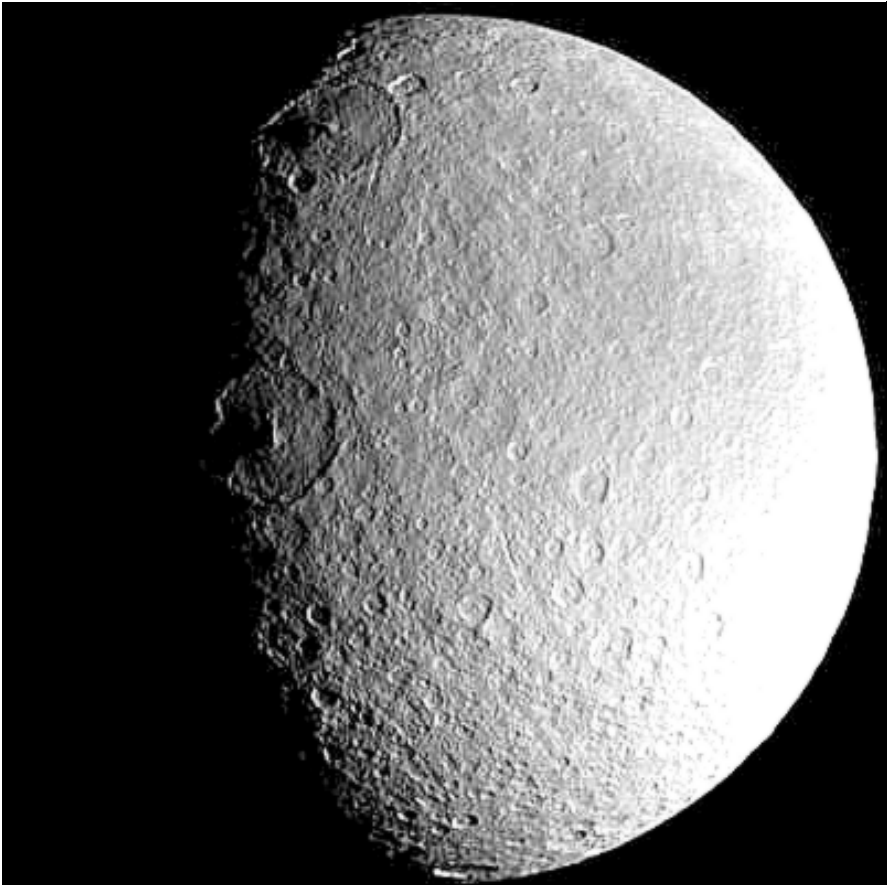


The

SCAM

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Howlin' at a Moon?





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 on Page 2.

Writer's Block

Mike Moakley, Editor, The SCAM

October already! Among other things, this is the second in a series of issues where you, the reader, get to “meet the ExComm” as well as anyone else who ventures to write about him/herself. Last month, in the LocSection, George “introduced” himself in a few words tucked in his (now) regular column. This month, we get to meet Tom Wheat, our Assistant LocSec. And now, a few words about myself (OK, I promised the ExComm I would do it).

Over 20 years ago, I made a bet with a colleague on whether or not I would be eligible to join Mensa. I took the requisite tests, and when I was offered membership, it was clearly evident that I had lost the bet. The only other bet I lost is whether or not I would marry; I have been married to Deb for nearly 20 years now. You may have already ascertained that I am not a good gambler (I have not made bets since).

For pay, I have taken crap for the last 26 years from half of Melbourne, which features 2 wastewater treatment plants to serve its residents. For fun, I edit this fine epistle and also become “the Village Idiot” (but that’s another column!). One (perhaps) interesting bit of trivia is my antipathy toward bullies. It is also interesting how much a writer reveals about himself in his work—certainly, I have done that! ‘Nuff said! Now back to business.

Kat Cochrane has resigned her positions as Webmaster and Calendar Coordinator. She has my thanks for her valuable contributions to SCAM. Karen Freiberg is our new Webmaster, Doug Starke is our new Calendar Coordinator. My thanks to both for stepping up to the plate when needed the most. The SCAM Website will be going through a transition, please be patient. One last thing, my e-mail address has changed: it is now MensanIdiot@yahoo.com. All SCAM submissions should be directed there.

The SCAM sells classified ad space. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Born in Detroit, I grew up in Ann Arbor and Highland Park, Michigan. During that time, I was twice school spelling champion, state spring-board diving champion, captain of high school swimming team and an Eagle Scout. I entered college at age 16, but left to join the Marine Corps to spend 3 years in the Pacific Theater and 5 years in the Reserves. I was discharged as a First Lieutenant I went back to college after active duty and graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University. I did some graduate work in architecture at the University of Michigan, and am presently licensed as both an architect and structural engineer in Florida and a few other states.

Previous Mensa activities: I have been a member of Mensa for 40 years. I was LocSec of Southeastern Michigan Mensa (SEMM), hosted an AG at my then-new self-designed house in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Was one of 2 Mensa panelists on WWJ Radio "Great Decisions".Series (Detroit). I was an instructor in architecture at the Oakland Community College (MI) series of courses for gifted and academically talented students. I was a Mensan guest lecturer at the University of Texas Law School on the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (previously lived in San Antonio -see below)

Community involvement: I have been President of homeowners associations in Michigan and recently, Melbourne Beach. I just finished a 3-year term on the Board of the Brevard Heritage Council, and am presently a member of the La Costa Village Architectural Review Committee where I live. I previously lived in San Antonio for 13 years and was active on city boards there such as the Fine Arts Commission and the San Antonio River Corridor Committee. I was also President of the San Antonio Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Other achievements and interests: I am a licensed pilot, and qualified as a parachutist. Interests include flying, swimming and diving, golf, reading, Melbourne Beach history and certain community activities.

I could go on but an architect has to draw the line somewhere-----
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I also hope to be able to contribute to the SCAM in the coming year.

My best (whew),
Tom

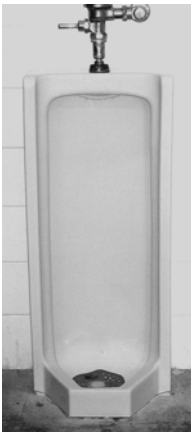
Part 2: Urinals

Men's urinals come in several basic types. The trough type has two subcategories, wall mounted and floor. The trough type provides no privacy, is simple of construction and is easy to clean, that is, if it ever does get cleaned. There is the story about a bar in the wilds of Alaska, apocryphal no doubt, where in the winter it was too cold for the patrons, all men of course, to go outside to the unheated outhouse after drinking their beers. The owner of the bar solved the problem by installing a trough urinal on the face of the bar and piping it to the outside so the men could drink and urinate at the same time without leaving their stools. I searched Alaska but I couldn't find that bar.



Trough urinals are still found occasionally. One pictured is from England. An example of a floor type trough urinal is found in the Barbican Arts Centre in London. Another rarely found type of urinal is the full length or floor model, although this type was once the very common. The full-length model has several advantages. With such a large target area it is difficult for the patron to miss the mark. Also, if mounted flush with the floor, cleaning the toilet room is simplified. No floor drain is required; the floor is washed down and swept into the urinal.

A full-length urinal can be found in the men's room at Erna Nixon Park in Melbourne. This one is not mounted flush with



the floor. Another full-length urinal pictured is in the men's room of the Waldorf Hotel in London, a very posh establishment. Note the screen to prevent splashing one's self. These screens are very rarely seen on floor urinals. The old pissoires of Paris were in essence a large circular floor trough urinal. The original Crapper urinal shown is not in use. It stands on display outside the modern Crapper factory in Avon.

Floor urinals for the most part have been replaced in contemporary construction by wall mounted urinals. Wall mounted urinals are preferred by most building owners because, like wall mounted toilets, they leave the floor unobstructed and therefore easier to clean. Whether they

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are

less expensive to install is a question to be analyzed. If the wall-mounted urinal is plain, the fixture itself may cost significantly less than the full-length urinal, but if it is fancy, the fixture may cost more, many times more. But the wall-mounted urinal needs a strong support built into the wall, just as a wall mounted toilet does, to support the full weight of a man. In order to accommodate the various heights of the men and boys using them, banks of wall-mounted urinals are often mounted at various heights, something not required of floor-mounted urinals.



However, some wall mounted urinals have such a small target area that a particularly short or tall man would find them difficult to use. The ones shown are in museums in Vienna and Paris. Similar urinals are found in other museums around the world. Is there something about male museum patrons that I don't know?

Some of the more unusual urinals that I have seen have been of the wall-mounted variety. Virgin Atlantic wanted to install a urinal called "Kisses" in its private lounge in Kennedy Airport in New York. That urinal is found in several places around the world. Within a week of the announcement, the outcry from feminists was so great that Virgin Atlantic dropped the idea. NOW even has a web site through which you can send your objections to Virgin.



Wall mounted urinals in past years were simply mounted on the walls. In recent years privacy barriers between the urinals have become the vogue. Building codes are now being rewritten to require such barriers. It seems that men are becoming more shy or sensitive about urinating in view of other men. The medical condition is called paruresis or shy-bladder syndrome. Some men find it difficult, if not impossible, to urinate

if someone else is close enough to see or hear. Mental health experts say this phobia troubles an estimated seventeen million Americans to some extent, but few will talk about it. But the modern version of the open-air public urinal provides less privacy than the now defunct pissoires of Paris. For all the interest in increasing privacy for men urinating, many American movies and TV shows have an obligatory scene in a public toilet with men urinating on screen.

I have not had much time for prowling bookstore so I missed a “cozy” from one of my favorite authors. Diane Mott Davidson has as her main character, a woman whose job is catering and often finds herself embroiled in mysteries and mayhem.

What first attracted me to her books were the “punny” titles and the fact that this caterer who shares her recipes. The recipes were scattered throughout the book. I usually buy her books in the Hardcover version so they will last longer and the hardcover books are easier to work with when cooking one of the recipes. Diane’s first three books featuring Goldy Schultz (formerly Korman) of Goldy’s Catering Where Everything is Just Right, are entitled: “Catering to Nobody”, “Dying for Chocolate” and “Killer Pancakes”. The latest book, “Double Shot” refers to both the Double Shot of Espresso coffee in a chocolate cake and the manner in which her ex-husband, Dr. Korman was killed.

The ex-husband, Dr. Korman’s full name is John Richard Korman. Goldy and her best friend (and a second or third wife of Dr. Korman called him “The Jerk” because of his initials, JRK. Previously, the Jerk had been incarcerated because he had nearly killed his last girlfriend. He had been sentenced to 14 years but after just a couple of years he had been pardoned by the Governor for saving the life of a guard in cardiac arrest.

There had been the continuing theme of the spousal abuse that Dr. Korman had been inflicting on Goldy even after the divorce. Now that she had married a Deputy Sheriff’s investigator she had begun carrying a gun (and knew how to use it but was pretty much inexperienced with it). This is the only flaw in the story as she carries a .38 caliber pistol (not a semi-automatic) and she talks about setting the safety on and off. Since I use this same type of gun, I knew – there is no safety...but that is really minor (trying for political correctness of factual correctness). The “bad” Dr. Korman becomes the victim. He is shot in the chest and groin while sitting in his car in his garage. Goldy becomes the prime suspect and her husband, the investigator is advised to take time off from work.

The crime scene has enough clues to make suspects of most of the town of Aspen Meadows, Colorado where all of this is transpiring. Dr. Korman had many enemies garnered over many years of psychopathic behavior. He had had a tremendous number of women – some he married others he just toyed with the affections of his conquest. Through it all, Goldy allowed her son unfettered visitations with Dr. Korman. Now that the Jerk is dead she learns he had fathered another child by a very young girl from the community (and the child of a close friend), as well as having committed a rape on the teenaged daughter of another friend (the daughter had been abused by her father and had become the patient of the jerk).

The seamier side of life comes out into the open with the death of

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Thomas Edison gave his definition of insanity: “Endless repeating of the same process, hoping for a different result.” We are now seeing the stock market head down again as it did in 2000. Brokers, mutual fund managers and financial planners hopefully will not be repeating their same errors that cost investors seven (7) trillion (with a T) dollars. Unfortunately they will be working with the same deficient knowledge as before.

The financial brethren have been taught to invest by the Wall Street tribe that has proven to allow huge losses for the small investor. Small is considered less than a 7-figure account. Any customer with less than \$100,000 does not show on the radar screen.

The old saw that brokers tell their clients that they will watch their account is pure horse hockey. The average broker has 300 accounts and only those in the seven-figure range get their attention. Wall Street tells brokers to buy and hold. This obvious prevarication has been told so many times that it has become conventional wisdom. Just about every broker and financial planner believes it.

If you are to make money in the stock market you must learn a new way to invest. Tom said you can't keep doing the same thing. And I'm sure you don't want to go thru those terrible declines that happened five years ago.

Did you have a stock or mutual fund that dropped from its high 40, 50, 60% or more? I hope not. The top 50 mutual funds crashed 42%. Each \$10,000 in your portfolio became worth \$5,800. You could have saved most of the \$4,200 if your broker had recommended a trailing stop loss order.

When you bought your stock or fund did you have an exit strategy? Most folks don't. Edison was always trying different approaches and when they did not work he quit them and tried something new. That is what you must

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READER'S CORNER...Continued.

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the Doctor and the subsequent deaths of others who had been hiding ugly skeletons associated with the past crimes of rape and incest.

The story has an Elvis impersonator named Bobby (who was from Nashville, Tennessee) – an important element to the story since there is a replica of the Parthenon in a park in Nashville, a wildfire raging through the woods, and society people with questionable pasts and funerals. It is a quick read and, as usual, the recipes are great. There had been what appeared to be a second flaw in the story but it was a plot ploy so all in all a very good book for dull, rainy afternoon. And anyone who still knows how to work in the kitchen, I'll be happy to taste-test the recipes.

Dour LocSec wishes to abjectly abase himself (excellent example of Socratic irony) for not producing a real column this month, but he would very much like an X in the procrastination column rather than the lazy column. Not a whole lot has happened that isn't covered in the minutes. We continue to ponder how to handle details of the website, which will now be managed by Karen Freiberg. Doug Starke is our new calendar coordinator, so send him lots of party announcements. And it is possible that we are doing research on a possible location for the possible 2006 RG. Consider the possibilities. Talk amongst yourselves. I'll do better next month.

THE ALCHEMIST...Continued.

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do when investing in the stock market. If your equity goes down it is not working for you so you sell it to find one that does work for you.

There are times when nothing is going up and that is when you will have sold everything and stand aside with your funds in a money market account. It may not make much, but at least you won't let the market steal your equity.

You don't need to be as brilliant as Tom Edison to find a good stock during a bull market, but during a bear market it takes a super genius. During a bear market even the best stocks go down and many do not recover, Bernard Baruch, one of the greatest traders of all times, said the secret to his success was that he got out too soon. That may seem very simple, but he had the greatest gift of all traders. He had an exit strategy.

Don't join the other inmates in the Wall Street sanatorium by continuing to hold your equities as the market goes down. Learn to do something different to protect your investments.

Al Thomas' best selling book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple 2-step method.

Read the first chapter at www.mutualfundmagic.com and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is reprinted from Redwood Empire News, newsletter of Redwood Empire Mensa, March, 2004; Nancy Flack, Editor.

History is rife with rock-stars who, upon gaining the good life, turn around and destroy it, and themselves. The same might be said of many dictators—they rule the roost, and then try to take over someone else's henhouse. Anyone might forecast their failure, yet they foolishly go forward. Finally, there are the people of the world who just seem to make life difficult through gossip, or inattentive driving (or both if they use a cell phone).

Some people say that you can't change human nature. When it's phrased that way, I don't know if they are talking about all the "yous" of the world—or is it just "me"? Is it human nature that people living in a good situation just make it more complex? Is it human nature to take a bad situation and make it better? I suppose I've done my share of each.

People everywhere are frustrated by people everywhere. Sadly, many complaints are followed by the defeatist sigh, "Oh well, I guess you can't change human nature." That frustrates me. The phrase that comes to mind is, "Times don't change but people do." What is the essence of human nature? Is it human nature to fight for survival against the harsh elements? If so, what happens when the fight is won, the elements vanquished to lash with futile fury against my double-paned window? Are we then free to choose our own nature?

Perhaps it is human nature just to make broad generalizations, but the supposed essence of human nature is that it is unavoidable. The inability to change suggests that individuals cannot change their habits. And we all know that habits are hard to break—but the very fact that they are hard to change means they are still changeable. I just hate to see anyone give up—especially when they give up without even trying. So we can't change human nature? So what! We can't change the nature of elemental gold either, and yet we can cast gold into rings, pound gold into leaf, and shield sensitive spacecraft components with gold foil. Why can't we change humans?

What is human nature? Is it the "law of the jungle?" A dog-eat-dog world? Does love make the world go 'round? What about money? Is human nature to be alone reading a book? Is it to relax with some friends? Jack London's *Sea Wolf* is a magnificent comparison between two views of the world—two very different examples of human nature. There is the sadistic captain "Wolf" Larson who, de-

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When growing up, I enjoyed all of the Saturday morning Westerns. My sister and I were really impressed with Annie Oakley (nee Phoebe Ann Moses). She was known as the “Little Sure Shot”. We often wished we could have lived in those Halcyon years. Shooting guns and roping bad guys! What absolute fun. Once when we were waxing eloquent about her, our mother sort of sniffed and said, Annie never made I shot I couldn’t make...I saw her in the Old West Show, you know. Well, of course this was just stunning – mom lived during the frontier days???? Imagine our surprise that Annie was from Ohio, very close to where mom was born AND, she did not spend much time in the west.

Fast-forward a bit in the family history, when I was 19, my parents took a vacation, leaving me at home alone (that is 19 years old – certainly old enough to do this). Mom and Dad insisted that I learn to shoot a borrowed rifle. The person teaching me to shoot was also my steady boyfriend. He shot the rifle so I could get used to the sound and to show me there was no recoil to speak of. He then set up a soda can with his spent cartridge sitting on top of it. He returned to where I was standing and said: “Now hit that”. I took careful aim and pulled the trigger as shown. The can stood exactly as it had been (however, the casing was gone and there was a nice .22 caliber hole in the log behind where the casing had been. My boyfriend said he could not believe I missed the can, to which I answered: “The can! I was shooting at the casing!” He walked over to the log, came back and took the rifle away from and stomped off in the direction of the house. I caught up to him, asking what the matter was. He would not speak to me. I suddenly stopped and said: “That was a really good shot, wasn’t it?” He would not even turn around. I’d guessed it in one shot.

So, we were stunned to learn things such as, William Bonney (nee, Patrick McCarthy) was from New York City. As Wyatt Earp (he drove a car for Pete’s sake and gave acting hints to John Wayne) was wont to say in the movie, “Sunset”, give or take a lie or two about these Old West Figures.

What was the more popular name for William Bonney (Patrick McCarthy)?

Of the following, how many came from west of the Mississippi River?

William Hickok
William Cody
Frank and Jesse James

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spite his obvious intelligence, revels in the sadistic treatment of all who fall under his sway. His is a dark world filled with pain, conflict and death, all for the purpose of profit and dominance.

Opposite Larson, in the dance of the story, are two writers who arrived on board quite by accident. These two educated individuals represent the pinnacle of literary society and the refinement of civilization. As the story progresses, the two fall in love, and together escape captain Larson.

Personally, I'm something of a behaviorist. I believe that the most important perspective on humans is not what we think or feel; it is what we do. The pursuit of wealth, violence, love, or sadism—all these and more are all part of human nature. In our times, we have all experienced the range of human emotion and action. It seems that our human nature changes; and frequently, at that.

The Meyer's Briggs Personality Indicator defines sixteen different personality types. The Enneagram lists nine. In *The Wizard of Oz*... well, just pick your favorite character and you have an amazingly simple personality test. The point is that there are many ways of defining what human nature looks like. There are probably as many different personalities as there are people. The question then becomes, "How do people change?" Some people say, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." I say the dog just isn't motivated to change. But we are human; we can choose some of our motivations.

We change, and we change a lot. After all, isn't that the goal of Madison Avenue and the billions of dollars spent on advertising each year? If we are hungry, we go eat—because we have both the motivation and the means to fulfill that urge. Human behavior is the sum of the individual's resources (abilities, education, money, time, etc.) and their motivations (hunger, love, hate, habits, etc.). Even motivations and resources are not set in stone. Some are driven by a need to acquire money. Same money, same person, at the end of the week, they are suddenly driven by the urge to spend that money! Go figure.

If it is human nature (and therefore supposedly unavoidable) to do any one particular thing, then why are there so many different types of people doing so many different things? Although humans are children of nature, we have the ability to change the face of nature. So, I suppose it should be no surprise that we have the ability to change our own natures, as well.

Economists say that we have no choice except to act in our best interest. I'd say it's in our best interest to improve the way we think and interact with others. What have you done differently over the years? How has your nature changed? Were those changes pur-

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poseful or accidental? We can change ourselves, and we can help others to change. So, if someone's behavior bothers you, take the time to tell him or her so—nicely, of course. Let's not give up on changing humans, and our nature.

Steve Wallis is a PhD student at Fielding Graduate Institute and co-author of *Easy Genius: Awakening your Whole Brain to Build a More Powerful Memory*. Surf the site at: www.easygenius.net. Send him your stories of human nature to: steve@easygenius.net

RANDOM THOUGHTS...Continued.

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Wyatt Earp

Doc Holliday

Martha Jane Canary-Burke (Calamity Jane)

Robert Leroy Parker (Butch Cassidy)

And Harvey Alexander Logan (Kid Curry

or Sundance Kid)

William Barclay (Bat) Masterson

It is so heart-breaking to learn these sorts of things – the heroes were not so heroic (the Earps were “lawmen for hire” and often-times were worse than those they were arresting). Bat Masterson returned to the east to write stories. It is right at the top of the list of bad things, behind Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny.

“The power to create is the power to destroy”

Paul Volcker, 1979

If you would listen to our Liberal friends, our President, George W. Bush, must really be God. After all, they would have us believe that he has been personally responsible for the Florida hurricanes of 2004, the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, and now Hurricane Katrina. Now, you might ask just how he could have caused the natural disasters. After all, they are just that - natural, right? Well, they will say that he didn't CAUSE them... not personally. But, they will also claim that he could have PREVENTED them. And, by all the versions of logic I have ever used, one is equivalent to the other.

But, of course, no rational human being would ever grant deity status to George Bush (although I know any number of Libs who have already granted it to Hillary and Bill), but they have certainly ascribed to him divine power. Or, as might be more likely in light of their absolute hatred for the man - diabolic power.

In any event, the lefties credit the President with the power to have prevented the huge increase in the number of violent hurricanes, as well as the tsunami, if only he had signed the Kyoto Protocols on Global Warming.

However, there is, as always, an extremely large fallacy to their argument, one to which they are either ignorant, or prefer to ignore since it fails to give any credibility to their attacks. And even disproves them.

In 1988 the United Nations set up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to analyze and report on scientific findings. In November 1995, the IPCC stated that current warming "is unlikely to be entirely natural in origin" and that "the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate".

This is what the lefties would have you hear - man is responsible and we could stop all these disasters now. But, let's include the last part of the IPCC's statement from 1995. Its report predicts that, under a "business as usual" scenario, **by the year 2100** global temperatures will have risen by between 1°C and 3.5°C.

For those of our liberal friends who are mathematically challenged, it means that, if nothing is changed at all in the next century global temperatures will increase by a yearly average of less than two-hundredths of a degree Fahrenheit (°F) up to a possible six-hundredths of a degree Fahrenheit.

So, the lefties will say, even that is all our fault, and it wouldn't

happen if only Bush would sign the Kyoto Treaty. Their preferred ignorance would also not recognize that the United States Senate while Bill Clinton was President rejected the Kyoto Accords by a vote of 99 - 0. Unanimous. I guess the Almighty "W" went back in time and made all those Democrat Senators vote with the Republicans to destroy the world .

Our friends of the Left would probably also prefer to remain ignorant of the fact that the Kyoto Accords would not reduce global-warming-type pollution from Third-World countries, the ones that do not have all those pesky environmental regulations like the US does and already observes.

As for the tsunami, well, it was caused by an earthquake off the coast of Sumatra and had an unimpeded shot at the entire Indian Ocean coastline. But "W" has been blamed for everything from the quake itself (due to global warming, of course) to the deaths (due to somehow not personally warning them fast enough, although there was no warning system of any sort in the Indian Ocean) to more deaths (through our stingy, slow response of mobilizing in less than 48 hours the Pacific Command and "W"'s request for \$950 Million from Congress).

All in all, it becomes obvious that if only President Bush had waved his omnipotent pen, none of these things would have happened. Just as none of the horrors of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath would have happened if he had only been in Washington. If only he hadn't been so slow... except, of course, he wasn't.

Democrat Mayor of New Orleans Ray Nagin reported on CNN that after meeting with the Democrat governor of Louisiana, Kathleen Blanco, President Bush informed him that he had offered the governor two options, one of which was to move immediately. Unfortunately, Governor Blanco informed him that she needed 24 hours to make a decision.

The Louisiana State Dept. of Homeland Security prevented the Red Cross from delivering water, food, hygiene equipment, etc. to the Superdome and Convention Center on Wednesday, 8/31, while at the same time demanding action on national TV.

Even that divine inaction which lefties claim caused the levee to break... wasn't real. The *very* liberal Washington Post reported that under President Bush, Corps of Engineering spending in Louisiana soared to record levels. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that no new state money had been allocated to the area's hurricane protection projects as of October of 2002, leaving the available 65 percent federal matching funds for such construction untouched. However, millions of dollars were found for such crucial projects as the construction of the Tournament Players Club golf course near Westwego, the relocation of

FRIENDS SAY HE'S A QUICK STUDY

Bush Administration political appointees at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have been successful in blocking approval for over-the-counter sales of the contraceptive “Plan B” (also known as the “Morning after pill”), despite evaluation and a recommendation for approval by the Agency’s professional scientific staff. Availability of this product is obviously being stalled to appease the religious conservative wing of the Republican Party. Upper managers at the FDA claim (*where have we heard this before?*) they need more information.

When it comes to solving America’s health care crisis, however, there is no hesitation. President Bush strongly advocates “common-sense medical liability reform” to prevent “frivolous lawsuits.” Not surprisingly, these “reforms” primarily restrict the size of jury awards, and impede the ability of consumers to seek relief in the court system. Seems like the President had all the information he needed to make that call.

SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T GET THE WORD

If there is anyone who has not yet learned that all critics of the Bush Administration’s policies will be silenced, we now have the case of Ms. Bunnatine Greenhouse to consider.

Until a few weeks ago, Ms. Greenhouse was the senior civilian procurement official for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ms. Greenhouse has been outspoken in protesting irregularities in the Corps of Engineers’ award of a no-bid contract to the Halliburton Corporation to restore oil fields in Iraq. Not only was Halliburton pre-selected as the only supplier, they previously had the opportunity to write the cost estimates and the plan for how the contract would be executed. Ms. Greenhouse has testified before Congress regarding this and other aberrations in the supposedly competitive process by which the Corps of Engineers assures best value to the taxpayers when awarding contracts.

Why should a civil servant get in the way of Halliburton’s opportunity to realize another major profit stream from the current war in Iraq? Why should anyone question how this administration spends the taxpayer’s money, when this administration has given so much money back to the taxpayers (well, at least given it back to the taxpayers in the higher income brackets)?

Any loyal, red-blooded American knows that what is good for the Halliburton Corporation is good for our country, and vice versa. Obvi-

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ously, anyone who doesn't understand this either hates America or is stupid.

Conveniently, Ms. Greenhouse's supervisor recently filed an unfavorable review of her performance. Ms. Greenhouse was offered the opportunity to retire, presumably in return for her silence, an offer which she refused. Citing the unfavorable performance review as justification, the Corps of Engineers removed Ms. Greenhouse from her position and demoted her out of the Senior Executive Service. Ms. Greenhouse intends to appeal.

You have been warned: Silence is Golden!

ONLY IN AMERICA

At the recent National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts in Virginia, a young man from New Jersey faced a dilemma. A devout Muslim, he was concerned that the meals provided might contain pork products, which are forbidden to people of his faith. Although a special diet had been requested, there was no confirmation available that the restrictions had been observed by the vendor.

The resolution was provided by a Jewish patrol leader. To assure that he would be able to observe a kosher diet, the patrol leader had packed a supply of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, which he readily shared with his young neighbor.

The fact that Americans reach across the supposed divides of race, religion, ethnicity, or class to help one another isn't exceptional, these are simply every-day occurrences.

Isn't it unfortunate that what the rest of the world hears about America all too often falls in the category of the Congressman who proposes bombing other people's holy sites, or the televangelist who advocates assassinating the leader of a nation with which we are at peace?

AN UPDATE

Earlier this year, this author joined a host of other Americans of all political stripes in protesting the unjust treatment of Major Cathy Kaus, U.S. Army Reserve. (See "An Open Leader to President George W. Bush," published in the March 2005 edition of *The SCAM*.) To recap, Major Kaus and members of her unit had been severely punished for appropriating unused government vehicles and material in order to accomplish their mission of refueling units of the 4th Infantry Division during the advance on Baghdad in 2003. For leading her unit in this impressive achievement under hostile conditions, Major Kaus was awarded the Bronze Star. Only later, when her unit was scheduled to

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rotate home, did the charges against Major Kaus surface. After the subsequent court-martial, Major Kaus' punishment included a six-month sentence in confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

In a decision handed down by a three-star General in her chain-of-command, Major Kaus' dismissal from the Army has been overturned (although her sentence has already been completed). She will be able to retire with her full rank and benefits.

Additionally, outstanding punishments to Major Kaus' former subordinates have also been commuted.

Although the offices of Senator Nelson, Senator Martinez, and Congressman (for life) Weldon each responded, the author never received so much as an acknowledgement of his letter from the office of the President. This is presumably the same President who likes to talk about how he cares so very, very deeply for America's men and women serving in uniform.

Note for latecomers: "FLR" pertains to how some of the author's conservative friends fondly refer to this column- "Fallacious Leftist Rantings."

A VIEW FROM THE RIGHT...Continued.

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Hickory Avenue in Jefferson (Parish) and historic district development in Westwego.

So, what is it? Is "W" truly this almighty, omnipotent being who can cause disasters of biblical proportions through either action or inaction, or is he simply a man being used by liberals as a scapegoat for their own blatant incompetence and inadequacies?

I tend to lean toward the latter. For one, I am a logical individual who doesn't believe in the divinity of the President. Two, I believe that, were he truly divine, he would have already smitten his blasphemers.

Except, of course, for his divine mercy and compassion.

One hardly can talk about politics anymore, it seems, without getting into a fruitless debate about whether or not the Ten Commandments can be displayed on public property (in this context, courthouses, capital buildings, city halls., etc.), where it can be displayed and under what circumstances. One position, articulated by the ACLU (known by some as the Anti-Christian Litigation Union), is that the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment does not allow such a display, since it endorses Christianity as the United States's official religion. Others contend the Ten Commandments reflect our "Judeo-Christian" ethic. Despite the debate, the Ten Commandments displays do enjoy considerable popular support.

Do we, then, allow for such religious displays on public property? Since "we, the people" do not seem to believe what we read in our Constitution, we will set that question aside and instead ask, "Do the Ten Commandments accurately reflect official American policy?" What about our Judeo-Christian ethic? According to the Christian Coalition, founded in 1989 by televangelist Pat Robertson: "...we (the Christian Coalition) continuously work to identify, educate and mobilize Christians for effective political action! Such action will preserve, protect and defend the Judeo-Christian values that made this the greatest country in history."(1).

In case anyone missed it, on August 22, 2005, history was made. On that day, Mr. Robertson (yes, the same one) stated on his television show, The 700 Club, that the United States should kill Venezuela's president Hugo Chávez. In his words: "*If he (Chávez) thinks we're trying to assassinate him, I think that we really ought to go ahead and do it. It's a whole lot cheaper than starting a war. And I don't think any oil shipments will stop.*"(2) It is interesting to note that Venezuela has the largest oil reserve outside the Middle East. Apparently, Chávez's opposition to President Bush and globalization's effects on his citizens prompted Mr. Robertson's suggestion. Why, to date, has no one from the current Administration officially repudiated Mr. Robertson's statement? Read on, the answer will be readily apparent.

Of course, the idea of assassinating foreign leaders for "American interests" is not a new concept, nor did it originate with our current Administration. Back in October 1970, the CIA plotted to assassinate Chilean President-elect Salvador Allende: "*It is the firm and continuing policy that Allende be overthrown by a coup...*' 'eyes-only, restricted handling, secret' message. To US station

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chief, Santiago. From CIA headquarters. 16 October 1970. '... You would be wrong to assume this plan for mayhem was another manifestation of the Cold War between the 'Free World' and communism. Much more was at stake: Pepsi-Cola's market share and other matters closer to the heart of corporate America.'"(3) It seems Allende, a Marxist, had been planning to nationalize Pepsi's Chile bottling plant.

As evidenced by the now-infamous War on Iraq, it no longer takes an act or threat of aggression for the leaders of the United States to wage war on another country. 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." (4) Yet, the policy was so radical that even its authors realized "... it would be impossible to implement 'absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event—like a new Pearl Harbor.'" (4) Or, in this case, the 9/11 attacks (that did not even involve Iraq)? How many innocent people – both American and Iraqi – were forced to pay for this policy with their lives? I do not have the current figures, but they number into the tens of thousands.

By this time, it should be evident to all that Pat Robertson, with his "off the wall" comment, simply let the cat out of the bag – all he did was articulate our "Judeo-Christian" leadership's unspoken policy. At this point, you may be asking, "What does this have to do with the Ten Commandments?" For all the hullabaloo about the Ten Commandments reflecting our national policies, one minor issue seems to have been missed. One of the Ten Commandments states unequivocally: "Thou shalt not kill." How does this square with our national policy of killing people when it is convenient for the powers that be to do so? Well, it seems the cat truly is out of the bag: *On that fateful August day, Christian Coalition Founder Pat Robertson repealed the Sixth Commandment!* Anyone game for a Nine Commandments monument? An example of such a monument may be found on the next page.

Caveat: Please do not assume that all homicide laws have been repealed. That is not the case. You cannot kill that pesky neighbor or ex-spouse unless you get government permission first. Kids, please do not try

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this at home.

Sources:

1. What We Believe, *www.cc.org*, “About” page on website.
2. Robertson Suggests U.S. Kill Venezuela’s Leader, Laurie Goodstein, *New York Times*, August 24, 2005.
3. A Marxist Threat to Cola Sales? Pepsi demands a US coup. Goodbye Allende. Hello Pinochet, Greg Palast, *London Observer*, November 8, 1998..
4. “Rebuilding America’s Defenses”, Project for a New American Century, c.1999

Text from the Ten Commandments monument in Alabama, as amended:

THE {TEN} **NINE** COMMANDMENTS:

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain
4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy
5. Honour thy father and thy mother
6. {*Thou shalt not kill*}
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery
8. Thou shalt not steal
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
10. Thou shalt not covet

Note:

Bold denotes **additions**.

{*Braced Italics*} denote {*deletions*}.

THE TENTH STORY (Continued)

(Continued from page 22)

formation, but she invites them to one of the group's public events. Another great idea! Sadly, I hear that Pat is moving away and leaving Manasota's area. Hearing about the job she has done for the last several months, I think she will be leaving big shoes to fill.

I have just begun the process to set up a Region 10 website. Like most of our local group websites, it will be on the Mensa national website. Now I would like to hear from you about what you would like to see on that website. Of course we will list upcoming Regional Gatherings in the region. Of course we will include basic information about the different groups in Region 10, perhaps with a Florida map and links to the local websites. But what else should we include? Would you like a section telling of awards members from Region 10 have received?

Should there be a section for poetry or artwork from members in Region 10? I want this to be OUR website, for all of our members. Tell me what you would like to see there. I really do want to hear from you! Did you know that there are more than 750 Mensans, both from the USA and internationally, already registered for the 2006 World Gathering? Actually, I can't believe that there aren't already more than that, from right here in Region 10; how often does such a monumental event take place close enough to home that you can drive there? This is an opportunity not to be missed - the chance to socialize with Mensans from all over, the chance to attend programs from around the world and the best of the best of programs from around the country from all the RGs we don't get to . . . I can't wait!

Speaking of the World Gathering, you undoubtedly know that the program chair, yours truly, has been lining up terrific speakers, many Mensan, some from outside. As of this writing, there are about 100 program already on the list. But believe it or not, that doesn't come close to filling all the time slots for speakers! So if you have been thinking about it, or maybe thinking that it is too late, do get in touch with me. And if you want to volunteer for ANYTHING at the WG, contact Kay Klasen, volunteer chair (volunteers@WG06.us.mensa.org). MANY volunteers are needed, in MANY areas, such as hospitality, registration, speaker shepherds, security, and even just sign up as a volunteer if you don't know where you want to help. One new type of volunteer needed is "stuffers" - the folks who will "stuff" all those goodies into goodie bags at the start of the gathering. While we are at in, we need lots of GOODIES to put into those bags, especially Florida related. Not sure about what kind of goodies? Contact me or any member of the WG committee for ideas. I think I am running on too long to list them all!!

Maggie Truelove, RVC10

I am sure that many of you have joined me in heartfelt sadness watching the horrific devastation of the Gulf Coast region of the United States, from New Orleans to Biloxi and Gulfport and Mobile. It was made personal for many of us because we had so recently enjoyed the hospitality of New Orleans for the 2005 Mensa Annual Gathering. Now we need to realize that several local Mensa groups in those areas have been severely uprooted, with many members scattered to other locations for extended periods. We may find some of them becoming part of our local groups, for whatever length of time, until they are able to return to homes and jobs which are currently not available to them.

Join me in welcoming them with open arms if and when they appear.

Heather Miller, who was the chair of the aforementioned AG in New Orleans and is the new AMC Membership Officer, and her membership committee have been hard at work finding new member benefits for all of us. Within the last few days, there has been notice of no less than three. First, you can save 15% off anything you order from Edmund Scientific (www.scientificsonline.com), delighting both your inner scientific geek and your inner accountant, by including the member promotion code AE57724 when placing your order. Second, VPI pet insurance is now available to Mensans, with quite affordable health coverage for pets, as well as a 5% group discount on base policy premiums for Mensans (www.petinsurance.com/affiliates/americanmensa_npr). Third, Mentalfloss, a magazine that is proving quite appealing to many Mensans, is giving us a \$4.00 discount on the subscription rate (www.mentalfloss.com/mensa). I have been a member of Mensa for more than 20 years, and I don't remember there ever before being so many member benefits available. Heather and her committee are doing an outstanding job!

Going back to my earlier question about what Region 10 groups do to welcome new members, I received a reply from Pat Hamilton, Manasota's worthy Membership Coordinator. She has developed several varied letters, one for new members, one for move-ins, one for reinstating members, and so on. She uses a merge file on her computer, so each of them receives a personalized letter. For new members, she includes a "kitty coupon" worth \$3.00 for events which have a kitty.

She also includes a complete membership list for each new member, suggesting that they might look through it for any members who might live nearby. Now that's an idea worth considering! Good job, Pat! She goes above and beyond as membership coordinator, and even contacts prospects, suggesting that they not only contact the proctor for testing in-

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Meeting of ExComm on September 3, 2005 was called to order at 4:55 pm by George Patterson, LocSec. All of ExComm in attendance except Joe Smith.

Welcome guests: None.

Minutes as published in the August 2005 SCAM are approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Editor's report:

We have a new webmaster: Karen Freiberg Starke

We have a new calendar coordinator: Doug Starke

Treasurer's report: General Account: \$1,037.67; Post Office Account \$14.94; Scholarship Account, \$3,729.03; RG Fund: \$209.30; total funds available: 4,540.94.

Testing report: Two people were tested in August. Another test is pending in September.

Old Business:

Scholarship chairpersons will be appointed shortly.

We still need to begin planning for RG in October 2006. **Anyone interested in helping with the RG please let any ExComm member know. We need a chairperson and others. Members will be approached individually.**

We will be doing a telephone survey about what members would like and what events they can host.

The RecSec will formulate a survey to be used, anyone can email questions for the survey to the RecSec: yblawyer@bellsouth.net.

The members of the ExComm will be sending abbreviated biographies for publication in SCAM, members are also encouraged to send in such abbreviated biographies.

New Business:

The \$3,000 CD matured on August 31, 2005. Moved and seconded to put it back into a one-year CD.

Passed unanimously.

All SCAM members are encouraged to list their email addresses with www.us.mensa.org so we can communicate with each other more effectively.

Next meeting will be **October 1, 2005** at 4:00pm, at **George Patterson's** house, 301 Sand Pine Road, Indialantic.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm. August 3, 2005.

Clifford M. Miller

Recording Secretary