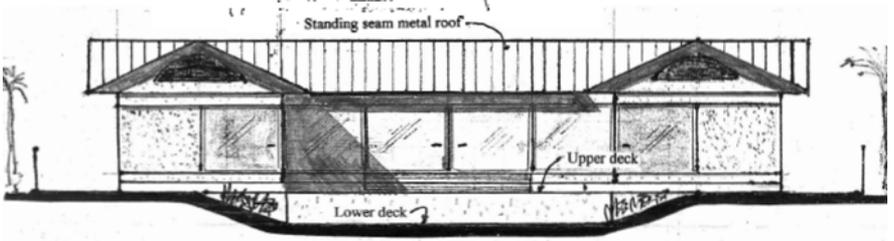


The

SCAM

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Designing for Hurricanes...



OCEAN ELEVATION

... How Safe are You?

In this Issue:

Building for Hurricanes: the final installment of a five-part series, by Mensan Thomas E. M. Wheat.



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.

Page Three

Mike Moakley, Editor

It's that time of year again! June 1st opens up the 2006 Hurricane Season. As you can see from this front cover, SCAM has endeavored to prepare us all for the upcoming stormy weather. Specifically, our cover pictures the ocean view of our hurricane-resistant dream home designed by our own Tom Wheat! The fifth, and last, installment of his series on hurricane-resistant design considerations appears on Page 4 of this issue.

By the time you receive this issue, the votes will have been counted to determine who will serve on the 2006-07 ExComm. At their meeting scheduled for June 6, the new ExComm will determine who among them will fill each position, and to make the necessary appointments (including that of Editor(!) I plan to continue, but that is up to the new ExComm). More on this in the NomElCom Report in this issue.

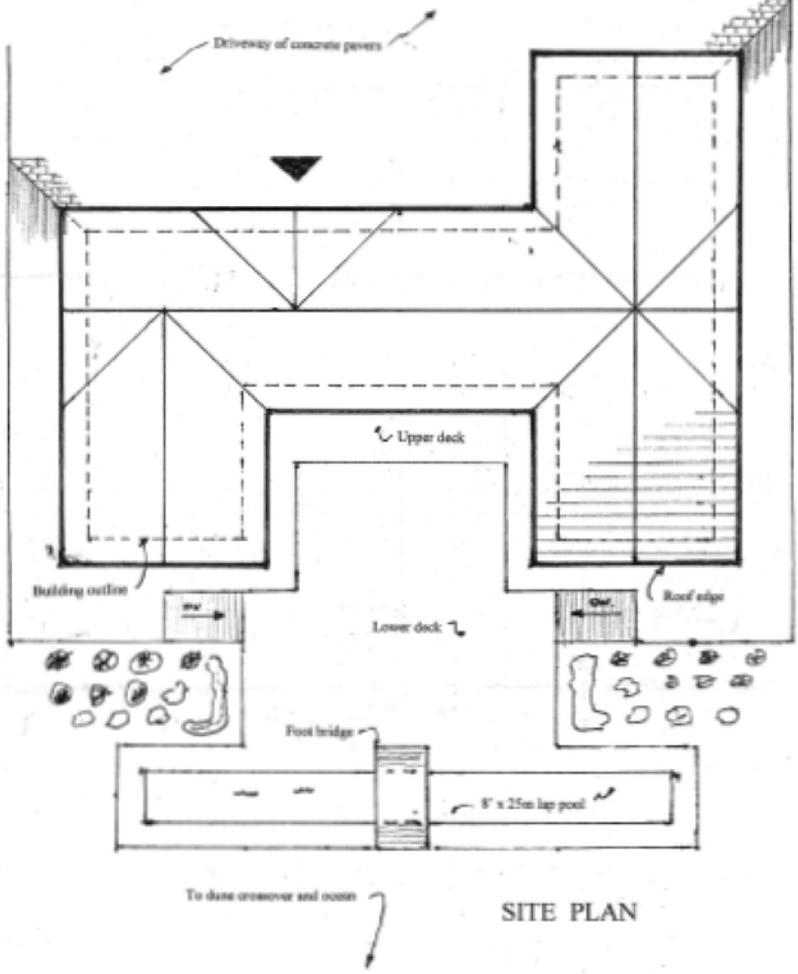
Another item, if you have seen last month's calendar, there were a number of errors that I committed when publishing the events. In one case, there was confusion on the location of the event, in other cases, the dates were in error. As Editor, I take full responsibility for those errors, and apologize to all of you for any resultant confusion.

This brings up another point. Errors can and do happen (be assured, I will be more diligent in preventing future errors), also

(Continued on page 7)

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.



Site Plan

For the beachfront home that has been designed using the information in the "Building for Hurricane" series. The final installment begins on facing page. The home's view from the ocean appears on this month's front cover.

Well, we have seen your architect, engineer and yourself do a marvelous job in all the subcontracting, supervision and decision-making on the construction of our house. All went well; from the initial pile placement to the final landscaping. We have only a tip or two to offer as it is all wrapped up.

Concrete pavers will be an absolute knockout for the driveway. Get the thicker type so the garbage truck will not deform them over time. They should be set in compacted sand, with more sand placed on top and then vibrated down between each paver. If the interlocking type of paver is used, it renders the field of pavers quite strong and nicely tied together. If the readily available *in situ* sand is too smooth, (not readily compacted), bring in a truckload or two of coarser grained sand. Have your engineer take some samples of the *in situ* sand to the nearest soils lab for the determination of the mixture of grain sizes to determine the maximum degree of compaction...

We will also install an Olympic lap pool, 8 feet wide by 82 feet long. 8 feet is the official Olympic lane width and 82 feet (ignore the ¼") is 25 meters. Then when you get tired of being in the tube, in the curl or just catching a wave, you can check your lap time and see if Mark Spitz is a has-been.

The doors will slide silently and easily for years, particularly with the heavier, thicker hurricane-resistant glass.

Inside the house, have the sliding door guy take off the bottom of each door and replace the rollers. Each roller will likely be a plastic, single-mounted wheel. Replace all of them with double-mounted stainless steel wheels or rollers, whatever fits the door. The fittings are identical- just get the two wheeled type and have the door guy put them on. It takes about 10 minutes and will halve the load on the door and threshold. The doors will slide silently and easily for years, particularly with the heavier, thicker hurricane-resistant glass.

I have shown the metal roof only because of the ease of

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(Continued from page 5)

drawing it. (I have had a leg cast on for 7 weeks and drawing the endless sine curves for a barrel tile roof would have made the drawings even sloppier than they are.) However, the metal roof does look pretty sleek. (And there's that 30 year guarantee!)

I have also shown a site plan of our 4,032 square foot beauty along with an ocean-front elevation (See Page 4).

I hope you enjoyed the article.

My best to you.

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

EXCOMM ELECTION RESULTS

Mike Moakley, NomElCom Chairman

 **On May 16, 2006**, the NomElCom convened at the home of Doug Starke and conducted the official vote count. The ballots were counted, resulting in the following persons to be elected to the 2006-07 ExComm of Space Coast Area Mensa:

Bud Long
Cliff Miller
George Patterson
Joe Smith
Tom Wheat

Cliff Miller, whose name has appeared on the official ballot, has declined to serve on the new ExComm for personal reasons. Any member in good standing who desires to challenge these results may do so in writing within 90 days of the vote, mailed to Michael Moakley, NomElCom Chairman, 808 Wisteria Drive, Melbourne, Florida 32901.

(s) Sam Kirschten

(s) Suzanne Leichtling

(s) Michael Moakley, Chairman

(Continued from page 3)

the calendar events may be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. Someone may also, after deadline, decide to host an event. If you have Internet access, please check the online calendar to confirm the scheduled event you wish to attend. If not, please call the contact number listed for that event (which would be a good idea in either case).

In the minutes for the May ExComm meeting (inside back cover), mention is made of an upcoming SCAM Directory. It has been completed, except for some last-minute updates, and is awaiting ExComm approval. Many of you have indicated on your Personal Data Questionnaire that you wish to have some or all of your contact information kept private. Please be assured I will abide by those wishes. When a member elects to keep all such information private, the listing will contain only the name, city, and state of residence.

I would like to take this time to point out to you that The SCAM is only as good as you want it to be. According to the by-laws and other rules we live by, all that is required of a local group newsletter is that it functions as a calendar of Mensa events that our group sponsors and as an official record of any business transacted by Space Coast Area Mensa.

For many years, The SCAM has been much more than that. I have, as prior editors have, done my best to include features of interest to all, and to make The SCAM quality reading for all who care to partake of it each month. I will continue to do so. This is where you come in. What are your interests; what would you like to read about? If, each month, you aren't seeing something that appeals to you, it's because you are not letting me know. My contact info is in every issue. Better yet, write that article!

Finally, as part of my Editor (and NomElCom) duties, I receive a membership roster, updated monthly, from the National Office. Many of your memberships have lapsed. If that was the case with you, you were not eligible to vote for your new ExComm. If this does apply to you, I encourage you to renew now so, among other things, we can keep The SCAM coming to you each month.

Our flight from Washington/Dulles to Milan was un-eventful, that is once we were airborne. At Washington/Dulles we were pulled away from the gate twice and then returned to the gate. On the third try, we made it.

We arrived late at night in Delhi. Old Delhi and New Delhi are parts of the same city. Old Delhi is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. It's a rat's nest of alleys and lanes that meander in no discernable fashion. New Delhi was built alongside Old Delhi under the rule of the British. In it there are broad boulevards and open spaces.

India is land of contrasts, of extremes. The president of India is a Jain and the Prime Minister is a Muslim. Until the president was elected, he lived in an 800 square-foot apartment without even a television set. Now he lives in a 40-acre compound that used to be the home of the British Viceroy.

India is one vast bazaar. Small shops line most of the streets. Each shop had a limited stock and selection. Wal-Mart could not survive here. In one electrical supply shop I asked for a female plug to fit a European samovar. American plugs won't fit. The proprietor understood what I wanted and he produced one for me. It was the only one that he had in his inventory. Unfortunately, when I returned home I found that the plug did not fit the samovar. Perhaps the samovar plug is Russian or European. The plug may be British. In any case they don't match. I'm out a total of 7¢. In Agra we went to a touted "Shopping Mall". It was three stories of the same tiny shops that can be seen on the streets. No department stores, no food court, no chains.

Vehicle drivers in India and Nepal are the most aggressive that I have ever seen. On city streets where there are lane markings, a six-lane divided road will have at least four vehicles abreast going each way. The drivers in Paris will also do this but they will form four distinct lines in the three-lane road, albeit overlapping the lane stripes. Not so in India. The drivers of pedicabs, motorcycles, three-wheel trucks, buses, and trucks in India will form a massive collection by squeezing into any available space. At one intersection where we were stopped by a red light, and we were first in line, three motorcycles, a bus, and a truck squeezed in front of us. They do this with a panache and skill that is amazing. A car will squeeze in where one would think that none could fit. They are aggressive to the point of being completely inconsiderate of others. If they can fit

into a space they will do it even if it cuts off others or causes a jam. Yet, with all this ferocity they do not yell, scream, or make rude gestures. It is as if it is all part of a grand game, and they are so skillful at the game that I did not see one accident, not even a fender bender.

This type of activity extends to pedestrian traffic as well. When Rita and I walked the streets, if we left even the smallest space between us, some one was sure to squeeze in between in order to move ahead. On an open road with two lanes of traffic each way, most drivers, even our own, will drive straddling the lane markers, even when, rarely, there are no other cars nearby.

The highways between cities in India are in abysmal condition. Most are little more than a lane wide and in poor repair with potholes, broken pavements, and repairs under way. All sorts of vehicles travel these highways including camels and donkeys pulling or carrying great loads. Naturally each vehicle travels at its own maximum speed so that there is much passing. The rule in India is that the overtaking vehicle must blow his horn and the slower vehicle must move over to allow the faster vehicle to pass. On a crowded road, which is the usual case, the cacophony of vehicle horns make it almost impossible to determine which horn is blowing and who wants to pass.

The overtaken vehicle does usually pull over to allow the other vehicle to pass. As most of the roads are not wide enough to allow two cars or trucks to run abreast, one or both of the vehicles must ride partially or completely on the shoulder. In India, this is a very rough patch.

Added to that problem, once the overtaken vehicle has moved over, and the vehicle is trying to pass, he often faces a vehicle approaching from the other direction, sometimes there are two vehicles in the identical situation in the oncoming lane. Some of the trucks are so overloaded that they look as if they would fall over if driven to swerve to avoid hitting another car. And they do. In driving from one city to another, on one stretch of road we passed three turned over trucks carrying slabs of marble in a period of less than half an hour.

Service in India is fabulous. At each hotel, the doorman, in some fabulous Indian uniform or costume, greets you as you arrive with a smile and a salute. The bellhops grab even the smallest parcel from your hands so that you won't be burdened with it. Even away from the hotels, people will help you with packages, to cross the street,

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(Continued from page 9)

and to find your way. In restaurants, when dining on curry, the rice and the curry are brought to the table on separate platters. The waiter doles out some rice on your plate and then ladles some curry over it. When you finish what's on your plate, the waiter will immediately dole out more rice and curry. You are not allowed to do this yourself.

On returning to the USA I was met with the American version of service. After a long line through customs and immigration at Atlanta Airport I needed to use a toilet. Finding one near the baggage claim area I headed towards it. To my dismay, a woman was cleaning it and had a small barrier up. Dancing on one foot and the other, I asked if I could come in. She said, rather gruffly, that I couldn't. She was not finished. Thinking that I may be better off finding another toilet, I then asked, when she will be finished. She said in a voice that implied that her work is more important than my need for a toilet, "I'll be finished when I am finished". Welcome to the world of American service.

***Correction to my March 2006 Article on Bagels:** If you have tried my recipe for bagels, you were probably disappointed. I left out an essential ingredient - two tablespoons of white sugar. It should be included in the dough mix. I apologize for the omission, but don't send me the results if you used the recipe as printed. The bagels are probably hard as a rock.*

— Art Belefant

COFFEE, ETC. EVENT

Trish Thornton

For the past 3 months, only the coordinator (or designee) has shown up for this event at the House of Joe (1st Wednesdays). I'm ready to move on to other things, so I'm taking this event off the calendar as of this month.

If anyone would like to rescue it, take over as host, that would be great. Until then, it's been officially shut down after the May event. It had a good run and I appreciate everyone who showed up!

My special thanks go to Kat Cochrane, Ellen Rogers and Boyd Smart for hosting on the occasions when I couldn't make it. They're the greatest! Be sure to look for other "Trish" events on future calendars!

— *Trish Thornton*

SCAM Calendar of Events for June 2006

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!

3rd - Saturday 7:00 PM

MOVIE NIGHT

Come join us at Terry Valek's home in Rockledge for an unforgettable movie night!

Contact: *Terry Valek, 636-1952 for directions.*

6th - 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 20th**.

Contact: *Gretchen Zimmerman, 242-7257.*

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@scam.us.mensa.org.*

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit scam.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

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.

July 2006:

- **Beach fireworks near Cocoa Beach Pier**, (Tuesday the 4th; Suzanne & Marc Leichtling's at 8752 Palm Way, in Cape Canaveral. Evening pool swimming and games party at Ocean Woods Clubhouse. Kids welcome. Walk to beach for fireworks; \$5 kitty for food. RSVP 868-5223 or 258-5437.
- **Fireworks Fizzle**, (15th) Games Night hosted by Karen Freiberg & Doug Starke. Please contact Doug (633-1636) for directions.

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM

Gary Russell

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

Christopher Buccieri

Welcome Back to SCAM

Greg Marquino
James Nordby, Sr.
George Warren

JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Bill Emmons	17th	Ellen Rogers
2nd	Glen Martinie	17th	James Rucker
3rd	Joyce Drew	21st	Richard Kerlin
5th	Joyce Megginson	24th	Sam Kirschten
	Kircher	25th	Takeya Southerlan
8th	Robert Ruhge	26th	Judith Wiksten
11th	Joann Webster	29th	Mark Murphy

Attention!!!

The SCAM is soliciting a column 500-700 words long on the following two topics. If there are enough responses, we may do "theme" issues. Of course, you are always welcome to write on any topic of your choice. Also, if you wish to suggest a topic, please contact the Editor. Contact info is on Page Two (inside front cover).

A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) of your household Mensans? If any of these apply, *The SCAM* is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. The column on the next page gives the impressions and experiences of the wife of a Mensan in the St. Louis, MO group. What are your impressions and experiences?

A Mensan in the Workplace?

Are you the Mensan at work? Do you work with other Mensans...or...are you the only one? If the latter is true, do your coworkers know you're in Mensa? What about your boss? What are your impressions and experiences at work? Do you have a leadership position? Do you serve in any kind of "support" (formal or informal) role? Does your status as a Mensan have a positive or negative impact on your work relationships? Finally, if preparing a resume, would you include your Mensa membership as an item (or state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

[From MSLANEOUS, newsletter of St. Louis Mensa. Joan Brockman, Editor]

Are you in the unique position of “belonging” to Mensa without actually having qualified? Even more important, do you take full advantage of this great opportunity provided by your spouse's membership? I do. I've been a Mensan-by-Marriage for several years now, and I thoroughly enjoy my status.

While I now love being a Mensan-by-Marriage, I didn't always have such an appreciation for all that I could gain from my spouse's involvement in Mensa. At first, I didn't really know what to think about his affiliation. I guess it scared me and brought out my insecurities. I knew I had married an intelligent man, but suddenly I felt like a total failure and wondered how long he'd be willing to stay in a relationship with such an inferior mind. The next thing I knew, the “Mensan is always right” rule reigned in our house; my husband won every argument, no matter what the issue was, through his more intelligent, logical and articulate discourse. My self-esteem plummeted.

Of course, I did feel a certain amount of pride that my spouse was intelligent enough to belong to Mensa. I was happy for him when we learned of his eligibility, even if it did make me feel substandard. And it would be dishonest for me to deny the pleasure I felt when I was forced to brag to others that my spouse belonged to Mensa. You know the bit about “Oh, I'm sorry we can't make it, but we already have plans to attend my husband's Mensa function. I'm sure you've heard of the organization for those in the top two percent...!”

When we first started attending Mensa events, I found myself looking at everyone as “them against me”. What could such brilliant people possibly see in me? I felt I was just tagging along with my husband, and I tried to keep my inferior credentials a secret. I remember how embarrassed I'd been when someone would ask, “How long have you been in Mensa?” Or, even worse, “Which of you is the Mensan?” I usually aimed for a vague answer, such as turning to my husband for support and asking him weakly, “Honey, how long have WE been coming to Mensa events now, three months?” while I'd be suppressing inside my actual response, “Okay, okay, he's the Mensan, but I'm no dummy!”

It didn't take me long to realize that my inferiority complex was unjustified and that, instead, I was lucky to have this opportunity to “belong” to such a great group. Because that is exactly how every

Mensan I've ever met has made me feel: Like I really belong to their group! And I've found Mensa to be one of the best organizations around. Where else could I meet so many interesting and fun people and participate as a guest in fantastic events such as monthly meetings, SIGs and RGs? The "Mensans vs. Me" issue was nothing more than an issue of my paranoid imagination. Everyone has always made me feel welcome at any Mensa gathering. As the number of years of our affiliation with Mensa grows, so do I. Through interesting conversations with Mensans, informative speakers at meetings and my reading of Mensa publications, I have been learning about so many things, all of which help insure that my husband will continue to find me an interesting person to live with (I'm even winning some of the arguments these days!).

By being around Mensans, I have also gained a better appreciation of giftedness I would not have otherwise acquired. For example, I now have a better understanding of why special programs for gifted students are needed, which may come in handy someday since we now have a two-year-old Mensan-in-training toddling around the house.

Who would have guessed that I would experience such growth and have so much fun through my husband's membership in Mensa? I am proud to be a Mensan-by-Marriage, and grateful to all the others who have accepted me and made me feel welcome. I encourage those of you in the same position to take full advantage of the wonderful opportunities that Mensa offers.

So, the next time your spouse heads out for a Mensa event, grab your coat and join them. You won't regret it!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The preceding guest column was written a number of years ago and came to us by way of the April 2006 Tampa Bay Sounding. I am under the impression that the author's husband qualified for Mensa sometime during their marriage. In many cases members were Mensans before their marriage. Some Mensans meet and marry other Mensans (known as "M & M Marriages"). ...And so on. The experiences are varied.

The author has related her experiences with Mensa. Do YOU have a story to tell? What are your experiences in this regard? Spouses of SCAM members, besides being invited to SCAM functions, are most welcome to contribute to The SCAM.

Let's hear from you.

As Florida residents, I believe we can all agree that ours is a very interesting and unique state. This is true in many areas. One such area is the manner in which we govern ourselves. The form of government, in all 50 states, as well as that of the United States, is considered a *republic*, rather than a democracy, since we delegate the legislation to elected officials who, in theory, act as proxies on our behalf.

Unfortunately, in Florida, as in the rest of this country, we are in a crisis. Our elections system, which is supposed to ensure that we elect people who represent *us*, is in shambles. Campaigns are rigged to virtually guarantee that those who would truly represent the needs and wishes of the voters will never be elected to office. This state of affairs has become evident in our “representatives” lack of responsiveness. For example, it took about six months for both my state senator and representative to even send an acknowledgement of a legislative request I made of them.

Yet, there is a silver lining in this cloud. The Florida Constitution provides a means for “citizen initiatives” wherein voters can propose and vote on amendments to the Constitution. One recent positive outcome is the institution of a state minimum wage, initially set at \$1 per hour more than the \$5.15 current federal minimum, and indexed for inflation in succeeding years. The current Florida minimum wage is \$6.40 per hour.

With every silver lining is a cloud. In the above minimum wage example, the legislature was none too pleased with the outcome. Challenges were made to the legitimacy of the new amendment. Legislative proposals were made to frustrate implementation of the new requirements. One such proposal required employees enforcing the minimum wage to notify his employer first – so the employer could fire him under “employment-at-will”. Fortunately, these attempts, so far, have failed.

There is now another, broader, attack afoot. This year, a proposed Amendment #3 is on the ballot. If passed, it will require at least 60% of those voting on future constitutional amendments in order to become law. This is the latest of many legislative proposals to curtail our rights as citizens to propose and pass our own laws to live by. One popular legislators’ argument in favor of curtailing voters’ power to amend the state constitution is that we are effectively preempting the role of our elected representatives. Why, our legislators argue, do we have representatives if voters pass their own

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laws? Why, indeed? Naturally, I would urge all to vote NO on Amendment #3.

While writing this column, I have recently learned of yet another legislative proposal to amend the Florida Constitution. A recent article in the Business section of Florida Today reporting concerns of voters over the potential loss of the new Minimum Wage Amendment had caught my attention. The proposal, embodied in House Bill 7165 and the Senate version, SB 1918, are more far-reaching; each bill, more than 160 pages in length, calls for a total revision of the Florida Constitution. Much of it involves grammatical corrections, but, more importantly, there are substantive issues (including abolishing recent amendments) that will most likely escape public attention.

Included on the chopping block are such amendments as Minimum Wage (HB 7165 only), Patients' Right to Know, Classroom Size, and, of course, the "Pregnant Pig" amendment. The proponents claim these will be preserved as statutes, which of course can then be modified or repealed without our knowledge or approval. This is yet another example of how the legislature wishes to thwart the will of the voting public.

If our "representatives" were truly representing our interests, we would have little need for a "citizen's initiative" process to amend the state constitution. The sheer number of such amendments that have become law over the years, as well as legislative efforts to frustrate our right to amend the state constitution, is ample evidence of our legislators' utter disregard for our interests in favor of those of their campaign contributors. In short, our "representatives" refuse to do their jobs, thereby compelling us to perform their duties instead.

As a bit of irony, Amendment #2 on this year's ballot, if passed, will extend their term limits from the current 8 years (which they demanded some years ago) to 12 years. Like Amendment #3, this is a legislative (not citizen's) proposal. Can they be *serious*? I would urge a NO vote on this one as well.

As I pointed out earlier, Florida is an "employment-at-will" state. Perhaps the best course to take this fall is to apply the "employment-at-will" doctrine at the ballot – and *impose our own term limits* on our "representatives" - by terminating them all.

Got a few bucks? Thinking about adding to your stock, mutual fund or bond portfolio? But what?

Let's see. I know I read about a great stock in Barron's last week or was that Forbes? My friend John told me about some stock he just bought that he heard about from a friend of a friend; it is supposed to make a fortune. That guy on the radio – he knows everything and said..... no, what was it he said? There was a beautiful color brochure in the mail a couple of days ago about some new ocean discovery that was going to extract gold from sea water. There is a full page ad in Investors Business Daily about a system that is 98% right. Hey, that's what I need.

A n d p i g s c a n f l y .

As P.T. Barnum said about suckers, "There is one born every minute".

Everyone has his own private axe to grind, but you don't want them to do it on your head or

with your wallet. They all want to sell you something to get your money whether they are strangers, friends or relatives. Money doesn't have any friends so it flows to huckster who has the best story. As P.T. Barnum said about suckers, "There is one born every m i n u t e "

If you are going to become financially independent you must learn to think for yourself and make your own decisions. The last one you want to follow is the broker. If he is so smart why is he working there? All of the professional analysts for major institutions do copious amounts of due diligence. They want to know all about everything associated with any equity purchase.

I d o n ' t a g r e e .

All I want to know is one thing. Is it going up and has it been going up for at least 3 months. In other words is there a trend? Once a trend is established it will usually last for a while, sometimes years. That is one reason I don't believe in investing in new issues until they have proven themselves. There is always another opportunity.

If you are going to keep your money you cannot become friends with any stock or mutual fund. Those folks who lose have an emotional attachment to some equity. This is foolishness. That stock certificate doesn't give a hoot about you and that is the way you should feel about it. When the up trend turns down give it a kiss goodbye and park your cash in money market until there is a better opportunity. Making friends with some equity is a true formula for

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(Continued from page 20)

losing money. Good ole AT&T dropped from over \$100/share to \$12. The little old ladies won't sell. Neither will the grand daughter because she inherited it from grandma.

If you plan to end up rich you better guard your investments from your "friends".

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 and discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright 2006 All rights reserved.

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sions in the "Brainstorm" forum: Proper Role of Government in Society; The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy; Living in the Face of Disaster; Income Tax - Retain as Social Engineering Tool or Reform It?; Genius Denied - Education Advocation for Gifted Kids K-12; and Reengineering Marriage. Sound interesting? These and more are waiting for your comments. Join us there!

Are we holding our breath and crossing our fingers yet about the 2006 Hurricane Season? Stay safe!

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

April saw 198 members attending MindGames in Oregon. It is growing every year! In case you weren't there this time, here are the five winning games: Deflexion, Hive, Keesdrow, Pentago, and Wits & Wagers. If you have friends and family (over age 14) who you think would qualify for Mensa, this would be a great month to recommend that they sign up for testing. We have another special offer, this time with testing: During June, applicants can test at 2 for the price of 1. So each applicant can bring a friend who can test free, or they can split the cost. This might be a good time for the whole family to take the test! And the local group will still receive the regular funding for both test takers.

Many Florida Mensans are planning to attend the World Gathering in August, since it is right here in Florida (at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, near Orlando). If you are coming, please do consider signing up as a volunteer to be a speaker shepherd. You could either sign up for a 4-hour block of time (and watch the programs while you are "working") or check out the list of programs and pick out some that you already know you are planning to attend. You could request to work with those specific speakers! Such a deal! Speaker shepherds escort the speaker to the room, make sure they have the correct equipment, introduce them if they wish, and give them a signal when the time is coming to an end. We desperately need many more speaker shepherds than have signed up, so do contact Kay Klasen on the WG06 website (WG06.us.mensa.org, click on *Contacts*) to sign up.

Another big event in the near future is the Colloquium, "Revolution in Cosmology", scheduled for October 6-8 on Albany, New York. This will be a major intellectual and scientific event with many prominent and well-known expert speakers. More details are available on the Mensa national website.

Remember Project Inkslinger? It has been reactivated, with the aim to assist with restocking libraries damaged by last year's hurricanes. If you wish to help or even to learn more about it, email inkslinger@us.mensa.org or check out www.readertoreader.org. At the time of this writing, enrollment to participate in the Mensa Discussion Forums is at about 1600. Are you involved yet? It is worth checking out. You can find it in the members only section of the national website (you need your membership number and your password).

Just to whet your appetite, here are a few of the ongoing discus-

(Continued on page 21)

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Called to order at 4:21 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

Members present: George Patterson, Joe Smith and Bud Long. Cliff Miller and Thomas Wheat were unable to attend.

Welcome Guests: None.

Minutes of the March 4 meeting, as published in the April 2006 SCAM, were approved unanimously. (Non-minutes of the non-meeting in April, as published in the May SCAM were duly noted.)

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Bud handed out the April Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$4035.87. He also reported that three candidates were tested in April. Bud conducted the test under the supervision of Helen Lee Moore as he advanced toward becoming a full fledged proctor. (I think I've got that right, at least in principle)

Committee Reports: There were no committee reports.

Old Business: A previously tabled motion to forgo the awarding of a scholarship this summer was taken from the table. Joe moved, Bud seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (This scholarship, the Jim Johnson / Doug Pearson Scholarship generally awarded each summer, failed to attract a scholarship chairperson and failed to stir any interest that the ExComm could detect. Its future is in doubt. - Loc Sec)

New Business: There was no new business.

Open Discussion: George observed that a nearly completed a membership directory, developed by our Editor, Mike Moakley, was lacking many home addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses as a result of the national office, which distributes the roster from which we work, has marking many of the entries "Do not publish in local directory/register." We are perplexed. George volunteered to conduct an informal survey regarding various members wishes in this matter. (deliberately vague idea)

Joe moved to adjourn at 4:30 pm, passed by unanimous vote. The next meeting of the ExComm is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, at 4:00 pm at **George Patterson's house, 301 Sand Pine Road, Indialantic.** (321-777-3721)

Editor's Note: If you plan to attend the ExComm Meeting, call first to ensure the meeting has not been cancelled.