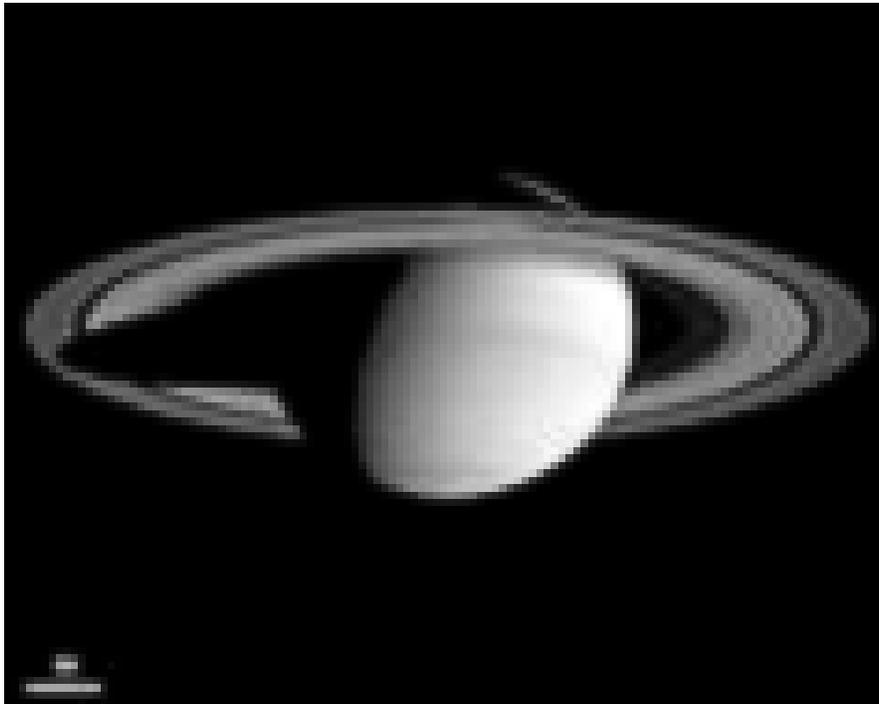


The

SCAM

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Happy Holidays!



Volume 23, No. 12

December, 2005

**ONLINE EDITION****SCAM and MENSA Business**

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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 on Page 2.

The SCAM sells **classified ad space**. SCAM members, non-commercial, no charge. Others: \$20 full page; \$10 half-page; \$5 quarter-page per month, we offer discounts for multiple insertions, and we can help with layout and design.

Subscriptions: SCAM members, included in dues; others, **\$10** for 12 issues.

Letter to Fellow SCAM Members

Helen Lee Moore

At the December meeting of the American Mensa Committee (AMC), an item dealing with financial assistance to some members will come up for a vote. This aid will be in the form of paying all or a portion of the annual dues for those members deemed to be of value to Mensa who are unable to pay their dues themselves.

I believe that any decisions regarding financial help with dues is best made at the local group level. Only at the local level can either the need or the value of a member be really known without a thorough investigation, and this would be extremely costly and would most likely risk violating privacy rights.

Mensa had a similar program in the past, one beset with problems. It was a dues waiver program and it was eliminated by an overwhelming vote, 19 for doing away with the program and 1 abstention.

Members who know each particular situation can give assistance with dues at the local group level. It HAS been done often in SCAM; aid given to members who have hit a rough spot by other members who care. It will hardly be accomplished by the decisions of far away 'bureaucrats' who can easily be misled as to either real need or real value.

Please email Maggie Truelove at RVC10@cfl.rr.com and others on the AMC and remind them of corporate history. And be ready to help your fellow SCAM members should the need arise!

Thank you.

Helen Lee Moore

While the campaign to have men lower the toilet seat after each use is continuing, there is another counter campaign in operation, that is, to teach women to urinate standing up. The campaign to get women in the U. S. and Western Europe to urinate standing up is not new. In the Muslim culture, women are expected to stand to urinate. This stricture dates to Mohammed's time and is included with the requirement for men to squat while urinating. This actually is a pre-Muslim custom in the Middle East that was reported by Herodotus who wrote in the fifth century B. C., "The women stand up when they make water." Later, in Richard Burton's translation of A Thousand Nights and a Night (1865) he says, "In the East women stand on minor occasions" confirming that it was a Muslim custom at that time. It also was common during the Middle Ages in Europe if we are to take Ken Follet's description of a scene in his The Pillars of the Earth as being accurate. He wrote,

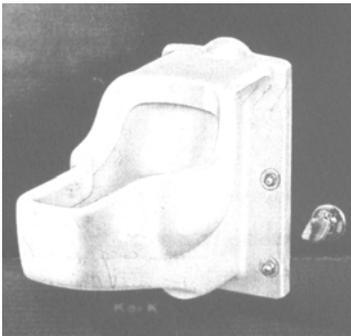
"Piss on the Rule of St. Benedict!" she yelled at the top of her voice. Then she hitched up her skirt, bent her knees and urinated on the open book."

From this we can determine two things. Women commonly urinated in a standing position and that women commonly wore no under garments. Perhaps this can explain why in the 19th century a toilet seat was devised that automatically raised itself after use. This is just the opposite of the self-lowering toilet seats being touted today. If, at that time, women commonly urinated standing up, and there is at least one Web site



A 19th Century Toilet Seat Raising Device

that advocates such action and proposes to teach women how to use a men's urinal, such a toilet seat would make sense.



The Kohler "Hygia"

In the forties and fifties of the last century several manufacturers of toilet fixtures, especially the two most prominent, American Standard and Kohler, came out with women's urinals. They were not a great success and were discontinued soon after. American Standard made the "Sanistand" from 1950 to 1973. Kohler made the "Hygia." There are leftovers of those fix-

(Continued on page 5)

tures still to be found installed around the U. S.

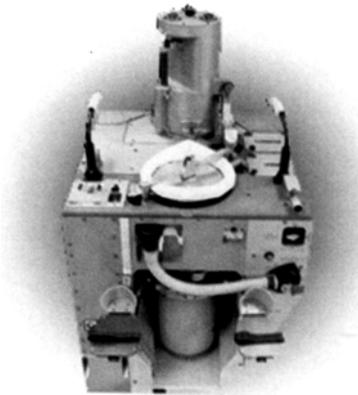
Recently, a new wave of women's urinals is being promoted by several manufacturers. The urinals from the fifties, and most of those of recent manufacture, are comparable in shape and use. They are similar to a man's urinal with a narrow extended lip that a woman is supposed to straddle. Although this may have worked well a hundred years ago when it was not too widespread for women to wear underwear (panties), it becomes less tenable now with women commonly wearing pants both as an undergarment and as an outer garment.



The "Lady-Loo"

According to a research project reported in Plumbing Systems Design (July/August 2005) it takes men 40 - 45 seconds to urinate and 90 seconds for women. The difference is probably because of the difference in clothing. You can see the effect that this time difference would have on public toilets if men were required to sit to urinate. Lines at men's toilets during entertainment and sports intermissions would be as long as the lines that are now at women's toilets.

The flow rate for a typical modern water closet is 30 gpm (gallons per minute) and 20 gpm for a urinal. The latest requirements for total flow for each flush are 1.6 gallons for a toilet and one gallon for a urinal. Without going into a detailed mathematical calculation it is obvious that converting women to urinal usage, a great deal of savings can be made in piping sizes and water usage and sewage requirements. This is something that both environmentalists and water departments should champion.



Space Shuttle "unisex" urinal

To get around that clothing problem, a different approach in urinal design for women has been attempted by some manufacturers. The "She-inal" is typical of several manufacturers' products that use a funnel-like device to collect the urine. When this product first came out in 1993, I was interviewed by Florida Today for my opinion of it. I said then that I felt that it would not be acceptable for most women. The She-inal is no longer being manufactured. I don't believe that the current crop of similar women's uri-

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Writer's Block

Mike Moakley, Editor, *The SCAM*

December once again... A bit of good news is that the 2005 Hurricane Season is officially over. Our new SCAM Website is up and running. You may visit the site at: www.scam.us.mensa.org. Like any change, however, there are unintended consequences. In this case, the ExComm members and appointees' e-mail addresses have once again changed. The new addresses can be found on Page Two.

Included in the new SCAM Website is our Calendar of Events that is continually updated. While we continue to publish the calendar monthly in every *SCAM*, I encourage you to view the online calendar for the most up-to-date information. If you do not have online access, the libraries have Internet computers, or you can simply call the host of the event or the Calendar Coordinator.

In last month's *SCAM*, there were two errors that were brought to my attention. The first was that I inadvertently omitted the name of the author of the second Letter to the Editor (Clara Woodall). The second error appeared in the column "Whatever Happened To..." in the sentence: "*These same parents allow the children to use the culvert by my driveway to use as a launching point do practice skateboard tricks...*" The latter part of the sentence should read: "*...a launching point to practice skateboard tricks...*" I regret both errors.

Finally, I have a question. In every issue of the *Mensa Bulletin*, the

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(Continued from page 5)

nals will survive either.

The main objection to the Sheinal and similar devices, and there are several on the market, is how they are supposed to be used. If a woman is squeamish about using a public toilet seat and thus requires paper seat covers or one of the more elaborate seat cleaning or covering devices described before, how will she feel about using a cup-like device pressed against her body? There is one successful but very limited funnel and hose type urinal in use. Used by both men and women it is aboard the Space Shuttle, the Space Station, and MIR.



Advertisement for "Lady-P"

You want to have a business of your own. That's great. Of course I agree since I have always had my own company in various fields and done very well. But how do you choose the right business that you can effectively finance, manage and make a good living doing it?

Today with the Internet there are many enterprises that you can start at home with a minimum of expense. When they take off and become profitable you may want to have an off premises location, but most Internet-type companies don't need a storefront. If you go into a manufacturing, distribution or business where there will be people traffic you will not be able to do it at home. The most popular businesses are restaurants, lounges, beauty salons, lawn care, handy man, distribution and warehousing, staffing and manufacturing. Depending upon the size of the business will determine where its location must be.

One of the most important aspects is to try to determine the demographics of your location as to what will be needed. Is there a big enough demand for what you plan to sell or service? The Internet is unlimited, but if you need local customers you must determine if there are enough of them to provide the income you wish. One of the most difficult bits of information to know is what will the economy in general be for the next 10 or 20 years and how will it affect your business. That is close to impossible, but we do know that everyone needs to eat, sleep and be healthy. Is there a growing market for the type of business you choose?

Looking ahead for those time periods one of the growing markets would be in health. Almost any type of health care, but especially that which appeals to the aging society. The baby boomers start retiring in 2007 and in general seem to be a more affluent group.

Those who want their own business might start a search in the health field from selling vitamins on the Internet to providing some kind of personal in-home service for retirees at minimum cost by Meals On Wheels. They only bring lunch. Would a service that brings hot full course dinners to the affluent be viable? That you will have to determine. This might require a full kitchen or a contract with local restaurants such as Denny's, Olive Garden, Durango's, a major Hilton hotel or other restaurant to prepare so many meals each day. Your customers would receive a menu a week in advance to choose what they want on each day of the week. And so forth. Lots of detail. No one said it was going to be

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So what's going on with your ExComm? That's what this column is supposed to be telling you. Above and beyond what the Minutes tell you about our businesslike doings, I hope to cover some of the general discussions we have regarding what's going on in SCAM, and what should be going on. As you might guess, the fate of the 2006 RG is a primary topic. I don't believe anyone on the ExComm has a strong feeling one way or the other as to whether or not we **should** have an RG.

The general attitude seems to be that we (SCAM members) survived not having an RG in 2004 and could probably survive not having one in 2006, but it's really up to the membership to decide. So far, the membership has been relatively mute, at least compared to their expression of views on various aspects of politics. I personally feel a bit remiss in letting things stay up in the air for so long, but I really don't know what more could have been done, in view of our lack of either a venue, or a volunteer for RG Chair. The lack of volunteers is probably an issue most Mensans understand.

The lack of venue is another matter. For those who don't know it, the Holiday Inn, which has served us so nicely for many RGs in the past, was thoroughly blasted by hurricane whatsis, which was the critical cause of the 2004 cancellation. It is still closed and is undergoing major repairs and modifications. One unfortunate modification is the elimination of the large suite that was the center of most of our social activities for past RGs, the Hospitality Suite, which so nicely overlooked the beach and ocean. While we expect the Inn to be up and running by next fall, there is major uncertainty as to whether they can provide a suitable setup. Nor has anyone come up with a reasonable alternative.

This is not to suggest that the situation is hopeless. What is needed is a volunteer RG chairperson as well as several assistants. Work on the 2004 RG really didn't get moving until spring of 2004, although we did have the venue situation covered. If worst comes to worst, and the RG is cancelled (we are proceeding with the notion that an RG is expected, and not holding it constitutes a cancellation), I expect the ExComm to appoint a 2008 pre-planning committee (again needing volunteers – but this time only for planning, not doing, a significantly easier and less frightening task).

Another topic of interest to the ExComm is our (vaguely) planned membership survey. It is going to take some time to gel, but we discuss it every month and members' opinions on it are welcome, in fact, solicited. Clearly one topic on the survey will be member attitudes

(Continued on page 9)

to RGs. In my socializing during the last few months, no one has said anything to me along the lines of "I really love our RG; I hope we have one next year," or, "I don't think we should bother with an RG next year, there are plenty of them around for those who need one." Of course the first of these responses would leave one open to immediately being subjected to recruiting pressure, which might explain the lack of expression of pro-RG sentiment. Now about our survey. The ExComm and a number of other people I've spoken to seem to think it's a good idea. Most of the details are still pretty unclear. By mail or by telephone? Short and sweet or deep and probing? I favor a phone survey, with a lot questions soliciting brief answers, like "Do you usually read the newsletter?", "How many SCAM functions have you attended this year", and so forth. Cliff Miller, who, as a lawyer, is skilled at interviewing people to obtain information, favors a more informal conversation, with some guidelines as to what info we are after. He may be right. That's certainly an easier approach, because it's not easy to put together a good, detailed, comprehensive questionnaire. In any event, when this is all firmed up it will be thoroughly publicized in this publication. My target is to get this done before the end of this ExComm's term. Also, my target for this article was 500 words; I'm already up to 741 right here.

(Continued from page 7)

easy. You will need a business plan. There are many business plan outlines you can obtain at no charge on the Internet. Don't go into any business without one.

Whatever business you choose be sure it is something you like and really want to do or you will feel trapped and it will probably not be successful. Have fun. You can do it!

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.

I guess we all knew it was coming, but the ExComm has to start considering whether we will be holding a Regional Gathering (RG) in our traditionally allotted spot of October on the even years. The 2006 RG is still in desperate need for someone to step up and chair the project. So desperate, that if we do not have a volunteer by the start of 2006, the ExComm will vote to not have the RG next year.

While it would be unfair to suggest this is an easy assignment, we are not talking about a full-time job; in fact, someone with reasonably effective planning and management skills would most likely be able to put together a very successful event with minimum effort each week – assuming the planning was started very soon.

This job would consist of planning, managing, organizing, documenting and presenting a reasonably well financed, Friday evening to Sunday afternoon party for up to 150 people. You will be assisted by a team of sub-chairpersons, reporting to you, who will take charge of responsibilities such as Hotel Liaison, Registrar, Hospitality, Events...etc. If you would like to help with this project, please feel free to contact me, or better yet, join us at the next ExComm Meeting (time and location listed elsewhere in this publication).

It is very important that we start sending out notification of the event by February of 2006 so that national members can begin planning whether they would like to attend.

If you would like to help with this project, please feel free to contact me, or better yet, join us at the next ExComm Meeting (time and location listed in the meeting minutes).

Thank you, in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Writer's Block*Continued*

(Continued from page 6)

following statement appears:

"Mensa's purposes are to identify and foster human intelligence for the benefit of humanity; to encourage research in the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence; and to provide a stimulating intellectual and social environment for its members."

My question is, Is Mensa living up to its stated purposes? Why or why not? If not, what should we do? Let's hear from you. I plan to publish your responses to this question in a future *SCAM*.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following column is reprinted with permission from the August, 2005 issue of the Matrix, the Magazine of Denver Mensa. Paul Schnitz, Editor.

What is “The Atomic Age”, when did it begin, when did it end, and why should I care? Ask the first two questions of most people and they will inevitably refer to events that of 60 years ago this year.

Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer is colloquially referred to as “The Father of the Atomic Bomb”, but Oppenheimer’s work that produced the first atomic bombs was built upon a foundation of countless hours of work and discoveries achieved by many others.

By the last decade or so of the 19th Century scientists had a pretty good understanding of the construction of the atom. Wilhelm Roentgen’s discovery of x-rays in 1895 led to further research by Henri Becquerel, who discovered the existence of naturally occurring radiation in 1896 while investigating whether there was any connection between X-rays and naturally occurring phosphorescence. Becquerel’s discovery inspired the Curies, Marie and Pierre, to study the phenomenon of naturally occurring radiation even further, and in 1903 Becquerel and the Curies shared the Nobel Prize for Physics. (*Incidentally, Marie Curie was inducted into the Mensa Hall of Fame at the MensaGumbo Annual Gathering.*)

The medical community quickly applied the newfound knowledge to the advancement of medical science. Within a few years, medical applications of x-rays allowed physicians to set bones with greater precision than had been possible before and to locate bullets and other foreign objects lodged in hapless patients, tumors, etc. without having to resort to exploratory surgery.

Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, first published in 1905, illustrated the enormous potential energy contained in naturally occurring radioactive materials, but scientists of the time believed that energy could only be released at its naturally occurring rate. In 1914, H.G. Wells first introduced the term “Atomic Bomb” to the world in his novel *The World Set Free*. The atomic bombs in Well’s novel were only as powerful as ordinary bombs of the time, though they continued to explode for days on end (*somehow they managed to do this without destroying themselves in the process.*)

The concept of the atomic bomb was generally dismissed as the stuff of science fiction until 1933 when Hungarian physicist Leo Szilard

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first conceived of the idea of a nuclear chain reaction, reputedly while waiting for a traffic light to change. Szilard patented the nuclear chain reaction in 1934 and attempted unsuccessfully to achieve a chain reaction in the 30s. In December 1938, two German scientists, Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman, first demonstrated nuclear fission, prompting Einstein and Szilard, both of whom had been recently driven from Europe under harassment by Nazi Germany, to press Franklin Roosevelt to establish a program to pursue military uses of atomic energy. This project, codenamed "The Manhattan Project" culminated in the Trinity Test in the desert of New Mexico in July 1945, and the incineration of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a few weeks later. *(Editor's side-note: Though the Manhattan Project was officially one of the most tightly guarded secrets in history, an article in the March 1944 issue of Astounding Science Fiction contained a description of a search "on a distant planet" for a trigger to detonate an "atomic bomb" that was accurate enough to earn both the writer and the editor a not-so-friendly visit from the FBI, though, fortunately for both, the story was eventually deemed to have been a coincidence).*

The Manhattan Project was replaced by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEA) on December 31, 1946. The AEA placed further development of nuclear technology under civilian control. Some giddy AEA scientists predicted that electricity obtained from nuclear power would be so cheap that electric meters would become obsolete. *(I receive a monthly reminder from my friendly utility company that they were wrong about that.)*

So life was good in America until 1949, when the Soviet Union also acquired the bomb, which led to the Cold War, and dread of humankind's newfound potential for annihilation by its own hand.

In an interesting historical side note, Dr. Oppenheimer, who had served as Director of The Manhattan Project, and later as the first head of the AEA, had his US Government security clearance revoked in 1954, as a result of his outside work against nuclear proliferation!

The Cold War eventually led to the Space Age, which replaced the Atomic Age, but the Atomic Age lives on in our culture. If not for the work of Roentgen, Becquerel, the Curies, Einstein, Szilard, and Oppenheimer, et.al., nobody ever would have heard of Godzilla, Doctor Strangelove, Planet of the Apes, Spiderman, or The Fantastic Four!

December already, and 2005 is very quickly drawing to a close. As 2006 rolls in, we will once again face an election year. As this will be a “midterm” election, the main emphasis will be on selecting representatives on both the federal and state level. For right now, I will confine my comments to the state level.

This, of course, leads us to the obvious question: do our representatives really represent us? I think not. A couple of years back, for example, I learned of a policy some local restaurants follow wherein, if a customer fails to pay for his meal, management simply docks the waitress involved the price of that meal. I guess it’s not enough that “tipped” employees are already screwed by having a considerably lower minimum wage than their coworkers. With this in mind, I contacted my representative, Mitch Needelman, and requested he introduce legislation to make that practice illegal. To Needelman’s credit, he did respond. He wished to know if this was really a problem worthy of pursuing legislation; I would guess not unless, of course, you’re a waitress. Workers’ issues normally have no place in our state’s legislature. The legislation I had requested, to my knowledge, was never introduced at the legislative session. In the 2004 election, however, the Florida Restaurant Association donated \$400 to Needelman’s reelection campaign. Not a lot of money perhaps, but it was apparently enough to buy the loyalty of this representative.

A more recent example is the effort last year to raise Florida’s minimum wage. As this measure failed to get legislators’ support in prior attempts, this time, a massive petition drive got the measure on the ballot as a constitutional amendment. Over 70% of Florida voters passed the measure providing for a \$1 increase in the minimum wage this year, with raises in subsequent years to keep up with inflation. Our legislators’ reaction? An initiative designed to make it more difficult for citizens to amend the Florida Constitution is currently in the works. You may yet see it as a proposed amendment on the 2006 ballot.

Clearly, the Florida Legislature did NOT represent Floridians on that issue. Now let’s consider yet another issue. Back in September, I had a Letter to the Editor published in Florida Today stating my opinion that people exonerated of a crime automatically have their criminal record (that relates to the case) cleared. A few days later, I received a letter from Senator Posey expressing his interest in my letter and thanking me for taking the time to write it. On September 20, I contacted Senator Posey via e-mail, asking him to sponsor legislation to that effect. A more detailed account was covered in my column in last month’s *SCAM*. So, at this point, let’s do a “Posey Update.”

To date, I have not received a response to my September 20 mes-

(Continued on page 14)

AGE LEVEL: Adults 18 & Up.

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Moderate to Challenging

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) In the puzzle on the next page, find the Impeachable Offense.
- 2) Solution found on page 20.
- 3) Enjoy!

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 13)

sage from the Senator on this matter. On October 19, I sent a short follow-up e-mail to Sen. Posey. Three days later, an envelope arrived in the mail addressed to my wife from Senator Posey – could this be the response I was looking for? Not quite. It turned out to be a “Citizens’ Issue Survey” containing 9 questions on a variety of topics, none of which was the issue I am pursuing. I did notice, however, that the survey contained a different e-mail address for the Senator.

Maybe that’s why I never heard from the Senator; perhaps I used the wrong e-mail address! With that in mind, I resent my original message the same day (October 22) to the listed e-mail address. On November 5, I sent a certified letter containing a copy of my original message to the Senator’s office in Rockledge. The next day, on Bill Posey’s website, he has a page entitled “There ought to be a Law”, where one can suggest a law he would like to see placed on the legislative agenda. I sent a brief recap of my issue and provided the necessary information. According to the U.S. Postal Service, my certified letter was delivered on November 9 at 10:54 am. As of this writing (November 10), by now you must have guessed it, still no response from Senator Posey. Would you like to try your hand at reaching Senator Posey? According to the Florida Legislature website, his address is: **1802 South Fiske Boulevard, Suite 108, Rockledge, FL 32955-3007**. Good luck...and please let me know if you get any results.

Oh, did I say I had a novel idea? Oh, yes – how about electing representatives who actually represent us?

(Continued from page 14)

Helpful Hint: Words and phrases may be formed vertically, horizontally, or diagonally.

(Continued on page 16)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

I was not able to reproduce the "word find" puzzle appearing in the print edition. For those interested in working the puzzle, please e-mail: editor@scam.us.mensa.org for a copy of the puzzle.

Solution to “A Puzzle from Somewhere Else”

“Find the Impeachable Offense.”

Correct Answer:

Lied about Sexual Affair (Begins on the 4th column from the left, 28th row from the top, arrayed Horizontally)

Wrong Answers:

Lied about WMDs in Iraq	(Column-1, Row-1, Vertical)
Lied about Budget Deficits	(Column-1, Row-1, Horizontal)
Lied about Links to Terrorism	(Column-1, Row-1, Diagonal)
Exploiting our Military for Politics	(Column-26, Row-1, Vertical)
Disregarding Science for Politics	(Column-4, Row-4, Vertical)
Poor planning for War	(Column-25, Row-1, Vertical)
Whistleblower Harassment	(Column-1, Row-39, Horizontal)
Eroded Civil Liberties	(Column-7, Row-5, Vertical)
Environmental Damage	(Column-1, Row-31, Horizontal)
Ignoring Disaster Victims	(Column-1, Row-37, Horizontal)
Religious Politics	(Column-16, Row-10, Vertical)
Economic Ruin	(Column-8, Row-2, Diagonal)

Happy Holidays to All!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following feature is reprinted with permission from M-Compass, newsletter of Southwest by South Florida Mensa. Pricilla Doyle, editor. Is anyone in SCAM interested in sharing recipes? If you submit it, I'll publish it.

Welcome to our new feature...THE DISH! This column will feature different recipes, food stories, or party planning suggestions each month. PLEASE share with your fellow Mensans any of YOUR favorite "DISH"es! Email them to me at PDoyle452@aol.com. Thanks, and dig in!!!

These are the easiest and the tastiest pork chops you'll ever make. The cheese gives them a little zing, and the bread crumbs cut the sharpness just right! You'll love them! -Ed.

Parmesan Crusted Pork Chops

2 large eggs
1 cup dried Italian-style breadcrumbs
3/4 cups freshly grated Parmesan
4 (1/2 to 3/4-inch thick) center-cut pork loin chops (each about 10 to 12 ounces)
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
6 tablespoons olive oil
Lemon wedges, for serving

Whisk the eggs in a pie plate to blend. Place the bread crumbs in another pie plate. Place the cheese in a third pie plate. Sprinkle the pork chops generously with salt and pepper. Coat the chops completely with the cheese, patting to adhere. Dip the chops into the eggs, then coat completely with the bread crumbs, patting to adhere.

Heat 3 tablespoons of oil in a very large skillet over medium heat. Add pork chops, in batches if necessary, and cook until golden brown and the center reaches 150 degrees, about 6 minutes per side. Transfer the chops to plates and serve with lemon wedges.

If Region 10's "new member" contest had been running for October, instead of August and September, the winner would have been . . . Tampa Bay Mensa! For the actual contest, they had 14 new members in two months. For October, they had 13 new members in one month. Congratulations to Tampa Bay again. You guys are doing something right.

The Region 10 website (region10.us.mensa.org) has been up and running since before November 1, as promised. On the website you can link to the websites of any of the other groups in the region. You will also find there each month the RVC column, which is in most, but not all, of the newsletters, notice of major upcoming events in the region (especially RGs, so don't forget to send me a PDF of your registration form), photos from events around the region (at this point, photos from Tampa Bay's and Broward's RGs during 2005), the newsletters for the groups who have sent them to me, and the first of, hopefully, many press reports within the region. Other things will be added as they come along, so if you have an idea of what you would like to see added, let me know.

Northwest Florida Mensa will be having their Gathering on the weekend of February 10-12, 2006. At the time of this writing, they have not sent me the information for the website. However, all the details are on their website - which you can access from the regional website.

If you haven't been to the panhandle for a Gathering yet, you are in for a pleasant surprise. They are a small group, but they put on a terrific time!

If you haven't gone recently to the national website to see what's happening with the plans for the World Gathering, now might be the time to check it out. WG06.us.mensa.org You can check out the programs already booked, take a look at the Coronado Springs Resort - you can even register for the WG and book your room through the website. If you are in one of our four south Florida groups, we hope you have all weathered the storm and are returning to normal.

I wish you all the warmest of holiday greetings, whatever your persuasion. For me, that means Christmas, my favorite time of year.

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10
3333 Honeysuckle Lane
Orlando, Florida 32812
407-855-9078
truluvs@cfl.rr.com

Meeting of ExComm on November 5, 2005 was called to order at 5:33 pm by George Patterson, LocSec. All of the ExComm was in attendance except Tom Wheat.

Welcome guests: Doug Starke and Karen Freiberg

Minutes from the August meeting as published in the September 2005 SCAM are approved unanimously.

Committee Reports: none

Editor's report: none

Treasurer's report: Total funds available: \$4,370.38

Testing report: One person was tested in September.

OLD BUSINESS

We still need to begin planning for RG in October 2006. Anyone interested in helping with the RG please let any ExComm member know. We need a chairperson and others. ***There will be no 2006 RG if we do not have a chairperson soon.***

We will be doing a telephone survey about what members would like and what events they can host. Sample questions/areas of inquiry will be published in *The SCAM*.

NEW BUSINESS

Moved, seconded and approved unanimously: There will be two chairpersons for the scholarship committees: The MERF scholarship and the Jim Johnson / Doug Pearson Scholarship. The chairpersons will be appointed shortly; any volunteers should contact George.

George will be putting together a compiled, coordinated set of standing rules and guidelines.

Congratulations to Karen for getting the new website up and running. It looks terrific. The URL is: <http://scam.us.mensa.org>

Several people have inquired about activities for gifted children: We need a volunteer for the gifted children coordinator. Anyone who is interested please visit our website for the link to the national website to see what this will entail.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm; the next meeting will be on **December 3, 2005 at 4:00pm**, at **George Patterson's** house.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Now that SCAM once again has a new website (see above), the ExComm members and SCAM appointees have new e-mail addresses. They are listed on Page Two. They are NOT likely to change again; thanks for your patience over the last few months.