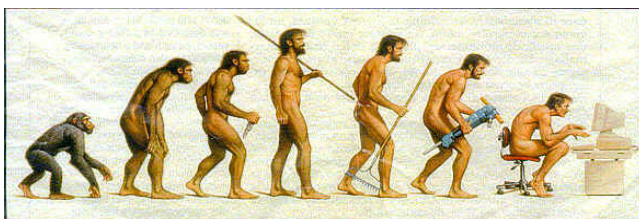


The

# SCAM

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*2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee*



***We are from all walks of life ...***



***...We are everywhere...***



***...And, we are Mensans!***

Volume 21, No. 11

November, 2003

**The  
Newsletter**  
**SCAM**  
space coast area mensa

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We will appreciate your submissions legibly handwritten, typed, in e-mail text, or on 3.5 disk in IBM text or word-processing format. We can receive your submissions by mail at: 808 Wisteria Drive, Melbourne FL 32901, or submit via e-mail to: moakleymj@bellsouth.net

***Happy November Birthday***

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 02 – Barron Perry    | 20 – Dean Zentner   |
| 06 – William McClure | 21– John England    |
| 08 – Abbey Thompson  | 25 – David Williams |
| 11 – Jane Saubert    | 30 – Lisa Willnow   |
| 19 – Jean Porter     | 30 – Thomas Gachet  |

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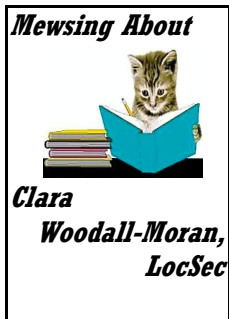
**Welcome to SCAM and Mensa**

*Monica Byers – Vero Beach*  
*Daniel Hamlin – Merritt Island*

**Welcome to SCAM**

*Joseph Carrier – Cape Canaveral*  
*Cypran Klish II -- Melbourne*





. . The National Office has asked the various local group executive committees to provide the following information about a problem with the Certificate of Incorporation.

- . Who is to blame for this happening?
- . How did this surface?
- . How long is this going to take?
- . How many proxies do we need to get?
- . Can I retract my proxy once I give it?
- . Does this mean the Secretary can vote for me on any issue at the Annual Business Meeting?
- . When can I place my proxy and how?
- . What if I send in more than one proxy?
- . How will I know if you received my proxy?
- . How will I know how the proxy campaign is progressing?
- . Who is running this proxy campaign?
- . Is my proxy a secret ballot?
- . Will everything be okay once we make this change?
- . How can I help?
- . What if I want to vote no?

These are the official questions – the official answers next month.



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

I am a firm believer in not apologizing for things beyond my control – but, I have to apologize for the lack of attention to the web site form the last little bit of time (since July). I'm taking the last class for the Master's

Degree and it has consumed a huge amount of my life. I promise to be back on track very soon.

I also have a new boss – Mike Moakley is the new editor



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



***Ken Thornton-Smith***  
© 2003

**Episode 23: Home Alone**

**I**t should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying the Law of Gravity, published TV schedules and Surgeon-General warnings, the gourmet magnetic anomaly we know as The Wabasso Triangle has struck again with another update from the demented diarist:

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

It was Wednesday, and Wednesday means I have to report to Fellsmere Mountain Rescue Squad, six hours a week for a whole year of community service, and just because of that one little incident at the wine tasting...

This week, some idiot got lost and we were all deployed. Being a real emergency, everyone else rushed off and left me talking to myself. Undeterred, I dug out the crossword and licked my ballpoint and plodded ahead. Before long, the lush grapefruit groves around base camp had given way to the treacherous scree at the base of Hillary Ridge. I looked up at the near vertical wall first conquered by Sherpa Lobsang Goldblum and laughed. This is definitely as far as I go today...

I spun around and returned to 13 Across. That was when I heard it: "Oi!" – there it was again. . "Oi, what you want?"

Stopping, I looked up from the crossword – must be hearing things. I looked around, there was nothing there, no sign of life, not even a 7-11.

It was then I noticed a hairy character leaning against the rugged backdrop of the cliff. I waved and started in his direction. Getting closer I could see a dark cave entrance partially disguised by pinnacles of rock. Also, over to his left, was a large herb garden, but it was his outfit that fascinated me. He appeared to be wearing animal furs and an elaborate hat woven from grapefruit skin. On his feet were crude sandals, obviously handcrafted from Firestone Ultra Grip 165-13s VR70, because it said so, along one side.

Despite his appearance, though, he seemed friendly enough,

"How's it going?" He offered a gnarled hand, "Finbar... Finbar the Nestorian, but you can call me just plain Finbar – I'm the only one around here. "

"Oh, hi, er, Anthony Chianti... Anthony... " Apparently, we were already on first name terms.

"Nice day for a walk... ' He nodded up at the sky.

"Yes, it's nice out – let's hope the weather holds."

"Got time for a coffee?"

"Well, sure... actually, I'm a little bit lost. I was wondering if you could help point me in the right direction... "

"No problem, that's how I ended up here... " He turned and shouted into the cave opening, "Olga, put the coffee on."

"Olga? I thought you said you were the only one here?"

" I did? No – I meant I'm the only Finbar around here. I was on my own for ages, that was, until the girls arrived... "

"Girls?"

"Of course, living up here, I still think of myself as a hermit. Just because I now share the cave with 23 other hermits, doesn't mean I can't be one... "

"Twenty three?"

"Yup... last count, anyways... "

"Twenty three girls?"

"Sure, it can be pretty lonely, you know, being a hermit... "

"Let me get this right – you are a hermit and you share a cave with 23 other female hermits?"

"That 'bout sums it up." He nodded



“Er, the 23 girls – were they lost, too?”

“Lost is a big word... “ He replied, interrupted by a blonde in a diminutive fur bikini with two huge, er, cups of coffee, “Thanks. Oh, Olga, this is Anthony, Olga.” He nodded. She flashed me a beautiful smile and slipped back into the cave.

“Lost, you were saying, lost is a big word... “

“Well, yes, they were on the run. Like, they were refugees or something.”

“Refugees? In Fellsmere? She doesn't look Cuban... ?”

“Not Cuba – East Germany. You probably don't remember, but in 1987, at the World Championships in Atlanta, the East German Girl Gymnastic Squad defected and asked for political asylum. The government needed a safe house and somehow they ended up here... “

“Run this by me one more time – you were lost in the mountains, found the cave and became a hermit. Then, in 1987, you were joined by another 23 hermits, to wit, the defecting East German Girl Gymnasts Team, and you've all been here ever since?”

“Sounds about right... except for the one that left, Maria... “

“Maria? There's only 22 girls?”

“Nope, 23 of them after she left – number 24, the Mormon... went to Utah... “

“OK, so, apart from Maria, since 1987 you've lived in a cave with 23 East German girls that aren't Mormon?”

“Sounds about right... mind you, they're not all Nestorians... two Lutherans and one Catholic, but I'm working on them... ”

“So how long were you here on your own, like, before the girls arrived?”

“Well, it seems longer, but it was probably only a couple of weeks... “

“I'm curious how you survive, way up here... “

“Well, it's not so easy, I can tell you. We do odd jobs, try and grow as

much of our food as we can... and the winters can be bitter at this altitude... “

“Sounds tough... “ I interjected.

“Can’t complain really, we’re away from the rat race, no stress...”

I thought of my job – the mounting pressure – the daily slog through the growing pile of unfinished crosswords – the stress of always trying to justify my existence against the incompetent Detective Inspector “Raving” Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad...

“...it can be a struggle, but somehow we manage... of course, the 23 welfare checks help out... “

“Er... 23? Any vacancies?”

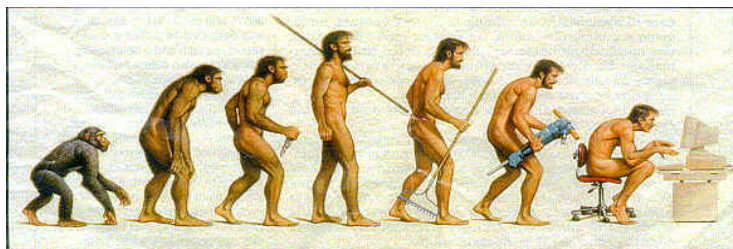
Well, amazing but true, and it can only have happened here. That’s

about it for this month’s update from the Wabasso Triangle.



Anthony Chianti, Indian River Community Pasta Detective, signing off.  
*Bed 7, Cave 3, sandwiched in between Erika and Brunhilda.*

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

***Costly Lessons  
by***

***Hank Rhodes***

***©2003***

*Author's note: This was originally intended for publication in the October 2003 edition of the SCAM.*

This month, it is important to commemorate some Americans who we lost in an early battle of the war against global terrorism.

Using the advantage of surprise, the enemy struck, taking many American lives. After the remains of the Americans were recovered, the President ordered a hasty retreat, never to return, providing the enemies of the United States with a victory.

Mogadishu 1993? No, this was Beirut, twenty years ago this month, during the Reagan administration. For reasons never clearly explained, the Reagan administration deployed a force of U.S. Marines to Beirut, Lebanon. Lebanon was then undergoing the eighth year of a civil war, and had also become a battleground of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The U.S. embassy had been destroyed by a truck bomb in April 1983. Then, on October 23, 1983, terrorists drove a truck bomb into the building being used as a barracks for the Marines, killing 241. Shortly thereafter, the remaining troops were withdrawn.

Lebanon spent the remainder of the 1980s in a state of anarchy, with foreigners, including Americans, frequently being taken as hostages. After several of the American hostages were suddenly freed in 1986, it was revealed that the Reagan administration had been secretly engaged in an arms trade with the sponsors of the terrorists, the government of Iran.

Ironically, it was Reagan, while campaigning for President, who had employed a great deal of bluster describing how tough he would have been in dealing with the Iranians who had attacked the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Consider Somalia, where President Clinton inherited an incursion from the outgoing administration of Bush I. When the bodies of American soldiers were dragged through the streets of Mogadishu in October 1993, some (but not all) conservatives could barely contain their glee, because for the first time since the people's repudiation of Bush I in 1992, conservatives had an issue by which they could attack "Slick Willie." No one provided any clear strategy for an effective response. Apparently, gaining political advantage was more important.

And when hearing that terrorists had killed American sailors aboard the *USS Cole* in 2000, one of the author's conservative friends readily scoffed that "they died for Hillary's oil company."

Interesting how, since September 2001, conservatives will hide behind the slogan "United We Stand," but never cease to remind us of the disaster in Somalia, or the supposedly ineffective actions of President Clinton in attacking al-Qaeda's training bases and suppliers of military material in 1998. (Although back in 1998, the same conservatives roundly condemned President Clinton for taking action!)

Perhaps this selective amnesia accounts for why we seem to continually repeat the mistakes of the past. Some of the lessons we should have learned by now:



-Commit troops only where they have a clear mission, with tangible and achievable goals. Deploy troops only where there is a compelling interest at stake. There must be a well-defined concept of what constitutes victory, and a plan to accomplish it within a reasonable timeframe. Once committed, there must be adequate forces to accomplish the mission, and sufficient logistics to support them.

-Without substantial protective measures, and without adequate intelligence, American troops only serve to provide targets for the enemy. How many Americans have died as a result of truck bombs (or a variant, the boat bomb), in the past twenty years? Yet our military leaders seem to have difficulty learning the lesson that technological prowess does little or nothing to blunt such an attack once it is launched. We have yet to address our vulnerability to such “asymmetric” forms of warfare. Intentions and warnings of an imminent attack would take away much of the enemy’s advantage (as opposed to vague advisories to the commander on the ground that “something may happen”), but we have to be paying attention in order to hear the “word on the street.”

-Extract a price for every atrocity committed against Americans. Those who organize and initiate attacks against American should be held accountable. They are valid and proper targets for a response. Their objectives should be impeded, their plans thwarted, their infrastructure reduced if not destroyed.

-Combating terrorism requires an on-going, sustaining effort. This can’t be done with only a few weeks’ effort, until the matter drops from the headlines. Our policy needs to be directed at anticipating and preventing acts of terror instead of reacting to them. Eliminating some of the world conditions that allow terrorism to fester should be a guiding principle of American foreign policy.

-Above all, don’t reward bad behavior. It is hypocritical, disgraceful, and ultimately counterproductive for the United States to deal with people who take American lives, as the Reagan administration did in the 1980s. Since the hostages proved to be useful bargaining chips, naturally, the terrorists simply took more hostages to replenish their supply. Despite the efforts of the Reagan administration to cover it up, and to divert the public’s attention, the failed arms-for-hostages swap was a clear demonstration of how vulnerable we are to manipulation by terrorists. This cycle must end.

If we fail to learn from the mistakes of the past, and fail to effectively engage the terrorists, then tragically and regrettably, those who gave their lives for the United States in recent years will have died in vain.

### Notes:

- 1) The internet rumor that arms-for-hostage trader Oliver North warned U.S. Senators of the threat from Al-Qaeda in 1987 is a fabrication.
- 2) Counted among the dead in Beirut on October 23, 1983 was a classmate of this author.



**The Alchemist:  
Business Ethics**



by  
**Al Thomas**

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al@mutualfund  
magic.com

There is much talk today about ethics in business – as there should be, but there should be more than talk; there should be a high moral code for all executives who are responsible to both their customers and their shareholders. I have been the president and CEO of one publicly owned company and also was president of another that was responsible to customers who traded equities.

This carries a high responsibility to all concerned. You have to be more than worried if you do something wrong because you will go to jail. You must have the desire to try to always do your best for everyone who works for you as well as all the customers or investors that deal with your company.

Ethics is supposed to be either black or white, right or wrong, but today it is many shades of grey. If any company does shady business you can be sure it starts at the top and filters down because the president is the one who sets the example for the actions of the entire company. This is as true for actions of our elected officials as it is for corporations or individuals. We have had some pretty sorry examples of that in Washington.

Each time there is a new scandal the public seems less disturbed. The recent disclosure that mutual funds have been allowing hedge funds and other large traders to take positions after the closing bell is a brutal example. Maybe investors are not aware that someone is writing checks on their account.

This is stolen money that is no different than a guy with a gun holding up a 7-11 store. Yes, the one difference is that the mutual funds have allowed millions of dollars to be siphoned off from those to whom they owed a fiduciary relationship. The fund manager is a crook and deserves jail time. He just took the money with a click of the computer keyboard and that was his weapon.

White collar crime deserves the same punishment as the guy with a gun. When you give a brokerage company, a mutual fund or any financial institution your money you expect, in fact, you demand, that they treat you fairly within the rules of the industry. When you are short-changed you should not accept it.

Because of the huge amounts of money available and accessible to people in the financial industry it is easy to understand how they can be tempted into criminal actions. That is why all publicly traded companies are required to have their books audited annually. Lately we have seen that even these audits are tainted. Investors rely upon the numbers set before them in order to make decisions about owning stock in a company. If the information is dishonest a proper decision cannot be made.

Today we are seeing another type of corporate officer being created. He is called the Governance Officer. It is his job to see that the company maintains high ethical standards. I applaud this action and hope he cannot be seduced by big bucks.

*Copyright Albert W. Thomas All rights reserved. Author of "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" www.mutualfundmagic.com comments to al@mutualfundmagic.com*



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

***Caffeine***

*by*

***Art Belefant***

***©2003***

***(belefant@juno.com)***

The word “Caffeine” (C<sub>8</sub>H<sub>10</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>) is derived from “coffee” in which it is found. It is a naturally occurring substance also found in other foods, particularly chocolate, tea, and cola, but sometimes added to other foods, chiefly beverages. Caffeine is ranked as the most widely used drug in the world followed by alcohol and cigarettes.

Coffee, tea, cacao, and kola, the principal delivery systems for caffeine, are so common world wide that their names are almost identical in all languages except for some variation in pronunciation and spelling. Other natural sources of caffeine, such as guarana and yerba-maté, are rarely found outside of the local regions in which they are grown, never the less, they do provide the major source of caffeine in those areas.

The original starting places of all of these beverages are diverse. Coffee originated in the Arabian Peninsula, tea in Asia, kola in Africa, and chocolate and yerba-maté in South America, each on a different continent or sub-continent. None are indigenous to Europe or North America, Coffee, Tea, and cocoa reached Europe at about the same time, cola sometime later, yet it was the Europeans and Americans who spread their use throughout the world.

Caffeine is a stimulant, keeping one awake, making one more alert, and combating drowsiness. Three of the four main sources of caffeine, coffee, tea, and kola, were first ingested by chewing or eating. In some places they still are. But it

was when they were turned into sweetened beverages that they became common around the world. Chocolate started out as a beverage and became popular when it was turned into a candy bar. It should be noted that the four main delivery systems for caffeine did not become popular until it was discovered that they taste infinitely better when sweetened. It is true that there are people that will drink their coffee or tea black, without sugar, but except for the Orientals, they are in the minority.

Caffeine is an addictive drug, but it has been used to reduce dependency on other, harder drugs, such as alcohol, morphine, and heroin. Coca-Cola has been used to cure hangovers. Coffee is the ultimate “pick-me-up”; many of us could not start the day without a cup or two of this morning brew. Tea also provides the same effect, although to a lesser ex-



tent. Cola drinks are used to help us carry on through the day.

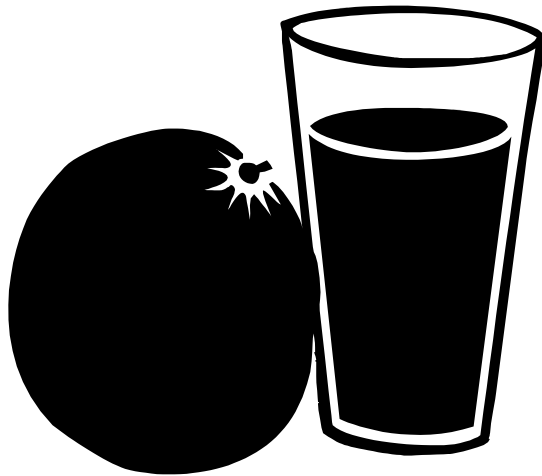
It is useful to compare the amount of caffeine in different drinks to gauge the effect that the drinks will have on us. Too much caffeine will prevent a good night's sleep and make us jumpy during the day. Too much caffeine may cause headaches, stomach irritation, or irregular heartbeats. Caffeine also inhibits the absorption and utilization of certain beneficial food ingredients, i.e. iron and vitamins B5, BH, and H.



The amounts of caffeine in various foods have been the subject of several studies and the results have been published in magazine and newspaper articles. These articles do not always agree exactly on the amount of caffeine made available, even standardized beverages such as Coca-Cola is often reported as having different amounts of caffeine, but this is especially true when discussing coffee and tea. This may be because

of differences in brewing methods and times, in the bean or leaf, the curing or roasting, and the size of the cup, most of which is not usually disclosed in the reports. However, generalizing the numbers from several reports, a good indication of the amount of caffeine in the cup can be determined. The numbers are the milligrams of caffeine cited for the particular beverage size.

Although the kola nut, from which the cola drinks derive their flavor, does have caffeine, the caffeine in the soft drinks is augmented. Orange juice has no natural caffeine; the difference between Sunkist and Minute Maid is notable. The source of the additional caffeine is the caffeine extracted from coffee to make decaffeinated coffee. True Coca-Cola classic had cocaine as one of its ingredients, that's the Coca part of its name. When the company was



forced to remove the cocaine from the beverage, the amount of caffeine in the formula was increased to retain the addictiveness of the drink. Coca derivatives are still used in the formula for its flavor, but the cocaine is removed. The cocaine that is removed is the primary source of legal cocaine in the U. S. used for medical purposes. Caffeine is added to other soft drinks for its stimulating and addictive effects.

**Caffeine Content of Some Popular Beverages:**

**Coffee, regular**

truck stop - 350  
 drip 6 oz. - 105  
 percolator 6 oz. - 75  
 instant 6 oz. - 60  
 flavored 6 oz. - 25 to 75  
 espresso 1 oz. - 50 to 100  
 latte grande - 150

**Coffee, decaffeinated**

drip 6 oz. - 2  
 percolator 6 oz. - 2  
 instant 6 oz. - 2  
 espresso 1 oz. - 5

**Tea, regular**

black 6 oz. - 40  
 instant 6 oz.- 30  
 green 6 oz. - 25  
 iced 12 oz. - 70

*Tea, decaffeinated - 1 to 5*

**Chocolate**

hot 8 oz. - 5  
 milk 8 oz. - 10

**Soft drinks**

Coca-Cola 12 oz. - 45  
 Diet Coke 12 oz. - 47  
 Pepsi-Cola 12 oz. - 37  
 Dr. Pepper 12 oz. - 41  
 Mountain Dew 12 oz. - 55  
 Sunkist Orange 12 oz. - 40  
 7-Up 12 oz. - 0  
 Sprite 12 oz. - 0  
 Minute Maid  
 Orange 12 oz. - 0

*To read further, see the following articles in SCAM:*

Coffee, May 1997; Tea, June 1995; Chocolate, September 1993, July 1997, February 1998.



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**Yet Another View**  
**The American Worker, Part II**  
by  
**Mike Moakley**

In Part One, in honor of the Labor Day holiday, I have attempted to briefly reflect the working conditions a typical American worker might have faced during the last century. In this part, we will look at the working conditions we have been facing over the last few years. While on the surface, we appear better off; is this really the case? More importantly, does America now respect its workers, as it proclaims every Labor Day? In Part One, I presented an example of the often bloody battles facing employees who wanted to organize a union. What happens today; are things better now? Smithfield Foods, the nation's largest pork producer, at its plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, provides one example of an employer's reaction to its employees when they try to organize:

*"Laboring amid bloody hog carcasses for low wages in sometimes-unsafe conditions, the 5,000 workers at Smithfield began coming together to form a union in 1993 with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 204. ... The fear and intimidation campaign climaxed the day of the August 1997 union election. "When workers arrived at the plant on the morning of the vote, they were met by Bladen County deputy sheriffs in riot gear," a New York Times article recounts. After the votes were counted, a melee ensued, with managers blaming union supporters for throwing the first punch. An NLRB administrative law judge ruled in December 2000 that Smithfield conspired with law enforcement officers to instigate violence at the vote count. (1)"*

On appeal, the December 2000 ruling was left intact, however the money damages ordered was rescinded. In essence, the court ruled that although Smithfield was in the wrong, it would effectively get away with it. If, as many now claim, unions are no longer relevant or needed in our economy, why do employers expend extraordinary energy and expense to keep them out? In Part One, we saw that employers of early in the last century generally had little regard for workplace safety. What about now; has this changed? The Jim Beam distillery in Shepherdsville, Kentucky provides a telling example of employers' current attitudes toward their employees' well-being:

*"Since October, line workers at the plant have been permitted to use the restroom only during lunch and two other times during the day: one before lunch and one after. They also are allowed one unscheduled toilet break per day, and can be disciplined for taking more, starting with a warning and escalating to dismissal after six incidents. ... The (United Food and Commercial Workers') union said 45 workers have been disciplined, some workers have begun wearing protective undergarments and others have urinated on themselves because they were afraid to leave the line. ... 'It's embarrassing to be a 36-year-old woman and have to justify your need to go to the bathroom,' said Krystal Ditto, who said she has been disciplined five times and is one unscheduled bathroom visit away from losing her job. ... Jo Anne Kelley, the union local's president, has worked at the Jim Beam plant for 34 years. She said the policy is degrading and that company officials have told some workers that they should "practice" going to the bathroom every two hours at home on the weekends to put themselves on a schedule.(2)"*

Finally, has America finally grown to respect and appreciate the very workers that make our country great? This is syndicated columnist Molly Ivins' take on it:

*"AUSTIN -- This poignant Labor Day, when the numbers are bad, the policies are worse and the jobs are disappearing, it's not so much the economy that riles me as the disrespect and the gratuitous contempt with which this administration treats working Americans. **The old insult to injury.** (emphasis mine) (3)"*

On the Bush Administration's policy regarding workers' safety and health:

*"For years (Bush appointee Eugene Scalia) attacked and mocked the very idea of repetitive stress injuries, calling them 'junk science' ... He has written that heavy lifting does not cause back strain and reported increases in repetitive stress injuries are caused by 'feeding frenzies.' ... Neither Mr. Scalia nor President Bush has ever held a job that involved physical labor. ... One of this administration's first actions was to repeal the ergonomic regulations that prevent repetitive stress. Two years later, the administration solved the entire problem with characteristic brilliance -- it revoked the provision requiring employers to report such injuries! ... Even better, he's solving the entire problem of workplace injuries and deaths by trying to weaken OSHA! A new House bill would reduce penalties and weaken OSHA's enforcement powers to correct safety and health standards. About six million American workers are injured on the job every year, and more die in workplace accidents annually than were killed during the Sept. 11 attacks. Ha, ha, ha, how funny, let's just have companies stop reporting these things. ... But I happen not to find thousands of dead and millions of injured workers annually funny. (3)"*

So, does America really respect or appreciate its working class? Molly Ivins says it best: *"No one doubts that this administration will continue to screw the workers of America -- but I'd appreciate it if they'd can the sarcasm in the meantime. (3)"*

I could not have said it any better.

### **Sources:**

1. "The Employer War", Laureen Lazarovici, [America @Work](#), August 2003
2. "Workers Picket For Bathroom Time", Wes Hyland, [Associated Press](#), August 28, 2003.
3. "George Bush versus Joe Sixpack", Molly Ivins, [Florida Today](#), September 1, 2003, page 13A.



**Editorial:**

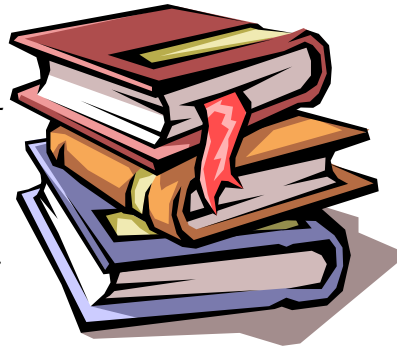
***The SCAM Continues!***

**By  
Mike Moakley**

Once again, SCAM has a new Editor – me. This is my first issue; hopefully, the first of many to come. You might have noticed that nowhere in this issue is a Thanksgiving message. Partly, this is due to the speed of putting this issue together, especially in the face of a computer crash that cost me 3 days! That being said let me extend to you and yours my best wishes for a happy and peaceful Thanksgiving, and for many more such Thanksgivings to follow.

Many of you probably already know me for my column that has been running in the SCAM for a little over a year. At this point, I still intend to continue writing my column and publishing it in the SCAM. Please note, as in the past, my column reflects the views I personally hold. As your Editor, I am finding it necessary to develop two personae: One as an opinionated columnist, and the other as an impartial Editor. The latter is consistent with Mensa's long-standing policy of holding no opinions.

At this time, I plan to continue the existing SCAM editorial policy as I understand it. The SCAM will continue to welcome ALL contributions by any member, expressing any view on any topic. The only exception to this is material that amounts to a personal attack, particularly on another Mensan, and offensive material. In this context, "offensive" does not mean "controversial" or an unpopular view. I welcome such views. I believe thoughtful discussion often requires controversial or unpopular views to be expressed. Therefore, I will always welcome such views.



As in the past, deadline for submissions to the SCAM is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the prior month. Any material received after the 10<sup>th</sup> will be considered for the following month's issue. I look forward to your contributions to the SCAM, as it belongs to all of us and not just the Editor. I cannot emphasize enough that the SCAM encourages members' contributions of all kinds.

One final note: To those who helped me make this issue possible, you have my deepest gratitude. To the ExComm, I truly appreciate your support and your confidence in me in selecting me to be Editor of the SCAM.





**The 10th Story**  
by  
**Elissa Rudolph,**  
**RVC10**  
[RVC10@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC10@us.mensa.org)

**Y**o, all of you loyal members of Mensa out there-our organization needs our coordinated, dedicated help. You may have already heard about Mensa's Certificate of Incorporation (American Mensa is incorporated in New York state) being out of sync with what we actually do and how we do it. It's true-we need to fix our CoI by amending it as quickly as we can.

The fix is in two parts: specifying a quorum for our annual meeting (ABM) and specifying the ways in which members can vote. To do this we need to have a majority of our members vote to amend the CoI. The most efficient way to vote is by proxy at the next ABM in July in Las Vegas. If you will not be there in person, you can vote by proxy. Between Nov. 1 and the July 2004 ABM, Mensa will conduct a campaign to gather proxies authorizing an attendee at the ABM to vote in favor of the amendment.

A vote approving the amendment of the CoI will resolve the inconsistency. For more details on how this happened and the solution proposed go to: <http://www.us.mensa.org/> and click on "proxy information." Or you can call or email me and I can help you understand the challenge. The November/December Bulletin will have a postage paid proxy postcard insert with instructions. Shouldn't be too much of a stretch to make this happen. We can do it-think of it as an opportunity to show how we can work together to resolve a glitch from long ago. Other than that little item, everything seems to be running smoothly. See you soon at a Florida gathering?

Coming Soon. great Mensa Gathering events!!

January 30, 31, February 1, Smarti Gras 2004, hosted by Central Florida Mensa, at the Holiday Inn Select, Orlando; registration fee: \$60 til 10/31/2003, includes meals except Sat. night; 24-hour hospitality; King cake, hurricanes & touffee, Olympic-sized hot tub, armchair treasure hunt, & more. Registrar: Eddie Truelove (407-855-9078), [etruelove@cfl.rr.com](mailto:etruelove@cfl.rr.com) .

February 13-15, ValenTime, hosted by Northwest Florida Mensa at the Holiday Inn of Destin; registration fee \$35 til Jan. 31; white sand beaches, lavish hospitality overlooking those Gulf of Mexico beaches, chocolate, games, speakers, & more. Registrar: John Mochan (850-863-3599), [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net).



***Minutes of  
the ExComm  
Meeting***

The ExComm met at the home of Helen Lee Moore on Sunday October 5, 2003.

Call to Order by Assistant LocSec Rita Johnson-Aronna at 4:05 p.m.

Members Present: Rita Johnson-Aronna, Helen Lee Moore and Joe Smith

Welcome Guests: Pat Aronna, Mike Moakley, Debbie Moakley and JP Morrison

Minutes for September 7, 2003 changed to reflect that there is no crisis for a lack of an editor – we have processes to take care of the situation. Losing any officer is not a crisis, at most it is an inconvenience. Also add transaction of the motion made by Helen Lee Moore to purchase software for the editor...motion failed for lack of second. Motion to accept modification of minutes by Helen Lee Moore...Second by Joe Smith – Pass unanimous

Treasurer's Report: Balance Report submitted to ExComm and entered into records

Correspondence: e-mail notification of ExComm of request for help from American Mensa Ltd to correct a technical inconsistency in our Certificate of Incorporation. Entered into record, letter from scholarship winner granting permission for SCAM to use her name for publicity surrounding our organization.

Sight: continuing with some regular visitors and several hosts.

SIG: averaging about 1 movie a month

Testing: No testers at Septembers Testing. 1 signed up for October and a couple of maybes.

Old Business: 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of Member Handbook submitted to ExComm by Helen Lee Moore. Copies to be e-mailed to ExComm.

New Business: Mike Moakley presented himself to the board with offer to be SCAM Editor. Motion to accept Mike Moakley as Editor made by Helen Lee Moore and seconded by Joe Smith – Passed Unanimously.

Motion to Adjourn made by Joe Smith, Second by Helen Lee Moore – Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 4:30 pm; Next Meeting at Joe's 11/2/03 at 4:00 p.m.

