

The

SCAM

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25th Anniversary Issue

Meet the new ExComm:

**Karen Freiberg
Bud Long
George Patterson
Joseph Smith
Terry Valek**



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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

Well, the highly-contested race is finally over. The word is, we have a full ExComm for the 2008-2009 term. Past ExComm member Tom Wheat has retired; he is succeeded by Karen Freiberg. In all other respects, the new ExComm strangely resembles the previous one.

Recently, I came across an article in the *New York Times*, where writer Susan Jacoby laments the fact that the term, *elite*, now has negative connotations. Among other things, this has me thinking about the future of SCAM—and of Mensa as a whole.

Are we not, in a way, an “elite”? Do we not, in some way, have something unique to offer—to each other—and to the world as a whole? Since I have been familiar with Mensa, it seems we only attempt to attain only one of Mensa’s three goals—to provide a social environment for the membership. Of course, we should continue to do that.

However, one thing we cannot ignore is that times are changing. With fuel costs continuing to rise, will that not have an impact on our social activities? I think so.

The other two goals of Mensa? (1) *Identify and foster intelligence for the benefit of humanity*, and (2) *Encourage research into the nature, characteristics, and uses of intelligence*. Perhaps we might direct some energy into these endeavors. But, how?

This is where you come in. If you have any ideas, drop me a note. I will publish these ideas in an upcoming *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.

Part Seven: Stalag Luft III: Sagan, Germany

It was a nice spring day. The trees were mostly evergreen and the soil was dry and predominantly sandy. There were no hills that could be seen. In front of us was a high fence of barbed wire and a large gate that could accommodate a very large vehicle.

The officer in charge had us line up and we took turns at answering a few questions and being photographed. We were assigned German dog tags in exchange for our American tags. After our group of 'new' kriegies were processed the large gate was opened and we entered the compound. All the 'old' kriegies lined both sides of our procession craning to see a familiar face. A shriek from the crowd "HEY Goller!! ... HEY Ted!!" came from a black bearded baldly headed guy with handle-bar moustache. Ted did a double take and returned the yell. "HEY..Ed. Ed Fioretti! God it's good to see you!" It was a moment to remember. A number of other reunions was in process at the same time.

Ed Fioretti took charge and led us to the room he was occupying. There wasn't enough room to accommodate us so Ed packed his belongings and said. "Come on there are empty barracks that are available." We found one at the end of the enclosure that was empty. We took possession of a large room that had double deck bunks.

We were issued an eating bowl, cup, knife fork and spoon. The room was equipped with a large plank table and benches. There were a couple of large wardrobe cabinets one of which was laid on one side and served as a storage place for the canned food. Also, a small pot-bellied stove to provide warmth in the cold weather. It rested upon a slab of concrete about 18" square and about 1-1/2" thick. This small stove could easily be moved and the slab lifted to provide access to the ground beneath the barracks. We never tried to start a tunnel in this manner but we had all heard about the one built by the men in the British compound. After months of tedious secretive labor, the escapees were mowed down by the Germans who knew about the tunnel at some stage of its construction.

The stove in our room was seldom used for warmth because the fuel ration was consumed in the kitchen for cooking. We were given two lightweight German issue blankets and one U.S. Army blanket. A large burlap sack was issued which we filled with excelsior, from a pile that was dumped outside our barracks. This was to be our mat-

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tress. It was quite springy at first but soon flattened out and became quit hard and bumpy. When cold weather became a factor we found that the mattress as a poor barrier to the cold. The mattress rested on wooden slats, nine in number. The guards made periodic inspections to see that these slats were not used for other purposes such as firewood or more importantly as timbers to shore up escape tunnels. We referred to the guards as ferrets because they crawled under the barracks, which were built about fifteen inches above the ground and carried a long spike to probe the ground for possible tunnels.

Ed explained that we would get one Red Cross food parcel per man per week and the Germans would supply some potatoes, bread, some margarine and occasionally some sausage, usually bloodwurst. The occasional bloodwurst issue always brought stories of human fingernails found in the sausage. This eerie chatter caused some of us (including me) to surrender our share to those with the carnal desire for food of any kind.

The parcels were supplied primarily by The United States and Canada. Other countries that contributed were Argentina, England and New Zealand but I don't remember ever seeing any from them: The typical parcel contained soap, cigarettes, Army issue chocolate 'D'-Bar, margarine (butter from the Canadians), crackers, cheese, meat (Spam or Corned beef), sugar, powdered whole milk pate, prunes or raisins and fruit jam. It was a fairly good diet of about eleven pounds of food stuffs.

In addition, the Germans issued what was considered 'garrison-troop' rations - Black bread which was a repulsive, soggy mixture, heavy and sour. It was transported into our camp in open horse drawn wagons piled like logs of wood. A number was carved into the top of each loaf denoting the month in which it was baked. The quip that was echoed with each time we received our bread ration was; 'we never knew what year it was made'. Some of the loaves were cracked and due to the dampness green mold formed which we endeavored to carve away. Perhaps if we had known about the source of penicillin we may have appreciated it. Toasting it removed some of the bacteria and reduced the sour taste a degree. In retrospect I attribute our relatively good health to the black sour bread. It provided needed fiber.

...To be continued in next month's issue.

On May 17, 2008, all qualified ballots were counted at the home of Karen Freiberg. Four (4) candidates were listed on the ballot. The result of the count was as follows:

Bud Long and Joseph Smith were tied for the greatest number of votes. George Patterson and Theresa Valek were tied for second place. Karen Freiberg (write-in) and Suzanne Leichtling (write-in) were tied for third place.

As of the June 4, 2008 ExComm meeting, both write-in candidates had been contacted to fill the 5th ExComm position. Suzanne Leichtling declined the position, while Karen Freiberg accepted. Therefore, Bud Long, Joe Smith, George Patterson, Terry Valek, and Karen Freiberg are declared elected.

Michael Moakley, Chair

Announcing:

The birth of Samuel William Kirschten,

June 8th, at Cape Cavernaval Hospital. He weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces, 19" long, 13 inch circumference around the head.

Sammy is the newborn son of SCAM member Joe Kirschten and his wife Kristen Pepper.

He is also the grandson of proud SCAM member (and Past LocSec) Sam Kirschten.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 5/31/2008:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$733.23
Post Office Acct.	172.40
Reserve Fund	2113.37
RG Fund	1640.00

Total Funds Available:

\$4659.00

Deposits

Mensa Funding:	\$172.48
Interest Income	0.45
RG Income:	700.00
NL Subscription:	10.00

Withdrawals

Printing Costs	\$150.31
Postage	54.80
RG Refund	40.00

—Bud Long, Treasurer

Do UN-to Others

In the course of playing the SCRABBLE® crossword game, my opponent placed UNSWEET* on the board. I've added the asterisk here to indicate that it is a phony; at the time I did not know that and lacked the intestinal fortitude to challenge the putative word, and my opponent earned the fifty-point bonus for using all seven of her tiles as well as the value of words introduced by the play. Maybe I eat at fast-food restaurants too often, because behind the counter I often see two urns for iced tea with one of them labeled "sweet." You can guess what the container of unsweetened iced tea is labeled.

A Google search yields about 90,500 results for "unsweet." This includes the Free Online Dictionary's definitions: "(of champagne) moderately dry" and "distasteful." According to Hasbro's website, "Before the game begins, all players should agree upon the dictionary that they will use, in case of a challenge." The groups I play with usually use the *Official Tournament and Club Word List, Second Edition* (OWL2) to settle challenges, but we'll often look something up in *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4) to discover (or rediscover) its meaning.

OSPD4 defines UN as a pronoun meaning "one," but most of us are more familiar with the prefix UN- being used to form a word opposite in meaning to the original. A list of self-explanatory adjectives and adverbs containing the prefix UN- (meaning "not") takes up the bottom of several pages of OSPD4. There appear to be over five hundred of these words, beginning with UNABATED and ending with UNZONED. For example, I was UNHAPPY when my opponent used all seven of her tiles, but I was UNHAPPIER when she won the game and UNHAPPIEST when I discovered that one of her words was a phony.

Some adjectives and adverbs formed this way are in the main part of the page. CANNY means "prudent," but UNCANNY means "strange and inexplicable." UNCHANCY is defined as "unlucky," which also seems like it could be the definition of CHANCY (which is actually defined as "risky"); this is somewhat reminiscent of "flammable" and "inflammable" meaning the same thing. UNDULY, instead of meaning "not duly," is defined as "in an undue manner." (Also, UNDUE does not mean "not due"; it is defined as

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“exceeding what is appropriate or normal.”)

UN- can also be used as a prefix to reverse the action of the verb to which it is affixed. There are several words formed this way, ranging alphabetically from UNANCHOR to UNZIP (and its inflections UNZIPPED, UNZIPPING, and UNZIPS). My eye happened to land on UNHAT (to remove one’s hat). This made me think of UNCLOAK (to remove a cloak from). I wondered if UNSHOE* was acceptable; from the asterisk you can tell that it is not in OSPD4.

Nouns also take UN- to form a word opposite in meaning. UN-BELIEF is “lack of belief,” an UNEQUAL is “one that is not equal to another,” and an UNFOLDER is “one that unfolds” (with UNFOLD being the opposite of FOLD).

The top eleven seven-letter words beginning with UN- are (starting with the most probable): UNAIRED, UNITAGE, UNIDEAL, UNITERS, UNRATED, UNTIRED, UNTREAD, UNTRIED, UNOILED, UNAGILE, and UNITARD. Two pairs of these words are anagrams of each other, and other words that can be formed by anagramming entries from this list are URANIDE, ALUNIDE, NUTSIER, TRIUNES, DAUNTER, NATURED, INTRUDE, TURDINE, and LINGUAE.

UNITAGE, UNITERS, and UNITARD were not formed by prefixing UN- to an existing word. Likewise, UNAKITE is “an igneous rock,” but as far as OSPD4 is concerned there is no such thing as AKITE*. Some other words you can’t de-UN- are UNDERDOG, UNIVERSE, and UNUNBIUM (a synthetic element).

UNIT does not mean “not it.” UNDIES is/are not the opposite of DIES. On the other hand, AI is defined as “a three-toed sloth.” UNAI is defined as “unau,” and UNAUI is defined as “a two-toed sloth,” which is definitely not a three-toed sloth!

Next month: Oh, Really?

Let's all thank the environmental whackos for their diligence in preventing drilling for oil in Alaska, Colorado, Utah, offshore of California, New Jersey and Florida.

There may be a few places missed. You whackos don't know what a great service you have done for our country and maybe the world. Thanks for the high priced gas.

In 20 or 30 years the U.S. is going to become not only self sufficient, but maybe even an exporter to China, India and even Saudi Arabia as they pump their last drops from beneath the sun-baked sand. What seems to be short term stupidity of these narrow minded idiots will seem like long term genius in the years 2040 and 2050. Then the world will be kissing our hind end to buy our oil as we will be one of the last remaining huge oil reserves.

By then we will be drilling in all those places and be damned the polar bears, sea otters, butterflies and other assorted creatures. Natural selection will rear it ugly head again. Man is the top of the food chain. Let's hope it doesn't cause a war.

By then (2050) the fight could be over potable water and how to limit world population growth. That's the real problem – too many people.

The "green people" will have long given up their fight to restrict oil production because they will want to bring gas prices down to \$8.00 a gallon. \$15.00, they will claim, is too high. I'm not kidding. That is the course we are on now. Make them uncomfortable enough and their hearts and minds will follow.

That politically correct stupid you voted for in Congress is determined to let the whackos have their way – no matter what it costs YOU. They gave him money to have him re-elected – again and again. What did you give him? Your vote. Are you going to do that next time?

It is not necessary to send our money overseas for petroleum. The U.S. has 5 times more oil reserves than Saudi Arabia. Congress could allow drilling to start any time. Thanks to the whackos we are saving that oil for a rainy day. Well, not exactly rainy; if it is hot and humid you won't be allowed to turn on your air conditioner. Congress might even outlaw manufacturing of A.C. units. Don't laugh. They have

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa:

Karlie Crenshaw
Jamie Crenshaw

Welcome Back:

Wilmer Kimberly
Paul Hargraves

Welcome to SCAM:

Clayton Pendergrass
Lindsay Buchanan

JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

2nd	Milo Zonka	23rd	C Scott McBride
9th	Michael Zielinski	26th	Pepper Stevens
18th	Colin Foo	28th	Thomas Wheat
20th	Jeffrey Barbour	31st	Greer Maeder
20th	Mary Kay Dailey		

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

THE ALCHEMIST

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done dumber things. Try ethanol or farm subsidies for nearby examples. The world is not going to run out of oil, coal, wind, water or sun. Or obstructionists who don't want to tap those resources "for your own good". Of course, they are a lot smarter than the rest of us.

Next time you vote just remember how grateful you are to all those environmental whackos. Maybe they can get oil up over \$200. Thanks a lot.

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 at www.mutualfundmagic.com to discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright Williamsburg Investment Co. 2008 All rights reserved.

SCAM Calendar of Events for July 2008

2nd - Wednesday 6:30 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. *Please note the change in the meeting time.*

Contact: *George, 777-3721, for details.*

5th - Saturday 7:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Come join us for your favorite games at Terry's home in Rockledge. *Kitty is \$3.*

Contact: *Terry, 626-8523, for more details.*

8th - Tuesday 6:00 PM

DINNER AT EL CHARRO

Tonight we are having dinner out at El Charro, located in Cocoa Village.

Contact: *Val, 626-8523, for details.*

11th - Friday 6:00 PM

MOVIES AND MEATBALLS

Come join us for your favorite movie and meal at Terry's home in Rockledge. *Kitty is \$3.*

Contact: *Terry, 626-8523, for more details.*

19th - Saturday 6:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

Come join us for your favorite games at Jon Warner's home *Kitty is \$3.*

Contact: *Doug Starke, 427-5720, for directions and more details.*

26th - Saturday 12:00 PM

MOVIE MATINEE MEETUP

Come join us at the Viera Steak'n'Shake...from there, to the movies!

Contact: *Val, 626-8523, for more details.*

26th - 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.*

I'm a relative newbie Mensan, having joined only a couple-three years ago. When I started getting the SCAM, I found the articles to be articulate, interesting, and thought provoking. Also, there seemed to be a lively dialog stimulated by some of the features and I began to formulate the notion that maybe I could be a part of this animated discourse. So, I wrote Master Moakley asking if he'd like a series of articles on nothing in particular in a monthly column. He agreed (desperation speaks loudly) and the rest is history: *My Summer Vacation*.

Now, I gotta admit, I write provocative stuff. Deliberately. I like to rattle minds and see what shakes out. And I was sure that my monthly rants in the SCAM would evoke some lively replies. After all, Mensans are known to be opinionated and not particularly bashful about airing their views (otherwise, how would people know how smart they are?).

So, much to my consternation, the woeful lack of feedback on my past drivel: Outrageous views on crime and punishment, unabashed religion bashing, egotistical opinions on how to make the world a better place, disdain for our educational system, radical political views.

However, with the single exception of George Patterson's letter in the October 2007 SCAM, suggesting that I was hiding behind my nom de plume, none of my insane prattling seems to have stirred sufficient interest for anyone to take umbrage.

Nothing. Nada. Nichts. Bupkis.

I feel like I've failed in my mission.

Not that this will deter me. I am sufficiently egotistical to continue to want to see my name in print, up in lights, as it were.

But I sure would be a heckuva lot happier if I had an inkling of what you folks out there were thinking. Now, I know you're out there. And I know you undoubtedly enjoy each issue of the SCAM as much as I do. And I know that it doesn't really take very much time or effort to zip off an email to *editor@scam.us.mensa.org* mentioning the lunatic ravings of that "*The George*" fellow and how he's full of it. So I urge all you Silent SCAM-ers to arise and be heard! C'mon! Moakley'd love to be inundated with protest letters, expressions of outrage, threatened lawsuits, and intimations of tarring and feather-

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Why do we ascribe so many things to the French? In culinary matters, it is understandable as we look to the French for superior dishes; therefore, we call things French whether French or not if it is especially good or different. Other words acquire the appellation “French” because we think of them as particularly good. No other national appellation can compare.

Some use “French” as a modifier for words that are neutral in the sense that they modify objects that are French in origin or that we think that they are. Only three uses of “French” as a modifier or noun are specifically negative. The title of this piece is one -- “Pardon my French”, said immediately before or after a person uses an improper or vulgar word. The other two are

F leave - An unexcused or surreptitious absence.

F disease or pox - Syphilis.

The good or neutral words are

F bread - A long thin crusty white bread.

F blue - aquamarine

F chalk - A soft chalk or soapstone used to mark cloth or to remove stains.

F chef's knife - There are two errors in this name. The knife is properly called a cook's knife. A chef in a full restaurant kitchen does no or very little cooking. He is the *chef de cuisine* or boss of the kitchen. He would have under him several cooks who do the actual cooking and thus are the users of the knife. Secondly, there are two patterns of cook's knives generally sold in the U. S. The German, with the more rounded blade, and the French with the straighter edge. The German pattern is the one most commonly sold in U. S. Thus, the French chef's knife should properly be called a German cook's knife.

F chop - A rib chop with the bone scraped bare.

F cruller - A very eggy ridged doughnut glazed with sugar.

F cuff - A folded over double cuff on a shirt, fastened with a link.

F curve - A template consisting of many continuous curves used in hand drafting. Most often made of transparent plastic.

F dip - Sliced roast beef in a hard roll, eaten by dipping into a rich gravy. I have never seen this dish in France.

F door - A double door, opening in the middle and made of glass

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panes.

F dressing - A salad dressing simply made of oil, vinegar, and herbs and spices.

F endive - A salad herb.

F fries - deep fried potatoes. Actually, Belgium is their original home.

F dry-cleaning - Cleaning using solvents rather than water. Maybe it originated in France, I do not know. Now it is generally just called dry cleaning.

F heel - A curved high heel on a woman's shoe.

F horn - A very curvatiuous brass musical instrument.

F ice cream - The creamiest of ice creams.

F kiss - An open mouth, tongue-to-tongue kiss.

F knot - An embroidery stitch.

F letter - A condom. There is a small town in France named Condom. Perhaps this is the origin of the expression.

F marigold - The smallest of the marigolds.

F onion soup - There are other onion soups, but this one made with beef stock, sautéed onions, toast, and melted cheese is the best known in America.

F pastry - A rich, usually filled, pastry of the type found in France. Originally from Italy and Turkey.

F Polishing - the centuries old process of applying a finish to wood by using a shellac-coated cloth pad.

F presse - A coffee making device in which a fine screen is pushed through a mixture of coffee grounds and hot water separating out the grounds.

F seam - A narrow seam sewn on both sides of a cloth to hide the raw edge.

F telephone - An ornate, early type of telephone one-piece hand set containing the microphone and the earpiece.

F toast - Bread soaked in an egg batter and fried. This was a thrifty French housewife's way to use up stale bread. On a farm, bread, which was purchased, was more expensive than eggs, which could be found in the yard.

F twist - A woman's hairstyle characterized by a knot in the back.

F windows - Windows similar to French doors.

To F - To cut string beans in long thin strips.

Having been baptized as a Lutheran at infancy, raised in Catholicism in New York City with many Jewish friends & neighbors, hanging out with a Christian Science best friend in my teens and investigating several other religions (including middle eastern sects) during my inquisitive early adulthood I feel I have a well rounded view of religion and consider myself open minded, tolerant and somewhat knowledgeable. I'm also a decorated combat veteran who served in jungles of Viet Nam 1968 where I earned the Purple Heart. While lying in the hospital after coming so close to death when I was wounded and in a lot of pain, I had a lot of time to think of why was I here and what was I fighting for. At that time, I couldn't put my finger on it but in my heart I knew it was the right thing to do so I chalked it up to patriotism.

Over the years (still being haunted with the desire to understand "*why*") I began to get closer to the answer. After looking back in history, this nations origin (people seeking freedom of religion) as well as people all over the world risking their lives (many losing them) to break through iron curtains, rafting across treacherous oceans and many other obstacles, I realized that the *innate desire to be free* within all of us is a very sacred gift worthy of great sacrifice any where in the world where it is denied. After we leave this life we are judged by the choices we make. If our choices (our free agency) are taken away from us we cannot be held accountable for our actions with respect to those choices. We will also lose the rewards applicable to the choices we would have made correctly. I've concluded that removing our free agency is the work of the adversary of Him who gave us that sacred gift of free agency.

In today's environment we have several threats to our free agency. Communism still thrives in some parts of the world. Some factions within Islam have made it clear that they are a threat to our way of life (what we've seen so far is barely the tip of the iceberg) but we have our own home grown threat to our free agency. There are several groups in this country that are lobbying, proposing legislation and using any means they can to pass laws to force everyone to live by their religious beliefs (*just like the Taliban in Afghanistan*). They've been quite successful up to this point. Victimless crimes like gambling, prostitution, pornography, marijuana use and un-prescribed drug use are just some of the issues that are moral is-

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Often, when celebrating a birthday, one reflects on the events of his or her life and, perhaps, what the future might hold. This month, of course, the birthday we celebrate is that of our country - our 232nd birthday. With this celebration, it is also time to reflect. I believe such reflection should be in the context of what this country is supposed to be about. Ours is allegedly a country "by the people, of the people, for the people". Yet, are we really? Let's see ...

This year, as it has shaped up so far, should open one's eyes. We have already seen a great deal of campaigning for upcoming elections. At this writing, particular attention has been given to the presidential primaries. Both major political parties now have their "presumptive" nominees in place. But, in terms of our needs as citizens of this great nation, are either of them the best we have available? One boasts a great deal of experience in public service and wishes to continue our senseless war in the Middle East, while the other has little such experience and talks vaguely about "change".

This issue, however current, is not exactly news, nor is it limited to the presidency. To most of us, a politician is roughly equated to a used car salesman. Both have the gift of gab, and honesty is not always present. This certainly could explain the current state of affairs we find ourselves in.

You may ask, why? As we are allegedly a nation with "Judeo-Christian" values, the answer should be readily apparent. Quoting Jesus: "*No man can serve two masters ...*" (Matthew 6:24). The problem is, our nation's leaders have sought to do just that.

Elected officials are only supposed to have one master - us. Who, then, is the other master? A hint may be in order here: Campaigns cost a great deal of money - somebody has to finance them. Needless to say, that "somebody" is the real master. Without their funding, no candidate can possibly run an effective campaign, much less get the votes necessary to be elected to office. Significant campaign funding with "no strings attached" simply does not exist. In fact, if you want to know a candidate's true stand on an issue, find out the source of his funding first.

Since this is a birthday, no such occasion would be complete without a gift. The gift I have in mind would not come by easily, but it would be well worth the effort. This gift would go a long way to reestablish our nation as being "for the people" as originally intended by

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our founders. For this, I have a suggestion. Let's pass a Constitutional amendment, one which is long overdue.

This text, which I found on the website of ReclaimDemocracy.org, contains the text I suggest:

“Section 1. *The U. S. Constitution protects the rights of living human beings.*

Section 2. *Corporations and other institutions granted the privilege to exist shall be subordinate to any and all laws enacted by citizens and their elected governments.*

Section 3. *Corporations and other for profit institutions are prohibited from attempting to influence the outcome of elections, legislation or government policy through the use of aggregate resources or by rewarding or repaying employees or directors to exert such influence.*

Section 4. *Congress shall have the power to implement this article by appropriate legislation.”*

While the specific wording might be in need of a little work, an amendment such as this is just what we need.

WHAT HAPPENED...?

Continued.

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sues and should not be criminal acts. Some call these groups Bible-thumpers but I think Jesus-Nazis are more descriptive. If you have ever voted for a law that criminalizes a moral act because of religious influence, you're a Jesus-Nazi and have deprived me the benefit (blessings) of obedience to the higher laws.

Recently a TV preacher condemned a town that did not vote in a Jesus-Nazi law. These Jesus freaks, Christian control freaks, Bible thumpers or Jesus-Nazis should ***repent*** and follow the teachings of he whom they claim to follow (Jesus Christ) instead of the adversary (Satan). When Jesus walked the earth he never passed laws or put anyone in jail that didn't follow him. He simply said “*come follow me.*” Jesus allowed all to choose his path for the correct reasons not because they were shackled into obedience.

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Hardly a day goes by without someone in sales or politics talk about “*achieving the American Dream*”. Most recently, this phrase equates the American Dream to home ownership. I do believe there is something to this.

I have been told that a majority of Americans are homeowners. Assuming this is true; can we reasonably infer that the majority of us have, indeed, achieved the American Dream? Really? To all you homeowners reading this column, I have a question. Answer it honestly. *Do you really own your home?*

My dictionary* describes *ownership* as, “*The right of one or more persons to possess and use a thing to the exclusion of other persons. The exclusive right of possession, enjoyment, and disposal; involving as an essential attribute the right to control, handle, and dispose.*”

So, if you own something, you also have control over it. Do you have control over your home? Let’s see...

Chances are, you are in a planned, “deed restricted” community. You know the type – all the houses are painted some bland color, and have the same cookie-cutter appearance. Enter the “property police”, the Homeowners Association, whose mission is to see that *your* home conforms to *their* standards.

They will gladly remind you if an errant weed dares to pop its head in the expansion joint in your driveway. They will also remind you when your house needs painting – and will help you pick out the color (one approved by their bylaws).

Suppose you are lucky enough to not be in such a community. You value your privacy, so you decide to put up a nice fence. Better get permission first; if you don’t, you’ll get a visit from Code Enforcement. In fact, you just might have to take down that fence (of course, you will need permission to do that, too – failing that, does that mean the same fence will then have to be put back up?).

If you are like most homeowners, you have a mortgage (maybe more than one). Because of that, you must insure your home (in itself not a bad idea). Because we live in Florida, insurance is much harder to find and has become extremely expensive. Moreover, the insurance company knows you have no real choice. This has given insurers greater power to extort the homeowner under threat of losing coverage (and their home, I might add).

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The other day, a friend of mine received a “Notice of Non-Renewal” from his insurer, Royal Palm Insurance (*remember Allstate?*). Why? Somehow, Royal Palm deemed his tree to be too close to the house (*same place it’s been for the past 40 years*). So, once again, I ask the question: Do you *really* own your home, thus achieving the American Dream? Or is it really just a nightmare?

*Reference:

Black’s Law Dictionary, 5th Edition, West Publishing Company, 1979.

“THE GEORGE”

Continued

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ing. Or suchlike. Don’t be shy. Let your opinions out on vacation.

the george

“Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It’s the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then--we elected them.”

- Lily Tomlin

<i>The Tenth Story</i>

Continued

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CONTRIBUTION NOMINATIONS:

“*Dream Date*”, Bud Urban, *Tampa Bay Sounding*

If you see any of these folks, please join me in congratulating them for their nomination. Great things are happening in Region 10!

I can’t wait until the awards luncheon at the AG in Denver to see how many of them actually receive the awards!

Until next month . . .

Maggie Truelove, RVC 10

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At this moment I am very proud of Region 10. I have just received the list of 2008 PRP Nominations, and newsletters and websites from Region 10 are well represented. A large percentage of the nominations were earned by Manasota Mensa's *4M* (editor Edgar Coudal) and Tampa Bay Mensa's *Sounding* (editors Maran Fulvi, Dana Groulx, and Sylvia Zadorozny), but they weren't the only ones. Indeed, Miami Mensa's website and Northwest Florida Mensa's website were also nominated. I think that to give them all recognition, I am going to list the region's impressive list of nominations in this column.

NEWSLETTER NOMINATIONS:

Overall Presentation - Manasota Mensa, *The 4M*, Edgar Coudal, editor

Overall Entertainment - Manasota Mensa, *The 4M*, Edgar Coudal, editor

Calendar - Tampa Bay Mensa, *the Sounding*, Dana Groulx, calendar editor

Member Recognition - Manasota Mensa, *The 4M*, Edgar Coudal, editor

Local Reporting - Manasota Mensa, *The 4M*, Edgar Coudal, editor

Mensa Awareness - Tampa Bay Mensa, *the Sounding*, Maran Fulvi, Dana Groulx, and Sylvia Zadorozny, editors

OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (LARGE GROUP) - Tampa Bay Mensa, *the Sounding*, Maran Fulvi, Dana Groulx, and Sylvia Zadorozny, editors

OUTSTANDING NEWSLETTER (MEDIUM GROUP) - Manasota Mensa, *The 4M*, Edgar Coudal, editor

WEBSITE NOMINATIONS:

Overall Entertainment - Manasota Mensa, Dwight Gill, webmaster

Overall Entertainment - Northwest Florida Mensa, Jill Russ, webmaster

Calendar - Tampa Bay Mensa, James Heffernan, webmaster

Member Recruitment - Miami Mensa, Stan Bercovitch, webmaster

Member Recruitment - Tampa Bay Mensa, James Heffernan, webmaster

OUTSTANDING WEBSITE (LARGE GROUP) - Tampa Bay Mensa, James Heffernan, webmaster

OUTSTANDING WEBSITE (SMALL GROUP) - Northwest Florida Mensa, Jill Russ, webmaster

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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, June 4, 2008. Called to order at 6:53 pm by LocSec George Patterson.

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

Welcome Guests: Doug Starke and Emmalyn Smith

Minutes for the May 7, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the June 2008 SCAM.

Officer Reports:

Treasurer: Bud handed out the May Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$4659.00, which included \$1640.00 in the RG fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 for the purpose of seating the new ExComm. Karen Freiberg arrived in the interim.

The new ExComm was called to order at 7:29pm by LocSec George Patterson. The other positions on the new ExComm are Joe Smith as Asst. LocSec, Bud Long as Treasurer, Terry Valek as Member-at Large, and Karen Freiberg as Recording Secretary, all members expressing satisfaction with that arrangement by a vote of 4-0. Joe Smith was also in agreement as per a recent phone conversation.

New Business: Bud moved that all appointees, except for Membership, be reappointed. Seconded by Terry. Approved unanimously. Karen Freiberg was approved as Membership Chair. (See page 2 for current appointees)

George reported that Barbara Crawford had resigned from the Audit Committee for personal reasons. Several people had been approached as replacements but gracefully declined. A third member was required and it was important to conduct an audit promptly. George volunteered for the position and was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 pm. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, July 2, 2008 at 6:30 pm. (*Note change from the 5:30 time for recent meetings*).