

*The*

# SCAM

space coast area ensa

## 2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee

*To leave behind Earth and air and gravity is an ancient dream of humanity...*



*We find the best among us, send them forth into unmapped darkness, and pray they will return.*

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

**Editor** J.T. Moran  
**Assembly/Circulation**  
 Helen Lee Moore  
**Events Coordinator**  
*Volunteer Needed!*  
**Cover Artist**  
*Artisté Needed!*  
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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 March Birthday*

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01 – Kathryn Juarez      | 18 – Ellen Paul           |
| 02 – Joseph Smith        | 20 – William Daffron, III |
| 05 – Lennis Bearden, Jr. | 22 – Jack Harris          |
| 05 – Steven Schneider    | 23 – Donald Dalton        |
| 05 – David Terry, Sr.    | 26 – Michael Hostetler    |
| 11 – Dennis Schindler    | 28 – Cheri Allen          |
| 13 – Ahmed Ibrahim       | 28 – Diana Pittner        |
| 16 – Melinda Meers       | 31 – Francesca Hinson     |
| 17 – Daryl Smith         |                           |



*Welcome to SCAM and Mensa*

*Weston Hayes – Cocoa Beach*  
*Mark Poole – Vero Beach*

*Welcome to SCAM*

*Richard Hussey – Malabar*

*Welcome Back to SCAM*

*Bill Collings – Palm Bay*  
*Harold Crawford – Merritt Island*



**On the  
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran**

**SCAM Editor**

Sometimes, we are brought up short in our day-to-day scurrying to live our lives, by forces and events far beyond our control.

Catastrophic occurrences, such as the Columbia tragedy, or the collapse of the World Trade Center, or the coming war in Iraq can create massive amounts of extra stress in the lives of many, including those whose actual involvement with the event is peripheral, at best.

When you add such stresses to the amount we all have to deal with from our daily lives, for some people it can be overwhelming. So, what do you do?

The worst thing you can possibly do is isolate yourself. Without some form of relief outlet, all the stress can do is build. And all that unrelieved stress can, and will, cause mental and physical damage to the health of living creatures, even Mensans.

People do need people. There is no better support group than your friends. They needn't be colleagues... sometimes it is better that they are not, because they are also under all the same stresses and will only reinforce the effect. What is needed is involvement and interaction in a social atmosphere where you can relax.

The best relief valve is a group of friends who can understand what you are feeling and support you without being intrusive. And Mensa, at its best, is just that.



**Now Is The  
Time...**

*by*

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

*"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them."*

Dr. Denis Waitley

It is time again for the members of SCAM to make the choice. The NomElComm is seeking members in good standing (2003 dues paid) of American Mensa Ltd., who are neither the SCAM Editor nor a member of the NomElComm, to run for the SCAM ExComm. If you are interested in serving the group, or would like to nominate someone else, please contact any member of the NomElComm.

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## *Mewsing About*



**Clara**

**Woodall-Moran,  
LocSec**

The CFM RG was dealt, as were we all, a very severe blow. In 2000 the RG in Broward was nearly blown away by Hurricane Irene, but even that pales in the light of the Columbia destruction. A few of us at the RG were workers in the space program or former space program employees. We also had a NASA employee with us who had been scheduled to give a talk on the Space Station. We banded together, all of us at the RG in our grief as well as expressing our joy at being together - we ran the gamut of emotions, sometimes almost simultaneously, but all in all we had a great time at the RG.

I have a friend who works on the shuttle and has done so since 1982. He sees them as living entities and has a personal affinity for them to the point of being able to recognize each individual shuttle by a view of the nose (they all look the same to me from that vantage). Challenger was the shuttle to which he had been assigned - in those days the crew was assigned to a particular bird and followed the bird through the entire processing from the OPF work through the VAB to the PAD. He usually gets to meet the crew for each flight, frequently on the day or so before the flight. This makes it all the more personal to him when accidents happen. The crew members he met for this fated flight asked him what he did - he told them: "I'm not well liked by the other workers because I'm always looking over their work, but I'm certain you will appreciate it because I make certain the job is done right." His words haunt him now, but he did make certain the bird itself was right - he has nothing to do with the external tank.

Columbia had become the favored bird - he fussed like a mother hen over her. He and the other QCs watch the video of the launch and they saw something that upset them. This feeling of doom came upon them more than a week before the return home. They all agreed the bird was too wounded to return. They were not surprised on Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> of February. They realized as well that once the bird was "up there" the crew could not be rescued. The bird could not be rescued either. It all hurt terribly.

It was a bittersweet RG but it was well worth the trip over to Orlando for it. In some respects it was very good for me to be with others - the grief I felt was eased because I was with people who did not worry about a tear or two at odd moments. RGs seem to bring out the best of most Mensans.

One more mention of this: at this time, this group has only one working proctor and we hold monthly testing sessions. It would be really nice to give this one poor soul a break. To become a proctor requires that you have at least a BS or BA degree. You must attend two testing sessions and, under supervision, proctor at least one session. Then the application is submitted to National and we then have another proctor. SCAM is the proctor of record and, as such, the proctor fee is sent to the general fund, so it is strictly voluntary.



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



***Ken Thornton-Smith***

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**Episode 72: I Saw the Light**

**I**t should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying the Cocoa Beach “No Pets” Ordinance and most of Leviticus, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was Friday, late Friday, and the end of another boring page in the not-yet-written Chianti autobiography. I yawned and looked in the bathroom mirror. How old was I when those sparkling ivories turned into a row of wobbly gravestones? There didn’t seem much point in

worrying about them, now; a cursory poke around with the brush was plenty.

I hit the switch on my way out and glanced back into the bathroom. There was a light outside, a dim glow through the window. Strange, I must have left the light on – haven’t been out to the RV for ages, probably a couple of years at least. You know how it is with a new toy: You want one forever, then you play with it for a week and it’s forgotten. Maybe it was a longing to return to those carefree days as a Boy Scout, getting away from it all in regimented rows of little tents with 5000 other Scouts and singing songs around the campfire like: “Everything’s up to date in canvas city...”

Come to think of it, I haven’t been out there since the RV was parked, and that was...um, that’s right, I was dating that wacko Fiona and it was the year the Redskins won. Whatever it is they play, that was the year when they won something, because I put stickers all over the RV just to impress Fiona. Fortunately the relationship didn’t last long enough to make things interesting for future genealogists, if you get my drift.

I put on my tatty old robe as it was chilly outside. Of course, we don’t have a real winter in Florida, but we do have 50,000 Canadians opening their suitcases and letting all the cold out...

I grabbed a flashlight and ventured into the yard. There she was – Maria. I’d always wanted an RV called Maria, and, sure enough, the light was on – crapola! Now, where did I leave the keys? I rattled the door, which was locked, when a voice said, *“Hang on, hang on, I’m coming...”*

Ten seconds later there was a click and the door swung outwards, hitting me on the nose.

*“Come in, come in... don’t just stand there, letting all the cold in. Nice of you to visit, but you didn’t have to dress up...”*

I climbed up the steps to be met by a white-haired old man: *“Here – try this,”* he said, offering me a tissue for my bloody nose.

“Danks berry much,” I held my nose and sat down beside a pile of empty Dr. Pepperoni pizza boxes.

*“Shabbat shalom,”* he bowed.

“Sherbet what?”

*“Shabbat shalom,”* he said slowly. *“It’s Hebrew for ‘Thank God it’s Friday’...”*

He had hair everywhere, and looked vaguely familiar. Maybe he was some famous rock star... that’s it – he looked like the lead guitarist with Non-Ferrous Dirigible.

I looked around – the interior was a lot messier than I remember. There was a drawing board at one end and technical sketches lined the walls. The other end of the RV was wall-to-wall pizza cartons. This could mean... The Wabasso Triangle may have struck again! Like last Wednesday, when I was watching that PBS documentary on Osmosis, the Australian guy who led a tribe for 40 years in the Outback ... hang on a minute... this is my RV... and it’s occupied by a squatter – what’s wrong with this picture?

I turned the to confront the old man, “Hey you!” I shouted and he stared gently back at me. “Er... did I see you at Woodstock?”

*“Nope, couldn’t make it, I was at a convention in Fairport all that week.”*

“I mean – er, this is my RV, have you been here long?”

*“Not sure. I was backwards and forwards for a while, you know how it is, and then I just seemed to see less of the other place and ended up here.”*

“The other place?”

*“Yes – I had several studios over the years, the last was my studio in Milan.”*

“Milan, Michigan?”

*“Sorry?”*

“Michigan?”

*“What’s a Michigan?”* He looked up from the drawing board.

“Where was your studio?”

*“Milan. Milano, in Italy.”*

“Then how did you get here?”

*“Good question, but I can’t help. Some days, I opened the door to my den and it wasn’t – it was here instead. So I carried on working anyway, wherever it was, only after a few years I couldn’t get back. By the way – where am I?”*

“Wabasso.”

*“Wabasso?”*

“Yes, Wabasso in Florida.”

*“Florida?”*

“United States.”

*“United States of what?”*

“America.”

*“Never heard of it. Doesn’t matter, I’m here, that’s all that counts.”*

This can mean only one thing: The Wabasso Triangle had struck again! As you know, here in the Triangle our grapefruit exhibits Wag-

nerian non-linearities, so the price of Granola bars is inversely proportional to the NASDAQ, and that's only one of the unsolved mysteries of the ineffable citrus anomaly we know as The Wabasso Triangle.

"Are you an artist?" I said, pointing at a drawing of The Leaning Tower of Pisa.

*"I'm whatever the Italian government wants me to be. At the moment that means defense contractor."*



"Yes – er, I was talking about the picture – nice drawing."

*"Oh, that. That's one of our missile silos, part of SDI."*

"SDI?"

*"Yup – Stratigio Defensio Initio, but I shouldn't be telling you any of this – all hush-hush stuff. Mind you, I've already spilled the cat's beans. Er... out of the bag."* He pointed at the drawing, *"The missile sits underground and then bang! Up it comes, zooming out the tower."*

"Bang?"

*"Yup – half a ton of TNT under each missile..."*

"TNT?"

*"Tri-Nitro-Tortellini. Fun stuff, but that's not the problem – it's the bearings."*

"Bearings?"

*"Yeah, design problem... see, the silo is supposed to swivel, it turns like this and this..."*

"But the Leaning Tower of Pisa doesn't turn!"

*"Exactly! That's the problem – it was supposed to lean over – 'depress' they call it – down to 45° and spin round and round, but before it got that far the bearing failed. Now it's stuck pointing north – so I guess that's OK if the Swiss attack us. Ha, the*

*Swiss! Bunch of sissy-pinko quiche eaters if you ask me. Rain pizzas on 'em, I say... "*

"Pizzas?"

*"Yeah – guess you never heard that... funny thing is, officially we called them missiles, but the slang name was 'Pizza', named after the town where the missiles were developed. Would you like some tea?"*

"Er, sure – what did you say your last name was?"

*"Da Vinci, Leonardo da Vinci – but please call me Leo. All this talk of food is making me hungry – I have a few slices around here somewhere – would you like some pizza? Cold OK?"*

"Sure, breakfast style works for me..."

Leo began shaking pizza boxes until he found one that rattled, *"Oh*

*yeah – one thing has puzzled me since I've been here – what does GO SKINS mean?"*

Well, I don't know how it happened, probably just years of experience as a Community Pasta Detective, but then, in a flash of intuition, it just dawned on me: This guy was first in line for the Nobel Prize for Fruitcake.

"Hang on, let me get this straight – you say Pizzas were originally a missile, fired from the Leaning Tower of Pisa?"

*"You betcha – imagine a 50 feet diameter thick and crusty coming at you like the Frisbee from Hell – all makes sense, doesn't it?"*

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

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



**T**hank you, Mr. Belefant, for your most informative article on sugar. You answered questions that I had wondered about. I only wish that when I read another recipe that I would be able to remember what you have written. At least the difference between confectioner's and powdered sugar has now been explained, and I am most appreciative. Many a time I have haggled over what the difference is when I would see "confectioner's" called for.

This must have taken a lot of your time, and I truly appreciate your article.

Sincerely, Judith Crillo



**W**ow! – our total membership number has crept back up to the 220 level we just to see routinely. This is great and, of course, I would like to take credit for this but cannot. Thanks so much to all who rejoined over the year and the new members.

We'd really like to get to know more of you and hope to see you at some of the events we hold such as SNORT, CABAGE, and the various parties/games nights, the video nights, and the going-out-to-eat nights. It would be very nice to start going on the nature hikes again, such as those at Turtle Creek, and we can always go to picnic at the SCAM trees at the F. Burton Smith Park west of Cocoa.

The latest version of the members' handbook is still under construction but when it is ready they will be shipped to your mailbox as quickly as possible.





## **Your Health**



### **GERD**

**Ann Schindler**

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**G**astroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) occurs when the contents of the stomach back flow into the esophagus, the tube leading from the pharynx (throat) to the stomach. There are several sphincters, or ring shaped muscles, which act like valves, opening or closing, to allow food and liquids to pass. The lower esophageal sphincter (LES) is located where the esophagus and the stomach connect. It opens to allow food to pass into the stomach, and closes to prevent the stomach contents returning into the esophagus. GERD occurs when the LES does not work properly, when it relaxes and stays open too long or does not close tightly enough, allowing backflow to occur. Normally the LES is open for only a few seconds, allowing food or fluids to pass. Some foods, medications, nicotine, and alcohol can affect the LES, causing it to relax and allow reflux into the esophagus.

GERD is a very common condition experienced by about 10% of people on a daily basis, 15 to 30% of people from weekly to monthly, and about 50% of people in any one-year period. Most pregnant women have symptoms of GERD daily, especially in their last trimester. Infants will frequently regurgitate after eating as a result of a weak LES, but this is usually outgrown by age one, and is not truly GERD.

The most common symptom of GERD is heartburn, the feeling of heat or pressure behind the sternum (breastbone). This usually occurs after eating, bending forward, or reclining. Other GERD symptoms may include a sour taste in the mouth, or regurgitation of the stomach contents into the esophagus or mouth. Advancing symptoms may include dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), nausea, laryngitis, sore throat, and hoarseness. Respiratory symptoms include chronic coughing or wheezing, asthma, or pneumonia caused by tissue damage from the regurgitated acids. Bronchiectasis, a permanent dilatation of the bronchi or air passages in the lungs, can occur. If reflux occurs repeatedly and the esophagus is frequently subjected to contact with stomach acids, the cells that line the esophagus become similar to those that line the stomach. This condition is called Barrett's esophagus and can lead to increased incidence of inflammation, ulcers, and bleeding, and may slightly increase the risk of cancer of the esophagus. If chest pain occurs, a medical consultation should immediately be sought to rule out cardiac etiology. If you experience heartburn or any of these symptoms regularly, several times a week, or if you vomit blood or have black or bloody stools, you should see a physician immediately to be evaluated for GERD.

The doctor will probably prescribe one of several types of medications to control stomach acidity. Another type of prescribed medication, called prokinetic agents, affects the LES, causing it to tighten more effectively, and also works to increase peristaltic action so that the stomach will empty more quickly. There are several tests that the physician may order, including an

upper GI (gastro-intestinal) series, also called a Barium Swallow, or an endoscopy. This is the passing of a small flexible tube, with a camera and light, in order to visualize the esophagus, stomach, and upper small intestines. After the physician numbs the throat, you are asked to swallow the tube. The tube is very narrow, quite smaller than much of the chunks of food most of us swallow every day. A video monitor projects a film of the tissues and organs so the doctor can evaluate your condition. A camera in the endoscope can take photos of selected areas. Biopsies can also be taken to sample an area the doctor deems may need additional testing. (Though this procedure may not sound like loads of fun, it surely beats the first endoscopy procedure performed in Vienna in 1806. A silver tube was used, and a candle provided light. The illumination technique improved after the invention of the light bulb in 1891, and the first flexible endoscopy tube was invented in 1930, making the procedure much easier for the patient.) Surgery may be suggested if other means to control GERD are unsuccessful. Fundoplication of the stomach involves wrapping the fundus, or upper curve, of the stomach around the lower end of the esophagus in order to increase pressure and aid the LES in the prevention of reflux. The word plication means to gather or fold one tissue onto another tissue.

The body will naturally try to relieve some GERD symptoms. Normal peristaltic action helps push the acids back into the stomach, and the swallowing of saliva, which contains a natural antacid, bicarbonate, also helps. Over the counter antacids or acid reducers may help neutralize the stomach acid or reduce the amount of acid in the stomach. Your physician may prescribe medications that work in several different ways to relieve symptoms.

Several things you can do to control the discomforts of this condition are to stop the use of tobacco (either smoking or chewing), eliminate foods that are likely to cause heartburn and reflux problems. Some of these foods are chocolate, caffeine, onions, tomatoes, carbonated beverages, peppermint, spicy foods, and high fat or sugary foods. Nicotine and alcohol will also relax the LES. Do not eat for several hours before bedtime or exercising, do not lie down or recline after eating, avoid large meals (substitute more frequent smaller meals), chew gum or suck on hard candies (not peppermint) after eating to increase salivation, loose weight, never wear tight fitting clothing at the waistline, and be careful not to exert excessive pressure on the abdominal area – do not bend over at the waist when lifting items (bend at the knees instead), and do not sleep on your stomach. Raising the head of your bed about 6 inches on blocks or use a foam wedge under your mattress frequently helps prevent the stomach acid flowing into the esophagus. Sleeping on extra pillows is not likely to work, as this is likely only to raise your head only and may result in neck problems. Lifestyle changes and OTC medications help many people. If the problem persists, see your physician.



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

**Follow The  
Money: Part II**  
by

**Hank Rhodes**

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It's said that the best performing magicians have the ability to make their audience suspend belief, accepting with their eyes what their minds tell them is impossible. But all the great stage conjurers of the past and present never accomplished a trick like the one the current conservative regime is attempting in selling its tax policy to us.

Seems our President intends to confront the current economic crisis with the usual conservative snake oil of "letting us keep more of our money." The hallmark of the President's plan is a cut in the tax on corporate dividends. While this would benefit anyone who owns dividend-paying stock (except in a 401k or similar retirement plan), the tax break increases by the amount of stock held, and clearly favors those who have the least need for tax relief. While the tax plan has been touted as saving the "average" family over \$1000, when the upper income brackets are excluded, the real savings fall to less than a tenth of that amount.<sup>1</sup>

When one considers that, under the President's proposal, two-thirds of the benefits would go to the wealthiest 6%, it's truly amazing how the current regime is able to sell this as a broad-based relief program.<sup>2</sup>

The fundamental issues confronting our nation are jobs and public confidence. The President's plan won't help with addressing these issues. In fact, the main thing this tax policy illustrates is the hypocrisy of the conservative belief system which currently has a stranglehold on our government. Despite the conservative's professed opposition to unfunded mandates, state and local governments are victimized as services and support from the federal government are reduced. Who pays when these lower-tier government bodies are forced to raise taxes to cover the shortfalls?

What would be the basis for a reasonable tax policy to fight the recession? Some suggestions:

- ◆ *Payroll tax credits for small businesses that train and hire new workers. This could be extended to large corporations, with safeguards to assure that there is a net increase in the size of their workforce. Since large corporations often close down a factory in one area, and then relocate jobs elsewhere, there must be some restrictions to prevent them from simply chasing tax breaks by moving unemployment around.*
- ◆ *Tax credits for retraining programs in distressed areas. Measures must be taken to assure these programs are accredited and directed toward critical deficiencies in our labor force.*
- ◆ *Raise the Earned Income Credit. There isn't much revenue to be gathered by taxing the working poor. Our actions need to match our words that any honest labor, no matter how humble, is to be honored more than subsidizing on public assistance, and is far more honorable than the most lucrative criminal enterprise (something conservatives and "Liberals" can*

## March 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 10th & 24th**  
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 5th & 19th**  
Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 26th**  
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*

<b>2nd</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>ExComm Meeting</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>S/P (1 friendly dog)</b>

The Executive Committee of the group meets to conduct its monthly business. All members are welcome to attend, to volunteer, and to see how things are done. This month's meeting will be held at the *home of our Treasurer, Helen Lee Moore*, whose address is *in Hardeeville*.

**Clara Woodall-Moran, LocSec**

*cew@cfl.rr.com*

**Helen Lee Moore**

*76764.3242@compuserve.com*

<b>8th</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mensa Entrance Exam</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

On the second Saturday of every month, SCAM conducts the Mensa Entrance Exam at the *Annex of the Cape Canaveral Hospital Resource Center*. The admission fee is \$30.00, which must be paid on-site, and valid photo identification is also required. Bring some of your friends and family who are also some of the bright ones. Cape Canaveral Hospital is located on the *S.R. 520 Causeway, on the way to Cocoa Beach, on the north side of the highway*.

**Helen Lee Moore**

*76764.3242@compuserve.com*

<b>8th</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Great Books Discussion Group</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

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>

**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.

**14th**

**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 6:00PM at the *Gun Site Range, 124 S. Banana River Dr., Merritt Island*, or just show up at about 7:00PM at the *New Century Buffet at 729 N. Courtenay Pkwy. Merritt Island*

**J.T. Moran**

[morwood@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com)

**15th**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Venison Feast**

**Saturday**

**\$3.00 Kitty**

**SS/Cats**

Clara and J.T. invite you to their annual celebration of J.T.'s successful hunt in the Great North Woods of Pennsylvania. Tonight you will be able to enjoy venison three ways: Marc Leichtling is preparing Chili; Clara will be frying up a mess of cutlets; and Art will once again do his thing in a different style... as of this printing he had not yet finalized his decision, but was leaning toward either sweet and sour, German style, or sukiyaki. In either case you can be sure that it will be superb. There will also be plenty of other goodies for those not inclined to partake of wild game. So bring a hearty appetite to *Port St. John*.

**Clara & J.T. Moran**

[cew@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cew@cfl.rr.com)

**16th**

**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*. 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 latecomers.

**Jim Trammell**

[dulabeans@aol.com](mailto:dulabeans@aol.com)

**22nd**

**5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Sushi and Cinema**

**Saturday**

**Meal Cost and \$3.00**

**SS/NP**

Dan Lange invites us to join him at *Haru's Sushi Bar & Grill (676-5159) at 192 & Wickham in Melbourne, in the Metro West Center* for great dining, followed by a trip 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](mailto:dlange@klx.net)

**29th**

**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 mundane for some sushi, teriyaki, and tempura. *Miyako's* is located at *1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne*.

**J.T. Moran**

[morwood@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com)



*agree on). Then why aren't we willing to give a break to those decent wage earners struggling at the bottom of the income scale?*

- ◆ *Greater tax credits geared toward serving long-term social benefits. Our current President talks about how he doesn't want "to tell people how to live their lives," which is true so long as that life is lived chasing riches and voting Republican.*

Already, the budget shortfalls have started to take their impact.

As of January 17, 2003, some veterans have been suspended from access to the Veterans Administration medical system, due to a shortage of funds. This is expected to effect 164,000 veterans nationwide. While this is a relatively small number out of a VA patient population of 6.8 million, can we be certain that the denial of services will stop with them? What message does this send the young people currently serving in the military (few of whom are children of the governing elite) who are headed for war? <sup>3</sup>

Despite the continuing threat of terrorist attack against domestic targets, the current administration has cut \$200 million dollars out of the allotment that was earmarked for aiding emergency responders such as police and firefighters. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has lost \$132 million for improving interagency communications among state and local emergency operations centers.<sup>4</sup>

We must also consider the long-range consequences. It is estimated that the President's plan will end up costing our Treasury over \$900 billion over the next decade.<sup>5</sup> Over time, deficit spending leads to inflation. Those who will be most impacted by this policy are people living on fixed incomes, typically the elderly and those people near the bottom of the income scale. This policy also represents a reversal of the fiscal discipline of the 1990s. It is quite interesting how in their zeal to condemn their opponents with the slogan "tax and spend," the conservatives have in fact abandoned what was one of their own cherished principles.

Unfortunately, it is too easy to ignore the issue, accept the platitudes at face value, subscribe to the myth that the government is harboring a great reserve of wasted money, blame someone else for the problem, and pretend we're only a lottery ticket away from easy street.

Clever illusionists in action certainly make for enthralling spectacle. But we're about to discover that the artistry is not so amusing when one gets stuck with a pile of unpaid bills.

## Notes

1. *Time, January 20, 2003*
2. *Time, February 3, 2003*
3. *Florida Today, January 17, 2003*
4. *National Journal Tech Daily, January 23, 2003*
5. *Time, January 20, 2003*



**The Gourmet's  
Guide:**

**Thomas Crapper  
(re)Visited**

by

**Art Belefant**

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(belefant@juno.com)

In a bucolic setting, about 70 miles northwest of London, near the town of Stratford-on-Avon, (Yes, that Stratford-on-Avon) surrounded by lush green fields is a small factory that makes bathroom fixtures. The factory is that of Thomas Crapper & Co. Ltd. (Yes, that Thomas Crapper) For many years in the U. S., starting around 1970, there were contentious discussions as to whether Thomas Crapper actually ever existed and whether he invented and made toilets.

The controversy appears to have begun with a book *Flushed with Pride: The Story of Thomas Crapper* by Wallace Reyburn published in 1969 in which he claims that Crapper invented the modern flush toilet. Reyburn was a humorist and his biography of Thomas Crapper mixed fact with fiction. He also plagiarized other books. A most interesting source book is *Clean and Decent* by Lawrence Wright. In his book, Wright discusses the evolution of the modern toilet from its most ancient sources. Although Wright spends much time on Victorian plumbing, he does not mention Crapper at all. However, it would appear that Wright's book is the source of much of Reyburn's fiction.

*Clean and Decent* was published in 1960. *Flushed with Pride* was published in 1969. Many of the illustrations used in Reyburn's book appeared earlier in Wright's book. Some of the incidents cited in Reyburn's book and ascribed to Crapper are cited in Wright's book, but ascribed to others.

For example, Wright notes a test of a "sanitary closet" at the Health Exhibition of 1888. According to Wright a Jennings "Pedestal Vase" won the gold medal by clearing "10 apples averaging 1-1/4 ins. diameter, 1 flat sponge about 4-1/2 ins. diameter, Plumber's 'smudge' coated over the pan, and 4 pieces of paper adhering closely to the soiled surface" all with a 2-gallon flush, and then testing the devise by throwing in the cap of an attendant and flushing it away. Reyburn describes the same exhibition test and subsequent cap flushing in exactly the same words but intimates that it was Crapper's invention that was being tested.

Reyburn also wrote *Bust Up: the Uplifting Tale of Otto Titzling*, the supposed inventor of the brassiere. It is no wonder that few purposeful researchers took Reyburn seriously. The editors of *Mechanical Engineering*, the magazine of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, after a series of Letters to the Editor on the subject of Thomas Crapper in 1988, concluded that he never existed.

Most advocates of the reality of Crapper's existence and work relied upon Reyburn's book as their authority. As an example, an article in



*Plumbing & Mechanical* (July 1986) avers that Crapper did exist. For evidence, the author cites an article in *Newsweek* of December 1, 1969. That article, however, is a review of Reyburn's book and all the "facts" stated in that article are rephrasings of Reyburn's words. Also, Tom Burnam in *The Dictionary of Misinformation* (1975) connects the origin of the words "crap" and "crapper" to Thomas Crapper using the book by Wallace Reyburn as his authority. All other references to Thomas Crapper in magazine articles, papers, and studies of the time eventually can be traced back to that same source.



The *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines the verb "crap" as "defecate" from 1846 when Thomas Crapper was nine or ten years old, hardly an age at which to define a word. In private correspondence with the editors of the dictionary, I was assured that, to their knowledge, Thomas Crapper is not the origin of the word "crap". To quote Mr. James Rader, Etymology Editor of Merriam-Webster Inc. "[T]he Victorians would hardly have tolerated a Thomas Crapper marketing toilets if his surname would have been instantly associated with a coarse word."

The confusion seems to arise out of the difference between the American and the British usage of the word "crap", although with the improvement of communications generally, the differences between British and American English is fading.

The OED (*Oxford English Dictionary*, the foremost British authority on the English language) defines "crap" as rejected or left matter, and has its first recorded use in c. 1440, long before the time of Thomas. Of course, the word was used in spoken English for many years before it appeared in writing. In Victorian England "crap" was not a vulgar word so Crapper's name in association with toilets would not have raised any eyebrows there as it would have done here.



Meanwhile, back in England, the company that Thomas Crapper founded in 1861 and incorporated in 1904 continued making bathroom fixtures including toilets. There are examples of Crapper's toilet fixtures on display in the Science Museum in London. Inside Westminster Abbey are three manhole covers with Thomas Crapper's name embossed on them.

Several other examples of the output of the Thomas Crapper Company do exist all over England.

The invention of the modern flush toilet is ascribed to John Harrington in 1596, one of Elizabeth I's courtiers. He may be the "john" of colloquial American usage. Flush toilets existed long before Harrington's design. I have seen flushing toilets in the ruins of the Minoan civilization in Knossos,



Crete of 4000 years ago and in the ruins of Ephesus in modern Turkey dating to the early part of the past millennium. In medieval England many abbeys had piped water for flushing toilets.

Many other examples of pre-Thomas flush toilets from every century do exist. In those toilets the flushing water ran continuously or was dumped in from a bucket. It was Harrington's and later designs that incorporated a cistern (water tank) to provide and limit the flushing water and was automatically refilled. Crapper obtained several patents on bathroom fixtures, plumbing items, and toilets, but not for the basic automatic refillable flush operation. However, he did make and sell bathroom fixtures, including toilets.

After Crapper's death in 1910 the company continued under his partner, Robert G. Wharam, and their descendants. In 1963 the company was sold to another bathroom fixture company and ceased making fixtures under the Crapper name by 1969. Recently, the Crapper Company was purchased by Mr. Simon Kirby,

who now has the original incorporation papers, patents, files, catalogs, and ledgers. Under his direction the Crapper company is again making bathroom fixtures in the original Victorian Crapper designs under the Crapper name, albeit updated to conform to modern technology and codes. The fixtures are made of vitreous China rather than the original glazed stoneware to preclude any crazing and leaking. All bathroom fixtures have been adapted to fit to modern plumbing methods. However, the style and detail of the fixtures is exactly the same as the Victorian originals.

Among the items now made by the Crapper company are high- and low-level tank-type toilets and sinks, all suitably marked with the Crapper logo as in the originals. For someone who wants an original "Crapper" in his home, all he need do is go to [www.thomas-crapper.com](http://www.thomas-crapper.com) to see the range of fixtures offered. In perusing the Thomas Crapper catalog, as with the word 'crap', keep in mind there is still some difference between British and American usage (lavatory = wash basin, closet = toilet, cistern = tank, tap = faucet). The company also makes toiletries under the Crapper name with the Crapper logo. These include soaps, shampoos, bath oils, lotions. The toilet paper has the name Thomas Crapper printed on each sheet.

*Photographs courtesy of Thomas Crapper & Co. Ltd., The Stable Yard, Alscot Park, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire (CV37 8BL); [wc@thomas-crapper.com](mailto:wc@thomas-crapper.com).*



**My Point of View**

**Tax Season,  
Part I**

by

**Mike Moakley**

**A**s I write these words, Tax Season has once again begun. From my years of experience as a tax preparer for one of the major tax services, I can tell you that tax season is divided into two parts: Part I peaks in February, it is “working class” season, where as soon as the ink has dried on their W-2s, the top question is, “How soon can I get my refund?” Part II, of course peaks in April, where the top question is, “How can I file an extension?”

This installment is about Part I, the time when mass tax preparation assumes its role in the “poverty industry”, securing instant refund loans (for a price) for mostly those among us who subsist below the official poverty line. Most of those tax returns are simple, bring W-2s, Social Security cards, another form of ID, and in twenty minutes you’re on your way. Yet this is not all of those tax returns. Let me introduce you to the “Form 1099 Employee”. These are the people who, like their brothers and sisters with W-2s, go to work every day for substandard pay, no benefits, and ever-increasing humiliation, wondering how they will make the rent this month and still buy groceries and gas for their 14-year old cars, all the while knowing their dire necessity is the only thing stopping them from committing a heinous crime upon their ever-more demanding masters.

The “Form 1099 Employee” normally works the nastiest and most dangerous type of jobs and gets a “paycheck” that falls short of his already abysmally low expectations. Trouble is, he normally has no clue of his “employment” status. To illustrate my point, let me once again don my role as a tax preparer and interview him as I prepare his return. Briefly, this is how such an interview might go:

“You’re next. Have a seat, do you have your Social Security cards, W-2s, and any other paperwork with you? Great, let’s get started. I see you are Jeff, I’m Mike, let’s see what we can do today.” I collect the basic information, verify Social Security numbers, and Jeff tells me he works as a laborer in construction. “OK, let’s see your W-2s...”

“Here you go,” Jeff says as he hands me a couple of forms. I look at them to see the income and how much tax has been withheld, but I see a problem. “Jeff, these aren’t W-2s...” I begin to say as Jeff now begins to explain that his boss told him these forms are “just as good” as a W-2. The form is a “Form 1099-MISC” listing about \$15,000 in Box 7 (Non-employee Compensation). I now address Jeff: “Did you know you are in business for yourself? You’ve had no taxes taken out, no Social Security has been paid in. We’re going to have to file a business return. I’ll do what I can to get you a refund. Do you wish to continue?” After much discussion, I complete his return. Instead of getting back the \$3 – 4000 he expected back, Jeff is now relieved that after paying in his Social Security, he will still get a little back.

Now, what just happened here? Does a different form make THAT much of a difference? Employees are supposed to get a W-2, which shows

how much income he earned, how much income tax was withheld, and how much Social Security and Medicare was assessed (the employee pays half, the employer pays half). The Form 1099-MISC, on the other hand, indicates the recipient is an independent contractor; its intended use is when a business contracts for the services of an individual who is either in business for himself or does “side jobs” to supplement his regular income. Yet too many businesses use the Form 1099-MISC to circumvent employment laws by declaring his employee an “independent contractor”. This practice has become so commonplace that many such businesses do not bother to so inform their victims (uh ... “employees”). Hence the term, Form 1099 Employee.

So, what’s all the fuss about being an “independent contractor”? Let me count the ways. First, no tax is withheld, the unwitting “employee” is socked with his entire tax liability when he files his return. Secondly, ditto for his Social Security (and Medicare); he has to pay that in, too, and at double the rate as the true employee (as, according to the IRS, one who is “self-employed” is both employer and employee). And that’s just for starters!

Since the “Form 1099 Employee” is not *really* an employee, all the laws that are designed to protect employees do not apply to him. Was he discriminated against? Is he able to go to EEOC? Not a chance, “independent contractors” work for “customers”, not bosses. Customers are free to discriminate (think Wal-Mart will bring EEOC charges against you if you shop at Target?). Sexually harassed? That’s your problem, as you’re the “employer”. Didn’t make minimum wage? Tough luck, it’s not a wage, but an “agreed upon” fee for services; Wage and Hour cannot help you. Did you encounter a safety hazard on the job, and let your “boss” know? Forget about OSHA; you knew the job was dangerous when you agreed to do it. Hurt on the job? Sorry, no Workers’ Compensation for you; you should have carried your own insurance (any wonder most of these “Form 1099 Employees” seem to be in construction and other hazardous occupations?).

So there you have it: serfdom, American style; the new American underclass. This is the best thing that’s happened to Big Business since NAFTA and GATT; it’s the closest thing to slavery (sorry, guys, that one has been outlawed since 1863).

Lest I become accused of being too cynical, I hasten to state that there may be a bright side to these developments. If President Bush gets his way, the “Form 1099 Employee”, together with the homeless and other unfortunates in our great society, will be able to seek needed assistance from “faith-based” organizations. Perhaps, as they reflect on their poor treatment at the hands of our corporate society while seeking assistance, they may be treated to a sermon based on Matthew, Chapter 20 (the parable of the workers in the vineyard). And let us not forget those immortal words of Biff Tannen in *Back to the Future, Part II*: “All I’ve gotta say is, God Bless America!”



**A View  
from the Right:  
With Friends  
Like These...**  
by  
**J.T. Moran**  
(morwood@cfl.r.com)

**A**s the nation prepares for the re-commencement of war with Iraq (for those of you who don't pay much attention to facts, at the end of Desert Storm a cease-fire agreement was signed, not a peace treaty, and the agreement has been violated by Iraq innumerable times since its signing) it is truly intriguing to observe the actions of those who have declared their opposition to the position of the US.

Most intriguing (and in some ways, amusing) is the opposition of our supposed ally and NATO partner, France.

In our 227 years of existence as an independent nation, we have received aid from France during conflict on only one occasion: during the Revolutionary War. And even then, it was not open support.

As Beaumarchais, a French agent, wrote in a formal letter to King Louis XVI: *"The Americans will triumph, but they must be assisted in their struggle; for if they succumb, they would join the English, turn round against us, and put our colonies in jeopardy. We are not yet in a fit state to make war. We must prepare ourselves, keep up the struggle, and with that view send secret assistance in a prudent manner to the Americans."* Eventually, on February 6, 1778, a secret treaty was concluded between the two countries -- a compact of friendship to be made public, and a treaty of alliance to be made public, only when England declared war against France.

Gilbert du Montier, aka The Marquis de Lafayette, provided the only true open support from France, and he did it with his own fortune. As a side note, he also did it at the ripe old age of 20. He also interceded successfully in France for war aid, but it was not until 1780 that the French fielded forces in the War... after it was obvious that the Americans had England on the ropes. Was their appearance crucial? Certainly. And for the aid rendered during this period France, and the memory of Lafayette have long been honored.

But the truth must also be recognized: that France entered into the conflict as a matter of vengeance against England, and not as a matter of supporting liberty and democracy.

Yet, in return, what has the US done for France in the years since 1783?

Well, 136,516 Americans died in the trench warfare of France during World War I. Considering that America entered the War in April of 1917 and the cease-fire took place a mere 19 months later, that equals one American dying every 6 seconds for French liberation! Another 240,000 were wounded to a greater or lesser degree. We had not been attacked, although it was the German torpedoing of the Lusitania in May of 1915 with 128 Americans aboard that began the process of our involvement. And after the war, France defaulted on their WWI war debt payments (Of all the war debtor nations, only Finland paid what was owed to the U.S. in full). In 1934 France owed the U.S. \$4 billion. Germany defaulted on a debt of \$13 billion. With interest, what is that worth today?

Then, of course, in World War II we again entered into a European war where we had not been attacked. On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1941 we had declared war on Japan; three days later Germany declared war on the US in support of its ally, and we returned the favor that same day.

American forces first began arriving in England on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942. However, it was not until November of 1942 that American forces got involved in the ground war, with the invasion of North Africa called Operation Torch. And, of course from there, through the invasion of Sicily, then Italy, with the Normandy invasion of D-Day and the ground war in France and Germany, 407,000 American troops died, with 413,000 wounded. This does not count the casualties of the Pacific Theater.

So, in the mere span of 28 years, over 500,000 American troops died in European conflicts with a country that never attacked us. And the vast majority of these deaths occurred on French soil, to liberate a “major” power whose capital city was nearly overrun in 33 days during World War I, and was captured in the same amount of time in World War II.

Another truth must therefore also be acknowledged: that France, as a military power, has a history fraught with losses and debacles ever since Julius Caesar conquered Gaul in 49 B.C. Yet we continue to protect them militarily to this day.

That Germany would be obstructionist at this time is somewhat more surprising, but not completely so. True, the US had been the crucial factor in their defeat in two World Wars, but it had also been their protector since the division of Germany after WW II. Protector and supporter, as demonstrated by the Berlin Airlift. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 1948, Joseph Stalin’s troops halted all traffic into and out of the Russian sector of Berlin at Marienborn, which was the Russian checkpoint located nearly one hundred miles from the city of Berlin. Stalin also cut off all electricity to the city of Berlin. The primary goal of Russia was to force the United States, Britain and France out of Berlin, and on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1948 Russia informed the western powers that they no longer had any right to be in Berlin.

But, beginning on June 28<sup>th</sup>, American C-54 cargo transports began carrying milk, food, and even coal to the isolated city. And by the time the Airlift ended 15 months later on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1949, the American Air Force had flown 189,863 missions, carrying 1,783,573 tons of cargo and almost 63,000 passengers. That is an average of one flight every 3 and a half minutes, carrying an average of almost 9 and a half tons of vital supplies! In the course of this monumental effort, 31 U.S military personnel lost their lives.

When the Berlin wall fell, however, and Germany was united once more, it was obvious that a growing wave of German nationalism, which also propounded anti-Americanism, was being exhibited, and which continues to this point in history.

Then we come to NATO. When founded in 1949, there were 14 member nations: including Canada, Great Britain, Germany, and France. Article 5 of the original NATO charter states:

*“The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all, and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually, and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.”*

Now, using the NATO charter as justification, the US was sucked into contributing material and military might to the conflict in Bosnia and Croatia, under the guise of preventing the civil war from spreading outside the borders of the former Yugoslavia. Yet no faction fighting had attacked, or even threatened any NATO member nation. So why was the mutual defense clause of the charter invoked?

America still has over 100,000 troops in Europe. Why? There is no reason for American ground forces to be in that area, especially in light of the new European Union. One reason is simple: Uncle Sugar is still footing most of the bill. In 2002, the combined spending of the 11 EU and NATO countries stood at 65 percent of U.S. spending, up only 7% since 1992.

Well, we have been attacked. And the French and Germans need to live up to their part of the agreement. Otherwise, we should abandon NATO to its own devices, at least as far as withdrawing all ground troops from Europe. Let's put them to use back here at home, guarding our very porous borders, and spending their salaries to help boost our economy. We should do this under any circumstances. The Old Countries are old enough to stand on their own.

The same goes for the UN. It is time to put up or shut up. After 12 years of obfuscation and total obstruction by Iraq, the UN continues to dither. And we continue to be stupid enough to continue to put up with it. They say we owe dues? Not a problem. Let us start paying on a pro-rata basis: there are 191 members of the General Assembly, so, as we have one vote just like everyone else, then let us pay 1/191 of the bills, or about .524%. After all, that would only be fair. But since we also take up a seat on the 15 member Security Council, we should ante up 6 2/3% of that bodies expenses too.

Or, better yet, save our money and get out of the most corrupt organization on the face of the planet, kick the so-called diplomats back to the backwaters they came from and allow NYC to sell a very prime piece of real estate to people who might appreciate it.

Two American Presidents gave great advice. George Washington advised avoiding foreign entanglements and insisted *“The United States must act for ourselves and not for others.”*

Teddy Roosevelt advised us to *“Walk softly and carry a big stick.”*

They had it right. Anything else is too costly.



## **The 10th Story**

by

**Elissa Rudolph,**

**RVC10**

**RVC10@us.mensa.org**

**W**hat an exciting, poignant weekend I experienced in Orlando at the Smarti Gras RG!! First, before the RG began rolling, Pam Donahoo, American Mensa's Executive Director, and I completed site inspections of three possible locations for our society's 60<sup>th</sup> celebration in 2006. Pam and I expect to be able to present a recommendation on the final location to the AMC at their meeting in Pittsburgh, late March. You will know, too, as soon as the AMC accepts the recommendation!

Then there was the Jimmy Kimmel TV show's film crew recording "What Mensans Do to Have Fun" at the RG, a totally unexpected bolt out of the blue, zapping the RG committee to be prepared. The interviewing was conducted by none other than Tammy Faye Bakker Messner. Yes, that Tammy Faye, who at first seemed a little stiff, but who, by the end of the weekend, was a Mensa fan!! A big round of applause for the Smarti Gras RG committee and all the Mensans who played along with Tammy Faye and her crew! You really showed how gracious and charming you all are.

Of course, the most touching, sort of bittersweet part of the weekend was hearing about the Columbia tragedy, yet feeling buoyed up and comforted by many friends at the RG. Ironically, that afternoon's speaker was Ron Caswell, a NASA engineer, with a very cool slide show on the space program. If RG'ers were not listening to Ron's passionate discussion, they were watching the TV broadcast. There was not a better spot to be in that day, surrounded by friends and listening to Ron's emotional words, part of which were, "... not concentrating on how they died, but how they lived." I think similar words are on the memorial to fallen astronauts at the Cape.

On to the local front: Broward County Mensa is sponsoring a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) on Saturday, April 26 (all day) in Ft. Lauderdale. This LDW will be a collection of informative discussions to which all Mensans are invited—free to attendees. Since "people are our most important asset," you can be sure all topics will be aimed at equipping you with the skills, tips, solutions, and just plain advice on many aspects of being in Mensa and/or being a Mensa officer. Plan to attend and spend the day meeting other members and sharing the experience. The Sheraton Hotel where the LDW will be conducted has a special room rate for anyone who wishes to stay the night. Contact me for that detail. Specific topics are still being decided upon. More details in your April newsletter and even before that, topics and presenters' names will be circulated to local secretaries and editors.

Come on down!

*May 23-26, Tampa Bay Mensa's, The Fellowship of the RG, Jack Brawner (trojanowl@aol.com) or John Raymond (jmraymond3@aol.com). It's a return to the water at the Days Inn, Rocky Point, off the causeway.*



**Double Takes**



by  
**Anne Nonymuss**

**H**ere'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 - Unfreeze - interrogative as to the true nature of something
- 2 - Lyric poems - specific quantity
- 3 - A dull pain - apiece
- 4 - Listen - to long for
- 5 - Found fault - an old woman

*(Answers will be found below)*



**Arachnae's Threads**

by  
**Clara Woodall-Moran**  
**Webmaster**

**T**he website is really beginning to take shape... except for the newsletters. The recovery operation for that task is still in the work stage. This may be the year we enter the web into the PRP awards competition.

Check out the scrolling calendar information on the front page. This band scrolls five times and stops. If you want to see it again just use the refresh button on the browser and it will run an additional five times.

The Slammer worm got to our hosting service for the splash page (what you get at the [www.spacecoastareamensa.org](http://www.spacecoastareamensa.org) site). We were back-online within minutes of the discovery of the problem - of course our server had been down between November and December of last year. We will continue keeping a closer watch on this site because the intention of having such a page was to make it easier for you, the reader, to get to our site no matter where it is actually located.

Phone: (407) 631-3548 FAX: (407) 690-2295

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**We Have....**



**The Answers!**

- 1 - what
- 2 - dose
- 3 - ache - each
- 4 - harken - hanker
- 5 - blamed - beldam