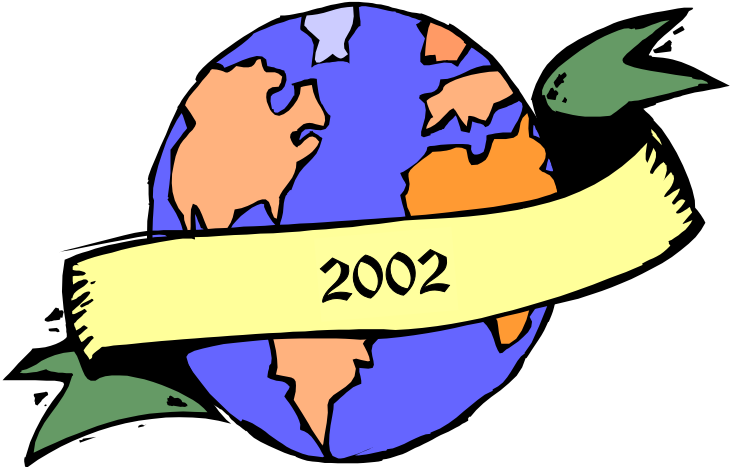


*The*

# SCAM

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*2001 Newsletter Owl Winner*



**Happy New Year!**



*The  
Newsletter*  
**SCAM**  
space coast regional mensa

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<b>Assembly/Circulation</b>	Helen Lee Moore	632-1831
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We will appreciate your submissions **legibly handwritten, typed, in e-mail text, or on 3.5 disk in IBM text or word-processing format.** We can receive your submissions by mail at: **P.O. Box 457, Sharpes FL 32959,** or submit via e-mail to: **morwood@cfl.rr.com**  
Subscription — \$10.00 for 12 issues.

### *Happy January Birthday*

- 01 – George D’Arcy
- 01 – William McCarter
- 02 – Rose Martinez
- 04 – Joseph Richardson
- 08 – Ramon Vicioso
- 12 – Arleigh Sharpe
- 12 – Albert Thomas
- 14 – Lee McLamb
- 14 – Barry Signorelli
- 27 – James Druckenmiller
- 28 – Joseph Carrier



### *Welcome to SCAM & Mensa*

*John Prince – Melbourne  
Aundrea Scott – Vero Beach*

### *Welcome to SCAM*

*Cheri Allen – Vero Beach  
Joseph Carrier – Cape Canaveral  
Suzanne Leichtling – Cape Canaveral  
Debra Saltzberg – Cocoa Beach*



**On the  
Firing Line**



**J.T. Moran**

**SCAM Editor**

Every now and then I take this opportunity to expound upon the duties and privileges of the Editor. This time around I would like to describe some of what I do with the contributions I receive each month to produce the copy of *The SCAM* you all enjoy.

The first thing I do with each piece of soft-copy (e-mail or floppy disk) is copy it to the appropriate month's directory on my hard drive. Hard copy, which is (thankfully) a rarity these days, is typed into a word processing program and saved to the same directory.

Each article is then rough-formatted to the font I prefer: 10.5 point Calisto MT, and the page setup is set for a print area width of approximately 4.6 inches and a height of 7.6 inches. This gives me a rough idea of how many pages an article will require in *The SCAM*. At this time I may begin looking for clipart or other image formats that may be needed to fill out an article. These images will be manipulated with image-editing software for two uses: print (300 dpi) and web (72dpi).

After the rough formatting, the files go back into the appropriate directory to await the final assembly of the newsletter. I am fortunate: most months I have more material than I can use in a 32-page issue. Some of our regular contributors, such as Art Belefant, keep ahead of the game with extra columns. This enables me to choose an article for length as well as for topic.

There are times when I will leave some information out of the newsletter. This is most evident in the Birthdays section on page 3 of every issue. It has been noted that while I do not print titles (such as "Doctor") or military rank (such as "Colonel"), I do acknowledge lineage (such as "Junior"). This is in no way intended to be disrespectful. Doing it this way not only saves a little space, it also maintains privacy. Some people might go looking for free advice from a Dr., or try to argue with a Col., so I forestall that by not advertising their hard-earned accomplishments. The lineages, however, can be necessary. We have had at least two Sr. – Jr. combos in SCAM.

Once everything has been gathered, I begin the layout of the issue. I try to have all major articles begin at the top of a page, but sometimes it just isn't in the cards. Columns by group officers I keep in front of the main articles, just for consistency, but I will put the RVC column wherever I have space (if I have any... it is never left out for any other reason.) My oft-stated rule is that local contributions have priority.

After layout has been achieved to my satisfaction, proofing, printing, and mailing occur. And then you, the readership, get to enjoy your copy of *The SCAM*.



*Still Lurking  
About.....*



*Jon Warner,  
LocSec*

**2**002! Another new year! The only disappointment of the turnover to 2000 was the lack of aircars, personal rocket belts, comfortable silver jumpsuits, monorail mass transit all over the country, etc. Do you remember the old science, fantasy & sci-fi magazines? We're supposed to be zooming around the country like Buck Rogers.

What happened? Basically science went in other directions that were never thought of, let alone given serious consideration. Computers and communications weren't as flashy as a flying car or a rocket belt. No one imagined that the space program would allow such advancements in electronics as we have seen in the last 20 years. Who could have imagined cell phones that allow you to check the stock market, talk to anyone in the world, check sports scores and current weather and news anytime, anywhere? How about the advancements in computers. Twenty years ago personal home computers were just starting and very expensive, and office computers were in the basic stages. In the homes was the Atari 2600 game with Space Invaders or PacMan. Look at the game machines now; they're incredible. They're so realistic that I can see some young boys falling in love with Lara Croft in "Tomb Raider" (not to mention the actress in the movie). Look at the computing power of the home computers. For all intents and purposes, anybody's home computer is more powerful and complex than the computer used on the Apollo XI moon landing craft.

But what really happened? Why did it go this way? I believe that America's love affair with the car and personal transportation never let mass transit really get a foothold. Yeah, it's fun to ride the monorail at Disney World or the people movers at the Orlando Airport, but they're not cost effective. They require enormous amounts of money to construct and maintain, and they're subject to any kind of glitch that can stop the whole system. With the personal automobile, the government only has to build the roads and maintain them. You have to buy the vehicle. You have to insure it. You have to fuel it. You have to get it fixed when it breaks. Now for the up side. An automobile is a personal statement about the kind of person you are. It also allows you to go anywhere, anytime, in quiet or with a stereo/radio playing "your" music at "your" volume. Mass transit just can't compete with that and never will. Also, with the accident rate of ground vehicles, can you imagine the carnage in the air if everyone was allowed to zoom around? The FAA has enough trouble trying to keep track of the airplanes flying now; imagine another 100 million cars, people, and small planes in the air. Never happened, never will. There may be some mass cargo transit system with small numbers of people in the future, but unless automobiles are banned, mass transit will die a colorful death.



**Minutes of the  
ExComm Meeting**



**Val Valek,  
RecSec**

Dec 2, 2001 16:11

The ExComm met at the BCC Planetarium following an enjoyable planetarium Christmas show.

Members present: **Jon Warner, Helen Lee Moore, Rita Johnson-Aronna, Bob Tuck, and Val Valek.**  
Guests present: Wynn Rostek and Pat Aronna.

**Correspondence**

Jon received Spring Directory information from National; Helen reports that National's SIGHT coordinators resigned. Jon received a PDQ summary for Scam

members.

**Minutes of the Nov meeting:** Helen **moves** to approve, Bob **seconds**, **passes** unanimously.

**Treasurer** - Helen provided a written report.

**LocSec, Ass't LocSec, RecSec, Member-at-Large, Ways & Means, Editor, Bylaws, Membership, Testing, Webmaster** -no reports

**Scholarship** – Last month Ellen Paul entrusted to me the following report, but I was unable to relay it because of car trouble: She received a MERF scholarship packet and would be relaying info to Bob so he could begin publicity. **This month's report** – Bob's doing a great job, as requests for applications are coming in.

**Publicity** – He received Ellen's info and has provided publicity regarding Merf.

**2002 RG** – Helen has signed a meal plan contract; \$23 for Saturday night buffet, \$14 for Sunday buffet, or both for \$36.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** none

**Open Forum:** none

**Announcements:** none

**Next meeting:** Val's house, Sunday January 6th at 6 p.m. Helen moved to adjourn. Val seconds. Passes unanimously at 16:37.



**FROM THE TREASURER:  
THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF  
SPACE COAST AREA MENSA**

The following report concerns the financial activity of the accounts of Space Coast area Mensa, and is being published herein as is required by the Bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd.:

# Semi-Annual Treasurer's Report

*June 1, 2001 - November 30, 2001*

Certificate of Deposit* Beginning Balance	4500.00
Certificate of Deposit* Ending Balance	3900.00
USPS Account Beginning Balance	58.77
USPS Account Ending Balance	99.20
General Fund Beginning Balance	1594.76
General Fund Ending Balance	1391.05

## General Fund Activity, December 1 2000 - May 31 2001

### *Income:*

Local Group Funding from AML	999.71
Transfer from CD	600.00
Miscellaneous	113.04

### *Expenses:*

Printing The SCAM	704.40
Postage	460.02
Scholarship award	500.00
2002 RG Hotel deposit	200.00
Miscellaneous	53.04

2002 RG Fund Beginning Balance	0
2002 RG Fund Ending Balance	868.94

## 2002 RG Fund Activity, June 1 2001 - November 30 2001

### *Income:*

Registration receipts	912.50
-----------------------	--------

### *Expenses:*

Account establishing fee	5.00
New Checks	13.56
Refund issued to winner of Comp.Regis.	25.00

Physical property, costing SCAM approximately \$900 when purchased, is accounted for.

Hand receipts are on file with the Treasurer.

\* The Certificate of Deposit is accumulating interest which will be included upon cashing out.



**Bob-At-Large:  
Europa, by Jove!**



**Bob Tuck,  
Member-at-Large  
© 2001**

Go outdoors this month after sunset and look eastwards. Shining brightly in the constellation Gemini, the Twins, the giant planet Jupiter beckons. If you have a pair of binoculars, note Jupiter's four largest satellites, easily visible as they attend the massive planet in their various orbits.

Whatever part this ponderous world played in our solar system's formation and evolution, its role in the history of modern science, particularly astronomy, remains pivotal. Nearly five centuries ago, the Italian physicist and astronomer Galileo (A.D. 1564-1642) turned his crude telescope upon this planet and its moons, and his reports of what he saw laid the foundations of today's world-view.

Thanks to such space probes as *Voyager I*, *Voyager II*, and *Galileo*, we now know these large moons – respectable planets in their own right, were they not tied to Jupiter's mighty gravitational tug -- as individual worlds. Each has a name, based upon Greco-Roman mythology surrounding the many mortal loves of the god Zeus/Jupiter: Ganymede (the biggest), Callisto, Io, and Europa (the smallest).



How these names came to be involves some messy tales and some unsavory characters, both mythological and real. Galileo had nothing to do with them.

Naturally, we start with Jupiter himself. The Romans also knew him as Jove, the king of the gods, but to the Greeks he was Zeus. Indeed, a bit of Indo-European language manipulation shows us that originally Latin came by "Jupiter" through linguistic changes from an earlier "Zeus-Pitar," or "Father Zeus."

Jupiter overthrew his Father Saturn (in Greek, Cronus), then drew lots with his brothers Poseidon and Hades to determine who would be the supreme ruler of the gods. Jupiter won the draw and became the ruler of Olympus and the patron of the ancient Roman state.

(Cronus, by the way, somehow long ago got confused with Chronos, "time." Saturn/Cronus originally was an agricultural god, who carried a sickle or scythe for harvesting grain. Now you know why our depictions of "Father Time" feature a hooded figure with a scythe that mows down all mortals.)

As rain god and lord of the heavens, Jupiter was an appropriate name for the king of the planets, and only Venus shines brighter in our sky. The god's weapon is a thunderbolt which he hurls at those who displease him. His divine consort Juno/Hera constantly fumed over his many affairs.

I *did* mention things would get a bit nasty.

Long ago, Europa, the daughter of Agenor, the Phoenician king of



Tyre, and sister of Cadmus, the legendary founder of Thebes, dreamt that the continent Asia argued that since Europa had been born in Asia she belonged to Asia. The other continent, which had no name, said that where Europa was born was not important, and that Jupiter would give Europa to the nameless continent. The following morning, Europa went off with her companions--a group of young maidens--to gather flowers by the sea. Jupiter (Zeus) noticed the lovely group and was especially taken by Europa, who was naturally the prettiest of the maidens. So Jupiter approached the group disguised as a beautiful, gentle, white bull, smelling of flowers and mooing musically. All the maidens rushed to stroke and pet it.

These girls certainly were not fainthearted.

Slyly, the bull knelt before Europa, who slid onto its back, perhaps expecting a gentle ride. Instead, the bull charged off, plunged into the sea, and swam away from the shore. A procession of gods soon joined them, and Europa realized the white bull must also be a god. She pleaded for pity, and Jupiter professed his love (read: lust), and that he was taking her to Crete. Upon arriving in Crete, Jupiter returned to his usual shape, throwing the bull's shape into the heavens where it became the constellation Taurus. Juno was distracted with other matters during this period, so she never punished Europa for having an affair with Jupiter. Jupiter promised Europa that she would bear him many famous sons. Europa bore Jupiter three sons, including Minos, legendary ancestor of the Minoan culture, about 3800 years ago, the first European civilization.

Strangely, not until Charlemagne (Charles the Great) (A.D. 742-814) established his rule in most of western and central lands north and west of Italy did the continent which he had conquered finally become known as "Europe."



"The Rape of Europa," is the subject of a painting by 16th century Italian renaissance painter Titian (1477?-1576), the greatest 16th-century Venetian painter and the shaper of the Venetian coloristic and painterly tradition. The abduction of Europa also has been the subject of paintings by many artists, in addition to Titian, including his fellow Italian Paolo Veronese (1528-1588), the Renaissance painter, who was one of the great masters of the Venetian school, and the French painter François Boucher (1703-1770), noted for his pastoral and mythological scenes which embodied the frivolity and sensuousness of the rococo style.

In 1610, Galileo – no stranger to politics -- wanted to call Jupiter's four





large satellites “the Medicean Planets,” after the Medici Italian banking and political family that ruled Florence for almost three centuries. He referred to the individual moons numerically as I, II, III and IV.

(More than a century and a half later, another astronomer, William Herschel [1738-1822], discovered the planet Uranus and called it “[King] George [the Third]’s Planet,” much to the disgust of American and European astronomers, whose views fortunately prevailed.)

Now enter one of astronomy’s most unsavory figures, Simon Marius (1570 or 1573-1624).

Also known as Simon Mayr, Marius was born in Gunzenhausen in the territory of the Margrave of Ansbach (south Germany). His father was mayor of the city in 1576. From 1586 to 1601, he studied (with interruptions) at the Margrave’s Lutheran academy at Heilbronn. During this period he became interested in astronomy, and his astronomical and meteorological observations began in 1594. In 1596 he wrote a tract on the comet of that year, and in 1599 he published a set of astronomical tables. These efforts resulted in his appointment as mathematician of the Margrave of Ansbach, in 1601. In that capacity he printed prognostications each year until his death. One of his first acts as the Margrave’s mathematician was to travel to Prague to learn Tycho Brahe’s observational techniques and instruments. Brahe died that year, and Marius’s stay in Prague lasted only four months. He then went to Padua to study at the university there. He quickly became active in the German student association, the “German Nation,” there and was its head in 1604-1605.



In 1602 Marius began tutoring Baldessar Capra (a rich student from Milan) in mathematics and astronomy. The two observed the nova of 1604, and with Marius’s help Capra published a book on that new star. In 1607 Capra published under his own name Galileo’s instruction manual on the sector, which circulated in manuscript. For this Capra was expelled from the university. It appears that Marius had an important role in this plagiarism, but he had returned to his native land in 1605. In Italy, however, Marius’s reputation was tarnished by this fraud and by certain other questionable practices as head of the German Nation.

Upon his return from Italy, Marius settled in the city of Ansbach as court mathematician and married Felicitas Lauer, the daughter of his publisher. In 1609 he published the first German translation (from the Greek) of the first six books of Euclid’s Elements. But Marius’s most memorable (and controversial) research involved the telescope.

In the fall of 1608, Marius learned from an artillery officer that at the Frankfurt Fair a Dutchman had tried to sell him a spyglass. Together the

two quickly reproduced the device by using spectacle lenses but it was not until at least a year later that Marius obtained instruments good enough for astronomical observations. Marius's oldest surviving observation of Jupiter's satellites dates from the end of December 1610. In his prognostications for 1612, finished in March 1611, he stated that he had observed Jupiter's moons since December 1609 and was busy determining the periods of the satellites.

In 1614 Marius published the fruits of his research on Jupiter in a book entitled *Mundus Iovialis anno M.DC.IX Detectus Ope Perspicilli Belgici* ("The Jovian World, discovered in 1609 by means of the Dutch Telescope"), in which he claimed that he had observed Jupiter's moons beginning as early as late November 1609 and had begun recording his observations on 29 December. Now Marius was using the Julian calendar, and this date corresponds to 8 January on the Gregorian calendar.

Since Marius did not publish any observations, as Galileo had done in his *Sidereus Nuncius*, it is impossible to verify Marius's claim. His reputation was, however, not the highest. Galileo responded to Marius's claim in 1623. He began by complaining about those who had tried to steal his inventions and then took special aim at Marius.

After making an argument about the inclinations of the orbits of the satellites to the ecliptic, Galileo turned his attention to the date on which Marius claimed to have discovered the satellites:

"Next, notice the craft with which he tries to show himself prior to me. I wrote in my *Sidereal Messenger* of making my first observation on the seventh of January, 1610, continuing then with others on the succeeding nights. Along comes Marius, and, appropriating my very observations, he prints in the title page of his book and again in the opening part of his work that he had already made his observations in the year 1609, trying to give people the idea that he was first. Now the earliest observation that he produces as made by him is the second one made by me; yet he announces it as made in the year 1609. What he neglects to mention to the reader that since he is outside our church and has not accepted the Gregorian calendar, the seventh day of January of 1610 for us Catholics, is the same as the twenty-eighth day of December of 1609 for those heretics. So much for the priority of his pretended observations."

Galileo perhaps went a bit overboard. It appears certain that Marius was observing Jupiter's moons by December 1610. Yet, Marius did not produce any actual observations of the moons in his book, and the few examples he gives all date from 1613. Regardless of this priority question, Marius was the first to publish tables here of the motions of the satellites. *Mundus Iovialis* also contains a telescopic discovery whose priority has never been disputed: in 1612 he was the first to observe the Andromeda galaxy, which could not be resolved into stars at that time.

In 1614, Marius provided the names of the Jupiter's moons that we are

familiar with today, based on a suggestion from Johannes Kepler (1571 - 1630):

“Jupiter is much blamed by the poets on account of his irregular loves. Three maidens are especially mentioned as having been clandestinely courted by Jupiter with success. Io, daughter of the River, Inachus; Callisto of Lycaon; Europa of Agenor. Then there was Ganymede, the handsome son of King Tros, whom Jupiter, having taken the form of an eagle, transported to heaven on his back, as poets fabulously tell . . . I think, therefore, that I shall not have done amiss if the First is called by me Io, the Second Europa, the Third, on account of its majesty of light, Ganymede, the Fourth Callisto . . . ” “This fancy, and the particular names given, were suggested to me by Kepler, Imperial Astronomer, when we met at Ratisbon fair in October 1613. So if, as a jest, and in memory of our friendship then begun, I hail him as joint father of these four stars, again I shall not be doing wrong.”

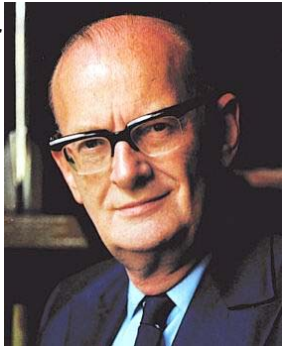


Europa is about the same size as earth's moon, but has virtually no distinct craters on its icy (frozen H<sub>2</sub>O) surface. Cratering is viewed as an aging process by planetologists; crater-counts are believed to be an indication of the youth of a particular planetary surface-the fewer the craters the younger the surface. Europa also has an ensemble of interlaced

cracks in its surface, reminiscent of cracks in an egg-shell, that indicate active tectonics within the ice sheet. A strong inference is that these fissures have been eruptive sites from which liquid water has intermittently flowed out onto the satellite's surface erasing the traces of impact craters. Because Io, the innermost Jovian satellite, supports highly active volcanic systems driven by internal tidal friction, the suspicion lurks that similar, although much less intense, heating may exist in the subsurface of Europa, accounting for the resurfacing processes that involve the effusion of onto the planetary surface.

In 1982, Arthur C. Clarke (1917 - ) penned *2010: Odyssey Two*, which included an account of Chinese astronauts encountering life-forms beneath Europa's icy crust. It was classic Clarke fiction. A somewhat changed version of Clarke's original novel made it into movie theaters soon thereafter.

Meanwhile, one of the most compelling insights to emerge from more than 15 years of research on submarine volcanic-hydrothermal systems on earth is idea that volcanoes in the presence of liquid water can sustain life on this planet and



perhaps other planets. Whether life can originate in such systems is controversial, but the evidence is unequivocal regarding the linkages between volcanic processes as we know them and abundant carbon-based life forms on and below the sea-floor in the vicinity of active spreading centers. Because of the extreme conditions around these volcanic systems, bacteria found thriving there now are known as “extremophiles.”

Somewhat later, some scientists suggested examining surface materials recently erupted onto the surface of Europa, or somehow penetrating the ice sheets and exploring the subsurface ocean on Europa with autonomous underwater rovers in search of life.

Fast-forward to December 2001.

Astrogeophysicist Brad Dalton got to wondering what caused the red tinge of Jupiter’s satellite Europa, as revealed by the *Galileo* probe’s several recent close flybys. *New Scientist* magazine recounted Dalton’s inquiry.

Europa is mostly frozen water, but it absorbs infrared radiation differently to how normal ice does. Researchers think this is because something is binding the water molecules together. Salts of magnesium sulphate frozen within the ice, for example, would make the molecules vibrate at different frequencies. But no one has managed to come up with the perfect mix of salts to explain all of Europa’s spectrum.

Dalton wondered if something else was bound up with the water molecules.

“Just on a lark, I asked a colleague of mine at Yellowstone if he had any infrared spectra of extremophile bacteria,” he says, and he was shocked by how well they matched Europa’s mysterious spectrum. Then he analyzed three kinds of bacteria under the same sort of conditions as Europa: its temperature is about  $-170^{\circ}\text{C}$  and at 0.01 millibars it has virtually no atmosphere. Preliminary results show that all three species, the ordinary gut bacteria *Escherichia coli*, and the extremophiles *Deinococcus radiodurans* and *Sulfolobus shibatae*, are just as good at explaining Europa’s infrared spectrum as the salts. However, Dalton says the two species that thrive under extreme conditions are obviously more likely candidates for life on the icy moon. They also happen to be pink and brown, which would help explain the red patches on the moon’s face. Bacteria couldn’t survive on Europa’s surface, but there might be liquid water inside Europa’s icy crust capable of supporting life. “They could be blasted out to the surface in some kind of eruption and flash frozen,” says Dalton. He plans to present his results at the Lunar and Planetary Science conference next spring.

These intriguing suggestions cry out for further, close-up investigations. It would be pleasant if Clarke, who just turned 84, gets to enjoy yet another triumph of savvy foresight and rightly proclaims, “Europa, by Jove!”



## **Your Health**



### **OxyContin**

**Ann Schindler**

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**O**xyContin is an opiate pain reliever approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 1995 for the relief of moderate to severe pain. It was intended for use in chronic pain sufferers as cancer patients or those with other maladies as severe back problems where pain is constant and is expected to continue for an extended period of time. The active ingredient is oxycodone hydrochloride and it is supplied in 10 to 160 milligram tablets. OxyContin is also sold under the brand names M-Oxy, Oxyir, Percolone, and Roxicodone. Oxycodone is also the active ingredient in other pain medications as Percocet, Tylox, and Endocet, though only at a 2.5 to 7.5 milligram level. OxyContin is manufactured to be a time-release medication, working over a 12-hour period of time. It is swallowed whole, never broken, crushed, or chewed. When on a medication of this type, it is recommended that the patient use caution when operating an automobile, heavy machinery, or other dangerous equipment. It is recommended that the patient check with their physician about the use of other medications while on OxyContin in order to eliminate dangerous drug interactions. The use of alcoholic beverages with oxycontin is also contraindicated. Because of its effectiveness and the time-release action necessitating only a twice daily dosage, OxyContin has become very popular and more than 6.9 million prescriptions were written nationwide last year.

Opiate drugs work by attaching to proteins, called opioid receptors, found in the brain, spinal cord, and gastrointestinal tract. Pain messages are blocked when the drug attaches to these receptors. Another effect is the perception of pleasure, and euphoria can result. The drug can also affect respiration and depress breathing, and death can occur at higher doses or in the infirm patient. Chronic use can result in tolerance so that higher dosages are needed for the same effect. Continued use can result in physical dependence and if the drug is withdrawn, the body will react with symptoms that include yawning, sneezing, restlessness, dizziness, pain, insomnia, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, cold sweats, and muscle twitching. The web site "How Stuff Works" found at [www.howstuffworks.com](http://www.howstuffworks.com), has a site search where you can type in the word OxyContin and multiple articles are brought up which will give you an immense amount of information.

According to an article in the Florida Today newspaper on October 14, 2001, OxyContin has been linked to the deaths of 29 people in Brevard County in the past 18 months, the highest per capita rate in Florida. The article further stated that in the first 6 months of this year, 243 people died from oxycodone or hydrocodone (a weaker form) in Florida, an increase of 153 from the prior 6-month period. While the medication works well for most people who have it prescribed, OxyContin users can become addicted and many others obtain it to use illegally. Referred to as a "poor man's heroin," it is not as difficult to find as heroin, the morphine-like high lasts longer, and

does not carry the same stigma as the use of heroin. When OxyContin is crushed or broken, the chemical that controls the time-release property fails. The drug can be snorted or mixed with water, then heated and injected. The high lasts longer than with heroin, 6 hours as opposed to 2 hours.

Illegal use of OxyContin includes forgery of prescriptions, faking injuries in order to obtain a prescription, seeking several doctors to write a like prescription which is then filled in several different pharmacies, theft from drug stores, or buying it from legitimate users or drug dealers. The drug manufacturer, Purdue Pharma, has recently begun a campaign to discourage the use of OxyContin, particularly among teenagers and the manufacturer has taken its strongest dose pill, the 160 mg. tablet, off the market. The manufacturer is also developing a way to manufacture the pill so that if it is tampered with or crushed, its narcotic effects would be destroyed. There is now a limit on the number of tablets that can be filled per month for Medicaid patients.

There are many legitimate users of OxyContin, and when used properly, it is a safe medication. Without it, those who suffer in torment would find their lives would be intolerable due to constant intractable pain. OxyContin has helped these people live more comfortably. What must be found is a way to curb the illegal use of OxyContin, ways to track prescriptions, and ways to educate the public about opiates and drug abuse. OxyContin is an excellent medication when used properly, but disaster in the wrong hands.

### Sources

OxyContin, Oxycodone HCl Controlled-Release Tablets, Package Insert. 25 April 2001. Online. Purdue Pharma L.P. Internet. 12 October 2001. Available [http://www.purduepharma.com/PRESSROOM/PI/OXYCONTIN\\_PL.PDF](http://www.purduepharma.com/PRESSROOM/PI/OXYCONTIN_PL.PDF)

OxyContin Information: FDA Strengthens Warnings for OxyContin; Questions and Answers. 26 July 2001. Online. U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Internet. 31 October 2001. Available <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/oxycontin/default.htm>

Touhy, John. Powerful painkiller has a lethal legacy. Florida Today 14 October 2001: A1, A8.



I always enjoy the SCAM newsletter, especially "A View... From Somewhere Else". Hank Rhodes usually presents typical hackneyed liberal viewpoints. His column is fun to read for the predictability of its political slant. Also, like most liberals, he rarely seems to let facts get in the way of his opinions.

In the December newsletter, Hank talks about the distinctive odor of equine and bovine offal that lingers around working farms and seems to be covering Afghanistan ten feet over. Could he actually mean

manure? Offal is the term for waste animal parts, and anyone who has toured a slaughterhouse is familiar with that odor.

Anyone who has spent any time in the proximity of a liberal is very familiar with the distinctive odor of manure.

*David Michael Miller*

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**M**y daughter is a member of Mensa and she passes *The SCAM* to me because she knows that I really enjoy reading all the different points of view, the in-depth presentations and well, just about everything.

I was Editor-in-Chief of my college literary magazine and I agree 100% with your point of view about what to include in each issue. I felt that I was the mirror reflecting the student body, not the censor.

There are two sides to everything, even a thinnest sheet of paper or eternity.

You are doing a great job.

*Eileen Drew*

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**I** want to let you know I just got through your fabulous November "SCAM." Your group really deserves the Owl! The newsletter you edit is one notable exception to a feeling I've developed over my thirteen months as a fellow editor of a local Mensa newsletter, that feeling being that, in general, the most creative, interesting newsletters are the ones that come from the Midwest, particularly the northern reaches therein. You're lucky to have so many gifted writers in your chapter. This issue of "SCAM" stands out especially as the most memorable one of this month's crop (which, to be honest, is skimpy in number, I suppose because of the anthrax problems at the Post Office). I enjoyed every one of your columnists' articles. Of course, I always get enjoyment (and enlightenment) out of Ann Schindler's columns. Your own column about schooling was very interesting, as well, as was Hank Rhodes's essay. Even though I'm no cook, I found Art Belefant's column to be a pleasant read.

The real sleeper for me, though, was Bob Tuck's long essay, which I skipped over after getting through the first two pages. After getting through the rest of the issue and still having some time to read, I went back to it and picked up with the "Adam's tools" section. This talk about archeology, entomology and other stuff turned out to be down right engaging! I liked Bob's good use of English, too (such as his use of the word "presently" to mean "shortly," a sense hardly anymore heard).

*Russ Nevins*, Editor, "*Capital M*,"  
Metropolitan Washington (DC) Mensa





***A View... From  
Somewhere Else  
The Line of  
Maginot: Part I  
by  
Hank Rhodes  
©2001***

Lately, the author has noted increased usage of “Maginot Line” in public discourse, and considers it useful to explore the origin of this term.

The Maginot Line, in a literal sense, refers to a chain of fortifications built by France along its border with Germany in the 1930s. To understand how this came to be, and its broader implications, one must first understand the national mood of the French at the conclusion of World War I.

Although the popular image of World War I involves the advent of new technology- tanks, submarines, and especially aircraft- that conflict is best characterized by infantry men in trenches, who occasionally pushed the enemy back a few hundred yards at a horrendous cost of lives. Improvements in weapons, particularly the machine gun, had precluded maneuver warfare, dictating a largely defensive conflict, and at the risk of oversimplifying, resulted in a static slaughter. This war of stalemate went on for over four years. Although the fighting finally ended with what was more of a cease-fire than a decisive victory on the battlefield, the Germans were treated as the losers.

France was among the victor nations, in a position to dictate the terms of settlement at the peace conference, held at the Palace of Versailles outside the French capital. In addition to imposing harsh measures on Germany, the French recovered a region, Alsace-Lorraine, which the Germans had taken as a prize after humiliating the French in their previous war, of 1870.

While victorious, France was a nation in crisis. Much of the fighting had occurred on her soil, resulting in ruined farmland and bombed-out towns throughout her eastern regions. Additionally, the nation was deeply in debt from wartime expenditures. Worse yet, the French had suffered over 1,900,000 men killed or missing, and about 4,300,000 wounded. A Frenchman entering his country’s Army during World War I had a 73% chance of being killed or suffering a disabling wound. The carnage and futility had become so bad that large portions of the French Army mutinied in the summer of 1917. This mutiny was only put down by a shakeup in the upper ranks, promised reforms in soldier’s living conditions, and a wide-spread morale boost due to the arrival of the initial units of the American Expeditionary Force.

The Treaty of Versailles prevented Germany from maintaining a significant military, and placed portions of Germany under allied occupation. Nonetheless, the French harbored a deep fear of another sudden invasion by the Germans. Contributing to this sense of fear was the fact that Germany’s population was 70 million and growing, while the population of France was stable at 40 million. Due to the effects of the war, French government statisticians projected a serious drop in the number of

men eligible for military service in the mid-1930s, when many of the conditions imposed on Germany by the Treaty of Versailles would begin to expire.

After much internal debate, the French government decided to prevent the national nightmare by relying on a series of strong fortifications, stretching along the border with Germany, from Switzerland to Belgium, a distance of approximately 220 miles.

The forts were constructed in varying sizes with reinforced concrete. The armament was primarily anti-tank guns, howitzers, and machine guns, mounted in retractable, revolving turrets, and in thick-walled fixed casemates. Ahead of this line of forts were arrays of tank traps, barbed wire, and land mines. Additionally, to sustain the forts, there were barracks, magazines (secure explosive storage), power stations, provisions, medical wards, ventilation systems, and command and control centers. Most of these support facilities, were located below ground, and many of the fortifications themselves were partly buried below grade, to provide the minimum target for the enemy's artillery. Tying this complex together were tunnels, and a railroad system.

The Maginot Line did not form a continuous wall, but was designed to present a near-continuous field of fire along the dangerous border with Germany. Upon completion, this system of defenses was considered to be the apex of military engineering.

For an attack to succeed, sappers would first need to clear a path for an attacking force through the barbed wire, minefields, and tank traps, all without attracting attention. Once past the line of obstacles, the main body of the invading force would face a low hill, with a few strange humps at the crest. Upon advancing closer, the humps would rise slightly out of the ground, and fire armor-penetrating shells, or sweep the field by machine gun. Attempting to flank the hill, the invading force would come under machine gun fire from a blockhouse built into the side of the hill, and also from its twin, a few hundred yards away on the opposite side of the valley. Avoiding this low ground by moving farther to the flank, the attackers would face another hill, which would be the broad field of fire from another set of retractable turrets. All this, without a single French soldier appearing to present himself as a target.

Although many members of the French government championed the concept of the defensive line, the name most associated with it is that of Andre Maginot (1877-1932). Maginot was a politician who became Undersecretary of War at the unusually young age of 36. Despite his high government station, upon the outbreak of World War I he enlisted as a common soldier, and received a disabling wound at the battle of Verdun. After the war, Maginot returned to government, holding several cabinet offices. As Minister of Pensions, he was diligent in assuring the veterans were compensated fully and promptly. By all accounts, Maginot appears

to be among that rarest of breeds, a career politician who was efficient, honest, and dedicated to public service.

Maginot was instrumental in assuring sufficient funds were appropriated for the defensive system, and construction began while he was Minister of War. Maginot actually had nothing to do with its design, and died well before the system of fortifications was completed.

It is important to note what the Maginot Line was designed to do, and what it was never intended to do. The Maginot Line was planned to protect France from a sudden attack from Germany across their common border, using the minimum number of troops. Once the attack was stopped, the designers envisioned the remainder of the standing Army, the mobilized reserve, and the available conscripts would counterattack using the forts as a base.

The Maginot Line was not originally intended as France's sole means of defense. The Maginot Line was never intended to circumscribe the French military's ability to conduct offensive operations.

*The second part of this article will discuss the weaknesses of the French plan, some surprising facts about the performance of the Maginot Line, and how, rightly or wrongly, it has become a metaphor.*

### Notes

Primary sources for this article are: *The Maginot Line: Myth and Reality*, by Anthony Kemp, New York: Military Heritage Press, 1988, and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.



### **The Gourmet's Guide:**

### **Mustard**

by

**Art Belefant**

©2001

(belefant@juno.com)

**E**nglish: mustard. The English word derives ultimately from the Latin *mustus* meaning new or fresh and is often applied to wine. "Must" in English connotes new or unfermented wine. In ancient Rome mustard as a condiment was made with ground mustard seeds and new wine. The Latin origins of the word is evident in the similar words used in the Romance languages as seen below. We got our word from the French as well as many other words for foods. The

Arabic and Greek words are loan words or borrowings from other languages.

Arabic: *moosturda* (phonetic)

Chinese: *jie* (phonetic)

Dutch: *mostard*

French: *moutarde*

German: *senf*

Greek: *sinapi*(phonetic), *moustarada* (phonetic)

Hebrew: *hardal* (phonetic)

Italian: *mostarda*  
Japanese: *garashi* (phonetic)  
Portuguese: *mostarda*  
Spanish: *mostaza*  
Russian: *garcheesta* (phonetic)  
Turkish: *hardal*

Both the leaves and the seeds of the mustard plant are used culinarily. The leaves are a common but localized green or salad vegetable, but it is the seeds that provide the most interest. Mustard is most often used in a prepared bottled form as a condiment, however the seeds are also used directly for flavoring in pickles, corned beef, and other dishes. Mustard paste is used medicinally to provide heat locally to strained muscles.

The mustard plant is in a large family of plants called Cruciferae. Cruciferae takes its name from the four-petalled cross-shaped flower that is common to this family. The Cruciferae family furnishes many of our edible vegetables including the cabbages and radishes - cabbage, kohlrabi, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels spouts, bok choy, rutabaga, cress, watercress, horse radish, radish, and turnip; edible seeds such as rape and mustard; cultivated flowers - rose of Jericho, wallflower, stock, rocket, and alyssum; and wild flowers - peppergrass and shepherds-purse.

Several species of mustard are grown commercially for the seed to make the condiment; however there seems to be some confusion in the literature as to their common and botanical names.



***Brassica juncea*** is sometimes called brown, oriental, Indian, leaf mustard, or greens.

***Brassica alba***, ***Brassica hirta***, or ***Sinapis alba*** is known as white mustard and is sometimes called yellow mustard.

***Brassica nigra*** is black mustard.

Each of the species has many varieties and cultivars. Manufacturers use these or other species and varieties in their products in order to obtain the particular taste desired. Generally, white or yellow mustard seeds are milder than the brown or black.

Mustard as a condiment goes back at least to Roman times as evidenced by its name. For use as a condiment, mustard seeds are ground to a fine flour, although in some products, a coarse grinding is used. Various, the husks of the seeds are sifted out (American style) or included in (German style) the product. To the ground product, water, vinegar, and/or wine is added to make a paste. It is only when the liquid is added and the product is allowed to ferment that the characteristic taste of mustard is developed.

In addition to the common yellow, brown, Dijon, and honey mustards found on grocery shelves, there are specialty mustards that are made with various additives such as spices, nuts, fruits, and other flavorings. This is not a modern concept. A fifteenth century recipe for making mustard includes saffron, pepper, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, and mace. Added spices are common in older mustard recipes. Today, spices are often included under the generic term “spices” in even the most inexpensive packaged mustards. Old recipes often include honey, not to sweeten the condiment, but to soften the taste. This is not now common in ordinary mustards, probably because some of the harshness has been bred out of the mustard seeds, although Grey Poupon, French’s, and other companies do make sweetish honey-mustards.

Typical mustards can be classified according to their national origins.

American mustards are commonly of the yellow mustard type (*S. alba*), although brown, such as Gulden’s, and Dijon, such as Grey Poupon, are available. Most of the mustard sold in the U. S. is the simple “yellow mustard” type consisting of mustard flour, water, and vinegar. Often turmeric and paprika are added to enhance the color. American yellow mustard is generally mild.



Chinese mustard, the kind served in most Chinese-American restaurants is quite hot.

English mustard is also quite hot. Colman’s says that brown (*B. juncea*) and white (*S. alba*) are the only mustards used in their product and that is typical of other English mustards. English mustards, made at home from powder, are usually made with water.



French mustard (Dijon) is made with verjuice (must) instead of vinegar. The mustard seed is *B. nigra*. There are two subcategories of Dijon mustard - Bordeaux and Burgundy, depending on which wine is used in the making.

German mustard has some sweetness to it.

Mustard is such an important culinary commodity that it has its own museum at 100 Main Street in Mount Horeb in Wisconsin. Wisconsin seems to be an appropriate location for a Mustard Museum as it is in a region where there are many ethnic Germans. Can you imagine wursts without mustard?

From February 2 to April 6, 2002 there will be a Mustard Festival in Napa Valley, California. What Napa Valley has to do with mustard, I don’t know, unless there is more Dijon-style mustard being sold than I am aware of.



**A View  
from the Right:  
Freedom of  
Speech? Not For  
Everyone**

by

**J.T. Moran**

(morwood@cfl.rz.com)

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.*

**G**rand words, aren't they? For those of you unfamiliar with the sentiments expressed, that is the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. You know, the Bill of Rights?

This is the single most abused and, in my opinion, misunderstood of all of the Bill of Rights. It has been interpreted by different courts to create "rights" that have no other foundation in reality, and by other organizations to create "rights" that have no foundation in legality, than any other Amendment to the Constitution.

The very first clause of the First is one that has been twisted in meaning in a way only rivaled by the twisting of the Second. No law has ever been passed, nor have I been able to find any reference to any proposed law to establish a religion in this country. However, the prohibition of the free exercise of religion has been mandated by the courts of this country for the last 40 or so years. How so? Through the application of the non-existent "separation of Church and State" doctrine.

The merest perusal of the writings of the Founders, no less the deepest study, will disclose that no such doctrine was ever considered, nor intended, in the interpretation of the First Amendment. To the contrary. Many official functions of our government have always begun with a prayer to God. Traditionally, each new Congress begins its first session with a prayer by a religious person. Also traditionally, the President of the United States is sworn in upon a bible. Many other functions begin in like manner. So why is it that prayer in almost every other public venue has been banned as a violation of the First Amendment?

Then we have the freedom of speech. Laws abridging that freedom are easy to find – just look at every politically correct piece of "hate crime" legislation. The worst thing about this abridgement is that it is not only approved of by those institutions traditionally antipathetic to any such restriction – the colleges and universities of America; those same halls of "free discourse" practice it as assiduously as any religious fundamentalist proselytizes his faith. It supposedly falls under the First as a **Right to Not Be Offended**, although the Founders clearly intended it to guarantee and encourage the kind of discourse that will ALWAYS be offensive to someone – political speech. Yet today the First is constantly violated by laws and court decisions that place peoples' feelings above the constitutionality of the act. And even worse, the decisions are capricious, in that only certain protected groups may enjoy the protection engendered by these violations, while others are forced to accept ignominy and blasphemy (remember

clause #1) in the name of others “First Amendment right of freedom of expression.”

Then we come to the “*Freedom of the Press.*” This was intended as a guarantee against **GOVERNMENT** control of the newspapers (obviously, the Founders had no basis for even the concept of the electronic media), ala *Pravda* and *Tass* of the Soviet Union.

Yet the media, beginning with the newspapers, began abusing this constitutional freedom. The “Yellow Journalism” of newspapers was bad enough, but the infringements to the people’s privacy (I do not believe there is a constitutional “*Right to Privacy*”, no matter what the Court decreed) accelerated with the dawn of television. Now the foremost, non-existent right became the people’s “*Right to Know*”, another one that has no basis in the Constitution.

But the biggest blow to the Freedom of the Press was self-inflicted. The media made stars out of its reporters, often to the point that the media star became more important than the news. Reporting what happened no longer was enough. Soon the media was reporting what **THEIR** take on events was... no need for you to think for yourself. Eventually the media began **CREATING** news stories for the sake of ratings... even falsifying them for political agendas. So is it any wonder that the media is now held in a level of regard that used to be the sole domain of used-car salesmen?

Even the *Right to Peaceably Assemble* is frequently abridged, especially on college campuses. Even during the aftermath of Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, especially in California (but not exclusively so), anti-war rallies were permitted on-campus without comment by liberal administrations, while pro-war rallies were banned because of the possibility of “offending” non-American students. Yet this constitutional Right was intended to protect just that – the ability to gather for political discourse.

Freedom of expression for political purposes is a right guaranteed under the First Amendment. At least it is for liberals. You can burn an American flag on campus (or anyplace else, just about) and have everyone from the ACLU on down defending your right to do it. However, just try **DISPLAYING** the flag (or a representation of it) in support of the government, or the military, or even the President, and many of those same types will protest that you are offending someone, or frightening non-American students, etc., and will ban such displays. In other words, to all too many of America’s left-wing academic community, patriotism is considered insensitive, unacceptable, and **Un-American!** But what else should we expect from the bastions of political correctness?

The First is but one of the amendments contained in the Bill of Rights that is under attack. If it falls much further though, you will not even be permitted to protest its demise.





**At Your Service**



**Clara  
Woodall-Moran,  
Membership Chair**

It is once again my sad duty to report the loss of SCAM member. Capt. Thomas L. Moyer, 47, U. S. Army (Ret.), passed away at home on November 13<sup>th</sup>. His wife, Yoshie and daughter Tami have our condolences.

As the membership chairperson it is my obligation to get answers to questions from the members (and even, the non-members, lapsed members and so forth). This answer is a bit late in coming but here goes.

The question presented is about space allocations in the newsletter. The short answer is: "because I said so" from the editor but that does not suffice for the following question: "Why is the Recording Secretary allocated (and restricted) to only one page when authors such as Bob Tuck are allowed many more pages?" The questioner seemed to believe this was unfair. *[Ed. Note: two pages have always been allocated for the minutes. I appreciate that they are done in one - leaves more space for the creative people.]*

To compare the minutes of the meetings page with the creative works of the other authors is comparing apples to eggplant. Both types of columns appear in the newsletter but one must be strictly accurate the other may be fact, essay, fiction, research and/or opinion. The minutes are published as the official record of the business of the running the local chapter. While the business of running SCAM is not globally important, there is no less an obligation for accuracy on the part of any officer. Therefore, everything in the official records must be "accurate" and the only way to have accurate renderings of the discussions that have taken place at any meeting is to repeat them word for word. If any interpretation or abridgement is done to the discussion it becomes, immediately, inaccurate. This is regardless of how well and/or well intentioned the person who creates the abridgement is in creating the abridgement. Hence, we don't allow the discussion to be published as official records unless it is published in its entirety. We do make tapes of the meetings and copies of the tapes are available. [While I served as LocSec I did not allow the overwrite of the tapes month to month and still have copies of all of the meetings for anyone's listening pleasure.] We allow members and non-members access to the tapes from each meeting. All members and guests are permitted to attend all meetings of the ExComm and the RG committees so the administration is working completely in the sunshine.

So, if only the business of the meetings is permitted as the official published record, the RecSec should not need more than a single page to cover everything. The discussions can be presented as a creative column by anyone choosing to do so, but it will not be considered part of the official records. And, so we see that "fair or unfair" does not figure into this equation of space allocation.

Keep the questions coming.



## **Buckle My Swash**



**“Schiffer - Branes”**

by  
**Kenneth**

**Thornton-Smith**

© 2001

**S**o, Professor Schiffer, can you explain your latest findings to our listeners?”

*“This has been a very exciting time for those of us in Psycho-Biometrics, learning to apply these new diagnostic parameters to many species for the first time...”*

“Er, I see. Can you tell our listeners how you discovered the Index and what it may be used for?”

*“Certainly. I got this idea from Heidi, our lab goat, when I realized that her droppings exceeded the average goat cranial capacity by 3.7 to 4.3%. With a margin of error of less than 1.6%; this is quite conclusive.”*

“By ‘cranial capacity’ you mean the brain?”

*“Yes, the brain size closely follows the volume of the cranial cavity. We looked at a few other species and, sure enough, their higher brain activity also correlated along the same lines. For instance, the humble rabbit scores 0.82 to 0.91!”*

“And does this hold true for other animals?”

*“So far we have applied this to many animals with remarkable results. My colleague, Dr. Raymond Branes is categorizing various species, starting with higher mammals, by their SBCF.”*

“That would be ... the Index?”

*“Exactly. The Schiffer-Branes Cerebro-Fecal Index is an accurate indicator of higher brain function.”*

“And what exactly does that mean?”

*“Well, that means simply that an animal that has a stool volume that’s larger than its brain is, in human terms, two fries short of a Happy Meal.”*

“Not too bright, then?”

*“That’s putting it mildly - we have established that bright only really starts when an animal’s brain is bigger than its toilet token...”*

“So would this apply to, say, a Brontosaurus?”

*“Yes, dinosaurs are a good example – they had minute brains and left behind meadow mierda the size of... well, the size of a meadow. And especially the Brontosaurus, which went extinct after the K-T event and then went extinct again in the 1970s when they found that the real head was much smaller than the one it had accidentally acquired. Turns out they were not as intellectually well-endowed as the single-digit IQ they were originally credited with...”*

“What about other animals ... the camel?”

*Yes, interesting. As you know, desert doo-doo can be enormous – often bigger than the entire head, so camels have SBCFs around 0.73.”*

“And something unusual... say, an armadillo?”

*“Yes, the armadillo... Dr. Blanes managed to acquire some burrow burgers so we have a preliminary figure of 0.62. Quite a good score for a lifeform that won the Nobel Prize for going ‘Duh?’”*

“It did?”

*“No, it was a joke.”*

“Oh, er, what about birds... a pigeon, for instance?”

*“That’s a tough one. First, there are complex dietary and humidity factors that cause huge variations in perch pudding. This has made calculations difficult. Secondly, this is compounded because the pigeon is off the bottom of the scale on most intelligence measurements, so we cannot confirm our figures...”*

“As dumb as dirt?”

*“An interesting phrase. When we say an animal is ‘as dumb as dirt’ what we’re really saying is: ‘This animal has a Schiffer-Blanes Cerebro-Fecal Index rating less than unity.’”*

“Which means?”

*“Which means that its cranial capacity is less than its steaming sausage...”*

“In other words?”

*“Er, in other words, it’s as dumb as dirt.”*

“Its own dirt?”

*“No, any dirt will do.”*

“Closer to home, how does my dog, Rover, score?”

*“There are many breeds of dog; I have several on the list here, what kind of dog is he?”*

“He’s a Red Setter...”

*“Let’s see.... unfortunately that’s one that has not yet been evaluated, but I’ll ask Dr. Branes to run the numbers on Red Setters.”*

“Have you tried applying the SBCF Index to people?”

*“Of course, although it’s much more complicated. It’s early days but we’ve already started to extrapolate the animal findings onto the family of humans. There are even more variables than for dogs – several environmental influences that have to be corrected for and factored out.”*

“Can you give us some examples?”

*“Certainly, look at this graph, here’s a Philosophy major who drives a red Mustang – barely gets to 1.1 on the index.”*

“Choice of vehicle holding him back?”

*“Quite the reverse – that’s only a symptom. His Neanderthal lifestyle is dictated by his low SBCF score. Here’s another – this apparently intelligent woman actually sings Karaoke, so her 1.07 is quite realistic. Puts her firmly in the higher primates...”*

“Shame...”

*“And look at this – an Aerospace Engineer with enormous stools but we couldn’t find the right psycho-sphincter transfer function until somebody caught him in the bathroom with a Reader’s Digest.”*

“Amazing! And what about this one, way off the bottom of the graph – level with the frog – is that another reptile?”

*“Oh, him! No, he was a radio show host that named his dog ‘Rover’...”*



**The  
Also-Rans:**



**Ellen's  
Excellent  
Movie Quiz  
by  
Ellen Paul**

So, you think you know the movies, huh? We know all the characters in our favorite films as well as the actors who portray them, but how much attention do we pay to the important, yet secondary, characters in the movies we watch? This quiz is designed to find out.

Below is a list of five characters, each from a motion picture. The named character was important, but secondarily so. His/her/its name is spoken in the film on several occasions, but no major stars will be found here.

Your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to name the movie in which the character appears. Good Luck!

1. Kelly Frears Lovett
2. Molly Graham
3. Amelia Donaghy
4. Claire Spence
5. Caroline Wakefield

*(Answers will be found below)*



**Arachnae's Threads  
by  
Clara Woodall-Moran,  
Webmaster**

Well, we have big news; we are now <http://www.SpaceCoastAreaMensa.org>. This is a redirect page at this time but we have big plans for the future. While we are disappointed that we cannot build the cold fusion site, we will be building a web server and will host the site ourselves. The Domain Name has been registered for ten years so the group will not have to worry about that issue. <http://www.focusonbrevard.com> has been setting up bulletin boards for

Phone: (407) 631-3548 FAX: (407) 690-2295

**focusonbrevard.com**

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Cyberspace HomeSites & Associates, Inc.  
(CH&A)

*Charles L. Schuenger*

PO Box 560017 webmaster@focusonbrevard.com  
Rockledge, FL 32956 Created by www.chna.com

local groups and we have been asked to set up one for SCAM. We will be doing that very soon.

The newsletters are current at the site and we are adding the static pages.

Always something new at the site. Check it out!



**We Have....**



**The Answers!**

1. Castaway (2000)
2. Manhunter (1987)
3. The Bone Collector (1999)
4. Finding Forester (2000)
5. Traffic (2001)