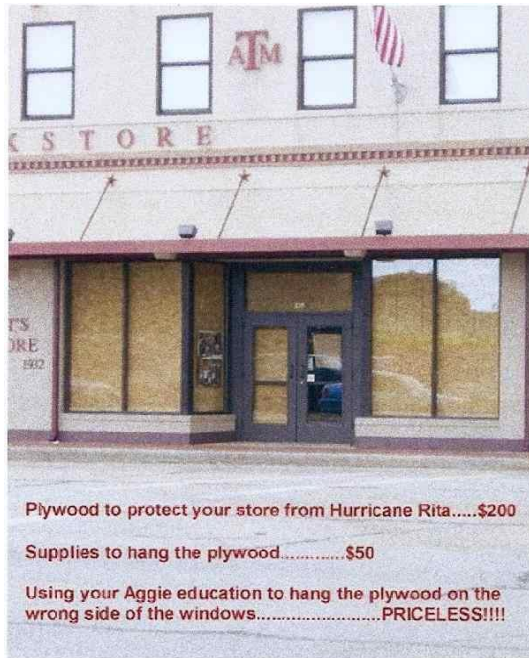


# PensaMensa Newsletter

October 2007

- :: [President's Page](#)
- :: [Editor's Notes](#)
- :: ["M"embership News](#)
- :: [Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Cryptograms by Jill Russ](#)
- :: [The Tenth Story](#)
- :: [Cryptogram solutions](#)
- :: [Calendar](#)
- :: [A Chess Problem](#)
- :: [Officers of Northwest Florida Mensa](#)
- :: [Curmudgeon's Corner](#)
- :: [ExComm Minutes](#)
- :: [Happy Thoughts](#)
- :: [Growth Rings](#)
- :: [Answers to Seven Trivia Questions](#)
- :: [Milestones](#)
- :: [Précis](#)
- :: [Local Authors Reception and Book Signing](#)
- :: [Editorial Policy](#)



*David Woodward sent this reminder that the peak hurricane season is here (apologies to Texas A & M). . .*

**. . . and Paella Time is here too!**

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. at the White House, 338 Okaloosa Road, Fort Walton Beach.

You and your family and friends are invited to the 8th Annual Paella Picnic at Bill and Bell White's home. Bell will provide her delicious paella and iced tea - if you want something else to drink, do bring it along, and do bring a salad or desert to share.

Don't miss this delightful afternoon in a beautiful garden! RSVP is requested but not required: [u2rhuman@earthlink.net](mailto:u2rhuman@earthlink.net) or 243- 5247.

# President's Page

**by John Mochan**

As some of you already know, Heidi Daniels, our Vice President, has relocated to Jacksonville Florida to pursue a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at the University of Florida campus located there. According to our bylaws her replacement will be appointed by a vote of the Executive Committee. The primary job of the Vice President is to attend the monthly Executive Committee and take the meeting notes. We are looking for anyone interested in serving the remainder of the Vice Presidential term which ends in October of next year. We hope to make an appointment vote at the meeting in October. Any member in good standing is eligible to serve. If you are interested in this position please contact John Mochan at 585-3194 or [jmochan@cox.net](mailto:jmochan@cox.net). This month sees 2007's annual Mensa National Testing Day. The official date is October 20, but includes testing dates for a week or so before and after that date. Each member will have the opportunity to help make Mensa Testing Day a success. In your September issue of the Mensa Bulletin, you should have found two coupons worth \$5 off the Mensa Admission Test. Please do share these coupons with friends, family members, or colleagues who are interested in Mensa membership. Be sure to have them contact your local proctor coordinator to sign up.

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## "M"embership News

**by Bob Ulrich**

The total number of members of Northwest Florida Mensa remained unchanged in August at 186. We had 1 member move out of our area and 1 member rejoin Mensa after a short absence. Heidi Daniels, who was our Vice President, moved to Jacksonville to enroll in a graduate program offered there at a satellite campus of the University of Florida. It is a 4 year program so she will probably be there for a while and we wish her luck in her attempt at the career change. Her departure obviously leaves the group without a Vice President. You can read more about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

George "Michael" Downing of Gulf Breeze has come back to the group after a brief respite, and we are happy he came back.

At 186 members we are 6 shy of the number we had at the end of August last year. Interestingly we had 192 members at the end of August in 2004, 2005, and 2006. Since the beginning of 2004 our total membership has moved up and down. During that time frame we have twice had a low of 177 and reached a high of 215 members at the end of February 2005. So now we are somewhere in middle of the recent historical membership total.

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# Cryptograms

by Jill Russ

Easy Level

YXPVP OVP CZ IOKW YXBKQC YXOY HP HBCX HP XON

NZKP WPCYPVNOW, CZ GPH YXOY HP GPPR RBDP NZBKQ

YZNOW. ~IBQKZK ISROTQXRBK

## Challenge Level

The Challenge Level includes the "space" as part of the cryptogram. In other words, the letter R might actually be the space, and a space might be a letter. The end of each line of the cryptogram is the end of a word.

MRSTIPWYEDMIFWWTIZCFY

~FQCDYIYIVZWWGYZO

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## The Tenth Story

### RVC Column for Region 10

Labor Day Weekend found us in Ft. Lauderdale for the Florange a Trois RG, and it was delightful. A few interesting points to make about it: a 3 day RG, it had two tracks of excellent interesting speakers, it had a first time RG chair, who did a great job, and it had a first time Hospitality chair, who did an outstanding job. (Monday morning someone's comment about her was that she has now set the bar

really high for other RGs to follow!) All of those facts are interesting things to make note of for future RGs. Kudos to Broward Mensa and all of the volunteers for such an outstanding job!

We had an interesting RVC Rap Session on Monday morning at the RG. Interesting questions were raised by some people, answers to which I have found and sent to the questioning members. Problems being faced by local groups were aired, and interestingly, many of these were things that will be dealt with at the Region 10 LDW on November 3 in Plant City. So far volunteer leaders and potential volunteer leaders from 6 of Florida's 12 groups are signed up to attend the LDW. I have high hopes that most if not all of our groups will have someone attending. If you would like more information about the LDW, check my RVC column in the September newsletters. If you have misplaced your September newsletter, the column is on the region 10 website ([region10.us.mensa.org](http://region10.us.mensa.org)), either under RVC COLUMNS or LDW UPDATE. At the time of this writing there are approximately 1/2 of the spaces still available to sign up, but don't delay! We are limited to 50 attendees.

There are many good things coming up in Region 10 - In December the AMC will be meeting in Palm Beach County. AMC meetings are open to all members. If you are going to be in the Palm Beach area on December 1, why not stop in to see the AMC in action? You can also socialize with your national leaders in the evening after the meeting.

In January, CFM's Smarti Gras will be January 18-20, at a newly remodeled hotel, the Renaissance Orlando Hotel Airport, not far from Orlando International Airport.

In February, Northwest Florida Mensa will be back again with their ValenTime RG, February 15-17. Tampa Bay is beginning the planning for their next ARRRRR-G, in May 2008 (not yet approved).

And wonderful news: SCAM IS BACK! As many of you know, SCAM had to cancel their RG in 2004 due to their hotel being severely damaged by the hurricanes. Well, they are now ready to resume their great RGs! More info to come, but keep your eyes open for the details for this one to return in October 2008 (not yet approved).

**Maggie Truelove, Regional Vice Chair, Region 10**

3333 Honeysuckle Lane, Orlando, Florida 32812;

407-855-9078; [truluvs@cfl.rr.com](mailto:truluvs@cfl.rr.com); [rvc10@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rvc10@cfl.rr.com); [rvc10@us.mensa.org](mailto:rvc10@us.mensa.org)

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## Cryptogram solutions

### Easy Level

There are so many things that we wish we had done yesterday, so few that we feel like doing today.

~Mignon McLaughlin

**Challenge Level** Talk doesn't cook rice. ~Chinese Proverb

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# Calendar

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

**Friday, October 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, Oct. 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.

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

**Friday, Oct. 19, 5 p.m. Happy Hour!** We will go to Boathouse Landing, 124 John Sims Parkway, Valparaiso. Excellent food, drinks and ambiance, and we will dine on the patio if the weather permits. Dave Howard is our coordinator - he and Tehane will be there at 5 p.m. Info: davehoward01@earthlink.net or 897-5702.

**Friday, Oct. 19, 6 p.m. Bryan and Jennifer Clark have started a monthly poker night** (Texas hold 'em) at their house in Pensacola and would like to invite Mensa folks. It's for all skill levels - beginners welcome. They will also start up other games for those who don't want to play poker. Kids are welcome. For details, email Jennifer at jenniferwclark@gmail.com and she will email you an e-vite.

**Saturday, Oct. 20, 2 p.m. Open House and ExComm meeting** at the Mochans', 616 Overbrook Drive, FWB. Bring your favorite snack and/or beverage and join in planning activities. Info: jmochan@cox.net or 585-3194.

**Friday, Oct. 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, October 27 - Paella Time!** at 2 p.m. at the White House, 338 Okaloosa Road, Fort Walton Beach. You and your family and friends are invited to the 8th Annual Paella Picnic at Bill and Bell White's home. Bell will provide her delicious paella and iced tea - if you want something else to drink, do bring it along, and do bring a salad or desert to share.

Don't miss this delightful afternoon in a beautiful garden! RSVP is requested but not required: u2rhuman@earthlink.net or 243- 5247.

**Sunday, October 28, Newsletter Assembly and Games** at the home of John and Mary Ann Mochan, 616 Overbrook Dr., FWB. John will make brownies; bring your favorite goodies or beverage; fold, staple, mutilate and stamp, get your newsletter early and play games. Info: jmochan@cox.net or 585-3194.

**Tentative November Events:**

Nov. 2, Lunch, Pensacola; Nov. 10, Lunch, Panama City; Nov. 13, Supper Club, Pensacola; Nov. 16, Happy Hour, TBD; Nov. 16, Poker Night, Pensacola; Nov. 17, ExComm, TBD; Nov. 30, Lunch, Shalimar; Dec. 1, Newsletter/Games Day, FWB

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

**Motorcycles SIG.** Dan Mazzeo of Gulf Breeze is vetting the idea of a SIG for anyone having an interest in motorcycles (owning one is not a requirement). Contact Dan at [onegoodengineer@aol.com](mailto:onegoodengineer@aol.com) or 850- 206-4213.

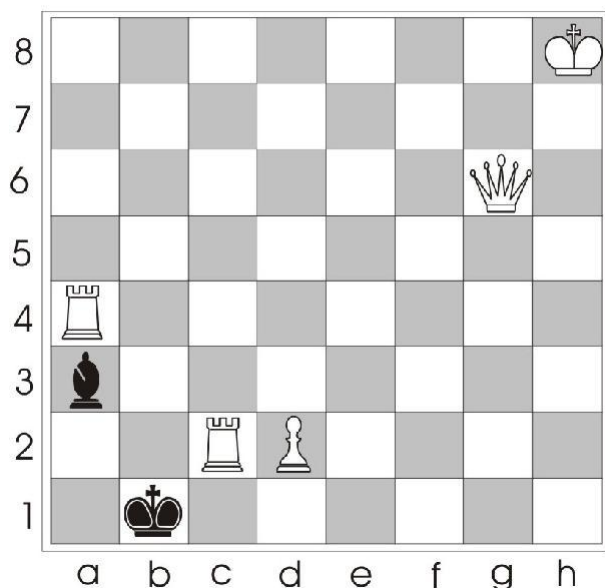
**Photography SIG.** Dan Murray in Pensacola (455-6339) found out there was no camera club anywhere near him, so he started one.

**Pinochle SIG.** Contact Bob Mundorff in Navarre at 850) 939-5882 or [pinochledd@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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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### **MATE IN TWO – WHITE TO MOVE**



## **A Chess Problem**

**from Lars Runar**

**Solution to September problem:**

1. - Kna2

Reprinted by permission from Chess Training in 5333+1 Positions by Laszlo Polgar © 1994 Konemann Verlags gesellschaft (Algebraic notation) Reprinted by permission from Chess Training in 5333+1 Positions by Laszlo Polgar © 1994 Konemann Verlags gesellschaft

James, Tom and Alexander Russ at the Family Games Day



## **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:** OPEN

**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:** Bobbye Sikes Wicke 850-862-2874; P.O.Box 252, Mary Esther, FL 32569; [bobwick@cox.net](mailto:bobwick@cox.net)

**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](mailto:FLAD4WT@aol.com)

**Gifted Child Coordinators:** Jill Russ (see Webmaster listing below for contact info), and Debi Dunkerley, 850-469-4602; 3941 McClellan Road, Pensacola 32503; [davendebi@cox.net](mailto:davendebi@cox.net)

**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

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

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## Curmudgeon's Corner

### Feeling curmudgeonly? Send it in!

Will the prospects of oil and gas bonanzas from the Arctic derail the drive to forestall global warming?

Senator Larry Craig should apologize for being a liar and a hypocrite and be left alone; law enforcement and the media should stop spending their resources and time on victimless crimes; sex counseling should be mandatory for congressmen - and paid for out of their own pockets.

*Feeling curmudgeonly? Send it in! Names are not required unless you want to claim credit.*

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## ExComm Minutes

The Executive Committee meeting met at the home of Jerry Gilbert on September 27 at 2:30 p.m. Attending were Jerry Gilbert, Bob Ulrich, and Bobby Wicke.

**Membership:** See report elsewhere.

**Treasurer:** Jerry Gilbert reported that our 31 August balance was \$4,350.28, and the 21 Sept. balance was \$4,377.80. The Sept. balance includes the prepaid newsletter costs and no further expenses are expected. The total year-to-date funding from American Mensa is \$860.66, which includes this month's \$15 for one testing.

**Editor:** Notices for ValenTime, our regional gathering, have been prepared. Terri Culbertson and Fraser Sherman distributed these in Atlanta September 21, and the Mochans distributed them in Cleveland September 29.

**New business:** The unexpected departure of Heidi Daniels leaves us without a vice president. After reviewing the bylaws, President John Mochan reported by phone that the ExComm will appoint an interim vice president to complete her term.

Bob Horne reports that the contract with Holiday Inn Destin has been secured for ValenTime, Feb. 15-17, 2008. Room rates range from \$80 to \$120, 1 to 4 people per room, depending upon the view.

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# Happy Thoughts

## from Cheryl Rothwell

I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled, and that ice cream, well, it really chilled the mood.

It used to be only death and taxes were inevitable. Now of course, there's shipping and handling too.

I'm so depressed. My doctor refused to write me a prescription for Viagra. He said it would be like putting a new flagpole on a condemned building.

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## Editor's Notes

Why is this issue focused on hurricanes and sex? Because Dave Woodward sent me the amusing photo above and Fraser Sherman wrote about sex, and no one else contributed anything. . .so I'm going with the flow, tossing in my own hurricane story and a sexy cartoon that amused me. It's your newsletter - and we really want you to contribute or at least tell us what you want to read.

Good news for the next issue: Jim and Roberta Harris just returned from Egypt and they're working on another great travel report.

Even more good news: Bill White has recovered from major open heart surgery and is looking forward to seeing everyone at the Paella Party.

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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. How much dry volume is in a bushel?
2. Who invented the cheeseburger?
3. What state has the oldest median age of its population?
4. Fireflies (lightning bugs) aren't really flies, what are they?
5. What is the largest venomous snake indigenous to the US?

6. What and where is "Howard's Rock?"

7. What is the largest reptile in North America?

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## Growth Rings

Hurricane season returns to southern coasts like the family black sheep, bringing memories and adventure, gifts and trouble; some years only a tease, other years a milestone. My first hurricane is a tangled memory of cats and a baby and wind and water, a memory to be unraveled years later and fall into place like a darker growth ring in a tree.

All that was left of the cats after the hurricane ended and my mother's allergy to cats began was a snapshot of a very small girl wearing a sun bonnet and a smile, with three cats spilling over her arms. The snapshot has turned dirty brown, but you can see that the sleepy tangle of dangling legs and tails and heads are a black and white spotted cat, a pale cat that could be yellow, and a mottled cat that might be a calico. The baby came a few months later, but he is part of the hurricane memory, too, because I thought that he would be like the cats, cuddly and purring, and that I could dress him in doll clothes like the cats. He was none of those things. Instead of purring, he burped and cried, smelled bad sometimes, and I wasn't allowed to touch him.

The hurricane ended a lot of nice things on our bayou, where the water was shallow and warm, and so clear that you could see oysters, crabs and tiny worms on the soft silty bottom. Most of the homes on our street had long narrow docks running like railroad tracks out to where the water was deep enough to dock a boat, with little shelters at the end for sitting with cool drinks on hot evenings. We didn't have a dock, but there were plenty to choose from, and I played on the docks and paddled around in the bayou whenever I could slip away from the maid.

Sometimes an old lady whose home commanded a view of most of the waterfront phoned my house to complain that my discarded dress, shoes and panties were trespassing on somebody's dock and I was in the water again. More often than not, the maid didn't answer or the party line was busy, and then the old lady called the sheriff, who always called my mother at the school where she taught before he went to see if I had drowned. That sequence of events caused bad feelings between my mother and the old lady and the sheriff and the maid, and especially my father when he came home. The domino effect of those feelings ended with me, as the only socially acceptable outlet for everyone's anger and frustration, being shut in the closet until bedtime. The tiny, dark hall closet was the stuff of which lifelong nightmares are made, but the lure of the bayou was stronger than my fear of the dark.

Our bayou was twenty miles from open waters, so no one paid much attention to news of a hurricane dithering around in the Gulf on its way to Mississippi, several hours away. I overslept the next morning, and found no maid and no breakfast waiting in the kitchen. My mother and father were still home, frowning at the radio over their coffee cups.

The radio played long enough to warn that during the night the storm had gathered speed and taken an unexpected turn towards our bayou. My parents worked silently fastening things down and shuttering windows. Shingles flew off the roof as fast as my father could nail them back on, water trickled through the ceiling into pots and pans and blew in under the door and around the windows, soaking the towels and newspapers my mother wedged in the cracks, while the day turned cold and dark and as wet

as the bayou.

Grown-ups came with armfuls of food and drink, laughing at the great blast of wind and water when the door was opened and the struggle to close it again. When darkness fell, the women played bridge and the men played poker by the light of kerosene lamps while the hurricane made landfall on our part of the coast. There were no other children for company, and eventually I slept despite the rattling of the house and the howling of the wind.

When I awoke the sun was shining, the electricity was back on, and sleeping grown-ups lay everywhere. I went outside in my pajamas to find my cats. The black and white cat and the yellow cat were huddled damply together in the garage, and I brought them into the kitchen and poured a bowl of milk for them. I found my favorite, the calico cat, lying cold and wet under a bush, and I brought her into the kitchen, too, wrapped her in a doll's pink blanket, and put her in a warm place.

I went back out to see what everyone was walking around looking at. Bits and pieces that had been docks and parts of houses were scattered up and down the street and floating in the bayou. Although the docks and boats were gone and the bayou had turned ugly, all the people on the street were smiling and talking to each other. Those who usually were the meanest were laughing and hugging each other; one of them even hugged the old lady, who had come down off her porch for the first time ever. Up close, the old lady was small and round, and not at all cross.

Then screams stopped the laughter and talk, and sent people running towards my house. The old lady ran, too, jiggling up and down like a puppet.

I ran after them, but they were much faster and some of them were coming back down the sidewalk before I got there, and laughing again, although the screams continued. I wriggled through legs and around skirts into the kitchen, where the warm smell of something good roasting in the oven reminded me that I hadn't had any breakfast. My mother was leaning against the refrigerator with her eyes tightly closed and her mouth wide open, screaming. I could see way down her throat.

My father's face was dark and red; he was holding my mother's shoulders and shaking her.

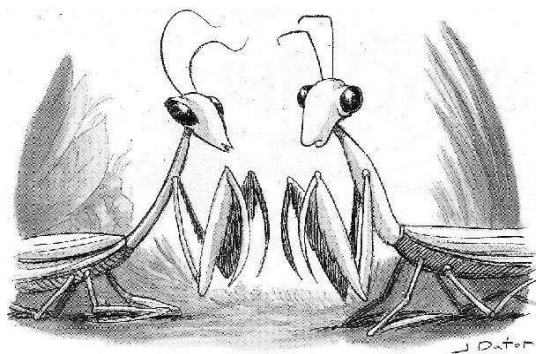
"Shut up!" he kept saying. "Go to your room. I'll take care of it." She didn't stop for a long time, not until he shook her so hard that her head bounced off the refrigerator. She opened her eyes then and saw the people, some of whom turned away, embarrassed, but still laughing. When she saw me, she began to scream again.

"I'll take care of her too!" my father shouted, and he pushed my mother out of the kitchen towards their bedroom.

One of the neighbors stepped forward, then, and opened the oven door. I could see that I had made a dumb mistake, like the maid did sometimes when she warmed up cold things. The oven must have been too hot for the calico cat.

*From Lost Lambs and Black Sheep: Parallel Lives, by Bobby Sikes Wicke*

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After we have sex, but before I kill you, I'm going to need your help with some shelves.

*From The New Yorker, June 4, 2007*

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## Answers to Seven Trivia Questions

1. The United States or Winchester bushel was originally defined as the volume of a cylindrical container 18½ inches in diameter and 8 inches deep (2150.420171 cubic in); it is now defined as 2150.42 cubic inches exactly. It is divided into eight dry gallons, which are different from the liquid gallons with which most Americans are more familiar. There are four pecks in a bushel.
  2. *[Disclaimer: Like the origins of many food inventions, this one is debatable, too.]* Lionel Sternberger is credited by Time magazine with grilling the first cheeseburger in 1924 at his father's sandwich shop in Pasadena, California. Louisville, Kentucky- based Kaelin's Restaurant also claims to have invented the cheeseburger in 1934. In 1935, the trademark for the name "cheeseburger" was awarded to Louis Ballast of the Humpty Dumpty Drive-In in Denver, Colorado.
  3. If you said Florida, you were not correct. Florida is tied for fifth with Pennsylvania at 39.3 years. Number 1 is Maine, 40.7 years, second is Vermont, 40.4 years, third is West Virginia, 40.3 years, and fourth is Montana, 39.3 years.
  4. Beetles; they use their "lights" to attract mates (males and females signal back-and- forth to one another). The light is produced when the substance luciferin and luciferase combine and generate a slow oxidation reaction.
  5. The Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake; grows to 7-8 feet and is found in the Southeastern US. It is about 1-foot larger than the Western Diamondback Rattlesnake that is found in Texas-New Mexico-Arizona.
  6. It is a good luck piece at Clemson's Memorial Stadium. In the early 1960s, Samuel Jones brought a 2½ pound rock from Death Valley, California to Clemson football coach Frank Howard as a gift. The rock sat in Howard's office for more than a year before Gene Willimon relocated the rock to the top of the hill in the east end zone. On Sept. 24, 1966, with the rock in place for the first time, the Tigers came from an 18-point deficit to defeat Virginia 40-35. A year later, Howard told his players they could only rub the rock for good luck before they ran down the hill if they planned to give maximum effort. Clemson players continue the tradition by rubbing the rock before each game.
  7. The alligator. The name comes from the Spanish "El lagarto" which translates as "the lizard." Alligators growth range is from 6-30 feet with an adult average of 8-feet. They can live up to 100 years in the wild.
-

# 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 of one or more years has occurred.

28 Jerry W Bradshaw  
28 Lars E Runar  
25 Robert T Glasure  
20 Marya M Bard  
9 Aaron "Stoney" Blackwell  
8 Mark Boss  
5 C A Mattie Kain  
4 Cheryl Rothwell

## HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

2 Pamela Fleischer  
3 Fred Mahony  
8 Linda Rae Campbell  
9 Shirley M Branan  
13 Elaine P McDaniel  
15 Merrily Austin Teasley  
16 Bryan Clark  
17 Myron Creel  
22 Tony Ray Gilligan  
29 Daniel Finley

*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.*



**Women's Night Out:** Sue Nichols, Joanne Horne and Dorothy Wicke

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# Précis

## Fraser Sherman

**Royal sex!** LOVE AND LOUIS XIV: The Women in the Life of the Sun King by Antonia Fraser (no relation) chronicles the relationship between Louis and the women of his court, including his adoring mother and regent, his Spanish wife, mistresses Madame de Montpasan and Madame de Maintenot (Fraser argues the evidence is solid that the latter probably married Louis in secret) and his beloved granddaughter in law, Adelaide-all the while juggling his sexual appetites with his devout Catholicism, as did many of his mistresses and lovers-Maintenot, for instance, held herself out as a moral influence upon him). Fraser concludes that while Louis could play hardball with his women, he was considerably better than many kings ("There's nothing of Henry VIII about him.") and that most of the mistresses came out quite well from having been his plaything; a good job overall.

### **Bible sex!**

THE HARLOT BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD: Forbidden Tales of the Bible, by Jonathan Kirsch looks at variety of Biblical episodes - Lot's offer of his daughters to the people of Sodom, Tamar's seduction of her father-in-law Judah, Mose's wife's use of her son's foreskin to ward off divine wrath - that have been edited out, rewritten or brushed up in translation over the centuries. While Kirsch is pitching to the Biblically illiterate (he assumes readers are unaware how much sex, betrayal and dirty deeds are in the Old Testament ), he does well in explaining glitches of translation, reasons compilers might have had for writing the way they did ("To a Jew during the Diaspora, warning against intermarriage may have seemed vitally necessary.") differences between Then and Now ("If Tamar were a temple prostitute, that would give her more class in our eyes, but to Israelites it would be an unthinkable act of apostasy for Judah to lie with her.") and what pagan practices, conflicting views and alternate texts may have been preserved in some of the odder episodes. Not first rate, but interesting.

And as a last note for recommended reading, I have a story out in the online magazine [allegoryezine.com](http://allegoryezine.com), called "Everybody's Doing It." Feel free to check it out.

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## Local Authors Reception and Book Signing

On Saturday, October 6, 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 1200 Airport Blvd., Pensacola, Bobbye Sikes Wicke will sign copies of her new book, *Ombudsman, What happens in nursing homes?* as well as her previous books.

## 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.