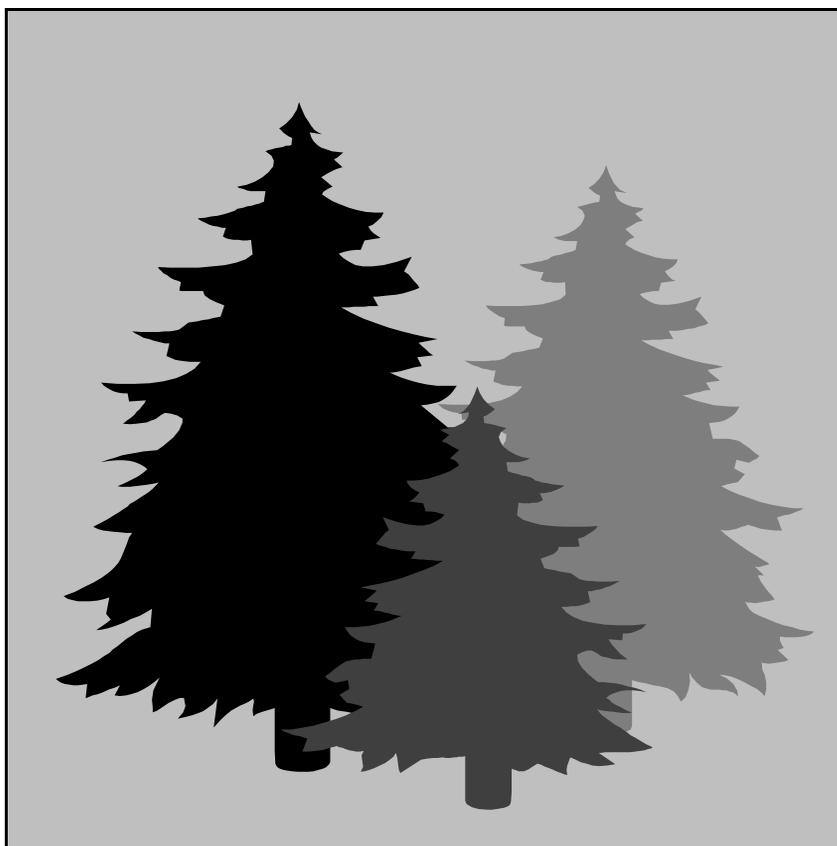


The

SCAM

page coast area ensa

2002 Newsletter Owl Nominee



Happy Holidays!

Volume 21, No. 12

December, 2003

**The
Newsletter**
SCAM
pace oas/ read ensa

Editor Michael Moakley 952-8400
Assembly/Circulation Clara Woodall-Moran 632-0854
Events Coordinator
Volunteer Needed!
Cover Artist
Artisté Needed!
Proofreader
 Thea Saurus

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: **808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne FL 32901**, or submit via e-mail to: **moakleymj@bellsouth.net**

Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

Happy December Birthday



- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 05—Paul Bisson | 16 – Christopher Glass |
| 09 – Roberta Brock | 17 – Alexander Lauberts |
| 09 – Robert May | 18 – Douglas Parker |
| 10 – George Legters | 26 – Monica Byers |
| 10 – John Moran | 29 – Jean McNamara |
| 11 – Jim Fitzgerald | 30 – Elaine Joyce |
| 11 – John Nahan | |

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

Jakob Unger, Jr.

Welcome to SCAM

*Paul Bisson Dorothy Hickam
 Richard Gargan Neil Kimber
 Geoff Price*

Welcome Back to SCAM

*Janice Axelrod
 William Gray*



Mewsing About



***Clara
Woodall-Moran,
LocSec***

In your November Bulletin you should have received a request to provide a proxy vote to the national office for amending the bylaws (national level) due to a conflict between the bylaws and the Certificate of Incorporation held in New York. The Legal department provided some pat answers to some questions and asked all of the local chapters to refer any question not on the list to the National Office. All this LocSec and the ExComm asks is that you, the member did what you thought necessary.

This request for the members to provide a proxy vote to the national office reminds me of a bylaws standard for all local groups requiring a vote for or against a bylaw that the national office might require us to make. They expect us to expend the local chapter funds to try to garner a few votes for something that, should it fail to pass, would not matter anyway – it would still be done. As your LocSec, I hate to waste money that way – especially the pittance we receive from the national office.

Fair warning time: We are going to be seating a Nominations and Election Committee at the January meeting. We need three folks who have no ambition to be on the ExComm to agree to monitor the election and to get us some candidates for the 2004-5 ExComm. Please do some soul searching to determine if you can either be on the NomECom or to be on the ExComm.

And, as a related topic, since I have served as LocSec two years in a row now, I am not going to run for ExComm at all. The other members will have to speak for themselves.

Don't forget, we are going to be holding an RG in October 2004 and Joe Smith, the chairperson wants all of the help he can get.

***I never promised
a rose garden ...***

***... and personal
responsibility***

***By
Clara Woodall-
Moran***

My LocSec hat is on the floor beside me – yes, I'll be talking about matters concerning the group but I will not be doing so as the LocSec.

When an individual joins a group, there are rights and privileges attached as well as responsibility. The individual can choose to be an active member of the group or to be a passive member. Both choices come with some responsibility.

In an all-volunteer organization such as Space Coast Area Mensa, it is a responsibility of the active members, sitting around the Executive table to be ever-mindful of the other members, passive and active. The group's funds come from these individuals and, therefore, the executive committee carries the responsibility of watching the purse strings.

In the County politics once, a commissioner asked: "If they did not elect us to spend the tax money, what did they elect us for?" This commissioner was quickly voted out of office. I was not elected to spend the money of Space Coast Area Mensa and so I watch all expenditures with due care.

Many of you will remember pleas for new editor before June of this year. I believe, if any of you can remember that far back, it was never a promise of the job that the hardware and/or software used to create the newsletter would be provided by the group. In fact, quite the opposite has been stated repetitively. So why am I bringing this up, you might ask since we have a good editor on board. Well, someone has said, in a public manner, that this group is aptly named because, even with the caveat stated (we won't supply the hardware/software for the job), the group did not supply the hardware/software and hence, this individual has been "scammed" by the ExComm in general, and one individual in specific. While this individual might feel "scammed", I'm certain that everyone would agree that a request couched as: "...Do this or else..." will see the extortion in the request.

The person "whining" will not place formal charges against either the ExComm or the individual so the matter can be properly dealt with but believes that the right exists to "phone stalk" and "email stalk" the entire ExComm and the RVC. This individual has little notion of right and wrong.

I realize that it is considered "bad form" to air the group's "dirty laundry" but this kind of sniping in the background has gone unanswered in the past, over several different issues, not just in my sitting on the ExComm but during the terms of other LocSecs. More than anything, this sort of headache, generate by someone with not much else to do in life, is what causes others to refrain from taking up the group responsibility by holding an office.

Regardless of the fact that our ExComm meetings are taped and the tapes are retained, the actual, official minutes (the auditable ones) are those printed in the newsletter. The memories of individuals can be substantiated by the tapes when necessary but are not to be construed by anyone as the actual official minutes of the meetings. The ExComm, as a whole, therefore, must be certain the minutes properly reflect the meetings and will request changes as necessary to the printed ones. This is one reason we are strict about using the "action minutes" rather than "paraphrase minutes". Robert's Rules of Order requires the usage of a "court reporter" if paraphrase minutes are to be used and that the records of the court reporter transcripts are the official record.

We cannot afford to use court reporters for every meeting hence the official record is the action minutes printed in the newsletter. Now, for another bit of trivia about the reporting of the meetings, all discussion prior to a motion is of no standing. The only discussion that can be reported upon is that which has taken place after a motion is made and seconded and the "facilitator" has called for discussion. If no second is made, there is no reportable discussion as the motion has died. Everything that happened prior to the motion is deleted from the official minutes.

And, one further piece of trivia, motions are not made where no action would have been taken – in other words, if it is the policy that organization

will not do something, then there are no motions necessary to not do that thing. For example, if the group generally does not buy something like hardware or software, then there is no need to move to not buy hardware or software so the only possible motion would be TO BUY the hardware or software. Pretty simple and logical, I'd say.

From the Horse's Mouth...



***"Of Mensa Diets,
Raging Bulls, Etc."***

***by
Mike Moakley,
SCAM Editor***

When I rejoined SCAM a couple of years ago and received my first copy of this newsletter in the mail, I realized I had forgotten about the strange acronyms that appear in the calendar of each issue. Since that time, not only have I wondered what these weird letter combinations actually meant, but I also wondered how many others have the same questions in mind but were simply too embarrassed at our seeming ignorance of all things Mensan. This month, I will discuss two such acronyms.

When I came across **C.A.B.A.G.E.**, the first thing that came to mind was a wonderful accompaniment to corned beef. But why four times a month, and why not at a restaurant instead of a bookstore? I know they have coffee...

Then I came across **S.N.O.R.T.** Once again, my imagination (such as it is) began working overtime. Was this at a bullfight...or maybe at some stables where horses are kept. A-a-a-h-h! Memories of Belmont Park, not far from where I grew up. Yet these events are held at restaurants, hardly where one might find snorting animals.

Well, here it is: **C.A.B.A.G.E.** stands for **C**ards **A**nd **B**ooks **A**nd **G**ames, Etcetera. **S.N.O.R.T.**, on the other hand, has **TWO** meanings: **S**aturday **N**ight **O**f the **R**ound **T**able, and **S**aturday **N**ight **O**f the **R**ectan-**g**ular **T**able. Of course, the meaning to be used depends on the restaurant and its accommodations. Now you know. Why not attend one of them?

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

***To Measure the
World - Part I***

by

Hank Rhodes

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In the Summer of 1792, two expeditions set out from Paris in opposite directions, jointly charged with the formidable mission of determining the circumference of the earth. Although barely remembered today, this project would alter science forever.

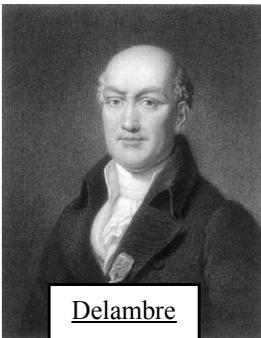
France was a nation in the throes of great political and social upheaval. Since a popular uprising almost three years before, power had shifted from the aristocracy to the representatives of the common people.

Members of the nobility and clergy had been imprisoned, and the revolutionary government had confiscated their estates and seized church property. The previous year, King Louis XVI and his family had disguised themselves, and made a desperate attempt to flee the insurrection, only to be recognized at the border and forced to return to Paris. The King, Queen Marie Antoinette, and their son were confined to their palace, as a thousand-year monarchy passed its last days.

As part of its program of reform, the new government intended to abolish the lengths and weights of the old regime, and decreed a new system of measurement, based on nature. The fundamental unit of the revolutionary system was to be exactly one-ten millionth of the distance from the pole to the equator.

Of course, it would be impractical to actually journey from the equator to the north pole, which no human would reach until the 20th century. Instead, the expeditions would precisely measure the length of the meridian that runs through Paris, from Dunkirk on the North Sea to Barcelona on the Mediterranean. The exact angle along the earth's surface between Dunkirk and Barcelona can be determined by celestial sightings. The next step is to precisely measure the distance between the two points (approximately 680 miles), and extrapolate this distance to the full 90 degree arc between the pole and equator.

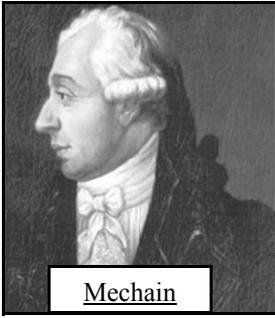
The project was divided into unequal segments, with the two teams intending to work from the ends toward one another, joining their survey at the town of Rodez in the south of France.



Delambre

Leading the expedition charged with covering the ground from Barcelona to Rodez was Pierre Francois Andre Mechain, 47 years old, one of the leading astronomers of the day. Mechain's counterpart on the northern segment was Jean Baptiste Joseph Delambre, 42, another scientific luminary.

The project was expected to be completed within a year. In actuality, it would be over seven years before the mission was accomplished, and the fact that it was completed at all borders on the miraculous. Furthermore, by the time their quest was ful-



filled, one man would rightly enjoy a permanent position of honor, while the other man would experience frustration, despair, and be driven to his untimely death.

Rodez is actually two-thirds of the distance from Dunkirk to Barcelona. Although Delambre had twice the length to cover, he had several advantages over his colleague.

First the northern portion had previously been surveyed. This expedition however, was equipped with new instruments and refined techniques that were intended to provide the most accurate measurement possible. Delambre was expected to follow in the footsteps of his predecessors and improve upon their work.

Secondly, in addition to surveying ground not previously measured, Mechain's expedition had to cover the rugged Pyrenees Mountains that separate France from Spain.

Thirdly, Mechain would be operating in a foreign country, which was governed by a monarchy deeply troubled by the revolutionary fervor across the border. In addition to his scientific talents, Mechain was expected to play the role of diplomat in seeking the cooperation of his Spanish hosts.

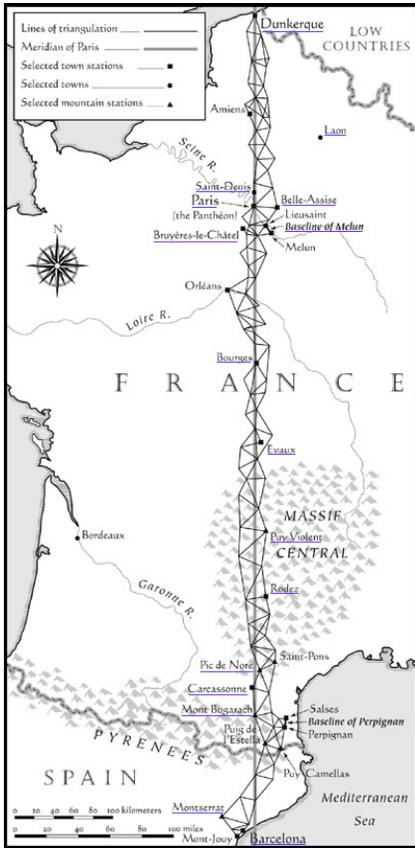
Since it would be virtually impossible to measure this great length directly with any accuracy (there was no perfectly straight and level road between the two places), the scientists would use the technique of triangulation, where if one knows the length of one side of a triangle, and the angles between the sides, one can then determine the length of all sides. If the triangles are arrayed in an interlocking grid, then it is only necessary to make a highly accurate measure of one side- "the baseline"- to derive all the other lengths.

Measuring these triangles (often 40 miles on a side), required elevated vantage points, such as hilltops, church steeples, and towers. In low-lying rural areas, the scientists had to construct their own observation towers, after gaining permission from the landowners and any local authorities.

Mechain and Delambre's surveying instruments allowed them to quickly measure and remeasure the angles several times during a single set of observations, with the purpose of minimizing any inaccuracy that might arise on a single meas-



Space Coast Area Mensa 7



urement. Additionally, they would apply correction factors for the curvature of the earth, for differences in elevation between the observation points, and for atmospheric refraction. Using celestial observations, Mechain and Delambre would recompute the latitudes of Barcelona and Dunkirk. The two teams would use calibrated platinum rods to achieve a precise measure of their respective baselines, one each for the northern and southern segments. From this accurate length, the length of the sides of all the other interlocking triangles would be calculated, and from them, the circumference of the earth. This technique represented the best of late-18th century science. The science, it turns out, would be the easy part of the mission.

(To be continued)

Sources and notes:

Primary source for this set of articles is Ken Alder’s excellent work, *The Measure of All Things*, published by the Free Press in 2002.

Note that the term “scientist” is used here in its modern meaning.



ValenTime RG on the Gulf

February 13-15, 2004 (3 p.m Friday - noon Sunday)

Holiday Inn, 1020 Hwy 98 E.

Destin, Florida

Tentative programs include some of last year's favorites and some new stuff you're gonna love, including The Chocolate Orgy, Air Pollution: Facts and Fables, Raising Koi, Nutrition, History of the Panhandle, Greenland, Genealogy, Lipstick and Khakis (woman helicopter pilot), Improvisation.

Registration:

\$35 per person if paid in advance, \$37.50 after February 1, \$40 per person at the door, or \$15 per person for a single day. Please make checks payable to Northwest Florida Mensa.

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Address _____

Please mail this form to:

Registrar - ValenTime

616 Overbrook Drive

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547

Questions?

Contact John Mochan, 850-863-3599, or jmochan@cox.net. Visit us at nwflorida.us.mensa.org

Room rates range from \$73 to \$105 per night depending upon the view; please contact the Holiday Inn at 850-837-6181 and tell them you're with the Mensa Group.

It's never too soon to think of ValenTime!

(Editor's Note: You may mail a copy of this ad if you wish to keep this SCAM newsletter intact..)



December 2003 Calendar of SCAM Events

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

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

Regular Events

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Barnes and Noble: Monday, the 8th & 22nd
6:00PM, Merritt Island, across from Merritt Square Mall

C.A.B.A.G.E. (North) at Books-A-Million: Wednesday, the 3rd & 17th
Merritt Square Mall

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 **459-9432**
C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: *Position Vacant*

6th	7:00 p.m.	S/NP	Holiday Dessert
Saturday	\$3.00		Games & Card Party

Suzanne and Marc Leichtling will host a holiday dessert, games, and card party, 7 PM to 11 PM, at their home located at Please RSVP no later than Saturday morning.

Suzanne and Marc

10th	NL and Calendar deadlines
-------------	----------------------------------

All newsletter submissions must be to Mike no later than today. Ditto for calendar events being to the calendar coordinator.
moakleymj@bellsouth.net

12th	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. Food is no longer available at the pub, but you can carry or order in. The pub is at .
Helen Lee Moore **632-1831** *Moorehelenlee@cs.com*

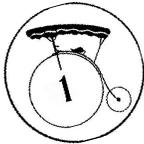
13th Saturday	4:00 p.m. Free	Piano Recital NS/NP
Get into the Holiday Spirit! Fellow SCAM member Arleigh Sharpe invites us to attend his students' piano recital at Faith Presbyterian Church, 1900 South Tropical Trail, Merritt Island. Nursery care is available and refreshments will follow. There is no charge.		
19th Friday	6:00PM \$3.00	Talk-about SS/P
Event Cancelled for this month		
21st Sunday	11:00 a.m. Meal cost	Brunch with Jim NS/NP
We'll join Jim for his monthly Sunday brunch at the <i>Colossus Restaurant</i> at <i>380 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne</i> . 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	242-8985	
25th Thursday	<u>Merry Christmas!</u>	
27th Saturday	6:30 p.m. Meal Cost	S.N.O.R.T. SS/NP
Wasabi! Join us at our best-attended monthly event and sample some great Japanese fare; take a break from the mundane for some sushi, teriyaki, and tempura. <i>Miyako's</i> is located at <i>1511 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US1) in Melbourne</i> .		
Mike Moakley	952-8400	<i>moakleymj@bellsouth.net</i>
31st Wednesday	8:00 p.m. \$3.00	New Year's Eve Party SS/P (2 cats)
Once again, Clara and J.T have 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 2004. <i>5685 Friendly St., Port St. John</i>		
Clara and J.T. Moran	632-0854	
31st Wednesday	8:00 p.m. \$4.00	A New Year's Eve Party in Lakeland! SS/P (1 cat)
Carol Harris in Lakeland has also decided to host New Year's Eve. Have a great time while waiting for the big ball to come down at Midnight and usher in 2004.		
Carol Harris	863-683-6990	

**THIS PAGE IS RESERVED
...JUST FOR YOU!**

**A View
from the Right:
Amend This!
Part I**

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

**A View
From
The
Car-
riage**
**The Poetry
Corner**



**My Point
of View
Education
"Opportunities"**



Is The SCAM too POLITICAL...?
...Too liberal?
Too Conservative...?
Needs more fiction?
More poetry?
...Maybe you'd like to see something else?

**Why not write for
The SCAM??**

The SCAM welcomes written submissions on just about any subject matter. It must be your own work. Remember, deadline is the 10th of every month for the upcoming issue. Please see Page 3 of every issue for details.

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

Cups

by

Art Belefant

©2003

(belefant@juno.com)

Recipes in most European countries use metric weights to measure the ingredients. The U. S. uses volumetric measurements. To convert from weight to volumetric or *visa versa* is not simple as each ingredient weighs a different amount for the same volume. A pound of granulated sugar is about 2 cups. A pound of confectioners' sugar is about 2 1/2 cups. A bushel of apples weighs 44 pounds and a bushel of potatoes weighs 60 pounds. There are tables of specific weights of food ingredients in most standard recipe books.

To use a European recipe in America, first a conversion must be made from the metric weight to the English weight and then from the English weight to the volumetric size. To convert from an American recipe to a European recipe the reverse process must be used. Volume to volume conversions can be made, but they do not take into consideration the specific weights of the ingredients.

- ◆ 1 teaspoon = 4.9 cubic centimeters
- ◆ 1 tablespoon = 14.8 cubic centimeters
- ◆ 1 cup = 236.6 cubic centimeters

The standard weights and measures used for cooking in the U. S. are based on the 8-ounce (liquid) cup and are as expressed in the following table. Commercial recipes often use weights rather than volume for the ingredients.

60 drops = 1 teaspoon
3 teaspoons = 1 tablespoon
2 tablespoons = 1 fluid ounce = 1/8 cup
1 gill = 1/2 cup = 8 tablespoons
16 tablespoons = 1 cup = 8 fluid ounces
2 cups = 1 pint = 16 fluid ounces = 1 pound (of water)
2 pints = 4 cups = 1 quart
4 quarts = 16 cups = 1 gallon
8 quarts = 1 peck
4 pecks = 1 bushel

Two measures are based directly on the gallon, *i.e.* the quart, a truncated expression for a quarter of a gallon, and the fifth (of a gallon), for liqueurs and wines.

There was an old English saying, “A pint is a pound the world around.” This was true when the British had an empire. In 1824 there were several gallon measurements in use in Britain, in particular the 231 cubic-inch gallon for water and wine, which weighed approximately 8 pounds and contained 8 pints, and the 282 cubic-inch gallon for ale, which weighed approximately 10 pounds and also contained 8 pints.

That year the 282 cubic-inch ale gallon was adopted as the standard gallon for the U. K. The U. S., not being a colony at that time, did not follow suit as we had previously standardized on the 8-pound gallon, whereas Canada, Australia, and New Zealand followed the mother country.

To convert from British recipes to American recipes a different process must be used. British volumetric measures are not equal to American volumetric measures, and some of the volume designations are not comparable to the U. S. designations, although weights are the same. This is to be kept in mind if you are using British recipes.

<u>British</u>	<u>American</u>
1 saltspoonful	= 3/4 teaspoon
1 teaspoonful	= 1 1/2 teaspoons
1 dessertspoonful	= 1 tablespoon
1 tablespoonful	= 2 tablespoons
1 teacupful	= 1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons
1/4 pint or 1 gill	= 1/2 cup + 2 tablespoons
1 breakfastcupful	= 1 1/4 cups
1 pint	= 2 1/2 cups
2 pints or 1 quart	= 5 cups

The British (Imperial) pint is 20 ounces compared to the American pint of 16 ounces. Remember this the next time you are in an English pub and order a pint of beer. Meg O'Malley's, the Irish pub in Melbourne, serves tap beer in two sizes, the American pint and the Imperial pint.

Cups for table use come in all sizes. They usually cannot be used for recipe purposes unless you are sure that they contain an exact eight ounces.

Traditionally, tea cups are smaller than coffee cups, note the size of the tea cup and the breakfast (coffee) cup in British usage in the table above. Also tea cups are wider than tall whereas coffee cups are taller than wide.

Tea, when first served in Europe, was served in cups without handles in the oriental manner. Later, tea cups acquired handles because Westerners did not acquire the oriental dexterity of holding a hot cup of tea without burn-

ing their fingers. In Victorian times tea was also served in saucers, also a traditional oriental way of serving tea. Actually, in the orient, the tea was often served in small, shallow bowls, not saucers, the Orientals do not use saucers with their tea cups. Tea was looked upon as a soup, which also gave rise to the traditional wider than high shape of the Western tea cup. The Western tea cup is actually a small bowl with a handle.

In Eastern Europe and the Middle East, as far west as Morocco, tea is served in glasses, but coffee is served in cups. Because hot tea is difficult to hold in handleless glass, for a more elegant service, the glass is placed in a metallic holder, often silver, with a handle.

Actual table cup sizes and shapes vary considerably. Williams-Sonoma lists these sizes for coffee house coffee cups.

Espresso = 3 ounces
Macchiato = 4 ounces,
Cappuccino = 8.5 ounces
Breakfast = 14 ounces

One coffee dispensing kiosk on U. S. Route I-95 lists these portion sizes for their service.

Espresso = 6 ounces
Café Latté = 4 ounces
Cup = 8 ounces
Large cup = 12 ounces

A demitasse, literally a half-cup, is usually much less than the four ounces of a standard measure. Your favorite coffee house may use these sizes or others.



Cups (L—R) Coffee, Demitasse, and Tea.

Yet Another View
The Bum's Rush
by
Mike Moakley

I have long been vocal about conditions that I perceive to be injustices that exist in the greatest country in the world; conditions that all too often appear to be endorsed by the majority of those officials we elect to represent us. In particular, I consistently voice my opposition to the double standard that appears in the way we treat the “haves” as contrasted to the “have-nots”. Quite often I have fielded much criticism for my views. Allegedly, I resent the rich (presumably because they have more goodies than I have), and I advocate “Class warfare”.

My critics are not totally wrong; I do resent the all-too-obvious favoritism shown by our government to our most wealthy citizens. I especially resent the disparate treatment when some among the favored have the audacity to moralize to those (that would be us) they believe are beneath them. *All this in a country that guarantees that all persons are equal under the law.* The 14th Amendment of our Constitution states in part:

“Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” (1)

It may be appropriate here to note that the 14th Amendment makes no reference applying the law in accordance with economic wealth or social status. To illustrate my point, this month we will journey into “The World According To Rush”. As I write this, a news item surfaced that conservative talk radio host Rush Limbaugh has been using illegal drugs, in spite of his public anti-drug stance. I have chosen Rush not only for the timeliness of this item, but because Rush is the self-appointed spokesman for the Right. We’ll start by quoting Rush himself :

“We have alcoholics and drug addicts in our society, don’t we? And what do we say about them? Well, they can’t help it. Why, it’s genetic. Why, they have a disease. Why, put one thimbleful of scotch in front of them and they can die.

We totally exempt them from any control over their lives, do we not? Some athlete will spend two years snorting lines of coke. He can’t help it.’ You know, it’s—it’s just—it’s not—it’s—it’s genetic. These people—they’re predisposed to having this addictive syndrome. They—they can’t help—yeah, like that line of cocaine just happened to march into the hotel, go up to the athlete’s room and put itself right there in front of him on his blotter.” (2)

Not very sympathetic, is he? The obvious national hypocrisy has not gone unnoticed in other political circles. According to a recent press release issued by the Libertarian Party:

"Republican and Democratic politicians have written laws that have condemned more than 400,000 Americans to prison for committing the same 'crime' as Rush Limbaugh," Seehusen pointed out. 'If this pill-popping pontificator deserves a get-out-of-jail-free card, these drug warriors had better explain why.'

Given their longstanding support for the Drug War, it's fair to ask:

Why haven't President George Bush or his tough-on-crime attorney general, John Ashcroft, uttered a word criticizing Limbaugh's law-breaking?

Why aren't drug czar John P. Walters or his predecessor, Barry McCaffrey, lambasting Limbaugh as a menace to society and a threat to "our children?"

Why aren't federal DEA agents storming Limbaugh's \$30 million Florida mansion in a frantic search for criminal evidence?

Why haven't federal, state, and local police agencies seized the celebrity's homes and luxury cars under asset-forfeiture laws?

Finally, why aren't bloviating blabbermouths like William Bennett publicly explaining how America would be better off if Limbaugh were prosecuted, locked in a steel cage and forced to abandon his wife, his friends, and his career?

The answer is obvious, Seehusen said: "America's drug warriors are shameless hypocrites who believe in one standard of justice for ordinary Americans and another for themselves, their families and their political allies." (3)

As the above points out, it is not strictly a Republican problem, either. Both major parties are beholden to this country's elite class to finance their candidates' campaigns, thus the deference shown to the wealthy. According to Ellis Henican of Newsday:

"Another public moralist had been caught in a personal jam. And Rush's words were coming back to haunt him.

The constant digs at Bill Clinton not inhaling.

The heartless shrug when Jerry Garcia died. 'When you strip it all away,' Rush had said of the Grateful Dead guitarist, 'Jerry Garcia destroyed his life on drugs. And yet he's being honored, like some godlike figure. Our priorities are out of whack, folks.'

Rush Limbaugh isn't the first prominent finger-pointer to eat his own words. It wasn't so long ago that Bill Bennett was explaining how an anti-vice crusader could also be a degenerate gambler.

And Jeb Bush, the president's brother and Rush's governor, was pleading for leniency and privacy when his daughter got arrested for drugs. Yet he'd been happily sending other Florida youngsters to long prison terms for similar crimes.

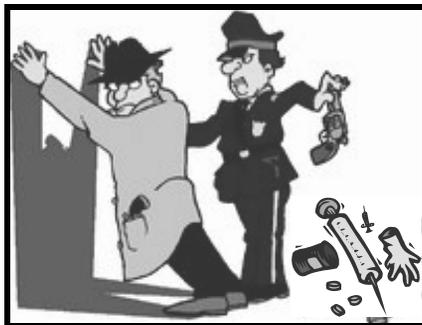
Typical.” (4)

So, what should happen? Given the current drug laws, he should be arrested and appropriately charged. After all, he advocated many of these laws. His assets, at the very least, should be frozen. This way, he cannot gain any legal advantage not available to the rest of us (remember O.J.?). Let Rush be represented by the same overworked Public Defender that “defends” the rest of us, usually by trying to convince us to take a plea bargain. And, if he is convicted, throw him in jail – the same one where the poorer drug offenders are serving their time.

Is this a tirade against Rush? Yes, it is. But, let’s be fair; Rush is not alone, nor is he the worst. In short, it is about time for all those who “talk the talk” to walk the walk.

Sources:

1. The Constitution of the United States of America, Amendment 14, Section 1 (1868)
2. The Rush Limbaugh Show, December 16, 1994
3. America owes talk host Rush Limbaugh a debt of gratitude, Libertarians say, (U.S.) Libertarian Party Press release, October 16, 2003
4. In Shadow of His Own Words, Ellis Henican, Newsday (Long Island, NY), October 3, 2003



**The Alchemist:
Ball and Chain**



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The broker told me not to sell because the mutual fund I owned had a 2% redemption fee and they would penalize me if I did. I got to thinking about it and did some simple math to see what that would cost me if I sold. Several months ago I bought \$5,000 of the fund. Fortunately, it was a no-load so I was not charged any commission. It seems that the brokerage house has instituted this fee for the sole purpose of dissuading me from ever selling it.

Now I could sell it for \$5,500 and make a nice \$500 profit in the last 3 months. Their charge of 2% would be \$110. In other words they were charging me 22% of my profit which you can easily figure as \$110/\$500. That's a long way from 2%. What a rip. My net was now \$390. More and more brokerage companies and mutual funds are adding redemption fees. No-load mutual funds are adding the fees even when you have an account with the fund family. Why? The fund managers are paid their 6-figure salaries not on how much profit they make for you but on the amount of money they have under management. He can generate big money for himself while you lose.

The whole idea of the mutual fund was to have a professional manager make money for you yet last year more than 95% of stock mutual funds lost money. It is pretty obvious you don't need this guy to mangle your cash.

In the future before you purchase any fund ask the broker of there is any kind of redemption fee. If there is then find another fund and/or another broker. Discount brokers are the best because their brokers are not allowed to give you advice. You will find that advice from a broker is a eulogy for your money.

Redemption fees are like a ball and chain on your ability to make money. Any professional trader (and I was a floor trader for 17 years) will tell you that a small loss is OK, but never allow yourself to have a large loss. Excess fees are put on by brokerage companies and funds to keep you from selling out of a losing position. The broker does not make any money if your cash sits in a money market account so he will do everything legally possible to keep you from selling.

Buy and Hold might be OK for long-term bull markets, but during the current long-term bear market you should be able to sell without adding injury to insult. Redemption fees are a method to intimidate the investor from selling out a losing position. Don't buy anything that comes with a ball and chain.

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Minutes of



**the ExComm
Meeting**

The ExComm met at the home of Joe Smith on November 2, 2003. Call to Order by Assistant Loc-Sec Rita Johnson-Aronna at 4:05 p.m. By motion seconded and passed a fifteen-minute recess was declared.

Members present: Rita Johnson-Aronna, Sam Kirschten, and Joe Smith.

Welcome guests present: Pat Aronna, Mike Moakley.

Minutes for October 5, 2003, approved as published. Moved Joe, seconded Sam, unanimous vote.

Officer's Reports: none.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business: none.

New Business: none.

A general discussion for the good of SCAM was held.

The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for 4 pm January 4, 2004, at the home of Rita Johnson-Aronna.

Moved Joe, seconded Sam, passed by unanimous vote to adjourn. Adjourned 4:45 p.m.

(Ed. Note: The ExComm minutes constitute the official record of the ExComm meetings, and as such, are not subject to editing, amplifying, or otherwise altered by this Editor or anyone else not on the ExComm. For more information on how meetings are recorded, see article on Page 4 of this issue. Should there ever be any question of these or any other minutes, they should be directed to a member of the ExComm, and NOT this Editor. The ExComm members are listed on Page 2 of every issue of The SCAM. Please note that all ExComm meetings are open to all SCAM members.)

