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rector Mike Curtis. This year Stuller has continued to appear totally lost and unable to conduct any business (meeting) without moment to moment direction and intervention from Milt Johns.

Who benefits from the disclosure? Will GRF and United continue the discussion in

closed session? Will PCM finally admit that the current recession calls for belt-tightening and forgo the usual budget expansion driven by hugely increased management fees. 4% may not be a solution, but it is a starting point. Why, at this point, is the board of 3<sup>rd</sup> Mutual the only board calling for this action? It is time to reach out to your directors and loudly support this initiative. Write, phone and e-mail your directors.

## *\$0.17, .. \$0.22, .. or, A Hamburger, A Month?*

**I**t is no secret that residents who want increased services at the expense of their fellow residents only have to state their desires loudly and openly. Just over a year ago Allen Cohen was vocally unhappy with the maintenance of the open area lawn near his manor and spearheaded an increase in maintenance staff to remedy this situation. Of course Cohen is not just any resident, he is an *advisor*, an *official advisor*, to the Third Finance Committee. It is therefore obvious that the state of manicure of any lawn abutting Mr. Cohen's domicile is of the utmost importance to all Third Mutual residents. It is not at all a surprise then that the removal of some \$100,000 from the Third budget for deadheading flowers was taken as a personal affront and vehemently objected to by Mary Robertson (a Positive Solutions advocate) who apparently has a slope near her manor that badly is in need of weeding, a perfect place to bury the \$100,000 windfall treasure.

We do not object to lawn maintenance. However,

we strongly object to self-styled experts who blindly assert that they have the right to spend our money for their own interests while reciting the mantra...it's, "*only \$0.17 a month, only \$0.22 a month, or only a hamburger a month, and everyone can afford a hamburger.*" It is the chanting of these self-serving people that often obscures the vision of our directors.

Third Mutual voted down participating in a Holiday Party as did GRF but then GRF, influenced by Ken Hammer's remark that, "The Residents owe us a party," changed their public mind and said, "go for the gold, let's have a party anyway (the entertainment alone is said to have cost \$1500.)" A few party minded directors on housing mutuals were heard to say, well that's great after all the money is in GRF's budget and it won't cost us anything. Have these people skipped their medication? Just who pays for GRF's budget? We all do. It comes from my pocket and your pocket and absentee