

The

SCAM

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25th Anniversary Issue

Could some of you soon
be hearing this from
American Mensa???

***"You're NOT
one of us...!"***

See Page Three...



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(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



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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

Just about the time of our RG, this issue of *The SCAM* should be landing in your mailbox. So, at this point, I invite you to drop me a note telling us about your RG experience. I will publish these in next month's issue. If you have some pictures to share, send them to Karen Freiberg (our Webmaster), so we can include them on our website.

As I write this, the various political campaigns have reached fever pitch as Election Day draws near. One TV ad, in particular, from an incumbent Congressman attacking his opponent for his "liberal" views concludes: "*He is not one of us.*" Because of who I am, I take personal offense at statements such as this one.

So, let's talk politics—*Mensa* politics, that is. In the current *Mensa Bulletin*, Chairman Russ Bakke once again stresses the need to change our image to attract new members. He sees our image as that of a group of nerds, complete with too-short pants and pocket protectors (hence the name of this column) and argues this image is what makes prospective members decide not to join.

He advocates, instead, to project an image of a group of average "Joe Sixpacks" who just happen to get the requisite score on an IQ test. I believe Mr. Bakke is wrong on both counts. Most of us do not fit either stereotype, nor should we. As *Mensa* has always advertised the only qualification for membership is an IQ in the 98th percentile, *Mensa* should welcome *all* its members, no

(Continued on page 4)

***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.

Food, Frankenstein, and Toilets. What more could you ask for?

During the past several RG's, I gave talks on several of my favorite subjects, all of which have appeared in my ten-year on-going column, "Gourmet's Guide". This year, unfortunately, or fortunately if you are so disposed, I will not be able to contribute that way.

Because of a severe illness and its consequences of two years ago I have been left speechless (literally). Do I hear cheers?. Thus, I will not be able to give my customary talks from a podium. I will, however, be at the RG to answer all your questions about any subject you care to ask. Do I hear moans? I will do that on a one-to-one basis where I can communicate more effectively. Check your RG calendar for times and places.

Coincidentally, an updated and enlarged edition of my book *Frankenstein, the Man and the Monster* will be available. I will also bring my collection of Frankenstein movies which you may borrow to view.

I hope to see you at the RG.

Arthur Belefant.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Continued

(Continued from page 3)

matter how odd we might seem to other, more "average" people.

As Mensans, I am sure many of us have had difficulties throughout life gaining acceptance in society at large. Often, these difficulties have been quite discouraging. How many times have many of us experienced the characterization, "*He (or she) is not one of us*"? We do not need to, yet again, face rejections like this, *especially in a society created supposedly just for us*.

Let's leave the concerns about projecting an image to politicians, salesmen, and whores. Image has no place in Mensa. I cannot emphasize enough: Mensa is for *everybody* who meets our single qualification for membership, even if some of us do not fit some desired image. Let's not sell our collective soul by rejecting some of our members just for the sake of adding a few to our numbers.

Part Eleven: Stalag VII Moosburg

This camp had accumulated many POWs before we arrived. Prisoner of war camps from all of German occupied territory were being consolidated in this region. All the barracks were occupied with more than they were designed to hold. Consequently we were accommodated in some very large tents that were approximately 30 x 110 feet. There were four parallel rows of men head to head with about a two-foot aisle at their feet to allow each kriegie access to his location in the tent. Each man had about a two-foot berth, which was just about room to be able to turn over without disturbing his neighbor on either side of him. Each tent accommodated three hundred men.

Life in Stalag VII-A was tolerable. We had food supplied mostly by the Red Cross. Our combine set up an outdoor stove and we managed to prepare the canned food. Once we became used to the sleeping arrangement we liked it much better than sleeping in vermin infested barracks.

Each day there was some military activity that kept us occupied and aware that liberation was near. It appeared that we were not supervised by the guards. There were one or two still around but most had vanished into the night. We guessed that they were reluctant to be taken by the approaching American Army.

The radio news informed us that Nurenberg had been taken and that Gen. Patton was heading to Munich, which was about thirty miles beyond us. The rumble of distant artillery was getting closer. There was an occasional German aircraft seen lying low past our encampment. We wondered if it was being moved to some less critical area where it might be used in a final battle to survive. Munich was now under heavy bombardment. This was the softening up process to make it easier to capture.

We lived this way from the 13th to 29th of April. It was an exciting couple of weeks. On [he 28th the artillery became ominous and threatening. Fear of being in the path of the oncoming army and the shining hope of imminent rescue confused our emotions. Later in the day small spotter planes with US markings circled very low over our camp to send radio information to the their artillery. Excitement brought wild cheers from the kriegies.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Sunday, 29 April brought the Third Army into the outskirts of Moosburg. Machine guns clattered from time to time. An occasional rifle was fired. Perhaps it was the Moosburg home guard putting up a brave last stand. Early after noon the firing ceased. General Patton came into the camp. Somehow, I was able to squeeze into the room to listen to him tell us we were great soldiers and would soon be transported to France. His single pearl handle pistol hung jauntily from his hip. We had heard that the other pistol was given to Dinah Shore.

The Army's bakery supplied us with freshly baked white bread. It was the most delicious bread we had ever tasted. It truly resembled the finest angel food cake.

The following day our group was taken by truck to an airfield about twenty minutes away. It was abandoned by the German Air Force. We were ordered to make ourselves comfortable and await the C-47 transports that would take us to France. Three of us found lodging in a farmhouse on the edge of the air base. An elderly woman and her father made us welcome. We spent the day wandering about the base. There was a rusting-out fuselage of a jet fighter on the perimeter. The field was grass covered with no runways for the airplanes. The living quarters of the airmen were concrete, grass covered structures. Evidence of rabbit fur led us to believe that rabbits were raised to supply food and material for gloves. I 'liberated' a couple of pieces of navigation equipment, which I still have. One was the German equivalent of the E-6B computer and the other a triangle.

The next day Ted borrowed a WWI rifle from the old lady. We wandered out into the woods nearby in search of meat for the table. Strangely, we found there were a number of men living in the woods. We assumed that they were hiding from the army, both ours and their own. They didn't bother us so we did nothing to upset them. Ted shot a small deer, which we carried back to the lady who housed us. She was exuberant. She thanked us and told us that she would prepare a stew for us. I guess that this was the first fresh meat both she and we had in a long time.

About two days later the C-47's arrived to ferry us back to Rheims, France. Here we were showered, deloused and showered again. We were issued a complete set of new clothing including shoes that felt good. Now we felt that we were fit to return to the human

(Continued on page 7)

I have a girlfriend. In our house, we accentuate the second syllable: *girl-friend*. And my lovely wife of 31 years is all right with it. In fact, it's because of her that I have one.

You see, my wife is a Chihuahua person. And although I'm a cat person, I love all animals, Chihuahuas included (although they're not like *real* dogs).

Anyhow, back to my *girl-friend*. Almost 9 years ago, we acquired our (at the time) third Chihuahua, Bitsy. Ostensibly, she was supposed to be our youngest daughter's dog, but that lasted for about the duration of the trip home from Gainesville where we got her (Bitsy, not my daughter). So Bitsy became one of the family dogs.

Then, about four years ago, an odd thing happened. Bitsy started following me around. Everywhere. All the time. Something happened in her dog head, seemingly overnight, that caused her to believe that I was the sun, the moon, the stars, and the reason for exis-

(Continued on page 8)

20TH MISSION

tinued from page 6)

race again.

We spent a few days in Camp Lucky Strike then by train to LeHavre. Here we boarded the USS Erickson (formerly the Kungsholm) for our trip to New York.

...This concludes our story.

(Con-

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 9/30/2008:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$748.87
Post Office Acct.	140.09
Reserve Fund	2115.13
RG Fund	2910.00

Total Funds Available:

\$5914.09

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$165.59
Interest Income	0.44
RG Income:	860.00

Withdrawals

RG Expenses	\$500.00
Postage	56.85

—Bud Long, Treasurer

(Continued from page 7)

tence. She became my ever-present and ever-faithful companion.

Now, mind you, I didn't do anything exceptional to cause this. I treated her just the same way I did our other dogs, no more, no less. But something, somehow changed.

I know, I know. Every dog person has stories about their loyal, furry friend. But this is really quite exceptional.

I call her my "girl-friend," but to be more accurate, I should really call her my stalker. It's as if she thinks that if I'm out of eyesight, something terrible will happen.

I'm not allowed to completely close any door. If I go to the garage for anything over 30 seconds (sometimes even less) I get the same greeting as when I come home from work after 10 hours. We go walking every day; I put on her collar and leash, but I don't hold it. She will follow me without fail wherever I go. I firmly believe that if I were to step off the edge of the Grand Canyon, she would accompany me without hesitation ("I don't know why the hell he's doing this, but I'm sure there must be a good reason and I'm going too!").

It's not that I don't appreciate the adoration, but I can't help but be curious about what precipitated it. I don't recall doing anything in particular that would have warranted such boundless idolization. Did my scent change? Was it that she just got around to noticing me waaaay up there where I am from waaaay down where she is? Did she receive furtive instructions from aliens? I don't suppose I'll ever know for sure, but perhaps if there really is an afterlife, it's one of those mysteries that might be revealed.

In the meantime, I have the most faithful, devoted, loyal girl-friend I will ever have in this lifetime.

the george

In case you're worried about what's going to become of the younger generation, it's going to grow up and start worrying about the younger generation.

- Roger Allen

Repetition

For this month's column I used LeXpert 3.2 to find words with the second half exactly the same as the first half. Then I looked up the definitions in *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD 4).

AA	rough, cindery lava
ATLATL	a device for throwing a spear or dart
BABA	a rum cake
BERIBERI	a thiamine deficiency disease
BONBON	a sugared candy
BOUBOU	a long flowing garment
BUBU	boubou
BULBUL	a songbird
CACA	excrement
CANCAN	a dance marked by high kicking
CHICHI	showily stylish; elaborate ornamentation
CHOWCHOW	a relish of mixed pickles in mustard
COCO	a tall palm tree
CUSCUS	an arboreal mammal
DADA	an artistic and literary movement
DIKDIK	a small antelope
DODO	an extinct flightless bird
DUMDUM	a type of bullet
ESES	[ES ess]
FROUFROU	a rustling sound
FURFUR	dandruff
GAGA	crazy
GOGO	a discotheque
GRIGRI	a fetish or amulet
GRUGRU	a palm tree
GUITGUIT	a tropical American bird
HAHA	a fence set in a ditch
HOTSHOTS	[HOTSHOT a showily skillful person]
JUJU	an object regarded as having magical power
KAKA	a parrot
LULU	something remarkable
MAHIMAHI	a food fish in Hawaii
MAMA	mother

(Continued on page 21)

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM:

John Moritz

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Barron Perry	19th	Harold Long
6th	William McClure	20th	David Muszynski
10th	LuAnne Johnson	20th	Dean Zentner
11th	Allan Torsney	21st	John England
14th	William Harris III	25th	David Williams
18th	James Gentry Jr.	26th	Harry Falconer
18th	Joseph Mueck	30th	Lisa Willnow

A belated birthday greeting to **Beth Allen**, who celebrated her birthday on October 11th.

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

ANNOUNCING A NEW SIG!

C++ Java C#

Join the Computer Science SIG. Any Computer Science topics from work or school are welcome. To join email Michael Zielinski at mikez23@aol.com or compscisig@yahoogroups.com.



SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2008

1st - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T. #1

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.*

2nd - Sunday 10:30 AM

EXCOMM MTG. & SUNDAY BRUNCH

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. *Please note the change in the meeting place and time.* This month, it will be held at the home of Terry Valek in Rockledge.

Immediately following the meeting, Terry will host the Sunday Brunch. Be sure to bring your appetite for good food and fun.

Kitty is \$3.

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

25th - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T. #2

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.*

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

Your Event Here!

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Do you have a great idea for that perfect event? Do you have the urge, even the *desire* to socialize with other Mensans, but simply do not want to use the extra gasoline? *Why not host that event in your own home?* If this sounds good to you, contact our Calendar Coordinator today. You'll be glad you did. *Info on Page Two.*

It is clear from the October edition of *The SCAM* that sanity needs a spokesman. On 4 November the people of this once self-reliant nation will decide if they are to abandon their own heritage. And, line up with Europe's government "knows all, does all, controls all" societies.

It does not take rocket science to see that we:

1. Spend more than we earn, both as a country, and as individuals;
2. If we do not have the necessary funds we charge it, confident that liberal courts, or our parental government, will "rescue" us;
3. We deny our own manufacturers and craftsmen a livelihood by totally ignoring "*Made in America*" at every turn;
4. Given any problem of substance our first question is: "*Who in the government will help me?*" Not, "*How may I face this difficulty?*"
5. In far too many instances we accept jobs that pay in excess of their true worth rather than move on and train ourselves for more valuable pursuits;
6. We permit power politicians and financial gurus to control our economy, spending at every turn huge sums of our money (not theirs) to buy a voter base for themselves.

Those who say they "*feel our pain*" from penthouses and expensive restaurants tax us to the limits so that they may redistribute wealth as they see fit, all the time enlarging their faithful voter base, especially in urban areas. These, my friends are the causes of our "credit crunch". Has anyone, anywhere heard such debated? Why the #\$\$%@ not?

Listening to government officials ignore their own past actions while slipping billions of dollars to the very people who got us here is criminal. Should I mention a series of nations elsewhere on this planet who have turned themselves over to central power brokers for their own "protection?" What did they become? Yes, if can happen here!

"Power corrupts. Total power corrupts totally." Each generation

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

must preserve it's own democracy. Apparently we are unable? Perhaps somebody in Washington, or along Wall Street will rescue me? If only I turn to them. If only I give them my power.

Elect Representatives on 4 November who will deny such a Washington, DC dynasty. Such citizens are painfully few and far between, outnumbered at every turn by those who will "*give us*" something.

Obama is the worst of all. He will forever cripple this once wonderful nation. With a liberal court and Congress he will take us far deeper than any can imagine.

Silas Baker

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*.

The United states is not a democracy. It never has been (check the Constitution) and probably never will be. It is most apparent in the upcoming presidential elections. Most Americans had no say in the selection of the candidates and only one person of each party chose the vice-presidential candidates.

Because of our electoral system we are presented with only two viable candidates that are running for president. There are other candidates, but they have no chance of winning. To vote for any other candidate is a wasted vote. Only a major change in our electoral system could change that. Save a revolution, any change is in the hands of Congress, so that is out.

So how do you choose? Both candidates espouse much the same concepts - lower taxes, increase spending for health care, improve our national defense, aid poor nations, give veterans better treatment, reduce dependence on foreign oil, increase education, and so on. There is no major difference between the candidates in these laudable goals. But whichever candidate is elected, he cannot do what he proposes to do. It is Congress that makes the laws, not the president. For all the promises, you can be sure that whatever the president presents to Congress, it will not leave Congress as presented. Congress has its own agendas.

So, how should you vote in November? I suggest that you ignore all the fine sounding words, ignore that one is older and the other younger, ignore that one is black and the other white, that one may speak better than the other, that one has won a debate or two, but think of what you are doing when you vote.

You are hiring an employee, the Chief Executive Officer of a company (the U. S. A.), to fill the top position of the company in which you are a stock holder (citizen) to replace the retiring CEO. Hire the most qualified man for the job.

In this period of massive foreign troubles (Georgia, Afghanistan, the Middle East, Venezuela), to take the reins of office immediately, hire the man with years of international experience rather than a person with none. Hire a commander-in-chief who is a graduate of a U. S. Military academy, a war hero with years of military experience, a true and proven patriot not a person with none of these attributes?

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

Hire an independent thinker, a person who, although a party member, is not afraid to vote against his party's stands when he feels that those stands are incorrect not a person that slavishly adheres to his party's line without ever disagreeing?

Hire the person who has over 25 years of experience in Congress not a person who has spent less than 150 days in the Senate?

You can add any other factors that you think important. But ignore campaign promises, they are ephemeral and mostly relate to what Congress can do, not what the president can do. Vote for the most qualified person.

Fred

Mensans: "Oddball" or "Average"?

As a Mensan, do you "fit in"? Or, are you the "odd man out"? How well are you accepted by your non-Mensan peers? Either way, *The SCAM* invites you to tell your story.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, anonymity will be assured. In the October Mensa *Bulletin*, Chairman Russ Bakke sees a need for Mensa to change its image to one of "average" people with high IQs, as opposed to our alleged current image as a group of "geeks" or "nerds". Do you agree with his assessment? Do you believe we need to change our image? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

One of the pressing items in current events is the need for Uncle Sam to come to the rescue of Wall Street to the tune of over \$700 billion of taxpayer money. It seems the most vocal proponent is none other than our “Free-Market” hero, President Bush. This is the same person who believes that Business, not Government is the answer to everything. Of course, Mr. Bush is not alone.

The entire Wall Street community has touted this belief for years. In our own newsletter, we can see many examples of this view, particularly in Al Thomas’s monthly investment advice column. Here are some gems from some back issues:

“That politically correct stupid you voted for in Congress to let the (environmental) whackos have their way – no matter what it costs YOU.” (“\$200 Oil Is Good”, July 2008)

“Everyone expects the government to come to their rescue...Each attempt at rescue has been disappointing.” “The best that government can do is nothing” (“Bears Feed on Disappointment”, March 2008)

“Want to know what and who is the cause of the next Depression?” “YOU are!” “Huh?” “Because you are not paying attention to what those ignoramuses in Washington are doing, it will be your fault when the economy falls apart.” (“Cause of the Next Depression”, October 2007)

In all fairness, I have never met Al Thomas. I have no personal ax to grind with him. But his expressed antipathy toward government strikes me as typical of Wall Street. In fact, until very recently, “Government” has always been “the problem”. Why the change of heart? The answer, of course, is obvious. They need our help.

This reminds me of my bygone school days. I did not fit in at school; there I was the outcast nobody wanted anything to do with. While I was harassed by the bullies, the other classmates tended to avoid me at all costs. That is, until an important exam was on the horizon. Then, too often, I was someone’s “best friend” – until the “Exam Crisis” passed, when I returned to my regular role as the one to be ignored or bullied.

Once the Government bailout of Wall Street succeeds, I wonder how long it will take until we once again hear the pronouncement, “Government is the problem, not the solution.”

One of the campaign promises made by a President of the United States has certainly been carried out, especially in recent times: “*Less government in business and more business in government.*” This president had easily won his election with 60 percent of the popular vote.

Another president, upon entering office, was determined to preserve the old moral and economic precepts amid the material prosperity that many Americans were enjoying at the time. He also won his election by a landslide, 54 percent of the popular vote. In his first message to Congress, he stressed, among other things, the need for tax cuts. Overall, his policies reflected a statement he made in a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, “*The business of America is Business.*”

A third president was elected during a period of unprecedented prosperity, as were the other two. Unfortunately, a few months into his term, the economy took a major turn for the worse. In trying to turn the economy around, the president announced he would keep the Federal budget balanced and would cut taxes. Due to the economy, he rapidly lost popularity and was blamed by many for these conditions, although any fair assessment would conclude that the seeds for this crisis had been planted well before his presidency.

During the terms of each president, technology had advanced as never before. Many Americans, partly as a result of this, came to enjoy unprecedented wealth. Unfortunately, as the wages of American workers remained flat, the working class was rapidly losing ground. Certainly, in the 1980s and 1990s, America experienced huge technological advances and a quite prosperous economy. Deregulation of business was, and still is, the order of the day. Today, it is no secret that our economy is in serious trouble.

The Presidents mentioned above are Warren G. Harding (1921-1923), Calvin Coolidge (1923-1929), and, of course, Herbert Hoover (1929-1933). The basic information presented here is from the website, Whitehouse.gov. The 1925 Coolidge speech to the newspaper editors can be found on the *Wikipedia* website.

The economic distress I refer to here, of course, is the Great Depression that began with the stock market crash in October 1929. It is unfortunate that, due to passage of time, few are actually alive long enough to remember the Great Depression – most of us have

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

been exposed to it only by hearing stories from our elders and by reading history books (and websites).

The point is, do parallels exist between the Great Depression and today? In our culture, it is implied far too often that learning history just seems a waste of time. This attitude was reflected nationwide recently by Governor Sarah Palin of Alaska in this year's Vice-Presidential debate, as she addressed opponent Joe Biden: "*Say it ain't so, Joe. There you go, pointing backwards again.*" Of course, by the time you read this, the presidential election most likely will also be history (*Will I have been looking backwards?*).

In examining today's conditions, all of us, as Americans would do well to study our history and learn the lessons it has to offer. If we fail to do this, the worst will be yet to come.

<i>THE TENTH STORY</i>

Continued.

(Continued from page 22)

members comes from our testing program, rather than from prior evidence. Ideally, we would have several proctors available in various parts of our group borders. Truth to tell, that doesn't happen. There is always a need for more proctors. And if you have a college degree, you are eligible to train to be a proctor. (And you thought only teachers could do it!!)

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10
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407-855-9078
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(Continued from page 9)

MEME	an idea or practice that spreads from person to person
MM	-- used to express assent or satisfaction
MOTMOT	a tropical bird
MUMU	muumuu
MURMUR	to speak unclearly
NANA	a grandmother
NENE	a Hawaiian goose
PALPAL	pertaining to a palpus
PAPA	a father
PAWPAW	papaw
POMPOM	an antiaircraft cannon
PUPU	a dish of Asian foods served as an appetizer
SARSAR	a cold, whistling wind
TARTAR	a crust on the teeth
TESTES	[TESTIS a male reproductive gland]
TITI	an evergreen shrub or tree
TSETSE	an African fly
TSKTSK	to tsk
TZETZE	tsetse
TUTU	a short ballet skirt
VALVAL	resembling or pertaining to a valve

Observation 1: BULBUL, DODO, GUITGUIT, KAKA, MOTMOT, and NENE are birds. OSPD4 does not give derivations, but it is a safe bet that at least one of these is in imitation of the bird's cry.

Observation 2: There is repetition within repetition. BUBU = BOUBOU, MUMU = MUUMUU, and TZETZE = TSETSE.

Next month: The End

I was extremely proud of Region 10 in September, when it was announced that we were the ONLY region with 100% participation for Mensa Testing Day. So THANK YOU to all the LocSecs and proctors out there who decided to participate, and then followed through with notifying national of that participation.

That started me thinking about the numbers and statistics involved with testing, so I pulled out my trusty RVC Report from September 30. (NOTE: September 30 is the most recent available, as I must write this column very early in October).

Considering the first 9 months of 2008, only Central Florida Mensa tested in each of those first 9 months, with Broward Mensa testing in 7 of the months, and Mensa of Jacksonville testing in 6 of those 9 months. (That statistic did go all the way down to a group with one test session, and even one group that didn't test at all so far in 2008, by the way).

Frequency of testing didn't necessarily correlate with the number of candidates taking tests, however. (Here I must switch to looking at the last 12 months, not just 2008.) During the past 12 months, Tampa Bay Mensa tested 62 people, while Central Florida Mensa tested 52 candidates, and Palm Beach County Mensa has tested 30 people.

Another statistic we can look at is the conversion rate, as in what percentage of those who qualify by testing actually follow through and join right away. In that area, 4 groups really stand out: Manasota Mensa's conversion rate was 100%; Palm Beach County Mensa's conversion rate was 92.9%; Tallahassee Mensa's conversion rate was 90.9%; and Broward Mensa's conversion rate was 90.0%.

Okay, now that we have looked at the statistics, do you notice what I noticed? It is not just the same two or three groups showing up. In lots of our groups, people are doing things right. Lots of testing and lots of people being tested? Then the group has a good proctor coordinator who contacts potential candidates and schedules them or puts them in touch with the nearest proctor, as well as great proctors! High conversion rates? Then someone in the group, perhaps membership officer, is doing a good job of contacting those candidates who receive an offer of membership. And once they do join, is someone making them feel welcome? A letter? A phone call?

I guess this is my way of encourage all of us to remember the importance of the testing program. The greater percentage of new

(Continued on page 20)

Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, October 8, 2008. Called to order at 7:14 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Joe Smith, Karen Freiberg, and Bud Long.

Welcome Guests: Marc and Suzanne Leichtling and Doug Starke.

Minutes for the September 7, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the October 2008 SCAM.

Reports:

Treasurer: Bud handed out the September Treasurers Report, which showed total funds of \$5914.09, which included \$2910.00 in the RG fund.

RG: Bud reported that registrations now numbered 88, with a few more expected. Someone noted that these minutes would be published after the RG concluded and we should herein declare it a great success (assuming no hurricane.) An RG committee meeting was scheduled following this meeting.

There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20. Next meeting will be at Terry Valek's house at 852 Gardener Rd., Rockledge (321-626-8523) on Sunday, November 2, 2008 at 10:30 am. (*Note change to a different time and place.*) It was also noted that for those who might wish to attend an ExComm meeting, this was a good opportunity, since the meeting would be followed by a social function.