

*The*  
**SCAM**  
pace coast area ensa  
**2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee**



I JUST KNOCKED 'EM DEAD AT THE SCAM Rollback RG!  
Volume 20, No. 12 December, 2002

*The  
Newsletter*

# SCAM

Space Coast Area Mensa

**Editor** J.T. Moran [morwood@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com)  
**Assembly/Circulation** Helen Lee Moore  
**Events Coordinator** *Volunteer Needed!*  
**Cover Artist** *Artisté Needed!*  
**Proofreader** Miss Conception 632-1831

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@cfl.rr.com](mailto:morwood@cfl.rr.com)**

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

## *Happy December Birthday*



- 02 – Theresa Valek
- 04 – William Eburn
- 09 – Roberta Brock
- 09 – J.T. Moran
- 10 – Keith Ledig
- 10 – George Legters, Jr.
- 11 – Jim Fitzgerald
- 11 – John Nahan
- 16 – Christopher Glass
- 17 – Alexander Lauberts
- 18 – Douglas Parker
- 29 – Jeanne McNamara
- 30 – Elaine Joyce



## Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

*Evelyn Adame – Merritt Island*

## Welcome to SCAM

*Douglas Parker – Melbourne*

*Jennifer Pearce – Melbourne*

*Dean Zentner – Satellite Beach*

## Welcome Back to SCAM

*William Armstrong – Indian Harbor Beach*

*Joseph Carrier – Cape Canaveral*

*Debra Saltzberg – Cocoa Beach*



## **On the Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran**  
**SCAM Editor**

**I**t was the best of times, it was the... Well, there was no worst of times at the SCAM Roll-back RG. When the partying was done 111 Mensans, friends of Mensans, and families of Mensans had little choice but to admit that they had a good old time. If there is anyone who can say they don't enjoy themselves at an RG, it is the members of the Committee. They are usually too busy with the business of running the thing that they don't have much time to relax. But they do have the great satisfaction of knowing that through their efforts more than a hundred people had a great time in a great location.

And although it may be crass to say so, a profit was made from the RG... a very necessary profit, because it provides the majority of the funding for The SCAM for the next two years. Our Treasurer has given me a preliminary amount of more than \$1,600! Final results will be announced when all the bills have been received and paid. The next Editor will not have to worry about sufficient funding, as long as he or she does not go extravagantly berserk.

Another bit of encouraging news is that the percentage of SCAM attendance at the RG was up! Nearly one in three attendees was from SCAM!

So, if you missed it, too bad for you. But you can see some of it, as throughout this issue will be pictures of some of the people and happenings that made it such a great weekend.



Due to the timing of my hunting trip this year, I will be unable to directly edit January's *The SCAM*. However, I have luckily found a one-time volunteer Assistant Editor to assemble the issue, Marc Leichtling. Although he is not a member, there is nothing in the rules that says an Assistant Editor must be. There is also precedent in SCAM, as Baird Stafford was Harvey Newstrom's official Assistant back in the early 1990's. Marc will put the issue together and run it by our Editor Emeritus, Helen Lee Moore, before it goes to the printer.

But this matter still points up the main problem... I have yet to receive a response to my call for someone willing to succeed me. My term expires with the seating of the new ExComm in June, and I will not accept the position again. I am more than willing to train my successor... you need but ask.



## Mewsing About



**Clara  
Woodall-Moran,  
LocSec**

I remember my first roller coaster ride as though it were yesterday. I was so short (they did not adhere to height regulations in those days) that I could not sit on the seat and hold on to the bar, so I kept sliding under the lip of the car (of course, the first car). I was white-knuckled throughout the entire ride and nearly fainted when the ride was finally over. White as a ghost, barely able to stand and walk, I was half-carried away by my brother and sister-in-law who were just absolutely certain they were going to be in big trouble with mom when they got me home – when, all of a sudden, I jerked upright, turned to them and brightly said: “Hey, that was fun, let’s go again!”

Another RG is rolling into the annals of SCAM history. We had a quite a few first-timers and from all accounts, they were not scared away from Mensa and RGs.

One happening best forgotten is the LocSec dumping three quarts of hot clam chowder (compliments of **Merrell Fortner** – the chowder, not the spill) into her only pair of shoes. This meant getting shoes and cleaning up a really big mess from the floor, the fridge, and from the affected body parts but that was the only serious injury at the whole affair – pretty good! The Hospitality team deserves a big round of applause and thanks: **Rita Johnson-Aronna, Peb Elliot, and Rita and Joe Smith.**



Thanks, thanks, thanks; and thanks as well to **Anna Smith** for her contributions to the organization of the clean up on Sunday afternoon.

The dance was fun and was more of a sing-a-long. The costume parade was just what makes the October RGs such fun. We saw:

- Ladies in Red Hats and Purple Dresses (**Merrell Fortner, Lya Korda, Chris Brinkman, Lee Fitzgerald, Robin Rhea, Maggie Rubin, Ann Carter and Marci Bartolotta**)
- Madam Butterfly (**Rosemary Peabody**)
- The Rajah and Rani Vampires from Calcutta (**Doug Starke and Karen Freiberg**)
- The SWF (single, white female) (**Mikki Hawn**)
- Bin Luden (with drops) and his brother Bin Shirkin looking for sheep (**Judith Ford and Seth Lefkow**)
- Spider Lady (**Tara Thompson**)
- The Roman Senator and Mrs. Senator (**The Flynn's – John and Ann**)
- Queen Bee (**Evy Rabin**)
- 3 Blond Mice (**Pat Williams, Sharon Widdifield, Lynn Brown**)
- Candy Corn (**Sylvia Zadorozny**)
- Tigger's sister (**Kathy Zadorozny**)

*(Continued on Page 31)*

## **Minutes of the ExComm Meeting**



**Y**ou may have noticed that there were no minutes for the October ExComm meeting. That's because there wasn't an October ExComm meeting. You may also be noticing a lack of minutes for the November meeting...

October's wasn't scheduled because of the RG. November's was cancelled because a quorum could not be found due to unexpected scheduling conflicts for two of the ExComm members. However, our bylaws only require the ExComm to meet once every three months, so there is no problem.

A meeting will be held as soon as a consensus can be reached among the ExComm members concerning the date, time, and location.



## **We Get Mail!**



**J**e enjoyed Susan Thomas' review of *Dogma* in your October issue. One of my favorite movies. She really got her point a cross, and hit its nails on the head. Ironically, I first saw the film in response to a letter to our local editor expressing outrage that our local movie group went to see it. That's right: not outrage over the film, but outrage over Mensans liking same. Go figure.

Great newsletter. A little crowded, but great. Thanks.

Carol F. Mason

*(Ed. Note: Carol is the Editor of Interloc - the Newsletter for Involved Mensans)*

**T**he CFM Gifted Children Coordinator would like to plan a joint outing to Kennedy Space Center in January or February. Any of the young Space Coast Area Mensans who would be interested, please drop me an email or phone call to: [cew@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cew@cfl.rr.com) or (321) 632-0854. We need to get something of an approximate headcount to set up the tour.

Clara Woodall and Keri Mathoniere

## **NEEDED: ASSEMBLY/CIRCULATION MANAGER FOR The SCAM**

Helen Lee Moore is retiring from the Assembly/Circulation Manager position no later than June, 2003. The job requires no more than five (5) hours per month. It involves picking up the newsletter from the printer, preparing it for mailing, and delivering it to the Post Office. If you would be interested in helping Space Coast Area Mensa by taking on this job, contact Helen for details and an introduction to the USPS paraphernalia and forms.



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



**Ken Thornton-Smith**

© 2002

**The Wabasso Triangle  
Episode 21 (ish): The Therapist**

**J**t should not have happened, but one thing is certain: it did happen. Defying the Laws of Physics, the theories of Freud and most of Deuteronomy, the Wabasso Triangle has struck again.

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

It was Wednesday, and things have been getting me down lately. Miserable pasta, failed relationships and another outbreak of citrus canker have been taking their toll. There was a new therapist in town – I wonder if he could help sort out a few of life's knotty problems.

**Location: The professional office suite of Dr Sven Garlic**

“So, what does it stand for?” He asked, filling out a form.

“Sorry?”

“The middle initial ‘T’, in your name, what does it stand for?”

“Er, nothing, it’s a letter, on its own. Only a letter...” I lied.

“So it’s ‘Anthony T. Chianti’, but it’s not short for anything?”

“Yup, nothing. But Anthony is named after my Dad.” I tried to change the subject as I stared at the ceiling, “Of course, his real name was Antonio... Italian... third generation... New York Italian...”

“No middle name, then?” Dr Garlic insisted.

“NO,” I said, a little too firmly, hoping he didn’t notice.

“When did this all start?”

“What, the name?” I slid down at least seven feet into the chair.

“No, no, these feelings about your mother... when did they start?”

“Oh, yeah, that. Well, they didn’t start. I mean, they were always there...”

“Always?” An eyebrow lifted.

“Well, I don’t mean forever-always, just... in this lifetime. My lifetime. At least as far as I can remember – isn’t that Chopin?” I tried to change the subject again.

“Yes, one of his Nocturnes... very pleasant.”

“Yeah, nice. Pretty amazing, actually, considering he wrote them in the dark...”

“So, Anthony, tell me about your mother.”

“OK, well, my father met her when he was in the military – she was a Korea girl...”

“A career girl, yes, go on...” He made a note.

"No, a Korean, from Korea, girl. My dad brought her back after the War. Er ... the Korean War. From Korea. Where they don't have Tofu... "

"*They don't?*"

"Apparently not.... It's, er, it's Japanese or Chinese or something. At least, they don't have it where my mother comes from. Or pasta. Especially pasta. They're not big on pasta, either. Much more than tofu, they don't do pasta. Mainly."

"*So, your mother was Korean, what else can you tell me about her?*"

"She was tall. I mean for a Korean, she was tall, and pretty in own her way. Er, Asian, I guess, in a sort of, oriental way, you know? Dark hair. Straight hair. Very dark and straight. Very Korean. A pretty name. Mane! A pretty mane. Of hair... My father was a New York Italian until they met..."

"*Until?*"

"Well, I guess he still was, after, as well... He liked pasta, my father, especially fresh, homemade fresh... New York Italian..."

He sat there looking over his notepad at me, as the sweat rolled off my forehead.

"OK. Er, it's not like I was unhappy in the childhood thing, or anything like that..."

"*What's your earliest memory of your mother, can you remember?*"

"Oh, very young. I was sitting at the table and she was, yes, she was getting me an ice cream or something out of the Frigid."

"*The Frigid?*"

"Did I say Frigid? I mean Refrigerator, er... the Kelvinator, the Fridge. Refrigerator. Frigidaire. That's it: the Frigidaire."

"*Yes, go on...*"

"You see, her English wasn't very good. Not that it was bad. I mean, it's better than my Korean... just not one hundred percent, that's all... "

"*That's understandable... So, your Mother's English was not so good...*" He wrote something down and nodded for me to continue.

I grinned lamely, "Yes, her grasp of English, that's part of the reason why... er..." I counted my feet again to make sure they were still both on.

"*Why what?*"

"The stupid name!" I raised my voice. Too much.

"*You didn't tell me about a name.*"

"OK, it's a name; I have a name."

"*Yes, you have a name. So, when you feel comfortable, tell me about it. Tell me about your name, it's OK. Take your time.*"

"You see, she could never pleasure... I mean, sexually, pleasure. Not until, until after..." The window grabbed my attention again.

*"Until what?"*

"Er, until the change of diet-thingy, she.... er..." I stared out of the window.

*"Are you saying that a change of diet helped your mother to achieve orgasm?"* He said, leaning forward.

"Uh? – Er, no. Not really a change of diet – did I tell you that Mom liked pasta, too? She was into Italian food. Especially pasta. Big time, pasta."

*"And?"*

"Er... she just happened to eat something else. Something new, for the first time, on that particular day. Just before. On the day that it happened. First. Maybe only a coincidence, the whole thing... Probably not even related."

*"Interesting..."* He raised his eyebrows again and took more notes.

"No real bio-chemical reason, probably just a coincidence, the whole thing. Plus, I was conceived about this time, so she sort-of connected things together..."

He wrote a few things down, *"So, I see – would this have something to do with your middle name?"*

I nodded and stared at my feet, which is not easy lying down.

*"Would it help me to know what the name is?"*

"Maybe..." I swallowed, wriggled sideways to get my wallet out and handed him my driving license.

As soon as I saw the tears well up in his eyes I knew he was going to lose it.

He laughed, then doubled up

*"Anthony Tofu-Bang Chianti!"* He spluttered as he slid off his chair. *"Tofu-Bang – she named you after her orgasm..."*

He thumped the carpet three times in hysterics.

He lay curled up, convulsing with laughter on the floor.

*"Tofu-Bang!"* He read my driving license again, wiping his eyes, tears rolling down his cheeks.

*"Er... do I pay at the desk on the way out?"*

He lifted his head, *"No... no charge,"* he gasped, handed over my driving license, shook his head and waved me out the door. Then he fell back, still shaking uncontrollably.

What a relief – you hear all that stuff about medical over-billing, and here's a guy that treats people for free.

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

Anthony, er... T. Chianti, Indian River Community Pasta Detective, signing off.



**The Gourmet's  
Guide:  
How Sweet It Is!  
by  
Art Belefant  
©2002  
(belefant@juno.com)**

Arabic - <i>asukar</i> (phonetic)	Icelandic – <i>sykr</i>
Bulgarian - <i>shecker</i>	Serbian- <i>cukar</i>
Danish – <i>sucker</i>	Swedish – <i>socker</i>
Dutch – <i>suiker</i>	Italian – <i>zucchero</i>
French – <i>sucré</i>	Japanese - <i>satoo</i> (phonetic)
German – <i>zucker</i>	Russian – <i>cáxap</i>
Greek – <i>zacarh</i>	Spanish – <i>azácar</i>
Hebrew - <i>sukor</i> (phonetic)	Turkish – <i>seker</i>

**A**s you can see, all of the above languages adopted the word for sugar from the Arabic, sometimes directly and sometimes from an intermediary language, but only Spanish kept the affixed article "a" from the original arabic form.

**Common, table, or white sugar** (sucrose) is sold in several forms. White sugar is obtained from sugarcane or sugar beets. It is a disaccharide composed of glucose and fructose.

The most usual forms of white sugar are **Granulated sugar**. Pure (99.9%), white crystals. **Confectioners or powdered sugar**. Granulated sugar which has been crushed to form a powder. About 3% of cornstarch is usually added to prevent caking. Used in baking, particularly icings, to create a smooth texture. Confectioners sugar is sold in two grades. 10x is finer than 4x.

**Sugar cubes** - Made of moistened granulated sugar that is pressed into various sizes of molds and dried. The most common sizes are the equivalent of a teaspoon or half of a teaspoon. Sometimes the cubes are colored or flavored and sometimes pressed into fanciful shapes. They used to be seen more frequently in restaurants than they are now. Although they were sometimes wrapped for sanitary reasons, most often they were served in open bowls. They have been supplemented by sugar packets for sanitary and economic reasons.

**Coarse sugar** - Larger crystals of white sugar used for decorative purposes.

**Loaf sugar** - In the Middle-East and Africa is often sold in flat-topped conical loaves wrapped in blue paper.

**Brown sugar** also comes in several types. Brown sugars are made from sugar cane. There is a fake brown sugar on the market. It is ordinary white sugar with just a hint of molasses but it is colored with caramel to make it darker. It is sold as a pourable or siftable brown sugar.

**Raw sugar** - A coarse, granulated sugar that ranges from tan to brown in color. FDA regulations require that it be cleansed of impurities, i.e., dirt, insect fragments, etc. It is made from the evaporation of sugarcane juice.

**Turbinado sugar or Sugar in the Raw** - Raw sugar that has been further refined.

**Light brown sugar** - Ordinary white sugar to which some molasses has been added.

**Dark brown sugar** - Ordinary white sugar to which more molasses has

been added.

**Molasses** - What is left after most of the sugar is removed from the sugar cane juice. It may contain as much as 50% sugar.

**Maple sugar** - The sap of the sugar maple boiled down and crystallized. Maple sugar can vary from very light to very dark depending on sap used and the processing.

**Honey** - A syrup produced by bees from the nectar of flowers. It is composed of fructose, glucose, maltose, and sucrose. The color can range from light as in clover honey to dark as in buckwheat honey. The flavor of each honey will reflect the flower from which the bees obtained the nectar. Orange blossom honey is a particular Florida treat.

The term "sugar" is applied to many organic chemical compounds, all of which have an "ose" ending.

**Lactose** (milk sugar) - A sugar found in milk and dairy products. This is the item that certain people have an intolerance towards. Some well-aged cheeses have had the lactose converted to other products and therefore can be tolerated.

**Maltose** (malt sugar) - A product of the fermentation of starches by yeasts. Found in breads and beers.

**Sucrose** - A disaccharide composed of glucose and fructose.. Common table sugar.

**Glucose** or **dextrose** - Found in beet and cane sugars. Polarized light passing through a solution of dextrose is rotated to the right.

**Fructose** or **levucose** - Sweeter than glucose. It is found in many fruits. Polarized light passing through a solution of levucose is rotated to the left. High-fructose corn syrup is not a natural product. It is made by converting corn starch to glucose and then to fructose. It is considerably cheaper and sweeter than sugar as a sweetener, which thus explains its wide use in beverages.

An interesting point on this matter. Several years ago the beverage industry switched from sugar to high-fructose corn syrup for economic reasons. Coca-Cola did not. They suspected that the consuming public would detect the difference in taste. To get around this, they developed "New Coke" with a new flavor and using high-fructose corn syrup for the sweetener. The "New Coke" was a dismal failure and after a while the "Classic Coke" was reintroduced. However, they did not go back to the pre-New Coke formula. They used high-fructose corn syrup instead of sugar for the sweetener. By the time they switched back, they felt that the consumer would be so confused with the taste of New Coke and the lapse of time that the consumer would not detect the switch to high-fructose corn syrup in the classic formula.

I am told by Coca-Cola aficionados the difference is detectable and can be tested by trying Coca-Cola bottled in Mexico and other countries which still use sugar for the sweetener.



**Coma****Ann Schindler**

©2002

**W**ebster defines coma as a deep, prolonged unconsciousness caused by injury or disease, or a condition of stupor or lethargy. Also defined as a deep sleep-like state from which an individual cannot be aroused, Dr. Edward B. LeWinn, formerly of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, proposed a variation of this definition as “a sleep-like state from which an individual has not yet been aroused”. This simple change gives hope to those families who are touched by this devastating condition. The word “coma” is derived from the Greek word “Koma” meaning “deep sleep.” Hippocrates first used the term to describe what he said was the lowest functioning level of the brain. The victim of coma appears to be asleep, cannot be aroused, and is unresponsive to external stimulation. The brain wave pattern, however, is different from a normal sleeping pattern.

Normal levels of consciousness occur when the brain functions properly, interacting between its various sections. The brain is divided into 3 parts: the cerebrum, the cerebellum, and the brainstem. The cerebrum, also called the forebrain, is responsible for intelligence and reasoning. The cerebellum, at the base of the skull, coordinates voluntary movement and helps maintain balance and posture. The brainstem, found deep within the brain, is a stalk-like structure that connects the brain to the spinal cord. It includes the medulla oblongata, pons, and the midbrain. It is the center for many vital body processes including breathing, swallowing, heart rate, and blood pressure. The reticular activating system (RAS), also called the reticular formation, is a network of neurons scattered throughout the brain stem. Among the functions of the RAS are arousal, attention, and motivation. The RAS must be functioning for the brain to work properly and any decrease in its functioning, whether by disease or injury, can result in unconsciousness or coma.

Coma is most frequently the result of a head injury, but can also be caused by stroke, cerebral hemorrhage, brain tumor, brain infection, drugs, toxins, or alcohol. Metabolic anomalies such as abnormal glucose levels, kidney or liver failure, seizures, or electrolyte imbalances can also cause coma. Though in a coma, the victim may still be able to hear. Family and medical staff should be cautioned never to speak negatively about the patient’s condition or prognosis and continue to converse normally with the patient. A coma rarely lasts more than four weeks and the patient will usually return to their former level of physical and mental functioning. Some patients may require physical, occupational, or other therapy to attain full or partial functioning, while others may only be able to perform the very basic body functions.

After about 4 weeks, the patient may progress to a “persistent vegetative state” (PVS) where parts of the brain are non-functioning or “dead”, but the brain stem is alive. In this state, the eyes may open, movements

may occur, and basic body functions such as respiration, blood pressure, digestion, and elimination, are maintained. A sleep-wake cycle is present. The patient may laugh, cry, or grimace, but there is no purposeful responses or other intellectual activity. Some patients have survived in PVS for decades. The most frequent cause of death of a patient with PVS is pneumonia.

When a comatose patient is evaluated, the neurological examination usually includes an assessment using a coma scale which gives patients a numerical score in different areas, thus making it easier for the medical team to assess the patient's present condition and possible prognosis. The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) is the scale most frequently used, and it requires only a brief examination that can be performed by any trained person. The patient is evaluated on motor response, eye-opening, and verbal response. An example of the eye-opening assessment would be awarding 4 points for opening of the eyes on their own, 3 points for opening the eyes when asked to do so in a loud voice, 2 points for opening the eyes when pinched, and 1 point for not opening the eyes at all. The final GCS score will range from a high of 15 to a low of 3. Mild brain injury is said to exist with a score of 13 to 15, moderate brain injury with a score of 9 to 12, and severe brain injury for a score of 8 or less. A score of 8 or less indicates a comatose state with a greater than 95% chance of death or persistent vegetative state. A progress chart can be kept showing the patient's scores and rate of recovery at various times during the hospitalization. The Rancho Los Amigos Scale was developed at a hospital in California by that name. This scale places a patient in one of ten levels of cognitive functioning ranging from no response to purposeful appropriate behavior. There are other scales that evaluate the functional status and quality of life, but many are quite involved, time consuming, and seldom used. Some trauma scoring also incorporates blood pressure and respiratory rate. The patient examination may also include blood and urine tests, cerebro-spinal fluid analysis, magnetic resonance imaging, tomography, and electro-encephalogram.

Treatment is instituted based on the cause of the coma. Intravenous fluids, antibiotics, thrombolytics (anti-clot), or anti-seizure medications may be given. Diuretics may be given or surgery performed to decrease elevated intracranial pressure. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT), the breathing of 100% pure oxygen at pressures greater than one atmosphere (sea level), will deliver these concentrated levels to injured tissues in order to promote healing. Some HBOT programs have claimed a 50% success rate. Another approach is termed "coma arousal therapy". The RAS, responsible for arousal and wakefulness, responds to stimulation of the 5 senses. By introducing intense sensations, it is hoped that the patient will awaken, or that unused areas of the brain will be activated to take over functions of the damaged areas. In this therapeutic approach, the patient receives almost constant sensory stimulation. This may include flashing lights, pictures, music, banging noises or loud whistles, massage, pinching,

introducing the strong tastes of vinegar, mustard, or salt, and exposure to the strong scents of perfume, eucalyptus oil, or spirits of ammonia. Mobility is maintained by range of motion exercises and changes in position.

Prognosis depends on the cause and severity of the coma. Some comas are easily reversible, some show progress very gradually, and still others progress to PVS. Newer therapies have an increased potential for recovery. Coma recovery programs are making exciting advances and future developments are likely to bring even more breakthroughs in this field.

### **Sources**

Baker, Jacqueline. Explaining Coma Arousal Therapy. 1 June 2000. Online. Coma Recovery Association Inc. Internet. 9 Oct 2002. Available <http://www.comarecovery.org/comaarousal.htm>

Gustafson, Leif. Persistent Vegetative State. 15 March 2000. Online. Central Washington University. Internet. 6 Sept 2002. Available <http://www.cwu.edu/~chem/courses/Chem564/finalpapers/PVSfinal.html>

Liao, Y Joyce and Yuen T So. An Approach to Critically Ill Patients in Coma. 29 July 2002. Online. Medscape. Internet. 26 August 2002. Available <http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/438062>



## ***Beauty and the Beast?***



**JERRY AND MERELL FORTNER OF LAKELAND, FLORIDA**

# **December 2002 Calendar of SCAM Events**

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

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

## Regular Events

### **C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble:** Monday, the 2nd, 16th & 30th

6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

### **C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million:** Wednesday, the 11th

Merritt Square Mall

### **C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at Books-A-Million:** None this month

7:00PM, Post Commons, Wickham Road, Melbourne

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

**C.A.B.A.G.E. North Host:** Karen Freiberg      *[lizard\\_woman@hotmail.com](mailto:lizard_woman@hotmail.com)*

**C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host:** Clara Woodall-Moran      *[cew@cfl.rr.com](mailto:cew@cfl.rr.com)*

**10th**

**NL and Calendar deadlines**

All newsletter submissions must be to J.T. no later than today. Ditto for calendar events being to the calendar coordinator.

**13th**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Pub Night**

**Friday**

**Food and Drink cost**

**S/NP**

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

**Helen Lee Moore**

*[76764.3242@compuserve.com](mailto:76764.3242@compuserve.com)*

**14th**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Great Books Discussion Group**

**Saturday**

**Free**

**NS/NP**

Come out to *Barnes and Noble on Merritt Island* to join in a discussion of the Great Books. Former local member and friend of SCAM, Luke Setzer, asks us to join him and others in this "shared inquiry" setting. This event will include Mensans and non-Mensans alike, and the recurring theme will be books of interest to Objectivists. The Great Books programs is what the group is currently exploring. Please feel free to contact Luke Setzer ahead of time for further information, or go to the URL listed below full details.

**Luke Setzer**

*<http://WideSCOPE.tripod.com>*

**14th**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Movie Night**

**Saturday**

**\$3.00**

**SS/NP**

Dan Lange invites us to his apartment for a night of movie watching. His DVD collection awaits. A movie can be chosen by the group and munching and rehashing will, in all likelihood, be included. Dan has a third story walk-up, so the faint-hearted are forewarned! *E-mail Dan for directions.*

**Dan Lange**                    *dlange@klx.net*

**15th**                    **11:00 a.m.**                    **Brunch with Jim**  
**Sunday**                    **Meal cost**                    **NS/NP**

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

**Jim Trammell**                    *dulabeans@aol.com*

**18th**                    **RSVP Deadline**

Please RSVP no later than today if you plan to attend Pat and Rita's annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 22nd.

**Rita Johnson-Aronna**                    *patrita@worldnet.att.net*

**20th**                    **7:30PM**                    **Party/Games Night**  
**Friday**                    **\$3.00**                    **SS/NP**

Marc and Suzanne open up their beautiful oceanfront condo for a night of games and good fellowship in this post-Chanukah, pre-Christmas celebration. Play games, enjoy great food, or just sit and look at the ocean in a night guaranteed to help relieve the stress of all that Christmas shopping! *E-mail for directions (Cape Canaveral).*

**Suzanne and Marc Leichtling**                    *suzl@cfl.rr.com*

**22nd**                    **6:30 p.m.**                    **Christmas party**  
**Sunday**                    **\$3.00**                    **SS/NP**

Oh, Fudge! Enjoy the best fudge around, as well as loads of other good food and good friends as Pat and Rita once again welcome all with great holiday spirit.

*E-mail for directions (Palm Bay).*

**Rita Johnson-Aronna**                    *patrita@worldnet.att.net*

**28th**                    **6:30 p.m.**                    **S.N.O.R.T.**  
**Saturday**                    **Meal Cost**                    **SS/NP**

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

**J.T. Moran**                    *morwood@cfl.rr.com*

**31st**                    **8:00 p.m.**                    **New Year's Eve Party**  
**Tuesday**                    **\$3.00**                    **SS/P (3 cats)**

Since they couldn't get their annual post-Halloween, Pre-Thanksgiving, humorous Christmas Video Night done this year, Clara and J.T decided to host New Year's Eve. Enjoy great food and great friends as you relax with games, videos, and conversation while waiting for the big ball to come down at Midnight and usher in 2003. *E-mail for directions (Port St. John)*

**Clara and J.T. Moran**                    *morwood@cfl.rr.com*



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

**A Handy Guide  
for Conservatives**

*by*

**Hank Rhodes**

©2002

positions in a very fluid world:

*What conservatives condemn:* President Clinton and Vice President Gore were actually discussing politics in a federal facility (i.e., the White House). That's against the law!

*What conservatives do:* Even though the Florida Secretary of State doesn't understand that state law requires officeholders to resign before running for another office, she is still considered an avatar of her party. In fact, she is simply allowed to backdate her resignation letter to the Governor by three weeks so she can continue campaigning for a congressional seat.

*What conservatives condemn:* "Liberal" attack ads that only serve to tear good people down.

*What conservatives do:* The opponent's character deficiencies matter, and are of vital interest to the voters. Besides, one can't expect conservative candidates to have any control over their masters in the big money special interest groups, who are the ones who really fund the conservative "issue" ads anyway.

*What conservatives condemn:* In response to attacks on U.S. embassies in east Africa, President Clinton attacks terrorist sites by ordering Tomahawk missile strikes.

*What conservatives do (1998 edition):* Mock President Clinton for using excessive force in attempting to divert attention from his domestic problems. Accept at face value the terrorist propaganda that the chemical munitions plant in Khartoum was really a "baby milk factory."

*What conservatives condemn:* In response to attacks on U.S. embassies in east Africa, President Clinton attacks terrorist sites by ordering Tomahawk missile strikes.

*What conservatives do (2002 edition):* Mock President Clinton for using insufficient force in attempting to combat global terrorism. Dismiss the retaliatory strikes of 1998 as "pinpricks," and ignore the fact that it is highly unlikely that anyone on the business end of a Tomahawk would choose this analogy.

*What conservatives condemn:* President Clinton's deployment of U.S. forces to Bosnia and Kosovo, which put a stop to genocide, ethnic-cleansing, and state-sponsored rape. This was overburdening the military.

*What conservatives do:* Using the very same military, a conservative re-

**I**t seems that in the past year, events have been occurring with such rapidity, that any self-respecting conservative hardly has time to check his or her political compass before giving the rest of us the benefit of their opinion. Recently, the current President and his followers have had to take positions laden with nuance (but some might prefer to use the term "hypocrisy"). In any event, the following is an attempt to provide my conservative friends with a handy guide for staking out their

gime can fight the global terrorists, and simultaneously deploy half a million troops to finish the job “Daddy” left for us in Iraq. For good measure, we’ll antagonize our European allies with our unilateralism, making them reluctant to commit their own forces in support of us, and alienate moderate countries in the Middle East, where we need access to bases and ports.

*What conservatives condemn:* President Clinton’s efforts to broker a fair and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Why rush? After all, our good buddy Prime Minister Sharon knows how to take care of business.

*What conservatives do:* Faced with a lack of support by moderate regimes in the middle east in the campaign to oust Saddam Hussein, make half-hearted efforts to restrain Sharon’s personal vendetta against the Palestinian leadership.

*What conservatives condemn:* “Nation-building” by the U. S. military. Their job is limited to reducing the enemy to a body count.

*What conservatives do:* As part of the war against terrorism, it is necessary for U.S. forces to remain in Afghanistan for a prolonged period, to assist in the development of democratic institutions, to assure security, and repair the infrastructure, lest we give the Taliban an opportunity to return to power. Therefore, one must scrupulously avoid the term “nation-building” until image consultants and polling services can come up with an acceptable euphemism.

*What conservatives condemn:* In the closing days of his administration, President Clinton responds to diplomatic overtures from North Korea. The new Bush administration, however, breaks off contact, and brands North Korea part of an “axis of evil.”

*What conservatives do:* When North Korea announces it has developed nuclear weapons, the administration proposes that we will deal with them diplomatically. Apparently, some evil countries are more evil than others.

*What conservatives condemn:* Those who urge moderation in the rush to start a war with Iraq. We cannot wait for the final proof - the smoking gun - that could come in the form of a mushroom cloud. This is our rationale for preemptive strike at Iraq, which most experts believe is at least 3 - 10 years away from developing a nuclear weapon.

*What conservatives do:* When North Korea announces it has developed nuclear weapons, the administration proposes that we will deal with them diplomatically, even though we already have over 30,000 troops deployed to the region who could be targets.

*What conservatives condemn:* “Liberals” who worry about preserving civil liberties when we’re engaged in a war. Americans must be willing to make sacrifices. Anyone who questions the current regime’s approach obviously isn’t patriotic enough.

*What conservatives do:* When confronted with an act of domestic terrorism, the current regime drags its feet in effecting the useful forensic tool of gathering ballistic data on firearms\*. All Americans are patriotic, but clearly

the people in the gun lobby are more patriotic than other people.

Now, here's something we can all agree on: If your candidate won in the recent elections, congratulations. If not, condolences. If you're eligible to vote and didn't, shame on you! And finally, to conservatives, liberals, and everyone in between, Happy Holidays!

### **Notes**

\*See "How Science Solves Crimes," *Time*, October 24, 2002; "A Sniper Curb?" *ABCNEWS.com*, October 22, 2002; and "Sniper Deaths Fuel Debate Over Ballistic Fingerprints," *The Orlando Sentinel*, October 17, 2002.



**MARC LEICHTLING**

**My Point of View**  
**Welfare Reform**  
by  
**Mike Moakley**

**F**or the last several years, much has been said in political circles about the need for Welfare Reform. To hear some talk about it, we would believe that, because of our Welfare State that we created in the "Great Society" of the mid-1960s, we have created this permanent underclass of people described in 1968 by then-Presidential candidate George Wallace as "folks who won't work for a living". Yes, we were told, we need to do something about this. The recent push to reform our welfare system came from the "Contract With America", that document that helped propel the Republican Revolution fueled by the Angry White Man syndrome.

For years, the picture painted for us was of shiftless people who apparently did nothing except make babies, just to get that ever-increasing share of our hard-earned tax money. How many times have we been led to believe that "these people" live in luxury at the expense of middle-class taxpayers struggling to put their kids through college. Sound familiar? Yet, for the most part, this "picture" is little more than pure fantasy. The truth is, George was partially right. Most public assistance goes to working households. They work, but do not make a living.

So, do we really need "welfare reform"? The short answer is YES, we do. Now, this leads us to the hard part: What should we do? The current "welfare-to-work" schemes will not make a significant impact, as most on welfare already work. What about "faith-based" institutions? Charities and churches are already overloaded with the ever-increasing need for assistance. So, what should we do? To answer that, we need to define the problem.

From what I have heard over the years, the main issue seems to be the expenses, which translate to TAXES. No Right-thinking person would ever tolerate that! The most expedient thing to do would be to quit funding welfare programs, but do we really want to do that? How about those who really do need help (yes, they DO exist)? So far, a good working definition of this problem is: How do we find a way to help the less fortunate without costing us a fortune in taxes? For this, I have a few suggestions:

- ❖ Enact "living wage" legislation. A "living wage" is, for our purposes, defined as the amount necessary to be earned to lift a family of four out of poverty. The official poverty line at this time is slightly over \$18,000 per year. Typical of such legislation is that businesses that have government contracts or receive "corporate welfare" (e.g., tax abatements and incentives to locate in a community) must pay their employees, at a minimum, a "living wage". This will not eliminate welfare, but will reduce the burden somewhat, as people who make more money are entitled to less benefits.

- ❖ Back charge those employers who pay minimum wage to

employees who attempt to support their children on such a wage. These people are the ones most likely to get public assistance - just so their kids won't starve! Guess what, fellow taxpayers? We are subsidizing these employers' payrolls! We are dipping into our pockets to pay the money THEY refuse to pay for their employees to be able to live. Give these people all the help they need, and send the bill to their employers! This could be dubbed, "The Public Assistance User Fee". If they don't pay up, they don't get to do business here.

❖ Maybe, just maybe, we can make the minimum wage workers public employees. Yes, with Civil Service protections, decent wages, the right to organize unions, and (YES!) job security. After all, the public already pays part of their "salaries". Let's just complete the job. A side benefit is the reduced need for unemployment benefits.

Do we REALLY want reform?



**DELIGHT, DESPAIR, AND DISBELIEF ALL COME TO THE FOREFRONT WHEN THE RG GAMEROOM TURNS INTO A BATTLEGROUND OF GREED AS THE PLAYERS VIE TO BANKRUPT EACH OTHER IN A CLASSIC MONOPOLY® MATCH! ONLY ONE OF MANY GAMES OF LUCK AND SKILL TO BE ENJOYED AT A SCAM RG!**

**A View  
from the Right:  
What A Difference  
A Day Makes**  
*by*  
**J.T. Moran**  
*(morwood@cfl.rr.com)*

**I**t was an amazing thing. On Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002 the country was going into an election that was already filled with political chicanery the likes of which old Chicago would have been proud. The Democrats had replaced two dead Senators (one physically, the other ethically and politically) with two fossils. Interestingly enough, both of these dinosaurs, Lautenberg and Mondale, had questioned their opponents' ages in their earlier Senatorial incarnations. As a point of interest, both of those opponents so questioned were younger than the Dyspeptic Duo currently are. The Dems had replaced Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who had died in a plane crash, and Robert Torricelli of New Jersey, whose electability had died in corruption and ethics scandals. Wellstone's campaign was in trouble, with the ultra-Liberal losing ground to his opponent, while Torricelli was already behind by double-digits to his.

In Torricelli's case, the Dems, in a blatant disregard for New Jersey election law, had him withdraw from the race with only 36 days to go. The law specified that such withdrawals must take place prior to 51 days. He was not dying, sick, or otherwise physically incapable of campaigning. There was no emergency situation preventing him from running... other than the fact that he was going to be trounced by a Republican. The emergency was that a Democrat senate seat would be lost, along with their plurality in the Senate. So, to heck with the law! They replaced him with Frank Lautenberg, and let a friendly State Supreme Court and Liberal Dem governor approve their action.

In Minnesota, Walter Mondale, the far-left former Senator and Vice-President replaced the late Wellstone on the ticket with just a week remaining. The Dems, who publicly chastised the GOP and their candidate Coleman for even thinking of politically campaigning during the "time of mourning", held a "memorial" service for the late senator... a memorial to which the Vice-President was asked not to appear. He was probably ecstatic that he was so asked, as the so-called memorial actually turned into a Democrat campaign rally, complete with the disparaging of Republicans in general, and the disrespecting of those in attendance.

Well, this little bit of blatant politicking outraged everyone, even the media. Yet, Terry McAuliffe, the head of the Democrat National Committee, tried to spin his way out of it, blaming the farce on the Wellstone family, and even criticizing the President and the V-P for not showing up to pay their respects!

Replacing the dead was very important to the Dems... in states where their candidate was behind. The reason for the Torricelli replacement was to give the voters two "viable" candidates; that's what the NJ Supremes said, and the DNC repeated it in all the media. However, it was appar-

ently not a concern in Hawaii, where Democrat Congresswoman Patsy Mink was ill for months before the election and passed away with about a month to go. In her case, however, she was far ahead in the polls, so the DNC fought to keep her ON the ballot! (What happened to the “viable” candidate stuff?) As it turned out, she won easily, with about 60% of the vote. Kind of logical, in an ironic sort of way: the Dems have long had the reputation of having many dead voters... but it is a rarity for even them to elect one of the eternal-dirt-nappers. And it just may backfire on them, because the people of Hawaii also unexpectedly elected a Republican governor, who will most likely fill the vacant seat with a member of her own party.

It was an Election Day that actually saw more voting than was expected for a midterm ballot... in some states, far more. Seven Senate races were too close to call, and nobody on either side of the aisle was willing to predict the outcomes. And the battles were not only between the candidates; President Bush and former President Clinton, along with former VP Gore, were out stumping for their respective parties, leading the media, and top Dems, to call this election a referendum between the two philosophies. The Dems in particular aimed to defeat the President’s brother Jeb in the Florida gubernatorial race.

Well, after the people spoke, it seems they once again told the Clinton-Gore machine to go away. One thing that might be noted, but was ignored by the media almost completely, was that in all the areas where President Bush went head-to-head campaigning against the Clinton-Gore tag team, the results were phenomenal: where the Republican lost it was by the slimmest of margins. But where the GOP triumphed it was usually by double-digits! And many of those victors had been behind in the polls prior to the President’s appearance. Jeb Bush won by about 700,000 votes. Of the seven tight Senate races, the Dems won 2, one of which is still in recount as the margin of victory was only 500 votes. And almost all the media showed their liberal stripes, asking ***what went wrong*** as the GOP bucked historical trends by actually gaining seats in a midterm election. They added 5 seats in the House, and won a true majority in the Senate, with 51 seats in GOP hands to 47 Dem, and 2 still contested: South Dakota with the recount, and Louisiana where the sitting Dem Senator received only 46% of the vote... and the 3 Republicans on the ballot received a combined 51% on election day. The top vote-getters will have a runoff election on December 7<sup>th</sup>, which may go down in Democrat records as yet another day of infamy.

So what do these results portend? Well, we have already seen a shakeup in the Democrat leadership, with an even more liberal Nancy Pelosi of California replacing Dick Gephardt as House Minority Leader. And Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle’s job is also uncertain. But the big changes will occur because of the changes in committees. With the GOP in

charge of the Senate Judicial Committee, many more of the President's nominees will at least be reviewed and passed on for the Senate as a whole to vote on, hopefully resulting in a judiciary that is a little more concerned with the constitutionality of existing laws, rather than making new ones by judicial fiat. The tax cuts will stand a better chance of being made permanent, and the marriage penalty may soon go out the window. In fact, the taxpayers may actually be allowed to keep more of what they earn, rather than have it confiscated and redistributed because, as former President William Jefferson Blythe Clinton once opined: "we might spend it on the wrong things."

And, perhaps most important of all, the rest of this violent world now see a sitting President with high approval ratings and great popularity who has been granted a Legislature of his own party by the voters of a country obviously in agreement with his clearly-defined plans and goals in the war against terrorism, as well as for the future prosperity of our nation.

The Dems, however, have a few choices of their own: pull together with the majority of the country, or continue to obstruct whenever they can.

We will see what they have done on Election Day, 2004, when another referendum will determine who the people thinks is right, and who is liberal.



## *The Three Tenors?*



**GEORGE PATTERSON, JIM PEABODY, AND VELMON PHILLIPS**

## **The 10th Story**

*by*

**Elissa Rudolph,**

**RVC10**

**RVC10@us.mensa.org**

**J**t's that month that has the shortest days, the longest lines to wait in, and yet it's the month that holds the warmest holidays. That is, if you're not a Grinch. And even if you are, that's a lovely green you're wearing.

The rumors are true—American Mensa will host the International Board of Directors meeting in August of 2006 combined with a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Mensa's founding. The event has been dubbed "World Gathering (WG)" because it is far and away grander than an AG. The location will not be far for any of you in Region 10 because the site is Orlando. Details on exact dates and hotel will be forthcoming; three of Orlando's most accommodating facilities want to work with us, including the Disney Coronado. Stay tuned for progress reports as they emerge—we hope to have a Web site where those reports will be posted. Committees are forming and at last count, 9 volunteers pledged their assistance, not knowing exactly what to expect. Brave souls.

National Testing Day was again a success with more than 1200 potential Ms tested. A final report has yet to written. Some interesting minutiae gathered by the National Office as they totaled up media contacts: "The clear plurality of individuals taking the Mensa test on National Testing Day indicate they learned about Mensa and the test sites on the Internet. Other strong indications were family and friends, other Mensans and word of mouth. Surprisingly, an appreciable number of test takers said they learned about us from Geena Davis on David Letterman. Also mentioned were the Far Side comic strip and the movie Me, Myself & Irene. The majority of those who indicated a date of birth on the evaluation sheet said they were born in the 70s or 80s. If this bears out on the testing sheets it represents a significant shift to younger potential members." New blood! (Quoted material from Executive Director Pam Donahoo's initial report of NTD.)

**Palm Beach County Mensa** is in the spotlight this month, last of the dozen Region 10 groups that I have covered in this column. Major cities in this group are West Palm Beach, tony Palm Beach, Boca Raton, Jupiter (Burt Reynolds' hometown, once upon a time), and various small town jewels along the Gold Coast. With over 300 members, this group has the numbers to be a strong player, but remains a quiet enclave of a higher than expected life member population as well as a higher than expected non-active member population. Interesting mix. Certain activities are First Fridays and once a month dinners. Palm Beach County is the largest county east of the Mississippi with an 80-mile coastline, so geography keeps members apart somewhat. North county and south county coordinators try to organize events to please everyone. But you know how that goes....

Have a warm and safe holiday season. And if you're a Grinch, you be careful too—someone just might give you a hug when you least expect it!

## COMING EVENTS

**January 31-February 2, Smarti Gras 2003, <http://www.centralflorida.us.mensa.org/>** Laissez les bons mots rouler! Plan now to attend this RG organized by Central Florida Mensa!

**February 14-16, 2003, ValenTime RG, <http://www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org/>,** for details for Northwest Florida's first ever RG!



## *Keep An Eye Out For The Farmer's Wife!*



## **The Alchemist: Overvalued and**



**Underbought**

**Al Thomas**

©2002  
[al@mutualfund  
magic.com](mailto:al@mutualfundmagic.com)

**W**ith all the bad news that has been dumped upon the economy for some reason, the stock market is going up. Why?

The SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) has just set up new guidelines for core earnings. No more proforma computations. You know what proforma means – the company CEO or Treasurer waves his magic wand and says this is what I expect to appear as soon as I let the genii out of the bottle. And pigs can fly. These imaginary numbers may give his company a Price/Earnings ration of 20 which is pretty good by today's standards.

Now those mean guys in Washington have said you must reevaluate your earnings but this time figure in your stock options, pension costs and any restructuring charges. Holy Cow, that makes the P/E ratio 37. And that ain't no bargain when you are buying stock. The 100 year average has run about a 14 P/E. If the company has not been paying any dividends then this is a stock that must be suspect for any long term holding.

Because of these new guidelines the entire S&P Index P/E has gone from a 33 to 49. That is much better than it was in January 2002 when it reached 69. This number makes the entire market overvalued and still leaves me with the question of how can the market advance using these high P/Es? There are a couple of answers and neither may be the right one.

The market has become severely oversold. The bear people have been riding it down until the news media finally recognized we have a long-term bear market. There have become too many traders who think there is no bottom and are willing to sell anything and everything. Enter the trading bargain hunters. It will now be the bears turn to be punished.

It takes money to put the market up. Where is that coming from? Our white knight, Sir Greenspan, has come in with his bags of money this past week. Look past our borders and you will see stock exchanges in every major country in the world that look sicker than ours. Foreign investors want a new home for their money and it seems the U.S. market looks darn good. As that money has started buying you may begin to see pension plan and mutual fund managers coming into the market.

The talking heads on TV and radio will give many other reasons that can be fueling the market advance and they may also be correct. Our market may be overvalued as we see it, but to others it looks like a bargain. Money is always looking for the greatest return and with wire transfers billions of dollars can and does move in a matter of hours. Oversold to the foreign market traders means under bought. It seems they have put on their buying clothes and want a piece of the action as our market is headed up – at least for a while.





# Central Florida Mensa

presents

## "Smarti Gras"

January 31<sup>st</sup> - February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003

Holiday Inn Select  
12125 High Tech Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32817  
(407) 275-9000  
<http://www.hiucf.com>

**All Rooms \$72.00**

*"Laissez les bons mots rouler!"*

(rate and availability guaranteed until Jan. 10)

All Mensans are welcome to return to a taste of New Orleans, right here in the Central Florida sunshine. Smarti Gras was so popular last year that we decided to continue the party. Our Hotel is preparing the Giant hot tub for our late night use, and our hospitality is always the best. Meals are provided in your registration, except for the Saturday dinner on the town. Ask your friends that attended Smarti Gras if it wasn't the best party in town.

We are sorry to report that the Alien Booby toss will not occur due to expiration of the alien's visa. We are planning something as strange for your enjoyment, but we'll never tell. The Hotel is fully accessible by those with limited mobility. All events and hospitality are on the same floor, so come on to Orlando in January to celebrate Smarti Gras!

---

### Registrations:

\$65 through Oct 20, 2002  
\$70 Oct 21 through Jan 1, 2003  
\$75 Jan 2 and afterwards

Send Registrations to:

Eddie Truelove  
3333 Honeysuckle Lane  
Belle Isle, FL 32812  
407.855.9078  
[etruelove@cfl.rr.com](mailto:etruelove@cfl.rr.com)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

*(Continued from Page 5)*

- Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater rolled across the stage (*Richard Manno*)
- A screwdriver (dressed as a screw and carrying a steering wheel) (*Lisa Willnow*)
- Wild Man (*Sharon Whiteside*)
- Braveheart's cousin (Happy To See You Heart, a.k.a.: Armed and Dangerous) (*Jerry Fortner*)
- Old Man Rollback (cinnamon rolls on his back and they were tasty) (My favorite duet partner – *Phil Hales*)



Special mention to the John Travolta look-alike doing Tony Soprano (*Marc Leitchling*) and a Giant Leprechaun (*Jim Peabody* – not really wearing a costume – he just likes to wear a white top hat).

The dessert competition was supposed to be a fund-raiser but there were insufficient entries to do this – we had three contestants, *Rita Johnson-Aronna*, *Kathi Harbaugh* and *Sarah Robison*. We had six categories and six desserts to fill them – so, it was a given that all three got awards. When we served the desserts they evaporated nearly instantly so they must have been good. Sorting the six by the category was the hard part – eating them was easy.

Seven brave souls came in for the testing session – two were registered guests – thanks to everyone.

Yes, the RG is all over now, but: “Hey, that was fun, let’s go again!”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Errata:** June Brasgalla, I inadvertently forgot to give you “warm thanks” for helping with the chicken soup. I’ll use a sign-in list next time so folks can’t sneak in and work themselves half to death and then I can’t remember the names.

