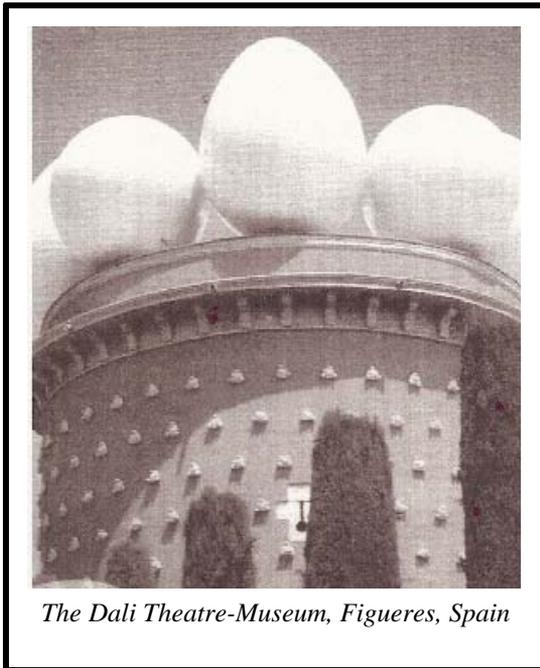


The

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INSIDE: How do you like your eggs? Before you say "over easy" or "make it an omelet", there is so much more to consider. For example, what kind of egg? Which came first, the chicken or the egg? See Page 5.



The Dalí Theatre-Museum, Figueres, Spain



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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

Whoops! In last month's column, I introduced you to the redesign of *The SCAM's* layout. While, overall, these changes worked out well, I neglected a small but very important detail. Instead of September's calendar of events, last month was simply a repeat of the August events resulting in wrong information.

I alone am responsible for this oversight and, as such I sincerely apologize to the SCAM membership. I assure you this issue does contain the October calendar. Yet, this does bring us to another point. Things do happen. Mistakes (like last month) occur. Events are sometimes canceled after we go to print. Sometimes, a member adds an event, deciding to do so long after publication deadline. What do we do then?

Our Calendar of Events is always posted on our website. If you wish to attend an event, check our website as well. Also, our ExComm has developed an e-mail reminder list for those members who wish to be on that list. So far the number is around 35. This is not intended to replace the print newsletter, but to be a supplement. If errors like last month occur in the future, these backup alternatives can minimize the impact. It also allows more flexibility in scheduling.

Finally, I would like to remind you that on occasion, additional features not included in this print issue are also available on our website. Back issues of *The SCAM* over the last several years are also there. Use our website. It is part of your membership benefit. Also, I encourage you to sign up for our e-mail list.

***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.

Why should you watch this space? Because we are going to be starting a lot of new things and here is where I am going to tell you about them. What sort of things? Well, for example, we started a couple of years ago sending out occasional email reminders of certain events that were on the calendar. We have just expanded our email address list and are hoping to expand it further. We sent out 35 reminders and were rewarded with a turnout of 16 at last months SNORT.

We are going to appoint an IT person -- that's information technology for you folks who don't work in an office and aren't up on such things. I don't know what we are going to call the position, or what, exactly, the job description is going to be, but we will have such a person, and they will help us decide if we can make use of such modern communication tools as Facebook, Twitter, blogging, and whatever else may arise, and they will help us implement them. (*I'm sorry, but I've taken to using the third person plural as a gender neutral singular -- it's in.*)

Another example -- we are going to have our own Think Tank. This will simply consist of a collection of people who are interested in being in the Think Tank and sharing thoughts and debating what activities we should have and how to increase participation. And any other aspect of how we do things. Maybe we'll make it a SIG; Maybe not. We'll see how it progresses. It may decide for itself. To get it started right now, email me saying you want to be in the Think Tank and offer me an opinion on something.

Should we reinstitute the Scholarship program? Should we have guest speaker events? Should we try to get lapsed members back? Should we call Monday night CABAGE what it really is -- Hand and Foot? Is it alright to leave the periods out of SCAM and CABAGE and SNORT? Should we have an amateur division of Scrabble which only uses words in a college dictionary? Amazing how many issues, big or small, can involve how we do things. I expect the Think Tank to function mainly via email, but since it will be a think tank, it can figure out how it wants to operate. Seriously folks -- sign up for it. I want to hear some opinions.

Back to the subject of electronic communication. I have been fretting over and pondering the subject for several years, yes, I really have, and have finally been persuaded by the images of people texting and talking on a headset while driving that it has arrived. The

To most Americans, “eggs” means chicken eggs, although duck, quail, and goose eggs are not uncommon. Hens’ eggs are eaten primarily at breakfast, where they are scrambled, fried, or soft boiled. Omelets and eggs Benedict (poached) are usually reserved for Sunday brunch and hard boiled eggs are reserved for picnics and Easter and Passover although I can remember when a “free lunch” was had in most bars, the center piece being a bowl of them. Hens’ eggs come in various shell colors, among which are white, brown, green, and blue, the color being determined by the breed of the chicken. In most of the U.S., white-shelled eggs are preferred, in the North-east, brown are preferred. Although there is no nutritional difference, the natural and organic food movement has shown a preference for brown, perhaps because they look more “natural”.

Eggs do form a part of many dishes eaten throughout the day, such as salads, cakes, and the breadings on fish and meats. At one time, raw eggs were an integral part of a New York egg-cream soda and a beer with a raw egg in it was also common. Steak Tatar is served with a raw egg and the German *buillion mit eier* is beef bulion served piping hot with a raw egg dropped into it when served, slowly poaching. Sukiyaki, as served in Japan, comes with a raw egg into which the hot meat is dipped before eating.

Less commonly, fish eggs are enjoyed by many. The most important being caviar (see “*Caviar*”, SCAM, January 1996) followed by shad and salmon roes. Lobster roe, also known as coral, is a delicacy. Less well know was the use of turtle eggs, now illegal, in south Florida for cakes and, in South Africa, the making of an omelet for 12 from one ostrich egg.

The eggs of all birds and reptiles are edible and are esteemed in some parts of the world although sea-bird eggs, such as puffins and gulls, are reputed to taste fishy.

In China, century egg, also known as hundred-year-old egg, is made by preserving duck, chicken, or quail eggs in a mixture of clay, ash, salt, lime, and rice straw for several weeks to several months, depending on the method of processing. Traditionally, and at suitable tourist sites, the eggs are made by burying eggs in the hot, sulphurous mud at hot springs. After the process is completed, the yolk is a dark green, cream-like substance with a strong odor of sulphur and ammonia, while the white is a dark brown, transparent jelly

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with little flavor or taste.

Tea eggs are another Chinese delicacy. Tea eggs are simply hard-boiled eggs that have been reboiled in a salted tea liquid. Other flavorings such as soy sauce and Chinese five-spice powder are often added as well. After the first boiling, when the insides are hardened, the shell of each egg is lightly cracked. The eggs are then boiled again for a much longer duration in the black tea mixture, which allows the flavor of the tea to penetrate deep into the egg. The dark color of the tea also stains through the cracks of the eggs creating a pattern on the peeled eggs that resembles the crazing of some prized ceramic glaze surfaces. Tea eggs are an inexpensive substitute for one-hundred-year-old eggs.

A commonly sold street food in the Philippines, and some other countries in Southeast Asia, is *balut*, a fertilized duck or chicken egg with a two- to three-week old embryo inside. It is boiled and eaten from the shell. Like many unusual or nasty foods, it is popularly believed to be an aphrodisiac and is considered to be a high-protein, hearty snack.

SIDEBAR 1

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?

A true believer in evolution would have to say “egg”. If you trace back the lineage of chickens to the point in time when they became chickens as distinct from a previous species, then the first chicken was an egg, a chicken egg, before it was a chicken. Its parents were not chickens, thus the egg was before the chicken.

If, however, you believe in the biblical version, as “*God created . . . every winged fowl*”, presumably as mature animals, then you must say “chicken”.

SIDEBAR 2

Scrambled eggs:

Eggs have entered our vocabulary in various ways.

To *egg someone on* means to prod him.

A *goose egg* is zero.

In tennis, “*love*” also means zero. It comes from the French “*l’oeuf*”, “the egg”. See “goose egg” above.

To get *egg on your face* means getting caught in an embarrassment.

A *rotten egg* is a no-goodnick.

When its really hot, you can *fry an egg on the pavement*.

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The Bad Guys won.

Look around. The world today is subtly, but substantially, different from how it was before September 11, 2001. World leaders would have you believe that the measures in place now are for your protection and that we are safer than we were on that fateful day. They are wrong. We are all just as susceptible to terrorism today as we were then. The only difference is that we are now expending countless resources and finances, limiting our personal freedoms, and living under the specter of fear, trying to prevent the unpreventable.

This alleged “*War on Terror*” is distinctly reminiscent of our “*War on Drugs*.” A dismal and incredibly expensive failure, maintained by a constant barrage of propaganda, fear, and lies.

The most obvious repercussion of 9/11 is, of course, the radical change in the way we travel, especially by air. Carriers routinely inform passengers to arrive at least two hours early at the airport. Why? Because of the additional security measures that have been layered onto the already tedious boarding procedure. Instead of the quick x-ray scan of carry-on baggage, we now have to check for dangerous items such as manicuring scissors, nail clippers, knitting needles, pocket knives, lighters, and zircon-encrusted navel lint pickers. None of which have ever been used in a hijacking. And not to forget carefully weighing your liquid products to ensure that you are transporting no more than 3 oz. of nitroglycerine (it’s okay if you have 100 bottles, so long as none of them is more than 3 oz.), Astrolite-G (a clear, liquid explosive about twice as powerful as TNT), or Nitromethane. Then, there’s the delay involved in un-shoeing passengers to assure that they are not trying to smuggle *triacetone triperoxide* (TATP) onto the *aeroplano* in the soles of their flip-flops.

I haven’t flown in a while, but I believe they’ve finally discontinued the practice of random security checks. Too bad. I felt much safer observing TSA wand a cute, little, blond five-year old girl and then the elderly matron in the wheelchair. Suspicious characters if I’ve ever seen one.

With all the additional security, are we really safer? Have these oppressive measures been worth the countless (millions? billions?) of hours we’ve communally squandered? How many prospective hijackings and acts of terrorism have we actually prevented?

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No matter. The simple truth is that Achmed doesn't need to bring down the plane or give a second thought to airport security to achieve his goal.

He has a nice breakfast, says his morning prayers, straps on 40 lbs. of C-4 and heads out to Orlando International Airport (two hours prior to his scheduled departure time, of course). There, he checks in his bag(s) – none of which contain anything even remotely suspicious – and joins the line waiting to clear security. There are maybe 400-500 people in line (*Achmed has carefully chosen a busy travel day and time*) and he is making casual, friendly small-talk with other people in the queue. As he approaches the midway point in the waiting line, he says a short prayer to Allah, presses his detonation button, and goes off to meet his virgins.

Hundreds are killed, injured, and maimed immediately. OIA is a madhouse of activity, with TSA security, local gendarmes, National Guardsmen, and Boy Scout Troop #42 from Bithlo arriving on the scene within moments of the blast. OIA is, of course, shut down immediately. As is every other major airport in the country. And a goodly number of minor ones as well. Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA, and NSA are frustrated by their inability to get past all the news crews and their vans in their frantic attempt to be the first on the scene to claim the lead investigative role in this tragedy being broadcast live, 24/7, on all channels. President Britney Spears goes on TV to assure the American public that everything humanly possible will be done to apprehend the culprits behind this heinous crime and orders the FAA to immediately shut down all flights, everywhere, indefinitely. She looks stupendous in her bare-midriff Ver-sace.

Now, transportation in the U. S. of A. is at a virtual standstill (likely other parts of the world too), people are running around in mortal fear, and none of this – NONE – was prevented by our up-standing airport security force's high-tech security protocol. Achmed is enjoying his virgins, chortling over the impotence of our futile security measures.

Been to a concert lately? Sporting event? P'raps a political rally? How's 'bout a county fair? Notice anything different? Before, you'd buy a ticket, present it to the ticket drone, and walk into your event. Not so anymore. Now we have the security check first. Sort of. "Ladies, present your handbags for inspection so we can make sure

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you are not smuggling a mini neutron bomb into our event. Aha! Madam, you will have to take your blow dryer back to your vehicle; it is on the list of proscribed dangerous devices.” Achmed; however, can still strap 40 lbs. of C-4 under his loose-fitting shirt and walk nonchalantly into the venue, unchallenged (unless he’s foolish enough to be carrying a bottle of water). Just before the Dixie Chicks take intermission, Achmed takes a few hundred, if not thousand, people out of commission, and then proceeds directly to Paradise and his promised (you-guessed-it) virgins. Fat lot of good all that security did.

What about malls? How you gonna secure every mother-loving mall in the country? You can’t! Face it; it’s an impossible task. So, Achmed finds himself a nice-sized mall just outside of Peoria on December 21st. The mall, of course, she is packed with humanity in search of last-minute Christmas booty. Achmed strolls by the cute, overpriced, little puppies in the window of Pandered Pets, wearing his (you know what’s coming, right?) 40 lbs. of C-4, walks right up to the mall Santa servicing a line of excited children, but instead of exclaiming “Ho, ho, ho!” he instead goes KA-BOOM! Within 12 minutes, there is not a shopper in any mall in the country. The economy goes down the toilet. Children will for years afterward shriek in terror at the sight of Santa. And Achmed is cavorting with his virginal houris.

Or we can take a divergent scenario, one where Achmed forgoes

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<i>EGGS</i>

Continued

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Eggplant is an egg-shaped edible gourd. Some eggplants are white in color, and that is supposedly the original color

An *egghead* is an intellectual because of their alleged large, bald heads.

Egg and dart (tongue) is an architectural molding in the repeated alternate shapes of ovals and wedges.

To *walk on eggshells* is to proceed very cautiously.

Oval means egg shaped. From the Latin *ova* for eggs.

About the Cover Photo:

Salvador Dali, the artist most famous for his picture “The Persistence of Memory” (*Melting Watch*), designed his own shrine. It is surmounted by 19 jumbo fiberglass eggs.

SCAM Calendar of Events for October 2009

24th - Saturday 2:00 PM

HOLIDAY CARDS

Create your own personalized holiday cards at the home of Cheryl Russell. We have supplies or you can bring your own. **\$4 Kitty.**

Contact: Cheryl, 723-3496.

24th - Saturday 6:00 PM

POTLUCK DINNER

Join us at Cheryl Russell's; bring your favorite food item to share. This event immediately follows "Holiday Cards" above. Come to one or come to both!

Contact: Cheryl, 723-3496.

31st - Saturday 6:00 PM

SNORT

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, 777-3721.

31st - Saturday 7:00 PM

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Join us at Karen & Doug's home in Rockledge for fun and games. **\$3 Kitty.**

Contact: Karen 633-1636.

Of CABAGEs and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: **Every Monday at Books-A-Million**, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636

SCRABBLE: **Every Tues. at Books-A-Million**, Post Commons, Melbourne, at
12 noon.

GO!: **Every Sunday at Books-A-Million**, Post Commons, Melbourne.
Host: George Lebovitz, 259-3070, rokkitsci@cfl.rr.com

Membership Notes for October 2009

WELCOME TO SCAM

Charles Cable
Ronald Stich

WELCOME BACK!

Queita Willison
Chris Muir
John Tuer

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>1st</i>	James Staal
<i>2nd</i>	Trudy Teel
<i>4th</i>	Robert Barber
<i>8th</i>	Christopher Buccieri
<i>9th</i>	Philip Devlin
<i>17th</i>	Rudolph Hardick
<i>27th</i>	Maximo Salinas
<i>31st</i>	Colette Zahm

The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; **NS**- No Smoking; **SS**-Separate Smoking Area; **P**-Pets in the home; **NP**-No Pets present; **BYO**-Bring Your Own: **_**Snacks, **_**Drinks, **_**Everything.

For those who may wonder, I am not always dozing off only to wake up to a Mickey Mouse news story or an episode from the Queen of All Things Feminine. Every once in a while, admittedly between naps, I do manage to occasionally read an interesting book. Such is the case here. Recently, I had been reading *The Anatomy of Sex and Power* by Michael Hutchison. This book was written nearly 20 years ago, but much of its information I find to be quite timely. Suffice it to say I was quite enlightened.

One of the topics discussed is the unlikely alliance between radical feminists and fundamentalist Christians regarding the ills of pornography. This book did bring back some decades-old memories, where some in the radical fringe of feminism considered all heterosexual intercourse as rape of the woman. Currently, the radical feminists and the equally radical fundamentalists both declare their agreed-upon stance: “*Pornography leads to rape.*” Is this really so? First, let’s clarify some working definitions.

Pornography is generally written or graphic material whose main purpose is the sexual arousal of its intended audience. It is now available in almost any imaginable medium.

Rape is a word that, unfortunately, has had its meaning expanded so much in the last few decades that the term is almost rendered meaningless. The original meaning was a sex act literally forced upon the victim through threatened or actual violence. Rape has now come to mean just about any sexual activity that was engaged in without both (or all) parties’ express prior consent. Yet, the emotional connotation of rape is still consistent with its original meaning.

So, the central question is: *Does pornography lead to rape?* As a man, I will address this from a masculine standpoint. Here, I will assume the pornography does arouse the man, and he has sufficient privacy at the time. Based on this, I assert that *pornography leads to masturbation.* This brings us to another question: *Is masturbation rape?* Currently, the answer is usually no. The former still requires a victim, where the latter is normally a solitary activity. But, not so fast.

The anti-pornography forces look at “community values” as they deem they should be. Many women, like the fundamentalists, disap-

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prove of such solitary activity. Among those who are married, some consider it a form of infidelity. Many of these women consider it their exclusive right to control access to sex, and this could, in some cases, thwart that control.

So, we are left with the ever-evolving meaning of rape. Is it unreasonable to believe that its next “generation” of meaning might include any sexual activity disapproved by some women (regardless of involvement in that activity)? If this ever comes to pass, we might well have to conclude that masturbation could be rape. The next logical conclusion, then, our radical friends have already arrived at: *Pornography leads to rape.*

The LocSection

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Continued

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time has come to tell Mensans that to not have an email account is like not having a telephone in the 60's. There were perfectly nice people like that, but they were “out of it”. And for those concerned about cost, take note -- it's free. Just stop in at your local library and see for yourself. You may have to do some learning, but we have people who are willing to instruct. People once had to learn how to dial and make long distance calls and keep lists of phone numbers.

I recall, several years ago, assuring someone that I was not in favor of transitioning our monthly newsletter into an online or email version. I still feel that way. And I consider the printed calendar of events (required by National) the primary mode of notification of events. I see email reminders simply as a supplement to encourage participation. I can foresee someone desiring to host an event that didn't make it onto the calendar and wanting to use the event notification mailing list. National would disapprove. Some people would be excluded. What to do? Ask the Think Tank. I don't know how I feel about this and some other issues I can anticipate. But I want to hear from you. My email address is on the inside cover. Watch this space.

Since its inception nearly a year and a half ago, this is the television news saga that would never quite go away. Back then, Channel 9 would introduce the item by the question: *Where's Caylee?* Thus began the Anthony saga. At first, I regarded this news item as I do much of their serial items, a bit of sensationalism aimed at stoking high emotion while failing to report items important to people in their listening area as a whole. It is fairly common to divert public attention by running lurid stories involving young children, be they missing, attacked by a pedophile, or wind up killed by a family member.

This initial opinion I have held for the first year of the incessant reporting of any minor detail involving the Anthonys. More recently, however, I have come to modify my opinion somewhat. Recognizing that most of their listeners are of the conservative "lock 'em up and throw away the key" variety who apparently have little patience for the facts in criminal cases, the local network news seem to have an agenda beyond that of reporting the news and entertaining their audiences. This causes me a good deal of concern.

As most of us no doubt already know, once little Caylee's body was found not far from the Anthony residence, her mother Casey has been charged with her death. It is also about that time the news saga was renamed from *Where's Caylee?* to *The Case Against Casey*. We now get a nightly dose of piles of legal motions, court documents and the like, brought in a light so as to convince the viewer (and potential juror) of Casey's guilt in this matter.

My first concern is how Casey is portrayed. For whatever reason, Casey rarely shows emotions. Also, because of her young age, stories have stressed that she is a "party girl" implying she did not want the responsibility her child presented. Overall, she is portrayed as the typical younger generation spoiled brat. From these portrayals, we are to infer she is a cold-blooded sociopathic killer. Might I remind fellow members of my own generation that there are literally millions of these "spoiled brats" around - and most will not kill their children!

Let's also reflect for a moment on Casey's apparent lack of emotion. While I have no way of knowing why this is true of Casey, I'd like to offer a couple of insights. When frightened, some people become overly emotional while others just freeze right up - hence the term "*petrified*". To many, including this writer, a show of emotions requires a basic trust of the people who might see those displays. Cer-

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tainly, law enforcement officials and prosecutors who are after you would not gain such trust.

Among my other concerns are the sideshows. I will briefly relate two of them here. First is the civil lawsuit filed by Zenaida Gonzalez claiming defamation based on some of Casey's statements to investigators. In the more current stories, there is a push to "fast track" this civil suit to be either concurrent with, or before, the homicide trial. I find this rather odd as, due to budget cutbacks, criminal cases take priority over civil matters, as the former is a necessity for public safety. Why is this not the case here? One possible reason for this departure is that civil cases are not subject to the same constitutional protections as criminal cases. It is hoped that she would be forced to give testimony that could then be used in the criminal case to incriminate her or at least appear to do so.

The second sideshow concerns Casey's attorney Jose Baez. At first, the news stories cast Baez as some sort of inept clown who is not fit to defend a client in a case of this magnitude. When that apparently did not gain enough traction, the tack changed to accusing Baez of unethical conduct in connection with Casey's case. He has recently been cleared of those charges. The message, however, seems to be a quite clear warning to defense attorneys: If you defend certain undesirable people, people we desperately want to put away, you'd better watch your back. It is this I find unethical.

I strongly believe that the real agenda of the televised news media here is to aid the prosecutors in "poisoning the well" virtually eliminating the chance of Casey Anthony getting an impartial trial in this case. She could then be coerced to take a plea bargain or face an almost certain loss at a local jury trial. Of course, if I were Casey, I would go to trial to preserve my appeal rights.

Is Casey Anthony guilty of killing her daughter? I don't know, and probably never will. However, regardless of her innocence or guilt, Casey is entitled to a proper, fair, and constitutional trial that should be afforded all criminal defendants. Because of apparent efforts by some parties including the prosecution and the news media, this may never happen.

To me this is not really about Casey. I have no emotional investment in any of the Anthonys. It is about the blatant attempt here to subvert justice. If such can be done to Casey, it can be done to you or me. For this reason, I sincerely hope "*The Case Against Casey*" gets thrown out of court.

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his 40 lbs. of C-4 and does not get to pass Go and collect his 72 virgins. He does; however, get to wreak quite a bit of havoc despite Homeland Security's reassurances that all is well. In this little vignette, Achmed takes a trip out west. He drives his rented U-Haul out to the border of Arizona and Nevada to see the magnificent Hoover (formerly, Boulder) Dam. From a bucolic vantage point downriver a couple hunnert yards, he can see the magnificent face of the dam. He goes around back of the truck, opens it, and pulls out the Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon (SMAW) or RPG-27 with a thermobaric warhead that his buddies got for him from Iran, allows for a bit of windage, and plops one smack damn onto the face of the dam. Now, Achmed doesn't need the firepower to actually destroy the dam (that would be a much more elaborate operation involving jet planes and bombs and stuff). His little rocket is perfectly suitable for the job. Alls he's got to do is weaken the structure of the dam where it is under tremendous pressure. Physics then does the rest. The damaged dam groans, grunts, and gushes. Everything downstream is washed away. Power to most of the west coast disappears. Soon after, most of California is without water. Within a matter of days, anyone living within the boundaries of Pacific Standard Time is facing imminent disaster. Needless to say, the rest of the country is moderately affected as well. After all, Hollywood's out there, for goodness sake!

So what good all the security? Green? Yellow? Orange? Fuschia?

Homeland Security. First time I heard this phrase, I was sure it was a joke. The only other reference to the term homeland that I'd heard was from the Third Reich's use of *das Heimlandt*. There's a reassuring image for you. BTW, this recently in the news:

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- *Washington notables broke ground on the future home of the Department of Homeland Security, symbolically starting construction on the biggest federal building project in the Washington area since the Pentagon 68 years ago.*

The project will bring together more than 15,000 employees now scattered in 35 offices in the region. Department leaders hope the \$3.4 billion consolidation will help the department fulfill its core mission -- protecting the homeland.

'It will help us hold meetings,' Secretary Janet Napolitano said."

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Well worth it, wouldn't you say? A trifling \$3.4 billion so that our Great Protector can better protect us by holding meetings.

And lest we forget, there's the reassurance that we are truly in good hands with All Powerful State, because we have the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act, as we all know only too well, basically gives the US of A gummint the legal right to suspend all our legal rights. In the name of saving us from terrorism, of course. It gives virtually free access to any of your records: financial, medical, telephonic, computer, or that Playboy centerfold that you've had folded up in your wallet since seventh grade. Bye-bye civil liberties; hello das Heimlandt. Although thus far we've been able to thwart efforts to implement the National ID Card, once that insidious little RFID goes out to every man jack one of us, Big Brother will be able to track you *EVERYWHERE!* (He sees you when you're sleeping; he knows when you're awake...)

And, as if all this weren't bad enough, OBL is still at large! Dubya promised he would get the bad man responsible for 9/11, but then he forgot and invaded Iraq instead. Eight years and we haven't been able to locate a 6-foot tall Saudi Arabian dragging around a dialysis machine with a humongous battery pack.

Here's a challenge for you: You have one week to do your best to disappear. I'm willing to bet that within 24 hours after "they" start looking for you, your sorry butt will be captured. With satellites that can see a pimple on a gnat, there is no place that you can hide. Yet the most despised and sought after individual on the entire face of the Earth has managed to avoid detection for *eight years!*

So, bottom line: Our world has been dramatically altered. For the worse. The Bad Guys won.

The George

THE TENTH STORY

Continued

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with in a long time; I was very pleased that they made him feel that way.

Until next month,

Mel Dahl, RVC-10

Hello All:

I am writing this from Fort Lauderdale, where I am attending the Broward County RG. It's been a fantastic weekend; almost 100 people showed up. The company is good, the hotel is nice, the weather is cooperating, and I'm having a great time.

There is a Micro-G scheduled for Grassy Key the weekend of November 6; it's not an official RG but it's a lot of fun and anyone who can make it to the Keys will have a great time. Contact Stan Bercovitch at *s.bercovitch@att.net* for more information. There is no official program; we just hang out, go to dinner together, and have a great time.

I've been appointed to an AMC committee looking over ways to enhance the membership experience so anyone with any ideas please let me know. We're specifically looking at what Mensa offers, both to members individually and through the local groups. This includes both what we are doing right, and what we could do better. Most members -- about 95% -- never participate in local group activities; if you're one of them, tell me why and what activities we could have that would make you more likely to participate. Let me know what you think about the Bulletin, and your local newsletter. We're going to be discussing this in more detail at the next AMC meeting in October.

Is there anyone who would be interested in being Webmaster/ Webmistress for our Region 10 Web site? I mentioned in my first column that I'm hoping to revamp it and get more member participation. The current Webmaster, Eddie Truelove, has told me that due to work commitments he can't do it any more; he did a fine job and I've accepted his resignation with regrets. If you'd be interested please send me an email and let me know.

I am going to be in Jacksonville for their monthly dinner meeting in October and I hope to meet many Jacksonville Ms when I get there. I really enjoyed attending their dinner meeting several months ago when I last visited; it's a great group of people. As it happens, last time I was in Jacksonville a non-M high school classmate of mine, whom I had not seen in 30 years, was in town so I brought him along. Later that evening he told me that as a newcomer it was one of the most welcoming groups of people he'd been

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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, September 9, 2009. Called to order at 5:30 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members Present: George Patterson, Karen Freiberg and Bud Long. Terry Valek and Joe Smith were unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None

Minutes for the August 5, 2009 meeting were approved as published in the September 2009 SCAM.

Officer Reports:

LocSec: George reported that we have found a new printer, Indian River Press, with rates comparable to our previous printer. He also reported that the August SNORT at Miyako's was particularly well attended (16), probably aided by an email reminder to 35 members who attend such events from time to time. It is intended to expand the mailing list.

Treasurer: Bud submitted the Treasurer's Report for August which showed a final balance of \$3017.56 We should expect to see this number growing as we receive early registrations for the 2010 RG - which incidently is to be called the "We don't need no stinkin' fancy name RG."

Testing: Bud Long (proctor) reported that no candidates appeared for the scheduled August test. Further, George added that although 15 recent contactees were invited by email, none showed up for a scheduled social event, presented to them as a chance to meet some Mensans and receive a \$5 discount ticket to the October test. It was observed that our problem with attracting new members is more a problem of trying to get them to actually take the test, rather than just getting inquiries.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 pm. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, *November 4, 2009* at 5:30 pm. Note that we are skipping the October meeting due to George being out of town and there not being much pending in the way of ExComm actions.