

The

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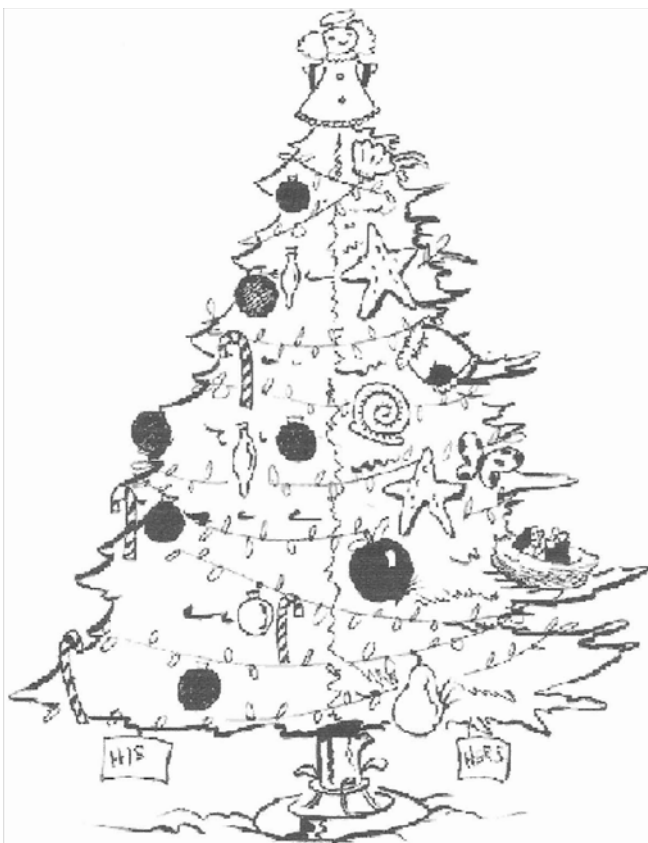


Illustration © 2000 Susan Kawa



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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.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

As 2007 draws to a close, I have reached a personal milestone. This is the 50th issue of *The SCAM* that you have entrusted to me as your Editor. I thank you for your support. As noted in last month's column, 2007 has been a good year for new writers within our group.

Let us not, however, rest on our laurels. There is always room for that special contribution from you. It can be a "one-time deal" or it can be a regular series; the choice is yours. So, please, for 2008 and beyond, accept my invitation to write for *The SCAM*.

With the next issue, we will commemorate the 25th anniversary of *The SCAM* (as well as Space Coast Area Mensa). In the next issues, we will take a look at where we've been as well as where we're going. One final note. Later in the year, SCAM will host its "Back in Business RG". Let's make this the best RG ever!

Shifting gears now, I would like to address our RVC Maggie Truelove's comments in last month's "The Tenth Story" in reference to a scheduled Leadership Development Workshop (LDW). She laments the fact that, as of her writing, no officers of four local groups in Region 10 (Florida) had registered to attend the LDW.

While I am certain that the LDW would be a worthwhile experience for those aspiring to develop their leadership skills, I must take exception to Maggie's comments. One must realize that agreeing to serve on the local ExComm is not tantamount to wishing to one day becoming a regional or national officer. Many who do volunteer to

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

I'm pleased to note that my household Christmas preparations and traditions are marching along this year with uncharacteristic ease. It hasn't always been so. I've been married almost ten years, and my husband and I are finally reaching a point where we don't have to argue about every little Christmas knick-knack. It's a good thing, too, because the kids are old enough to notice.

If you're lucky (as was I), your first married years are spent in a chemical froth, so you don't really mind compromising over unimportant little things like whether lights twinkle or not. After all, you're "playing house", and the whole *point* is to pretend you're a cooperative unit, rather than 2 intensely opinionated horses' rears. But then (around Christmas number three) reality sets in, and you realize that you ARE, in fact, just that.

I'm sure the details differ from family to family. The first major issue for us was "When to get the tree". Thanksgiving, or Christmas Eve?

Differing opinions on the pros and cons of *live* trees is probably the primary reason that the birth rate routinely drops in late September. When I was a kid, not only had I never *seen* an artificial Christmas tree, I had no idea that there were *varieties* of live ones. Christmas tree: Douglas Fir. Period. There is simply NO easy compromise here, unless you trade off victories, meaning that whoever wins on the tree issue gets to climb the 2nd story eaves to hang lights. Then go back up and re-do them on account of you can't just replace a burnt bulb with *any* color - it has to be the same as the burnt-out one!

Our difficulties continued in short order with a war over tinsel. I won't point any fingers, but *somebody's* Mother, apparently, was a tinsel fanatic. And despite the fact that it's incredibly tacky and kills cats (which might to some miscreants be considered a perk), that somebody doesn't care to see reason.

Front yard decorations are another touchy point, and may actually be responsible for a large percentage of divorces. Not necessarily because of disagreements, but because a husband, on his way home from work, may pass by his home many times without recognizing it - and get accused of all sorts of terrible

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dalliances.

I might argue that the little ceramic houses we line up on the mantle needn't *necessarily* be in the same configuration every year (arranged alphabetically). But in my house, I'd be wrong. Which isn't an incredible leap, since (among other things) I'd just assumed that *everybody* had a 4 foot corrugated cardboard Santa...

My husband might think that bleached sea urchin carcasses look a little silly hanging from a tree, but he's wise enough to keep it to himself. He once dissed my angel flag (I was 8 months pregnant at the time, which means he was pretty much toast.)

I was puzzled, for years, about his adoration of poinsettias - a plant I had no particular feelings for one way or other. I mean, how many of those things do you *need*, anyway? But he kept bringing them home, two by two. Eventually I warmed up to them. And that, I think, was the turning point.

So many years we spent squandering tidbits of Christmas joy in a desperate attempt to hang on to the traditions we thought held the secret. Two exacting personalities, at odds over the likes of a Santa mug or paper chain. What we never saw, never even suspected, was our own parents' consternation, ironing out their own holiday differences for our benefit. Setting us up for disaster by having cleverly found middle ground before we caught on that there might, just possibly, be more than one *right* way.

Maybe, after all, that's the whole *point* of mistletoe.

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serve do so merely to take care of the local group's business so the rest of us can enjoy the benefits of a Mensa membership at the local level. This does not necessarily translate to leadership aspirations.

As newsletter editor, I can attest to this. In my case, I like to write. My beginning with *The SCAM* was in 2002 when my political column, now named *From the Village Idiot*, debuted. I became Editor, in part, to be able to continue to write for you, the reader, and to ensure other writers would have the same medium. I thoroughly enjoy both writing and editing, and wish to continue in those capacities for the foreseeable future. However, I have *no* aspiration for being a "leader"; my career and ego needs do not require it. So, do I *really* need an excuse for not attending an LDW?

As is noted in most of Mensa's promotional literature, Mensans come from all walks of life. In that vein, we vary greatly in income levels and financial obligations as well. Moreover, different members experience differing demands on their time. For example, a member working two jobs to meet the needs of his/her young family cannot be reasonably expected to sacrifice the time and money to attend an out-of-town workshop that might make him or her better "officer material" for a Mensa office.

To conclude on this topic, offering LDWs is an excellent idea, and Mensa is to be commended for doing so. All who aspire to gain leadership skills are certainly encouraged to attend one, if it is practical. Where I part ways with our RVC is the implication that local group officers are somehow *obliged* to attend such a workshop as part and parcel of their positions. Not everyone *wants* to be a leader, nor can everyone afford to. To continue along this path will only serve to make it more difficult to recruit local group officers, so let's be a little more realistic.

Finally, to everyone, have a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a joyous Kwanzaa; I hope Santa (and his counterparts) is good to you this year.

-ER: (Not starring George Clooney)

In the column from October 2007, I left out a “the.” Maybe I should see if Marvel Comics has any leftover No-Prizes that I could award to readers who find more mistakes. But what can you expect from someone who plays a word game in which ALINE, meaning “to align,” and ENTHRAL, meaning “to enthrall,” are acceptable? Let’s put this behind us and move on.

In a fresh bag of tiles used for the SCRABBLE® crossword game, there are twelve Es (more than any other vowel) and six Rs (more than any other consonant except for the six Ns and six Ts). Therefore, it makes sense to be familiar with words ending in -ER.

A word ending this way might be the comparative form of an adjective. Many such words are contained in *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4): ABLER, ABRUPTER, etc. If you are surprised that GRAPY, which means “resembling grapes,” is acceptable, you may be even more surprised to learn that GRAPIER is also acceptable. So why is EGGY, which means “containing eggs,” acceptable while EGGIER* (an asterisk indicates an unacceptable word) is not?

If the comparative of an adjective can be formed, the superlative can usually be formed as well. There seems to be one exception in OSPD4: FRONT, defined as “articulated at the front of the oral passage,” can be inflected as the comparative FRONTER but *not* the superlative FRONTEST*.

You have probably been told that there cannot be degrees of uniqueness, but OSPD4 does recognize UNIQUER since UNIQUE is defined as “existing as the only one of its kind; very unusual” (emphasis added).

Using all seven tiles scores a fifty-point bonus, so here are the ten most probable seven-letter comparatives: ANTSIER, NASTIER (which uses the same letters as ANTSIER), STONIER, TANGIER, SALTIER (this is also a noun meaning “saltire” which in turn means “a heraldic design”), SANDIER, SLATIER, STAIDER, NATTIER, LEADIER. Note that most of these words contain three different vowels (usually A, E, and I) as well as four different consonants from the list D, G, L, N, R, S, T.

Another use for the -ER ending is to form a noun based upon a

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verb (or a noun that *seems* to be based upon a verb). ABASER, for example, is defined as “one that abases.” There are several word that follow this pattern: ABATER, ABHORRER, etc. But instead of defining ABETTER directly as “one that abets,” OSPD4 defines it as “abettor” with ABETTOR defined as “one that abets.” Some inconsistency shows up in nouns based on verbs that can end in -ISE or -IZE. APPRISER is defined as “one that apprises” and APPRIZER is defined as “one that apprizes,” but ANALYSER is defined as “analyser” with ANALYZER defined as “one that analyzes.”

Some exceptions to the “_____ER = one that _____s” pattern do not deviate by much:

ABSENTER = one that absents himself
CANNER = one that cans food
COOLER = something that cools
INSETTER = one that inserts [INSET means “to insert”]
JIBBER = a horse that jibs
LEADER = one that leads or guides
LOVER = one that loves another
PICKETER = one who pickets
SAILER = a vessel that sails
ZAPPER = a device that zaps

Other deviations from the pattern are more pronounced:

BLAZER = a lightweight jacket
GROUPER = a food fish
MELDER = the amount of grain ground at one time
PALMER = a religious pilgrim
RAFTER = a supporting beam
SALVER = a tray or serving platter
SOAPER = a serial melodrama on radio or television
STRANDER = a machine that twists fibers into rope
TWEETER = a loudspeaker designed to reproduce high-pitched sounds
WHISKER = a hair on a man’s face

The ten most probable seven-letter words of this type are: STAINER, ALIENER, ELOINER, DILATER, TRAINER, INTONER, ALIGNER, FAINTER (which is also a comparative), PAINTER, NEGATER.

SECURER is recognized in OSPD4 as the comparative of the adjective SECURE, but in OSPD3 it also had an entry as a noun meaning “one that secures” with SECURERS as its plural. Since the word study programs LeXpert and Zyzzyva (and the book *Official Tourna-*

The old saying, 'Ignorance is bliss', does not apply to any successful venture or adventure. It especially does not apply to investing in the stock market.

Many investors believing they are not capable of putting their money to work profitably turn their finds over to an "expert" who is supposed to make correct decisions regarding when to buy and sell. They leave everything up to him.

If history is any guide this has not been a wise choice for the investor. From 2000 to 2003 the NASDAQ lost 78% and the S&P500 index dropped about 40%. It has taken 7 years for the S&P to get back to 'even' and the NASDAQ is still 50% below the 2000 level. The monkey with the dart board could have done as well as 90% of brokers and financial planners. Almost every managed account lost money.

Why has the performance of money managers (better called money managers) been so dismal? It is very simple. None have been taught how to protect client's money. The use of loss protection is frowned upon by Wall Street.

The Wall Street doctrine secretly says we want to make money on their money and don't worry if they make any money or not. Customer profits are not their objective.

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SCRABBLE*Continued*

ment and Club Word List, Second Edition) recognize SECURERS as acceptable, the omission must have been accidental.

Finally, here are the ten most probable seven-letter words ending in -ER that do not fall into the categories recognized above (with definitions for the more obscure): ATELIER (a workshop or studio), DI-ASTER (a stage in mitosis), OUTLIER (an outlying area or portion), INTEGER, ANOTHER, COINTER (to bury together), TARSIER (a nocturnal primate), DIESTER (a type of chemical compound), LEIS-TER (to spear with a three-pronged fishing implement), PIONEER.

Next month: *-EST (Without Werner Erhard)*

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How do they do this? They only half train the brokers and then again give them only half the information they need to protect customer funds. When a broker becomes licensed he is given two manuals. The first is SEC regulations which he must follow or be fired. The second is the sales manual on how to open new accounts. There is no third manual on how to trade or protect customer assets. The broker is kept ignorant and the customer always loses his money during a bear market or a badly declining stock.

History as far back as a researcher goes will find bear markets (losses of 20% to 40% and more) have occurred on a regular schedule. Recently we have had an upward move since 2003. There should have been a break within that time period, but the Federal Reserve has intervened flooding the economy with money to prevent it. The longer this is done the worse will be the next bear market. It is being done now.

Again your broker will not know what to do when the market starts down. He is taught – again - to “buy and Hold” which will be a huge loss for the investor accounts.

THEREFORE, you must not remain ignorant. You, Mr. Investor, must start your education immediately. No one knows when the next bear will escape from his den to ravage the land. Investors who wish to have any money after the next bear must learn the techniques of loss protection, primarily stop loss orders. To become more aggressive they may learn the use of bear funds, both mutual funds and ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds).

No one looks forward to being poor.

Ignorance is not bliss, it is poverty.

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 at www.mutualfundmagic.com to discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright Williamsburg Investment Co. 2007 All rights reserved.

SCAM Calendar of Events for December 2007

5th - 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.*

29th - 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 and Mensa

Rebecca Erwin

Welcome to SCAM

Mary Dailey

Sabrina Miller

Debra Saltzberg

David Todd

Welcome Back

Lennis Bearden

James Gentry Jr.

Donald Richardson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>9th</i>	Roberta Brock	<i>18th</i>	Douglas Parker
<i>10th</i>	George Legters.	<i>21st</i>	Parker Allen
<i>11th</i>	John Nahan	<i>21st</i>	David Garutti
<i>16th</i>	Christopher Glass	<i>30th</i>	Elaine Joyce
<i>17th</i>	Alezander Lauberts		

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

Announcing:
The 2008 SCAM
“Back in Business”
RG

After six long years of waiting,
the Space Coast Area Mensa is proud to present a
special Halloween themed RG scheduled for the
weekend of October 24-26th, 2008 in
Cocoa Beach, Florida

Costume Party!!

To be held Saturday Oct 25th
Prizes awarded for most creative costumes.
Games, programs, and of course, our famous hospitality suites!

We will also be celebrating SCAM's 25th Anniversary.

Make your reservations now.

Don't miss it!!

Return this portion with your payment

Name _____

Mensa Group Name _____

Address _____

email address _____

Pre-registration
(if postmarked by 12/31/07)

Phone _____

Adults—\$45.00
Children (under 12) - \$30.00

Number attending: Adults _____

Children _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to:
to:

Mail registration with check or money order

SCAM RG Fund

Suzanne Leichtling—Registrar

Best way to contact you (circle one):

8752 Palm Way

Phone Email Snail Mail

Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Well, if **ALGORE** can win a Nobel for alerting the world to the global warming problem, I suppose I will be getting one also for solving it.

Yes, that's right: I have the solution for reversing global warming.

While the argument rages as to whether mankind has played a part in the receding of the icecaps and extremes of weather; or if this is merely our planet going through its regular cycle of warming and cooling, we can all play our part in at least slowing down the process.

It was last Thursday night, shopping near the frozen food section at the local food emporium that I suddenly realized how this can be achieved.

I have, in my time, shopped at in any number of freezing Safeways and sat in frigid church halls, Scout meetings, first aid courses, committee meetings, you name it. I've got the frostbite to prove it.

And it occurred to me last Thursday night, shivering along with my fellow shoppers, that even though it was reasonably warm outside, the temperature within the store itself was several degrees below freezing.

And this, I realized, was the case for every single retail venue I have shopped in and meeting hall I have sat inside. High summer outside, we huddle round burning trestle tables inside.

So my solution for global warming is a simple one. Forget recycling, driving less, and nuking all those polluting Chinese and Indian chemical factories off the map. Think out of the box.

We need to build more food emporiums and church halls. Loads and loads of church halls. All over the Arctic and Antarctic.

The cynical may think we are doing nothing but forcing frozen food and Christianity on a bunch of godless penguins and polar bears, but as soon as we open the windows of Safeway or the doors of a church on the Larsen Ice Shelf, the blast of cold air coming from within will lower temperatures by at least twenty degrees and freeze the place solid.

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We're Baaack!!



Announcing
The 2008 SCAM
“Back in Business”
RG



After six long years of waiting, the Space Coast Area Mensa is proud to present a special Halloween themed RG tentatively scheduled for the weekend of October 24-26th, 2008 in Cocoa Beach, Florida

Costume Party!!

To be held Saturday Oct 25th
Prizes awarded for most creative costumes
Games, programs, and of course, our famous hospitality suites! Don't miss it!
More details to follow in upcoming SCAM newsletters

***EDITOR'S NOTE:** If you are interested in attending next year's SCAM RG, you can get the best prices by pre-registering today. For your convenience, the registration form is provided on Page 17 of this issue. You'll be glad you did.*

***Here's an idea:** With Christmas season already here, this RG makes for an ideal stocking stuffer for that special someone to accompany you for a great time. Don't forget your costumes!*

“*Hell hath no fury...like a child scorned.*”

One of the things I have noticed now that I am well into middle age is how fragile life really is. Here, I am not referring to the health concerns that, in one sense or another, affect all of us. Rather, I am referring to the *quality of life*. This month, I will relate the story of Paul, a colleague of mine for the past 25 years.

Until recently, Paul’s story appeared to typify the American Dream. All was well in his life. On the job, his career was holding a great deal of promise; in a few years, his new position would put him on track for directing a new utility. For the last two decades, Paul had risen through the ranks; it looked as though his efforts were finally paying off.

Paul’s home life was also the classic stuff of dreams. His wife, Phoebe, holds an administrative position for a large local corporation. By all accounts, theirs was a loving relationship. They enjoyed their time together, especially on frequent vacations to various exotic destinations around the world. Phoebe’s three young daughters, pretty and bright, rounded out this ideal American family.

Well, as any parent knows, no matter how lovely children might be, they are far from perfect. Such was the case one evening nearly six months ago while Mom was away on business. After dinner, it was unusually quiet. Paul, noticing this and a bit suspicious, opened the door to 14-year old Jennifer’s room. He found Jennifer on her laptop computer visiting a site on MySpace.com that he deemed inappropriate. He then proceeded to confiscate the computer and her cell phone.

Needless to say, Jennifer was quite upset. So upset, in fact, she simply could not forgive Paul for what he had done. After much thought over the next few days on how to respond to this grievous offense, she responded by making that fateful phone call.

Last week, Paul stopped by the office to visit. It had been several months since I last saw him; now I barely recognized him. When I had last seen him, he was somewhat overweight, but was managing the problem nicely. He had lost several

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pounds and was far healthier as a result. On this day, however, Paul evidently lost still more weight. Forty pounds, he told me. Except for the familiar “middle-age paunch”, he was reduced almost to skin and bones. The booming enthusiasm in his voice has all but disappeared. Before me stood a broken man, a sight that has since given me nightmares.

Paul had lost his job during this time lapse. Over the same time period, Phoebe had filed divorce papers. He was powerless to stop either of these two events, as he was incarcerated. Why? It seems Jennifer, in her quest for revenge, had called the right person to accuse Paul of sexually abusing her for the past year. As there was no corroborating evidence, many of the charges filed at the time of Paul’s arrest were withdrawn, thereby reducing the bail requirement from over \$2 million to a more affordable \$200,000. The trial date has not yet been set.

So, here is the question: *What does it take to destroy a happy, healthy, and apparently secure life?* Apparently, in this case, it was a mere phone call to the right person by an angry teen bent on revenge.

A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you’re in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of “support” (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let’s hear from *you*.

Ixpect just about all of our readers are at least somewhat familiar with the misdemeanor case of State Representative Bob Allen (R-Titusville), who, on July 11th, was arrested at a park restroom for soliciting oral sex with a male undercover police officer in a sex sting operation.

Since his arrest, Rep. Allen has steadfastly maintained his innocence of the charges against him. He vowed to fight the charges and demanded a jury trial. Today (Nov. 9th), that jury found Allen guilty as charged.

I find Bob Allen to be one of the most despicable individuals on the local political scene. However, it is not because he solicited prostitution, which, by all counts, is a truly minor infraction, nor is it due to our discovery of a once secret aspect of his sex life.

Rather, part of it is his obvious hypocrisy. Allen has sponsored legislation that, if passed, would make some sexual misdemeanors felonies, allegedly to “protect our families”. Moreover, hate groups, such as the “Christian” Coalition, with its irrational hatred toward gay people, have consistently endorsed Allen in his campaigns.

Yes, Bob Allen is the quintessential “Manchurian Candidate”, who would conceal his identity by lashing out at fellow gays and persecuting them in the name of some perverse idea of morality. It is people like Allen who, instead of recognizing a person’s sexual identity as an immutable physical attribute (that should *never* form a basis for denying anyone’s civil rights), actually *force* situations where many gays find it necessary to make those clandestine trips to public restrooms. Yet, it does not stop there. There is much more to Bob Allen than his sexual issues.

For instance, where does Rep. Bob Allen stand on issues of genuine importance to his constituency? If you ask him, he won’t say. For example, during the 2006 election cycle (*long before the “7/11 incident”*), Allen was asked to complete a “National Political Awareness Test” administered to all state and federal candidates by Project Vote Smart, a nonpartisan research group.

According to Project Vote Smart: *“Representative Bob Allen REPEATEDLY REFUSED TO PROVIDE ANY RESPONSES*

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TO CITIZENS ON ISSUES THROUGH THE 2006 NATIONAL POLITICAL AWARENESS TEST WHEN ASKED TO DO SO BY key national leaders of both major parties including: John McCain, Republican Senator; Geraldine Ferraro, former Democratic Congresswoman; Michael Dukakis, former Democratic Governor; Bill Frenzel, former Republican Congressman; Richard Kimball, Project Vote Smart President.”

What part of the word “representative” does Bob Allen not understand? Are the people he “represents” not entitled to know where he stands on issues vital to their well-being? To be fair, however, where he stands on issues of importance to those of us forced to play by the rules is not a complete mystery. A partial list of Allen’s campaign contributors looks like a “Who’s Who” of enemies of all who struggle to survive. Examples are: Associated Industries of Florida, Bank of America PAC, Florida Restaurant Association, Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers, and, of course, the Florida Chamber of Commerce (*Hint: these are some who contributed to a 2004 ad campaign to try to dissuade voters from passing the Florida minimum wage law*).

For being one of the most despicable people to hold office locally, my verdict is in: Bob Allen is guilty as charged. Let’s be clear on one thing, though. I am not concerned about the screwing he may seek in some public men’s restroom; rather, my concern is his systematic screwing of those of us who do not lead privileged lives, all for the sake of excess profits to his employers, that is, his campaign contributors.

Bob Allen’s conviction brings about a ray of hope, as it now affords his constituents an opportunity to finally wake up and see past the distraction issues. Hopefully, we will now begin to seek legislators who actually *represent* our vital interests. That will be a refreshing change.

For several years, you have heard from me each month on these pages. Now I want to hear from *you*. I have recently completed my series, *The Great Bank Robbery*, which was created because I believe that few people are left untouched by abuses at the hands of unscrupulous lenders.

One of the biggest challenges of writing a series like these is the sensitive nature of the topics. In the near future, I will do a short “epilogue” series on the current state of the much talked-about “mortgage crisis”. If you have any experiences you’d like to share, please feel free to contact me.

In future issues, I plan to tackle other topics in a serial fashion. If you have any ideas for a topic you’d like to see discussed, please let me know.

I urge you to share your experiences and ideas. Be assured, should you choose to do so, I will use the utmost discretion to protect your privacy. Please contact me at mensanidiot@yahoo.com. Thank you.

—Mike Moakley

THE TENTH STORY*Continued*

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February 15-17, 2008 - ValenTime RG - at the Holiday Inn in Destin. Link to the form is on the Region 10 website.

May 23-26, 2008 - Tampa Bay's ARRR-RG - at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Ybor City. Contact registrar katshe@aol.com

July 2-6, 2008 - Rocky Mountain High AG - at the Adam's Mark in Denver. Registration info is on the national website. (ag2008.us.mensa.org)

October 24-26, 2008 - Space Coast's return to holding an RG - at the Comfort Inn and Suites, Cocoa Beach. Contact bud-long@bellsouth.net

I risk being politically incorrect, but I wish you a Merry Christmas and the Warmest of New Year's, anyway. Happy Holidays!!

Maggie Truelove

I wish that everyone reading this could have been with us at the Leadership Development Workshop on November 3. Most of us could benefit from the type of information ably presented at the LDW by 1st Vice Chair and former RVC Elissa Rudolph, former RVC Janice Johnson, and National Public Relations Director Catherine Barney. Eleven of our twelve Florida Local Groups had at least one person attending the LDW, and we had only one no-show, which was a very positive thing. I hope that the knowledge and suggestions from the LDW will prove to be helpful to the 36 attendees and their local groups. Many LocSecs were in attendance, as well as one soon-to-be LocSec. Most, but not all, of the attendees were present or future office holders.

Something to consider: your local group might wish to work on scheduling a leadership retreat, which is sort of an LDW on a smaller scale. These are scheduled close at hand, so more local people should be able to attend. You can find out more about Leadership Retreats in the LDW Handbook, available for download on the national website.

I am looking right now at the member demographics for Region 10. We have a total of 3696 members in Florida (which I stated incorrectly at the LDW as closer to 5000). Our 12 groups range in membership size from Tallahassee, with 92 members, to Tampa Bay Mensa, with 635. The most interesting facts involve the different age groups represented in our demographics. We have 1402 members belonging to the Baby Boom Generation, and we now have 841 GenX Mensa members in Florida! That is approximately 30% of the membership in Florida. No wonder we are hearing so much from and about them. And we need to listen, as they are the generation not just the future of Mensa, but the here and now of Mensa. We are seeing more and more of them in leadership positions, and rightly so. We should encourage both their participation and enthusiasm.

Many good events coming up:

December 1, 2007 - AMC meeting - at the Holiday Inn in West Palm Beach. Each and every member is invited to attend.

January 18-20, 2008 - Smarti Gras RG - at the Renaissance Hotel near the airport in Orlando. Details and form can be found on the Region 10 website. (region10.us.mensa.org)

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The ExComm meeting scheduled for the month of November was not held. The next meeting of the ExComm will be held Wednesday **December 5, 2007**, at **5:30 pm** at George Patterson's home, **301 Sand Pine Rd.**, Indialantic. If you plan to attend, please call George at **777-3721**.

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

My Summer Vacation:

GLOBAL WARMING

Continued

(Continued from page 15)

By scheduling regular first aid courses, scout groups, and AA meetings in these places, I am certain that we can slow the process of global warming within five years.

The World: It is saved.

I am not mad.

the george

Anger is the feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind.

- Evan Esar (1899-1995) American humorist