

The

SCAM

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Is it April Fool's?!

Inside this issue:

**HAVING
FUN
IN
PARADISE!**

Details on Page 9...



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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

The bane of every Editor are those little mistakes that appear in every issue that were not caught in time before it goes to print. Of all the 66 issues I have assembled, I do not believe any one of them went to press completely error-free.

Every so often, however, an issue appears with some particularly egregious bloopers. Last month, the Editorial Page, the Birthday Greetings, and the Calendar of Events all proclaimed it was February! By some miracle, however, the birthdays listed were indeed March birthdays.

How do these things happen? There are two common pitfalls I come across in putting together our newsletter. One is my lack of typing skills. The other, far more likely source of errors is the recycling function I engage in each month. Typically, when I start working on *The SCAM*, I begin by opening the previous month's issue and immediately save the file in the current month's filename.

Next, I locate and remove all references to the previous month and insert the current month. For the most part, this is what I failed to do completely. Then, I remove the previous month's work, unless it's something that is meant to appear in multiple issues. This is why, on occasion, you'll see the wrong author or the wrong title. Now you know...and you have my apologies for a rather sloppy 65th issue. I'll certainly exercise more caution in the fu-

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***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.

I was in the middle of composing an article for this month's SCAM when I came across a discussion by Gene Policinski in *Florida Today* of March 1, of a case before the 1st U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The first and last paragraphs of that article that I was writing are "When I was the restaurant reviewer for the *Tokyo Asahi Evening News* I had a policy of never to write a bad review of a restaurant. The reason was, for whatever slight influence I might have on the dining habits of the expatriates in Japan, I didn't feel that it was proper for me to diminish someone's attempts to make a living. As there were so many restaurants in which I enjoyed the cooking that it was never necessary for me to write uncomplimentarily, I just wouldn't write about that restaurant. . . .

"I recommend that before booking a cruise, even if you had cruised on that ship or cruise line before and were completely satisfied, that you check on what changes have been made to the amenities, especially the food and services."

Now, apparently, there is another and more serious reason not to write a bad review -- I could be sued. The pertaining portion of Mr. Policinski's article is

"[A] three judge panel in the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals recently upended a long-held rule of law that "truth is an absolute defense" when someone is sued for libel. The opinion has surprised some experts on libel — and, if ultimately upheld, would uproot basic legal tenets of free speech and the law.

"The judges reviewed Noonan v. Staples, a case involving an employee of a business-supply firm who sued the company after an executive sent an e-mail to about 1,500 employees detailing why the employee had been fired for what the company said was falsifying expense reports.

"The court's opinion said that even if the factual account sent to other workers were true, and apparently it was, the employee involved might be able to recover damages if the e-mail was sent maliciously -- in this case, to humiliate the former employee.

"The judges sent the case back to a lower court in Massachusetts for reconsideration.

"If the court's decision ever were to apply widely, the result could

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We are looking for a few good sentient beings. A life of fame, fortune, and adventure awaits you as a member of the Space Coast Area Mensa ExComm. Very safe. Very Safe. There hasn't been a palace coup in over a month. If you are interested in a position on this prestigious body, contact any member of the NomElCom listed below.

Wynn Rostek: wrostek@cfl.rr.com

Suzanne Leichtling

Barbara Crawford

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 2/28/2009:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
General Fund	\$936.84
Post Office Acct.	60.09
Reserve Fund	2115.92
RG Fund	50.00

Total Funds Available:
\$3162.85

<u>Deposits</u>	
Mensa Funding:	\$194.30
Interest Income	0.08
Newsletter Ad	21.20

<u>Withdrawals</u>	
Postage	59.12
Printing	142.89

—Bud Long, Treasurer

FREE SPEECH

(Continued from page 4)

be . . . [a] paralysis of public debate in which legal challenges ask courts to examine and determine possible motives of speakers, bloggers, filmmakers, journalists and others, rather than to review the truth of the facts."

Until this matter is clarified, I will not submit my article for publication. I also suggest that any reviewer of books, plays, movies, or even sports be careful of what you write, and that any article submitted for publication be reviewed in light of the noted case.

What is a Blue Chip? It is supposed to be a stock that is “good”. Good by any definition means it is to the benefit of the owner or user. When it refers to a stock it mean it will make money for the stockholder. That could be short term, but usually refers to the long term, Buy and Holder. Most of the stocks in the Dow Jones Industrial Average are considered “blue chips”. Really?

The Dow has a requirement that any stock that falls below \$10.00 per share is to be removed from the list. It is done at the end of the calendar year. This year they did not do it. Take a look.

These stocks should be removed from the DJIA Index: Alcoa was 45, now 6.50; Bank America was 45, now 5.00; Citicorp was 45, now 2.50; General Electric was 40, now 9.00 and General Motors was 35, now 2.50. Whatever the reason for not following through they are not saying.

Of the 30 stocks in the DJIA Index almost every one is much lower with some having lost more than 50% of their price. Caterpillar was 80, now 21; Microsoft was 36, now 16.00; and on an on. These are also the stocks that brokers recommend to their “conservative” clients because they always have value. OK, now define value. They seem to have forgotten that any stock or mutual fund that has lost 50% of its price needs to gain 100% to get back to “even”. Even is for losers.

Most brokers never mention that the investor should protect his capital with loss limit protection. It means placing an open stop loss order on any position when it is bought and moving that price protection up to lock in profits as they occur. Few, if any brokers or financial planners will do this for you. You, and only you, must watch your money. Nobody else cares if you eat dog food when you retire.

Every successful investor (that means one who makes a profit) knows when any position is taken how much he is willing to risk. Initially it will be how much he is willing to lose and as profits appear how to move up the stop loss protection. It only needs be done once a month or even better, once a week.

One other broker tip is, “This stock is so cheap it can’t go any lower”. Until it does. There is no such thing as a “cheap” stock or one

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that is “undervalued”. Today it is impossible to compute value.

As you can see Blue Chips are not immune from loss. Even at today’s lower levels stops should be placed immediately. Believe it or not the market can go lower.

Filet mignon or dog food. It is up to you.

You may receive Al Thomas’ investment letter that profited 15% in 2008 at no charge for 3 months on the web site www.mutualfundmagic.com Never lose money in the stock market again. His book “IF IT DOESN’T GO UP, DON’T BUY IT!” has become a classic. Copyright 2009. Williamsburg Investment Co. All rights reserved.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Continued

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ture.

This month, I am also the bearer of some excellent news. As implied on the front cover, on April 11th, we will be treated to some fun in Paradise...Park, that is. The ExComm is hosting this function; they will provide the eats, the soft drinks and the supplies. Best of all, it is free! How can you pass up a deal like that? For more details, see our calendar, and see the full-page ad on Page Nine.

Speaking of ads, in the March issue, and in this one, we have a paid ad . The SCAM certainly appreciates the support of Citrus Press in Titusville. As a reminder to all, we DO sell ad space for those who wish to sell a product or service.

Finally, the American Mensa elections are coming up. Election details will appear in an upcoming *Bulletin*. In this election, we will be choosing our next RVC for Region 10 (All of Florida). Last month, I published candidate’s statements for each contender. I also ran a feature, *Ask the Candidates*, where so far, one question was posed. No one submitted a question for this month’s issue. For one more issue (May), I can run another question for this feature. If you have a question, please send it to me no later than the 5th (*so the candidates can respond by the 10th*), and I will pass the question on to both candidates.

We recently received an e-mail from a young man (Mr. Jonathan Butler) concerning our book *Discovery of Motion*. Being obviously of exceptional intelligence (he liked our book) and displaying a quality that's rare in this day and age, modesty, we were understandably impressed. We were so impressed, in fact, that when we responded to his letter we asked permission to use it in publicizing the book. Here are excerpts:

"I purchased and am enjoying the unique book by John Granville which wonderfully combines an understanding of natural philosophy, philosophy of science, classical physics and contemporary physics.... thanks for putting an unique gem of a book out in the world!"

From the second e-mail:

"...I find his knowledge and originality wonderful. There are few books that touch on the historical, philosophical and sociological aspects of physics. One of my favorite subjects is the history of the concept of motion. I am currently pursuing a Master of Liberal Arts at Harvard with a concentration in history of science, with a hope of a PhD in philosophy of science some day. If I provide any value to your testimonial collection, feel free to use my words and modest credentials."

Jonathan Butler
Harvard Graduate Student

Written for young folks, it can be enjoyed by everyone (of Mensa caliber).

DISCOVERY OF MOTION

An Introduction to Natural Philosophy—Part I

ISBN 978-1-934242-98-8 534pp. Hard cover Illustrated Bibliography&Index

\$39.95 (Available through Amazon.com *et al.*)

Although written by a Mensan, in truth it was not written specifically for Mensans. It was written for people with the interests and intellect of Mensans, and for this reason we offer a 25% discount to Mensans (on direct orders) and free shipping (\$29.95 out of pocket). Call (321) 264-2200 or email citpress@citpress.com with contact information.

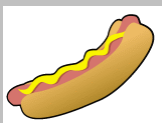
An independent review is posted at:

www.midwestbookreview.com/sbw/may_07.htm (on the science shelf)

Citrus **P**ress

P.O.Box 10062

Titusville, Florida 32783



Space Coast Area Mensa

presents

The 2nd Bi-Annual Spring Picnic

Sat., April 11, 2009

10 a.m. to dusk

Paradise Park, Indialantic

The SOUTH pavilion

(A1A, 1.2 mi. south of Eau Gallie)



This event is sponsored by your ExComm. We have reserved a covered pavilion with picnic tables and benches, grills, water fountain, facilities.

Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and sodas will be provided, as well as plates, cups, utensils, napkins, etc.. There will be no kitty. If you feel like bringing a potluck item to share such as a salad, side, or dessert, that would be nice. With luck, dogs and burgers will start rolling off the grill around noon.

Guests and children are certainly welcome. The location features, of course, the beach, as well as a very nice children's playground and an available volleyball court. There will be cards, dominoes, board games and other such things as people might be induced to bring. If it's breezy, parcheesi or chinese checkers would work well. Bring them if you've got them.

We would really like to see a nice turnout for this event as we move into a more active spring social season. RSVP would be helpful for planning purposes, but not required. You may contact George Patterson at GEORGE3141@CFL.RR.COM or 321-777-3721 (numerologists take note).

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Welcome to SCAM and Mensa:

Helena Tanz

Welcome Back:

Robert Brock

David Trevino

John Remark

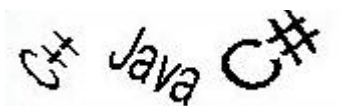
APRIL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

April Birthday Greetings is NOT listed in this issue due to circumstances beyond this Editor's control.

Please bear with me while I update our Birthday list to reduce errors in future issues of The SCAM.

The April Birthday List will appear in the next issue.

ANNOUNCING A NEW SIG!



Join the Computer Science SIG. Any Computer Science topics from work or school are welcome. To join email Michael Zielinski at mikez23@aol.com or compscisig@yahoogroups.com.



SCAM Calendar of Events for April 2009

1st - Wednesday 5:30 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. ***All members are welcome to attend.***

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

3rd - Friday 7:00 PM

GAMES NIGHT

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

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

5th - Sunday 11:00 AM

APRIL FOOL'S BRUNCH & GAMES

Come join us for brunch followed by your favorite games at Terry's home in Rockledge.

Kitty is \$3.

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

11th - Saturday 10:00 AM

SCAM PICNIC AT PARADISE PARK

Please see our ad on Page 9 in this issue. There is no cost to attend. Hot Dogs, hamburgers, chips and soft drinks will be provided. A covered dish to share would be nice, but is not required.

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

25th - 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.*

The March 2009 issue of SCAM featured an article by our beloved editor-in-chief (*although he prefers I address him as “Supreme Exalted Master of Time and Space”*), Mike Moakley, entitled *Stimulus*, which discussed the upcoming economic stimulus package, a.k.a., The Bailout.

I don't disagree with anything Master Moakley said; however, I am somewhat confused about the whole bailout thing in general.

Anon ago, way back when long time, you betcha, we were required to take a course called Civics in grade school. We had to memorize the names of all the Cabinet members, Justices of the Supreme Court, and state senators and representatives. We were enlightened about the workings of our Legislature, the separation of powers thingie, and the ridiculous presidential election procedure. All in all, we learned how our gummint works and it worked out pretty well. I don't understand why they don't still include it as part of every student's curriculum. But that's another gripe for another time.

One of the most valuable things I got out of Civics was the concept of our free enterprise system (commonly called capitalism, but I think the term free enterprise is more descriptive). We were taught that in our great country, anyone is free to give it his or her best shot, within the constraints of the law, to become as obscenely rich as billgates. Just come up with the next pet rock or iPod or Google, then sit back and count the money. If your idea is brilliant, you're set for life. If it's an Edsel, you pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again. No mention was ever, ever made of a federal guarantee.

Auto manufacturers Cord and Duesenberg (1937), Pierce Arrow (1939), Kaiser (1955), Hudson and Nash (1957), Edsel (1960), DeSoto (1961), Studebaker and Packard (1966), and Rambler (1969) all went under without a whimper. But then in 1980, Chrysler President Lee Iacocca managed to convince then President Jimmy Carter into subsidizing the failing auto manufacturer to the tune of \$1.5 billion. Why? Why not Checker (1982), American Motors (aka AMC, 1987), Geo (1998), and Plymouth (2001)? Somehow, we survived the loss of these automobiles. Wouldn't we have done just as well without Chryslers, too?

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In the airline industry, you no longer have the option to fly Northeast Airlines (1972), Southern Airways (1979), Braniff International (1982), Frontier or Transamerica or Republic Airlines (1986), People Express or Western or Pacific Southwest (1987), Piedmont (1989), Eastern or Pan Am (1991), Braniff (1992), or TWA (2001) since bidness went bad and it's hard to run an airline without money. Even so, folks pretty well manage to fly to wherever they need to get to. Nonetheless, when business declined very sharply after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, our benevolent government deemed it worthy to bail out the airline industry to the tune of \$5 billion in compensation plus an additional \$10 billion in loan guarantees. Why? If the failing airlines had actually gone under, is there any reason not to believe that the slack would have been picked up by those airlines that could still fly at a profit?

Now we face the prospect of investing up to \$275 billion into the recent housing fiasco. Mortgage lenders got greedy and stupid. Their greed and stupidity got them into trouble. So, the solution is to throw good money after bad and help these idiots get back on their feet so they can make more greedy and stupid decisions? Why? Why not let them get real jobs like the homeowners they screwed and let the industry take care of itself? The reasonable mortgages will be picked up. The unreasonable ones won't. Nor should they be.

Refer to the list of bygone auto manufacturers and airlines and note that we still drive cars and fly in airplanes. If we were to lose a few of the monumentally inept mortgage brokerages, do you really believe worldwide panic would ensue? Why would it? Our fair system encourages competition to provide the unwashed masses with the best deal they can get. Who benefits from shoring up the weak links? Other than the weak links, of course.

I have a tough time justifying any bailout for any reason for anyone.

If your Zircon Encrusted Navel Lint Picking Emporium goes belly up (nudge, nudge, wink, wink), is Uncle Moneybags going to be waiting on your doorstep to help you weather the storm? I don't think so.

If you spent your life savings on the development of a technique for teaching barn swallows to fly underwater, would the Treasury Department be anxiously anticipating returning your lost fortune after you discovered that there just wasn't a market for your services? I don't think so.

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When no customers show up at your newly opened Road Kill Grill, will The Fed be there to subsidize you? I don't think so.

So what's with the handout for the Big Boys? Seems to me, the same rule should apply to all: Ya pays yer money, ya takes yer chance.

Now, there's the whiners sitting out there, reading this and spluttering and fuming "Yabbut, what about all the jobs that will be lost and the economic disruption?"

Let's look at that, shall we? If we lose a couple three auto makers, does it affect the demand for cars? Folks still want their Hummers. So, in the short term, a buncha folks get laid off; however, someone else is going to pick up the slack to fill the demand and they're going to need people to help them. Same with airlines. Just because FlyByNight Airways has folded, their routes are still there and will be absorbed by other airlines who will need the former Fly-ByNight employees (or the equivalent thereof) to provide the additional service.

Will there be repercussions? Sure. In the short term, folks will panic and the market will take a nosedive.

But in the long run, the economic disruption will stabilize itself as the substitute goods and service providers fill in the missing pieces, with the result that we wean out the losers and end up with them that can. Sorry, people. I just fail to buy into the doomsday prediction that losing some of the stalwarts of the industry will precipitate the beginning of the end of the world as we know it.

I say we let the chips fall as they may. There's a whole lot of better ways to spend 275 billion dollars.

“Nobody...calls me...Chicken!!!”
—Marty McFly, *Back to the Future*

Well, at least on the Federal level, last November, we voted the rascals out...or so it would seem. In both houses of Congress, the Democrats significantly increased their majorities. We also elected a Democrat for President, notable for not only being the first black President, but for also being one of the most “liberal” Senators just before assuming the Presidency.

Yes, it would seem there was much reason to celebrate. Despite the difficult times ahead, our country would soon be on the right track. At this point, maybe I would do well to set the record straight. The increase in the Democratic majorities, the election of Barack Obama; these are decidedly good things. We are truly much better off than we would have been under a McCain Administration.

Yet, all is not perfect. In some areas, there seems to be just a bit of hesitation from our lawmakers, especially on such topics as healthcare, public transportation, upgrading our crumbling infrastructure (just to mention a few). As I touched upon in my last column, the economic crisis we currently face is also a tremendous opportunity to finally take care of some of our long-neglected needs. So, why the hesitation in Congress?

This hesitancy in our legislative branch, particularly in the Senate, I can sum up with one colloquialism: *Chicken!* Yes, I am referring to the striking lack of political courage too often displayed in our national debate. This is causing some of our needed initiatives to be watered down or to be shelved instead of being brought to the floor for passage into law. For this article, I choose to pick on none other than our esteemed U.S. Senators.

What is it that frightens our legislators so? Just who is that monster in that dark closet in the Senate chambers? Among the Democratic Caucus, no one dares mention...*Phil...*

Just who is that ogre that has our Democratic Senators so frightened? The secret comes out now; the monster is...*Filibuster!* For those who do not follow politics, let us discuss just what a filibuster is. Officially, it is part of the Senate rules (their version of parliamentary procedure). The filibuster was designed to protect the right

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of the minority to be heard, instead of having popular, but perhaps ill-advised legislation ramrodded through the Senate. The term means that a Senator may take the floor and speak on any topic for as long as he wishes, the object being to block a vote on an undesirable bill, or until at least 60 Senators vote to end that Senator's floor time. The 60 (or more) Senators' vote in this matter is what is known as cloture. But that's the official version. What follows is the way it really works.

The true version is where the Senate invokes "Rule 22", whereupon filibusters are permitted, but without the need for the lengthy speeches (kind of a "virtual filibuster"). The Senate Majority Leader, (currently, Harry Reid from Nevada) can instead require that a filibuster be the real thing. In this day and age, most "filibusters" are of the virtual "Rule 22" kind.

This is where the term, *Chicken*, comes in. I have often wondered, what would happen, if on an important issue divided on party lines, when the Republicans threatened a filibuster, Harry Reid decided to rule that any filibuster be of the real variety instead of invoking Rule 22. Would there really be a filibuster?

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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?

A Mensan in the Workplace?

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

CHICKEN!

Continued

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What would be the political consequences to the offending Senator who chose to filibuster a bill his campaign donors opposed that would fill a great need of his constituents (for example, some needed education spending that keeps the local schools open)? Since a filibuster is done in the public eye, certainly such an act could affect that Senator's prospect of being elected to another term, as it certainly would be ideal campaign fodder for his opponent.

Why does Reid lack the courage to do that? Yet, is it fair to blame only him, or is he acting at the behest of his colleagues? This lack of courage does seem to affect many of the Democrats. It is time now for our Senators to develop some gonads and perform the work we have elected them to do.

Undoubtedly, there will be some failures. But the worst failure of all is the failure to act out of fear of the "monster". This is the kind of failure that, for our country, should not be an option. Our Senators should *NOT...be...Chicken*.

This month, I had chosen to write about “Octomom”, but now I’ve changed my mind. I will, however, offer one comment with regard to the infamous mother of 14: *At least, I do not owe her any child support payments—pity the poor fool who does.*

But I digress. I have, instead, chosen to write about that other tabloid sensation: *Rihanna*. A supermodel turned singer, with an allegedly abusive boyfriend, she’s the stuff gossip is made of. Rihanna has now made the circuit: She’s appeared on *Dr. Phil* and the queen of all things feminine, *Oprah Winfrey*. Once again, our collective consciousness has been raised about the evils of domestic abuse.

Earlier this evening, I was half-listening to “*All Things Considered*” a news commentary program on NPR. Discussed, of course, was the impending case of Rihanna’s boyfriend, Chris Brown, who is facing felony charges for hitting her during an argument. One comment that did catch my full attention had to do with the need to teach young people that it is wrong to resort to violence to settle a dispute. Specifically, the comment was, “*We have to teach (young people) that it is always wrong to hit a girl.*”

While I am no believer in any form of domestic violence, I must strongly disagree with this speaker’s statement. While certainly I would never advocate hitting a girl or, for that matter, a woman, I just simply cannot accept the proposition that “*it is always wrong to hit a girl.*”

An explanation is due here. In my younger years, I have had some experience working with contracts, as well as creating and modifying rules and bylaws for different organizations. While these documents sometimes differed greatly in their purpose and their form, one of the things I have learned from my experience is a principle that applies to all of them.

The principle is this: When one specifies one or more items, the statement is legally interpreted in such manner as to exclude those things that are not specified. This is why many contracts are written with such phrases as “including, but not limited to...” preceding the examples given in the statement.

Applying the same principle to “*it is always wrong to hit a girl,*” we are excluding men and boys from that group of people

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that should never be hit. Was the speaker really saying that it is sometimes OK to hit a boy or a man? Perhaps he was, but maybe not. But if that statement was set down as part of a legal document, it would certainly be ruled by a judge or arbitrator that boys and men would not be entitled to the same protection of the hitting ban enjoyed by their sisters.

Now we come to the heart of the matter. It is not about some perceived right to hit females. It is about fairness. Males and females alike must be treated fairly in all that we do. The statement, "*it is always wrong to hit a girl*" is wrong because it is just as wrong to hit a boy.

We should always protect our mothers, daughters and sisters. Yet, do our fathers, sons and brothers deserve less?

THE TENTH STORY	<i>Continued</i>
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(Continued from page 22)

self. And he says he doesn't ask for any contribution or expect an RSVP. He didn't like my use of "the liability of strangers in the house." (My use of it was as a reason why some people don't host parties, as it is something they fear.)

Wishing you a lovely Spring.

Maggie Truelove

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If you have friends you wish to encourage to take the test, this might be the time for it to happen. The newest promotion: if someone buys a Mensa Home Test in the month of April, they will receive \$5 off ($\$18 - \$5 = \13). Then, if they return the completed Home Test by May 31, they'll receive a coupon worth \$5 off the fee to take the Mensa Admission Test ($\$40 - \$5 = \$35$), good until July 31.

If you are the mediator or ombudsmen for your local group, perhaps you will be pleased to learn that AML can pay for an online training course from Leadership Development funding. This is a self-paced online training course, taking from 10 to 20 hours to complete. What a wonderful opportunity for our local groups to have a trained and confident ombudsman available to deal with problems!

In January, my column dealt with the problems one member wrote of in their group's newsletter, regarding the availability of parties and other activities in their area. I asked for you, the members, to share your ideas for a future column. Okay, the future has arrived. Only two members responded. I did not receive permission to use their names, so I won't state them.

One of the members stated that he had been a member in about 8 regions during his many years of membership. He shared that one of those other groups provides \$50 for refreshments for the house party, rather than charge a kitty. He also mentioned that PIG SIG groups could move the location around to different restaurants each month, perhaps considering a cafeteria style restaurant, where attendees have a wider variety of choice, catering to most dietary

restrictions. He suggested that he has given up on RSVPs, mentioning that they are really only good if the host lives in a gated community and needs to give a list of names to the guard on duty.

The second respondent, also a long time member, suggested that perhaps a speaker meeting could be held in a living room at someone's home, as long as there was another area (perhaps out by a pool?) for those who aren't interested in what the speaker has to say . . . and a host willing to cut off a speaker who goes on and on and on. He does like house parties, often giving them him-

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Minutes of the ExComm Meeting:

The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson, March 4, 2009. Called to order at 4:34 p.m. by LocSec George Patterson.

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

Welcome Guests: None

Minutes for the February 4, 2009 meeting were approved as published in the March 2009 SCAM.

Reports:

LocSec: George reported that our new proctor coordinator was in place and National had been informed. The NomElCom is also in place and beating the bushes for candidates. (Well, maybe) All current ExComm members are running again, because, after all, somebody has to run this organization. We are still in need of volunteers for the Bylaws Committee. George also observed that in this age (the 21st century, by the way) of blogs, twitters, flashmobs, Facebook, Meetup groups, and the likes, all things with which the Mensans of his acquaintance seem vastly unacquainted (himself included), we should be considering whether we could benefit from an additional online presence. He will actively solicit opinions on this subject.

Treasurer: Bud Long submitted via email the December Treasurers Report which showed total funds of \$3,162.85.

Proctor Coordinator: Hank Rhodes reported via email that no one was tested in February. A test is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday March 21, at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Hank has established an email address for testing. It is *MensaTest@cfl.rr.com*.

Old Business:

Based on availability of the park pavilion, it was determined that the April picnic would be on Saturday, April 11. (*See elsewhere in this issue for more info.*)

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic (321-777-3721) on Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 5:30 p.m.