

*The*

# SCAM

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# SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



Website: [www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org)

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)

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All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be **typed** or **legibly handwritten**. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in **e-mail text** or any of most **word processing** formats. All submissions should be sent to the **Editor**, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

## *Inside the Pocket Protector*

*Mike Moakley, Editor*

**O**ver the past month or so, it seems our newsletter has become the subject of concern to some. The AMC has instituted a new “opt-in” policy whereupon, when you renew your Mensa membership, the default setting on your member profile shows your delivery option is via e-mail. There has been much discussion and hand-wringing on the Editor’s e-mail thread on this topic.

Here at *The SCAM*, however, you will see no change in your newsletter delivery. There are a few reasons why. Some may remember when, a few years ago, I used this column space to protest what I saw as a trend to eliminate hard copy newsletters in favor of electronic delivery only. I had also opined that, once this end goal was accomplished, the Local Group subsidy might then be reduced or eliminated since our biggest normal expense is the printing and mailing of newsletters.

No sooner had that issue gone to press, I promptly received a response from National’s Communications Officer that resembled to me an e-mailed version of a scolding. I could not be more wrong! National was not “pushing” e-mailed newsletters as I had stated. Printed newsletters would always be available, with e-mailed newsletters presented as an option for the convenience of the member. No plans were in place, she continued, to reduce or eliminate the subsidy. Any savings garnered from e-mailing newsletters would be realized by the Local Group, not National. Thus sayeth our Communications Officer.

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**The SCAM sells classified ad space.** SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

**Subscriptions:** SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

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In retrospect, I must admit that none of my dire predictions have yet come to pass. However, what is unsettling is the AMC decision to change that default setting to e-mailed newsletters. One has to ask why. I do.

There is yet another reason I will stick to print issues. Our circulation (about 200) is such that a significantly smaller number of issues would actually increase our mailing costs. Our newsletter goes via bulk mail, which has a minimum in order to take advantage of that rate. The alternative would be to send all remaining issues First Class, a certainly more expensive proposition.

I do realize, however, that there is a growing number among us who would rather view The SCAM on his/her computer rather than hunting down the printed copy. If you are one of that number, you are in luck. For years, SCAM has had its own website: ([scam.us.mensa.org](http://scam.us.mensa.org)). The latest issue of The SCAM is posted on the site well before its issue month. In fact, if you missed an issue, you will find it on our website. Every issue of The SCAM published since I became Editor (November 2003) is right there, awaiting your perusal. There are also many issues from before that date.

Truth is, at this time, we do not need an “e-mail” version.

### **A Mensan in the Workplace?**

**A**re you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of “support” (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

**M**any Americans believe that we live in a democracy. They believe that the electorate can vote out of office a candidate that it wants out. That is not true. According to our Constitution, our form of government is that of a republic. Actually, we are governed by an oligarchy. An oligarchy is “a small group of people who together govern a nation or control an organization, often for their own purposes” (*Encarta World English Dictionary 1998-2004 Microsoft Corporation*). The political oligarchy controls most of our elections. That is why over 90% of incumbents are returned to office.

At our federal level, the oligarchy consists of the members of congress, the courts, and the president and his cabinet and staff including the top officials in every Federal agency. The oligarchy is supported by the political parties, the large corporations, the banks, the lobbyists, and the unions. The same is true at the state level. At the local level, the oligarchy consists of the local governing bodies supported by unions and developers.

The two political parties represent two factions of the same oligarchy. It doesn't matter what the candidate promised during the candidate's campaign. “Campaign promises” are a standard farce. Nor does the candidate's political viewpoint matter. Once in office, the candidate becomes part of the oligarchy and that becomes the office holder's governing philosophy. People in oligarchies move back and forth among government positions, private industry, and financial roles often regardless of party affiliation.

Elections are bought and sold. During each election process, the media is rife with calculations of how much money each candidate is collecting how much each candidate is spending. The reasoning behind this is that the more money spent, the more votes the candidate gets. Thus, the votes are bought regardless of the issues. Spend more money, get more votes. No issues are involved. Someone outside the oligarchy of the two major political parties has little chance of being elected unless he is independently wealthy and is willing to spend the vast amounts of money required, such as Bloomberg in New York and Scott in Florida, to buy his way in. Consider this. Our president is already collecting money for his re-election campaign in 2012.

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Elections are not democratic. National primaries and general elections are often decided before all votes are cast and counted. The most egregious examples of lack of democracy in recent years were that we had three presidents that were not voted into office - Truman after Roosevelt's death, Johnson after Kennedy's assassination, and Ford after Nixon's resignation. They were selected by the president (with the consent of the oligarchy) to be vice-presidents. You had no choice. Some democracy!

We have term limits for our top executive - the president - but not for other federal offices. Have we been harmed in any way by limiting the terms of the president? Then why not for lesser offices. To disrupt oligarchies, all office holders should be limited in their tenure in government offices and agencies and private executive positions.

No person is indispensable.

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### Classified Advertisement

**A**s my hearing worsens, I have more difficulty viewing VHS tapes. Presently I watch them on a VHS player and a projector that gives me a 5-foot image. The combination does not allow me to see Close Captions. From information that I have already received, the only way to view Close Captions is to use a TV set that has a built-in Close Captions program. Contemporary flat-screen TV sets do not come so equipped.

I do have an old cathode ray TV set with a built-in VHS player that can read, decode, and display Close Captions, but it has only a 13" diagonal screen. A Close Caption decoder is very expensive and none on the web state that they can read VHS tapes, only TV programs.

Is it possible to tap the video signal in the TV set before it goes to the screen and supply it to my projector? If not, why not? Is there any other solution?

Arthur Belefant.  
*a.belefant@ieee.org*

**“Hiss,”** crowed Rowan sibilantly, scooping up snake segments. Mama Cat murmured proud approval. Giovanni (*aged 3 months*) chortled enjoyment. “New snake,” I announced, placing an undulating red and purple snake midsection in the middle of the dining table. An hour before, the table had held chicken and salad. Two hours from now, it would be used to sort my S.I.G.H.T. guests’ laundry. Right now, we were living in the moment. And it was the right moment for Rowan (aged 4) to beat us grownups at a game called “Hiss.” (*Purported to teach color identification and visual logic, “Hiss” kept multiple adults and one 4-year old animated past their bedtimes 2 evenings in a row here in Rockledge.*)

Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers (S.I.G.H.T.) is a long-standing Mensa tradition and I am the long-standing S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator for Space Coast Area Mensa (SCAM). The coordinator helps find lodging -- sometimes in the home of a local Mensan --, arranges transportation when necessary, and arranges entertainment when desired for out-of-area Mensans traveling through the local region. Your S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator also helps you liaise with her counterpart(s) in the areas that you intend to visit.

Cat first contacted me from Woodbridge (in Northern Virginia) on July 1st, eager to make a road trip to see the last shuttle launch on July 8<sup>th</sup> but unable to find even a campground to take her and her 2 children at such short notice. Cat had dreamt of involvement with manned space flight since she was Rowan’s age, had worked for the space program in Maryland most of her working life, and had always intended to work her way into manned shuttle support. Now the program was ending and she had yet to be present for even a single launch. Cat was determined to be here in Brevard for the last launch.

Understand, gentle reader, that although the S.I.G.H.T. Coordinator’s job can include helping the Mensa traveler to find lodging, it does not necessarily mean acting as a motel to all Mensa visitors passing through town. In this case, though, I checked around with (multiple) Titusville hosts who would be out-of-state or otherwise unavailable on launch day and finally decided to host these guests myself.

Cat got her children out of the guest bed at 2:30AM on the morning of July 8<sup>th</sup> and trekked to Titusville to snag a good parking place from which to

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**A**s you may have noticed, our editor has been asking, with some regularity, for more contributions from our membership. He got on my case as well, and henceforth I shall try for a column every month. I will also try, though not this month, to produce a brief item as an example of the sort of thing other folks might do better than. You see, you can do better than that.

Now down to business: We have a new ExComm member. Dennis Logan, he of the First Friday event at Hooters, indicated an interest in joining the ExComm and no sooner had we taken note of this than we availed ourselves of Bylaws Article V, section 5, to wit: *"The Executive Committee shall select a replacement for any Executive Committee member who resigns."* Joe Smith, who has been serving since 2003, i.e. most of the 21st Century, had been asking for relief from his duties for several months. Joe, knowing we had a replacement in mind, tendered his resignation and was replaced by Dennis (*see this month's minutes*). This approach to replenishing the ExComm was considered better than running four candidates for five positions and then twisting the arm of a hapless recipient of a write-in vote to take the vacant position. The Bylaws allow two unelected members on the ExComm and a couple more of us are getting weary, so if you want to try your hand at running things, but don't want to actually run in an election, let us know, and you will be considered.

On another tack -- we now have email addresses for half our membership and they have been receiving email reminders of events, one or two a month, and so far have received no complaints. If you have not been getting them it is because your Mensa profile (*at National*) doesn't include it. You could remedy that, or you could just email me (*see inside front cover*). ExComm members will be phoning those with a phone number but not an email address to try and increase our list. Those without either we will have to work on a bit. I am going with the naive assumption that everyone has an email address these days. Come on folks, it's 2011, and being on an email mailing list is about the mildest form of social networking around.

Lastly, as of the end of June about 25 of our originally 230 members had not yet renewed their membership. You should be receiving a complimentary copy of this newsletter this month to remind you of what you are missing out on (LOL). If you receive two copies -- oops.



**R**eality shows came to our living rooms in 1973 with a 12-episode PBS documentary called "An American Family," about the Louds, a California family who opened their lives to television cameras which captured the most intimate details of the family's life, including the parents' divorce proceedings and the New York lifestyle of their gay (!) son. However, reality shows, as we know them today, didn't really take off until the summer of 2000 when British producer Mark Burnett introduced American audiences to *Survivor* (named the Number 1 reality series of all time by Entertainment Weekly in 2009), thus opening the floodgates to the plethora of reality (?) programming now available to us.

I will fess up and admit I am a *Survivor* junkie. I've been watching with rapt fascination from the first episode of the first season (*hated* Richard Hatch) and am still a huge fan. Since confession is good for the soul, I will also own up to watching the following as well: So You Think You Can Dance and Dancing With The Stars, Deadliest Catch, Project Runway (I'm hopelessly in love with Heidi Klum, arguably the most desirable female on the planet), and several of the cooking shows.

But sometimes it's difficult to distinguish between TV reality and real reality:

**The Real Housewives of [fill in place name].** OMFG! Where do they find

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view the 11:26 scheduled last launch of the American manned space shuttle. Although Cat frequently vows "not to use my children's cuteness for evil," she and her kids and her camera pressed close enough to the front of the crowd to capture the photographic images she wanted.

Then fighting the traffic back to my house, a nap, dinner, another evening of "Hiss" and conversation. And so to bed.

Interested in hosting members of your Mensa family? Fill out the Host Registration Form on the next page of this newsletter. Let us know about your S.I.G.H.T adventures!

**W**e voted for it and now we are getting an idea what we voted for. Our new president promised us he was going to fundamentally change the country. He did not say a chicken in every pot or a car in every garage, but we will have them.

We won't get to choose the restrictions to make our food more healthy; they are already happening. Nor will we be able to say what kind of car. General Motors has become Government Motors. The sales of their electric car shows no one wants it, but that is what you will get anyway – and pay extra so your neighbor across town who does not have a job can also have one. Everyone must share the wealth – even if there isn't any.

Everyone must be treated equally.

All kids can go to college whether they have the brains or ability for it or not. No kid will fail. All will get a degree. History is being rewritten. We will no longer study that outdated Constitution. It was written by a bunch of rich slave owners so cross it off. Everyone now is “equal”. All children will be “average”. No person can be “better” than another. Rich is bad; poor and dependent on the government is the way for everyone.

Our president no longer follows the Constitution. Congress has become irrelevant. Like any Emperor he issues edicts called Executive Orders. The most efficient method of producing electricity is now on his list to be banned – COAL. He is the boss and knows more than us little people.

Our new central government (like they had in Russia, but failed) will issue decrees for everything. Maybe they will make the “poor” and “underprivileged” report for work every day like they do in the Philippines. There, if you don't sweep the streets or do some other local job, you don't get the welfare check. Maybe that would not be “fair” or more likely the unions would not allow it.

Our leader has just about stopped all oil drilling – in this country. He did give Brazil 2 Billion dollars to drill for oil and said we could buy it from them. No more drilling in the US where we have more oil than Saudi Arabia. That would drop gas prices about \$2.00 per gallon and create more than a million new jobs. But he knows best.

Everyone is going to be able to have his own house. The president and his friends – Bernanke, Dodd and Frank – have passed new laws that will make that happen. As of this moment there are 4,000,000 (*yes, 4 million*)

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**T**he time for officially recording the myriad of events and charitable acts for which the Space Coast Area Mensa First Friday at Hooter's Special Interest Group are responsible since the group's inception just about a year ago passed about the same time as the deadline for reporting them which I think was about three days ago so I must type quickly.

First, I am thrilled to report we have achieved our goal of doubling the membership during the first year. The two of us have gotten to be pretty good friends, as well. We don't figure there's much point in setting such lofty a goal as last year again this year, but we remain optimistic.

Relative to events, the current thinking of the group is to limit the events to meeting at Melbourne Hooter's on the first Friday of the Month. We figure more than that would be tempting fate and taking unnecessary risks.

The charitable acts, however, cannot be numbered. Unless you accept zero as a number which I understand some people do depending on the application. Perhaps nil better describes the number of the group's charitable actions. That isn't completely true, either. I did get a free beer one night after they served me with a chipped mug. Probably they would have done it even without me placing a large dollop of ketchup on my upper lip and demanding an ambulance and the number for Morgan and Morgan. I suppose that incident might be construed as receiving charity or even extortion more so than bestowing charity. We have given back on many occasions.

For instance, we always tip well and then there was that time we contributed \$50 to participate in a charity event supporting breast cancer. We of the Space Coast Area Mensa First Friday at Hooter's Special Interest Group are vitally concerned about well supported breasts and stopping the

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vacant homes. Why isn't he passing a law giving us a new house?

Gosh, Mr. President, I want to thank you for the "CHANGE". I am looking forward to the new house, healthy food, a new electric car and a college degree for my kid. You have my vote in the next election.

## SCAM Calendar of Events for August 2011

**3rd - Wednesday 6:00 PM**

### EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

**5th - Friday 5:30 PM**

### “HOOT LIKE AN OWL”

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

**27th - Saturday 5:45 PM**

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

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at the Miyako Restaurant, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

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

### **Calendar Updates**

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past news-letter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit [spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://spacecoast.us.mensa.org) and click on “Calendar”. Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or [George3141@cfl.rr.com](mailto:George3141@cfl.rr.com).

### **Your Event Here!**

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

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

### 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*

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

## Membership Notes for August 2011

### WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Pallavi Shankar

### WELCOME TO SCAM

David Wallace

### WELCOME BACK!

Joann Cole Webster

### AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

5th	Michael Lawley	15th	William Lamoureux
11th	Cypryan Klish	22nd	Shirley Jones
12th	Jonathan Kettering	26th	Ronald Wallace
13th	Ronald Gaynor	29th	Sarah Goldstein
13th	Emma Smith		

### MENSA TESTING

**August 20** at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. Testing next month Sept. 17.

**Contact:** Hank Rhodes, [mensatest@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mensatest@cfl.rr.com), for details.

### ***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.**

**F**inally, on July 5<sup>th</sup>, the news came in: Our celebrated bogeyman (in the person of a young girl) was found “not guilty” by the jury. This was so for all charges save for four misdemeanors. Of course, I am referring to the infamous Casey Anthony. As I write this, Casey is spending her final week behind bars. The sad part of this entire affair is that little Caylee is long dead, robbed of a chance to live. We shall never know if Caylee did, indeed, meet her end at the hands of her mother.

In spite of the sad reality, there is reason for celebration as well. Let me state at the outset that I do not know any of the parties involved (nor do I wish to), so I have no emotional investment in this matter. For the most part, I have actively avoided participating in the media frenzy that posed as news coverage. Coverage of this event hardly passes as journalism; if, instead this was intended as entertainment, it does not speak too much in favor of the tastes of the Central Florida public.

The first reason to celebrate is that there is still a shred of due process in our justice system despite its hurtling path toward idiocy. For those among us who seemed to lose our way, “due process” demands more than a mere belief in the innocence or guilt of a defendant. The question is asked of a jury, “Did the state prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed the crime(s) charged?” In Casey’s case, the answer was clearly “no”. Did Casey actually do it? We shall never know.

Due process is not perfect, and is certainly subject to error. Any human method of judgment is. The two main risks of error are: “*Did we convict an innocent person?*” or “*Did we let a guilty person off?*” While each error has its own serious consequences, our forefathers wisely decided that the latter error is preferable to the former.

The second reason to celebrate is that the verdict is a complete repudiation of the mass media’s attempt to subvert the justice system by injecting opinion as fact and by ensuring facts not admissible in evidence for its prejudicial effect would be made available to the public (and potential jurors) and thus sway their opinions (and possibly the verdict). I am both shocked and pleased that, despite the media’s valiant attempts, this ultimately did not occur.

The third reason (or perhaps, Reason 2-A) for celebration was manifested by the Wednesday morning airing of ABC’s Good Morning America, where a reporter (*one of many, I presume*) angrily reacted to the verdict and made known her opinion that Casey was guilty and the trial was a miscar-

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riage of justice. I always love it when a cheater gets frustrated by the lack of success in his efforts.

Even so, there is cause for concern. The Casey Anthony trial was, perhaps, the most watched trial in recent history. We have certainly picked up many new armchair lawyers. The night before the verdict was announced, a poll conducted by ABC showed 79 percent believed Casey would be found guilty while those holding the opposite opinion was somewhere in the single digits. Certainly the great majority of the viewers believed Casey should have been convicted and are none too pleased with the verdict. In fact, there is reason for concern that once Casey leaves the confines of her prison, will some sniper impose upon her the death penalty so many feel she richly deserves?

For those who do believe a miscarriage of justice occurred on July 5<sup>th</sup>, I have a proposal. Let's have every Red-blooded American adult, just once in his or her life, be accused of a felony, preferably one that elicits highly emotional reactions from the public. Whether or not you actually committed the crime would be inconsequential. Would you be willing to face such a justice system, especially if it was run as you believe it ought to be? Let's hear from you. I'd surely like to know...

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***My Summer Vacation:***

***(UN)REALITY TV***

***Continued***

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these incredibly rich, incredibly plastified, and incredibly shallow women? As if deciding on the pattern for the doily under the toothbrush holder was the most earth-shattering decision affecting the human race! My lovely, intelligent wife of 34 years sometimes has one of these episodes running as I'm passing through the living room and in the brief seconds that I'm exposed to the banal chatter of these augmented viragoes, I have difficulty believing that they are actual human beings and not characters in a soap opera. Speaking of which, the popular, long running (1987) soap, *The Bold and The Beautiful* ("*The saga of the rich Forresters and the poor Logans told against the backdrop of the fashion world in Los Angeles*"), has a plot line summarized as "Death, divorce, alcoholism, duplicity, betrayal and adultery are the everyday concerns, while murder, attempted murder, rape, and impersonations are the bizarre shocks that happen with dreadful regularity." Makes it kinda tough to distinguish between The Real... and The Bold...

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**Bachelor/Bachelorette** [*Who Wants to Marry...*, *et al*]. As if, after groping a few members of the opposite sex for a number of weeks, one is going to select one's star-crossed love, helpmate, and life partner from the proffered assemblage of losers who couldn't get a date the old-fashioned way. If my research is accurate, of the combined 21 seasons of Bachelor/Bachelorette matchmaking, exactly **one** couple ended up together. The remaining 20 mostly lasted barely longer than the final episode of the season. I suspect that the old 1960's and 70's *Dating Game* had a higher success rate, to say nothing of being cheaper to produce, more immediate to achieve results, and spawning a fair number of celebrities, including: Farrah Fawcett, Suzanne Somers, Lindsay Wagner, Tom Selleck, Lee Majors, Andy Kaufman, Steve Martin, Burt Reynolds, John Ritter, Phil Hartman, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

And then we begin to branch into the realm of the bizarre (*these are/were actual shows, folks*)...

**Who's Your Daddy?** - tasked a woman who was adopted to pick her biological father out of a crowd of potential daddies.

**Transamerican Love Story** - a dating show, but she's not quite a she.

**Dance Your Ass Off** - a combination dance/weight loss competition.

**America's Worst Driver** – self-explanatory.

**Blush: The Search For the Next Great Makeup Artist** – as if anybody cares?

**Bridalplasty** - 12 women compete to win a dream wedding *and plastic surgery procedures (!)*.

**Celebrity Rehab** - chronicled a group of celebrities as they were treated for alcohol and drug addiction.

**Cheaters** - hidden camera series that documents people suspected of cheating on their partners.

I was sorely disappointed that my favorite show never made it to the air. I'm sure **America's Rudest Assistant Pharmacist** would have been hugely successful.

*The George*



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senseless loss of breasts to cancer.

The honest truth is whatever the cause may or may not have been, the donation included front row seats to the East Central Florida Hooter's Bikini Contest, ten wings, and two drinks of your choice. I decided the group must support our host venue and this most noble of causes. I didn't find out about the included wings and drinks until the night of the event, having forced \$50 upon my server immediately upon hearing the words, "Do you want to come to the Hooter's Bikini Contest tomorrow? VIP seats are \$50." The fact that my wife had traveled to Las Vegas with her mother leaving me with no adult supervision other than my easily and affordably bribed daughter made the decision to contribute and support the event much easier. The expression "It is easier to ask forgiveness than to ask permission" holds a lot of truth. You always want to hold out for that "And it is altogether better if they never find out" corollary but you must be prepared for begging forgiveness.

None of that mattered the night of the bikini contest because the begging and/or denying wouldn't need to take place for several days, if ever. Arriving a fashionably half hour early for the outdoor event I found that my fondest desire had been fulfilled. It is sad that my fondest desire at the time was rain for my poor thirsty lawn. The manager insisted the festivities would not be canceled, only delayed a short time and the bar would remain open come heck or high water. Honestly, if you have to be stuck someplace you can do a lot worse than the Melbourne Hooter's.

Some two hours late the contest began. The first competition was club wear. Apparently, that means really skimpy dresses. The Master of Ceremonies introduced each of the ladies as they took their sultry (it was a warm night) walks around the stage. One had previously been featured in a Hooter's calendar. Another majored in physics at FIT. My proximity to the stage allowed me to ask one of the competitors which club it was to which she would in fact wear such club attire. She told me not to worry about it, they'd never let me in.

Much anticipation surrounded the next event, the swimsuit competition. Probably because very little surrounded the contestants. My notes are really sketchy after the beginning of the swimsuit competition. I remember

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**Officer Reports:**

**LocSec:** George reported that Joe Smith had submitted his resignation from the ExComm due to the press of family and business matters.

**Treasurer:** Bud has requested that the audit be put off until after the August meeting. That was acceptable to all.

**Testing:** Hank Rhodes (proctor coordinator) reported via email that no one was tested in June. Four candidates were contacted for the first time, and six for the 2nd or 3rd time. A test is scheduled for July 16 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. He also reported that the Testing Coordinator of West Palm Beach Mensa had requested our assistance in training their proctor candidates. Hank is agreeable to doing so, but advised her of the frequency of no shows at our scheduled test sessions.

**New Business:** George moved and Terry seconded that we accept Joe Smith's resignation. Carried unanimously. Terry moved and George seconded that Dennis Logan be appointed as Joe Smith's replacement, as authorized by Article V, Section 5 of the Bylaws. Accepted unanimously. Bud Long subsequently agreed via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20. The next meeting will be at Karen Freiberg's house at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL, 32955, on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 at 6:00 pm. It will be followed, hopefully, by an Audit committee meeting.

**Addendum:** Bylaws Items:

**Article V: Executive Committee**

5. The Executive Committee shall select a replacement for any Executive Committee member who resigns, who is removed or who is unable to serve, with the exception of the Local Secretary. A majority of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum. No more than one-half (1/2) of the voting positions on the governing body may be appointed positions.

**Article IX: Parliamentary Authority**

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, edition as specified in the Standing Rules of SCAM, shall govern SCAM in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws *and any special rules of order that SCAM may adopt.*

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I look forward to seeing more of you as I continue to visit local groups; I will be at the Tampa annual summer event the first weekend in August and will be at Jacksonville's monthly potluck in September.

*Mel Dahl*

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the winners were particularly attractive young ladies. I seem to recall the others as being pretty darned attractive young ladies, too. In the end, it's all about the charity. It's all about the breasts and the cancer thing. And that's why we do so love our Space Coast Area Mensa First Friday at Hooter's Special Interest Group.

Future expectations for the group defy description. I don't know why I said that, they can be easily summed up in four words, "more of the same". Hey, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. I explicitly remember engaging in a very deep conversation with my fellow SIG member at the last meeting. I don't remember what the topic might have been but I do remember the discussion surprisingly being worthy of Mensans and it didn't take us long to tire of it.

Everyone is of course welcome and encouraged to join us. It is really a lot of fun. Sometimes the servers bang wooden plates together and sing happy birthday. Other times they just drop by and make sure we're doing well. You needn't worry that the servers might be intimidated by the Mensa stigma. First, they don't know what it is and second they sure don't believe we belong to it if it is as we explained. We have fun. Come on down.

So until next time I would like to share with you the parting words my Hindu psychiatrist always leaves me with, "I'll pray for you."

**O**ne of the few programs left on television that I find worth watching is HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*. A recent show featured conservative pundit Ann Coulter as part of the evening's panel. One topic that was discussed was an apparent psychological profile of Maher engaged by a Dr. Ablow on a Fox TV program. Apparently, Ablow found Maher to be a misogynist. Maher turned to Coulter and asked how he could possibly be characterized as a misogynist. In what way, Maher asked, is this even possible?

Bill Maher asked for an example. Coulter responded it was the way he characterized two female Republican political figures, Michelle Bachmann and Sarah Palin, citing how Maher often refers to them as being "insane". Maher responded that is because they are both insane, it just happened both are also women. "See, you do hate women!" "No, I hate idiots!" I found this rather odd as Ann Coulter's politics do not square with my understanding of the politics of feminism.

Well, there you have it. A question that readily comes to mind is this: Can a man ever criticize a woman without being labeled a "sexist"? Many women, mostly conservatives, would answer that question, "No". I believe the opposite is true. First of all, who is a sexist? To me, the term means a person who believes in the superiority of his or her own sex to the other.

Consider the following two remarks: "Mary sure is ignorant!" and "Mary is ignorant, but what would you expect from a woman?" Both, obviously, are negative remarks directed at Mary. But, in the first remark, can one really infer that the speaker considers Mary ignorant because she is a woman? I don't think so. If one were to suspect sexism, one might do well

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## A Mensan in the family?

**A**re you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

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to ask, "Why do you say Mary is ignorant?" The answer to that question, if it's something like, "Because she is a woman," would certainly support an accusation of sexism. But suppose, instead he responds, "Because Mary said that all blue-collar workers are stupid"? Would that indicate sexism?

I find the worst examples of sexism in today's culture are directed at us men. It seems any man who does not worship a woman as some sort of a goddess might be cast off as a "woman-hater". In most relationships that I am familiar with, it seems the woman wants the man to share in the various domestic duties, whether it is housework or helping care for their child. Since, in most cases, both work outside the home, this arrangement does seem fair.

Yet, if one digs a little deeper, one will inevitably find that while she expects her man to share the responsibilities, these responsibilities are required to be carried out strictly in accordance with her decisions on how these things should be accomplished. She may or may not have bothered to tell him what her plans and expectations were. But we won't get it anyway, as we are simply "typical men", who never listen.

Then there are those foolish souls who might discuss politics with one of these women. In such an encounter, it is not too surprising to hear her say words to the effect, "The reason why the world is such a mess is because men are in charge." In a few such occasions, I actually had the audacity of suggesting that we put a woman in charge. I would ask such a woman, would you elect a woman as our next President? "Not a chance," or some variation thereof has, to this point, been the typical response of the women I have asked.

Does sexism exist? You bet it does.



**I**t was nice to see so many of you at the AG, and I hope that you have all made plans to attend next year's in Reno. I was in meetings for much of the AG but I did get to spend some time in hospitality and attending a few programs, so I enjoyed myself.

Two Florida local groups received recognition at the Awards Luncheon: Northwest Florida received an award for best Web site for a small group, and Micki Kaplan of Central Florida Mensa received an award for "AtomArt-Life," an original piece of artwork she did for the July 2010 Flame. Congratulations to both of them. And congratulations to the other Region 10 nominees; that you weren't selected for an award is a testament to how many superb contestants there were from all over the country and nothing to be ashamed of. As always, I was hugely impressed with the talent we displayed here in Region 10.

The new AMC met at the AG, and it was a fairly quiet, getting-to-know-you meeting. Our new treasurer, Nick Sanford, gave us a report on our investments and will be making some recommendations; Mensa is on solid ground financially with about \$3 million in assets. We confirmed West Palm Beach Mensan Brian Reeves as national communications officer, which means Florida now has three votes (out of 21) on the AMC. Personally, I'd like Florida to have about a dozen votes on the AMC but three is a good start. We're going to have a two-day planning meeting in Texas in September, which will be when we get down to work in earnest.

As most of you know, there was a bit of confusion around the recent election, so I wanted to tell you all what happened. We use an outside vendor to count our ballots and certify election results. A vendor clerk did not enter part of the computer algorithm, which caused the ballots to be miscounted in two races, the race for First Vice Chair and the race for Treasurer. Unfortunately, we had announced the results before the error was brought to light and the candidates had been misinformed as to who had won.

Once the vendor realized the error the ballots were re-counted, the correct results were certified, and the true winners were notified of their election. Our Election Committee under Maggie Truelove did a superlative job under difficult circumstances not of their making; the fault was entirely with the outside vendor. This must have been especially difficult for the two candidates who had erroneously been told they won, only to find that they had lost after all. I don't know that we will be using the same vendor for our future elections.

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**Minutes of the June ExComm Meeting.**

**The pre-meeting:** In an attempt to better describe how the ExComm conducts its business, it was suggested by George that we cover in the minutes any significant discussion the members had before the meeting. There was general agreement to this. It was noted that in the past there had been some discussion as to whether the Florida Sunshine Laws applied to how we conducted our business and we agreed that unless someone raised the point and argued persuasively, we would ignore the Laws (whatever they might be.) We discussed a not very recent complaint that we did not follow Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) in our meetings. We felt that we could suspend RRO if we so desired (RRO, section 25.) Further, reviewing our Bylaw regarding RRO we felt it strongly suggested we could adopt any rules we chose (see Addendum.) Comments from anyone interested would be appreciated.

We discussed the newsletter. We, the ExComm, need to make more contributions and we need to find ways to persuade members to contribute as well. We (personal preferences) would like the graphic calendar reinstated but were not prepared to force it on our editor. If we ever get our survey done we will find out how the membership feels. Perhaps a single page, rather than a full center spread. We would encourage him to get back to 20 or 24 pages.

We expressed some concern that National was recruiting people to volunteer to receive electronic versions of newsletters rather than print. If the number of members receiving mailed copies drops below 200 we can't use bulk mail. George will look into it.

In a continuing effort to improve communications with the membership, the ExComm will be calling members whose email address is not in their Mensa profile to see if we can pry them loose. Those without phone or email info will be a problem.

**The Business Meeting:**

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg on Wednesday, July 6, 2011. Called to order at 7:00 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

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

**Welcome Guest:** Dennis Logan.

Minutes for the June 8, 2011 meeting were approved as published in the July 2011 SCAM.

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