

*"Inventors Helping Inventors"*



# THE Tampa Bay INVENTOR NEWSLETTER

*The Official Publication of the Tampa Bay Inventor's Council*

7441 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Suite 607, Largo FL 33773-5124

MAY 2004

*The Tampa Bay Inventor's Council is here to help you succeed, forge ahead, maintain your purpose, and achieve what you intend to. Everyone in this group is behind you.*

## This month's Events

As you may already know we are about to present our Products to Smart Inventions on the 14th. We will have held our Evaluation process by the time you receive this newsletter. If you didn't get to present this time, don't worry because we are planning to hold another Presentation in June with a company called Idea Village. We will be updating you with that information as soon as we have dates and times.

### May 12th

This is a regular meeting night and since we have no speaker scheduled we will want to get last minute details worked out for the following Friday is the presentation day. For those of you who are not presenting, we don't want you to feel left out, we have had quite a few new members join our group in the last couple of months and I believe that we should use this time to get to know them and hear about the ideas that they have along with the contacts that they are bringing with them.

For instance, Chris Barrs whom some of you heard at our last meeting has some wonderful ideas and he has manufacturing contacts in China as well as a wealth of information on Prototyping that we all need to know about. Chris is very eager to teach us a few things and seems to be ready to reach out and help his fellow members! Matching these people up with those of like minds that have been around

a while is very important to our future. This is how we will stick to our motto "Inventors Helping Inventors" so come get to know them!

### May 14th

This is it! We are presenting to Smart inventions today. Our first round of presentations will start at 2:00 and end around 5:00 for a dinner break. We will resume at 7:00 and go until we are through with our presentations. Good luck to all of our Inventors we hope there are many success stories that come from this presentation.

### May 26th

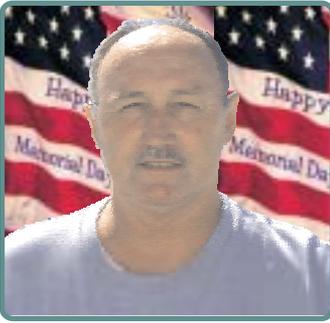
In mentioning that we need to find out what our new inventors are bringing to TBIC here we have a great example. We have the pleasure of seeing 'Inventing in action' tonight. Greg Carbonara and Dan Meier and are going to show us some very special materials and how they're used to make prototypes. They will demonstrate some of the processes they have used and show us how to obtain and use some of these things ourselves if we want to try our hand at making our own prototypes.  --jk

All Meetings Held At:  
7441 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Suite 607  
Largo FL 33773  
on the  
Second & Fourth  
Wednesdays  
each month

For More Information:  
Call 727-548-5083  
8:30 am -- 5:00 pm  
Monday -- Friday

**MAY 2004**

## **A Message from Our President**



I'm really glad I waited till today, May 6th, to write my letter.

Last night, I observed a significant benchmark in the maturation process of our council. On this off-night between regular meetings, a group of ordinary members, including two of our most recent additions to the board, conducted a totally contained operation with seamless interaction between the organizers.

One member had found another outlet possibly interested in our members' inventions. On his own initiative, once getting board approval, he formed a group of volunteer members whose interests are aligned with the majority of our membership. This 'marketing evaluation committee' pictured below took the steps necessary for all interested participants to present their product, whether they appeared to fit the third parties' criteria or not. They designed a pre- presentation questionnaire, allowed all a fair amount of time to present, asked relevant questions and completed their own evaluation forms.

At the beginning of the Wednesday, May 5th meeting, everything was in place and organized. The process started promptly and efficiently.....and all this was done without your Board having to do anything but approve the process and monitor the action.

This was a veritable self-energized example of "Inventors Helping Inventors" that will be a model for similar inventor organizations across our nation....and those who were there to either participate or observe were a part of it.

Congratulations to you all-your President feels completely validated seeing member's interests and Council activities working in such outstanding congruence.

Keep thinking outside the circle!

George Mouzakis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Mouzakis'.



## Our Last Speaker

We didn't have a scheduled speaker for the April 28th meeting. The Smart Inventions presentation was covered by Greg. He gave us dates, times and details needed to prepare for the presentation on May 14th. Greg is working very hard to put this presentation opportunity together and to make sure we put on our best for the Smart Inventions people. I hope we all appreciate his efforts.

 --jk

## Previous Speaker (Workshop Speaker)

We wanted to let you know about our wonderful workshop speaker that we had last month that brought to us a presentation on some software used for technical drawings. He showed us how using this software was very easy and could be very useful for those who would like to try to do their own patent drawings. I am going to include his information for those of you who missed the presentation or would like the software. Tell him Jennifer sent you! Keep an eye on his website for a trial download that will be available shortly.

Kiran Kumar  
kkumar@ingr.com  
[www.intergraph.com.ppo](http://www.intergraph.com.ppo)  
Tel: 256-730-3435

## Next Speaker (May 26th)

Our two new Board members, Dan Meier and Greg Carbonaro along with another new member, Tom Arbasak are going to be our speakers for this evening showing us how to use some magical materials used in prototyping. We asked these guys to show us how these and some other materials work. They will be showing us how a piece of Foam can be carved into shape and when a chemical is applied to it the foam becomes a hard plastic type material. It's like magic!

 --jk

## Coming Soon ! (June 9th) Special Announcement!

We will have a terrific guest speaker on our regular meeting night, June 9th, *Gene Landrum*. Gene is the founder of the national chain of *Chuck E. Cheese* restaurants and is a proficient author and dynamic speaker. He makes regular appearances on television and is a professor of management and entrepreneurship at International College.

Some of his works include:

- Profiles of Genius:  
Thirteen Creative Men Who Changed the World
- Profiles of Power and Success:  
Fourteen Geniuses Who Broke the Rules
- Profiles of Female Genius:  
Thirteen Creative Women Who Changed the World
- Entrepreneurial Genius:  
The Power of Passion

I urge you to not miss this meeting! If you have ever wondered why you decided to become an inventor, Gene will make it absolutely clear! He will give a rousing 45-minute Power Point presentation and then take your questions. He will also bring a limited supply of his insightful books and will sign them if you care to make a purchase. This is a great opportunity to get fired up before the long hot summer, so make sure that you get to our June 9th meeting!

 --WT

Would you like to contribute an article or editorial message to this newsletter? Just write up your contribution and email it to [admin@tbic.us](mailto:admin@tbic.us) or fax it to 727-547-5490.

Material must be received no later than the last day of the month prior to the next publication.

## Pat On The Back

Our *Pat On The Back* this month goes to our President, George Mouzakis. George had a little tumble down some stairs and when it was all over he was in the hospital getting treated for a badly broken arm that was in need of surgery to make it right again, and he has a banged up knee that caused him a great deal of pain. Getting hurt is not the reason we are giving him the pat on the back. He gets that for being a Real Trooper and attending the meeting the next evening, even though I'm sure that he would have preferred being at home in bed pumped up on a couple pain pills! I think we all need to send a word of thanks to George for showing such great dedication to his position here. It's this kind of leadership that is going to make TBIC the best Council in the Nation!

*Thank You George!*

 --jk

**Members are invited to write letters for inclusion in the newsletter.**

**Email to [gem@alumni.uchicago.edu](mailto:gem@alumni.uchicago.edu), fax to 727-547-5490 or mail to TBIC at our office address.**

**Letters should be brief, to the point, and be accompanied by member name, email address . and phone number. Letters can be edited for clarity, taste and length. Letters will be printed as room permits.**

## A Note from Jen

I know that there are those of you who have attended the last couple of meetings that might have wondered what the uproar was all about. I also know that there are those who don't have a clue as to what I am referring to. I won't go into all the details, but I will tell you this, the situation has been settled as far as we can tell and we have ended up with a couple new Board members out of it. This uproar, as I have referred to it, seems to have been a blessing in disguise. The two new members of the Board are Greg Carbonaro and Dan Meier. They are two very involved and dedicated members, as you will all see in the very near future, and I believe they are an asset to TBIC. I would like to welcome them and their enthusiasm to our membership.

In any organization with as many members as we have there are bound to be those who don't see things the same. That's just the way it is.

Over the past couple of months we have had some questions raised by a few as to how TBIC is run and about the company we keep.

We -- *no* I would like to say to the members of TBIC that at *any time* you may ask questions and you *will* get answers. Honest answers. Your President (George) and Secretary (Jennifer) voted to have *open* Board meetings and will continue to do so.

We post the Minutes in our newsletters for those of our members who cannot attend the meetings. (Except for the Minutes from April 28th. These minutes were audio recorded and I haven't had a chance to put them into text form. Once they are done I will post them on the bulletin board or e-mail them to those of you who want them.) There are no closed doors or secrets when it comes to the Board and how it runs TBIC. We encourage you to attend the Board meetings and if at any time you feel you need to see how the Board works, attend and observe the meeting and ask the Board members any questions you may have after the meeting.

I, as well as the rest of this board have TBIC's member's best interest at heart. I hope that this will be apparent to everyone as you see all the hard work we are doing in creating avenues for our inventors to succeed.

Sincerely,  
Your Secretary Jennifer

# DRAFTING !

WHERE DO YOU GO TO GET THE DRAWINGS DONE FOR YOUR PATENT OR TRADEMARK?

AND WHERE MIGHT YOU FIND SOMEONE TO MAKE THE DRAWINGS FOR THE MANUFACTURER'S PERUSA?



*My advice is free and my drafting skills are only slightly more. (However my wife says that's too cheap.) We should negotiate.*

RICHARD HUMPHREY  
(727) 938-2017

EMAIL: HUMPHREYRH@PNGUSA.NET

## ATTENTION

I.D. Badges are to be worn on the TBIC premises during meetings to allow us to identify and learn the names of our fellow members. Badges should be deposited back in the designated area for use next time. If you have taken your badge home, please remember to bring it back so that you will have it to wear at our meetings.

Thanks.

We hope that those of you who have taken advantage of our Affiliate Program had a good experience. We hope that you will continue to make your purchases this way. For those who haven't tried the program or don't know how to use it can go to the TBIC web site, [www.tbic.us](http://www.tbic.us) and click on 'General Information'.

## Just A Note

We would like to remind our members that our board meetings are open to you if you would like to sit in on them. We usually meet at 6:00 on regular meeting nights in the conference room of ICTT. If there are more people than chairs, we will move to the meeting room.

## GENERAL MEETINGS CALENDAR

### Monthly Meetings

May 12, 2004 .... 7:30 pm

May 26, 2004 .... 7:30 pm

### Workshops

May 5, 2004 .... 6:00 pm

### Next Monthly Meetings

June 9, 2004 .... 7:30 pm

June 23, 2004 .... 7:30 pm

## Membership

Make your inventing process more effective and more fun !

A few benefits you will enjoy:

- **Monthly Newsletters**
- **Free Workshops**
- **Updates on Legislation affecting the industry**
- **Current Industry News**

Bring a Friend !

Membership Director:  
Jennifer Knoepp



## BY THE WAY . . .

If you have any business to be taken care of on the night of our meetings, please plan to arrive by 6:30 to give us plenty of time to take care of your needs before the meeting starts. We would like to start our meetings promptly at 7:30 as planned. So, if you need to renew or upgrade your membership, or if you have any other inquiries about your membership, newsletter, badges, etc., just plan to come in plenty of time to attend to it before meeting time.

### NEED SOME HELP ?

Would you like to have help in doing some patent or trademark searches, or to get some advice from an expert? John Blue is making himself available here at TBIC before each meeting at 6:00 pm. He will help in any way he can to see if your idea, logo, trademark, etc. is already in use. Here is some further contact information for him:

**JOHN D. BLUE** the INVENTORS MENTOR<sup>SM</sup>

USF #30132

4202 E. Fowler Avenue

Tampa FL 33620

Phone/Fax: 813-972-3815

Email: [finjb@yahoo.com](mailto:finjb@yahoo.com)

Please email him or go to his Website for further details at:

[www.finjb.com](http://www.finjb.com)

### BULLETIN BOARDS

All items to be placed on our bulletin boards should be given or sent to Jennifer Knoepp, our TBIC secretary. These items will be dated to stay on the Board for two months, after which they may be resubmitted, if there is room. Otherwise, that item will have a one-month waiting period.

TBIC reserves the right to determine the suitability of all items posted. TBIC neither investigates, promotes, endorses nor profits from the information provided and will govern themselves accordingly.

## A Note to Members New and Old !!!

We hold Focus Groups for our Sustaining Members' Products. And even if you have done one on your product, and you would like to do it again for any reason, you are more than welcome to do so.

This is an opportunity to show your product to the 'Public' in the best forum possible.

You will gain experience to show your product at presentations such as the one on May 14th.

This is a service to our Sustaining members that you would otherwise pay good money to have done so take advantage of it!

Information on upcoming Focus Groups will be posted on this page of the newsletter each month. Watch for it.

Sign up to be a presenter or a member of the panel. You will gain experience by participating, no matter what.

### FOCUS GROUP

**As yet, no one has signed up to be a presenter for our Focus Group sessions this month. We will be glad to have you present your product for comments and constructive criticism anytime you are ready.**

If you would like to be a focus group presenter, for our next meeting or at a meeting next month, contact Jennifer at the TBIC office, 727-548-5083.

At each Focus Group meeting, we would like to have at least twenty TBIC members to stay after the regular meeting to listen to the presentations and fill out a questionnaire for each item presented. This should only take about 30 minutes.

Please volunteer if at all possible. It is important to your fellow inventor.

## **Disposable Diapers**

*(or as disposable diapers are known in Britain, the disposable nappy)*

**Inventor -- Marion Donovan**

- Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1917

Marion Donovan was a young mother in the post-war baby boom era. She came from a family of inventors and inherited the inventing 'gene'. Unhappy with leaky, cloth diapers that had to be washed, she first invented the 'Boater', a plastic covering for cloth diapers. Marion Donovan made her first Boater using a shower curtain. A year later she carried her ideas further. Using disposable absorbent material and combining it with her Boater design, Marion Donovan created the first convenient disposable diaper. Manufacturers thought her product would be too expensive to produce. Marion Donovan, left unable to sell or license her diaper patent, went into business for herself. A few years later, she was able to sell her company for \$1 million.

### *Related Products:*

Cloth diapers were first mass produced by Maria Allen in 1887

In 1949, **Stanley Mason** patented the world's first disposable and pin-free diapers that were contoured to fit a baby's bottom.

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## **STANLEY MASON**

**"Ordinary, Everyday Products"**

Over the past 70 years, Stanley I. Mason, Jr. has invented dozens of items that Americans use every day, in their clothing, grooming, and dining.

Born in 1921 in Trenton, New Jersey, Mason created his first invention at the age of 7: a clothespin fishing lure that sold to his friends. Through a successful career in school, including a bachelor's degree from State College in Trenton, and service as a fighter pilot during World War II, Mason never lost his twofold impulse to invent better versions of practical products and to profit from his improvements.

In 1949, Mason had his first major breakthrough: changing his baby boy's diapers inspired him to invent, and later patent, the world's first disposable, pin-free diapers that were contoured to fit a baby's bottom. This humble yet significant innovation was only the beginning of a truly impressive career.

Mason calls himself "an inventor of ordinary, everyday products---not high-tech, but common, useful things." In the last 50 years, his over 100 inventions and 55 patents include the squeezable ketchup bottle, granola bars, heated pizza boxes, heatproof plastic microwave cookware, stringless Band-Aid ® packaging, dental floss dispensers, and "instant" splints and casts for broken limbs.

Mason used to take his ideas to the companies who sold the products, but now the companies come to him. By now, the company that Mason founded in Weston, Connecticut in 1973, Simco, Inc., has done successful product development for 40 of the Fortune 500 companies. Simco specializes in food-packaging, cosmetics, and medical devices.

Besides directing Simco, Stanley Mason frequently lectures at high schools on entrepreneurship, and has written, most recently, *Inventing Small Products for Big Profits, Quickly* . His career stands as proof that an aspiring inventor needs neither abstract theory nor high technology to become a major success.

*Information contained herein was written by Mary Bellis at <http://inventors.about.com>*

# Wacky Patent of the Month

(brought to you by [www.colitz.com](http://www.colitz.com))

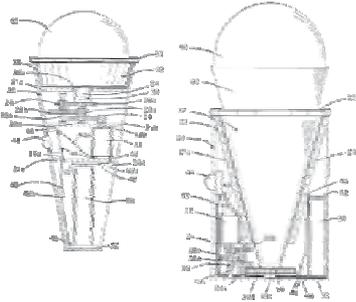
## Inventor:

**Richard B. Hartman**

**Issaquah, WA 98027**

**Appl. No.: 036398**

**Filed: March 6, 1998**



A novelty amusement eating receptacle for supporting, rotating and sculpting a portion of ice cream or similarly malleable food while it is being consumed comprising: a hand-held housing, a cup rotatably supported by the hand-held housing and adapted to receive and contain a portion of ice cream or food product of similar consistency, and a drive mechanism in the hand-held housing for imparting rotation upon the cup and rotationally feeding its contents against a person's outstretched tongue.

## BACKGROUND

### 1. Field of Invention

This invention relates to novelty amusement eating devices, in particular, a hand-held motorized cup spinner for supporting, containing, rotating and sculpting an individual portion of ice cream or similarly malleable food while it is being consumed.

### 2. Discussion of Prior Art

Hand-held ice cream eating receptacles, including those commonly known as "ice cream cones," have been popular and enduring dessert items for generations. In their typical form, a cup- or cone-shaped receptacle is grasped in a person's hand in order to support and contain an individual portion of ice cream which is gradually consumed through the repeated licking actions of the person's tongue. While variations in shape, texture, material and construction abound in this category, few examples in the prior art are specifically directed at enhancing or improving the actual licking action performed by the user or the resultant effect such licking action has upon the material being consumed. U.S. Pat. No. 4,231,496 to Gilson (1980) makes known a hand-held food dispensing utensil with a vertically rotating hollow ring, which, when manipulated by a person's tongue, discharges food portions into the mouth through holes in the ring. This device is complicated to use in that it requires miniature food vessels to be inserted into the hollow ring prior to use. In addition, the repetitive task of moving one's tongue up and down to manipulate a hollow ring can become monotonous and tiring, especially for a child, thereby limiting the device's lasting appeal and play value.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,536,054 to Liaw (1996) makes known a hand-held novelty eating device for wobbling a stick upon which a piece of hardened candy has been mounted. A version of U.S. Pat. No. 5,209,692 to Coleman et al. (1993) appears in the "Cap Toys 1996" product catalog under the mark "EZ Freezy Spin Pop Shop" (Cap Toys, Inc., 1996, page 14) and makes known a hand-held motorized stick-spinning device for rotating a stick upon which a frozen lollipop has been attached. While providing novel means for manipulating and eating hardened candy or hard-frozen pops affixed to sticks, neither of these devices adequately serves as a means for consuming softer, more malleable foods such as soft ice cream, yogurt or pudding since: 1) neither device includes a cup or receptacle with walls that would serve to adequately support and contain a portion of such softer, malleable material, and, 2) such materials would not be effectively supported or contained by a stick feature alone and would consequently flow off each device onto the user's hand.

In addition to the above-mentioned disadvantages, none of the prior art examples cited above anticipates a device in which a cup mounted upon a motorized, hand-held housing is rotated so that a malleable food portion contained in the cup is rotationally fed against a person's tongue to form interesting shapes and patterns in the food portion while it is being consumed. In addition, none of the prior art examples cited anticipates that such a device would include a detachable cup that simplifies filling and cleaning of the device and permits several different cups to be used interchangeably upon a single hand-held housing, as is characteristic of the present invention. Nor do any of the prior art examples anticipate a configuration in which a hand-held motorized cup spinner is adapted to receive a common, edible pastry cone filled with ice cream so that the common cone can be consumed in the new and entertaining manner disclosed by the present invention. In addition, none of the prior art examples anticipate one embodiment of the present invention in which a hand-held motorized ice cream cup spinner is adapted to simulate the shape and feel of a traditional ice cream cone.

Because the act of eating an ice cream cone has traditionally been performed by holding a scoop of ice cream largely stationary in one's hand relative to the continuous licking movements of one's tongue, the appeal of a device that basically reverses this procedure—that is, continuously moves the ice cream portion while one's tongue is held in a relatively stationary position—has been largely overlooked. However, it can be seen that such a device is enormously entertaining, extends the natural enjoyment and creative play possibilities of eating ice cream and similarly malleable foods, and enhances the overall experience of eating such foods for young children and adults alike. Therefore, it can be seen there remains a need for a novel, hand-held cup spinner for supporting, containing, rotating and sculpting an individual portion of ice cream or similarly malleable food during consumption that can be enjoyed by children and adults alike, and facilitates new and entertaining methods for eating such foods.

## ICTT SERVICES POLICY FOR TBIC SUSTAINING (\$120) MEMBERS

As a Sustaining Member of TBIC, you are entitled to certain services as outlined below: (during normal business hours)

- Free consultation as to the marketability of your product or concept (by appointment)
- Free use of the prototype shops (Must be familiar with the equipment to be used)
- Free use of the patent search and patent filing computers
- Free display space in the Inventor Showroom
- Free use of the conference rooms
- Free use of the Inventor Library
- Free use of the Affiliate Program on the ICTT website

In addition to those free services, TBIC offers a full range of other services commonly used or needed by inventors for which there are minimal charges.

- Personnel assistance in the shops ( @ \$15.00 /hour )
- Graphics design of product spec. sheets, packaging, logos, flyers, brochures, signs, business cards etc. ( @ \$25.00 /hour )
- Assistance in using the software, patent and trademark searches, and general secretarial services ( @ \$17.50 /hour )

**Note: Payment for services is due upon completion of the work requested.**

ICTT also offers general Development Service Contracts, which includes prototype development, and assistance in finding development funds, assistance in getting regulatory approvals, and marketing services, and all the services listed above. Charges for these services as a part of a Development Service Contract are usually in the form of a royalty on the sale of products when they are complete and on the market. These contracts are negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

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### **Inventions: Drinking Straws**

By Mary Bellis

In 1888, Marvin Stone patented the spiral winding process to manufacture the first paper drinking straws. Stone was already a manufacturer of paper cigarette holders. His idea was to make paper drinking straws. Before his straws, beverage drinkers were using the natural rye grass straws.

Stone made his prototype straw by winding strips of paper around a pencil and gluing it together. He then experimented with paraffin-coated manila paper, so the straws would not become soggy while someone was drinking. Marvin Stone decided the ideal straw was 8 1/2-inches long with a diameter just wide enough to prevent things like lemon seeds from being lodged in the tube.

The product was patented on January the 3rd, 1888. By 1890, his factory was producing more straws than cigarette holders. In 1906, the first machine was invented by the Stone's "Stone Straw Corporation" to machine-wind straws, ending the hand-winding process. Later other kinds of spiral-wound paper and non-paper products were made.

In 1928, electrical engineers began to use spiral-wound tubes in the first mass produced radios. All made by the same process invented by Stone. Spiral-wound tubing is now found everywhere -- in electric motors, electrical apparatus, electronic devices, electronic components, aerospace, textile, automotive, fuses, batteries, transformers, pyrotechnics, medical packaging, product protection, and packaging applications.

## A Big Tid-Bit

Over the last few months, we have come up with a few avenues for our inventors to use in marketing their products. Some of you may not be aware of all of them, so I will try to share them along with brief descriptions.

**Reliant/ Thane:** We have had a relationship with Reliant for quite some time. They accept submission forms that I (Jennifer) receive from our inventors. If they reply to me saying they have an interest in a certain product, then I will put them in touch with the inventor and they will take the relationship from there and TBIC will be out of the loop. (Please remember that TBIC is not now and never has been a party to any dealings or business relationship between the inventor and any third party, even those participating in a TBIC event.)

**Invention and Innovation TV:** We were approached by Eddie Isen and Bobby Lawrence about an opportunity to be placed on the Show "*Invention and Innovation*" that airs on Friday nights at 8:30 on the local cable channel, Brighthouse 47. For a \$1000 fee, a few of our inventors, including myself, took advantage of this and our products have been airing every week for about six weeks. This is a great piece of marketing material. You own all rights to this footage, so you are able to copy and send it to marketers and manufacturers, etc... plus you will be placed on a website where visitors can look at a thirty-second clip of your product. If this is something you might be interested in, give Bobby a call at 727-946-3319.

**Michael Harrington:** I have created a new relationship with Michael (who is the brother of Tim and Kevin Harrington of Reliant/Thane). He is interested in seeing all our items that may do well in Lowe's and Home Depots. I am sending him a tape of our presentation to Smart Inventions so that he can look through it and get back to me with any interest, but for future reference those not included there or that may come after, you need to give me a tape to send to him and the above will apply.

**Catalog Solutions:** I have a contact named Jess Clark who has connections with over 200 Catalogs. There is quite a bit to tell about them and not enough room here so go to their website and see for your self. Go to [info@catalog-solutions.com](mailto:info@catalog-solutions.com).

**Brightwaters Internet Marketing:** Mr. Russ Van Zandt came to TBIC to give our Inventors the opportunity to be on a website for free. They will advertise your product on the website and when there are orders for your product, you will be paid the wholesale price. They sell at the retail price and take care of all initial internet marketing efforts. You need to provide product information, copy, photography, artwork etc. for your ready-to-sell product and you also ship the product. Use this concept as one of your marketing efforts. Brightwaters Associates and Russ can be contacted at [vanzandt@ix.netcom.com](mailto:vanzandt@ix.netcom.com)

Don't forget that the Jimmy Kimmel Show is always looking for Inventors to show their unusual products or a great product by an unusual Inventor. I called and spoke with the Associate Producer and told her that we had quite a few talented inventors in our midst and she asked that we submit our ideas to them on a continual basis. They would like to keep them going in their Human Interest skits. So send them your tape. You never know what might come of it. Just don't forget to mention that you are a TBIC member! Here is the address to send your tapes and her e-mail address. Good luck!

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Tara Varilek, Associate Producer  
*Jimmy Kimmel Live*  
6834 Hollywood Blvd.  
4th Floor  
Hollywood CA 90028  
[Tara.M.Varilek@abc.com](mailto:Tara.M.Varilek@abc.com)

These are the largest, most impressive contacts we have accumulated so far, but we are working on more every day. Greg Carbonaro made the contact for us with Smart Inventions and he has told me that he is working on many more just like them. Were going to have a hard time keeping up, but you can bet with these people coming in here to see our products we are going to have a major success story real soon!

A New Monthly Feature  
**Invention Trivia**

- There were 15,700,003 Model T Ford's manufactured, all in black.
- The electric chair was invented by a dentist.
- Thomas Edison held more than 1,300 U.S. and foreign patents.
- The father of the pink flamingo (the plastic lawn ornament) was Don Featherstone of Massachusetts. Featherstone graduated from art school and went to work as a designer for Union Products, a Leominster, Massachusetts company that manufactured flat plastic lawn ornaments. He designed the pink flamingo in 1957 as a follow-up project to his plastic duck. Today, Featherstone is president and part owner of the company that sells an average of 250,000 to 500,000 plastic pink flamingos a year.
- Thomas Edison, "the Wizard of Menlo Park," established an "invention factory," the first industrial research laboratory, with the hope of producing a new invention every ten days. In one 4-year period, he obtained 300 patents, or one every five days.
- The film for the first Kodak camera was  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide, or 70 millimeters. Kodak has been manufacturing 70-millimeter film continuously since 1888.
- The first "braces" were constructed by Pierre Fauchard in 1728. Fauchard's "braces" consisted of a flat strip of metal, which was connected to teeth by pieces of thread.
- Thomas Edison's first major invention was the quadruplex telegraph. Unlike other telegraphs at the time, it could send four messages at the same time over one wire.
- Thomas Jefferson invented the dumbwaiter.
- Though Frederick Banting and Charles Best were co-discoverers of insulin, only Banting was officially recognized for the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1923. He shared his winnings with Best, though.
- Today, 40 percent of the world's newspapers are printed on paper made from Canada's forests.
- U.S. Patent #D219,584 was issued in 1970 to veteran movie actor Steve McQueen. He was famous not only for his movies but also for racing cars and working on engines off-camera as well. A byproduct of his racing hobby was the invention of a bucket seat.
- Unknown people made the first glassware about 3,500 years ago in Mesopotamia.
- Until recent years, people living in remote areas of Afghanistan and Ethiopia were immunized against smallpox by having dried powdered scabs from victims of the disease blown up their noses. This treatment was invented by a Chinese Buddhist nun in the eleventh century. It is the oldest known form of vaccination.
- Until the mid 1800s, paper was made from cotton rags.
- Vellum, a fine-quality writing parchment, is prepared from animal skin: lambs, kids, and very young calves. Coarser, tougher types are made from the skins of male goats, wolves, and older calves. Vellum replaced papyrus and was superseded by paper.
- Vic Cedarstaff of Wickenburg, Arizona has been credited with the accidental invention of the bola tie. As the story goes, one day while riding his horse, Cedarstaff's hat blew off but the leather hatband slipped down around his neck. He left it on and a friend remarked that it looked nice. Soon thereafter, a replication of his original bola appeared on Arizona maps. The name comes from the bola, a device used by South American cowboys to rope cattle, because the rope device and the tie resemble each other.
- After Marion Donovan was inundated by the wild success of her invention of waterproof diaper covers in 1946, she was surprised when her prototype for disposal paper diapers was met with disinterest and ridicule. She journeyed to all the major U.S. paper companies, and was laughed at for proposing such an "unnecessary and impractical" item to replace cotton diapers. After nearly ten years of pitching her revolutionary idea, Victor Mills had the foresight to capitalize on it, and he became the creator of Pampers.
- Albert T. Marshall patented a household refrigerator on August 8, 1899.
- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.
- Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, was originally an instructor for deaf children and invented the telephone to help his deaf wife and mother to hear.
- Alfred Nobel of Stockholm, Sweden, patented dynamite in 1867.
- Although it took less than a decade of space travel for man to get to the moon, 19th- and 20th-century engineers needed 22 years to design the zipper.
- American inventor Peter Carl Goldmark invented the long-playing (LP) record in 1948.
- American sculptor Alexander Calder rigged the front door of his Paris apartment so that he could open it from his bathtub.
- An angstrom is a unit of length equal to one ten-millionth of a millimeter, primarily used to express electromagnetic wavelengths. It was named after Swedish astronomer and physicist Anders Jonas Ångström (1814-1874).

Information contained herein was obtained from general public information found at  
<http://www.coolquiz.com/trivia/directory/directory.asp?dir=Inventions>

## VOLUNTEERS

We could use some help here!! We are asking that those of you who could spare a little time before the meetings, please come in and help welcome people. Tell them what you know about TBIC. Help them with filling out a new visitor form so that we can all welcome them to the meeting and introduce them to the membership. We could also use help with running the popcorn machine and serving the bags of popcorn.

### Membership Report April 2004

These are members who have joined,  
renewed or upgraded since 04/07/04

*Membership as of  
Membership Report May 6, 2004  
155 Members*

#### **New Members (Active)**

None

#### **New Members (Sustaining)**

Jean Bert  
Kirk Collins  
Chris Barrs  
Fabian Blakley  
Rick Marshall

#### **Renewed (Sustaining)**

None

#### **Renewed (Active)**

Elmer Swartz

#### **Upgraded to Sustaining**

David Norton

Did you join or renew during this time period and your name isn't listed? Please email George Mouzakis at [gem@alumni.uchicago.edu](mailto:gem@alumni.uchicago.edu) or call him at 727-251-4056.

# Promotional Opportunities

TBIC publishes a monthly newsletter for both existing and prospective members including copies to 61 Inventors Councils and Associations around the world. The newsletter will be accessible on the website, where members and other interested parties can find both current and archived issues.

THE SCHEDULE OF ADVERTISING RATES:  
(note there is a discounted rate for an annual prepaid subscription):

Full page	\$100.00/issue	\$1000.00/yr.
½ page	\$60.00/issue	\$600.00/yr.
¼ page	\$35.00/issue	\$350.00/yr.

Submit copy in any text format, such as \*.doc, \*.wpd, \*.txt, \*.rtf, or in \*.PDF format. Limited graphic arts assistance will be provided by TBIC.

Payment is to be submitted with your copy. Copy must be approved in writing prior to issue deadline.

All ads for selling products must include price and phone number.

Classified space will be available in four categories for 60 cents per word, 20-word minimum.

Categories are:

- 001 Articles for sale
- 002 Articles wanted
- 003 Service for Inventors.
- 004 Misc

Proof approval Deadlines are 3 weeks prior to publishing date.

Dec issue	Nov 15, 2003
Jan issue	Dec 10, 2004
Feb issue	Jan 10, 2004
Mar issue	Feb 10, 2004
Apr issue	Mar 10, 2004
May issue	Apr 10, 2004
June issue	May 10, 2004
July issue	June 10, 2004
Aug issue	July 10, 2004
Sept issue	Aug 10, 2004
Oct issue	Sept 10, 2004
Nov issue	Oct 10, 2004

TBIC has the option to refuse ads if the Board considers them inappropriate for the furthering of TBIC's overall goals. Council members may bring small for sale items which are advertised to TBIC Headquarters where the article may be viewed for one week following the publication of said ad.

**2003  
OFFICERS AND  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

George Mouzakis, President  
727-518-9154  
halcynon@aol.com

Jennifer Knoepp, Secretary  
727-515-4817  
jknoepp8@hotmail.com

Mark Jones  
813-681-4554  
pixelwiz@tampabay.rr.com

Chris Salter  
813-505-2995  
chris@allegromultimedia.com

Bob Sheridan  
727-224-2856  
rasher1@hotmail.com

Wayne Rasanen  
727-376-1334  
goodharbinger@yahoo.com

Earl Cram  
727-393-3025  
earl38@aol.com

Greg Carbonaro  
813-909-8193  
greg@geniusstudios.com

Dan Meier  
727-539-6772  
ddm0813@aol.com

Founder: Ron E. Smith

**Need to Reach TBIC ?**

Jennifer Knoepp  
*Membership Director*  
Office: 727-548-5083  
jknoepp8@hotmail.com

George Mouzakis  
*President*  
gem@alumni.uchicago.edu

Paula Davis  
*Treasurer*  
paula@teachingtank.com

***Web Site Info:***  
***www.tbic.us***

Visit our web site for information on current and past happenings. You can download current and past newsletters in \*.pdf format. You will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer. If you don't already have it, go to [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html) to download this free document viewer.

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Executive Editor . . . *George Mouzakis*  
Editor . . . . . *Jennifer Knoepp*  
Publisher . . . . . *Gary M. Simmons*

To submit articles, send emails to:  
jknoepp8@hotmail.com *or*  
garys@ammeds.com

Articles and other items must be received by the first Tuesday of each month.

## DUES DESCRIPTIONS

A **Student Member** at the \$25.00 rate must be a student. They may attend meetings and receive the Newsletter.

An **Active Member** (\$45.00) enjoys the benefit of attending meetings, workshops and seminars, socializing and networking with the other members, receiving the Newsletter and participating as a reviewer in our Focus Groups.

A **Sustaining Member** (\$120.00) has all the privileges of the above plus they will have an opportunity to have an evaluation of their idea or product performed through ICTT. If they are in need of prototyping, they may choose to have their prototype built at the facility paying for the materials and labor unless under contract with ICTT. These members may display their invention or product in the display area. They may also present their invention before a Focus Group.

These members have the privilege of using the Delphion Software to do an in-depth patent search on their products, also the Patent Pro Software is available to do full or provisional patents. The new Sustaining members will receive a science book to record their invention progress.

**Corporate Membership** of \$250.00 will allow your corporation to elect up to 3 Corporate members to sit in on meetings as well as all of the above. Also this membership will allow said corporation to have access to new products before they are introduced to the open market.

*The Tampa Bay Inventors' Council (TBIC) is a corporation as defined in Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, as not for profit. The corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. The TBIC is a 501(C)(3) charitable corporation, which allows the receiving of tax deductible contributions of goods and services. There are over 150 active members willing to share their expertise and experiences with fellow inventors.*

## **Membership Application/Renewal**

Please Send Your Dues to:

TBIC

7441 114<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Suite 607

Largo FL 33773

Make Check or Money Order to:

*Tampa Bay Inventors Council*

### **PLEASE FILL IN ALL THE BLANKS BELOW**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Check One:**

**Student Member \$25**

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**Sustaining Member \$120**

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# **TAMPA BAY INVENTORS COUNCIL**

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