

*The*

# SCAM

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***Mensa** is an international society in which the sole requirement for qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standardized intelligence tests. If you know anyone who is interested in joining Mensa, or learning more about us, please have the person contact any of our officers listed on Page Two of every issue.*

# *The* **SCAM** *space coast area mensa*

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## *August Birthday Greetings!!*



02 James Vanaman	13 Ronald Gaynor
04 William Armstrong	15 William Lamoureux
04 Robert Johnson	16 Robert Knox
05 Eric Thompson	22 Shirley Jones
08 Christy Everette	26 Ronald Wallace
09 John M Lurie	29 Chester Young
09 James McNamara	30 David MacMakin
11 Cyprian Klish II	

## *Welcome!!*



## *To SCAM*

*Katherine Cochrane*

*Brian Conway*

## *Welcome Back*

*Jason Brugman*

*David Garutti*

## **Editor's Note:**

The SCAM belongs to the members of Space Coast Area Mensa. Accordingly, we welcome all material submitted for publication in The SCAM. The material may be on just about any subject. Controversial opinions or subjects are encouraged, as are rebuttals to any opinions published herein. The Editor retains the right to edit or reject any material, but will not exercise such prerogative to limit opinions or discussion of any topic.

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

**NEWS FROM THE**  
**SCAM RG COMMITTEE**

***By***

***Joseph Smith,  
RG Committee Chair***

**F**ellow SCAM Members, I am very pleased to inform you that our volunteer roster for the upcoming October Regional Gathering (RG) has grown adequately for the RG Committee to put aside their consideration for recommending to the ExComm to cancel the event.

We are still ironing out the final assignments, but for now we have a fully motivated and excited team of special folks who have committed, at their own individual levels, to work for you to put together an event that you will all be certain to enjoy and be proud of. This doesn't mean that all of you who haven't stepped up to offer help can breathe a sigh of relief now that that the bony finger of the Grim Reaper of Volunteers has passed you by. You will all be visited and given an opportunity to join us, either by helping or by registering for the event.

If you've never attended a SCAM RG on the beach, you have an opportunity to experience for the first time the extraordinary impact that walking into the penthouse on the top floor of the Holiday Inn, Ocean-front, with its multi-level, two storied wrap-around windows from ceiling to floor view of the ocean and spacious accommodations will have on you. There is huge open spaces, comfortable seating everywhere, full view of the beach for miles, balconies, sound system, continuous presentations of appetizers, drinks, games, extraordinary opportunities for conversations (as only a room full of Mensans can create) and a time to be had worth every penny of the registration fee. Throw in the special rates the hotel has given us for rooms and the Saturday Night Banquet and Sunday Morning Brunch and you have a weekend that should not be missed.

Those of you who have attended before do not have to be convinced to attend, so please get your registrations in now so that we can be sure that our plans do not fall short of yours and our guest's expectations. Special early registration rates change at the end of August so be sure to hurry and get your registrations in.

Additional information regarding this event can be found elsewhere in this publication or if you have any questions, requests for special considerations or would like to volunteer to help, please call me in the evenings at 259-4966 or e-mail me at [jsmith@arachnaweb.com](mailto:jsmith@arachnaweb.com).

Looking forward to hearing from you all!!!

Joseph M. Smith  
SCAM RG Committee Chairman

**Snapshots from "Lost Wages"**

***Presenting:***

**The 2004  
ExtravAGanza!**



***... If you missed this AG, there's always NEXT year's AG, which will be held in NEW ORLEANS!!***

## **2005 Post-AG Cruise**



The **2005 AG in New Orleans** will end with a Mensa cruise to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands and Cozumel.

Extra-Special pricing until August 5, 2004. Details at <http://www.suitecruising.com/ag2.htm>

**Ken  
Thornton-Smith**

**MOVE OVER, DARWIN -  
THE CREATOR OF EVOLU-  
TION**

Charles Darwin proposed a mechanism that sought to explain biological diversity. The Theory of Evolution does this by making some assumptions, among these is that diversity is increasing and that survival implies fitness.

In the 150 years since Darwin, we have discovered that this theory is naive, tautological and conflicts with the archaeological record. There is no evidence to support the smooth continuity required for the grand scheme of gradualism – life has had a much rougher ride than the uniformitarian approach that Darwinism requires. The long homogenous sausage of time has been catastrophically sliced like so much pepperoni, and just about every swift lunge with the cosmic carving knife has been a biological disaster.



A common metaphor to explain this system of evolution is the upside down “family tree”. A diagram of Darwinism may be drawn as a single stem at the top, earlier in time, with an increasing number of branches towards the present day (the bottom of the diagram). The time period covered by this tree-root system would be the entire history of life on Earth, a biological menu starting with Vichyssoise d’Amino Acid and ending with Smorgasbord du Jour.

Even within an individual time-slice the evidence disappoints. Each geological epoch appears to have had a greater diversity at the beginning than at the end. Many survivors remain unchanged for the entire period, and often disappear instantly, quite the opposite of the theory.

The most famous biological reboot, the 65 million-year-old Cretaceous/Tertiary boundary (the “K-T Event”) that ended the reign of the dinosaurs is a classic example. It is hardly necessary to point out that the dinosaurs were terrifyingly fit.

To return to the analogy, the biological record would be more accurately represented by a tree rather than a root, with many branches (greater diversity) at the beginning of each geological epoch, and fewer branches, in the case of some genera perhaps even a solitary tree trunk, towards the end. And this analogy applies only to the thickness of each individual salami-slice of time, so there will be many of these not-very-tall trees, stacked one upon the other, back to the first amoeba.

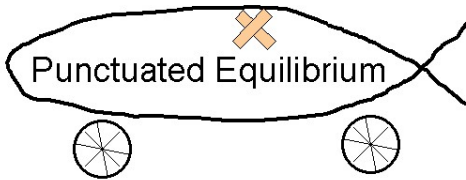
Recognizing that the theory of evolution fails to accommodate the evi-

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dence, biologists equipped themselves with a variation of the theory to fit each specialty, with versions to fit microevolution, macroevolution, large and small organisms, homogenous, mixed, isolated and probably even secret societies. One of those and 50 cents will buy you a bowl of Primordial Broth and a spark plug.

Among these variations, Punctuated Equilibrium at least addresses the frequent disruptions in the archaeological record. As its name suggests, Punctuated Equilibrium at least concedes that biological history is perhaps not as smooth running as we have been led to believe, although always shying from the politically unacceptable term “catastrophe”.



Rather like the “Clovis Police” that casts a dark shadow over American ethnography – (in other words, if you dig up some bones earlier than 12,000 BCE, lose them or lose your grant) – the obsolete specter of Catastrophism looms large over modern evolutionary biology.

So why is Darwin's Theory of Evolution still taught in schools? Only the original is taught, not a hint of Neo-Darwinism makes it to the prepubescent front line. In its original form it is untenable and biologically embarrassing, with a handful of micro-organisms its only supporters.

The answer is simply that, at least in the popular consciousness, there exists only one competitor: the equally absurd Creation Hypothesis.

Amazingly for these enlightened times, the Creationist argument is based on a curiously edited myth that was molded rather than translated. In a disingenuous nod to its origins, somewhere between Nicea and Hippo the Old Testament was added to the Bible. This is an ancient text adapted in its contemporaneous form from Rabbinical Judaism, who inherited it as the Tenakh from the priestly caste of the Israelites, who hijacked the relevant part (the creation passage) from the Babylonians as a spiffing complement to all the Egyptian stuff they already had. The Babylonians are not noted for claims of originality, and might well have stolen the story from somebody else.

Such a pedigree of plagiarism is hardly convincing, even in the face of the authority since invested in it by antiquity, its canonization by everybody's favorite pagan (Constantine), and of course the authority inherent in any documentation. (“They wouldn't be allowed to print it if it wasn't true... ”)

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Antiquity is hardly an issue, being old confers no logical advantage, and the legitimizing of only one out of the several thousand creation myths available is probably not the stamp of divine approval that we all seek.

The Creationists have their own ridiculous timescale, where the entire universe was apparently created at 3 o'clock on a wet Thursday afternoon one October around 6000 BC. Even assuming that this particular creation myth could be pushed back to a few hundred BC, that still leaves an embarrassingly large gap of several thousand years of overactive imagination between the creation event and its earliest reports. This is anecdotal evidence ad absurdum.


Of course, none of the Creationist arguments would work if it weren't so easy to drive a bus through Darwinism. Despite this, their main contention is that Darwinism is a "Theory", thus suggesting it is unproven by preying on the popular misunderstanding of the difference between a hypothesis and a theory.

They have a point. Fundamentalist Darwinism is demonstrable only by selective abstracts from the biological evidence, flaunting the scientific method. The competition, Rigid Constructionist Creationism, remains unapologetic about its source data, revelling in it rather than being squirmingly embarrassed.

We are faced with two equally implausible alternatives, one of which requires Faith, while the other requires the suspension of disbelief. The laity is presented with two belief systems: a religious interpretation of irrelevant myths versus the doctrine of secular science. Two polarized ideologies striding forth, each grasping a sacred tome under the arm, scratching in the dust for confirmation of their predetermined dogma.

Mankind has an incorrigible need to know the unknowable; a thirst that has brought us so much. Occasionally, we throw the baby out with the broth-water.



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**Right to Life,  
Part 3:**

**Water**

by  
**Mike Moakley**

***“NOW, THEREFORE, I ... do hereby proclaim and declare the unalienable personhood of every American, from the moment of conception until natural death, ...”***

- Ronald Reagan,  
40<sup>th</sup> President of the United States  
January 14, 1988

**“Food and water are not medical treatment, but basic necessities.”**

-Partial Text of Will to Live Advance Directive,  
National Right to Life Committee

As even conservatives must concede, water is an absolute necessity for all of us, be we rich or poor, to sustain life. To be denied water is to be effectively denied the right to live. Yet, in our market-based global economy, the Holy Grail of American Conservatism, the global powers that be are intensifying the pressure to apply “market forces” to do just that. We know this trend as privatization.

Here, privatization is touted as a more efficient (that is, cheaper) alternative to our publicly run water works. In the Third World, it is even worse: The World Bank often requires developing countries to privatize their utilities as a condition for granting of needed loans. Like most corporate “free market” ventures, the players are a few transnational corporations that operate without the competition of a true free market.

Privatization, of course, is not new. Consider this account of India’s history as a British colony in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries:

*“Prior to the arrival of the British in south India, communities managed water systems collectively through a system called kudimaramath(self-repair). Before the advent of corporate rule by the East India Company in the 18th century, a peasant paid 300 out of 1,000 units of grain he or she earned to a public fund, and 250 of those units stayed in the village for maintenance of commons and public works.*

*By 1830, peasant payments rose to 650 units, out of which 590 units went straight to the East India Company. As a result of increased payments and lost maintenance revenue, the peasants and commons were destroyed. Some 300,000 water tanks built over centuries in pre-British India were destroyed, affecting agricultural productivity and earnings.*

*The East India Company was driven out by the first movement for independence in 1857. In 1858, the British passed the Madras Compulsory Labor Act of 1858, popularly known as the Kudimaramath Act, mandating peasants to provide labor for the maintenance of the water and irrigation systems.” (1).*

It would appear that not only was privatization present during

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that time, but private enterprise, like now, failed to live up to its promises to the public it “served”. What follows is a far more recent (and closer to home) example of the effects of water privatization, this one in Atlanta, Georgia:

*“In 1998, the city of Atlanta awarded United Water, a subsidiary of the French water giant Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, a contract to operate the city’s water system. The company promised cost savings in exchange for a \$21.4 million annual fee. Three years into the contract, the question of whether residents are benefiting from it continues to be raised. In 2000, some Atlanta residents began to find debris in their water. Additionally, the water assumed brown tones, which usually signals high levels of iron oxide -- rust. The company, however, did not initially acknowledge there was a problem. Four months later, residents were still experiencing the same problems. Moreover, cases of dry or inoperative fire hydrants have been reported. Again, United Water did not promptly address the problem, even though inoperative fire hydrants could be a matter of life and death. And, in response to residents’ inquiries, the company has said that testing the fire hydrants after they were repaired was the city’s obligation - a claim city has rejected, holding that the company should ensure that fire hydrants are in working order after repair or replacement.*

*Complaints of delays and slow service have also been registered. For example, when the Breakwater homeowners association paid \$2,700 in March 1999 to have three meters installed, United Water told the group that the request would take 10 weeks to fulfill. Six months later the company installed the first meter. According to the contract, the company has one day to respond to leaks and 15 days to install a meter.*

*One reason for delays may be understaffing. Today, United Water has just 327 employees, down from 731 in 1997, a year before privatization. The city is currently conducting a comprehensive review and audit of the company’s performance.” (2).*

Another example in Pekin, Illinois:

*“In 1982, Illinois-American, another subsidiary of American Water Works, acquired Pekin’s water system from a local private owner. In the 18 years that followed, rates increased by 204 percent. At the same time the company failed to keep infrastructure up to date. According to Pekin City Manager Dick Hierstein, pressure problems have plagued several parts of the city, especially those experiencing commercial growth. However, the company hesitated to construct the water tower it promised to build, while failing to upgrade undersized mains. The company’s behavior negatively impacted the city’s economic growth and added to its expenses.*

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*In response to soaring rates and questionable quality of service, the city chose to consider acquiring the local water company from Illinois-American through its eminent domain powers. A report by the Water Study Committee, commissioned to evaluate feasibility of the acquisition, made a strong case for purchasing the water system.*

*The committee found that the company's service record left much to be desired. For example, there was an instance of street flooding for over 24 hours before any action was taken. ... Citizens For Locally Owned Water (FLOW), a group that advocated public ownership of the water system, projected that with the present rate of infrastructure upgrades, it would take Illinois-American some 268 years to replace all city mains. Given that some water mains were over 75 years old, FLOW found this rate of improvement unacceptable." (2)*

And, lest we forget, what about the public interest? What about our right to life? Will we be guaranteed a steady supply of water, the basic requirement of life? Not if the story of Pekin, Illinois is any indication:

*"In another case, water service to two schools was interrupted for a week. Company workers taped a message to school doors just before the students arrived for classes, instead of notifying the school officials in advance." (2)*

Yet another telling example is the handling of customers behind in their water bills under the privatization project in England and Wales that began in 1989:

*"As might be expected, the rise in customer water prices was followed by an increased rate of household disconnections for non-payment. The disconnection rate tripled in the first five years, with 18,636 households disconnected in 1994. Again, there was a broad public outcry arguing that cutting off people's water endangered public health. A 1994 study showed rates of dysentery rising in most major urban areas. When disconnections for non-payment became more controversial, the water companies started using "pre-payment meters" for customers unable to pay their bills. These meters only supplied water when customers had paid money charged on a plastic card. When the account was empty, the meter cut-off water supply. The companies called these "self-disconnections." By 1996 over 16,000 pre-payment meters had been installed. Public outrage grew until Parliament passed a new public water law called the Water Industry Act of 1999 that forbid disconnections for non-payment and the use of pre-payment meters." (3)*

The irony here is that the multinational companies responsible

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for these examples generously support politicians who proclaim “the right to life”.

### Sources

1. Water Wars, Vandana Shiva, South End Press, Cambridge, MA, ©2002.
2. Water Privatization: A Broken Promise, Public Citizen, October 2001.
3. Fiascoes: United Kingdom, Public Citizen.

### **Bob Strippy** **Update**

I am sure you recall last month’s article, **A Fel-low Mensan In Need**, where I outlined Bob Strippy’s case and Bob’s need for our support. Starting this issue, each month, I will provide an update at the end of my regular monthly column. Since writing the July article, Bob has been moved to the Medical Unit of the Powhatan Correctional Center. From the reports, it appears he is getting somewhat better care than at his prior location. However, Bob is not “out of the woods” quite yet. During the last week of June, Bob has had a very severe bout of flash pulmonary edema, but once again he pulled through. Bob’s pacemaker has been determined on July 7 to be working fine. It is a good thing, since Bob’s heart barely works without it. The question still remains: Will Bob live long enough to be exonerated? Let’s hope and pray that he does.

For more info about Bob or his case, please visit [www.savebobstrippy.org](http://www.savebobstrippy.org).

— Mike Moakley



## **CALENDAR CALL!**



**Katherine Cochran**  
**Katherine@cd-info.com**

**I**n the time-honored Mensa tradition of attempting to herd cats (aren't we supposed to be smarter than that?), here are some guidelines for getting activities into the SCAM calendar:

\* Please send event information not later than the 8th of the month preceding publication. I'm supposed to have the completed calendar delivered to our newsletter editor on the 10th, and often we need some time to confirm details or resolve scheduling conflicts, so a couple of days slack is essential.

\* Event announcements should include as a minimum these five elements:

- 1) Event name
- 2) Date and time
- 3) Location
- 4) Cost, if any
- 5) Contact for information, with phone number and/or email

A one or two sentence description will help attract attendees to your event. If there is a deadline for reservations, please mention that as well.

\* Any active Mensa member can initiate an event. Nobody's doing something you're interested in? Start it yourself! There may be others who share your interests, and you might never know unless you give it a go.

\* You don't have to wait until the deadline to send in an event. Our online calendar is updated dynamically, so even last-minute information is available for those who remember to look for it there.

Cheers,  
Kat





## COME ONE - COME ALL

TO THE 2004 SCAM OCTOBER MASQUERADE RG  
ON THE BEACH IN BEAUTIFUL INDIALANTIC  
FLORIDA

*It's that time again to dust off that old  
mask and polish up your favorite cos-  
tume props and get ready for another  
fun-filled, never know what to expect,*

*not your ordinary, SCAM RG.*

*Once again, our favorite hotel on the beach, The Holiday Inn,  
Oceanfront, has rolled out the red carpet for us .*

*They have renovated our favorite Penthouse and are  
getting everything ready to ensure that the weekend  
will be one long remembered.*



**Standard Room Rates are \$70.00 a night for up to four RG'ers.  
Oceanfront Rooms are \$93.00 a night for the same number as well as  
some Suites available for \$155.00 a night. Rates are guaranteed thru  
10/08. Call 1-800-465-4329. Group Code MNS**

**The Hotel will be serving a Saturday Night Deluxe Buffet for \$28.00  
and a Sunday Morning Brunch for \$15.00. A combo meal plan for  
\$40.00 is available. All meal prices include gratuities and tax.**

**Registration starts at \$40.00 thru 08/31/04, \$45.00 from 09/01/04  
thru 10/21/04 and \$55.00 at the door. Day rates will be available and,  
as always, registration fees will be cheerfully refunded.**

***October 22, 23, 24 SCAM October Masquerade RG  
AT the Holiday Inn, Oceanfront Resort***

**2605 N. Highway A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903  
(321) 777-4100 or (800) 465-4329**

**Make Checks Payable to : Space Coast Area Mensa**

**J.T. Moran, Registrar  
P.O. Box 457  
Sharpes, FL**

**(321) 632-0854**

## August 2004 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 & 25th.**  
Merritt Square Mall

**C.A.B.A.G.E. (South) at House of Joe: Wednesday, the 4th & 18th.**  
1220 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne

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

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

*Karen@Freiberg.com*

**C.A.B.A.G.E. South Host: Trish Thornton**

*trishka665@earthlink.net*

<b>3rd</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>ExComm Meeting</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Free</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

The Executive Committee of the group meets to conduct its monthly business. All members are welcome to attend, volunteer, and see how things are done. This month's meeting will be held at the the home of Helen Lee Moore, 5320 N. US 1, Hardeeville.

**Helen Lee Moore**

*moorehelenlee@cs.com*

<b>4th</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee, Etc. at the House of Joe</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Coffee/M meal Cost</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

Let's get together for some coffee, sandwiches, bagels, and a lot of books to borrow or trade. Bring your favorite game! Featured is a free Wi-Fi hotspot for those with laptops and a wireless Internet card. They also have a guitar handy for those so inclined. This activity is now our C.A.B.A.G.E. South.

<b>7th</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Open House</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>

Karen Freiberg & Doug Starke are hosting an Open House to celebrate their new home in Rockledge. Bring swimsuits and munchies to share. RSVP, call for directions.

**Karen Freiberg**

<b>8th</b>	<b>Calendar Deadline</b>
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If you would like to place an event on our calendar, please notify Katherine no later than today.

*Katherine@cd-info.com*

<b>10th</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
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All newsletter submissions must be to Mike no later than 5 p.m. today.

*moakleymj@bellsouth.net*

<b>10th</b>		<b>PIG SIG Deadline</b>
RSVP no later than Midnight to Helen for the PIG SIG on the 14th.		
<b>Helen Lee Moore</b>		<b><i>moorehelenlee@cs.com</i></b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Shamrock and Thistle Pub</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Cost of Drinks</b>	<b>NP</b>
Hoist a chilled stein on this Friday the Thirteenth! Carry-in or order-in food. The Shamrock and Thistle Pub, 2035 Cheney Hwy. (SR 50), Titusville.		
<b>Helen Lee Moore</b>		<b><i>moorehelenlee@cs.com</i></b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Mensa Testing</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>NS</b>
Send a relative or friend whom you think would be a good addition to SCAM! Location: Cape Canaveral Hospital Resource Center, 12:30pm.		
<b>Helen Lee Moore</b>		<b><i>moorehelenlee@cs.com</i></b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>Various Show Times</b>	<b>Roxy Cheep Flix</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$1.00 plus popcorn</b>	<b>NS</b>
Please call Rita before 12 Noon for movie selections and times. You can have movies and afford the popcorn, too. Good event for families. Several shows from which to choose.		
<b>Rita Johnson-Aronna</b>		<b><i>patrita@workdnet.att.net</i></b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>PIG SIG</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Meal cost</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>
Join us for excellent Polish food at the Bellwood Restaurant, 7505 Hwy. 1 South, Titusville. The restaurant is quite small, so reservations are REQUIRED. Don't miss the outstanding cuisine. RSVP no later than Midnight on the 10th.		
<b>Helen Lee Moore</b>		<b><i>moorehelenlee@cs.com</i></b>
<b>15th</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Brunch with Jim</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Meal cost</b>	<b>NS/NP</b>
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.		
<b>Jim Trammell</b>		
<b>21st</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>What are you Reading?</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>\$3.00</b>	<b>NS</b>
Come join our book discussion group. Bring one or two books you are currently reading to share your opinions of them, good OR bad. 1697 Willard Rd. NW, Palm Bay.		
<b>Katherine Cochrane</b>		<b><i>katherine@cd-info.com</i></b>
<b>23rd</b>	<b>6:00PM</b>	<b>Firearms-Fried Rice</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Shooting/M meal/Beverage</b>	<b>NS</b>
The GunSite in Merritt Island (S. Banana River Drive) for the Shooting and New Century Buffet on Courtney Parkway on Merritt Island at 7PM for Fried Rice and more.		
<b>JT Moran</b>		<b><i>morwood@cfl.rr.com</i></b>
<b>28th</b>	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>S.N.O.R.T.</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Meal Cost</b>	<b>SS/NP</b>
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> .		

# Pow-Owl CaMp

August 20-22 at Buffalo Gap Camp  
(off Rt. 50, west of Winchester, VA)

Only \$165 until May 28<sup>th</sup>,  
then \$185 to 7/19, \$205 to 8/13  
\$50 deposit (non-ref); balance by 7/19  
Kids 13-17 @75%, 6-12 @50%, <6 free

Includes pleasant cabin space (private room extra),  
tasty meals/snacks from Fri. dinner to Sun. lunch,  
and all the fun you can handle!

This delightful new annual event is kinda like a mini summer camp for Mensans and friends/family of all ages. (Yes, including children by popular demand—there will be a cluster of family cabins.) The place is wonderful and the food is excellent. Planned activities include a variety of RG-like programs, a dance sampler series making use of the fine floor, and traditional camp stuff like swimming and singing/s'mores around the campfire. Cabins will be set aside for games, a book swap, and the children's clubhouse. All we need is YOU! For more info, contact event sponsor Jenny Foster: [pinc@xecu.net](mailto:pinc@xecu.net) or 301-371-4312 (email preferred).



**The Gourmet's  
Guide:**

**New Orleans, Part  
Two:**

**ARNAUD'S**

by

**Art Belefant**

**©2004**

**A**rnaud's is also a time-honored and old-time restaurant although not as old as Antoine's, having opened in 1919. It too has a large main dining room of about the same size as Antoine's. Arnaud's room, however, is a bit more opulent of the fashion of the period of its first opening. There are palms, crystal chandeliers, oil paintings, fireplaces, and photographs. The floor is made of those small hexagonal tiles that were so popular years ago, formed into a repeated black and white pattern. The ceiling is made of pressed metal, also popular then. The overall effect is elegant, but the hard surface floor and ceiling reflect sound so that the room becomes very noisy when full.

Arnaud's also started with one room and as its popularity grew, so did the size of the restaurant with the addition of room after room. There are 12 private dining rooms spread about in 13 historic buildings. As with many similar restaurants of the time, several of the rooms were secret for serving wine and liqueur during prohibition.

Arnaud's was opened by Arnaud Casenave who ran it successfully until his death in 1948. After that his daughter, Germaine took over the operating. Germaine was a Mardi Gras Queen more times than any one else in New Orleans history. Unfortunately the restaurant did not prosper and it was sold to Archie Casbarian in 1978. Archie Casbarian restored the restaurant to its original splendor and maintains about eighty per cent of the original menu.

The waiters in Arnaud's are significantly younger than those in Antoine's. Although the service was good, and the waiters, both male and female were dressed in tuxedos, it lacked the finesse that the older waiters at Antoine's demonstrated.

I was told by the head waiter, the only middle-aged person on the wait staff, that Arnaud's abandoned their dress code about a year ago because of the pressure of the people who wanted to dine there but did not want to dress for dinner. The appearance of men in jackets without ties, without jackets all together, or in sport, or golf shirts debases the quality of dining in a fine white-table cloth restaurant. This one more example of the decline of elegance in the U. S.

Arnaud's menu is only two pages long. Appetizers, oysters, soups, shellfish, and fish are on one page. Although the menu is not as extensive as Antoine's, there are still more than enough

*(Continued on page 18)*

(Continued from page 17)

choices to satisfy any diner.

I started my meal with sliced *foie gras* (goose liver) sautéed with a port wine sauce. It was excellent. It should be on every one's Atkins diet. Rita had shrimp in a Creole *rémoulade* sauce.

This was followed by a mushroom and spinach broth. The flavor was excellent but a bit too much of chili pepper in the broth was distracting and unnecessary. Rita had the oyster soup, which she declared to be excellent.

On the second page of the menu were fowl, meats, vegetables, and salads.

My main course was breast of quail stuffed with *foie gras* and mushrooms on a bed of pancakes with a truffle-flavored Bordelaise sauce. The quail was wrapped in bacon. The sum of the parts did not achieve a good balance. There were too many individual flavors that did not meld together well.

Rita's main course was veal tournedos in a wild mushroom sauce. This was very good as there was only one basic meat.

The dessert menu was on a separate, small card.

My dessert was *crème brûlée*, a standard dish, Rita's was more exotic -- praline cheesecake, so rich that she could not finish her portion.



**A View  
from the Right:  
ACLU? What Does  
It Stand For?**

by  
**J.T. Moran**  
(morwood@cfl.rr.com)



Officially, ACLU stands for *American Civil Liberties Union*, an organization founded in 1920.

On the official website, under "About" there are some mighty fine claims, among them:

*"Our job is to conserve America's original civic values - the Constitution and the Bill of Rights." as well as "... to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to every person in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States."*

"The mission of the ACLU is to preserve all of these protections and guarantees:

- \* Your First Amendment rights-freedom of speech, association and assembly. Freedom of the press, and freedom of religion supported by the strict separation of church and state.

- \* Your right to equal protection under the law - equal treatment regardless of race, sex, religion or national origin."

Lofty goals, are they not? Yet, an examination of these stated claims and goals might lead one to believe that the organization is sort of stretching the truth in a number of areas. Most particularly that of religion.

For truth is, the ACLU seemingly separates religion from the first amendment.

*"Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."* This is a quote from the ACLU website on "Free Speech". It also states that, "It is probably no accident that freedom of speech is the first freedom mentioned in the First Amendment."

However, the Constitution states it just a bit differently: *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech..."*

It seems that, to the ACLU, not only isn't the "free" exercise of religion part of the First Amendment, the "free" isn't really a freedom or is mentioned first of all the freedoms in the whole document.

Not that this is very hard to believe. After all, Roger Baldwin, the founder of the organization, was anything but a friend of religion:

*"We are for SOCIALISM, disarmament, and ultimately for abolishing the state itself... We seek the social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertyed class, and the SOLE CONTROL of those who produce wealth. COMMUNISM is the goal."*

Communism and religious freedom are antithetical and cannot occupy the same philosophy. One of the policies of the Communist system is to discourage and get rid of all cultural and religious differences.

*"The social principles of Christianity have had eighteen centuries in which to develop, and have no need to undergo further development ... The social principles of Christianity are lickspittle, whereas the proletariat is revolutionary. So much*

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

**for the social principles of Christianity!"** Thus spake the Father of Communism, Karl Marx.

Looking at these concepts, how can one believe that this loathing for religion, and Christianity in particular, did not permeate the policies and principles of the founders of the ACLU? And thus the foundation of the very organization?

A look at the ACLU's own published Policy Issues will afford an insight into what the organization supports as stated goals:

*The legalization of prostitution (Policy 211); the defense of all pornography, including CHILD PORN, as "free speech" (Policy 4); the decriminalization and legalization of all drugs (Policy 210); the promotion of homosexuality (Policy 264); the opposition of rating of music and movies (Policy 18); opposition against parental consent of minors seeking abortion (Policy 262); opposition of informed consent preceding abortion procedures (Policy 263); opposition of spousal consent preceding abortion (Policy 262); opposition of parental choice in children's education (Policy 80) -- not to mention the defense and promotion of euthanasia, polygamy, government control of church institutions, gun control, tax-funded abortion, etc. (Policies 263, 133, 402, 47, 261, 323, 271, 91, 85).*

*"It is our position that monogamous, heterosexual intercourse within marriage as a traditional American value is an unconstitutional establishment of religious doctrine in public schools.... We believe [this bill] violates the First Amendment."* (1988 letter to CA state senator re: a bill requiring course materials on sex education)

A graphic demonstration of the anti-Christian aims of the ACLU can be seen in the recent action over the cross in the Los Angeles County seal.

Calling it an **"impermissible endorsement of Christianity"** the ACLU demanded the removal of a cross from the county seal. Perhaps you can see it there, so prominently glaring at you? No? Well, it is right there, to the right of the **NINE TIMES** larger image of the Roman goddess Pomona, who the ACLU apparently has no grief about. A cross, symbolic of the Catholic missions that evolved into the city and county is less appropriate than a pagan deity of fruit?

Nor are only minor or obscure religions favored over Christianity.

In California nearly all public school seventh graders use the same textbook, *Across the Centuries*. It is part of a three week course of study that "mandates that seventh-graders learn the tenets of Islam, study the important figures of the faith, wear a robe, adopt a Muslim name and stage their own jihad." In addition, "students must memorize many verses in the Koran, are taught to pray 'in the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful' and are instructed to chant, 'Praise to Allah, Lord of Creation.'" Parents may **NOT** opt their children out of this exercise. The



(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

ACLU apparently finds this to be acceptable, as they have raised no outcry. Imagine the reaction if the Stations of the Cross were taught and exercised on just Good Friday. Think *that* would be ignored?

Another example, from Arizona: in 1998 then-Governor Hull issued a proclamation, declaring a "Bible Week" for her state. The ACLU immediately threatened to sue, claiming a violation of the so-called "separation of church and state." Rather than face an expensive, drawn-out legal battle, Hull backed down.

Two years later, the same Governor Hull issued another proclamation—this time commemorating the birth of Buddha. This time, an ACLU spokesperson said, "Although we may think proclamations are inappropriate, they may not violate the Constitution."

When it comes to freedom of association, the ACLU apparently only means with those you do not agree with. The lawsuits against the Boy Scouts of America prove that.

The Scout oath states: ***"On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."*** This oath was formulated in 1910 and has remained unchanged since then. Then along comes the ACLU and lawsuits to force the Scouts to accept atheists as members and open homosexuals as Leaders. The first certainly cannot affirm the oath (duty to God) and the second is unacceptable by the standard of "morally straight". The Supreme Court has upheld the Scout's rights in these matters. So the ACLU files suit at the state and city level. Said suits costing the Scouts money and the ability to congregate. For example, in San Diego the Scout's have been denied the right to lease public facilities on city land... land that is leased to 123 nonprofits beside the Scouts, including The Salvation Army, the Jewish Community Center and a couple of Protestant churches.

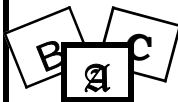
San Diego invalidated the lease of a half-acre of Fiesta Island from the City of San Diego on which Boy Scouts built the \$2 million San Diego Youth Aquatic Center. At the same time \$825,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds managed by The City of San Diego were given to the San Diego Lesbian, Gay, and Transgender Community Center to renovate their own facilities. Why was the Scout's lease invalidated? Because the Scouts won in the Supreme Court and the ACLU is trying to use the Scouts' victory against them by arguing that their court-won right to preserve moral standards makes them "religious" and therefore cannot use government property. Never mind that the Scout-built Aquatic Center is open to any group that wants to use it... even gay groups.

In these, and in so many other instances, the organization has failed to act in accordance with its own stated goals, thus proving what ACLU really stands for: ***Anti-Christian Lawsuit Union.***

They should practice what they preach... or would that be too religious?



**WRITER'S  
BLOCK**



by  
**Mike Moakley,**  
**SCAM Editor**  
(moakleymj@  
bellsouth.net)

As we progress, there are inevitably some growing pains we experience. Most of you know we have a new Calendar Coordinator aboard. American Mensa finally caught up with her...she'll finally be receiving The SCAM, starting with this issue (It's always nice to receive a copy of your own work product).

This issue reflects the third (I believe) event calendar Katherine has done for us. Because Kat is new to SCAM, all of us involved in making our calendar are going through the process of acclimating ourselves to one another. In this process, the patience of all concerned is essential and appreciated.

In last month's issue, I received a message via e-mail from Suzanne Leichtling placing an event on the July calendar for the 23rd. I neglected to pass it on to Kat and I did not place it on the calendar myself (as I have in the past). I dropped the ball on this one; my sincerest apologies to Suzanne.

At my suggestion, the Calendar Deadline has been moved up to the 8th of the month prior to the issue. This is to allow Kat time to resolve any scheduling conflicts and to get any necessary clarification before she passes the calendar to me (by the 10th) for publication.

This month's calendar has more activities than I have seen in a long time. In fact, I had some difficulty squeezing them all into our current calendar format. Yet, this is a good type of difficulty to experience. Keep those events coming. Be assured, I will fit them in!

For those of you with the urge to write about a topic of interest to you, this will serve as a reminder that The SCAM has plenty of room for your work. Interested? Read Page Three of any issue for editorial policy (almost anything goes!), and send your article in before the 10th. E-mail is preferred, but "snail mail" works just fine (just allow a few extra days).

One last thing. Our fine newsletter, The SCAM, was not nominated for, nor did it win, any PRP awards for 2004 from American Mensa. While I am somewhat disappointed, there will be other years. In my opinion, however, we have the very best in writing talent contributing each month to The SCAM. My support staff is second to none. Keep up the good work; you're the ones who make The SCAM worth reading each month!



## ***The Alchemist:***

### ***FAKE MONEY***



***Al Thomas***

***©2004***

***al@mutualfund  
magic.com***

**R**each in your pocket and take out that big roll of bills. Depending on how many of them you have you feel pretty good. BUT did you know they are not worth the paper they are printed on? Huh? Let me explain.

Yes, those bills are legal tender because those guys in Washington passed a law stating they must be accepted for payment. They are Federal Reserve Notes and it states right on the bill, "This is legal tender for all debts, public and private". That is OK, but if you go to the U.S. Mint will they redeem it in gold or silver? Years ago they did, but not since 1971.

Almost everyone has bought stock in a company. The company issues shares and each share represents a portion of the ownership in that company. It is against the best interests of the stockholders to issue additional shares unless something of equal value is added. Why?

Let's keep it very simple. Suppose the company is worth \$100,000 and it has issued 100,000 shares of stock. The stock has a book value of \$1.00 per share. If the officers of the company decide to issue another 100,000 shares to hire security guards (like soldiers), lease (not buy) an air-plane, increase the accounting staff (these folks do not increase production) and pay the executives more (who will produce the same amount as they are now) you will notice that all these expenses do not add to the company's profits. The value of all shares is now 50 cents per share because the value of the company has remained the same. \$100,000 divided by 200,000 shares is 50 cents per share.

What has all that to do with your money? You have seen in the paper that the Federal Reserve Bank (it is neither Federal nor maintains a reserve) has had an auction for Treasury Bills. Sir Alan Greenspan has authorized the printing of those T-Bills. With just paper and ink he has created billions of dollars of debt for the government. And who is the government? YOU. Each time the Fed turns on the printing presses to sell government bonds it effectively dilutes the value of the money you have. That is called inflation. Unless the productivity rate of the country increases by a like amount it devalues your currency.

Should you care? What it amounts to is everything will cost more because your money represents less. This is monetary inflation and has nothing to do with the supply of goods. Yet some day (who knows when) those bonds will have to be redeemed. The idea of the central government is to keep watering down the money so they can pay off the debt with cheaper and cheaper dollars. This is a method of creating money instead of raising taxes yet you are paying for it.

Throughout history there have been scores of private and government banks that have issued fake (fiat) money and in every case they have failed and the holders of the fake money have lost. Will that happen this time? I would not bet against it.

*Copyright Albert W. Thomas 2004 All rights reserved Author of "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" [www.mutualfundmagic.com](http://www.mutualfundmagic.com) comments to [al@mutualfundmagic.com](mailto:al@mutualfundmagic.com)*

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

**"WE'RE ALL  
LUCKY WINNERS!"**

**by  
Hank Rhodes  
©2004**

The official-looking envelope arrives in the mail, larger than standard size, with endorsements on the outside proclaiming its importance. Most, if not all of us, have received them, some of us many times over. The contents include a certificate that reads:

**WE'RE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT YOU  
ARE A LUCKY WINNER!!!  
SOON, YOU WILL BE RECEIVING A  
CHECK FOR A MILLION DOLLARS!!!!**

*...If you have the winning number and submit your claim form prior to the stated deadline. Not responsible for loss or damage. No warranty or guarantee stated herein, nor implied. Claimant agrees to abide by all contest rules. Issuer reserves the right to revoke certificate at any time for any reason. Claimant agrees to waive all legal action. A mathematical description of the odds of winning a prize is available upon request by mail to the contest headquarters. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required in order for the issuer to fulfill claimant's request for description of odds. No purchase necessary to win, nor will purchases increase the odds of winning. The verdict of contest judges is final and not subject to appeal. Void where prohibited by law.*

It may readily be understood that the text above in capital letters represents the large text of the certificate, while the accompanying italics represents the fine print. This purveyor of choice "fallacious leftist rantings" dares not attempt to replicate the fine print in actual size, since he does not desire to inflict eyestrain and a severe headache upon his valued readers.

Tragically, some of the more gullible members of our society seem to be taken in by these contests, making unnecessary purchases and keeping a constant vigil for the payout that never arrives, or in some cases journeying to contest headquarters to claim their non-existent winnings.

Obviously, the brain trust over at the Republican Party learned their marketing lessons at the same school. How else can one explain some of the whoppers that have been trust upon the American people in recent years?

**THE WAR IN IRAQ IS ABOUT WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION!!**

**WE KNOW SADDAM HUSSEIN WAS HIDING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION!!!**

*...and we know because we say so. Not responsible for the fact that we only allowed the UN inspectors six weeks to find WMDs before launching the invasion, and after a year we still haven't found WMDs. Of course, Saddam Hussein did actually employ WMDs*

*(Continued on page 25)*



*against the Kurds, killing thousands of innocent people, but that was way back in 1988 when Daddy was in power and we gave Saddam a severe slap on the wrist then. For anyone not convinced we will also raise the spurious accusation that Saddam was an ally of Al-Qaeda. The verdict of this administration is true and perfect and not subject to question by real patriots. Saddam was a madman, a madman we tell you. Not so mad that we didn't treat him as our friend throughout the Reagan-Bush years of the 1980s, but a madman none the less, because we have told you so! Not responsible for what the Ayatollahs and Warlords do to Iraq, nor what they will do to us later on!!*

## **WE'RE REFORMING MEDICARE!!**

### **YOU WILL HAVE A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT!!!**

*...of course, it doesn't actually take effect until 2006, it will only cover part of your requirements, you must give up your current prescription coverage if you're fortunate enough to have it, and since the legislation (that the pharmaceutical industry was kind enough to write for us) prevents the government from negotiating a lower price, you will probably end up paying more for less. Don't even think about going to Canada to fill your prescriptions, since this is prohibited by law. Meanwhile millions of Americans continue to have no insurance, inadequate insurance, or have their insurance arbitrarily cancelled because we were able to kill off national health coverage in the early 1990s by promising a "better way." And that better way is coming, yes, it's coming, we promise you that you'll hear about it the next time the issue arises during an election year.*

## **WE WILL NEVER TELL PEOPLE HOW TO LIVE THEIR LIVES!!**

*...so long as you are Christian, heterosexual, abstain from sexual relations prior to marriage, and vote Republican. If you are suffering from the pain of cancer or have an incurable medical condition, you'll just have to suck it up! Physician-directed usage of marijuana for pain relief, and comprehensive federally-sponsored stem-cell research are void, since they are now prohibited by law.*

## **WE'RE CUTTING YOUR TAXES WHILE BEING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE!!**

*...and we're sure that you don't mind the fact that by saving the average family a hundred dollars (and saving rich people hundreds of thousands) we have created deficits approaching half a trillion dollars. After all, only those "Tax and spend Liberals" should be held accountable for fiscal policy. Not only did we invent a phantom called the "death tax," we managed to convince most of you to support repeal of the inheritance tax in order to give those millionaires a break. As we all know, every red-blooded American wants to be a millionaire, and you, too are only a lottery ticket away from Easy Street. Not responsible for the coming economic crisis our policies will spawn, we'll just blame that on the "liberals." Remember that draft-dodging Clinton! Remember Monica!! Remember Paula!!! Remember 9/11!!!!*

One wonders why so many of us are continually willing to suspend good judgment when they tell us "We're all Lucky Winners!" Just don't forget to read the fine print!!



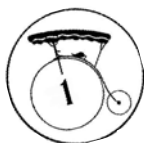
**THIS PAGE IS RESERVED  
...JUST FOR YOU!**

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

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

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

***The Poetry  
Corner***



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



***Is The SCAM too POLITI-  
CAL...?***

***...Too liberal?***

***Too Conservative...?***

***Needs more fiction?***

**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 10TH STORY**

by

**Elissa Rudolph,  
RVC10**

***RVC10@us.mensa.org***

**T**he Annual Gathering in Las Vegas was—different. If you were there, you know what I mean. Seeing friends from all over the U.S. and beyond is always my favorite part of a Gathering. In that respect Las Vegas made the grade in spades. The city is phenomenal what with one casino that resembled a small scale New York City, another, an Egyptian pyramid,

and, of course, our host hotel gave the illusion of being in the City of Lights, Paris. Programs were entertaining and/or educational, especially those associated with how to “nibble away at the house,” or how to win at poker.

Best news for Region 10 came when awards in the Publications Recognition Program were announced. Doug Paul, Webmaster for **Central Florida Mensa** won an award for best Web site for a medium group. In the Continuing Item Category, print area, Bob Teasdale of **Northwest Florida Mensa** won for his “Bulletins from Baghdad” contributions to the group’s newsletter, *PensaMensa*.

Other awards for the region were the Prolific Owl winner: **Gainesville Area Mensa** with **Southwest by South Florida Mensa** the Prolific Owl Honorable Mention group. Prolific Owls are given to local groups who have the highest membership growth. Southwest by South Florida Mensa also has a Proctor of the Year Honorable Mention in Cadence Schurr. **Tampa Bay Mensa’s** Erudite Eudaemoniacs placed in the top 20 in CultureQuest—it was a tough contest! Janice Johnson, **Palm Beach County Mensa**, won a Chair award for her dedicated efforts as Scholarship Chair.

Congratulations to all! We are a great region!

You might be interested in **M-Olympics**, a new internationally-oriented Mensa SIG that's being organized for Mensans to discuss the coming Summer Olympics that start in Athens on August 13th. The group is Web-based, so there are no dues or fees of any type. Membership is for Mensans only. Here's how to join: Send a blank email message to [m-olympics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:m-olympics-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) or visit our homepage at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/m-olympics/>

Don't forget to send in your information to be part of the 2004-2005 National Scholarship Program. Forms were sent to all local groups, but if you need another form, please contact me. This past year the Mensa Education and Research Foundation awarded nearly \$55,000 to 133 students. You can see all the winners at <http://foundation.us.mensa.org>.

The Colloquium is coming! Next March in Tucson, AZ, “Earth in Mind: Fueling the Future,” will intrigue and beguile attendees. There will be a link to the Colloquium’s Web site soon (maybe even now) on our national Web site (<http://us.mensa.org>).

Don't let the Dog Days of August get you down!





**T**he ExComm met at the house of Helen Lee Moore on July 6, 2004. Called to order at 6:20 pm by LocSec Sam Kirschten.

Members present: Sam Kirschten, Helen Lee Moore, Joe Smith, and George Patterson. Suzanne Leichtling was unable to attend.

Welcome guests: J.T. Moran, Katherine Cochrane, and Anna Smith, Joe's daughter. Minutes for June 2004 approved as published.

Moved by Helen, unanimous vote.

#### Officer Reports:

Treasurer: June 30, 2004 report distributed by Helen. There were no other officer reports.

#### Committee Reports:

Testing: Three candidates were tested in June, 2004.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Helen (treasurer) wishes to move CD to a different bank for a higher rate. Moved to give treasurer permission to move CD. Three yeas, Helen abstaining.

Katherine Cochrane, the Calendar Coordinator and SCAM Webmaster distributed a report describing how the SCAM calendar is linked to the Website and discussing some features of the evolving website.

Helen moved to adjourn at 6:30 pm, passed by unanimous vote. The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for 6 pm Tuesday, August 3, 2004 at George Patterson's home.

The Recording Secretary wishes to apologize for his failure to properly manage the tape recording of the above session.

