

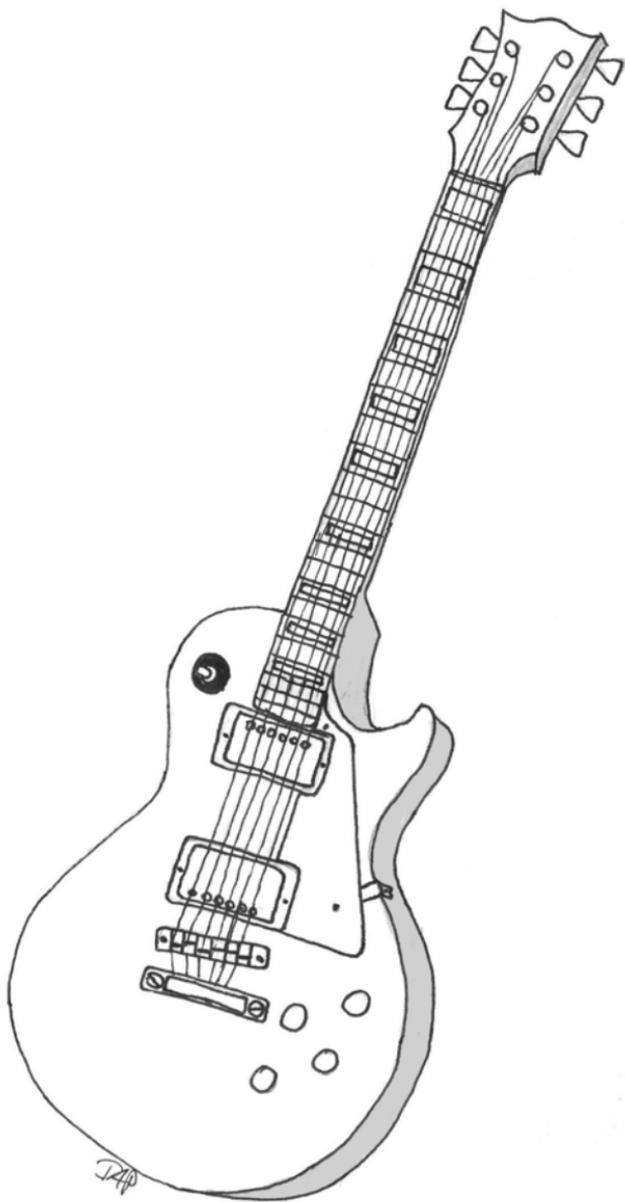
*The*

**S**  
page

**C**  
oast

**A**  
rea

**M**  
ensa



*The*  
**SCAM**  
page coast reg mensa

*Newsletter*

**Editor** J.T. Moran  
**Assembly/Circulation**  
Wynn Rostek  
**Events Coordinator/Gofer**  
Jon Warner  
**Guest Cover Artist**  
Doug Paul

**Profreeder**  
Helen Lee Moore

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: **P. O. Box 457, Sharpes FL 32959**, or submit via e-mail to: **morwood@brevard.net**

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

*Happy September Birthday*

02-George Patterson  
03-Linda Hanley  
07-Leah Simpson  
08-Michael Fugate  
12-Robert Allen  
18-Donald Sammis  
19-Ralph McKee  
20-Ray Paul  
22-Paul Siefert



*Welcome to Mensa & SCAM*

Mark Murphy - Melbourne  
Jane Saubert - Vero Beach  
Dianne Shelton - Melbourne Beach

*Welcome to SCAM*

William Lamoureux - Vero Beach  
Richard Ward - Sebastian



**On the  
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran  
SCAM Editor**

One of the nice things about being Editor is that you get to see what kind of newsletter other groups around the country are putting out. This is through the corporate subscriptions (editors get to choose a number of other newsletters to receive). But at this time of year it gets better: it is the time for the general mailing, whereby groups have the option of sending their newsletter to ALL the US groups and get reimbursed. I opted to send out 110 more copies than usual of the August issue. With this exchange you get a taste of what the competition will look like for the next Publications Awards.

For various reasons (all valid, in my opinion) the SCAM has not been entered in the National awards competition for a number of years. However, I feel that our time is due. Having received numerous issues already from other groups, I feel confident that we will be a strong contender. Many of the newsletters I have read have only one or two regular, monthly contributors. Some do not have any! However, we have been blessed with regular monthly columnists for as long as I have been a member. Our current lineup of Art Belefant, Bob Tuck, and myself have been running for years. Mine is the junior member of the trio, and it has run monthly since January of 1993! These do not fall into the “hack” category by any standard. We also have been lucky enough to have Wynn Rostek’s monthly circulation column that is consistently one of the funniest things I see in any newsletter. Add in the puzzlers by Doug and Ellen Paul, as well as the frequent submissions from the readership, and you have what most Mensa Editors would call an embarrassment of riches.

The monthly exhibitions of excellent esoterica on Bob’s part, as well as the well-done servings of culinary creativity dished out by Art, are deserving of National recognition. Add in the pithy political commentary by yours truly, and then spice it up with the unbelievably accurate observations of Wynn, and you have a newsletter that is a full meal for the mind. Then, top it off with Doug and Ellen’s enigmatic exercises, and you wind up with a mental meal fit for a king.



So this year, let’s see if the palates of the Awards Committee will be able to savor the subtle nuances of its contributors and render the recognition that the SCAM has deserved for so long.



**Doug in  
Deep(er)**



**Douglas  
Paul,  
LocSec**

# Wow!

The Astronaut Memorial Planetarium folks have done it again – 83 uninterrupted minutes of Pink Floyd’s “The Wall,” done to a professional turn rivaling shows I have seen in Orlando, Louisville and New York. A few SCAMsters decided to check out the show (at Brevard Community College’s Cocoa Campus) on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and came out of the show totally blown away by the incredible visual effects, as well as the music – not all of us have a multi-speaker stereo system that vibrates your vital organs! I really recommend that you go see the show before it finishes its run - you can get all the latest information on the planetarium shows by going to :

<http://www.brevard.cc.fl.us/~planet/>

on the world wide web. When you go, make sure to look for a special visual appearance in the show by a SCAMster who spends a lot of time tucked away in his office at the planetarium.

In other news, SIGHT has a new honcho, Tanya Hsu of Atlanta. For those of you who don’t remember, SIGHT stands for Service, Information, Guidance and Hospitality for Travelers. It provides traveling Mensans with info about their destination, as well as lodging and transportation with Mensans in that area. Since I’m the SIGHT Coordinator for SCAM, she and I have been chatting via email recently and have discussed our “mission” at length. I’m certain the SIGHT program will continue to be a valued part of Mensa’s member-oriented programs while Tanya is at the helm. A big thanks to Dr. Jean Becker, who ran SIGHT these past years, and is now headed to other projects within Mensa. Remember, if you’re traveling to other parts of the country or world, and want to meet other Mensans in that area, call me and I can give you a SIGHT contact in that area.



**We’ve Got...**



**The  
Answers!**

*Doug’s Doozies*

1. A – Chaska, MN
2. B – Chicago IL
3. C – Cleveland, OH
4. D – Columbus, OH
5. E – Cincinnati, OH

*Ellen’s Enigmas*

- 1) JFK (1991)
- 2) Sergeant Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band (1978)
- 3) In And Out (1997)
- 4) Phenomenon (1997)
- 5) Dead Poets’ Society (1989)

## ***Minutes of the ExComm Meeting***



***Fran  
Hinson,  
RecSec***  
(bhinson01@  
earthlink.net)

The ExComm met on 07 August 1999 at the home of J. T. Moran and Clara Woodall-Moran in Port St. John. The meeting was called to order at 14:10.

Members present were Doug Paul, Clara Woodall-Moran, Ray Paul, Bob Tuck and Fran Hinson.

Guests in attendance were Ellen Paul, Jon Warner, and J. T. Moran.

### ***Correspondence***

None

**Moved** Bob, **Second** Clara to approve the Minutes of the July meeting as published. **Passed** unanimously.

### ***Officer Reports***

**LocSec:** No report

**Asst. LocSec:** No report

**Treasurer:** Ray distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report and Monthly Account Summary as of 31 July 1999.

**RecSec:** No report

**Member-at-Large:** No report

### ***Committee Reports***

**Bylaws:** No report

**Editor:** J. T. reported that the reimbursement form for the general mailing went out on 26 July.

**Membership:** Jon reported that, as of 30 June, SCAM has 199 members.

**Publicity:** Bob sent out PSAs and media advisories for the upcoming testing.

**RG:** Members of the committee chose Ellen chairperson. They have received a proposal from the hotel, which Barbara Peer is negotiating. Fran **moved** to appoint Kathy Hornak to the committee. Bob **seconded** and the motion **passed** unanimously.

**Scholarship:** Ellen reported that she sent out 40+ applications for the SCAM Scholarship. Twenty were returned. Eleven were disqualified. Based on Ellen's recommendation, Clara **moved** to award the Scholarship to Ms. Evelyn Miracle, Ray **seconded** and the motion **passed** with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

**SIGHT:** Doug reported that the new National SIGHT coordinator is Tanya Hsu.

**SIGs:** No report

**Testing:** Jon reported that the next test session is to be held on 11 September.

**Ways & Means:** No report

**Webmaster:** Doug reported that the web page is up and running.

### *Unfinished Business*

J. T. received the draft of the SCAM Membership Directory from the Trotters. He has to do some editing before the draft is ready for final approval by the ExComm. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Bob **moved** to adopt the Webmaster Guidelines drafted by Jon as policy. The motion was **seconded** by Clara and **passed** with 4 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

### *New Business*

There were no new items presented.

### *Open Forum*

Jon received email from National stating that they are putting together a promotional package that includes an 8-1/2 x 11 poster for National Testing Day in November.

### *Announcements*

Members are urged to attend the Pink Floyd show at the Planetarium and cheer on our own Bob Tuck, who has a cameo appearance.

### *Next Meeting*

The next meeting of the ExComm will be at 16:00 on Saturday, 11 September 1999 at the home of Wynn Rostek and Terry Valek in Titusville.

Ray **moved** to adjourn. Doug **seconded**. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 14:47.



---

**Broward Mensa's RG - Florange 99!**  
**October 15 thru 17 on Hollywood Beach, FL**  
**For Info contact Dan and Robin Rhea at**  
***florange99@mindspring.com***



***A Cat-Tale Rede:  
The Assistant  
Speaks***



***Clara Woodall-  
Moran***  
(*cew@palmnet.net*)

We have been getting some new events on the calendar. The contra dancing and the camping at the local parks are two of them. These events and the hosts of these events need the support of the locals to make them into continuing type affairs, such as Firearms&Fried Rice and SNORT have been.

Mentioning SNORT reminds me that we presented our scholarship at the August SNORT. This is always a fine time to join the group at the sushi restaurant in Melbourne to watch us do something nice for the community.

Jon Warner has designed some flyers regarding testing sessions that can be posted at various places such as schools, libraries and bulletin boards at work sites (Harris, Northrup-Grumman, etc.). If you would like to post some just ask Jon and he will provide you with the signs.

National Testing day is coming up in November. If all goes according to plan we will get to host ours at the Planetarium at BCC. The plans will be similar to the last National Testing Day. We will provide food and the museum and light show will be available. Members are invited to join in the fun.

If all does not go as planned for the Testing Day, we will probably have to resort to a library conference room. While we can provide food at the library, we probably will not have as much in the way of entertainment (or rather we will have to think up something such as showing clips from the RG tapes, etc.). I can always show my slides from the photography class I took. Regardless of the place the test is held, encourage others to come and take the test. The total membership for the group is inching its way back up to the 200 mark.

Mentioning membership reminds me that we are looking for a MEMBERSHIP chairperson. Jon is also the Testing Chairperson and Calendar coordinator. We are looking for a person or persons to assume those roles. Mr. Warner is choosing to not re-enlist when his millennium membership expires and it will take an exceptional effort to fill the void his departure will leave.



**Don't forget, we are hosting a Regional Gathering in October of 2000.** We will look for you there. Watch these pages for new information and the registration forms. We are expecting a really spectacular event for this one.



**Bob-at-Large:**



**Seeing Far,  
Far-seeing, or  
Who's myopic  
here?**

**Bob Tuck,  
Member-at-  
Large  
©1999**

A while ago, I explored evidence of some surprisingly antique origins, or at least roots, for modern technological devices. Ancestral fax machines, cameras, projectors, electric batteries, and computers (well, calculators), for example, have been around decades, centuries, or even millennia, but practical applications awaited technical developments and improved handling of materials. Recently, an Italian scientist, Professor Giovanni Pettinato of the University of Rome, raised questions regarding the antiquity of the telescope.

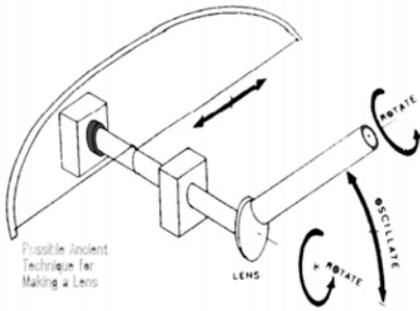
According to the professor, a rock crystal lens, currently exhibited in the British museum, could rewrite the history of science. Pettinato believes it could explain how the ancient Assyrians knew so much about astronomy.

The archaeologist Sir Austen Henry Layard discovered the object, known as the Nimrud lens, in 1850, during a series of excavations at the palace of Nimrud in what is now Iraq. Of the many treasures he submitted to the British Museum, one particularly intrigued him. It was a small, oval piece polished rock crystal (a naturally occurring, clear, colorless form of quartz, SiO<sub>2</sub>), about one-quarter inch thick, in the shape a lens with one flat surface and one convex. He had found it among a collection of glassware from the ninth to seventh century B.C.

When Layard returned to England, he showed the object to physicist Sir David Brewster, a well-known physicist-specialist in optics, who, in 1816, had discovered the phenomenon of stress birefringence. Sir David decided the mysterious object could have been used "either for magnifying or for concentrating the rays of the sun." He noted the lens imperfectly works as a burning glass. Hence, the reasoning went, its most likely purpose was magnification.

Here's an early account from the *American Journal of Science* in 1853 (2:15:122-123). "On a rock-crystal lens and decomposed glass found in Nineveh: Sir David [Brewster] said that he had to bring before the Section an object of so incredible a nature that only the strongest evidence could render the statement at all probable: it was no less than the finding of a rock-crystal lens, in the treasure-house at Nineveh, where it had for centuries lain entombed in the ruins of that once magnificent city. It was found in company with several bronzes and other objects of value. He had examined the lens with the greatest care and taken its several measurements. It was not entirely circular in its aperture, being 1-6/10ths inches in its longer diameter and 1-4/10ths inches in its shorter. Its general form was that of a plano-concave lens, the plane side having

been formed of one of the original faces of the six-sided crystal of quartz, as he had ascertained by its action on polarized light: this was badly polished and scratched. The convex face of the lens had not been ground in a dish-shaped tool in the manner in which lenses are now formed, but was shaped on a lapidary's wheel, or in some such manner. Hence it was unequally thick, but its extreme thickness was  $\frac{2}{10}$ ths of an inch, its focal length being 4-1/2 inches. It had twelve remains of cavities which had originally contained liquids or condensed gases; but ten of those had been opened probably in the rough handling which it received in the act of being ground; most of them therefore had discharged their gaseous contents. Sir David concluded by assigning reasons why



this could not be looked on as an ornament, but as a true optical lens.”

Today, Assyrian archaeological experts remain unconvinced. The object in question has been a source of speculation for nearly 150 years. The object, whatever it is, dates to 721-705 B.C., and was long thought to be the first example of a plano-convex lens. Later studies, according to some accounts, showed that its curved surface is actually faceted, not rounded, as one would have done to make a lens. Cloudy striae within the stone add an aesthetic quality, but make it a poor magnifier. Many experts argue that this stone was actually merely an ornament that fell away from its mounting.

Professor Pettinato seems to be replotting old ground. Still, the Nimrud “lens” isn’t alone. In the century and a half since Layard’s discovery, other rock crystal lenses have turned up in archaeological excavations throughout the Mediterranean and Near East. Two were found at Gordion, the ancient capital of King Midas, in central Turkey. Twenty-three lenses of optical quality are on display at the Heraklion Museum of ancient Cretan civilization. As many as fifty were reported as having been found in the excavations of Troy, though only a handful have been properly published. The rock crystal lenses from these sites belong to a huge period of time, spanning the late third millennium to the second century A.D., when the Roman Empire was in decline. Some of them are said to have impressive magnifying powers. According to sources, one lens, probably of the fifth century B.C., found in the sacred cave on Mount Ida in Crete, can magnify with perfect clarity up to seven times. If you hold it farther away from the object viewed, it will actually magnify up to twenty times, though with considerable distortion.

In the September 13, 1930, issue of *Nature* (126:445), an anonymous

source relates that the July 1930 issue of the *British Journal of Physiological Optics* contains a communication from Mr. H. L. Taylor on "The Origin and Development of Lenses in Ancient Times", which ascribes the development of the lens to the Cretans of 1800 B.C. Taylor's examination of the contents of museums of the eastern Mediterranean led him to conclude "that ivory and steatite, the materials used for beads prior to 2000 B.C., were replaced at a later period by rock crystal, onyx, agate, and cornelian. The discovery of the magnification produced by a bead of rock crystal, led to the production of lens-shaped beads, and eventually of lenses such as those of the 'royal gaming board' found in the palace at Cnossus and to the perfect lenses, found also at Cnossus and at Mount Ida, now In the museum at Candia. They are all plano-convex with powers between 5 and 8 diopters. The Phoenicians appear to have carried such lenses to the mainland, to Troy, Tyre, Nineveh, and Britain. At Carthage five glass lenses have been unearthed at the ancient necropolis, two of them, of power 5.5 diopters, in the sarcophagus of a prominent individual, who it is presumed suffered from presbyopia and wished to protect himself against this disability in his next existence."

The lens Layard found is extremely feeble. It enlarges things by 0.5 times and is just strong enough to "demonstrate magnification." Still, this was sufficient to start a controversy that has been simmering for well over a century. Though a mass of archaeological evidence suggests the ancients could manufacture perfectly good magnifying glasses, there have always been skeptics. Despite the fact that such lenses work as magnifying glasses, and although there was a clear need for such instruments in the manufacture of minutely decorated seals and gemstones, some scholars have gone to extraordinary lengths to explain away the archaeological evidence.

Ornaments or jewelry have frequently been suggested as the "real" function of ancient lenses. In 1984 Professor Cyril Smith, a noted metallurgist and historian of science at MIT, went as far as dismissing all the excavated examples as "mere baubles." Three years previously Leonard Gorelick and John Gwinnett, medical scientists at the State University of New York (Stony Brook), had advanced the hypothesis that there was no need for magnifying glasses in the ancient world. When they hold small objects near their eyes, people with myopia (nearsightedness) (guilty!) can see them much more clearly than normal-sighted people. Gwinnett and Gorelick argue that the miniature work of the ancient world was done by myopic craftsmen. As a tendency toward myopia is inherited, they feel that countless generations of interbreeding between craftsmen would have increased



this tendency.

Many ancient craftsmen employed in close work were probably myopic. This would only be natural. It does not mean that they would have had no use for magnifying glasses.

Not that glass or rock crystal would be required. R. A. S. Paget wrote in the September 1, 1923, issue of *Nature* (112;326): "If a wire of 1/2 to 3/4 mm. diameter be bent into a closed circular loop of about 8 mm. diameter and dipped in water, or a transparent oil such as castor oil, a stable liquid film can be readily obtained covering the loop. A thin dished metal disc with a circular hole in the centre is a convenient alternative to the wire loop. Liquid can be easily added or removed without breaking the film, so as to vary the curvature of the liquid lens so formed. Such a lens, though far from perfect, may be made to give a magnifying power of nearly 5 over a small field. It is conceivable that some of the very fine work done in Egypt, long before the invention of 'optical' glass may have been made possible by the use of a liquid lens of this kind. The phenomenon might easily have been accidentally observed, for even a drop of water lying on a greasy surface gives a small but appreciable magnification of the surface which it covers. By using a thicker wire (about 2 mm. diameter) and less liquid, a diminishing lens may be made in the same way."

None of this really justifies Pettinato's leap from magnifiers to telescopes, however. Still, it's a pity someone didn't invent the telescope well before the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. Consider the following generally accepted time-line, which relies on written accounts found in several ancient manuscripts that give datable evidence of the state of refraction and optics throughout the ages.

A joke about the use of a "burning glass" shows up in one of the world's earliest comedies, *The Clouds*, by Aristophanes, first performed in Athens in 423 B.C. A character in the play secretly refracts the sun's rays to melt an I.O.U. (written on a wax tablet).

About the same time, the Chinese already knew that concave mirrors could focus the sun's rays to a burning intensity. The scholar Mo Zi and his disciples investigated the properties of such mirrors in the fifth century B.C. They recorded in the early scientific work *Mo Jing* ("Mohist Canon"). The Chinese term for a concave mirror's focus is *zhongsui* ("central fire"). Oddly, there are no authentic ancient references to the use of burning mirrors in the West.

In the first century A.D., Seneca (Lucius Annaeus Seneca, 4 B.C. - A.D. 65) described actual magnification by a globe of water and wrote "Letters, however small and indistinct, are seen enlarged and more clearly through a globe of glass filled with water."



Seneca wasn't a scientist. He thought the wetness of water had something to do with this magnification.

Still, he showed that men of his time understood the principles of curved mirrors. He wrote of a fellow-Roman, Hostius Quadra, whose whim it was to indulge his lusts, natural and otherwise, in a room lined with curved mirrors, so that he could behold his own acts grotesquely magnified. (How Hostius would have reveled in such twentieth century gadgets as Polaroid® cameras, closed-circuit television, and VCRs!) For (or because of) all that, Seneca lamented that "far from advance being made toward the discovery of what the older generations left insufficiently investigated, many of their discoveries are being lost."



Photo: The Elder

There is also a statement by Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus, A.D. 23-79) that Nero (Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, A.D. 37 -68) watched the Roman Games through a precious stone called "smaragdus," most probably an emerald. This appears to be the first description of using a monocle for correcting shortsighted vision. Again, strangely, even though this must have worked quite well, and many people must have read this passage, there is no other evidence of spectacle use for more than twelve centuries.

A single magnifying glass would not help in improving long-distance vision. But two convex lenses together could act as a telescope, and it has been suggested that Nero's visual aid was a precursor of this seventeenth-century discovery -- a concept historians of science generally find hard to swallow. Alternatively, Nero may have used a monocle made of a concave lens. Lenses of this shape are used to correct nearsightedness today. Such lenses were known in the Greco-Roman world -- a number of concave rock-crystal examples were discovered at the Greek Temple of Artemis at Ephesus in western Turkey, and deemed by their excavators to be optical instruments. As a matter of fact, Pliny notes that most smaragdus gemstones are "concave in shape, so that they concentrate the vision," a statement that, in itself, is enough to debunk the notion that the Romans had no knowledge of the optical properties of lenses. Furthermore, Pliny mentions the use of burning lenses to cauterize wounds.



Nero, Roman Emperor, A.D. 54 - 68

Ptolemy (Claudius Ptolemaeus, A.D. 85 -165) described a stick appearing to bend in a pool of water, and he accurately recorded the angles to within a half-degree for this relationship. Then he very accurately calculated the refraction constant of water. He derived the

small angle approximation to Snell's law and concluded that the ratio of the angles of incident and refracted light were constant.

So, perhaps, optical instruments could have been invented in Roman times, if anybody had taken the trouble. No one did, and they were not.

By the first century A.D. literary references to burning lenses begin appearing in Chinese literature. Much later, the Arabian scholar Alhazen, (Abu Ali Hasan Ibn al-Haitham, 962 -1038), wrote the first major optical work *Opticae Thesaurus* and discussed optical principles. His work in optics included research on reflections from spherical and parabolic mirrors, and he disproved Ptolemy's law of refraction. He described the eye's structure and how the eye's lens focuses an image on the retina. Alhazen noted the image-forming part of the eye was "lentil-shaped." So, when his Arabic treatise was translated into Latin around 1246, the very word "lens" came into our language from the Latin term



for "lentil." (A lentil [*Lens culinaris*] is a leguminous plant native to southwest Asia, having flat pods containing lens-shaped, edible seeds; or the round, flattened seed of this plant. Peas and beans also are leguminous plants.)

Roger Bacon (1214 - 1294), born into a wealthy English country family, spent nearly half his life as a humble Franciscan friar. He surely deserves to rank alongside the fifteenth-century genius Leonardo da Vinci as a scientific visionary. In 1267, he wrote definite descriptions of simple magnification in his *Perspectiva*. "Great things can be performed by refracted vision. If the letters of a book, or any minute object, be viewed through a lesser segment of a sphere of glass or crystal, whose plane is laid upon them, they will appear far better and larger." Bacon's studies in optics convinced him that "very large objects can be made to appear very small, and the reverse, and very distant objects will seem very close at hand, and conversely . . . Thus from an incredible distance we might read the smallest letters and number of grains of dust and sand . . . So also we might cause the sun,, moon, and stars in appearance to descend here below."

In essence, he proposed making a telescope three-and-a-half centuries before the device's actual invention! Yet, Bacon never built a telescope, as far as we know, nor did he leave instructions to enable others to build one. His assertions were, at best, perceptive speculations. Alas, like Leonardo's secret studies, they didn't actually advance science.

The foregoing excerpts give us some glimpses of early optical knowledge. It's important to realize that such knowledge likely was confined to the learned scientists and philosophers of the times. Not until the invention of spectacles did optical aids come into common use.

## **September 1999 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. 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.

**3rd**                      **6:30 p.m.**                      **Firearms & Fried Rice**  
**Friday**                      **\$3.00 + Meal Cost**                      **S/NP**

We're shooting our guns and eating Chinese Food. Come join us at The Gun Site Range, 125 S. Banana River Dr., Merritt Island

J.T. Moran

**6th**                      **6:30 p.m.**                      **Monday-Monday**  
**Monday**                      **Meal Cost**                      **SS/NP**

Although it's a Holiday, it's the perfect time to visit our favorite Italian restaurant. Let's meet at Kelsey's in Port St. John for dinner. Ask for the SCAM group.

Wynn Rostek

**8th**                      **7:00 p.m.**                      **C.A.B.A.G.E. South**  
**Wednesday**                      **Free**                      **SS/NP**

Treat yourself! Coffee, games, books, at Books-A-Million, Melbourne.

Doug & Ellen Paul

**10th**                      **Friday**                      **Newsletter & Calendar Deadline**

Call Jon to schedule an event; see page 3 for NL submission information.

**11th**                      **4:00 p.m.**                      **ExComm Meeting**  
**Saturday**                      **Free**                      **SS/NP**

The Executive committee will be meeting this afternoon. Members and interested friends are encouraged to attend.

Doug Paul (LocSec)

Wynn Rostek/Terry Valek (Hosts)

**11th**                      **5:00 p.m.**                      **Pool Party & Games Night**  
**Saturday**                      **\$3.00**                      **SS/P (Cat/Dog)**

Wynn & Terry are having another try at a pool party without it getting rained out. Once more into the breach ... There will be FOOD, so don't fill up before going.

Wynn Rostek/Terry Valek

**12th**                      **8:00 a.m.**                      **Road Cleanup**  
**Sunday**                      **Free**                      **S/NP**

We're going to do it a little different this time. Instead of trying to clean "both" sides of the road at one time, we're going to do the West side (South-bound traffic) first. Then in two weeks (26 Sep) we'll do the other side. We'll start at Peddler's village at 8:00 a.m.

Jon Warner

**13th**                      **7:00 p.m.**                      **C.A.B.A.G.E. North**  
**Monday**                **Free**                                      **SS/NP**

Treat yourself! Coffee, games, books, at Barnes & Noble, Merritt Island.  
Doug & Ellen Paul

**18th**                      **6:30 p.m.**                      **PIG SIG**  
**Saturday**                **Meal Cost**                              **SS/NP**

Ray & Nancy are hosting the PIG SIG at Bellissimo's Italian Family Restaurant at 5250 Babcock Street in Palm Bay. They had great things to say about this place.  
Ray & Nancy Paul

**19th**                      **11:00 a.m.**                      **Brunch with Jim**  
**Sunday**                **Meal Cost**                              **SS/NP**

Jim's going to be continuing the Sunday brunch at The Colossus, 380 N. Wickham Rd., with one little change ... you MUST be seated no later than 11:00 a.m. or you won't sit with us. We can't save any seats for latecomers.  
Jim Trammell

**22nd**                      **7:00 p.m.**                      **C.A.B.A.G.E. South**  
**Wednesday**            **Free**                                      **SS/NP**

Treat yourself! Coffee, books, games, at Barnes & Noble, Melbourne.  
Doug & Ellen Paul

**25th**                      **6:30 p.m.**                      **S.N.O.R.T.**  
**Saturday**                **Meal Cost**                              **SS/NP**

Good food, great friends, interesting conversations - what more could you ask for? Swing by Miyako's at 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (U.S. 1), Melbourne and see what I'm talking about.  
J.T. Moran

**26th**                      **8:00 a.m.**                      **Road Cleanup**  
**Sunday**                **Free**                                      **S/NP**

Today, we're going to clean the East (North-bound traffic) side of U.S. 1. We'll start at Peddler's Village at 8:00 a.m. (See the 12th for further explanation).  
Jon Warner

**27th**                      **7:00 p.m.**                      **C.A.B.A.G.E. North**  
**Monday**                **Free**                                      **SS/NP**

Treat yourself! Coffee, games, books, at Books-A-Million, Merritt Island.  
Doug & Ellen Paul

That's another story.

Meanwhile, Seneca's two-thousand-year-old musings still ring true: "The day will yet come when the progress of research through long ages will reveal to sight the mysteries of nature that are now wholly concealed. A single lifetime, though it were wholly devoted to the study of the sky, does not suffice for the investigation of problems of such complexity [as those of astronomy]. . . . The day will yet come when posterity will be amazed that we remained ignorant of things that will to them seem so plain."



***Uncle SCAM  
Needs YOU!***



***We're  
looking for a  
few good  
people!***

***by***

***Jon Warner,  
Membership***

**H**ow would you like to take a hand in the everyday operations of SCAM? We need some people to be the new Membership Officer, the new Events Coordinator and some more proctors. Now you're probably asking yourself, "Just what does this involve? How much of my time will this involve? Can I do this"? The answers to these are: (1) A willingness to contact people and be upbeat about Mensa and SCAM. (2) A couple of hours a month (if that). (3) Yes.

The Membership Officer is sometimes the first person to contact a new member or a potential member. You are the point of contact for SCAM and the "information booth" for the group. You send the new member's packets and qualified members packets to potential members every month.

The Events Coordinator tries to get events on the monthly calendar for the rest of us to attend. This job is definitely a "people" job. You call everyone you can think of to get them to volunteer to host an event. Again, it only takes a couple of hours a month, and you know what's going on before anyone else.

To be a proctor is a little more difficult. A college degree is desired (although it's not mandatory), the ability to read and clearly follow instructions, and the ability to read a story out loud in a clear and easily understandable voice. This person is the first person that many potential members meet. You are the representative for SCAM.

If any of these jobs interest you, give me a call at 635-8581 and I'll give you further information on how to get ahead in these exciting new fields.



**Signifying  
Nothing:**

**The List**

**By**

**?**

In 1969 while my friends were still repeating their parents' mantra of "saving yourself for marriage," I was saving my virtue for someone special, someone I loved who loved me back. I was 15; my friends called me a tramp but were intrigued by the idea.

But there was an exception to my not-terribly-lofty standards. Actually it was a list of five exceptions: Given an opportunity, I would gladly jump into the sack with Clint Eastwood or Robert Redford or Paul Newman or Jim Morrison or John Lennon (only the White Album John Lennon; certainly not the Magical Mystery Tour

John Lennon). I understood the mechanics of sex and thought I understood love -- After all, I'd read Jacqueline Suzanne, quoted Rod McKuen poetry, kissed a boy older than me, and had a bright future ahead of me, if only I would start working up to my potential.

As fortune would have it, I grew up. I'd gotten married, and I thought I understood love. After all, I'd read Erica Jong, quoted Maya Angelou poetry, slept with men I'd just met, and been booted out of the university for not working up to all that potential. I had a new list, but none of my original five still made the cut: Sean Connery, Jack Nicholson, Timothy Hutton, Warren Beatty, and Alan Parsons.

Jump forward to 1995. A blushing bride-to-be-for-the-second-time-around, I was having great sex, thought I understood love, and was working at a 100% potential-free dead-end job. I explained there would be five exceptions to the "keeping yourself only unto him" vow I was about to take: Sean Connery, Mel Gibson, Tom Brokaw, Jerry Seinfeld, and Tony Blair (politics notwithstanding). My wonderful soon-to-be-husband understood. "It's Sean Connery, for chrissake."

I discovered my friends had lists, too. Sometimes I am surprised at whom they find attractive, and they return the favor. Said I, "Ewwww, Sylvester Stallone?" Said they, "But Kevin Costner? Yikes." One name is universal, though. We all want Sean Connery.

That some listed are the age of my son and others are old enough to be my father is immaterial. (It's Sean Connery, for chrissake.) John-John Kennedy was on my list until last month. I suppose he still is. Statistically speaking, sleeping with him now isn't actually any less likely than it was in June.

By the time I am 80, I'll have wasted all that potential trying to understand love. But I hope I never stop dreaming about those five lucky guys...



***A View  
from the Right:***

***The Government  
is taxing my  
patience  
(and everything  
else I've got!)***

***by***

***J.T. Moran***

***(buckmaster***

***@juno.com)***

The headline of the July 21st edition of the Orlando Sentinel set my blood to boiling. It stated: "House struggles to put money in your pocket." It went on to describe how the *majority* leaders were attempting to push through a massive tax cut bill that would return to the taxpayers of our country some 792 billion dollars over the course of ten years.

Two things about that headline set me off. The first word was one: "House". A brief perusal of the article showed the lie in that. The only ones pushing for an across the board reduction in the income tax were the Republicans. Other slashes would remove or reduce the marriage penalty, capitol gains taxes, and inheritance (Death) taxes.

Of course, the Democrats immediately called this effort a "tax cut for the rich" (possibly so... if you remember that under their 1992 tax increase the "rich" turned out to be anyone making over \$28,000 a year). The President, and his lapdogs in the media, put out polls that asked if people would rather have a tax cut or put it into social security... never mentioning that the plan called for approximately 1.9 TRILLION dollars to go into the non-existent "trust fund".

The GOP feels that the remaining trillion-plus dollars of tax-overpayment should be returned to the people who paid it in the first place. Us. The taxpayers. The Dems, of course, want to spend it on more "social" programs. Candidate Gore proposes that the taxpayer should get a crumb, rather than a piece of the pie. He states that the GOP plan is "reckless, unaffordable, and *fundamentally unfair*," and that any tax cut must be "fiscally responsible, *fair*, and *targeted to working families*." Targeted, and fair? At the same time? Not by my sense of fairness. The truth is simple: the top 1/3 of all wage earners (those making over \$100,000 a year) pay 62% of all income taxes. So where is the fairness in excluding these taxpayers from their share of the reduction? One of the arguments the liberals use against the cuts is that one segment of the population will not benefit from them. Of course, that segment is those who do not pay income taxes, many of whom receive tax refunds anyway, in the form of the earned income tax credit. And under the proposal WILL get a tax-cut! (as an increase in the credit.)

Another way of looking at the figures and "fairness" is this. An alternate proposal gives a 1% cut to all wage earners. Again it has been decried as a break for the wealthy. And here is why. The individual

who makes about \$35,000 a year, with standard deductions, would receive \$280 more in refunds. But the one who makes a million a year would get almost \$10,000! And that's just plain unfair! ...Or, is it? Because the million-dollar earner will still be PAYING almost \$300,000 in taxes, or over eight times the other persons EARNINGS! So why is it wrong that he get back his fair share? Especially as the tax saving to the lower wage earner is 6.2%, but the big earner gets back only 3.3%



This is the problem of the income tax. The 16th Amendment gave Congress the power to lay and collect taxes from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the States, and without regard to any census or enumeration. This overrode Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution, which provides that

“No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration.” It also, through its avatar, the IRS, diminishes the freedoms guaranteed under at least three of the amendments of the Bill of Rights: due process as provided by the Fifth; the People’s and the States’ rights under the Tenth; and the freedom from involuntary servitude under the Thirteenth. As well, the IRS has been empowered by the Sixteenth to disregard and violate with impunity the Fourth: the right to be secure against unreasonable search and seizure. The IRS has become the closest thing to a gestapo that the US has seen so far. It makes its own rules, enforces them, and prosecutes any perceived violation of them in its own courts.

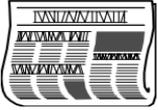
The progressive income tax is the most Marxist, socialistic concept ever foisted upon the people of this country. I thank God that it would require the passing of a state constitutional amendment to implement one. The power to tax *IS* the power to destroy. Once a bureaucracy has a source of income it NEVER wants to let it go. And never lets the income it generates go, either. It simply finds new areas to get it from.

Let’s really get into the spirit of democracy and get rid of the Sixteenth Amendment and the government intrusion it has generated. Do you want fairness? Then replace it with a national Sales tax! EVERYONE will pay that one, even those who make their money in the Underground Economy. But such a tax must NOT be instituted before the repeal of the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Otherwise we will wind up paying both, and I can’t afford that.

Oh, the second thing that ticked me off: the phrase “put money in your pocket.” The government ain’t *GIVING* me a thing! The headline should have read “GOP struggles with Dems to leave more money in your pocket.” It was mine to begin with. I earned it, and no other individual has a right to it.



**What Goes  
Around...**



**Wynn Rostek,  
Circulation  
Chief**

Val and I were unable to attend FS&L this month, as our dog Grace got away from us and led us on a merry chase indeed. We finally ran her to ground (so to speak) in Florida bay, where her attempts at escape were thwarted by the fact that the operator was not going to rent her a boat without a picture ID and a major credit card. I had been smart enough to bring mine though; we were easily able to catch up with her while she was dog-paddling to Cuba. A pair of Merc Cruiser 220's can come in handy at times.

Anyway, JT was kind enough to tape FS&L for us. (At least that's what JT claims. Clara insists he was hoping to catch something on tape he could sell to America's Most Amazing Videos.) JT and Clara started the folding phase and Kathy and Susan soon joined in. A little later Kathi showed up to help finish off the folding.

All the labels were applied without incident, and then the time approached to begin the sacred sorting ritual. JT has not been initiated, and as the only Estrogen challenged member present was sent to search for "a pipe wrench or flame thrower or other manly device to open the box with."

With JT out of the way, the ladies took to sorting with a vengeance. For about a half a second. It seems that none of the older and wiser ladies could locate their glasses. The zip codes on the mailing labels are printed in type just slightly larger than a pinhead, so sorting was going to prove a challenge.

Helen, Kathy, Clara, and Kathi held newsletters in their outstretched arms, turned their heads, closed one eye, squinted, and squirmed around in their chairs. Helen said, "I think this one is 32199." Susan peered over her shoulder and said, "It's 32799." Kathy thought it could be either a 1 or a 7. Clara was sure it was a 7 and Kathi was sure it was a 1. Helen suggested that Susan go across the table and hold the newsletter up for them to read.

The group remained split, and deciding that the newsletter was still too close, asked Susan to take it outside and hold it up to the screen. Much discussion ensued, with the net result of Susan being instructed to take the newsletter to the end of the dock. At that point, Kathy was able to use her binoculars, and stated firmly that it was a 7.

I'm sure this will prove to have been an invaluable, horizon-widening experience for Susan, teaching her how people can be different in so many ways, and yet be so much alike. Besides, I hear the weather is wonderful this time of year down under. If you find a `roo with a canvas bag knocking on your door this month, don't be alarmed, it's just your newsletter coming, postage due.



## **Gourmet's Guide:**



## **Japan**

by

**Arthur**

**Belefant**

(a.belefant@

It is many years since Rita and I left Japan, thirty-three to be exact. We lived in Tokyo for five years and we lived "on the economy". As a civilian working for a private company we had no special privileges, except that we were welcome at the American military Officer's Club (the Sanno Hotel) in downtown Tokyo.

Recently Rita and I had opportunity to return to Japan as tourists. We wanted to see the changes that had happened there. Yes, we expected changes. We had changed in thirty years, why should not Japan? Our three children are grown. The young girl who at four years old attended Japanese nursery school and was speaking Japanese now has a Ph.D., has two children of her own, and little memory of life in Tokyo. Our first son has almost no memory of life in Japan although he was born there. Our second son never

saw Japan.

My knowledge of the Japanese language has faded with time. What I remember of customs, transportation, food, and the layout of the cities were of another era. I expected prices to be radically different, to be far more expensive. When we were living in Japan the yen was about 350 to the dollar. Now it is about 120, and that doesn't reflect inflation and the growth of the Japanese economy in one-third of a century. Communication is now infinitely easier than it was then. I made reservations at a hotel in Tokyo and a *ryokan* (Japanese inn) in Kyoto from my desk in Melbourne Beach using a combination of the web, e-mail, and fax, all in English.

The first thing that struck us on our return was the cleanliness of the streets. The Japanese were always cleanly people, especially in the confines of their homes, shops, offices, temples, and shrines. The streets were another matter. Often muddy, especially away from the city centers, which were paved, refuse and garbage were a common sight. The traditional footwear and their use were a reflection of this dichotomy. *Geta*, the wooden clogs raised on two wooden lifts were designed to keep one's feet above the ordure. These *geta* were left behind before entering any Japanese building. Inside, where everything was so immaculate that you could, and did, eat on the floor, you wore slippers. Outside, you wore *geta*. Now it is not so. In the small village in which we once lived, everyone now wears shoes. The streets are paved and there is no trash to be found.



One of the street foods that I had enjoyed was *oden* from a pushcart. These carts would appear at night, a dark blue curtain hanging from the roof structure. One ducked under the curtain into the steaming atmosphere generated by the pans of different shapes and flavors of the *oden* simmering over a charcoal fire. Now *oden* can be bought in any AM/PM all-night store, served in a foam plastic container. Although it tastes as good as it did years ago it is hardly the stuff of romance. Soba was another inexpensive food that was served with



attractiveness. The soba restaurants were generally rustic with a good selection of noodles and you took off your shoes to enter. It was expected that you could spend a leisurely half an hour or hour over one bowl. Now the soba restaurant is a garish, neon lit, chrome and glass, fast-food emporium where you sit at a counter with your shoes on and are expected to leave in five or ten minutes. And for this you pay five to ten dollars a bowl. A serving of sushi, comparable to what we get at Miyakos, goes for \$100 to \$130. At least for this price, according to Japanese custom, there is no tipping. At the AM/PM market a seven-piece prepackaged sushi selection is 280 yen (\$2.30) also without tipping. The quality is good, the ambiance is awful. At a Denny's type of restaurant a breakfast of coffee (very good and strong) but in a cup about half the size of an American cup with no refills, one small egg, toast, and a small, really a tiny, salad costs 500 yen (\$4.15) plus 5%. Even the free water comes in glasses half the U. S. size.

Perhaps the least expensive place to eat in Japan now is McDonald's. A hamburger goes for 100 yen, approximately 85 cents. A Big Mac is \$2.30 (280 yen). When American fast-food restaurants first opened in Japan the prices were exorbitant, even by Japanese standards. Now, perhaps because of over building and increased competition from other franchises, a hamburger is a cheap meal. But when you look at the price of beef in the local markets, fifteen to twenty dollars a pound, it doesn't seem to make sense. In general, groceries cost three to five times what we pay for the same or similar item here in Florida. Some specialties such as oranges and watermelons are ten to twenty times the Florida price. A small, round watermelon goes for twenty dollars.

In Tokyo there is a street which Americans call the Ginza. It is on this street that several large department stores are located. The street is still there as are the department stores. The street and the stores have not changed much, but inside the stores the ambiance is different. For example, it used to be that at each entrance there were two or three young women who would bow to each person entering the store. They are gone now as well as many other small courtesies and touches. The

department stores have opened branches, some many times larger than the main stores, in an area called Shinjuku. This has become the *de facto* shopping center of Tokyo.

Thirty years ago most Japanese *ryokan* would not accept foreigners as guests. They feared that foreigners would not appreciate sleeping on the *tatami* floor, using an *ofuro* (Japanese bath), dressing in a *yukata*, and eating Japanese food for breakfast and therefore complain and make a fuss. Of course, no English was spoken.

When we were living in Japan no amount of protestation that those were precisely the reasons that Rita and I wanted to stay at a *ryokan* would alter their attitude. We were forced to use a subterfuge in order to get accommodations at *ryokans*. We enlisted the aid of a Japanese-American friend who used his name to make the reservation, but then we would turn up to the consternation of the innkeeper. Now *ryokans* are advertised in English on the web and in brochures provided by Japan Travel Bureau. Foreigners are welcome and sought. At the *ryokan* at which we stayed in Kyoto, I saw no Japanese guests. All the guests were foreigners. At the *ryokan* no maids greeted us at on their knees at the door. Instead the owner stood there with a registration book and pen in her hand. We did not even get what was the traditional cup of tea when we went, unled, to our room.

Tokyo subways were crowded thirty years ago, so crowded that the subway companies hired "pushers" to cram more people onto each train. After the car doors opened and passengers would try to squeeze in, the car doors could not close because of the bodies in the way. The pushers would lean against the last few people to push them in so the doors could close. The subways are still crowded, but there are no "pushers". It seems that the Japanese have learned that the train will not go with the doors open and they do not stand in the way.



Japan's growth and prosperity has taken place without a concomitant consideration of the beauty and attractiveness that existed only a few years ago. Our images and memory of Japan are what we once knew. Nihonbashi, the main entrance bridge to Tokyo, and one of Hiroshige's favorite subjects, has been widened and now has an elevated superhighway over the river. The municipality tried to salvage some of the old character by moving the massive bronze lanterns which stood on the bridge, the middle one is now suspended over the roadway, but they are in the dark, dank shadow of the highway. The river itself looks like

an open sewer with the highway running over it. One of the most famous and beautiful sights in Tokyo has been destroyed for the sake of automobile transportation. How much better would it have been had they followed the example of San Antonio and created a river walk with restaurants, shops, boats on the river, and walkways with flowers and trees. The nearest cafe to Nihonbashi is a Starbucks one block away in an otherwise desolate commercial area. Tokyo itself has grown so much that it is completely surrounded by suburbs. Little attention has been paid to retaining the open spaces and views. Our favorite public garden, the Keio Garden in Sakurajosi, is closed, probably awaiting development as housing or for commercial use. The Fuji View Hotel, where we often went to enjoy the scenery, is still there as is Mount Fuji. But now, instead of wandering aimlessly in the countryside enjoying Fuji from many aspects, one must duck and dodge around development and construction just to see the mountain. Fuji Fifth Station, where one starts the climb to the top of Mount Fuji, now has hotels, restaurants, and gift shops.



And Japan is expensive. The newspapers report a recession there, but there is no obvious evidence of it. The stores are full. Luxury goods are everywhere. Prices are high. Discounts and sale prices are not evident. Every one is well dressed, the business men in dark gray suits, the lower ranks in two-piece suits and the upper ranks in three piece, each with a little pin in the lapel button hole showing which company they belong to. I saw only one beggar on the streets, a WWII veteran in his white clothing. There used to be many more. Food and clothing in the restaurants, shops, and department stores are about three times as much as you would pay here. Transportation is also very expensive, as are the hotels. The cheapest "business" hotel, roughly equivalent to a motel in the U. S, anywhere in or around Tokyo, is \$100 a night for two. For that you get a room that is less than one-third the size of a Motel 6 room with far fewer amenities. The bath is the size of a bath on one of the less expensive cruise ships. In fact, the room and bath is like a ship's cabin. Of course, there is no closet.

My suggestion, if you want to see the charm and beauty of Japan, is don't go. It will cost you a lot of money and you will be disappointed. If you want to see a modern, commercial success of a country, tall buildings and interesting architecture, the railroad station at Kyoto and the complex at Shinjuku are magnificent, do go. It will cost you a lot of money and you will not be disappointed.



**By Special  
Request:**

**A SCAM**

**Reprint:**

**Vowels for  
Bosnia**

**From www.  
cartalk.com**

Cities of Sjlbdnzv, Grzny to Be First Recipients:

Before an emergency joint session of Congress yesterday, President Clinton announced US plans to deploy over 75,000 vowels to the war-torn region of Bosnia. The deployment, the largest of its kind in American history, will provide the region with the critically needed letters A,E,I,O,U, and Y, and is hoped to render countless Bosnian words more pronounceable.

"For six years, we have stood by while names like Ygrjvslhv and Tzlynhr and Glrm have been horribly butchered by millions around the world," Clinton said. "Today, the United



States must finally stand up and say 'Enough.' It is time the people of Bosnia finally had some vowels in their incomprehensible words. The US is proud to lead the crusade in this noble endeavor."

The deployment, dubbed Operation Vowel Storm by the State Department, is set for early next week, with the Adriatic port cities of



Sjlbdnzv and Grzny slated to be the first recipients. Two C-130 transport planes, each carrying more than 500 24-count boxes of "E's," will fly from Andrews Air Force Base across the Atlantic and airdrop the letters over the cities.

Citizens of Grzny and Sjlbdnzv eagerly await the arrival of the vowels. "My God, I do not think we can last another day," Trszg Grzdnjklm, 44, said. "I have six children and none of them has a name that is understandable to me or to anyone else. Mr. Clinton, please send my poor, wretched family just one 'E.' Please."

Said Sjlbdnzv resident Grg Hmphrs, 67: "With just a few key letters, I could be George Humphries. This is my dream."

If the initial airlift is successful, Clinton said the United States will go ahead with full-scale vowel deployment, with C-130's airdropping thousands more letters over every area of Bosnia. Other nations are expected to pitch in as well, including 10,000 British "A's" and 6,500 Canadian "U's." Japan, rich in A's and O's, was asked to participate, but declined.



"With these valuable letters, the people of war-ravaged Bosnia will be able to make some terrific new words," Clinton said. "It should be very exciting for them, and much easier for us to read their maps."

Linguists praise the US's decision to send the vowels. For decades they have struggled with the hard consonants and difficult pronunciation of most Slavic words. "Vowels are crucial to construction of all language," Baylor University linguist Noam Frankel said. "Without them, it would

be difficult to utter a single word, much less organize a coherent sentence. Please, just don't get me started on the moon-man languages they use in those Eastern European countries."

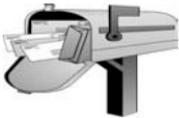


According to Frankel, once the Bosnians have vowels, they will be able to construct such valuable sentences as: "The potatoes are ready"; "I believe it will rain"; and "All my children are dead from the war" [And "Oh my God, there's an axe in my head." ?]

The airdrop represents the largest deployment of any letter to a foreign country since 1984. During the summer of that year, the US shipped 92,000 consonants to Ethiopia, providing cities like Ouauouaoua, Eaouuuuae, and Aao with vital, life-giving supplies of L's, S's and T's. The consonant-relief effort failed, however, when vast quantities of the letters were intercepted and hoarded by violent, gun-toting warlords.



**We  
Get  
Mail!**



**from**



Dear Editor:

I take exception to the July editorial chastising SCAM members who do not participate. Clearly, I would love to see even more members at SCAM events; the more the merrier.

But I do not see Mensa membership as an *obligation* to participate. The inactive members will probably remain inactive...it has always been thus. Perhaps they have family commitments, or physical limitations, or maybe they simply travel in such active social circles that they have no need for the company of Mensans.

One unintended solution to the editor's perceived problem would be for inactive members to quit, leaving SCAM a core group, all of whom participate. The editor would be satisfied. Of course, there would only be 40 SCAM members left.

Instead of chastising inactive members for nonparticipation, perhaps it would be a better use of column-inches to remind inactive members that we'd love to see them out at SCAM functions.

Sincerely,  
(Name withheld by request)





## Broward Mensa's RG... Back to the Beach

### FloRanGe '99

October 15-17, 1999  
on Hollywood Beach, FL

From our fabulous South Florida  
waterfront location you can enjoy...

- ◆ Keynote speakers James "The Amazing" Randi and Rick Friedman
- ◆ A multiple track of speakers with noted archeologist Gypsy Graves, an art demonstration by Lya, Civil War reenactments and more...
- ◆ Our 24 hour Game Room and Hospitality Suite
- ◆ Catered Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch included
- ◆ 24 hour pool and hot tub access
- ◆ Saturday night dining "on the town"
- ◆ Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast in our Hospitality Suite
- ◆ Games and Tournaments galore
- ◆ Broward Mensa's Scholarship Auction

#### Registration Rates

\$75.00 July 1 through the RG

#### T-Shirts designed by Lya

Large and XL are \$12.00 each. XXL and XXXL are \$14.00 each. T-Shirts need to be ordered in advance!

Room rate good until September 30

#### Hotel Registration

Clarion Hotel Hollywood Beach  
4000 South Ocean Drive  
Hollywood, Florida 33019

**(954) 458-1900 (800) 329-9019**

\$75.00 Two Double beds

\$85.00 One King (deluxe room)

\$10.00 for an extra roll away bed

Make check payable to Broward  
Mensa and send to:

Merrell Fortner, Registrar, P.O. Box  
100457, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Registration Questions:

mini@mindless.com

#### General RG Questions:

florange99@mindspring.com

#### Registration Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Badge name \_\_\_\_\_

Group name \_\_\_\_\_

Office Held \_\_\_\_\_

**The  
Also-Rans:**



**Ellen's  
Excellent  
Movie Quiz**

**S**o, you think you know the movies, huh? We know all the characters in our favorite films as well as the actors who portray them, but how much attention do we pay to the important, yet secondary, characters in the movies we watch? This quiz is designed to find out.

Below is a list of five characters, each from a motion picture. The named character was important, but secondarily so. His/her/its name is spoken in the film on several occasions, but no major stars will be found here.

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to name the movie in which the character appears. Good Luck!

1. **Willie O'Keefe**
2. **Dougie Shears**
3. **Cameron Drake**
4. **Nate Pope**
5. **Knox Overstreet**

(The answers will be found on Page 5)



**Where Do I**



**Go To**

**D**oes Doug really know exactly where his complaints need to be seen? Si.. See.. C! As usual, he is not in need of a yes-man to accomplish his goal.

But, let's see if you can help him "C" his way clear to matching the company with its corporate headquarters city.

- 1) **NordicTrak**
- 2) **Montgomery Ward**
- 3) **Sherwin Williams Paints**
- 4) **White Castle**
- 5) **United States Playing Card Company**

- A) **Chaska, MN**
- B) **Chicago IL**
- C) **Cleveland, OH**
- D) **Columbus, OH**
- E) **Cincinnati, OH**

(The answers will be found on Page 5)

