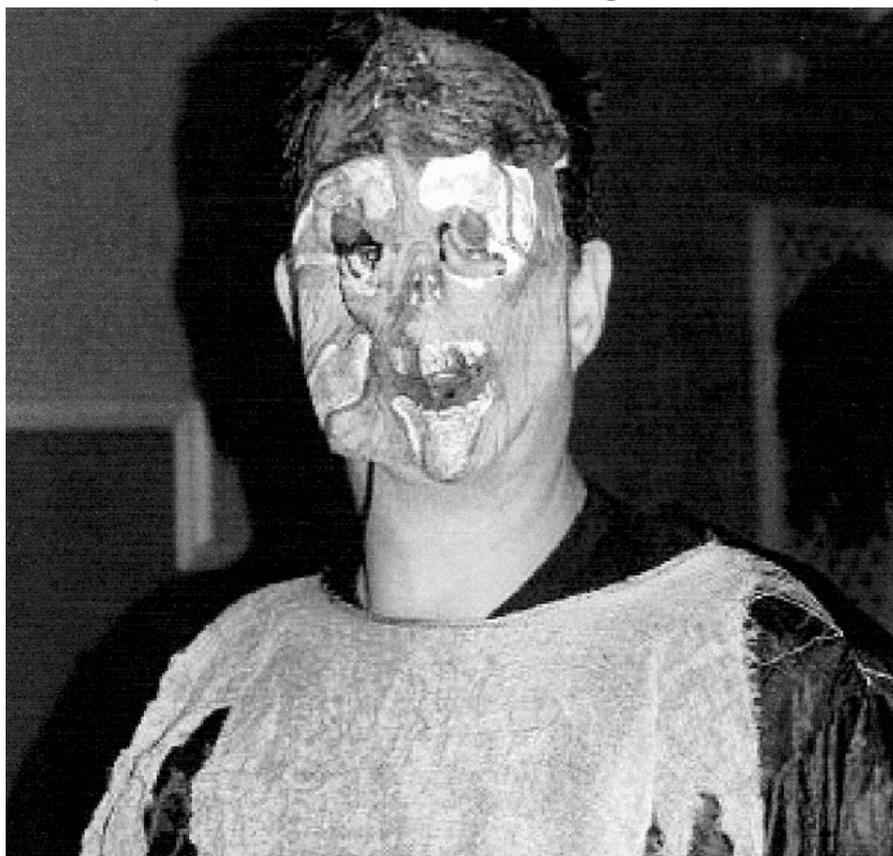


The

SCAM

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25th Anniversary Issue



Too much fun can affect your image...

Volume 26, No. 12

December, 2008



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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

What a year this has been! Of course the big news is our recent SCAM “Back in Business” RG that was, after a six-year hiatus, a great success! Who says Mensans can’t have fun!

As you might have guessed from our covers, 2008 marked the 25th anniversary of *The SCAM*. Here’s to another 25 years! Over the past year, our newsletter carried some very special features. Our yearlong series, *20th Mission*, wraps up this month. These installments represented a piece of World War II history through the experiences of a bomber pilot who was a part of that history.

It has been our good fortune to have someone share a first-hand account of events we would normally see in history books often written by those who were not yet born during the time period. It is important to keep our history alive in this manner.

I have often heard that all good things must eventually end. Gary Russell, who for two years has informed and entertained us with his Scrabble column has submitted his final column, published in this issue. It is appropriately subtitled, “The End”.

As we reflect back, it is also important to look forward. In this vein, I am happy to report that Art Belefant has reinstated his Gourmet’s Guide column after ending the column earlier this year due to health reasons. As his situation permits, we will once again enjoy the Gourmet’s Guide.

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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.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 10/31/2008:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$779.96
Post Office Acct.	85.82
Reserve Fund	2115.44
RG Fund	415.65

Total Funds Available:

\$3396.87

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$166.88
Interest Income	0.31
RG Income:	1996.00

Withdrawals

RG Expenses	\$4490.35
Postage	54.27
Printing	135.79

RG Year-to-Date Totals

Income	\$5290.00
Expenses	4874.35
Net Income	\$415.65

—Bud Long, Treasurer

Inside the Pocket Protector

Continued

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As has been the case in the past, you continue to have the opportunity to help shape future issues of *The SCAM*. If you have something to write about, you are welcome to send your work for publication. It can be on just about any subject, so there's no need to be bashful.

Recently, you have read my reactions to AML Chairman Russ Bakke's published contention that Mensa needs to improve its image if it is to attract new members. What are your views? Drop me a note and let me know.

Epilogue

I started writing this account of my recollections on 11 November 1996 at the urging of my many good friends. My grand-niece, Martha DePhillips, my wife Florence who died in 1990, my friends John Nichols, John Willmott and Norman Ingram were the prime movers. Norman in particular was constantly urging me to give the coming generations an inkling of what the American airman, flying bombing missions during the daylight hours over the European Continent experienced. I am a retired Air Force reserve Lt. Colonel with 19 successful missions. The prior months' installments have been about my 20th. In closing, let me add an anecdote. Perhaps it will provide food for thought to counteract some of the stories you've heard about the abusive nature of the German soldiers:

Recently, I escorted a friend to a doctor's office. While we were waiting my friend asked me about the treatment we received in Stalag Luft III. He asked me if we were badly treated. I told him that my association with the German Military personnel was about as good as we could expect. We did have many months of close to a starvation diet. In retrospect, I must say that they tried to conform to the requirements of Geneva Convention of 1929 regarding treatment of POWs. They didn't have much to give us as POW's but I feel sure that their depot troops and civilians did not fare as well as we did because, in addition, we received Red Cross food.

The waiting room was small. What we said was easily heard by all present. A man and his wife sitting in the corner were listening intently. When there was a pause in our conversation the man spoke up and asked me which POW camp I had been in.

As we talked we found that we were on the same march from Nürnberg to Moosburg and that General Patton's Third Army liberated us. He then told us a bit about his capture. His right arm had been badly mangled getting free from his parachute after his plane was destroyed by flak. The Germans brought him to a large hospital nearby. The doctor who attended him told him that the arm had to be removed the damage was so bad. The next day the surgeon who was to op-

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erate asked the wounded pilot if he would submit to an innovative, unprecedented operation that might save his arm. The surgeon cautioned the patient that if he could save the arm he mustn't expect it to be of much use. Our friend waiting here in the doctor's office with us said, "Whatever the outcome of the operation it couldn't be any worse than losing the arm to amputation." At this point he got up from his chair, lifted his right arm, flexed his muscle and proudly exclaimed, "He sure did a great job!" After the war he learned that the German doctor who had operated was a world-renowned neurosurgeon.

Editor's Note: The preceding, published as an epilogue here, were originally published by the author as a foreword, intended to introduce his story. The original work was published in 1997 and was a 50+ page work. It has necessarily been edited to fit the format of The SCAM. I can only hope I did not butcher the work too badly in the process.

My first contact with LCL Joseph Cittadini, who is a fellow SCAM member, happened by chance when he e-mailed me about obtaining a copy of some articles that were published in prior issues of The SCAM. When providing the copies, I invited him to write for our newsletter should he be so inclined. He responded that he had this work and would send it to me if I were interested. A few days after my response, the 20th Mission arrived.

It has been our joint pleasure to share this piece of history with you over the past year. We hope you have enjoyed reading each episode as it unfolded. If you missed any of them, you can visit our website where back issues of The SCAM are readily available for your perusal.

Recently I had the opportunity to eat *osso bucco* three times after many long years of not having it. *Ossobucco*, although a quintessential Italian dish is not often served in Italian restaurants in the U. S., the reason being that the preparation takes a long time, over two hours, it cannot be made to order, thus the amount prepared must be assured to the restaurant that all made will be consumed.

The first time for me recently was on the cruise ship *Opera* sailing out of Ft. Lauderdale to the usual Caribbean Islands. The cruise was not unusual, but the ship was. Although the ship sailed out of Florida, the ship was Italian -- the ambiance, the entertainment, and especially the food.

Breakfast was the typical cruise ship menu. Lunch and dinner followed the Italian custom of having a separate pasta course before the main course. The pasta was freshly made aboard the ship and a different one was served at each meal. The pasta courses were so good that I had to limit myself from ordering extra portions so that I would have room for the main course.

For the main courses there was always a choice of at least one American dish and one Italian dish. At one meal they offered *osso bucco*. That was, by far an away, the best *osso bucco* that I ever had.

The next time that I had *osso bucco* was in Melo's restaurant on the beach. Melo's is an upscale Italian restaurant. Melo's usually has a weekend special, occasionally it is *osso bucco*. Because of my great experience aboard the *Opera*, Rita and I went to Melo's the next time that they offered *osso bucco*. It was very good, but the *Opera's* version was better.

Some time later, at a celebratory dinner, we were at the *Dove* in Indialantic, also an upscale Italian restaurant. As it happened, one of *Dove's* off-menu specialties that evening was *osso bucco*. Of course, I ordered that. Again, it was excellent, but just not the perfection of the *Opera's*.

But just what is *osso bucco*?

Often spelled "osso buco", it is a dish of slices of braised veal shanks. It is usually sprinkled with *gremolata*, a mix of parsley, garlic and lemon peel, and served with risotto alla milanese. The

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shank is cut across the bone into slices about an inch thick, browned, and braised in white wine and herbs and spices.

Traditionally, *osso bucco* is not made with tomatoes, tomatoes being unknown in Italy until the late 19th century. The traditional version, prepared with cinnamon, allspice, bay leaf, and *gremolata* has by and large been replaced with a newer version which includes tomatoes, carrots, celery, and onion, flavored with a *bouquet garni*.

The shank is called *osso buco*, in Italian “bone hole” (*osso* 'bone', *buco* 'hole'), because the bone marrow is part of the appeal of the dish. The marrow is a delicacy. Proper serving of *osso buco* includes a narrow fork to remove the marrow.

The following recipe is adapted from one that I found on the web and simplified(!) for your use.

Ingredients

- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 1 dry bay leaf
- 2 whole cloves
- Cheesecloth
- Kitchen twine, for *bouquet garni* and tying the veal shanks
- 3 whole veal shanks (about 1 pound per shank), trimmed
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- All purpose flour, for dredging
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 small carrot, diced into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 stalk celery, diced into 1/2 inch cubes
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 3 tablespoons fresh flat-leaf Italian parsley, chopped
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest

Directions

Place the rosemary, thyme, bay leaf and cloves into cheesecloth and secure with twine. This will be your *bouquet garni*.

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For the veal shanks, pat dry with paper towels to remove any excess moisture. Veal shanks will brown better when they are dry. Secure the meat to the bone with the kitchen twine. Season each shank with salt and freshly ground pepper. Dredge the shanks in flour, shaking off excess.

In a large Dutch oven pot, heat the vegetable oil until smoking. Add the tied veal shanks to the hot pan and brown all sides, about 3 minutes per side. Remove the browned shanks and reserve.

In the same pot, add the onion, carrot, and celery. Season with salt at this point to help draw out the moisture from the vegetables. Sauté until soft and translucent, about 8 minutes. Add the tomato paste and mix well.

Return browned shanks to the pan and add the white wine and reduce liquid by half, about 5 minutes. Add the *bouquet garni* and 2 cups of the chicken stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover pan and simmer for about 1 1/2 hours or until the meat is falling off the bone. Check every 15 minutes, turning shanks and adding more chicken stock as necessary. The level of cooking liquid should always be about 3/4 the way up the shank.

Carefully remove the cooked shanks from the pot and place in decorative serving platter. Cut off the kitchen twine and discard.

Remove and discard the *bouquet garni* from the pot.

Pour all the juices and sauce from the pot over the shanks. Garnish with chopped parsley and lemon.

As you can see, this is not a simple dish to prepare. I have not yet made it nor do I expect to. I will wait until it is offered again somewhere and then order it.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome Back to SCAM:

Jon Kruse
Debra Saltzberg

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>	Alexander Lauberts		

*A belated birthday greeting to **Bill Calderon**, who celebrated his birthday on November 17th.*

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 December 2008

5th - Friday 7:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Come join us for your favorite games at Terry's home in Rockledge.
Kitty is \$3.

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

7th - Sunday 10:30 AM

EXCOMM MTG. & SUNDAY BRUNCH

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

13th - Saturday 7:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Come join us for your favorite games at Terry's home in Rockledge.
Kitty is \$3.

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

27th - 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.

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.*

As a new member, I may be out of line in doing this but I feel I must comment on the writings of Silas Baker in the November issue of SCAM. I guess I'll follow his format and take things individually.

1. *"(We) Spend more than we earn, both as a country, and as individuals;"* Here I must agree. We do tend to spend more than we earn both as a country and as individuals. Of course, my spending is for food, shelter and other household needs. The country's is for war.
2. *"If we do not have the necessary funds we charge it, confident that liberal courts, or our parental government, will 'rescue' us;"* If banks didn't flood the mails with credit cards that we neither asked for nor needed we may not have this problem.
3. *"We deny our own manufacturers and craftsmen a livelihood by totally ignoring 'Made in America' at every turn;"* This may be because nothing is made in America anymore. Our jobs have been outsourced to other countries.
4. *"Given any problem of substance our first question is: 'Who in the government will help me?' Not, 'How may I face this difficulty?'"* Given any problem of substance our first question should be, "Why am I paying taxes?" Oh, yes, the war and oil thing.
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;"* I challenge anyone to find a job that pays in excess of its true worth besides Upper Management Oil and Bank Executives.
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."* Sounds like the definition of the right wing Republican Party.

The government gave Wall Street our power eight years ago. It's time for a change and thank God we're getting it with President-elect Barack Obama.

Bill Calderon

The End

[CUMBIA, a Latin-American dance, was omitted from the October 2008 column. COUSCOUS, a North African cereal, was omitted from the November 2008 column. And please disregard the last paragraph of the June 2007 column.]

For this final column, let's look at words containing END. The primary focus will be on seven-letter words; using all seven tiles during one turn in the SCRABBLE® crossword game earns a player a bonus of fifty points.

The 28 seven-letter words ending with END are BARTEND, BOOKEND, COMMEND, COMPEND, CONTEND, DESCEND, DISPEND, DISTEND, FACIEND, FORFEND, GODSEND, HEADEND, MINUEND, MISSEND, MISTEND, PERPEND, PORTEND, PREBEND, PRETEND, PROPEND, PROTEND, REBLEND, STIPEND, SUBTEND, SUSPEND, UPTREND, WEEKEND, and YEAREND. Some of these are compound words with END as the second part (BOOKEND, HEADEND, WEEKEND, YEAREND), while others are compound words with END plus one or two letters as the second part (BARTEND, GODSEND, UPTREND). Having taught mathematics, I was attracted to two of the other words on this list. *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4) defines FACIEND as “a number to be multiplied by another” and MINUEND as “a number from which another is to be subtracted.”

The 27 seven-letter words beginning with END are ENDARCH, ENDEARS, ENDEMIC, ENDGAME, ENDINGS, ENDITED, ENDITES, ENDIVES, ENDLEAF, ENDLESS, ENDLONG, ENDMOST, ENDNOTE, ENDOGEN, ENDOPOD, ENDORSE, ENDOWED, ENDOWER, ENDPLAY, ENDRINS, ENDUING, ENDURED, ENDURER, ENDURES, ENDUROS, ENDWAYS, and ENDWISE. The compound words from this list would seem to be ENDGAME, ENDLEAF, ENDLESS, ENDLONG, ENDMOST, ENDNOTE, ENDPLAY, ENDWAYS, and ENDWISE (although I may have included some that do not belong). This is not to say that the other words on this list cannot be broken into two separate words. Words formed by chopping off END from the beginning are ARCH, EARS, EMIC, OWED, and RINS. OSPD4 defines EN as “the letter N” and DING as “to ring” -- DINGS would be the third person singular present tense form -- yet ENDINGS is not truly a compound word. There are two game-related

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I'm sure everyone who gets email has seen the bit about the old guy who is repeatedly sidetracked trying to do a simple chore. On the off chance you haven't, it goes something like this:

"I went out to the garage the other day to get some super glue to fix a handle that had broken off one of the mugs fresh out of the dishwasher. On my way out there, I noticed that it looked like it was going to rain, so I thought I'd better put out the trash and recycle stuff for the next day before I got wet. As I was hauling the recycle bin down the driveway, some sticky, smelly something got all over my hand, so I went inside to wash off my hands in the kitchen sink. Noticed that the trashcan in the kitchen was just about full, too and that I should take it out with the other stuff I'd just hauled out. Did that, came back in to put a new liner in the trashcan only to find we were out of kitchen trash bags. Remembered I had some of those big, black trash bags in the garage, so I went out there to retrieve one. Stepped on a thumbtack (I'm barefoot, of course) that (again, of course) was head-down, point-up. Screamed. Bled. A lot. With blood gushing from the ball of my foot, I'm walking on the heel, trying not to drip all over the carpet on my way to the bathroom. Failed. Got cleaned up, bandaged, now I need to get the blood splatter out of the carpet before it stains. Checked the cabinet under the sink where we keep all our toxic chemicals for carpet stain remover only to find a rising lake of fetid, black water engulfing everything and threatening to burst over the tiny lip acting as a levee. I manage to turn off the water mere seconds after it gushes out onto the kitchen floor, which now looks like a diorama of New Orleans after Katrina. Armed with a roll of paper towels, I try to stem the tide rapidly approaching the rug, which still needs the bloodstain removed from it. Of course, hurrying was a bad call since I was barefoot (remember?), limping, and the floor is wet (duh!). I slip. Now my foot doesn't hurt so badly. Either that or I don't really notice it since my tailbone has been crushed and I'm pretty sure I'm paralyzed from the neck down."

These things are intended to make you go haha and then you forward them to everyone on your distribution. The only problem is that this wasn't an email. It actually happened to me. Needless to say, I never did get around to gluing the handle back on the mug.

Actually, that wasn't so bad. No. What's much worse is when you stride confidently into a room only to realize you have absolutely no

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earthling idea what you're doing there. This has happened to me also. More than once.

But I digress. (Hmmm... Since I haven't really gressed yet at all, is it possible to digress before I begin to make a point? Interesting philosophical argument.)

As I approach my Golden Years (more accurately: Rust Years), the protective buffer around my middle that keeps me safe from inadvertently falling into narrow wells has been expanding. Sadly, complaining about my ever-increasing girth does not seem to be effective in reducing my diameter, so my lovely wife decided we should join a health club. Mind you, she doesn't need a health club; she exercises daily, eats right, and, frankly, she looks terrific. But she knew that if she only signed me up, I'd probably procrastinate, whereas if we went together... well, anyway, you get the idea. So we joined.

Place has *everything!* Row after row of machines that look like nothing quite so much as medieval torture devices. Free weights. Indoor track. Swimming pools. Sauna. Steam room. Treadmills. The works. So I'm now on a regular regimen of thrice-weekly workouts with emphasis on those machines that will do what the Ab Roller and the Ab Rocket and the Ab Normal and all the other Ab Solutely Bogus machines won't.

So, a couple weeks ago, I'm done with my workout and I'm off to the shower along with a bunch of other skinny butt old guys. I lather up my hair with shampoo and... waidaminit... no lather. Hmmm? Didn't think my hair was that dirty. Glob some more shampoo onto my head and still don't get any suds action. Maybe it's the water? Must remember to mention it to the front desk that maybe they should get their water checked. I decide to add some of the liquid soap they provide for you and finally get some meager bubbles, enough to consider my hair washed. Then, plopping a liberal handful of conditioner, I realize that the water's just fine and that my hair wasn't all that dirty after all. I'm looking at a handful of shampoo. What I thought was shampoo was actually my conditioner. I've done this routine a good few thousand times and you'd think I'd have it pretty well down by now. You'd be wrong.

Since then, I've been trying new machines each time I go, hoping to find the one that will help me get my brain in shape.

Haven't found it yet.

Maybe next visit...

Shortly after it was announced that Barack Obama had been selected our 44th President of the United States, Obama's victory was seen as a triumph over the prejudice of old. And are we ever extremely proud of ourselves! While it is true that the election of our first African-American president does represent a significant milestone in our history, does this really mean that we Americans have gotten beyond our prejudices of old?

To answer this, we must first ask how Barack Obama came to be elected. One needs only to look at the events that have unfolded in the months prior to Election Day. For example, more and more Americans, for quite some time, have increasingly encountered difficulty in paying their debts. More and more bills were becoming past due, while outright defaults have increased as well.

Over the last several years, home prices have risen substantially as more buyers were able to secure a mortgage, due to the advent of subprime lending. Since subprime loans are more expensive than conventional loans, and are marketed to those who could not qualify for the latter, it was just a matter of time until that balloon popped. As a result, home foreclosures have over the past year reached epidemic proportions.

Oil prices have increased steadily over the last two years until, earlier this year, gasoline prices began to increase by leaps and bounds, topping \$4 a gallon. Americans, already financially distressed, travelled less and cut back expenditures in general wherever possible. As business decreased as a result, both jobs and investments also took a major hit. As the current business community is not accustomed to the hard times that befall the rest of us, the call went out for the government bailouts they now needed, so as to avoid facing the recession we now find ourselves in.

As these events unfolded, it became apparent that the policies of the past 8 years (truth be known, the past 30+ years) simply were not working. The "free market" balloon had finally burst. Election 2008 was held amid these conditions. John McCain was the candidate of the party in power. McCain's economic views were quite similar to that of President Bush (and Reagan as well). The Republican Party has proudly been the "Party of Business" and now, in this case "business" has failed.

Barack Obama, the Democrat, campaigned for change, mostly for

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A few days ago, I just happened to be snoozing through Mickey Mouse News (Channel 9). Upon temporarily regaining consciousness, I was just in time for the most earth-shattering event ever (no, it was not the daily “Where’s Caylee?” series). It would seem that one of Florida’s most heinous criminals was about to be sentenced for a murder he had committed some time ago.

Of course, in recent years sentencing hearings for major offenses has been less focused on justice and more toward helping the victim’s loved ones obtain “closure” (whatever that is), presumably, so they can get on with their lives.

This is where the convicted evildoer normally tearfully apologizes to his (*yes, it seems they’re all male*) victim’s family members present and relates that he had become so depraved because he was abused and/or neglected as a child. Of course, as anyone who has lived in this area can readily testify, these events are so common that it is questionable at best if they really qualify as news.

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VILLAGE IDIOT

Continued

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economic change. Many, like myself, saw that the over-exuberance of Big Business could not continue along its path. Failure was imminent; it was just a question of when. For this reason, I supported Obama as by far the better of the two major candidates. However, people like me have been considered marginal in American politics. Why then, did America at large elect Barack Obama? The answer: desperation, pure and simple.

So, have we Americans as a whole overcome prejudice? I don’t believe so. Consider the last presidential election (2004). George W. Bush easily won his second term. One major campaign theme was the perceived need to “protect marriage” by discriminating against our gay population. This issue played a significant role in President Bush’s reelection. Have things changed in the past four years? This year, in California, Arizona and Florida, constitutional proposals “defining” marriage as “one man, one woman” were approved by the voters.

Plainly, bigotry is still alive and well in the good ol’ U. S. of A. Yep, prejudiced and proud of it!

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words on this list; according to OSPD4, ENDGAME means “the last stage of a chess game” and ENDPLAY means “to force (an opponent in bridge) to lead.”

Notice that the number of seven-letter words ending with END is almost the same as the number of seven-letter words beginning with END. I was somewhat surprised to discover that there are 15 eight-letter words ending with END and 42 eight-letter words beginning with END.

Returning to seven-letter words, there are 17 of them with END exactly in the middle: AGENDAS, AGENDUM, AMENDED, AMENDER, BLENDED, BLENDER, BLENDES, DUENDES, EMENDED, EMENDER, REENDOW, SCENDED, SLENDER, SPENDER, TRENDED, UNENDED, and UPENDED. Most of these end with ENDED or ENDER.

The 36 seven-letter words with one letter in front of END and three letters after are BENDAYS, BENDEES, BENDERS, BENDIER, BENDING, DENDRON, FENDERS, FENDING, GENDERS, LENDERS, LENDING, MENDERS, MENDIGO, MENDING, PEN-

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In fact, murders are so common here that one might infer that these acts are just instances of the death penalty, vigilante style. So, what is so special here?

It seems our current evildoer did not follow the script at his sentencing. Now (if you're easily offended, you may wish to turn away here), instead of the tearful words, he gave his victim's family the finger! Yes, he flipped them a bird! It was so offensive, so indecent, the camera image had to be blurred. OMG!!!

Who would have imagined it? I think the guy ought to get a second death sentence just for that. Of course, the worst is yet to come.

Those convicted of capital crimes might now be required to have their middle fingers removed (and preserved, in case they win an appeal). You will then hear the Religious Right demand that finger coverings be worn over the middle finger to prevent such indecent exposure in the future.

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DANT, PENDENT, PENDING, RENDERS, RENDING, SENDALS, SENDERS, SENDING, SENDOFF, SENDUPS, TENDERS, TENDING, TENDONS, TENDRIL, VENDACE, VENDEES, VENDERS, VENDING, VENDORS, VENDUES, WENDIGO, and WENDING. Slightly more than half of them end with ENDERS or ENDING.

The 26 seven-letter words with three letters in front of END and one letter after are ADDENDA, ADDENDS, APPENDS, ASCENDS, ATTENDS, AUGENDS, CALEND, DEFENDS, DEPENDS, EFFENDI, EXPENDS, EXTENDS, FAZENDA, FRIENDS, IMPENDS, INTENDS, KALEND, LAGENDS, LEGENDS, OFFENDS, PUDENDA, RELEND, REMENDS, RESEND, UNBEND, and UPSEND. Except for ADDENDA (a plural of ADDENDUM, defined in OSPD4 as “something added or to be added”), EFFENDI (a Turkish title of respect), FAZENDA (a Brazilian plantation), and PUDENDA (the plural of PUDENDUM, the external genital organs of a woman), each of these words ends with ENDS.

A word on one of these lists might anagram into another word on the same list (*PORTEND/PROTEND*). Sometimes it will anagram into a word on one of the other lists (*DESCEND/SCENDED*, *BLENDER/REBLEND*, *ENDINGS/SENDING*, *ENDOWER/REENDOW*, *MENDERS/REMENDS*, *OFFENDS/SENDOFF*) or even words on two of the other lists (*SENDUPS/SUSPEND/UPSENDS*, *LENDERS/RELEND/SLENDER*). Sometimes the word will anagram into one or more words that do not contain END (*FACIEND/FANCIED*, *MINUEND/UNMINED*, *DIMNESS/MISSEND*, *MINDSET/MISTEND*, *DIPNETS/STIPEND*, *PRUDENT/UPTREND*, *DEANERY/YEAREND/YEARNED*, *ENDARCH/RANCHED*, *DESTINE/ENDITES*, *DEVEINS/ENDIVES*, *ENDNOTE/TENONED*, *DINNERS/ENDRINS*, *DENUDE/ENDURED*, *ENDURES/ENSURED*, *ENDUROS/RESOUND/SOUNDER/UNDOERS*, *ENDWISE/SINEWED*, *AMENDED/DEAD MEN*, *AMENDER/MEANDER/REEDMAN/RENAMED*, *DENUDES/DUDEENS/DUENDES*, *EMENDER/REEDMEN*, *BENDIER/INBREED*, *DENDRON/DONNERD*, *DEMOING/MENDIGO*, *GRINNED/RENDING*, *DENTING/TENDING*, *TENDRIL/TRINDLE*, *WENDIGO/WIDGEON*, *APPENDS/SNAPPED*, *CALEND/CANDLES*, *FINDERS/FRIENDS/REDFINS/REFINDS*, *DENTINS/INDENTS/INTENDS*, *DANGLES/GLANDES/LAGENDS/SLANGED*). Finally, it may anagram into one word that is on one of the lists and one that is not (*REDNESS/RESENDS/SENDERS*).

Thanks for reading!

In case you weren't at the SCAM RG at the end of October, you missed a number of things. You missed a dynamite RG! You missed some excellent meals. You missed some well-versed speakers. And you missed the announcement by Mary Kay Dailey that she was withdrawing as a candidate for RVC 10 in the upcoming election.

Unless we add petition candidates, this means that we will be choosing between Mel Dahl (Central Florida Mensa) and Thomas Thomas (Tampa Bay Mensa) to be the next RVC 10. This will be a tough decision, as both men are very capable. So be sure to listen to what is said and read what is written to aid you in your decision-making.

NEWSFLASH!! Mensa has an interesting new member benefit. This is a web-based career center to connect job seekers with prospective employers. As a Mensan, you can post your resume and apply for jobs at no cost, as well as post job opportunities you might have for other members at a discounted rate. Non-members may also look for employees and jobs here as well, but they will pay a fee. There are lots of interesting details available about this program, but rather than taking up the space in your newsletters, do please look at the details on the website (us.mensa.org).

I am writing this column on November 5, in part because one newsletter has a very early deadline, in part because I am leaving in the morning for an AMC meeting and strategic planning session in Arlington, Texas. I stayed up quite late last night, watching the coverage of the presidential election. It was one of the best evenings of television in a long time! Both candidates gave excellent speeches, I thought. McCain's graciousness in concession was much higher class than that of his audience. And Obama was at his best as an excellent orator. What a night! There are two Regional Gatherings coming up in the next couple of months. Central Florida Mensa's Smarti Gras is January 30-February 1 in Kissimmee. And Northwest Florida's ValenTime is February 13-15 in Destin. Come and party with us!

At the risk of being politically incorrect, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, as well as whatever other holiday celebrations you may observe at this time of the year.

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10
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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, November 5, 2008. Called to order at 6:00 pm by LocSec George Patterson. Members present: George Patterson, Terry Valek, Joe Smith, Karen Freiberg, and Bud Long. Welcome Guests: None this time.

Minutes for the October 8, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the November 2008 SCAM.

Reports:

LocSec: George reported that there were several pressing tasks that needed to be dealt with. Firstly, the Bylaws Committee needed to be encouraged to complete dealing with the submitted Bylaws revisions. Secondly, there was a great need to acquire a publicity chairperson and perhaps an accompanying committee. George felt this should be a top burner item, now that the press of the RG was past. Lastly, we need to acquire and appoint a three person Nominations and Election Committee (NomElCom) by the January meeting, at the latest. The Bylaws call for appointment before January 15. It has been pointed out that in recent years, candidates for the ExComm have appeared, as if by magic, or by the efforts of the incumbent ExComm, whereas, our Standing Rules and Procedures state, "The NomElCom members shall aggressively solicit from the membership of SCAM, individuals who will agree to run for the offices of the ExComm." (My comma added.)

Treasurer: Bud handed out the October Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$3396.87, and while RG accounting is not yet complete, it appears to show a profit of over \$400.

RG: A general post-mortem of the RG was conducted at which all expressed great satisfaction with virtually all aspects of the affair.

There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm. Next meeting will be at Terry Valek's house at 852 Gardener Rd., Rockledge (321-626-8523) on Sunday, December 7, 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 is a good opportunity, since the meeting will be followed by a social function.