

The

SCAM

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The Ten Commandments of the United States

I. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

II A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

III No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

IV The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

V No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb, nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be

deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

VI In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed; which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence.

VII In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

VIII Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

IX The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

X The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



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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.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Congratulations are in order for our new ExComm members who will be serving for the 2007-08 term. The prior ExComm did such a great job that *all of them were reelected*.

I am also pleased to report that I continue as Editor of *The SCAM*. I will continue my efforts to make this the quality newsletter you, the member, deserve. Keep in mind, however, that without you, there would be no *SCAM*. So, if you would like to be published, why not send in that submission today?

As much as I try to do otherwise, no newsletter is perfect. Such was the case last month, when the title of one of our regular columnists, "The George" was shown as the byline for a letter written by the Miami Mensa LocSec (who *was* identified in the text). George, you have my apologies. I guess that's what happens when title bars are recycled.

In my quest to perfect *The SCAM*, the text in our columns, beginning this issue, are slightly reformatted for ease in reading and for a better overall appearance. After reading this issue, please let me know whether I was successful in this endeavor.

One final note: Now that we have a "new" ExComm (their contact info is on Page 2), I'm sure our officers welcome your suggestions on how we can have an even better Space Coast Area Mensa. I'm just as sure they will become ecstatic if you choose to *volunteer* in some capacity, especially in hosting some of our activities. Remember, this is *your* SCAM.

***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.

We never see it coming, do we? Then all of a sudden, there isn't anything to watch on TV anymore. It's the summer TV doldrums!

While waiting impatiently for the compelling and intelligent fare promised in the fall (which rarely lives up to the hype, but by then we're good and desperate) we're relegated to a steady diet of mental ring-dings and twinkies: Reality TV.

In the spirit of continuing this societal decline into insipid (but mesmerizing) world of reality programming, and because I happened to notice that children have not yet been adequately exploited in this genre, I offer the following concept to the Hollywood small screen moguls:

Make Them Squirm! (A Reality Show that Treats Kids as Badly as it Treats their Parents)

In this program, we'll pit kids against their parents in a 10-round bloody duel to the death (or at least tears) for the Grand Prize, which amounts to whatever is the going rate for public humiliation these days.

You'll no doubt pick up on the fact that the kids' stunts are different than the parents' stunts. This is because I noticed that the things that appall and terrify my children are entirely different than the things that appall and terrify me. Or any adult, for that matter. Except possibly Adam Sandler or Ozzie Osbourne. If you swap the stunts, it's just not sporting.

Round 1 - What Some People Won't Put In Their Mouths!

Parent Stunt: Stuff as many live, hissing beetles into mouth as possible (watch out! They bite!)

Equally Appalling Kid Stunt: Brush teeth. With minty-fresh toothpaste.

Round 2 - Get It Off Me! (An Endurance Stunt)

Parent Stunt: Lie in a vat of raw sewage and live venomous snakes.

Equally Horrifying Kid Stunt: Lie in a tub of warm water and SOAP.

Round 3 - The Gross Eating Challenge

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Parent Stunt: Eat a bowl of decomposing, maggot-infested road-kill.

Equally appalling Kid Stunt: Eat a serving of steamed asparagus, with butter and salt.

Round 4 - Drawing Blood

Parent Stunt: Endure 20 body piercings with dull, rusty surgical instruments.

Equally Horrifying Kid Stunt: Get a sliver removed with sterile tweezers.

Round 5 - Nerves of (Rusty?) Steel

Parent Stunt: Time how long it takes tree rabid champion fighting dogs to rip through provided protective gear and draw blood.

Equally appalling Kid Stunt: Allow hair to be thoroughly brushed, and braided.

Round 6 - Nyctophobia (look it up.)

Parent Stunt: Remain for <time period> in a pitch dark room filled with starving, blood-sucking bats.

Equally Horrifying Kid Stunt: Remain for <same time period> in a dark room with only one night light, and a stuffed clown in the corner.

Round 7 - The Obligatory Key/Lock Challenge

Parent Stunt: Hang from a helicopter, upside down, until 16 padlocks can be unlocked, using random keys hidden in the upper branches of trees, through which the contestant is being dragged.

Equally appalling Kid Stunt: Unlock Grandma's bathroom door thumb lock, from the inside.

Round 8 - Shock and Eeeew

Parent Stunt: Undergo cranial electro shock therapy, administered by one of three randomly selected chimpanzees.

Equally Horrifying Kid Stunt: Watch "Predator" with the babysitter.

Round 9 - Public Humiliation (because just being on the show doesn't count.)

Parent Stunt: Streak naked through the Super Bowl halftime show, until Federal Security guards take you down with a Taser.

Equally appalling Kid Stunt: Go to a birthday party where all the other attendees are the opposite sex. Get served the smallest piece of cake.

(Continued on page 15)

I have three wonderful, grown daughters: Eldest, B, will be 28 next week, is recently married and has a great management position. Middlest femchild, K, is 26, working for a major cell phone carrier. And my baby, J, soon to be 24, is in the in the insurance industry. Of course, my daughters are all lovely, intelligent, articulate, well-mannered, sophisticated, mature, funny, hard-working, fun-loving, talented, blah, blah, blah. But the compliment I prefer to attribute to them is that if they weren't my daughters, I would be proud and honored to have them as friends.

Now, some of the quirks of raising distaff offspring.

First off, we must recognize that despite the perpetual nature/nurture debate, there *is* a difference between boys and girls (frankly, I don't understand how people who have boys allow them to live): Take your typical two-year old. Put one child of each flavor in a room full of opportunity and leave for 10 minutes. When you come back, you will find the little girl quietly exercising her small motor skills and imagination with some doll, stuffed animal, or other inanimate object of interest. The boy, on the other hand, has raced around all the walls, dismantled the microwave, destroyed the allegedly unbreakable model car, and terrorized the cat.

Raising girls may be an exercise in patience, but boys are definitely an endurance test.

A tenny rate, I digress.

I remember many middles of the night, walking around our living room, literally miles and miles, restless child over my shoulder. Dr. Spock told us that babies sleep for 10 hours at night and take 2 long naps during the day. Dr. Spock lied. Our girls went to sleep late, woke up early and often, and rarely took naps. And never on the same schedule. I think they were afraid they might miss something exciting. The Spock book made great kindling.

Tempus fugited and we eventually triumph over the diaper years, lovely wife returns to paid work, femchildren are all in school, and we enter the chauffeur era. I remember many years spending most of my waking, non-working life at Dussich Dance Studio on Merritt Island. Tap, ballet, jazz, and gymnastics, few

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

common classes, back and forth, shuttling little girls and whiling away the hours with the other “dance moms.” Eating was a catch-as-catch-can proposition, often while in transit. Recitals. I was cajoled into wearing a bag of fries costume for one of the latter ones. S’ttruth!

And then there comes the epitome – nay, the very quintessence – of rearing daughters: *THIRTEEN YEARS OLD!* Something there is about this triskaidecagonal age which defies explanation. Suddenly, your sweet, wonderful child undergoes some kind of malevolent metamorphosis and becomes a hostile, alien creature whose sole reason for existence seems to be to humiliate and refute its parental organisms at every given opportunity. After the years of mentoring and guiding your child and being the center of the universe and the fount of all knowledge, suddenly you’ve become stupider than dirt and a basic waste of space and air. They hang on your every word. As soon one escapes your mouth, they leap upon it and ravage it. And you just “don’t understand.” Anything. The age thirteen experience is much like the old proverb which says, “Never try to teach a pig to sing. It wastes your time, and it annoys the pig.”

Fortunately; however, this phase passes -- usually by the subsequent natal anniversary (except in the case of youngest dotter, for whom it lasted a full 3 years) -- and your offspring reverts back to its near-human state, eventually maturing into a productive citizen of our planet.

Now that they are independent, my girls are now my friends as well. Having raised them properly (e.g.: At every opportunity when mom left the house, I would crank up Santana *Black Magic Woman/Gypsy Queen* to near window-shattering volume and we would boogie out), we enjoy camaraderie as well as familial concerns. Since my lovely wife is not a rocker (Carly Simon, James Taylor, Carole King, Cat Stevens...) and I’m an inveterate old hippie, they are my companions for concerts of old classic rocksters: Yes, Styx (4 times!), CSNY, faux Pink Floyd (Classic Album Series), Heart, others. It never ceases to amaze me how they often know the lyrics better than I do.

And now, we’ve finally reached the stage where all I have to do is sit back, enjoy, and wait for the grandchildren who will eventually arrive. Then, the sweet payback of watching them ex-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

perience what it's like to be a parent and the ultimate realization that maybe it wasn't so bad for them after all.

Life is good...

the george

In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress.

- John Adams

Guest Column

POOR LITTLE RICH GIRL?

Charles M. Knight

Yes, folks, the news is out! “Celebrity haters” from all over, it’s time to rejoice! The other night, as I was checking my e-mails, I happened upon Yahoo! News. I just couldn’t resist the title: *Hilton Sent Back to Jail in Hysterics*. The article began: *Paris Hilton was sent screaming and crying back to jail Friday after a judge ruled that she must serve out her sentence behind bars rather than in the comfort of her Hollywood Hills home.*”

“*It’s not right!*” shouted Hilton, who violated her probation in a reckless driving case. ‘Mom!’...” It’s the kind of story that gets you all choked up, right...? Let’s take a brief snapshot of the case.

It all started last September 7 when hotel heiress Paris Hilton, stopped by police for weaving down a street in her Mercedes-Benz, failed a sobriety test. In court, she pleaded no contest to reckless driving, where she was sentenced to 3 years probation, and her license was suspended.

Meanwhile, Ms. Hilton violated her probation *twice*, both times driving with a suspended license. After the second violation, she appeared in court before Judge Michael T. Sauer, who sentenced her to 45 days in jail. A few days afterward, Hilton was released from the jail by the local Sheriff’s Department; she was to serve the remainder of her sentence under house arrest in her home. The City Attorney contested this action, resulting in Judge Sauer’s decision to send her back to the jail to finish her sentence (hence, this article).

To add insult to injury, our “celebrity heiress” was sentenced

(Continued on page 20)

Captain Hook

“I have a nice word to play and no place to play it.”

If you haven't said this while playing the SCRABBLE® Brand Crossword Game, you have probably heard it. However, while the word may indeed be nice, one might be mistaken about having no place to play.

A common way to get a word containing S on the board is to find a noun that has been played and then pluralize it. For example, if TURK is on the board and you want to play ABSCOND, attach ABSCOND to TURK to form the word TURKS. This is known as using the S as a “back hook.” Of course, you realize that not every noun is pluralized by adding an S. The plural of AB-BACY is ABBACIES and the plural of SHEEP is SHEEP. E can be used to pluralize certain nouns of Latin derivation; for example, the plural of ABOLLA is ABOLLAE. Some words of Latin derivation can be pluralized either way: AGORAS/AGORAE, BASILICAS/BASILICAE, TAENIAS/TAENIAE, TOGAS/TOGAE ...

The letters S and E can be used as back hooks in other situations. PRINCES can become PRINCESS; adding the S changes a plural into a singular as well as changing the gender! A verb ending in E can often accommodate another E: DEVOTE becomes DEVOTEE, DIVORCE becomes DIVORCEE, EXAMINE becomes EXAMINEE, and so on.

While consulting *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4), you may discover that the next entry is for a word one letter longer than the one you were researching. Suppose that you wanted to see if JAVELIN is considered a verb. You will find that JAVELIN is a verb; if you look further, you will find that a JAVELINA is “a peccary.” (And, since I did not know what a PECCARY was, I looked it up; it is defined as “a piglike hooped mammal.”) You should already know several words that take the A back hook: AH, BET, CHIN, EXACT. Some may be less familiar: SUB (SUBA = subah, SUBAH = a province of India), COAL (COALA = koala), SEQUEL (SEQUELA = an abnormal condition resulting from a preceding disease).

The only letter that cannot be used as a back hook is Q. Four

(Continued on page 17)

Municipal bonds have always been one of the favorites of conservative investors. They are not subject to state and federal tax and have a good record of redemption, but things are changing.

The greatest part of income for most municipalities is from local real estate taxes. Commercial real estate pays a big portion, but residential, unless it is a city, pays the larger amount.

Everyone knows the housing bubble is leaking badly. It hasn't burst yet, but the consequences will be severely felt when it does. Why? According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR) home sales are down 22% nationwide, 28% in both Florida and Arizona and 24% in California. Actually another 6 to 10 percentage points may be added to these figures. Cancellations for previously purchased homes are running 40% to 50% which is not reported.

The inventory backlog for existing homes has risen to 8.4 months and new home permit applications are making new lows. Home prices have tripled in price since 1980. Each time a home is sold at a higher price the real estate tax assessment is reappraised to that higher amount. A home bought for \$100,000 in 1987 had an original county tax (Brevard County, Florida) of \$1200 that slowly increased to \$1600 when it was sold for \$455,000. The new tax assessment is \$5,400 that the new owner will pay. Since 2006 home prices in that same area have declined 15% to 20% in 2007 and are continuing to decline.

The problem is that local politicians have increased their spending to the 2006 levels and made long term commitments based on 2006 projected income that they will not be able to pay without drastic cuts in many services. Many of the long term commitments were in the form of municipal bonds that seemed very safe when issued as the debt forecast was based upon real estate tax income remaining forever high. If home prices continue to fall these bonds could be in jeopardy.

According to economic theory there is something called Regression to the Mean. It means that over a period of time there is an average price that will be generated for any commodity (steel, houses, corn, etc.) and if that price works too low or too high the

(Continued on page 14)

SCAM Calendar of Events for July 2007

28th - 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: *George Patterson, 777-3721.*

Any Date—Any Time

YOUR EVENT HERE

Why not host that Mensa event you always wanted? It may be easier than you think...

Contact: *Doug Starke, your Calendar Coordinator*

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 spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar".

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM

Andy Barclay
A. Henry Kolligian

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa

Michael Lawley

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

<i>2nd</i>	Milo Zonka	<i>23rd</i>	Scott McBride
<i>9th</i>	Michael Zielinski	<i>26th</i>	Christopher Baker
<i>10th</i>	Deanna Hoak	<i>26th</i>	Pepper Stevens
<i>18th</i>	Colin Foo	<i>28th</i>	Thomas Wheat
<i>20th</i>	Jeffrey Barbour	<i>31st</i>	Greer Maeder

Note: If your birthday is not listed, and you want it to be, please let us know.

For several years, you have heard from me each month on these pages. Now I want to hear from *you*. My current series, *The Great Bank Robbery*, was created because I believe that few people are left untouched by abuses at the hands of unscrupulous lenders.

One of the biggest challenges of writing such a series is the sensitive nature of the topic. When we are abused by one or more lenders, we feel rather ashamed for our less-than-perfect credit experiences. Too often, we are admonished that we do not properly manage our affairs. While this is at times true, more often circumstances beyond our control are the cause. Our reluctance to shed light on lender abuses, in a sense, reminds me of the days when abused spouses and rape victims were also reluctant to come forward.

I look to you to share your experiences of abuse at the hands of an unscrupulous lender. Be assured, should you choose to do so, I will use the utmost discretion to protect your privacy. Please contact me at mensanidiot@yahoo.com. Thank you.

—Mike Moakley

(Continued from page 10)

price will come back to that average.

If this is accurate of current housing prices many economist and real estate analysts predict a further 40% to 50% price decrease for residential homes.

If that is true it is easy to understand why many municipalities will have trouble paying their debts. Some may default. The wise investor may protect his money by only buying insured bonds. And be sure to check out the strength of the insurer.

At this time there are few municipalities in trouble, but bond buyers must look to the future.

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 2007 All rights reserved.

(Continued from page 5)

Round 10 !!! - Sensory Deprivation

Parent Stunt: A spin through Disney's "It's a Small World" ride, followed by 72 hours in a sensory deprivation chamber.

Equally Horrifying Kid Stunt: One hour in a room with adults, who are discussing current events and politics.

Of course, brilliant as it obviously is, it probably won't fly.

This level of blatant child exploitation and cruel mistreatment (I mean, ASPARAGUS, for Pete's sake!) is likely to land producers in the pokey, or worse yet, branded with bad Neilson ratings. People can't stand to see children suffer.

I suppose we'll all have to make do with "American Juniors!", and "World's Most Talented Kid." You know - the nice shows where all the contestants win, and learn that life is fair.

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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) in 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. What are your impressions and experiences?

**SPACE
AVAILABLE
(EVEN NOW)
INQUIRE WITHIN...**

Several of you have “stepped up” and answered the call for new material to be published in *The SCAM*. We appreciate that, and urge you to keep your contributions coming. For those of you who have not yet done so, this is a reminder that there’s still plenty of room...

To our readers, you may have noticed there are different topics than before as we publish new columns. Why not add to the variety of topics by writing that column you’ve always wanted to write?

We invite just about any topic. For those among us who are poets or writers of fiction, *The SCAM* also has plenty of space. Contributions for cover art are also welcome.

(Continued from page 9)

words take J as a back hook: HA, HAD, HAJ, TA. (HAJ, HADJ, and HAJJ are different spellings of a word meaning “a pilgrimage to Mecca”; TAJ means “a tall, conical cap worn in Muslim countries.”) Six words take V as a back hook (DE, GANE, LA, PER, RE, TA), but the other twenty-three letters of the alphabet (including S and E) fare quite a bit better.

By now you may realize that if there are back hooks then there must be front hooks. The letter that can be used for this purpose on the most words is S (2,163 words) . It would probably occur to you to turn AX into SAX, ILL into SILL, CENT into SCENT, etc. You can also turn AMP into SAMP (coarsely ground corn), ANGA (any of the eight practices of yoga) into SANGA (sangar, which is in turn defined as “a temporary fortification for two or three men”), and WITCHGRASSES into SWITCHGRASSES (both of which are too long to be defined in OSPD4).

Second place in the front hook contest goes to the letter P: 1,513 words can take it as a front hook, from ACE to YINS with several words in between such as some RE- words (RECOOK, REFILE, etc.) that become PRE- words (PRECOOK, PREFILE, etc.). Q (four words: AID, AIDS, AT, IS) and X (seven words: ENOPHILE, ENOPHILES, EROSES, EROTIC, IS, YLEM, YLEMS) bring up the rear.

The computer program LeXpert was used in preparing this column. The computer program Zyzzyva also has a feature for studying hooks.

Have I “hooked” anyone into playing (more) Scrabble?

Next month: *Coins of the Realm*

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

--Declaration of Independence

As we commemorate the 230th birthday of our great nation, and especially in light of recent politics both here and abroad that threaten the very principles upon which our country was founded, it is well for us to reflect on just what these principles are. For nearly six years now, we have heard all too often about our freedom and the urgent need to protect it. Unfortunately, most of the recommendations for that protection call for us to sacrifice many of our civil rights we seek to protect!

To justify such policies, we are constantly reminded by the powers that be that “freedom is not free.” This leads us to quite an intriguing paradox. Certainly it is true that freedom is not free. Freedom does come at a price – yet, what is that price?

To frame that question in its proper context, perhaps we need to ask some questions. The first one: What are these freedoms?

Going “back to basics” as my conservative colleagues might say, we need to look at the “Ten Commandments” – that is, *our* “Ten Commandments,” better known as the Bill of Rights. While all ten are equally important, brevity requires that I cite just a few examples.

The First Amendment, for example, states:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Two examples can be cited here: (1) We have no national church; all of us are free to practice the religion of our choice; and (2) We have the right to speak our mind; no “political correctness” is called for here.

The Second Amendment guarantees our right to keep and bear arms.

The Fourth Amendment guarantees our right to be free from un-

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

warranted government intrusion.

I reiterate here that, in my eyes, all ten amendments are of equal importance. There is, however, one amendment that does take precedence of these ten: The 14th Amendment, particularly Section 1:

“All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

Time now for the second question: Who, in the United States, are entitled to these freedoms? According to the 14th Amendment, *we all are*. Yes, each and every citizen of our great land. No exceptions. Not just those who “can afford it.” Not the majority. *All of us*. Herein lies the key to our final question.

What is the price of freedom? Our Constitution guarantees us our freedoms that we too often take for granted. But, what is the price; what must we pay? The price is very simple to understand, but too often for many it is extremely difficult to pay. The price all of us must pay is this: *We must always respect these same freedoms of all others, regardless of who they might be*. That’s it.

It is unfortunate that too many of us are not willing at all to pay that price, or – in some cases – even admit that is the case. It seems over the last six years, some of the worst offenders are in positions of authority over the rest of us - those who are sworn to uphold our laws and – yes – our freedoms. Unless we as a country put a stop to this trend and begin to reverse course, we will not be celebrating too many more of these birthdays in the years to come.

Note to our readers: In next month’s issue, this column will continue with the Village Idiot’s special series, The Great Bank Robbery. Next month, Part 3 will discuss some of the laws on the books that are designed to protect the consumer from abuses by creditors. Do these laws work as planned. Be sure to read Part 3.

(Continued from page 8)

to a *regular jail*, not a “celebrity jail” (yes, they do exist) where, for a price, the wealthy prisoner enjoys far more decent conditions than her “ordinary” counterparts.

This is what triggered her outrage. It would also explain her outburst and her panicked call to her Mom to come to her rescue. It seems that our heiress would be utterly *destroyed* if she were exposed to us common folk, the very people she would not be caught dead near in her normal day-to-day existence.

Well, it serves her right!

Throughout my mortal existence as an “ordinary” person, I’ve been told too many times by too many people that, even though some have more (often *much* more) than others, we all have an equal chance to get all the goodies if we all simply play by the same rules, pull ourselves up by the bootstraps, and not be too lazy or foolish to take advantage of the unlimited opportunities than beckon all of us to success. Most of all, none of us are ever guaranteed to have an equal share of the goodies—just an equal chance to get them.

No, I don’t envy Paris Hilton’s social standing. I cannot say I envy any of those who have more than I do. I say good for them—they’re obviously smarter, more hard-working, or luckier than I. Those are the breaks we all face.

Aren’t we all supposed to play by the same rules? Or does great wealth entitle the millionaire to a free pass if her or she breaks the law? *I don’t think so.*

Yes, she should do her time—in an “ordinary” jail. She should suffer the same penalties as anyone else for the same crime. I’m sure glad at least one judge sees it that way!

Source:

Linda Deutsch, *Hilton Sent Back to jail in Hysterics*, Yahoo! News, June 8, 2007

(Continued from page 22)

We are still working on organizing an LDW for the fall, but we are running into a problem with finding a hotel with decent meeting space that will give us rooms at a modest enough price that you will be able to attend. I will keep you posted.

We started the summer (Memorial Day weekend) with a terrific ARRR-G, hosted by Tampa Bay Mensa, and now we will be ending the summer (Labor Day weekend) with another RG, Florange a Trois, hosted by the experts of Broward Mensa. Hope we will see many of you there.

Maggie Truelove

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(Continued from page 23)

unanimously.

In an informal discussion, it was agreed that there was a need to update the Bylaws to reflect the current minimum standards issued by National. George and Terry volunteered to prepare a new draft set of Bylaws, working in conjunction with Mike Moakley who has expressed interest in this matter. Anyone else interested in participating in this process should contact George or Terry.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on **Wednesday, Aug. 1, 2007** at 5:30 pm.

We all know that taking the Mensa test can be a scary proposition for prospective members. Walking into a roomful of strangers, plus pre-test jitters sometimes leads to no-shows. Well, during the month of July American Mensa is going to try to ease the anxiety for the test takers by encouraging them to bring a friend with them when they test. And the friend tests for free! So be sure to tell your friends that this is a really good time for them to take the test, and they can bring another friend with them! This is for any test given between July 1 and July 31. The local group will still receive the regular funding for both tests.

There has been concern expressed by a couple of Region 10 groups about unwelcome attention members might receive based on newsletters being on the Region 10 website. We think we have found a solution for this problem. On the Region 10 website we will only list the name of the newsletter, the name of the group, and its group number. Then we will put a note that these newsletters will be available on the national website in the "members only" section, if the group has chosen to upload them to the server. Since they will be in the "members only" section, only Mensa members will be able to access the newsletters. This should solve the dilemma we were facing over the newsletters. We will make the change to the region 10 website, and someone from the local group (editor or designee) can upload them to the server. I just looked, and some of Region 10's groups have already started putting the newsletters up on the national server. Job well done!

At the time of this writing in early June, I am already looking ahead to the AG in Birmingham. If you are going to attend, see you there! You might want to take some time on Saturday to stop in and see your AMC in action. I think back to two years ago, at the New Orleans AG, when I first took office as your Regional Vice Chair - I was SO nervous! Now here it is, just two years later, and there has been so much turnover within the ranks of the RVCs, from resignations to running for other office to simply not running again, that I this quickly find myself as one of the two "senior" RVCs. Yes, John Recht and I are the only two RVCs starting this term with a full two years in office behind us.

(Continued on page 21)

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, June 6, 2007. Called to order at 6:02 pm by LocSec George Patterson. Members present: George Patterson, Joe Smith, Terry Valek, Bud Long, and Thomas Wheat.

Minutes for the May 7, 2007 meeting were approved as published in the June 2007 SCAM.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Bud handed out the May Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$3746.31 For those who follow these numbers closely, there was an unnatural blip up as National overfunded the account by \$291.92, the return of which will blip the June report down.

Testing: Helen Lee Moore (proctor coordinator) reported by email that Proctor Bud Long tested one candidate in May.

Committee Reports:

Audit Committee: Joe Smith reported that the Audit Committee had completed its audit of the fiscal year ending April 30, 2007. The results were satisfactory and will be published in the July SCAM.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: There was no new business.

Joe moved to adjourn at 6:07 pm for the purpose of seating the new ExComm.

The new ExComm meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by LocSec George Patterson.. The composition of the new ExComm is the same as the last, with Tom Wheat as Asst. LocSec, Bud Long as Treasurer, Terry Valek as RecSec, and Joe Smith as Member-at Large, all members expressing satisfaction with that arrangement.

New Business:

Terry moved that all appointees be reappointed. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

Bud Long volunteered for the task of 2008 RG Chairman, which announcement was greeted with enthusiasm. Terry moved and Tom seconded that Bud be so appointed. Approved

(Continued on page 21)