

The

SCAM

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2003 Newsletter Owl Nominee



Deluxe 32 Page Issue!!!

Volume 21, No. 8

August, 2003

**The
Newsletter**

SCAM
space coast area mensa

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Volunteer Needed!

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We will appreciate your submissions **legibly handwritten, typed, in e-mail text, or on 3.5 disk in IBM text or word-processing format.** We can receive your submissions by mail at: **726 Lund Ct., Melbourne, FL 32901**, or submit via e-mail to: **Editor@spacecoastareamensa.org**
Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

Happy August Birthday



- 02 - James Vanaman
- 04 - William Armstrong
- 04 - Robert Johnson
- 05 - Eric Thompson
- 13 - Ronald Gaynor
- 15 - William Lamoureux
- 16 - Robert Knox
- 19 - Ryan Gilmore
- 22 - Shirley Jones
- 26 - Ronald Wallace
- 29 - Chester Young
- 30 - David MacMakin



Welcome Back to SCAM

Clara Gill - Mims
Jim Trawick - Barefoot Bay
James Vanaman - Merritt Island

Welcome to Mensa and SCAM

Nobody new this month



Mewsing About



**Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec**

Darn, it happened again...I discovered someone noticed one of my columns. The new communications officer and editor of *The Bulletin* published one of my columns. Of course, by the time THEY published it, it was passé' and, as it was one of my columns, not much worth reading and certainly not worthy of publication at the national level. I'd really prefer to be asked for material rather than have someone pre-empt my authorship.

Well, the new editor got the newsletter out and most of them got to the correct destination before the first of the month. One little error was in the scheduling of the July ExComm meeting – we moved it from the first Sunday to the first Wednesday for the convenience of the ExComm. Oh well, that's what happens when you try to mess with tradition. We should have proofed the calendar.

We are just getting started in this membership year, 2003-2004, and there are already many decisions facing the group. Do we want an RG for 2004? Will 5 or more agree to run for ExComm next year? Who will stand up for the next NOMEICom and Audit Committee?

If someone would like to chair the RG committee (supposing we decide to hold one), please come to an ExComm meeting between now and December of 2003 and we will help get it started. It will go a long way for making the decision to hold one if there are volunteers to join the committee.

I will not be running for ExComm next year as this will be my second term as LocSec and tradition holds that that is the end of the line. Anyone wishing to learn more about how we run our group is encouraged to attend a few meetings. It would be nice to have more "new folks" on the governing board, and I thought it best to prepare the group early for this situation.

Of course we will need the audit committee and a nominations and elections committee seated early next year, so we will be tapping on the shoulder of six of you for that assistance.

I have not played so many games of SCRABBLE® in all of my life. Gary Russell was kind enough to not embarrass me. I was able to arrive at scores over 200 most games. Also on the SIGs night at Rita's, we had five folks playing Mexican Train Dominoes. By accident there were two evening events scheduled for that Saturday night; we attended Haru's

with Dan Lange, sitting around a big table, sharing food, thoughts, and laughs. It was really great. Then three of us went on to Rita's for SIGs and the rest went to Dan's for movies. We talked about a myriad of topics – sometimes everyone on one topic, sometimes just talking to the person next to you.

Several of us helped Sam Kirschten celebrate his 6x birthday. (I offered to sing the Beatles' song for him but he preferred the T-Shirt and fossil from The Dinosaur Store with which he was gifted). We have helped one of our Mensa couples celebrate their engagement – Karen Freiberg and Doug Starke – we've worried about our members in the hospital or just under the weather and we have joined in their delight at getting well again. We have mourned the loss of pets and parents with each other. We are just like a family. If you are finding yourself in need of such companionship and camaraderie, you just might be pleasantly surprised.

PRP awards were all passed around up north – Region 10 did not get any print awards for any of the nominations. As they say at the Oscar's – getting nominated is the real prize.

On a sad note for me, I have just had to put down the third of my four old cats. He was just a couple weeks shy of his 16th birthday. Bandit had been a very good friend to me and I will miss him deeply.

Since I've run on so long this month, I won't be writing any other officer columns.



Editor's Corner



Dan Morgan

I'd like to apologize to Ann Schindler for misstating her reasons for not continuing to write articles for *The SCAM* newsletter. I had just gone by memory of what I'd heard and hadn't checked with her. I'll let her letter to the editor (p. 6) explain the real reasons. I hope that at some time in the future she will resume writing for us, as I hear her columns are quite popular, and I personally enjoy them myself.

Things went well here with the second newsletter, with some help from J.T., Clara and Helen. I appreciate their help and look forward to any suggestions, articles, letters to the editor or whatever else you have to contribute.

Dan Morgan





Dear *SCAM* Editor,

During the past three years I have written a monthly health column for the *SCAM*. I have very much enjoyed writing those columns, and I also learned quite a lot while researching material for them. It seems that there is some misunderstanding as to why I decided to stop, or take a break at this time. It certainly was not for lack of subject matter. There are literally thousands of subjects I could write about, and I have two large boxes full of information on various subjects of interest to me and hopefully to you. However, in my endeavors to provide interesting and factual articles, I spent many many hours researching content and composing copy. I, unfortunately, am not one of those lucky people who can zip out an article in one or two hours. Because of long workdays during the week, I was relegated to writing on Saturdays and Sundays. Every weekend found me in my library/computer room working diligently on my next article. My husband works second shift and our primary quality time together is on weekends. This time was affected by my writing. He had to almost make an appointment with me just to see a movie. So I decided to take a break. If in the future I decide to resume my articles, I hope I find an audience of readers who will continue to find them interesting.

Ann M. Schindler

I am looking for others who would be interested in attending Titusville Playhouse theater productions. The shows that I would be able to attend and the dates of the productions follow:

- The Miracle Worker November 7-23, 2003
- The Taming of the Shrew January 16th – February 1st, 2004
- Two & Two Makes Sex March 12th-28th, 2004
- Annie Get Your Gun May 14th – 30th, 2004

I'd like to make a theater night of it with dinner out and the theater. Folks who would like to join me for this event, notify me via email or phone and let's see if we can decide on dates. Email address:

LocSec@spacecoastareamensa.org

or call 632-0854.

Clara Woodall-Moran

Mike Moakley's analogy using Scrabble® was imaginative. Lacked a lot of reality, but was most definitely imaginative. However, let's look at a similar scenario, but this time using Monopoly® as the game.

As in Scrabble, you begin as equals on a level playing field. Scrabble gives

you seven tiles, but what you get is the luck of the draw; Monopoly starts everyone off with \$1500, no luck necessary.

Having first play in Scrabble can provide an enormous advantage if your draw was a good one; Monopoly provides no real advantage for the first player to roll.

Both games involve skill, strategy, and luck. Luck is in the draw of the tiles, or in the roll of the dice. Skill is much more involved in Scrabble than Monopoly, at least in so far as the ability to spell and to use what exists on the board for points. Strategy is more involved in Monopoly, as it is a type of warfare, where position and control of the board determine the outcome.

So, let's go on to the scenario. But this time "Ken" has just bankrupted his opponents. He has used his luck, skill and strategy to turn his \$1500 into all the money and property. He is a success. But then the banker, who has no direct interest in the game itself, steps in. He tells Ken that it is not fair that he has all the money and property, so he is going to take half of what Ken has earned and give it to the other players, because they were not as "lucky" as Ken. After all, it is the only fair thing to do. The banker also announces that from now on, whenever Ken plays, he will have to pay a 40% tax every time he passes go, or collects rent. The other players will also pay a tax, but it will be at a lower rate, and they will be able to get it all back the next time they pass go. They'll even be able to get extra, through the "Earned Income Subsidy" for low-skill players.

This scenario should sound familiar, because it is the model of the Liberals' income redistribution schemes. Mike had Ken changing the rules because he was in danger of losing; In my scenario, Ken has won under his own merit and is then penalized for it by the entity that controls the money supply, while all the other players are actually rewarded for losing.

Mike's constant approval of the Liberal policy of class warfare lacks any semblance of reality. They abhor tax cuts for the rich, although the "rich" are the ones paying taxes. For those who believe in the myth of the "indolent rich", 98.5% of all living American millionaires earned their wealth (not everyone is a Kennedy). The hypocrisy of the Left is most easily shown in what they leave out of their statements. Yes, a 3% tax cut for someone who earned one million dollars will garner them a \$30,000 return, while the man who earned \$20,000 will get back nothing. But that is because that person PAID nothing in the first place. How do you reduce the number zero? Why, with a rebate... but again, how do you rebate a percentage of nothing? The Libs know how – with welfare by any other name.

Oh, by the way... that lucky soul who got back \$30,000? His tax bill still exceeded \$360,000, something our Liberal friends never mention.

So how would you feel after having your hard-earned assets confiscated by force in a socialist income-redistribution scheme? Happy?

I don't think so. After all, how many taxpayers celebrate April 15th?



J.T. Moran

The Audit Committee Report

To the SCAM Membership and ExComm:

The Audit committee has examined the records and documentation of the financial transactions of Space Coast area Mensa for the period from May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2003. Examination of all journals, receipts, bank statements and Treasurer's Reports revealed no discrepancies.

The account balances were as follows:

Scholarship	\$1,265.61
General Fund CD	\$3,057.83
RG Fund Account	\$ 85.71
USPS Drawing Account	\$ 221.48
General Fund Account	\$1,680.91

Additionally, the Audit committee commends Helen Lee Moore for her meticulous records!

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Francesca S. Hinson	5/20/03
/s/ Joyce Drew	5/20/03
/s/ Robert J. Johnson	5/20/03

*Signed original on file.



Minutes of the ExComm Meeting



Sam Kirschten

The ExComm met at the home of Helen Lee Moore on July 1, 2003.

Call to Order 18:10.

Members present: Clara Woodall-Moran, Sam Kirschten, Joe Smith, and Helen Lee Moore.

Minutes for June 1, 2003, approved as published. Move HLM, second SGK, unanimous vote.

Correspondence: from national MENSA to CW-M - information on refund for member mailing expenses.

Officer reports

Treasurer: June report distributed. The RecSec will keep copies of the Reports.

SIGHT: Karen Freiberg has provided use of her residence to a SCAM couple, for mutual convenience.

Testing: three candidates were tested.

Old business: Member Handbook, Documentation Control, and Template.

Template: The template is the basic agenda for the meeting.

Documentation Control: Standing Rule 15 was presented - subject is document control. A diligent search will be made to bring forward all of the standing rules. Moved HLM, second CW-M, unanimous vote to adopt Rule 15. The standing rules will be made available to the Editor after the August meeting.

Member Handbook: HLM led a discussion of the Member Handbook. Moved JS, second C-WM, vote for JS, C-WM, against SK, HLM abstaining, passed: HLM will take on the task of preparing the Handbook for publication and report progress in September.

New Business: The SCAM, the SCAM Editor, transition, and high expectations were discussed at length. JS will take the salient points to the Editor, as the Editor was not in attendance.

Regional Gathering 2004: JS will provide the enthusiasm with which to begin. More to follow at August meeting.

A general discussion for the good of SCAM was held.

The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for 4 pm August 3, at Joe Smith.

Moved HLM, seconded JS, passed by unanimous vote to adjourn. Adjourned 19:28.



The 10th Story

by

Elissa Rudolph,

RVC10

RVC10@us.mensa.org

Picture a lineup of about 50, six-foot Linus statues costumed in everything from an Elvis jumpsuit to the Jolly Green Giant to Einstein, even a 60s Flower Child, and you have an idea of the homage paid to one of St. Paul, Minnesota's most famous citizens—cartoonist Charles Schultz. This row of Linuses stretched across a bridge over the fast, brown, Mississippi near the AG hotel. Along with that note of humor, also found in the hotel lobby, terrific programs, tours, fun, and friends, the 2003 AG was an undeniable success for more than 1400 attendees. To see Scott Rainey's collection of photos from the AG, go to: <http://www.oregon.us.mensa.org/pix/2003ag/>

To make the AG even better, our Region 10 won several awards—but not as many as I had hoped—the PRP (Publication Recognition Program) competition was fierce. We collected 10 print nominations and 11 Web nominations all told. **Tampa Bay Mensa's** Web site (Mary W. Matthews, Webmaster) won an award in the category of Puzzles and Games and a Special Mention for an RSVP feature. Tampa Bay's Web calendar editor, Ronan Heffernan, won an award for service to members through calendar postings. No print awards came our way even though two groups, **Manasota Mensa** and **Space Coast Area Mensa** were in the running for the Medium Group Owl award. Guess the judges could not choose between them (they are both so good!), so they chose another group entirely outside of Florida. Congrats to all nominees and winners!

Tallahassee Mensa received an Innovative Owl award for retaining a greater percentage of its members than most other Mensa groups. Tinker Lammert, all around volunteer, deserves applause for keeping it all together. Hope to get up there one of these days!

Congratulations also to Lisa Kelley, **Broward Mensa**, who will be serving on the MensaWorldConnect committee (pairs U.S. Mensa groups with other national Mensas) and to Janice Johnson, **Palm Beach County Mensa**, who will be editing the Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) manual, adding new programs to expand the curricula.

Have fun in August, but look out for those Dog Days of Summer.... arf!

Coming Soon...

October 24-26, ***The MagicOwl RG***, hosted by Broward Mensa, Plantation Holiday Inn, near world famous Sawgrass Mills (954-472-5600); \$75 'til 7/30 inc. 4 meals; Registrar: Barbara Moore (954-752-8483).

(see p. 30 for details)



The Alchemist: Lights



Al Thomas

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al@mutualfund
magic.com

There are red lights, green lights, blue lights and spot lights. There are orange lights, pink light and flash lights. There are search lights and micro lights. And the one you must obey is the stop light.

If you don't stop when the light is red you could easily have an accident and lose everything you have, even your life. These different types of lights alert us to possibilities and dangers. Is there a light that goes on that tells us whether the stock market is going up or down; one that is green to invest or red to sell? They aren't very obvious, but they are out there. You only need to become aware and learn when the signal flashes.

It doesn't take long to learn to drive an automobile, but it does require much more skill to handle an 18-wheeler. The professional driver has taken time to learn his profession. He knows what all the lights mean. Not only the red and green, but the yellow and blue as well. There are also many light signals inside the cab that he must be aware of all the time if he is to have a safe passage.

Stock market signals may not be red or green or any color at all, but they are there and are obvious to one who wants to learn. The one who wants to learn is the investor who wants to protect his capital from loss and to make enough money to retire in a comfortable life style.

The most obvious signal is the 200-day moving average. You can find one of the best market signals printed every day in the Investor's Business Daily Mutual Fund Index. When the index is above the 200MA line you are in the green and should to be invested. When it is below the 200MA line you the red light is on and you want to be in a money market fund. When those signals flash, and you learn to act, you will become very wealthy over the next 10 to 20 years. You will not lose your money when the market is going down.

If you take the time to go back in history, say 20 years and treat the S&P500 Index as a dollar value you will quickly see that buying and selling on this simple method would have made you a ton of money. No, there is not very much trading involved. You will only be buying or selling about once each year. It will not take much of your time and you will sleep better, especially when the market is crashing and your money is safely tucked away.

Currently the green signal is on to be invested according to the IBD Mutual Fund Index. The red signal will come on that tells you it is time to sell when the index plunges below the 200MA line. Pay attention to the signals. You don't want to lose everything.

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www.mutualfundmagic.com



***The Casebook of
Anthony Chianti,
Private Eye***



Ken Thornton-Smith

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The Wabasso Triangle

Episode 27½ : *I'm a Danger in Paradise...*

It should not have happened, but only one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying Newton's Second Law of Conservation of Fig Rolls and the Port St John Power Station Preservation Society, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

A reassuring note to anxious parents: This week's episode is an inspiring and moral tale suitable for all ages and most life forms.

Anthony Chianti, Licensed Private Eye and Indian River Community Pasta Detective, reporting:

First of all, I need to apologize if this month's Wabasso update is late – I've just returned from the Annual Pasta Detective convention in Speeds, Dry Place. Or, as we say in English: Tempe, Arizona. Soon I will get to visit my sister in Red Stick, my maw in Yellow, Shingles and then my brother in Ratmouth, Flowers. I always say let's just go with English – French is history now we have Freedom Fries and Spanish is a no-buena.

Living so far away, I don't get to see my mom all that often these days, but she is still a lot of fun. Last visit she said that, if only she had known, she would have named me and my brother Hyster and Rectomy...

We couldn't afford to fly to Tempe, and my teleport has broken – it doesn't matter anymore. So in the end it was just me and Tortiglioni, my faithful Italian Bloodhound, riding shotgun in the Buick Testudo.

Worse still, the eight-track packed up in 1987 so our only form of entertainment was my delicate little voice. Have you ever heard Lurch singing the One Note Samba?

We had just passed, "Welcome to Alabama", when it occurred to me – how come they have interstate highways in Hawaii? If that doesn't give us a major clue to the whereabouts of Atlantis...

The conference wasn't up to much -- just the same old poppycock. There was some pretty interesting surveillance hardware on display, though, such as neat little goldfish microphones. Due to the shortage of conference space this year it was held in an abandoned industrial unit with a particu-

larly strong odor. I guess if you're stuck, any ol' factory will do. As a result, I spent most of the week exploring the town, the surrounding desert, and adding water to the Testudo's radiator...

You are probably aware that, thanks to the miracle of photosynthesis, two-thirds of the world's supply of oxygen comes from the Amazon rainforest. Well, the other third comes from my back yard -- prime Florida jungle. By comparison, Tempe is a zeroscape city, and that means no plants, no sprinklers and above all, no lawnmower. That's right -- my idea of paradise...

Like most vacations, it passed altogether too quickly, and soon we were ready to set out on the return leg. Besides, you can only spent so many nights sleeping on the back seat.

Tortiglioni whined so much on the way out there that I was determined to do something different coming on the return leg. I read him some of my poetry:

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
So good they named it twice... "

He yawned. There was nothing for it -- I was going to have to read him my most famous poem: "Ode to a Pretty Good Bagel". Ahem:

"You're my everything... "

He yawned again and looked out the window. I was crushed. How can man's best friend be so heartless? Hurt to the marrow, I was lost in thought for a while there as I recalculated the odds of me becoming the next United States Poet Laureate. It was probably up from 250 million as Iceland, Namibia and Samoa... bang! The sky lit up. What was that? Dry lightning, but from a clear starry sky?

A couple of miles further on, we were coming up a large incline into Roswell, city limits just ahead, when there was another large "Bang!" followed by a shower of sparks and then the engine died.

I lifted the hood and stared -- all engines have to be out-psyched. Maybe it was the plugs? I patiently removed, cleaned and replaced all seven sparkplugs, then motioned for Tortiglioni to start the engine. The sign for this is a twirling, stirring motion with the index finger. Tortiglioni picked up on this straight away and hit the button. The engine fired and ran first

touch, sweet as a nut. I stuck my arm out and gave Tortiglioni the thumbs up.

At that point the stupid ignoramus hairball hit the horn. In case you're not aware of it, horns are 100 times louder under the hood. The noise made me jump and hit my head on the hood, and I bent down cringing in pain...

As you know, every lawnmower carries the Federally mandated warning: "Blades turn when motor runs", and something like that should be written on the hood of all cars. Plus, in my case: "Stay Away from My Toot-Toot..."

Bending down in agony and holding the lump on my head, the distal end of my necktie somehow found the fan. The other end, as its name implies, was tied around my neck...

As they carried me into the ambulance I tried to explain to the officer how we were buzzed by UFOs with bright lights and powerful laser beams that could evaporate an indigestible rice pudding in a heartbeat.

"But..."

He interrupted as I explained, "...it was one of your UFOs, right above us..."

"But, but..."

"BUT WHAT?" I shouted.



"But this is Roswell, Georgia – not Arizona. You got the wrong Roswell..."

Well, amazing but true, and it can only have happened here. Or there. That's about it for this month's update from the Wabasso Triangle.

Anthony Chianti, Indian River Community Pasta Detective, signing off.
ICU, Crate 17, U-Can-Afford-Us Veterinary Clinic.

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August 2003 Calendar of SCAM 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.

Regular Events

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble: Monday, the 11th & 25th
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 6th & 20th
Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million: *Is no more!! New Host needed to restart!*
6:30PM, Post Commons, Wickham Road, Melbourne

Spend the evening with friends playing games, drinking gourmet coffee, and devouring sweet treats, and perhaps even reading a bit. It's free (except for any purchases), no pets, and outside smoking.

C.A.B.A.G.E. North Host: Karen Freiberg

Karen@Freiberg.com

C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: *Position Vacant*

3rd **4:00 p.m.**

ExComm Meeting

Sunday

Free

SS/NP

The Executive Committee of the group meets to conduct its monthly business. All members are welcome to attend, to volunteer, and to see how things are done. This month's meeting will be held at the *home of our Member-at-Large, Joe Smith, in Melbourne.*

Clara Woodall-Moran, LocSec

cew@cfl.rr.com

Joe Smith, Host

jsmith@arachnaweb.com

8th **6:00 p.m.**

Pub Night

Friday

Food and Drink Cost

S/NP

Helen Lee Moore takes us to the *Shamrock and Thistle Pub* in Titusville for a night of tasty ales and lively conversation. You can look for this event every other month, alternating with J.T.'s Firearms and Fried Rice. One month shoot darts; the next, bullets. The pub is at *2035 Cheney Highway, Titusville.*

Helen Lee Moore

moorehelenlee@cs.com

9th **12:30 p.m.**

Mensa Entrance Exam

Saturday

\$30.00

NS/NP

The Mensa Entrance Exam will be administered on the 9th of August. If you wish to join Mensa, be at the *Cape Canaveral Hospital Annex Resource Center*, at 12:30 pm for the test. Bring the testing fee (\$30.00) and a picture ID. The hospital is located on the *north side of SR 520 Causeway, Cocoa Beach.* For more infor-

mation about the tests and Mensa, email:

Helen Lee Moore

moorehelenlee@cs.com

10th

NL and Calendar deadlines

It is requested that newsletter submissions and calendar events be in no later than today. Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the editor.

Dan Morgan

Editor@spacecoastareamensa.org

16th

5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Sushi and Cinema

Saturday

Meal Cost and \$3.00

SS/NP

Tara and Dan invite us to join them at *Haru's Sushi Bar & Grill* (676-5159) at *192 & Wickham in Melbourne*, in the *Metro West Center*, for great dining, followed by a trip to their apartment for a night of movie watching. Their DVD collection awaits. A movie can be chosen by the group and munching and rehashing will, in all likelihood, be included. They have a third story walk-up, so be forewarned! Call Dan for directions.

Dan Lange

dlange@klx.net

17th

11:00 a.m.

Brunch with Jim

Sunday

Meal Cost

NS/NP

We'll join Jim for his monthly Sunday brunch at the *Colossus Restaurant* at *380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne*. You must be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you may not be seated with us: we can't save any seats for latecomers.

Jim Trammell

22nd

6:00 pm

Polish Dining

Friday

Meal Cost

NS/NP

Let's go back to the *Bellwood Restaurant*; it sure was good in April! Polish food as well as some standard American dishes at a reasonable price. The *Bellwood Restaurant* is located at *7505 S. U.S. 1, Titusville*, half way between Orlando Utilities power plant and the Space Coast Executive Airport. **RSVP requested by Tuesday the 19th.**

Helen Lee Moore

moorehelenlee@cs.com

23rd

Show Times

Cheap Flicks at the Roxy

Saturday

\$1.00 plus Snacks

NS/NP

Join Rita and friends for an afternoon of \$1.00 movies and fellowship. Call Rita (before noon, please) to get the show times and meeting place. The *Roxy* is at *1533 Palm Bay Road, N.E., Palm Bay*.

Rita Johnson-Aronna

patrita@worldnet.att.net

30th

6:30 p.m.

S.N.O.R.T

Saturday

Meal Cost

NS/NP

Wassabi! Join us at our best-attended monthly event and sample some great Japanese fare; take a break from the mundane for some sushi, teriyaki, and tempura. *Miyako's* is located at *1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne*.

Dan Morgan

danm3000@bellsouth.net



***A Libertarian
View***

***Why I am a
Liberal***

By

Dan Morgan

I am a liberal in the classic sense, commonly referred to today as “Libertarian”. Just as Mike Moakley identified himself as a “liberal” in the June SCAM newsletter issue, I am for freedom, equality, and opportunity, but not in the sense the writer identified himself. The term “Liberal” used to be equated with such terms, up until the 60’s or 70’s in this country. Now it is equated with racial preference, all kinds of social welfare, from child-care to welfare (paying people not to work) to a plethora of regulations on businesses, from the workplace to the environment and beyond. I am for limited government, the limitations being set in the Federal Constitution and the intent of the Framers of the Constitution. The founders of this country would be appalled at the scope and power of the Federal and even state governments today. Most of what the Federal and many state governments are involved in today is far beyond the scope and intent of the founding framework of this country. I am, however, not for corporate welfare, corporatism, globalism, ad nauseum, as so many “conservatives” and others are in our current government and society.

The writer identified with “Affirmative Action”, a flawed policy enacted by Richard Nixon, a Republican but did not elaborate on how it was for equal opportunity, not racial preference. The fact is that “Affirmative Action” is racial preference, using reverse racial discrimination to correct the all-too-real wrongs of the past. The result is under qualified minorities (black and Native American *only*, check the record) being admitted to colleges and universities where they fail to graduate at rates far exceeding those of students admitted using race-neutral admission policies, as well as blacks, mainly, being hired and promoted solely on the basis of race to satisfy “diversity” quotas of their managers. Whites and Asians continue to graduate at high percentage levels, even when the Asians are immigrants and first-generation Americans, who we would expect to have difficulty adjusting to American culture and life. Blacks who are admitted to colleges on merit alone, or who chose colleges fitting their level of ability, do just as well as whites or Asians. The fact is that blacks, and anyone else, who are placed at an institution where they are able to succeed will do fine (as an aside, if I were admitted to Harvard when I went to college, I would have surely failed out, as it would have been beyond my academic ability – I did OK at UF but dropped out due to reasons other than academic challenge). Fact is “affirmative action” has a *negative* effect on the motivation of black students in primary and secondary education (why try hard when you’ll get a job or get into college anyway?), not to mention the pervasive attitude among black students that to achieve in school is somehow “acting white”. I’d much rather see *all* of us treated equally (as much as that is possible).

In the workplace, “diversity” or “affirmative action” hiring and advancement leads to the rest of us wondering if minorities are hired by their qualifications or solely by the fact of their race or sex (*not* gender, sorry). Thirty years of racially discriminatory hiring and promotion is enough to right the wrongs of the past century. *In fact* black family income rose steadily through the 50’s, and 60’s, needing no help from the Federal Government. Black *families* are doing quite well in this day and age, nearly the same as white families, despite all the rhetoric you hear on the nightly talkies. I’d like to know if my coworker or boss got there by achievement and not by preference. I have all the respect in the world for persons getting where they are by their own effort, and not by preference, whether it be by race, sex, or whatever else. Preferential hiring and advancement only breeds resentment in the rest of us. It is time to end “Affirmative Action” and hire and promote persons on the basis of merit *alone*.

I do agree with the notion that “working” Americans are the basis of American society. We have had enough of our jobs shipped out of the US to China, Southeast Asia and Mexico, to name a few places, as well as million of jobs here being taken by legal and illegal immigrants. Both Republican and Democrat alike are to blame for this, as well as the American consumer who usually places price above everything else in their purchasing decisions. We import far too many goods to this country, while not realizing that if we don’t have a manufacturing base here, we are in a bad situation economically. The “service” economy doesn’t work (see <http://www.frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=5826>, Robert Locke’s first in a series on Eamonn Fingleton’s “In Praise of Hard Industries”). We hear much about the “global economy” and how we must compete in such a situation. Yes, we must compete internationally, but at home we as individuals have the choice to buy from whomever we chose, and to ensure our domestic survival it is in our benefit to chose domestic goods wherever possible. It is OUR choice and ours alone from whom we buy our goods.

But I must take objection to the term “working Americans”...this term is used to describe those people who must go to work every day of the week (and weekends sometimes) to support themselves and their families. Somehow, this term excludes higher-income people (or why refer to “working” people at all?), who, I suppose, don’t have to “work” for a living. Do higher income people or families not have to “work” for a living? There are very few of us who are independently wealthy and do not have to work (maybe 1% of the population, excluding retirees). So aren’t 99% of us non-retirees “working” people? Somehow this term is used to elevate the common worker and denigrate the upper-income person (doctors, lawyers, engineers, etc.) who also WORK for a living, but at a much higher level of skill and pay. Don’t they also “work” for a living? Give me a break.

Which brings me to the “living wage” proposals...yes, it would be

great that everyone could get any kind of job and support a family on that wage, but where would be the incentive for the worker to do better? The best incentive for the worker to get more pay is to do a better job or move on to a better job. What would an employer do if he or she had to pay a “living wage” rather than the current minimum wage to their current employees? Raise prices, cut employees, or go broke (or do you think they make such outrageous amounts of money that they could raise wages without any other changes, in such a competitive market as ours?) As the writer says, and I concur, the government has no business in bailing out failed businesses such as Cypress Gardens, or any other. I’m definitely for government sticking to its best, regulating commerce, contracts, and basic services like fire and police (protecting the “general welfare”).

Now about the healthcare “crisis”: most of the “crisis” today has been brought about by the Federal Government itself, due to regulatory burdens. About half of modern health care costs are from regulation, Federal, state, etc. Back in the early 70’s, I had emergency surgery for a torn lip. The cost: about \$27, all out-of-pocket as far as I can tell from the hospital receipt. Last December, simply going to the Holmes Regional Medical Center Emergency room, getting two shots and an anti-histamine IV for an allergic reaction cost over \$1000. God knows how much it would have been for the equivalent treatment as in the previous example. Regulations aside, much of the increased cost of medical care is from the fact that most of us don’t pay the full cost of our treatment. If I was insured, why would I care if the insurance company paid over \$1000 for an emergency room treatment versus a clinic that would have cost around \$200? But if I am the one to pay (and I wish I had gone to a clinic), I would much rather pay \$200 than \$1000 for the same (and faster, more than likely) treatment.

Another aspect of the health care “crisis”, noted in the author’s article, is that many Americans are “refused” service. First, emergency rooms may not refuse to treat patients regardless of the ability to pay. Second, in many places, most near the Mexican border, hospitals are overwhelmed with illegal aliens, some even crossing the border illegally to get “free” medical treatment here in the United States, such as the Mexican girl who died a few months ago in North Carolina after receiving a mistyped transplant. All one must do in a hospital in the US to get “free” medical treatment is to declare oneself as an “illegal”. We give illegal aliens more rights and privilege to medical treatment than we do our own citizens. Third, and not least, *trauma* centers, giving the highest level of time-critical care, have closed down due to the high cost of malpractice insurance (as some have in Las Vegas). Do we really think that they closed due to lack of outrageous profit or to the fact they couldn’t stay in business at all due to their **exorbitant** insurance bills? And then there is the *fact* that we allow Medicaid recipients to go to emergency rooms at much higher cost for treatment than requiring them to go to a doctor’s office for regular care, just one of many

examples of how the Federal Government *increases* and makes the cost of medical treatment beyond the average person's ability to pay without insurance. Let's not forget F.D.R's wage controls in the 40's, which encouraged employers to give benefits including medical insurance, leading to our current "crisis". (On the other hand, I wonder where Health First Corporation got the money to build their administrative palace near Sun-tree recently...hmmm).

OK, on to "patriotism" and the alleged blacklisting of persons not deemed to be "patriotic". Well, Susan Sarandon, Jeanne Garofalo and such had no problem speaking out against Bush and his policies. Are they now excluded from media and movies? Tim Robbins spoke, ironically, to the National Press Club recently about "blacklisting" and being silenced. How was he being "silenced" when speaking to the very exclusive National Press Club? Sorry, I don't get it. Tell me how contrary voices are being silenced and excluded from the media and the national conversation. We have Dan Rather talking about having a "necklace" of the lack of patriotism being hung around the necks of anti-war or anti-Bush speakers, but how is that really being carried out? Has Dan Rather or anyone else been "necklaced" in the fashion of South Africa or in any other way? The worst that has happened is that the majority of the American public doesn't want to hear or support the likes of Susan Sarandon, Jeanne Garofalo or Tim Robbins. They are still free to live their lives as they chose, just without popular support. No lynch mobs are after them. We all have the freedom to speak, but not the freedom to be heard, thank God for that.

In closing, well, I have a few suggestions for the Republican, the stupid and spineless party (can you say "bipartisanship" boys and girls? I knew you could), and the Democratic, the evil party, alike. Secure our borders, North and South, preferably with the thousands of troops we now have stationed abroad. Enforce our immigration laws and deport *all* illegals here. Stop turning Americans into citizen-criminals ala the "Patriot" Act while letting foreign terrorists in by the thousands (visa-express, anyone?), stop grabbing land and turning our western forests into tinderboxes, stop Federal blackmail in the form of withholding money in lieu of state compliance and reduce the size of the Federal government in all its aspects to the constraints of the Constitution. I will be happy to support any party (well, only one that doesn't include the killing of unborn babies as its basic "right") that carries out actions, but until then, throw a "necklace" of anti-Americanism around me.

Both the Left and the Right fail to produce action that benefits this country. Being on the *truly* Liberal side of the issues is the right thing to do.



***A View... From
Somewhere Else***

***“Follow the
Money-4”***

by

Hank Rhodes

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Author’s note: This is part of an irregular but recurring series of articles discussing the irregular and recurring dispersion of public resources.

Step right up, fellow Floridians, and see the show! It’s certainly nothing to rival the Super Bowl, or the Orlando-area attractions, but after all, the Tallahassee circus is different, because it is being conducted on our dime (at \$40,000 per day)! Yes sir, we’re the ones paying for the on-going charade commonly known as special sessions of the Florida Legislature.

Ostensibly, these special sessions have been called to solve the “malpractice crisis,” but we’re not so easily fooled. No, due to the laws of our fine sunshine state, political fund-raising is forbidden during the regular session of the Florida Legislature. The law, however, is silent regarding “special sessions.” Thus, with the Legislature assembled in a single appointed place, special interest groups and their lobbyists have a golden opportunity to pursue their own private agendas, where a donation gets one in the door. And the beauty of the system is, the longer our lawmakers are in “special session,” the more opportunities they have to raise money.

All efforts to close this loophole have been rebuffed by our duly-elected conservative leadership.

So what we’re watching (from the outside) is an orgy of greed and posturing. Like the old carnival freak shows, it ain’t pretty, but it sure can be entertaining.

As for the problems in the medical malpractice arena, seems the only solution given any consideration is a limit on non-economic damages of \$250,000. What this means is if you are paralyzed by a doctor’s incompetence or negligence, they’ll pay for your wheel chair and a bed pan, and you’ll get the legal minimum of lost wages, less what you’ll received from Social Security. Then you’ll have \$250,000 to spend (less taxes and legal fees) for the rest of your natural life. It doesn’t take much math to figure out that it doesn’t go very far.

Of course, considering the problems confronting the health care system in the United States, this “cap” on pain and suffering is like offering vitamins to a cancer patient. Talk about malpractice!

If the Legislature really took the malpractice issue seriously, perhaps

there might be more substantial remedies being considered.

Perhaps the Legislature should consider a cap on insurance premiums. Although the author joins his conservative friends in the belief that the government should only regulate business to the minimum extent necessary to enforce the laws and assure public safety, in this case the Legislature is being urged by corporations to expand its regulatory authority into the practice of business. While they are at it, the Legislature should forbid any insurance company doing business in our fine state from engaging in high risk investments in the stock market, thereby precluding the need for those corporations to make up for their losses by artificially inflating premiums. And perhaps, since a quarter of a million dollars seems to be a popular number, insurance companies doing business in Florida could be required to limit executive compensation to \$250,000 per year. (A review of some of their filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission indicates that many of their top executives do substantially better.)

Alternatively, the Legislature could solve the crisis by providing the malpractice coverage themselves. Here is how it would work: Doctors would pay their premiums into a state-operated trust fund. The administrator of the trust fund would have a small staff, all at salaried positions, with little to do besides disperse the payments as directed by the courts. Medical practitioners would have a deductible for each case, thereby giving them financial as well as professional incentive to contest spurious claims of malpractice. The trust fund staff would have no incentive to engage in investments or to impede the court-ordered payments. The trust fund would be audited regularly by the state comptroller, and its records (other than the patients' identities) would be public. The malpractice trust fund would also be supplemented by a tax on alcohol, cigarettes, and other high-risk products and activities that have a demonstrated statistical correlation with causing health problems or serious injuries.

If the Legislature was feeling especially courageous and ambitious, they might consider a profound overhaul of the entire health-care system, on the basis that a minimal standard of adequate health care is a human right and not a commodity subject to "market forces." Perhaps hospital emergency rooms could go back to their intended function of treating people with emergencies, instead of being the *de facto* primary care provider to the indigent and the uninsured. Perhaps the real caps could be applied on the amount of benefits paid out to those who are not really in need. Perhaps special medical courts could be established to assure each case of malpractice is decided on its respective merits instead of emotion (or for business reasons). Incentives such as lowering of insurance premiums should be offered to people who practice sustained preventative measures.

And just possibly, both the state and the medical profession could be more effective in identifying and removing incompetent and negligent practitioners.

Of course, it is doubtful that any of this will come to pass, for the *status quo* benefits those who make the laws, at least in the short term. Despite all the noise and expense, we certainly can't expect any meaningful reforms to result from these special sessions, neither in the area of malpractice insurance, nor in the larger issue of addressing the corrupting influence of big money in our government. After all, what do we think all these special interests are getting for their generosity?



***The Gourmet's
Guide:***

Ducks

by

Art Belefant

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HAVE ALL YOUR DUCKS IN A ROW

Throughout the world, the most hunted duck is the Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). The Mallard is found on every continent except Antarctica. Although André Simon, in his *Concise Encyclopaedia of Gastronomy*, lists many species of wild ducks, it is the Mallard that is most often eaten as wild duck. It is so common that in culinary French a wild duck is called a *sauvage* (wild) without a further designation. In fact, there are two Mallards in our swimming pool as I write this. They appear here twice a year as they migrate. In Stuttgart, Arkansas, the most often hunted duck is also the Mallard. At their annual duck festival, the anointed beauty queen is called Queen Mallard.

Even among farmed ducks, the most common, the White Pekin, is a descendent of the Mallard. The second most common domesticated duck is the Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*). The name has no relation to Moscow. It is so called as a corruption of its other name, Musk Duck. According to historians, the White Pekin was brought to the U. S. in 1873 by either Captain James E. Palmer or by Mr. McGrath. Either one or the other brought over three ducks and a drake from the Imperial Aviaries in Beijing (Peking). The ducks were immediately recognized for their superiority as a farm crop. Most of our domesticated ducks are descended from these four.

In culinary French, the word for a male duck, *canard*, is used for both the male and female duck, but in culinary English the female word, *duck*, is used for both the duck and the drake. The words for young birds in both languages follows the gender notation of the adult birds, *caneton* and

duckling. (In literary English, *canard*, meaning a hoax or false report, got its meaning from the supposed idea that these reports fly about like wild ducks.)

Ducks have been hunted and eaten since the Pharaohs time in Egypt. The Chinese and the Romans were known to have domesticated them. In the U. S. the sale of wild game is forbidden, therefore it is difficult to obtain wild ducks unless you are a hunter or have close friends who are hunters. In Europe, various kinds of ducks are more readily available.

André Simon's *A CONCISE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF GASTRONOMY* is a wonderful source book for all things gastronomic. It was written for the *Wine and Food Society* of England in a series of articles from 1939 to 1946. The focus of the book is classical French and British cuisine, but his range of interest is world wide as can be seen in this list of ducks as he presents it. Many of the ducks have multiple names, which I have not completely listed here. The comments are extracted from his notes.

Inland ducks, according to Simon, are better tasting than shore ducks, even if of the same species.

African Yellow billed, *Anas undulata*. Excellent flesh.

Australian Black or Grey, *Anas superciliosa*. Common in Australia and New Zealand. Mostly vegetarian. Excellent eating.

Australian Shoveler, *Spatula rhynchotis*. Another common duck in Australia and New Zealand. Not first class.

Australian White-Eyed, *Aythya australis*. Yet another common duck in Australia and New Zealand. Feeds mostly on water beetles and shellfish.

Bahama, *Anas bahamensis*. West Indian and Northern South America. Vegetarian.

Black, *Anas rubripes*. North-Eastern U. S. and Canada. Good eating when not feeding on shell fish in the winter.

Brown, *Anas chlorosis*. New Zealand.

Buffel-Headed, *Bucephala albeola*. North America. Fair eating until they get to the coast.

Canvasback, *Aythya valisneria*. North America. A very highly regarded duck for eating.

Carolina or Wood, *Aix sponsa*. West Indies and the U. S. Delicious.

Comb, Knob-Billed, or Nukta, *Sarkidiornis melanota*. Africa and India. Fair.

Crested, *Anas specularioides*. South America and the Falklands. A fish eating duck and therefore inferior eating.

Florida Dusky, *Anas fulvigula*. Florida and the southern U. S. Almost as good as the Mallard.

Harlequin, *Histrionicus histrionicus*. Artic. Good eating until they reach the ocean.

Hawaiian, *Anas wyvilliana*. A good table bird.

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*. The standard by which all other ducks are measured. When grain fed, as they are in the Stuttgart hunting season on the stubble left in the rice paddies, they are considered to be extra fine.

Mandarin, *Dendronessa galericulata*. East Asia. Not considered to be a good table bird.

Marbled, *Anas angustirostris*. Europe and North Africa. Not considered to be good eating.

Masked or Dominican, *Nomonyx dominicus*. West Indies. A small but excellent tasting duck.

Mexican, *Anas diazi*. Mexico. Closely related to the Mallard.

Musk or Muskovy, *Cairina moschata*. Native to Central America but found domesticated throughout the world. The wild birds are fairly good eating when young.

Paradise, *Casarca variegata*. New Zealand. A colorful duck considered to be good eating, especially when young.

Ring-Necked or Scaup, *Aythya Collaris*. North America. A diving duck considered to be good eating.

Rosy-Billed, *Metopiana peposaca*. Argentina. Common and one of the best for the table.

Scaup, *Aythya marila*. Northern Hemisphere. A diving duck which feeds on shellfish. Very good eating.

New Zealand Scaup, *Novae seelandiae*. Worldwide. If taken near salt water they tend to be rank.

Shelduck, *Tadorna tadorna*. Europe. Very rank.

Shoveler, *Spatula clypeaa*. Northern Hemisphere. Surface feeder and scavenger. Generally not considered to be good eating.

Spotted-Bill, *Anas poecilorhyncha* and *Anas zonorhyncha*. India and the Far East. As good as the Mallard.

Tree, *Dendrocygna*. Worldwide. Many species, all of which are considered to be good eating.

Tufted, *Aythya fuligula*. Northern Hemisphere. Poor eating.

White-Backed, *Thalassornis leuconotus*. Africa. Oily flesh, unpalatable.

White-Eyed, *Aythya nyroca*. Southeastern Europe. Poor eating.

White-Headed, *Oxura leucocephala*. Mediterranean basin. Very poor eating, but the eggs are prized.

Probably the best and simplest way to cook a wild duck is to roast it without stuffing or sauces. That way, the taste of the individual species can be valued, appreciated or deprecated as the case may be.

For domesticated ducks, which are always available, more elaborate



dishes may be tried. Three of the most famous are **Peking Duck**, **Pressed Duck**, and **Duck a l'Orange**. The first two require special preparation tools and thus are not suitable for the home cook who cooks duck only occasionally. The latter is not only suitable for cooking at home; it is a delicious and simple way to prepare your store-bought duck.

DUCK A L'ORANGE

Roast a duck on a rack in a pan until the skin is crisp. Remove the duck and rack and keep the duck warm. Remove most of the fat from the pan. Sprinkle a tablespoon of flour into the pan, stir, and scrape up the bottom. Keep this mixture hot in the pan or remove it to a saucepan, add a half a cup of duck stock (made of the neck and giblets *sans* liver while the duck is roasting), the juice of one or two oranges, and the zest of one orange. Orange quarters or slices may be used for decoration. Pour the sauce over the duck and serve.



My Point of View

In Memory of Senator Thurmond

by

Mike Moakley

As I write this column, the current item in the news is the recent passing of South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond, at the age of 100. Among his many accomplishments, he was the longest serving senator in American history, having served for 48 years. In his long political career, he has set numerous other records and has been, to say the least, quite controversial.

Thurmond's most significant accomplishment, in my opinion, is the rise of the modern conservative Republican Party in the South when, beginning in 1968, he played a pivotal role in executing the "Southern Strategy" that helped Richard Nixon win the White House. The "Southern Strategy" is largely responsible for the current Republican leadership coming to power.

Thurmond held the Senate record for filibustering, when, in 1957, he staged his record nonstop filibuster against housing legislation that he denounced as "race mixing". This filibuster lasted 24 hours and 18 minutes. He also led the way in drafting the Southern Manifesto of 1956, in which Southern lawmakers vowed resistance to the Supreme Court's unanimous school desegregation order. The Southern Manifesto states in part:

"When the (14th) amendment was adopted, in 1868, there were 37 States of the Union. Every one of the 26 States that had any substantial racial differences among its people either approved the operation of segregated schools already in existence or subsequently established such schools by action of the

same lawmaking body which considered the 14th amendment. ... We commend the motives of those States which have declared the intention to resist forced integration by any lawful means. ... We pledge ourselves to use all lawful means to bring about a reversal of this decision which is contrary to the Constitution and to prevent the use of force in its implementation."

Thurmond's presidential campaign of 1948 sparked controversy last December at Thurmond's 100th birthday party when then-Majority Leader Trent Lott, in his comments, said of Thurmond's Dixiecrat campaign, a campaign that vigorously opposed a federal anti-lynching law and desegregation legislation, *"I want to say this about my state: When Strom Thurmond ran for president, we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over all these years, either."* Lott was forced to step down as the Senate Republican leader in the uproar that resulted.

Why, then, do I choose to write about Strom Thurmond? To me, he is the personification of modern American conservatism. In his political career, which spanned over 70 years, he stood up for the principles silently supported by many, if not most, of current political conservatives. The Trent Lott gaffe is a case in point. Why was Lott forced by his colleagues to step down for his comments that, in all likelihood, merely reflect the current conservative views they share.

In my nearly half century on this planet, I have observed one of the hallmarks of a conservative to be his utter lack of tolerance of those he regards as different. Similar in nature to the school bully who, with his buddies routinely beats up the school "nerd", his true definition of "different" is "inferior". In some cases, such as racial issues or issues of gender, he tries to conceal his true views. This is why Lott's comments were so controversial – he let the proverbial cat out of the bag.

More overt examples are the endless conservative pronouncements of "family values". For instance, a self-proclaimed "Christian" conservative may declare those whose opinions are not in line with his to be "non-Christian" (and, of course, evil and Hell-bound). Those who are not aggressive enough in their persecution of gays are often regarded as closet gays, child molesters or, at the very least, "advancing the Gay Agenda" (whatever that term might mean); in any case, surely not to be allowed near his children. Conservatives regard liberals as lacking in morality as liberals refuse to force others to behave in a Conservative-approved manner.

So, what's the problem? Are conservatives not entitled to their views? Of course they are. It becomes a problem when their views are forced on everyone else as is too often the case. Too many times, when one group

(Continued on page 28)



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Perkins Restaurant and Boogie Nights Disco on-site.

How Much: \$80.00 registration per person

Register: FLoRanGE '03
Barbara Moore, Registrar
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Coral Springs, FL 33065-3224
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(Continued from page 26)

of people deems itself superior to another, the former tends to have little difficulty in abusing the latter (as they are “inferior” anyway). For example, violence toward gays is often found acceptable since their victims are regarded as immoral. Another example is the tendency of many conservatives to blame the victim of a predatory business who just fleeced him. After all, the victim is not really a victim, because he was foolish enough to enter into a “voluntary” transaction with the predator (tantamount to blaming a rape victim for her trauma because she was “voluntarily” wearing a skirt deemed by some as “too short”).

One final note. I have no personal ax to grind with either Senator Lott or the late Senator Thurmond. While I certainly strongly disagree with their views, both men have my respect and admiration for being more forthright in those views than most of their conservative colleagues. What is disquieting to me, however, is the stunning success of both men in their political careers made possible all these years by their respective constituents, who apparently are of a similar mindset. That is what I find scary.

Sources:

Associated Press, June 27, 2003

The “Southern Manifesto”, 102 Cong. Rec. 4515-16 (1956)

Does Trent Lott Speak for the South?, Andrew Beck Grace, AlterNet, (December 11, 2002)



Arachnae's Threads
by
Clara Woodall-Moran
Webmaster

The web is coming along nicely and will be ready very soon. One addition to it will be a repository for all of the documentation on the bylaws, standing rules and guidelines. Over the years some of these documents have gone missing. For a period of time

a few years ago, some of the ExComm members were not aware that the scholarship fund for this group is, in reality, a memorial scholarship.

We have created guidelines that were never actually published. The newsletter format is too small to handle all of this and would be too boring, so we will have the repository. In it will be discussion around bylaws, standing rules and guidelines so the future ExComms will know the what, where, and why of the rules and guides.

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