

The

SCAM

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Soon to be Banned?

See Page 3



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



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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.

Page Three

Mike Moakley, Editor

By this time, everyone now knows of the nonexistence of the Last month's SCAM. As of March 13, the completed March issues are in the "black hole" at the postal distribution center in Orlando. Be assured, that issue was produced in the usual proper and timely manner by all parties involved, save for the Post Office. As a twist of cruel irony, we have been billed the postage for the non-delivery. *Someone's idea of an "April Fool's joke? Not funny.*

As Editor, I am extremely frustrated with losing a month's work, and am truly sorry that you did not receive The SCAM. I am told that this is a rare occurrence—let's hope we will not have to worry about a repeat non-performance. At this point, I will remind you that the calendar and a copy of The SCAM are always available on our website. Yes, redundancy can be a beautiful thing.

As evidenced by the above, problems do occur in the production and delivery of The SCAM. I will take this opportunity to remind you that, as Editor, I am responsible for every aspect of its production and delivery to you. If you have complaints or issues with The SCAM, please contact me. Now, on to other topics.

When I first became Editor, one vow I made to myself was never to become involved in the internal politics of Mensa, especially at the national level. Until recently, I have kept that vow. Yet, times and conditions do change, necessitating reviewing one's prior positions. This has certainly happened here.

In the February SCAM, I expressed my concerns about what I believe to be the push to convert to e-newsletters. On this page, I

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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.

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made my position, which has remain unchanged, abundantly clear. Some of you have made yourselves heard in these pages. It would appear I have hit a nerve at American Mensa Ltd. (AML). This issue features a reply from Robin Crawford, AML Communications Officer. I encourage you to read her comments on this topic.

Now, however, there is a much larger issue at hand. In reading AML Chairman Russ Bakke's column in the February *Bulletin*, I noted the following passage:

"Most importantly, when a non-Mensan, or a not-yet-Mensan, hears the word Mensa, he responds with an 'oh', not an 'ew'. The vision of an average Mensan being someone with a pocket protector, a mechanical pencil, a ream of graph paper and too-short pants is being replaced with a savvy young adult who is witty, well-read and fun to be around. We want this metamorphosis to continue."

As if this was not enough, I recently received a survey for an upcoming workshop offered to local officers. In the survey was a checklist of potential issues facing our groups. To my surprise, one of the items on the list was, *"too many weirdos."* Huh?! What, exactly is a "weirdo", and why would such a person be deemed a problem by *Mensa*? No explanation from AML on this one.

When I first joined Mensa more than twenty years ago, AML asserted that Mensa welcomes all people who meet the single qualification for membership who wish to join. My question at this point is, *"Is this still the case?"* Or has AML fallen into the "image trap" as is suggested by Chairman Bakke's words? I did send an e-mail message to Mr. Bakke about my concerns, but so far, he has not responded.

If this is, indeed, the new direction of AML, are people like me still welcome? I (at least partially) fit into that stereotype Mr. Bakke wishes to change (the pocket protector pictured on the cover is mine)...and...I just *might* be classified as a "weirdo". As I am somewhat awkward in social settings, I guess our Chairman might not find me fun to be around, either. *Is AML now ashamed of me?* Moreover it is difficult for me to believe there is such a thing as an "average Mensan" (*an oxymoron if there ever was one*).

Mensa International, our parent organization, states on its website that Mensa *"...welcomes people from every walk of life whose IQ is in the top 2% of the population..."* Is this still true? Or is AML losing its substance in favor a "positive" image, thus succumbing to the world of the "average" and banal? My pocket protector and I want to know.

Being a consummate practical joker, it's never too soon for me to be plotting for my big day: April 1st.

This is a day my husband dreads: his pit of black despair, because he's pretty much my primary target, and I never miss. He has made it one of his major life goals to get through an April Fools Day unscathed. It's not going to happen, but goals are a very important part of life, and far be it from ME to rob him of hope.

It was kind of unfair at the start. I went easy on him while we were dating, so when he popped the question, he really didn't know what he was in for. I come from a long line of practical jokers, you see.

I know I'm at least a 4th generation PJer, because just recently I heard a story about the time my Great Grandmother, one Halloween in the early 1900s, dressing up in full regalia, and sneaked around from the back to ring the doorbell. When my Great Grandfather opened the door, he didn't recognize her, and kindly invited her in while he rummaged around for some treats. Whereupon she began picking up knick-knacks one-by-one, examining them in the light, and dropping them into her bag. This could get you shot today, but it was pretty funny way back when.

My Mother was actually BORN on April 1st, and if that doesn't obligate you to have a healthy sense of humor, I don't know what does. She taught me well.

I usually confine my major shenanigans to April 1st. Because I figure you have to be TRULY good to "get" people on the day they're expecting it most. The rest of the year it's too easy.

My single criterion for practical jokes is that they have to be harmlessly funny: no one gets hurt or (excessively) humiliated, and nothing gets damaged. The ultimate in "taking things too far," for example, would be to conceive a child on April Fools Day, thus relegating him to a mid-December birthday - with the hilarious consequences of gypping him, for his whole life, in the birthday department.

To be fair, the victim MUST be able to admit that it's funny. Even if it takes him a day or two to fully appreciate the beauty of it. This is a lost art.

While I'm unable to clue you in about THIS year's plans, lest

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my husband get wind of it, I can certainly give you some of the highlights of recent years.

Like the time, early in our marriage (before he became more careful about these things), that my dear husband had the lack of foresight to schedule a Termite Inspection on the 1st of April. In my opinion, he just WALKED into that one. Naturally, when he called for status, I informed him that the bookshelf in the living room had caved in under the rigors of thumping, and gave him some technical sounding mumbo-jumbo I'd gotten from the helpful inspector.

Then there was the year I put a rubber snake in the trashcan, beneath the liner. Usually my gags are a little more intellectual than this, but you can't underestimate the classics.

Once the poor dear began steeling himself a week ahead of time. He informed me in his most resolute baritone that there was NO WAY I was going to get him this time. Which in my book qualifies as an out-and-out dare. So the next day I headed RIGHT down to the local Honda dealership, and had them cut me a random car key, complete with the identical fancy plastic grip. I had to explain it a couple of times ("No - I DON'T have a key to copy. I want a WRONG key!") but once they got it, the news spread like wildfire. They even refused to take the \$8.50, instead insisting I call to let them know how it turned out.

On the morning of this particular April 1st, I switched the key on his key chain while he was in the shower, and had myself a nice big breakfast while I waited for his attempted departure. I have to say I tried really hard not to laugh when he walked back in the house with that puzzled expression. But keeping a straight face isn't my strong point in the process. He just COULDN'T figure it out, till he saw my smirk, and the proffered (correct) key. Defeated, he took it, and walked away.

30 seconds later, he came FLYING back through the door, claiming his car had sprung a leak, and DARN IT, this was the worst timing!!!... By then I was rolling on the floor, because I'd sneaked out and poured a quart of water onto the garage floor about 5 minutes earlier. He's so easy!

I outdid myself last year, when I sewed his underwear fly shut. He called from work around mid-morning, and simply asked: "How many did you do?"

All of them.

I hear they're afraid of me, where he works. But I have to say that he's been a pretty good sport about it all. With the possible ex-

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Greetings. Once again, it's that time of year. The SCAM Nominations and Elections Committee is seeking candidates for the 2007-08 ExComm, which contains five seats. To serve on the ExComm, you must be currently a member in good standing of Space Coast Area Mensa. Members of SCAM who are excluded from seeking office or serving on the ExComm are: Members of the NomElCom, and the Newsletter Editor.

The NomElCom consists of: *Karen Freiberg, Harold Crawford, and Michael Moakley (Chair)*. If you wish to nominate a member, or you wish to run for office, please contact me **before April 15** in order for your name (or the name of your nominee) to appear on the official ballot. My contact info appears on Page Two (inside front cover).

At this time, the following members are candidates for the SCAM ExComm: *Suzanne Leichtling, Bud Long, George Patterson, Joseph Smith, Theresa Valek, and Thomas Wheat*. The May issue of The SCAM will contain the official ballot and voting instructions.

*Michael Moakley
Chairman, Nominations and Elections Committee*

APRIL FOOL'S DAY*Continued.*

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ception of the name-calling that followed the automobile double-whammy.

I know someday he's going to band together with some of the other poor souls I've gotten the better of, and together they're going to get me BUT GOOD.

I have to admit I have it coming.

** E-mail me your best April Fools idea. Remember: harmlessly funny!*

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The Agony and the Ecstasy - or - the Post Office and the Picnic:

As I write this, I still don't know if the March issue will get delivered sometime late in March or if it is lost for good in the depths of some Post Office warehouse. This has never happened before - for those of you who are not on top of things, the Post Office, Orlando Main, whichever part handles bulk mailing, has, as of March 15, lost the complete mailing of the March issue and has yet to find it. Not just your copy; everybody's copy. Here I pause, dear readers, to check my mailbox, and lo and behold, the March SCAM.

It is now March 15, because our editor Mike extended his deadline by a few days for an assortment of reasons, and I never fail to take advantage of an extended deadline. I don't want to waste all the energy I expended in composing the first three sentences, so we'll let them stand. I don't want to turn some the slanderous things I've been saying about the P.O. into libel but - my mailbox also contained the March 2 issue of my weekly TLS, which is mailed a week before the issue date.

I was particularly upset that this issue of our newsletter was victimized because we have just started our spring push for a livelier social calendar and five new events had been posted for the first half of the month. I hope we can get a nice turnout for the April events to compensate. Another unfortunate feature of this incident is that all of us involved in writing and planning events, not to mention the publishing and distribution of the SCAM now have to worry every month, until our copy shows up in the mail, if it's going to happen again. It's almost like the golfing story of the two 'Gotcha's.

The event in particular I was concerned about was the First Annual Spring Picnic. The ExComm is sponsoring this event and even kicking in a bit from our treasury, with the hope of inspiring some of our members who are not regular event attendees, or haven't been for the past few seasons, to get out and get reacquainted with their fellow Space Coast Area Mensans.

If you haven't read it, please go back and read my column in the March issue, page 13. What! You threw it out. For shame. You're supposed to leave it on the kitchen counter, open to the calendar, for the entire month, and then salt it away in your archives. But about the picnic. It is a really nice location and we have been guaranteed

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April Shouters:

If you thought that the addition of QI and ZA to the fourth edition of *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary* caused an uproar, hold onto your TITFER (a hat -- from “tit for tat,” Cockney rhyming slang). Lirpa Loof, upon seizing control of the Scrabble Contestants Association of Melbourne, has announced further changes to our favorite game:

1) The tiles. Two new tiles will be added -- the apostrophe, which will be worth half a point, and the hyphen, which will be worth one-third point. According to Lirpa Loof, “I’m three-quarters sure that this isn’t a half-baked idea.”

2) The board. An extra square will be annexed to the upper right hand corner. Lirpa Loof explains, “It always seemed that when I had a word using all seven of my tiles, it would never fit on the board. Now it will.”

To give manufacturers and players time to adjust, these changes will be phased in, with full compliance to take place on April 1 of next year...

“Wait a minute,” you say. “April 1? Lirpa Loof?”

Okay, you caught me. And now you want to let me know how you feel. There are several interjections in OSPD4 that may match your mood. Remember, however, that an interjection is not necessarily an exclamation!

To express disgust, you could use AARGH/AARRGH/AARRGHH, FAUGH/FOH, ICK, POH, PUGH, or YUCCH/YUCH. In fact, if you desire an exclamation of disgust, PAH or YAH will do the job. PHEW is used to express disgust, but also relief or fatigue. PHOOEY is used as an exclamation of disgust or contempt.

“Surprise, surprise, surprise,” to quote Gomer Pyle; more interjections are revealed. Used to express surprise: CRACKY, HO, HUH, JIMINY/JIMMINY, WISHA. Used to express surprise, triumph, or derision: AHA. Used as an expression of surprise: BLIMEY/BLIMY. Used to express surprise or dismay: CARAMBA. Used to express surprise or anger: CRIMINE/CRIMINY. Used to express doubt or surprise: EH. Used as an exclamation of surprise: GOSH. Used to attract attention or to express surprise: LO. Used to express surprise or exultation: OHO. Used to express mild apology, surprise, or dismay: OOPS. Used to express surprise or sarcasm: QUOTHA. Used to express fear or surprise: YIPE/YIPES. Used to express surprise or

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I have heard some of the doom-and-gloomers compare today's stock market with 1929. None of us are old enough to remember the crash, but we have read and heard about it since we were kids. From 1925 to 1929 the market went up and up and up. Investors who were of the cautious school became speculators. Even the shoe shine boys had stock tips. When folks gathered the stock market was the number one topic of conversation. Day trading became fashionable.

Margins were 10%. That meant if you had \$100 you could buy \$1,000 of stock. If it went down you would have to come up with the loss immediately or the broker would sell out your position and you still had to pay the loss. As the market rose it didn't happen very often and everyone became a stock genius. Reminds me of 2000.

Any fool could buy something and if his \$1000 stock went up \$10 he could sell out for a 100% profit (less commission). It is easy to see why speculation became rampant.

Today the margin requirement is 50% which has curtailed speculation, but not eliminated it. It takes a ton of money to play that game today. BUT today we have hedge funds that have literally hundreds of millions of dollars and do a huge amount of day trading on margin. There are many good and "conservative" hedge funds and there are also many that are not

What no one seems to have grasped is that hedge funds borrow against (leverage) their portfolios so they can trade bigger numbers. Banks will loan them additional funds and the amount is determined by the quality and type of trading they are doing. Think about this: a hedge fund borrows an amount equal to 50% of their portfolio and then trades on a 50% margin. The amount of potential loss can be staggering.

The little investor does not seem to be trading in and out yet a recent study finds a huge change in investor attitude. During the 1950s investors held stocks for an average of seven (7) years. Today those same people have become traders who hold stocks an average of eleven (11) months. This figure may or may not include mutual funds that make portfolio changes many times during the year. That doesn't mean we are facing another 1929 just because there is a rapid turnover in stocks.

Most of the mutual fund managers today haven't a clue on how to handle customers' funds if another bear market takes hold.

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In the March, 2007 SCAM, Ken Thornton-Smith writes of his close encounter with a tree frog. I would like to relate my own experience with this Florida denizen.

Last year, my neighbor complained about my palm tree which had fronds overhanging her roof. She was afraid that the fronds might damage her roof tiles and asked me to trim them. Wanting to be a good neighbor, I agreed. The palm was tall. My ladder was short. So, climbing to the very topmost rung (a safety violation the ladder manufacturer highly discourages), standing on my tippy toes, frantically hanging on to the tree for dear life with one arm while extending my other arm to its fullest upright position, I was able to barely get my tree saw in the vicinity of the offending fronds. In this precarious attitude, my vision was suddenly obscured by a wet plop of ooze on my face. I assumed that I'd disturbed some accumulation of sludge that had been nestling above me and was bemoaning my misfortune when I realized that this gob of goo was actively holding onto my face. And breathing.

Hmmmm... An epiphany! Palm tree: tree frog!

Now, up until that very minute it had never occurred to me that tree frogs actually lived in trees. I thought the appellation was generic, like "songbird" or "mutant Albanian flying rhinoceros." Although I had seen them around (and in) my pool many times, I never really thought about where their habitat was. Well, as interesting as this revelation was, I still had a problem: I had no appendages available to dislocate this amphibian from my physiognomy. So, Mr. Treefrog and I had a chat. I allowed as how it was my fault that I'd invaded his domain and explained that it was purely unintentional and that I'd never do it again. This seemed to satisfy him and he disengaged from my mug with an admonishing croak.

Taking this an omen, I carefully lowered myself back down to terra firma.

Never did trim those palm fronds. Cut the tree down instead.

the george

**SPACE
AVAILABLE
(EVEN NOW)
INQUIRE WITHIN...**

Several of you have “stepped up” and answered the call for new material to be published in *The SCAM*. We appreciate that, and urge you to keep your contributions coming. For those of you who have not yet done so, this is a reminder that there’s still plenty of room...

To our readers, you may have noticed there are different topics than before as we publish new columns. Why not add to the variety of topics by writing that column you’ve always wanted to write?

We invite just about any topic. For those among us who are poets or writers of fiction, *The SCAM* also has plenty of space. Contributions for cover art are also welcome.

SCAM Calendar of Events for April 2007

4th - Wednesday 5:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend.

Contact: *George, 777-3721, for details.*

6:00 pm—SEE BELOW for Dates

MENSA-TABLE

DINNER—April 5 (Thurs.): El Charro's, *Cocoa Village.*

Contact: *Terry, 626-8523 for details.*

DINNER—April 18 (Wed.): El Leoncito, *Titusville.*

Contact: *Sue, 626-7838 for details.*

LUNCH—April 21 (Sun.): Panera, *Viera.*

Contact: *Cheryl, 723-3496 for details.*

DINNER—April 26 (Thurs.): Thai Thai II, *Indialantic.*

Contact: *George, 777-3721 for details.*

7th - Saturday 7:00 PM

GALAXIE IN EAU GALLIE

Ever see a Mensan roller-skate? Here's your chance! You may even try this yourself.

Contact: *Suzanne, 258-5437 for details.*

10th - Tuesday 7:00 PM

BALL GAME IN VIERA

Any baseball fans among us? Be sure to attend this one.

Contact: *George, 777-3721 for details.*

13th - Friday 7:00 PM

MOVIE NIGHT!

What movie would you like to see on Friday the 13th?

Contact: *Terry, 626-8523; \$3 kitty.*

15th - Sunday 12:00 PM

BODIES EXHIBIT-OSC

Care to check out some heavenly bodies?

Contact: *George, 777-3721 for details.*

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SCAM Calendar of Events for April 2007

22nd - Sunday 11:00 AM

SWIMMING AT KELLY PARK

Swimming at Rock Springs...

Contact: Terry, 626-8523 for details.

28th - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1411 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: George Patterson, 777-3721.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM

James Tomor

Welcome Back

Harold Crawford
Joseph Matthews

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

Eric Sperry

APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>1st</i>	Richard Hussey	<i>16th</i>	Sandra Morgan
<i>1st</i>	Aundrea Scott	<i>18th</i>	Patricia Thornton
<i>3rd</i>	George Lebovitz	<i>21st</i>	Carol Lane
<i>3rd</i>	Beth Rutenber	<i>21st</i>	Richard Ward
<i>4th</i>	Michael Freeman	<i>23rd</i>	Mary Ellen Donahue
<i>5th</i>	Douglas Solomon	<i>24th</i>	Boyd Smart
<i>11th</i>	Debra Saltzberg	<i>28th</i>	Clifford Miller

Note: If your birthday is not listed, and you want it to be, please let us know.

The problem with delivery of the March SCAM led me to explore the use of the online calendar. My attempt to print the calendar was not very successful. Results will vary depending on your browser. I developed an easy method for getting a good printout of the calendar that should work for most PC's.

People with Macs probably don't need help with this sort of thing. Their browser will probably print it out very nicely. These instructions are for PC users of modest computer competence. The basic idea is to copy the calendar into a friendly word processing document using an ancient and no longer widely known feature of most PC's. To find out if your PC has this feature try the following test.

- 1.. Open your word processor. I use Word, but Wordpad should work as well.

- 2.. Open a new document.

- 3.. Find the Print Screen key on your keyboard. It should be to the right of the F12 function key.

- 4.. While holding down the ALT key, press the Print Screen key. This should take a picture of the active window, the word processor.

- 5.. Paste this picture, which is kept on the internal clipboard that you may or may not know about, into the word processor document using either Ctrl-V or the Edit menu (I really hope you know Ctrl-V by now.)

- 6.. If a picture of the word processor window appears in the document, the feature works on your machine. This means you can print the image of any window using your word processor, which should have a nicely behaved print function. Don't be confused. Your word processor window contains a picture of the word processor window. But you're Mensans. You can figure it out. Incidentally, "Ctrl - Print Screen" copies the whole screen rather than just the active window. The picture is a graphic image and while it may contain text, the text can't be edited.

Now to copy the calendar, open a new word processing document and set the page setup to landscape. Then open your browser and go to the SCAM website <http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org/> which you really should have bookmarked by now. Navigate to the current calendar. It is usually on line a few days before the first of the month. Incidentally, it gets updated during the month, if necessary. Set the scrolling text on the right-hand side to the top. Use Alt-Print Screen to capture the image. Paste it into the word processor. Space down a few lines and go back to the browser. Highlight (select) the remaining text that wasn't captured in the first picture and do a copy and paste to the word processor. This is normal text and can be edited. Print it. Done.

Editor's Note: Robin Crawford is AML Communications Officer. In the February SCAM, I expressed my view of AML's apparent trend of encouraging e-subscriptions. The following is Ms. Crawford's response to my column on this issue.

Dear Mr. Moakley and the other Members of Space Coast Area Mensa,

I recently read with interest the editorial on page three of the February issue of The SCAM. I see a great passion and pride for serving the members, and that is admirable. There are, however a few misconceptions I'd like the opportunity to clear up.

Mr. Moakley wrote, "the National Office is promoting e-subscriptions (the newsletter sent as an attachment to a monthly e-mail message) to replace the print issue you now receive each month by virtue of being a SCAM member."

This is inaccurate. The National Office—the paid staff—simply sent information about how they are making it easier for Local Groups to offer electronic subscriptions to the members who prefer to receive their newsletters that way. It was at my urging that they developed methods to do this. In the November 2006 AML Today, sent to all Local Group officers, I explained how the optional e-subscription process can work and further admonished all editors NOT to switch to electronic without the specific requests by the individual members.

Let me make it more clear: No one at the national level—not the staff, not the RVC, and not I—are urging any editors to replace paper with electronic newsletters for members who wish to continue receiving paper.

Mr. Moakley wrote, "You, the member, pay for this newsletter as part of your annual dues. Your dues are paid to the National Office in Texas, not our local group. The National Office, in turn, grants SCAM a "subsidiy" for us to publish a monthly local newsletter for our members."

Members pay their dues to join American Mensa, Ltd. (The National Office is just that—an office). AML uses some of that money to pay for member services, PR, liability insurance, Internet services, the Bulletin, etc. A large chunk of the income AML receives is allocated to Local Groups who are better situated to provide certain

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services, including a local newsletter, to the members. That subsidy, which, by the way, was just raised without a dues increase, may be used by the Local Group anyway it sees fit.

Mr. Moakley wrote, "Not all members have e-mail or use the Internet. Such members, by virtue of paying their dues are still entitled to The SCAM. I believe to push e-subscriptions unduly discriminates against these valued members."

Absolutely all your members should receive your fine newsletter. That is why I urged you and the other editors to not make paper newsletters "opt-in." But the rights of the paper-aficionados should not preclude you from offering electronic versions to those members who want them, provided that doing so is economically sensible.

"Costs associated with printing and mailing are based on bulk quantities. Having fewer newsletters will almost certainly increase the price per issue."

Ah, Mr. Moakley is correct about this. That's why I made sure to tell editors to do the math before making any changes. As near as I can tell, your group uses Standard (third class or "bulk") postal rates. That requires that you send 200 pieces or 50 lbs. In your group, with just over 200 members, you'd need a very high percentage of members opting for electronic subscriptions in order to realize any savings after you switched to using first class stamps.

"Savings, if any, realized would not necessarily be passed on to the Space Coast Area Mensa. Moreover, it would definitely not be passed on to us as members."

Incorrect. Your group gets 82¢ per member per month, regardless of the size and transmission of your newsletter. If you were able to get enough electronic subscribers to realize a savings, your Ex-Comm would be in the enviable position of having to figure out how to put that money to good use serving your members.

To summarize, it looks like the size of your membership would financially preclude Space Coast Area Mensa from going electronic and I agree with your editor's decision not to replace paper with e-subscriptions. However, I hope that I've been able to clarify some of the details that lead to that conclusion.

Robin Crawford
AML Communications Officer

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That is easily proven by the results from 2000 to 2003. They have not learned anything.

No, this is not 1929 and it won't be caused by excessive margin trading of little investors, but we do have a huge group of "amateur" mutual fund managers holding trillions of dollars which they do not know how to protect.

It could be worse.

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 and receive his market letter for 3 months at no charge at www.mutualfundmagic.com and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2007 All rights reserved.

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pleasure: ZOWIE.

Are mild oaths more to your liking? You may choose from BEGORAH/BEGORRA/BEGORRAH, BEJABERS/BEJEEZUS/BEJESUS, CRICKEY, CRIKEY, CRIPE, CRIPES, EGAD/EGADS, GOLLY, GOR, JEEPERS, JEEZ, PARDI/PARDIE/PARDY, ZOOKS, or ZOUNDS. By the way, you might be interested in doing a little research on "minced oaths."

What interjections are used to express sorrow or regret? ALAS and ALACK.

Maybe I've said too much. SH/SHH and SHA are used to urge silence.

Finally, the last word defined in OSPD4 is an interjection: ZZZ (used to suggest the sound of snoring). Pleasant dreams.

Next month: *Three the Hard Way*

SCAM Members from Palm Bay south –

Would you like to become a Proctor and contribute to the growth of SCAM and Mensa? It's easy! You only need a Bachelor's degree and some training in giving the Mensa qualifying tests.

If you're interested, please contact me by phone at (321)632-1831 or by email at moorehelenlee@cs.com to discuss the rewards and responsibilities of being a Mensa Proctor.

Thanks,
Helen Lee Moore

excellent weather. Low tide, the best time for a beach walk, is right around midday. And while I've never seen a Mensan strike a ball in anger, we will supply a volleyball. There is a good volleyball court. (Do you call it a court? Yes, my online encyclopedia says a 30 ft. x 60 ft. court.) While nothing is required except your presence, an RSVP (see ad) would help us to gauge how much food to buy. I am sure there will be some in attendance who will want to bring enough of their favorite salad, side dish or dessert to feed themselves and several others. I, for one, am planning to bring a spicy Thai noodle and peanut sauce salad.

Barbara, who should be on the mend from her bad knee, may do her favorite baked bean recipe. And now that I look at the ad, which I've already sent off to Mike, I see that the food serving time is sort of buried in the middle of the text. Burgers and hotdogs should start coming off the grill around noon or shortly thereafter and should continue for an hour or so, or longer, depending on who's still hungry. Hope to see you there. And I suppose I should mention it here, even though it's prominent in the ad. The date is Saturday, April 14, the Saturday after Easter.

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The move to adjourn was passed by unanimous vote at 7:15 pm;
The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 4, at 5:30 pm** at **George Patterson's** house, 301 Sand Pine Road, Indialantic. (321-777-3721)

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rather than waiting forever for a response from an apartment in Brooklyn! I like the fact that our name and logo are being protected. I like the fact that hospitality people are being trained in food safety, to protect our health. And so on. If things at the national level were still being done the way they were in the good old days, I am not sure that Mensa would have survived at all!

Remember the upcoming events - Tampa Bay's ARRR-G in May, the AG in Birmingham in July, and FloRanGe a Trois in Fort Lauderdale in September. See you there!

Maggie Truelove
rvc10@cfl.rr.com or truluvs@cfl.rr.com
3333 Honeysuckle Lane
Orlando, Florida 32812
407-855-9078

There comes a time when one must stand on principle. Those of you who are familiar with my columns over the past several years know that I have minced no words about my disdain for the Presidency under George W. Bush. I opposed the Bush Administration policies when many, if not most, of my fellow citizens considered it unpatriotic to do so. I continue to oppose his policies. Yet, I have never advocated that our current president be impeached. That is, until now.

I do not take lightly my advocacy for President Bush’s impeachment. I certainly recognize that political opposition to his policies cannot, and should not, be reason for impeachment – that’s why we have elections. Why, then do I call for his impeachment now? According to the U.S. Constitution:

“Article II, Section 4. The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

As I understand the law, impeachment is warranted only when the President commits a crime against the United States. While I have suspected he has committed crimes against the United States for quite some time, I have never come across proof of criminal conduct until recently.

One morning, I came across an op-ed piece from the New York Times asserting that Bush is not above the law. The op-ed piece referred to a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union challenging the “warrantless surveillance” wiretapping ordered by the president over the past five years, to wit:

“Last Aug(ust) 17, Judge Anna Diggs Taylor of the United States District Court in Detroit issued her ruling in the ACLU case. The president, she wrote, had ‘undisputedly violated’ not only the First and Fourth Amendments of the Constitution, but also statutory law, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Enacted by a bipartisan Congress in 1978, the FISA statute...made a violation a felony punishable by a \$10,000 fine and five years in prison.”⁽¹⁾

Shortly afterward, I tracked down the case, *American Civil Liberties Union, et.al. v. National Security Agency, et.al., Case No. 06-CV-10204*, and copied the 43-page ruling. Its conclusion states, “The

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(warrantless surveillance program) violates the APA (Administrative Procedures Act); the Separation of Powers doctrine; the First and Fourth Amendments of the United States Constitution; and the statutory law (FISA).”⁽²⁾

Do these violations rise to the level to justify impeachment? During my adult life, there have already been two prior instances where impeachment of a sitting president was a serious issue. The first was President Nixon, who was accused of covering the Watergate burglary. While Nixon never was impeached, he resigned office in 1974 to forestall impeachment proceedings that many believe would have resulted in his removal from office.

More recently, in 1998, President Clinton was impeached (but narrowly avoided conviction) for perjury in a civil case brought about by Paula Jones alleging sexual harassment years before. In both instances, legal scholars held that each president’s actions rose to the level of justifying impeachment. In George W. Bush’s case, not only are the legal issues sufficient, but also the impact on our country is far more serious and far-reaching. Moreover, Bush’s violations were committed in the performance of his official duties of the Presidency. As Judge Taylor succinctly put it: *“There are no hereditary kings in America and no powers not created by the Constitution.”*⁽²⁾

In view of the fact that Bush has less than two years to go until he leaves office, it may seem to many that it would make little sense to remove him from office at this point. This is where principle comes in. This is not merely about removing a bad president nor, as previously noted, about changing the politics of the White House. In a sense, it is not even about George W. Bush.

It is, however, about the Presidency. The President can never be above the law he is sworn to uphold; indeed, he must be subject to that very law. Why impeach President Bush? To do otherwise would be a mockery of our Constitution.

Sources:

1. Bush is Not Above the Law, James Bamford, *New York Times*, January 31, 2007
2. ACLU v. NSA, Case No. 06-CV-10204, United States District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, the Hon. Anna Diggs Taylor.



Space Coast Area Mensa

presents

The First Annual Spring Picnic

Sat., April 14, 2007

10 a.m. to dusk

Paradise Park, Indialantic

(A1A, 1 mi. south of Eau Gallie)



This event is sponsored by your ExComm. We have reserved a covered pavilion with picnic tables and benches, grills, water fountain, facilities.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and sodas will be provided, as well as plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc.. There will be no kitty. If you feel like bringing a potluck item to share such as a salad, side, or dessert, that would be nice. With luck, dogs and burgers will start rolling off the grill around noon.

Guests and children are certainly welcome. The location features, of course, the beach, as well as a very nice children's playground and an available volleyball court. There will be cards, dominoes, board games and other such things as people might be induced to bring. If it's breezy, parcheesi or chinese checkers would work well. Bring them if you've got them.

We would really like to see a nice turnout for this event as we move into a more active spring social season. RSVP would be helpful for planning purposes, but not required. You may contact George Patterson at GEORGE3141@CFL.RR.COM or 321-777-3721 (numerologists take note).

There has been a lot of reaction to my mentioning last month about the option of receiving your newsletters electronically rather than in print. I do wish to make a couple of comments regarding this issue. First, it is only intended to be an OPTION for members to CHOOSE to receive them that way. At no point is anyone going to be required to have anything other than their paper-in-hand. Second, I am rather pleased to note that some members are actually reading my column! Thank you!

Both national and international Mensa elections are upon us, and I encourage you to vote! At the national level, there is strong competition for all but one (1st Vice Chair Elissa Rudolph) of the AMC ExComm positions. I urge you to take the time to read the candidates' information and vote for those you think will do the best jobs. At the international level, I know that many of us don't vote, probably because we don't know the candidates or much about them. Sad to say, American Mensa has more than twice as many members as UK Mensa, yet in the last heavily contested election (2003), UK had more votes cast than American Mensa. As an informational item for you, I am going to list those candidates for international office who were nominated or endorsed by the AMC, basically being given AML support.

They are Jim Werdell for Chair, Stacey Kirsch for Director of Administration, Willem Bouwens for Director of Development, and Godwin Zwanenburg for Treasurer. Of those four, Jim And Stacey are members of American Mensa. Now, please join me in voting.

Much attention has been paid lately to an article being sent to various newsletters around the country, stating that Mensa was better in the good old days, and perhaps we should go back to the good old days. This was written by someone who could speak knowingly, having been a member since the good old days. For myself, I have only been a member for 25 years, so my good old days aren't quite so far back.

However, I did want to comment about this situation. For many of us beyond our Gen-X years, we can hark back to things that were great way back when, but we should also remember that the whole world is different now than it was back then. Rather than going on about things that have changed, I will just say that I truly do like Mensa administration better now than back in the good old days. I like receiving prompt attention from the national office in Texas

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The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, March 7, 2007. Called to order at 6:56pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Joe Smith, Terry Valek, and Bud Long. Thomas Wheat was unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None.

Minutes of the February 7 meeting, as published in the March 2007 SCAM, were approved unanimously. It should be noted that due to a screw up at the Orlando Post Office, no copies of the issue had yet been delivered. However a copy was available on the SCAM website. It was suggested that a reminder about the website be included in the minutes and here it is: The URL (I'm sure you all know what that means) is <http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org/>

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George reported that Helen Lee Moore had reminded him that the Bylaws require the appointment of a Nominations and Elections Committee (NomElCom) by January 15 and that this had not as yet occurred. George apologized to the ExComm for this oversight on his part and said that he had found three people willing to serve and we would handle the appointment under new business. It was pointed out that while the time available to canvas for candidates was somewhat limited, the NomElCom would be able to keep to the prescribed publication schedule of announcing the slate of candidates in the April issue. At the moment there appear to be six candidates for five positions, two more than is usually the case.

Treasurer: Bud submitted the February Treasurer's Report. The report showed total funds of \$3685.82

Testing: Helen Lee Moore (proctor coordinator) reported by email that the Mensa Admission Test was given to one candidate on February 17. There are several persons interested in taking the nonverbal battery, and she was making arrangements to give these tests on an individual basis.

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: After brief discussion, Joe moved that Mike Moakley, Harold Crawford, and Karen Freiberg be appointed as the NomElCom. Seconded by Terry and passed unanimously.

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