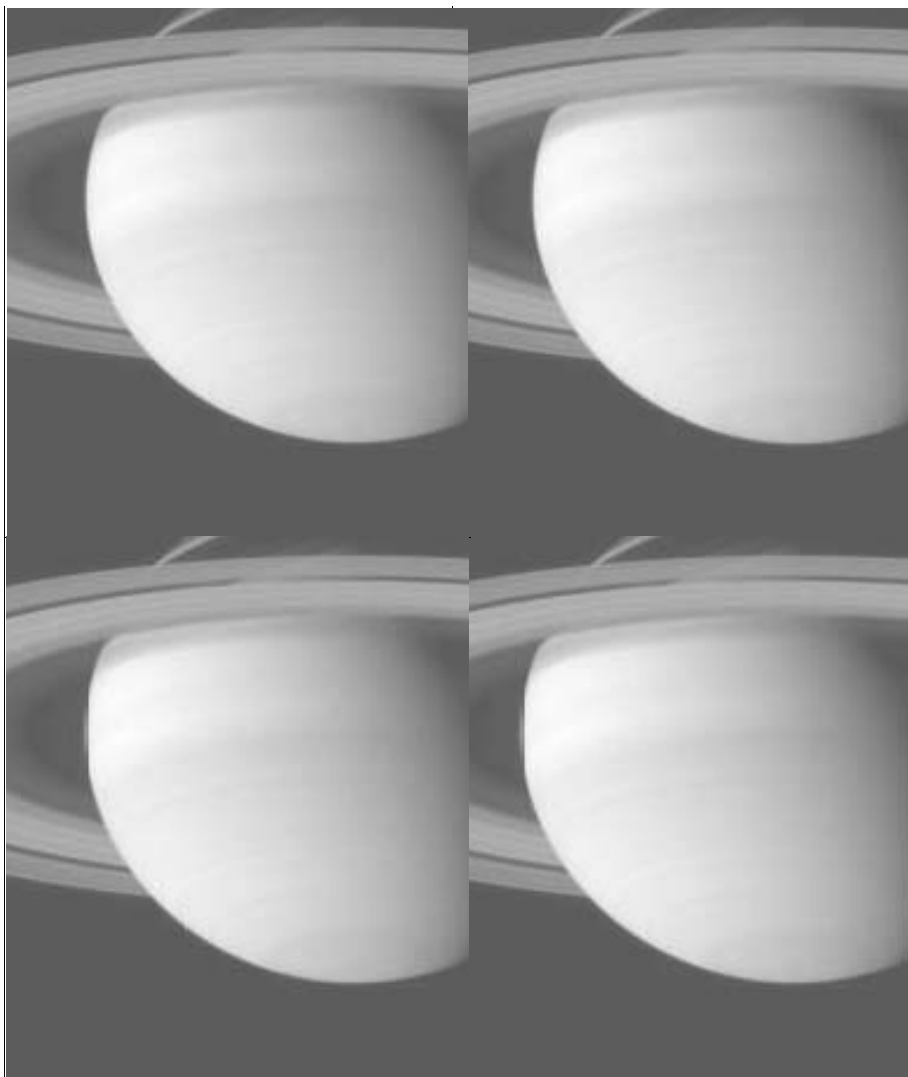


The

SCAM

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Volume 22, No. 9

September, 2004

The
SCAM
space coast area mensa
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**Scholarship
News!**

Announcing the **SCAM Scholarship for 2004!** The Jim Johnson/Doug Pearson Scholarship is available from Space Coast Area Mensa to a student from a local area college for \$500.00. Any student may qualify. Just submit an essay limited to 500 words, typed, double-spaced. Topic is: **How I Would Benefit from Receiving This Scholarship Award.**

Deadline is September 30, 2004. Student's name or personal information is not required. I would prefer some form of college ID number or number familiar to Financial Aid coordinator so selection can be based objectively from essay.

For more info or to submit essay, see contact info below:

—*Rita Johnson –Aronna,*
Scholarship chairperson
151 Nemo Circle NE
Palm Bay, FL 32907
e-mail patrita@worldnet.att.net

Note: Sue Caruso, SCAM Scholarship winner for 2003, graduated Valedictorian from Keiser College this year. Congratulations, Sue!

Editor's Note:

The SCAM belongs to the members of Space Coast Area Mensa. Accordingly, we welcome all material submitted for publication in The SCAM. The material may be on just about any subject. Controversial opinions or subjects are encouraged, as are rebuttals to any opinions published herein. The Editor retains the right to edit or reject any material, but will not exercise such prerogative to limit opinions or discussion of any topic.

All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. **All** submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears above.

**Clara Woodall-
Moran**

***DOGS DON'T KNOW
IT'S NOT BACON...***

Most Presidential election years I find people of this Country still have no idea how the whole thing works. What would happen if the candidates from the two major parties died while campaigning? The only place to go for the answer to this and any other question about the election process is to check out the real electors of the President and Vice President of the United States of America (because it surely is not the average person on the street), the Electoral College. <http://www.fec.gov/pages/ecworks.htm>.

There is nothing in the Constitution or any of our other governing documents stating we must have candidates from the two main political parties to have an election – the two parties we have now bear little resemblance to the early political parties from the formative years of this Nation, so these parties would not have been identified as the only valid political parties for this country. In fact, since we do not vote for the President directly, it is immaterial if there is even a candidate name listed. Some States would print the names of all of the Electors associated with a candidate, but that confused people so most just have: “electors for (Candidate Name)” because they do not want to lie to the American public.

Contrary to popular belief, therefore, we do not have a two party-system, Democratic and Republican. A person can be a valid candidate for President without the backing of any political party and there are several smaller but nonetheless valid parties running candidates. We are not merely tolerant of these “misguided souls who refuse to be categorized as a Democrat or Republican”; it is completely legal for these parties to present candidates (and, most importantly – electors to the Electoral College). Therefore, no purpose is served by not holding an election, even if the candidates for the two biggest parties are lost to some disaster. In fact, that would be against the Constitution.

As mentioned before, the ballots used to show all of the names of the electors who had sworn to vote for a particular candidate. All but two States use the “winner takes all approach” for sending Electors to the College, the other two states divide the numbers by percentages for each candidate. The Electoral College must have a clear-cut majority of votes for the President and Vice-President or the election is then turned over to the House of Representatives. There are date limitations when all of this voting and such must take place.

Electors for a candidate in one party can vote for a candidate in another, there is nothing to prevent this. If we had only to count the numbers of Electors garnered by each Candidate, we would not have to wait until December for the final vote from the Electoral College. Delegates to the Nominating Conventions would sometimes switch sides (because the Electors can do so) but that has been stopped by most States. However, the Electoral College rules did not change at the same time so the Electors are still able to vote as self-determined.

The process gets confusing to a lot of voters as they cannot sort out the

difference between the Conventions and the Electoral College. The Electoral College can vote more than once before turning over the election to the House. The Electors are not sworn so much to a candidate as they are to a party...hence a nominated candidate who cannot for some reason continue can be replaced without the nominating process having to be redone.

To interrupt the elections in this Country would require disrupting the College Electors on the day they are to cast their ballots, not the nominating process. Too bad the talk show hosts were sleeping during Civics class or they would know this.

Interestingly enough, the Electors vote separately for President and Vice-President. Hence, there is an unlikely chance of a President from one party and a Vice-President from another being elected together.

Deb's Corner

In the last few columns, I have written about "recycling". Not the usual kind, where we sort out different types of trash in brightly colored containers, but real recycling. Below are three examples:

The first should appeal to the many animal lovers out there. The *Animal Rescue Site*, an Internet group committed to helping our furry friends who have been abused or neglected, is now having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of getting free food donated. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on "feed an animal in need" for free. This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned and neglected animals in exchange for advertising. Their web site is: <http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com>

The second, www.freecycle.org, appeared in my last column. The site is for those of you who have all kinds of useful things that you don't need or want anymore, but would like to see put to a good use. It is also great if you are looking for something that you really need or would like to have...for free.

Finally, here in Brevard County, we have Friends of the Library, volunteers who work to help support our libraries. Have a bunch of books you'll never read again? Donate them to the Friends at any library. Would you like a cheap source of good reading? Come to one of the Friends' book sales at our libraries...and you will be supporting our libraries at the same time. Of course, you can also read for free... use your local library.

Thank you for visiting my corner. See you at the library!

deb

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



Ken Thornton-Smith

© 2004

The Wabasso Triangle:

**Episode 19-ish: FLORIDA: LAND OF THE FREE,
HOME OF THE RETENTION POND**

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying all known laws of physics and even that orange mold that grows in the showers, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again. This episode is probably void where prohibited by law.

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

But first, here's this month's gourmet food tip: Try shaking your box of Raisin Bran and then open the

packet from the bottom.

It was Monday, last Monday, when that indescribable sixth sense made me look up from my crossword. You either have it, or you don't, but that ineffable something is the lifeblood of any self-respecting detective. Some subcutaneous cosmic alert called my attention. It was just a hunch, but I looked up.

I was pretty sure was lunchtime, but at 10:15, that's close enough for the kind of girls I go out with. Or not, in the current case. Time to make an early start on lunch – the early bird catches the Fettuccini, that's what I say.

Today it was time to sample the epicurean delights at my old favourite, the **SHY KNEES RESTAURANT**. And just in case Mrs. Right is at the restaurant patiently waiting for yours truly in shining armor I better get out of these sneakers.

As you know, all real men name their sneakers. These particular ones are my gardening sneakers, always referred fondly to as my "biohazards". They were still on from my abortive lawn-mowing attempt this morning, which ended abruptly when the mower went south.

The moral is: Never use duct tape to hold the throttle open on a self-propelled lawnmower. The other moral is: If you live in Boynton Beach, can I have my mower back?

The **SHY KNEES RESTAURANT** was strangely quiet. In fact, being Monday, it was closed, that's how quiet it was.

I looked across the street. Not much choice in this part of town and my rumbling intestines don't have the patience for an extended food expedition. There was Cantina Dos Aminos, and you know how I feel about Mexican food, no pasta and another one of those countries that uses strong flavors to disguise the fact that their bread tastes like cardboard: Germany – pickled herring on black rye, Japan – wasabi on rice

cakes, Mexico – salsa on cardboard.

I looked next door to Dr Atkin's Donut Diner. No noodles. Not a lick of linguini; not a soupcon of spaghetti and not a rastro of rigatoni, but it would have to do.

Five minutes later, and about three mouthfuls into a miserable Bismarck, a dribble of custard came out the far end and landed on my shirt. I grabbed a spoon to scrape it off and glanced around to make sure no one was looking when, there, across the road, a huge black limousine drew up outside the **SHY KNEES RESTAURANT**.

It was supposed to be closed on a Monday, but something was going down. This can mean only one thing: the Wabasso Triangle has struck again. Like last Wednesday, when the laws of physics broke down until it rained so hard that two inches of brown water and a frog appeared in my bathtub.

Back at the limo, half a dozen Chinese climbed out and congregated on the sidewalk. I had no idea who could be this important. The lights came on, the restaurant doors swung wide and finally the passenger door on the limo opened and the mysterious Mr X. stood up.

He was considerably taller than his obsequious minions and half-way across the sidewalk he stopped and scanned the street, looking in my direction.

I recognized him instantly as his face appeared on countless InterPastaPol wanted posters. The mysterious Mr X. turned out to be Malcolm Eggs, leader of the infamous Chinese civil rights gang, the Black Pandas. What was he doing here, meeting with the Indian Liver Triad?

There wasn't a moment to waste if I was to foil another evil communist plot. I rushed across the street and casually strolled in the restaurant front door.

"Velly solly, restaurant closed today..."

I ignored him, grabbed a menu and sat down two tables away from Malcolm Eggs. Fortunately, they were far too busy to notice me. Years of Pasta Detective training finally paid off as I pretended to study the menu while listening in to their excited chatter. "What a pity it was all in Chinese... " I remember thinking to myself before everything went black.

"Aha, Misher Chianti, you wakey-up. I 'spect you know this your last wakey-up – you far too nosey to keep around. Do you have any final requests?"

So that was it, my time was up. I was tied to a chair in a restaurant kitchen confronted by my arch-enemy, Ho Lee Sheet, and didn't even get to finish the donut. Death, where is thy string? I kicked off my sneakers and leaned back. This was one time I would appreciate the High Priest of Halitosis, Detective Inspector "Raving" Ravioli of the Serious

Pasta Crimes Squad breathing down my neck.

“Only one,“ I replied deviously, “I’ve been meaning to ask your opinion about Gregorian Chants. My theory is – Ian did it. Or was it Greg?”

“You not funny any more, Chianti. As you not live to tell the tale, I tell you the lest of story.”

“First, you are familiar with candidates in up and coming Plesidential Election?”

“Of course.” I nodded. Actually, I had no idea there was an election coming. I have far more important things to worry about than who the president is this week. As far as I’m concerned, unless it’s on the crossword page then it’s totally off the grid.

“We plan to disrupt the erection. First, there might be an unfortunate accident that means the vice plesidential candidate will be replaced by someone, let’s say, of the slopey persuasion and then,“ he leaned close and coughed, “then, just before erection we will embarrass the plesident and...” And that was it, he fell down, clutching his throat.

Two henchmen stepped forward and grabbed him by the shoulders but they too coughed and collapsed on the floor. Another joined them, then Malcolm Eggs and four bodyguards, three waiters, the chefs and finally the restaurant owner, Sin Lo. The kitchen would look mighty crowded if they weren’t all lying on the floor.

Just then, the owner of Dr Atkin’s Donut Diner stood in the doorway and pointed, “That’s him, officer, that’s the man. He – cough – ran off without paying.” Mr. Donuts sank gracefully to his knees before falling forward onto the other bodies.

“What the hell happened here?” In walked Detective Inspector Ravioli of the Serious Pasta Crimes Squad, “Chianti, are you okay? And – what’s that awful stink?”

They cordoned off the crime scene, arresting the heads of the Indian Liver Triad and the Black Pandas, but it wasn’t until forensics put my gardening sneakers into a polythene bag that we found out what really happened.

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.

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The Alchemist:

***MORE WINDOW
DRESSING***



Al Thomas

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***al@mutualfund
magic.com***

Two weeks ago I wrote about what the Securities and Exchange Commission was doing to regulate the mutual fund industry to help the small investor, the “poor folks”. It really added up to zero. Now the SEC is going to make new regulations for hedge funds to protect the rich folks. And it is more window dressing. In fact, it looks downright stupid. When I say rich folks it is because in order to qualify to invest in a hedge fund you must have assets of one million dollars and income of \$200,000 per year for a single person and \$300,000 for a couple. With this kind of money you can hire an attorney or financial expert to read the hedge fund document. Furthermore, the major investors in hedge funds are not little investors, but pension plans, endowments and universities that are supposed to be administered by professionals.

The SEC says they want to put in regulations to help prevent fraud. Hey, you guys, what about all the fraud you did NOT find in the regular mutual fund industry? They missed multimillions of fraud in standard “poor folks” mutual funds and now they want regulations to protect the rich folks. All this will do is create more useless expensive jobs in Washington. Every time you hire a new government worker it is the same as putting more tax on everyone, rich and poor.

The Senate Banking Committee voted it in by a 3 to 2 committee decision. Three Democrats for and 2 Republicans against. It is the usual liberal Democrat who wants “feel good” legislation that does no good, but tells the public “we care”. Such expensive nonsense. And how are they going to put this new regulation into effect? More paperwork without question. The funds would be required to hire a Compliance Officer who would write out a set of trading procedures and a code of ethics. Because I have owned a regulated brokerage company I can tell you this is a pile of BS. The new compliance officer is paid by management. He is a toothless tiger. And the SEC will come to do an on-site audit every 2 to 5 years. Because my company was in Florida they did not show up until January or February.

What is most interesting is that there were only 46 hedge fund fraud cases during the past 5 years involving about one billion dollar. In an industry with more than \$800 billion in assets this is a spit. Let the rich folks sue and don't burden us “poor” taxpayers. This new regulation means nothing and is merely a first step for more stringent rules to follow. It is another additional cost of doing business and adds to our taxes.

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Mike Moakley

Bush II: The
“Taliban Candi-
date”?

“WAR IS PEACE
FREEDOM IS SLAVERY
IGNORANCE IS STRENGTH”

George Orwell, 1984

All too often, life imitates the movies and vice-versa. Certainly, the last 3-1/2 years under the Bush II regime bears this out. Back toward the latter part of June, I went to see Michael Moore’s Fahrenheit 9/11. During the same time frame, I had been reading Craig Unger’s most informative book, House of Bush, House of Saud. Both the movie and the book focused on the too-close ties that have existed for decades between America’s most powerful family and the ruling family of Saudi Arabia. Both suggest that these ties seriously conflict with America’s vital interests, including, but not limited to national security.

What was most eye opening, however, are the close business ties between the Bushes and the Bin Ladens. Is it too much of a stretch to suggest that this puts the relationship between the “Wartime President” and the tragedy of September 11, 2001 in a whole new light? For that matter, could there be any sort of alliance between our modern conservative movement that proposes to force upon fellow Americans their brand of Christian values and the radical Islamic Jihad movements that appear bent on destroying those ‘infidels’ who do not wish to subscribe to their brand of morality?

What follows are some interesting and, to me, disturbing, facts. The following passages relate to Bush II’s 2000 Presidential campaign:

“The close relationship between the two great dynasties was not the only factor that might interfere with Bush’s acting against the growing terrorist threat. Republicans had just woken up to the fact that there were roughly 7 million Muslims in America ... Bush campaign strategist Grover Norquist came up with an aggressive plan to win them over by making alliances with groups run by Islamic fundamentalists. ... As the president of Americans for Tax Reform, Norquist was a founding member of the Islamic Institute, a nonprofit foundation promoting Muslim political movements. ... the Republicans could make the case that Bush’s ties to the oil lobby made him more receptive to Arab and Muslim concerns.” (1)

“On March 12, 2000, Bush and his wife, Laura, met with more Muslim leaders at a local mosque in Tampa, Florida. Among them was Sami Al-Arian, a Kuwaiti-born Palestinian who was an associate professor of engineering at the University of South Florida. ... Sami Al-Arian vowed to campaign for Bush—and he soon made good on his promise in mosques all over Florida. ...

But Al-Arian had unusual credentials for a Bush campaigner. Since 1995, as

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the founder and chairman of the board of World and Islam Enterprise (WISE), ... Al-Arian had been under investigation by the FBI for his associations with Islamic Jihad ... Al-Arian brought in Ramadan Abdullah Shallah, ... to be the director of WISE. A strong advocate of suicide bombing against Israel, Shallah was allegedly responsible for killing scores of Israelis in such attacks.” (1)

The following passages relate to the terrorist threat and the relevant Bush Administration policies in the months prior to the September 11 attack:

“On April 18, U.S. Airlines got a memo from the FAA warning that they should demonstrate a ‘high degree of alertness’ because Middle Eastern terrorists might try to hijack or blow up an American plane. ... Likewise, beginning in May, over a two month period, the National Security Agency reported ‘at least thirty-three communications indicating a possible, imminent terrorist attack.’” (2)

“... In May, Colin Powell announced that the United States was actually giving \$43 million to the Taliban because of its policies against growing opium. (1)

“Enslave your girls and women, harbor anti-U.S. terrorists, destroy every vestige of civilization in your homeland, and the Bush Administration will embrace you. All that matters is that you line up as an ally in the drug war... Never mind that Osama bin Laden still operates the leading anti-American terror operation from his base in Afghanistan, from which, ... he launched two bloody attacks on American embassies in Africa in 1998.” (3)

“Then, in June, the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia initiated ... its new Visa Express program would allow any Saudi to obtain a visa to the United States—without actually appearing at the consulate in person. ... But Saudi Arabia was to be the only nation to enjoy the privileges of this new program, launched, in the most fertile breeding ground for terrorists in the world, for a simple reason: convenience.” (4)

Of course, we now know that most of the terrorists involved in the 9/11 attacks were Saudi nationals. Since the War on Iraq is apparently an integral part of the current Administration’s “War on Terror”, it is only fitting that we briefly examine that issue. According to the Project for a New American Century, of which signatories include Vice-Pres. Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, explaining the need to take over Iraq:

“...the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein.” (5) Yet, the policy was so radical that even its authors realized that it would be impossible to implement ‘absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor.’” (5) Or ... like “9/11”. So, what does this all mean? A fairly recent Op-Ed piece in the New York Times offers a rather interesting scenario:

“In the original version of ‘The Manchurian Candidate,’ Senator John Ise-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

lin, whom Chinese agents are plotting to put in the White House, is a right-wing demagogue modeled on Senator Joseph McCarthy. As Roger Ebert wrote, the plan is to 'use anticommunist hysteria as a cover for a Communist takeover'." (6)

The Op-Ed continues: "The Arabian Candidate wouldn't openly help terrorists. Instead, he would serve their cause while pretending to be their enemy. After an attack, he would strike back at the terrorist base, ... but botch the follow-up, allowing the terrorist leaders to escape. ... Meanwhile, he would lead America into a war against a country that posed no imminent threat. He would insinuate, without saying anything literally false, that it was somehow responsible for the terrorist attack." (6)

How shall we conclude? Is Bush II the "Taliban Candidate," pretending to declare a War on Terrorism while actually supporting those same terrorists? The evidence shows close business and personal ties between the Bush family and the Saudis (including the Bin Ladens). Key Administration figures (for example our VP Dick Cheney) likewise have a compelling business interest in the Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia receives obviously preferential treatment from the current Administration (example: Secret Service protection of the Saudi Embassy, a privilege not extended to other embassies).

Saudi Arabia is the most prominent source of Islamic terrorists that, despite the too many promises made over the years, consistently shows no evidence of changing course. Some of Bush II's prominent Islamic supporters in his 2000 campaign turned out to have terrorist ties. Does this evidence suggest that Bush II is NOT the "Warrior on Terror" he holds himself to be, but instead, the "Taliban Candidate"? As Bush II's reelection bid draws near, we need to at least ask that and other difficult questions. However, I find I must leave it to the reader to draw his own conclusions.

Sources:

1. Unger, Craig, *House of Bush, House of Saud*, 2004, Scribner.
2. Jonathan D. Salant, Associated Press, May 18, 2002.
3. "Joint Inquiry Staff Statement, Part 1," Eleanor Hill, Staff Director, Joint Inquiry Staff, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Sept. 18, 2002
4. Robert Scheer, "Bush's Faustian Deal with the Taliban" *Los Angeles Times*, May 22, 2001.
5. "Rebuilding America's Defenses", Project for a New American Century.
6. Paul Krugman, "The Arabian Candidate," *New York Times*, July 20, 2004.

KAT CALLS



Katherine Cochrane
Katherine@cd-info.com

As you can see, this column has a new name, thanks to our creative editor, Mike Moakley. Since I'm doing things besides the calendar, it seems appropriate to have a broader title, and this one seems to fit. Thanks, Mike!

If you peruse the calendar listings with attention this month, you'll notice something new. In both the printed newsletter and the online calendar (which you can find easily from a link on our homepage at <http://spacecoastareamensa.org>) all email addresses are now aliases at spacecoastareamensa.org. There are several reasons for this. First, it protects the privacy of volunteers who graciously give their time to our organization. Second, it makes it easier for the webmaster (me) to keep email addresses up to date in the website when offices or positions change hands; all I have to do is change the email forwarding address, not every instance of the address in the whole website. (*Ed. Note: We are gradually progressing toward this goal; we are not quite there, yet.*)

Finally, it might make it easier to send email to the appropriate person by function, instead of having to keep an org chart in your head. You only need to remember what activity you're interested in, and find the matching address. When the website is redesigned (in progress), I'll add a page with a list of all the email addresses and who they go to at the moment to make this a bit easier. For now, though, just refer to the newsletter to find addresses.

Which brings me to the Website. Yes, we are really using our own domain name now (SpaceCoastAreaMensa.org). I've moved all the files to the new server where the domain is being hosted, which offers a lot more administrative capabilities than we had at the old one. The site at <http://spacecoastareamensa.tripod.com> will remain online for a few months, but it will not be updated except to post a page telling readers to go to the newly updated spacecoastareamensa.org site.

Please update your bookmarks! As time goes on, many changes will become evident, so by all means check it out from time to time.

I'd like to remind everyone that the deadline for activities to be published in the calendar is at 5 pm on the 8th of every

(Continued on page 15)



COME ONE - COME ALL

TO THE 2004 SCAM OCTOBER MASQUERADE RG
ON THE BEACH IN BEAUTIFUL INDIALANTIC
FLORIDA

*It's that time again to dust off that old
mask and polish up your favorite cos-
tume props and get ready for another
fun-filled, never know what to expect,*

not your ordinary, SCAM RG.

*Once again, our favorite hotel on the beach, The Holiday Inn,
Oceanfront, has rolled out the red carpet for us .*

*They have renovated our favorite Penthouse and are
getting everything ready to ensure that the weekend
will be one long remembered.*



**Standard Room Rates are \$70.00 a night for up to four RG'ers.
Oceanfront Rooms are \$93.00 a night for the same number as well as
some Suites available for \$155.00 a night. Rates are guaranteed thru
10/08. Call 1-800-465-4329. Group Code MNS**

**The Hotel will be serving a Saturday Night Deluxe Buffet for \$28.00
and a Sunday Morning Brunch for \$15.00. A combo meal plan for
\$40.00 is available. All meal prices include gratuities and tax.**

**Registration starts at \$40.00 thru 09/30/04, \$45.00 from 10/01/04
thru 10/21/04 and \$55.00 at the door. Day rates will be available and,
as always, registration fees will be cheerfully refunded.**

*October 22, 23, 24 SCAM October Masquerade RG
AT the Holiday Inn, Oceanfront Resort*

**2605 N. Highway A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903
(321) 777-4100 or (800) 465-4329**

Make Checks Payable to : Space Coast Area Mensa

**J.T. Moran, Registrar
P.O. Box 457
Sharpes, FL 32959-0457
morwood@cfl.rr.com
(321) 632-0854**

September 2004 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

14th	6:00PM	Firearms-Fried Rice
Friday	Shooting/Meal/Beverage	NS
The GunSight in Merritt Island (Sykes Creek Rd) for the Shooting and New Century		

Regular Events

These are so popular that we do them all the time. Why not come out and join the fun?

C.A.B.A.G.E. North: Mon., the 13th & 27th.
Barnes and Noble, across from Merritt Sq. Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg*, 633-1636
 Cabagenorth@spacecoastareamensa.org

C.A.B.A.G.E. North: Wed., the 8th & 22nd.
Books-A-Million, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg*
 Cabagenorth@spacecoastareamensa.org

C.A.B.A.G.E. South: Wed., the 15th & 29th.
House of Joe, 1224 W. New Haven Ave., Melb.
6 p.m. Host: *Katherine Cochrane*
 Cabagesouth@spacecoastareamensa.org

Coffee, Etc.: Wed., the 1st.
House of Joe, 1224 W. New Haven Ave., Melb.
6 p.m. Host: *Trish Thornton*
 Coffeete@spacecoastareamensa.org

ExComm Meeting: Tues. the 7th at 5:30 p.m.
 Please see the **ExComm Minutes** inside back cover for location and contact info.

Mensa Entrance Exam: Sat. the 11th.
 Cape Canaveral Hospital Resource Center.
 Please bring ID with you. **Fee: \$30.**
12:30 p.m. Contact: *Helen Lee Moore*
 Testing@spacecoastareamensa.org

Brunch with Jim: Sun. the 19th.
Colossus Restaurant, 380 N. Wickham Rd.,
 Melbourne
11 a.m. Host: *Jim Trammel* 242-8985

S.N.O.R.T.: Sat., the 25th.
Miyako's, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melb.
6 p.m. Info: *snort@spacecoastaresmensa.org*

This Month's Featured Events

11th	Various Show Times	Roxy Cheep Flix
Saturday	\$1.00 plus popcorn	NS
Please call Rita before 12 Noon for movie selections and times. You can have movies and afford the popcorn, too. Good event for families. Several shows from which to choose.		
Rita Johnson-Aronna	676-5999	<i>patrita@workdnet.att.net</i>

18th	1:00 p.m.	What are you Reading?
Saturday	\$3.00	NS
Come join our book discussion group. Bring one or two books you are currently reading to share your opinions of them, good OR bad. 1697 Willard Rd. NW, Palm Bay.		
Katherine Cochrane	432-9703	<i>katherine@cd-info.com</i>

(Continued on page 15)

Featured Events (Continued)

(Continued from page 14)

20th Monday	6:00PM Shooting/Meal/Beverage	Firearms-Fried Rice NS
The GunSite in Merritt Island (South Banana River Drive) for the Shooting and New Century Buffet on Courtney Parkway on Merritt Island, FL at 7PM for Fried Rice and more.		
JT Moran	632-0854	<i>morwood@cfl.rr.com</i>

Reminders!

Calendar Deadline is the **8th** of the month at **5 p.m.** If you would like to host any events next month, please be sure Katherine gets this info by this time.

Newsletter Deadline is the **10th** of the month at **5 p.m.** All other items to be published in next month's SCAM must be in Mike's hands by this time.


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month. This is a couple of days ahead of the newsletter deadline so I have time to do any necessary "coordination" before sending the completed work to Mike.

However, you don't have to wait until the deadline. All changes and additions are posted to the online calendar as I receive them.

Cheers,

K@ <calendar@spacecoastareamensa.org>

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**The Gourmet's
Guide:**

©2004

Art Belefant

**New Orleans, Part
Three:**

COOKING SCHOOL

After dining in Antoine's and Arnaud's, the foremost restaurants of French *haute cuisine* in New Orleans, Rita and I decided to sample the local Cajun and Creole cooking. Rather than going to a restaurant and selecting dishes from a menu, we decided to go to one of the several cooking schools in New Orleans to see how the dishes were prepared.

The demonstrations are given twice each day, before noon and before dinnertime. We knew that, without asking, that after watching the preparations we would be given the dishes to eat. We chose this particular time and place to attend because at this demonstration pralines were to be made, and Rita loves pralines. This was to be a meal and education all in one.

The New Orleans School of Cooking is located at 524 St. Louis Street behind the Louisiana General Store. The store sells herbs, spices, and seasonings used in Cajun and Creole cooking.

Following are the dishes that were prepared and their recipes. The recipes are as given to us with some minor modifications to accommodate the availability of ingredients in Florida and to incorporate some of the comments of the cooking master, Ann. Also I added a few comments of my own.

Ann was the demonstrator assisted by Marie. She is an outstanding raconteur and knowledgeable about all things food and cooking, which makes her an ideal person to demonstrate the cooking. As proof of that, all the dishes that she prepared were excellent.

GUMBO

The name of this dish is derived from an African name for okra. The recipe given contains no okra, as Ann prefers it that way. Yet, how much more authentic could it be as it was presented by The New Orleans School of Cooking.

INGREDIENTS:

1 C. oil (Lard or bacon drippings are traditional. Do not use butter or olive oil, butter will not make a roux and olive oil will impart a flavor not consistent with the dish. Vegetable oil or shortening may be used.)

1 chicken, cut up or boned (Use dark meat only. White meat cooks up too dry.)

1½ lbs. Andouille Sausage (Italian or Polish sausage will make an acceptable substitution. The flavors won't be exactly the same, but I think

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that they will do.)

1 C. flour

4 C. chopped onions

2 C. chopped celery

2 C. chopped green pepper

1 Tbsp. chopped garlic

8 C. chicken stock

2 C. chopped green onions

Cooked Rice

Joe's Stuff seasoning (In lieu of this packaged seasoning, which can be obtained from the Louisiana General Store, the following herbs and spices can be used; equal quantities of garlic powder, basil, marjoram, thyme, parsley, savory, mace, sage, onion powder, and black pepper plus chili pepper depending on how hot you want the dish to be. The recommended amount is one half as much as any of the other spices. If all these herbs and spices are not available, I think the omission of one or more would not be noticeable.)

Filé Also not used in Ann's demonstration. (A fine green powder of young, dried, ground sassafras leaves, used in gumbo for flavor and thickening. It may be placed on the table for individuals to add to their gumbo if they wish. 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. per serving is recommended.)

These quantities will provide 15 to 20 servings. Multiply or divide as necessary.

METHOD

Brown chicken in oil over medium heat. Add sausage to pot and sauté with the chicken. Remove both from the pot.

Make a roux with equal parts of oil (must be free of food particles to avoid burning) and flour to desired color. The roux should be cooked to a dark brown-sugar color.

Add onions, celery, and green pepper. Add garlic to the mixture and stir continuously. After the vegetables reach the desired tenderness, return the chicken and sausage to the pot and cook with the vegetables, continuing to stir frequently. Gradually stir in liquid and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to simmer and cook for an hour or more. Season to taste with Joe's Stuff seasoning or herb and spice mixture noted above.

Approximately 10 minutes before serving, add green onions.

If you want to add some seafood, add it to the pot during the last five min-

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utes.

Serve gumbo over rice or without rice, accompanied by French bread.

JAMBALAYA

The origins of the name are obscure. Some derive the name from the French word for ham – *jambon*. That the dish is similar, in some respects, to the Spanish *paella* is obvious, but that doesn't necessarily indicate a connection. It may have an entirely separate origin.

INGREDIENTS:

1/4 C. oil (See note above for oil)

1 cooked chicken, cut up or boned

1-1/2 lbs. sausage (See note above for sausage)

2 heaping tsp. Joe's Stuff seasoning (See note above for herbs and spices)

4 C. chopped onions

2 C. chopped celery

2 C. chopped green pepper

1 Tbsp. chopped garlic

4 C. long grain rice

5 C. chicken stock

4 C. long gain rice

2 C. chopped tomatoes

These quantities will provide 12 servings. Multiply or divide as necessary.

METHOD:

Brown chicken in oil over medium to high heat. Add sausage to pot and sauté with the chicken. Remove both from pot. For brown Jambalaya, either add heaping Tbsp. brown sugar to hot oil and caramelize or make a roux (See note above for roux). For red Jambalaya, add paprika for color. Sauté onions, celery, green pepper, and garlic to the tenderness that you desire. Return chicken and sausage to the pot. Add liquid and Joe's Stuff and bring to a boil.

For red Jambalaya, add approximately 1/4-cup paprika. Add rice and return to boil. Cover and reduce heat to simmer. Cook for a total of 25 minutes. After 10 minutes of cooking, remove cover and quickly turn rice from top to bottom completely. Add green onions and chopped tomatoes if desired. Cook for a total of 25 minutes, turning completely after 10 minutes. If using an electric stove, reduce cooking time by 3-4 minutes.

For seafood Jambalaya, add cooked seafood when rice is turned.

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BREAD PUDDING

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 10 oz. loaf stale French bread** crumbled (or 6-8 C. any type bread)
- 4 C. milk**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 3 eggs**
- 8 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 1 C. raisins**
- 1 C. coconut**
- 2 C. Sugar**
- 1 C. chopped Pecans**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 tsp. nutmeg**

METHOD:

Combine all ingredients. The mixture should be very moist but not soupy. Pour into buttered 9" X 12" baking dish or larger. Place into a non-preheated oven. Bake at 350 degrees for approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes, until the top is golden brown. Serve warm with sauce.

This will serve 16 to 20 people

WHISKEY SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 Tbsp. butter** (1 stick)
- 1 1/2 C. powdered Sugar**
- 2 egg yolks** (Put the egg whites in the bread pudding.)
- 1/2 C. bourbon** (to taste)

METHOD:

Cream butter and sugar over medium heat until all butter is absorbed. Remove from heat and blend in egg yolks. Pour in bourbon gradually to your own taste, stirring constantly. Sauce will thicken as it cools. Serve warm over warm bread pudding.

NOTE: For a variety of sauces, just substitute your favorite fruit juice or liqueur to complement your bread pudding.

PRALINES

Creole confections occupy a unique position in the United States; the most popular of these is the praline. Pralines derive their name from Marshal Luplesis-Praslin (1598-1695) and his butler's recipe for almonds coated in sugar, used as a digestive aid. When Louisiana was settled by French colonists, native pecans were substituted for almonds.

No lengths were spared by the Creoles to achieve perfection in candy making. Along with their vast collection of Creole recipes, cooks had their own secret method for making the best pralines, which they guarded carefully and handed down from generation to generation.

Today, pralines are as many and varied as they were in the very beginning.

INGREDIENTS:

1-1/2 C. sugar

6 Tbsp. butter (3/4 stick)

3/4 C. light brown sugar, packed

1/2 C. milk

1-1/2 C. pecans, (roasted optional)

1 Tsp. vanilla

METHOD:

Combine all ingredients and bring to a "softball stage" (238 — 240 degrees), stirring constantly. (When you place a spoonful into glass of water and it sticks to the side.) Softball stage is reached sometime after three minutes of a rolling boil. Remove from heat.

Stir until mixture thickens, becomes creamy and cloudy, and pecans stay suspended in mixture. Spoon out on buttered waxed paper, aluminum foil, or parchment paper. When using waxed paper, be sure to buffer with newspaper underneath, as the hot wax will transfer to whatever is beneath.

NOTE: To roast pecans, bake them on a sheet pan at 275 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes, until slightly browned and fragrant. Do not double the recipe. This recipe makes up to 50 pralines depending on the size. Pralines stay fresh for about three days.

A View... From Somewhere Else

©2004

Hank Rhodes

"SILENCE IS GOLDEN"

History and Literature are full of examples of courageous people who speak up and speak out for the public interest. Since the beginning of civilization, such a person has been appreciated, admired, even held up as a model for emulation.

Regrettably, the exceptions to this noble tradition are found in 21st century America. It now seems that such a person is to be despised, silenced, and if possible, destroyed.

To the growing list of names that include Richard Clark, Paul O'Neill, Eric Shinseki, and Joseph Wilson, we can add a new entry: Teresa Chambers.

Until recently, Teresa Chambers was the Chief of the United States Park Police. This agency is comprised of over 600 members and is a component of the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior. The officers of the U.S. Park Police are responsible for law enforcement at the many monuments, memorials, and other public places in the nation's capital, such as the George Washington Parkway and Rock Creek Park (where the remains of Chandra Levy were eventually found). The U.S. Park Police also assure security at designated landmarks outside the metropolitan Washington area, including the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. Thus, the uniformed officers of the U.S. Park Police are literally the guardians of our treasured national symbols, which are obviously desirable targets for terrorists.

Chief Chambers was hired to fill this important position in February 2002, after a long and distinguished career as a law-enforcement officer, serving most recently as the Chief of Police for Durham, North Carolina.

For most of her tenure, Chief Chambers enjoyed good relations with her supervisor and upper management at the Department of the Interior. Endorsements of her performance were expressed in an informal fashion, such as congratulatory notes and e-mails following major events. Typical of someone in a high profile position, Chief Chambers had frequent contact with members of the media, a practice which was encouraged by her superiors. Additionally, she was encouraged to develop working relationships with members of the Congressional staff. Surprisingly, Chief Chambers never received any formal feedback on her job performance, such as periodic counseling sessions or annual appraisals.

Chief Chambers' troubles began in the Summer of 2003 when she began to raise serious concerns regarding funding and staffing at the U.S. Park Police. Due to the threat of terrorism, resources had been shifted to the more visible sites, reducing the police presence in other areas. This reallocation of resources had consequences. For example, the

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increase in traffic accidents on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway showed a correlation with the reduction of U.S. Park Police enforcement there. Criminal activity increased at less prominent parks in the metropolitan Washington area. Homeland Security directives resulted in significant unfunded overtime requirements. Additionally, the organization's helicopter and radio communication system required upgrades.

While Chief Chambers attempted to effect some efficiencies in staffing, it was clear that the U.S. Park Police was an agency approaching a crisis, and in danger of a catastrophic failure.

Despite Chief Chambers' repeated warnings, her supervisors failed to allocate additional resources, nor did they reduce the mandates levied upon Chief Chambers and her agency. When her management finally did respond, it was by the hackneyed bureaucratic dodge of accusing Chief Chambers of failing to be "a team player."

Within a few months, Chief Chambers' primary staff assistant for fiscal matters was arbitrarily reassigned. Another critical financial position was left unfilled as a result of delaying tactics on the part of upper management. Budgetary decisions were made without Chief Chambers' input, using inaccurate and erroneous data. Several of Chief Chambers' trusted subordinates, who like her were new to the federal government, were subjected to harassing personnel actions.

In late 2003, Chief Chambers' predicament worsened dramatically based on three incidents:

- In early November, Chief Chambers contacted a staff member of the Interior Appropriations Committee, with whom she had previously established a working relationship. The subject was identifying a means to comply with another unfunded mandate.
- In late November, during a nationwide National Park Service conference call, Chief Chambers' supervisor publicly criticized her for the budgetary crisis. Chief Chambers was not a part of this meeting, but several subordinates and sympathetic persons were present. Upon learning of this dishonest and unprofessional conduct on the part of her supervisor from several sources, Chief Chambers filed a complaint on December 2.
- Also on December 2, *The Washington Post* published a story entitled "Park Police Duties Exceed Staffing." This story was based partially on an interview conducted with Chief Chambers in late November. Chief Chambers had honestly answered the re-

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porter's questions regarding the fiscal and budgetary shortfalls impacting the U.S. Park Police.

On December 5, Chief Chambers was lured to her supervisor's office under the pretext of a meeting. Instead, she was placed on administrative leave and given notice that she would be recommended for termination. She was stripped of her badge and side arm by armed special agents of the National Park Service. To compound her humiliation, she was paraded in custody before her subordinates.

On December 12, Chief Chambers' supervisor offered to drop all charges based on several preconditions, including prior clearance of all communication with the media and Congress. Chief Chambers wisely and courageously declined this Faustian bargain. Only on December 18 did Chief Chambers actually see the spurious charges against her—improper communication with the media and congress, and insubordination. Additionally, the charges resurrected an incident from 2002, when a misunderstanding arose over the usage of a government vehicle. Without any guidance provided by the National Park Service, Chief Chambers had simply followed previous practices from her law enforcement career. The issue had been originally dismissed as a case of an overzealous inspector general.

After a period of over seven months paid leave, during which she contested her treatment by administrative and legal means, Chief Chambers was fired on July 9, 2004.

For refusing to lie and ignore serious problems, and for refusing to allow greater risk to the public, Teresa Chambers has been rewarded with professional and financial disaster.

We are fortunate that there are still people serving in government who are willing to tell us the truth, that all is not well, and that if we expect to be safe, we will need to sacrifice more. Considering the example made of Chief Chambers, however, one wonders how long this will be true.

Sources:

"National Park Service fires police chief," *Florida Today* July 10, 2004 p.4A

Various postings at www.honestchief.com

Various postings at www.peer.org

**A View
from the Right:**

J.T. Moran
(morwood@cfl.tx.com)

**Lying Liars and
the Fools Who
Believe Them**

The Democrat convention is finally over, and what did we get to see and learn from it?

Well, as best as I can tell, it came out as:

- (1) John Kerry served in Vietnam;
- (2) John Kerry was wounded in Vietnam;
- (3) John Kerry received three Purple Hearts for his wounds in Vietnam;
- (4) John Kerry also received a Bronze Star and a Silver Star for gallantry in Vietnam.

We also heard that:

- (1) George W. Bush did not serve in Vietnam.

That is about as much “fact” as came out of the week-long liberal love-fest. All of the above are true... but what underlies the truth?

President Bush’s National Guard duty has been scrutinized left and left (sorry, there appears to be no “right” where the President and the liberals are concerned) with every perceived flaw trumpeted as a scandal by the left with demands of investigation and the requirement of a release of his service records.

However, when Sen. Kerry’s war exploits are questioned, it is called a “dirty trick” and “scurrilous lies about a true war hero” by the media and the Left, and, no matter how reliable or credible the source, it is either blatantly ignored or turned into a slur against the President’s campaign.

"While in Cam Rahn Bay, he trained on several 24-hour indoctrination missions, and one special skimmer operation with my most senior and trusted Lieutenant. The briefing from some members of that crew the morning after revealed that they had not received any enemy fire, and yet Lt.(jg) Kerry informed me of a wound -- he showed me a scratch on his arm and a piece of shrapnel in his hand that appeared to be from one of our own M-79s. It was later reported to me that Lt.(jg) Kerry had fired an M-79, and it had exploded off the adjacent shoreline. I do not recall being advised of any medical treatment, and probably said something like 'Forget it.' He later received a Purple Heart for that scratch, and I have no information as to how or whom." - Commander Grant Hibbard, USN (retired)

"My name is Steve Gardner. I served in 1966 and 1967 on my first tour of duty in Vietnam on Swift boats, and I did my second tour in '68 and '69, involved with John Kerry in the last 2 1/2 months of my tour. The John Kerry that I know is not the John Kerry that everybody else is portraying. I served alongside him and behind him, five feet away from him in a gun tub, and watched as he made indecisive moves with our boat, put our boats in jeopardy, put our crews in jeopardy ... if a man like that can't handle that 6-man crew boat, how can you expect him to be our Commander-in-Chief?" - Steven Gardner

"During Lt.(jg) Kerry's tour, he was under my command for two or three

specific operations, before his rapid exit. Trust, loyalty and judgment are the key, operative words... Kerry would be described as devious, self-absorbing, manipulative, disdain for authority, disruptive, but the most common phrase that you'd hear is 'requires constant supervision.'" - Captain Charles Plumly, USN (retired)

"I do not believe John Kerry is fit to be Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the United States. This is not a political issue. It is a matter of his judgment, truthfulness, reliability, loyalty and trust -- all absolute tenets of command." - Rear Admiral Roy Hoffman, USN (retired)

"I know John Kerry is lying about his first Purple Heart because I treated him for that injury." - Dr. Louis Letson (Lieutenant, Medical Officer, Cam Ranh Bay)

"John Kerry lied to get his bronze star. I know, I was there, I saw what happened." - Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Van O'Dell

These are just a few of the quotes from the men who served with John Kerry, alongside John Kerry, and were his superiors. They were there. So where are the investigations? Where are the smug nightly condemnations from Dan Rather, Keith Olbermann, et al?

The answer might be found in a quote from Evan Thomas, the Assistant Managing Editor of *Newsweek*, a magazine nobody on this planet would ever refer to as conservative.

On *Inside Washington*, a weekend discussion show taped at and run by the Gannett-owned CBS affiliate in Washington, DC, WUSA-TV, and carried by many PBS stations across the country, Thomas pointed out the boost to the Kerry/Edwards ticket provided by the press corps:

"There's one other base here: the media. Let's talk a little media bias here. The media, I think, wants Kerry to win. And I think they're going to portray Kerry and Edwards -- I'm talking about the establishment media, not Fox, but -- they're going to portray Kerry and Edwards as being young and dynamic and optimistic and all, there's going to be this glow about them that some, is going to be worth, collectively, the two of them, that's going to be worth maybe 15 points."

One of the central themes, in fact the most-often repeated attack on President Bush is that "he lied about the WMDs, he lied about Saddam trying to get uranium from Niger".

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." This quote from the President's 2003 State of the Union Address has been more often misquoted by dropping the first six words. However, the original is a true statement, one that British intelligence stands by to this day. And the factuality of the statement has also been enhanced due to the utter demolition of the credibility of Joe Wilson, the "expert" who spent 8 days in a hotel room in Niger, and, as has now been exposed, never talked to a single official of that

country competent to speak on the issue.

As to the left's claim that the President lied about there being any ties between Hussein's Iraq and Al-Qaeda, even the left-leaning 9/11 Commission had this to say:

"Were there contacts between al-Qaeda and Iraq? Yes. Some of them are shadowy, but there's no question they were there." (Chairman Tom Kean)

"The Vice President is saying, I think, that there were connections between Al-Qaeda and Saddam Hussein's government. We don't disagree with that." (Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton)

But what did the media have to say?

ABC's Peter Jennings insisted the commission had ***"unequivocally" contradicted what the administration had maintained***". CBS Evening News John Roberts asserted that the commission had ***"directly contradicted one of President Bush's justifications for going to war against Iraq"***. And on NBC Nightly News Tom Brokaw characterized the commission as ***"sharply at odds with what leading members of the administration continue to claim."***

"No Iraq, al-Qaeda Link Found" USA Today headline

"Al Qaeda-Hussein Link is Dismissed" Washington Post Headline

What did leading Democrats have to say?

Well, other than quoting the media responses, few had much to say on the topic. Why, after all, should they make up something when the media was doing such a good job of it?

Michael Moore, the darling of the left and creator of such fictions as "Bowling for Columbine" and "Fahrenheit 9/11" made a few statements while outside the country that I find particularly appropriate.

This blowhard, who the left claim to be so brilliant and accurate, stated while addressing a crowd in London: ***"We Americans suffer from an enforced ignorance... [Americans] are possibly the dumbest people on the planet . . ."***

"The dumbest Brit here is smarter than the smartest American". - Michael Moore At London's Roundhouse Theatre. He would later change the reference to Canadians when his tour moved on to there.

Then, in Munich: ***We've got that big [expletive deleted] grin on our face all the time because our brains aren't loaded down."***

In his book, ***"Dude, Where's My Country"***: ***"They are possibly the dumbest people on the planet ... Our stupidity is embarrassing."***

In my opinion, however, Michael Moore may have a faint grasp upon a cosmic truth. After all, just look at how many Americans are willing to believe that John Kerry is not a liberal, is really just another working Joe like you and me, will only raise taxes on the "rich", and will look out for America's interests first. Right.

P.T. Barnum said one was born every minute, but Dean Vernon Wormer said it better: ***"Fat, drunk, and stupid is no way to go through life."*** Research the facts... then verify them... then decide for yourself.

THE 10TH STORY

by

Elissa Rudolph,

RVC10

RVC10@us.mensa.org

A challenge for all Mensans in Region 10: Since the World Gathering 2006 will take place in our area (Orlando) wouldn't it be great if the logo for this momentous occasion also came from someone in this region? There is a logo contest. Its deadline is September 30, very short, but I know it can be done. This is your challenge: Come up with something that typifies Mensa's 60th year. Use the Mensa logo but follow the guidelines**. Think "world," "global," "one community," etc. Our general theme is "Visualizing a Global Community." Send your logo as a .pdf to MensaDiamond@yahoo.com. All entries from around the world will be on display at the International Board of Directors (IBD) meeting in Oslo, Norway, in early October. The board will choose one. That winning entry will be used on letterhead, to announce local events throughout 2006, not just in the U.S. but in the 40 plus national Mensas worldwide also, and on all commemorative materials. Put your creativity to work! I would love to see one of Region 10's members be the winner! I will even offer a \$100 prize if your entry is the top flight, outta sight, best in class, blue ribbon, front runner, far out, champion, victor-but you get my drift.

Mensa Trivia: Name the last five Annual Gatherings by event name, location and year. Bonus points if you can name the AG chairs for all five events. Send your guesses to me at the address below. Your prize? Fame. What else is there? I'll mention your name as well as the answers next month.

Coming: "October Masquerade RG," hosted by Space Coast Area Mensa, Oct.

22-24; Holiday Inn Oceanfront (great location!); Registrar: Joe Smith, jsmith@arachnaweb.com.

Colloquium 2005, Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future, : March 4-6, 2005, Tucson, AZ, www.colloquium.us.mensa.org

**To access the guidelines you can go to www.us.mensa.org/officerresources; select List All, then Other Forms and Documents. This is in the members only section and will require UserID and Password.

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Minutes of the



ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the house of George Patterson on August 3, 2004. Called to order at 6:20 pm by LocSec Sam Kirschten.

Members present: Sam Kirschten, Helen Lee Moore, Joe Smith, George Patterson, and Suzanne Leichtling.

Welcome guests: Clara Moran, Katherine Cochran, and Anna Smith, Joe's daughter.

Minutes for July 2004 approved as published. Moved by Helen, unanimous vote.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: July 31, 2004 report distributed by Helen. There were no other officer reports.

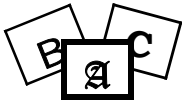
Committee Reports: none.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

Helen moved to adjourn at 6:26 pm, passed by unanimous vote. The *next meeting* of the ExComm is scheduled for **5:30 pm** Tuesday, **September 7, 2004** at *Suzanne Leichtling's* home.

WRITER'S BLOCK



Mike Moakley,
SCAM Editor

Let's talk politics. Not my particular views, as you can read them elsewhere in The SCAM. Here, I want to address the general subject. As your Editor, I have had the privilege of reading newsletters from other Mensa local groups. Yet, I have not seen one that discusses politics like we do in The SCAM.

Why, then, do we do it? It is because, whether we like it or not, we are all involved in politics—even if we choose not to discuss it or participate in the process. I truly believe one of the reasons for the continued existence of Mensa is for its members to engage in serious discussion in matters of interest and importance to us. I suspect many of my colleagues choose to omit politics from their newsletters because some of their members may be offended. But what kind of serious interchange of views can occur without occasionally offending someone? The risk one takes when engaging in serious discussion of any topic of importance is that he might offend another who holds another view. I believe it is a risk well worth taking.

In my ten months as Editor of The SCAM, I have never yet encountered any objections from a member to any of the political articles published in The SCAM. Rebuttals, yes...but these are always welcome; I always encourage them. Thus, I plan to continue my present course. Of course, we are not ONLY about politics. Wish to discuss another subject? Send something in, let me hear from you! We're always game.