

The

SCAM

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A conversation overheard between two chickens on
Election Day...

Chicken #1: "I'm voting for The Colonel."

Chicken #2: "Why? You *know* what type of
business he is in."

Chicken #1: "Well, he believes in family val-
ues. He even opposes '*Omelets on demand!*'"

Original or Extra Crispy?



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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

This issue of *The SCAM* can best be described as the “post” issue. As I write these words, my wife and I have been taking turns wearing out the mute button on the TV remote as we are bombarded with the ever-increasingly nasty campaign ads. As I prepare this issue to go to press, one more Presidential debate is in the future and early voting in Brevard County has not yet begun. Of course, by the time you read this, the elections most likely will be history.

For those of us in SCAM, whether we follow politics or not, as I write these words, the final preparations are in place for the SCAMFest RG that will soon take place. In the hopes that this issue might miraculously reach you early, I have included one final ad for our Book Fair. Of course, just as is the case with the elections, this issue will most likely appear after the event is little more than a memory.

As some of you might know, there is an exception. For some time now, you may opt to receive *The SCAM* in your e-mail. If you are not already receiving *The SCAM* via e-mail, you may wish to contact the National Office and request the newsletter be electronically delivered to you. Finally, *The SCAM* is available (along with back issues) on our website.

Some of you may remember that a few years ago, I objected to the trend of electronic delivery. I maintained that all members should receive a hard copy. I have not reversed my position. Everyone still receives the hard copy. The electronic version is in addition to the mailed issue; that’s how it will remain for the foreseeable future.

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.

As you read this, October will be a fading memory. I hope you had a chance to enjoy SCAMFest 2012. It is very likely that this one is the last one that SCAM will ever host. Over the years the number of people who offer to help put on the RG has been dropping fairly sharply. The RG we hosted in 2010 had ten people who helped out in a significant way. This year we could only scrape together six people to run the RG. A simple linear regression suggests no more than three people to handle the job in 2014. It really can't be done right with only six people. Trying it with only three people would be suicide.

Having only six people didn't stop us from going out with a bang! We had a media room for the first time, and lots of activities held there were original events. Some of the prizes handed out were among the best ever seen at any RG. We packed Saturday for the locals who opted for a single day's attendance. Events were scheduled from early morning until midnight.

The end of the RG was the start of a very busy holiday season for most of us, and Zanne and I will be taking a break from hosting events until after New Year's. George Patterson and I are discussing the possibility of hosting another kid-friendly games night in January at the south end of the county. Stay tuned for any details.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season.

Under 40 and looking for comrades? **Check out GenY SIG!** We are open to members 18-36, and looking to pull together activities for Ms our age. Pretty sweet, right? Check us out on Facebook at **'Mensa GenY Space Coast'**!

The number of shapes of kitchen knives is almost infinite. In addition to the basic chef's knife, a well-furnished kitchen will have paring knives, grapefruit knives, slicers, bread knives, paring knives, cleavers, and any other specialty knives that the cook deems useful for the type of food preparation and cooking that he does. Americans tend to obsess with single function knives. It is claimed that a good cook's knife, well sharpened, could do almost all the functions of those specialty knives. It is true.

Other cuisines have their own battery of knives that reflect their cuisine. The basic Japanese set consists of three knives, a sushi slicer (*takohiki*), comparable to our ham slicer, but with parallel top and edge, a multi-purpose knife (*yanagiba*), much thinner and lighter than our cook's knife but takes its place in Japanese cooking, and the cleaver (*deba*) which is closer to a Chinese knife in function.

In Chinese cooking, one knife performs most functions requiring a battery of knives in western or Japanese cuisine. This knife looks much like our cleaver, but it is lighter and is straight across the top. It is sharpened so it

can be used to cut and slice meat and vegetables. Although not as weighty and tough as our cleavers, it is used to chop through poultry and fish bones. It is not strong enough to cut through beef bones. This relates to the Chinese customary way of serving fish and poultry, which are usually just cut up in the kitchen into eating portions (no knives are at the Chinese table) with the meat left on the bone. Japanese stamped knives have a ground edge on one side only, the right, whereas Western knives are ground equally on the left and right. This is especially important in slicing soft materials such as slicing sushi to make narrow, equal, parallel cuts.

The Eskimo have the *ulu*. It



Japanese Knives



Ulu

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Actually, if you've read the title of this article, you've pretty much gotten everything you're going to get out of it. However, that's not going to preclude me from expounding on it just a tad, which – I am sure – surprises no one.

I have great respect for people of Faith (*capitalized because I felt like it*). As a skeptic, I'm just not able to place my credence in something which I cannot factually confirm. However as an ordained minister in the Universal Life Church¹, one of the basic tenets² I try to follow is to respect all religions (*which includes the freedom from religion*)³. I find that truly religious people who have faith in their beliefs tend to succeed in situations where many others would succumb to the same difficulties. This is not a clinical study, mind you; just an opinion based on personal observation. It seems that placing faith in a higher authority strengthens the believer's ability to withstand ordeals and difficulties.

Note that I am not proposing that the higher authority (*be it God, Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed, Zoroaster, Gaia, or Larry the Three-Legged Llama*) is the reason the faithful overcome these trials and tribulations. I do not believe

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THE GOURMET'S GUIDE

Continued

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looks like our old fashioned chopper which was used in wooden bowl. Like the Chinese knife, it is a multi-purpose tool, used for slicing, chopping, deboning, and skinning. It has one major advantage over other knives, only one hand is needed for its use. For other knives, the item being cut needs to be held in place by a hand or fork.



German knife

Editor's Note: The German Knife, pictured at right, was included in last month's article, Knives I. The author felt this would be a better representation than the prior picture of a German Knife. As our publishing program does have its limitations, it will be for the reader to judge whether my second attempt was successful.

(Continued from page 6)

that long-dead historical figures, mythical people, or professed deities have any tangible effect on our lives. However the strength that comes from belief seems to give these people of faith the fortitude to meet and overcome situations.

This notion is not inconsistent with theories expounded under such methodologies as *The Power of Positive Thinking*, a very popular book published by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale in 1952, or the more recent *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne, published and released on DVD in 2006 and made popular via the internet, which ascribes to the law of attraction and also promotes positive thinking.

Now, I'm not promoting any New Age notion that you can overcome all the difficulties in your life just by thinking them away, but there really does seem to be a correlation in being more successful with a positive attitude rather than trying to worry your problem(s) away. Back to people of faith: I believe that these folks, by entrusting their situations to a higher power, have essentially delegated their subconscious to handle their problems under the guise of passing them along to their higher authority of choice.

Since I happen to ascribe to the idea of positive thinking, I know how difficult it is sometimes to maintain that positive attitude in the face of some really stressful situation. So it seems to me that Faith is a convenient, and apparently successful, short cut to toughing it out on your own. That's not such a bad thing.

So, in the words of Adam Clayton Powell, the enormously popular congressman from Harlem (1945-1971): "Keep the faith, baby."

It couldn't hurt.

The George

1. You adept Googlers have no doubt discovered that the Universal Life Church ordains its ministers internet-ly. However, I assure you that I take my ordination quite seriously. Plus, I really am legally commissioned to officiate weddings (funerals, baptisms and baby namings, but not Bar Mitzvahs).
2. There are only two; the second being: Do that which is right.
3. I must admit to having a bit of a problem with Islam, although I'm working on it. Also, I have a tendency to make a great deal of fun of Catholicism, which I'm also working on (but not too hard since it's so make-fun-able-of). For the record, I was born and raised Jewish, but am now – and have been for many years – a confirmed atheist.

SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2012

2nd - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street.

Hosted by: *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

7th - Wednesday 6:00 PM

EXCOMM MEETING

This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

24th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.T.

Join us for some sushi and tempura at The SCAM's best attended event at the Miyako Restaurant, 1511 S. Harbor City Blvd., Melbourne.

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

Calendar Updates

ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit spacecoast.us.mensa.org and click on "Calendar". Also, we are putting together a current e-mail notification list of all members who wish to be kept up-to-date on our activities. If you wish to be included, please contact George Patterson at 777-3721 or George3141@cfl.rr.com.

Of CABAGEs and Coffee:

(Our Regular Events)

C.A.B.A.G.E.: **Every Monday in the Food Court**, Merritt Square Mall
6 p.m. Host: *Karen Freiberg, 633-1636*

GO!: **Every Saturday at Books-A-Million**, The Avenue, Viera. Hosted by
1 p.m. the **Space Coast Area GO Association**.
Host: *George Lebovitz, the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com*

Membership Notes for November 2012

WELCOME TO SCAM

Shannon Cox

Kevin Mellett

WELCOME BACK!

Anthony Roma

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

6th	William McClure Jr	21st	John England
10th	LuAnne Johnson	22nd	Aron Travis
11th	Allan Torsney	26th	Harry Falconer
18th	Joseph Mueck	26th	Thomas Magee
19th	Harold Long	30th	Thomas Gachet
20th	Dean Zentner	30th	Lisa Willnow

MENSA TESTING

Nov. 17 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. No testing next month. Check the December issue for the next testing date.

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mensatest@cfl.rr.com, for details.

The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

Membership in American Mensa, Ltd. makes you eligible to attend SCAM social functions. Escorted and invited guests of a member or host are welcome. Adult family members of Mensans are encouraged to participate in SCAM activities, as are well behaved children. However, attendance at any social function in a **private home** is subject to the hospitality of the host. Compliance with published house rules is required, and "Kitty" payment is **not optional**. As a courtesy, notify the host if you plan to attend. Announced hosts should attend their events or arrange for a stand-in if unable. When reservations are required, you may not be able to participate if you fail to call.

S-Smoking; NS- No Smoking; SS-Separate Smoking Area; P-Pets in the home; NP-No Pets present; BYO_-Bring Your Own: _Snacks, _Drinks, _Everything.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

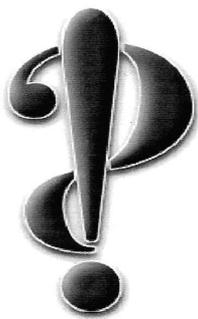
We want to hear from YOU...
Before it's too LATE!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

Last month, Art Belefant wrote a Letter to the Editor asking me whether it would be better to elect a proven businessman rather than a failed politician to run our country. My answer, to put it succinctly, is **no**.

As I explained in the prior month's issue, a businessman's goals are opposite those needed for a government leader. To reiterate, in a businessman's view, people exist in order to further his goals, be they his customers, employees or others he has a relationship with.

A leader of a nation is supposed to serve all of the citizens of his nation without regard to his own enrichment or their station in life. While I do not wish for our country to be led by a "failed politician", that might be preferable to having it led by a businessman whose goals conflict with the public interest.



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?

In the not-too-distant past, it came to my attention that here in Florida, residents of Orange County thought it might be a fine idea if an ordinance was passed that would have required employers in Orange County who have more than 15 employees to pay up to 56 hours sick leave per year. To that end, a successful petition drive was conducted, and the proposed measure was set to appear on the November ballot as a referendum.

Not so fast, the business community responded. “The proposal is not pleasing to us and, lest you forget, we are the ‘job creators’.” Among the most vocal opponents were Disney and the local Chamber of Commerce. No surprise here. The matter was taken to court, where a judge decided that the initiative would not make the November ballot. As such, the matter will not go before the voters this year.

This brings forward two concerns:

The Sick Leave Issue: Traditionally, in the better jobs (those that are fast disappearing in the current economy) paid sick leave was a given. It has long been recognized that if an employee is sick, all concerned would be better off if the sick employee remained off duty. The benefit to the sick employee is obvious, especially if he did not lose any pay. If the employee was contagious, certainly his coworkers would stand to benefit by not becoming sick.

Moreover, if the employer serves the public, it would be harmful to his business if a customer became sick from being in contact with a sick on-duty employee. Those in the First Friday SIG might want to ruminate over the ramifications as their favorite Hooters girl, in serving the requisite wings and beer, also shares a serving of a horrible cold.

Denying a working person a reasonable amount of paid sick leave is certainly a detriment to all concerned. Then there is the second issue.

The Voters’ Rights Issue: Striking down this referendum proposal sends the wrong message. Suppose, despite my words above, you truly believe requiring paid sick leave is a really bad idea. Had the referendum actually appeared on the ballot, you (if you live in Orange County, that is...) would have the opportunity to be heard. You would simply vote “no”. Proposing a referendum on the sick leave issue was the proper thing to do.

The elected representatives cannot be counted on to do their job. Campaign contributors take precedence over registered voters always. I have written thousands of words on that issue. Moreover, businessmen have the

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BOOK FAIR

The book fair at the 2012 RG will be held on Friday, October 26, in Hospitality 2 from 6:30 PM to 10:00 PM. There is still time to contact me (a.belefant@ieee.org) to list you as a participant. Authors of all genres are welcome; fiction, non-fiction, inspirational, poetry, photography, etc., commercially or self-published.

If you have not registered by then as an author, you will still be welcome. Just bring your books, promotional material, displays, etc. We will provide tables and chairs.

From the Village Idiot:

SICKENING

Continued.

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right to oppose proposals such as this one was. That would be the reason for a vote. The proponents and opponents each would have a say. The majority, as in all votes, would prevail. What could be fairer than that?

We give lip service to democracy as well as other founding principles of our great country. The truth of the matter is our entire country has transformed into an oligarchy. The unfortunate fate of this sick leave referendum is merely a small testament to that fact. Not only is this state of affairs not fair to the majority of us who happen to be in the working class, but if we do not reverse course soon, our great nation will soon collapse under the weight of the ruling class.

Should that occur, one final bit of irony is that this time the ruling class will not be exempt from this calamity.

Mensans in general are a pretty opinionated bunch, and are sometimes fairly blunt when it comes to expressing disagreement. Why say, "I respectfully think you may not have fully considered the opposing viewpoint" when you can say "You're a total and complete moron and I don't see how anyone as stupid as you are managed to get into a high IQ society." It's a trap I myself occasionally fall into, though I try to avoid it. When I take a position on a controversial issue, I always brace myself for the acid rain that will fall on me from those who have a different perspective. And, I haven't always done as good a job of trying to see things from a different perspective as perhaps I might have.

Something I've learned to do over the years is to separate the nastiness from whatever kernel of truth may be bathing in it. It's not easy; the human response is to simply write off the source of whatever vitriol comes in one's direction. Why, after all, should I respect the opinion of someone who has shown no respect to me? But sometimes, if you can get past the nastiness, the other person really does have a point, and sometimes the point that is being made is more important than the ugly packaging in which it was delivered. In fact, sometimes the ability of a local group, region, or Mensa as a whole depends on someone being able to look past an ugly delivery to the validity of a truth being spoken. And I will admit to having occasionally learned things from people who weren't even trying to be civil.

I would like to encourage two things. First, if you disagree with someone, try to do so in a civil manner even if it kills you. Whatever wisdom you may have to impart is far more likely to be received if you don't make a personal enemy of its intended recipient. Since nobody gets off this planet alive, there is no reason to not treat other people with kindness while you can.

Second, if you are at the receiving end of someone else's vitriol, try to ask if maybe they have a point even if it isn't being made in a civil fashion. "Consider the source" is simply an excuse to not listen to what someone else is saying. And sometimes even the worst source produces something useful.

Mel Dahl

Minutes of the October SCAM ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 on Tuesday (we had a problem with our usual Wednesday, but I can't remember what the conflict was, sorry), October 2nd, called to order at 6:07 pm.

Members Present: Karen Freiberg, Wynn Rostek, Terry Valek, Dennis Logan, and George Lebovitz.

Guests: Zanne Rostek and George Patterson.

We forgot to approve the September minutes as published in the October, 2012 issue of the SCAM (oops!).

Several RG financial transactions were conducted.

Officer/Committee Reports (details may be found in the footnotes):

Treasurer's report¹.

Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email².

Wynn reported that Game Night went well with a good time having been had by all who attended who ranged in age from 3(!) to 17. Tentative plans are to conduct another Game night in Jan/Feb.

Under New Business, Wynn reported that he will find out on October 9th (in the future as I write this, but in the past as you read it) whether he will require further surgery. This qualified as New Business since his availability directly affects his ability to support various activities for which he is responsible in the upcoming RG.

At this point, the ExComm Committee meeting and the RG Committee Meeting blurred into each other.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, December 5th (the November meeting being cancelled due to the impending RG), 2012, at the home of Karen Freiberg, 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955 at 6:00 pm. and the (somewhat combined ExComm/RG) meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

1. General Fund: \$812.54, RG Fund: \$2,510.00, Reserve Fund: \$1,805.16, Total Assets: \$5,129.70.
2. Contacted 1 candidate for the first time, 6 candidates for the second or third time; tested 0. Next test session is October 20, 2012 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa.

George