

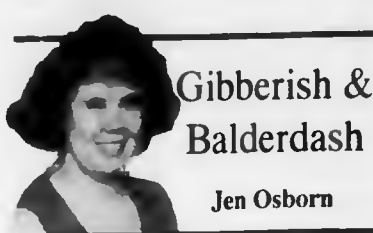
# What's the difference?

Once again, we come to the conclusion that men and women are vastly different.

I'm not talking about a few small, slight idiosyncrasies that kind of get on your nerves. I'm talking about head-shaking, mind-blowing, what-planet-did-you-come-from differences that make you question the sanity of the almighty creator and make you think twice about your father's suggestion of entering a nunnery. Daddy, being a man, knew what he was talking about because he'd been there and seen the ugly, unspeakable ways men act when they think there aren't any women around to see them being stupid.

Sometimes men, from somewhere out of the blue, do things that cause those of us who are part of the saner sex to look at them with glazed eyes and think, "I wonder how many times his mother dropped him on his head?" Oddly enough, these eye-glazing moments usually happen when a man is around a bunch of other men.

When a group of women get together — save for a few extreme occasions like bridal showers where we get crazy and hoot at buff strippers (of course I've never done anything like this, I've only heard stories) — things are pretty mild. Generally, when women get together, we eat lots of



Gibberish & Balderdash

Jen Osborn

good food, speak knowledgeably about intellectual issues and tell one another how much we appreciate one another's friendship. Quite often we will hold hands as we cry at sappy old movies and try to figure out what men are really all about.

Men are a little more tricky. You'll never catch them in such civilized settings.

Recently I went to the house of a male friend and unwittingly walked into a room filled with men eating pizza, drinking beer and watching a macho movie with lots of blood, violence and naked women. You could just smell the testosterone in the air, see the hairy knuckles scratching private parts, and hear the pig-like snorts of approval as yet another bad guy bit the dust. Throughout the few minutes I could stand to be in the room without my head exploding, they communicated through their alter-language of calling one another derogatory names

and arguing about whether Michelle Pfeiffer or Sharon Stone is more of a babe — as if any of them could be alone in a room for five minutes with Sharon or Shelly without wetting their pants.

Needless to say, I felt incredibly out of place.

In all fairness, men as a gender have made tremendous advancements since the caveman days, although some men as individuals haven't progressed much past learning to walk upright and grunting "Opera — bad, fire — good." A select few men will even wear a tie without being forced or will consent to taking ballroom dancing lessons. These men give us hope that, yes, we can stand to be around them long enough to ensure the perpetuation of humankind. Nevertheless, it's a select few.

In general, men are pigs. And they freely, happily and openly admit this fact while tossing their heads back, doing the Tim Allen grunt and sticking out what they mistakenly think of as an attractive beer gut.

I don't know why this is. As are most women in the world, I'm at a loss for an explanation. However, my mother contends it has something to do with men missing some kind of sensitive gene that women have been blessed with.



Photo by Jen Osborn

## Special visitor

Ronald McDonald visited the students at McLaughlin Elementary last Wednesday. The visitor did some magic tricks and put on a show for the children and spoke with them about ecology.

## Around

(Continued from page 1A)

worse. I received three papers last week. The 3-20 issue was received on the 24th, which is better than usual. It usually takes 10 to 14 days. The February 14th and March 6th issues were received March 28th.

"I talked to our postmaster and he gave me the enclosed information and thought it might improve service if *The News-Journal* could do this."

"I still enjoy your column; it helps me keep in touch with old friends. Angus."

Thanks for the letter, Angus and I am sorry about the paper being late. I have given your information to Henry Blue and he will try to follow it and maybe this will get you the paper on time.

I attended the graduation exercises of the Leadership Hoke class at City Hall last Thursday. The class gave a Project Presentation entitled "High On Hoke." It was put on the computer and it will go out on the Internet. The project listed the educational facilities, child care, medical services, churches, history, recreation and other. The class members presented these different subjects.

I was disappointed that more citizens of the county didn't attend this exercise. It showed that these people who are new to the county have been well-versed in all aspects of the county. This will make their living and working here more enjoyable.

In talking with some of the class

members they said that they thought the school was worth attending and they felt it should be continued. The project is sponsored by Sandhills Community College and the Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce.

Someone left an article on my desk last week that was about how soybean products could prevent heart disease or cancer. The article was about a Professor Chenyang Wang of South Dakota State University.

There was also a negative side to the article, but if the findings are true, it should help the producers of soybeans. Many acres are planted in Hoke County.

Last week Paul Dickson, retired editor and publisher of *The News-Journal*, came by the house with some information I think will be of interest to readers of this column.

Dickson said that when he and his wife were returning home from an extended vacation, they had trouble with their vehicle. It was raining and the windshield wipers wouldn't work, which made it almost impossible to drive. He said Margaret noticed they had just passed a place that worked on this kind of vehicle. They took the next exit off I-95 in South Carolina and they returned to the service center. The name of the station was Brancota's place. Dickson asked me if I had ever heard the name Brancota. I told him that Williamsport Grays had a Brancota playing infield when

they trained here in the 1930s. This was the answer he wanted!

He stated that when he questioned the men at the station about his name and about Al Brancota, the man said that Al Brancota was his cousin and that he now lived in Phoenix, Arizona.

Paul's father had died the year before the baseball team from Williamsport trained here. He was helping his mother run the paper. A retired editor of the Williamsport daily paper by the name of Elmer Schuyler came with the team and he would wire back daily of the team's progress. Paul and Mr. Schuyler became close friends during this time.

Al Brancota and Lester McCrabbe came to Raeford about a week before the others arrived. They had been in training with the Philadelphia Athletics and they were sent down to Williamsport. They worked out with the high school team until the Grays arrived. Both of these players went on to play with Philadelphia and some time later McCrabbe was traded to the Washington Senators.

It is a small world, when 60 years later you run into someone whose cousin has crossed your path. I know that this story will cause a lot of people in Hoke County to scratch their heads and recall things that happened when the Williamsport team trained here.

If Jack Nicklaus plays at Augusta like he did last week, he could win the Masters again.

## Expo to be held

By Jen Osborn  
Staff writer

People who attend this year's Hoke Expo, Hoke/Raeford's second annual business exposition, may notice that things aren't quite the same as last year, said Judy Sheets, coordinator of the event.

"This year one major difference will be that during the day it's open to the public, we will have the opportunity to give different demonstrations," Sheets said.

She explained that many of the businesses involved will be giving demonstrations that pertain to their work. Other activities, like live music and performances by Raeford Dance Arts, will also be going on throughout the day.

Even though applications aren't due until Tuesday, Sheets said there's already been a larger response than

last year's business expo. However, she said businesses should sign up as soon as possible because there's a limited amount of booth space available.

So far, a variety of groups and activities plan to be on hand, with everything ranging from health care, to utilities, to industry and financial institutions, and even the Board of Education.

There is no admission fee for the public to attend the Wednesday, April 24, event.

"We're just hoping everyone will come out and enjoy it," Sheets said.

The Hoke Expo will run from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the National Guard Armory. Cost to exhibit is \$100 for an inside booth and \$200 for a large outside booth. Money raised will go to Chamber of Commerce sponsored projects, Sheets said.

For registration information, call Judy Sheets at 875-1203.

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