



# TAMPA BAY SOUNDING

*A Publication of Tampa Bay (Florida) Mensa*

---

*Vol. 28, No. 3*

*April 2003*

---



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— Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

# CONTENTS

All the News..., *Maxine Kushner, LocSec* ..... 4

Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa! ..... 5

One Big Happy, *Elissa Rudolph, R.V.C.* ..... 6

Tampa Bay Mensa Spring Picnic, Sunday, April 6, 2003 ..... 7

Call For Candidates, Tampa Bay Mensa 2003 Elections ..... 10

New Circulation Officer Needed, *Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer* 11

Letters to the Editor ..... 12

Manasota Mensa Picnic, May 4, *Kip Alexander*..... 15

Terrific February FSM, *Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer* ..... 16

April 2003 Calendar, *Ronan Heffernan, Calendar Editor* ..... 17

April Birthdays ..... 19

Jerry O' My Heart, *Mary W. Matthews* ..... 25

The Family Portrait, *Joni M. Fisher* ..... 27

Stories from DensaLand 2, *Dan Chesnut* ..... 29

The Trail of Retail, *B. Valsavage* ..... 31

"Reality, It's Not For Me, and It Makes Me Laugh," *Erin Wells* ..... 33

Wars and Rumors From the Bard, *compiled by Bud Urban* ..... 35

What is Your Body Made Of?, *Donna Myhrer* ..... 36



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

Hello, Tampa Bay Mensans!

The renewal deadline has come and gone, so if you have not submitted your dues, your subscription to the *Sounding* will soon end. Surely you wouldn't want that! If you do not partici-

pate in our chapter's activities, you might be asking yourself why you should pay \$49 a year when all you get is a subscription to the *Sounding* and the *Bulletin*. A

couple years after my sons and I first joined, I asked myself the same question. I didn't have a good answer and let my membership lapse. After a year or two, though, I decided I hadn't given my membership a fair chance. I signed up again and promised myself that this time I would go to some activities and see what Tampa Bay Mensa really had to offer. I did, and here I am, several years later and still enjoying it. If you've never been to an activity, or haven't been to one in a while, why don't you join us at the picnic on April 6?

Meanwhile, let me try to answer the question "What does Mensa have to offer?" Mensa offers you the opportunity to mingle with your intellectual peers. I do not mean to imply that we are in any way better than those who would not qualify for Mensa. What I

am trying to say is that though we have widely varying backgrounds, interests, and opinions, when we get together we find that our members are interesting to talk with and that these conversations enrich our lives.

And if you find that you crave more of these conversations, great! You can go to more events and sponsor some yourself. Tampa

Bay Mensa sponsors the

Bash every Memorial Day weekend, and we also sponsor other activities such as the Spring Picnic, the Autumn Campout, and the Holiday Party. The other activities on the calendar — Play Dates, Lunch Bunch, Tampa Dinner, Games Nights — came about because members wanted to meet with others and decided to set a date and time for that to happen. What are *your* interests? Movies? Sponsor a Movie Night, in your home or at the theater. The outdoors? Set a date for members and their guests to meet, rent canoes, and paddle down the Pithlachascotee. You get the idea. It's simple and doable. You come up with an idea, you post it to the calendar, a small group shows up, and a good time is had by all. If you have an in-



terest you'd like to share but are a little queasy at the prospect of it, contact me and I'll answer your questions and give you a little pep talk.

Preparations for Tampa Bay Mensa's biggest party continue. "The Fellowship of the RG" is going to be a blast. Come on out and mingle with your fellow Mensans and enjoy games, speakers, hospitality, and lots of fun social activities. See pages 8 and 9 for details. If you would like to volunteer, in any capacity, please contact Jack Brawner or any of the other honchos: [trojanowl@aol.com](mailto:trojanowl@aol.com), 727-546-6061.

Remember that Sunday, April 6 is the date for our third annual Spring Picnic at John Chesnut Park. TBM will provide burgers, dogs, veggie burgers, and condiments. You bring something to share. See page 7 for details.

I am pleased to announce that although we are still looking for a volunteer for the Circulation position, new member Ben Pethe has volunteered to take on the Testing Coordinator position. We also have members working on earning certification to be proctors. Thank you! 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.

Interested in joining the online discussion group? Information on joining our email lists is on TBM's website: <http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org/>.

Until next month —

*Maxine*

*maxine.kushner@verizon.net*

## *Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!*

Pamela Lynn Dodge  
 Wilma J. Genter  
 Keith Halbasch  
 Janet P. Irish  
 David I. Johnston  
 Stacey L. Levine  
 Sheldon J. Livingston, Jr.\*

Nan Owens  
 Patrick Rhodes  
 Kris G. Robinson  
 Deepak Srinivasagupta  
 Thom Thibodeau  
 Bud Urban

\* = New member; others are moves in, preferences in, or reinstatements.

## THE SEVENTH STORY

### *One Big Happy*

*Elissa Rudolph, R. V.C.*

Before the end of February, American Mensa reached the 50,000-member mark, a level that the organization has not enjoyed since 1994. Many reasons account for the high mark — foremost of which, in my opinion,

is the ability of most Ms to hang in there even when the picture is not so rosy.

We are, after all, like a big family, not quite the Osbournes, not quite the Nelsons, but somewhere in between. Another reason may be that new Ms now

stay longer than a year. It's always been my contention that if you give Mensa at least two years, you're more likely to stay longer. Bring on the challenges! We can do it!

The seventh annual "Bikers vs. Brainers" trivia contest held by Southwest by South Florida Mensa took place in February. Going into the contest Bikers and Brainers were tied, 3 to 3. This Mensa-sponsored trivia contest benefits the group's scholarship fund and always draws standing-room-only crowds. In the seventh face-off, guess who won?? The Brainers! Congratulations to SWS Ms!!

In the other corner of the region, more congrats are in order for the NW

Florida Mensa group. Their very first RG, ValenTime, held you-know-when, was a big hit. Ninety or more Ms attended both from the local area and the surrounding counties/states. Despite the loonngg drive from

my balliwick (about 12 hours, if the speed limit is assiduously observed), I enjoyed the hospitality, programming, scenic setting, and seeing this relatively small group (less than 200) run a successful event.

Now, about the south Florida LDW — Leadership Development Workshop. All day Saturday, April 26, we have organized workshops to inform, entertain, and stimulate you. Come and enjoy all or part of the day with Broward, Palm Beach, Miami Ms, and Ms from other groups. An agenda of topics and presenters has been sent to your local secretary and editor. Check it out — it's free! SIGHT accommodations may be available also for those traveling a distance. And you will take home some really great ideas and meet new friends. See you there? 🍷

April 26, Leadership Development Workshop, Airport Sheraton, Ft. Lauderdale, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Elissa (information in back of *Sounding*).



## 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.

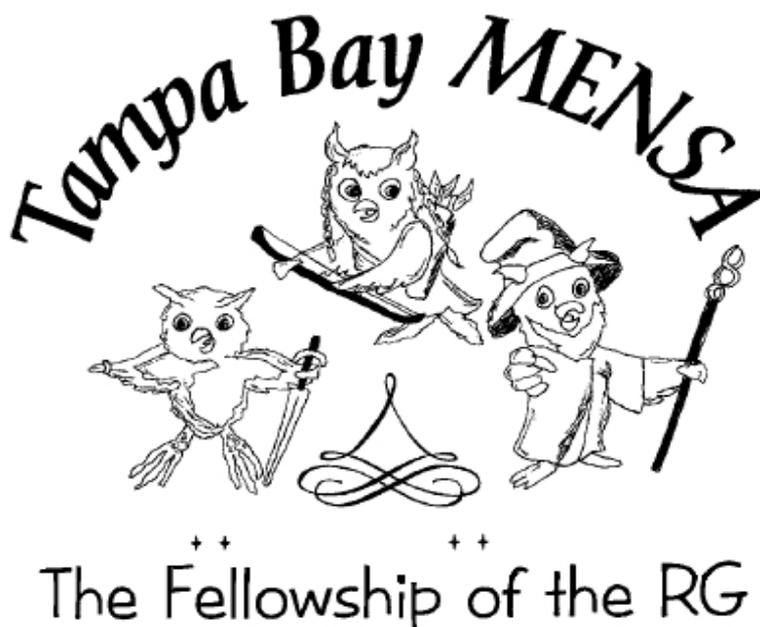
*From Pasco County:* Head south on Little Road. Turn right on Mitchell Road. This turns into Seven

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*





**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 <sup>OF</sup> 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. 




---



---

## *New Circulation Officer Needed*

*Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer*

Here we go again, folks! We do really need a new Circulation Officer, with a strong preference for someone in the 337 zip code. We had fine candidate who underwent a job change that has him traveling too often and far, and this job change may well take him out of the running.

Leaving the 337 zip would bring in many expensive changes involving a lot of paperwork to USPS specs; something to be avoided if possible.

For our new circulation officer, we need someone who can spend a couple hours preparing the mailing labels, running an FSM, and delivering the finished product to St. Pete's main post office BMEU (business mail entry unit) at 32nd St. and 1st Ave. N.

The biz at USPS takes under a half hour — often five minutes, though if you were to go at a high-traffic time of day, like noon, it might well take longer.

This job is heavy on detail, but light on labor — the heaviest box is the finished *Soundings* coming from the print shop.

Oh yeah, you need a car . . . and a sense of humor now and then. Please call me (727-896-4270) or any ExComm member for more details. Let's step up here now, so we can send our FSM around the counties again — until we get a new circulation officer, future FSMs will all be here at my apartment building in downtown St. Pete. 

## *Letters to the Editor*

### Florida State Library Still in Danger

Dear Florida Mensa LocSecs  
and Newsletter Editors—

A couple of weeks ago, I e-mailed every LocSec I could about the Governor's plan to dismantle the Florida State Library, disperse the Archives to other government agencies, and dispose of its collection. Some of this has been resolved well. The Archives are not going anywhere, but there are worse perils ahead.

The Governor concluded secret negotiations with Nova Southeastern University to give away the State Library's General Collection: over 300,000 bound books, 6,200 bound periodicals, 200,000 federal documents, 325,000 microfiche, 4,800 films, 9,700 videos with public performance rights, and 400 interactive CD-ROMs. The Governor and his legislative allies refer to this as a "circulating collection" because about 8 percent of the books are fiction. This is not true. Some items do circulate as part of the State Library's role as an interlibrary loan lender. Most of the General Collection was acquired to serve the research needs of legislators and their staffs, government agencies, and scholars and the general public.

The collection, according to Barratt Wilkins, who recently retired after 30 years as the State Librarian, has been valued at over \$10,000,000. The Nova Southeastern contract has Florida paying them at least \$2,000,000 the first year to take the collection plus at least \$1,000,000 a year for three more years. This should not happen.

Also, at least 40 and perhaps as many as 50 library staff are slated to be laid off 1 July, whether or not the Nova Southeastern proposal is approved. This is wrong. Even in times of economic uncertainty it is important that all of the State Library's collections remain intact, in Tallahassee, and in the care of expert professionals and paraprofessionals who can not only preserve the collection but also develop it and assist government employees, scholars, and the general public in making the most efficient and effective use of it.

I know that Mensa has no opinions, but Ms do. As an M and a librarian, I ask you to bring this information to the attention of your group's members. If they find the whole proceeding as deplorable as I do, I urge that they contact their local legislators and ask that they *not* support funding for the Nova Southeastern transfer and *do* support keeping the State Library in one place in Tallahassee, including funding for staff positions.

For more information on the Florida library community's response to the State Library situation, please visit [www.flalib.org/state\\_library/state\\_library.html](http://www.flalib.org/state_library/state_library.html).

Kathleen Stipek  
Gainesville

### 'T'ain't Funny, McGee

Dear Mary,

Reluctantly, I am writing to you about the March issue of the *Sounding*. Sadly, I read the piece "Creative Signs for Peace." It brings back the searing

memories of the late '60s and early '70s. It brings back the demoralizing activities of Jane Fonda and her ilk. It was a time of divisiveness in our country where many people with honest differences in policies were led and misled by others whose only motive was to create serious enough divisions so as to bring down the government. They almost succeeded. The cost was more than 58,000 American fighting men whose only recourse was to do their duty. I now see the same divisiveness beginning, again led by people whose agenda is the downfall of our government. While Ms Gentzen may think those signs are cute, at the same time they give the same support to Hussein as was given to Ho Chi Minh in the '60s and '70s. They resort to trying to belittle and demean because their real arguments are weak. Meanwhile, the true agenda of those behind the demonstrations is to belittle and demean the presidency and to undermine the authority of the legitimate government. And again, it will be the loyal fighting men and women who will not only have to face the enemy on the battlefield, but also suffer the attacks of the enemies at home. Sad, sad, sad. I am bleeding.

Paul Frappollo  
Odessa

This letter is to the editor in response to the March issue of the *Tampa Bay Sounding*.

There were a couple of articles that I found offensive: the article by Beverly B. Gentzen and the one by John Hogue.

At this time when our military are being placed at risk, to belittle our president or America is offensive to me.

Maybe being former military or a

member of the "Greatest Generation" makes me a little more aware. It seems as though I detect the magazine taking a more liberal slant than in previous years. I thought you were not to engage in politics or personal attacks. Both of the above articles had a personal attack on the President and an anti-American slant. The basis of both was political. I hope this was because you were busy with your husband's illness.

I was a member of Mensa in Georgia for many years. I can never remember as blatant a slant as reflected in those two articles. Maybe 9/11 or today's times make it different. I dislike being negative, but it is how I strongly feel.

Ken Poynter  
Sun City Center

If it was only "it's the oil, stupid" we'd have lifted the sanctions on Iraq and invaded Venezuela.

Linda Terrell  
Dunedin

Finally, there is a little bit of liberal balance to the generally conservative bent of the *Sounding*. February's "2008" and March's "Creative Signs for Peace" give me hope that the intelligent community isn't taking Bush's statements as gospel.

Support for ratcheting up America's role in the Vietnam War was fraudulently stirred up when military leaders and President Johnson conspired to invent a fake attack on an American ship in the Gulf of Tonkin. That attack never happened. Just before Operation Desert Storm, Colin Powell testified that Iraq had not only taken over Kuwait (which they had some historical rights to) but had also sent columns of troops toward

our ally Saudi Arabia. We had seen it with our spy satellites. Unfortunately, it never happened — wasn't true!

We seem to have a history of this. In 1848 the Grand Pooh-Bahs of westward expansion wanted chunks of Mexico. They were afraid that we would look bad if we just took it, so they made up a story about Mexican incursions into United States territory. Oh please, don't look so shocked. Someone who *was* shocked though, was Abraham Lincoln. His first major speech (which brought him to national attention) was the "show me the spot" speech. This name came from the fact that during the speech he waved a map of the United States around and a recurring line was a demand to the warmongers to "show me the spot" on the map where Mexico had invaded us. Some things, it seems, don't change.

Now we are treated to Colin Powell once again showing us pictures of baby food factories and claiming that they could be used for growing bacterial weapons of mass destruction and, according to Bush, no inspector could catch this. A number of reports suggest that the natural resources of Iraq have already been pledged to pay for the construction of new Iraqi infrastructure (oil wells). This work has already been divvied up amongst a number of large American construction companies, among them Brown and Root. This is a subsidiary of Halliburton, Dick Cheney's old firm. Oh please, don't look so shocked!

I am a loyal, liberal American Democrat and I would never play politics when it comes to true, long-term national security. But didn't Samuel Johnson warn us that "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel"? So when Bush and his cronies suggest that Saddam has nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass de-

struction, and contacts with Osama Bin Laden, please, don't be shocked. Stand up and demand that they "show you the spot."

Pete Cohoon  
Tampa

## Thank You!

Dear Mary:

I just wanted to drop you a note about your article, "American Mensa's Early Years" [November 2002]. Someone suggested that I read it on your website, because I have been about a centimeter away from telling all 50,000 members of Mensa to go to hell. I found your summary fascinating and a dead ringer for things that are going on today. Maybe now I'm a few centimeters away from telling everyone to go to hell!

Timothy H. Folks  
Baton Rouge, LA

EZVAJKOQXBOJA RQD

PJ FJYBVJF QA

GZKAMBWWJKA ZY

FJQF CBPJKQCA. —

FQVBJC RESHBKJ

Conservatives may be defined as  
worshippers of dead liberals. —  
Daniel McGuire

## *Manasota Mensa Picnic, May 4*

*Kip Alexander*

### *Manasota Mensa LocSec*

"It's party time, it's excellent!!!" (Wayne Campbell of "Wayne's World").

Manasota Mensa is planning to hold a spring picnic and all are invited. By all, we mean members of Mensa, their families, or any significant other(s) who would like to spend the afternoon of Sunday, May 4 (2 to 6 p.m.) in the pastoral setting of Colonial Oaks Park in Sarasota. Beverages, hot dogs, and burgers (or Boca Burgers for vegetarians — let June know) will be provided by Manasota Mensa. Please plan to bring a dish/salad/desert to fuel ten people (be creative — after all, you're Mensans). We ask that if you plan to attend, please let us know what type of dish you plan to bring and R.S.V.P. to June Brasgalla ([JuneB22@mindspring.com](mailto:JuneB22@mindspring.com)) or 941-379-6071 by Wednesday, April 30, so we can plan the food.

Colonial Oaks Park is a great setting with two pavilions, large old oak trees (for shade), as well as a large grass area for lawn games and your favorite lawn chair (bring 'em if you got 'em). There is also a very nice children's playground for the kids or the extremely young at heart.

It also is a convenient location for all members to find. For those trav-

eling I-75, use the Bee Ridge exit (formerly exit 38). Take Bee Ridge west for .25 mile and turn right (north) onto Cattlemen Road. Colonial Oaks Park is located on the west end of a subdivision and road called (what else!), Colonial Oaks. You will find Colonial Oaks Boulevard and subdivision just under a mile north of Bee Ridge (or .7 mile south of Bahia Vista if you're coming from that direction). Take this road almost to the end heading west (not that far) and there you are! Plenty of parking and no crowds. . . . (For you users of MapQuest and similar services, the park's snail-mail address is 5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., in Sarasota.)

Any volunteers for set-up, grilling, or any other fancy ideas, contact me at [Fretlesskip@aol.com](mailto:Fretlesskip@aol.com). We hope to see all of you there!

*Note: According to MapQuest, Colonial Oaks Park is approximately half an hour's drive from downtown St. Petersburg — but it's hard to tell, because MapQuest told me that to get from St. Pete to Sarasota, I first had to drive 18 miles north, to Tampa International Airport. Apparently MapQuest has never heard of the Skyway Bridge! — MWM*

**FOLD, SPINDLE, AND MUTILATE***Terrific February FSM**Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer*

Ah, a nice, warm day on the screen porch — nine happy folk toiling away merrily at Doug MacDonald's FSM in Land O' Lakes on February 23rd. On hand were Max Loick, Phyllis Roth, Dan Chesnut, Barbara Loewe, Sue Valek, Willa Harrison, Dana Groulx, Don Davis, and of course, host Doug MacDonald.

Nice to see Barbara walking again, however little so far. Sue is moving out again, but can get back for weekends.

A really nice day with good company, and a beautiful setting.

Until further notice, though, all FSMs will now be held at my apartment building's game room — the extra strain on Mary and Jerry is more than I want to continue; they had to lend me their car for this FSM. So the April FSM will be on the 27th of April, here at 440 4th Ave. N. (See page 23, in the calendar, for driving directions. I'm in the eart of downtown St. Petersburg, and easy to find.)

We have a very strong candidate for new circulation officer in Mike Fouse, but his new work travel schedule may keep him from taking on the job. We'll know shortly, so

once again I am warning y'all to get us another Circulation Officer pronto.

The travelling FSM was one of my better ideas, I thought, as it involved people from all over our area instead of just one set group, but I can't do that any more. The job is also getting to be more than I need, and new blood is truly needed. The new Circulation Officer, when we get one, will be able to start the traveling FSMs back up again.

Call me prontissimo, (727) 896-4270, and we'll talk you into it. . . . :-)

*Next FSM:**Sunday, April 27,**2 p.m.**Host: Max Loick  
St. Petersburg*

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

## April 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://www.tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the May calendar is April 13.

**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.

*April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursdays - 12:30 PM*

### LUNCH BUNCH

Description: 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)

*April 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - 11:00 AM*

### 3RD ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC

Description: 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 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.

Directions: John Chesnut Sr. Park is located at 2200 East

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

Lake Road, north of Tampa Road. Tampa Bay Mensa will be in shelter number 11, towards the back of the park. [http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/04\\_Chesnut.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/04_Chesnut.htm)

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.

*Maxine.Kushner@verizon.net - 727-841-6043*

*April 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> - Monday - 3:30 PM - \$2*

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

Description: 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

*April 8<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> -Tuesday- 6:30 PM*

### **TAMPA DINNER AT GINO'S RESTAURANT**

Description: 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)

*April 10<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

*Continued on page 21*



### *April Birthdays*

- |                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 3 Jane A. Semones        | 12 Peter S. Cohoon       |
| 3 Paul H. Smith          | 14 Duke N. Stern         |
| 3 Sally Buffum Marnell   | 15 Thomas R. Buonomo     |
| 5 Christopher T. Gaughan | 19 Lee Houser            |
| 5 Thomas W. Reesor       | 20 Christina E Drumm     |
| 6 Scott M. Bulfin        | 22 Kerry B. Lawson       |
| 7 Sylvia Zadorozny       | 23 Christine C. Christie |
| 9 Donald C. Forslund     | 23 Thomas A. Downs       |
| 9 Phoebe S. McCann       | 24 Austin S. Rogers      |
| 10 Gerald Thackham       | 25 Cindy L. Bethel       |
| 10 Jeff Shea             | 25 Gary R. Blais         |
| 11 Joyce A. Liberty      | 27 Bud Urban             |
| 12 Leigh R. Freijo       | 27 Richard Alan          |
| 12 Louis T. McDaniel     | Councilman               |

TAMPA BAY MENSA

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
		<p>1</p>  <p>Song of Solomon 2:12</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Florida State</b></p>
<p>6</p> <p><i>Third Annual Spring Picnic</i> John Chesnut Sr. Park, Palm Harbor 11 a.m.</p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Children's Game/Play Day</i> at Linne Katz's New Port Richey, 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p><i>Tampa Dinner</i> at Gino's Restaurant Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>13</p> <p><i>Schedule your May events now.</i></p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p><i>Children's Game/Play Day</i> at Linne Katz's New Port Richey, 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Tampa Dinner</i> at Gino's Restaurant Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Card Game</i> 7:00</p>
<p>27</p> <p><i>FSM</i> at Max Loick's, 2 p.m.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> 

# EVENTS CALENDAR 2003

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>Friday e Day</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
	<p><b>10</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>11</b></p> <p><i>Deadline for Sounding submissions</i></p> <p><i>Card Games Night</i> 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Passover</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> 
<p><i>Games Night</i> p.m.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>TGIF Horse &amp; Jockey Pub, South Pasadena 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><i>Games Night</i> 7:30 p.m.</p>
			



**Dolores T. Puterbaugh, LMHC, P.A.**

Holistic Counseling for  
Individuals, Couples, & Families

801 West Bay Drive \* Suite 416 \* Largo, Florida 33770

License # MH 005228

Member, Mensa, TNS, ICSPP, ACA, SMHCA

727-559-0863 or [puterbaugh@mindspring.com](mailto:puterbaugh@mindspring.com)

03g



**Serge Villani, CFM**  
Certified Financial Manager

*Mensan since 1985*

I will gladly review your financial and estate planning situation.

26301 U.S. Hwy. 19N, Clearwater

[serge\\_villani@ML.com](mailto:serge_villani@ML.com)

727-799-5612

800-964-7931

03h

**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*

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

*April 11<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friday & Wednesday - 7:00 PM - \$2*

**CARD GAMES NIGHT WITH DR. DAVE**

Description: You have all heard of Dr. Phil??? Well, we have Dr. Dave at our card nights — full of good advice — he sure helps solve my problems. Come on out and bring your favorite deck of cards (actually we have gobs of cards) & your game(s). Teach your game to us, learn a new one, and/or play an old one! Smoking on porch only. Four indoor cats are on board. Hope to see you all.

Directions: 2077 Druid Rd. E., Clearwater. Come south or north on Belcher Road — turn west on Druid Rd. (one block south of Route 60, Gulf to Bay) My house is two blocks west of Belcher on the corner of Woodley and Druid (south side of Druid). No parking on Druid, so pull in the driveway or park on Woodley.

Terri Elston - 727-446-6673 -TeriProfsr@aol.com  
2077 Druid Rd. E. - Clearwater

*April 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday - 5:30 PM*

**TGIF**

Description: You don't have to be an Anglophile to enjoy the Horse & Jockey British Pub, but you do have to be prepared to celebrate TGIF! The Horse & Jockey is located at 1155 Pasadena Avenue South, South Pasadena.

RE SMOKING: This is a pub and smoking is allowed, but smokers are asked to sit at the table nearest the bar.

Phoebe McCann - 727-546-4030

*April 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - 7:30 PM - \$2*

**GAMES NIGHT**

Description: This month's Last Saturday Rotating Games Night is at Mark Komula's in Tampa.

Directions: Take the Veterans Expressway to the Erlich Road exit. Head west on Erlich Road and take the first left, Briarthorn, into the Wood Briar West subdivision. The first

right is Woodbrook Drive. Mark's house is on the corner. Mark has two cats.

Mark Komula - 813-964-5390  
7202 Woodbrook Drive - Tampa

*April 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - 2:00 PM*

### **FSM**

Our April FSM will be held on Sunday, April 27th, 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 shuffleboard 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 wonderful 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!

Max Loick - 727-896-4270 - [oldmax1@juno.com](mailto:oldmax1@juno.com)  
440 4th Ave N #1409 - St. Petersburg



**RECOVERING GRANKEE***Jerry O' My Heart**Mary W. Matthews*

It all happened so *fast*. My husband went in for a routine physical. The internist had an echocardiogram done and sent Jerry to a cardiologist. The cardiologist did a simultaneous transesophageal echocardiogram and cardiac catheterization and sent him to a surgeon. And suddenly there I was, sitting in the surgical waiting room at All Children's Hospital (and don't think I'm ever going to let my husband forget that his surgery was done at All *Children's*).

(For reasons that were explained to me but that I don't remember, two hospitals that are side by side, like Bayfront and All Children's, are not allowed to *both* host heart surgeries. Bayfront patients like Jerry are taken to All Children's through a tunnel. Jerry spent the first night in Intensive Care at All Children's, and then was taken back to Bayfront for the rest of his hospital stay. On being informed that I would be allowed to go through the tunnel with Jerry, I said, "Oh, goody! And will there be a bright, white light at the other end of the tunnel, and loving beings waiting there to welcome us to the other side?" The nurse laughed and said, "Loving beings with knives . . .")

It is impossible to express adequately my gratitude to FM Marie

Roberts, formerly a good friend and now my adopted sister. Marie dragged herself out of bed in the middle of the night and drove all the way from North Redington Beach, about half an hour's drive even an hour before dawn. At 6 a.m., Marie searched both Bayfront and All Children's, and found us just in time to wish Jerry good luck before they wheeled his gurney away. Then she stayed with me until after Jerry was in Intensive Care, keeping me distracted in the waiting room with elegant conversation — wise, insightful, good-humored, and refreshingly commonsensical. Truly this is a queen among women!

I have to wonder who has a tougher time in situations like this — Mensans or "normals"? I have a vivid imagination. I also have a lifetime of watching medical dramas on TV, young *Dr. Kildare*, *Ben Casey*, *Marcus Welby, Medical Center*, *St. Elsewhere*, *E.R.*, and many more. And then there's one of my college roommates, who today is, according to *Washingtonian* magazine, one of the 100 best doctors in that metropolitan area. Laurel was constantly coming down with whatever disease had been featured on *Medical Center* that week — even diseases she couldn't

possibly get, like prostate cancer. All this has made me one of the finest lay diagnosticians in the world.

I sat in that chilly waiting room and thought about all the ways the operation could possibly go wrong. A nurse called me from the operating room every half hour or so to give me progress reports: We're prepping him now. Now he's on the heart-lung machine, but we haven't decided yet what's best to do. Now we've decided that Jerry's mitral valve does not need to be replaced, that it can be repaired. Now we're getting ready to close. It seemed to me that if something horrible happened — like an alien bursting out of Jerry's chest, skittering across the floor with a squeal, and disappearing to wreak havoc that only Sigourney Weaver would survive — I wouldn't get a phone call; the surgeon himself would come and take me to a private place and break the news in person. As long as the surgeon did not appear in the doorway of the waiting room, everything was all right.

Intelligence is such a small part of what we are as human beings that it would be insane to claim that just because we perform better on standardized tests, we also feel more profoundly or intensely. But an imagination that can range from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome to a masked invader bursting in and stealing Jerry's heart with a shout of "Allahu akbar!" is surely to be pitied in situations like these. I jest because I still

have trouble contemplating the possibilities that ran through my mind that morning.

In the event, the operation went smoothly, and I even got the impression the surgeon had enjoyed himself, although of course it would never do to say so. Jerry gains in strength and vitality daily, almost as visibly as a stop-motion film of a seedling turning into a flower. Daily I am consumed with guilt that I didn't notice what had been happening to him over the last five years, that I didn't nag him harder about getting those annual checkups. ("Isn't that just like a woman?" my hairdresser commented. "To feel guilty because you didn't nag *enough?*")

Jerry is older than I am, but these days he's my precious boy. For some unfathomable reason, God created Jerry to my exact specifications — kind, generous, smarter than I am (though he claims otherwise), well and widely read, bored by televised sports — and then inserted him into history retroactively, as it were. (Jerry also claims I've gotten this backward too.) Each forward step of Jerry's recovery brings me the mixed emotions of a mother — the first time he didn't need my help to bathe, the first time we walked around the block, the first time he asked for a weaker pain reliever than oxycodone. My boy is returning to himself rapidly — and even better, it's the self he was when we were first married, in 1989. The sap is rising, and I rejoice to see it.



## *The Family Portrait*

*Joni M. Fisher*

I have moved 35 times in 45 years. My husband spent his childhood in three houses, just three. We own a house now and it feels peculiar. My side of the family simply cannot sit still long enough for a professional portrait. The experts say that environment shapes one's personality, so what is the effect of frequently changing environments?

A frequently changing personality? My husband would nod behind my back. I can adapt to change faster and more comfortably than my hubby can. His sedentary childhood bred a somewhat compulsive personality. He generally resists change, even minute changes. Our furniture, for example, will remain in the same place until we die. I can move it to retrieve something valuable from under it, but must put it back in the original indentations in the rug. I have been known to shift the sofa table half an inch just to watch his reaction. Am I bad?

He came by his distaste for change through genetics. Before they moved, his parents had not rearranged their furniture in 11 years. They have loads of family portraits, individual shots and group shots spanning the decades. Two years ago they moved to Florida into a house a mile from us. Since the move South, poor dear great-grandma who lives with them has been asking when they would go home. At 97, she has

slight dementia and has convinced herself that they are on vacation in someone else's house.

In contrast, my mother instilled in me a zest for change. Like gypsies we trudged along from place to place with boxes and bags. The fact that mom was divorced and trying to support three children led to its share of moves to the next better job. By age 5 I could pack all my things well enough to brag that no toys broke in the move. I came to enjoy the ability to leave the past behind and start fresh in a new place, a new school, a new apartment. My two brothers and I developed certain skills of observation, diplomacy, and boxing as a matter of survival. Mom never punished us unless we threw the first punch. I learned how to take a punch and how to end a fight with one.

We continue our wanderlust, my brothers and I. My older brother Jon joined the Air Force to see the world. He has lived in Little Rock (Arkansas), Thule (Greenland), Athens (Greece), the Azores, some place just outside of London, Korea, Minot, North Dakota, and Mounds View, Minnesota. He gains something in each place he goes: an accent from Arkansas, survival skills from Thule, a wife and a language in Athens, a love for reading from the Azores, dishware from London, and a college degree in Minot. His life seems

richer, more exotic because of his travels. I ask you, how many people in Korea can speak Greek with an Arkansas accent?

My baby brother Jim, now a doctor, has lived in New York City, Honolulu, Madison, Wisconsin, Buffalo, New York, West Palm Beach, Florida, Henderson, Kentucky, and many more places that I've written in pencil in my address book. He teases me that I'm the only one in the family without at least a master's degree. I remind him that I'm the only one of our generation who is married and a parent. I haven't been entirely idle this last decade or two.

The year I moved to Florida with my family, my mother ran off to law school in Lansing, Michigan. She left her house in Clearwater and took what she could fit in the car to her new apartment. I reminded her that I moved to Florida so she could watch her only grandchild grow up. Mom assured me she wouldn't stay in Michigan after graduation, and then she made good on that promise.

For the first time ever, my mother and brothers and I each own a house. It's amusing to see the gypsies settle into suburbia. We're getting together for a family portrait, the first one in seventeen years. It's been a monumental effort. Since I'm the only one without a full-time job outside the home, I was assigned the task of arranging for the photographer. I enjoy that we are gathering together without the excuse of a wedding or funeral. It feels so tame, so domesticated.

My daughter will be in this family portrait. She's only moved four times in her 16 years. I wonder which of us she will emulate? She was conceived in Antigua. We've taken her to Ecuador, Mexico, and the Bahamas, and the child expertly packs a suitcase. She hasn't moved her furniture once, but then, all her clothes, books, and other belongings constantly migrate around the room. I guess we'll soon discover her feelings about travel when she gets a used car in a few months. I find myself resisting even the idea that she will move out to go to college. She has the skills to flourish in chaotic change while she enjoys the immovable foundation of a loving family. I'll miss her so.

This portrait will document that we were once together in the same place at the same time just to celebrate our familial ties, this gypsy band. And I'll put my copy of the portrait in a gorgeous frame on the dresser in my bedroom in my house. I might even keep it in the same spot for years and years and years. 📷



## *Stories from DensaLand 2*

*Dan Chesnut*

I had so much fun collecting stories for my first "DensaLand" article that I decided to submit a few more. Seeing that first article reprinted in another local group's newsletter provided further inspiration. These stories are about the verbal boners we all seem capable of pulling at least once in a while, but I believe we experience a comic — and somewhat evil — satisfaction in reviewing those of other people! I hope you enjoy these.

Soon after the American troop action calmed down in Afghanistan in late 2001, the Bush Administration was still saying that Osama bin Laden would be found and that he would be brought to justice! But several weeks after the fall of the Taliban, the White House first said what we all learned since: "Uh, we don't know where he is."

Around that time (December 28, in fact), Donald Rumsfeld said, in response to conflicting rumors about the whereabouts of bin Laden, "I've stopped chasing them." He followed that up with this gem: "We do know, of certain knowledge, that he is either in Afghanistan or in some other country or dead."

Mr. Rumsfeld certainly knows logic! He also said, "And we know of

certain knowledge that we don't know which of those happens to be the case." I sleep well at night knowing this man is in charge of our national defense.

One of my digital music channels displayed a trivia note saying a certain musician had moved to Los Angeles from "rural Chicago." Now, I've been to Chicago, and I have seen the map, and I remember it as basically a queen bee city surrounded by worker suburbs with a lot of droning mixed in, especially near the Loop. The nearest "rural" must have been at least 30 miles out. "Rural Chicago"?

In January 2002, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers still had a reputation for not being able to win a game in cold weather, defined as 40 degrees or colder. The Bucs were about to go up to Philadelphia for a cold playoff game (and that refers to both the weather and the reception they got from the city), and Joe Theismann, a former Super Bowl quarterback and allegedly an ESPN sports "analyst," wrote, "It's a myth when people say the Bucs can't win in cold weather. Statistically, there is some truth because they are 0-20 when the temperature is 40 degrees or lower. . . ."

Good, Joe. You sure know how to debunk a myth! I think Joe was sacked a few too many times before he suffered that career-ending broken leg.

We know that large populations of fish and birds migrate annually, triggered by changes in temperature. Similarly, certain sun angles and temperatures trigger some creatures to wiggle out of the pond and spawn in the mud. With that in mind, I saw the following headline from December 2002: "Merchant's Nov. Sales Hurt by Later Holiday, Decline From a Year Ago."

This is in reference to the late Thanksgiving that year, which reduced the holiday "shopping season" by six days. Why the timing of the Thanksgiving reduced spending on Christmas gifts, I do not clearly understand. Apparently, a lot of shoppers are primeval in their habits, buying only when their shopping instinct

is in tune with the mud wigglers. At the risk of being a party pooper, here's my suggestion to Densa shoppers: If you need to buy something, don't wait for a certain November alignment of overeating and family migrations. Just buy it! It's only a business transaction for a way-future event! Let the poor salmon be stopped by artificial dams in their heroic upstream swim, but don't let the timing of Thanksgiving defeat you!

Those are my stories for now. They say sequels are rarely very good, but the human race just keeps contributing fodder, like a blind man trying to spend fake coins, so I might continue collecting these gems.

Author's note: I would like to compile workplace stories from DensaLand. If you have any good boners to add to mine (did I actually write that?), please email to: [Chesnut314@aol.com](mailto:Chesnut314@aol.com). 



*President  
Bush  
endorses  
Tampa Bay  
Mensa's  
Memorial  
Day 2003  
RG, "The  
Fellowship  
of the  
Ring."*

## *The Trail of Retail*

*B. Valsavage*

While shopping this week with a friend, I was impressed by the whole sensory experience of the lights, the noise, the glitter and glitz! We humans take to the shopping environment as easily as we take to visiting the country. And yet the two settings are at opposite ends of the social spectrum. Why is that? Did God program us with the mall in mind? For the "lower" animals, procreating and finding food and shelter fill their lives. But people seem to have a need to fill their shelters with "stuff"! Thus, the advent of shopping.

Who was the first businessperson? I wonder if some primitive character had too many fish or berries or mushrooms and figured if he stood on the main path to the watering hole he could get some other rocket scientist like himself to swap whatever he had. And thus was born the first business plan. Now instead of having an excess of one item this fellow had some of two items. And it wouldn't be too long before he had several items. And the local females would notice. With what probable results? The first gold digger!

So then, this enterprising whiz made a stretched animal skin held up with good strong tree limbs so all his "stuff" was not on the ground getting stepped on and dirty, and

enabling the myopic (no glasses yet, remember) to get a better look. And so the first display stand was devised.

In time one of his less industrious neighbors would attempt to sneak away some of his goods while he was distracted and forever be known as the father of all shoplifters! If this first crook got caught, one of his relations might take a club or crude knife and rob our hero, contriving armed robbery! And because our hapless mushroom merchant carried no business insurance he would need to hire his wife's big, mentally challenged brother to watch his back. This being a mixed blessing, starting employees, security guards, and nepotism. He would even have to get an extra cave to warehouse his stock.

After a while other folks with extra stuff would join with this first guy in a sort of co-op. And you know, in time, due to the lack of written contracts, there was bound to be a dispute over the distribution of profits, causing former partners to become competitors trying to steal each other's customers. Thereafter creating the need for marketing plans using discounts, loss leaders, and the ever popular half-off sales!

Since money was not thought up yet, people would have had to barter. And because you don't get some-

thing for nothing, these window shoppers would need to start making things to trade with, slowly creating crafts and goods. The term “goods” probably came from the poor quality and workmanship of the first products. After some trial and error, and a little practice, the stuff surely got better. People would no doubt walk up to our merchant and ask if he had the “goods” rather than the bad crap he was peddling! This would be the first consumer report. Eventually someone would ask if she could bring a clay pot tomorrow for some mushrooms today, at a better exchange rate for the merchant of course, starting the whole credit thing!

This was the genesis of today’s whole economic system. From these humble beginnings came market places, bazaars, caravans, and sea

trading. Resulting in the founding of port cities, city-states and then nations. With the abstract mathematical concepts of standards of measures, monetary values and supply and demand. And this would influence food production and distribution, various forms of arts and crafts, clothing styles, and domestic and civil building projects. All this from some cave dweller with some extra mushrooms.

So the next time you go shopping, think for a minute about how the mall you are walking around in came into being. And try to picture what the first merchant would think of it all. If he truly understood the consequences of that simple desire to profit from his surplus, he would probably have dug a hole, thrown his stuff down it, and never thought about it again!



## "Reality, It's Not For Me, and It Makes Me Laugh"

Erin Wells

Many of my favorite television shows have been off the air for at least 30 years. I'm in the minority, though, as mine is the generation that has made reality television one of the most unexpected entertainment phenomena ever. The ratings seem unstoppable. When people get tired of *Survivor*, they change the channel to *American Idol 2* or *Are You Hot?*

I have never been one to moralize about entertainment. I'm a strong supporter of the First Amendment (as long-term readers of this publication know) and a reformed Howard Stern fan (hey, I said reformed — we're all allowed to make mistakes in our youth). But now I'm taking a stand. I feel that reality television poses a new threat to our collective values.

I stopped watching Howard Stern because seeing people humiliated day after day ceased to be entertaining for me. I began to see that people were willing to be humiliated for their 15 minutes of fame (which, of course, they get — everyone heard about Hank the Angry Drunken Dwarf's untimely death due to his alcoholism) and that other people were willing to oblige them so they could feel better about themselves. Psychologists call this downward so-

cial comparison.

Downward social comparison can be functional. Recovering cancer patients use it to mark their progress. They know they're not healthy yet, but they're doing better than that guy over there who might have a month left, if he's lucky. Indeed, downward social comparison can be very beneficial. However, in this case, it is nothing but disguised snobbery. We feel better about ourselves because we're not as pathetic as the people on *American Idol 2* who can't carry a tune in a bucket and don't seem to know. "At least I *know* I can't sing," people say as they watch some poor schmuck belt out an off-key version of "I Believe I Can Fly."

A psychology professor at the University of Tampa I interviewed for this article also pointed out that people fantasize about being plucked from anonymity and elevated to celebrity. That is an obviously ageless dream; the French fairy tale "Cendrillon" (Cinderella) was collected by Charles Perrault in the 17th century, but the story itself is probably as old as humanity.

One of the more popular recent shows, *Joe Millionaire*, was viewed as a morality tale or social experi-

ment by many. My own boyfriend said that so many women are gold-diggers, he'd kind of like to see them get what they deserve. He didn't think any of them would stick around when they found out that Evan is really just a construction worker who makes less than the median income.

One of my economics professors told our class that the women on that show were already in love when they started — in love with the money, that is. Even though I agree with those sentiments, this kind of program-

ming is the wrong venue for any kind of serious social inquiry. If the creators themselves don't take these shows seriously and admit there's no underlying meaning, then viewers are in a state of denial, trying to find meaning where there is none.

Even though my opinion of them is low, I could overlook shows like *Survivor* and *American Idol*. My real beef is with shows like *Joe Millionaire*, *The Bachelorette*, and *Married By America* (a show in which two strangers will be selected by viewers' votes to wed). It started with *Who Wants To Marry a Millionaire?* and there seems to be no end in

sight. As if the institution of marriage weren't in enough trouble with a 50 percent divorce rate, we weaken it further by trivializing it with glorified arranged marriages.

Furthering this moral quandary is *Are You Hot?*, a show that makes no bones about its purpose: finding the

most sexually attractive people in America. It's a talent show with no talents. (No, I'm not a big fan of the Miss America pageant either, and I think that children's pageants are child abuse.) I'm sure this show will place in the top 20 of the Nielsen

ratings nearly every week it airs, proving that our society continues to emphasize all the wrong things.

Of course, these are just my opinions, and the societal impact of these shows depends on one's moral point of view. If you think these shows are merely harmless, escapist entertainment, there is no societal impact. But if your views are more in line with mine, this is a concern for you. However, if researchers can't even agree on the impact of violent video games, I doubt they'll be able to agree on the impact of reality TV. Time will tell, but are we prepared to take that risk?



**URBAN COWBOY***Wars and Rumors From the Bard**compiled by Bud Urban*

His brave fleet.

Hear the shrill whistle which doth  
order give

To sounds confused.

Draw the huge bottoms through the  
furrowed sea,

Breasting the lofty surge. (1)

We carry not a heart with us from hence

That grows not in a fair consent  
with ours,Nor leave not one behind that doth  
not wish

Success and conquest to attend on us.

Those that were your father's  
enemiesHave steep'd their galls in honey, and  
do serve youWith hearts create of duty and of  
zeal. (1)

From the tents

The armourers, accomplishing the  
knights,

With busy hammers closing rivets up,

Give dreadful note of preparation.

The country cocks do crow. (1)

To employ those soldiers,

So levied as before, against the  
Polack;With an entreaty, herein further  
shown,That it might please you to give  
quiet passThrough your dominions for this  
enterprise. (2)*Cap.* We go to gain a little patch of  
groundThat hath in it no profit but the  
name.*Ham.* Why then the Polack never will  
defend it.*Cap.* Yes, it is already garrison'd. (2)

The nimble gunner

With linstock now the devilish canon  
touches,

And down goes all before them. (1)

Behold where stands

The usurper's cursed head; the time  
is free. (3)

Flower of warriors,

How is't with Titus Lartius?

As with a man busied about decrees;

Condemning some to death; and  
some to exile;Ransoming him, or pitying,  
threat'ning th' other;Holding Corioli in the name of Rome,  
Even like a fawning greyhound in the

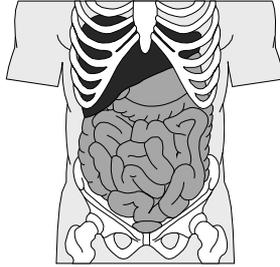
leash,

To let him slip at will. (4)

(1) Henry V (2) Hamlet (3) Macbeth  
(4) Coriolanus

**DONNA'S DIARY***What is Your Body Made Of?**Donna Myhrer*

How much do you know about what is going on in your own body as we speak? Here is a little quiz about glands in the human body. I will list two statements about



each of the following ten

glands. All you need to do is match the names of the glands with the statements. They are: adrenal, hypothalamus, lacrimal, mammary, mucus, pineal, pituitary, salivary, sebaceous, and thyroid.



1. It provides nourishment for infants.
2. One purpose of this gland is to catch foreign matter and keep it from entering the body.
3. It secretes melatonin.
4. It begins the chemical breakdown of starches and changes them to maltose.
5. Goiter is the name of the condition when this gland becomes enlarged.
6. A blackhead is formed when the opening to this gland is blocked.
7. This gland forms the main link between the body's endocrine and nervous systems.
8. Scientists believe that this gland controls daily and seasonal body cycles.
9. Sometimes this is called the "Master Gland."
10. The name of this gland comes

from the Latin word for tears.

11. This gland is made up of acini surrounded by cells of fat.
12. There are three pairs of these glands in the mouth and cheeks.
13. This gland prepares the body to deal with stress.
14. This gland decreased the amount of calcium in the blood.
15. These glands empty an oil into hair follicles.
16. These glands produce a thick, clear, slimy fluid made of protein and sugar.
17. These glands increase the amount of sugar in the blood.
18. These glands contain proteins to fight ocular infections.
19. If this gland malfunctions, the body may grow to be a dwarf or a giant.
20. This gland is a part of the brain.

**INTERNET FLOTSAM**

*B.S. Bingo*

Do you keep falling asleep in meetings and seminars? What about those long and boring conference calls? Here's a way to change all that.

1. Before (or during) your next meeting, seminar, or conference call, prepare yourself by drawing a square. I find that 5"x 5" is a good size. Divide the card into columns, five across and five down. That will give you 25 one-inch blocks.

2. Write one of the following words/phrases in each block:

synergy	think outside the
strategic fit	box
core competencies	fast track
result-driven	empower (or em-
best practice	powerment)
bottom line	knowledge base
revisit	at the end of the
take that off-line	day
24/7	touch base
out of the loop	mindset
benchmark	client focus(ed)
value-added	paradigm
proactive	game plan
win-win	leverage

3. Check off the appropriate block when you hear one of those words/phrases.

4. When you get five blocks horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, stand up and shout "BULLS\*\*T!"

Testimonials from satisfied "B.S. Bingo" players:

\* "I had been in the meeting for only five minutes when I won." — Jack W., Boston

\* "My attention span at meetings has improved dramatically." — David D., Florida

\* "What a gas! Meetings will never be the same for me after my first win." — Bill R., New York City

\* "The atmosphere was tense in the last process meeting as 14 of us waited for the fifth box." — Ben G., Denver

\* "The speaker was stunned as eight of us screamed 'BULLS\*\*T!' for the third time in two hours." — Kathleen L., Atlanta

**ANSWERS TO DONNA'S DIZZY.**

17. Adrenal	12. Salivary	7. Hypothala-	1. Mammary
18. Lacrimal	13. Adrenal	8. Pineal	2. Mucus
19. Pituitary	14. Thyroid	9. Pituitary	3. Pineal
20. Hypothala-	15. Sebaceous	10. Lacrimal	4. Salivary
mus	16. Mucus	11. Mammary	5. Thyroid
			6. Sebaceous

## 2002-03 Tampa Bay Mensa Officers

### Executive Committee

#### Local Secretary

**Maxine Kushner**  
7442 Hollylake La.  
New Port Richey,  
FL 34653  
727-841-6043  
[Maxine.Kushner@  
verizon.net](mailto:Maxine.Kushner@verizon.net)

#### Deputy LocSec

**Dan Chesnut**  
5023-B Starfish Dr. SE  
St.. Petersburg,  
FL 33705  
727-821-8357  
[chesnut314@aol.com](mailto:chesnut314@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

**Kathy Crum**  
7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544  
813-907-0526  
[katshe@aol.com](mailto:katshe@aol.com)

#### At-Large Members

**Chris Drumm**  
5604 Sir Barton Ct.  
Wesley Chapel, FL  
33544-1506  
813-973-8095  
[CandJDrumm@cs.com](mailto:CandJDrumm@cs.com)

**Dana Groulx**  
5410 Bold Venture Pl.  
Wesley Chapel,  
FL 33544  
813-991-7868  
[llama@sports-pac.com](mailto:llama@sports-pac.com)

**Barbara Loewe**  
P.O. Box 340126  
Tampa, FL 33694  
813-968-3343  
[bloewe@juno.com](mailto:bloewe@juno.com)

#### Max Loick

440 4th Ave. N, # 1409  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
727-896-4270  
[oldmax1@juno.com](mailto:oldmax1@juno.com)

#### Mary W. Matthews

1000 Granville Ct. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
727-502-9301  
[MotherMary@  
extremelysmart.com](mailto:MotherMary@extremelysmart.com)

#### Sylvia Zadorozny

651 Timber Bay Cir. W.  
Oldsmar, FL 34677  
813-855-4939  
[Szadorozny@aol.com](mailto:Szadorozny@aol.com)



### Other Useful Names

#### Sounding Editor & Webspinner

**Mary W. Matthews**  
*See ExComm, above.*

#### Calendar Editor

**Ronan Heffernan**  
27504 Breakers Dr.  
Wesley Chapel, FL 33543  
813-907-8147  
[Ronan.Heffernan@  
shawus.com](mailto:Ronan.Heffernan@shawus.com)

#### Interim Circulation Officer & Publisher

**Max Loick**  
*See ExComm, above.*

#### ExComm Scribe

**Chris Drumm**  
*See ExComm, above.*

#### Gifted Children's Coordinator

**Joe Joeb**  
1001 Lake Charles Cir.  
Lutz, FL 33548-4714  
813-949-4469  
[TeacherJoe@aol.com](mailto:TeacherJoe@aol.com)

#### Scholarship Chair

**Roger Preslar**  
932 Hillrise Dr.  
Brandon, FL 33510  
813-651-1150  
[PreslarRL@aol.com](mailto:PreslarRL@aol.com)

#### Associate Webspinner

**Don Davis**  
9410 Channing Cir.,  
Apt. 2508  
Temple Terr., FL 33617  
813-984-7343  
[DDavisTampa@  
earthlink.net](mailto:DDavisTampa@earthlink.net)

#### Membership Officer/ New Member Contact

**Frank Clarke**  
150 Collette Court  
Oldsmar, FL 33677  
727-786-6258  
[nisus@mindspring.com](mailto:nisus@mindspring.com)

#### Ombudsman

**Barbara Loewe**  
*See ExComm, above.*

#### S.I.G.H.T.

**Coordinator**  
**Susan Anderson**  
10733 Dowry Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33615  
813-855-4020  
[susiea1000@aol.com](mailto:susiea1000@aol.com)

#### American Mensa Ltd.

1229 Corporate Dr. W.  
Arlington, TX 76006  
[AmericanMensa@  
mensa.org](http://AmericanMensa@mensa.org)

#### AMC Region 10 Chair

**Elissa Rudolph**  
5054 Lakefront Blvd., #D  
Delray Beach, FL 33484  
561-496-0124  
[RVC10@us.mensa.org](mailto:RVC10@us.mensa.org)  
[ERudolph@fau.edu](mailto:ERudolph@fau.edu)

#### Publicity

**Maxine Kushner**  
*See ExComm, above.*

#### Testing

##### Coordinator

**Ben J. Pethe**  
3224 W Fountain Blvd,  
Tampa, FL 33609-4621  
813-879-6471  
[bpethe1@  
tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bpethe1@tampabay.rr.com)

#### Proctors

**Dan Chesnut**  
*See ExComm, above.*

**Joseph Joeb**  
1001 Lake Charles Cir.  
Lutz, FL 33546  
813-949-4469

**Yvonne Meadows**  
11305 Galleria Dr.  
Tampa, FL 33624  
813-949-2163

**Tom Timberlake**  
P.O. Box 20146  
Tampa, FL 33622  
813-879-1170

## THE FIFTY-FIFTY

*Tampa Bay Sounding* (USPS 305-830) is published monthly by Tampa Bay Mensa at 440 Fourth Avenue N., Apt. 1409, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Periodicals postage paid at St. Petersburg, FL.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: *Tampa Bay Sounding*, c/o American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr. West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.

**IF YOUR ADDRESS CHANGES**, please let us know four weeks in advance. Send your change of address, with membership number, OLD address, NEW address, and new/current phone number (even if it hasn't changed) to *Tampa Bay Sounding*, c/o American Mensa Ltd., 1229 Corporate Dr West, Arlington, TX 76006-6103.



*Tampa Bay Sounding* is the official newsletter of Tampa Bay Mensa, American Mensa local group number 10-335. © 2002 Tampa Bay Mensa. All rights reserved. All material in this issue not copyrighted by individual contributors may be reprinted in other Mensa publications, provided that credit is given to the author or artist and to the *Sounding*. Prior written consent of the editor is required for any other reproduction in any form. Any Mensa publication reprinting *Tampa Bay Sounding* material is requested to send a copy to the editor.



### MONEY MATTERS

The subscription cost for local members is partially remitted from annual dues paid to American Mensa Ltd. *Tampa Bay Sounding* is available to other Mensans and non-Mensans at an annual subscription cost of \$12.00. To subscribe, send a check, payable to Tampa Bay Mensa, to the Treasurer: Kathy Crum, 7164 Quail Hollow Blvd., Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-2525.

**ADVERTISING POLICY:** The *Sounding* offers free classified ads to Tampa Bay Mensa members for services, items for sale, jobs wanted/available, personals, etc. Ads should be no longer than 50 words. Classified ads need to be renewed on a monthly basis if you wish them to appear in consecutive issues. Tampa Bay Mensa and the *Sounding* are not responsible for the content of ads. All other commercial ads are subject to the following rates: Full page - \$60; Half page - \$30; Quarter page - \$15. Members of Mensa pay half these rates.



**POSTMASTER.**

Send address changes to:

*Tampa Bay Sounding*  
c/o American Mensa Ltd.  
1229 Corporate Drive West  
Arlington, TX 76006-6103

Periodicals Postage Paid  
at St. Petersburg, Florida

