

The

SCAM

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Election Issue



YOUR BALLOT IS ENCLOSED!

What's your opinion? (See Page 12)

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: www.spacecoastareamensa.org

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)

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The
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**May
Birthday Greetings!!**



- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 02 -- Jean Marshall | 17 -- Douglas Dial |
| 03 -- Brian Conway | 18 -- Donald Elmore |
| 04 -- Adele Dace | 19 -- Kate Johannsen |
| 04 -- George Waters | 23 -- Harold Crawford |
| 06 -- Barry Ebert | 24 -- Christopher Erickson |
| 07 -- Kenneth Kline | 25 -- Aimee Bergquist |
| 09 -- Douglas Raugh | 25 - James Stewart |
| 12 - John McKeown | 27 - Karen Freiberg |
| 12 - Martin Vanoy | 30 - Francis Stump |
| 15 - Rondal Halter | |

Welcome!!

To SCAM:

Boyd Smart



**Welcome
Back:**

*John Dibble
A M Gehringer
Barbara Peer*

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 appear above.

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



Ken Thornton-Smith
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***The Wabasso Triangle:
Episode 90.7: Shine on You Crazy Dire Straits***

It should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying broken ATMs and this month's Nielsen's ratings, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was Thursday, and as usual I was stuck in the office, slaving away. I had spent the whole morning trying to concentrate on my huge backlog of cross-words without making any headway. And if I hear “Money for nothing, get your chicks for free...” one more time I will go completely Radio Gaga.

That’s it! No wonder I can't concentrate, one day with my favourite golden oldies station is destroying more brain cells than a sixpack of Red Stripe. My mind felt like a steel trap – rusty and illegal in 45 States: “Gimme Three Steps – The Boys Are Back in Town – Monday, Monday – She’s Not There...”

I flicked along the dial looking for something a little more sophisticated and ended up on the relative sanity of my local NPR station:

Lauralyn: Welcome back, listeners, this is Lauralyn Hardy and Baxter Dawall on The People’s Psychiatrist. Let’s go straight to our next caller.

Caller: *Hi there, Lauralyn, this is Lactose in Tolerance, Georgia, speaking, and I have been reading about this thing called APS...*

Lauralyn: Thanks for bringing this up, Lactose. This is The People's Psychiatrist on National Public Radio and we are discussing a mental disorder that has received a lot of media coverage lately – A.P.S.

Baxter: *That’s right, Lauralyn, perhaps it’s time we turned our attention to this problem that might concern one or two of our listeners.*

Lauralyn: Baxter, can you tell our radio audience at home a little about APS?

Baxter: *Yes, I can, Lauralyn...*

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Lauralyn: *Dr Baxter, will you?*

Baxter: *I was going to, Lauralyn, but I was interrupted.*

Lauralyn: So, DOCTOR BAXTER, what does APS stand for?

Baxter: *APS stands for Adult Puerility Syndrome.*

Lauralyn: And what else can you tell us, Dr Baxter?

Baxter: *It's a recently identified condition that may have its origin in emotional insecurities.*

Lauralyn: *And?*

Baxter: *...and it may be a result of some developmental immaturity, brought about by childhood experiences.*

Lauralyn: Yes, Dr Baxter that's all true, but are we forgetting something? A very important something about APS?

Baxter: *I don't think so, Lauralyn.*

Lauralyn: Oh yes we are, Dr Baxter... Who is it, typically, that suffers from Adult Puerility Syndrome?

Baxter: *Well, so far it appears that it may only affect the male.*

Lauralyn: *Yes, listeners, adult human males are the only life forms that have this unfortunate condition.*

Baxter: *Are you happy now?*

Lauralyn: *Yes, thank you, Dr Baxter. In fact, listeners, this is an iceberg problem, as a man that you know may be crippled by APS, with dreadful consequences for his health and his family relationships. Now, Dr Baxter, can you tell our listeners how to identify APS?*

Baxter: *Adult Puerility Syndrome is, as the name suggests, an extension of normal, healthy playing into adulthood.*

Lauralyn: That's right, listeners, Adult Puerility is normal healthy

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

childhood playing with toys that is continued into adulthood by adult men still playing with toys in an emotionally unhealthy way after all those years. Wouldn't you say, Dr Baxter?

Baxter: *Not using those exact words, no, Lauralyn.*

Lauralyn: Perhaps you can help our listeners identify APS symptoms in the men in their life.

Baxter: *Perhaps.*

Lauralyn: Would you say that excessive playing with toys would be a symptom? Like model trains or boats, or full-size boats or airplanes of any size? Or motorbikes? Or computer games? Or toy cars? Or excessive enthusiasm about real cars?

Baxter: *I must stress that APS has only recently been identified and a lot of research still needs to be done in this area.*

Lauralyn: That's right, listeners. In fact, APS has not yet been accepted as a clinical condition, has it, Dr Baxter, despite that fact that all women know that it exists? And would that have anything to do with the fact that most Psychiatrists are men, and play with boats and fast cars just like yours, Dr Baxter?

Baxter: *I think it may be too early for us to extrapolate these laboratory results onto the population at large, Lauralyn.*

Lauralyn: Yes, ladies, there may be a couple of ways you can help. If the man in your life plays with toys like boats or computers or cars or even if he wears a silly hat on the lawn mower, you may have a case of chronic APS, right there in your own family. Does he have a duck in the bath? Does he have a name for his car? Basically, it means he never grew up. He is immature; he is a BIG KID and his security blanket now looks like a truck, doesn't it Dr Baxter? He may even involve you in playing with his toys. Does he only pay you any attention if you're cleaning his railway layout? Does he only talk to you while the glue dries on his model airplane?

If this sounds like the man in your life, here's how you can help: First, you can contact the local chapter of CWAP, the Campaign for Recognition of Adult Puerility. They can help to support you and your family

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

through this trying time.

Baxter: *Yes, CWAP has been a great help to many suffers of APS. And the other way you can help is to remove some of the deeply buried childhood insecurities. That will help to alleviate the most distressing symptoms.*

Lauralyn: That's right, listeners, if you can, gently, in some small way, reassure him that having toys is OK, that he is safe, that he is loved and he will still be allowed to play with his toys, just putting his mind at ease in this way you can bring about dramatic personality changes. Do you have any advice about rebuilding a partner's emotional security, Dr Baxter?

Baxter: *Yes – stop whining.*

Lauralyn: *That's not a very professional response, Dr Baxter. Patience, that's what's required, listeners. You need patience to put up with years of mess and being ignored and him not listening to you because all he can think about is his latest toy. Isn't that true Dr Baxter?*

Baxter: *Sorry, Lauralyn, what did you say – you want to see my new outboard?*

Click : Money for nothing, get your chicks for free...

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 89.5, Psycho Ward, Indian River Memorial Hospital.

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Guest Column:

Critical Thinking,
Critical Values

By

David L. Hecht

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This article appeared in the April 2004 issue of Flamenco, the publication for the Miami Area Mensa; Mark Puddephat, Editor. Reprinted by permission of the author.

My father was an eighth-grade dropout. Oh, he was an intelligent man; but his lack of education always made him a little insecure and defensive, even though he would never admit it. Part of our love-hate relationship was that he would belittle most anything I knew, as though it were not

useful in the practical, everyday world of business. I learned to guard whatever I expressed in his presence. He never really respected me till the last five years of his life, when I was in my late 40's. He would sit amazed, watching me call out 80% correct answers to most Jeopardy games; and he would beam with pride when I gave him tapes of all my speaking engagements at recovery conventions.

Dad was a mixed model: there were some things I admired about him, and some things that were exasperating beyond endurance. He compensated for his meager education with boasting and exaggerating. But Dad passed down to me a healthy distrust for the presumptions and promises of authority figures, starting with him. I didn't automatically believe him, because I knew how readily he would exaggerate to bolster his case. And I also didn't automatically believe (or disbelieve) the authorities that he denigrated, either. I was not a blanket skeptic, but I concluded that every assertion, promise and persuasion had to be considered on its own merits, and judged carefully for bias and woolly thinking. I came not to assume that anyone always told the truth, or was always right. In business, politics, religion and daily life, all human beings are fallible; but they will defend their errors because they are insecure. Raw intelligence is all very well; but it only becomes powerful when shaped by thoughts, attitudes and beliefs that have been sharpened and honed by the will, and by a profound commitment to find out the truth.

I wanted to have the intellectual tools needed to think for myself. I tried, in my own haphazard way, to acquire the elements of a "Classical Education," to better train the mind: Latin, Logic, Drama, History, etc. I also had the benefits of a Jewish Education, which at the very least provided the refreshing, contrasting perspective of an "Alternate Civilization." Regrettably, I was not a very disciplined student; but I did learn fairly good critical judgment and discernment – along with a healthy respect for the limits of assumption, including my own. Education is no guarantee of critical, rational thought – but it helps.

As a result of my wariness, I was never a good mark for advertisers. Even from the age of four, when ads came on TV between the cartoons, I was skeptical that those products were as good as claimed, and I knew instinctively that the ad was designed to manipulate me emotionally, which I resisted angrily.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

My eccentric perspective made it harder for me to be molded by the “Cultural Filters” that other people took for granted. I didn’t even listen to rock music, until the Beatles’ *Sergeant Pepper* album came out. I rarely watched popular shows, preferring documentaries and fantasies. I also discovered, to my shock and sadness, that Truth was not really the highest good in this society, despite what teachers and politicians often insisted. Loyalty trumps Truth any day. There is some small comfort that, in most other societies, the ratio of loyalty to truth is even worse than here; which makes it very hard to find an honest court.

I know that I can’t ever be completely objective; I carry my own baggage, after all. But as a left-handed, flat-footed, blue-eyed eccentric iconoclastic intellectual Canadian Jew, I belong to so many minorities and nested recessive traits, that I could never fit in with the majority values and power elites, even if I wanted to. The world as it is was not designed with me in mind, and I am better off accepting this than resenting it. My whole life, I’ve noticed aloud that the emperor has no clothes; which never endeared me to others, unless they got a laugh from it.

Since I was a little kid, I always felt like there was something fundamentally broken about the world. Bullies won and their victims were despised; lying paid; the truth wasn’t what you believed, but what someone you admired believed. Media merely sold all the big lies, but all parts of society colluded in them. People believed in a million isms, none of which really solved the problems of how to live in peace, prosperity, dignity and respect. People adjusted and accommodated themselves to so many deceptions and twisted perceptions in the course of a day, that crazy was normal. Worst of all, there had been no “golden age”: it had *always* been that way. When I was 22, I saw a book title that impressed me: “*Glamour: A World Problem.*” (The title was the revelation, more than the book itself.) People *everywhere* were easily and eagerly swept away by the world of appearances; they loved the disguise and ignored the substance; it was better, as Billy Crystal cleverly lampooned, “to look good than to feel good, my friends.” Despite the cautions of moralists in every age and place, humans just *loved* to have the wool pulled over their eyes, and would even help you do it to themselves!

Even very bright and perceptive people can be taken in by fashion, style and glamour, in their broader sense. They let what is popular, rather than what is true, tell them what is right. For instance, a young friend of mine, a generally smart and sensible man, called me one evening, incensed at the behavior of a friend. “I told the guy ‘Thank You,’ and he answered me back, ‘You’re Welcome.’ As though he *deserved* my thanks! Shouldn’t he be a gentleman, and answer back with ‘Thank You?’”

At first I was stunned. I said, “No, actually your friend was more correct; in the whole long history of the English language, it has always been correct and proper to answer ‘Thank You’ with ‘You’re Welcome.’” But I thought it through some more: my bright young friend had been bamboozled by modern

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

media misdirection. Every day, we hear people being interviewed on the news; when the news anchor thanks them, they reply, “Thank You!” in return. But their gratitude is only natural: they’re trying to sell a book, or popularize a point of view; of *course* they’re more grateful than the interviewer is! They’ve just had their product exposed to 20 million new people! It’s just a mercenary response, but it happens so regularly that it has bent (one might say twisted) the language. The young man is not foolish, stupid or unprincipled. Yet he was conned by a new cultural norm: thanks must now be responded to with thanks. How many tens of thousands of less obvious ways are we all conned, every day?

When the Berlin Wall fell, and then the Soviet Union collapsed, many Westerners (even some of those talking heads on TV) were exulting over the “victory of Capitalism.” I thought, How silly. Capitalism didn’t win; Communism merely fell of its own weight. Both are merely variations on Materialism, which always fails to answer the real fundamental human needs for peace, balance, community and spiritual self-awakening. Communism fails to make everyone equally rich, so it is reduced to making everyone equally poor; Capitalism lets some people get rich, but only on the backs of others who get more poor – so the rich have some way of keeping score. (Why are we keeping score?) Either way, the system is built on false values, and must eventually give way to something more real and meaningful. Capitalism just takes longer to go broke, because its illusions have more persistence: some people can con themselves, believing that their money and influence means that they really have power over their own lives.

This nice lady was sharing at my recovery meeting tonight. Many years before getting clean, she thought the answer to all her problems was: Marrying a drug dealer. Her life on the outside was perfect: cars, houses, a glamorous life-style, and an unlimited supply of her favorite drug. Inside, though, she was dying. She had to be stoned into a stupor just to go out once a week to shop for food. I thought, coincidence? What better example of a life stolen and drained away by false values?

Like many people I know, that good lady now has a real life, clean and mostly happy, working hard and helping others. Recovery provides a pretty good model of practical spirituality: we are imperfect humans, easily swayed by our illusions, and capable of being destroyed by our own false values and beliefs; but when we stop trying to control everything, and learn the power there is in surrender to a better idea, we can find a happier place for ourselves in a realer world. The goal is not necessarily a more spiritual life; at times I was so spiritual that I forgot that the rent was due. The goal is a more *balanced* life: in harmony with the flow of the universe; at peace with self, others and God; and inspired by a greater sense of purpose than one’s own mere amusement or even survival.

Most of my dad’s life, spiritual matters were irrelevant – partly because Marx told him so, and partly because of the “terrible things he’d seen in the War.” But whether a card-carrying communist in his youth, or the capitalist

(Continued on page 12)

**Yet Another
View:**

Right to Life

**by
Mike Moakley**

It finally happened. Recently, the cost of my health care coverage has increased some 37.5 percent, making it more costly than my monthly home mortgage. To add insult to injury, the higher premium is paying for less coverage than I enjoyed at the former, lower, cost. The worst part is, however, that *I am one of the lucky ones!* Far too many working class Americans today do not have health care coverage that even approaches the coverage my wife and I enjoy, our current conditions notwithstanding. In fact, about 42 million, that is, *one of every seven*

Americans have no health care coverage at all.

Many, if not most, working class Americans who have coverage are under the now-familiar “managed care” arrangement whose terms dictate virtually all aspects of the patient’s health care. The true object of such an arrangement is to provide for minimal care to the patient while collecting as many premium dollars as the market will bear. This practice, termed “cost containment”, is probably the most significant factor for the steady decline of quality in the health care offered to ordinary Americans. It is ironic in the face of our country’s reputation of having the best quality health care in the world; it is just not available to those of us who comprise the working class. This state of affairs is one telling example of the inherent conflict between free enterprise and the public good.

I have always been one to appreciate irony. I have noticed quite often that properly conservative Americans simultaneously embrace the principle of “free enterprise”, where the marketplace dictates the conditions under which we live, and at the same time advocate the principle of “right to life”. Who has this “right to life”? Does this right extend past the birth of a new American citizen? What does “right to life” encompass? What are the obligations placed on us in order to respect the “right to life”?

Specifically, can denying a person access to health care be construed as possibly violating that person’s “right to life”? If so, how can we justify our current “free enterprise” system of delivering health care when so many of our fellow citizens are denied that care simply because they cannot afford it? Or is it that only certain people have this “right to life”; that is, human rights are reserved only to those who can afford them?

If, indeed, there is the “right to life”, this principle then must apply to everyone. The right to have at least one’s basic health care needs attended to is an integral part of a person’s right to life. But are we, as a country, really serious about the “right to life”? If so, we must address the current state of health care delivery in this country.

It is quite evident our current system has done a very poor job of delivering health care to the working class. In fact, private health plans, in their efforts at “cost containment”, are responsible for much of the administrative waste that, in turn, drives up the cost of providing health care. Moreover, insurance carriers segment the risks in such a way that certain groups of people must pay a prohibitive price for coverage while others have the same or better

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 10)

businessman he became as a man, his materialism never made him happy; he was one of the saddest men I knew. My mother was always well-loved and usually happy. She always sought God, spiritual principles, and new ways to broaden her spiritual horizons. She was the one who got me into recovery; rather than lecturing me like Dad, she found me help. I know people who profess zero belief in God and religion, but who are happy and fulfilled. They might not call it spiritual, but they live spiritual principles every day, by behaving ethically, loving others, making a virtue of healthy values, and seeking a peaceful balance with life and nature. As far as I'm concerned, Godly is as Godly does. God is quite content to be anonymous; his will for us is served when we learn to think for ourselves, seek the truth, vanquish our fears and illusions, help one another, and be happy.

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**Let's Hear
from YOU!**

As the Editor of *The SCAM*, I am continually looking for ways to improve our newsletter. As you have no doubt noticed, I have made several cosmetic changes over the last six months. At this point, I am proposing yet another change.

Traditionally, on Page 3 of each issue, we include a list of all SCAM members celebrating birthdays during the month of the issue. I am considering discontinuing the birthday list and instead replacing it with a Table of Contents.

My reason is that I have been publishing an increasing number and variety of works, both "regular" and "guest" columns. At the same time, I continue to seek new contributions. I believe a Table of Contents will serve as a convenience to the reader. *What do you think?* Let's hear from you no later than June 10. You will find my info on Page 3.

— Michael Moakley, SCAM Editor

(Continued from page 11)

coverage at a fraction of the cost. In short, "free enterprise" in this instance has failed miserably.

It is past time that we get serious about having publicly funded universal health care coverage in our country. If done correctly, it would certainly be a benefit to all Americans. We must recognize that, except for a relatively small segment of our population, private enterprise is ill suited to deliver health care coverage. If we go to a public system that is properly accountable to the people, we can, by our votes, insure the system works correctly. A public entity answers to the public; private enterprise answers only to their investors.

Other countries, most notably Canada, Great Britain and Germany, have had successful public health coverage for decades. Certainly we Americans deserve no less. Only when our elected leaders decide we Americans are entitled to access to health care without regard to our station in life can we proclaim our support of the "right to life".



***The Alchemist:
Where and Why
of Jobs***



Al Thomas

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magic.com***

We have read about the unemployment rate being high. Really anything around six percent is pretty good and it is less than that now according to the statistics, but some politicians say it is terrible and others say it is reasonable. It depends upon which side of the aisle you sit.

Our Washington geniuses claim they are working on finding more employment. We have lost 2.7 million jobs over the last 3 years. That doesn't matter if you are NOT one of them. Finger pointing by everyone in our capitol blames "the other guy", but especially China and India. The total of jobs going overseas is only 300,000 out of the 2.7 million. Where did the other 2.4 million jobs go?

As the economy slowed down in 2000 due to the increasing interest rates companies had to do something to keep profits. The workweek could be shortened if you did not have a production line, but that doesn't work for service businesses. All unnecessary workers were laid off. As business contracted machines became idle and more people were chopped. But that was not enough. More production efficiencies were put in place so that fewer workers would be able to turn out the same amount of goods.

Production dropped from the 92% to about 75% of capacity today. When a company has 100 machines and only 75 of them are producing there is no incentive for management to buy more machines.

Sir Alan can try to stimulate further by lowering rates even more, but how much below 1% can you go? He could buy long-term bonds to further reduce rates to continue to stimulate the housing market, but financial stimulus does not create wealth. The banks borrow from the Fed at 1% to buy long-term government bonds that yield 4.2%. If I were a banker and could lock in 3.2% with no risk why should I make loans to businesses? And beside that I can fire all my loan officers to save more money.

But we need more employment. How? The Federal government is hiring more people every day. These are new jobs, BUT they do not contribute to the overall economy. In fact every new government worker is another tax. In a factory a worker turns out products that adds to what is called Gross Domestic Product. A government worker turns out nothing and adds zero to the GDP and even has to give back part of his salary in taxes. The IRS takes in the money, gives it to Congress, which creates bureaucracies that hire people to recirculate the cash. Every government worker is a tax.

This makes the employment numbers look good, but adds nothing to our economic production. It is a way to keep money flowing. It puts money in peoples' pockets that keeps us marching in place. Until real productive jobs are created by business we are just fooling ourselves.

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Deb's



Corner

I thought I would write about one of my favorites...
CATS.

Being the parent of an indoor cat and several feral cats I have come to really appreciate the local shelters and the Space Coast Feline Network (SCFN). We seem to be and have been for a while a magnet for various wayward animals, mostly cats. Thanks to SCFN we were able to vaccinate and sterilize many of the various outside cats. These cats have given us many hours of enjoyment, not to mention keeping the raccoons and dogs looking for some other place to relieve themselves or someone else's garbage to scatter. These cats may not let us pet them but they think it is wondrous for us to laugh at their many antics and they love to act the clown.

For those among us who are animal lovers and would like to help out, feel free to call your local shelter. For those who are interested in SCFN, feel free to call either Mary McKenzie at 799-1128 or in Mims, Mary Kizis at 784-0100.

The way that I understand it both the shelters and SCFN are in need of all kinds of supplies, especially as follows:

- Clean used blankets for beds.....
- Clean used towels for the sick & bathings.....
- Dry food, especially for the type that keep their urinary tracts healthy....
- Canned food...NOT VEAL... too rich for their tummies.....
- Scoop-away cat litter or any kind of litter that clumps up.....
- Paper towels.....
- Baby wipes or other moist wipes.....
- Cleaning supplies, such as Lysol or 409.....
- Ant traps.....
- Paper plates.....

AND

I am sure there are a few of our little friends in shelters that could use an attaboy now and then.

Thank you for visiting my corner, and don't forget to support your local library.

deb

***The Alchemist:
Best Investment***

Al Thomas



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Special Graduation Column! (for our Young Readers)

Every week I write something about the stock market - how to, when to and where to put your money and how to protect it from loss if you do. This week I want to say something very important to the young folks about success. And you parents take note if your kids are still young.

One of these days you are going to graduate from high school and, hopefully, college. Either one fits the bill here - - even if you don't graduate.

A very small percentage of your peers are going to become very successful. Success in the U.S. is mostly defined as someone who makes a lot of money; that is our usual yardstick. From your graduating class there will be 2 or 3 who make it big time and 6 or 8 who will do very well. Most of them will end up owning their own businesses.

Upon graduation you will have no idea who the next Bill Gates, Jack Welch or Warren Buffett is, but he is right there in your old class picture. Just when you need him you have lost contact for so many years that he probably won't remember you or want to help you.

People are assets. You can't run any business without their input whether it is muscle, brains or money. You use them and they use you - and there is nothing wrong with that. This interaction is what makes the business world go around.

Wouldn't it have been great if you had kept in contact with Bill Gates from the time you graduated? As he made strides with his company you might have become one of his key people, but he forgot you existed - and it wasn't his fault. You let him go.

Don't squander your assets, your people. Here is a method that will work. No, not right away, but over the years it could easily change your life.

When you graduate take your yearbook and have everyone sign it. Even those you hardly know at all. Get their addresses and phone numbers and emails also. Every year on that graduation date you send out a yearly up date on what you have done during that year - got married, changed jobs, had a promotion, where you went on vacation, added a new kid to the family or what happened to your dog and your dreams and aspirations if you want to. Personal stuff. Ask them how they are doing? Every one is important. Do this every year and do your best to keep the list current. You may want to add others to your list.

Not much will be going on during the first 10 years, but as certain of your old friends start to move up the ladder they will be looking for people to help them and you will float up to the top of the list. Mr. Rising Star needs help and he knows where you are and all about what you have been doing. You might be just the one he needs to help launch his ship of state.

People are assets. This kind of investment can really pay off.

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COME ONE - COME ALL TO THE 2004 SCAM OCTOBER MASQUERADE RG ON THE BEACH IN BEAUTIFUL INDIANTLANTIC FLORIDA

It's that time again to dust off that old mask and polish up your favorite costume props and get ready for another fun-filled, never know what to expect, not your ordinary, 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 08/31/04, \$45.00 from 09/01/04 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**

(321) 632-0854

May 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 their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; *NS*- No Smoking; *SS*-Separate Smoking Area; *P*-Pets in the home; *NP*-No Pets present; *BYO* -Bring Your Own: *_*Snacks, *_*Drinks, *_*Everything.



Regular Events

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble: Monday, the 10th & 24th

6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

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

C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at House of Joe: Wednesday, the 5th
1220 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne

Spend the evening with friends playing games, drinking gourmet coffee, and devouring sweet treats, and perhaps even reading a bit. It's free (except for any purchases), no pets, and outside smoking.

C.A.B.A.G.E. North Host: Karen Freiberg

Karen@Freiberg.com

C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Sam Kirschten

ExComm@spacecoastareamensa.org

4th	7:00 p.m.	ExComm Meeting
Tuesday	Meal Cost	SS/NP

The Executive Committee of the group meets to conduct its monthly business. All members are welcome to attend, to volunteer, and to see how things are done. This month's meeting will be held at the *Texas Barbecue Restaurant, on US 1 in Cocoa.*

5th	6:00 p.m.	Coffee, Etc. at the House of Joe
Wednesday	Coffee/Meal Cost	NS/NP

Let's get together for some coffee, sandwiches, bagels, and a lot of books to borrow or trade. Bring your favorite game! Featured is a free Wi-Fi hotspot for those with laptops and a wireless Internet card. They also have a guitar handy for those so inclined. **The House of Joe** is located at **1220 W. New Haven Ave.** (across from Toys-R-U's) in **Melbourne**. See you there. NOTE: This activity is now our C.A.B.A.G.E. South.

8th	12:30 p.m.	Mensa Testing
Saturday	\$30.00	NS

Do you know someone who ought to be in Mensa? Send them to Cape Canaveral Hospital today! Or have them call 632-1831 for information about Mensa qualification.

Helen Lee Moore

moorehelenlee@cs.com

10th	NL and Calendar deadlines
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All newsletter submissions must be to Mike no later than today. Ditto for calendar events being to the calendar coordinator. *moakleymj@bellsouth.net*

14th	6:00PM	Firearms-Fried Rice
Friday	Shooting/M meal/Beverage	NS
The GunSight in Merritt Island (Sykes Creek Rd) for the Shooting and New Century Buffet on Courtney Parkway on Merritt Island, FL at 7PM for Fried Rice and more.		
JT Moran	<i>morwood@cfl.rr.com</i>	
16th	11:00 a.m.	Brunch with Jim
Sunday	Meal cost	NS/NP
We'll join Jim for his monthly Sunday brunch at the <i>Colossus Restaurant</i> at <i>380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne</i> . You must be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you may not be seated with us: we can't save any seats for latecomers.		
Jim Trammell	242-8985	
21st	6:00PM	Talk-about
Friday	\$3.00	SS/P
We all like to sit around talking with each other about all manner of things. Join us to just talk. No TV or videos — just great conversation and some good food for thought.		
Clara and JT Moran	<i>cew@cfl.rr.com</i>	
22nd	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	<i>patrita@workdnet.att.net</i>	
29th	6:00 p.m.	S.N.O.R.T.
Saturday	Meal Cost	SS/NP
Wasabi! Join us at our best-attended monthly event and sample some great Japanese fare; take a break from the mundane for some sushi, teriyaki, and tempura. <i>Miyako's</i> is located at <i>1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne</i> .		
Mike Moakley	<i>moakleymj@bellsouth.net</i>	

At Your Service



***Joe Smith,
Membership***

Asleep at The Wheel!!!

“Where was the info for the upcoming SCAM RG in April’s SCAM Newsletter”, you say! Well truth be told, yours truly, illustrious miscreant as well as RG Chairperson that I am, was asleep at the wheel.

Sounds good, doesn’t it? Well truth be told, I thought that it sounds better than “I just couldn’t get to it”. No one likes to hear about how busy someone with obligations is. It brings to the forefront the thoughts of all of the things they should be doing or wish they were doing. It’s way too comfortable for them to say, “I know how it is, I understand, I’m busy also”. But that’s not what I am going for here.

Between starting a new job in January, sitting on the Board of Directors of three other organizations, school, 5-year-old daughter, and just general stuff that life requires, I feel good about myself. Sometimes I miss a few commitments and find that I disappoint myself, but I am grateful that I am of the type that has a hard time saying “no” when someone asks for help. Although the couch always beckons and there never seems to be enough time, things always get done - “If you want to get something done, ask a busy person for help”. Occasionally, there are moments of achievement that afford a silent, self-congratulatory pride – then onto something else.

Well you might be saying, “Oh, one of those, someone who always has to juggle 5 things in the air at the same time, someone who lives for the thrill of ‘doing it all’, someone who deserves what they get”, that’s what you might be thinking, but that’s not what I am going for here.

I have been involved with many civic groups, clubs, and organizations over the years, some that existed just for the entertainment of the members (*like the Irish Club in college – 2 Keg Parties per Semester!!*) others that made a difference in countless lives (*like raising 10’s of thousands of dollars for Muscular Dystrophy Research with the Palm Bay Jaycees*). No matter what the purpose or goals of the organization were, there was always one common thread that defined them – the commitment and the sense of purpose of the members who stepped up to plate and got involved.

These were the members that were not satisfied with just paying their dues and seeing their name on a roster. These were the members who brought their own, personal commitment to better the organization they belonged to. They gave the unrecoverable, impossible to stockpile, single most valuable asset that they had to give – their time. As a result, they went away with more than they put in. That’s the way this works! Volunteering and helping bring rewards and opportunities for satisfaction in ways that are unforeseeable when you reluctantly say, “yes”, when asked to help. Also, there’s the added bonus of work-

**The Gourmet's
Guide:**

**Romania Then
and Now**

by

Art Belefant

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(belefant@juno.com)

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This article was written for publication in 1980. It was our first visit to Romania. Ceausescu was in power and the country was behind the Iron Curtain. Few visitors made the trip, as Romania was not promoted as a tourist destination. Rita and I went because the opportunity presented itself to us and we always were interested in seeing parts of the world that we had not visited before. An added inducement was the opportunity to see Dracula's homeland, even though at the time Ceausescu's government actively discouraged interest in the fictional Dracula. Last year we again went to Romania. We participated in a "Dracula Tour". Romania is no longer a commu-

nist country, it is open to the West, and it is promoting tourism in the U. S. The present government is encouraging Dracula tourism and has proposed the construction of a Dracula theme park. My impressions of present day Romania, as contrasted to my impressions then are presented in Italics after each relevant paragraph.

Romania is in many ways the way Western Europe was 40 years ago, sometimes unpleasant or uncomfortable, but at other times charming and delightful. An example is the custom of hand kissing which is still practiced there. If you are female, be prepared for the gesture. Unfortunately, not being experts on etiquette, we cannot offer advice on the proper form of response.

Romania is still somewhat behind the rest of Europe. Communism is gone. But it is only 15 years since Ceausescu was overthrown. They have made fantastic progress since our last visit. I saw no evidence of hand kissing this trip.

Romania is a beautiful country. The rolling hills and high mountains are covered with lush farmlands and forests. The countryside is what you may imagine Switzerland should look like because there are so few tourists to spoil the scenery, virtually no advertising billboards, and still many horse—drawn carts. Cars are scarce, even on Sunday. It is like stepping back into a pre—World War II Europe. The hotels and the centers of the cities look late Victorian, which indeed many of them are. However, the newest hotels have the stark appearance of post-war construction. Shall we call it "Communist Gothic"?

Romania is still a beautiful country. Our last trip was in the summer when the fields and forests were in their full glory. This trip was in late fall. The trees had their bright autumnal colors, but most fields were bare, plowed and ready for the next planting. Bucharest and the other cities are filled with cars, mostly smaller, East-European types, but enough to make it look like Paris, four and five abreast each way on the boulevards, and of course, traffic lights of the modern LED type, for which there was no need before. Bucharest is filled with neon and illuminated signs, advertising local and international products and the local stores, restaurants, and cafes. The older hotels are still there, updated and refurbished. New hotels, and there are many, are

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

similar to those elsewhere in the international style. Now there are highways where there were only dirt tracks before.

When you enter Romania, visas are issued free of charge. No special applications or photos are required.

No visas are required for American, Canadian, or European citizens.

Tourists with prepaid arrangements for the durations of their stay are exempt from the mandatory currency exchange. A minimum exchange of U. S. \$10.00 per person per day of stay is required from travelers without prepaid arrangements, but not children under 14 years of age. This minimum currency exchange must be made at points of entry for the number of days for which the visa is issued. Visa extensions require additional currency exchange. Import or export of Romanian currency is forbidden. Unused amounts of Romanian currency legally obtained in excess can be reconverted to the initial currency.

Currency restrictions are similar to those in the rest of Europe. In other words, none for the average tourist.

Tourists may bring in free of duty, personal belongings, food and medicines necessary and proportionate to the length of their visit. Personal belongings include clothes. Articles for personal use can be new or used, but must be carried on one's person or in one's luggage. Such items are the following: jewelry, two still cameras and 24 rolls of film, a small size movie camera, and 2 rolls of movie film; a pair of binoculars; a portable tape recorder, a portable radio, portable typewriter; tent or other camping equipment, a pair of skis, 2 tennis rackets and other similar items. Also allowed are 2 quarts of liqueurs, 5 quarts of wine and 300 cigarettes, provided that the total value does not exceed 500 lei.

Entry into Romania is quick and simple, a passport check, a stamp in the book, and that is it. There are no fees for entering or leaving Romania. No vaccinations are required. On our last visit, one of our children took a picture of a mural in the Bucharest airline terminal. He was immediately surrounded by several armed soldiers who confiscated his film.

Credit cards generally are not accepted in hotels, restaurants and night—clubs. Traveler's cheques are. Power supply in Romania is mostly 220v-50 Hz. The official time is 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time and 6 hours ahead of New York time.

Credit cards are accepted in the major hotels, restaurants, and some shops. It is still advisable to bring cash for purchases in out-of-the-way places. Dollar bills (singles) are the best, because of the low prices. Most places will take American currency for payment but they may not have small bills for change.

Communism doesn't appear very oppressive in Romania. There is no appearance of a police state and officials are no more or less officious than in some western countries. The people appear well fed and well clothed. Although the country seems quieter and more subdued than most western European countries, the heavy, oppressive feeling you get in other eastern bloc

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

countries is absent.

The people on the street are well dressed. Couples walk along briskly, talking volubly. Children play and dance. Although in our last trip the Romanians seemed less subdued than those in other communist countries, all of that repression is now gone in this open country.

Hotel and restaurant service is poor. You will often find it necessary to carry your own baggage to your rooms. Travel light - it will be easier to go up the steps. The elevators often do not work.

Service is friendly and polite. Unfortunately the older hotels have not improved their accesses. There are many flights of stairs, sometimes just to get to the entrance. Elevators are small and limited, but now they work. The newer hotels are not designed to modern standards. Handicapped access is virtually unknown. It is still advisable to travel light.

All hotels we visited had only single beds - two to a room. Some hotels had air-conditioning but none worked, even in the hot days of August in Bucharest. Many hotels had TV, all black and white, and all the same Russian brand. Only one channel is available.

Many hotels now have double beds. The bed linens generally are coarser than found in Western European hotels. As it was cold when we visited Romania this time, I could not check the air conditioning, but there was adequate, sometimes excessive, heat in all our rooms. The plumbing and heating systems in some of the older hotels, although now working, are sometimes victims of their antiquity. In one of the hotels we stayed at, some rooms were overheated and others were barely heated at all. Hot water was ample. TV, on modern but small color sets, was available in all our hotel rooms. In some of the more remote areas the number of channels were limited. English language programming, including CNN, was available in Bucharest.

Hotel laundries are expensive and slow. There is ample hot water in the rooms so select your clothing to be rinsed out yourself. English is spoken very little, but Romanian is a Latin language related to Spanish, French, and Italian. A smattering of these languages will go a long way. German is a major secondary language in the country, spoken and understood almost everywhere.

English is spoken in all the major hotels and restaurants, and is understood almost anywhere a tourist is likely to go.

American cigarettes and chewing gum are in great demand (like the days in Europe after WW II). They can be used for tipping. A service charge of 10-12% is added on all restaurant bills but we've been told that a small tip before being served helps to improve service.

Forget this. WWII is over, even in Romania.

We are not suggesting this kind of activity, but we've seen cigarettes, gum, and panty hose being sold by tourists to Romanians for Romanian lei. We were approached on the streets of Bucharest by Romanians that wanted to buy our cameras, blue jeans, and U. S. dollars. The going street rate is 25 lei for one dollar (the official rate is 12 lei for the dollar), but the street buyers won't handle less than \$100 worth at a time. Larger bills are more de-

(Continued on page 23)

(Continued from page 22)

sirable than small.

The Romanian lei is now about 32-33,000 to the dollar. which make currency conversions difficult to do in your head. The government does not fix the rate so there is no black market in currency. Instead of dropping three zeros from their currency as the Greeks did years ago, the Romanians will change to the Euro in a few years. American, European, and Japanese products are available in stores now, so don't expect to sell your old stuff to the Romanians.

Don't depend on Romanian time estimates. It takes twice as to get from here to there than Romanians will tell you. One-day laundry service in the hotels takes two to three days, meals can take all evening, and a "2-hour" car trip could take 5 hours.

This hasn't changed. A ten-minute cart ride took 25 minutes. A two-hour bus trip took three and a half-hours.

The pushiest Romanian restaurants have immense menus - sometimes 10 pages long. If you go through the menu routine, all you'll get is a series of "not possible's". It is faster to ignore the menu and ask what the restaurant is serving for that meal, usually one soup and one main course. One of the best buys in the food line is Borsac mineral water, 10 cents for a half liter bottle and every bit as good as Perrier. Ask for minerale. The average cost of 40 complete lunches and dinners, in the top hotels in top resort areas (Brasov and Poinia Brasov), came to \$2.65 per meal per person in the summer of 1980.

The prices have gone up but so has the availability and quality. At one upscale restaurant, the Imparatul Romanitor in Sibiu, a meal for two consisting of soup, main course, wine, water, and dessert cost 843,655 lei or about \$26.00. Everything on the extensive menu was available.

In spite of what is written in the promotional literature, automobiles rent for \$25 a day plus 25 cents per Km plus gas at \$2.85 a gallon. As it is a communist country, there is only one car rental company; the price is the same everywhere. Automobile rentals must be paid for in hard currency, not Romanian lei, but they will take personal checks. The only car available is the 4—door, floor-shift, Romanian made Dacia. It gets 45 mpg (8.5 km/l) and is underpowered. It requires constant shifting down on the twisting mountain roads.

We didn't rent a car this time.

Bring plenty of film with you. The only film sold is Russian of dubious quality and is often unavailable. The only better quality cameras that the stores have are Chinese copies of the post-war twin-lens Rolliflex for about \$300, and a Russian range finder 35mm. Bring your own.

Kodak and other brands of film are readily available.

Store prices all over the country are the same with some exceptions for handicrafts. However, even at the best prices, hand embroidered blouses are \$50—\$75 and up. Don't expect to do any extensive shopping. There is very little variation in stock among the stores and there just isn't that much to buy. Duty-free stores sell western liquors, toilet articles, electrical

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

appliances, and cosmetics, but the choices are slim. Bring what you need with you.

Stores are well stocked. Hand-knitted and embroidered sweaters cost about \$15.00 but are not seen everywhere. The best place to buy them is in front of Dracula's Castle Hotel.

Breakfast in the hotels is served between 7 and 10 A.M. and may consist of tea, milk, coffee or cocoa, butter, jam, bread or rolls, boiled eggs, ham, bacon, cheese, or sausages. Lunch is served between 12:30 and 3 P.M. A standard lunch or dinner at a good restaurant consists of a salad (the tomatoes and cucumbers are very good), chiorba (a minestrone type of soup with a meat base) or another soup or fried fish, a main dish of stewed or broiled meat with potatoes, and desert (usually one of four kinds of cake). Although the tea comes directly from China, it is not as good as Lipton's. It is also delivered in waterproof tea bags. You must hold it down in the hot water with your spoon to make it infuse. If you've got the habit, bring your own tea bags, instant coffee, or cocoa.

The buffet breakfast hasn't changed much except the variety and quantity has increased. The soups that I had were very good. The other foods were good. Romanian food is still not up to their pre-war reputation. During the communist era, because of the food shortages, they seem to have forgotten how to cook. Now they are working to catch up. The most impressive change was the availability. Whereas previously some restaurants would have impressive menus, they had only one or two items available. Now everything on the menus was available.

Dracula's castle does not exist. Brain Stoker sited the locale of the castle at Borgo Pass in the northern, more mountainous part, of the country. Vlad Tepes, the historical "Dracula", whom Stoker probably had in mind, governed the southern part of the country. Vlad Tepes' castles are in ruins, but Bran Castle, near Brasov, which may have been visited by Vlad Tepes, is a beautiful restored castle and is well-worth a visit. The countryside west of Bran is some of the most picturesque in Romania.

Now they've done it. There's finally a castle at Borgo Pass. That's where Count Dracula kept his lair in Transylvania. There never before was a Dracula castle at Borgo Pass. That all was in the imagination of Bram Stoker, who wrote the novel. Now that Romania is in the Western world and is attracting tourists, the enterprising Romanians have built a castle where one never existed. But this castle is a hotel. It is at the top of the pass with magnificent views of the lush Romanian countryside. The hotel itself is designed to look like a castle with battlements, a portcullis gate, a central courtyard, a tower, floors on multiple levels, and dungeons. Deep underground there is a crypt with Dracula's coffin in it. But don't open the coffin; he may still be in there! For modern tourists there is a souvenir shop in the lobby and an outdoor market place near the entrance. Restaurants and bars in the hotel provide food and drinks to western European standards. The bar at the top of the tower is my favorite relaxation space. It is quiet and you can look out in all four directions. The rooms are sparse as befits a medieval castle, but clean and neat. From a peak opposite, the castle can be seen lordling over the region in all its magnificence. Count Dracula would have loved this place.

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

Dracula's Castle



Because of the shortage of foreign exchange, and the energy crisis in general, Romania has severely cut back on lighting. Most streets are not lighted at night. Even the main streets in Bucharest are not lighted or are poorly lighted. Hotel lobbies, restaurants, and shops have very limited lighting. A typical hotel lobby would have a single bare bulb illuminating it. Unfortunately this gives a very dingy appearance to what otherwise would be a sparkling city. It severely cuts into the nightlife as well.

How things have changed! People throng the streets. Lights everywhere. Public buildings and monuments are illuminated. Hotel lobbies are bright and cheerful, usually illuminated by crystal chandeliers. It's a different Romania!

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ing with people of like-minded commitments and obligations and the chance to make new friends and discover new heroes, because that's what many of them are, in their own ways, heroes who take the time to make a difference. So now, if you're ready to chip in and sign up to help, then that's what I was going for here.

The Space Coast Area Mensa has a serious problem. We have over 200 talented, interesting, opinionated, hard working members and we cannot even fill the Executive Committee with 5 members (at least at the time of this article) This is a huge missed opportunity for so many of you. This is not an overwhelming commitment! It is, at the very minimum, a 1 and a half hour monthly meeting and at the most, an opportunity to find out what you're really made of or what you can really get done. Our treasury is secure, our membership is large, our name is recognizable – this is the building blocks for someone to really do something if they wanted to. There are programs with affiliations with National and International Mensan organizations (Scholarship Programs, Gifted Children Programs, Special Interests Groups...etc.) and opportunities to make a difference right here in your own community.

I wish there was some way we could call and ask each one of you personally for help, but even that can take unexpectedly longer that you can imagine. Please don't wait for that call, give one of the ExComm members a call (see inside cover of this publication) and let us know you are there for us, if not to take a position on the board or a committee, at least to let us know you are there to help with our Regional Gathering (RG) in Melbourne this October. Or better yet, join us at one of our *ExComm (Executive Committee)* monthly meetings. They will give you a chance to meet some of the members that keep SCAM going for you and can give you an opportunity to find out more information about the organization that you belong to. The time and location are always listed in the calendar. ***May's meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4th, 7:00 pm at the Texas Bar-B-Q Restaurant on US 1 in Cocoa.***

For those of you who are currently helping or have helped in the past, thank you so much, for everyone else, I am looking forward to meeting you.



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

A Winning Tradition?

***by
Hank Rhodes
©2004***

Lately, there has been a considerable amount of news regarding the dismal state of major college sports, primarily football and basketball. A number of cases involve college players committing criminal acts, ranging from property crimes like shoplifting to serious felonies such as assault and rape. Several high-profile coaches have been implicated in improper conduct, or for ineffective leadership in addressing misbehavior by their players. Additionally, while being recruited, high school athletes have been offered alcohol and prostitutes as enticements.

The real surprise is the number of people who seem shocked (Yes, shocked!) by these developments. It shouldn't require an advanced degree to see how this behavior is a natural by-product of the current system. Consider the prevalent emphasis on achieving a winning program at all costs, and the following:

- -In contrast to the original intent of recreation and character development through friendly competition, big-time college football and basketball programs serve primarily as a farm system for the professional leagues (NFL and NBA).
- -College graduation rates for football and basketball players are abysmally low. Coursework requirements can be judiciously described as lax. In the vernacular of the players, a football or basketball scholarship is often referred to as a "ride."
- -Football and basketball players are often housed in separate dormitories, and are otherwise isolated from the student body in general.
- -The salaries of the coaching staff far exceed that of most professors.
- -College athletics are regulated by an ineffective self-policing body.

A commonly-offered blanket excuse for these excesses is that big-time college football and basketball are "money-makers," and the revenue they generate serves to support the remainder of each university's athletic program.

What is the solution? Like most problems, there are no easy answers. A good first step would be dropping the hypocritical pretense that major college football and basketball players are student athletes, and a general acknowledgement by all involved that these programs serve as a developmental system for the NFL and NBA. Since players in the baseball and hockey minor leagues receive compensation, start paying the college football and basketball players! Split all college football and basketball programs into a Professional Division and an Amateur Division. Each school would determine which division it would compete in.

Here's how the Professional Division would work:

- -Players receive a stipend (say, \$2000 per game for football and \$400 per game for basketball). This isn't big money, but would be on a par with what minor-leaguers in other sports make. This would be paid out of the school's TV revenues. The players would continue to receive free meals and housing as they do now.

- -The booster clubs (who are concerned with preserving “a winning tradition”) would be permitted to negotiate with the players and add compensation over the basic stipend without limits or restrictions. As the saying goes, “Who ever saw a college football team running off the field holding up two fingers?” At last the boosters and alumni could become actively and openly involved in buying the best players available.
- -Professional Division teams would be subject to roster limits, just like pro teams. These roster limits would be set at about fifty players on a football team, twelve for basketball. Thus the entire payroll for an eleven-game college football season would be about \$1.1 million, which is less than what many coaches make.
- -The football and basketball players would be regarded as non-academic employees of the university, similar to custodians and groundskeepers. The players, their housing, and their facilities would be subject to the authority of local law enforcement, without interference by the university or the athletic department. Criminal misbehavior would be investigated, and if warranted, suspects would be prosecuted, as would any other citizen, without regard to special status as star athletes.
- -To assure a balance of talent, and enhance competitiveness, ease rules on transfers from college to college. If a college player is cut from paid status before the first game, allow him to immediately transfer to another program interested in offering him “a ride.”
- -Professional Division college football would have a playoff system resulting in a single, undisputed national champion.
- -To maintain some semblance of a relationship between education and athlete, award each player a one-year scholarship for each season played. This scholarship would be available at some later date, to be redeemed when the player’s professional career ends (or when the player washes out of the pros), when a college education would have risen in the individual’s scale of values.
- -Walk-on players would be welcome, but they would be subject to Amateur Division rules (see below).

The Amateur Division would be comprised of schools who desire to preserve the apparently archaic concept of the student-athlete. It is anticipated that the Amateur Division would attract colleges like those in the Ivy League, as well as schools like Northwestern and Rice, which have not lost sight of their educational mission. Amateur Division players would be held in strict compliance with academic standards, and the players would be required to make reasonable progress toward an accredited degree during their four years of eligibility. Additionally, Amateur Division programs:

- -would have restrictions on practice hours, and other athletic-related events, such as weight training and team meetings.
- -would be prohibited from using athletic dormitories, or other means of segregating the players from the student body.
- -would be penalized for low graduation rates.

After all, this seems to be the only reasonable way to preserve “a winning tradition.” It might just save higher education in America as well.



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

Remember the old rhetorical question from the Viet Nam War era: “What if they threw a war and nobody came?” Well, within Mensa in general, not just this group, “What if they threw a party and nobody came?” Soon, those who have striven to keep the group active will stop trying...Mensa is, first and foremost, a social organization.

Many are good at finding fault with those who do put items on the calendar but are unwilling to provide items for social activities to add to the calendar. This is very disheartening to those who are trying to come up with new events.

JT and I put an item on the calendar called “Talk about”...a forum for intelligent and gentle conversation. We usually have light music (often classical) playing the background and we all share ideas about a large number of topics. We don’t allow games to be played or the videos to be watched. We chose a Friday night just for a change-up to all the events on Saturdays.

We will be adding back a Saturday night out to dinner and to our place for movies...I need a bit of a break from providing dinners. We are keeping Firearms and Fried Rice but it is likely that pub night will soon fade away.

I believe we have a new calendar coordinator – hope someone puts her to work. Again, I am retreating from the more political scene of Space Coast. I’m tired – work is eating up so much time – I’m working at least 50 hours per week...it catches up to me since I just turned 55 this year.

Sorry if I sound somewhat whiney but we have not been able to get enough folks for the ExComm and the various offices. Perhaps I should see it as a compliment – you all must like my management style...no one else wants to take over the job.

We do have more members than we’ve seen in years...we’d now like to see these members. The RG committee can use some assistance, as well. Please consider helping your group.



Pow-Owl CaMp

August 20-22 at Buffalo Gap Camp
(off Rt. 50, west of Winchester, VA)

Only \$165 until May 28th,
then \$185 to 7/19, \$205 to 8/13
\$50 deposit (non-ref); balance by 7/19
Kids 13-17 @75%, 6-12 @50%, <6 free

Includes pleasant cabin space (private room extra),
tasty meals/snacks from Fri. dinner to Sun. lunch,
and all the fun you can handle!

This delightful new annual event is kinda like a mini summer camp for Mensans and friends/family of all ages. (Yes, including children by popular demand—there will be a cluster of family cabins.) The place is wonderful and the food is excellent. Planned activities include a variety of RG-like programs, a dance sampler series making use of the fine floor, and traditional camp stuff like swimming and singing/s'mores around the campfire. Cabins will be set aside for games, a book swap, and the children's clubhouse. All we need is YOU! For more info, contact event sponsor Jenny Foster: pinc@xecu.net or 301-371-4312 (email preferred).

EDITOR'S NOTE: We were not able to run the RVC column for April due to time constraints and some last minute technical difficulties I experienced. If you desire any info on the ASIE cited in this column, please contact the RVC, info below and on Page Two of The SCAM.

The 10th Story
by
Elissa Rudolph,
RVC10
RVC10@us.mensa.org

Who said a group of Mensans could not agree on anything? More than 24,000 Ms agreed to give their proxies to our national secretary, Judy Vasiliauskas, to exercise at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. While it won't be a done deal until that actually happens, the good news is that it looks like a go, despite the fact that we experience a drop in membership at the end of March.

With members renewing after March and new members coming on board (new members are sent a blank proxy to sign too), we may still achieve the 50% number easily. Fingers crossed. In July, the go ahead will be given to get Mensa's Certificate of Incorporation updated so the organization will be safe. Thank you all for understanding the situation and rising to the cause!

Last month's column contained an ASIE (Action Still In Effect) concerning problem members. I had quite a few comments about it, all to the good. I'm glad to hear that the information was useful, but I wonder how many of you have problem members in your group? From the feedback I received sounds like there are more of those undesirables than we want. If you need help in handling such members, please contact me.

Have a good month!

Coming Soon: another great Mensa Gathering event!!

May 28-31, MaRGargitaville, Tampa Bay Mensa's Beach Bash at the Days Inn Rocky Point; registration fee \$60 til May 1, includes meals; Trash Bowl, Treasure Hunt, SteinhiceCapades, Tai Chi, Karaoke, Latin dance lessons.

Registrar: Kathy Crum, katshe@aol.com.

Minutes of the



ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Helen Lee Moore on April 4, 2004. Call to Order 4 pm by AsstLocSec Rita Johnson-Aronna.

Members present: Rita Johnson-Aronna, Sam Kirschten, Helen Lee Moore, and Joe Smith.

Welcome guests: Michael Moakley and Mike's son James Morrison.

Minutes for March 2004, approved as published. Move **Helen**, second **Joe**, unanimous vote.

Officer reports -

Treasurer: March 31, 2004 report distributed by **Helen**.

There were no other officer reports.

Committee Reports:

Membership Officer Joe Smith will write an article for The SCAM describing opportunities to enjoy.

Scholarship Chairman Rita Johnson-Aronna has made a good acquisition of an owl picture for the RG scholarship fundraiser auction.

Testing: no candidates were tested in March 2004. Tests are scheduled in April 2004.

Old Business: none.

New Business: **Joe** announced the RG Committee meeting would convene after the adjournment of the ExComm meeting.

After discussion of how to have more member visitors at the ExComm meetings, a new day, time, and location were selected. The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for 7 pm Tuesday May 4, 2004, at Texas BBQ Pit.

Adjourned 4:15 pm. Moved **Helen**, seconded **Joe**, passed by unanimous vote.

NOTE: Next ExComm meeting will be held at the Texas Bar-B-Q Pit:

*Texas BBQ Pit, 1341 North Cocoa Blvd (US 1), Cocoa, Florida
BBQ sandwiches \$3.75. Good new place in the introductory phase. Ask for drawing entries and dollar-off coupon. 7 pm Tuesday May 4. Hosted by ExComm. SS/NP/meal cost.*