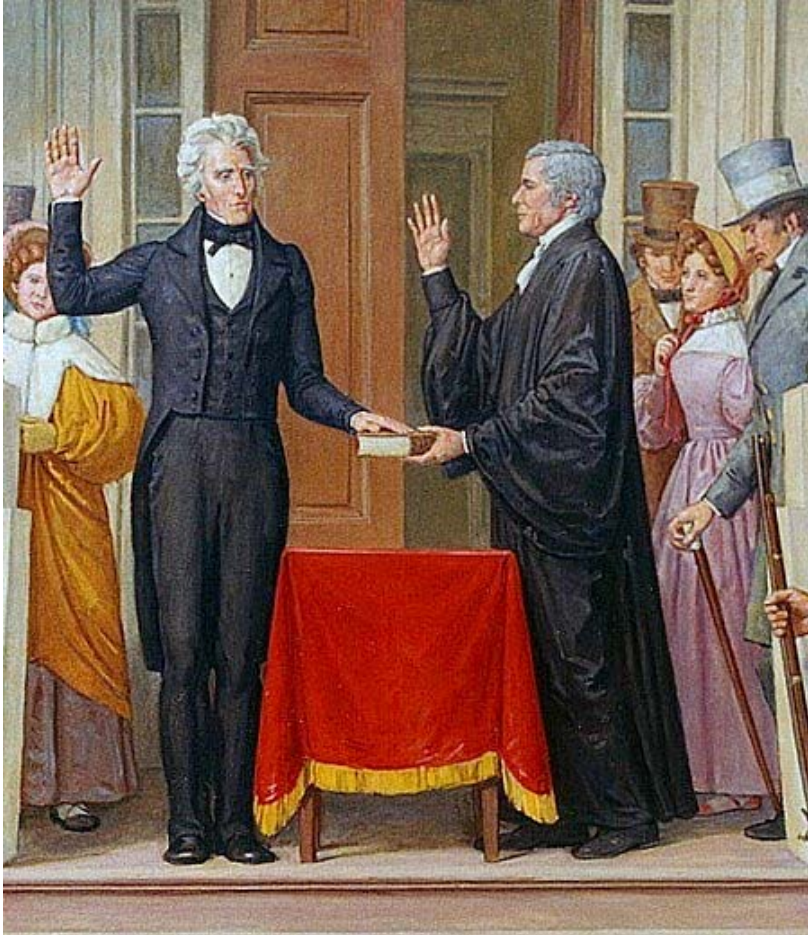


The

SCAM

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2003 Newsletter Owl Nominee



SCAM ELECTION RESULTS ON PAGE 10!

Volume 21, No. 6

June, 2003

*The
Newsletter*
SCAM
Space Coast Area Mensa

Editor J.T. Moran
Assembly/Circulation
Helen Lee Moore
Events Coordinator
Volunteer Needed!
Cover Artist
Artisté Needed!
Proofreader
Don T. Knohow

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: **SCAM@cfl.rr.com**

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

Happy June Birthday

- 02 – S. Glen Martinie
- 03 – Joyce Drew
- 05 – Joyce Megginson Kircher
- 07 – Daniel Morgan
- 08 – Robert Jex
- 08 – Robert Ruhge
- 15 – Phyllis Cole
- 17 – Arthur Belefant
- 17 – Ellen Rogers
- 20 – Thomas Moor
- 21 – Richard Kerlin
- 23 – Mark Poole
- 24 – Sam Kirschten
- 25 – Takeya Southerlan
- 26 – Chiluwata Lungu
- 26 – Judith Wiksten
- 29 – Mark Murphy



Welcome to SCAM
Gary Tower - Palm Bay



Standing Down



**J.T. Moran,
SCAM Editor**

The SCAM goes to war...

I recently received a letter from one of our members, Commander Stacy Strickland, USN, who is currently deployed with CentCom at Camp As Sayliyah in Qatar.

He wrote, in his own words, because he thought we “would like to know one of your ‘SCAM members’ is in Qatar and helped liberate the Iraqi people.” He told of the people he has met through his job as Liaison with the British forces, who he describes as a “combination of David Niven, John Steed, and Benny Hill” – extremely professional, calm under pressure, always polite, and possessing a wonderful sense of humor! Makes me wish

I could meet them today!

He also wrote that his wife forwards *The SCAM* “faithfully every month”.

It is a good feeling to me that American and Allied warriors far from home are enjoying this newsletter, the product of many of our members’ efforts. They deserve any comfort we can provide them.

The SCAM is the work of many people, not just the Editor. So it is with pride that I announce that it has once again been nominated for the Owl for medium size groups by the Publications Recognition Program judges. That makes three years in a row we have been so honored.

Along with the Owl came nominations for one of my editorials and for Ken Thornton-Smith for fiction. The Website also earned a nomination for member recognition.

My thanks to all our contributors over these years. Without you *The SCAM* would not have been the quality newsletter it has always been, and my job would have been far harder. It is my fervent hope that they will continue to contribute to *The SCAM* under my successor. And, after enjoying a few months without deadlines, I will be back.

See you then!



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

Wow! The membership dropped from 231 to 173 nearly overnight. Those of you who’ve forgotten to renew – don’t make me write to you – get online and renew. We are going to be sending out reminders... think about why you joined in the first place. Many of you we have never seen since you took the test. Why not come to an event before deciding to drop out of the group?

Our seasonal members, the Salzbergs, have returned to

Massachusetts and we really hate losing them for the summer. Debbie and Bill are very active while they are here, and we really appreciate them. Also, I was saddened to lose another member, Jim Peabody, from our group – the Peabodys moved to Windemere so they now belong to CFM which brings Jim full circle – he was a Mensa member when this group broke off from Central Florida a hundred years ago (1983). The reason for Bud Sweeten’s move makes us happy; we are, at the same time sad that he has gone – Bud married Lynn, for those who remember them at SNORT and the RG. They moved to the Orlando area. Bud and Lynn, all the best wishes and come visit us when you can.

It was about a year ago when I was surprised by a letter in the national Bulletin from a SCAM member. In the letter, the final line was “...(the group) has stifled my genius.” The writer had also stated that we seem to “...be completely uninvolved... (and only) seemed to sit around eating and playing board games...” This person had asked me how to get in touch with one of the 99.99% groups before the letter appeared – however, this person had not appeared at any event (otherwise it would have been clear that we do not sit around playing board games – we play card games). The concept of Mensa in general, and SCAM in specific needing to “change” the world is on the rise again. Every few years it has to be explained WHY we are not involved politically, religiously, or socially in an effort to change the world. Brilliant minds created the atomic and hydrogen bombs... being brilliant does not equate to any practical applications. The old saw is true – put four Mensans in a room and ask their opinion on something and you will get at least five responses (at the very least one will be a multiple personality and all of the personalities will want to have a say). If we cannot get an accord amongst ourselves, how can we expect to get the rest of the world to go along with us? So my response to those who would like Mensa or SCAM to “do something”: we cannot “push” any particular side on the controversial topics – but get involved all you want... write letters and articles for the newsletter and you might even help your cause, but the organization simply cannot take a stand... that would not be fair to anyone.

In fact SCAM has done “community” things – we’ve tried the “Adopt-a-Highway” program and got a very small response... we’ve purchased planks for nature parks in the area to help rebuild the walkways. Many SCAM members supported the BCC Planetarium (until the college decided they did not need the planetarium) and the student theater program. Those who would like to see more cultural events on the calendar, please notify the calendar coordinator or editor with information about these types of events and they will find a place in the newsletter and on the web site. A community calendar can be added but we’d really like to have sponsored programs.



At Your Service



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
Membership Chair**

Do you know a SCAM member who just got engaged, married, graduated, has suffered an illness or loss? Notify the membership chair, the editor or any member of the ExComm to share the information.

Nuptials and Engagements

Bud and Lynn Sweeten – best wishes on your marriage (a bit late – happened St. Valentine’s Day)

Karen Freiberg and Doug Starke announced their engagement in April

Barbara Peer and Harold Crawford have tied the knot...all the best to both of you.

Sympathy and Good Health Wishes

Long-time SCAM member and ExComm officer emeritus **Bob Tuck** has lost his father. Bob has the sympathies of the ExComm and the group “at-large.”

“Hope you are feeling better wishes” to **Adele Dace and Sam Kirschen**.



**We
Get
Mail!**



Dear *SCAM* Editor,

If I have learned anything over my 13 or so years of involvement with Mensa, it is that a high score on a standardized intelligence test offers no guarantee of rationality.

I recently received notice that my subscription to the SCAM newsletter is due for renewal. I do not intend to renew. If I want to read endlessly fallacious leftist rantings in the vein of those penned by Hank Rhodes and Mike Moakley, I will pick up an issue of Florida Today. At least that publication has enough broadsheets to line a birdcage should I ever decide to buy a parakeet.

You can let the Calendar Coordinator know that while I appreciate SCAM's listing of my monthly Great Books discussions in its newsletter, I have yet to see it produce any attendees. So I request that the notices be dropped from the SCAM calendar so as not to waste anyone's time or money or attention.

Mensa began as a society intended to gather the best brains in the world together to solve the world's problems. Lacking a coherent world view, it has devolved into an organization dedicated to intellectual masturbation -- it generates a lot of heat, makes people feel momentary pleasure and puts smiles on their faces, but in the end, all the effort is down the drain.

Sincerely,

Luke Setzer

I've read Mike Moakley's column "My Point of View" since its inception in *The SCAM*. It has been consistent in its damnation of business, victimization of the helpless poor, and the role of government.

Mr. Moakley has just completed a three part series on the income tax season that requires a response.

The first column concerns Jeff and his problems with his tax return. Didn't Jeff notice that there was nothing withheld for income tax or Social Security from the checks he collected? Why is he surprised that his entire tax liability is due on April 15th? You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out that you pay as you go or you pay in a lump sum.

Or did Jeff think someone overlooked something? Did he ask? I rather imagine he would have, had his deductions been greater than he anticipated. Assuming that Jeff was told that Form 1099-MISC was "just as good" as a W-2, was he also told that it was the same? Did he make any attempt to find out the difference? Did he expect to get a refund on taxes he did not pay? Was he forced to take the job, or was it voluntary?

As to 401(k) retirement funds, the subject of the second column, they are voluntary aren't they? Some attractions of 401(k)s as a hedge for retirement are that the employer often makes substantial contributions to the employee's fund (up to 50% in some cases), and by pooling their resources employees feel that they can have more clout in the investment of their money. What they seem to overlook is the risk factor, a willful blindness it appears to me. And I do not believe there is an automatic penalty for withdrawing the money from a 401(k) fund before retirement age, even in cases of layoffs; it can be reinvested at no penalty.

The title of the third column is *Watch Out For The Predators!* Yes, there are predators in our world, just as there are prey. But the "predators" of the Refund Anticipation Loan, the Payday Loan, and the Credit Card all have willing customers to do business with. They do not force anyone to deal with them; people go to them and ask for credit or a loan. Voluntarily. Perhaps they are not really predators as they are called in this column.

And the car dealer can't justifiably be called a predator. The "deception" doesn't signify. Either one has a signed contract at terms satisfactory to both parties or one doesn't. Either one keeps the car at the contracted terms or the dealer looks for another customer for it. No force is involved, and the deception was, at worst, only intended – for volunteers.

Mike Moakley sees a big problem here. What does he suggest be done to alleviate it? Outlaw "Big Business". Wave a magic wand to materialize financial security for all. Complain bitterly that someone is more affluent than someone else.

It's easy and requires little effort to bemoan the fate of a pseudo-victim and create a villain for condemnation. But it's not productive. Nor is it honest.



Helen Lee Moore

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



Ken Thornton-Smith
© 2003

The Wabasso Triangle

Episode 142.857: The Chiantiburger Case

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Downloading another cerebral senna pod from the delinquent diaries of Anthony Chianti, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again!

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

You know how some days you get this feeling of clarity, as if you're standing back and observing the harsh reality of the daytime soap that we live in? That happened last Tuesday, when I woke up feeling trapped, like Mike Tyson in a cross-dressing role as Mrs. Dai Bread One in Zeffirelli's Technicolor production of *Under Milk Wood*.

The week was already off to a bad start – a double pastacide in Palm Bay and a flat tire in Sebastian. I was on my way to that health store with a restaurant inside, the Patchouli Fume Café. Word on the streets was that something big was going down – these hippies were about to murder another batch of ziti.

I grabbed the crossword and walked the last mile to the restaurant, the flat tire can wait. I hid in the corner and scanned the menu. Bruckner's Beans looked interesting, or perhaps Rachmaninov's Ratatouille or maybe even Mahler's Macaroni. The waitress was pleasant enough, even if she looked the type that flossed her teeth with broken guitar strings.

"Hurro", she said, "My name is Rosemary...". Underneath that long blonde hair she had a nice smile and sparkling black eyes.

She asked if I wanted any herbs, "No thanks, I don't know much about herbs, but I've got plenty of Thyme for Rosemary." I grinned. She looked straight past me – I gave up and ordered a special.

The food was bordering on edible and once I'd dug through the tofu and bean stew the pasta wasn't overcooked after all – another wasted journey.

I was pondering the onerous responsibility of being a Pasta Detective, which is nothing like that Phillip K. Marlowdick, Space Detective stuff that you people read about. This is the real world, and we don't have a contrived string of clues on every page to help us unravel the mystery. Instead, Undercover Pasta Detectives are trained to be observant.

I kicked back and picked up the dessert menu just as Meistersinger started. Strange, I haven't heard that since I was in the Shy Knees Restaurant, former home of my old arch-nemesis, Cho Hung, shadowy leader of the Wabasso Triad and devotee of Late Romantic composers. Yes, perhaps it was time to revisit the Shy Knees, the only restaurant where you can say, "Waiter, this chicken is rubbery!" and they reply, "Thank you velly

much, Sir!”

The desserts were plentiful but equally boring: Tofu Cobbler, Revisionist Decadence Cheesecake, Chattanooga Chew-chew, Death by Tofu, Tofu Upside-Down Cake and Bourgeois Tendencies Tofu Tart. Do they really eat this stuff? The only tofu recipe I like is the one that starts with: “Add the juice of two bottles...” By the time you get around to eating it, you’re past caring.

As you know, Tofu is genetically related to Athlete’s Foot and a host of other opportunistic parasites. Hence the ‘toe’ in Tofu. Beats me – these hippies with their tofu and soya beans – do they think we’re Chinese or something?

Chinese? The word echoed around my empty head. I looked again at the waitress: her blond hair was a much lighter shade than her five-o’clock shadow. And those black almond eyes... and wasn’t that the overture from Lohengrin? I could feel a hunch looming, but it would have to wait until after 17 Across and the dessert.

Halfway through the miserable Tofu Cobbler a portly figure stood next to the table. I looked up slowly and deliberately.

“I am Chef, name Portabella. You please come, meet Manager.”

Well, I don’t know how it happened, probably just years of experience as a Community Pasta Detective, but at first glance he didn’t look like someone that would have an Italian name. On the other hand, even with that silly accent he might be a fungi to hang out with.

“Thanks, but no thanks.”

“No? I don’t flink you hunnerstand, Misser Chianti!”

Huh? How did he know my name? And what exactly was he doing with that large frying pan?

When I came around, I was tied to a chair in a smelly, steaming kitchen. This can mean only one thing: The Wabasso Triangle had struck again!

“Misser Chianti, we meet again. You remember me, Cho Hung...?”

“You again, Cho Hung? I know your brother, well...”

“...only this time, tables are turned, Misser Chianti. You snoop round once too often – you soon be fermenting in vat of Tofu!”

That was all I needed – death by drowning or hyperthyroidism – what a choice. I had to think fast, or the local vegetarians would be getting a little more protein than they bargained for – yours truly making a special guest appearance in next week’s gardenburgers...

“Don’t be silly...” I squirmed, “I’ll... er, spoil the taste of your Tofu...”

“Before, yes, but now we introduce new bland of flavored Tofu...”

“A new bland of Tofu?” I queried Freudian slippily.

“Yes, new bland is bland new. It called Toxic Tofu – kids love it. You already know too much, but I tell you the lest of story, as you going nowhere...”

“I’m not?” I gulped.

“Metaphysically speaking, perhaps you are, Misser Chianti – you go on long journey and don’t come back. Like Siegfried, only theme music not as good. Anyway, ignorant western thinking believe Triads and Communism are ideologically incompatible. Not so – we serve both causes by reprocessing spent fuel rods from Fort Pierce Nuclear Power Station. Plutonium goes to Motherland hidden inside returning defective VCRs; depleted toxic waste goes in Tofu. Velly bad for you, that why it taste so good. Anyway, Smarty-pants Detective, we deal with you later – Figure Skating j just starting on TV...”

So that was their little game – radiation hazard Tofu. I looked around – this was too easy. I shuffled the chair over to the wall phone, knocked the handset off and dialed with my nose.

Two hours later, something was wrong somewhere, and for once it was Detective Inspector “Raving” Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad with several goons and a wheelbarrowful of halitosis.

They cut me loose and rounded up the culprits. It had been a long day and boy, was I glad to get out of there. Now – where’s the car?

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.
Bed 29, Trauma Recovery Ward, Indian River Memorial Hospital.



***Now Is The
Time...***

by

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

Don Saturday, May 17th, the NomElCom, consisting of Fran Hinson, George Patterson, and J.T. Moran, conducted the official count of the votes cast in the 2003 - 2004 SCAM election. The results of the count are as follows:

Elected:

- 1 - Rita Johnson-Aronna***
- 2 - Helen Lee Moore***
- 3 - Joe Smith***
- 4 - Clara Woodall-Moran***
- 5 - Sam Kirschten (Write-In)***

Also receiving write-in votes were J.T. Moran with (2) votes and seven others with (1) vote. The ballots will be retained for 60 days by the Chair of the NomElCom. Any contesting of the results must take place within that period.



**The Gourmet's
Guide:**

Cast-Iron Pots

by

Art Belefant

©2003

(belefant@juno.com)

It seems that cast-iron pots are back in vogue. A recent feature in the food section of *Florida Today* (April 24, 2003) extolled the value of a cast-iron skillet. *Cook's Illustrated* (May & June 2003) rates skillets including cast iron.

The *Cook's Illustrated* article rated several types of skillets including cast iron. The cast-iron pot was rated highly although faulted because of its weight, but the cast-iron pot tested was enameled so there was no question of seasoning.

seasoning.

The *Florida Today* articles are reprints of *Washington Post* articles by Walter Nicholls and Renee Schettler. The Schettler article describes a 10-inch cast-iron skillet that she bought as a poor college graduate. It was her first, and only, pot for a while. Now she has a set of other pots, but uses the skillet almost exclusively. In it she makes steaks, pancakes, eggs, pizza, apple pie, and other foods.

Nicholls' article is devoted to the seasoning and cleaning of the cast-iron pots. He points out that seasoning is an ongoing process. The more you use the pot the more seasoned it gets.

A sidebar to the *Florida Today* articles gives a long, recommended procedure for seasoning which I condense here, 1. Wash the new pot with soapy water; 2. Using a soft cloth apply a thin, even coat of shortening to the entire pan; 3. Line your oven with aluminum foil, heat to 350°, turn the pot upside down and bake for one hour.

The *Florida Today* sidebar also gives long, involved instructions of how to treat a cast-iron skillet. The *Florida Today* recommendations for seasoning and cleaning reflect the overly fussy procedures espoused by other writers, including some of the manufacturers of cast-iron cookware.

I have a battery of cast-iron pots that include three 6-inch frying pans, a 10-inch griddle (My original cast-iron pot. It has a chip broken off the edge from being dropped onto a hard surfaced floor years ago, but it is still useable after more than 50 years.), a 10-inch skillet with a wooden handle an 11-inch skillet, an 11 1/2-inch stove-top grill, 6-inch and a 7 1/2-inch sauce pans with wooden handles, and two 10-inch Dutch ovens.

I do not recommend buying a cast iron pot with a wooden handle unless you have several other cast iron pots. They are fine for use on a stovetop but cannot be used in the oven.

Now that our kids are away from home, the pots do not get as much use as they once did. Except for the small frying pans, Rita does not use the other cast-iron cookery; I do. They are too heavy for her. The *Cook's Illustrated* downgrading cast iron because of its weight is correct. Not everyone



is comfortable manipulating a cast-iron pot full of food.

I can give this advice, though, after years of use of these pots. Cast-iron cookware is tough. It does not have to be handled delicately. One of its chief advantages over other types of pots, other than its superiority for most cooking, is the utter simplicity of its cleaning and maintenance. Ignore the detailed and finicky directions usually given for seasoning and cleaning. You need to season cast iron once, and then do virtually nothing else forever. Fifty and one hundred year old pots are not unknown and still in use.

To season a new 10-inch skillet, rinse it out to get rid of the dust, dirt, and any rust proofing the manufacturer may have put on the pot. Buy a pound of bacon. Cook it in the skillet until it is crisp. Eat the bacon. The pot is now seasoned enough for use. No, it won't look black and shiny. That takes years. Seasoning will progress quickly at first and then more slowly. Don't worry about the outside. It will blacken also with the migration of grease. For other types of cast-iron pots, do something similar.

The seasoning on a cast-iron pot is a polymer. When an oil, grease, or fat is heated in the presence of water, the oil hydrolyzes. The hydrolyzed oil recombines into polymers, which adhere to the cast iron. The polymers are similar to those found in some paints. The polymers are extremely adhesive, hard, and waterproof making them the ideal non-stick coating for the pot. The polymer coating builds up slowly, and if damaged it is self-healing, it will rebuild in use.

As for using and cleaning the pots, my suggestions are equally simple. Don't boil water or cook anything that is watery, such as soups, vegetables, poaching eggs, or cooking pasta, in a cast-iron pot. Use your stainless steel for that. Do cook anything that has a fat content or where grease is used. Any frying, sautéing, grilling of meats (try grilling a steak - get the skillet



very hot, slap the steak in, let it crisp on one side, flip it over, and crisp the other side), baking breads, pies, and cakes, or even stews, especially where you brown the meat first. You have seen my Dutch ovens in use at the Morans' venison parties with several different stews in them (*stroganoff, paprikash, chili, goulash, stifado*).

To clean a cast-iron pot, just rinse it out with hot water. If anything sticks to the pot, scrape it off with a metal spatula. You may want to wipe it out with a towel, but that is not necessary or even desirable. A film of oil helps prevent rust. All the comments about rusty cast-iron pots are baseless. They will not rust if used occasionally.

We live in a house on the beach. We usually have our windows and doors open to the damp, salty ocean breeze. Our cast-iron pots are hung in the open over our stove. Some pots are now used once a year or less often. We've never had a rust problem with any of the pots.



June 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 2nd, 16th & 30th
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 11th & 25th
Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 18th
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*

1st	4:00 p.m.	ExComm Meeting
Sunday	Free	S/P (1 friendly dog)

Plan to attend the change-over meeting of the Executive Committee. Not only can you see how the leadership of the group conducts its business, you can volunteer to hold an appointed position, as they are re-filled each year when a new ExComm is seated. 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*.

Clara Woodall-Moran, LocSec

cew@cfl.rr.com

Helen Lee Moore (Host)

76764.3242@compuserve.com

10th	NL and Calendar deadlines
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All newsletter submissions must be in to the Editor no later than today. Ditto for calendar events being to the calendar coordinator.

SCAM@cfl.rr.com - put Editor in Subject line

13th	6:00 p.m.	Pub Night
Friday	Food and Drink cost	S/NP

Helen Lee Moore takes us to the *Shamrock and Thistle Pub* in Titusville for a night of tasty ales and lively conversation. You can look for this event every other month, alternating with J.T.'s Firearms and Fried Rice. One month shoot darts; the next, bullets. The pub is at **2035 Cheney Highway, Titusville**.

Helen Lee Moore

76764.3242@compuserve.com

Your Health



Nosebleeds

Ann Schindler

©2003

The medical term for nosebleeds is epistaxis. Most nosebleeds are not a serious health problem and can be controlled with simple First Aid skills. Nosebleeds can be very frightening, especially if it is you or your child who is bleeding and if there is no apparent reason for it to have occurred.

There are two types of nosebleeds, anterior and posterior. Ninety percent of all nosebleeds are anterior, meaning the bleeding is occurring in the anterior or front part of the nose. This type is the least serious and the easiest to stop. Anterior nosebleeds usually occur from Little's

Area, also called Kiesselbach's Plexus, an area on each side of the nasal septum. This is the site of a mass of blood vessels that are found close to the surface, and are covered by very little subcutaneous tissue and only a thin mucous membrane. Because of this, the area is easily damaged, and nosebleeds occur frequently. Anterior nosebleeds usually occur from one nostril only, and are the type that occurs most frequently in children. Some reasons they occur include frequent nose blowing, picking the nose, and injuries. Another cause is low humidity, as found in heated homes, or cold dry climates, as in places like Colorado. These situations can cause nasal dryness, and result in membrane cracking and bleeding. Anterior nosebleeds can usually be stopped by using the thumb and forefinger to apply pressure to the nose just below the nasal bones while keeping the head upright. Hold this pressure for a minimum of five minutes to ten minutes. Do not swallow the blood, but spit it out, as it may cause an upset stomach or nausea. Once bleeding has stopped, it is important not to do anything to cause bleeding to recur. Rest quietly the remainder of the day, do not pick up anything heavy, try not to blow the nose or sneeze for 24 hours, discontinue the use of aspirin, and keep the nasal passages moist by using a humidifier/vaporizer or saline nasal spray. The use of a lubricating ointment to the nasal mucosa several times a day is helpful. These may include Vaseline, A and D ointment, or polysporin ointment. If bleeding does not stop in 10 minutes, you should seek medical intervention. If the site of bleeding is clearly visible at the tip of the nose, the physician may cauterize the area with silver nitrate. Cautery is not used as often as it was in the past. Repeated cautery may result in the formation of scar tissue which is thinner and less elastic, and more likely to bleed in the future. The physician may use nasal packing to put pressure on the area to stop the bleeding. Usually one-half inch wide Vaseline gauze is used, though gauze with an antibiotic or vasoconstrictor may also be used to help curb the bleeding. The packing, which is usually three to five foot in length, stays in place for two to three days. There are newer type nasal packs available; one uses a sponge that resembles a tampon that expands when saturated with blood or saline. The string is taped to the patient's cheek to prevent inspiration and to assist in the removal, usually in one or two days. Antibiotics may be prescribed to

prevent sinusitis infection.

Posterior nosebleeds are much more serious, requiring medical intervention, and usually a hospital admission. These nosebleeds occur more frequently in older people. They usually arise from an artery in the back of the nose and blood will flow down the back of the throat. The causes include hypertension, bleeding disorders, taking too large a dose of aspirin or blood thinning medication, tumors, diabetes, atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), and nose or facial injuries. You cannot stop this type of nosebleed by pinching the nose. It is important to seek medical care immediately. Bleeding may be so heavy that one in three patients will require a blood transfusion. Posterior nasal packing is frequently used, which is very uncomfortable. It is usually necessary for the patient to be sedated, anesthetized, and given pain medication for this to be inserted. A catheter is inserted through the nose and out the mouth. A gauze pack is attached to the tip of the mouth end. The catheter is then pulled back through the nose to place the pack in the nasopharynx. An anterior nasal pack is also inserted at the same time. Newer balloon packs and tamponade packs are sometimes used. The patient should be monitored to prevent further bleeding in the event of slippage of the packing, breathing problems, and for sleep apnea, which is more likely to occur at this time. Antibiotics are frequently prescribed. Posterior nasal packing stays in place two to three days. If these methods do not stop the bleeding, surgery may be required.

Most nosebleeds are preventable. Keep the nasal mucosa moist with lubricating ointment or humidifiers, drink plenty of liquids to stay well hydrated, keep the nails short to prevent damage to the nasal membrane, do not insert foreign bodies into the nose, be careful to prevent sports injuries by wearing proper headgear, and take all medications in the proper prescribed amounts.

A bit of history in regards to nasal packing may be of interest. One of the earlier substances used was salt pork, a readily available commodity in the early days before refrigeration. When inserted in the nasal cavity, the preservatives in the pork caused an irritation in the nasal mucosa that caused swelling, and along with the pressure of the piece of salt pork, the bleeding was controlled. The meat did not expand, as packing does, and the meat would shortly decay and begin to smell badly. Other substances were later used including wadded paper and cotton. Tissue and toilet paper likewise do not expand and are difficult to remove without shredding. Other materials were invented and used as packing. The newer balloon packs and foam packs will likely be replaced soon by even newer materials with properties that result in quicker healing time and less infection.

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The 10th Story

by

Elissa Rudolph,

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Wow! Again, our region has been recognized, over and over again, for the very hard (read, frustrating!) work involved in putting together newsletters and building Web sites. You can see the entire list of nominations on the National Web site, but here's just a brief mention, just the newsletter and group name, of our own region's stars: ***The SCAM***, Space Coast Area Mensa, up for several awards (print and Web site) including medium group owl; ***Tampa Bay Sounding***, Tampa Bay Mensa, several awards (print and Web) including large group owl for their Web site; ***Flamenco***, Miami Mensa, humor and essay awards; ***PensaMensa***, Northwest Florida Mensa, photography award; ***4M***, Manasota Mensa, up for medium group owl award, in contention with ***The SCAM***; and Manasota Mensa's Web site was also nominated for several awards. I hope you all win and if you are not at the AG, I would be happy to carry home your awards for you. I am so proud of this region and not just its stars, but also all of its editors, writers, labelers, designers, proofers, hoofers, woofers, etc.

Speaking of Manasota Mensa, I attended a picnic in May in a lovely Sarasota park with about 30 of this group's members. Despite the fact that I had apparently developed "east coast syndrome" and could not differentiate between east of I75 and west of I75, I had a wonderful time meeting new and veteran Ms. The picnic foods were fab—that chocolate cake!—and the company even better.

The April LDW in Ft. Lauderdale was a smashing success with 35 attendees from six of our twelve regions. That is just outstanding! Better yet, most attendees stayed all day and many joined us for dinner that evening at the Rustic Inn. Southwest by South Mensa was represented as well as Tampa Bay Mensa, Central Florida Mensa, Space Coast Area Mensa, Miami Mensa, Broward Mensa, and Palm Beach County Mensa. You guys... thank you!! And big thanks and applause to our speakers, Jim Blackmore, national marketing director, Ike Kullman, RVC5, Bonnie Wilpon, Tampa Bay M, and Janice Johnson, Palm Beach County M. You all contributed to the success of this venture.



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

***Good To Be An
American!***

by

Hank Rhodes

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As our President tells us that the war in Iraq has reached an end, and we move into the post-war nation building (Oops-make that “reconstruction and stabilization”), many of us have cause to feel perturbed at the statements and actions of some of the newly-liberated Iraqis.

Particularly disturbing are the recent proclamations by leaders of the Shiite community to turn Iraq into a theocracy, ruled by religious authority, to the exclusion of all others. By the size of the accompanying demonstrations, this movement appears to enjoy significant popular support.

The Shiites consider themselves a persecuted branch of Islam since their leader was murdered in the seventh century. Although they comprise approximately 60% of the population of Iraq, they have been shut out of power for most of that country’s history. In fact, despite their numbers, the Shiites are excluded from power in most countries, with the exception of Iran and a few other nations.

The religious activities of the Shiites, especially public demonstrations, were restricted and in some cases banned by Saddam Hussein and his government, since the governing Baath Party’s philosophy is basically socialist and secular (but like all dictatorships, Baathist practice rests upon a foundation of secrecy, intimidation, compliance, coercion, and brutality).

Iraq is like many places in the world, where the people have always been under the authority of a governing elite that the citizens had no role in choosing. Not only do the people of Iraq have no personal experience with democracy, but due to a mixture of absorbed propaganda and ignorance, they actually fear democracy.

By tragically perverse logic, the exhilaration of being freed from the dominator results in these formerly oppressed people, who have known only domination, now seeking to dominate others.

This is why we should all be grateful to be citizens of a society where all points of view and all faiths are respected. Each of us has the right to state a political opinion, and to discuss and debate these opinions in a spirit of tolerance. In our society, people of differing opinions peacefully co-exist, a situation that is almost inconceivable to some people in the rest of the world.

On matters of faith, the founders of our nation understood the lessons of history. They were certain to assure that there would never be an arbitrary religious conformity imposed upon the citizens here, as has been the case in most other nations, which have also often suffered the horrors of religious civil war. (If we were transported back to the 16th century, how



many of us would have had the courage to profess Catholicism in England, Protestantism in France, or Judaism in Spain?)

Unfortunately, despite suffering so long under the dictator, many of the people of Iraq have yet to recognize these historical truths, and they fail to appreciate the virtues of tolerance.

These events demonstrate the fallacy of the Cheney-Wolfowitz vision, which holds that we can march into another country and instantly impose American-style democracy. We shouldn't attempt to go around the world, creating little versions of the United States. (If that phrase sounds familiar, it was the conservative criticism of choice levied at President Carter in the late 1970s when he sought to establish a foreign policy based on the relatively modest goal of fostering respect for human rights.)

In places where it never has existed, democracy takes a long time to take root and grow. It can not be imposed by force, but only through long-term partnerships between the United States and other nations. This involves a substantial commitment of resources over years (and through successive administrations). It is not sufficient to wait until we have a crisis in Central Asia until our leaders become familiar with the leadership of Pakistan. We can't afford to wait twenty years, between the Soviet invasion and the terrorist attack on us, before we renew our interest in the situation in Afghanistan.

The author recalls a conversation many years ago with an old soldier. This gentleman was a veteran of World War II who had served in combat in the North African and European theaters. After recounting his experiences in several amphibious assaults, he described what he considered a distinguishing characteristic of the American nation that had sustained him and his comrades during that difficult time. Unlike many others, Americans tend to understand responsibility, and assume responsibility when the occasion requires. During the critical battles of World War II, when Lieutenants became incapacitated, Sergeants were ready to lead, when Sergeants were unable to lead, Corporals could step in, and so forth, to sustain the direction of the team. On their own, Privates were able to determine the right course of action and pursue this course to victory. It is important to emphasize the term "responsibility," which involves integrity, diligence, exertion, and sacrifice, as opposed to the simple license to give other people orders, or the comparatively superficial privileges and benefits of higher rank.

In closing, the author notes that this month's *SCAM* represents the final issue under the editorship of J.T. Moran. Groups such as ours owe a great deal to members such as J.T., who step forward and assume responsibility for accomplishing the tough jobs, which are essential to our success, often with little appreciation. Congratulations and hearty thanks on a job well-done, J.T.!



**A View
from the Right:**

**The Windows
of Our Soul**

by

J.T. Moran

(morwood@cfl.r.com)

*This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow,
the night of the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.*

William Shakespeare: Hamlet Act I, Scene III

So now the time has come. Active fighting in Iraq has concluded, and the slow reconstruction of that war-torn nation is about to commence. And the Left continues to rant that we have to be concerned with what (pick a country or favorite ethnic group) thinks of America, a rant that began in earnest the afternoon of 9-11.

Why? What is so important about what anyone else thinks of us?

Actually, I agree that how America is perceived abroad can not only be important, but vital to our future safety and prosperity. However, unlike those on the Left, I am not particularly concerned about being liked. I would rather be respected.

The Left complains that America is too big, too powerful... that we must not act in our own best interests, but instead subordinate our national priorities to those of foreign powers and interests. In other words, be a liberal and let someone else decide what is best for you.

This is the foundation of the Left's almost fanatical desire to see America subsumed in the United Nations. That organization, a demonstrably anti-American cesspool of corruption, has for years looked upon the US not as a leader, but as merely a supplier of monetary largess and military might. And of the two, they would much rather have the money to support lifestyles that, for the very large majority of the "diplomats" and their staffs, would be unimaginable in their native countries. Which is one of the primary reasons there has never been an even half-hearted attempt to move the UN headquarters from New York City to, say, The Hague. The "diplomats" of the UN are far more interested in the power and privileges their positions provide than for the good of the peoples of the world. The revelations that have come to light of deception and duplicity from our supposed "allies" in the Security Council since the passing of Resolution 1441 prove it, and also prove one other thing: that their interests are more important to them than ours, and they act in their own best interests as they perceive them. Yet these are the factions that the Left of our nation would have decide our fate.

Well, I have a few words of advice for them: *"The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is, in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible... it is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world...."* The words of the Father of our Country in his 1796 farewell address still ring true. This warning against permanent foreign entanglements speaks to the pragmatic logic of his day and ours. The United Nations is not in the business of doing what is best for America. Neither is any other country or alliance. Only America can determine what is in her own best interests, both

here and abroad. After all, the Left continues to warn that the Arab world hates us because of our alliance and support of Israel, right? So all we have to do is give in to their desires, abandon Israel, and they will love us. Sure they will.

The Left would also have America throw money at all sorts of foreign diplomatic boondoggles in an attempt to buy friendship and good will. Well, in law enforcement, that is usually called extortion, or blackmail, and a successful blackmailer never stops coming back until his victim has been bled dry. However, there are words of advice from other great Americans to cover this, too: *"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."* This policy from Teddy Roosevelt still rings as true today as in 1901 when he first uttered it. The powerful do not need to advertise: those who need to know **will** know. But one must always be ready to use that power when necessary. Americans knew this lesson in our nation's younger days; an outcome of the conflict with terrorists of 1800, the Barbary Pirates, was one of the most important lessons of history: *"Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute."* And defense means not just militarily, of our country's soil, but of our liberty and way of life. Pay once to preserve them and you will pay forever, in ever-increasing ways and amounts.

Then there are the laments that we need to try harder to be liked, that we are too arrogant, too prideful. The Left insists that America should walk humbly among the nations of the world, demonstrating that we are no better than they in any way. In point of fact, the Left of this country, as well as abroad, refuse to even acknowledge any superiority of America, while availing themselves of any opportunity to denigrate it.

But pride of America, and of our history in world affairs, should not be denied to keep others happy. Without the might of the American military, and the noble sacrifice of American lives throughout our history, it can reasonably be assumed that there would be no democracies left in the world today. *"Throughout history, it has been the inaction of those who could have acted; the indifference of those who should have known better; the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most; that has made it possible for evil to triumph."* The words of Emperor Haile Sellassie would be prophetic if America had always behaved as today's Left wants it to now. And Teddy Roosevelt articulated it wonderfully: *"In our relations with the outside world, we must abhor wrongdoing, and disdain to commit it, and we must no less disdain the baseness of spirit which lamely submits to wrongdoing."*

Still, this is not enough for the Left. These purveyors of moral equivalency demand tolerance from America in our domestic and world views, while simultaneously exclaiming that America has no right to expect such tolerance from anyone else. In domestic affairs, this is demonstrated in claims that there is no "American culture", and that diversity should be pre-eminent in American policy and practice. But, once again, Teddy Roosevelt addressed this concept: *"There is no room in this country for hyphenated*

Americanism... The only absolute way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of its continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities." Even before the concept of "Balkanization" was conceived, he foresaw its destructive nature. The great Daniel Webster said it even better 100 years earlier: *"I was born an American, I have lived as an American, and I shall die an American."* Our original National motto says it best: *"E Pluribus Unum"* – out of many, one. Unfortunately, the Left is now determined that the fusion from the great melting pot should now become a distillation – whereby fractions are separated out based on their physical characteristics.

So, what are we to do? Is there anything that really needs to be done about America's image as seen around the world?

In my opinion, we are already in the process of doing it. Under President George W. Bush we have begun to return to the doctrines of George Washington and Teddy Roosevelt. We have reacted to an assault on our people and soil with a response that has given the terrorists of the world pause. The terrorists celebrated in the streets after their sneak attack destroyed two of our buildings. The effect of America's response has been the destruction of two totalitarian regimes. And if you think that message has not been received in certain quarters, then note this: the level of worldwide terrorist activity peaked soon after 9-11; by the end of 2002 it was at its lowest rate in twenty years.

"It is character that counts in a nation as in a man." Our nation is judged by how it acts in the world arena. Our President made a declaration after we were attacked – that those responsible, and those who support them would pay the ultimate penalty. So far, we have made a good start on keeping our promise. As an honorable man's word is his bond, let America's word to the world now continue to be hers.

The more we act this way, in a manner consistent with America's proud beginnings, the more the RESPECT there will be for us. We may not be liked; we may even be hated. But, if we, as a nation, act with constancy, if the world knows with surety the awful price that will be paid for attacking us, then fear will also enter the equation. As Machiavelli said: *"It is much more secure to be feared than to be loved."*

America does have a responsibility: first, to itself and its people, and then to those people of the world who look to America as the land of promise and hope that it has always been. *"Our country shall not shirk its duty to mankind. It can perform this duty only if it is true to itself. It can be true to itself only by definitely resolving to take the position of the just man armed; for a proud and self-respecting nation of freemen must scorn to do wrong to others and must also scorn tamely to submit to wrong done by others."* Let us gaze unblinkingly into the eyes of the world, and thus let them see the true worth of the American spirit.



My Point of View

Why Am I A Liberal?

by

Mike Moakley

Exactly a year ago, in my first *SCAM* article (some prefer the term “diatribe”), I posed the question, “What is a Liberal?” In answering that question, I proffered a definition put forth by Alonzo Hamby, Ph.D., professor of history at Ohio University: “Liberalism is a political and economic philosophy that emphasizes freedom, equality, and opportunity.” From that, I deduced that a liberal is one who subscribes to such a philosophy.

Why am I a Liberal? The most significant reason is my observation that, without working Americans, there would be no America. Thus, to me it makes sense to have public policy that would benefit working Americans, thereby benefiting America as a whole.

I might hasten to comment at this point that power at all levels of government is certainly not in the hands of liberals. It might be tempting at this point to demonize the Republican Party, as it is currently the majority party. Certainly the Republicans do deserve much of the credit for the current course our great country is on, but I must acknowledge that the *Democratic* Party deserves to share much of that credit as well.

As a liberal, I am deeply concerned with our current conservative government’s apparent penchant for attacking the working American. In my view, this is not only morally wrong, but it does not make sense. Throughout the past year, I have raised several of these concerns. Here are two examples, current as of this writing, of our conservative legislators hard at work. At the federal level, Congress is rewriting the Fair Labor Standards Act to exempt more workers from that Act’s overtime pay requirements. In Florida, our legislature has introduced House Bill 321, making it *illegal* for local governments to pass “living wage” ordinances. Less obvious, but no less harmful to workers, are the austerity budget cutbacks in state and federal agencies responsible for enforcing worker safety and legal protections. All this while yet another tax cut on the federal level is in the works, and our great state wishes to buy and run the now defunct Cypress Gardens! Go figure.

Another area of great concern is the healthcare crisis. More than 40 million Americans have no health insurance to cover the ever-increasing health care costs. Moreover, without coverage, many health care professionals refuse services to these hard working Americans. The conservative solution? Preach “personal responsibility”, then pass legislation to absolve irresponsible doctors of their negligence and incompetence, while making it tougher for the average American to seek debt relief through bankruptcy protection (although most personal bankruptcies arise from medical debts).

Instead, liberals are marginalized and lampooned as the culprit behind many government policy failures of the past generation. If there ever was a case of Liberals screwing up, it is that we have for far too long allowed ourselves to be defined by our opponents, thus being on the defensive for po-

litical follies, regardless of whether we committed them! “Affirmative Action” is a case in point. We liberals are castigated for demanding “racial quotas”, thus effecting reverse discrimination and NOT equality! This, in spite of the fact that an Executive Order from *President Nixon* set forth the “quotas” in question. We are routinely identified with characters such as former President Bill Clinton (who is actually a *conservative*), and of course, the Democratic Party that was instrumental in passing the NAFTA legislation (which *really* helped American workers, didn’t it?). It is truly amazing what the Straw Man fallacy can accomplish. As our conservative leadership intones “God Bless America” and extols “patriotism” and “family values”, let it not be said that their “values” include telling the truth. In the Corporate Two Parties, suffice it to say, real liberals are rare.

In recent years, most notably since the horrible terrorist attacks of 9-11 inadvertently saved the Bush presidency, it is becoming increasingly difficult for a liberal to be as vocal as his conservative counterparts. It appears one currently cannot criticize our President, or conservative ideology in general, without being branded as somehow “unpatriotic”. Currently, it would appear to me that McCarthyism does, once again, rule. As a liberal, I challenge the current leadership engage in honest public debate on some of the issues that I have touched on during the past year instead of hiding behind their pious platitudes while continuing to distort any agenda not in total agreement with theirs. As a compromise, I would even settle for conservatives to correctly identify the liberals...and, perhaps as a bonus, what they stand for.

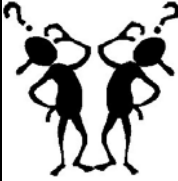
So, why am I a Liberal? It is because being on the Left is the right thing to do.



With the temperatures already reaching the mid 90s, I thought this picture from last winter might provide a bit of cool refreshment for the readership - Editor



**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. Loosed - to yield
2. An outcome - sheen
3. Ready for the unexpected - at a subsequent time
4. To pass away - in a condition of rest
5. A magical drink - something which can be chosen

(Answers will be found below)



Arachnae's Threads

by
**Clara Woodall-Moran
Webmaster**

We are working on the February 2002 newsletter, the one with the cover that takes forever to download. The cover has some really pretty roses that seem to take as long as real roses to open... bear with us on that.

Links are going to be added for community calendar events. However, it would be nice if like-thinking Mensans got together at these events to share the enjoyable times.

We have received a PRP nomination in the category of "Member Recognition" at the web site... not too shabby for the first time out in competition.

We are planning on expanding the photo section of the website. If you happen to have any good quality photos of SCAM activities, please contact me.

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We Have....



The Answers!

1. freed - defer
2. result - luster
3. alert - later
4. elapse - asleep
5. portion - option