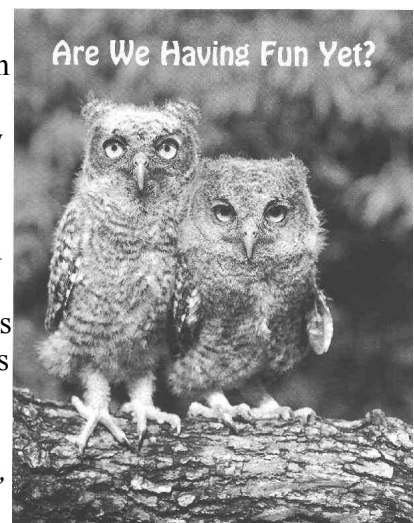


PensaMensa Newsletter

February 2006

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It was hard to decide how to reformat PensaMensa for electronic delivery. Some graphics can't be used in the templates available through our email delivery service, and we are limited to five illustrations. A new problem with photos arose from the electronic swamp: some of my jpgs imported in a program I don't have or need and can't open, so you don't get to see Jerry Bradshaw's fine photos of the New Year's Party at the Loesches home (if you missed the absolutely superb food there, you are doubly deprived). And the fact that we are emailing to a predominantly younger group (okay, General Bob Keller and some of us are only young at heart) suggested changes in the order in which articles are presented. No chess - I couldn't get the illustration to reproduce and ran out of time. As always, WordPerfect crashed when overburdened; I transferred stuff to Word; had to relearn some html codes, *whine, whine, whine*. If you have suggestions, please let me hear them. This is a work in progress - so please be patient! ***Thanks for reading, Bobbye Sikes Wicke***



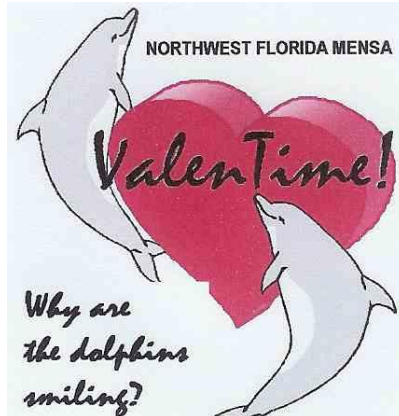
Mark your calendar now for February 10-12

ValenTime RG on the Gulf

The dolphins are smiling because we've got ♥**Bob & Lynda's wonderful chili** (beef, turkey or veggie), ♥**Mabel's famous jambalaya and cornbread**, and ♥**a CHOCOLATE LOVER'S ORGY** on Friday night. ♥Saturday starts with a continental breakfast, then sandwiches and salads for lunch and a Saturday night fried chicken and salads picnic, or you can visit a renowned Emerald Coast restaurant. ♥**Hearts**

Tournament, interesting speakers, a Pirates Dance with a Treasure Hunt and more. ♥All weekend: great Hospitality overlooking the Gulf from the ninth floor; hot tub, indoor swimming pool, white sand beaches, and ocean waves. ♥Sunday morning, our popular auction, and box lunches to go.

- **Call the Holiday Inn**, 1020 Highway 98 East, Destin, FL 32541. Phone 850-837-6181, toll free 877-837-6181, FAX (850)-837-1523. Tell them to give you the Mensa rate, ranging from \$75 to \$108 per night depending upon the view.
- **Registration:** \$40 per person if paid by Jan 15, \$45 per person before Feb 9, \$50 per person at the door, or \$20 for Friday night, \$35 for Saturday, and \$10 for Sunday. Please make checks payable to Northwest Florida Mensa.
- **Name(s)** _____
- **Address** _____
- Phone: _____ Email: _____
- Please mail this form to: Registrar - ValenTime, 616 Overbrook Dr., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547- 3528. **Contact: John Mochan, (850)-585-3194, jmochan@cox.net**
- **Bring a friend!** Visit us at: nwflorida.us.mensa.org



Happy New Year, GenXers!

For those of you that couldn't make it to the November GenX gathering at O'zone pizza pub, here's the skinny. We had an impressive turnout and the ladies enjoyed O'zone's Ladies Night specials with bargain 1/2 price drinks and \$3 personal size pizzas. The guys had full-priced fun, but fun none the less! In the low key atmosphere we sat back and enjoyed excellent drinks and gourmet pizza topped with great conversation and more than a few guffaws. O'zone was definitely a hit, so let's do it again! Our February event will be at O'zone Pizza Pub on Thursday, February 23rd, 6:00- 8:30ish PM. O'zone is located in the old Sacred Heart Hospital building in Pensacola (1010 N 12th Ave # 111 (850) 433-7336). When you enter O'zone go to the right and hopefully we will have secured a table in the back room. Any photographers in the bunch? If you possess a digital camera you qualify. Bring it to the event so we can preserve the moment. With half price drink specials you don't really expect anyone to have total recall, do you? GenXers haven't lost that lovin' feeling because we are going to ROCK the ValenTime RG! I

Notes from all over

From Kelly Hannum: Bobbye, I would love to receive the newsletter by email. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the

RG, as I am currently in Mosul, Iraq, and won't be back in country until May sometime. Give my best to everyone, Kel. *Kel, you will be sorely missed, and we're all looking forward to your safe return.*

From Ray Jasen: Former Freeport elementary teacher receives National Award. Louisville, Kentucky: Keri Guilbault, Gifted Children's Coordinator for American Mensa and a graduate student at the University of South Florida, received the National Association for Gifted Children's (NAGC) 2005 non- doctoral Graduate Student Award. Keri, daughter of Ray and Glenda Jasen of Niceville and former art teacher at Freeport Elementary School, received a plaque, one year complimentary NAGC membership and \$200 check at the NAGC convention in Louisville, Kentucky on November 12, 2005. Keri was selected from graduate students in the United States based on her scholarship, leadership in the field of gifted education and advocacy at the local, state and international levels. **From John Bolyard:** I'd like to change the Wednesday 7 p.m. Pensacola dinner at Hunan's to 7 p.m. the third Tuesday. My teaching schedule this semester has me at school on Wednesday nights. I am usually the only Mensan who shows up anyway (for months now), so I don't think it will affect anyone else, unfortunately. Thanx, jbolyard@uwf.edu. **From Christine Pincince:** Many years ago when I lived in Hawaii, I was the Mensa Gifted Children Co-coordinator for the State of Hawaii. Sali Toda was at that time Loc Sec. Every Tuesday in downtown Honolulu, Mensa had a lunch meeting. Sometimes there were many attendees and sometimes very few but you knew they would always be there. The fun part was when Mensa members were visiting Hawaii from all over the world and they would come to the meeting and share wonderful stories. I was in Hawaii this past December for just 3 days and was able to locate Sali and find the same Tuesday meeting still going on after all these years. Sadly, I moved away from my beloved Hawaii 20 years ago. It was lovely fun to catch up and though it was a small group on this particular Tuesday, we shared some fun memories and laughs. In the future I intend to make it a priority when I travel to look up the local group where ever I am for that camaraderie that Mensans all over the world share. **From Stephanie Swain,** who's contributed cartoons in the past: I have been very busy! My husband is attending Under Sea Medicine School in Groton, CT. We are selling our house and getting ready to move. Once he finishes his training, we will be sent to another duty station. Where, we do not yet know, but life in the Navy is always full of surprises. We will move to Panama City for nine weeks beginning Feb. 17th, and then back to Groton for the last eight weeks. In addition to taking care of a three-year-old, a six-month-old, preparing to move, going to the gym, and attending school full-time, I have had little time for much else. My new email address is slswain2005@yahoo.com. Could you please send the newsletter to that address? Thanks and hope you are doing well. :O) **From Bob Horne:** Beal Street Books in Fort Walton Beach went out of business at the end of 2005. The owner

hope you have already registered and booked the hotel for the ValenTime Regional Gathering in Destin February 10- 12. If you haven't don't worry, you can still register. Check out the newsletter for all the details. It is expected (albeit, only by me) that you prepare your best pirate accent and attire for the ValenTime Pirate dance. You know, an eye patch, a parrot, and if you can pull off a peg leg I'd be mighty impressed. If you scalawags and landlubbers need a little help picking out a moniker and brushing up on your pirate lingo check out www.talklikeapirate.com. It even has a few Pirate pick up lines, mateys! What's up and coming? Next month look for a few GenX events. We'll try a couple different events as well as different days of the week and times to compare turnouts and see what works. We will have a GenX sponsored event which means we plan it but all Mensans are welcome. We will have adult-only GenX events (which sounds dirtier than it should) and we will have a family friendly event for GenXers with kids. That does not mean us child-free GenXers won't want to attend. We will make it child-free friendly too. Please send me your GenX event ideas including any specific location/time/day requests. If you haven't attended an event don't forget you don't have to come alone. No one has gotten bitten yet but bring a smart friend to protect you and come

decided that the overhead costs of the store were more than he could afford, especially as he does most of his sales on the Internet. That was the only real used-book store in Fort Walton Beach, and will be missed. On a happier note, Books 'N' More in Niceville has moved to a new location just east of Turkey Creek on John Sims Parkway, and now has a large, well- stocked store. It will be a longer drive for former patrons of Beal Street Books, but probably worth it. For those who do their browsing at their computer screens, I recommend www.abebooks.com and www.alibris.com.

hang out! **Heidi Daniels - GenX Coordinator,** hsdaniels@gmail.com *The GenX group is comprised of all Mensans born between 1961 and 1981 whose sole purpose is to provide an opportunity to cavort with like-aged Mensans*

ExComm Minutes

The Executive Committee Meeting was held during the Annual New Year's party at the Loesch's on Jan 21, 2006. The meeting was called to order at 2:45PM. Attending were: John Mochan, Martha Porter, Bobby Wicke, Bob and Lynda Ulrich, Mabel Loesch, Heidi Daniels, and Mary Ann Mochan. **OLD BUSINESS President:** No report. **Treasurer:** Our present account balance is \$4,199.00.

Editor: We have 57 people so far who have signed up to receive their Pensamensa newsletter electronically. The test period starts with the Feb. 2006 issue and we want to hear if you like it. Please send all your comments to any officer and we'll discuss them during our monthly meetings. If you haven't subscribed yet and want to try it, send your email address to bobwick@gnt.net. **Vice President:** We noticed that our RG was again absent from advertisement in the Mensa Bulletin. I will make sure it gets done next year.

Membership Chair: We have once again reached 200 members! We are presently working on recruiting a few additional prospects. If you have someone in mind who might be a potential member, pass the name along to Bob Ulrich. **NEW BUSINESS** The Vice President reports that 2006 is an election year for Northwest Florida Mensa. We need three people to serve on the Nomination/Election Committee. If you are interested in serving on the committee, nominating someone, or running for office, please contact me ASAP so we can get the election ball rolling once again. We will be electing a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. The committee must be appointed by May and the election is in September. Please refer to our Bylaws for specific information. Mabel has received about 15 entries so far for Mensa scholarships. We need three people to read these one-page entries and judge them within the established criteria. I have done this numerous times in the past. I can tell you that it doesn't take very much of your time, and it's really inspiring to read the goals and dreams of the entrants. Contact Mabel if you would like to volunteer. The Registrar reports that we have 40 paid registrations for the Regional Gathering so far. That's just about where we were in previous years, so I expect between 90 and 100

ValenTime Schedule

Whether you're staying at the hotel, commuting, or just coming for a day, Here's what's happening at ValenTime!!

- **Friday 3 p.m. - Registration begins. Light snacks (neon or incandescent?)**
- **6 p.m. - Dinner: Jambalaya and corn bread, beef, turkey or veggie chili, sandwiches and salads.**
- **8 p.m. - Chocolate Orgy**
- **9:30 p.m. - Hearts Tournament Tutorial in Games Room**
- **10:30 p.m. - Movies - Pirates of the Caribbean and other pirate movies**
- **Saturday - Continental breakfast 6- 9 a.m.**
- **9 a.m. - Alternative Fuel Vehicles by Arthur Cartwright, Capt. USAF.**
- **10 a.m. - Refuse to be**

people to attend again. The price went up to \$45 on January 15th and will be \$50 at the door. We guarantee that you will be well fed and have a great time! Mary Ann Mochan gave a summary of the Regional Gathering Program. There might be a few last minute changes to the program due to the availability of the presenters. We are ready to host another memorable ValenTime weekend. Mary Ann also reports that you should all come over to our house at 616 Overbrook Dr in Fort Walton Beach at 6PM on Thursday, February 9th. We will be stuffing the Goody Bags and chopping the vegetables for the RG. Come lend a hand and join in the fun! Next month's meeting will be Sunday, February 12, 2006 at 8:30AM during the Regional Gathering in Destin. Adjourned at 2:30. RG planning meeting followed. ~**Minutes taken by John Mochan**

ValenTime Speakers

Alternative Fuel Vehicles - Arthur Cartwright is an Electrical Engineer, Active Duty Air Force officer, and Alternative Fuel Vehicle enthusiast. He manages the operational analysis of the current upgrades to the Air Force's C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft as the Deputy for Engineering at AFOTEC's Operating Location Marietta Georgia. His active duty Air Force career has also included assignments with the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Battlelab, the Air Force Flight Test Center, and the Air Force Technical Applications Center. He is a lifetime member of Mensa and a self-proclaimed Regional Gathering junkie. **Ghosts/Ghost Hunting - Murray Silver** is a fifth generation Savannahian, born in 1953. At age 16, he began promoting rock concerts in Atlanta, bringing many future supergroups to the city for the first time, including Fleetwood Mac, the Grateful Dead, the Allman Brothers, and Sonny & Cher. He parlayed his contacts in the music world into a career as a tour photographer and journalist, covering the greatest acts of the 1970's and '80's, including Paul McCartney, George Harrison, Elton John, Pink Floyd and Peter Gabriel. In 1982, Murray published his first book, *Great Balls of Fire: The Uncensored Story of Jerry Lee Lewis*, which was adapted into a major motion picture starring Dennis Quaid and Winona Ryder. In 1988, mutual friend Richard Gere introduced Murray to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. At His Holiness' request, Murray set aside the business of his life to write articles about China's oppression of Tibet and to sponsor tours of Buddhist monks who performed their sacred chants and dances before museum and university audiences. Returning home to Savannah in 1998, Murray wrote *Behind the Moss Curtain and Other Great Savannah Stories*. Two of these stories have been optioned for film, and his story about Shoeless Joe Jackson has been made into a documentary. He has recently completed a second

- a Victim by Steve and Lorne Brumm
- 11 a.m. - History of Walton (now Okaloosa) County by Dr. David Luther Woodward
- 12 noon - Lunch: Sandwiches and salads
- 1:30 p.m. - Sherlock Holmes: The Man, the Myth, the Movies and the Books, too, by Fraser Sherman
- 2:30 p.m. - Improvisation by Terri Culbertson
- 3:30 p.m. - Ghosts/ghost hunting - a special treat by Murray Silver
- 5:30 p.m. - Indoor Picnic, chicken, salads, sandwiches
- 7:30 p.m. - Rum Tasting by Bob and Lynda Ulrich
- 8 p.m. - Pirate Dance, DJ Michael Fletcher and Magic Music; "Pi"rate Contest and Best Costumes
- 9 p.m. - Hearts Tournament by Bob Osterman
- 12 midnight - Howl at the Moon
- Sunday - Continental breakfast 6- 9 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. - Northwest Florida Mensa ExComm Meeting
- 9 a.m. - RVC and upcoming events
- 10 a.m. - Awards presentation
- 11 a.m. - Leftovers auction

documentary about Savannah Ghosts. **History of Northwest Florida - David Luther Woodward** was educated in the public schools of Alabama and Georgia and graduate from Walton High School in De Funiak Springs, Florida. He earned his undergraduate and professional law degrees at The Florida State University at Tallahassee, and did post- professional studies at the London School of Economics earning an advanced degree in law. A lawyer admitted to practice in Florida, Oklahoma and Texas, he has practiced in each of those states in both state and federal courts. Upon his admission to the Bar, he worked for not only for the federal government, but also for the governments of two states, where he served not only in professional, but also in management capacities. His further experience includes large and small firm practice, criminal and civil, international and domestic, office and courtroom. An accomplished journalist, he worked his way through Florida State as a writer, photographer, and editor for the Tallahassee Democrat, and subsequent to earning his bachelor of arts he worked as an industrial engineer providing data for business decisions for a primary defense contractor in the airframe industry. Dr. Woodward says: "The talk will be rambling, incoherent observations on the history of Northwest Florida, not necessarily limited to Okaloosa County as Bobbye has suggested....Stream of consciousness being what it is, we will engage in--to the extent we can--an extended Q&A on what happened when we weren't looking! **Refuse to be a Victim - Steve and Lorne Brumm.** A rapid fire presentation of many cheap tricks you can use to avoid becoming a victim of the big bad crooks in your neighborhood. Steve is a former federal agent and currently a Panama City PD Sergeant. He also works as an administrator at a Regional Public Safety Academy. Lorne works as an administrator and instructor at a Regional Public Safety Academy. **Sherlock Holmes - the man, the myth, the movies, and the books too - Fraser Sherman** works as a reporter for the Destin Log, and has published two film reference books on the side, along with a handful of short stories. He's been a fan of Sherlock Holmes since he turned 13.

Precis

by Fraser Sherman

BIRTH OF THE CHESS QUEEN by Margaret Yalom explores how the vizier that stood next to the king when chess evolved in the Middle East turned into the queen we know, and how she went from moving one diagonal square at a time to the powerhouse we know today (which at one point was a novel version of the game known as

- **And you can pack a brown bag lunch for your journey home!**

Forget chocolate; single-malt scotch is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

Seven Trivia Questions

Dr. Dan Finley, Brain Bowl Coach & Health Sciences Professor, Gulf Coast Community College, Panama City. Dr. Dan invites you to submit a guest trivia question to dfinley@gulfcoast.edu for possible inclusion in future columns.

1. What is the Drake Equation?
2. Name any two of Jane Austen's novels.
3. What chemical element with an atomic weight of 54 is named for the Greek word for "stranger?"
4. What is Daniel Defoe's birth name?
5. What is a picaresque [PIK-ar-RESK] novel?
6. Thomas Keats, Percy Shelley and Lord Byron all died at young ages. How did each die?
7. Name the two straits connecting the Mediterranean

“queen’s chess”). Yalom argues that the image of some of Europe’s strong queens, coupled with the cult of Mary, inspired both changes (she turns up an entire chess poem portraying Mary as God’s favored piece in the game against Satan). Whatever the merits of the thesis, Yalom does an excellent job capturing the role of chess in medieval life, from the passion for the game (brawls and high-stakes gambling being common events) to its erotic status as an intimate activity couples could safely do together. **THE BOOK ON THE BOOKSHELF** is one of engineer Henry Petroski’s studies of Things We Never Notice (“We see the books, but the shelves are invisible.”), discussing the gradual evolution of book storage from simple shelves above desks and pigeonholes for scrolls to increasingly larger bookshelves with desks attached to full libraries, and the problems of how to arrange shelves effectively in either libraries or homes. Full of interesting trivia, such as books originally being shelved with the spine to the back because they were usually chained to the shelf and that minimized the chain scraping on the binding; for the booklovers among us, this is pretty fun reading.

Sea with the Black Sea.

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Gifted Child Coordinator:

Calendar

Where no specific phone number is given, call 850-377-5042.

- **Feb. 3, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. First Friday in Pensacola, L-o-n-g Lunch** at Scenic 90 Café, 701 Scenic Highway, Pensacola. Drop in for a long visit if you can, a short one if you can't. As you enter the restaurant, go to your right and to the rear.
- **Feb. 10 - 12 - ValenTime** RG in Destin!
- **Feb. 11, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City.** Lunch at Chef Imondi’s Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue, Panama City.
- **Feb. 17, 5 p.m. Third Friday - Happy Hour at Buffalo Wild Wings** in Uptown Station, 99 Eglin Pkwy. in FWB - hot wings, beer, games and music. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. 897-5702 or davehoward01@earthlink.net.
- **Feb. 21, 7 p.m. Third Tuesday in Pensacola. Dinner at Hunan's Chinese Buffet,** 3102 E. Cervantes St. (Hwy 90 E). Our early arrivals will stake out the best available area, generally past the cash register and to the left, but look for the Mensa logo or a newsletter. John Bolyard, 435-3169 or jbolyard@uwf.edu.
- **Feb. 23, 6 -8:30ish p.m., GenX - O’zone Night.** O’zone is located in the old Sacred Heart Hospital building in Pensacola (1010 N 12th Ave # 111 (850) 433-7336). When

you enter O'zone go to the right and hopefully we will have secured a table in the back room. Heidi Daniels, hsdaniels@gmail.com

- **Feb. 24, 12 noon, Last Friday in Shalimar. Lunch at Shalimar Cheers Pub**, 1270 North Eglin Parkway: their # is 651-2740. It's at the back of a yellowish office building north of the courthouse, on that side of the street. Turn at the red-and-yellow sign and go through the parking area all the way to the back and to the right.
- **Feb. 25, 2:00 p.m. Newsletter Assembly and Games** - at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Drive. Ft. Walton Beach. Bring a snack or beverage, enjoy John's brownies, fold, staple, mutilate and stamp and get your newsletter early. Maybe you'll win a game, too. Directions: jmochan@cox.net or 850-585-3194.
- **Tentative March events:** March 3, Lunch, Pensacola; March 11, Lunch, Panama City; March 15, Happy Hour, March 18, Open House and ExComm, TBA; FWB; March 21, Dinner, Pensacola; March 31, 24, Lunch at Cheers, Shalimar; April 1, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB.
- **GenX March Schedule:** Bowling Bring the Brats - Sat., March 4, 2:00 PM, Cordova Lanes in Pensacola. Family friendly GenX event that will give the adults a chance to socialize without a babysitter! Child-free GenXers this event is for you, too. Bar Bingo - Tues., March 14, 7:00 PM at Jack and Ron's downtown Pensacola. BINGO starts at 8:00 PM. 2-4-1 drinks until 8 with free munchies. Free shots for O69! Oh my, this isn't grandma's bingo! GenX sponsored (all Mensans welcome) Brews Brothers - Sat., March 25, 6:00 PM, Brews Brothers in Pensacola. 20 beers on tap plus a full bar and pub fare. Complete their International Beer Tour (100 different beers) and get a Brews Brothers mug and drink discounts.
- **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Crestview Lunch Group. Call Lovic Thomas at (850) 682-4133 to arrange a lunch get-together. **Photography SIG.** Dan Murray in Pensacola (455-6339) found out there was no camera club anywhere near him, so he started one. **Pinochle SIG.** Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at (850) 939-5882 or pinochledd@aol.com. He will coordinate dates/times/schedules and is willing to host the games. For beginners too. **Shooting SIG.** Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at pinochledd@aol.com or 939-5882 to go shooting during the week at the Escambia River Muzzleloader's range - modern small arms allowed.

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Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. It is an equation proposed by SETI pioneer Frank Drake to calculate the number of civilizations in the galaxy.

2. Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice

"M"embership News

by Bob Ulrich

Northwest Florida Mensa had another membership gain in December for a total of 3 members, bringing our roster number back up to the desired plateau of 200 members. Before I introduce those new members to the group I have some unfinished business from last month. Those in class who were paying attention will remember that last month we had one new member, **Paige Andre-Hudson**, whose reason for affiliation was not identified in my information from the National Office. I speculated that she was a brand new member because of the joining date listed. I eventually did receive a phone message from National telling me that Paige rejoined Mensa after an extensive absence. So welcome back Paige we are happy you rejoined. Now on to this month. We gained 2 brand new members, had 1 member move in, and had no losses for the above mentioned 3 member gain. Moving into our area is **Brandon Forrest**, who joined Mensa last August then moved from Monterey, CA to Milton. New to Mensa are **Jonathan Le Moel** of Destin and **Tara Taylor** of Shalimar. A big Pensa Mensa welcome to all of you. Tara Taylor is also recognized on the birthday list this month which reminds me of something one of our members mentioned to me. I had published this gentleman's birthday on a yearly basis in the past but a recent membership roster showed a "do not release" symbol by his birth date. When asked about the change he stated he had done nothing to change his listing information. So if any of you wonder about your missing birthday information, call or email me or check the American Mensa web site for the release status of your personal information. I hope to see all of you soon at our Valentine Regional Gathering **and remember, I need chocolate for the Orgy.**

- Please bring used books to sell at the RG. This is a good money maker and there are always great finds on the book table. Leftovers go to schools for hurricane victims.
- There is a road from the eye to the heart that does not go through the intellect. A woman uses her intelligence to find reasons to support her intuition. ~ *Gilbert K. Chesterton*

(1813), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1815), Northanger Abbey (1818 posthumously) & Persuasion (1818 posthumously).

3. Xenon.

4. His birth name was Daniel Foe; he added "De" later to make his name sound more aristocratic.

5. A picaresque novel involves the adventures of rogues or rascals; an example is Henry Fielding's Tom Jones (1749).

6. Keats died at the age of 25 of tuberculosis, Shelley drowned (age 29) off the eastern coast of Italy when his schooner sank and Lord Byron died (age 36) in Greece of a fever (possibly malaria) while fighting on the side of the Greeks in the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Turks.

7. The Dardanelles (AKA: Hellespont) are the westernmost strait that connects the Aegean Sea with the Sea of Marmara; the Bosphorus are the easternmost strait that connects the Sea of Marmara with the Black Sea.

Milestones

Friday at Cheers Shalimar Pub is a great way to end the month. . .

- **Mensaversaries:** As of this month, the following Mensans have maintained continuous



The Tenth Story:

RVC Column for Region 10

February - the shortest month - February 2 is Groundhog Day, February 14 is Valentine's Day, but even of more interest is that February 1 is the day that Willie Wonka took the children on the tour of the Chocolate Factory! And now back to Mensa . . . February is also the month of ValenTime, the wonderful little RG in the Panhandle, February 10-12. See you in Destin! It is finally 2006, and the World Gathering is only seven months away. As of the end of 2005, there were already more than 900 people registered for the WG. Are you registered yet? And if you wish to be part of the WG, have you signed up as a volunteer? It is not too late, you know. Find out more at WG06.us.mensa.org. Some of the more recent member benefits available include both National and Alamo Car Rental companies offering Mensans unlimited mileage and year-round discounts. Find out more details (and the code to use) on the National website. The most recent member benefit involves the opportunity for you to research, design, and reserve vacation travel exclusively through <http://mensa.virtuocard.com>. Through this easy-to-use website, you will be able to book with some of the best travel companies in the world, and because of the American Mensa membership, you will receive discounts and added value. The Mensa Discussion Forums are up and running. On the National website (us.mensa.org), go to the members section. Be prepared to enter your member number and password, then click on "discussion forums".

WARNING: Use of the forums can be addictive and consume tremendous amounts of time! By next month, I hope to be able to report that we have a Region 10 e-list up and running. This will be an opportunity for all of you to keep in touch with each other - and with me. I do want to know your opinions. In the meantime, the discussion forums give you an opportunity to open up topics for discussion and express your opinion on that topic or any other already open. So let's look for each other, on the web, at the RG, or at the WG. See you there!
Maggie Truelove, RVC 10; 3333 Honeysuckle Lane; Orlando, Florida

membership in American Mensa Ltd. for the years shown. These anniversaries may not accurately reflect the total number of years in Mensa if a break in membership for one or more years has occurred.

- 25 Henry Floyd Pruitt Jr.
- 8 Suzanne Bratton
- 6 Robert M. Baucom
- 6 Bryan Clark
- 4 Richard A. Clinchy III
- 4 Richard Henson
- 3 Shirley Branan
- 3 Jonathan Muldoon
- 1 George 'Michael' Domning

Happy February Birthdays!

- 3 Lyle Kent Burkhart
- 4 R.A. Isaacs
- 4 Jack Bahm
- 5 George 'Michael' Domning
- 7 Steven Brumm
- 9 Robert Prescott Keller
- 12 David F. Howard
- 14 Jennifer Watson
- 19 Tara Taylor
- 19 Suzanne K. Zoss
- 20 Philippe Petit

Cryptograms

by Jerry Gilbert

It's great to be back in the real world again - where we can have summer weather in January, traffic jams are only two lanes wide instead of six lanes wide, and the pace of life is more reasonable. Not to mention the ability to get sweet tea and grits in most cafes without getting strange looks from the waitress. Try to find any place in the whole Silicone Valley where you can find a family style restaurant or a "Blue Plate" special for lunch. It just goes to prove that, indeed, it is the small things that make life worthwhile.

EOQHAI JM AREGJIG TMEJ AEFJEHPZ:

Crypto Quote 1: HP JRI IQIPJ MN E RMFICIZZ SGMXPOHPS.
UECI FEZZIPSIGZ IZAMGJ ECC LXQIPHCIZ JM ZRMGI EPO
ZIID ZRICJIG. NIUECI FEZZIPSIGZ GIUEHP ETMEGO EPO
EKEHJ NXGJRIG HPZJGXAJHMPZ NGMU JRI AEFJEHP.

Crypto Quote 2: UQIQH QUSQHSYGU LKQRSGCUR RKBZ YR:
OZQH QYHQ OQ, OZQU OGMM OQ VQ SZQH Q, OZYS OYR
SZYS UCGRQ, YHQ OQ RGUFGUJ? YUROQHGUJ SZQRQ
LKQHGQR CUMT VHQQNR NGRBCUSQUS.

January answers:

1. The height of the seas and the strength of the wind are directly proportional to the darkness of the night and/or inexperience of the crew.
2. There are three kinds of sailors: those that have run aground, those that will run aground, and I happen to constitute the entire third category.

