



# TAMPA BAY SOUNDING

*A Publication of Tampa Bay (Florida) Mensa*

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*Vol. 28, No. 2*

*March 2003*

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## ABOUT US

Mensa is an international society whose sole qualification for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on a standard IQ test. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization whose main purpose is to serve as a means of communication and assembly for its members. All opinions expressed herein are those of the individual authors, and not necessarily those of the editors or officers of Mensa. Mensa as an organization has no opinions. Visit American Mensa at <http://www.us.mensa.org>.



*Tampa Bay Sounding* is the official newsletter of Tampa Bay Mensa. See the inside back cover for copyright information. Tampa Bay Mensa, which split off from Central Florida Mensa in 1975, serves Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, and Sumter counties. Visit TBM at <http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org>, which provides full instructions on how to join *tbm-gm* and *tbm-discussion*, our two Yahoo Groups.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*Tampa Bay Sounding* encourages submissions from all members. Submissions must be signed, but names may be withheld or pseudonyms used if requested. All letters to the editor will be subject to publication unless the author specifically requests otherwise. All material submitted will be considered for publication, but nothing can be guaranteed. *Everything* is subject to editing. Please keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Articles, casual essays, opinion pieces, poems, short stories, puzzles, and artwork are all encouraged.

- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.

- E-mail submissions are preferred, either embedded or in Word-readable attachments. Computer printouts and typewritten pages are fine. If you submit hard copy, please make sure your printer has enough toner or your typewriter has a fresh-enough ribbon. *Legible* handwritten submissions will be considered (but not given preference).

You may send your submissions by either of the following means:

- (1) E-mail — [MotherMary@extremelysmart.com](mailto:MotherMary@extremelysmart.com) (Please indicate "TBM" in the subject area.)

- (2) U.S. Mail — Mary W. Matthews, 1000 Granville Court N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-1529 (Telephone 727-502-9301)

Unless otherwise specified in the calendar, the deadline for unsolicited contributions is the tenth day of the month.

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Please forgive me if the *Sounding* does not seem up to its usual standards this month. On February 11, nine days before deadline, my husband, Jerry Merchant, had emergency open-heart surgery. He's recovering nicely now — but I've been busy.

*Mary*

**KUSHNER'S KORNER***All the News...**Maxine Kushner, LocSec*

Hello, Tampa Bay Mensans!

This year's **RG Honchos** are hard at work planning for Tampa Bay Mensa's biggest party. "The Fellowship of the RG" is

going to be a blast. In

addition to games,

speakers, and

hospitality, our

honchos are

planning lots of

fun social activi-

ties. So, plan to

come on out and

mingle with your fel-

low Mensans. See pages 8 and 9 for

details. If you would like to volun-

teer, in any capacity, please contact

Jack Brawner or any of the other

honchos: [trojanowl@aol.com](mailto:trojanowl@aol.com), 727-

546-6061.

Speaking of parties, leave Sunday,

April 6 open, because that is the date

for our **third annual Spring Picnic**

at **John Chesnut Park**. TBM will pro-

vide burgers, dogs, veggie burgers,

and condiments. You bring some-

thing to share. Watch the mail for

your invitation.

I am pleased to announce that

we have volunteers for **Testing Co-**

ordinator and the proctor posi-

tions. Thank you, thank you! A vol-

unteer organization is nothing with-

out volunteers, so you are much

appreciated. Tell family and friends

who might be interested in testing

for membership in Mensa

that our next testing

session will be

held April 26 in

Tampa.

Did any of you

catch the seg-

ment on **Jimmy**

**Kimmel's** show fea-

turing our next door neighbor,

**Central Florida Mensa**? Jimmy sent

Tammy Faye Baker to their RG and

aired the segment the following

day. It was amusing and showed

Mensa in a good light. If you'd like

to see a transcript of the bit, go to

page 23.

Our online **discussion group** has

been pretty quiet lately. How about

some of you head over there and

shake things up?! Information on join-

ing our email lists is on TBM's

website: <http://tampa.us.mensa.org>.

Until next month —

*Maxine*

[maxine.kushner@verizon.net](mailto:maxine.kushner@verizon.net)



## *Tampa Bay Mensa Spring Picnic*

### *Sunday, April 6, 2003*

Our first two spring picnics were a big success, so we are doing it again! Tampa Bay Mensa is footing the bill for hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, condiments, and paper goods. Please bring a side dish or snack to share and a beverage of your choice. Everyone in your family is welcome, even your dog. After eating, we will have our annual meeting. This is your chance to tell us what you would like to see in Tampa Bay Mensa. You can even make motions and vote on issues. Last year, someone moved to have the spring picnic become, officially, an annual event.

The motion passed and, lo, it was so. After the annual meeting, you are welcome to stay for the Executive Committee meeting. We are always looking for people to serve on the ExComm. This is a good way to check it out.

**Directions:** John Chesnut Park is located on East Lake Road, north of Tampa Road. Tampa Bay Mensa will be in shelter number 11, towards the back of the park.

*From South Pinellas County:* Drive north on 49th street. Continue over the Bayside Bridge. You are now on McMullen Booth Road. Keep driving north. Once you cross Tampa Road, you will be on East Lake Road. The park will be on your left hand side.

*From North Pinellas County:* You know where this park is. If you don't, you can probably figure it out from the above directions.

*From Hillsborough County:* Head west on 580 (Hillsborough), which will eventually become Tampa Road. Turn north on McMullen Booth/East

Lake Road. The park will be on your left hand side.

*From Pasco County:* Head south on Little Road. Turn right on Mitchell Road. This turns into Seven

Springs and eventually East Lake Road. The park will be on your right, immediately after you pass Fairway Pizza.

RSVP: Maxine Kushner ·  
727-841-6043 ·

*Maxine.Kushner@verizon.net*



## THE FORTH STORY

### *Coup de Smarti Gras*

*Elissa Rudolph, R. V.C.*

What an exciting, poignant weekend I experienced in Orlando at the Smarti Gras RG!! First, before the RG began rolling, Pam Donahoo, American Mensa's Executive Director, and I completed site inspections of three possible locations for our society's 60th birthday celebration in 2006. All three hotel facilities had the room (for at least 2,000 attendees), the availability, and the enthusiasm to be hosting such a large group with its, let's say unique aspects. Pam and I expect to be able to present a recommendation on the final location to the AMC at their meeting in Pittsburgh, late March. You will know, too, as soon as the AMC accepts the recommendation!

Then there was the Jimmy Kimmel TV show's film crew recording "What Mensans Do to Have Fun" at the RG, a totally unexpected bolt out of the blue, zapping the RG committee to be prepared. The interviewing was conducted by none other than Tammy Faye Bakker Messner. Yes, that Tammy Faye, who at first seemed a little stiff, but who, by the end of

the weekend, was a Mensa fan!! She and Maggie Trulove, RG chairman, had a lively conversation, a bit of which actually made it to the show, broadcast late Monday (actually

Tuesday morning, February 4). RG attendees were tolerant and amused — truth to tell, you all were great, allowing the crew to set up situations, and offering suggestions — where have we experienced that before?!! A big round of applause for the Smarti

Gras RG committee and all the Mensans who played along with Tammy Faye and her crew! You really showed how gracious and charming you all really are.

Of course, the most touching, sort of bittersweet part of that weekend was hearing about the Columbia tragedy, yet feeling buoyed up and comforted by many friends at the RG. Ironically, that afternoon's speaker was Ron Caswell, a NASA engineer, with a very cool slide show on the space program. If RGeers were not listening to Ron's passionate discussion, they were watching the TV broadcast. There was not a better



spot to be in that day, surrounded by friends and listening to Ron's emotional words, part of which were, "not concentrating on how they died, but how they lived." I think similar words are on the memorial to fallen astronauts at the Cape.

On to the local front: Broward County Mensa is sponsoring a Leadership Development Workshop (LDW) on Saturday, April 26 (all day) in Ft. Lauderdale. This LDW will be a collection of informative discussions to which all Mensans are invited — free to attendees. Since "people are our most important asset," you can be sure all topics will be aimed at

equipping you with the skills, tips, solutions, and just plain advice on many aspects of being in Mensa and/or being a Mensa officer. Plan to attend and spend the day meeting other members and sharing the experience. The Sheraton Hotel where the LDW will be conducted has a special room rate for anyone who wishes to stay the night. Contact me for that detail. Specific topics are still being decided upon. More details in your April newsletter and even before that, topics and presenters' names will be circulated to local secretaries and editors.

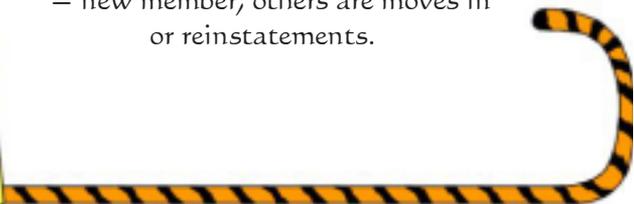
Come on down!

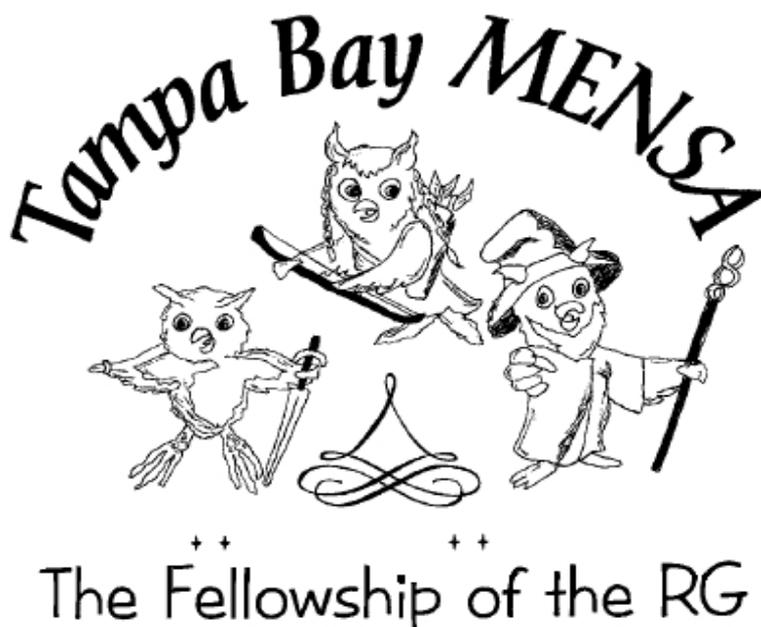


## *Welcome, New Members!*

Douglas R. Fitzgerald  
 Elsa S. Gallo  
 Susan Gardner\*  
 Michael H. Johnston  
 Mikael Magnusson\*  
 Jim P. O'Neill  
 Barbara J. Rambow  
 William M. Schneikart  
 Brandon H. Shaw

\* = new member; others are moves in or reinstatements.





**May 23-26, 2003**  
**Tampa, Florida**

Why did the Mensan cross the road? To get to the beach!

Please come and join Tampa Bay Mensa as we celebrate Memorial Day weekend with a nod of thanks and appreciation for the work of a certain professor of linguistics named Tolkien who is rumored to have written a book or three. There will be many activities to entertain and amuse you and much good food and drink — enough to satisfy even a hungry and thirsty hobbit!

The Days Inn Rocky Point is the host hotel (jet-ski rent-

als, etc. are available), and the address is 7627 Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, FL 33607. It's near Tampa International Airport, and shuttle service is provided. Call (813) 281-0000 or (800) 237-2555 for the special room rate of \$55 per night.

The early RG registration price of \$60 includes many meals, including hot breakfasts (\$65 after March 31 and \$70 after April 30). Registrar: Kathy Crum, 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd., Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 ([katshe@aol.com](mailto:katshe@aol.com)).

# THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RG

## MAY 23-26, 2003

**Where:**

Days Inn Rocky Point  
7627 Courtney Campbell  
Causeway  
Tampa, FL 33607  
Virtual tour and other informa-  
tion: [www.daysinnrp.com](http://www.daysinnrp.com)

**Rooms:**

**\$55 per room per night plus tax.** To get this rate, you **MUST** call DIRP directly, at (813) 281-0000 or (800) 237-2555. Do **NOT** reserve through Days Inn International or the website.

About 5 minutes from Tampa Inter-  
national Airport. Free shuttle avail-  
able. Private beach, Jetski rentals.



**Main contact:**

Jack Brawner  
(TrojanOwl@aol.com)

**Alternative contacts:**

John Raymond  
(JMRaymond3@aol.com)

----- Tampa Bay Bash Registration Form -----

**Full registration:**

\$60 until March 31 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$65 April 1-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$70 after April 30 \_\_\_\_\_

**Tampa Bay Bash T-Shirts**

To guarantee availability, please  
pre-order. Small and 3X must be  
ordered in advance.

**Partial Registrations:**

Friday \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunday \$35 \_\_\_\_\_  
Monday \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

S/M/L/XL, \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_  
2X, \$12 each \_\_\_\_\_  
3X, \$13 each \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Refunds must be requested  
by April 30.*

**Make check payable to:  
Tampa Bay Mensa**

**Mail to:**

Kathy Crum, Registrar  
7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

## *Call For Candidates*

### *Tampa Bay Mensa 2003 Elections*

Our annual TBM elections are in June, and Tampa Bay Mensa invites members to pursue a term on the Executive Committee of our Chapter. In accordance with TBM bylaws, the terms of five members of the Executive Committee will expire in 2003. These positions are currently held by Chris Drumm, Dana Groulx, Maxine Kushner, Barbara Loewe, and Mary Matthews. These openings are for two-year terms.

Executive Committee meetings are held six times each year, and officers enjoy the satisfactions that come from being "in" on what is going on in the chapter, leaving their mark on these activities, and, of course, the great camaraderie that comes from associating with fellow members.

Interested members should contact members of the Election Committee to clarify any details of the election process. Candidates are responsible for fulfilling all requirements as prescribed in the bylaws of Tampa Bay Mensa, contained in the Member Handbook, and by this Call for Candidates.

The Election Committee is composed of:

Dottie Gondela (Election Supervisor)  
727-785-7573  
[DotGondela@aol.com](mailto:DotGondela@aol.com)

Lynette Pittman  
727-735-9550  
[LPittman@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:LPittman@tampabay.rr.com)

David Rice  
727-641-9080  
[tbyhockey@yahoo.com](mailto:tbyhockey@yahoo.com)

Members in good standing of Tampa Bay Mensa seeking seats on the Executive Committee in the upcoming election must provide to the Election Supervisor no later than Monday, April 14:

- 1) a nominating petition, and
- 2) a campaign statement.

Nominating petitions must contain the printed name, address, telephone number, and signature of the candidate, plus the printed names and signatures of five (5) members in good standing as defined by the bylaws of Tampa Bay Mensa. Campaign statements must be limited to 250 words. Note that, since campaign statements will be printed in the *Sounding*, they must comply with current editorial policy. Petitions and campaign statements must be mailed to:

Dottie Gondela  
3000 Red Oak Ct., #101  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684

#### General Information About the Election

Ballots will be counted at the June 2003 Election Committee Meeting.

The exact time and location will be announced in the June issue of the *Sounding*. Ballots will be printed in the June issue of the *Sounding*. Members who do not ordinarily receive the

*Sounding* will be mailed ballots separately, or will be provided their own copy of the June *Sounding*. Complete details of the voting method will be published with the ballots. 

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## *Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*

### *February 9, 2003*

*Submitted by Chris Drumm, Scribe*

Maxine Kushner called the meeting to order at 3:25 p.m. Attendees: Dan Chesnut, Kathy Crum, Chris Drumm, Maxine Kushner, Barbara Loewe, Mary Matthews, and Sylvia Zadorozny. Absent: Dana Groulx and Max Loick. Also attending: Kathy Zadorozny.

Kathy Crum moved that the minutes from the December meeting be accepted as e-mailed. Mary seconded, all in favor. No one opposed.

**Treasurer's Report** — **Kathy Crum**. Our CD came due in January. We had enjoyed a 5.35 percent interest rate for the past 18 months. Huntington (now SunTrust) offered 2.0 percent for the next 18 months. We went with Heritage Bank for one year at 2.71 percent, yield 2.75 percent. The ExComm members signed a resolution for Heritage Bank appointing Kathy as our Treasurer, and designated handler of TBM finances.

TBM is in good financial shape after 2002. Financial Reports for

2002 and a 2003 Proposed Budget were distributed to all Committee members. Our Memorial Weekend RG continues to allow us to publish a high-quality monthly newsletter. Without the RG, we would not be able to absorb constantly increasing printing and mailing costs. The RG profit enables us to cover refreshments at the annual April Picnic, last fall's Camp-Out, ExComm meetings, and FSM. The 2003 Proposed Budget takes into account our decreased interest income (CD) and the hope for more generous MERF scholarship contributions.

Mary noted that the line item for the *Sounding* in the proposed budget for 2003 was based on the typical monthly cost and did not include extra funding for the Crewe List. The average issue runs 36-40 pages, but the Crewe List runs 60 pages, with

*Continued on page 33*

## *Mom Rules*

*Joni M. Fisher*

I have learned that teenagers live in the age of forgetting. Simple skills they mastered at age seven disappear at age 14. They forget how to close a door. They forget how to say “please” and “thank-you.” They forget how to put anything back where they found it. They forget how to put clothes on hangers. They forget to carry dirty dishes to the kitchen. They forget where they put their belongings. They forget their given names and adopt nicknames like Moose, Bucky, Bubba, and Gator. They forget civilized behavior when it disagrees with what they want to do on the impulse of the moment — like telephoning a friend at midnight.

So how does a frustrated parent create rules that are both memorable and effective? After studying my daughter and her friends, I found that teens respond more quickly to peer pressure than to a parent’s decrees. To wit, I developed a method for using peer pressure to my advantage — to make Mom’s rules equally memorable and effective.

Teenagers are old enough to understand civilized behavior. They know better; they just don’t care. To make them care, I wait for them to make an egregious error and then name a rule after them. For example,

the Emily Rule is that no one is allowed to drive the SeaDoo on the lawn. Doing so causes the loss of driving privileges. Sucking up dirt also damages the motor.

We have a home theater that seats seven and a small exercise room beyond the theater. I’d rather have the darlings at my home where I can watch them than worry about where they are, so we share our toys. Put teenagers in the dark, however, and anything can happen, so I made it my policy to occasionally open the door, offer to make popcorn and silently count heads. On one evening the count showed two missing in action from the movie room. I strode through the movie room to the exercise room and found a pair of teens on the floor groping one another. This enacted the Megan/Scott Rule. Now when teens settle in for a movie, they hear me say, “The Megan/Scott Rule is in effect.” The students familiar with the policy explain it to the others.

Talk about a chilling effect. Teens want to be famous, but not for dumb stunts. Fear of having a rule named after them works quite well. When Bucky, an 18-year-old who lives on his own, came to visit, he brought over a giant convenience store cup. He’d always behaved wonderfully on previous visits, but this time he tried

to smuggle in beer. It became suspicious when these germ-phobic teens passed the drink around. I intercepted it.

Bucky pleaded, "Oh, no. You're not going to—"

"Pour it out? Yes. Name a new rule? Oh, yes."

He groaned, apologized and then said, "Are you going to kick me out?"

"You're welcome here *without* the beer."

He hugged me. Perhaps he'd been kicked out of homes before. As good Christians say, "Hate the sin, love the sinner." Bucky has been a model teenager at my home ever since.

We recently held a going-away party for one of my daughter's close friends. About 30 teens showed up to eat like locusts and sign a giant card. Near the end of the three-hour open house, a few older boys showed up. They had accessorized their car with the latest, most useless and expensive lights to illuminate the underside of the car and the stick shift and the headliner. The party moved outside where teens ogled the car. Others did flips and cartwheels on the lawn. One of the parents called to speak with her daughter, so I carried the cordless phone outside. That's where I picked up the scent of marijuana.

I handed the phone to the girl and closed my eyes. The wind was blowing from the west, so I pivoted westward and started walking. Like a targeted missile I headed toward the

bushes. The bushes suddenly shook and two older teens burst from it.

"We were just smoking," said one, who didn't look at me.

"Do you have a note from your doctor?"

"Sorry?" Both looked up.

"Unless you're being treated for cancer you're not allowed to smoke marijuana on my property. It's time for you to go home."

"Who said we were smoking pot?" said the one with spiked hair. He glared at the other teens standing far off.

"I grew up in the sixties."

They mumbled apologies and left. Before they had left the block, a group of teens gathered around me and asked what I was going to do.

"What do you think I'm going to do?" I said.

One of the football players said, "If you call the police those guys will think we told on them."

"I'm going to make a new rule. Since I didn't get names, theirs is the Dope Rule. If this happens again I'll call the police, so spread the word."

Years from now when these young people graduate from the age of forgetting, I hope they will remember the safe haven of my home. This won't be the house they remember for the shooting or the Saturday-night fights or the liquor closet. I hope they remember my house for the movies, the afternoons on the lake, the pizza parties, and the Rules. Perhaps they will even use my techniques on their own children. Let this be my legacy.



**FOLD, STAPLE, AND MUTILATE***Jolly January FSM**Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer*

January's FSM was a nice party with some very tasty snacks and lots of kites in the new/old home of Jerry Merchant and Mary Matthews. On hand to help were Don Davis, Willa Harrison, Ronan Heffernan, Max Loick, Grant Logan, and Roger Preslar.

The timing and work went pretty well, even if the labels didn't tear just the way Max expected! Ach! Well, it was funny at the time, and even if most of it was routine, the company was pleasant and time flew.

Is it *your* turn to host this pleasant afternoon? Nothing much to it, just call Max Loick at 727-896-4270 and we'll bring along the *Soundings*. You can invite your friends and family to share.

A few snacks — reimbursed — lots of slurps, and room to fold, staple, and mutilate—, ah, precisely sort, that's it, the newsletters into the dandy trays.

A new Circulation Officer may well be in the works. A revised work schedule for him may interfere, so we're being patient until that's settled down. If you're interested in the job, please don't hesitate to offer your good name. If you live in the 337xx zip code, I'd like to hear from you.

Our March FSM will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m., at the home of Max Loick.

Directions to Max Loick's place:

— From I-275, take the I-375 spur

into downtown, where it becomes 4th Avenue North. Take the spur all the way in, and be in the right lane at the traffic light at 5th Street N. Max's apartment building, the Peterborough Apartments, is at 440 4th Ave. N. If you're stopped at the light, you can see the building ahead and right. The two-hour parking limit is not in force on weekends.

At this intersection, 5th St. and 4th Ave. N, the Colosseum is on the left, the shuffle-board and chess club are on the right. A large Lutheran church (Trinity) is ahead left, and Max's building is ahead right.

Enter the lobby and turn right, walking down the hall just before the elevators. Just before it ends, the hall will jog left into the Peterborough's party room, where Max will be waiting with great refreshments and even better conversation.

— From any local area, take I 6th St. or 9th or 4th to get to 4th Avenue and 5th Street N. Beware of one-way streets! 

*Next FSM:**Sunday, March 23,**2 p.m.**Host: Max Loick**St. Petersburg*

**T B ♣ CALENDAR T B ♣ CALENDAR T B ♣**

## March 2003 Calendar

*Ronan Heffernan, Calendar Editor*

Mensa events are open to all Mensans, their spouses, and accompanied guests. A party at a private home is a private event, and who may or may not attend is at the complete discretion of the host. Kitties mentioned in the calendar offset the cost of refreshments and are **NOT** optional.

Ronan Heffernan ((813) 907-8147) is the Calendar Editor. Please e-mail your calendar event notices to Ronan at [Ronan.Heffernan@shawus.com](mailto:Ronan.Heffernan@shawus.com), or visit <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the April calendar is March 10.

**Hosts:** Please remember to mention any special concerns about your location, such as limited access for the handicapped, smoking restrictions, or presence of pets.

**Guests:** If you have special needs or restrictions, it is prudent to discuss them with your host before attending an event.

*March 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - Mondays - 3:30 PM - \$2*

### **CHILDREN'S GAME DAY/PLAY DAY**

For ages 0-10. Come join us. Bring your favorite games. For directions contact:

Linne Katz - 727-372-9438 - [LINNEKATZ@aol.com](mailto:LINNEKATZ@aol.com)  
10037 Wheatland Road - New Port Richey

*March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> - Thursdays - 12:30 PM*

### **LUNCH BUNCH**

We meet at Piccadilly Cafeteria, on 11810 North Dale Mabry Highway (next to Barnes and Noble Bookstore), in Tampa. For directions, descriptions, and/or encouragement to attend, call:

Jim Perry - 813-837-3473 - [philart@gte.net](mailto:philart@gte.net)

**T B C A L E N D A R T B C A L E N D A R T B**

*March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Tuesdays - 6:30 PM*

**TAMPA DINNER AT GINO'S RESTAURANT**

Please join us for dinner at Gino's Restaurant. We meet in the dining room around 6:30 p.m. Gino's (813-933-1089) is located at 10006 N. Armenia Avenue in Tampa.

Celeste Terken - 813-933-8700 - [onlyeaze@gte.net](mailto:onlyeaze@gte.net)

*March 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday - 7:30 AM*

**MID-PINELLAS BREAKFAST SIG**

*Description:* Leave your home a bit early, and join us for breakfast on your way into work. The location is the Village Inn at Walsingham and Vonn Roads in Largo, bright and early at 7:30 a.m. Please call me in advance so I know how much space to reserve when I get there early.

Lori Puterbaugh - 727-399-2419 - [puterbaugh@mindspring.com](mailto:puterbaugh@mindspring.com)

*March 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday - 7:30 PM - \$2*

**CARD GAMES NIGHT**

Love Card Games? Bring your favorite deck of cards & your favorite game(s). Teach your game to us, learn a new one, and/or play an old one! Smoking on patio only. Four indoor cats are on board. Hope to see you all!

My street is two lights south of Rt. 60 (Gulf to Bay). Turn right onto Druid Road, go two blocks and I am at 2077 Druid on the left (south side of street on the corner of Druid & Woodley) I would turn left on Woodley and park on it. You can't park on Druid.

Terri Elston - 727-446-6673 - [TeriProfsr@aol.com](mailto:TeriProfsr@aol.com)  
2077 Druid Rd. - Clearwater

*March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sunday - 3:00 PM*

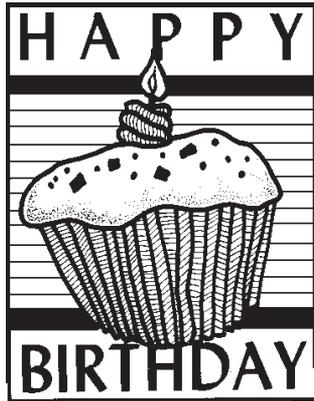
**FSM**

Our March FSM will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m., at the home of Max Loick. Come help get the *Sounding* ready to be taken to the Post Office. It's easy, it's fun (well, reasonably), and Max always provides wonderful snacks!

Directions to Max Loick's place:

— From I-275, take the I-375 spur into downtown, where it becomes 4th Avenue North. Take the spur all the way in,

*Continued on page 21*



*Happy March Birthday!*

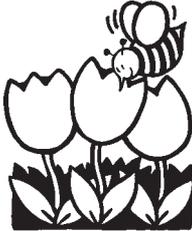
- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Deborah Louise Albert    | 18 Thomas M. Riedhammer  |
| 1 Michael J. Swiller       | 19 Frank A. Jones        |
| 1 Nelson M. Crowle         | 19 Paul D. Sharp         |
| 3 Robert A. Zilay          | 20 Monica A. Cutting     |
| 5 Sandra Lee Hawes         | 21 Cullen Jack Waters    |
| 6 Curtis A. Lawrence       | 21 Darlene Williams      |
| 7 Melvin Stanley Cutler    | 21 Jon R. Smith          |
| 8 Christopher J. Clement   | 22 Richard C. Hardy      |
| 8 Vel E. Jaeger            | 23 Ronald M. Dubs        |
| 10 Adele C. Glueckler      | 23 Steven Michael Graves |
| 10 Bruce G. Perry          | 24 Frederick Raymond     |
| 12 Beverly Johnson         | 25 Diane Sherman         |
| DiNapoli                   | 25 Paul Robert VeHom     |
| 13 John A. Crandall        | 26 Charles Johnson       |
| 14 Sylvia B. Cesanek       | 26 Laurel F. Moore       |
| 15 Cornelia Anderson       | 27 Karen M. Hamlin       |
| Biggers                    | 27 Richard B. Daughty    |
| 15 Edward Joseph Glueckler | 28 Frances Marian        |
| 15 Erin Anne Wells         | McIntyre                 |
| 15 Sara Sopkin Prugh       | 28 Mary Ann Bostick      |
| 17 Carole F. Mehlman       | Pidick                   |
| 18 Benito Enriquez         | 30 Michael Fouse         |
| 18 Maureen F. Brush        | 31 Sheryl Kathleen Brock |

TAMPA BAY MENSA  
*March*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p> <p><i>Children's            Game/Play Day            at Linne Katz's            New Port Richey,            3:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Deadline for  <u>Sounding</u>            submissions</i></p> <p><i>Schedule your            January events now.</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Tampa Dinner            at Gino's Restaurant            Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>12</p>
<p>16</p> 	<p>17</p> <p><i>Children's            Game/Play Day            at Linne Katz's            New Port Richey,            3:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>23</p> <p><i>FSM</i>            at Doug MacDonald's            Land O' Lakes, 3 p.m.</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Tampa Dinner            at Gino's Restaurant            Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>26</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> 		

# EVENTS CALENDAR

## in 2003

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p>
	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><i>Mid-Pinellas Breakfast Group</i> at Village Inn Largo, 7:30 a.m.</p> <p>—</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> 
	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><i>Card Games Night</i> 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><i>Games Night</i> 7:30 p.m.</p>

## Creative Signs for Peace

Compiled by Beverley B. Gentzen

*Here are a few of the signs that appeared at the January 18 Rally for Peace held in cities around the country, including Washington, DC, and McDill Air Force Base in Tampa:*

These Colors Don't Run the World.

One Nation Under Surveillance.

How Did Our Oil

Get Under Their Sand?

Go Solar, Not Ballistic.

Whom Would Jesus Bomb?

Drafting SUV Drivers First.

Don't Blame Me,

I Voted With the Majority.

It's NUCLEAR, Not NUCULAR,

You Idiot!

Resistance is Fertile.

(Pictures of sheep carrying flags):

Stop Mad Sheep Disease Now.

(UFW sign): Pick Fruit, Not Fights.

(On a five-year-old): More Candy,

Less War.

Negotiation, Not Annihilation.

Oh, Say, Can You See My Democracy?

(With pictures of Bush, Cheney, and Rumsfeld): Asses of Evil.

It's the Oil, Stupid.

War is Expensive,

Peace is Priceless.

Read Between the Pipelines.

No More BuShit.

Smart Weapons, Dumb President.

The Only Thing We Have To Fear

Is Bush Himself.

How Many Lives Per Gallon?

Peace Takes Brains.

Anything War Can Do, Peace Can

Do Better.

Make Touchdowns, Not War —

Go Raiders!

Another Patriot For Peace.

Oh, Say, Can You Cease?

Star-Spangled Bummer.

Don't Arm a Son of a Bush.

Don't do it, George,

Dad will still love you.

The Last Time We Listened to a

Bush, We Wandered in the

Desert for 40 Years.



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**T B C A L E N D A R T B C A L E N D A R T B**

*Continued from page 16*

and be in the right lane at the traffic light at 5th Street N. Max's apartment building, the Peterborough Apartments, is at 440 4th Ave. N. If you're stopped at the light, you can see the building ahead and right. The two-hour parking limit is not in force on weekends.

At this intersection, 5th St. and 4th Ave. N, the Colosseum is on the left, the shuffle-board and chess club are on the right. A large Lutheran church (Trinity) is ahead left, and Max's building is ahead right.

Enter the lobby and turn right, walking down the hall just before the elevators. Just before it ends, the hall will jog left into the Peterborough's party room, where Max will be waiting with great refreshments and even better conversation.

— *From any local area*, take 16th St. or 9th or 4th to get to 4th Avenue and 5th Street N. Beware of one-way streets!

*March 29<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2*

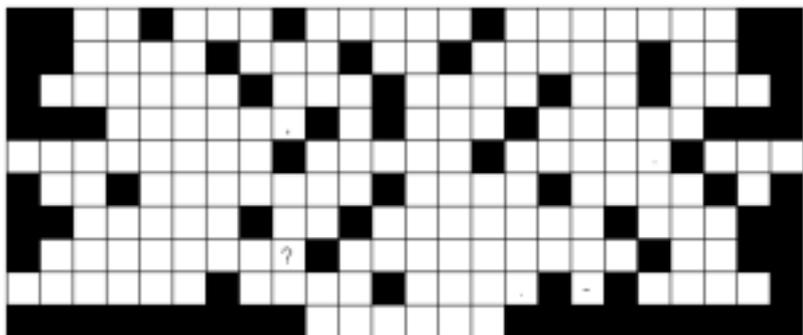
**GAMES NIGHT**

This month's Last Saturday Rotating Games Night is at Dana Groulx's in Wesley Chapel.

Directions: Head north on I-75. Exit at State Road 54 and turn left (west). Go through the signal at Old Pasco Road. The first right turn after the signal will be the Lexington Oaks subdivision. After turning in, look for Belmont Village, which is the second village on your left. Dana's house is the fifth house on the left side.

Dana Groulx - 813-991-7868 - [dgroulx@mac.com](mailto:dgroulx@mac.com)  
5410 Bold Venture Place - Wesley Chapel





M

C                    O A

I L N I                    A I   D A R                    T                    R

A L E T H R                    N B   S E G I                    E E                    T W

F N L A N E                    L G G H O Y L M E E                    N D

Y E U L O I N E N A N M E Y E H T O A N C

E E M K M W G A H T T U T K C E G S G A D D

I E S G I H G I A I O B T T I T A H R E E A

T Y B A O D T T O D D H W N T K N H N J E T K

S H T R N O N H H F S O O A C R I F N A I O A S

As the light changed from red to green to yellow and back to red again, I sat there thinking about life. Was it nothing more than a bunch of honking and yelling? Sometimes it seemed that way. — Jack Handey

JFTJUZXBH ZCJ MENSA ZE ZNJQZ OEP

RQXNSO DJUQPVJ OEP QNJ Q HEEA TJNVEB

XV Q SXZZSJ SXLJ JFTJUZXBH ZCJ DPSS

BEZ ZE QZZQUL OEP DJUQPVJ OEP QNJ Q

IJHJZQNQB. — AJBBXV MCESJO

Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is a little like expecting the bull not to attack you because you are a vegetarian. — Dennis Wholey

## Jimmy Kimmel Encounters Mensa

Transcript by Maxine Kushner

*Shortly after midnight, in the wee small hours of February 4, "Jimmy Kimmel Live" [ABC] played a three-minute clip of Tammy Faye Bakker Messner at the Smarti Gras RG (Orlando, Jan. 31-Feb. 2). Our thanks to Maxine Kushner for making this transcript. Also see page 6 for Elissa Rudolph's comments on this unexpected but welcome plug for Mensa.*

Jimmy is sitting behind his desk on his regular set. Behind him is a large TV screen. On it we see Tammy Faye standing outdoors in front of some satellite dishes.

Jimmy: "Is it wild down there?"

Tammy Faye: "It is WILD here." Jimmy: "Are the geniuses stripping their tops off and vomiting?" Tammy Faye [smiling]: "All of that."

The clip starts: Close-up of several pens in man's pocket; pull back to see the whole man. Shot of "Smarti Gras" satchel on chair. Close-up of T-shirt: "Hell's Mensans, Windy Ridge Chapter Vice President"; pull back to see whole man.

Next we see Tammy Faye in what appears to be the lobby, interviewing Maggie Truelove, co-host of Smarti Gras — Maggie explains what an RG is, Tammy Faye smiles, pauses with goofy smile, audience laughs.

Tammy Faye [in games room]: "Now, I'm not used to hanging out with geniuses, so I was apprehensive at first, but the more I got to know Mensa, the more I realized that *these* were my kind of people." [Shot of guy licking lollipop, but run backwards so he is licking down; in the background I see Kathy Zadorozny from our chapter (Tampa Bay Mensa) and Rich Manno, and I recognize all the others as having attended our TBM RGs.]

Tammy Faye [in hallway speaking with tall MM]: "Here you guys are, all the smart people, and there are hundreds and hundreds of you, thousands of you. Now why don't you guys control the world?" Tall MM: "Unfortunately, being smart is not necessarily something that is, uh, valued in today's society as much as you might think it would be." Tammy Faye: [turning to camera] "Ohhhhhhhhh." [Smile]

Tammy Faye [back in games room]: "I was really nervous about coming here because I didn't feel like I, I thought, you know, um — Mensa, Tammy Faye — oxymoron. [Laughs, goes up to boy at game table, puts arm around him (he was at our RG last year; I think he won the video game tournament).] "Are you going to join Mensa some

day?" Someone at table: "He *is* a Mensan." Tammy Faye: "Oh, he IS. Oh wow, we've got some guy here." Tammy Faye [standing next to another woman]: "Is there life on other planets? 'Cuz I really think I've seen UFOs before." [Woman looks, says nothing.] Tammy Faye [back by boy, leaning in, he kinda leans away shyly, not looking at her]: "Is it fun being really smart?" Kid: "I guess." Tammy Faye: "Do the kids at school, do they kinda stay away from you?" Boy: "No."

Tammy Faye [in meeting room, dancing, swiveling hips]: "Due to an after-hours Boggle game the night before, attendance was low at the 9 a.m. belly-dancing class. [Tammy Faye and three other women are following the instructor's lesson.]

Tammy Faye [elsewhere]: "Are there more men or are there more smart women?" Woman [seated at table]: Of course women are smarter than men, but actually within Mensa there are more men." [Both

laugh.] Tammy Faye: "There are more men. So is that why they call it MEN-sa?" [laughs]

Tammy Faye: "In the end, I found it's not the size of your brain; it's the size of your heart. [Shown in slow motion: Tammy Faye walks up to TBM member Sylvia Zadorozny and they hug as Sylvia's daughter Kathy looks on and smiles. They show shots of her talking to the boy again and of her dancing at the belly dancing lesson.] "And most importantly [she is talking to the tall MM in the hall], I found [cut to a tight shot of, presumably, his hand squeezing her rear] friends." [Audience laughs.] [As Tammy Faye and tall MM walk off down the hall, hand in hand:] "It was a weekend I'll *never* forget." [Audience laughs, claps, cheers.]

Back in studio, Tammy Faye on the screen: Jimmy: "Thank you, Tammy Faye. Did you have a good time?" Tammy Faye: "I had a *wonderful* time, Jimmy. Thanks for sending me." 

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**URBAN COWBOY***Handicap**Bud Urban*

Confronted by the calico cat, I was playing solitary on the card table. I said she could sleep in front of the cards. But she must NOT lash the tail. Now take your thumb and point the tip toward your palm, moving the thumb only at the most distal joint, then straighten the thumb. That way you can see how much Calico wagged her tail, at the extreme tip. Then she tucked the tail where her back legs held it down and it didn't wag at all. "Let me be worthy," I thought, of this beautiful animal whose soft fur is beginning to age.

Open letter to "researchers at Indiana U":

To: Edward R. Hirt, Department of Psychology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405

Is there only one way? Are we supposed to spend our lives learning crap that you can find in any library? Especially when we repeatedly learn a few years after school is out that we are the only ones who don't have to retrieve our education FROM the library.

Here's what is going on. These psychologists have invented a new syndrome to vilify intelligent men and are blaming it on the women, or at least praising women for something

that is not very praiseworthy. Conformity.

"We are leaving dear old Iowa City High," wrote Orianna Buchmayer in our graduation song. I didn't realize that we were also taking leave of rationality. What we are talking about is "studying for final exams."

These Hoosiers claim that people who don't study for finals are handicapping themselves in that manner, providing an excuse either for doing poorly or for "crowing" — *crowing!* — if they cream the test. Back at City High if you had a G average, you didn't take the test. That way you didn't waste your

time over-learning and the usual cocks could do the crowing. I have not wasted my time over-learning ever since. Crowed a little, though.

Although it was nice for the pupils, I think this exemption was really done to save work for the faculty. (I didn't ask Old Snake Eye about this. He was the principal. We never did see eye to eye.)

Had we had achievement tests every time we turned around, the way



the kids do now, I might have promulgated my methods: Keep your ears open in class. Don't waste time educating your notebook by taking notes in class, but doodle a little if you wish. Don't do homework.

Come to think of it, we (I) *did* study. In our 60-minute class periods, especially math, 40 minutes were for lecture and 20 for study. For lab courses this was reversed. Timewise, there was another five minutes to get from one class to another. Where they got those 65-minute hours, I don't know.

Then sometimes a study hall would appear on your schedule. Not often if you were in the band. Practicing your instrument was minor in high school because we had already done it in grade school. Just as studying was minimized in college because we had already done it in high school. One year I used study hall to over-learn American literature. I have not yet regretted it.

When I wanted to find out about something they didn't teach in school, I would turn to books. (That sure beats asking somebody. People who "ask somebody" get a lot of misinformation. Being educated includes knowing which persons to ask.) In grade

school I did outside study in mythology and paleontology. Paleontology has changed so much. (And mythology so little.) In these studies I was handicapped by having to use the children's library. Believe me, this was not self-handicapping.

These methods have served me well for the many years of college I chose for myself. I guess they helped me when I was forced into engineering, too; they helped me out when I wanted out. I never did want to drive a train.

This was at a time when adults were fighting for a 40-hour work week. Kids were expected to spend that much time on homework alone, and teachers who asked for a lot of homework must have thought they had the only class in school, as there was no effort to coordinate the desires of one slave-driving teacher with those of the next one.



We had six periods daily in high school. When they gave you a seventh period, it was because you had been bad. I would have preferred the

seventh period as a study hall. See, I'm not against study, I'm just against studying for a final exam, which I consider to be a (mild) form of cheating.

Now I read in the paper that they

consider not studying to be a psychopathology. What will they pick out next, not cheating? Then I read in the paper that they had named a syndrome for not studying. Did I resent it? Well, I certainly represent it. But after I read the scientific message itself, I had to face the fact that it was not about me, and my name would not be attached to this particular claim to fame.

"Researchers call it self-handicapping," said the newspaper bit. It was about males who chose not to study for a final, and about tradition-bound females who would never make such a choice and so they looked down their noses at said males. It's not about me, because I never studied for a final. Perhaps when I get a little older. 77 is coming up, and I might change my study habits. I used sleep-learning for state boards. I shoved the textbooks under my pillow.

Self-handicapping. Catchy name. Handicap has a number of meanings. Here, it must mean to act to your own detriment. It also means to predict. That, I would enjoy. Make book on the grades each of the class will attain, and let them bet on it.

According to the published ac-

count, the idea of self-handicapping had already been presented to the Midwestern Psychological Association

in 1994. I sure know about Midwestern psychology. I lived it. Delineated by Iowan Meredith Willson, it stated that sex was bad, was caused by playing pool, and could be prevented by playing in the band.

Willson specified a boys' band, but that was too cruel for my part of Iowa. We had some segregated musical organizations (something for everyone), but we also had lots that were co-ed.

While I was looking up self-handicapping in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, I found something even more interesting, if possible. This journal was asking for reviewers. I guess they wanted a more diverse group of reviewers to select their articles for publication. "Members of underrepresented groups" was the way they phrased it. Me, me. I have background in science, a journalism degree, and lots of newspaper experience. Then I find out that they insist on persons who have had many papers published in scientific journals.



## "Mabus Soon Dies . . . When the Comet Will Pass"

John Hogue

The following article is adapted from the February 3 "Hogue Prophecy Bulletin," an e-mail publication.

### THE "COMET" WAS SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA!

Friends, it has been my experience as a prophecy scholar that when events foreseen by the 16th-century seer Nostradamus are about to be fulfilled, details as bright as the sun begin cutting through the apparent cloudiness of his prophecies in rapid succession.

It is my belief that last Saturday's space shuttle disaster is the first illumination of a succession of events coming in the next few months concerning Century 2 Quatrain 62. Nostradamus' famous "Mabus" prophecy is about to be fulfilled.

A translation into English reads:

Mabus will soon die, then will come

A horrible undoing of people and animals,

At once one will see vengeance,

One hundred powers, thirst, famine, when the comet will pass.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Another translation is, "One-hundred hands, thirst, famine, when the comet will pass." The medieval French reads, "*Cent, main, soif, faim, quand courra la comete.*" (All footnotes are by MWM, not by John Hogue.)

Nostradamus wrote two prophecies concerning the advent, destruction, and 27-year war of the third of three antichrists. He hid the name of the first antichrist under the anagram "Napaulon Roy" (Napoleon King); the second he called "Hister" (Hitler); the third is either code-named "Mabus" (C2 Q62), or called the "Third Antichrist" (C8 Q77). For now I will give you brief interpretive conclusions about the Mabus/Third Antichrist prophecies. If you wish to examine how I came to these conclusions I invite you to read the Hogue Prophecy bulletins posted at my web site ([www.hogueprophecy.com](http://www.hogueprophecy.com)).

Two finalists compete for the title of "Mabus." As I have been saying for over 15 years now, you can get Saddam (Hussein) out of "Mabus" by using the anagram game of reverse lettering. Put Mabus into lowercase letters — "mabus." Reverse them and you get "subam." Reverse any letter that makes another letter and you get "zudam" or "sudam." The laws of anagram allow for doubling one letter, so you can get "suddam." You are also allowed one vowel's replacement with another, so you can replace

“u” with “a” to spell “Saddam.”

I have shared my belief on the record for nine years (and counting) that Nostradamus’s Third Antichrist is none other than Saddam Hussein. However, as events catch up with augury, an interpreter must be open-minded to the ever-clearer understanding that often comes when the light of future events foreseen draw near to the present.

There is another possibility for who Nostradamus thought “Mabus” was to be. By following the laws of anagram you turn the “M” and “a” in “Mabus” upside down and they become “g. W.” The “h” is left silent in Latinized French; thus “bus” becomes “bus(h).” “Mabus” therefore becomes G.W. Bus(h).

No matter how repugnant this revelation may be to myself and to other Americans, I cannot rule out the growing prescient evidence that the Third Antichrist may be the American president, G.W. Bush, rather than Iraqi president Saddam Hussein. It is also necessary to confront the ugly possibility that Nostradamus has once again mistaken his symbols and made a composite out of two adversarial leaders. In other words, Mabus would be a composite of Bush and Saddam

Hussein. They are the two-faced catalyst for the Third World War.

The events of the next few months will prove my interpretation of the Mabus prophecy true or false. If my understanding of Nostradamus is correct, then sometime around the new moon of 3 March 2003, the United States will invade Iraq.



Saddam Hussein will be killed in one of his bunkers by a missile, or by a coup. If he is “Mabus” then he “soon dies.” He therefore is one of the first casualties of this new war. His death is not the beginning of the end of troubles, but the end of the beginning of a 27-year

war of terror. A number of Nostradamus’s prophecies imply that this war’s final stages could see nuclear exchanges between old adversaries of the Cold War era: Russia and America, as well as a nuclear exchange between America and China — all taking place sometime no later than the end of the 2020s.<sup>2</sup> In other words, a rush to war will hasten the death of Mabus, and his death brings this terrible apocalypse upon humanity. Nostradamus in Century 8 Qua-

<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., C2 Q5; C2 Q29; C2 Q41; C2 Q46; C2 Q89; C2 Q5; C4 Q9; C5 Q47; C6 Q21.

train 77 says:

The Third Antichrist very soon  
annihilated.<sup>3</sup>

Twenty-seven years his bloody war  
will last.

The heretics are dead, captive,  
exiled,

Blood-soaked human bodies, and  
a reddened, icy hail covering  
the earth.

The Third Antichrist — this man named Mabus — is the first to go down. Whether this first casualty of war turns out to be the president of the United States<sup>4</sup> or of Iraq — or both — the war of Mabus is just beginning. It is a war motivated by “heretic” religious views. Its catalyst harbors extreme fundamentalist and apocalyptic religious views, be they Christian (in the case of Bush) or Islamic (in the case of Saddam Hussein). Islamist terrorists are already the “captives, exiled” filling the U.S. POW camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The final line could be a horrific description of the human wreck-

<sup>3</sup> Another perfectly plausible translation is, “The antichrist well annihilates all three”: “*L’antechrist trois bien tost annihilez.*” In the Christian Testament, an antichrist is anyone opposed to Christianity (e.g., 1 John 2:22).

<sup>4</sup> I keep thinking about the so-called 20-year curse on the U.S. presidency (Harrison, Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, Wilson, FDR, Kennedy), which Reagan escaped only through the miracles of modern medicine. — MWM

age one might behold if the death of the American president or the Iraqi president should inspire a catastrophic retaliatory revenge attack (“a horrible undoing [or destruction] of people and animals”). Nostradamus in other quatrains hints of “new plagues” unleashed across the earth from this war. Perhaps the red stain upon corpses and the icy hail are a 16th-century man’s attempt to describe those killed by a rain of chemical and biological weapons.

Perhaps “Mabus soon dies” in the next few weeks, after “the comet” passes.

Nestled in the grass in a field in e a s t e r n Texas lies a mission patch from the fallen s p a c e shuttle Columbia. It somehow had miraculously survived its fiery fall out of the morning sky. The names of the seven heroic astronauts who died make an outline of their space shuttle. A glowing trail like a comet’s tale streaks through the shuttle’s outline, ending in a many-pointed star. It is a star very similar to that filmed by a hundred amateur video cameras across Texas as it fell to earth like a flaming comet.

“Mabus will soon die, then will



come, a horrible undoing of people and animals . . . when the comet will pass."

Has the comet just passed?

Is this the chilling portent of things to come for America if they should hurry off to war?

Destiny holds its breath as America primes its war machine.

John Hogue, Rogue Scholar/Author: *Essential Nostradamus: Prophecies for the 21st Century and Beyond; Nostradamus: The New Millennium; Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies; Messiahs, The Visions and Prophecies for the Second Coming; The Last Pope: The Decline and Fall of the Church of Rome; The Millennium Book of Prophecy; 1000 for 2000: Startling Predictions for the New Millennium.*

*The following paragraph arrived in my inbox as part of the original e-mail, but I believe it must have been tacked on by some wag as it made its way around the Internet; Google could not find any "Hogue Prophecy Correction Bulletin." This paragraph (broken into three by me to make it easier to read) is my principal reason for publishing this piece. — MWM*

I like the name too. But I feel compelled to set the record straight. This all actually has to do with the fact that Nostradamus never really had a knack for scheduled mainte-

nance. He threw away the owner's manual of his new vehicle the very first day and only put in gasoline. This whole scenario is actually the interpretation from a very, very old tape recording of a telephone conversation that Nostradamus had with his auto mechanic. In this conversation he was actually telling his mechanic, "My bus died."

So if you take the name "Nostradamus" and break it down, the ancients used to pronounce the first three letters n,o,s as "nin": Originally a sloppy writer wrote the "i" to look like an "o" and the second "n" looked like an "s," because he had tilted it on its side and written it backwards. The second syllable, "tra," was originally uttered by a dyslexic man who was referring to the web site "trade.com," so this should have been referred to as "com," with the "trade" silent, rather than the "com." Finally, "damus" was actually a misquote. He was referring to a time when, during a drunken stupor, he stumbled into a ladies' (*dames*) room and discover a strange woman pooping. In all truth, the village he lived in "connected the dots" and properly named him "Nincompoop."

The rest has to do with the fool sprinkling scrubbing powder on his pancakes, thinking it was confectioner's sugar. His doctor told him not to worry, though, "The Comet will pass."

— *The Hogue Prophecy Correction Bulletin*



**DOMMA'S DIARY***Classification**Donna Myhrer*

Thought I would try something different again this month. Remember "King Philip Came Over From German Shores"? [If you don't recall that one from high school biology, the first letter of each word gives you the order of classification in biology:

Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.] I will give you the Family, Genus and Species (if assigned one) of a well-known animal or plant (ten of each). All you have to do is decide what the common name is.



1. Family: Sciuridae. *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*.
2. Family: Anacardiaceae. *Rhus radicans*.
3. Family: Labiatae. *Mentha piperita*.
4. Family: Camelidae. *Lama glama*.
5. Family: Danaidae. *Danaus plexippus*.
6. Family: Ranunculaceae. *Ranunculus acris*.
7. Family: Columbidae. *Streptopelia turtur*.
8. *Amoeba proteus*.
9. Family: Phalangeridae. *Phascogale carolinensis*.

10. Family: Polypodiaceae. Genus: *Adiantum*.
11. Family: Gramineae. Genus: *Triticum*.
12. Family: Gramineae. *Poa pratensis*.
13. Family: Bovidae. *Ovis aries*.
14. Family: Rhinotermitidae. *Reticulitermes flavipes*.
15. Family: Oleaceae. *Syringa vulgaris*.
16. Family: Pinaceae. *Pinus ponderosa*.
17. Family: Labiatae. *Rosmarinus officinalis*.
18. Family: Cathartidae. *Cathartes aura*.
19. Family: Percidae. *Stizostedion vitreum*.
20. Family: Compositae. *Helianthus annuus*.

**ANSWERS TO DOMMA'S DIARY.**

- |                         |                        |                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Eastern red squirrel | 8. Amoeba              | 15. Lilac          |
| 2. Poison ivy           | 9. Koala               | 16. Ponderosa pine |
| 3. Peppermint           | 10. Maidenhair fern    | 17. Rosemary       |
| 4. Llama                | 11. Wheat              | 18. Turkey vulture |
| 5. Monarch butterfly    | 12. Kentucky bluegrass | 19. Walleye pike   |
| 6. Common buttercup     | 13. Sheep              | 20. Sunflower      |
| 7. Turtledove           | 14. Termite            |                    |

## *ExComm, from page 11*

concomitant extra costs for both printing and postage. She also brought up the planned 2003 Member Handbooks, which will contain the revised bylaws, and asked whether the ExComm wanted to emulate Vermont and New Hampshire, which annual fold their Handbooks into their newsletter, as TBM does with the Crewe List. Sylvia suggested we allow a budget for New Member Handbooks, approximately \$2 each and increase the *Sounding* printing budget to \$5000. Barbara moved that we accept the 2003 Proposed Budget as modified; Sylvia seconded. All in favor, no one opposed.

Barbara moved that the ExComm give a strong thank-you to Kathy for all the hard work on the CD and the budget. Dan seconded, all in favor, no opposed.

**Editor's Report** — Mary Matthews. Mary discussed the AML's annual Publications Recognition Program, asking for advice on (a) which issues of the *Sounding* to submit and (b) whether to submit our web site this year or to wait another year. The ExComm advised Mary (a) to use her best judgment and (b) to submit the web site.

**Testing Report** — Maxine Kushner. There are some new members interested in proctoring. Dan offered to help any new proctors in Pinellas.

No Scholarship or Calendar Report.

**Publicity Report** — Maxine Kushner. The RG publicity was sent to edi-

tors of other Mensa publications. Mary asked if we should send press releases to the *Tampa Tribune* and the *St. Petersburg Times* and see whether they might be interested in following in Jimmy Kimmel's footsteps? We do need to check with the Honchos on additional publicity. Will we test for new members at the RG? (Probably yes, as we have in past years.)

**LocSec Report** — Maxine Kushner. We have twenty registrations for the RG. Annual Picnic and Members meeting on Sunday, April 6th, backup date Saturday April 5th. She will contact Pinellas County to reserve a location at John Chesnut Park. TBM will supply the meat — hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers. Members to bring beverages and pot luck to share.

The call for candidates for the ExComm must appear in the March and April issues of the *Sounding*. Expiring two-year terms: Dana, Chris, Maxine. Expiring one-year terms: Mary and Barbara.

Leadership Development in Broward County, April 26th. If interested, contact Maxine.

The newsletter—and-web site "Tampa Bay Soundings" has not responded to our letter requesting they use another name. They have published three issues already.

No other reports.

The next ExComm meeting will be at the Annual Picnic, Sunday, April 6. Kathy moved that we adjourn, Sylvia seconded. All in favor. Meeting ended at 4:45 p.m. 

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