

The

# SCAM

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Happy  
New  
Year!



# SPACE COAST AREA MENSA



Website: [www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org](http://www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org)

(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)

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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*

**I**n the words of the late John Lennon, “Another year over, a new one’s just begun..”. It’s 2009 already, and it’s time for us to look forward.

This is a time of much uncertainty, as we will have a new President of the United States. Many challenges await him (as well as the many government representatives who will enter office), not the least of which is the Economic Meltdown of 2008. How this and other matters will be handled remains to be seen.

Here at SCAM, it is time to look forward as well. As noted in the December 7 ExComm minutes, we will need a new NomElCom. This committee’s task is to recruit members to run for our ExComm. The NomElCom nominates eligible candidates, and conducts the election. For the last few years, I have chaired the NomElCom, but will not serve on this committee this year.

I urge you to consider serving on (and possibly chairing) the 2009 NomElCom. One thing I do need to mention, however. Serving on the NomElCom does disqualify you from running for an ExComm position. Depending on your aspirations, this can either be a drawback or a benefit. It is a perfect position for a member who takes an interest on how SCAM is run, but cannot meet on a regular basis, as is required of ExComm members.

This, of course, leads us to our next item, the ExComm. Most

*(Continued on page 4)*

***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.

(Continued from page 3)

members of our current ExComm have served for the past several years. The ExComm is responsible for running the day-to-day affairs of SCAM. All serve one-year terms, and (as is done here) can be re-elected to additional terms. The ExComm consists of a LocSec (Chairman), Assistant LocSec, Treasurer, Secretary (who is responsible for keeping the minutes), and a Member-at-Large. All are voting positions on the ExComm.

The ExComm is elected when the ballots are counted; the five with the most votes are declared elected. At the first meeting of the new ExComm, the newly-elected members decide among themselves who will hold what position.

The Newsletter Editor is not elected, but is appointed by the ExComm. The term of office expires at the first meeting of a new ExComm. Like NomElCom members, the Newsletter Editor has no vote on ExComm business. I have served in this capacity for a little over five years; this is my 63rd issue of *The SCAM*. I will continue to serve until the next ExComm is seated. At this point, I stand willing to continue to serve should the new ExComm choose to appoint me.

At the national level, election of officers will be held, including that of Regional Vice Chair for Region 10. Maggie Truelove, who currently holds the position has chosen to step down. Two candidates, Mel Dahl and Thomas Thomas (yes, that's his real name), both newsletter editors, are vying for the position. Hopefully, both will be providing campaign statements for publication in *The SCAM*.

What are the issues facing Mensa, both locally or nationally? One that comes to my mind is that of *membership*. There has been considerable concern (both at SCAM and AML) that we have not experienced much growth. If my memory serves me correctly, the numbers do not seem to be much different than those of the 1980s.

There are, in my mind, two factors to consider on membership growth: attracting new members and member retention. In past issues of the *Mensa Bulletin*, Chairman Russ Bakke has observed the problem from the standpoint of attracting new members. To that end, he has recommended that Mensa change its image to that of a more personable "average guy" who is more attractive and an interesting conversationalist (reminds me of a single guy's guide for picking up girls). Those of you who have read past issues of *The SCAM* know ex-

(Continued on page 9)

**Y**ears ago my favorite cheese was Liederkrantz. I didn't think much about it. It was always available on the grocery store shelves when I wanted it. Then I went to work overseas and the vast selection of cheeses available kept me from thinking about my favorite. On returning home I found that Liederkrantz was not available any more. I heard rumors that it was no longer being produced and heard bits of the story of its demise.

The other night at Mensa's RG, several others and I got into a conversation about food. The subject of Liederkrantz came up. It seems that even though Liederkrantz is no longer available, every time there are serious discussions about food or a writer writes seriously about food, the loss of Liederkrantz is mentioned. Liederkrantz is sorely missed. Even I have mentioned it in several of my articles on cheese.

The conversation about Liederkrantz at the RG prompted me to investigate and report on the history of Liederkrantz. It was one of the truly American cheeses. Most other cheeses made in the U. S. are imitations of other nation's cheeses.

Liederkrantz belongs to the family of soft-ripening cheeses which include Camembert, Brie, Pont l'Evêque, Coulommiers, and Limburger. Of the more common soft-ripening cheeses, Liederkrantz ranked between Brie and Limburger in intensity of flavor, but its flavor was unique. As with other soft ripening cheeses Liederkrantz ripens from the outside in. And like them it reached a peak of perfection, after which it became rank. It also was one of one of the only two American cheeses that had any claim to international renown.

**"Liederkrantz"** in German literally means "wreath of song", or "Song Circle". In Germany for the past centuries, and later in the U. S., it has referred to (all male) singing and drinking clubs. During the period preceding the Civil War, German-American singing groups sprang up all over America, preserving German musical tradition and keeping the culture alive.

On January 9, 1847, a group of 25 men of German heritage founded a male singing society, dedicated in particular to the promotion of vocal and instrumental Liederkrantz music. The society's name was "Deutscher Liederkrantz der Stadt New York" (German Singing Society of the State of New York).

The next generation of **Liederkrantz**ers, who, homesick for a tra-

*(Continued on page 6)*

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(Continued from page 5)

ditional cheese to wash down all that beer and song, about 1880 commissioned Emil Frey, a cheese maker in Monroe, New York to do his best to replicate Bismarck *Schlosskäse* (Castle Cheese), a Limburger type of cheese. Frey (born Switzerland 1867 - died 11 January 1951) had come to America with his father, a cheese maker and farmer. He started working for the Monroe Cheese Company on Stage Road in Monroe, New York in 1888. Frey couldn't recreate *Schlosskäse*. Instead Frey succeeded in producing a milder, and mellowed cheese.

The created cheese was different because the bacteria culture that ripened it was not the same as that found in Limburger. Like almost every American cheese, Liederkranz was a cow's milk cheese, with an edible pale yellow-orange-tan crust, and a semi-soft, pale interior with a mildly pungent flavor and distinct aroma.

One of the Monroe cheese company owners was a man named Adolphe Tode. He also owned a shop, the Manhattan Delicatessen, and found that too many of the cheeses he imported for his delicatessen were spoiled by the time they arrived. He was looking for a version of Limburger cheese so he could have a reliable local source of it.

In 1891, Frey came up with the new cheese. It wasn't exactly Limburger, but Tode liked it nonetheless -- and asked him to concentrate on it. They named the cheese Liederkranz in honor of the New York choral singing group. In the same year, though, Tode lost ownership of the cheese when the company was foreclosed by the Goshen Savings Bank, and sold to Jacob Weiss, a New York food wholesaler.

The Monroe Cheese Company went through various changes in ownership. In the 1920's, farmland in New York started to disappear, making it harder to get milk in the quantities and at the prices needed. Consequently, in January 1926, production of Liederkranz was moved to Van Wert, Ohio. Frey, his wife, and their daughter Mildred moved to the Ohio plant in July of that year. The couple also had a son named Robert.

The first batch of the cheese in Ohio was a disaster. It didn't taste anything like Liederkranz. To produce authentic Liederkranz extreme measures were required. Some say that Frey had the wooden shelving from Monroe shipped to him to recover the bacteria for the cheese from the wood. Others claim Frey had to go back to New York and literally scrape the unique mold off the walls of the cheese maker's original cellar in order to obtain the precious culture, and then he then went back to Ohio, where they smeared it on the

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

walls and ceilings of their curing rooms. This heroic effort worked. Whatever he did it was successful and the next batch came out fine.

In 1929, Carl Weiss, president of Monroe, sold the company to the Borden Company. Emil Frey stayed with the company, eventually advancing to become a General Manager of the company, through these various changes until he retired in 1938 (he died in 1951).

As decades passed, Liederkrantz continued to be made even as Borden was bought by Kraft, and Kraft was bought by Phillip Morris International.

On 18 December 1981, after a fire damaged its Van Wert, Ohio plant, Borden terminated its natural cheese lines and ceased production of any cheeses except processed cheeses. They closed the Van Wert, Ohio, factory completely.

In June 1982, the Van Wert plant and the rights to make Liederkrantz were bought by the Fisher Cheese Company and they began to produce Liederkrantz. In August 1985, a batch of Liederkrantz (and

other cheeses) were found to be contaminated with Listeria. Fisher withdrew the cheeses, and Liederkrantz never reappeared on the market. That was the last batch of Liederkrantz to be made. Fisher sold the franchise and the bacteria culture to Beatrice Foods and the New Zealand Dairy Board.

Some food writers speculate that the special bacteria needed for the cheese has been lost; some speculate that it has been kept alive, frozen. Some conspiracy theorists even speculate that the Van Wert fire was deliberately set in an attempt to destroy the bacteria and the special wooden shelving.

The above "history" is the compilation of several "histories" in

(Continued on page 8)

**SCAM Treasurer's Report**

***As of 11/30/2008:***

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$660.86
Post Office Acct.	31.57
Reserve Fund	2115.61
RG Fund	547.65

**Total Funds Available:**  
**\$3355.69**

<u>Deposits</u>	
Mensa Funding:	\$168.70
Interest Income	0.17
RG Income:	150.00

<u>Withdrawals</u>	
RG Expenses	\$18.00
Postage	54.25
Printing	143.90

—Bud Long, Treasurer

## A Mensan in the Workplace?

**A**re 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 would you state that you qualified to join Mensa)? Why or why not? Let's hear from *you*.

*LIEDERKRANZ*

*Continued*

*(Continued from page 7)*

print and on the web. Although these "histories", even in prestigious cheese books, agree in general outline, many differ in detail, such as the fire in the Van Wert plant, the smearing of the cheese on the walls of the curing rooms, and some of the dates. I have tried to reconcile the various stories which have now become myths in the minds of Liederkrantz lovers.

The penchant of Americans for blandness in foods was one thing that led to its demise. The market for a cheese that was somewhat stronger than a traditional Brie did not warrant continued manufacture by a major dairy company. This probably led Borden's to stop producing Liederkrantz. Borden wanted to concentrate on the production of mass-market cheese. Liederkrantz and other natural cheeses did not fit the corporate structure of Borden's. Had Borden's sold back Liederkrantz to a small cheese maker, it would have probably survived until the present interest in artesian cheeses surged.

*(Continued from page 4)*

actly where I stand on Chairman Bakke's suggestion that we, as Mensa, should change our image.

Moreover, an observation I have made is that, while the numbers have not seemed to change much over time, the names of the members have. I first joined SCAM in the mid 1980s, and dropped out a few years later. I rejoined in 2001. Most of the members I knew were no longer in SCAM, while I did not know most of the current members.

Assuming my memory is not totally faulty, if American Mensa is anything like SCAM, it seems to me the lack of growth is more likely a problem with member retention. If this is, indeed, the case, changing our image will not help, since we evidently attract enough new members to keep our numbers from falling. Those of us who are already members presumably already know Mensa, so how would image help here?

The larger question, then, becomes: Why don't many of our members remain members? At the local level, there is no better person to ask than *you*. No doubt, while you are reading this, you may have already received a reminder in the mail from AML to pay your annual membership dues by March 31st. My question to you—will you renew? Why or why not? Drop me a note for publication, and let us know (I will, on request, withhold your identity). Let's hear from *you*.

On this subject, I also have a message for AML. It seems American Mensa is set up as a "top down" corporation, with our local groups functioning as branch offices. I get the sense that we as members are sometimes regarded more as employees expected to follow the "company rules". Mensa, like most other organizations, has bylaws, which are both necessary and desired. In a healthy group, the bylaws are to serve to facilitate serving the group's purpose; in our case existing for the member's benefit. I have instead sensed the attitude that members exist for the purpose of fulfilling the rules from up above.

To that end, I would remind AML that it exists solely at the pleasure of its members, and not the other way around. What do the members want? Try asking them (as I am doing now). Another suggestion: When a member expresses an opinion, why not respond to that member? No one likes to be ignored. By the way, I have not once heard from Chairman Bakke.

**MEMBERSHIP NOTES**

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**Welcome to SCAM:**

Jason Harris (*transfer in*)  
William Corey

**Welcome Back:**

Paul Barry

**JANUARY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

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2nd	Rose Marie Martinez	15th	Jack Thompson
4th	Vito Jimenez	21st	Diane Mullinax
4th	Joseph Richardson	26th	Brad Daszinski
10th	Dennis Logan	31st	Joanne Ricker-
14th	Lee McLamb		Abowitt
14th	Barry Signorelli		
14th	Gary Tower		

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

**ANNOUNCING A NEW SIG!**

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C# Java C#

**J**oin the Computer Science SIG. Any Computer Science topics from work or school are welcome. To join email Michael Zielinski at [mikez23@aol.com](mailto:mikez23@aol.com) or [compscisig@yahoogroups.com](mailto:compscisig@yahoogroups.com).



## SCAM Calendar of Events for January 2009

4th - Sunday

7:00 PM

### BRUNCH & GAMES

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

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

7th - Wednesday

7:00 PM

### EXCOMM MEETING

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend. This month, it will be held at the home of George Patterson in Indialantic. ***Please call first, as the meeting time may be changed to an earlier hour.***

Contact: George, 777-3721, for details.

10th - 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.

27th - 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.

Your Event Here!

### ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Do you have a great idea for that perfect event? Do you have the urge, even the *desire* to socialize with other Mensans, but simply do not want to use the extra gasoline? *Why not host that event in your own home?* If this sounds good to you, contact our Calendar Coordinator today. You'll be glad you did. *Info on Page Two.*

**H**ow many times have you heard the hackneyed lament about how Mensans should be saving the world on accounta we're so darned smart?

*Me too.*

*Gets old.*

Actually, there's really no reason to believe that Mensans would be any better at making Planet Earth a better place than any other group of people. After all, the only factor that distinguishes us from the rest of the hoi polloi is that we're pretty good at taking intelligence tests. However, there is something that I believe Mensans are uniquely qualified to do that may just help out a little bit.

Now, I know that we're a diverse lot with many, varied interests, but there is a trait I've noticed that seems to be prevalent amongst us. And although I have no scientific data to support my conjecture, nonetheless, I am of the mind that you'll agree with me: We love to talk; about anything; particularly anything that we happen to know a bit about; at length; exhaustively. It's a socially acceptable way of exhibiting our Mensa-tude, if you will.

So, given that we're talkers, I think it's also fair to assume that most of us are doing okay. Maybe not "billgates" okay, but by and by, I believe we're getting by.

My lovely wife is a schoolteacher. Since that's not nearly enough work for her (β sarcastic statement), she also teaches at adult ed twice a week. Now these folks are there for broad reasons: high school students who need to make up classes, dropouts, victims of tough times, adults who just never graduated from high school, and others. They're not dumb. They either made a bad choice or were profoundly inattentive or perhaps school just wasn't their "thing." In any case, they have realized the error of their ways, and are now trying to reconcile their oversight.

On occasion, there is a student who is in need of additional help. The adult ed teachers are unable to provide the needed one-on-one assistance since they're already trying to cram a great deal of learning into a limited school term. And oftentimes these students are not in a financial position to be able to afford a tutor.

I think you can see where this is heading.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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(Continued from page 14)

I am asking you to volunteer for an hour or two a week for a few weeks to help someone who – I assure you – will be immensely grateful. In lieu of saving the entire world, I would appeal to you to join me in helping to save one person. Just one. I'm on my second tutee now and when I say that you have the opportunity to save someone, I mean it literally. For a very small investment of your time, you can have a significant impact on the life of a person who desperately needs to get their GED.

I know, I know. You're already up to here. You don't have time to do the things that you haven't done that you need to do. Your hon-eydo list groweth. Me too. Life's like that, y'know. But I entreat you to consider re-prioritizing and putting a deserving human being ahead of the begonias that are still waiting to be planted. I assure you, you won't be sorry. I can think of few more gratifying experiences I've had in my life.

My first student and I are now great friends. I can't honestly claim that everything went perfectly: there was quite a bit of frustration on both sides. In the end, while I was hoping he had learned enough to just pass his exam, he completely shocked me by ACING it! He told me afterwards that although he may not have seemed to assimilate everything I was trying to teach him, the one thing he definitely got from our sessions was the confidence that he could succeed. And he did. Just because someone cared enough to try to help him.

The need is most certainly there and now I've planted the seed (not begonia) of opportunity. If any of you think you might want to engage in this worthwhile, fulfilling endeavor, please email me at:

[thegeorge@cfl.rr.com](mailto:thegeorge@cfl.rr.com)

and I will coordinate with the Assistant Principal of the Brevard Adult Education Program in matching a student in need with your area of proficiency. I'm also willing to help with setting up logistics such as where to meet, when, how often.

Maybe we will end up saving the world. One person at a time.

**O**ne of my more amusing pastimes is the reading of signs in front of some of the churches in our area. It seems there is no local shortage of witty pastors (or their minions) seeking to lure newcomers into their fold. One such sign I recently spotted was evidently a reflection of the recently passed Thanksgiving holiday. It read: “*A thankful person will smile.*”

Really? What exactly is meant by the sign’s message? Is it some sort of prediction? If so, a prediction of *what*? Can we infer, then, at some point in the future, of all the people who engage in the act of smiling, at least one will be a *thankful* person?

Could the sign instead mean, “*All thankful persons will smile*”? So...if you’re not the smiling sort, then you must not be the thankful sort (but only if you never smile again).

Since many churches like to play the “exclusion game”, perhaps, does this sign mean that *only* thankful people will smile? If this is true, then is “one who will smile” the definition of a thankful person? If that is the case, if you are not among those who are thankful, you *cannot* smile.

So far, I have addressed the message on the sign, “*A thankful person will smile*” as a statement. Statements, as we know, assert something. Statements must be either true or false. Is this statement true or false? It depends on the meaning. To simplify matters, let’s declare our universe (*I shall label it “people”*) of members to which the church statement might apply: “*It will consist of all living persons who (1) have no physical or other defect that prevent him or her from smiling, and who (2) will live far enough into the future to have the opportunity to smile at least once.*”

I have proffered three definitions (I’m sure more are possible). Since all people (who meet the conditions of my “universe”) will smile, then all thankful people (a subset of “all people”) will smile. Thus, Proposition 1 (at least one thankful person...) and Proposition 2 (All thankful persons...) must be true statements.

Proposition 3 is another matter. It can only be true if all people are thankful people. However, if there is at least one person who is not thankful, then the proposition must be false (since all people will smile).

However, there is another matter to consider. The message

*(Continued on page 19)*

**O**ver the last several months, much has been said about the economic crisis we now find ourselves in. As of this writing, Congress has reached a tentative bailout deal for the Big Three American automakers that have fallen on hard times, partially of their own making. Other corporations have also (or will be) likewise bailed out in order to keep our economy from totally collapsing.

Of course, the public sector has not been immune to these difficult economic times. One such area to be adversely impacted is the right of an indigent defendant of a criminal case to be competently represented by counsel. As reported in the November 9, 2008 issue of the *New York Times*, "Citing Workload, Public Lawyers Reject New Cases", *"In September, a Florida judge ruled that the public defender's office in Miami-Dade County could refuse to represent many of those arrested on lesser felony charges so its lawyers could provide a better defense for other clients. Over the last three years, the average number of felony cases handled by each lawyer in a year has climbed to close to 500, from 367, officials said, and caseloads for lawyers assigned to misdemeanor cases have risen to 2,225 from 1,380."*

The same *New York Times* article goes on to state, *"But such lawsuits (as the Miami-Dade case) are just the most overt signs of the burdens that lead harried lawyers in Michigan to talk openly about 'McJustice' and in New York to make dark jokes about the plea bargain 'assembly line'."*

Of course, prior to the current budget crunch, being represented by a public defender has never been a panacea. For years, it has been documented that 90 percent of all criminal cases are resolved through the plea bargain process. I am personally well aware that, if you are ever charged with a crime, you will face enormous pressure (much of it from your court-appointed lawyer) to accept a plea bargain instead of going to trial. Your innocence or guilt in the case under prosecution is never really an issue. Even in the best of times, public defender's offices have been seriously underfunded by the states.

To gain a full appreciation of the problem, it is appropriate to know something about the history of a defendant's right to a public defender in a criminal case. The current law is generally cred-

*(Continued on page 18)*

(Continued from page 17)

ited to the U.S. Supreme Court decision rendered in *Gideon v. Wainwright* on March 18, 1963. Briefly, this case affirmed the right of all criminal defendants their right to counsel in state courts, and was a reversal of a prior case, *Betts v. Brady* (1942).

*Betts v. Brady* was, in turn, a reversal of several prior cases where the rulings were similar to that in *Gideon v. Wainwright*. Specifically, the current ruling is based on the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the right to assistance of counsel in Federal prosecutions; and applies this right to state courts through the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (the “equal protection under the law” and guarantee of due process).

A look at *Betts v. Brady* is sure to open one’s eyes. Betts, the petitioner in this case, was indicted and found guilty by a Maryland Circuit Judge of robbery and was sentenced to eight years incarceration. Following are the final two paragraphs of that ruling: *“To deduce from the due process clause (of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment) a rule binding upon the states in this matter would be to impose upon them, as Judge Bond points out, a requirement without distinction between criminal charges of different magnitude or in respect of courts of varying jurisdiction. As he says, ‘Charges of small crimes tried before justices of the peace and capital charges tried in the higher courts would equally require the appointment of counsel. Presumably it would be argued that trials in the Traffic Court would require it.’ And indeed it was said by petitioner’s counsel both below and in this court, that as the Fourteenth Amendment extends the protection of due process to property as well as to life and liberty, if we hold with the petitioner logic would require the furnishing of counsel in civil cases involving property.”*

*“As we have said, the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits the conviction and incarceration of one whose trial is offensive to the common and fundamental ideas of fairness and right, and while want of counsel in a particular case may result in a conviction lacking in such fundamental fairness, we cannot say that the amendment embodies an inexorable command that no trial for any offense, or in any court, can be fairly conducted and justice accorded a defendant who is not represented by counsel.”*

(Continued on page 19)

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(Continued from page 18)

From the above, it can be readily inferred that a Supreme Court decision on an issue can be reversed from a prior decision; and, as what happened here, be subsequently reversed. The key issue here is, can *Gideon v. Wainwright*, in force today, be reversed yet again by a future Supreme Court ruling?

I believe we have the makings of a perfect storm. First are the fiscal issues, which are a combination of the economy as a whole being in recession, and the political expedient of allowing taxpayers to vote tax cuts (such as Amendment #1 here in Florida) without considering the impact on basic government functions.

There are political issues, especially in states such as ours. Overall, we are a conservative lot, believing in “law and order” with many (if not most) among us believing that a mere accusation of a crime is proof enough the accused is guilty as charged. Moreover, much of this conservatism has been driven by Christian fundamentalism (the belief in the inerrancy of the Bible). *Deuteronomy* prescribes the handling of crime and justice issues, including trials: “*On the testimony of two or three witnesses a man shall be put to death, but no one shall be put to death on the testimony of only one witness.*” (*Deut 17:6*) Even though we are finally ridding ourselves of our fundamentalist President, Bush’s most recent appointments to the Supreme Court have made that court most decidedly more conservative.

(Continued on page 20)

**SMILE!**

**Continued**

(Continued from page 16)

might not be a statement at all. It might instead be a command (or, in church lingo, a command-ment). I’m sure you’ve heard the exasperated parent command her young child, “Arthur, you *will* go to bed right now!” So, is that church sign really issuing a command to the grateful among us: “A thankful person *will* smile!” (*and you will like it, too...or else*).

If this is so, who put *them* in charge of thankful people?

I hope this has brought a smile to you; if it has, I shall be thankful (*and might even smile as well*).

(Continued from page 19)

Finally, it is only a matter of time when an indigent defendant of a “lesser” felony is denied access to counsel due to limited resources, and that defendant subsequently raises an appeal that reaches the Supreme Court based on that denial of counsel. Given the issues discussed above, is it possible that the right to counsel might once again be “redefined”? In short, can *Gideon v. Wainwright* be reversed?

In my view, such a scenario is definitely possible. It would be the logical extension of the “plea bargain” system we have today. Is it likely? We do not know.

One final point needs to be considered. If *Gideon v. Wainwright* does fall by the wayside, how will this affect future prosecutions? I believe prosecutors will be further emboldened by the prospect of a virtual sure conviction. Their reach may also be extended to those of us who are frivolously charged with a crime but are relatively safe today. That is, unless we are able to afford the best available criminal defense attorney. Yes, it could happen to *you*.

## A Mensan in the family?

**A**re 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?

## Mensans: “Oddball” or “Average”?

**A**s a Mensan, do you “fit in”? Or, are you the “odd man out”? How well are you accepted by your non-Mensan peers? Either way, *The SCAM* invites you to tell your story.

Because of the sensitive nature of this topic, anonymity will be assured. In the October Mensa *Bulletin*, Chairman Russ Bakke sees a need for Mensa to change its image to one of “average” people with high IQs, as opposed to our alleged current image as a group of “geeks” or “nerds”. Do you agree with his assessment? Do you believe we need to change our image? Why or why not? Let’s hear from *you*.

*THE TENTH STORY*

*Continued.*

*(Continued from page 22)*

appropriate free venue, returning to holding program nights could be something of interest. I am sure there are other interesting types of activities out there. Perhaps some of you would like to share ideas with Region 10? If you would like, you could send them to me, and I would certainly include them in an upcoming column in the several months I have left as your Regional Vice Chair.

Hope to see you at SmartiGras at the end of January or at Valen-Time in the middle of February. We'll be there.

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**I** recently read a letter to the editor in a Region 10 newsletter which bemoaned the lack of appropriate activities for him to attend. He mentioned several problems: diet restrictions which made the restaurants gatherings impractical, long distances to drive at night to attend events, and a general lack of interesting events to attend. He did raise some valid points, which I thought were worth discussing here.

Diet restrictions and restaurants: He felt that there were many members with diet restrictions for whom the restaurants didn't work and suggested that house parties past meal hours would be better. The problem here, as always, is finding someone willing to undertake the cleaning and fixing of refreshments as well as the liability of strangers in the house. (He didn't mention one problem I observed throughout the years - the unwillingness of Mensans to RSVP about attending said party, which makes it even harder to plan refreshments.) He made a good point about this; if 50 people in a good sized group each offered to host a party once a year, there could be a house party nearly every weekend of the year somewhere within the confines of the group's area. An excellent concept!

Long distances to drive at night: Now our 50 house parties would also run into this problem. How many of the 50 parties would be within a reasonable driving distance for each member? Certainly not all of them! One way to ensure that an occasional party is close enough would be to VOLUNTEER TO HOST ONE! Yeah, that would work! Of course, another help for this is to set up some sub-groups, each with an area coordinator, with regular events within that smaller area each month. Some of our Region 10 groups already have some sub-groups. Perhaps more of us should consider moving in that direction. Perhaps with more events closer to home, more members would participate. We don't know until we try!

Lack of interesting events: Back in the 1980s, here in Central Florida Mensa (my home group), we had a monthly speaker/program meeting. We usually had interesting speakers. These were generally well attended. We could often find free venues, such as the clubhouse at an apartment complex or the meeting room at a business. But then the free venues dried up, so the speaker chair position dried up as well - and it is hard to bring in a speaker to speak in someone's living room! But if a local group could find access to an

*(Continued on page 21)*

**Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:**

**T**he ExComm met at the home of Terry Valek on Sunday, December 7, 2008. Called to order at 10:37 am by LocSec George Patterson.

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

Welcome Guests: Doug Starke (Mr. F.) and Barbara Nottingham (Mrs. P.)

Minutes for the November 5, 2008 meeting were approved as published in the December 2008 SCAM.

**Reports:**

LocSec: George reported that the Cocoa Public Library would allow us to resume use of their facilities for administering the Mensa admission tests. He also noted that we needed to appoint a NomEl-Com, preferably by the next meeting. It was also noted that the postal delivery of the newsletters had not yet occurred, despite their being delivered to the Post Office prior to Thanksgiving. George said he would check to see if there was a delivery problem. (*Newsletters started to appear in mailboxes on the 8<sup>th</sup>.*)

Treasurer: Bud submitted by email the November Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$3,355.69.

There was no old or new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic (321-777-3721) on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm. (Note change to a later time than usual.) ***This meeting may be rescheduled to an hour or so earlier, so please check by phone if you plan to attend.***