

# PensaMensa Newsletter

January 2007

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**New faces at the Holiday Party** and a couple of oldies but goodies: top left, James Russ, Alexander Russ, Micah Butler, and Tom Russ; top right, Becky Mazzeo and future Mensan Danillio Mazzeo; bottom left, Andy Snyder and Micah Butler; bottom right, Ed Magowan and Jerry Bradshaw.

It's time to remember the good stuff, like the photographers, contributors, and writers who make the newsletter possible. Recently, Mike Moakley, Editor of Space Coast Area Mensa, who usually publishes a lively good-looking 20-page newsletter, sent out a pathetic 10- page rag and admonished his group that "this is what a newsletter looks like without your contributions." I hope I never have to go that far!

And thanks to all the people who make our RG successful, among them Power Shopper Bob Horne, Decor Diva and Omnipotent Organizer

Mary Ann Mochan, Cuisine Chefs Bob and Lynda Ulrich and Mabel Loesch, Master Mover Jerry Gilbert. . . I'm running out of room and I'll get to the rest of you later. You'll find a tentative RG program inside.

## The New Year's Party

**Saturday, January 20, 2 p.m. at 2140 E. Scott St., Pensacola**

Mabel and Hal Loesch have hosted this annual party for several years. It's a laidback comfortable way to plan the new year after the holiday stress is forgotten and, in addition to the excellent food and drink members bring, Mabel always prepares a special treat (in case you haven't heard, she is a very fine cook). Call her at 433-2358 or e-mail [lmloesch@bellsouth.net](mailto:lmloesch@bellsouth.net) for directions and info. See you there!

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## "M"embership News

by **Bob Ulrich**

Our membership total grew again in November 2006 as we added 3 new members. As is befitting the slow real estate market (my sympathies go out to those members who are in the real estate business or who are currently trying to sell their home), there were no relocations that month. No members moved into or out of area in November. The 3 brand new members were the only changes.

The 3 additional M's bring our roster total back to the only psychologically important number 200. This is 3 more members than we had at the end of November 2005. Here are the historical totals for the end of November as far back as I know: 1998 - 97 members, 1999 - 131 members, 2000 - 142 members, 2001 - 146 members, 2002 - 168 members, 2003 - 191 members, 2004 - 206 members, 2005 - 197 members, and of course this November 200. As you can see with 1 minor exception there has been a nice growth pattern over the past decade or so. A lot of credit should be given to the officers and the members during this time who made this organization one that made people wanted to belong.

The 3 brand new members are **Micah Butler** in Pace, **Reed Coker** in Destin, and **Joseph Hobart** in Crestview. We are glad you decided to join and hope you find friendship and stimulation with your membership.

I hope many of you are planning to attend our Regional Gathering in Destin in February. I am once again serving as the Czar of Chocolate for the Friday Night Chocolate Orgy. As such I will be seeking, pleading for, begging, and otherwise debasing myself to obtain donations to this fun and delicious event. I can promise you will receive my gratitude as well as recognition in a future Pensa Mensa if you choose to donate. Feel free to phone or e-mail me with your contribution information.

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## ExComm Minutes

**by John Mochan**

Called to order at 3:01. Present were John Mochan, Jerry Gilbert, Bobby Wicke, Bob Ulrich, Bob Horne, Lynda Ulrich, MaryAnn Mochan, and Terri Culbertson. The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously accepted.

**President:** Nothing at this time.

**Vice President:** Enjoying a cruise, sends her best wishes to all for a happy holiday season. Minutes were taken by Terri Culbertson.

**Treasurer:** 15 Nov balance: \$4,214.34; 15 Dec balance: \$4,451.23, For a gain of \$236.89 from the group yard sale, national funding, and RG registration fees. Expenses were for the newsletter, and \$200 for our local MERF scholarship award went to Shane McClure. Congratulations Shane!

**Editor:** After a brief experiment to ascertain that gravity is indeed still working as expected, our illustrious editor began her report. ;) The first local membership list has gone out with no complaints. In fact, there has been no feedback whatsoever from our members yet about the published list positive or negative. The Ex-Comm invite you to share your thoughts.

**Membership:** We have 3 new members this month and have finally reached the 200 mark again this year! There were no movers this month. Bob welcomes new member Micah Butler of Pace who came out to his first event at the Christmas party.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The yard sale is over, but there have been a few sales after the fact that have pushed our grand total to over \$300 There is still a steel desk for sale. If you are interested, please contact Bobby Wicke.

On a sad note, Darlene Owens of Panama City has passed away. She will be missed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jill Russ has taken over as our webmaster. She welcomes your suggestions and input. If you have any pictures that you would like to see posted, please send them to her at [jillsruss@yahoo.com](mailto:jillsruss@yahoo.com)

Plans for this year's RG are well underway. Mary Ann is finalizing the speaker programs and will get the descriptions to Bobby for the tri-fold brochure and to Jill for posting on the website. RG T-shirts are available now. Sizes small-XXL. Cost is \$12 Please see John to get yours now.

Bob Horne has begun purchasing for hospitality and is keeping his eyes out for special after the holiday sales as usual. The hotel rates have been locked in and we are published now in the National Bulletin. Also 4 of the other newsletters in Florida have published our RG ads.

Don't forget Smarti Gras in Orlando January 26- 28.

We are still looking for a publicity person. If you are new to the group and looking for a way to get

more involved, give John a call. Don't worry if you've never done anything like this before, we'll give you everything you need to get the job done and support you in your new position. This is a great opportunity for one lucky member out there. It could be you! Call John at 850 585-3194.

As chairman for the chocolate orgy at ValenTime, Bob Ulrich is looking for volunteers to share their wonderful chocolate creations this year. This is one of the most memorable RG events and we need your help once again to pull it off.

Congratulations are in order! Bobbye Wicke has served as our beloved newsletter editor for a number of years now. She loves to stir up controversy and we love her for it. Bobbye was awarded a Mensa Service Award by the local group.

Meeting adjourned at 3:28 to present the award.

By Terri Culbertson, Electrical Engineer, and here's her current address: Engineering Services, LLC, 1300 Thomas Dr., Panama City Beach, FL 32408; tculbert@arinc.com; Desk: (850) 636-3456; Cell: (850) 377-5042

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## The Tenth Story

### RVC Column for Region 10

And a Happy New Year to you! Did you make any New Year resolutions this year? I have decided to give up on lofty and uplifting resolutions, as I never manage to accomplish them. Instead, I think I will opt for more pleasurable to attain resolutions. Like - I resolve to read more books. And - I resolve to attend more Regional Gatherings. Those will be much easier to achieve.

Speaking of Regional Gatherings, there are two coming up within the next several weeks right here in Florida:

**Smarti Gras**, hosted by Central Florida Mensa, will be January 26-28, 2007. It will be held at the Sheraton Orlando North, the hotel at the Maitland Blvd. exit from Interstate 4, on the north side of Orlando. CFM is known for its great programs and excellent hospitality.

Details and a registration form are available on the Region 10 website ([region10.us.mensa.org](http://region10.us.mensa.org) then scroll down to "upcoming events"), or you can contact registrar Eddie Truelove at [etruelove@cfl.rr.com](mailto:etruelove@cfl.rr.com) or 407-855- 9078.

**ValenTime**, hosted by "the little group that could," Northwest Florida Mensa, will be February 9- 11, 2007. It will again be at the Holiday Inn in Destin in the panhandle. This year there will be a wit tee shirt contest, and they say to bring your pirate costume, as well. You can also access information and registration form for this Regional Gathering on the Region 10 website (as above), or contact John Mochan at [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net) or 850-585-3194.

These two RGs are an 8 hour drive apart, but I can recommend both of them as a terrific weekend event. Each of these two groups have committees loaded with members who know how to do it right. If you haven't yet been to a Regional Gathering, or haven't been to one in a while, either one of these

should be a pleasant experience and provide you with that much needed RG fix. I will be attending both, so SEE YOU THERE!

Last month I mentioned that I was planning to become a life member. Well, I have done so. Now I can paraphrase Scarlett O'Hara - "As God is my witness, I'll never pay dues again!" Every year, enough people don't renew by March 31, that there is a quick drop in membership level on April 1. Some of them simply forgot and eventually do so, but it does take several months before we return to the membership level of March 31. The good news is that in 2006 the membership increases were such that we bypassed the March 31 numbers nearly 3 months sooner than usual. Evidently 2006 was a very good year! Was this due to the World Gathering and its publicity? Was this due to the excellent efforts of the proctors around the country? I don't know, but it is good to know that Mensa is alive and well and kicking!

**Maggie Truelove, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10** > 3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, Florida 32812; 407-855-9078; truluvs@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@cfl.rr.com; rvc10@us.mensa.org



*Bob Ulrich and Bobby Wicke at the Holiday Party (yes, she really is wearing a halo, on loan from Jo Horne after Jo sampled the real eggnog).*

## **FAST AND FREE**

**Is there something you would like the Mensa group to know about and/or participate in? You can get a same-day message out through our email service. Contact the editor or any officer at the addresses listed in the newsletter.**

Photo by Terri Culbertson.

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## **Calendar**

Where no specific phone number is given, call 850-585-3194.

**Friday, Jan. 5, 11 a.m.- 1 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.

**Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6 p.m. Supper Club in Pensacola - Hall's Seafood (920 E Gregory St downtown Pensacola)** Call Dan Murray on his cell phone, 455- 6339, after 7 p.m. or on weekends please.

**Sat. Jan.13, 11:30 a.m. Second Saturday in Panama City. Lunch at Chef Imondi's Downtown, 448 Harrison Avenue, Panama City.**

**Saturday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m., Annual New Year's Party** in Pensacola at Mabel and Hal Loesch's, 2140 E. Scott St. Help us ring in the new year. Contact Mabel, mloesch@bellsouth.net or 433- 2358 year. Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy the holiday season with all your Mensa friends!

**Tuesday, Dec 19, 5 p.m. - ? Happy Hour at Boathouse Landing** in Valparaiso.on John Sims Parkway on the water, south of the Hwy 85 intersection. Excellent food and drinks, and we can sit out by the water when it's not too cold. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Please call 897-5702 or e- mail davehoward01@earthlink.net

**Saturday, Jan. 20, 2 p.m. ExComm Meeting** in Pensacola– During the annual New Year's Party. Special attention will be on planning for our 5th annual Regional Gathering in February.

**Friday, Jan. 26, 11:30 a.m., 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 immediately north of the courthouse, turn at the red-and-yellow sign and go through the parking area all the way to the back and to the right.

**Saturday, Jan. 27, 2:00 p.m. Newsletter**

**Assembly and Games** - at the home of Jo and Bob Horne, 641 Merioneth Ct., FWB. Bring a snack or beverage, fold, staple, mutilate and stamp and get your newsletter early. rhorne@cox.net or 850-315-0255.

**Tentative February Events:** Feb. 2, Lunch, Pensacola; Feb 9-11, ValenTime Regional Gathering, Destin; Feb. 10, Lunch, Panama City; Feb. 13, Supper Club, Pensacola; Feb. 16, Happy Hour, TBD; Feb. 17, ExComm, Pensacola; Feb. 23, Lunch, Shalimar; JFwv. 24, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

### **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**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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## **ValenTime!**

**Mark your calendars now**

**February 9-11, 2007 (3 p.m. Friday thru noon Sunday) at the Holiday Inn, 1020 Hwy 98 East, Destin, FL.**

A great program is shaping up - pack your most outrageous t-shirt for the Wit T-shirt Contest, your pirate costume, and your GPS - or just come on down and we'll outfit you!

All your favorite events are scheduled along with some new treats, and the best RG cuisine anywhere. And you can take our smiling dolphins home with you on our 5th Anniversary t-shirt! Pre-order to be sure your size is available and waiting for you.

Registration is \$40 per person if paid by Feb 1, \$45 per person at the door, or \$20 per person 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 Drive, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547- 3528

Contact: John Mochan - (850)-585-3194,

jmochan@cox.net

Room rates: No Gulf view \$80; partial Gulf view \$85; full Gulf view \$115 Double occupancy. Add \$10 per extra person. Call the hotel at 877-837-6181 or 850- 837-6181 and tell them you are with the Mensa group.

**Visit us at: [nwflorida.us.mensa.org](http://nwflorida.us.mensa.org)**

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## **Tentative RG Program**

Friday

3:00 Registration and Games Room open

6:00 Dinner

8:00 Chocolate Orgy (Bob and Lynda Ulrich)

9:00 GenX Meeting (Heidi Daniels)

Hearts Tournament (Bob Osterman)

10:00 Werewolf Game by Jolie Elder. In this

psychological game, a group of townfolk are pitted against werewolves hidden amongst themselves.

Can you determine who is acting innocent without becoming the next victim?

Saturday's Events

6:00 Coffee/Breakfast etc.; Games room opened.

9:00-10:00 DMAT Disaster Medical Assistance Team by Gary Kruschke, Team Commander

10:00-11:00 The Great Pumpkin Massacre by Steve and Lorne Brumm. Improvised weapons actually made by inmates behind the prison walls meet blocks of clay and pumpkins. See the horrific results and marvel at the ingenuity of the inmates. This program has been

selected to be presented at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting later in February.

11:00-12:00 Geocaching by Heidi Daniels and

Cameron Pouncey

12:00-1:00 Lunch; Book signing by local authors in the hall between Games room and Hospitality.

12:30-1:00 Wit T-Shirt contest in Games Room - Arthur Cartwright

1:00-2:00 Bob Teasdale

2:00-3:00 Vampires in Folklore and Fiction by Fraser Sherman. Why did vampire beliefs evolve? How do fictional vampires differ from folklore? A history of vampire beliefs, movies, books, and more.

3:00-4:00 Sex Seance by Ike and Stormie Kullman

4:00-5:00 Yoga/Meditation by Swami J.

5:30-7:00 Indoor Picnic

7:30-8:00 Rum Tasting by Bob and Lynda Ulrich

8:00 -9:30 Pirate's Dance - Music and DJ by Micah Butler; Beth will sing, we will dance.

9:30-10:00 Pi' rate Contest and Costume Contest

10:00-12:00 Dance Continues

Midnight Howl at the Moon. Meet outside by the flag pole that has the Pirate on it.

Sunday's Events

6:00 Coffee/Breakfast

8:30 -9:00 ExComm Meeting

9:00 -9:30 RVC Talks

9:30-10:00 Awards/ Upcoming RG's

10:30 Auction begins

Extra Events going on this weekend: paper games, t- shirt sale, book sale.

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## THE GREAT PUMPKIN MASSACRE

Steve and Lorne Brumm will present The Great Pumpkin Massacre on Saturday morning at Valentime. Prison Inmates are noted for their patience and ingenuity in turning seemingly harmless every day objects into weapons. These can range from a simple club to a miniature flame- thrower. Using improvised weapons actually confiscated from inmates serving time in Florida prisons, they attacked a block of clay and numerous pumpkins to see what sort of wound patterns the improvised weapons would produce. The American Academy of Forensic Sciences has asked Steve and Lorne to present this program at their annual seminar the week after Valentime. This is a tremendous honor for them. Both Steve and Lorne are full members of the Academy. Steve teaches the Crime Scene Investigator program at Gulf Coast Community College and Lorne is in charge of Correctional Officer Basic Training.

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## 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](mailto:dfinley@gulfcoast.edu) for possible inclusion in future columns.

1. What game is fatal when you are over 21?
  2. What is British author, George Orwell's birth name?
  3. What language is considered as a "sister" language to English?
  4. What does the adjective "née" mean?
  5. Who was "a knight without honor in a savage land?"
  6. How much time does it take for light leaving the Sun to reach the Earth?
  7. What mineral is mentioned over thirty times in The Bible?
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## Editor's notes

**and news from all over**

**Sometimes everything works department:** On Saturday, Dec. 9, I realized I was out of one of Blacknblue Press's books, and reordered by email from our printer, Lightning Source, Inc., thinking

“fat chance this time of year.” On Monday the books were shipped from Missouri; on Thursday they were delivered. On credit. Wow.

**From Lorne Brumm, Panama City:** Darlene "Duffy" Owens, 54, beloved widow of C.W., beloved mother of Hobo the Dog, dear friend, master gardener, retired Army NCO, retired computer wiz, passed away December 7, 2006, apparently of a broken heart that just could not heal. We'll miss her.

**Do more, find friends in the online member directory provided by AML.** Visit [www.us.mensa.org/directory](http://www.us.mensa.org/directory) for addresses(including email), occupations, interests; or update your statistical information and privacy releases at [www.us.mensa.org/profile](http://www.us.mensa.org/profile). You will need your membership number (on your mailing label on this newsletter) and the password from the current issue of the Mensa Bulletin (if you have a problem with this, call Membership Officer Bob Ulrich, 939-6870).

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## Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa

**President:** John Mochan (850) 585- 3194; 585-5067; 616 Overbrook Dr., Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-3528; [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net)

**Vice President:** Heidi Daniels (850)433- 1465; 221 Cevallos St. Pensacola, FL 32503; [hsdaniels@gmail.com](mailto:hsdaniels@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jerry Gilbert (850) 862-4800; 700 Trowbridge Ave., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

**Membership Officer:** Robert Ulrich (850) 939-6870; 7025 Pro Am Ct., Navarre, FL 32566  
[bulrich@mchsi.com](mailto:bulrich@mchsi.com)

**Editor:** Bobby Sikes Wicke (850) 862- 2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569;

**Northwest Florida Mensa Home Page:** <http://www.nwflorida.us.mensa.org>

**Arbitrator/Mediator and Test Proctor:** Steve Brumm (850) 747-3233; Panama City, FLAD4WT@aol.com

**Gifted Child Coordinator:** Jonathan Miller (850) 939-9785; 8214 Riverside Landing Way, Navarre, FL 32566; [jonathan.miller7@mchsi.com](mailto:jonathan.miller7@mchsi.com)

**Panama City Coordinator:** George Chancellor (850) 874-0154; 7523 Coleridge Road, Panama City, FL 32404; [georgec584@aol.com](mailto:georgec584@aol.com)

**S.I.G.H.T Coordinator & Test Proctor:** Mabel Loesch (850) 433-2358; 2140 E. Scott St., Pensacola, FL 32503-4957; [mloesch@bellsouth.net](mailto:mloesch@bellsouth.net)

**Test Proctor:** Joanne Horne (850) 315- 0255, 641 Merioneth Ct., Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547; [johorne@cox.net](mailto:johorne@cox.net)

**Webmaster:** Jill Russ (850) 678-9169, 12 Corbin Ct., Niceville, FL 32578; [jillsruss@yahoo.com](mailto:jillsruss@yahoo.com).

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## Milestones

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

40 - Suzanne K. Zoss

22 - Glenda Martin Michallidis

20 - C.V. Ford Jr.

12 - Sean Dobes

9 - Harold Casey  
7 - Bob Teasdale  
6 - Arthur Krzeminski  
6 - James 'Cheever' Lambert  
5 - Nicki Dalton  
5 - Kelly M. Hannum  
5 - Daniel Stevens Murray  
5 - Ralph R. Ruyle Jr.  
5 - Donald G. VanNorman  
4 - Sandra Bast  
4 - Ron Gill  
4 - Lauren Smith  
3 - Stephanie Mather  
3 - Philippe Petit  
2 - Chris Collins  
2 - Merrily Teasley  
1 - Jasmine Bookwalter  
1 - Robert Ignasiak Sr.

### **HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!**

1 - Shawn Horn  
4 - Bob Horne  
13 - Robert F. Mundorff  
17 - Christine Smith Pincince  
18 - Scott Mark Kaufmann  
28 - J. Roger Landers  
30 - John W. Friedberg  
30 - Sterling Underhill

*If your birthday isn't listed, it's because it is not on the membership roster we get from the national office each month - and that's because you instructed National to withhold it. Please go to [us.mensa.org](http://us.mensa.org) and change your listing (or write to the address in your Mensa Bulletin, or call them). We promise not to tell anyone how old you are.*

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## **Answers to Seven Trivia Questions**

1. Blackjack, the card game, also known as Twenty-one or Pontoon. Blackjack originated in French casinos around 1700. In French, it is called "Vingt-et-Un" which translates to "Twenty-and-A." The name Blackjack was fitting because if a player got a Jack of Spades and an Ace of Spades as the first two cards dealt, the player won an additional amount. Blackjack has been a popular game in the U.S. since the 1800s.
2. Eric Arthur Blair, he adopted the pen-name in 1932
3. German; English is a West Germanic language that developed from Old English, the language of the Anglo-Saxons. English, having its major roots in Germanic languages, derives most of its grammar from Old English. As a result of the Norman Conquest, it has been heavily influenced, more than any other Germanic language, by French, Latin and Greek.
4. It is taken from the French *née*, which means "born." Most commonly, it is used to identify a woman by her maiden family name, e.g., Martha Washington *née* Custis. It may also be used to indicate an

original or former name, e.g., the Milwaukee Brewers née Seattle Pilots in professional baseball.

5. Paladin, the gentleman-turned-gunfighter in the 1957-1963 television series *Have Gun - Will Travel*, starring that other man in black, Richard Boone in the leading role.

6. 8.3 minutes

7. Salt. Salt was used in Biblical times as a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant, a component of ceremonial offerings, and as a unit of exchange. The Bible also uses it metaphorically to signify permanence, loyalty, durability, fidelity, usefulness, value and purification.

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## Précis

Fraser Sherman

**Easy come, easy go: Financial fiascos.**

**TULIPOMANIA: The Story of the World's Most Coveted Flower and The Extraordinary Passions It Aroused**, by Mike Dash, chronicles the world's first-known financial bubble, a Dutch enthusiasm for tulips that led to some bulbs selling for more than the price of a house. Dash puts this into perspective by showing how the mania arose from several different trends: The newly hip fondness for gardening and botany; the wealthy elite created by Holland's trading empire who could afford such a passion; a virus that infected tulips causing random bulbs to develop stunning patterns; the fact tulip trading was largely conducted in taverns during heavy drinking; and the shift from the actual sale of bulbs to dealing in futures and options, which made buying on credit a large part of the tulip economy. A fine job.

**THE KING, THE CROOK AND THE GAMBLER: The True story of the South Sea Bubble and the Greatest Financial Scandal in History**, by

Malcolm Balen, recounts the mix of wild optimism, corruption, easy credit and outright fraud that turned England's South Sea Trading Company into a financial entrepreneur offering to buy up the national debt, then into a straight stock flotation scheme as the company's founder realized that inflated stock prices would make more money than any trade with the South Seas could generate, even if he had to loan people the money to buy the stock (at one point the outstanding loans equaled half the worth of the government annuities and debt certificates the company had purchased). Balen covers both this and the slightly preceding Missouri Company bubble in France, launched by economist John Law as part of his plan to shift France to a paper-money economy (Balen suggests fear of France outperforming England may have been a spur to the South Sea Bubble). Another good one.

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## Quotations on Wry

by Kathe Oliver

Raising children is hard work, which is one reason why "be a better parent" is a common New Year's resolution. Raising children is especially hard work when the readily available advice doesn't fit the situation, which is true for most parents of gifted children. How do a toddler's parents ask for advice from other playgroup parents when their child is starting to read before some of his peers have started to talk? It is often obvious that a gifted child doesn't fit the neat milestones given in the standard

guidebooks long before parents figure out why they don't fit.

However, parents find help in many places, not just from other parents and from parenting manuals. Millions of people have read *Little House in the Big Woods*, by Laura Ingalls Wilder. How many children have been allowed to play with their food because Ma allowed Laura to play with hers, just as long as she ate it? How many children have been raised with the motto of television's Daniel Boone, "Be sure you're right, then go ahead"?

Here are some quotations to think about. They come from a wide range of sources and contexts, yet they each relate to frequent topics of discussion among the parents of gifted children. May they provide you with ideas and inspiration in the year to come.

"Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers." Socrates

"All God's children are not beautiful. Most of God's children are, in fact, barely presentable." Fran Lebowitz

"Love is not only something you feel. It is something you do." David Wilkerson

"Never apologize for showing feeling. When you do, you apologize for the truth." Benjamin Disraeli

"Parents can only advise their children or point them in the right direction. Ultimately people shape their own characters." Anne Frank

"Vocations which we wanted to pursue, but didn't, bleed, like colors, on the whole of our existence." Honore de Balzac

"The greatest compliment that was ever paid me was when one asked me what I thought, and attended to my answer." Henry David Thoreau

"We do not believe in ourselves until someone reveals that deep inside us is valuable, worth listening to, worthy of our trust, sacred to our touch. Once we believe in ourselves we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight or any experience that reveals the human spirit." e. e. cummings

"Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind." Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"People who boast about their IQs are losers." Stephen Hawking

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." Albert Einstein

"Ideas are like rabbits. You get a couple and learn how to handle them, and pretty soon you have a dozen." John Steinbeck

“Curiosity is one of the permanent and certain characteristics of a vigorous mind.” Samuel Johnson

“Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought.” John F. Kennedy

“If everybody is thinking alike, then somebody isn’t thinking.” George S. Patton

“A person usually has two reasons for doing something: a good reason and the real reason.” Thomas Carlyle

“Do not wait for ideal circumstances; they will never come; nor for the best opportunities.” Janet Erskine Stuart

“If a problem has no solution, it may not be a problem, but a fact not to be solved, but to be coped with over time.” Shimon Peres

“If you don't have the time to do something right, where are you going to find the time to fix it?” Stephen King

“Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it.” George Halas

“I love the winning, I can take the losing, but most of all I love to play.” Boris Becker

“For unflagging interest and enjoyment, a household of children, if things go reasonably well, certainly makes all other forms of success and achievement lose their importance by comparison.” Theodore Roosevelt

*Adapted from the series “Quotations on Wry”, published in IMprint, the Newsletter of Northern New Jersey Mensa, in January, 2003, 2004, and 2006. This article may be reprinted without alteration by any AML local group, as long as credit is given to IMprint and the author. Please notify Kathe Oliver at [k.oliver@pobox.com](mailto:k.oliver@pobox.com).*

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## **Editorial Policy**

**PensaMensa welcomes your articles and artwork!!** Submissions must show name, address, phone, and may be edited for clarity and space. Please enclose an SASE if you want your material returned. Deadline for submission is the 15th of each month.

PensaMensa is the official newsletter of Northwest Florida Mensa. Opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of any Mensa group or its officers. Mensa is a not-for-profit international society, whose sole requirement for membership is a score at or above the 98th percentile on any of a number of standard IQ tests. Please contact one of the Test Proctors (see Officers) for testing in Northwest Florida.

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