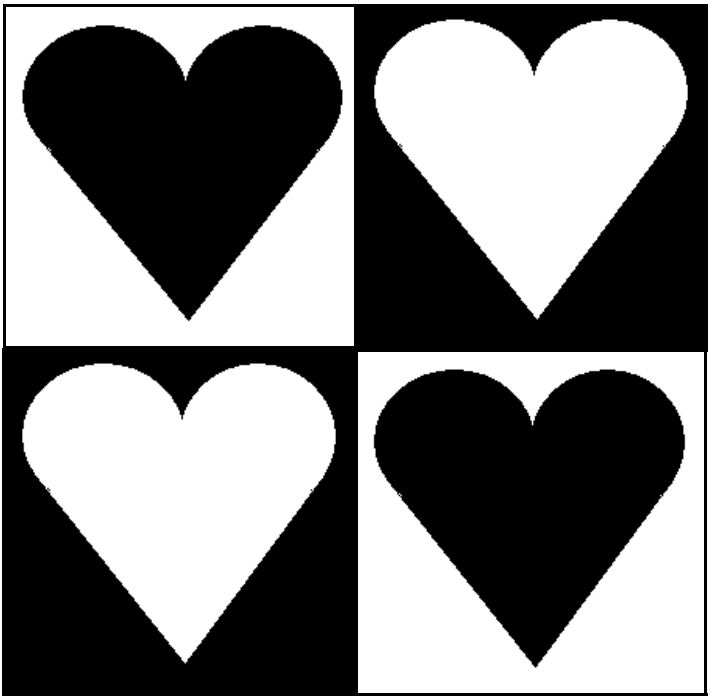
The

SCAM

space coast area mensa

25th Anniversary Issue

Happy Valentine's Day!



Volume 26, No. 2 **February, 2008**

SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

Website: ***www.spacecoast.us.mensa.org***

(All Area Codes are **321** except as noted)

Executive Committee

Local Secretary
GEORGE PATTERSON
301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic, FL 32903
777-3721 ***george3141@cfl.rr.com***

Assistant Local Secretary
THOMAS WHEAT
350 Las Olas Dr., Melbourne Bch, FL 32951
728-9891 ***temw@infionline.net***

Treasurer
BUD LONG
660 Alaska Rd., Merritt Island, FL 32953
455-9749 ***budlong@bellsouth.net***

Recording Secretary
THERESA VALEK
626-8523
wb4zuz@amsat.org

Member-at-Large
JOE SMITH
4317 Sherwood Blvd., Melbourne, FL 32935
259-4966 ***Member@scam.us.mensa.org***

SCAM Appointees

Proctor Coordinator
HELEN LEE MOORE
632-1831 ***moorehelenlee@cs.com***

Membership
JOE SMITH
Membership@scam.us.mensa.org

S.I.G.H.T.
KAREN FREIBERG
Sight@scam.us.mensa.org

RG Committee Chair
BUD LONG

SCAM Bylaws Committee
MICHAEL MOAKLEY
952-8400

Gifted Children Coordinator
Volunteer Needed!

Mediator
MICHAEL MOAKLEY
952-8400

The SCAM Editorial Staff

Editor
MICHAEL MOAKLEY
808 Wisteria Dr., Melbourne, FL 32901 952-8400
editor@scam.us.mensa.org

Webmaster
KAREN FREIBERG
633-1636
Karen@Freiberg.com

Assembly/Circulation
Volunteer Needed!

Calendar
DOUG STARKE
633-1636
Doug@Starke.com

American Mensa Ltd.

MAGGIE TRUELOVE, RVC10
3333 Honeysuckle Lane
Belle Isle, FL 32812
407-855-9078 ***RVC10@cfl.rr.com***

AMERICAN MENSA, LTD.
1229 Corporate Drive West
Arlington, TX 76006-6103
(817) 607-0060
AmericanMensa@mensa.org

Vol. 26, No. 2 **The SCAM** Space Coast Area Mensa ***February, 2008***

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

Happy Ground Hog Day to all. Yes, it is February already. Our calendar this month again is rather light. Therefore, the opportunities are many to host that activity you always wanted to see happen in Space Coast Area Mensa.

In the last issue of *The SCAM*, the information in the Treasurer's Report was incorrect, due to my lack of typing skills. The corrected version appears this month, as well as the current report. Sorry about that!

In keeping with our year-long celebration of SCAM's 25 birthday, what follows is our LocSec's column from the February 1983 issue of *The SCAM*:

From The Local Secretary
Judy Peabody

***Well, the election is all over** and I have been honored not only to be elected to the Executive Committee, but also to be appointed as the new LocSec for Space Coast Area Mensa. Thank you all for your support both in the election and in the creation of our own local group. Response has been encouraging and overwhelming. It appears many Mensans have only been waiting for a wider choice of activities to make themselves known, and to join with both their presence at monthly gatherings and to offer help and constructive suggestions to make the group better for us all.*

With this help and the further assistance of the rest of the Ex-

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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.

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Comm and appointed officials, I hope to continue making Space Coast Area Mensa a social group we will all want to enjoy. Congratulations to the rest of the ExComm members on your election - now let's get busy!

Now, a quarter-century later, I'd like to once again remind you: This is *your* SCAM, our local group will be whatever you make of it. It's up to *you*.

Editor's Note: In last month's issue, I erred in reproducing the Treasurer's Report. Below is the corrected version.

SCAM Treasurer's Report

***As of 11/30/2007** (Corrected):*

Account	Balance
General Fund	$704.67
Post Office Acct.	345.87
Reserve Fund	2608.75
RG Account	440.00
Total Funds Available:	**$4099.29**
Deposits	
Mensa Funding:	$519.52
Withdrawals	
Printing Costs	$142.89
Postage	64.01
Annual Bulk Mailing Permit	175.00
Transfers	
General Fund to Post Office Acct.:	$200.00

—Bud Long, Treasurer

SCAM Treasurer's Report

As of 12/31/2007:

Account	Balance
General Fund	$736.48
Post Office Acct.	281.10
Reserve Fund	2110.74
RG Account	530.00
Total Funds Available:	**$3658.32**
Deposits	
Mensa Funding:	$190.12
Interest Income	1.99
RG Income	90.00
Withdrawals	
Printing Costs	$150.31
Postage	64.77
Annual Bulk Mensa Refund of excess deposit	$328.00
Transfers	
General Fund to Post Office Acct.:	$180.00
Reserve Fund to General Fund:	$500.00

—Bud Long, Treasurer

Part Two: Flak!

Having been unable to get a visual checkpoint as we flew over the continental shore I must use the forecast winds to figure our flight path. The lead ship is using radar to guide us to the target. The free air temperature is thirty-eight degrees below zero and we are tooling along at eighteen thousand feet. The formation looks good from where I sit and our fighter escort is punctual in making rendezvous with us. All is going smoothly so I sit back and think about flying with my original crew today.

Over the intercom I sense that Ted is having trouble with Martin, his co-pilot. The few words he mutters to him on intercom is making me feel uncomfortable. Somehow I sense that this is going to be my last flight for a long time.

The cars were sparsely occupied. An old man came into our compartment to beg a few shillings. He was unkempt, his clothes smelled badly and his long beard was matted and dirty. The gleam in his eyes arrested my attention. We gave him some change and he sat down among us. Our small talk ceased. There were a few awkward moments. Then Arthur Way, one of our gunners ordered him out of our compartment. This outburst of his left us dumbfounded. The old man got up and sidled toward the door. He opened it to leave. He turned and started to talk but paused. He looked at Way then glanced around the room eyeing each of us. He brought his eyes to rest on Way. He cleared his throat to say something. "Son," he said and paused in contemplation. "All of you".... He paused for effect, and then continued. "You are lucky to be alive." We didn't say anything until after he had gone. We then burst into guilty laughter and teased Way with the phrase 'you're lucky to be alive' for the rest of the train ride. Now as I sit here at my small desk with a 50 cal. machine off to the side, I repeat the phrase again to my self "Lucky to be alive."

"God dammit, Martin keep your eyes on those instruments." Ted was giving Martin hell again. I'm sure all the crew was feeling uncomfortable with me. A pilot and the co-pilot should establish the harmony necessary to give the crew confidence.

"Martin, don't keep your head in the cockpit all the time, look around the sky! Do you see those planes at 11 o'clock high?" Martin must have nodded his head in affirmation because Ted continued.

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"Well why don't you call them out?"

"Fighters at Three o'clock high." someone reported. The atmosphere on board became electric, tensions mounted.

"Navigator to crew ... We are supposed to pick up P-51's in about eight minutes ... this may be them but don't take it for granted." Some one else reported fighters over head. A second report positively identified them as our fighters.

"Pilot to crew.... no matter how sure you are that they are our planes, keep an eye on them and track them with your guns. If they turn toward us fire at them when they are in range ... you know that the Germans have plenty of our planes and have used them against us more than once."

"What's wrong with number 3 engine?" Ted shouted. "Look at that oil gauge!! Martin, For God's sake wake up.... give me more RPMs on Number 4…" Reed, the engineer who was manning the upper turret guns was out of the turret monitoring the instruments. He told Ted that number 3 is shooting oil but by this time Ted had feathered the defective engine.

Ted's voice was the one of extreme exasperation mixed with relief "I didn't think I was going to get it feathered. I just had enough oil pressure to get it feathered." He repeated, happy with the outcome. With one engine not functioning we were unable to maintain our place in the formation. Ted called the Group leader and told them that we would pull out of formation and lighten our load. With the bombs gone he thought that we might be able to maintain our speed and stay with the formation. We would fly the mission with the group for mutual protection. As soon as I heard of the engine trouble, I determined our position. "Navigator to pilot. We are about thirty-four minutes from Berlin. We are northwest of Hanover and southeast of Bremen. This is a well defended city with plenty of flak emplacements." The information didn't make the crew feel any better. This area had a bad reputation because of the losses our group had suffered on previous missions.

Out of formation we got our bombs away into the solid cloud layer about 6,000 feet below. Ted increased the RPM on the remaining three engines. During this time I was busy checking our location on the map to determine a heading back to England if the need arose. We were making up lost ground to get us back into formation. More

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Just My Type

For this month's column I had intended to go through all 704 pages of *The Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, Fourth Edition* (OSPD4). However, the deadline is near and I am only on page 551. There is probably an entry on page 552 that would greatly enhance this column, but here goes…

OSPD4 abounds in definitions of the form "a type of _____." ABOIDEAU, for example, is "a type of dike" and is the first such entry. A Wikipedia article about English words with uncommon properties points out that ABOIDEAU consists of six vowels and two consonants, as does its alternate spelling ABOITEAU; both are defined in the article as "a sluice gate," which does not fit my mental image of a dike. Wiktionary gives several definitions for "dike." "A barrier of stone or earth used to hold back water and prevent flooding" is the meaning with which I am familiar, but "[a] ditch and bank running alongside each other" might correspond to the "sluice gate" description.

So far I have found no two-letter words following the pattern, but APO is "a type of protein" and ARB is "a type of stock trader." (APO is one of the new words added to OSPD4; one would assume that ARB has something to do with arbitrage.)

The following definitions are concise if not exactly enlightening:

BACKSAW	a type of saw
BAGWIG	a type of wig
BASEBALL	a type of ball
BEESWAX	a type of wax
BLOWFLY	a type of fly
BOWKNOT	a type of knot
INCHWORM	a type of worm
RAINBIRD	a type of bird
RAMJET	a type of jet
REOVIRUS	a type of virus
SANDSOAP	a type of soap
SETSCREW	a type of screw

Here are the words beginning with A and defined as "a type of chemical compound": ACYLOIN, AGLYCON, ALKALI, ALKALOID, ALKANE, ALKENE, ALDEHYDE, ALKYNE, AMIDE, AMIDINE,

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AMINE, AMMINE, ARAMID, AZIDE, AZOLE. If I haven't overlooked something, the next word defined as "a type of chemical compound" is DIESTER. Wouldn't you have expected some words beginning with B or C to share this definition? A little Googling turns up CYCLOHEXANE which is acceptable when playing a SCRABBLE® crossword game but longer than eight letters and thus not to be found in OSPD4.

Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and get dirty. Each of the following is defined as "a type of soil": LATERITE, LITOSOL, PEDALFER, PEDOCAL, PLANOSOL, REGOSOL, RENDZINA. Other related entries in OSPD4 are:

ILLUVIUM	a type of material accumulated in soil
LOAM	to cover with loam (a type of soil)
AZONAL	pertaining to a type of soil group

Three other definitions that appear quite frequently in OSPD4 are "a type of metrical foot" (ANAPEST, BACCHIUS, CHORIAMB, CRETIC, DACTYL, IAMB, PYRRHIC), "a type of carriage" (BAROUCHE, BERLIN, BROUGHAM, HERDIC, LANDAU), and "a type of electron tube" (DIODE, DYNATRON, KLYSTRON, PENTODE, TRIODE). [Although I had not yet reached page 637, I was already aware of TRIODE.]

There are also several definitions in OSPD4 of the form "a variety of _____." Two tasty examples are MORELLO, "a variety of sour cherry," and OXHEART, "a variety of sweet cherry." When I saw that POTSTONE is "a variety of steatite," I looked up STEATITE on page 585; it is "a variety of talc," so the two definitions could be collapsed to say that POTSTONE is "a variety of a variety of talc."

EGGER is "a kind of moth," ENDOSMOS is "a form of osmosis," and LENO is "a style of weaving." What differentiates a **type** from a **variety** from a **kind** from a **form** from a **style**? This is a question for another day, so let's close by noting that FRAKTUR is defined as "a style of type."

Next month: Maybe It Was Something You -ATE

Everyone seems to want to put his neck on the block to predict what stocks to buy for the coming year. I rarely do this, but this year this chicken will take a chance too.

If you are looking for that one in a million or rather one in 10,000 stocks that will run from $2.00 to $250 then stop wasting your time reading this column. In my decades of trading I have never been that lucky.

Notice I said lucky. So called analysis won't find it and if any newsletter does happen to stumble upon a 100%, 200%, 300% winner it wasn't through great market analysis because if it was they would be doing it every year. Don't let them BS you about how smart they were.

Finding any stock that will go against a major trend is more luck than knowledge. Go back to 2000 and see what the mavens were touting investors to buy then. Enron? Almost without exception every one was a loser. The best stocks (and there are no best stocks) will drop during a bear market.

When their favorite picks don't perform they brag that their portfolio did not go down as much as the S&P500 Index.

What hogwash! They still lost money.

From 2000 to 2003 if you had your money under your mattress you would have been about 40% ahead. Why am I talking about 2000? Because another 2000 is breathing down our necks right now. I have some excellent company in with my opinion. 2008 to ???? is going to make 1929 look like a "walk in the park" according to one of England's leading economists. They don't tell you the whole truth on CNBC-TV because their advertisers might cancel.

Investors don't like being in cash. They want their money "working". Of course, working and losing money is not what they had in mind.

There is, in this writer's opinion, only one safe place to be invested for the next 5 years. It will appreciate by a huge amount and protect against inflation as well. That's GOLD.

Brokers will tell you gold is no good because there is no return. There isn't any for him because he won't be making any commission. Gold will protect against real inflation, not the phony number of

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CORE" inflation the government publishes.

Core inflation is accurate provided you don't eat, buy gasoline or heat/air condition your home.

OK, I have fooled around long enough with the facts of what to expect this year so here is the only safe place to have money invested "for the long term" as brokers say: GOLD. In the form of GLD, gold stocks in GDX and some gold coins, but don't buy until about March 1 and buy in increments.

Plan on holding for about 2 to 5 years. The market may have bottomed by then. The smart investors will be the only ones with money to snap up those cheap shares.

Al Thomas' best selling book, "If It Doesn't Go Up, Don't Buy It!" has helped thousands of people make money and keep their profits with his simple 2-step method. Read the first chapter and receive his market letter at www.mutualfundmagic.com to discover why he's the man that Wall Street does not want you to know. Copyright Williamsburg Investment Co. 2008 All rights reserved.

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*.

SCAM Calendar of Events for February 2008

6th - Wednesday 5:30 PM — **EXCOMM MEETING**

.This is our monthly business meeting. All members are always welcome to attend.

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

23rd - 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.*

Calendar Updates — **ATTENTION SCAM MEMBERS!**

Every effort is made to bring to you an accurate up-to-date Calendar of Events. However, last minute changes can and do occur past newsletter deadline. For up-to-date info, visit ***spacecoast.us.mensa.org*** and click on "Calendar".

Membership Notes

This past month, no one joined us at Space Coast Area Mensa.

February Birthday Greetings

4th	Dana Stetser	*14th*	Wynn Rostek
7th	Heather Howard	*17th*	Robert Champion Jr.
8th	Amy Montgomery	*17th*	Robert Lipton
11th	Michael Moakley	*18th*	Michael Horton
13th	Craig Reynolds		

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

I am a relatively intelligent and articulate writer. (Modest, too!) But I cannot, for the life of me, seem to master certain rules of punctuation.

I refer particularly to the semi-colon, em dash (used to indicate a sudden break in thought [which is different from either a hyphen {which is used to both join words or separate syllables} or an en dash {which is the dash between ranges <e.g., "For ages 3-5">}), ellipsis, and the parenthesis family (which includes parentheses, brackets, braces [also known as curly brackets, "{}"], and chevrons [a.k.a. angle brackets, "<>"] -- all of which are needed when you nest parenthetical expressions inside of other parenthetical expressions [which I seem to have done rather extensively in this list]).

The thing is, when I write, I tend to interject tangentially relevant (or sometimes -- irrelevant) thoughts (*such as this one*) which produce situations in which I must somehow indicate that although I thought some particular stream of consciousness comment sufficiently erudite, witty, or clever enough to be included into my missive, I never seem to be able to figure out how to set it off properly -- whether I should segregate it behind these little dashes; or, perhaps change gears with a semi-colon (as I just did over there <---), or use the parentheses to indicate that this is a comment on the commentary. I just can't seem to decide.

Now, I know there are rules of grammar to guide me and that if I were sufficiently motivated I could not only look up the proper usage of these punctuational delimiters, but could probably even learn them and use them in proper context. But that's where I run into a major hurdle.

You see, I don't really want to know how to use the lesser punctuationalities properly; I want to use them effectively! Like e e cummings writing in lower case to get your attention. I think punctuations are better used artistically than grammatically. To wit:

She loves me.
She loves me not.
She loves me.
She loves me not.
Then again, what am I doing asking the opinion of a flower?

is grammatically correct. But, how boring!? Much more interesting would be:

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She loves me; she loves me not; she loves me; she loves me not -- then again, what am I doing asking the opinion of a flower?

Now this may be okay as well, but even if it isn't, it's so much more literarily stimulating! Instead of the repeated phrases each hanging out nakedly, finally followed by the "punchline," the reworked excerpt, combined into a single sentence, with some interesting punctuation thrown in for entertainment, is so much kickier! Don'tcha think?

So, the only conundrum is how best to express the thought without overly violating the rules of good *grammarianshipness*.

Use dashes -- kind of like confetti -- as a way to enliven a block of text that already has as many commas as it wants? Why not colon and quotation marks, both,eh? If you can use words creatively, why can't you use punctuation creatively? Time to begin campaigning for the more extensive use of the interrobang (no, I didn't make this up -- it's the actual definition for the combination of the question mark superimposed over the exclamation point. In fact, why not just go for it... Split infinitives? Beginning with a preposition? Sentence fragments for emphasis? Inventing new participles? Damn. The. Syntactic. Torpedoes. Full speed ahead!

Okay, okay... I think it's time for me to take my meds now.

the george

Anybody can win unless there happens to be a second entry. - George Ade

FROM THE INTERNET — *Continued*

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talk show. The radio host keeps saying that liberals are bad and conservatives are good. He doesn't mention that the beloved Republican Compassionate Conservatives have fought against every protection and benefit Joe enjoys throughout his day. The same radio host Joe listens to is an admitted drug addict who says his problem is not a moral failure or a crime but an illness that needs our prayers but all others are "druggies" and "crack heads".

Joe agrees: *"We don't need those big-government liberals ruining our lives! After all, I'm a self-made man who believes everyone should take care of themselves, just as I have."*

TIDBIT FROM THE INTERNET

Author Unknown

Editor's Note: This is a non-copyrighted item sent to me online.

No one seems to know who wrote the below story, but I thought it pretty well stated the nature of things. I am always amazed that people who have so much to enhance their quality of life seem to believe it just happened that way. Why did they work so hard to instill these privileges some take for granted? They did it because someone fought hard to not provide it to them. Those same some ones are still fighting to take away or cut these American quality of life items. Let's meet Joe

Joe gets up at 6 a.m. and fills his coffeepot with water to prepare his morning coffee. The water is clean and good because some tree-hugging liberal fought for minimum water-quality standards. He prepares his morning breakfast, bacon and eggs. Joe's bacon is safe to eat because some girly-man liberal fought for laws to regulate the meat packing industry.

Joe dresses, walks outside and takes a deep breath. The air he breathes is clean because some environmentalist wacko liberal fought for laws to stop industries from polluting our air.

Joe begins his workday. He has a good job with excellent pay, medical benefits, retirement, paid holidays and vacation because some lazy liberal union members fought and died for these working standards. If Joe is hurt on the job or becomes unemployed, he'll get a worker compensation or unemployment check because some stupid liberal didn't think he should lose his home because of his temporary misfortune.

Joe is home from work. He plans to visit his father this evening at his farm home in the country. He arrives at his boyhood home. His was the third generation to live in the house financed by Farmers' Home Administration because bankers didn't want to make rural loans.

He is happy to see his father, who is now retired. His father lives on Social Security, a union pension, and has Medicare and, as he was a veteran, goes to the Veterans Administration Hospital for medical needs, but his dad has these because some wine-drinking, cheese-eating liberal made sure he could take care of himself so Joe wouldn't have to.

Joe gets back in his car for the ride home, and turns on a radio

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One of the things we can expect in 2008 is the endless proliferation of mudslinging ads masquerading as political campaigns. Unfortunately, this will include deceptive tactics employed to misrepresent the positions of their opponents. Part of this, as in the past, will be by using terms intended to stir up emotions rather than to encourage the use of logic. One such term, the subject of this column, is *Socialism.* Already, I have heard this term applied by various candidates who are opposed to any sort of national health care.

I will not weigh in on the health care issue, but I will take to task these opponents who assert that national health care is somehow socialism. To do this, the question must be asked: *What is socialism?* According to *Merriam-Webster Online,* socialism is defined:

1. Any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods

***2. a**. A system of society or group living in which there is no private property, **b**. a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned or controlled by the state*

3. A stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done.

How does this definition apply to the health care debate? Is health care a means of production and/or distribution of goods? If so, how? Moreover, does any candidate, using the pretext of national health care, advocate our government taking over production and distribution of goods? Most of our production now takes place in other countries, so unless we start invading these countries, I don't believe our government will take over our means of production.

As for distribution of goods, Wal-Mart, that beacon of capitalism, actually endorses having some sort of national health care. Apparently, they are not too concerned that our government is about to take over their immensely profitable private enterprise.

The national health care system debate should center on whether such a system would benefit us as citizens of this great land. But, is national health care, as some opponents claim, socialism? Plainly, the answer is emphatically "NO!"

Meet Elizabeth Beeland. She is a 35-year-old yoga instructor who lives in Ormond Beach. Until December 20, 2007, I never heard of Ms. Beeland. It was on that fateful Thursday evening that I happened to be watching the Mickey Mouse (ABC, that is) evening news on Channel 9, whereupon, Ms. Beeland made the news as the latest person to find herself at the business end of a Taser under questionable circumstances.

What happened? At the time, Ms. Beeland was inside a Daytona Beach Best Buy purchasing a CD player as a gift for her dad. She had presented her credit card at the checkout to pay for her purchase. During the transaction, her cell phone rang. She stepped away to take the call, which proved to be rather upsetting (she found out her child was sick).

When Ms. Beeland returned to the checkout to complete her purchase, she was confronted by a female Daytona Beach police officer, and was told that she was suspected of stealing the credit card she had presented the cashier. Upon hearing this, she became very upset and started shouting and uttering profanities at the officer. According to Best Buy's surveillance tape, the incident lasted less than one minute, and during that time, she was backing away from the officer.

Yet, the police officer felt the need to subdue Ms. Beeland with 50,000 volts from her Taser. Ms. Beeland was then arrested for disorderly conduct and resisting arrest without violence. It turned out the credit card at issue did, indeed, belong to Ms. Beeland.

Questions have surfaced as to whether the Taser should have been used. It is evident that Ms. Beeland's behavior, while perhaps neither the most pleasant nor overly courteous, posed no danger to the officer or anyone else. Daytona Beach Police Chief Mike Chitwood spoke in support of his officer's actions. To date, we don't know whether the State's Attorney will pursue the charges. As I can best determine, Ms. Beeland has no prior criminal record.

While much has been made of the Taser question, is there not yet another issue? To me, this incident is symptomatic of the anger building up inside the average American as the more powerful trample over us in order to try to solidify their wealth and power. Over the years, I have written extensively on how we are victimized by the "business community," often with our own government acting on its behalf.

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From our school years forward, we are told that, in our great democracy, We The People are able to right all wrongs peaceably and by acting in a civilized manner. If the problem is with a particular law, we should write our Congressman. If that doesn't work, we should vote the bum out. If Big Business really gives us the business, we should sue the offending party.

However, it is when we follow such advice that we find out that things are not as they appear. We do not have the option of voting for anyone who will truly represent us, because an effective campaign cannot be run without the support of Big Business, who serves as gatekeeper to keep out those candidates who might run counter to their interests. If one of us tries to file a lawsuit, we will find out what "tort reform" really means as one of *our* lawsuits is thrown out as "frivolous." We are fast losing any lawful remedy available to right these wrongs.

This inevitably leads to the frustration that Elizabeth Beeland must have felt that fateful day, when she found herself on the wrong side of the law after being falsely accused of credit card theft. In one looks at the larger picture, in virtually all cases of social reform that have benefited the less powerful, they came about after much violence. For example, it took a bloody civil war in the 1860s to put an end to slavery. It is also noteworthy that the United States was the last civilized country to end human slavery.

Clearly, if history is a reliable guide, with established legal channels largely off limits to us, we may well see an upsurge of mass violence to right these wrongs. This is not completely lost on those in power. This might account for why both business and government have become extremely security conscious, and we continue to hear terms such as "terrorism" as a pretext to take away yet more of our civil rights. Clearly, they are running scared.

So scared, in fact, that even Ms. Beeland, who, while arguably rude and obnoxious, was clearly <u>not</u> violent, struck fear in the heart of the Daytona Beach Police Department. So, is our local yoga instructor, in fact, the *"shot heard around the world"*? Perhaps the better question should be asked of the powers that be: *"Why are you so frightened?"* Perhaps there *is* a raging storm brewing.

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muttering on the intercom told me and the rest of the crew that something else was wrong. When I finally understood what it was all about I realized that number one engine was also out of commission and feathered.

Ted called the group leader to report our predicament and notify him that we could no longer remain with the group. We would have to return to the base by ourselves. Ted had swung Goin' Dawg 180 degrees and called for a heading back to base.

I gave Ted a heading to fly hoping to get us out of Germany over the North Sea by the shortest course. This would take us northeast of Bremen heading northwest into the Wilhelmshaven area. His intention was to ride the top of the clouds, which were at about 11,000 feet. This plan increased the danger of flak damage but gave us a tremendous advantage to be able to escape enemy fighters by descending into the clouds if we were attacked.

At 11,500 feet we were skimming across the white fluffy clouds. At level flight we were able to maintain 120 knots. The world around us was a cloudless sky of the clearest blue and just below were clouds white as new fallen snow. With our oxygen masks and headphones blocking the sound of the engines we were in an ominous, peaceful stillness. There was no intercom chatter. After five or six minutes we were feeling more comfortable and Ted interrupted the relative silence with: "Keep an eye into the sun. We are at 11,000 feet which is a perfect position for fighters to come from above out of the sun. Keep alert!!"

A short time later, Walton our tail gunner quietly and calmly stated: "Fighters off in the distance at 6 o'clock. I can't tell if they are... Wait a minute.... they are coming our way."

Ted said. "Walton, watch them and tell me when we have to duck into the clouds. I don't want to let down unless it is urgent. We don't have enough power to pull back up once we commit our selves into the clouds."

"OK .... Now!!" Shouted Walton. "They're coming in fast. There's two of them!! Me210's, I think!"

Within seconds the white fluffy clouds were all around us. The blue sky was gone and we were letting down at 135 knots. I had my

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eye on the altimeter. 10,500 …10,000. Going down with almost zero visibility. I could see the inboard engines, one was propelling and the other had the sharp edges facing directly forward cutting the wind so no rotation was produced. Beyond the engines, the vague shape of the wing tips was visible.

"Navigator to crew.... we're below 10,000 feet. We won't be able to climb to altitude on two engines so remove your oxygen masks and try to relax. We're in the Bremen area of Germany." If we are forced to bail out for any reason it is a good long walk to Luxembourg, which is roughly southwest of this position. Beyond that is France and the Maginot Line, which is occupied by the Germans. If you head directly east you will come into the Netherlands. I have no information on whether they have an underground.

9,000 feet.... 8, 000 feet. Ted asked me to look at the wing tips to see if we were gathering any ice in the clouds. Peering through the haze of the clouds straining to see, a frightening series of explosions shocked me. "BANG!" sharp and crisp; a "BANG, BANG... BANG… BANG." Without our oxygen masks the sharpness of the explosions were nerve shattering. I had never experienced the sound of 88 mm explosions without the dampening effect of the masks. At 7,400 we were seeing flak bursts. Hearing and feeling the explosive "BARUMPH!!" when the bursts are close to the plane we experienced the disruption of the air and we felt the plane shudder. The flak was quite accurate…

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

THE TENTH STORY ***Continued***

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See you in Destin - or Tampa - or Denver!

Maggie Truelove, RVC10
3333 Honeysuckle Lane
Orlando, Florida 32812
407-855-9078 rvc10@cfl.rr.com

I had an interesting email exchange recently with a Region 10 member, telling me that she had forgotten to renew in the spring, just realized it and renewed in December. She was a long time member and definitely wanted to maintain membership. But she was wondering why she hadn't been contacted by her local group to remind her to renew. She had been around long enough to know that local groups can be reimbursed for contacting members who haven't renewed. And her local group didn't do it.

This made me start wondering, so I checked with national office. I found out that sadly this past year only three of Region 10's twelve groups had participated in the program to be reimbursed for contacting non-renewing members. Now I am urging the local groups to participate in this program. The local group is reimbursed $.50 for each lapsed member contacted. Since this can be done by phone call or email as well as snail mail, it can actually be a small money maker for the group. Technically I suppose this would fall within the realm of the membership officer's job description, but if your local group's membership officer is extremely busy, perhaps YOU could volunteer to help with this. And when you do, perhaps you could be the person whose contact helps someone decide to maintain their membership. (Yes, there have been short-term members who have told someone who asked that they didn't renew because they didn't feel like anyone in the group cared.) We are only at the beginning of the renewal period, which you need to do by April 1, so the time for the local groups to contact lapsed members isn't here yet, but this is a good time for a reminder so the LocSecs can be on the lookout for the information. I think it will be in the May mailing.

And speaking of renewals, officers and candidates for office, remember that you must renew your membership by April 1.

I occasionally receive email requests from members asking for someone's contact information. I generally tell them how to use the member directory available to all of us on the national website. Do you know about it? The directory is in the "members only" section, and you must have your membership number and password to access it. Type in the person's name, and if they are a member, click on the name again to bring up their contact information - if they have agreed for it to be listed, of course. Take some time to visit the national website. There is a lot of helpful and interesting information there, available for you to use.

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The ExComm met at the home of George Patterson on Wednesday, January 2, 2008. Called to order at 5:36 pm by LocSec George Patterson. *Members present*: George Patterson, Joe Smith, Terry Valek, and Bud Long. Thomas Wheat was unable to attend. Minutes for the December 5, 2007 meeting were approved as published in the January 2008 SCAM.

Reports:

Testing: Helen Lee Moore (proctor coordinator) reported that no candidates were tested in December.

Treasurer: Bud handed out the Treasurers Report which showed total funds at the end of December of $3658.32.

RG Committee: Bud, who is also the RG committee chairman, reported that he had acquired a couple more volunteers. There are plans to distribute flyers and hopefully sign up some attendees at the Smarti Gras, ValenTime, and ARR-RG RG's in Orlando, Destin, and Tampa Bay, respectively. In addition, advertising material would be sent to various Florida chapters for inclusion in their newsletters.

Old Business: George reported that after consulting with Terry, he had informed the Bylaws Committee that the ExComm was withdrawing the previously submitted proposed Bylaws. Some further amending was required to satisfy National's minimum standards. George moved that he be authorized to make such amendments and resubmit the proposed Bylaws. Seconded by Terry. Passed unanimously.

New Business: George reported that he had three volunteers for the 2008 NomElCom, He moved that Mike Moakley, Helen Lee Moore, and Wynn Rostek be appointed as the NomElCom. Seconded by Joe. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m. Next meeting will be at George Patterson's house at 301 Sand Pine Rd., Indialantic on Wednesday, February 6, 2007 at 5:30 pm.