



Lohan in Rehab!

Fighting truth, justice, and the American way... since 1886

INSIDETHISSUE

The Following Takes Place Between the Days of December 6th 2006, and January 17th, 2007.
All Events Occur in Real Time

Tom Clancy Wishes He'd Thought of Polonium-210 Poisoning

Floridian Illegal Emigrants Flood Havana Following Castro's Death

MCCAIN

5 Dishes It Out Old School

GREEK AMBASSADORS

7 Sorority Affiliations

STUDENT/TEACHER

9 Be Afraid, Be Very Afraid

Other News 2

Basstard Confession 4

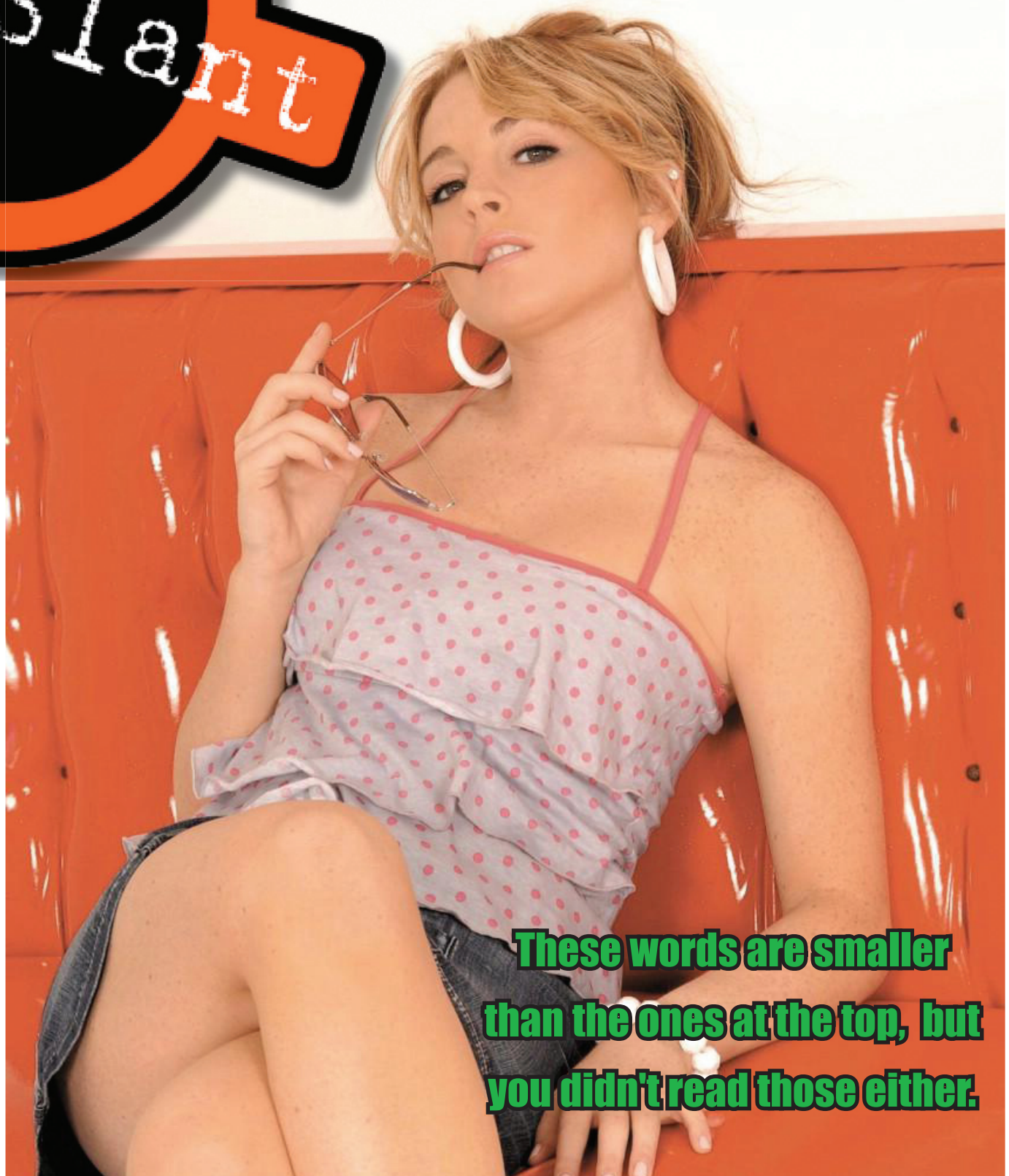
Nintendo Ad 10

Around The Loop 11

Examoscopes 11

Top Ten List 12

Dance Team 12



These words are smaller than the ones at the top, but you didn't read those either.

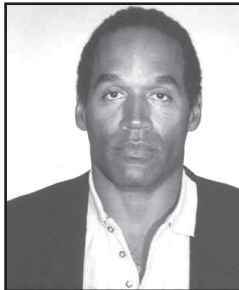
Bush Appoints Gates To Take Over Department of Defense



After firing Donald Rumsfeld in the wake of the 2006 midterms, President Bush announced that Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft and President of Global Nerds, Inc., will be taking over at the Pentagon. Gates is expected to use his expertise from the business world to develop a winning strategy for Iraq. Gates told reporters he planned to hardwire the Iraqi infrastructure using Windows XP. "The problem with Iraq," said Gates, "is that it has poor security features, the dialogue process has to be constantly re-started and the underlying infrastructure of Islamic Law is riddled with logic errors. Iraqis will take to Windows XP like ducks to water."

Fox to Air "When Former Football Stars Attack Their Wives"

Having run into public criticism for publishing an autobiography in which he describes how he would have murdered his wife, O.J. Simpson will instead be appearing in a new Fox documen-



tary to air this January. Simpson says he approached Fox after his autobiography was pulled from the shelves for being "tacky, tasteless and unbelievably insensitive." Simpson explained, "When I read people describing my book in these terms, I just thought this would be perfect for the good people at Fox." An anonymous Fox executive admits that Simpson did not have to do a lot of convincing. "Frankly," the executive admitted, "he had us at 'tacky.'"

Peace Activists Organize 1st Annual "Global Orgasm For Peace"



With dangerously high levels of aggression running through it's system, Donna Sheehan, 76, and Paul Reffell, 55, suggest that Mankind "just get laid" this December

22nd. Requiring everyone's help (including yours!), they are hoping that the large

amount of positive energy created through the Global Orgasm for Peace event will be enough to counterbalance the forces of evil and banish it to a parallel dimension. Hospitals are already gearing up for August 22nd, "Global Birthing for Peace" For more information, use a web browser to check out <http://www.globalorgasm.com>.



SGA, Interhall Collapse In Wake Of Castro's Demise

Cuba is not the only government dissolving in the power vacuum caused by the death of Fidel Castro. Both SGA and Interhall, long dominated by Castro proteges and strong allies of the Cuban dictator, have collapsed in the shockwaves following the announcement of his death. Observers point to the ill-timed referendum on the dissolution of both bodies. "Going into Thursday night," one anonymous Interhall rep commented, "everything was going. Then word came out that Castro was dead, and the rebels seized on the opportunity. By the time we managed to get the polls closed, it was too late." When asked why the autocratic regimes would even hold such a referendum, our source added, putting his head in his hands, "We were just trying to give ourselves the air of legitimacy. But without the Cubans to back us, there's no way we could keep our enemies quiet."

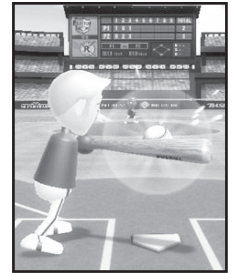
FUCKIN'

How cold it will be outside until February



Cubs Sign Student Based Solely on Wii Sports Performance

Adding to their off-season spending spree, the Chicago Cubs signed Northwestern University's Ethan Kremyr to a four-year deal based solely on his performance in "Wii Sports." Kremyr, a 19-year-old sophomore Computer Science major with virtually no athletic experience, hit .625/.625/2.750 with 12 home runs and 34 RBI in Tuesday's 3-inning exhibition game, including a monster 653-foot shot that clinched his team's 34-1 victory over the CPU team. Kremyr also pitched three solid innings, allowing one run on three hits. "Once our scouts saw him, we knew we had something special in our own backyard," said Cubs GM Jim Hendry. "We want to win a championship this year, and for \$14.5 million a year, Ethan Kremyr gives us the tools we need." Hendry and manager Lou Piniella are also hoping Kremyr can bolster an injury-plagued rotation, which has annually been set back by the aching arms of Kerry Wood and Mark Prior and the worms slowly eating away at Carlos Zambrano's brain. Meanwhile, the Cubs' division rival, World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals, have countered the deal by signing Brian Forster, who had a Hall of Fame pitching career in the PS2 game "MLB '06: The Show."



CUTLER MAKES FIRST NFL START



Former All-SEC Vanderbilt Quarterback Jay Cutler made himself at home in Invesco Field Sunday night, losing his first regular season start to the Seattle Seahawks 23-20. The Vanderbilt campus was brimming with anticipation as Cutler was once again forced to continually initiate running plays, despite his golden arm; and students waxed nostalgic as the Broncos engaged in sloppy play and poor line coverage that resulted in two Cutler interceptions. "Vanderbilt was concerned when Cutler had the best preseason passer rating," said ESPN's Trey Wingo, "and they'll be reminded that Vince Young and Matt Leinart had similar outings in their respective first starts. But they can be comforted by this perceived slip back towards mediocrity."

Cutler brought the Spirit of Gold to Denver on Sunday. Sucks for them.

12.06.2006 CONTENTS



POKÉMON ABUSE SPACE



We could have done this the easy way.
Now get in the damn ball, thunder rat.

NEWS

OTHER NEWS: Sports, Politics, and Sex **2**

POLITICS: Keep the Western Territories Free! **5**

FANTASY: How Does YOUR University Stack Up? **6**

COLUMNS & HUMOR

KRAMER: We Don't Get It..... **8**

HOPE: Pre-Med and Hopeful **9**

DESPAIR: Post-Doctrate and Bitter..... **9**

GIFTS: Do's and Don'ts in this Holiday Season..... **12**

SLANT FEATURES

GREEK AMBASSADORS: Secrets Revealed! For Real! **7**

EXAMOSCOPIES: Abandon All Hope..... **11**

AROUND THE LOOP: We're So, So Sorry **11**

TOP TEN: An Emo Christmas For All **12**

MASTHEAD



Eight days of lame gifts. . . since 1886.

188 Madison Sarratt Student Center
2301 Vanderbilt Place
VU# 351669 Station B
Nashville, TN 37235

Phone (615) 322-3291

Fax (615) 343-2756

website www.theslant.net

STAFF

Editor-in-Chief **Joe Hills**

Managing Editor **Alex Chrisope**

Editors **Tim Boyd**

Robert Saunders **Sean Tierney**

Technical Advisor **Michael Nutt**

Standards & Professionalism **Ana Arata**

Staff Manager **Rachel Unger**

Distribution Manager **Patrick Gentry**

Copy Editors **Chris Guandin**

Chris Stanford

Contributing Staff **Max Altman**

Chris Bellande **Jason Blatt**

Amelia Cousins **Robert Cuff**

Pablo Darelli **Matt DeVries**

Bobby Gibbons **Andy Hogan**

Sean Hymowitz **Ben Karp**

Aj Khandaker **Kevin McNish**

Casey Perry **Colin Rymer**

Chris Skene **Kris Stensland**

Meredith Trezise

Alumni Contributors

Andrew Banecker **Richard Green**

Jacob Grier **Ben Stark**

Jeff Woodhead

Editors Emeritus

Joe Wong **Mike Mott**

David Barzelay **Meredith Gray**

Colin Dinsmore **Ceaf Lewis**

POLICIES

Back Issues

Back Issues can be ordered by sending \$5.00 and a description of the issue desired (volume number and date, if possible) to the address above. Some issues are no longer available. For a back issue please e-mail backissues@theslant.net.

Subscriptions

Mail subscriptions available. \$30.00/year or \$20.00/ semester. E-mail subscribe@theslant.net. Postmaster please send address changes to 2301 Vanderbilt Place, VU# 351669, Nashville, TN 37235-1669.

DISCLAIMERS

This publication is a work of humor, parody and satire. None of the subjects or writers are intended to represent real people, unless those people are public figures. You must be over 18 to read *The Slant*. This publication and the content thereof does not always reflect the opinions of Vanderbilt Student Communications, Inc. Each member of the Vanderbilt community is entitled to one copy of this publication; additional copies are five dollars each. If *The Slant* offends you, do not read it. Support our advertisers.

Copyright © 2006, *The Slant*.
All rights reserved

IN VANUM LABORAT QUI OMNIBUS PLACERE
CONTENDIT

Corrections:

In Issue 6, we stated that a list of the sorority affiliations of every Greek Ambassador would be printed on page 13. Unfortunately, due to the superstitions of our printer, this page was never published. The list may now be found on page 7 of this issue.

FROM THE EDITOR



JOE HILLS

When I was a little kid, I thought writing would be a noble profession to pursue. People like R.L. Stine and Madeline L'Engle seemed to be giants, to say nothing of Louis Sachar and his ever-heartwarming stories of Wayside School. As with law or medicine, this noble profession is not the easiest field to break into. While pre-med and pre-law students take classes like Physics 117, or

History 170, I'm stuck taking classes like Physics 117 and History 170. And while they're busy taking notes and focusing on their studies, because they know that their respective grad schools will be examining their transcripts, I'm sitting in the back looking for inspiration, or arguing with the professor to ensure my participation grade is high enough to avoid work outside of class.

While the arguing may come naturally to me, finding inspiration can sometimes be a bit of a strain. Lately, I've been attempting to explore some of the inspirations of my current favorite authors. Shakespeare for example, wrote many of his plays around historical events or stories from centuries in the past, the authors of which had no legal recourse. Other authors, like David Sedaris, write about their lives and the terrible experiences they had as children and young adults trying to make it in the world. And just as physicists reckon total force as a sum of the vectors of each force, I reckon that if I could combine these different elements, I could create a beautiful fusion of literary art.

Wait. I have it. I believe the time is ripe for a play built around the life of Benjamin Franklin. His Autobiography provided dozens of anecdotes and amusing stories about his awkward youth, and his adventurous lifestyle lends itself easily to adaptation for musical theatre. The opening of the first public library will be remembered forever by loving fans through the soon-to-be classic *Check Me Out*. And who will be able to forget the electrifying *Go Fly a Kite*, or the passionate bilingual tit-for-tat in *French Kisses*? The soundtrack alone will net millions.

Wish you'd thought of *Frankly, I've Ben There*? Be careful what you wish for. You may think that you're ready to challenge the world with your artistic vision, but learning the intricacies of the arts requires more than just wishful thinking. I can proudly say I got where I am today by taking Pre-Medical and Pre-Dental physics. I knew it wouldn't be easy, but I also knew I'd sleep through the 8 a.m. only Physics for Poets. You only have so many chances to diversify your college experiences, take the ones where you can sleep in.

Bass-tard Confession



"I'm not an alcoholic.
Alcoholics seek help."

-A fish

Advertise in *The Slant!*

(prices negotiable)

Student Organizations

Full Page	\$150	9.75" x 10.75"
1/2 Page	\$90	5" x 12" or 10" x 6"
1/4 Page	\$45	5" x 6"
1/8 Page	\$24	5" x 3"
1/16 Page	\$12	1.75" x 3"

Individual Students

Full Page	\$125	9.75" x 10.75"
1/2 Page	\$75	5" x 12" or 10" x 6"
1/4 Page	\$33	5" x 6"
1/8 Page	\$20	5" x 3"
1/16 Page	\$10	1.75" x 3"

Contact slantads@gmail.com for details!

McCain Calls For Return To 'Original Republican Principles'

Slavery must not be allowed to expand into western territories, says Arizona Senator

By **TIM BOYD**

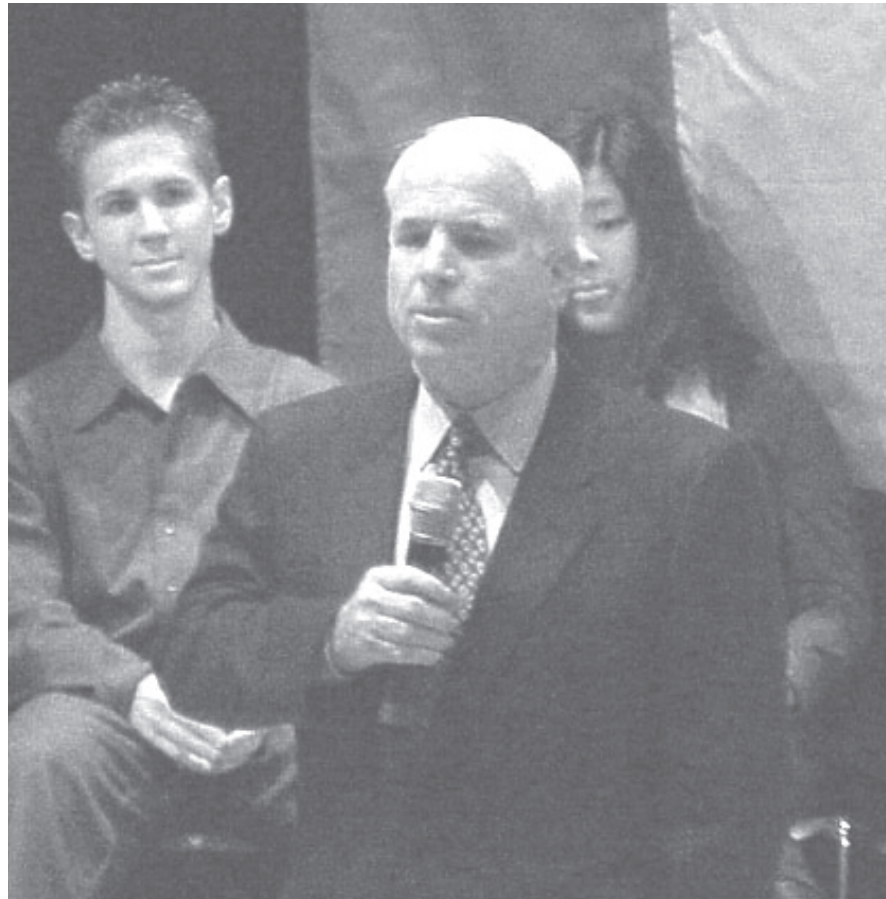
With both parties still adjusting to the impact of the Democratic capture of Congress in the recent mid-term elections, Arizona Senator and potential 2008 Republican nominee John McCain has called for his party to return to its "original principles." McCain claimed that the GOP's 2006 losses could be explained mainly by a betrayal of what Republicans were meant to stand for.

McCain made his argument in a speech to the Heritage Foundation a week after the results were in. After apologizing profusely for ever having dared to criticize the Republican leadership for anything, the Senator laid out his explanation for the recent electoral setbacks. "Our party has lost its way," McCain told his audience, "As Americans, we are taught to live up to the principles of our founding document - the U.S. Constitution. "As Republicans," McCain continued, "We need to focus on our own founding moment - that historic meeting of a few cranky moralists in Ripon back in 1854. It is the principles laid down at Ripon that will guide us back to power and me to the Presidency - which is why I say to you now, we must stop the expansion of slavery, turn back the papal menace that is daily flooding our nation with new Irish immigrants and thwart the southern conspiracy to rule the nation!"

McCain is widely considered a likely candidate for the Republican presidential nomination in 2008, and in recent months has been seeking to shore up his conservative credentials by speaking out against gay marriage and taking other socially conservative stands. The Heritage Foundation speech has accordingly been interpreted by some as a further attempt to appease the party's conservative base.

Richard Scaife, a Trustee of the Heritage Foundation, welcomed McCain's move to the right. "For too long, American politicians have been applying 20th century solutions to

disturbingly liberal elements. "While we appreciate that in the current P.C. atmosphere there are certain moral objections to supporting slavery, the attempt to prevent it spreading West



White males are encouraged by McCain's statements, while minority women look sad.

21st century problems," said Scaife, "It is clearly evident that they have failed, and I for one believe that it is time we tried some 19th century solutions. If that means a return to the gold standard, so much the better."

Despite Scaife's indications that McCain's conservative bona fides were now credible, not all on the right were convinced of this. The American Enterprise Institute (A.E.I.), a rival conservative think-tank, said that the Ripon platform of 1854 contained

by government action is a violation of free-market principles," said A.E.I. President Christopher DeMuth, "Likewise the Senator's desire to give away homesteads at below market prices is a further extension of welfare-state social engineering that no true conservative could support."

DeMuth further described McCain's criticism of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed those states to decide their form of government by "popular sovereignty," as a

"violation of the sacred principle of states' rights." Said DeMuth, "People are sick and tired of the federal government seeking to control their lives. Once again, Senator McCain is doing little more than spouting the far left's talking points and favoring Big Government."

The responses from the leadership of both major parties to McCain's comments were also on balance critical, with senior figures on both sides of the aisle accusing McCain of seeking media attention. Democrats, especially in Nancy Pelosi's office, are said to be upset at McCain's attempt to spark disagreement within Republican ranks. According to a source in Pelosi's office, the Speaker-elect is concerned that McCain's speech will distract media attention away from her attempt to single-handedly wipe out the Democrats' political credibility even before the new Congress assembles.

Meanwhile, White House Press Secretary Tony Snow also responded negatively to McCain's comments, describing the Senator's thinking as out of date. "We all respect the contribution that Senator McCain has made to our party," Snow told reporters, "but the agenda he is now advocating is hopelessly out of date and has no place in the modern Republican Party. It sounds like the Senator wants us to become little more than a collection of sanctimonious, xenophobic corporate shills who whip up popular support by scaring people with endless stories of unproven conspiracies. Today's Republican Party would never stand for that."

In a press statement responding to attacks on his speech, Senator McCain said that such criticism would not deter he would continue speaking out for what he believes in just so long as it doesn't upset any major Republican donors. ●

US News Higher Education Fantasy Recap

by KEVIN MCNISH



It's been a busy semester for all of you fantasy university managers. With shake-ups occurring throughout higher education, The

Slant's Guide to Fantasy University Management attempts to make sense of it all to put YOUR fantasy faculty at the top of the *US News* Rankings. After all, it's lonely at the top and we could use some company.

Allegations of lavish spending in the *Wall Street Journal* have prompted many fantasy Boards of Trust to drop Chancellor Gee at Vanderbilt. While this may damage Gee's Public Relations Efficacy (PRE) scores for a while,

conventional wisdom suggests that the damage will have a minimal impact on his other stats. On the other hand, if you find your squad sorely lacking in the PRE department and need production now, John T. Casteen III, president of the University of Virginia, would make an excellent substitution, having navigated UVA into the *US News* listing of "New Ivies" and having deftly handled swarms of living wage protestors last spring. Chancellor Gee could doubtlessly learn a thing or two from Casteen, but remember that every transfer beyond the first during the December transfer window incurs an extra severance package penalty during the holiday season.

Here at Slant U., we've not only kept Chancellor Gee in the lineup, but have also given him the captain's armband. He has quite a lot in common with Arsenal netminder Jens Lehmann,

including eccentricity, charisma, and an unmatched ability to stop Argentinian penalty kicks. The ball stops at Lehmann, and the buck stops at Chancellor Gee. Remember that the player selected as captain receives double points, but can't be substituted unless his university ceases to exist.

Rumors of Noam Chomsky's death earlier this fall have left many fantasy managers with a vacancy in the left-wing humanities position. Fortunately, there's no shortage at that spot in academia; the problem is finding the most in-form professors. Managers should definitely consider looking beyond some of the traditionally deeper elite private schools this year. Kevin Barrett at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a prominent member of the 9/11 Truth Movement, is already off to a good start by requiring that his students read an essay comparing

the Bush administration to the Third Reich. Though Barrett's future at the university is uncertain, fantasy managers should keep in mind that publications released after a professor has ended his or her affiliation with a university still count for precious Publication Points (PBP); Barrett has a book slated for print in 2007 entitled *Truth Jihad: My Epic Struggle against the 9/11 Big Lie*. His Mainstream Appeal (MA) score may be lower than average, but let's face it, you don't draft professors like him for MA scores.

Liverpool's Stevie G may be the best footballer in the world, but he's got nothing on Vanderbilt's own venerable Stephen G. Buckles when it comes to economics. "The Buckles" is a solid investment and delivers excellent returns statistically, and has some of the highest Teaching Effectiveness scores (TE) in the land. He'll give your

START 'EM

Vernon L. Smith, George Mason: Economics and law professor is at home anywhere on the field, and his impact on any match is undeniable. And did we mention his Nobel Prize?

Cesc Fabregas, Arsenal FC: Undoubtedly one of the most in-form "real" footballers, the Arsenal playmaker has taken an absurdly high 10 out of a possible 15 "Man of the Match" points in his last five Premiership fixtures. He's also a great addition to any language department, as he is fluent in English, French, Spanish, and Catalan.

David Oshinsky, University of Texas-Austin: Diverse academic pursuits combined with a Pulitzer Prize give you no reason NOT to start this multi-talented history professor. His work gives him excellent stats across the board--he's the Frank Lampard of history departments.

Andrew Z. Fire and Craig C. Mello, Stanford and UMass: These two shared the 2006 Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering RNA interference. While most boards of trust will be lucky to snag one, we recommend going for both if at all possible to fill your professional school slots. Think Wayne Rooney and Peter Crouch without the height difference. Or the robot dance.

SIT 'EM

Ward Churchill, University of Colorado-Boulder: Churchill has been on his way out for some time now, and while he generated no small amount of PRE last year with his incendiary and callous comments about 9/11 victims, investigations into his academic and personal life have turned up plagiarism and dishonesty, respectively. Like Everton star Tim Cahill, he was off to a fantastic start; like Tim Cahill, he also blew out a knee. Unlike Tim Cahill, however, he hates America.

Jerry Coyne, University of Chicago: Coyne is producing in all of the wrong ways. While an appearance on the "Today Show" in September certainly helped his PRE, his harsh criticism of religion landed this biology professor in hot water with middle America and severely damaged his PR and MA values.

Noam Chomsky, MIT: Formerly the standard by which all left-wing social science professors were measured--he was the veritable Pele of lefties--rumors of Chomsky's death suggest that you shouldn't start him.

B. Andis Hess, Vanderbilt: Don't let his high Honor Council prosecution rate fool you. This man will defy you to the very end.

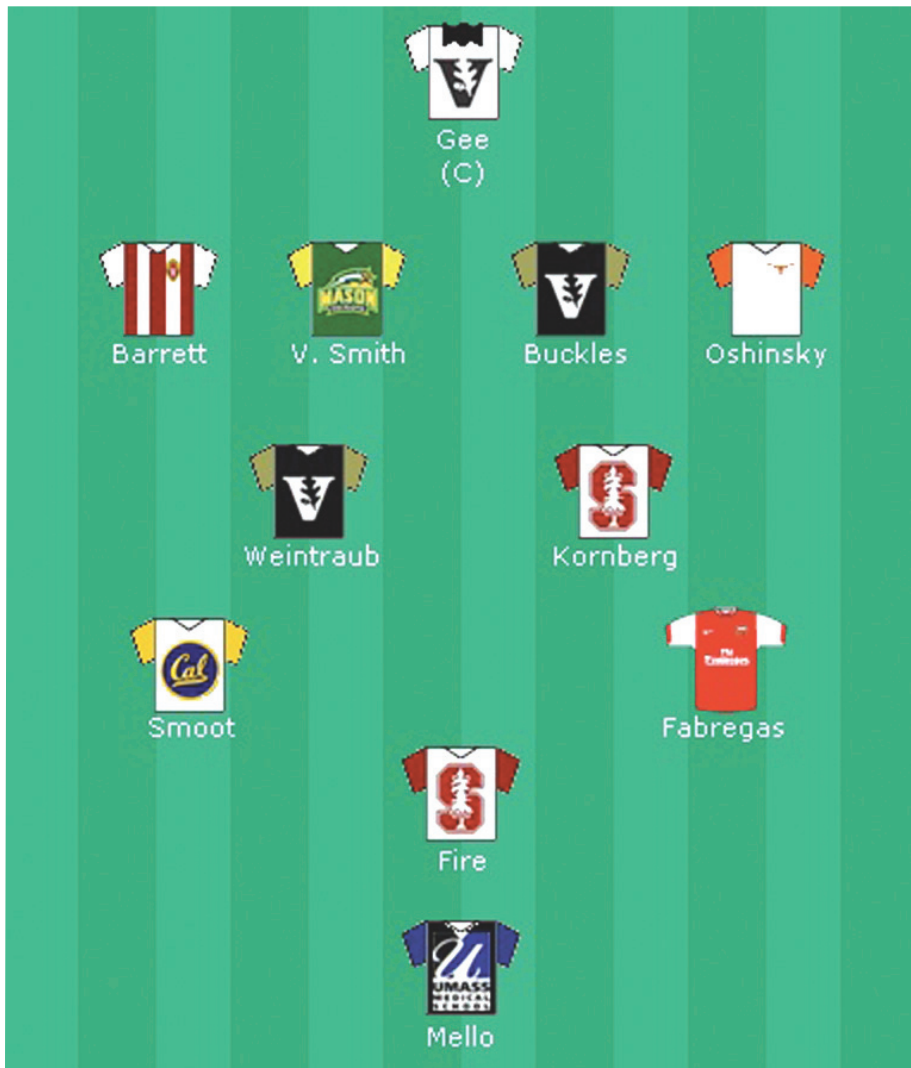
squad an absolute advantage.

Natural sciences have performed impressively across the board this semester in America. However, one professor that has been making an especially strong push recently is David Weintraub in Vanderbilt's star-studded Department of Physics and Astronomy. Weintraub recently published a book on Pluto's status as a planet in addition to giving a book signing at the swanky Davis-Kidd Booksellers in Green Hills, providing a major boost to both his PRE and PBP. The facebook.com group "When I Was Your Age, Pluto Was a Planet" is both one of the largest and fastest-growing groups on the social networking site, suggesting that his star will be rising for some time to come, not to mention his Public Resonance (PR) numbers.

With all of that said, we'd like to present our Slant Fantasy University

Dream Team for the *US News* Fantasy Higher Education League, with all of the most in-form players selected on our squad. You'll note that we favor a science-heavy offense, as we run a 4-5-1 without any engineering faculty, somewhat counter to conventional managerial wisdom. We're playing Smith somewhat unusually as Social Sciences professor instead of in a Professional School slot to bolster our back lines, and we're running Andrew Z. Fire, a medical professor and researcher at Stanford, as an attacking Natural Sciences professor to spark our midfield.

We are top of the table here at Slant University, however, unlike certain other publications. Barring any major changes, it appears that Hustler State, Versus Tech, and InnerVU College for the Liberal Arts are all headed for relegation. Watch us sit and laugh. ♣



#1 Team Slant U's Starting XI

VANDERBILT MEDIA LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Total Points
1. Slant University	705
2. Review School for the Humanities	692
3. Torch Extremely Private University	690
4. Freedom Press Free University	671
5. Tennessean Metropolitan Colleges	663
6. Inside Vandy Online Accelerated MBA Program	658
7. Register Cashier Academy	640
8. VTV Broadcasting School	625
9. City Paper SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS University	604
10. Talented Tenth University	597
11. Orbis Institute for Progressive Studies and Obscure Music	561
12. Geico Caveman Inserts Paleolithic A&M	543
13. WRVU Conservatory For Relentlessly Indie Music	526
14. Vanderbilt List-Serve dlr1 Bible and Racism College	514
15. Out and About Cocktail School	500
16. Commodore College Consortium	491
17. Nashville Scene School for the Arts	477
18. InnerVU College for the Liberal Clip Arts	463
19. Versus Tech	451
20. Hustler State	432

Greek UN Ambassador Corner
Sorority Affiliations Revealed

Adamantios Th. Vassilakis (2002-Present): His mom was a Theta.

Elias Gounaris (1999-2002): He dated a Tri-Delt once, but it flopped.

That Kramer's Still As Wacky As Ever

by **BERT SELLERS**

Dim-Witted Audience Member

Even after all these years, that Kramer's still just as wacky and unpredictable as ever. The other day, I was at the Laugh Factory--wait, I just got that; it's like a car factory, but for laughs--and boy was my funny bone tickled. I mean, it's not every day that you get to see a star like Kramer--the Cosmo Kramer, from Seinfeld--performing live. The minute he came out on stage, I started shouting, "Do the Soup Nazi," and, "What's the deal with airline peanuts?" You know, just like the show. But does he do the Soup Nazi? No. That would be far too predictable for the delightfully wacky character we've all grown to know as Kramer.

No, Kramer, who is actually a multi-talented actor named Michael Richards--who knew?--decided to test out new material on us, the unsuspecting audience. Now I'm not sure exactly what he was going for, but it sure was wacky. A few minutes into the performance--just like the episode where Jerry wears the suspenders and Newman wants to eat Kramer because... well, I forget, but it was funny--Kramer gets someone from the audience involved in his act. Now I'm no comedian, but Kramer's up there for about a minute, when this guy yells out from the back, "My friend never thought you were funny." Sensing something completely wacky and Kramer-like was about to happen, I shouted, "Oooooooohhhh," like I do whenever my boss calls someone into his office. People love when I do that.

But back to Kramer. So Kramer, much like when he was driving the Real Peterman bus tour and giving people pizza bagels on a donut--man, what a character--starts giving him the business. Now I'm not sure what this new character was supposed to be, but it still looked like Kramer, so it couldn't have been too different. Anyway, Kramer says back, "Fifty years ago we'd have you upside down with a

fucking fork up your ass." I don't remember that from Seinfeld, but it might have been one of the earlier seasons, like 1998 or so, before I started watching. Anyway, I yelled out, "Don't go there!" because people love it when I say that, too. I'm sort of the office comedian. They're always like, "Bert, you should be



What a cut-up!

in show business." But then who'd fix your credit score at Equifax? Carrot Top? Anyway, maybe I'll

try the "fork up your ass" line at the Christmas party next week. Jermaine will love that one.

Anyway, the fun didn't stop there. Kramer started walking around all whackily--much like he does when he's barging through Jerry's door and saying, "Hey buddy"--and tells another joke I don't remember from Seinfeld. Kramer says to the guy in the audience, "You can talk, you can talk. You're brave now, motherfucker. Throw his ass out. He's a n****! He's a n****! He's a n****! A n****, look, there's a n****!" I don't know, maybe George's father said it. Or Kenny Banya. At first, I didn't think that was very funny at all, so I said, "Oh no you didn't," but when Kramer started going, "Ooooohhh, oooooohhhh," I changed my mind. Everyone likes when people say, "Ooooohhh," but I've already said that.

Then, Kramer starts pacing around like when the Kenny Rogers Chicken place went up and drove him crazy with their neon red sign, and said, "They're going to arrest me for calling a black man a n****." At that point, I couldn't help but fall on the floor. "So true," I said. "So true." It was just like the Kenny Rogers Chicken episode, except for all the talk about black people.

And then that guy--he must have seen the episode with Jerry in the suspenders, because it was so much like when that guy yelled, "I have cancer" after Jerry said, "What's the deal with cancer?" So yeah, that guy starts yelling, "That's un-fucking called for, ain't necessary!"

At this point, I couldn't help but appreciate the genius of Kramer. I mean, he could have just walked away and counted his money like Jerry, or George, or Jay Peterman, but no, he's out there trying out new material. You've got to respect that. At the end of his act, when the crowd was all standing up--probably trying to give him an ovation or something--he ran off, too modest to accept any praise from his fans. Oh well, maybe he'll do the Soup Nazi later. 🍌



A FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US!

The Slant would like to use this space to thank the Vanderbilt community for its occasional readership. It is a true Festivus miracle. We hope you have a nice winter break, and we wish all students, faculty, and staff a fruitful Airing of Grievances and stirring Feats of Strength.

Taking This Exam Will Give Me a Chance to Demonstrate My Dedication to Learning

by **THANH PHAM**
SUPER-PSYCHED A&S SENIOR



Today's the day! After months of study, I finally reach the summit of the collegiate experience: the final examination, wherein I reveal the extensive knowledge I have cultivated concerning American history to the man who showered me with his benign wisdom, my professor.

You probably think the typical college student has only a passing interest in academics, applying most of his or her energy to such evanescent pleasures as casual sex, drinking, and other frivolous socialization. But my parents aren't paying \$40,000 a year for that.

If the poor guy has to dredge through twenty-four poorly written essays, why not give him one great one to pore over? I try to go above and beyond, not just rehashing the notes, but really applying them using critical thinking. I want to be that one, the diamond in the rough that makes him jump up and go, "Hey!" I know that when he gives us that test and says, "Good luck," he means it.

Of course, it doesn't hurt to soften the guy up before the big test. All teachers really enjoy it when students engage with them after class; it gives them a chance to really know you on a personal level instead of being just another face. I have tried to chat with my history professor almost every day, even during his office hours. These conversations are even more special because I told him his history class has inspired me to go to medical school and get involved in finding a cure for cancer. Did you know that if we put just a fraction of the money that we've spent on the Iraq war into cancer research, we could find a cure in a generation? Neither did my professor, but he seemed really interested. Oh, and I wanted to show my appreciation for being able to take his class one more time, so I wrote him a thank you card and got him an iPod Nano.

Our professors take salaries well below what they deserve just to enrich the lives of the next generation. The best way we can repay them is to be attentive in class and take their exams seriously. It's hard, but I know my professor will respect me all the more for it. 🍌

The staff of *The Slant* wishes you a safe trip home. Tell your mom we said "hi" and to keep the back door unlocked for us.

Grading This Exam Will Finally Give Me the Chance to Crush My Students' Dreams

by **TIM BOYD**
SUPER-JADED A&S PROFESSOR



You might think that after 25 years of teaching, grading exams would have become something of a chore. "Why someone as brilliant as you," I picture you thinking, "cannot possibly derive any pleasure at all from reading the poorly

prepared scrappy arguments that students submit in their finals." "Surely," you probably reason, "your intellectual needs cannot be satisfied by the drivel that even the most well-meaning undergraduate produces in a vain attempt to regurgitate a fraction of the finely honed material they have been fortunate enough to hear you expound on over the previous three months?"

Well, first of all, if you were thinking that, it is an abysmally constructed run-on sentence. But above all, what you have underestimated is that when you've resigned yourself to never advancing beyond your current rank (if I'd have known she was the Chancellor's daughter I'd have saved the rohipnol for someone else) and being stuck in the classroom until old age takes one to the blissful land of senility, you have to find unorthodox ways to amuse yourself. As such, I now derive most of my entertainment from destroying the self-esteem of those who in later life will no doubt be living far more fulfilling lives than me.

I'll admit that in my early years as a faculty member, how little my students seemed to retain of what I had taught them depressed me. I would get answers explaining how the American Revolution was "a really important event that shaped the lives of lots of really famous people," or that slavery was "very evil and makes me sad," and each time, a little piece of me would die at the thought that anyone would think such sentiments even deserved the title of a "thought." No matter how often I patiently explained what a "thesis statement" was, I would still get essays claiming they would make such groundbreaking contributions to scholarship as "showing that the Civil War happened" or arguing that "Puritans were religious people."

But over time, I learnt that there was a better way to handle this. Instead of getting frustrated, just get vindictive and enjoy it. So now, after facetiously wishing all my students "good luck"

(hah! As if luck can compensate for their woeful ignorance) in the exam and assuring them that I want to do well, I design questions to deliberately trip them up. When I collect their bluebooks in, I take them home, open up a nice bottle of scotch, put on some Wagenerian music and proceed to tear their exams to shreds, all the while laughing maniacally at their pathetic musings.

Cruel, you say? Not at all. Frankly, it's legitimate payback for having to feign enthusiasm when any one of them grasps even the most basic point ("Dr. Boyd, I think smallpox had a very bad effect on the Native Americans") or having to describe some idiotic statement ("Why didn't the North win the Civil War by using an atomic bomb?") as an "interesting question."

You're probably skeptical that all my students are as dumb as this. Surely, you think to yourself, there must be some diamonds in the rough, some young man or woman who really engages with the topic and keeps the flame of pedagogic passion alive in me. Of course there are occasional kids in the class who are bright, but they're even worse. Do you honestly think that I, having long since lost any hope of my genius being given the recognition it deserves, enjoy seeing smart, youthful, enthusiastic people who will probably be able to get the glory that was rightfully mine? Please.

No, they are far worse. They show up on time, they do the reading, they ask relevant questions. They even have the nerve to engage me in out-of-class discussions about just how "fascinating" they think history is, and how it's helped them in their decision to find a cure for cancer. Well, I may have to smile through it for the entire semester and make nice with them, but come exam-time, I can vent my resentment in a senseless but satisfying attempt to crush their spirits.

The fun part about this is that the smart ones never see it coming. In fact, they quite often actually look forward to tests and exams as a way to impress you. One girl in particular actually left me a cute little gift with a card expressing her gratitude for being able to take my class. How sweet! I'll be sure to take extra care to grade her final so that she'll get the C- that keeps her out of med school. Ah, that's going to feel good.

Anyway, as I hope you now realize, exam week is not a time for stress or extra work when you're in my position. Oh no - it's about wanton sadism. And having a good time reveling in the misfortune of others. Happy Christmas! 🍌



Wiist Side Story

Publisher: Rockstar

Show off group coordination through gang style dancing. The Wii technology allows you to perform your best dance moves in time with music and plot from the classic Broadway musical.



Rocky

Publisher: Ubisoft

Conquer your self doubt and and large flights of stairs in order to sharpen your abilities and ultimately lose to your opponent, Apollo Creed. Open the Eye of the Tiger.



Wii Sports Collection 3

Publisher: Nintendo

In the most anticipated game of the new year, Wii Sports Collection 3 will include five soon-to-be favorites: Curling, Caber Tossing, Croquet, Underwater Basket Weaving, and Cycling.



Channel Surfer

Publisher: Midway

Using the Wii remote as a remote, players search the channels of television attempting to locate the mythical show worth watching. (Requires internet connection)



Excess Celebration

Publisher: EA Sports

Spike the pigskin and dance the funky chicken. Shake your groove thing like never before while figuring out just how much dancing one can get away with after a touchdown.



Bible Adventures 3-D

Publisher: Wisdom Tree

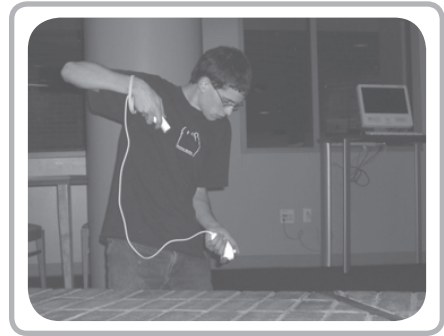
Reenact the gore of your favorite chapters of *The Bible*. Wii technology allows finely detailed depictions of each book of *The Bible* that are as fun to watch as they are to play.



Drum Kit Hero

Publisher: RedOctane

Jam out the tunes in the most recent title in a growing genre of gaming. Feature tracks include "Pour Some Sugar on Me" by Def Leppard and "One Angry Dwarf and 200 Solemn Faces" by Ben Folds.



Grave Digger

Publisher: Sega

When a series of tragic events and odd illnesses turn a thriving metropolis a city of death, a young man must use his brain, brawn and courage to get the job done.



The Godfather

Publisher: Electronic Arts

Work your way up through the ranks of the world's most famous organized crime syndicate. Wii targeting features allow hitman, execution, and drive-by style hits.



Wii Meditate

Publisher: Midway

Can you reach Nirvana? Game features include soothing sounds of nature and a clock. Attempt to escape the Wheel of Reincarnation in Wii Meditation.



Volunteer Firefighter

Publisher: Konami

Turn your living room into a veritable Dante's *Inferno* in Wii Firefighter. Gameplay allows for multiplayer including such features as pole races, strategic arson, and group extinguishing.



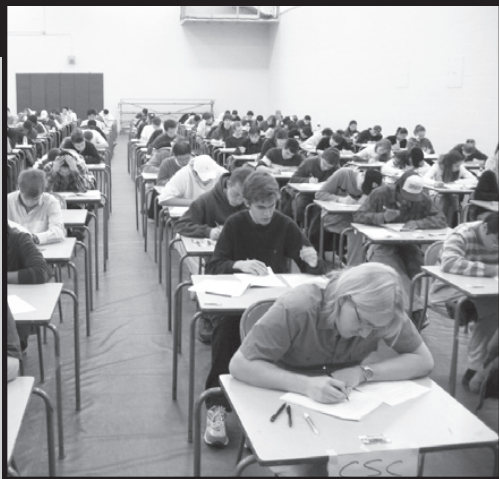
Wii University

Publisher: Electronic Arts

In this RPG, players must complete difficult social tasks in order to win Wii U's Most Outstanding Senior Award, such as playing beer pong, writing papers, and buying new clothes to avoid doing laundry.

AROUNDTHELOOP

How much do you hate finals?

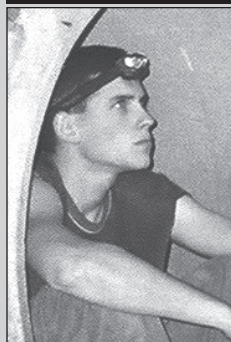


Andrew Banecker, Alumnus



“I hate finals more than the mother who was recently convicted of putting her baby in the microwave hates waiting for the oven to preheat.”

Joe Hills, Editor-In-Chief



"Out... just get out."

Andrew Banecker, Alumnus



“What? Too soon?”

Rachel Unger, Staff Manager



“I can’t even look at you. How could you say that? How... how could you?”

Colin Dinsmore, Editor Emeritus



“Do you even have a soul?”

Andrew Banecker, Alumnus



“What? I thought it was funny. Hey, don’t leave. Rachel, Colin... listen, I’ll reword it to “baby nuker hates non-microwave safe children. What?”

SLANTEXAMOSCOPES

MUSP 193:

You will be shocked that your jury panel also includes a judge and executioner. Don’t worry; just imagine all of them in their underwear and you’ll calm right down.

PSCI 100:

Even though you won’t know any of the answers on the exam, you can at least reflect on the irony that having spent a semester learning the principles of democratic theory, the final grade you receive will depend entirely on the whim of the autocrat who is your Professor.

MATH 127A:

The only probability equation you’ve managed to learn so far is that the $P(\text{fail}) = .01$, which unfortunately won’t be on the final.

ECON 100:

You will burst into tears when you realize the answer is C, but you can’t explain why.

HIST 170:

Your final will do to your grade what General Sherman did to Georgia. Even worse, there will be no Reconstruction for your GPA.

BSCI 120 and ASTR 101:

“King Philip just served us nine pizzas” is not a useful mnemonic no matter how much you think it is.

GER 102:

Remember what "schadenfreude" means when everyone is laughing at you during your presentation.

AHST 110:

You will be disappointed that the “slide” portion of your exam does not take place next to the swingset, but honestly, that stuff is for HOD majors anyway.

HOD 1700:

What’s an exam?

THTR 170:

You will fail all of your other classes since you spent the last week editing your crappy short film. But at least you didn’t have a written exam!

BSCI 100:

Your grade in this class will plummet since you didn’t know until half way through the course that trees were actually alive.

CMST 241:

No matter how funny you think it is, Sloop will probably not take kindly to your paper concerning "The Socializing Effects of Alcohol on Your Mom."

Holiday Gift Guide: For Her

Do

Top Ten Most Depressing Holiday Plans

- 10** Implicitly confessing to the unsolved murder of your ex-wife
- 9** Officiating snowball fight between Crips and Bloods
- 8** Looking for traces of Polonium 210 in your Christmas ham
- 7** Explaining Kwanzaa to your white friends
- 6** Being the only person at the "kid's table" old enough to have bourbon in your egg nog
- 5** Freaking out, knowing that someone's watching you when you're sleeping, and knows when you're awake.
- 4** Listening to your Great Aunt tell the same story over and over and wishing her inoperable colon cancer would finally kill her off
- 3** Enlisting to fight in the War on Christmas, only to be sent to Iraq instead
- 2** Giving your 11-year-old neighbor "Jesus juice"
- 1** Watching mommy being touched inappropriately by Santa Claus



PLASTIC SURGERY

You're only one operation away from actually having the girl of your dreams. They may not be real, but neither is her personality.

LINGERIE

Slutty Mrs. Claus is the perfect way to keep your lover under the sheets rather than at the mall.



GIFT CERTIFICATES

The perfect way to get your girlfriend out of the house. Just don't make it cash. Girls love money but they don't like being prostitutes.

Do Not

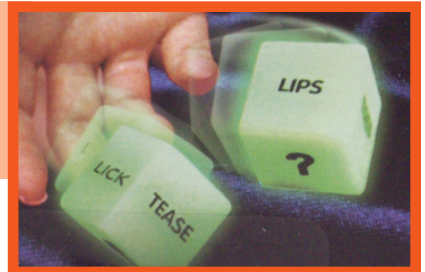


JEWELRY

Necklaces, bracelets, and earrings all resemble rings, which remind girls of marriage, which will inevitably lead to you meeting her parents. Even if the gold is fake or the pearls plastic, the commitment inherent in giving jewelry is as real as the implied consent.

SEX TOYS

If you feel like you need to get her one, she probably already has one.



PROPHYLACTICS

Girls buy tampons, guys buy condoms. "Female Pleasure" won't get you out of this one. Don't even think of getting her a sponge, female condom, or one of those wirey things. The more it resembles a clotheshanger, the further you are from some holiday loving.