

*The*

# SCAM

pace coast ensa

*2006-07 ExComm*

## *Election*

*Ballot Enclosed!*



*Endangered Memories of Old Florida*



All submissions must be received by 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.

**Page Three**

**Mike Moakley, Editor**

**P**ow is the time. It is time to select our leaders who will keep the Space Coast Area Mensa running smoothly for the next year. Enclosed in this issue is the official ballot for your use. **It is extremely important that you follow the voting instructions to the letter**, so that your vote will be counted. Please be sure to include your member number on the mailing envelope (this may be found on your address label above your name). Please mail the completed ballot to the address specified on the ballot. I must receive it no later than May 15th.

It is interesting to note that the only five candidates on the ballot are the current ExComm members. I suppose this is a testament to the fine job our ExComm is doing. As in years past, you may write in candidates in the space provided. Generally, any SCAM member in good standing may run for office and serve on the ExComm. There are, however, two exceptions. First, the members of the NomElCom cannot serve. This year, this means Suzanne Leichtling, Sam Kirschten, and me. Second, the Newsletter Editor cannot also serve on the ExComm. As I do plan to continue as Editor, I cannot serve on the ExComm—so please do not nominate or vote for me!

The cover to this issue is the final one in the “Old Florida” series commemorating the life of my father-in-law, Paris Senters, who passed away last December. This cover, a photo taken about 50 years ago, pictures Paris with one of his prize catches.

**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.

**Space Coast Area Mensa  
Treasurer's Report**

As of March 31, 2006

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$501.83
General Fund CD	\$3,000.00
Post Office Account	\$78.24
Scholarship Fund	\$281.41
RG Fund	\$209.30
Total Funds Available	\$4,070.78

**Deposits**

Mensa Funding - \$160.15

**Withdrawals**

Printing Costs - \$118.51  
Postage - \$66.38

**S**o, let's continue our discussion on building materials. We arrived at a structural frame of reinforced masonry last time.

### ***The Roof***

This will be an important choice for us. It will have to be resistant to a corrosive salt air and spray environment, be a long-lasting material, resist the hurricane forces, of course, and be fairly attractive (assuming a roof can be perceived as an attractive item of construction). Above all else, it will have to be soundly, firmly and properly attached to the underlayment.

I have only two suggestions for a roof on an oceanfront residence. They are a standing seam metal deck or a concrete barrel tile. I can think of only one type of metal roof deck that is appropriate. It is a terne-coated stainless steel product with a 30 year guarantee in a coastal location. The Type 304 stainless steel material is treated by electronically bonding a zinc/tin mixture to both sides of the stainless steel. It is called TCS II by the manufacturer., Fol-lansbee, and I would recommend that your architect and engineer do the contracting directly with the manufacturer who recommend special procedures in order for the guarantee to apply. (Actually, I would suggest that your architect and engineer (A/E) do ALL the subcontracting on the house. It is too special to just go hire a builder.)

In the case of a concrete tile roof, do the same thing. Monier is a quality tile as is Ludowici. Both tile manufacturers are long-standing reputable firms. You can have a choice of colors and various outlines for either the metal or tile roofs and it should perform well for many years. If, however, one were to have a roof that would never leak and never blow away, I would be hard-pressed to ask for much more.

The other major building materials will be the finish on the masonry frame, roof sheathing, types of insulation, interior finishes you may like such as plaster, tile, etc. I will leave it at that, remembering that we will have a newly acquired familiarity with stainless steel, tile, plastics and other materials that are corrosion-resistant.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## ***Final Design***

By now, your architect will have had a sense of what type of plan you would like. Have him prepare preliminary drawings and specifications for your review. It will, no doubt, be a roomy, 4 bedroom, 3 bath beauty with one of the bedrooms and a bath arranged as a little suite for guests. However, since I am to limit my discussion to general hurricane resistance, I should not get carried away by other processes. Suffice it to say that you have arrived at a beautiful and practical plan and are ready to go.

Earlier, I mentioned some tips on how to make the place more hurricane resistant. Let's get into them now. First, we will consider things for the main structural frame. They are:

1. The number, orientation and location of all walls provide complete stability and minimum torsion for the building.
2. Connections to all floor and roof planes and structural members in all horizontal directions.
3. Structural capacity (shear resistance) to resist all applied loads.
4. Details for transferring lateral forces through the floor diaphragm to the foundation structural system.
5. Anchorage to the foundations to prevent sliding and uplift of the entire structure.
6. Avoid long, slender proportions in the plan for horizontal diaphragms.
7. A monolithic deck is better than one composed of pieces.
8. Continuous, unbroken ties around the perimeter of all structural diaphragms.
9. Connections to all vertical elements from all horizontal directions.
10. Adequate strength in bending, tension, and compression along with the correct resistance to excessive deflections for all structural members and elements
11. Members to be continuous where possible. No simple connections

Now, we have to see how we can secure the "Components and Cladding" as they call it in the technical press. I'll list them by breakdown in more familiar terms.

### ***Roof Surfaces –***

1. Sufficient roofing weight or mechanical attachment to deck to resist uplift.

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- 2. Design for higher pressures near edges.
  - 3. Roofing backing (deck) with adequate strength in bending for pressures upward or downward.
  - 4. Resist additional uplift forces at roof overhangs.
  - 5. Deck connections to supporting elements (joists, rafters, purlins) for forces upward or downward.
  - 6. All supporting elements designed for combined wind and gravity loading.

#### ***Wall Surfaces –***

- 1. Cladding or panels attached to resist lateral forces inward or outward.
- 2. Design for higher pressures near corners.
- 3. Surface backing continuous and of adequate strength to resist inward and outward forces.
- 4. Backing connections to structural members for all horizontal forces.
- 5. Surfaces adequate to resist missile impact.

#### ***Windows and Doors –***

- 1. Glass area proportional for strength or subdivided by mullions.
- 2. Glass shatter-resistant or protected by shutters.
- 3. Glass frames of adequate strength.
- 4. Window and door frame connections to structural main-frame for resistance in all horizontal directions.

#### ***Structural elements (“collectors”) receiving loads from all components-***

- 1. Attachments to wind surface material to resist inward and outward pressures.
- 2. Positioned to accommodate strength limitations of surface material.
- 3. Adequate strength in tension, bending and compression.
- 4. Continuous from end to end.
- 5. Connections to main frame to resist forces in all horizontal directions

Well, that's enough structural engineering jargon for one day. See you next time.

*Thomas E.M. Wheat, NCARB, AIA, PE.*

**F**ormal table service, that includes banquets, restaurants, and home meals that are served by servants or during holidays such as Christmas and Thanksgiving, have changed over the years. Prior to the Middle Ages food preparation and service was simple. It hardly differed from the wealthy to those not so favored.

In the Middle Ages with the coming of feudalism, and for many years following, the host, who was a nobleman, sat at the head table with the roast. His retainers and important guests sat with him or just below. Further down long the table sat, according to rank, other guests. Below the salt, the ornate salt cellar that divided the gentry from the hoi polloi, sat the commoners. The host cut the meat and apportioned it to his supporters and guests. Waiters carried the food to those designated by the host. Those sitting below the salt may not have gotten any meat. Every dinner eaten by a lord was a banquet and those invited to partake were privileged indeed.

Later, with the rise of a class of wealthy commoners, the presentation of food at banquets and dinners became more ostentatious. The food to be eaten was prepared at one time in the kitchen and placed on a table to be admired. That included all the courses, and there were many. Several fish, fowl, and meats were supplied, as were fruits and vegetables.

Included were the desserts. As many as twenty or thirty or more different items were displayed. The food was elaborately prepared and presented. In addition, the table decorations had to be in place as well.

The diners, who were all of relatively equal rank, did not enter the dining area until all the courses were in place. Of course, by the time the table was set up and the diners sat down to eat, the hot foods cooled off and the cold foods heated up. The diners selected from the display what items that they wanted to eat and in what order. The servants, either those of the host's household or those brought by the guests, did the serving.

The first major revision to this type of service was the introduction of the "Russian Service". This type of service was actually introduced to the French court by a Russian nobleman. In the Russian Service, each course was served separately. The waiters carried silver salvers, each containing one or two items of food, such as sliced meats or potatoes,

several such platters could constitute a course. The diners would serve themselves from the salvers presented to them by the waiters,

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taking what items of food that they wanted and how much. Thus the food could be prepared in the kitchen to be ready just in time to be served and therefore hot for the diners.

The next change came about with restaurant service. Each plate for each course is dressed in the kitchen with all the components of the course (for example, meat, potatoes, vegetables, and sauce in the amounts and types as decided in the kitchen) and brought to the diner ready to eat. Essentially, the diner has no choice in the amount or, for that matter, in formal dinners, the items that appeared on his plate. In restaurants, once the principle dish of the course is selected, the accompaniments are automatic. The garnishes are so standardized in French cuisine that they have individual names. We do that too without the names. Corned beef comes with boiled cabbage and potatoes, roast turkey comes with cranberry sauce and sweet potatoes, veal parmigiana comes with tomato sauce and spaghetti.

The latest change in dining arrangement is the buffet. This is a reversion to the form of dining used after the Middle Ages. This form of service started with restaurants, usually with the catch-phrase of "all you can eat". It is now common at formal banquets such as at weddings and the CCTS Engineers Week banquet and at most restaurant's Sunday Brunches. All the food for the meal is set out and displayed in immense variety before the diners enter the eating area. The diner takes what he wants in any order and quantity that he likes. The main difference between the modern buffet and the prior form is that now technology allows us the keep the hot foods hot and the cold foods cold. And of course, we serve ourselves rather than being served.

In a less formal manner, buffet service is often used in people's homes when entertaining rather than the formal "sit-down" dinner. The Moran's venison party is a good example of this type of service as is most home barbeques. Family Service has been common as long as there have been families. The food is placed on the table in serving dishes which are passed around to the diners. It is much like Buffet Service except that the food is placed on the table rather than on a separate piece of furniture. On more formal occasions, the /pater familias/ will dole out the roast, but leave the other diners to fend for themselves for the other dishes.

Some restaurants utilize Family Service for their dinners. Unrelated people sit at large tables upon which the food, on serving dishes, is placed. The diners partake of the food as when and which they desire. The Amish restaurants in Pennsylvania are noted for

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this type of service. In Paris, the /Le Pain Quotidian /serves a marvelous Sunday brunch this way. Restaurants in China cater to large families. The standard table is round and seats ten. The food is placed on dishes on a large lazy Susan in the center. As the dishes are emptied they are replaced with different dishes. Soup appears somewhere in the middle of the dinner.

In traditional Indian and Ethiopian meals the food is served family style. On the QE2, QM 2 a combination of food services is used. For most courses of a meal, restaurant service is used; the plates are dressed in the kitchen and served individually. For the main course, if each diner at a table orders a different main item, the plate is dressed in the kitchen and served individually. If, however, two or more diners order the same main item, the waiter will bring the food on a salver or platter, as in Russian Service, and serve the food on each diner's plate.

**THE ALCHEMIST**

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stop loss order on each position. If the stock or fund drops by 10% the loss is only 1% of the total portfolio. (Example: \$100,000/10= \$10,000x10%=\$1,000).

This simple plan gives the investor diversification into the strongest sectors and limits losses (and protects profits as the stop is raised) when a particular issue turns weak.

*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 and receive his market letter for 3 months at no charge at [www.mutualfundmagic.com](http://www.mutualfundmagic.com) and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know.*  
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## **SCAM Calendar of Events for May 2006**

**3rd - 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@scam.us.mensa.org](mailto:coffeeetc@scam.us.mensa.org)

**9th - Tuesday 12:00 Noon**

### **SCRABBLE AT GRETCHEN'S**

Join Gretchen for a challenging game of SCRABBLE at her home in Melbourne. Be sure to call for directions. We also meet at the same place and time on the 23rd.

**Contact:** Gretchen Zimmerman, 242-7257.

**13th - Saturday 10:00 AM**

### **MENSA TESTING**

Mensa testing is scheduled at the Central Brevard Library, 307 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Fee is \$30. Candidates must contact the Testing Coordinator, listed below, in advance of the test.

**Contact:** Helen Lee Moore, 632-1831, or [testing@scam.us.mensa.org](mailto:testing@scam.us.mensa.org).

**17th - Tuesday 6:00 PM**

### **VOTE COUNT & GAMES NIGHT**

Come join us for a Games Night at the home of Doug Starke and Karen Freiberg in Rockledge. *Try this one, this is a new event!*

**Contact:** George Patterson, 777-3721, for directions.

**29th - 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@scam.us.mensa.org](mailto:snort@scam.us.mensa.org).

**New Event...let's...GO!**

### **ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!**

Every Sunday at 1:00 pm we will meet at Books-A-Million at Post Commons at Wickham and Post Roads in Melbourne to play GO! Come join the fun and play this ancient Chinese game.

**Let's...GO!**

## SCAM Calendar of Upcoming Events

*Be sure and mark your calendar for these upcoming events in the months to come. Be advised, they are tentative until published in the regular calendar (print and online). If you would like to host an additional event, please let Doug Starke know; he can be reached at 633-1636. Unless otherwise noted, normal recurring events are scheduled, although they may not be listed below.*

### June 2006:

- *Coffee, Etc. at the House of Joe. First Wednesday.*
- *No other events scheduled yet.*

### July 2006:

- *Coffee, Etc. at the House of Joe. First Wednesday.*
- *Fireworks Fizzle, Games Night hosted by Doug Starke. Please contact Doug (633-1636) for more details.*

### **MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

### Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

Jeffrey Burr  
Alexandra Griswold

### Welcome Back to SCAM

Carol Craig  
Barbara Crawford  
Michael Mustard  
Christopher Rawlins  
Daryl Smith

### **MAY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

3rd	Brian Conway	15th	Rondal Halter
4th	George Waters	17th	Douglas Dial
6th	Barry Ebert	18th	Donald Elmore
7th	Kenneth Kline	23rd	Harold Crawford
9th	Jason Brugman	25th	James Stewart
12th	John McKeown	27th	Karen Freiberg
12th	Martin Vanoy	30th	Francis Stump

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Tampa Bay Mensa's Regional Gathering

# Sense & Mensability

May 26-29, 2006 (Memorial Day weekend)

**Indulge your Senses** with a Chocolate Orgy, Wine Tasting, Finger Painting, Tai Chi...

**Discover hidden Mensabilities** in an Improv Workshop, Treasure Hunt, Talent Show...

**Learn** from programs in Attention Deficit Disorder, Psychic Senses, Trash Bowl...

**Meet Friends** at Hospitality, Casual Games, pool & hot tub, ping pong & pool tables...

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wireless internet, two 25" cable televisions, and 2 telephones with voicemail  
microwave, fridge, in-room coffee, hair dryer, iron & ironing board

Special "MENSA" hotel rate is \$89 (+ tax) per suite for up to 6 people. (Bring your family or friends and split the cost of the room--double bed suites can sleep up to 6; king suites can sleep up to 4.) Last day to reserve at this rate is May 5, 2006.

Call 813-971-8930 or 800-786-7446 and mention "MENSA".

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## Sense & Mensability Registration Form

Prices:    Only \$75 to 4/30/06      \$80 to 5/20/06      \$85 thereafter

*Register early and save!*  
*Meals included in registration!*

Make check payable to:  
**Tampa Bay Mensa**

Mail check to: **Kathy Crum, Registrar**  
7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag(s): “\_\_\_\_\_”

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**IN BIG OIL WE TRUST**

**W**ithin the past two months, the Prudhoe Bay oil field in Alaska experienced a leak of over 200,000 gallons of crude due to a corroded pipe.<sup>1</sup> Despite the fact that corrosion in metallic systems that handle petroleum products is a well-known problem, the preventive maintenance and inspection program (if any) was obviously inadequate. Equally surprising, the leak went undetected for at least five days, and was only discovered by happenstance.

Of course, we've all been reminded that we must wean ourselves off foreign oil (200,000 gallons of domestic crude would make somebody's Hummer™ go a long way). We've also been reassured that the oil companies have developed the technology and ability to protect the environment wherever they drill. Why should we be concerned about protecting one of the last pristine tracks of land in North America? Why should we even be worried about global warming?

Then again, we had been reassured about the oil companies' readiness to respond to an environmental hazard, back when the Alaska oil industry started in the 1970s. And we saw how effective big oil's safeguards were when the *Exxon Valdez* ran aground in 1989.

And we'll probably get fooled again.

**IN BUSH WE TRUST**

Despite the recent controversy over our government's willingness to allow a foreign company to assume control over U.S. ports, the Bush Administration continues to find remarkably unimaginative ways to undermine U.S. security. The latest illustration of incompetence coupled with hubris is the Bush Administration's efforts to award a no-bid contract to a Hong Kong-based firm, Hutchison Whampoa, to operate a U.S. radiation detector in the Bahamas for the purpose of screening cargo bound for the U.S.<sup>2</sup> Better yet, Hutchison would perform these screenings without any U.S. customs agents to oversee the operation.

Any self-respecting conservative should recognize the name Hutchison Whampoa. Back in the late-1990s, Hutchison Whampoa was contracted by the government of Panama to operate ports in that country. Conservatives immediately cried out for President Clinton's scalp, for permitting a company controlled by Communist China to threaten a vital interest of the U.S., the Panama Canal

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(since the conservatives never got over the fact that our colony in the Canal Zone had been returned to the people of Panama).

So, in the late 1990s, President Clinton was wrong to allow the government of Panama to contract with Hutchison Whampoa, but under Bush it is a wonderful idea to hand over the American taxpayers' money to the very same company without even a competitive bid. And this time we're talking about a function- screening cargo coming into the U.S. - that truly is in our national interest.

We should all feel so much safer with President Bush in charge. And we'll probably get fooled again.

*(Author's Note: At deadline, this contract is receiving increased scrutiny.)*

### **IN BUREAUCRACY WE TRUST**

Six months after the dismal failure of governments at all levels to aid the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the Bush Administration got around to employing their standard cop-out for dodging responsibility, when they blamed the bureaucracy.<sup>3</sup>

The debacle, however, can not be laid solely at the feet of the faceless and nameless mass of government workers who don't have a voice in the national media, many of whom responded to the crisis in much better fashion than their masters in Washington.

The Bush Administration still doesn't understand that when incompetence is tolerated and rigid loyalty to the party line is favored over anything resembling merit, then man-made disasters are to be expected.

After all, it was the Bush Administration that took FEMA, a fairly effective agency under the Clinton Administration, and buried it in the Homeland Security organization. It was the Bush Administration who elevated people who were pathetically unqualified for responsible jobs to positions of high authority. It is the Bush Administration that has been running the show for five (long) years.

But we can't expect the Bush Administration to take responsibility for anything they mess up. It's just a matter of getting the sailors to line up, and to bring out the "Mission Accomplished" banner one more time.

And we'll probably get fooled again.

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Commenting on the dismal performance of the Republican majority, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich proposed a mock-campaign slogan for the Democrats<sup>4</sup> in the coming election:

**D**One of the more barbaric rituals in our “Judeo-Christian” nation today that enjoys considerable public support is the Death Penalty. In an interesting twist of logic, many death penalty proponents regard themselves as “Pro-Life”. Most often, however, the belief in the “sanctity of life” only applies to human infants not yet born. However, that is the subject for another article.

Let me now state here unequivocally, that I oppose the death penalty, no matter what the circumstances may be. There are several reasons for my stance, which I will discuss below:

### 1. The Death Penalty is Immoral.

If, indeed, our nation is founded on “Biblical” principles, as claimed by our current leadership and their supporters, perhaps the Bible should be consulted. Exodus 20:13 states unequivocally, “*Thou shalt not kill.*” I am aware that some Bible scholars interpret the verse as a ban against premeditated *murder*, and not intended to preclude self-defense. Assuming this to be the case, let us examine the death penalty. A person stands accused of a capital crime. At trial, he is convicted, and the judge imposes the death penalty. He then sits under heavy guard until the execution is to take place. At the pre-

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**FLR MONTAGE—6**

*Continued.*

(Continued from page 17)

“Had Enough?”

We hardly knew the bogeyman had such a sense of humor when he was in power!

### Sources & notes:

1. “A Crude Warning,” *Time* March 27, 2006
2. “Foreign firm hired for cargo scanning,” *Florida Today* March 24, 2006
3. “Embracing Bureaucracy” *National Journal*, March 27, 2006
4. “Republicans on the Run,” *Time* April 3, 2006
5. Note for latecomers: “FLR” pertains to how some of the author’s conservative friends fondly refer to this column- “Fallacious Leftist Rantings.”

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scribed day and time, he is executed.

Is this “self-defense”? Does the condemned prisoner present any immediate danger to the life of others? Hardly. Is this premeditated? Considering the planning between the imposition and the carrying out of the death sentence, how could it not be? The death penalty, from a moral perspective, is nothing short of *murder*.

## **2. The Death Penalty is Not a Deterrent.**

Contrary to popular myth, the death penalty does not deter homicides, the most common class of crimes subject to the penalty. The South has both the highest murder rate and accounts for 80% of the executions in the United States. The Northeast, by contrast, has the *lowest* murder rate and the *least* number of executions (0.3% of the total) <sup>(1)</sup>. While no other valid conclusion can be drawn from the data, it is evident that no evidence of capital crime deterrence exists.

## **3. The Death Penalty is a Deterrent.**

Am I contradicting myself here? Absolutely not! Last paragraph dealt with deterrence of capital crimes. Here, we are looking at the criminal justice system. Apparently, for most Americans fortunate enough never to have been tangled in this particular web, criminal cases are decided in a trial by a jury of one’s peers...right? Not so, according to the data I have researched. About 90% of all criminal cases end up in a “plea bargain” <sup>(2)</sup>. Basically, the accused agrees to plead to a lesser crime, normally in exchange for a lighter punishment than he would receive had he been convicted of the original charge(s) at trial. In general, the plea bargain amounts to legalized extortion. If our defendant is originally charged with a capital crime, the death penalty becomes a powerful bargaining chip for the prosecutor: “Admit you did it, or we’ll *kill* you!” Thus, the death penalty effectively deters some from exercising their right to trial by jury.

## **4. The Death Penalty is Too Expensive.**

One familiar argument in support of the death penalty is, “I don’t want to spend my taxes feeding and housing a murderer for the rest of his life!” The truth of the matter is, however, that the costs involved in imposing a death sentence are far greater than maintaining the same prisoner if he served a life sentence instead. For example, here it costs Florida taxpayers more than \$50 *million* each year more to enforce the death penalty than the cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole <sup>(3)</sup>.

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## 5. OOPS!

As a Florida resident for the majority of my life, I can think of at least 22 reasons to oppose the death penalty. 21 of those reasons are: *David Keaton, Wilbert Lee, Freddie Pitts, Delbert Tibbs, Anibal Jaramillo, Anthony Brown, Anthony Ray Peek, Juan Ramos, Willie Brown, Larry Troy, Robert Cox, James Richardson, William Jent, Earnest Miller, Bradley P. Scott, Andrew Golden, Robert Hayes, Joseph Nahume Green, Frank Lee Smith\*, Joaquin Martinez, and Juan Roberto Melendez* <sup>(4)</sup>. These are all former Death Row inmates, from 1971 to present, who were cleared of the charges that led to their death sentences. One of them, Frank Lee Smith (indicated by an asterisk) died while on Death Row in 2000; he did not live to see his exoneration.

The truth we all must face is that our criminal justice system does make errors. One noteworthy example is the case of Wilton Dedge, the Port St. John man who was finally exonerated after serving 22 years in prison for a rape he did not commit. What if Mr. Dedge, instead, was wrongly convicted of a *capital crime*? Suppose, instead of languishing behind bars for over two decades, Mr. Dedge had been *executed*? What then, *Oops, sorry, we got the wrong guy???* It is all too obvious that a death sentence carried out on the wrong person is an irreversible error. It is an error that we, as a society that claims to value life, cannot afford to commit.

The death penalty? *Not on your life!*

### Sources:

1. FBI Uniform Crime Report, 2004.
2. Dirk Olin, "Plea Bargain", The New York Times Magazine, September 29, 2002.
3. American Civil Liberties Union Capital Crimes Project, The High Cost of the Death Penalty.
4. Paul Flemming, "Upcoming Executions Rekindle Death Penalty Debate," Florida Today, January 22, 2006.

“Hello, Mr. Mushroom, this is your friendly broker calling and have I got a tip for you. It is one of those once in a lifetime stocks and I even bought some for my own account.” Sound kinda familiar?

It’s your money not his so you can say “Thank you” and hang up. It doesn’t make any difference what he is selling you don’t want it.

Almost all stock bought in small qualities (less than \$25,000 probably more) has an emotional price tag. The prudent investor will do his homework before he makes a purchase and I don’t mean the usual Wall Street “research” method that has nothing to do with making money. I have written about that scam before.

The smart investor recognizes that the total stock market is composed of many sectors and these sectors do not all work together. The technology sector composed of hundreds of separate issues bundled together to make a technology index can be rising rapidly while the pharmaceutical sector may be flat or declining. There are many mutual funds that mimic each individual sector and a great number of these are no-load (meaning no commission) funds. It costs the investor zero, nada, zip to buy and sell them. The investor will have to find them as a broker is not going to help because he makes no commission.

Now you have found the sectors that are rising and you have a list of no-load funds, but which one should be bought? Obviously the investor wants the best performer. Here is how he can be sure he is getting a fund that is appreciating in value. Go to one of the free charting services on the Internet or at the brokerage company where he now has his account and put up a chart of the fund with a 200-day moving average. One of the brokers will help you if you don’t know how to do it or it can be done at the library.

If the 200-day line is rising and the price of the fund is above the 200-day line it is a buy. If the line is descending Mr. Smart Investor won’t have anything to do with this puppy. There is no need to do anything further to determine whether it is a buy, hold or sell.

But how much should be purchased? No prudent investor puts all his money on one equity. Depending upon how much is available the optimum investment is to divide funds into 10 parts to invest only 10% into any one equity. Then place a 10%

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We have begun our new membership year, and if you didn't renew, then this is your last copy of your newsletter! This might be a good time to think about buying a life membership. My husband Eddie did so last time around and likes the idea of no longer having to remember to renew. I am waiting until 2007, only because that is when my multi-year membership runs out. Then we will both be lifers!

I am going to stop trying to inform you of all the new perks the membership committee keeps coming up with. It is hard to keep up, and I see that many of the editors are putting the information in the newsletters in other places. If you want to check on what is available, there is a listing for them on the national website ([us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org)).

I hope that you are planning to attend the Tampa Bay Mensa RG "Sense and Mensability" on Memorial Day Weekend. Those folks in Tampa do know how to throw a great party! Go to their website ([tampa.us.mensa.org](http://tampa.us.mensa.org)) and read all about the plans for "Sense and Mensability." Circumstances will prevent us from attending this year, only because my daughter is getting married that weekend, and family does come first. Have a great time for us!

At the time of this writing, there are about 1300 Mensans registered for the World Gathering, coming up in August. There was a scheduled increase in price for March 31, but that price increase has been postponed until May 15. So save some money and go to the national website to register now! You can also find out pretty much everything you want to know about the World Gathering on the website, including the nearly full list of speakers.

The Region 10 e-list is being very quiet. I hope that is a good thing, meaning that there are no problems to deal with, and not a case of ennui.

Until next month,

**Maggie Truelove**, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10

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The ExComm meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2006 was cancelled due to various modes of indisposition by several members. I've used that line before as we've already had a couple of cancellations this season. This is partly due to it having been a quiet year for the ExComm and consequently my not feeling the need to press for a quorum. There was no pressing business that needed attending to this session. The tabled motion regarding the annual scholarship award can remain tabled for another month. Incidentally, I have received virtually no feedback regarding that matter (see Minutes and LocSection from April issue.) The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2006 at my (George Patterson's) house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic. (321-777-3721)

For you grammar buffs, you may have noticed in sentence 3 above, the phrase "due to it having been". I don't know if that is in accord with best current usage or not, but I do know that I read somewhere in the past year a long and passionately argued discourse on the use of "it" vs. "its" in such a construction. Trouble is, I don't remember which side won, but my money is on "it."

Finally, May is the month of the SCAM election. I believe the entire ExComm is running for re-election and when last I checked with Mike Moakley there were no other candidates. I'm not sure this is a good thing. It can't be that everyone thinks we've done a great job, for we haven't really done very much. We have big plans for a membership survey, but so far, no survey.

Plans to clean up and organize the handling of our Standing Rules and Guidelines, but so far, smoke but no fire. I hope a few candidates surface before this issue goes to press. An election with five candidates for five positions is not very inspiring.

**George Patterson, LocSec**

*(Editor's note: I did ask George if the April 1 meeting would really be held, or would it be an "April Fool's" joke...)*