointy 1964 nose-cone bra, she obviously had another couple of outstanding features.

“Hi, I’m Commander Date. Follow me. And hurry!”

“Date? Hey, beautiful, why don’t you come back with me?” I poured on the charm as she fiddled with the transporter beam controls. “Er, Date... Florida’s great this time of year...” She looked like she could do with some sunshine.

“Not this time, Romeo...” She was all sweetness and light, with just a touch of fluorescent aspartame.

“How about your phone numb, numb, numb...?” The wobbles kicked in and kicked me to nowhere – I haven’t felt so lost since the reunion at Amnesiac’s Anonymous. An hour later I materialized, safe and sound, four feet in the air and landed with a painful thud astride the mailbox. If she weren’t so cute I’d think she did that on purpose...

Roll credits...

Well, illogical 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 *and* Intergalactic Community Pasta Detective, signing off.

Bed 350, Men’s Surgical Ward, Indian River Memorial Hospital.



FROM THE TREASURER: A REPORT CONCERNING THE 2002 SCAM ROLLBACK RG

25 November 2002

Financial Report, Rollback RG

These are the figures as of this date:

\$6424.50 income (registrations, meal purchases, misc.)

\$4898.79 expenses (hotel charges, hospitality, refunds, misc.)

\$1525.71 income over expenses

From the \$1525.71, **\$500.00** has been allocated to the Scholarship Fund, leaving **\$1025.71** for the General Fund.

Helen Lee Moore
SCAM Treasurer



**The Gourmet's
Guide:**

Herring

by

Art Belefant

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(belefant@juno.com)

Herring - *Clupea harengus*

French: hareng

Dutch: haring

Polish: sledz

Russian: sel'd' (phonetic)

Finnish: silli

Swedish: sill, ströming

Norwegian: slid

Danish: sild

Icelandic: sild

Welsh: ysgadenyn

Greenlandic: angmagssagssuaq

German: haringe

Italian: aringe

Spanish: arengues

Herring is a much under-appreciated fish in the U. S. So much so that many of the standard cookbooks, such as Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book, Betty Crocker's Cookbook, and The Fanny Farmer Cookbook, do not include any recipes for preparing the fresh fish. Herring is not even listed in their indices.

In Europe, particularly northern Europe along the Baltic and North Sea coasts, herring is an important part of the local cuisine. In many countries, Scandinavia, Germany, and Briton, they are a staple of the diet.

Aside from the Baltic and North Sea stocks, herring, a cold water fish, can be found on both sides of the Atlantic as far south as the north of France and the Chesapeake Bay. Herring from different oceans or seas form different subspecies or races, which vary slightly from one to another. Herring is a fatty fish and one of the most nutritious and cheapest fishes available, which make them ideal for pickling or canning. Their unpopularity as a fresh fish may be because of their many small bones. Fresh herring is rarely seen in the markets in the U. S. If you can find any, the simplest way to prepare them is to clean them, scale and remove the heads, split them and carefully remove the spine with most of the bones. The smallest bones that are left will soften with cooking and can be left in. Then spread olive oil over them and grill. They also can be sautéed or fried in a small amount of olive oil, in which case, onions and tomatoes can be sautéed along with the fish. The Scots coat them with oatmeal before frying.

In Europe, where fresh herrings are more readily available, there are many more elaborate recipes available. André Simon lists such delicacies as



Savory Herrings, Herrings B la Bordelaise, and Herrings B la MeuniPre. If you are cooking fresh herrings for the first time, I recommend simple grilling or sautéing so that you can get the full delicious flavor of the fish.

Most of the herrings caught are salted or brined to preserve them. The preserved herrings are then pickled, canned, or smoked. Cold smoked herrings become the kippers of British breakfast fame. The canned variety of kippers that is available in the U. S. is only an unworthy substitute for the true British kipper.

Canned herring in tomato or mustard sauce is often sold in the U. S. as sardines. Maine "sardines", caught off of Canada or New England are immature herrings.

Most herring ends up pickled in Europe and the U. S. The number and variety of pickled herring are almost endless. The traditional Swedish smorgasbord may have as many as twenty varieties of herring on it. A herring plate, often served as an opening course in a formal dinner, would have from three to six varieties (five as served on the QE2). The most common kinds of pickled herring are:



marinated herring
marinated herring with sour cream
spiced herring
herring in mustard sauce
herring with garlic
herring in tomato sauce
herring in curry sauce
herring in wine sauce
matjes herring
glassblowers' herring
sustromming
sotare
Bismark herrings
Rollmops
schmaltz herring

In spite of not being a common food item in America, two uses of herring have entered our lexicon. From the British, the "red herring" that was dragged across the track of a fox to distract the hounds and now denotes a diversionary tactic, is a kipper. A well smoked kipper is reddish brown in color. Clementine's "herring boxes without topses", which served her for shoes, came packed with dried salted herrings that would keep unrefrigerated for forty-niners sustenance.



January 2003 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 13th and 27th
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 8th and 22nd
Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 15th
6:30PM, 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 *karen@freiberg.com*

C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Clara Woodall-Moran *cew@cfl.rr.com*

4th **6:00 p.m.** **Fun, Games and Pizza**
Saturday **Cost of Meal** **SS/NP**
Join Marc & Suzanne for fun, games, snacks, hot tub optional. Be sure to be there by 6:30 p.m. to order pizza. *8700 Ridgewood Ave., #A406, Cape Canaveral*

Suzanne and Marc Leichtling *suzl@cfl.rr.com*

7th **RSVP for Young Mensa VIP tour of KSC**
VIP Youth Tour on January 18th, if we get 15 Young Mensans or friends of Mensans under 18. This must be paid for in advance, so contact Keri Mathoniere of Central Florida Mensa. Adults may go, but their attendance does not lower the cost per person.

Keri Mathoniere *kmathoniere@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.

12th **6:00 p.m.** **Firearms & Fried Rice**
Friday **Range & Meal costs** **S/NP**

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

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

Your Health



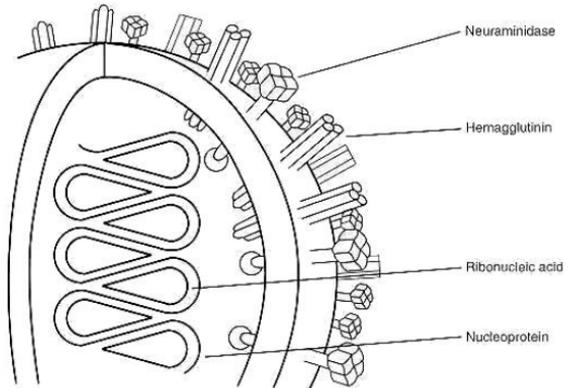
Influenza

Ann Schindler

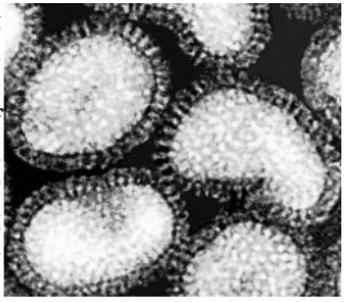
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Influenza is a contagious viral disease usually referred to as “the flu”. Hippocrates was the first to describe a flu-like disease in 412 BC. The Roman historian Livy described an influenza-like disease that struck the Roman army in 212 BC. The word “influenza”, derived from an Italian word meaning influence, was first used in 1357 when people believed that the disease was caused by the influence of the stars. The first epidemic in Europe is said to have occurred in 1173, with outbreaks continuing throughout the centuries to the present. An epidemic is a contagious disease that spreads rapidly among individuals living in a specific area. An endemic disease is one that is under control. A pandemic disease spreads beyond the confines of an area, affecting an entire nation, continent, and even spreading worldwide. The first worldwide influenza pandemic occurred in 1580 when bloodletting was a commonly used treatment. Since that time, influenza pandemics have occurred at a frequency of once every 9 to 39 years. Pandemics in the 20th century have occurred in 1918 (Spanish flu), 1957 (Asian flu), 1968 (Hong Kong flu) and 1977 (Russian flu). The 1918 pandemic was the most deadly with 20 million deaths, more than the number that died as a result of World War I combat.

A virus is a tiny biological infectious agent, about a millionth of an inch in length, which varies in shape and complexity. A virus must have a host cell on which to live and replicate, as it does not have its own enzymes to carry on these functions. There are 3 types of influenza viruses, A, B, and C. Type C causes only mild respiratory symptoms. Type B causes very few epidemics, and is not generally a serious problem except in elderly or debilitated persons. Type A affects humans, birds, and mammals, and has a potential to cause epidemics and pandemics. This is because Type A undergoes frequent changes. Its surface is covered with 2 kinds of antigens (proteins), hemagglutinin (H) and neuraminidase (N), referred to as spikes. There are approximately 500 H spikes and 100 N spikes. H helps the virus attach to and enter a host cell, and N destroys the host cell and helps the offspring escape to infect other cells. The H spikes have specific receptor binding proteins which look for specific receptor sites on the host cell to which they



attach. A human virus will not usually affect an animal or plant cell, and vice versa. This is because the receptor binding proteins on the virus must specifically match the receptors of the host cell or they cannot attach and cause a disease. Receptors on other animal or plant forms will not match human receptor binding protein. If the surface H and N remained constant, immunity could be built up, but H and N



are constantly mutating. These changes are referred to as antigenic drift and antigenic shift. "Drift" is the slow small constant changes that occur on the surface over time. "Shift" refers to an abrupt change in the surface proteins. These occur much less frequently and result in new H and N proteins. The evolved viruses can affect new hosts or new species. Antibodies are proteins that form in the presence of antigens to fight an invasion of viruses or other invading organisms. Antibodies form as the result of having a disease or being immunized against a disease. An antibody will attach to the receptor binding protein of the virus or other disease-producing antigen, and render it harmless, as it can no longer bind to a host cell. Type A flu viruses are divided into subtypes based on the differences in the H and N. Some examples of these are A(H1N1), A(H1N2), A(H2N2), A(H3N2), etc. If a person who once had A(H1N1) flu and developed antibodies against those viruses, later contracts A(H1N2) flu, he will get the flu again but he has some protection against the H1 component. If he contracts A(H2N2), he has no protection against either, and may become very ill. Each year a flu vaccine is prepared based on predictions from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Each flu vaccine contains three strains of purified inactivated (killed) influenza virus, two A type and one B type. The CDC reports a 70% to 90% efficacy rate in preventing influenza or in reducing the severity of an outbreak in healthy persons less than 65 years of age when the vaccine and circulating viruses are antigenically similar. Efficacy rates are less in the elderly because of "decreased immunologic response" in that age group. Anyone over the age of 6 months can receive a flu shot. The flu shot is the best method to prevent the flu, and is especially recommended for people over 65, adults and children with chronic diseases as cardiovascular, respiratory, or metabolic problems, and residents of nursing homes or other institutions. Health care workers are also encouraged to have flu shots because of their high numbers of patient contacts. It takes two to four weeks to begin an antibody response to a flu shot. It is important to receive a flu shot between October and November so you will be protected by the start of flu season, usually between November and March in the United States. Getting the flu shot in December, or even later, will still offer you some protection.

Influenza is spread by respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing, and enters the body via mucous membranes of the nose, mouth, or eyes.

Incubation period is 1 to 4 days and the contagious period lasts from one day before onset of symptoms till about five days after onset. Children are contagious for a longer period of time, up to 6 days before onset of symptoms. Symptoms of influenza are often confused with those of the common cold. Symptoms for both colds and flu include congestion, runny nose, headache, cough, or sore throat. Influenza has a more sudden onset of these symptoms, and also includes fever, aches and pains, and fatigue. If you contract the flu, get bedrest, drink plenty of fluids, and take acetaminophen for aches and pains or fever. Antibiotics are not effective treatment for viruses. Most flu symptoms dissipate within a few days, though cough and fatigue may remain up to two weeks. Influenza can worsen other health problems, especially in the elderly. Pneumonia is a possible complication so it is advised that persons over 65 also consider a pneumonia vaccine. People who are allergic to thimerosal or eggs are advised not to receive the flu shot. Thimerosal is a preservative containing mercury and eggs are used as the medium to grow the virus for the vaccine. Adverse reactions to the flu shot are rare and are usually only redness at the site of injection. You cannot get the flu from a flu shot because it is not live virus.

Several medications are available to help prevent or control influenza. Antiviral agents work by interfering with the reproduction cycle of viruses. If administered in the first day or two of onset of symptoms, these medications may reduce the duration of influenza. N inhibitors prevent the invading virus from leaving the host cell, which halts the infection, causing the virus to die within the cell. These medications are not meant to be a substitution for the flu shot, which is still the best protection you can give yourself.

There are new types of vaccines and antivirals being developed. A nasal spray, claimed to be 93% effective, may be released in 2003. Preventing the spread of influenza is an attainable goal. Get a flu shot each year.

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***A View... From
Somewhere Else
Ten At Random***

by

Hank Rhodes

©2003

This could have occurred nowhere but in England, where men and sea interpenetrate, so to speak... We were sitting round a mahogany table... There was a director of companies, an accountant, a lawyer... We all began life in the merchant service...

Joseph Conrad, "Youth"

This story could have occurred nowhere but in America, where a current of violence and stupidity interpenetrates a sea of decency, opportunity, and achievement, so to speak. We all experience the impact of the modern mass media in our lives, and so sitting round the television, or perhaps the computer, or the newsstand, we all watched in horror as people in the national capital region were murdered at random. Their lives were claimed by an unknown cowardly assailant using a rifle from a safe distance.

One supposes we can all take some comfort that, by all indications, the DC-area shooters have been apprehended and disarmed, and so are now powerless to do anyone else harm. We won't mention their names, since their names aren't worth knowing, and aren't worth remembering. Instead, at least on these pages, we will consign them to the abyss of mediocrity and obscurity from which they so desperately sought to escape.

The surrounding media frenzy has already served up some measure of gratification for Butthead and Buttboy, granting them the status of temporary celebrities. Lawyers will vigorously defend them, in accordance with the principles of our legal system. Reporters will inform us of every trivial detail of their miserable, misspent lives, consistent with recent practice by which members of the fourth estate have seen fit to discharge their duty to society. We will be exposed to various theories regarding the pathologies at work in this tragedy. Some of the theories may actually contain a kernel of truth. People peripherally involved will be paraded before the public. Other commentators will speculate on the appropriate punishment. We've all seen this strange carnival in operation before.

Here the author is going to do something rarely seen on these pages- he will embrace a position normally claimed (but not conceded) as the domain of the conservatives.¹ This is to shift the focus from the alleged perpetrators, back to where it should be, on the victims.

If there's some good to be taken from this needless tragedy, it's the fact that ten Americans² chosen apparently at random on our streets not only represented a cross-section of our demographics- female, male, black, white, asian, hispanic, native-born, immigrant, elderly, middle aged, young- but more importantly, that they represented examples of the better aspects of our national life.

Unfortunately, the victim's stories haven't been packaged and broadcast as well as those of the alleged perpetrators, but what we do know of the victims is certainly worth our attention.

In their drive-by expeditions, the beltway bozos managed to murder:

- A program analyst involved in scientific research, a carpenter, a civil engineer, a landscaper, two child-care workers, and an intelligence specialist engaged in the effort to prevent terrorism.
- A boy scout leader.
- Two Vietnam veterans.
- Two amateur historians.
- An unpublished poet.
- A mentor to elementary school students, who also initiated a program to provide surplus government computers to the school system.
- A man who donated his spare time to supporting disadvantaged children through the Boys and Girls Club.
- A volunteer with a crime solvers hotline.
- The owners of several businesses.
- A breast cancer survivor.
- A church trustee.
- A handyman who readily and voluntarily performed repairs for his less-able neighbors.
- Parents of fifteen children.

It is, of course, impossible to properly summarize life spans of 25 to 72 years in a few brief pages, even for the best of wordsmiths. Suffice it to say that these ten were each the sort of people we'd prefer to have as associates, co-workers, neighbors, and friends. They were people leading worthwhile lives, who didn't seek fame or notoriety. (Is there a difference between fame and notoriety in America anymore?) They were indeed, ten fellow citizens of accomplishment and goodness.

If we had to choose ten "typical" people to represent the values and aspirations of our civilization, we would be hard pressed to do better.

Sadly it takes a fool with a gun to bring people like this to public attention, when such strangers pass us on the street every day, unknown and unacknowledged by each of us.

So in passing, we pay tribute to: James D. Martin, James L. "Sonny" Buchanan, Prem Kumar Walekar, Sarah Ramos, Lori Ann Lewis-Rivera, Pascal Charlot, Dean Harold Meyers, Kenneth H. Bridges, Linda Franklin, and Conrad Johnson.

Peace to them, their families, and their friends.

Notes

- 1) *The author must note that a component of the conservative-biased media, the Fox News, is one of the worst offenders. If it wasn't for the latest British sex scandal, Fox would still be serving us a full dose of the life histories of the beltway bozos.*
- 2) *Investigations in progress indicate that Butthead and Buttboy may have committed murder in several other places before the series of shootings along the I-95 corridor in Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia.*



***A View
from the Right:
Sometimes,
Miracles DO
Happen!***

by

J.T. Moran

(morwood@cfl.rz.com)

For those few who actually read this column on a monthly basis, hearken ye back to March 2002. At that time I related to you the story of Emory University history professor Michael Bellesiles, author of the book "Arming America: The Origins of the National Gun Culture". In his book he proposed that, contrary to popular belief and prevailing historical perspective, the America of the Founding Fathers was not a nation where firearms had much, if any, importance in the lives of the colonials. He claimed to have reviewed over 11,000 probate records from 40 counties, and that his research showed that less than 7% of all colonial homes kept a firearm, or owned one in working condition, and that since gun ownership was so rare among early Americans, even on the frontiers, no one would have cared enough about the right to give it constitutional protection.

For his efforts, Prof. Bellesiles received fame and acclaim from the liberal left, as well as from academia (sorry for being redundant), where he was awarded the prestigious Bancroft Prize in American History and Diplomacy from Columbia University. It was touted by left-leaning legal scholars and history professors around the country as the beginning of the end for Second Amendment protections, and as proof positive that the Second was never a right of the individual.

At about the same time as the release of his book, Prof. Bellesiles and 46 other law professors and historians sent a harsh letter to Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association. They told him "the Second Amendment permits broad and intensive regulation of firearms" and urged him to move beyond such unimportant concepts such as constitutional guarantees to "the real issue": how much regulation is needed to "prevent the killings and violence that plague our country today."

Mr. Bellesiles always claimed that his book wasn't political. But the letter suggests otherwise. Clearly his fellow scholars on the left saw "Arming America" as the best thing to happen to their cause in years. At least three signers would write glowing reviews of "Arming America." Five others would write glowing intros for its cover; one of them, Michael Zuckerman of the University of Pennsylvania, joyfully describing Mr. Bellesiles as the "NRA's worst nightmare." Another would sit on the very committee that gave Mr. Bellesiles the prestigious Bancroft Prize.

Garry Wills in the New York Times Book Review wrote: "Bellesiles deflates the myth of the self-reliant and self-armed virtuous yeoman of the Revolutionary militias." Edmund Morgan in the New York Review of Books expounded that: "He (Bellesiles) has the facts. No one else has put them together in so compelling a refutation of the mythology of the gun."

However, another group of scholars, including Jim Lindgren of Northwestern, Gloria Main of the University of Colorado, Randolph Roth of Ohio State, Robert Churchill of the University of Hartford, and many

more, all experts in the historical detail on which Mr. Bellesiles based his research (probate records, militia counts, homicide rates), produced a mountain of evidence showing the book to be irredeemably flawed. However, for taking scholarship seriously they were largely ignored, and even chastised, by many of those Second Amendment "scholars" who so desperately wanted Bellesiles's work to be right.

Although the proof of his misrepresentations and outright fabrications became more widely known, his defenders from the academic left continued to ignore it. Mr. Zuckerman was quoted in *The Nation* just this month saying that "the critics are casting about for a way to discredit" Mr. Bellesiles. Mary Beth Norton of Cornell (a letter signer) claimed in the same piece that Mr. Bellesiles's work was "just as plausible" as that of his critics.

When the *William and Mary Quarterly* asked four scholars to evaluate "Arming America," three wrote damning reviews. The fourth, Stanford's Jack Rakove (also a letter signatory), chose to look not at the book's accuracy but at what the thesis meant for the Second Amendment. In an interview, he still maintained that the book, while flawed, "raises interesting questions."

However, evidence has arisen to show that not all honor is dead in academia. An academic panel, composed of scholars from Harvard, Princeton and the University of Chicago, has reviewed "Arming America" and accused Mr. Bellesiles of "unprofessional and misleading work." The panel's report goes on to say Mr. Bellesiles' failure to produce his research documents or to interpret those that do exist accurately "does move into the realm of falsification."

Even some supporters have seen the light. One of the signers of the letter, Stanley Katz of Princeton, ultimately sat on the above panel. Another, Saul Cornell at Ohio State, stated "the committee did a thorough job. Michael has had a chance to respond, and their criticism is very persuasive."

And finally, in a spin that even Bill Clinton's supporters would admire, Mr. Bellesiles tendered his resignation to Emory, saying he "cannot continue to teach in what I feel is a hostile environment."

Columbia University, however, has not yet revoked the Bancroft Prize that they awarded for "Arming America", nor has Bellesiles returned it, so there is still ample evidence that the liberal mindset still can believe that there is no need for facts in a "factual" treatise.

I wonder if Mr. Heston will ever receive a letter from those same "scholars" about how his and the NRA's efforts to sustain a constitutional right have been the driving force in the preservation of an American tradition and way of life?

About as likely as seeing unbiased honesty out of the politically correct liberals in the media and the hallowed halls of academe.

Don't hold your breath.



My Point of View

Justice Denied

by

Mike Moakley

Ever since the “Republican Revolution” of 1994, one of the key items on the conservative agenda is to institute “Tort Reform” to make it more difficult for individuals to sue big businesses. After all, “everyone knows” that the American working class is little more than a bunch of litigation-happy opportunists backed by greedy trial lawyers looking for a free ride at the expense of the business community. After all, look at the \$2.7 million award some old lady won from McDonalds because she spilled some hot coffee on herself!

Yet, is this really the case? Are we common folk really doing in Big Business with our frivolous lawsuits with the multimillion dollar awards? Are we really, as the Tort Reformers suggest, tying up the court system with nonsense suits? Have the courts really been too eager to take away hard-earned business profits and just hand out big amounts to those of us who refuse to accept responsibility for the things we do? For the answer to these and similar questions, one needs only to look at the truth. For starters, let’s look at a couple of these “frivolous lawsuits”:

Let’s begin with that darling of Tort Reformers everywhere, the infamous coffee case, Liebeck v. McDonalds (1994). In February 1992, one Stella Liebeck and her grandson pulled up at an Albuquerque, New Mexico McDonald’s drive thru window and ordered coffee. After picking up the order, the grandson parked the car so Liebeck could add cream and sugar to the coffee. In so doing, Liebeck spilled the coffee on her lap, causing third degree burns covering 6 percent of her body. The coffee was between 180 and 190 degrees, capable of causing such burns in as little as two seconds, and far too hot for consumption. The industry standard for coffee temperature is approximately 155 degrees. Moreover, this was not the first burn case due to McDonald’s excessive coffee temperature – it was learned through discovery there were some 700 prior incidents – and McDonald’s still refused to lower the coffee temperature.

The case begun when McDonald’s refused Liebeck’s claim for about \$20,000 to cover her resultant medical expenses. When she took McDonald’s to court, a jury awarded her \$160,000 in compensatory damages and \$2.7 million in punitive damages, largely due to McDonald’s inaction in the 700 other incidents. Now, for the rest of the story. The trial court reduced her punitive damages to \$480,000; then the parties entered into an undisclosed post-verdict settlement, presumably to avoid appeal by McDonald’s.

Now let’s look at a second case, the drunken woman who drowned. It is claimed that a drunk woman’s estate received \$1 million after she entered a closed city park and drowned in three feet of water. These are the facts in this case: On July 21, 1985, a group of seven people, including 32-year-old plaintiff Ana Garcia, squeezed through a hole in a fence at approximately 1 a.m. to get into a municipal pool in the Bronx. The lights were off and no lifeguards were on duty. Ms. Garcia, who had been drinking and whose blood-alcohol level was later measured at 0.23 percent (twice the legal

limit), stepped into the shallow water, fell beneath its surface and drowned. At trial, the woman's family won a \$2 million negligence suit against New York City, even though the jury agreed that the woman herself was partly negligent for breaking into the pool and trying to swim while intoxicated. The award was later reduced to approximately \$615,000. In October 1994, the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court threw out the entire award, stating that the woman assumed the risk of her actions and thus was solely responsible for her own death. *Garcia v. City of New York*

Now that we can see that multimillion dollar awards do not necessarily hold up, let's look at the Tort Reformers' other claim that our frivolous lawsuits against Big Business are choking the courts. But is this really the case? According to court records and other sources, it would appear that **businesses want the courts for themselves**. Contract and property cases -- most of which involve businesses -- comprise more than one-third of all civil cases in state courts. By comparison, product liability cases accounted for only 0.21 percent of all civil cases. (National Center for State Courts, 1995). Moreover, business cases account for 47 percent of all punitive damage awards. In contrast, only 4.4 percent and 2 percent of punitive damage awards are due to product liability and medical malpractice cases, respectively. (Rand Institute for Civil Justice, 1996). Businesses suing each other over contracts comprised nearly half of all federal court cases filed between 1985 and 1991. (The Wall Street Journal, Dec. 1993.)

Finally, let's look at some really frivolous lawsuits:

Hormel Foods, the maker of the luncheon meat SPAM, sued Jim Henson Productions to stop the creator of the Muppets from calling a character in a new movie "Spa'am." Hormel claimed that the "Spa'am" character represented an unclean, grotesque boar calling into question the purity and quality of its meats. After a full trial, a federal court judge recently rejected Hormel's claims. Hormel appealed, but also lost (*Hormel's case would have been unaffected by a "Tort Reform" bill. But a Hormel worker injured by a defective meat cutting machine might be left without any rights*).

Pepsi-Co's Frito-Lay snacks division sued Proctor & Gamble in November 1995 after Proctor & Gamble claimed that its Pringle's Right Crisp potato chips were "more nutritious" than Frito-Lay's chips (*This lawsuit would be unaffected by a "Tort Reform" bill. But a Frito-Lay worker killed by a defective forklift or other machine might be left without any rights*).

Scott Paper's Canadian division sued Proctor & Gamble in 1995, alleging that Proctor & Gamble had misled consumers about the absorptive power of Bounty paper towels by advertising it as the "quicker-picker-upper" (*A "Tort Reform" bill would not affect Scott Paper's case. But a lumberjack injured by a defective chainsaw while cutting down the tree used to make paper towels might be left without any legal recourse*).

Given the above, does Big Business really need to be protected from us?





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All Mensans are welcome to return to a taste of New Orleans, right here in the Central Florida sunshine. Smarti Gras was so popular last year that we decided to continue the party. Our Hotel is preparing the Giant hot tub for our late night use, and our hospitality is always the best. Meals are provided in your registration, except for the Saturday dinner on the town. Ask your friends that attended Smarti Gras if it wasn't the best party in town.

We are sorry to report that the Alien Booby toss will not occur due to expiration of the alien's visa. We are planning something as strange for your enjoyment, but we'll never tell. The Hotel is fully accessible by those with limited mobility. All events and hospitality are on the same floor, so come on to Orlando in January to celebrate Smarti Gras!

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**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 imprint - packs firmly
- 2- Wildebeest - firearm
- 3- Toothlike projection - to watch over
- 4- A fastening - a symbol of victory
- 5- Thin mattress - a source

(Answers will be found below)



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

Peb Elliot has pointed out her personal web site to me:

<http://www.marshbunny.com>

Peb is one of our members and she is in business for herself building and maintaining webs for local businesses. If you have need of a business web or would like to have a personal web with a professional look – consider hiring Peb to help you. And, definitely check out her site for interesting information about the St. Johns River. She has fact, fiction and lore and it is really a pleasant site to visit.

The web will soon have a photo album of pictures from the RG. As other events present themselves as photogenic, more pictures will appear on the website. This is being done in the hopes that seeing other Mensans having fun will encourage more (hopefully, many more!) of the local membership to come out and join us.

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We Have....



The Answers!

*1- staws - dunt
2- tun - nud
3- dent - tend
4- clasp - scaly
5- fust - notuf*