

CRMENOOK

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The Newsletter of Columbia River Mensa

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<http://www.crm.us.mensa.org>

MONTHLY DINNER MEETING January 28TH : PIZZA, CHOCOLATE, GAMES NIGHT!!

JANUARY 28th, 6 pm, (Saturday), 2148 Hoxie Avenue, Richland. Bring your favorite game or play ours, and bring change for pizza and drinks. We'll order out pizza and drinks, play the voted games, and munch and crunch the chocolate prizes from National (awarded for having the most test takers in our size group). A new member and poker aficionado may give us a demo. Contact: locsec at [crm.us.mensa.org](mailto:locsec@crm.us.mensa.org), or 946-8309.

ELLENSBURG MONTHLY GATHERING February 5th

From the new Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake.

Eastern Cascades Local Area EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org

We have finally figured out how/what to do for a monthly gathering.

Every first Saturday (**starting February 5, 2006**) from 10 - 11 a.m. there will be a no-host **brunch at The Matterhorn**. (101 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg 509-925-7200. Take Exit 109 [Canyon Road] off of I-90, drive North to the first traffic light and turn West (left). The Matterhorn is on the Northwest corner of Canyon and Umptanum.) The table will be marked with two wine glasses turned upside down. (We chose the first Saturday because we figured that if out-of-towners want to make a trip of it, they could come for the First Friday Art Walk and stay for Mensa Brunch on Saturday.) George and I will be there if nobody else is.

Contact: the new Co-coordinators, Alix Drake-Williams and George Drake, EasternCascadesArea@crm.us.mensa.org, 509-933-3117.

GREAT CONVERSATION!

Sign up for the Columbia River Mensa Talk email group. Send an email to CRM-Talk-request@lists.us.mensa.org with "subscribe" in the subject line. (New online-group manager needed.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!: Donald Taylor, George Drake, Alix Drake-Williams, Carl Strode, Michael Swailes, William Campbell, Ken Anderson, Kevin App.

Northwest Passages

by John Recht, Region 8 RVC

rvc8@us.mensa.org

It's easy to become holidayed right about now. My wish for you at the end of the year is that you take care of yourself and your loved ones. Don't let the pressure of stress and the tsunami of time carry you away; try to connect with the joy of the present moment, and appreciate the gift of being here, right now. I plan to mark the passage of the current year and welcome the new year in the company of my beloved, Linda, and a number of close Mensa friends, and I will look forward to having the opportunity to be with you all at the wonderful Mensa events that we have planned for the coming year.

Okay, do you have your 2007 calendar at hand? There is a smorgasbord of informative and entertaining get-togethers coming up in Region 8 in the coming months that I would like you to know about. First, on the weekend of February 24-

26, 2006, there will be a Leadership Development Workshop in Sacramento, CA. Any Mensa member, from any local group, who wants to know more about how Mensa operates and who would like to develop leadership skills is welcome to attend. There is no registration fee for this event. Please contact Assistant RVC Debra Reiger at 916-456-4595 or by email at debra.reiger@earthlink.net for more information.

Next, I invite up to 170 lucky Mensans to join me in my home town of Portland, OR for the 2006 edition of Mind Games, from April 21-23. Mind Games is an incredible experience in which Mensans play, judge, and critique games for an entire weekend, and finally award the coveted Mensa Select seal to the top five. This is a national event and may not return to Region 8 for some time. Registration through January 31 is only \$65, and you will find forms online at the National website at www.us.mensa.org. Come join in the fun!

One week after Mind Games, Oregon Mensa will hold their annual RG in Portland, OR, from April 28-30. BeaverRG IX promises to be another terrific get-together, and you'll find more information on the Oregon Mensa website at www.oregon.us.mensa.org.

Speaking of RGs, I want to congratulate San Francisco Regional Mensa for a fabulous event of the Thanksgiving weekend. RG Chair Erinn Height and her hard-working RG committee really put on the Ritz at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway smack in the middle of San Francisco, and I am looking forward with pleasure already to next year's edition.

With the World Gathering in Orlando, FL coming up in August, the Cosmology Colloquium in Albany, NY in October, and more Region 8 RGs planned for the fall in Sacramento, Seattle, and San Francisco, there will be plenty of opportunities to connect with your fellow Mensans in 2006. Hope to see you there! And to all of you, my best wishes for a joyful, healthy, and prosperous new year.

Article from the 8/05 *L.A. Mentary*, newsletter of Greater L.A. Mensa, written by Corrine

Schrall, and titled "Pensees...". Organization has never been one of my strong points. This is evident in my room, my office, my closet . . . anywhere that something could just as easily be placed in its proper location in the same amount of time that it takes me to throw it in its general direction.

Many other disorganized people, or slobs as I will affectionately call us, will say that it may appear messy, but they could find anything they need. Really, it's an organized mess. I used to say that, and actually believe it. Now I know I am living a lie. When I was younger, I used to know where some misplaced items were. Now, after the loss of many brain cells combined with the chances for disorganization increasing significantly (an office, a car), I have no idea where a good 45% of my property is at all times.

This is not a very good indicator for my future. I used to have some semblance of organization. Now, I am descending into total chaos. What happened?

My brother, who is five years older than I, gives me no hope either. When we were younger, his room was always the clean one. In high school, he'd start leaving his baseball equipment on the floor; then, in college, clothing and such; all leading to a room in his mid-twenties that took him four full days to clean. He wasn't finding things, he was excavating them. He accumulated \$62 in lost ones and fives. This is coming from the sibling that started out the neater of the two. . . The future isn't looking too bright for me.

If it is indeed a genetic thing, then that leads me to a more concerning question of who my real parents are. My mother is the most-organized, neatest person on the face of this planet. She knows where everything is and where it should be, including her children (this worked out well in high school—for her). She has always been this way. My dad, on the other hand, was a little more scattered, but not nearly to the magnitude that I am. My dad also has, over the years, been moving in the reverse direction of me. He has gradually grown neater until now, in his fifties, he is neat as a pin, and everything has its right place.

I have recently, in my tradition of over-extending myself, decided to do a major organizational overhaul. . . Because this is the smart thing to do.

But since I never learn from certain decisions, I plunged full forward into the mess. I wanted all my files filed; my clothes

organized by clothing type in my closet—perhaps in color order; the contents of my desk logically placed by importance in each drawer; absolutely everything clean and organized.

Well, it's gone just wonderfully so far. The right side of my balcony is spotless and all the plants are placed oh-so-perfectly, while the left side still looks like a tornado from last winter struck down on that exact spot. My bedroom has made great progress so far, too. I moved my bed to a corner of the room so I would have more space. During the week, that space just got filled with paper, clothing, and a conveniently situated bookshelf right behind my desk chair. The plan is to move the bookshelf to another wall, but I'm too lazy to go through the papers that block that area. Maybe I'll get to it this weekend . . . maybe.

Really, in the end, that's what it comes down to. My lack of organizational skills is a symptom of a greater weakness, my laziness. Oddly enough though, I'm a very determined and stubborn person when I set my mind towards a goal. This is a wonderful combination, and if there is a god, I will thank it one day for blessing me with such contradictions in character.

So it is a battle between my sloth and my drive. In the next few weeks they are going to duke it out. And while they do, I think I'm going to go watch some TV.

LOCSEC's RESPONSE-----I enjoyed the above article, even as I realized how much of it is about me as well. I have enjoyed the work on several positions for CRM, but the piles of stuff on the desks, counters, several "temporary" files, (and don't forget the closets) have surpassed the growth in membership. So far nobody is offering prizes for this aspect of the work (just ask Jim!). It will help to have a Chinook editor, but cutting back on other CRM business will be necessary for creating and maintaining a neat and functioning house and (we can always hope) life. I hope that this doesn't mean that the growth of the group will stay flat, or begin to decline. We are certainly not at a potential or ideal size as yet! That will take more Prolific Owl and chocolate award winning endeavors!! I suspect that only we members who have belonged to Mensa long-term, realize that it is a grass-roots organization, and requires input from members in order to function. If others take up activities I that I drop, we can keep the group growing. Some of the tasks to be dropped are listed below, and others will be listed as I become aware of what can be separated out.

TASKS NEEDING DONE:

Reserve a restaurant table (or game night location, speaker, etc.) one month ahead, inform editor, and remind members the day before.

Send a welcoming letter to new members or people offered a membership.

Call or send card to lapsed members and offer subsidy, transportation, activity suggestions, etc.

Maintain the group email chat group through National Mensa.

Arrange the group email directory through National Mensa.

Wrap and send publicity items to libraries in Group's area.

Choose test flyer and have printed and distributed to local bulletin boards, 2 x year, or as needed..

Keep media email contacts and notify month before of upcoming tests.

Keep testing location media contacts, and request reporter coverage of test or other events.

Reserve and decorate display areas at local libraries.

GROUP DIRECTORY-----News in Locsecs conference call is that Mensa National prefers that locals have their directory through them, for better security. I, or someone willing to handle this, will make arrangements and keep us informed.

WEB PAGE WARNING-----The newsletter in .pdf on the web site is slow to come up, but hang in there because it does eventually, and in very good form!

NEW EDITOR ON BOARD ----- **Welcome Beret Ing!** Beret has been putting the Chinook together for November and December, and will become our official editor in January. She lives in Grandview, which will perhaps be a healthy stretch for our base. She works at Heritage University in Toppenish, and has worked on newsletters before. If you want to contact her or if you have material to submit (please do!), send it to: Editor@crm.us.mensa.org.

Signs of the Times

From A.L. Temple

If life is a waste of time,
and time is a waste of life,
then let's all get wasted together
and have the time of our lives.
Armand's Pizza, Washington, DC

At the feast of ego
everyone leaves hungry.
Bentley's House of Coffee and Tea, Tucson, AZ

If voting could really change things,
it would be illegal.
Revolution Books
New York, New York.

No matter how good she looks,
some other guy is sick and tired
of putting up with her shit.
Men's Room
Linda's Bar and Grill, Chapel Hill, NC

And, lastly the ladies favorite ~~~
A Woman's Rule of Thumb:
If it has tires or testicles,
you're going to have trouble with it.
Women's restroom
Dick's Last Resort, Dallas, TX

Remember, it's not,
"How high are you?"
It's "Hi, how are you?"
It's "Hi, how are you?"
Rest stop off Route 81, West Virginia

It's hard to make a comeback
when you haven't been anywhere.
Written in the dust on the back of a bus,
Wickenburg, AZ

If pro is opposite of con, then what is the
opposite of progress? Congress!
Men's restroom House of Representatives,
Washington, DC

Make love, not war.
-Hell, do both
GET MARRIED!
Women's restroom
The Filling Station, Bozeman, MT



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