



TAMPA BAY SOUNDING

A Publication of Tampa Bay (Florida) Mensa

Vol. 28, No. 4

May 2003



Join Tampa Bay Mensa at its Memorial Day weekend Regional Gathering, "The Fellowship of the RG," May 23-26. Details on page 8.

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- Personal attacks and bigoted, sexist, hateful, or otherwise offensive material will not be published.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

Let It Snow, *Elissa Rudolph, R.V.C.* 6

Treasurer's Report, 12/6/01-3/20/03, *Kathy Crum, TBM Treasurer* 7

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, April 6, 2003 10

Test the Nation, June 9, *Dan Wilterding* 11

Letter to the Editor 13

R U G U? *Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer* 14

Time Flies Like an Arrow; Fruit Flies Like a Banana, *Mary W. Matthews* 15

Help, I've Been Malled! *Joni M. Fisher* 18

March Madness, *Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer* 20

May 2003 Calendar, *Ronan Heffernan, Calendar Editor* 21

May Birthdays 23

The Seven Deadly Sins of Nations 29

From Cleopatra, *Bud Urban* 31

Both Worlds, *B. Valsavage* 32

Needful Things, *Erin Wells* 34

United States Cities and Their Counties, *Donna Myhrer* 37

Because of the RG a week later, FSM will be on Sunday, May 18. Because FSM is a week earlier than usual, contributors' deadlines have also been moved up. Please submit your material by May 3 if you wish it to be considered for the June *Sounding*.

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

Hello, Tampa Bay Mensans!

As I write, only a few weeks remain until Tampa Bay Mensa's biggest party — our annual RG.

This year's Honchos, Jack and Jacquie Brawner and John and Marsha Raymond, have worked hard over the past several months to get everything ready.

Have you made your reservation yet? You can find more information about "The Fellowship of the RG" on pages 8 and 9, or you can go to our website, <http://www.tampa.us.mensa.org/03-TBM-RG.php>. Come on out and mingle with your fellow Mensans and enjoy games, speakers, hospitality, and lots of fun social activities. If you would like to volunteer, in any capacity, please contact Jack Brawner or any of the other honchos: trojanowl@aol.com, 727-546-6061.

About forty of us got together for our Third Annual Spring Picnic at John Chesnut Park. I met some new members (welcome!) and enjoyed

chatting with Mensans I have come to know over the years.

Thanks again to new member **Ben Pethe** for volunteering to take on the **Testing Coordinator** position. Ben volunteered in March, and we instantly put him to work answering inquiries and signing up prospects for our April 26 testing session.

I'd also like to recognize **Joe Joeb** for regularly running testing sessions for our group and helping Ben get started. Thanks, Joe!

We are still looking for a volunteer for **Circulation Officer**. If you think you might be interested, contact Max Loick at 727-896-4270 or oldmax1@juno.com.

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

Until next month —

Maxine

maxine.kushner@verizon.net



The Fellowship of the RG

If you have not already done so, it is time to sign up for the Tampa Bay Mensa RG being held at the Days Inn Rocky Point over the Memorial Day weekend (May 23 through 26). Everyone on the committee has worked very hard to make this an entertaining and enlightening event, and there will be a plethora of activities. Trash Bowl, Treasure Hunt, Karaoke, Tai Chi, various icebreakers, speakers, etc. (not to mention great



food and games!) await your pleasure. Please join us and enjoy a respite from the stress of everyday

life in an unsettled world. For more information you can refer to pages 8 and 9 or call John Raymond at 727-343-4638. Your support for this important local group activity is very much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Your Humble Honchos



Welcome to Tampa Bay Mensa!

Erika Aust*
Richard G. Averitt
John R. Bailey
Donald Davis
Shawn J. Davis*

Thomas H. Dohrman*
Thomas W. Merrifield
Richard J. Molnar
Ki Pickett
John D. Pierce

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

THE TENTH STORY

Let It Snow

Elissa Rudolph, R.V.C.

More number news — before March 31 American Mensa reached the high-water mark of 51,208, which is 2.8 percent over last year's high mark. Of those Ms, 76 percent renewed by the deadline. All those numbers are encouraging, especially in light of the world situation. Hey, we still need to gather round with friends and enjoy our differences.

It snowed in Pittsburgh on the Sunday after the AMC meeting! Haven't seen that stuff for a few years — brushing it off the car, with a handy tool supplied by the rental car company, brought back nostalgic memories. The March meeting was a productive one and did not run long into the night, as some do. Much-needed revisions to Mensa's hearings procedures were adopted. A policy to allow a parent/guardian of anyone under the age of 18 to attend Mensa events free of charge was passed. If the

adult wishes to participate he/she can, by paying the same fee as anyone else. AG 2005 was awarded conditionally to two Louisiana groups who will organize the gathering in New Orleans. The minutes will carry more information.

By the time you read this, the Fort Lauderdale Leadership Development Workshop will be over. I hope you attended, had a good time meeting other Ms, and took some great ideas back

home. If you couldn't make it, think about it for next spring. I'd like to plan another LDW north of Lake O next April.

Have a great spring! And see you in Rocky Point!!

May 23-26, Tampa Bay Mensa's, The Fellowship of the RG, Jack Brawner (trojanowl@aol.com) or John Raymond (jmraymond3@aol.com). It's a return to the water at the Days Inn, Rocky Point, off the causeway.



Treasurer's Report,

December 6, 2001 to

March 20, 2003

Kathy Crum, TBM Treasurer



This Treasurer's report gives the general membership a quick update on the finances of Tampa Bay Mensa. Since my last report, we have had Busch Bash '02, which turned a healthy profit for TBM. The extra funds allow us to continue to enjoy the same high-quality newsletter that we have had over the past five to ten years.

Reimbursements are getting into the mail a day or two after I receive the request and receipts. Please use an expense reimbursement form (a .pdf version is located on our website), attach your receipts to it, and mail it to me. I always have the checkbook and forms with me at ExComm meetings. If you need me to snail-mail some forms to you, just send me an email or call and leave me a message and I'll get them out to you. Then just mail me your completed forms, and I'll get a check in the mail in a day or two.

Till next time . . .

ASSETS as of 12/1/01

First Union Checking	5,748.29
Huntington CD	8,363.29
2nd Class Mailing Acct.	395.61
TOTAL	14,507.19

ASSETS as of 3/20/03

First Union Checking	5,829.67
Heritage Bank CD	8,928.99
2nd Class Mailing Acct.	288.34
TOTAL	15,045.00

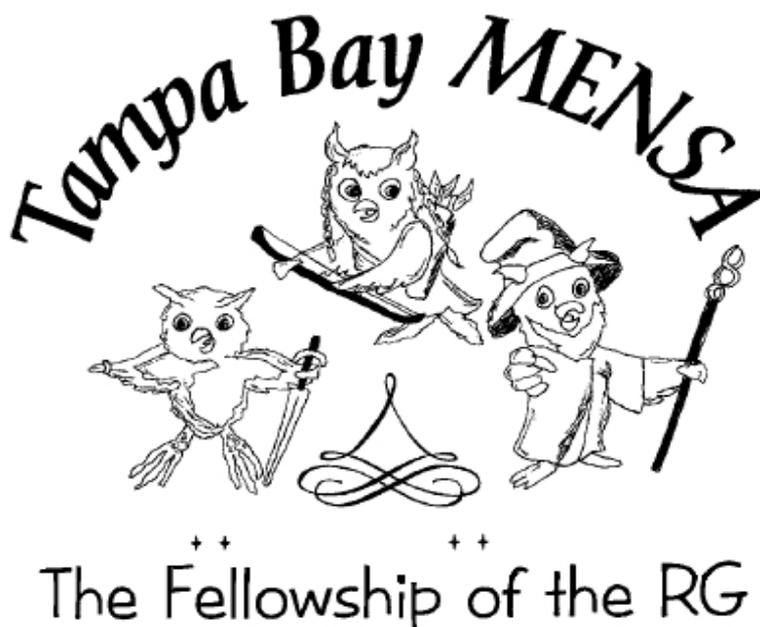
CASH FLOW for 12/1/01 to 3/20/03

INCOME	
Advertising Income	198.00
Busch Bash '02:	
Food Expenses	-4,807.11
Misc.	-936.24
Registrations	7,982.00
TOTAL Busch Bash '01	2,238.65

Contributions- Scholarship	165.00
Contributions-TBS	175.00
Interest Income	582.69
Misc. Income	10.00
National Support	5,597.89
Proctor Revenue	462.50
Subscriptions	12.00
TOTAL INCOME	9,441.73

EXPENSES

Fees (Refundable)	100.00
Misc. Expenses	130.99
Office Supplies	89.39
Postage- Misc.	333.88
Postage - TBS	1,117.27
Printing - TBS	5,948.73
Refreshments	683.66
Scholarships	500.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8903.92
OVERALL GAIN	537.81



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).

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 information: 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 International Airport. Free shuttle available. 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:

Make check payable to: Tampa Bay Mensa

Mail to:

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

Refunds must be requested by April 30.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2003

Submitted by Mary W. Matthews

Maxine Kushner called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. Attendees: Dan Chesnut, Kathy Crum, Maxine Kushner, Max Loick, Mary Matthews, and Sylvia Zadorozny. Also attending: Ronan Heffernan, calendar editor. Absent: Chris Drumm, Dana Groulx, and Barbara Loewe.

The minutes from the February meeting as published in the March *Sounding* were unanimously approved.

2003 Regional Gathering: None of the chairpersons of the RG came to the picnic. As registrar, Kathy reported that as of the beginning of April, she had 51 registrations, one more than she had been hoping for.

Tampa Bay Soundings: Maxine reported that she finally heard back from this approximately two-year-old organization. After Maxine explained that our *Tampa Bay Sounding* was roughly ten times older than the *Tampa Bay Soundings*, along with the many other sound reasons for their organization to sound out a new title, the representative of the newer organization conceded that at their next meeting, they will “explore” finding another name for themselves. (With a resounding sigh.)

2003 Election: Chairperson Dotty Gondela briefly joined the meeting to accept nominating petitions and report on the status of the April 15 deadline, which was quo.

Bylaws Revisions: Kathy Crum volunteered to chair the committee that will count the ballots in the vote on whether to accept the 2003 bylaws in early July. (See page 38.)

Publications Report: Mary summarized the *Sounding* snafu at the end of March., in which at the eleventh hour and fifty-ninth minute, Kinko's suddenly announced that it was increasing its rate for printing the *Sounding* by 60 (sixty) percent, from 3 cents per impression to 4.8 cents per impression — in other words, from approximately \$400 to approximately \$700 per month (both approximations include extra charges and tax). Sir Speedy's printed the April *Sounding*, at a cost of 2.8 cents per impression. Rather piqued, Mary sent a photocopy of the Sir Speedy bill to Kinko's. On Saturday, April 5, Kinko's called to offer the *Sounding* 2.8 cents per impression for the forthcoming 12 months.

Mary also reported that “The Deeps,” the TBM web site, had received close to 4,000 hits since

November 2002. Frank Clarke, who also dropped into the ExComm meeting briefly, volunteered to help Mary put up a TBM photo gallery on the web site.

Testing — Maxine announced that TBM is pleased to welcome Tampan Ben J. Pethe as our new Testing Coordinator.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy distributed a report on the TBM budget as

of April 4. See page 7 for a detailed Treasurer's Report.

* * *

The next ExComm meeting will take place immediately after the election is completed on Saturday, June 21, at a time and place to be determined. Dan moved that we adjourn; Kathy seconded. The meeting ended at 2:06 p.m. 

Test the Nation, June 9

Dan Wilterding, dtwtech@swbell.net

On Monday, June 9, the Fox television network will air the program *Test the Nation*. The program will air at 8 p.m. Eastern/time-delayed Pacific.

During the live, two-hour program, a studio audience will take *Test the Nation's* 60-question "intelligence" test. At the same time, Americans will be invited to take the test online (www.testonfox.com). Each test taker will fill out a questionnaire before taking the test, allowing the viewing audience to track the smartest groups of Americans. (Blondes or brunettes? Virgos or Libras? Accountants or construction workers?) The show will be hosted by Leeza Gibbons. American Mensa's supervisory psychologist,

Frank Lawlis, will be a guest on the program. Dr. Lawlis will present information about Mensa and intelligence testing. He will also emphasize that the *Test the Nation* test is for entertainment purposes; accurate intelligence testing must be done under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

American Mensa has assisted *Test the Nation* producers in norming their test. On March 22 and 23, ten Mensa proctors administered *Test the Nation's* test, along with a Mensa qualifying test, to more than 200 candidates nationwide. Results from the Mensa qualifying test were compared to the results of *Test the Nation's* test to help develop *Test the Nation's* scoring system. Special

thanks to Dave Felt and Mary Carney of Greater Los Angeles Mensa, David Fox of Boston Mensa, Marie Mayer of Central Iowa Mensa, Betsy Burke of Mid-Hudson Mensa, Cindy Ogilvie of Chicago Area Mensa, Paul Jensen of Minnesota Mensa, Eldon Romney of Utah Mensa, Elissa Rudolph of Palm Beach County Mensa, Ike Kullman of Piedmont Area Mensa, and Dan Wilterding of Mensa 76 for finding candidates and administering the tests on very short notice.

Test the Nation has aired in several countries, including Great Britain, Australia, and Germany. In each of these countries, inquiries to Mensa increased dramatically after the program aired. We are preparing for this at the national office and we are working to create opportunities to

add to Mensa's exposure surrounding the program.

We encourage local groups to attempt to capitalize on this opportunity as well. One idea is to set up a "watching party" for the program. You may then contact your local FOX affiliate and tell them about your event. Let them know that Mensa is the high-IQ society and members of your group will be gathering to watch *Test the Nation*. They may be interested in getting your predictions and reactions regarding the program. We will be in touch with local PR coordinators with more information on contacting the local FOX station.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Blackmore (jblackmore@americanmensa.org) or Catherine Barney (catherineb@americanmensa.org). 

Important note: Your April *Mensa Bulletin* contained information for voting in the Mensa International, Ltd., elections and a blue envelope for returning your ballot. Please change the zip code on this blue envelope to **76006**. The current zip code is incorrect.

Letter to the Editor

After reading the letters in the March *Tampa Bay Sounding*, I had to sit down and write a letter.

First of all, disagreeing with our "selected" president, George W. Bush, does not constitute being "un-American." To be a patriotic American means to advance those ideals and actions that one deems as beneficial to our country's citizenry, its leaders, and humans in general.



Indeed, our country was founded by protestors who sought political freedom and empowering their conscience as their goals.

Nor does protesting this "war" mean we are not "supporting our troops." Dearly loved family members of mine are currently in the armed forces. I know they are there to do service for our country and to be part of our country's peacekeeping objectives for the world. We understand they are duty-bound to obey the orders of their commander-in-chief and other superior officers. Thus, we care as much for their welfare as the other participants involved.

We are NOT supporting Saddam Hussein, just as we do not support

other tyrants currently on the world scene (well, some of them). Though their governance and tactics are repulsive to us, even our government perceives there is not sufficient justification to invade and impose our will upon those countries.

Please do not confuse a current regime as reflective of the entire population of a country. This applies to both Iraq and America, and

is also reflected in many other to we participate in our government . . . supporting those policies we see as beneficial to our citizenry, and protesting peacefully and through the ballot box those actions we feel are undemocratic or otherwise distressing to an effective democracy and peaceful world.

Obviously, there is never going to be a complete meeting of the minds in a large populace (or even a small one for that matter). This is why we have a Constitution to provide people to participate in a democratic process, and the Bill of Rights to protect the rights and participation of all citizens.

Nan Owens
Seffner

R U G U?

Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer

R U G U? That is, are you geographically undesirable? We have three members with local addresses who for a long time have been listed as undeliverables. I have tried to notify them, asking that they let National know their true addresses, with no success. Each one is still "undeliverable."

Rather than give full names, I'll list the last name and last known city, and ask you to have them call me any time (0900-2300!) if they need help in making contact with National to get the newsletters they've been paying for. We'd love to welcome back Nash of Riverview (membership expires 2003), Hoerbelt of St. Petersburg (expires 2003), and Gimon of Seminole (life member). If you know these people, please let them know we haven't forgotten them, just that National doesn't know how to reach them.

If you are one of these Ms, please call me and we'll find a way to get

your deliverable address into National's label machine! I'm in St. Petersburg, at (727) 896-4270, and I'm still the Circulation Officer despite all the attempts to remove me

for various nefarious deeds and attitudes. Keep trying, y'all, I've got Kenneth Starr on my side, ho ho ho.

(Seriously: TBM needs a new circulation officer. The duties are important and relatively light, about ten hours a month on average. Call me or any member of the ExComm for more

information about how you can contribute to TBM's success.)

At the same time, if you are one of only a few Ms getting your *Sounding* on a label with no bar code, please call me too. These cost a bit more to send out, and it's usually easy to alter that; usually all you need to do is let National know what your zip-plus-four is (for example, 33601-4321 versus plain old 33601). We've enjoyed a fine success rate on this campaign.

Thanks for your help.



RECOVERING CRANKEE*Time Flies Like an Arrow;
Fruit Flies Like a Banana**Mary W. Matthews*

Once in a great while, I enjoy a time-travel story, like “Groundhog Day.” But I think most time-travel stories are the progeny of lazy writers who would rather meet a deadline and get paid handsomely than think about whether their premise is even slightly plausible.

Some time-travel stories feature protagonists who go back in time and talk to their younger selves — there’s a car commercial on the air right now with that plot line. But if in, say, five years, I am going to go back in time and talk to my 10-year-old self, why do I not already remember it? Why don’t I remember encountering a ravishingly beautiful grownup (because she looked so much like me) who talked mysteriously about the future? — to paraphrase the TV commercial, “Buy Intel. Bet on the Bucs to win the 2003 Superbowl. Never trust any man who says he only wants to fly ‘straight,’ he doesn’t need to learn how to take off or land.”

Most time-travel scenarios involve paradox. For example, suppose you’re in the market for a certain kind of car. You missed reading the classifieds one morning, and by the time you get around to them, the used car of your

dreams has been sold to someone else. You kick yourself, and then you invent a time machine. You go back in time (managing to avoid the whole “matter suddenly appearing inside other matter and exploding” phenomenon) and succeed in buying your dream car. At the moment you ought to be inventing your time machine, you are driving down the road in your dream car. So the time machine never gets invented. So the going-back-in-time thing never happened. So you missed reading the classifieds one morning, and the loop starts again. Forever.

The problems of plausibility and paradox are not limited to time-travel within one’s own lifetime, however. If at some future date a time traveler travels back into our past, then that trip has already happened. It’s history. If time travel were possible, Lee Harvey Oswald was a time-traveler sent to stop Kennedy from turning all of Washington, D.C. into the Lincoln Bedroom. The Great Fire of London was caused by a time tourist’s cigarette butt. Sure, I believe that.

And suppose you could travel backward in time, ten seconds or years or epochs. How would you get back “home” to your own timeline?

You're changing history by the mere fact of existing where you had not existed "before" — breathing air that wasn't breathed in your timeline, putting your microbes into the past's air, killing an insect that ought to have nurtured a bird, causing the bird to fly elsewhere, causing St. Francis to reconsider his affection for wildlife, causing much of medieval history to change, causing the Protestant Reformation to fail, causing the papacy to become a hereditary world dictatorship. Or maybe one of those microbes you breathed out was a SARS bug, which the people of the past would have far less resistance to than we do today, and you start a plague that kills off most of the world.

"For the want of a nail the shoe was lost; for the want of a shoe the horse was lost; for the want of a horse the rider was lost; for the want of a rider the battle was lost; for the want of a battle the war was lost, and all for the want of a horse-shoe nail." You swatted an insect and now you can't go home again, because "home" isn't there any more. It doesn't need to be as dramatic a change as a plague; it could be as minor as kicking a horse-shoe nail down a storm drain. The "future" has still been changed and your home timeline no longer exists.

Moreover, because you changed the "future," you changed your own memories within that "future." In 1948, William Tenn wrote a science fiction story called "The Brooklyn

Project" that is arguably one of the three most famous time-travel stories in history. Scientists have invented a time machine that oscillates between the present and the primordial like a pendulum. On the first swing of the pendulum, an insect dies and the reporters, who had been sitting on upholstered chairs, are now on hard chairs. "See, nothing has changed!" Another swing of the pendulum, and they're on benches and using pencils instead of pens. After the final swing of the pendulum, the reporters are all purple-tentacled monsters in tanks.

"See," cried the thing that had been the acting secretary to the executive assistant on press relations. "See, no matter how subtly! Those who billow were wrong: we haven't changed." He extended fifteen purple blobs triumphantly. "Nothing has changed!"

Remember "Mr. Destiny," the movie where Michael Caine grants Jim Belushi's wish to change that one moment that had defined his life forever, when as a young athlete he bobbled the big game? Most of the movie is a conventional morality play about how the grass may look greener on the other side, but we should be happy with what we've got. But if time travel were possible, when Belushi's life-defining moment changed, not only did the course of his life change, but all his memories should have changed too. Why spend one's every waking hour obsessing

about a bobble that never happened? The movie skated very lightly indeed over the fact that the Belushi who had inhabited the new and improved timeline before the unimproved Belushi arrived was both selfish and corrupt, either a criminal or self-absorbed to the point of oblivion. When history changed, why didn't Belushi instantly change in character, from obsessed by self-recrimination and regret to self-satisfied and corrupt? (Because then the morality play couldn't have had a happy ending, and downer movies don't make zillions in profits. Duh.)

We all assume that time is like a string of pearls, and that the world around us is relatively static, like a stage set. People imagine that they can travel back and forth along time as if time were the Mississippi and they were going from New Orleans to St. Louis to Memphis to St. Paul. But time is NOT a dimension in the same sense that length, width, and breadth are dimensions. Scientists have proven that there are something like 14 or 27 physical dimensions that are imperceptible to us. All physical dimensions are embedded in time, just as a skadillion dimensionless points are embedded in a line.

Moreover, everything in the Universe is in a constant flux, even if we can't perceive it — a rock only looks immobile until you get down to the madly whizzing electrons in its atoms. If time were the Mississippi, not only is the "river" moving, but

so are its banks and the cities on those banks. Life is a dizzying on-rushing of billions of processes all happening all at once, cell division, electrons whizzing, neutrinos pouring through your body by the billions every second, cells being born or going cancerous — and all this is just on the cellular level. The Universe is not a static stage set upon which we move, but an unimaginably intricate concatenation of processes, from the subatomic to the galactic and beyond, in which we exist like a drop of water in a river.

When people explain chaos theory, they usually use the image of a butterfly in Europe or the U.S. that beats its wings and thereby causes a typhoon on the Pacific Rim. Everything is interconnected; everything is interrelated; your breakfast is six steps away from Kevin Bacon's dinner. You flap your jaw, and somewhere on the other side of the world, a tycoon gets richer.

William Butler Yeats wrote, "O body swayed to music, O brightening glance, How can we know the dancer from the dance?" Although you think of yourself as discrete, you are a pearl only metaphorically. You are as inextricably interconnected with the Universe, and with time, as a wave is part of the flow of the ocean or the dance is to the dancer.

So, when you daydream about time travel, send not to ask for whom the butterfly beats her wings. She flits for thee.



Help, I've Been Malled!

Joni M. Fisher

Giant shopping malls, like dinosaurs, will die out in the next wave of human development. Humankind has moved from hunter-gatherers to agrarian, to industrial, to technological. I eagerly await the next step from our current homogenous society of shopping malls to variety and individuality. Let me shop on the Internet or through small boutiques, but spare me the mall. It's a phase of civilization.

I despise shopping malls, where otherwise intelligent humans can circle for hours searching for an exit from a single department store. Perhaps it is my hate-going-to-the-mall attitude, but shopping has become more challenging than ever before. What's with the English garden maze theme that has overtaken common sense?

Here is a law of shopping that's as immutable as any law of physics: Whatever item you search for will be at the farthest, most difficult-to-reach point in the store from whichever point in the store you enter. Enter from the main mall entrance in search of men's socks and you must traverse the entire department store on a convoluted path to find them. You

will not be able to retrace your steps to return because while you shopped, clerks moved a few walls and shelves. Re-arranging weekly is also part of this diabolical plot to drive us to catalog shopping.

My teen daughter finds shopping at the mall fun. She can spend an entire Saturday shopping for a pair of underwear and call it a great day. If I enter the mall for underwear and cannot buy what I need and be back in my car within an hour, then I'll abandon that plan and head home for a catalog. I even buy bras by catalog once I know which brand and style actually fits. (Of course, if Natori stops making my favorite bras then I may be forced to search eBay for replacements.)

Don't give me that shopping-is-on-the-double-X-chromosome argument. I am living proof of the exception. Perhaps in a traditional hunter-gatherer society I would have been carrying a spear instead of berries. My husband says I shop like a man, like a targeted missile. Single-minded. A hunter. Find it efficiently and drag it home quickly. I've been known to buy great shoes in three



colors to save time. Match that with three purses and I'm outta there like Superman from a phone booth. Done.

One of my friends lives to shop. She's on a first-name basis with the clerks at the various department stores. I asked if she considered becoming a professional shopper for people like me. She laughed like I was teasing her. She so loves to shop that she can't imagine that others feel differently. She'll spend two days searching for a 10 percent discount on a shirt for her daughter. I hand my daughter cash and tell her when to meet me back at the fountain. It works for us. I'd rather spend time at lunch with my daughter than follow her through aisle after aisle of racks while she tries on fifteen tops for the one that will go with her favorite shorts.

Ask me to take a cat to the vet for shots. Invite me to watch home movies of your Alaska vacation. Tell me I have to repeat my mammogram. But *puh-leeze*, don't take me to the mall. I don't enjoy wandering like a lab rat. It would take a few strong men and ropes to get me near the mall from Thanksgiving to New Year's Day. If I get to play in an English garden maze one day, then fine, I'll play along. Department stores with their canned air and canned music should not attempt to imitate garden mazes. They

miss the point of shopping by frustrating the shopper who knows what she wants and is ready to buy it. A frustrated shopper can go to catalogs, or online searches. Need it in a

size 8 in azalea color?

No problem, we have it in stock and can ship it in three to five business days. I'll cheerfully pay extra for shipping just to save myself the hassle.

I've found two clothing manufacturers who offer clothing from their

inventory based on the body measurements and favorite colors and styles of the shopper.

I believe the future demands more made-to-order shopping. Furniture dealers often do this. A few car manufacturers do this. The technology exists to create supply to meet demand "on the fly." Of course, the technology also exists to build cars that last five times longer than they are now. Publishers, clothing designers, and more could save millions by creating supply to meet demand. I suppose this next development of human civilization will take place when our resources have dwindled to the point at which we cannot afford to waste metal, cloth, paper and other materials by trying to create demand from oversupply. Until then, if you see a teenager dragging a whimpering adult into the mall, think of me and remember that this, too, shall pass.



FOLD, STAPLE, & QUILTATE*March Madness**Max Loick, Interim Circulation Officer*

Ah yes, another FSM under our belt. You can thank Mary and Jerry — that's Matthews and Merchant, y'know — along with Willa Harrison, Sue Valek (glad you were in town, Sue!), and Don Davis for lurching their way through heavy rain and accident-plagued traffic to the palatial home of Max Loick. (Well, it's palatial by H.U.D. standards, actually.)

Decent snacks (can you believe, someone asked me if people actually ate liverwurst? Jeez, I pay extra to get the good stuff and fold it with butter, yet . . .) and fun conversation made the work go fairly easily.

We could have used another hand or two — and I hope nobody went to Land O' Lakes — but eight is about the best all-around number. Five or six is doable, but doesn't give us much time to munch.

The next FSM is scheduled for April 27 at 2 p.m., same place at the end of I-375 spur. (See the calendar for directions.) Parking limits on 4th Avenue N. or 5th Street don't count on weekends (yet), but if there's an event at one of the downtown parks it can crowd up a bit.

Okay, I'll skip the liverwurst, you uncultured louts, and have peanut butter, salami, and that kind of stuff.

I'll eat the liverwurst upstairs!

Do come on in, it is fun and fairly light if repetitive work. There is a huge TV if you've a game you need to watch (this is handy in football season) and plenty of room to stretch out.

"Meanwhile, back at the ranch," we *need* to find another Circulation Officer. Strong preference for people living in the 337 zip code. I tried to talk the ExComm into just buying me a car in return for a lifetime commitment, but they balked. There was no chance for the clerical intern idea at all. Hmmm.

Hope to see you. . . .



Next FSM:

*Sunday, May 18,
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

May 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, or visit <http://tampa.us.mensa.org/cal> for complete instructions. Your deadline for the June calendar is May 5.

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.

May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th - 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

May 3rd - Saturday - 10:00 AM

TRAVELER'S CENTURY CLUB

Like Mensa, the Travelers Century Club has a single criterion for membership: One must have traveled to 100 countries. The Florida coordinator of the club is inviting all Mensans to its quarterly luncheon meeting, held at Mad Dogs and Englishmen. Mad Dogs is located at 4115 South MacDill Avenue. Come out and meet some world travelers!

Jay Hines - 813-828-6353

TB CALENDAR TB CALENDAR TB

May 5th & 19th - 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
10037 Wheatland Road - New Port Richey

May 8th - 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

May 13th & 27th - 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

May 18th - Sunday - 2:00 PM

FSM

Our May FSM will be held on **Sunday, May 18**, 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.

Continued on page 27



May Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Lisa Behrend | 15 Elizabeth L. Hapner |
| 1 Thomas E. Hathaway | 15 Todd R. Jennings |
| 1 Lynette Pittman | 17 John R. Tiffany |
| 1 William Roth | 20 Sandra J. Kischuk |
| 2 Pamela D. Farnsworth | 21 Kenneth E. Scarberry |
| 2 Paul Happel | 22 Eric Spencer |
| 4 Robert K. Bullard | 22 Joseph H. Lucas |
| 5 James E. Clercx | 23 Phil Caraway |
| 5 Max Epstein | 25 Christine Page |
| 5 Thomas A. Timberlake | 28 Erika Aust* |
| 6 John S. Keeling, Jr. | 28 Christopher J. Brierley |
| 9 Chester D. Smith | 28 Susan Gardner |
| 11 Debra F. Hartland | 28 Michael D. Kelly |
| 11 James C. Johnson | 28 Sheldon J. Livingston, Jr. |
| 12 Michael S. Harris | 28 Timothy A. Pasden |
| 12 Alison Jirsa | 29 Casey McFann |
| 14 Brant Holeman | 30 Jay A. Nelson |
| 14 Kenneth M. Louis | 30 Jack S. Warner |

TAMPA BAY MENSA

May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
--------	--------	---------	-----------



4 <i>Schedule your June events now.</i>	5 <i>Children's Game/Play Day at Linne Katz's New Port Richey, 3:30 p.m.</i>	6	7
11	12	13 <i>Tampa Dinner at Gino's Restaurant Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</i>	14
18 <i>FSM at Max Loick's, 2 p.m.</i>	19 <i>Children's Game/Play Day at Linne Katz's New Port Richey, 3:30 p.m.</i>	20	21
25 <i>TBMRG</i>	26 <i>TBMRG</i>	27 <i>Tampa Dinner at Gino's Restaurant Tampa, 6:30 p.m.</i>	28

EVENTS CALENDAR

2003

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>..... w n n n</p>	<p>1</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Travelers Century Club</i> Tampa, 10 a.m.</p> <p><i>Deadline for</i> <u><i>Sounding</i></u> <i>submissions</i></p>
	<p>8</p> <p><i>Mid-Pinellas</i> <i>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>9</p>	<p>10</p>
	<p>15</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
	<p>22</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>TBM RG</p>	<p>24</p> <p>TBM RG</p>
	<p>29</p> <p><i>Lunch Bunch</i> at Piccadilly Cafeteria Tampa, 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>

10% Spring Discount

(excluding shipping)

**Take 10% off any purchase in the
Mensa Boutique**

when you mention or include this coupon with any order
placed before May 31, 2003.

On Web orders, state "Spring Coupon 10% Off"
in the comments section.

This discount cannot be used with any other special or discount.
Please call 1-800-MENSA4U or visit www.mensaboutique.com.

**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

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

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 C A L E N D A R T B

Continued from page 22

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

440 4th Ave N #1409 - St. Petersburg

May 23rd-26th

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RG

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 at Rocky Point

7627 Courtney Campbell Causeway

Tampa, FL 33607

Information: 727-546-6061

Jack Brawner (honcho), TrojanOwl@aol.com (info)

John Raymond (honcho), JMRaymond3@aol.com (info)

Kathy Crum (registrar), katshe@aol.com



Mensan Word Search

Mary W. Matthews

After you have circled or crossed out the words, the remaining letters will reveal a secret message. Believe it or not, these are all genuine words. . . .

N A C N A E N X N Q E G V E R U U S T K
 O N N R D I E A U O A D S E L R U E A S
 I O A T I R M A I M I A A T I O M K C R
 T S A I T T G Y B D B R R N N T O E H C
 A O V Z X G H R H B L A O I I R T O Y A
 B G I O L A I O U T C A G B R U P H P S
 U N R E Z N T L M R O A W H M A Q J H T
 C O V E O O O A E A R L A R L I E S R R
 I S E U P N B P R R N P I I E J R O A O
 M I S W A E I B A I H C S K U M R B S P
 U A T R O D F F A L E M Y N I A M G I H
 H C I G A L E P O H T N E B O O O I A R
 D U T R V O C P Y A R M O U T H P A Z E
 M B I U L T H Y G A T R I L A G N I A N
 A A S R E O K A L O K A G A T H I A Y I
 N G M K B E C N E G L U M I C C A V W A
 S L C I S N O L L Y G O S T E R E K O Z
 Q A A G R I V O I S E R I E F I Z G I G
 N R T W M Y T I M I N A G N O L D Z V E
 M U I N G A L O S B O E F F O D I E N T

ABBOZO

ANOSOGNOSIA

BENTHOPELAGIC

BRIMBORION

CASTROPHRENIA

CRITHOMANCY

EFFODIENT

FARRAGINOUS

FIZGIG

GAMBRINOUS

GRIVOISERIE

HUMICUBATION

JEJUNE

KAKORRHAPHLOPHOBIA

KALOKAGATHIA

LONGANIMITY

NACKET

OBSOLAGNIUM

ONEIRATAXIA

PASQUINADE

POIKILOTHYMIA

QUAGGLE

RHOPALISM

SABBULONARIUM

SNOLLYGOSTER

TACHYPHRASIA

THYGATRILAGNIA

ULTRACREPIDARIAN

VACCIMULGENCE

VIRVESTITISM

XERTZ

YARMOUTH

ZIMMERWALDIAN

The Seven Deadly Sins of Nations

In January 2003, William F. Atwater, Ph.D., a military historian at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, addressed the Maryland Mensa Monthly Meeting, despite an exciting amount of snow on the ground. Dr. Atwater is a former Marine and has won the Purple Heart. The following article is a précis made from "M^a Dispatches" by The Boreal Badger, published in the March edition of M-Anation. This précis includes ideas from Dr. Atwater, the Badger, and Mary W. Matthews.

There are seven principal ways in which nations can hamstring their own development in global competition. These are so symptomatic of failure that they can be used as diagnostic markers; when you see one, and particularly when you can see several in combination, you can be confident that the nation exhibiting them is headed for decline. Here are the principal ways in which a nation can shoot itself in the foot:

* **Restrict the free flow of information.** This acts as a brake on economic development; nowadays more than ever, a society needs access to information to operate efficiently. Examples include China's attempt to restrict access to the Internet and Zimbabwe's efforts at press censorship; insider trading; overenthusias-

tically classifying scientific research (which restricts researchers from reviewing each other's work and sparking off one another's ideas); and overly restrictive copyright and patent laws.

* **Subjugate women.** Much of the West's current standard of living is based on the productivity of women in the work force, on the farm, and in the home. Any country that dispenses with the skills and potential of half of its population is ignoring a vast resource to its own detriment. The subjugation of any group of human beings — women, racial minorities, cultural or political minorities — is as wasteful as it is immoral. Easy examples include any nation living under Islam's shari'a; in Saudi Arabia, for example, women are not allowed to drive cars — even foreign nationals, such as officers in the U.S. military. But think also of factory workers in the Third World, slavery in the Sudan, and migrant workers in the United States.

* **Blame "foreigners" for your nation's problems.** It's always easier to blame some "outsider" for one's problems, as the Nazis blamed the Jews, than to admit your nation's leadership might possibly bear some responsibility. Malaysia blamed the Chinese, Romania blames the gypsies, several African countries blamed

colonialism, Islamist nations blame the United States, President Bush blames former President Clinton. Quite apart from the injustice to the scapegoat, this policy prevents a society from actually addressing real and current problems.

* **Enshrine nepotism and cronyism.** Whenever positions of authority or responsibility are awarded on the basis of consanguinity or friendship instead of ability, favoring members of a family, clan, or social group, efficiency decreases. Examples include Kim Il-Song and Kim Dong-Il in North Korea, Saddam Hussein and his two sons in Iraq, Papa Doc and Baby Doc in Haiti, Bush/41 and Bush/43 in the U.S., and many others. (MWM: The most striking recent example of cronyism can be found in the United States, where Dick Cheney is currently receiving between \$100,000 and \$1,000,000 a year from Halliburton, the company he led before becoming Vice President. In March 2003, a week after the war began, Halliburton was the first company chosen to “assist in the recovery” after the war is over, thereby guaranteeing Halliburton an enormous financial windfall.)

* **Adopt an overarching ideology that supersedes the truth.** When a holy viewpoint supersedes fact, the nation pays a high price, as the U.S.S.R. discovered after it enshrined Lysenkoism. Red China is still paying a high price for the “leading

role” of its Communist party. Other examples include Islamist nations (there is no Islamic way to repair an automobile); the fundamentalists’ creation “science”; and the monomaniacal faith in tax cuts as the panacea for all social and economic ills.

* **Deprive the population of education.** Learning power equals earning power. Any country that deprives its work force of education — perhaps substituting training, perhaps substituting nothing — is depriving itself of the tools it needs to compete in the modern world. In many madrassas, or Islamist schools, around the world, “education” (limited to boys, of course) consists of chanting memorized passages of the Qur’an while rocking back and forth, along with burning effigies of U.S. political figures at recess. In many fundamentalist schools in the U.S., science “education” consists of the 4,000-year-old creation myths in the first book of the Hebrew Scriptures.

* **Denigrate work.** The so-called “Protestant work ethic” tends to get more accomplished than do cultures that regard avoiding work as a laudable goal. There will always be people who are eager to exhort others to do their duty (and hold in contempt those who heed them), but rare are the societies that can afford to support more than a very few of such drones. Saudi Arabia, with its 30,000 “nobles,” is a striking example. Another example is the culture in which a large percentage of the poor find it

more profitable to live on welfare than to work at an honest job that nets far less money. It is also possible to devalue work by offering “chump change” for wages, making work seem not worth the effort.

These Seven Deadly Sins are evident in one form or another in every country and culture. It’s easy to spot them in other countries and harder to spot them at home — but when

all problems are caused or experienced by “them,” never by “us,” we get right back to the Third Deadly Sin. 

The Boreal Badger, “Mth Dispatches: Notes from Maryland Mensa’s Monthly Meeting,” M-Anation, Wade Boggs, editor, March 2003 (Vol. XXXII, No. 9). Adapted from the much lengthier original by permission.

URBAN COWBOY

From Cleopatra

Bud Urban

Come, let me dust the throne. You sit with me.
 I clean the drops of sadness from your brow.
 I hope I am an older woman now
 And seek not to evade my destiny.
 The lessons from above, though sweet
 they be,
 Come slower than the changes when you go
 Through Hell, because the prisoners below
 Must face a harsh schoolmaster, we agree.
 I took the snake to breast, I could not face
 The Roman tyrant’s triumph, my disgrace.
 But your true love must take me every day
 Before the roaring masses and display
 My royalty, to follow birds and monkeys,
 But not behind the jackals and the donkeys.



Both Worlds

B. Valsavage

Once upon a time in the distant future, the world is covered with living things. Travelers from off-world, approaching Earth from space, observe deep, aqua seas shimmering with fish, and animals of every size and shape flourishing across verdant hills. Patches of sky darken as the shadows of feathered flocks roll across the vast landscape. Limitless fields and orchards filled with every kind of fruit, vegetable, grain, and flower paint the plains in a kaleidoscope of vivid hues.

Very little evidence of humanity is seen. Only hydroelectric dams and bridges that straddle waterways and rivers will be the most apparent signs of human life. A few low buildings scattered about and some airstrips and docks for the various ships and planes could be seen as well, with no pollution of land and sea anywhere to note.

How is that possible? With a human population in the tens of billions, surely the Earth would be horribly scarred.

And yet there are many great buildings, some miles long and hundreds of stories tall. Or more precisely, hundreds of stories deep. For the humans here have built down, not up. Almost all of their structures are underground. Using fiber optics

and ancient building methods, our descendants see no need to cover the surface of the world they share with the plants, animals, and birds. These people retrieve fresh water from deep below their feet using petroleum extraction technology. And by living under the surface, they dramatically reduce their heating and cooling expenditures. And, as needed, minerals are unearthed for industry and private use, the chasms are filled by suitable connecting structures and then covered over and landscaped. In time these wounds heal, leaving little proof of human intrusion.

The advantages of this system are numerous. The best use of the soil is preserved. The animals are not affected, and the weather is not as significant a factor. Tornados and hurricanes cannot shred mobile homes and neighborhoods if the dwellings are below ground. And flooding is simply over their heads. And with billions of birds, the insect population is kept well in check.

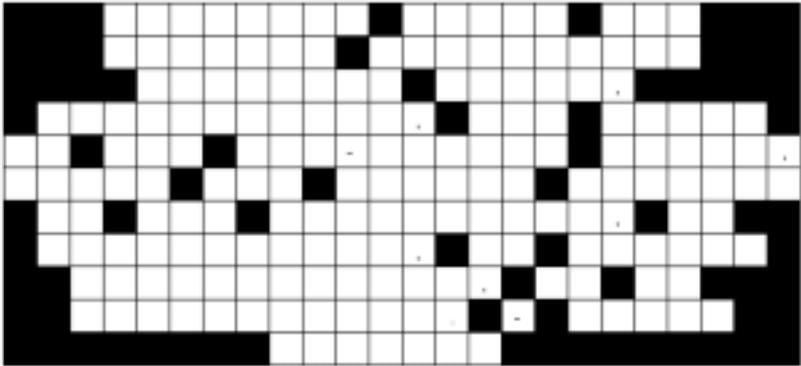
Not to worry, the human inhabitants are not locked away in the bowels of the earth. People freely come and go on the surface as they wish. They are taught from youth how to interact with the "other world." There is plenty of work for all in main-

taining the well-being of all Earth's creatures and various ecosystems. Being best suited to adapt to this arrangement, the humans here see themselves as the caretakers of their world.

In their dwellings, these guardians have transported the overworld down to them. By using live feed digital technology, the "win-

dows" in their homes are actually video screen images from closed-circuit cameras on the surface above them. From home, they can closely observe the wild life without causing it undue stress.

What a flourishingly harmonious environment! Humanity lives and observes that which is in the best interests of *all* Earth's inhabitants. 



G
H T A N
N K I C T I O N V K
T H R M I C D T U O I N A R
R T E R O E N E M G S R S O D A R G
N S B E I R O N S K T S E I R S W R V L
O A A R E R E B P R F T H A O N H S R E O
M B I E R U M V R N G K D A S E R H R S C T
I E W S T E C I L I S S D L R T L I O A I N
T D E A T L A N L E A R U R O A D I U A S E D
T H P S T R A N I I C A E R E U M D E T E S C G

Wherever there are Islamic terrorists bringing death, destruction, and havoc to the non-Muslim world, there are Saudis lurking in the background, as masterminds, as direct participants, or as bankrollers. - Serge Trifkov

Needful Things

Erin Wells

“Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless; knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.”

— Samuel Johnson

While watching the Stephen King movie “Needful Things,” I realized that integrity (or the lack thereof) is essential to understanding the Devil’s successes in the small town of Castle Rock, and is applicable to our own lives as well. (Warning: This column contains spoilers. I recommend watching the movie before reading this article.) The people of Castle Rock believe they are good, honest, God-fearing people who are above succumbing to evil. However, arrogance regarding the integrity of their moral standards leads the townspeople into the Devil’s carefully laid plans.

“Integrity,” as I am using the word, means to be firm in your convictions: have principles and stick with them. We all deviate from our principles at some time in our lives; however, the degree and frequency with which we deviate is what makes us different. Those who deviate slightly and rarely can be said to be of higher integrity; those who deviate greatly and often can be said to be of lesser integrity, if only because they don’t resist

“temptation” as well.

Without integrity, anything can be justified. In the movie, we see many examples of this. Two most notable examples are Wilma threatening Nettie’s dog because she thinks Nettie put turkey guano on her laundry, and one man attacking another during the movie’s climax, accusing him of stealing his first-edition *Treasure Island* (which, of course, he bought at Needful Things, the Devil’s shop in town). It takes strength of character to rise above an argument and not retaliate. Without integrity, we revert to the law of the jungle and lose what makes us civilized humans: our morals, values, and principles.

“Needful Things” is not scary as much as it is disturbing. In the movie, we see people driven to extremes by their greed. The Devil disguises himself as an elegant purveyor of antiques and other rare items. He identifies what a person wants most (a rare autographed Babe Ruth baseball card, a first-edition book, a priceless religious artifact), then asks them to pay by doing a deed for him. He has a boy ruin Wilma’s laundry so that she will blame Nettie and kill Nettie’s dog. Nettie will then want to retaliate on Wilma, and on it goes. All of this chaos is created by greed

for material possessions.

Self-deception seems to be a partner to the lack of integrity. The Catholic priest and Baptist minister of Castle Rock, who also surrender to the Devil's "needful things" during the movie, have an ongoing "war for souls" in their small town. The town's sheriff begins to understand that the new shopkeeper, Leland Gaunt, is manipulating the townspeople to turn on each other. While the sheriff is trying to convince the priest of this, part of the church explodes. The sheriff tells Father Meehan, "The Devil just blew up your damn church!" to which the Father replies, "That's not the Devil! It's those goddamned Baptists!" Father Meehan has become so consumed with hate for Reverend Rose and his followers that he is blind to the truth of Leland Gaunt.

Sheriff Pangborn resists the temptation of *Needful Things* very admirably, even warning his fiancée not to purchase anything in the shop. His incidence of integrity can be explained by his personal history. Sheriff Pangborn moved to Castle Rock from Pittsburgh after shooting a suspect to death. The shooting was suspicious, and Sheriff Pangborn alludes to the shooting being caused by his own short temper. He moved to Castle Rock to reevaluate his prin-

ciples, thus gaining integrity. Because he has already faced his lack of integrity, he is less susceptible than those who have never had their integrity tested.

In the climax of the movie, love overcomes the previous lack of integrity as the sheriff discharges his gun into the air and proclaims that the killing and fighting will stop, and that Leland Gaunt — the Devil — will no longer control their town. Danforth Keeton, one of the most despicable characters of the movie, redeems himself through love for his



wife. The Devil manipulated Keeton's lack of integrity so that Keeton would kill his wife. Keeton realizes afterwards that he killed someone he truly loved. He is so overcome with grief that he straps a large vest of dynamite to his chest and blows up himself, the Devil, and the Devil's shop. Of course, the Devil survives the explosion, but announces he will leave town because his time in Castle Rock was "not very successful" (despite at least two murders). His departure is driven by the town's new integrity, which is based on love.

"*Needful Things*" is an extreme example of what can happen when people lack integrity, but sometimes these caricatures are the best mirror with which to reflect upon our own everyday behavior.



Happy Mother's Day!



© Copyright 1988, Network Solution Developers, Inc., All rights reserved.

TKADXVZXW. FGBPCKW. ZJT

PKAW!" — ZJ BVZEB AZJ.

..Democracy. Whiskey. And sexy!" — An Iraqi man on April 3, 2003.

ANSWERS TO DONNA'S DAILY.

- 1. z
- 2. m
- 3. w
- 4. p
- 5. h/i
- 6. f
- 7. h/i
- 8. x
- 9. o
- 10. c
- 11. l
- 12. b
- 13. !
- 14. y
- 15. s
- 16. d
- 17. r
- 18. e
- 19. a
- 20. u
- 21. n
- 22. d
- 23. g
- 24. k
- 25. t
- 26. v

DONNA'S DIARY*United States Cities and Their Counties**Donna Myhrer*

While I was watching a popular television program the other evening, whose location is a large U.S. city, the name of the county (of which I had previously been ignorant) was briefly mentioned. It made me wonder how many well-known U.S. cit-

ies are in equally well-known U.S. counties, or not. So, let's try this one. I will give you a list of well-known US cities and a list of the counties in which they are located. Both lists are in alphabetical order. All you have to do is match them up.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Billings, MT | a. Bexar |
| 2. Birmingham, AL | b. Bibb |
| 3. Boston, MA | c. Bonneville |
| 4. Cedar Rapids, IA | d. Caddo |
| 5. Chattanooga, TN | e. Chaves |
| 6. Chicago, IL | f. Cook |
| 7. Cincinnati, OH | g. Greene |
| 8. Detroit, MI | h. Hamilton |
| 9. Gary, IN | i. Hamilton |
| 10. Idaho Falls, ID | j. Hennepin |
| 11. Kansas City, MO | k. Hillsborough |
| 12. Macon, GA | l. Jackson |
| 13. Minneapolis, MN | m. Jefferson |
| 14. Ogden, UT | n. King |
| 15. Portland, OR | o. Lake |
| 16. Phoenix, AZ | p. Linn |
| 17. Rochester, NY | q. Maricopa |
| 18. Roswell, NM | r. Monroe |
| 19. San Antonio, TX | s. Multnomah |
| 20. San Jose, CA | t. Pima |
| 21. Seattle, WA | u. Santa Clara |
| 22. Shreveport, LA | v. Sedgwick |
| 23. Springfield, MO | x. Wayne |
| 24. Tampa, FL | w. Suffolk |
| 25. Tucson, AZ | y. Weber |
| 26. Wichita, KS | z. Yellowstone |

Mensa requires that local groups conform their bylaws to standards set forth by the American Mensa Committee (AMC). You are requested to review these proposed amendments to the TBM Bylaws and send whatever comments you may have to the editor of the Sounding no later than June 10, 2003. The July issue of the Sounding will contain (1) these bylaws; (2) comments from the membership (which may be edited for conciseness); and (3) a ballot for your vote, which must be returned to the Bylaws Voting Committee no later than August 1, 2003.

Bylaws Of Tampa Bay Mensa

Article 1: Name And Purpose

a. The name of this organization shall be Tampa Bay Mensa (TBM).

b. The purpose of TBM shall be to serve as a means of communication among and assembly for its members.

c. TBM is a local group of American Mensa, Ltd. (AML), and is subject to the Constitution of Mensa, the Bylaws of AML, and the resolutions adopted by the American Mensa Committee (AMC). All Minimum Standards adopted by AMC are automatically a part of all local bylaws, whether or not these Minimum Standards are explicitly incorporated in these written bylaws.

d. AML has granted a royalty-free, non-exclusive license to TBM for the use of the mark "Mensa" and a logo, consisting of a globe over a stylized "M" within a border, in connection with the ~~services and purposes~~ noncommercial uses of TBM. AML retains full ownership of the mark and logo and all statutory and common law rights in the mark and logo.

Article 2: General Membership

a. Membership in TBM shall be open to all members of AML in good standing in the geographic area as-

signed to the local group by AMC, or as otherwise assigned by AML.

b. Members in good standing of TBM may be candidates for any office, vote in all elections, and draft and sign petitions for any purpose recognized by these bylaws, and may attend any meeting of the officers, of any committee, or of the general membership.

c. All Mensa members are welcome to participate in social activities of TBM at the invitation of the host/hostess, but may not vote, hold office, or participate in business activities in TBM unless they are also members of TBM, unless they be the National Ombudsman or his/her designate, members of AMC in the discharge of their responsibilities or at the written invitation of the Executive Committee of TBM. (See articles 3, 5, and 6 for further information about the constitution of the TBM Executive Committee.)

d. An annual open forum shall be held, at which any member of TBM may speak, make motions, and vote on matters pertaining to TBM.

e. The AMC requires the bylaws of local groups to state that social activities for their members shall be held at least once per calendar quarter.

f. Tampa Bay Mensa shall observe the preferences of members for data suppression and publication, as filed with AML, when publishing a

local_group_membership_directory/roster.

Article 3: Executive Committee

a. The policy-making and administrative body of TBM shall be an Executive Committee (ECExComm) of nine members elected at large: four in even-numbered years, and five in odd-numbered years. These, or replacements for the same, are the only voting members of the ECExComm.

b. The term of office of each normally elected ECExComm member shall be two years, commencing with his or her seating, and ending with the seating of a properly qualified successor in the newly constituted ECExComm two years later, except in the case of vacancy, resignation, death, failure to maintain membership in AML, or removal from office.

c. A member of the ECExComm may be removed from office by a written order stating the cause and signed by seven other members of the ECExComm, or else by Recall Election.

d. An election for recall of any ECExComm member may be called by a petition citing the cause for such action, and signed by fifteen (15) members of TBM. Recall shall be effected by a Special Election of TBM, as in Article 8, on the stated question: "Shall (named officer) be removed from (his or her) office as a member of the Executive Committee of Tampa Bay Mensa?" Two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast must be affirmative for recall.

e. Grounds for removal of any ECExComm member from the ECExComm by the remaining members of the ECExComm shall include, but need not be limited to, reasons of malfeasance in office. Any ECExComm

member missing three regular business meetings during any twelve-month period is automatically removed from office unless such absences have been excused by the ExComm. Any ExComm member missing three regular consecutive business meetings during any twelve-month period shall be deemed to have resigned her or his office de facto and is automatically removed.

f. Vacancies on the ECExComm due to resignation, death, transfer, removal, recall, etc., shall be filled at the next regularly scheduled business meeting by vote of the remaining ECExComm members, to serve until the next annual election. If required in order to bridge the remainder of the vacated term, a replacement shall be elected to a one-year term at this election.

g. The ECExComm may commit the assets of TBM and may perform all acts consistent with the orderly running of TBM affairs.

Article 4: Business Meetings

a. Regular business meetings of the ECExComm shall be held at least bimonthly, as set by the ECExComm. Notices of all such meetings shall be published in the newsletter.

b. Special meetings may be called by a vote of the ECExComm;



or by a petition signed by 10 current members of TBM; or by the Local Secretary, in all cases with at least a 48-hour notice to all members of the EEExComm. The time, place, and purpose of any such meeting shall be stated in the notification, and no other substantive business may be acted upon at the special meeting. Attempts must also be made to notify the membership at large, especially members known to be interested in the stated business of the meeting. Any such special meeting shall be of either the "open forum" or "executive committee" variety, depending upon the nature of the special meeting, except that meetings called by petition of the membership shall always be of the "open forum" variety.

c. A quorum of at least five members of the EEExComm shall be required to hold an official meeting, and to confirm, authorize, adopt, ratify or to transact any business. If the official meeting has been called by a petition of the membership as described in article 4.b, at least five members of the ExComm must attend.

d. A majority of those voting, but in no case less than four affirmative votes, will be necessary to carry a measure or transact business, except as explicitly stated otherwise in these bylaws.

e. Rules of order may be adopted by the EEExComm for its own proceedings and for any mat-

ters concerning TBM that are not otherwise specified in these bylaws.

f. Actions taken at all meetings shall be reported in the next possible issue of the newsletter.

g. Within the limits of these bylaws, the EEExComm may adopt Guidelines governing all matters relating to the regular activities of TBM. Such Guidelines may be adopted and modified by a 3/4 vote of the EEExComm, and shall remain binding on the EEExComm and the TBM membership insofar as they continue in force.

h. The EEExComm may establish various special memberships, assessments, subscriptions, and/or other funds to be solicited from the local members, provided that the word "dues" shall never be associated with anything but the official AML dues, that no attempt shall be made to limit the basic membership rights of those who do not contribute, and that no representation is ever made to the effect that any such local fund or membership is obligatory. Benefits or other inducements to join or contribute to such funds, as well as the intended special use of the funds, if any, shall always be made clear as a part of every resolution and solicitation regarding such a fund.

Article 5: Officers

a. The officers of TBM shall be the elected members of the EEExComm; other officers appointed to specific positions by the EEExComm; plus the Proctor(s) appointed to TBM by AML; and the SIGHT (Service of Information, Guidance, and Hospitality to Travelers) Coordinator, who is appointed both locally and by a National Officer. All officers shall be members in good standing of AML and of TBM.

b. The EEExComm shall appoint a Local Secretary [President], a Deputy Local Secretary, and a Treasurer from its own membership.

c. An Editor; a Calendar Coor-



dinator; a Scribe; a Membership Officer; one or more Ombudsman/Mediator(s) and one or more Arbitrator(s) (which may be one person or two or more different people); and any other positions deemed necessary by the ECEExComm shall also be appointed, either from within the ranks of the ECEExComm or from the TBM membership at large. However, only elected ECEExComm members shall have a vote at ECEExComm meetings.

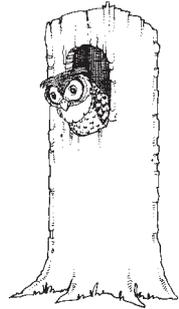
d. The ECEExComm shall appoint an Auditor whenever there is a change in the office of Treasurer, or when there is any reason to doubt the accuracy of the financial reports normally provided. If neither of the above circumstances has occurred within the preceding year, then an Auditor shall be appointed annually, at the time other officers are appointed. The Auditor must not have been involved with the collection or disbursement of monies during the period being reviewed.

e. Other officers or committee members to be appointed, as required, may include, but shall not be limited to, the following: Area Coordinators, Gifted Children Coordinator, Scholarship Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, Proctor Coordinator, Historian, and/or Major Event Directors.

f. The ECEExComm may revoke any appointments by written order signed by six members of the ECEExComm, other than a replacement ECEExComm member.

g. The term of office of all appointed officers and positions expires annually, upon the seating of a newly constituted ECEExComm, except for Proctors, who are appointed by AML; the SIGHT Coordinator, who is appointed with the participation of AML; the Auditor, who serves only briefly; and the Major Event Director(s), who serve(s) without interruption until after the date of the corresponding Major Event(s) and reports as to the outcome have been made to the ECEExComm.

h. Every former officer or appointee who has not been re-appointed to the same position, shall turn over all files, office equipment, and materials pertaining to that position, to his or her successor as soon as said successor has been appointed, or else shall make arrangements to do so at a time and place satisfactory to the ECEExComm. In no case shall this be later than four weeks after leaving office, unless otherwise stated herein.



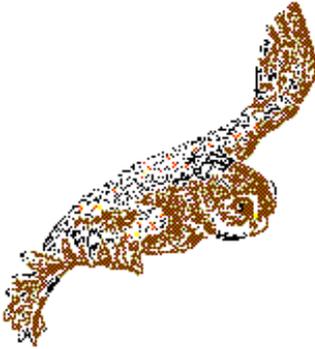
Article 6: Duties Of Officers

a. The Local Secretary [President] is the chief executive officer of TBM. The Local Secretary, shall preside over meetings of the ECEExComm; shall pass information to and from TBM in a timely fashion; shall notify AML of the results of elections and other changes of office within two weeks of the election or change; and shall coordinate with AMC. In case of a conflict of interest, the Local Secretary shall temporarily step down, in favor of the Deputy Local Secretary, for the duration of a single discussion or decision, but retains the right to speak, act, and vote as a member of TBM.

b. The Deputy Local Secretary shall temporarily act in the place of the Local Secretary when the latter is absent or otherwise unavailable. In case of a conflict of interest while presiding over a meeting, the Deputy Local Secretary shall temporarily step down in favor of a substitute moderator, for the duration of a single discussion or decision, but retains the right to speak, act, and vote as a member of TBM. In the event that the Local Secretary is unable to continue in office, the Deputy Local Secretary shall call a Special Meeting to select a new Local Secretary. During

the interval between the end of the Local Secretary's time in office and the Special Meeting, the Deputy Local Secretary succeeds to the office of Local Secretary.

c. The Treasurer shall handle the financial affairs of TBM, and shall oversee the formulation of a budget,



including the financing of the newsletter, and shall manage all other group accounts, while keeping clear and retrievable records of all these matters. The Treasurer shall submit financial reports to each regularly scheduled meeting of the ECEXComm and to the annual membership meeting, containing schedules of income, expenses, and balances for all funds under the control of TBM, including Major Events, RG, scholarship, and other special funds. These reports shall also be published in the newsletter twice a year at approximate six-month intervals. The AMC also requires that the Treasurer submit actual bank statements to the Local Secretary or to the Local Secretary's designee at least quarterly, and that the Treasurer maintain a list of equipment owned by TBM.

d. The Editor shall be responsible for publishing the newsletter in accordance with the Guidelines and policies of the ECEXComm of TBM. The Editor may delegate tasks to various assistants and helpers, but shall retain responsibility for the results.

e. The Scribe shall accurately record the actions of the ECEXComm, and shall provide timely copies of these records to the Editor for publication and to the ECEXComm for the reading of the minutes of prior meetings; shall maintain permanent files of these records; and shall provide the ECEXComm and/or other TBM members with access to said records upon reasonable request.

f. The Calendar Coordinator shall collect and assemble event and other schedule information from the members, and prepare a detailed monthly calendar for timely submission to the Editor.

g. The Auditor shall examine all pertinent financial records in order to determine the state of the finances of TBM, as well as the accuracy and validity of said records, and shall oversee the transfer of the financial records if there has been a change in the office of Treasurer. The Auditor shall present a written report of the results of these activities to the next regular meeting of the ECEXComm for inclusion in the minutes. This report shall also be submitted to the Editor for publication in the next possible issue of the newsletter. Upon completion of these duties, the office of Auditor shall terminate until the next appointment is made. The 1998 AMC "Minimum Standard Bylaws Changes" states that the Auditor must conduct her or his review annually during the month that the ExComm takes office.

h. The duties of other positions shall be determined by the ECEXComm prior to any appointment to such positions, and a written job description shall be presented to each appointee at the time of the appointment. If any such position involves financial management, limitations on the budget shall be approved as a part of the appointment process.

Article 7: Annual Elections

a. No later than January 15 each year, the ECEXComm shall name an Election Committee of three mem-

bers, one of whom shall be designated as Election Supervisor. The Election Supervisor shall be responsible for certifying the candidates, conducting the election, receiving and counting the ballots, and certifying the results. The Election Committee shall determine, and cause to be published, those election rules and regulations not covered by these bylaws.

b. No member of the Election Committee may be a current member of the ECEXComm, nor a candidate for elective office in the forthcoming election.

c. A call for candidates for the ECEXComm shall be published in the March and April issues of the newsletter, along with the names and addresses of the Election Committee members.

d. Every candidate shall mail or hand-deliver to the Election Supervisor, on or before April 15, a nomination petition containing the name, address, telephone number, and signature of the candidate, plus the printed names and signatures of five (5) members in good standing, accompanied by a campaign statement.

e. The Election Committee may solicit petitioners, and shall attempt to ensure that there are sufficient candidates on the slate to exceed the number of open positions.

f. The Election Supervisor shall validate all signatures against the most recent membership roster provided by AML; shall prepare a ballot of qualified candidates; and shall deliver it-this ballot to the Editor, along with campaign statements, by the deadline for the June issue of the newsletter. The size and format of these statements may be limited by editorial guidelines published with the call for candidates.

g. Ballots, instructions, the address of the Election Supervisor, and all campaign statements shall be published in the June issue of the newsletter. In addition, separately mailed ballots shall be sent to re-

duced-dues members who do not receive an individual copy of the newsletter.

h. Balloting procedures shall be as in Article 9, below.

i. Each TBM member shall have one vote for each post to be filled on the ballot. No more than one vote may be cast for each candidate per ballot. The appropriate number of candidates with the highest vote counts shall be declared elected to two-year terms; those candidates with the next highest vote counts shall be declared elected to any one-year terms that may be open.

j. The Election Supervisor shall notify all candidates by phone or mail within a week after certification.

k. The newly elected ECEXComm shall be considered seated as soon as voting results are certified.

Article 8: Special Elections

a. A Special Election must be held within 60 days of the presentation of a properly qualified initiative petition to a meeting of the ECEXComm, either regular or special, except for bylaws amendments.

b. Prior to holding any special election, the ECEXComm shall name an Election Committee of three members, one of whom shall be designated as Election Supervisor, who shall be responsible for preparing the ballot, conducting the election, receiving and counting the ballots, and certifying the results.

c. No member of the Election Committee may be a current member of the ECEXComm, nor an advocate of either side in the forthcoming election.

d. The question to be voted upon in a Special Election must allow for an unambiguous selection among alternatives ~~which~~ that must include a choice of "no" or "take no action," and must be published along with the ballot, and in any issue containing arguments pro or con.

e. The Election Supervisor shall prepare the ballot and instructions;

and deliver them to the Editor on or before the deadline for the next possible issue of the newsletter.

f. Ballots, instructions, the address of the Election Supervisor, and all arguments, pro or con, received by the deadline shall be published in the next issue of the newsletter. In addition, separately mailed ballots shall be sent to reduced-dues members, who do not receive an individual copy of the newsletter.

g. Balloting procedures shall be as in Article 9, below.

h. A simple majority of those voting shall prevail, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws. A tie vote shall fail to pass.

i. Having duly passed, a Special Election shall have the force of a 2/3 vote of the EEExComm for any action not otherwise addressed by these bylaws.

Article 9: Balloting Procedures

a. As required by the AMC, all balloting shall be done by procedures that allow for full participation by mail for all members. All ballots must be sealed in an envelope, on the outside of which the voting member's full name and address ~~is~~are clearly legible in the upper left-hand corner, and must be given or mailed to the Election Supervisor and received no later than the third Saturday of the month of publication. Ballots ~~that are~~that received after this date, or ~~which~~which ~~that~~ are not in compliance with these instructions, shall not be counted.

b. The Election Supervisor shall validate the ballots by checking the name and return address against the latest TBM membership list from AML, as provided by the Local Secretary.

c. The Election Committee shall open all valid ballots, separate all opened envelopes before reading their contents, and count the ballots.

d. The Election Supervisor shall certify the results of the election to the Local Secretary, and send the

results to the Editor for inclusion in the next possible issue of the newsletter. Tie votes shall be resolved by a coin toss conducted by the Election Committee.

In case there should be a recount request, the Election Supervisor shall retain the ballots and envelopes, including the unopened invalidated ballots, for thirty days. No challenge to the results may be instituted after this time has expired. Any actions of the EEExComm during such a challenge shall be valid, nonetheless.

Article 10: Initiative Petitions

a. An Initiative Petition shall consist of a written document, signed by fifteen members in good standing of TBM, and presented to a meeting of the EEExComm, either regular or special. The process of name validation may be observed by a delegation of petition signers and/or other TBM members, at their option.

b. The full text of a validated Initiative Petition, or else its failure to be validated, shall be recorded in the minutes of the EEExComm. Any anomalies or discrepancies noted by the observers shall also be recorded, as well as any resolution attempted by the EEExComm.

c. An Initiative Petition from the membership of TBM shall, if it so states, have the same force and effect as a motion or resolution made and seconded by members of the EEExComm at the meeting at which the petition is validated. Such a motion may force the EEExComm to consider any legitimate issue and to report their decision by roll-call vote. Such a motion, made to a Special Meeting called for a purpose unrelated to that petition, shall automatically be tabled until the next appropriate meeting of the EEExComm, which may be a Special Meeting called by the same petition for that purpose.

d. An Initiative Petition from the membership of TBM shall also, if it

so states, call a Special Meeting of the ECEXComm.

e. Alternatively, if it so states, an Initiative Petition shall force a Special Election for the proposed recall of any elected or appointed officer, for ratification of proposed amendments to these bylaws, or for any other issue, and using the procedure described in Article 11, without further concurrence of the ECEXComm, provided only that such actions do not conflict with these bylaws.

f. Alternatively, if it so states and has been signed by 5%five percent of the members in good standing of TBM, an Initiative Petition shall call a Special General Membership Meeting.

Article 11: Amendments

a. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of the ECEXComm or by an Initiative Petition. Such proposals-proposed amendments must first be submitted to the AMC for its approval. Upon receiving such approval, they shall be published in the next issue of the newsletter.

~~b. The second newsletter following initial publication of the proposed amendments shall publish such concise comments as may be received from the membership on the proposed amendments, a reprint of the proposed amendments, and the ballot.~~

~~b.c. After approval by AMC, Rratification of amendments to these bylaws shall require a 2/3 affirmative vote of the votes cast in a Special Election, as in Article 8 above. The procedure shall be as follows:~~

~~i. The proposed amendments shall be published in the newsletter as described in 11.a.~~

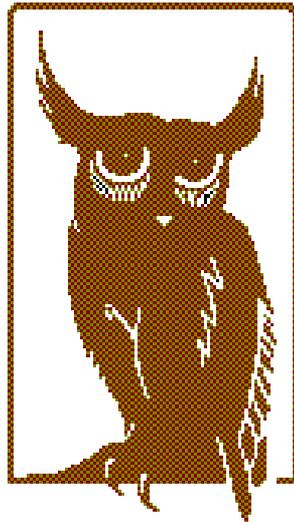
~~ii. The second newsletter following initial publication of the proposed amendments shall publish (a) a reprint of the proposed amendments; (b) such concise comments as may be received from the membership on the proposed amend-~~

ments; and (c) the ballot.

iii. The deadline for returning the ballots shall be no earlier than 90 days after the initial publication described in 11.a.

d. In all voting for amendments to the bylaws, the first mailing of the proposed changes sent to all members, either as inserts in, or as part of, the local newsletter, or as a separate mailing, shall be at least 90 days before the deadline for returning the ballots.c. Proposed changes to these bylaws are not valid until they have been approved, first by the AMC as described in article 11.a; second by the membership as described in article 11.b; and third by the AMC after a second review. The AMC will inform TBM of the effective date of the new bylaws as amended following AMC review.

The most recent previous complete revision of the Bylaws of Tampa Bay Mensa was approved by vote of the membership in October 1989. Article 12, "Implementation of New Bylaws," was deleted in accordance with its provisions by resolution of the Executive Committee, June 16th, 1990. Several minor revisions were approved by the membership of TBM on June 20, 1998.



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*

Deputy LocSec

Dan Chesnut
5023-B Starfish Dr. SE
St.. Petersburg,
FL 33705
727-821-8357
chesnut314@aol.com

Treasurer

Kathy Crum
7164 Quail Hollow Blvd.
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544
813-907-0526
katshe@aol.com

At-Large Members

Chris Drumm
5604 Sir Barton Ct.
Wesley Chapel, FL
33544-1506
813-973-8095
CandJDrumm@cs.com

Dana Groulx
5410 Bold Venture Pl.
Wesley Chapel,
FL 33544
813-991-7868
llama@sports-pac.com

Barbara Loewe
P.O. Box 340126
Tampa, FL 33694
813-968-3343
bloewe@juno.com

Max Loick

440 4th Ave. N, # 1409
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-896-4270
oldmax1@juno.com

Mary W. Matthews

1000 Granville Ct. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
727-502-9301
*MotherMary@
extremelysmart.com*

Sylvia Zadorozny

651 Timber Bay Cir. W.
Oldsmar, FL 34677
813-855-4939
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*

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

Scholarship Chair

Roger Preslar
932 Hillrise Dr.
Brandon, FL 33510
813-651-1150
PreslarRL@aol.com

Associate Webspinner

Don Davis
9410 Channing Cir.,
Apt. 2508
Temple Terr., FL 33617
813-984-7343
*DDavisTampa@
earthlink.net*

Membership Officer/ New Member Contact

Frank Clarke
150 Collette Court
Oldsmar, FL 33677
727-786-6258
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

American Mensa Ltd.

1229 Corporate Dr. W.
Arlington, TX 76006
*AmericanMensa@
mensa.org*

AMC Region 10 Chair

Elissa Rudolph
5054 Lakefront Blvd., #D
Delray Beach, FL 33484
561-496-0124
*RVC10@us.mensa.org
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*

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-QUITY

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

