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SCAM

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SPACE COAST AREA MENSA

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(All Area Codes are 321 except as noted)



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All submissions must be received by the Editor before the 10th of the month preceding publication. Please allow extra time for mailed submissions, which may be typed or legibly handwritten. Whenever possible, we prefer submissions via e-mail. They may be in e-mail text or any of most word processing formats. All submissions should be sent to the Editor, whose contact information appears on Page 2.

Inside the Pocket Protector

Mike Moakley, Editor

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

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.

Erwin had a cat named **Bob**, or was it Sam, or was it Lucy? It could have been named one of these or any one of millions of other names.

Erwin didn't know and didn't care.

Did he feed his cat? Maybe he did and maybe he didn't and maybe he did and didn't. Was the cat black? Yes, No, Yes and No.

Maybe he should have been reported to the Humane Society for maltreatment. Maybe he was and maybe he wasn't and maybe he was and wasn't.

Was the cat dead or alive or dead and alive?

Erwin should have checked beforehand about a cat's unpredictability and temperament. If he had only done his homework he would have known.

Putting a cat in a box or a bag can prove to be very, very dangerous. Cats can run faster than some humans and an irate cat, after ripping a perfectly good burlap bag to shreds, can make a grown man run and blubber while screaming like a high school cheerleader.

It was not maltreatment or inhumane in any way. Some unidentified person was simply giving a precious cat to a loving family so they could do more traveling unencumbered.

Erwin probably never considered some cats' ornery dispositions. If he had any knowledge of cats at all he might have envisioned using heavy equipment to cage his cat, a tactic that obviously never entered the unidentified person's mind.

But, even putting the cat in this highly unimaginable situation, his contemporaries Heisenberg and Bohr had slightly different opinions about possible outcomes, and might have developed a law covering those very opinions had Schrodinger actually been able to get a cat into a box. They might also have considered that Schrodinger had fallen on his head and never realized the extent of his injuries.

If Erwin had ever observed a cat pretending to be asleep then slowly raising one eye just far enough to let the owner know that 'I'm watching and I know exactly what you're thinking', then he might have opted for a dog or even an alligator for his mental experiment.

Dogs and alligators don't want to think abstractly. They just want to eat.

But cats, they have their own mental quandaries. Is it a kibble? Is it a bit? Or, is it a kibble and a bit? Is it meat? Is it grain? Is it meat and grain?

Should I make him run? Should I make him blubber and scream? Should I...

Calling all readers! I need you to spend some time, a few hours in late January or early February, to score scholarship essays.

The Mensa Foundation scholarship program is an essay contest that is open to all students living in the U.S. who are enrolled in a U.S. college or university in the academic year following the award. Applicants write 550-word essays that describe their educational and/or career goals. Winning essays are judged by members using Foundation criteria. Please consider being one of those judges.

As Assistant National Scholarship Chair in charge of Nonparticipating Groups, I'm recruiting about 60 members from all over the U.S. to judge essays. We're looking for members who are confident in their knowledge of writing and reading skills. Of course English teachers and professional writers are welcome, but so are members from all walks of life.

Essays will be emailed to you in late January. You'll have at least a week to read and score them in your home, though we hope it will only take an afternoon or two. You email the scores back and you're done!

You may already be planning to judge essays for another Scholarship Chair. I don't want to steal current judges from Local Groups or Regions. However, for those members who love reading essays and want to spend an additional few hours reading more, you can participate at this level with no fear of conflict of interest. Let me know which region or local group you're reading.

Please send an email to volunteers@mensafoundation.org for any questions and to get involved in this worthwhile program.

Jane Gmur,

National Scholarship Assistant Chair

A recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* described the resurgence of Egg Cream Sodas. It seems that after many years of obscurity they are regaining popularity, but with upgrades and additions to make them upscale. Liquors are added to make it an adult drink. Rum seems to be the most popular. Also they are being made with condensed milk, heavy cream, ice cream, or sorbet.

I lived in New York City during and after WWII when those sodas were so popular, so I have some insights that may be edifying.

The name was originally Chocolate Egg Cream Soda. Chocolate was the most popular flavor although other flavors were available - vanilla, cherry, strawberry. Chocolate was the most common, so that if another flavor was not designated, chocolate was assumed. Straws were never used with Egg Cream Sodas because fountain sodas always had an inch of chocolaty foam, like the head on a beer, on them. Using a straw would pierce the foam and the drinker would miss the pleasure of sucking it up. A rod pretzel was the standard accompaniment.

At that time, malted or malted milks were also a popular drink. The addition of a raw egg to a malted was also common, so much so that my physician prescribed that drink for me to add to my weight. I have no direct evidence that a raw egg was ever added to an Egg Cream Soda, but considering the popularity of raw eggs in malts and beer, it would explain the egg in the soda's name.

The cream in the name also pertained to its use in the soda at that time.

I hope this help clarify the strange name of the soda.

Incidentally, I still make Egg Cream Sodas almost daily in the hot summers in Florida, although in a much debased form. I fill a glass one quarter full with milk. Instead of cream, I use no-fat milk or half-and half. The traditional U-Bet chocolate syrup is hard to find here, so I use any chocolate syrup that is available. Two squirts does it. Stir until blended. And then fill it with soda water out of a plastic bottle, although that just doesn't have the fizz of the fountain soda.

We have a fabulous speaker lined up for the November 13th Mensa Get-together. It is Irene Cummins, wife of Paul Cummins, the Buddhist monk who addressed us several months back and did a great job as speaker. Irene has led a split-life; she worked on the Space Shuttle Program for 30 years, was a quality auditor, corporate webmaster, and technical trainer. She also studied astronomy, quantum physics and geology. In addition she is a Wiccan High Priestess. She states that, "When she speaks to groups, she tries to bridge the world of science and technology with that of spirit."

Irene will be speaking to our group about the highly misunderstood subject of "witchcraft." For most people in our society, the word "witchcraft" seems to conjure up images from Halloween or *The Wizard of Oz*. In general, the notion of "witchcraft" is viewed very negatively and typically equated with *Satanism*. But in actuality *Wicca* is more about spirituality and pagan religion. However, unlike most religions, *Wicca* does not have a central governing body.

I did a little research on *Wicca* which identifies itself with the symbol of the pentagram and found to my surprise that the five points of the pentagram stand for spirit, water, fire, earth, and air. Where had I heard of those points before? This all seemed very familiar to me so I started looking around my library for a book I have on *Feng Shui* and found that *Feng Shui* is also based on five elements of *chi energy*. They are fire, earth, water, metal, and tree. That's a lot of similarity at a fundamental level. But unlike *Wicca*, *Feng Shui* does not suffer from the stigma that witchcraft suffers.

There is possibly a good reason for this. I recall reading in the Dan Brown novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, (which although it is a novel, is heavily based on historical facts), that *Paganism* and religions like *Wicca*, were systematically demonized by the various Christian religions for centuries, up to and including the





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Our Regular Events:

- **TRIVIA and DINNER (New!):** Slow and Low Bar-B-Que, Stadium Pkwy., Rockledge. Every Thursday at 6:00pm.
- **C.A.B.A.G.E.:** Food Court at the Merritt Square Mall. Every Monday at 6pm. *Host: Karen Freiberg, 633-1636.*
- **GO!:** Books-A-Million, The Avenue, Viera. Every Saturday at 1pm. Hosted by the Space Coast Area GO Association. Contact George Lebovitz for more info: the.rokkitsci@rocketmail.com.

November 2015

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2		4	Trivia & Dinner		7 GO!
8	9 C.A.B.A.G.E.	10	11	Trivia & Dinner	13	
15	16 C.A.B.A.G.E.	17	18	Trivia & Dinner	20	21 GO!
22	23 C.A.B.A.G.E.	24	25	Trivia & Dinner	27	
29	30 C.A.B.A.G.E.					

SCAM Calendar of Events for November 2015

6th - Friday 5:30 PM

FIRST FRIDAY AT HOOTERS SIG

Come join us for drinks, open discussion and food (latter two optional) at the Melbourne Hooter's, 877 S. Babcock Street. **Hosted by:** *Dennis Logan, 501-7547.*

EXCOMM MEETING

Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6:00 pm. This is our monthly business meeting. See back page for location.

14th - Saturday 6:00 PM

MONTHLY MENSA GET-TOGETHER

Featured speaker this month will be Irene Cummins in the topic of Wicca. Red Ginger Restaurant at Melbourne Square Mall.

Hosted by: *Joe Janson, 338-5833.*

MENSA TESTING

Nov. 21 at Central Brevard Library, 308 Forrest Ave., Cocoa. Please arrive by 9:45 am, as testing begins at 10 am. \$40 fee and photo ID required. Reservations encouraged but not required. Candidates must be age 14 or older. No testing next month.

28th - Saturday 5:45 PM

S.N.O.R.I.

Join us for some Japanese cuisine at The SCAM's best attended event at our new venue, **Hioki's**, 3200 NE Dixie Hwy. (US 1) in Palm Bay. It is about 2 miles south of US 192. **Contact:** *George, 474-4075 for details.*

Contact: Hank Rhodes, mentatest@cfl.rr.com.

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 for November 2015

WELCOME TO SCAM AND MENSA

Andrew Keller

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

1st	Gregory Showman	27th	Desmond Macauley
6th	William McClure Jr.	30th	Thomas Gachet
11th	Allan Torsney	30th	Lisa Willnow
19th	Harold Long		
21st	John England		
22nd	Aron Travis		
26th	Thomas Magee		



The "Fine Print" for Calendar Events:

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

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

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at all, since instant communication has become much easier since the original structure was created. In the end, the motion passed, and after a paper ballot, Baker Ring (RVC 5) was chosen for the sixth position on the ExComm.

The longer discussion at the meeting involved potential changes and/or clarifications to Name and Logo Committee policies, specifically in regard to their use in external events. There had been motions on this topic on the agenda, but they were withdrawn prior to the meeting because there were still significant gaps in understanding and consensus regarding the intent and impact of the motions. The topic was precipitated by the use of a large banner bearing the Mensa name and logo including the group name “Chicago Area Mensa” in the 2015 Chicago Pride Parade in June. There are differing opinions on whether this was intended as a social advocacy position.

People disagreed on whether the Chicago chapter had the right to use their name on the banner under the provision that Mensa does not hold a position, however the Mensa Constitution allows that individuals and groups of individuals (interpreted in this case as a Local Group) may express their opinions as long as they do not state those opinions as that of the organization. There were statements made about the difference between what we can justify to ourselves as meeting the guidelines and what will be perceived by an impartial outside observer. But there were also concerns expressed that if we don’t allow any outreach, we cannot build our membership (under this argument, the parade was positioned as a promotion, and not support for any specific social position).

While it was generally agreed that the name and logo rules need to be clarified so there would be less room for controversial interpretation, it was also determined that the Name and Logo Committee, together with other committees, needed to take the results of the discussion away and draft a new proposal for whatever changes need to be made. This will be an ongoing effort, but our eye is on making sure we get it done right, rather than fast.

There will be a teleconference of the AMC on October 25th, but the primary agenda item is the approval of the minutes for the September meeting. The next full public meeting of the AMC will be on December 6, 2015, in Grapevine, TX.

Thomas George Thomas

(Continued from page 7)

18th Century and its practitioners were frequently persecuted and killed. By contrast, *Feng Shui* became popular in our society during the 19th Century and was never subjected to systematic negative propaganda or persecution.

Yet, both belief systems are about controlling the forces of nature for benefit. Both involve rituals, symbols, and seasons. Just that in our society, practicing one belief system is typically equated with doing evil, while practicing the other belief system is equated with the work of an interior decorator.

So, in closing, I am very much looking forward to hearing what Irene has to say. I am very hopeful that Irene can enlighten us all about this very misunderstood subject known as *Wicca*. I hope to see you all there on **November 13th**, **6pm at Red Ginger in Melbourne Square Mall.**

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.

This Page is RESERVED:

JUST
FOR
YOU

We want to hear from YOU...!

See Page Three of every issue for
SCAM submittal guidelines.

The American Mensa Committee (AMC) met on the weekend of September 12, and there were two topics in particular that generated a lot of discussion. Second topic first - The AMC voted to appoint a Regional Vice Chairman (RVC) to the Executive Committee (ExComm). The ExComm is a subset of the AMC that is authorized to take actions on behalf of the AMC between regular meetings.

In the past, the ExComm has consisted of the five nationally elected officers (*Chairman, First Vice Chairman, Second Vice Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary*). But for a variety of reasons – all of which were brought up in the lengthy discussion – it was felt that this might be the right time to make a change.

Considerations in favor of the motion were the changes in the balance of the AMC following the bylaws referenda in the recent election, which resulted in two-thirds of the AMC being comprised of RVCs. While the point was made that an RVC does not have a mandate by the full membership to act on their behalf, it is also true that all members of the AMC have equal fiduciary responsibility for the organization, whether elected by the full membership or by a geographical segment. It was suggested that RVCs, as they have direct interaction with a number of local groups of various sizes and demographics, have a closer line to the thoughts of the membership. While this was countered with the valid statement that any action that required immediate action by the ExComm would not allow for an RVC to poll their membership for their opinions, it was still a compelling thought that the RVC had a constant involvement with the grass roots of the organization.

Another idea that was brought up was whether an ExComm was necessary

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A Mensan in the family?

Are you the Mensan in your family? Or, is your spouse, child, parent or sibling the Mensan in your household? Are two or more (maybe all) in your household Mensans? If any of these apply, The SCAM is soliciting an article from *you*. All members of SCAM or family members are invited to respond. What are your impressions and experiences?

Minutes of the October, 2015 ExComm Meeting

The ExComm met at the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955, on Tuesday, October 6th, 2015, called to order by LocSec Joe Janson at 6:00 pm.

Members Present: Joe Janson, Karen Freiberg, and George Lebovitz.

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

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was not available at the time of the meeting.

Testing: Testing coordinator, Hank Rhodes, reported via email¹.

The minutes of the September, 2015 meeting as published in the SCAM were approved.

Joe will contact Wynn Rostek to obtain a status of the new set of proposed bylaws.

By the time you read this, the next Speaker Meeting (*Saturday, October 10th*) at the Red Ginger restaurant at the Melbourne Square Mall will have provided a lively evening as the guests present listened to a presentation by Bill Muckler, author of *"20/20: A Clear Vision for America."*

We discussed the possibility of having a member of the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce address a future meeting and also the potential benefits of SCAM joining the Chamber (tabled for broader discussion). There is also a possibility of a future meeting being addressed by a member of the local Wiccan community.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, November 3rd, 2015 at 6:00 pm in the home of Karen Freiberg at 876 Buxmont Ct., Rockledge, FL 32955.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

¹ Contacted 5 candidates for the first time, 9 candidates for the second or third time; tested none. Next test session is October 17th, 2015 at the Central Brevard Library in Cocoa. Prospective candidates should contact us at mensatest@cfl.rr.com.