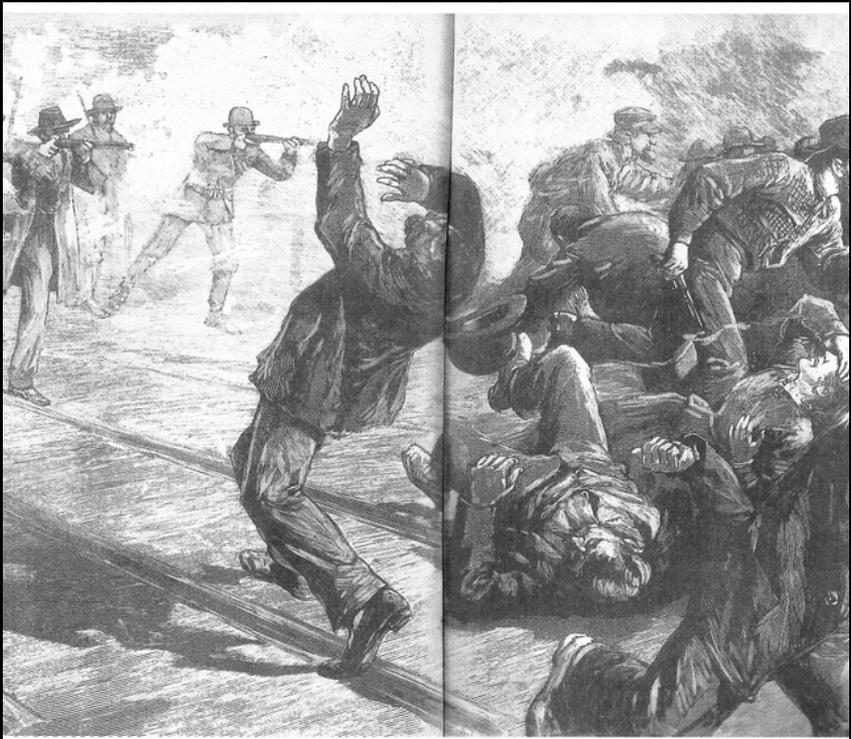


The

SCAM

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Happy Labor Day!



In Memory of the Martyrs of the Labor Movement

The scene depicted here is a reporter's sketch dating from 1886 recording the violence as the Louisville and Nashville railroad, in the name of defending its property, utilizes law enforcement to attempt to break a strike by the railroad workers. Killed were five men and one woman, only one of which was a striker.



Assembly/Circulation
CLARA WOODALL-MORAN
632-0854

Calendar Coordinator/Webmaster
Accepting Applications!

Editor

MICHAEL MOAKLEY
808 Wisteria Drive, Melbourne, FL 32901
952-8400
moakleymj@yahoo.com

Volume 23, No. 9

September, 2005

Writer's Block

Mike Moakley, Editor, The SCAM

As no doubt we all know, no life journey is complete without experiencing some bumps in the road. This past month, I was once again reminded of that indisputable fact. Shortly after the August 6 ExComm meeting, our Calendar Coordinator/Webmaster has resigned both positions. As of this writing, these positions are still open.

A few new features are being introduced to The SCAM. One of our ExComm members suggested that each ExComm member introduce himself to all of SCAM in a sort of "Member Spotlight" column. Our LocSec begins the introductions as part of his column in this issue.

Also new is *This Month's Word*, where a word is chosen at random, and its dictionary definition is given. A sentence using the chosen word is included as well. You are invited to submit a word to be used in future issues of The SCAM.

On another topic, during the same ExComm meeting, a member took issue with an opinion column that appeared in the July SCAM. Mention of this is made in the minutes of the meeting published in this issue. The member voiced the same type of complaint to the ExComm earlier this year. On neither occasion did he ever try to contact me to discuss or try to resolve his complaint.

If ever you have a question or complaint about anything to do with the publication of The SCAM, **please contact me**. My contact info is on Page Three of every issue. As Editor, I make the decisions regarding con-

(Continued on page 22)

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.

Peter A. Sturgeon, the man considered to be the founder of American Mensa, passed away in Vienna, Austria, on Friday, July 22. He was 88.

Sturgeon was a medical writer living in Brooklyn, N.Y., when he read an article about Mensa. He wrote to the Mensa Selection Agency in England in March 1960, passed the Cattell test above the 99th percentile that May and became a Mensa member later that year. He was authorized to start forming a New York City regional group in August 1960 and assumed the title of Provisional Secretary, although the "provisional" was soon dropped. This group was the first outside of Britain to be recognized and has since evolved into American Mensa, Ltd., the largest of more than 50 national Mensa organizations.

Sturgeon served as American Mensa's Secretary until 1965, when he resigned after accepting employment with the World Health Organization in Switzerland. During his tenure as Secretary, many of the foundations of American Mensa were laid including the Local Group and regional structure, the Annual Gathering national convention, Regional Gatherings, Local Group newsletters, the American Mensa Committee, national recruiting efforts, the American Mensa Bylaws and the creation of the National Office.

Sturgeon published the first edition of the American Mensa Activities Report in 1961 and served as its editor through July 1962; this publication soon evolved into the Mensa Bulletin, the organization's national membership magazine. He was also American Mensa's first National Representative to the Mensa International Board of Directors, serving from 1962 to 1965.

Pamela Donahoo, CAE
executive director
www.us.mensa.org

For those of you who have read Kathleen Parker's column of July 6 in the Orlando Sentinel, you already know about the proposed law in Spain. The proposed law applies to the male half of couples marrying in civil ceremonies. Among other things, the groom must promise to "lower the toilet seat when I'm finished".

It would seem that the worldwide campaign to emasculate men is succeeding. The next step will be, as long as you have to leave the toilet seat down, you may as well sit while urinating.

This is only the latest flurry in the subject of urination. Four interrelated questions arise in the discussion of this subject. The questions are: should men lower the toilet seat after urinating, should women's urinals be remanufactured and women taught to urinate standing up, should men learn to urinate sitting down, and what about the Muslim conventions?

The first question was answered succinctly in July's SCAM article, "'THE RULES' . . . A MALE PERSPECTIVE". Rule number one (all the rules were numbered one) is "Learn to work the toilet seat. You're a big girl. If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down. You don't hear us complaining about you leaving it down."

Also, in September 1995 SCAM published my article "Toilet Seats". In that article I compared the efficiency of the male member of a mixed male and female household lowering the toilet seat versus each member just leaving the toilet seat in the position in which it was just used. The conclusion, after a deep mathematical analysis, was that it was best to leave the toilet seat in whatever position it was last used.

This campaign, to have men lower the toilet seat after use, is patently unfair as it applies only to men and gives women no equal obligation, yet the campaign seems to be succeeding, witness the proposed law in Spain. All three of the major advice columnists, who are women, have advocated that men lower the toilet seat after using the toilet to urinate.

One of the reasons that women take longer to urinate is that toilet seats are considered unsanitary. To sit and urinate then requires the placement of toilet paper or a special cut out paper sheet on the seat. This takes time and would mitigate against the proposal that men sit to urinate. It would only increase the waiting time to use the public facilities.

Of course American (and Japanese) ingenuity will always find a way to make money out of any situation. Miami International Airport, has installed high-tech toilet seats that that are wrapped in plastic. The plastic cover can be changed at the push of a button each time that the seat is used. Several such devices are manufactured and can be found in such locations as Boca West, the Portland International Jet Port, Will Rogers International Airport Oklahoma City, Joe's Stone Crab Restaurant, Saks Fifth Avenue, Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, and Mohegan Sun

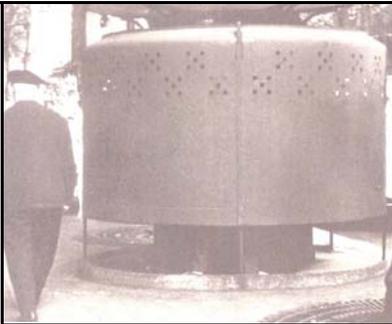
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Casino and Resort.

There are many devices for sale that automatically sanitize the seat, such as the toilet seat that turns around and passes under a chemical spray. This way the seat is hygienically cleaned. This product is directed to women as there is no means of raising that seat.

According to a Reuters report, on sale in Germany is a device that says “put the seat back down right away . . .” whenever the seat is lifted. On sale in the U. S. is a fixture to be attached to a toilet seat that lights green if the seat is down and red if the seat is up.

But you needn't have traffic lights. There is a device that will lower the toilet seat after it has been raised and left in the up position for an adjustable period of time. It takes 15 seconds for the seat to be lowered so you had better be finished in the allotted time or there is going to be a mess. If you don't like the automatic operation, there is the manual (really foot) operated device that will raise and lower the toilet seat by pressing pedals with your foot.



The old style French “Pissoire”

At a recent home products show, Toto USA displayed a \$5,000 toilet. The toilet flushes automatically, the seat is heated, and it is self-cleaning. No word on whether the seat is lowered automatically.

But all is not lost. In an article in the Wall Street Journal, Europe, it was noted that the installation of urinals in homes for the use by the male members of the family is increasing. The old French *pissoires*, long since removed

from the boulevards of Paris are returning in a modern form in London. The *pissoires*, black iron, male only facilities have been replaced by stainless-steel unisex toilets. In London, however, the city fathers have installed male only pop-up urinals in several locations. The urinals are hidden during the day but come out of their hiding on Friday and Saturday evenings.

This return to a restricted male bastion may not last. Just as McSorley's Bar in New York once forbade women from entering, we may not be able to prevent them from using our urinals. There is a counter campaign to teach women how to urinate standing up.

There are two expressed major reasons for justifying this change, convenience and sanita-



French unisex outdoor toilet

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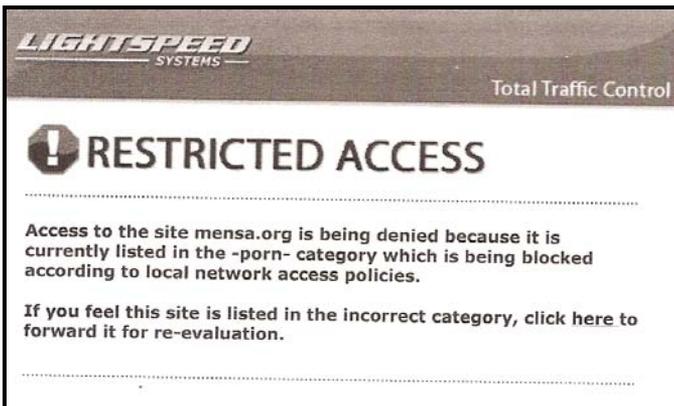
Public urinal in London—Hidden by day (left), deployed by night (right).

tion. It is claimed that women take twice as long to use a public facility as do men. In fact, a new New York ordinance requires, that in public facilities such as concert halls and sports arenas, but not in bars, twice as many toilets must be provided in the women's room as toilets and urinals are provided in the men's. This is because women (in the Western world) sit to urinate, but men stand. The unspoken *cause celebre* to teach women to stand and urinate is the same as that for forcing men to lower the toilet seat and to make men urinate while sitting, is create an equality between the sexes that does not exist in nature.

I will discuss the other three questions in future articles.

WORK OF A GENIUS...?

 **ne of our members**, whose employer permits him to surf the Web, was recently denied access to the Mensa website from his computer at work. Below was what flashed on his screen during his attempt...And I thought we Mensans had good taste!



There are formulas for just about everything, but it has been shown that the simpler the formula or method of doing a particular task the better it works. It has evolved down to KISS – Keep It Simple Stupid.

This also applies to trading in the stock market. There are literally hundreds of formulas, both technical and fundamental that are easily available to investors. Each trader has his own method he uses. Every professional trader on the floor of the stock exchange has his own variation on some major proven formula. The more skilled he becomes with it the more he feels it is the best one.

Sometimes it takes years for a trader to settle on one method or group of methods that he uses to signal buys and sells. It took me many years to find that technical group that worked for me when I was an exchange member.

For some it evolves into long term trading and for others it can be buying and selling in a matter of minutes. The time period is not important. The method is. Even as a floor trader on the commodity exchange I had only two criteria I watched before entering into any position.

All professional traders and investors are aware of the single most important fact and that is how much I am willing to lose before I exit this new position. Every KISS formula has an exit strategy. Every professional knows in advance how much he will allow himself to lose if he is wrong. The professional does not set a limit on the winning side of a trade only on the losing side.

Ask any full time professional and he will tell you if he is right 50% of the time he considers that to be phenomenal. When I was on the floor I was only right about 40% of the time, even about 20% and wrong about 40%. BUT I made \$3.00 for every dollar I lost. Small losses and big winners are the key to success. This is the key to any profitable formula – keeping the losses small.

When I see advertisements in the financial papers for methods claiming to be right 80%, 90% of the time I cringe. It just can't be. There is no trader I ever met who was that good and I have known some exceptional traders.

The major text on technical analysis is "Technical Analysis of Stock Trends" by Edwards and Magee now in the 17th printing of the Fifth Edition that lists multitudes of methods. They all work, but many are complicated. A magazine called Futures Truth analyses 200 commodity trading systems in each issue. Fundamental Theory is equally complex.

There are software programs that allow the investors to enter as many as 30 parameters. The more complex it is the less chance it has to work. And the biggest obstacle to any program is the trader himself. He cannot hesitate when a buy or sell signal is given.

Keep your formula simple and execute the signals. You can be a winner.

Al Thomas' best selling book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple 2-step method. Read the first chapter at www.mutualfundmagic.com and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know.

To those who don't know me, let me introduce myself. I'm a retired Aerospace engineer with about 10 years in Mensa, although I missed a year of membership in there somewhere. I did a brief stint as RecSec in 2000, when I did a more garrulous version of the minutes than was to some peoples liking, and a full season as RecSec this last year, having learned to keep my minutes to more tidy dimensions.

I just finished reviewing some of the LocSec articles of recent years, in order to give myself some ideas of what to write, and to get some idea of what the task of LocSec is all about. EEK! There's a lot of stuff I've got to learn about. I also see I need a good title for my articles if I am going to compete with the fine punning of *Mewsing About* or *Doug in Deep(er)*, or Jon Warner's most excellent logo of the bicycle from *The Prisoner*. I'll work on that.

I have a few new ideas about how I'd like to see things done as do my fellow ExComm members. We would all like to see the social activities perk up a bit. I have started reviewing the newsletters of other Mensa groups for ideas. It would be so nice is we could manage just one regular activity involving a little bit of intellect. We've taken stabs at it with Clara's *Talk About*, Kat Cochrane's *What Are You Reading*, and two sessions of *Our World, Our View*. These were all interesting to the participants but petered out for lack of wider interest.

Having previously struggled with the problem of expansive vs. terse minutes, and the problem of managing free form discussion under the dictates of Robert's Rules of Order, I have taken to starting ExComm meetings with an informal discussion period on topics of interest both from the planned agenda (I do support the idea of having an agenda for a meeting) and other items of interest to the members (germane, of course, to running the organization). The discussion period is followed by what might be viewed as the business meeting, with reports, motions, votes, and the likes. The RecSec's minutes will cover the business meeting and can be as terse or as expansive as he feels inclined. I will attempt to cover the informal discussion in this column. Alas, at this (August 6) meeting the tape recorder once again faked me out (see minutes in Aug. 2004 issue) so I am operating on a very second rate memory. There was inconclusive but useful talk on several subjects. Of course, the need to get more activities onto the calendar was brought up. The need to determine membership interests, likes, dislikes, etc. was considered. The idea of a telephone survey of all members, conducted by the ExComm (and perhaps some volunteers) was discussed favorably and some planning of this will be going on between now and the next meeting. Some consideration was given to splitting the jobs of Webmaster and Calendar Coordinator. Both these positions are under control of the newsletter editor and were both held by Kat Cochrane. It was learned after the meeting that Kat was resigning these positions, so we are in need of

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

a Webmaster and a Calendar Coordinator. There was some talk of separating the Calendar Coordinator job away from the newsletter and making it into more of a social coordinator type activity (this all very tentative). Also considered was splitting the responsibility for the Johnson/Pearson scholarship and the MERF scholarship. With Rita Johnson-Aronna leaving the area, we no longer have a Scholarship chair, but we have two possible volunteers for handling these two items. And while on the topic of chairs, it should be noted that we haven't had a publicity chair since the departure of Bob Tuck.

A complaint was received regarding the content of an article by Mike Moakley, who I mention by name because the nature of the complaint was that the Editor should refrain from partisan rhetoric. My discussion with the complainant led to the understanding that it was acceptable for the Editor, ExComm members, or members with other positions to contribute articles of whatever sort they chose provided they were clear in their bylines whether their article was official business or whether it was personal opinion. The general consensus of the ExComm was that Mike, previous editors, previous LocSecs, etc. had all been very good about indicating when they were speaking *ex cathedra* and when they were just sounding off. I will be writing this column as LocSec, perhaps with a catchy title, and hopefully I will contribute other material under my name alone, with a different equally catchy title.

As a final thought, let me extend an open invitation to all to attend ExComm meetings and participate in the pre-game activities. You will be treated as welcome guests and your opinions will be solicited. I myself would be delighted to hear from members via email, snail mail, or telephone on any topic whatsoever.

From the NomEiCom Chair

Clara Woodall-Moran

Last Word from NomEiCom 2005-6:

The materials from the 2005-6 election have been destroyed, as authorized by the Bylaws of Space Coast Area Mensa, as no challenge has been made by July 15th, 2005 (the last date on which a challenge could be made).

The NomEiCom gives a word of thanks to all who voted. The group needs to realize that those 15 individuals who took the time and trouble to vote are solely responsible for the continued life of the group.

Clara Woodall
Chair, NomEiCom, 2005-6
Space Coast Area Mensa

Although I have a 10% hearing loss in one ear from working in a factory for several years, I have excellent hearing for specific ranges. The specific range makes it such that I can hear conversation taking place quite a distance away from me. My current job has me living in cubicle world and I hear conversations from all over the room unless those in conversation are whispering. Often times, those talking will get hung up trying to remember a little fact and I will just automatically shout it back to them...as, generally, I know the answer.

One of the overheard discussions was in regard to Ward Churchill, the “tenured” professor at Colorado State. He was the head of the Ethnic Studies department based on his being an American Indian. He is one of the youngest tenured professors ever, and he does not have a Ph.D. As a rule, to be able to get tenure without the requisite degree requires that the undergraduate and Master’s degrees be obtained from a very highly rated graduate school. The BA and MA obtained by Mr. Churchill were obtained from what is now the University of Illinois, Springfield (the previous name is even more unknown). The University of Colorado awarded him tenure based upon his ethnic background rather than his academic background. It is not supposed to be easy to become tenured. The University of Colorado is withdrawing the tenure and strongly considering firing him.

The co-worker believes Mr. Churchill’s troubles are solely based upon the fact that he is outspoken against the government of this Country. She completely ignores the fact that he often tells lies in his “outspeaking” (as it were). Truth does not seem to be an issue. She had strong admiration for Theresa’ Heinz as well because Theresa is outspoken. Again, though, when the words and ideas presented by Theresa’ were proven to be based upon lies, my co-worked still defended her right to say them.

This is where things get sticky with the Constitution of the US. Are we all really given free rein to say whatever pops out without giving regard for the truthfulness of the uttered comments? Because each right listed in the Constitution carries with it a responsibility to exercise the right judiciously the answer to the question of veracity is, “no, we don’t have unlimited right.” In fact, some have more responsibility to be scrupulously accurate than the common man.

The next question that begs for the asking is: “who has more responsibility than others?” Those who have signed on to teach are at the top of the list. Those who would purport to present the news would be high on the list. Mr. Churchill set himself up to be a teacher and as such has the greatest responsibility to speak truth. The statements he made about his ethnic background are dismissed (by him) as a sort of “caveat emptor”. He states he did not claim the ethnic background and it is of no import. One would have to ask why he claimed it if, in fact it had no bearing and why he was

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

able to gain his high status without any other claim to the right of tenure (one supposes he believes he got it on merit but that would not be the first lie he'd told himself).

For those who are not aware of the points of controversial statements made by Mr. Churchill, he claimed that the 9/11 attacks were the natural outgrowth of American aggression against the rest of the world. However, those statements were not made in the classroom but rather in the venue of compensated lecturer. In his classroom he indicted the American Government in the 1700s and 1800s of waging genocide against the Native American population. Especially in the forefront of his claims is that the American Cavalry gave smallpox infected blankets to the Indians to spread the disease to them.

Well, a quick examination of the facts finds that Lord Amherst had agreed with Colonel Bouquet, who was in charge of Fort Pitt under siege during the French and Indian War in 1763 that the Indians needed to be eliminated by any means possible and thus hatched up the infected blanket plan. There was rudimentary knowledge of how this disease spread and how to inoculate against it. The soldiers at the Fort were quite ill with smallpox at the time and needed a respite from the siege. Now, I'm certain there is not one of you who missed that year – 1763, nor did you miss the name, Lord Amherst. When was a Lord anything a member of the government of this country? Anyway, the Indians, especially those working for the French during the French and Indian War had to prove a settler or British soldier killed and they did so with scalps. That is the single most effective means of spreading smallpox, for the dead were often infected with the disease when the warriors touched them. In fact, one of the earliest Europeans to arrive in the New world, Cortez was, by accident, the reason for the smallpox infection in the South American Indian tribes and he had only a couple of infected men with him but they were both killed by the Aztecs. Because of the Aztecs blood rites after battles, they were able to spread the disease amongst themselves and the disease had so reduced the population that when Cortez returned a year later he was able to easily defeat them.

The American Government in the 1840s decided to help the Indians by providing \$1200 to be used to inoculate all the Indians because the incidental infections caused by general contact between the Indians and the Americans was still devastating the population. As luck would have it, no good deed ever went unpunished and the inoculations caused more deaths than had none were done, completely wiping out one Missouri tribe. This is very similar to the actual results of forced inoculations in England much earlier.

While Mr. Churchill's version of planned genocide is much better at rousing the rabble, it has no validity other than the one dubious attempt at germ warfare by the British before there was an American Government. This alone would, in my opinion, be reason enough to remove him from tenure and the teaching profession. The lectern in the classroom is not a

(Continued on page 25)

Greetings Fellow SCAM Members,

Well the new year with the new ExComm is off to an enthusiastic start. There are a lot of fresh ideas being brought to the table by our new ExComm members and one of those ideas is my main topic here.

As presented last time, we are still very interested in the ideas of our membership on how to activate our membership and to ensure that there is as many opportunities as possible for our membership to give a little to our group as well as getting something more out of being a member than just the monthly newsletters.

To that end, over the next couple of months, the ExComm will be contacting all of the members either by phone, email or in-person, to fill out and/or respond to a small collection of survey questions regarding your opinions, interests and suggestions on your local groups operations and activities. Please feel free to express your expectations and opinions freely (as if that was ever a problem for a Mensan) and as always, you are a welcomed to join us at any ExComm meeting – look for details of time and location elsewhere in this newsletter. If some of you who do not have your e-mail published in your national registration and would like to be contacted by e-mail, please send me your name and e-mail and I will make sure it gets added to our local roster.

We are still looking for someone to help organize our Regional Gathering (RG), traditionally scheduled for October 2006. Again, that might seem like a little far off, but there are some arrangements that must begin to be made over the next couple of months. This is a great opportunity for someone who likes to organize parties. It is a full weekend event with up to 130 attendees. If you think you might like to help us, or have any questions regarding the details of what is involved, please feel free to contact me at (321) 259-4966.

There is also another assignment we need help with. We would like to find a Social Coordinator for the group. The responsibilities of this position would generally be coordinating the scheduling of activities for the group and organizing the calendar for incorporation into the SCAM newsletter and website as well as managing any contact with the local media regarding events. If you would like to help us with this or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and I am looking forward to seeing or hearing from you all.

Joe Smith
Member-At-Large

SCAM Calendar of Events for September 2005

7th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

COFFEE, ETC.

Come join us at the House of Joe, 1224 W. New Haven Ave., Melbourne. Great place for a get-together over coffee; a free Wi-fi connection is featured for those so inclined. *One of our best regular events.*

Contact: *Trish Thornton, e-mail: coffeeetc@spacecoastareamensa.org*

11th - Sunday 10:30 AM

BRUNCH AT CHOWDER'S

Join Suzanne at Chowder's on U.S. 1 at Suntree Blvd. to enjoy a pleasant Brunch with our friends at SCAM. Please RSVP Suzanne or you may not be seated with our group. There will be games afterward at Suzanne's home. Enjoy the pool and the beach, as they will be available. See you there!

RSVP: *Suzanne Leichtling, 258-5437 (Cell) before 10PM on Saturday.*

18th - Sunday 11:00 AM

BRUNCH WITH JIM

Join Jim for Sunday Brunch at the Colossus Restaurant, 380 N. Wickham Road, in Melbourne. You must arrive on time or you may not be seated with our group.

Contact: *Jim Trammel, 242-8985.*

24th - Saturday 6:00 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at Miyako's, 1411 S. Harbor City Blvd. (US#1) in Melbourne.

Contact: *Your Newsletter Editor, or e-mail: snort@spacecoastareamensa.org.*

Welcome to SCAM

Ellen Lee Owen



September Birthday Greetings!



02-George Patterson
07-Leah Simpson
13-Larry Bishop
15-Joseph Cittadini
17-Michael Fuller
19-Ralph McKee
28-Vivek Sharma
29-Jane Bryan

The guidelines for publication of *The SCAM* and the web page constitute a contract between the Executive Committee (ExComm) of Space Coast Area Mensa (SCAM) and the Editor of *The SCAM*. As such, each party agrees to accept certain responsibilities and authorities and to refrain from expropriating certain responsibilities and authorities. Implicit in the Bylaws of SCAM is a clear separation of the powers of the Executive Committee and the Editor which no publication policy should attempt to amend. ExComm and Editor will work together to promote the best interests of SCAM.

The goals and priorities of ExComm and Editor shall be:

1. to inform members of the local group on a timely basis about the activities and financial status of SCAM.
2. to provide a forum for interaction among the local members through articles and letters to the editor submitted for publication.
3. to present to the local members items of information from elsewhere that effect or interest them.
4. to inform potential members of Mensa and the general public about SCAM and to serve as a representative of SCAM throughout Mensa as a whole.

The Executive Committee and the Editor

Working together, the ExComm and the Editor have the responsibility to insure that the newsletter contains all mandated ballots, reports, meeting minutes and the like. Further, the ExComm and Editor should be responsible for attracting, encouraging and developing writers, artists, and other contributors. The ExComm and Editor agree that under no circumstances shall the newsletter or web be used for scurrilous attacks upon individuals or groups, that under all circumstances fair and even-handed reporting of controversial issues shall prevail, and that the right to reply shall be provided. The ExComm and the Editor shall try to reach broad general concurrence on issues of taste, but the final decision in such areas shall remain the prerogative of the Editor.

The Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is responsible for the management of all the funds of SCAM, and thus shall have the authority to set financial limits on the spending for production and distribution of the newsletter and web page. The ExComm shall recognize that the newsletter is the most valuable product of the local group, and thus shall make all reasonable effort to provide maximum funding for the newsletter without placing the financial health of SCAM at risk. The Executive Committee shall provide all reports and information for the membership designated for publication in the newsletter to the Editor by the established newsletter deadlines. The Executive Committee shall further require appointed officers to meet newsletter deadlines in the submission of their reports.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

The Executive Committee shall recognize the Editor as a partner in the management of local group activities and shall provide support and cooperation in the Editor's attempts to further the best interests of SCAM and American Mensa, Ltd.

The Editor

The editor shall include all reports, ballots, and other information to the membership which are mandated by the bylaws. Beyond the mandates of the bylaws, the editor shall determine the content of the newsletter and web page, all deadlines, format, and production details, and, in consultation with the Treasurer, set advertising and subscription rates. The editor shall expand the content and quality of the newsletter to the extent possible within the allotted budget. The editor shall edit for clarity, grammar, and space as long as the original meaning or intent of the author is not changed.

When appropriate and available, the editor may include articles of general interest from any source, communications from SCAM officers and appointees, a list of local and national Mensa contacts, submission requirements, advertising requirements and rates, paid advertising, unpaid advertising, and any other material deemed of interest to members.

The editor shall not knowingly violate the laws of copyright, libel or obscenity. The editor shall not include any material submitted anonymously, although attribution may be withheld upon request.

The editor shall endeavor to insure that the newsletter will be received by the membership in a timely manner by delivering it to the Post Office no less than one week before the end of each month.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The SCAM Bylaws require the Publications Policy be published in The SCAM at least every two (2) years.*

SCAM Website Policy, continued.

(Continued from page 19)

arrive at an equitable resolution to the complaint.

- Contact information for the Editor and the Webmaster shall be published in every issue of The SCAM.

Amendments

The Editor shall have the authority to amend this Policy as necessary.

Effective Date

This Policy is effective August 7, 2005 and shall remain continuously in effect.

Purpose of Website

The SCAM Website exists for the following purposes:

- As a marketing tool to promote testing of prospects, and to promote membership to those prospects who qualify to join Mensa. Pertinent contact information shall be maintained in order to facilitate serving this purpose.
- As a convenience to members of Space Coast Area Mensa (“SCAM”) and other interested members of Mensa, to provide an interactive calendar of events, and to notify members of unforeseen changes that occurred past the deadline for the print newsletter.
- To provide an accessible archive of back issues of *The SCAM*, in recognition of the fact that articles of general interest appear in each issue.
- To inform members of the history of SCAM and Mensa.
- To provide appropriate administrative information pertaining to SCAM.

Authority

- The WEBMASTER is responsible for, and shall have the authority, under the direction of the Editor of *The SCAM*, (“Editor”) to maintain the SCAM Website in an attractive, user-friendly format, in accordance with the purposes articulated in Section 1.
- The Editor shall have the ultimate authority for the content and maintenance of the SCAM Website in accordance with the Bylaws and other governing documents of SCAM. The Editor shall consult with the Officers to ensure the needs of SCAM are being adequately met.

Nothing in this Section is intended to, or shall be interpreted in such a manner, to conflict with the authority of the Executive Committee (“ExComm”) or any officer of SCAM.

Procedures

- Any proposed additions, deletions, or changes to the Website shall, whenever possible, be submitted in electronic format directly to the Webmaster, with an e-mail copy sent to the Editor. Plain text, .jpg and .gif are the preferred formats. Contact information shall be included with such requests.
- Any proposals NOT in electronic format shall be mailed to the Editor.
- Priority shall be given to those matters necessary for the official functions of the Space Coast Area Mensa, as determined by the Editor, in consultation with the ExComm.
- Complaints regarding the SCAM Website shall be submitted to the Editor in writing via postal mail or e-mail. Upon receiving a complaint, the Editor shall be responsible to consult all parties to the complaint, and

(Continued on page 18)

Author's note: This is part of an irregular but recurring series of articles discussing the irregular and recurring dispersion of public resources.

Theoretically, the people's representatives act to protect and enhance the long-term interests of the general public. In reality these days, the short-term interests of a privileged few almost always come first. A classic example is "The Energy Policy Act of 2005," currently working its way through Congress and eagerly anticipated by the White House. In fact, by the time you read this, the President will probably have already signed the legislation into law.

The primary provision of this Act is a \$14.5 billion handout in the form of tax breaks and grants to the oil, gas, coal, and nuclear industries. It is hardly worth noting that each of these energy sources represents a non-sustainable consumption of mineral resources. Each source either renders us vulnerable to foreign suppliers, poses a danger to the environment, or presents significant public safety risks.

By contrast, less than 10% of this amount, \$1.3 billion, is designated for items such as greater efficiency standards to conserve energy, development of new technologies such as hydrogen power, or fostering renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, geothermal, closed-loop biomass, or hydroelectric. Consumers would get tax breaks in the range of a few hundred to a few thousand dollars for conservation measures, or for purchasing hybrid-powered vehicles (most of which are manufactured by foreign companies).

Proponents of this Energy Bill claim it represents a "free market" solution to America's current energy problems. How this- the government compensating big corporations to do what they are already doing- comprises a "free market" approach is a mystery. It is difficult to understand why, for example, big oil companies need tax relief. As evidence, a check of the corporate documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shows that the total compensation of each company's top *individual* executive in 2004 was as follows:

<u>Company:</u>	<u>Job Title(s):</u>	<u>Total compensation for this person :</u>
ChevronTexaco	Chairman	\$5,540,919
ConocoPhillips	Chairman, CEO, and President	\$5,710,289
ExxonMobil	Chairman and CEO	\$7,699,882
Halliburton	Chairman, President, and CEO	\$4,730,000

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

Sunoco Chairman, CEO, and President \$3,325,233

The figure for total compensation is determined by adding the reported salary, bonus, and “other compensation” for the *single* person named as CEO and/or Chairman for each company listed above. It does not include stock options, deferred compensation, or pension/ retirement entitlements. The category of “other compensation,” as defined by the SEC, includes such items as use of corporate vehicles, use of corporate aircraft for personal travel, club memberships, financial services, home security systems, tax assistance, and salaries of personal assistants. The documents filed with the SEC indicate that the going rate for corporate Vice Presidents in the oil industry is in the low seven-figure range.

Another provision in the legislation repeals the Public Utility Holding Company Act, a depression-era law designed to assure a steady supply of electricity and to protect the consumer from corporate predators. Considering the mismanagement revealed by the collapse of Enron, and the manipulation of the energy market in California several years ago, it is hard to imagine why Congress would wish to eliminate a law intended to protect the private citizen. Given recent events, we should all be aware that a total faith in the inherent goodness of big business is dangerously naïve.

Tucked in among the 1000+ pages of the legislation are special favors. Among the “goodies:”

- \$500 million to encourage oil exploration and drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.
- \$80 million in loans to the owner of a “Clean Coal Technology Plant” in Healy, Alaska.
(Note: The interest rate and term of this loan are not specified.)
- Extension of indemnification of \$500 million to the nuclear industry, per incident, for another 20 years. *(Note: This means in the event of a major accident relating to a nuclear facility, the taxpayer picks up the tab for any liability over what the insurer pays, up to a limit of \$500 million).*
- \$1.5 billion to benefit the corporate constituents of House Republican Leader Tom “Depends-on-what-the-meaning-of-a-crime-is” DeLay.

It is equally important to note what this legislation fails to do:

- It will not reduce the cost of gasoline, heating oil, or electric power.
- It does not provide a comprehensive, long-range plan to assure energy independence.
- It does not contain sufficient incentives to develop renewable sources of energy.
- It does not adequately address the environmental consequences of con-

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)

tinued use of fossil fuels.

- It does not help the consumer to any significant degree.

But, of course, we must credit Congress for giving us another month of daylight savings time!

This “Energy Policy Act of 2005” stands as a monument to lack of vision and failed leadership by the people we elect to run our government. This legislation is, however, a testament to the power that special interests currently exert over our government.

THIS MONTH'S WORD

Re•sur•gence \ri-‘ser-jen(t)s\ *n.* [L *resurgere* to rise again]: a rising again into life, activity, or prominence — **re•surg•ent** \-jent\ *adj.*

—*Webster’s New Students Dictionary (1964)*

Example: “Since the September 11 attacks, we as a country are experiencing a resurgence of both patriotism and religion.”

Writer’s Block

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(Continued from page 3)

tent, and am, therefore, responsible for all aspects of The SCAM. Whatever the issue may be, I am in the best position to resolve it. Please permit me the opportunity to do so.

Likewise, if you have any ideas you believe would improve The SCAM, please do not hesitate to contact me. I always strive to make each issue of The SCAM better than the previous one. Any constructive advice is always appreciated.

I would like to bring your attention to one other item. While The SCAM should have something for every reader, as Editor, I have endeavored to make The SCAM a place for serious discussion of issues of importance. In view of the fact that a few of our members are minors, I must point out that The SCAM is intended largely for an adult audience.

While every effort is made to keep The SCAM “family-friendly” sometimes the serious discussion of an issue might not be appropriate for a younger audience (under 18 years old). If you are the parent of such a younger member, I urge you to use your discretion in deciding the appropriateness of any material published in The SCAM.

During my lifetime, it seems that American politics always centers on the theme of warfare. A few examples here will suffice to make my point. While I was still in elementary school, then-President Lyndon B. Johnson declared *War on Poverty*, one of the major elements in what my conservative colleagues deride as the “welfare state”. More recently, we became engaged in the *War on Drugs*. Of course, under our current regime, we are now engaged in the *War on Terror*. Of course, many other such “wars” have come to surface in our politics over the years.

In this installment, I will discuss a different kind of war, one that is almost always fought under the radar. It is a war that most of our politicians refuse to discuss in their (re)election campaigns, regardless of whether they be Democrats or Republicans. Of course, I am referring to the *War on Labor*. The term “labor” as used here is not just about unions and their declining influence on the American worker. “Labor” refers to all Americans who must rely on the fruit of their labors just to survive. Despite the reluctance to talk about it, let me assure you the War on Labor is every bit as real, and every bit as pervasive as the War on Terror.

The War on Labor is unlike the myriad of other “wars” in at least two respects. First, it is the longest running war in this country. The War on Labor is as old as the Labor Movement itself, dating back at least to the middle of the 19th Century. The second element is the need to ensure that the “enemy” is never aware that they are, in fact, party to the war. This involves, among other things, blaming the casualties of the war on seemingly immutable forces akin to natural disasters.

In the War on Drugs, it is readily obvious to those engaged in illicit drug trade that they are engaged in a war, as evidenced by the stepped-up law enforcement efforts and tougher drug laws now in place. Similarly, in the War on Terrorism, terrorists readily acknowledge that they are at war. In both cases, the “enemy” knows they are engaged in a war; they react accordingly causing the war to escalate further.

In the War on Labor, however, great pains have been taken to ensure “labor” is not even aware that a war is in progress. First of all, no one ever speaks of a “War on Labor”. When, on rare occasion, politicians do speak out against “labor”, it is usually in the context of unions (“Big Labor” or “organized labor”) and their leaders (“Union Bosses”), despite the fact that nearly 85% of the American labor force do not belong to a union. The truth is, “Labor” is the entire American workforce, not just the dwindling numbers of those who are unionized.

Make no mistake about it, however: Our current regime has, in fact, declared *“War on Labor”*. In all fairness, I must point out that not all of the responsibility rests with the Bush II Administration. As I already pointed out, while current, the War on Labor is not new. Below are a few of the

(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

more obvious acts of aggression:

- The proposed Social Security “reform” siphons money away from retirees to fund “private accounts”.
- At our jobs, fewer of us are covered by real pensions; instead, we are “covered” by 401(k)s.
- Those who actually do have pensions see companies getting out from under them and handing the bill for the pensions to the taxpayer.
- Our current regime just passed CAFTA, thus assuring greater American job loss. Apparently, they were not satisfied with the damage they caused with NAFTA and WTO.

Of course, most of this is explained away as changes in the “marketplace” and that we must adjust to “market forces” (as if they were a natural phenomenon). Moreover, in the name of “patriotism”, we workers should not grumble, and instead “support our troops” by waving the Flag. To do otherwise would be to lose the “War on Terror”. Yet, as you wave that flag, chances are it is not really an American Flag. As a fellow Mensan points out in another publication:

“Flags...\$51.7 million: The dollar value of U.S. imports of American flags in 2001; just over half this amount (\$29.7 million) was for U.S. flags made in China.”(1).

Shouldn't the American flag be a symbol of respect for all Americans? Where would our great land be without the American worker? What does it say to anyone who cares to listen that we find it necessary to import our national symbol?

One recent development in the news is the withdrawal of three major labor unions from the AFL-CIO. Our Republican regime is apparently reveling in the prospect of possible reduced support for the Democrats resulting from the schism. It has long been a Republican goal to reduce or eliminate political support from organized labor. In one recent opinion piece published in Florida Today, syndicated columnist Linda Chavez complains that union dues should not be used for political campaigns because not all union members vote for the candidates supported by their unions:

“All of this (political donations) money came from union dues, not from the voluntary contributions unions collect through their Political Actions Committees...86 percent of it going to Democrats. Some 43 percent of voters in union households voted for President Bush in 2004...”(2).

In a sense, Chavez is right. I have been a union member for 25 years. I have witnessed many of my coworkers vote against their interests, because of some “hot button” social non-issue such as gay marriage and Ten Commandments displays in government buildings. Over the years, when I've pointed out workers' issues, my coworkers would refuse to believe me, even

(Continued on page 25)

(Continued from page 24)

in the face of supporting evidence. Union money spent for political purposes would be far better spent in keeping up with legislation of concern to workers, and to inform ALL American workers of these pieces of legislation and their implication to us – including, of course, how our legislators voted on each issue.

If we continue on our current course, as many of us in the American work force approach old age, our pensions and health care will be administered by the Department of Corrections, as we become forced to commit egregious crimes to ensure medical treatment as well as room and board.

Happy Labor Day to all!

Sources:

1. “Fourth of July, by the Numbers”, *M-Compass*, July 2005, Pricilla Doyle, Editor, p. 7.
2. “A Tough Year for the AFL-CIO”, Linda Chavez, *Florida Today*, July 20, 2005.

Random Thoughts...(Continued)

(Continued from page 12)

pulpit and Mr. Churchill needs to learn this lesson. As long as he is not a teacher, he does not have the extra responsibility for truth.

If you are interested, Mr. Churchill based his ethnic orientation on the fact that a tribe had awarded him an honorary membership in the tribe because he said he would write the truth about Indian Affairs. They also revoked the membership (before all of the screaming and shouting) because he lied to them.

So, should anyone defend Mr. Churchill’s right to say what takes his fancy to say? Yes, as long as he bills it as his opinion and does not hold a captive audience (of students) hostage to those beliefs. I’d like to see if any student challenged his comments and how any who did fared.

Now, along with the 10% hearing loss I have a sore tongue. Rather than get into a discussion, most likely to have gotten pretty heated, I held off saying anything about Mr. Churchill and his supposed qualifications for tenure. Sometimes I have to put on headphones and listen to music to keep from jumping into these discussions.

Most of you had reports of the AG in your newsletters in August, so I won't go on and on about all the wonderful things that took place. I will say that if you missed the AG, you missed a whopper of a good time! Next year, of course, is the World Gathering, right here in the heart of Region 10, in August. Don't miss that one! And remember to get in touch with Kay Klasen, volunteer coordinator, to let her know how you would like to help. We hope everyone attending will volunteer to help, even if it is just for an hour.

We can all be proud of the Region 10 folks who received awards at the Awards Luncheon at the AG. In the PRP awards, Special Mention Awards went to editors Mark Puddephat (Miami's Flamenco, for numerous excellent continuing items) and Edgar Coudal (Manasota's 4M, for "The Way We Were"). Region 10 had only one team place in the money in Culture Quest, and that was the Buns Da Winsin's Next Generation team from Southwest by South, Zack Mooney, captain. Nancy Heinrich of Manasota was awarded an ABBIE Proctor of the Year Award. We can be especially proud of Keri Guilbault from Central Florida Mensa. She was given a National Chair's Award for her work on the new gifted children's handbook, as well as the Community Activities Program award in the Gifted Children Category, for the Junior Engineer Day she single-handedly brought about last fall.

So far, I have only received feedback from one group, Broward, regarding what is done to welcome new members to your group. I am looking forward to hearing from everyone else soon. I wish there were awards I could give to all of the hard working volunteers across the Region. You know who you are. You are the LocSecs and treasurers and editors and proctors of every local group. You are the Gifted Children's Coordinators and hosts of parties for your fellow Mensans. You all work hard, all year long, to make your local group and Region 10 and American Mensa great! Why not take a few minutes this month to say THANK YOU or give a pat on the back to the ones who keep your local group going? They deserve it.

Have you registered for Tampa Bay's Oktoberfest RG next month? It isn't too late, you know. Contact Dan Chesnut (DChesnut@tampabay.rr.com) for information or to register - or see the Bulletin or the website for more details. See you there!

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Meeting of the ExComm was called to order at 4:44 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members Present: George Patterson, Tom Wheat, Cliff Miller, Joe Smith. Absent was Bud Long, who was in Fiji.

Welcome Guests: Mike Moakley, Kat Cochrane, Helen Lee Moore, Clara Woodall-Moran.

Minutes of last meeting as published in the July SCAM were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: General account: \$1,004.91, Post Office Acct.: \$73.20, Scholarship acct.: \$762.20, CD acct.: \$3,000, RG Fund: \$209.30.

Testing: Two tests were given in June. Another test is scheduled for August.

Scholarship: The winner of the Jim Johnson/Doug Pearson Scholarship is Sheryl L. Sellers, a resident of Melbourne and a student of Culinary Arts at Keiser College.

Old Business:

We still need to begin planning for our RG in October 2006. **Anyone interested in helping with the RG please let any ExComm member know. We need a chairperson and others. Members will be approached individually.**

We revisited the issue of the calendar and a social coordinator. We will be doing a telephone survey about what members would like and what events they can host. Joe will write an article for The SCAM.

New Business:

Rita Johnson-Aronna is leaving the area and has accordingly resigned as Scholarship Chair.

We are considering involvement in the MERF Scholarship Program. A member has volunteered as chairperson.

A member has objected to an article in the July SCAM because the editor wrote an opinion piece. We reviewed the article, and it is clear that it was identified as the personal opinion of the writer. However, any member is encouraged to write to The SCAM to express his/her reaction to any published article.

The members of the ExComm will be sending abbreviated biographies for publication in The SCAM; members are also encouraged to send in such abbreviated biographies.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm, the next meeting will be at **George Patterson's house**, 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, on **September 3** at **4 pm**.

Clifford M. Miller, RecSec