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VOTE!

Your Ballot is Enclosed:

**Special
Election
Issue!!!**



SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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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

Once again, Election Day is upon us. Thankfully, it also marks the close of yet another hotly-contested SCAM Ex-Comm Campaign. Now is the time your voices need to be heard! The official ballot is enclosed with this issue.

In order to effectively vote, it is important that you follow the ballot instructions to the letter. Failure to do so will invalidate the ballot (and your vote won't count). Please remember; I am no longer on the NomElCom, so please do not mail the ballots to me.

The most common error in preparing the ballot is the failure to include your membership number on the mailing envelope—this is needed to verify your identity and membership status. The second most common error is when the voter selects more than five names—this will invalidate your ballot.

You must be a current member of SCAM in good standing. To make a quick check, check the year on your SCAM mailing label. 2010 or later (or the word “life” appears) and you're good to go. 2009 or earlier means your membership has expired.

Who shall you vote for? Sorry, *The SCAM* does *not* make any recommendations. I will, however, go out on a limb and recommend four members that you should not vote for in this election, no matter the circumstances. They are: *Barbara Crawford, Suzanne Leichtling, Wynn Rostek ... and me.*

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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.

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*.

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?

This year's election cycle is important, especially because of the large number of bylaw amendment proposals being placed before the membership. While most of the pro and con statements I wrote for the March issue of the Mensa Bulletin should suffice to fully inform your vote on those particular proposed amendments, Amendments #9 and 8 require a bit more. I'm pleased your editor both has sufficient space and clearly believes that national issues deserve a place in your newsletter.

Proposed Amendment 9 revamps American Mensa's "justice system." One of the largest drawbacks in the current system is the National Hearings Committee (NHC)'s dependence on the American Mensa Committee (AMC). The people who create the rules (AMC) are tied to the people who judge members on them, too. Amendment 9 seeks to remove the AMC from the latter part of the equation. Wholly independent individuals (local group

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SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 3/31/2009:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$798.73
Post Office Acct.	200.00
Reserve Fund	2116.01
RG Fund	50.00

Total Funds Available:
\$3164.74

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$183.58
Interest Income	0.09
Newsletter Ad	21.20

Withdrawals

Postage	60.09
Printing	142.89

Transfers

General Fund to Post Office Acct.:	\$200.00
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—Bud Long, Treasurer



Just kidding – for now. If the Washington mavens are going to limit salaries and bonuses of bank executives how long will the banking center of the world remain in New York?

Currently your little bank down the street is being swallowed up by “banks too big to fail”. Goody Two Shoes Bank & Trust will be bought out or go out of business because they will not be able to compete. Your little branch may become the Ramakrishna Saving Bank of India or some other unknown entity in a land you will never visit.

Am I being a nut case to even imagine this might happen? A well-run bank makes a lot of money. The reason is very simple. They have some very smart folks who are paid very large sums to make their banks millions. Because they make those millions they are paid millions – deservedly so.

When bank executives will not be able to find a position commensurate with their value they will move to another country. No one has to be a rocket scientist to figure that. Quality bank managers are already heading for the door and this is only the beginning.

Not only will the banking industry suffer, but also Wall Street. If the high priced execs leave town New York will become a ghost town. Imagine what residential real estate will be worth when 6 and 7-figure renters disappear. The monied people who maintain residences will not be there any more. Needless to say commercial real estate is now becoming affected.

Washington and Obama are Hell bent on “leveling the playing field”. Whatever that means. To them it means everyone should have the same whether they have the talent and the drive to work for it. Somehow they have come to the conclusion that those who make large sums of money are stealing it from those who have less.

They are striving for mediocrity. They constantly talk about averages: average wages, average hours worked, average cost of living, average this and average that. Question! Are you striving to be average?

We stopped being average the day we were born. This country was not built and did not become great with leaders who wanted to be average. What we are witnessing is the dumbing down of America.

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If people decide they want to live in a country that strives to make everything equal they will see a slow decline in every service and profession. The quality doers will leave for other countries where their talents are appreciated.

Why will anyone care if the Bank of Argentina holds a customer's checking and savings account? It will be a good guess that the service will not be as efficient or polite.

Our central government has a proven track record of not being able to run anything properly. It is up to each person to let his elected representative know how he stands. If not.....

Good luck with the Bank of Bangladesh.

You may receive Al Thomas' investment letter that profited 10% in 2008 at no charge for 3 months on the web site www.mutualfundmagic.com Never lose money in the stock market again. His book "IF IT DOESN'T GO UP, DON'T BUY IT!" has become a classic. Copyright 2009. Williamsburg Investment Co. All rights reserved.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Continued

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Why, you might ask. I am Editor; as such, I cannot hold elective office in SCAM. Barbara, Suzanne, and Wynn are members of this year's NomElCom. As such, they cannot serve on the existing ExComm, nor can they run for the upcoming ExComm. So, a vote for any of us is a wasted vote.

This year, American Mensa is also holding elections, as well as a referendum on some proposed bylaws revisions. More details, and that ballot are included in the current *Bulletin*.

Again—sorry—no recommendations. I will, however, proffer one observation. Our leadership seems to enjoy making arcane rules as if doing so was part of some skills contest. As we select our future leaders, I suggest considering one question: Will they follow this current path or will they be more concerned with us, the membership?

In this column, I have expressed, at great length, a concern I have had with our current Chairman's proposals. Despite my efforts, I have never heard back from him—or, for that matter, *anyone* on the AMC. I believe our new leaders, whoever they may be, need to be more responsive. *Mensa's future depends on it.*

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Ombudsmen) will sit on the NHC.

Generally speaking, Ombudsmen are chosen because they are seen as fair, well-reasoned, capable of good judgment, knowledgeable of the rules in place (or at least where to find them), and able to apply those same rules. Clearly, these attributes are essential in bringing two sides of an ongoing dispute to compromise. However, this compromise, which a few seem wary of, is in the context of coming to a mutually agreed upon resolution for ending the situation, not determining the underlying facts. The “offending party” either committed a specified act or didn’t, and they are either within or against the rules. Determining the facts of a local dispute are essential for all Ombudsmen to help guide any possible compromise; similarly, determining facts is needed within a national hearing.

Being a good negotiator and not alienating anyone from the group is arguably more difficult than merely stating “not guilty” or “guilty” to each “charge,” giving a rationale for each such determination, and levying appropriate punishment for someone found guilty. After all, something akin to the first two determinations need to be made by an Ombudsman when he is attempting to mediate a dispute before it escalates. If an Ombudsman can work with two or more parties to a dispute in his local group, he is clearly capable of coming to a judgment involving other local groups’ disputes, if called upon to do so.

Furthermore, no poll was ever conducted of the local group Ombudsmen as some would have you believe. A casual question was asked on the largely dormant Ombudsman’s e-mail server and, as typical, few spoke up at all. There were multiple people on both sides of the issue, as Mensans are wont to be. Also note, at a discussion group preceding the Annual Business Meeting (ABM) open to all attendees of the 2008 AG, several people came forward to volunteer to be their local group Ombudsman specifically because of the proposals being brought to the ABM and the hope it engendered in them.

Finally, while an earlier version of Amendment 9 (which itself had “publicly”-solicited input) was voted down at the 2008 ABM, all the concerns raised at the ABM were incorporated into an updated version, which is Amendment 9, currently up for

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your vote – it is NOT the same proposal as was at the ABM; do not be misled. Also, this current version was approved at the grass-roots level to be placed on the ballot, having received over 250 petition signatures nationwide. No such concern, courtesy or even implicit solicitation of input was given to the membership with regard to Amendment 8. That amendment was created by the AMC-appointed Hearings Process Review Committee (HPRC) chaired by the NHC chairman (who doesn't exactly have a fresh or independent eye to review how the NHC works) and approved by the AMC for balloting. While the HPRC and the AMC would have you believe Amendment 8's procedures for hearings are independent of the AMC, their arguments are disingenuous at best. Amendment 8 retains strong AMC influence over the hearings process, since the AMC appoints the individuals on the review panel and the variable number of people eligible to serve on the NHC.

To cleanly break from AMC influence over national hearings, vote YES on 9 and NO on 8. Since these two amendments conflict with each other, if both pass with the necessary 2/3 majority vote, the one with the higher percentage voting in favor will be the one implemented. This is why it is essential to make sure to vote YES on 9 *and* vote NO on 8. For more information on Amendment 9 not addressed here, go to <http://www.amyx.org/mensa/hearings/petitions> and look at the FAQ for the second petition. E-mail me with any questions about the amendments.

Jared Levine

Life Member

Metropolitan Washington Mensa

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM:

Stephanie Coffman
Cara Chancellor

Welcome Back:

James Nordby
Gary Russell
Andy Barclay
C J Hall
Sarah Goldstein

APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st Richard Hussey
3rd George Lebovitz
3rd Beth Rutenber
5th Douglas Solomon
10th Henry Kolligian
11th Debra Saltzberg
16th Sandra Morgan
18th Patricia Thornton

21st Carol lane
20th William Daffron III
23rd Mary Ellen Donahue
23rd LaVerne Lasobeck.
24th Boyd Smart
25th Mary Erdmann
28th Clifford Miller

MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

3rd Brian Conway
12th John McKeown
12th Martin Vanoy
14th Michael Friedman
15th Rondal Halter

17th Douglas Dial.
19th Eric Sperry
25th James Stewart
27th Karen Freiberg
30th Francis Stump

ANNOUNCING A NEW SIG!



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 May 2009

6th - Wednesday 5:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Patterson in Indialantic. ***All members are welcome to attend.***

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

16th - Saturday 6:00 PM

VOTE COUNT & GAMES NIGHT

Come witness democracy at work, then join us for your favorite games at George Patterson's home in Indialantic. For the Games portion, ***Kitty is \$3.***

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

30th - 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.*

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.*

I'm an atheist.

However, my religious beliefs (or lack thereof) have not prevented me from doing some extensive research into the subject and one of the more interesting references I have come across is the little known, oft-overlooked manuscript usually referred to as *The Book of Japeth*. This document has profoundly affected my life.

Japeth was a minor biblical figure, a guard at The Temple, where he spent most of the day trying to keep people from whizzing on the balustrade that surrounded it. He would come into Jerusalem to work from the nearby town of Anathoth, where he lived with his mother, four older sisters, and a three-legged llama.

The 3-mile commute didn't bother Japeth, since he spent the time just sitting on his ass and contemplating. However, when he got to the Big City, he was invariably faced with the same problem that confronts many of us to this day: There was no place to park his ass.

The close-in stables were always filled by the multitude of visitors to The Temple and, of course, the really primo spots were reserved for the High Priests. The only viable option was one of the satellite lots within reasonable walking distance. His preferred location was the small goat custard recycling area behind Omar the Tentmaker's place of business, since that was right next to Ye Olde Tavern of the Apocalypse, where he could get a cup of nice, warm fermented yak milk to start the day off right. But it was also usually packed by the time Japeth arrived. The problem was that ever since the damn Romans had invaded, premium parking was at a real premium.

As he was bemoaning his bad luck again on a typical morning when he reluctantly had to walk in from the distant yards next to the yak milk fermentation facility, he was not paying particular attention to his footsteps and inadvertently tripped over a bedraggled beggar sitting on the path.

"Wups! Sorry 'bout that old chap," Japeth offered by way of apology.

The old beggar mumbled something that sounded to Japeth like "Frivolous eggnog woebegone mandible."

"Sorry, old bean," said Japeth, "but I didn't quite catch that."

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The beggar rose and straightened to an impressive four-and-a-half cubits, looked at Japeth with rheumy eyes, and intoned “*Whyn’cha watch where yer goin’, moron?*”

Anyway, this first meeting was well chronicled in back issues of *Jews Schmooze*, the most popular scandal parchment of that time, so I won’t bore you with any more of the story. Suffice it to relate that Japeth and the beggar, Righteous, eventually, became fast friends. It was shortly thereafter that the two worked out a stratagem which would prove to be mutually beneficial and which would ultimately lead to the epiphanous message in the Book of Japeth.

The scheme that they came up with was that every evening, when the area behind Omar the Tentmaker cleared out, Righteous would move in and essentially stake out a reservation for his friend Japeth who would arrive the following morning. In return, Japeth would compensate Righteous for his efforts with some small number of agorot, sometimes more than he would receive mendicating. It was a win-win deal for the two.

The outcome of this simple arrangement; however, had profound implications on posterity, for it led directly to the inspiration set forth in The Book of Japeth, which he penned not long after his friend Righteous was tragically trampled to death by a rabid camel. The entire book contains but one chapter, which contains but one verse.

Thus, Japeth 1:1 – “*The Righteous Man getteth the parking place.*”

Now this brief exposition of insight has been discussed, debated, and interpreted by scholars, theologians, and goat herders for centuries. But it was only the goat herders who knew that Japeth 1:1 was a literal truth and not a revelation, since only the goat herders read *Jews Schmooze*. The intellectuals, meanwhile, were all about the parking place representing heaven and which man was considered righteous and such like.

This brings me back to my opening statement about how this historically overlooked profundity has changed my entire life.

When I first came across this pithy platitude, I was blissfully unaware of the historical significance of its message and assumed the more literal ethereal interpretation. “What the hey,” I thought? I’d tried significantly more polemical theologies than this and figured I

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had little to lose, especially considering its simplicity.

So, the next time I confronted the teeming impediment of the Wal-Mart parking lot, instead of heading to the north forty to see if I could find an open space out in the hinterlands, as was my wont, I boldly directed my trusty transport down the aisle directly in front of the main entrance. And as I wended my way along the crush of cars, I kept repeating *"Oh Great Japeth, Fragrant and Munificent Art Thou, Surely Willt Thou Grantest Me the Blessing of a Close-In Parking Space."*

Although I was skeptical, I made my best effort to maintain a positive attitude and tried to feel the reality of the message I was intoning. Just as I was running out of aisle, damned if some old geezer didn't peel rubber pulling out of the Numero Uno slot! Not even reserved for handicap parking! Mine!

Well, you could have blowed me over with a feather. Never in recorded history had I ever parked within line-of-sight of the entrance, much less within spittin' distance! I don't believe my feet even touched the ground as I strolled euphorically past the wizened greeter troll.

"Damn!" I thought, "Maybe there is something to this hoopla after all!" Need another test to make sure it wasn't just a fortuitous coincidence.

Couple three days later, me and me mate at work had to go on-site to KSC (that's the *Kennedy Space Center* to you folks who may have spent the past 40 or so years in a cave) to do some testing in the VAB (note to Cave Dwellers: that's the *Vehicle Assembly Building*, the humongous white thingie so large it is one of the few man-made artifacts visible from space). Parking at the VAB is notorious. Lots and lots of people in a building large enough to swallow up many fold more, all seeking nearby parking. Best to get there early. We; however, were arriving at mid-morning and the odds of finding a space *anywhere* in the VAB's lot were about as good as the proverbial packed frozen water crystals precipitating from the sky's chances in the nether world.

My passenger suggests that we try the auxiliary parking, but I sez to him, *"Fear not, for Japeth will provide."*

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He looks at me like I've got three heads and asks the inevitable: "Who the hell is Japeth?"

And I proceed to tell him the story of Japeth and Righteous, in four part harmony, and explain the Book of Japeth and my experience in the Wal-Mart lot and begin to intone the mantra: "*Oh Great Japeth, Hollow Be Thy Mane, Bringest Forth This Day a Vacant Slot That This Unworthy Disciple Might Stash Ye Vehicle.*"

About the time my co-worker looks like he's preparing to exit the car with a nifty drop-and-roll, what doth appear but a beautiful wide-open parking space right next to the turnstiles and no markings indicating that it's "Reserved for Flux Capacitor Delivery Only" or "Use Only During Category Five Hurricane." I pull into this benefaction from above and my buddy looks at me and declares, "Damn! It really does work!"

I have made a convert.

Now, I imagine at this point most of you are rolling your eyes and thinking "What a load of groat clusters!"

However, I assure you that I am dead serious about this. I can't explain it and I don't know how it works, but it does! And it's not only parking spaces. It seems to be somehow auto generic. I've used the Gospel According to Japeth on traffic lights, changing lanes on the interstate, finding an open gas pump, and even after noticing I've just passed the radar trap doing 35 mph over the limit. Honest Injun!

But you can't just do lip service. If you're sarcastic or skeptical in the way you go about it, you receive nothing. *Bupkiss*. You've really got to believe in your heart of hearts that invoking the power of the long-lost article of faith governing ye age-old predicament of where to park your ass will actually be realized.

Try it. What have you got to lose? At worst, you're no better off than if you didn't try it. But if you commit to this act of faith sincerely and whole-heartedly, I think you just might be in for a pleasant surprise.

I would be most interested in feedback from anyone who attempts the Japeth Plan for Happier Motoring and reading about your results. YMMV. Void where prohibited.

Here it is, election time again, and as hotly contested as usual, with five candidates vigorously competing for five positions. This is such a familiar situation that I dug up last year's column on the subject, and found it to be quite apropos. I repeat it below, with some trimming. Don't get confused.

Here it is, election time again, and as hotly contested as usual, with four candidates vigorously competing for five positions. Yes, that's right. Five ExComm posts, four candidates. I'm kidding about it being hotly contested. For the past two elections, as best I can remember, we had five somewhat willing candidates, and managed to scare up a sixth person who agreed to be on the ballot so it would give the appearances of a contest. This year, four current ExComm members have agreed (if elected) to serve an additional term. No one else has indicated any interest in the job, and I did not feel an urge to go out and beat the bushes for warm bodies. I expect we will have some write-in votes and those people written in will be approached and asked if they are willing to serve. . . . If, in fact, there is someone out there who is interested in helping us run our organization, by all means let us know. (a write-in vote provided us with a fifth member.)

Well, this year we have five because the full ExComm has signed up for another season. We are planning to take a different approach to acquiring some new blood. Figuring that it may be easier to enlist someone to serve a partial term, rather than run in an election, we plan to try and replace one or two members during the course of the year. Article V, 5. of the current Bylaws reads "The Executive Committee shall select a replacement for any Executive Committee member who resigns, who is removed or who is unable to serve, with the exception of the Local Secretary." This last quote reminds me that we need to continue work on our Bylaws. The restriction on replacing the LocSec is odd since all specific ExComm positions are decided by general consent of the ExComm at their first meeting, which would imply that changes can be made to who does what, at any time, by general consent. Or does it? More on this after the elections.

Much has been said about the bonuses handed out – using taxpayer dollars - to senior officials in the financial community, most notably the officers of AIG. There is just as much commentary that the public at large is quite angry about this state of affairs, especially in light of the hard economic times that is today's reality for most of us.

Our conservative brethren, whose leaders have been dethroned as a result of the recent financial collapse brought about by their policies, would have us believe this anger is really envy. Merriam-Webster defines *Envy* as: "*Painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage.*"

Put in other words, we are angry that our tax dollars are paying multimillionaires bonuses, simply because we ourselves do not have their many millions for ourselves. Is this really the case? Let us take a look.

Why are we in this mess to begin with? It is in no small part because the leaders of the financial industry took irresponsible risks that, for a while made their employers piles of money – until the house of cards eventually collapsed. For their irresponsible behavior, their employers are being bailed out with our money, some of which they have received as a reward for their dismal performance. Is not such a reward supposed to be for good performance instead of what we actually got? This might anger some of us.

Meanwhile, two of our Big Three automakers also needed taxpayer bailouts. While they received initial assistance, in order to obtain more needed assistance, they had to meet many strict conditions. Among those conditions is that each company had to gain concessions from their employees' unions, even in violation of the terms and conditions of their labor contracts. In contrast, the AIG leaders are entitled to their bonuses because of provisions in their contracts. We all know contracts are inviolable – unless it is a union contract. When is a contract a contract? This also might anger some of us.

Which brings us back to the original question: Is it envy? From the above, it is evident we are being fleeced by those we supposedly envy. In fact, we have been fleeced twice: Once by their business practices, and again by forking over taxes to bail them out of their self-inflicted mess. This hardly amounts to envy.

Bad things can happen when I am awakened from a nap. It's happened before and, yes, it has happened again. Recently, I was home convalescing from a surgery. That afternoon, I had drifted off to some much-needed sleep. Upon awakening, I noticed our Queen of All Things Feminine was on TV. Her guest that day was a comedian-turned-romance advisor Steve Harvey, promoting his new book, *"Act Like A Lady, Think Like A Man,"* written to advise women how to conduct their relationships with men. At this point, I did the only logical thing – I went back to sleep. Last night, however, I was exposed to Harvey yet again: this time it was not on *Oprah*, but on *Nightline*.

At first, I believed *Nightline*, like *Oprah*, would be a real snoozer. I was just about to drift off when Harvey said something that caught my attention. *"At Ford, you don't get the (employee) benefits until you first pass the 90-day probation period,"* Harvey was saying, *"You should wait at least 90 days before you give your man the cookies."* Note: "To give cookies" means to agree to sex with your companion. Evidently, these "cookies" are now equivalent to fringe benefits an employee might get on the job. Somehow, I find this very disturbing.

For context, a word of explanation is needed here. Many years ago, when I was a young teenaged boy, one of the major social issues was Women's Liberation or, better termed, sexual equality. One such principle was that women (like men) are entitled to derive pleasure from sexual activity. As I was still inexperienced, this surely made sense to me. Now that I am in my fifties and at least somewhat experienced, I find this concept still makes perfect sense.

Enter Steve Harvey now. In his advice, he is enunciating what we Neanderthal males have been suspecting for years: Asking a woman for a date is strikingly similar to applying for a job. Rejection is highly likely; if you do "get the job," you'll serve a probationary period if you hope to benefit in any way from the relationship. You are also "employed at will"; the relationship is subject to breakup – *by her* – at any time.

Yet there is a certain irony about all of this. For a moment, let's discuss the "cookies". The exquisite pleasure we experienced as young twenty-something men is not quite the same for us now that we're much older. Sex for the most part can now be aptly described

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using two words: *performance anxiety*. One has only to observe the endless advertisements for Viagra and its clones, as well as the endless number of “male enhancement” products – the pitch is invariably that these products will enhance *her* pleasure!

So, let’s see if I have this right. On one hand, according to Harvey, I have to prove myself worthy of the “cookies” offered to me as some sort of “reward” (once I’ve “earned” them, of course). On the other hand, in partaking of said cookies, I must also ensure that I perform well enough that she reaps the same benefits that have been bestowed upon me for my achievement. Question! Why, in a relationship, are *men* “employees” of women and not vice-versa? Why, if women also expect pleasure from the cookies, are we *men* not doling them out?

As for me, I prefer the feminist model. Sex (*not* “cookies”) is something to be mutually pleasurable to both partners, something to be engaged in by their mutual agreement. There is a name for the act of treating sex as a commodity: *Prostitution*.

<i>LETTER TO THE EDITOR</i>	<i>Gary Russell</i>
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The **Scrabble column** in the November 2008 issue contained a list of words in which the first half of the word was exactly the same as the second half (from AA to VALVAL). COUSCOUS was accidentally omitted. This omission was mentioned in the subsequent column. However, if a letter was repeated within half of the word, LeXpert 3.2 did not find it. Some such words are BEEBEE, BOO-BOO, COOCOO, GREEGREE, LAVALAVA, MUUMUU, and WEE-WEE. These words, along with some listed in the column, can be found at <http://www.tsproviders.com/scrabble/scrabble/funlist> under “Double Take.”

Gary Russell

I have heard it said lately that some people don't continue Mensa membership because they don't "get anything" out of their membership. I feel sad for those people. They are missing some of the best Mensa has to offer.

As I am writing this column, I am awaiting the arrival of several of my female Mensa friends. (Friends - that is the magic word, and what I get out of Mensa.) These ladies have been friends for many years, some from my earliest days in Mensa. Our ages range from in the 50s to the 70s. Last year we got together for a weekend. We ate. We drank. We talked. We laughed until our sides hurt. We enjoyed it so much, we decided to make it an annual event. It isn't an RG. I guess you could call it a GG. A Gathering of Girls? A Gagggle of Girls? Whatever you call it, it is a group of friends who seriously enjoy each other's company. My wish for all of you is that you form such sincere and meaningful friendships. It makes membership worthwhile.

I guess I need to mention another important thing Mensa gave me. I met my wonderful husband, Eddie, in 1987 at the RG in Huntsville, Alabama. We have been married since 1988. That's a pretty important thing to get out of membership in Mensa, too.

As you receive this at the beginning of May, American Mensa is in the middle of the biannual election. You are being asked to choose a new Regional Vice Chair as well as the members of the AMC's Executive Committee. These are the people you will be electing to make the decisions for American Mensa for the next 2 years. If you are unfamiliar with the candidates, or if you simply want recommendations, please contact me via email or phone.

This is also the time for the election to the Mensa International Board of Directors. Chairman Russ Bakke offered some recommendations for that election in his recent Bulletin column.

Whichever candidates you choose, please do vote.

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10
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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson, April 1, 2009. Called to order at 5:38 p.m. by LocSec George Patterson.

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

Welcome Guests: Barbara Nottingham.

Minutes for the March 4, 2009 meeting were approved as published in the April 2009 SCAM.

Reports:

LocSec: George reported that no additional candidates for the May ExComm election had appeared, besides the current ExComm, all of whom are running. He volunteered to author a brief article on the matter for the May SCAM. (See "About Those Elections" elsewhere in issue.) He further reported that we were in need of an Audit committee, which would probably consist of himself, Joe Smith and an as yet unidentified third person. Hopefully, the audit could be conducted at close of the May meeting. (reminder - "elections" in May, reseating of ExComm in June.)

Treasurer: Bud Long submitted via email, shortly afterwards, the March Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$3,164.74. (*while composing these minutes, it was noticed that the March minutes incorrectly identified the February report as the December report - got that? - indicating that no one seems to be reading the minutes.*)

Old Business: Preparations for the April 11 picnic were reviewed.

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 p.m. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic (321-777-3721) on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.