LJ Book

Your Most Personal Book.

FINCHER69

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1.1 June

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[1]Sender: Tracy Sender: Tracy

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002cy4t/

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2000

2.1 January

2.1.1 (2000-01-26 19:19)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00029kbs/

2.1.2 (2000-01-28 19:20)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002afex/

2.2 February

2.2.1 (2000-02-20 19:22)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002br48/

2.3 June

2.3.1 (2000-06-20 19:06)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001t8dk/

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2001

3.0.2 (2001-06-05 19:05)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001sb29/

3.1 September

3.1.1 (2001-09-27 19:00)

[1]Sender: Mark Sender: Mark

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001p9az/

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2002

4.1 October

4.1.1 (2002-10-05 19:04)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001rhp5/

4.1.2 (2002-10-06 18:51)

[1]Sender: Mom and Dad Sender: Mom and Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001f9y2/

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2003

5.1 January

5.1.1 (2003-01-23 18:59)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001k9cq/

5.2 March

5.2.1 (2003-03-20 19:03)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001qah8/

5.3 April

5.3.1 (2003-04-04 18:54)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Michigan

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001hf53/

5.3.2 5k (2003-04-05 10:23)

Race for humanity 5k
31:33

5.4 July

5.4.1 8k (2003-07-19 10:26)

Crazy 8's 8k
56:58

5.4.2 (2003-07-22 18:52)

```
 [1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
San Francisco
```

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001g1qt/

5.4.3 (2003-07-28 19:09)

```
 [1]Sender: Booty  Sender: Booty
```

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001y83b/

5.5 August

5.5.1 (2003-08-04 19:10)

```
 [1]Sender: Heather  Sender: Heather
```

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001z6pc/

5.6 September

5.6.1 5k (2003-09-20 10:25)

Rythm and Roots 5k
30:48

5.7 October

5.7.1 (2003-10-20 19:11)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00021kxs/

5.8 November

5.8.1 (2003-11-15 19:23)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Oakland, CA

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002pdpy/

5.9 December

5.9.1 (2003-12-15 19:08)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001xxrt/

Chapter 6

2004

6.1 January

6.1.1 entries from old blog pg 11 (2004-01-04 14:04)

yep yep yep uh huh - August 15, 2003, 8:50 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Like I said earlier, it looks to be almost weekly updates. But now I am back down in Auburn for good so I am sure the updates will start picking up, though I can't garauntee any uplift in excitement. Had fun at Wild Dunes right next to charleston. Went with the fam and of course my timing was bad and Mark was leaving as we were going there so I missed him, but I did get to hang out with Penny and see Los which was really cool. Woulda seen another friend but he gave me the wrong number for his cell phone so that made it a little difficult to get a hold of him. At one bar that Penny and I went to I ordered a Jager and coke and got the usual odd look from the bartender. Then she asked where I was from (like only some weird foreigner would ask for that drink). The next day I am out shopping with the fam and go in Lucky jeans. I am looking around then I look at the girl behind the counter and we both give the "hey, don't I know you from somewhere" look then she says, "Jager and coke, Tennessee right?" and sure enough she was our bartender from the night before. Pretty funny stuff. Drove back to auburn on wednesday, went out with lauren and some of her friends that night. I figure going out drinking is the best way to prepare for TA training. :-) First day went well. If I remember the tally, we have 4 grad students from china, one from turkey, one from india, two from mexico, then I think everyone else is domestic. Quite a spread for sure!! I am sure they are smart, but I kinda feel sorry for some of the kids cuz there were a couple folks with very broken english. oh well, I'm sure they will make it just fine. Well, now it's off to my second day of TA training. Hopefully it won't last as long. Yesterday went to 2:30 which isn't THAT long of a time, but I mean an hour is stretching my limits of sitting still and paying attention, much less 6. Gotta run a couple errands after training then it's weekend time!!! woohoo!!

up up and away!!! - August 9, 2003, 7:46 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Man, at this rate this blog thing is just going to become a weekly update. I'm a slacker. Actually once I start school I will probably go stir crazy for a while so I will get on here all the time for something to do. Geez, that isn't far away at all. Got a few good days of wakeboarding in earlier in the week. Went to winston salem to see Tracy for a few days. That was a lot of fun. I hadn't seen her since my freshman year so it was fun to sorta catch up and just hang out. Didn't get into much exciting, mostly just took it easy but it is always fun to hang out with someone else who is semi-retarded :-) She even made my quote page! She had this spastic dog named Trinity who I think had a crush on me. She cracked me up. She kept ignoring

tracy when she asked her to do something, then I would tell her to do it and she would go right too it. Then tracy would get all mad at her. (not for REAL mad). I guess you had to be there. it was funny to watch. Also got to play some old school nintendo which is ALWAYS a blast. Played some good ol' Contra, Double Dragon, Mega Man, and Super Mario 2 and 3. Kick ass!! Well, we are getting ready to head to Wild Dunes which should kick ass cuz it is right next to charleston so I should get to see some folks. Then heading to auburn on wednesday!! Fun stuff. Til next time Finchskateers!!

ooooooohehahahahehehooooooooo! - August 4, 2003, 8:12 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another few quite exciting days. It was altogether a pretty darn good weekend. I thought it was going to kinda suck because AGAIN I couldn't get anyone to come up. But Brian took the weekend off and was out at the lake and so I got to see some old high school folks that I hadn't seen in years and consumed my share of alcohol friday and saturday nights. Both nights I was doing pretty well and starting to slow down on the drinking, then we played Asshole. And of course, I suck so I was usually the asshole so I was drinking all the time. It was still a lot of fun. Got some good wakeboarding in too, even though I did eat it a few good times and I am definitely a little sore now. No pain no gain. Watched Super Troopers yesterday. Definitely a funny and entertaining movie. Talked to tracy, a friend I haven't seen since freshman year, for a bit last night and I am going to visit her on wednesday which should be cool cuz it has deifnitely been a while. Come back here friday, head to the beach with the fam on saturday. Since I will be right by charleston I will get to see a bunch of my old furman folks who ended up there which is going to be really cool. Then I head to auburn next wednesday and start TA training thursday. Man, that sounds so soon! Should be a lot of fun though. I have been bored enough lately that I am definitely beginning to look forward to starting up. I probably won't touch this thing til I get back to auburn, but I will be sure to remember anything exciting that goes on. :-)

dingleberry sundae - August 1, 2003, 1:14 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
uh.... yeah. nothing too special the past couple of days. same old same old in auburn (i.e. video games, computer, guitar, TV) only difference was that I played with my pedalboard a ton and made my fingers so dadjum sore I couldn't play guitar for a day and a half. But I am still stoked. It's so frickin' cool. Drove home today. Stopped in Gville and had pizza and watched Daredevil with bobby (he rented it, not me.) I looked like a super cheesy movie, I mean Ben Affleck? as an action hero? HAHAHA that's pretty laughable to begin with. And it did all sorts of cheesy effects and overall it was a pretty cheeseball/lame movie. Good for a laugh though. Now I am back in bristol, played some more guitar and pool down in the basement now I am likely to piddle around online then hit the sack in not too long even though I am nowhere close to tired. There just isn't enough going on in bristol this late. Too bad it's like pulling teeth to get people to come up to the lake (which I will never understand) cuz it's always a helluva lot more livelier when I have friends up here. oh well. It's also my last full weekend at the lake before school. Kinda sad, but I think I am definitely ready to get back into the swing of things. Hopefully it won't kick my ass :-)

The gentle hum of ambiguous deception - July 28, 2003, 1:51 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
The fam got back today which means I got to go out to the lake and go wakeboarding which is always a good thing. It was pretty crowded but it's definitely better than not getting on the lake at all. Sorta just took it easy the rest of the day then caught an old friend on IM and ended up talking on the phone for a good while. It's always cool to talk to people you have hardly been in contact with for years and catch up on what is going on in their lives. She's the second friend that I have talked to recently whom I hadn't really talked to much in the past 3-4 years. It's almost like meeting new people, but you have a good idea what the person is going to be like. :-) fun fun fun. Well that was about all that was exciting today. Gotta try to get both my cars worked on tomorrow and I got a dentist appointment then heading back to auburn. There

I will get to play with my new guitar pedalboard that I ordered. I'M EXCITED!!!! It totally kicks ass. I can't wait!! :-) woohoo!! Ok, I guess I should think about bed soon. I guess.....

ho hum - July 27, 2003, 12:50 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
another exciting few days. chilled with Mariette yesterday and last night. Drank too much so I took it easy today. She had to leave around lunchtime to be back at work. Watched a movie at home, got a bunch of my old school nintendo games back from brian then took a nap at the lake. Got bored so I headed back to the house to wait for derek and megan to call me, but neither did. So since I didn't hear from them and didn't hear from brian I didn't feel like going back out to the lake and sitting there by myself so I have just been chillin at home. ordered pizza, watched tv, played guitar and piano, and played some pool. Nothing to exciting by any means. After spending some time in auburn I am getting decent at entertaining myself. :-) I sure hope jenny and anna actually come out to the lake next weekend. I only have a few more lake weekends left before I head down to auburn and I would really like it if they aren't as dull as this one has been. I can only hope. Well, I think I am going to play around on the computer some more then just hit the sack. At least my fam gets back from the beach tomorrow so I can go wakeboarding and there will be people around which will be cool.

um diddly diddly ay - July 25, 2003, 12:42 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
nothing too exciting the past several days, hence the lack of updates. Went up to greenville and hung out with bobby and erin which was a lot of fun since I don't see them very often anymore. Bobby keeps himself pretty busy :-) Had lunch with bobby, jenny, and anna which was a lot of fun since I hadn't seen them in a little while either. Too bad they couldn't come up to the lake. this will be weekend number 2 at the lake with no guests. At least Derek said he will come out so I won't have to chill at the lake alone. :-) And mariette might make it for a brief stint which would be cool too. well that about sums up the past several days. nothing too exciting in the near future so it might be a couple days before my next update

8k..... yeah - July 20, 2003, 11:15 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
howdy ho!! took it easy and read a book the evening after getting back from san francisco. Next day (yesterday) got up, went to the lake, went wakeboarding a little bit, then chilled at the house preparing for the 8k I had to run that night. To preface my 8k experience, my training consisted of eating a lot of seafood and drinking a lot of beer in san francisco, running 1 1/2 miles one time the week before that, and running a few times back in like april/may. Not EXACTLY what most people would consider to be the most strenuous training regimine in the world. Anyhoo, we did have to walk a couple times, but not for long. (it didn't help that I got a side stitch a mile and a half into it) But we (me and mom, she's the one who got me to do it) finished without dying which was pretty high on my list of goals for the race. We also wanted to finish under an hour, which we did. Something like 56'40"ish. Not exact break-the-sound-barrier speed, but not too shabby for the likes of us. My body is definitely talking to me today. Since the race was just last night (started at 9:58 PM to be precise) my muscles are still in the "tight and resentful" stage. Just a little stiff and definitely not liking what I put them through last night. Tomorrow will likely be the "sore because we hate you" stage which should be hordes of fun and excitement. I'll probably make them even happier when I try to wakeboard today before I head to auburn. Man, my body is gonna LOVE me!!! Well there's the synopsis of the past several days since I haven't hopped on here. Not forseeing anything too exciting happening in the next several days, but I will probably make entries just for the hell of it :-)

bumblejooky - July 17, 2003, 11:49 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment

A good last day in San Francisco. Nothing too strenuous. Went to the science museum then walked about 3 miles through golden gate park to the ocean. had a beer, took it easy in the hotel room, went to our usual bar to have another couple of beers, went to dinner, then headed back to the room. Just chillin here til it's time to go to bed, but it has been a nice relaxing last day. It's definitely been a blast but I'm ready to head back to the lake this weekend!! woohoo!! :-)

kayaking - July 17, 2003, 12:32 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another great day in San Francisco. After finally getting to the kayaking place I had an awesome overview of all the basics of sea kayaking. It's amazing how it can be so similar, yet have so many similarities to white water kayaking. It was a blast, but I still think I am more of a whitewater kayaker at heart. :-) Put sunscreen on my face, but kinda forgot about my arms so those got nice and fried. So it goes. Came back and took it easy. Wrote a bajillion postcards til dad got home then we went grabbed a few beers then went to dinner. Had an awesome pistacchio (sp?) crusted halibut which was definitely unique and very good and had a few more brews with dinner. We then moseyed back to the hotel (by way of taxi of course) and have just been taking it easy. Tomorrow we are just taking it easy some more and chillin in San Francisco. It's our last day here and I don't think we have any big plans. Just going with the flow. Should be fun as always!

6.1.2 entries from old blog pg 10 (2004-01-04 14:04)

magnanamous hehehehe - September 5, 2003, 6:25 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
man, I think I definitely did the wrong thing by deciding already that I am going to leave auburn after this semester. I can't quit now because of TA duties, but if I could go ahead and leave I probably would. I just kinda feel stuck in this place that I don't really belong, doing something that isn't really beneficial to me at all. TAing isn't bad at all, and classes aren't terrible, but it's all physics stuff and knowing that I am going back to computer science means that what I am doing now has basically no benefit other than just having a unique life experience. I don't know many people who essentially took intro level physics in undergrad, then did a semester of physics grad school before switching back to their original major. What can I say? I'm unique. :-) Or just plain odd as most people say. A couple of my friends came up with like 30 synonyms for me and all were pretty close to being synonyms for weird/odd/etc. Better than being normal. I don't think I could take it. Good thing since I don't think I will ever be anywhere near normal. Well since I hardly know anyone here I have a feeling it will be a fairly uneventful night and weekend. I have a ton of labs to grade and some homework to do. Exciting stuff. Man, who woulda thunk that I would ever include that kind of thing in my description of what I am up to this weekend. Not I, not I. At least I only have a few months to get through of this and as soon as christmas break rolls around I am totally done which kicks ass. I am thinking that I will very likely end up at app state and I can't wait. I wanna visit campus and stuff but I am really looking forward to it and I can't wait to get up there. It is definitely more my kind of place. Well, back to chillin on what's looking to be a very relaxing friday night.

Roper landed a tantrum! - September 2, 2003, 11:36 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another great long weekend up at the lake. Had a good group of people up too. The wake was ENORMOUS!! I just wish I had tried more new stuff the first day. Didn't really realize how out of shape for wakeboarding I had gotten until I woke up on the second day. :-) I am still major feeling the pain, but hell it was definitely worth it. As my title says Roper landed his first tantrum which is pretty sweet. I told him he should have tried it a long time ago. Man, that means I really need to step it up and start trying more new stuff. I haven't really improved much over the past several years which kind of sucks. I wish I had someone to consistenly ride with who just rocked so I could get pointers and stuff. Had a good little convo

with the parents about life plans while I was home too. It's looking more likely that I won't bother with a second semester at auburn. I don't think I am obligated by any kind of contract and my lease runs out at the beginning of january anyway so I may take the spring to get reorganized and start settling down wherever I am going to end up at school. Right now App State is definitely at the top of my list. I would probably move up there as soon as I could find a place and just work through the spring and then maybe do some summer school or just work through the summer until I would start school in the fall. That's looking like the likely plan right now. But as anyone who reads this or knows me knows, that could all change. :-) But I am definitely liking the prospect of just heading out after this semester so I would say that is pretty likely. Good thing my life keeps changing around. Wouldn't want it to get boring. ;-) anyhoo, lots of wakeboarding and lots of alcohol made for a definitely kick ass weekend. It was really cool since I don't think we will be able to get that kind of big group together for a long time. OH OH OH, AND Bobby asked me to be his best man so that is going to kick ass. :-) I was pretty stoked. He already told Erin that he will have the bachelor party like a week before the wedding so he has plenty of time to recover. :-) And that means I get to give a speech. hahaha THIS could be interesting ;-) I hope Bobby knows what he got himself into by asking me. Fun times, fun times. Well I just finished grading the 75 labs I was supposed to grade over the weekend so now I am going to chill and let me body recover a little. Hopefully I can get rid of this head cold crap soon too. ta ta!

Glibjob jinkydoodles - August 28, 2003, 12:15 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Only been a couple days but they have been fun. Penny was in town so I got to hang out with her and Elisa and the gang a lot which was fun. Start my TA duties yesterday which was a lot of fun. Definitely reinforced me wanting to be a professor. We'll see how labs go tomorrow. Been thinking a lot about school and I would say it's almost definite that after this year I am going to transfer and likely go back to computer science. I am looking to be in the NC area but we will see. CS was just really interesting and really easy for me and had I been a physics major it woulda made things a little different. I don't think it was a totally conscious thing, but I think one of the main reasons I chose physics was the challenge. It really interests me too but since I didn't have the proper coursework progression, it's like I mentioned before where I just went from intro level to senior level. I think I can handle it alright, but I think I will be happier overall in computer science. But I figure I will keep on taking courses even after I start working so I want to get at least my master's in physics at some point. And since I will be a professor I should have easy access to a variety of courses so I am sure I will end up with the equivalent of degress in several things. :-) It kinda feels nice having a good idea of where I'm headed (at least where I'm headed next) but it doesn't do a lot for motivation to work on physics courses when I know I am ending up in CS. But at least I am fufilling my TA duties well and I don't think I am gonna fail any courses or anything. :-) Just gotta motivate myself and I will definitely have a more relaxing schedule in the spring. :-)

I could go for a hot dog right now - August 25, 2003, 1:18 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
It's been a fun/interesting weekend. Had a blast partying with the undergards on friday night. That's definitely the crowd I still fit in the best. :-) moved from there to partying with the vet school kids the next night. Both nights were a blast it was just funny to have two totally different kinds of parties back to back. Undergrad party was the normal "everyone is running around trying to get drunk" atmosphere and the next party was very chill, some people played some bluegrass music for a while. It was fun. Basically took it easy today after a little insomnia this morning then joined Elisa, Penny and friends to watch some TV and have dinner over at Elisa's place. AND I actually got some homework done. Good thing too since it is due tomorrow. LOTS of calculus review and it has been a LONG time since I had any calculus. I guess we will just see how it goes. :-) Hopefully not too bad! Man, I feel so lame going to bed so early but I am trying to be well rested at least for the first week or two of classes and TA stuff. I am sure I will get back on a more fincheresque schedule in not too long :-) At least I am not going to bed before 12. I couldn't handle that.

Well, I think I am going to play a little guitar then hit the sack. Should be a fun week considering I start my TA duties! Fun stuff!! :-)

mitosis, meosis, and changing your underpants - August 21, 2003, 8:39 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
Been a fun almost week since I wrote on here last. Second day of training went even longer but it wasn't that bad. Went out partying with the vet school folks after a fun picnic dinner at a professor's house on friday. Just took it easy saturday and sunday. Took care of a few organizational things on monday and tuesday (getting my parking permit, getting books, etc.) the started classes yesterday. Electricity and magnetism is going to be kind of a bitch. We are using the same textbook as the E &M class I sat in on at Furman which was pretty rough. At least the teacher has really good english. Unfortunately I can't say the same for quantum mechanics. I think the subject matter will be a little more interesting, but the teacher is definitely harder to understand. It isn't terrible, just one of those things where I really have to concentrate to make sure I catch everything he says which isn't bad in normal conversation, but could be interesting when he is spouting off about quantum mechanics. I have astrophysics today so after that I will have a feel for all my classes. It's only 9 hours but this physics stuff is a little rough sometimes. I mean, I love physics and it's really interesting, it's just hard because I kinda jumped into it. Had I started out as a physics major at Furman I don't think I would have any problems, but it's more like I took intro, no I am jumping to senior level classes. Should be interesting. I am glad I can always fall back on computer science. :-) We'll just have to see how this year goes. Well, it's off to the second day of classes! If anything exciting happens I will be sure to write it up on here. :-)

yep yep yep uh huh - August 15, 2003, 8:50 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Like I said earlier, it looks to be almost weekly updates. But now I am back down in Auburn for good so I am sure the updates will start picking up, though I can't garauntee any uplift in excitement. Had fun at Wild Dunes right next to charleston. Went with the fam and of course my timing was bad and Mark was leaving as we were going there so I missed him, but I did get to hang out with Penny and see Los which was really cool. Woulda seen another friend but he gave me the wrong number for his cell phone so that made it a little difficult to get a hold of him. At one bar that Penny and I went to I ordered a Jager and coke and got the usual odd look from the bartender. Then she asked where I was from (like only some weird foreigner would ask for that drink). The next day I am out shopping with the fam and go in Lucky jeans. I am looking around then I look at the girl behind the counter and we both give the "hey, don't I know you from somewhere" look then she says, "Jager and coke, Tennessee right?" and sure enough she was our bartender from the night before. Pretty funny stuff. Drove back to auburn on wednesday, went out with lauren and some of her friends that night. I figure going out drinking is the best way to prepare for TA training. :-) First day went well. If I remember the tally, we have 4 grad students from china, one from turkey, one from india, two from mexico, then I think everyone else is domestic. Quite a spread for sure!! I am sure they are smart, but I kinda feel sorry for some of the kids cuz there were a couple folks with very broken english. oh well, I'm sure they will make it just fine. Well, now it's off to my second day of TA training. Hopefully it won't last as long. Yesterday went to 2:30 which isn't THAT long of a time, but I mean an hour is stretching my limits of sitting still and paying attention, much less 6. Gotta run a couple errands after training then it's weekend time!!! woohoo!!

up up and away!!! - August 9, 2003, 7:46 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Man, at this rate this blog thing is just going to become a weekly update. I'm a slacker. Actually once I start school I will probably go stir crazy for a while so I will get on here all the time for something to do. Geez, that isn't far away at all. Got a few good days of wakeboarding in earlier in the week. Went to winston salem to see Tracy for a few days. That was a lot of fun. I hadn't seen her since my freshman year so it

was fun to sorta catch up and just hang out. Didn't get into much exciting, mostly just took it easy but it is always fun to hang out with someone else who is semi-retarded :-) She even made my quote page! She had this spastic dog named Trinity who I think had a crush on me. She cracked me up. She kept ignoring tracy when she asked her to do something, then I would tell her to do it and she would go right too it. Then tracy would get all mad at her. (not for REAL mad). I guess you had to be there. it was funny to watch. Also got to play some old school nintendo which is ALWAYS a blast. Played some good ol' Contra, Double Dragon, Mega Man, and Super Mario 2 and 3. Kick ass!! Well, we are getting ready to head to Wild Dunes which should kick ass cuz it is right next to charleston so I should get to see some folks. Then heading to auburn on wednesday!! Fun stuff. Til next time Finchskateers!!

ooooooohehahahahehehooooooooo! - August 4, 2003, 8:12 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another few quite exciting days. It was altogether a pretty darn good weekend. I thought it was going to kinda suck because AGAIN I couldn't get anyone to come up. But Brian took the weekend off and was out at the lake and so I got to see some old high school folks that I hadn't seen in years and consumed my share of alcohol friday and saturday nights. Both nights I was doing pretty well and starting to slow down on the drinking, then we played Asshole. And of course, I suck so I was usually the asshole so I was drinking all the time. It was still a lot of fun. Got some good wakeboarding in too, even though I did eat it a few good times and I am definitely a little sore now. No pain no gain. Watched Super Troopers yesterday. Definitely a funny and entertaining movie. Talked to tracy, a friend I haven't seen since freshman year, for a bit last night and I am going to visit her on wednesday which should be cool cuz it has deifnitely been a while. Come back here friday, head to the beach with the fam on saturday. Since I will be right by charleston I will get to see a bunch of my old furman folks who ended up there which is going to be really cool. Then I head to auburn next wednesday and start TA training thursday. Man, that sounds so soon! Should be a lot of fun though. I have been bored enough lately that I am definitely beginning to look forward to starting up. I probably won't touch this thing til I get back to auburn, but I will be sure to remember anything exciting that goes on. :-)

dingleberry sundae - August 1, 2003, 1:14 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
uh.... yeah. nothing too special the past couple of days. same old same old in auburn (i.e. video games, computer, guitar, TV) only difference was that I played with my pedalboard a ton and made my fingers so dadjum sore I couldn't play guitar for a day and a half. But I am still stoked. It's so frickin' cool. Drove home today. Stopped in Gville and had pizza and watched Daredevil with bobby (he rented it, not me.) I looked like a super cheesy movie, I mean Ben Affleck? as an action hero? HAHAHA that's pretty laughable to begin with. And it did all sorts of cheesy effects and overall it was a pretty cheeseball/lame movie. Good for a laugh though. Now I am back in bristol, played some more guitar and pool down in the basement now I am likely to piddle around online then hit the sack in not too long even though I am nowhere close to tired. There just isn't enough going on in bristol this late. Too bad it's like pulling teeth to get people to come up to the lake (which I will never understand) cuz it's always a helluva lot more livelier when I have friends up here. oh well. It's also my last full weekend at the lake before school. Kinda sad, but I think I am definitely ready to get back into the swing of things. Hopefully it won't kick my ass :-)

The gentle hum of ambiguous deception - July 28, 2003, 1:51 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
The fam got back today which means I got to go out to the lake and go wakeboarding which is always a good thing. It was pretty crowded but it's definitely better than not getting on the lake at all. Sorta just took it easy the rest of the day then caught an old friend on IM and ended up talking on the phone for a good while. It's always cool to talk to people you have hardly been in contact with for years and catch up on what is going on in their lives. She's the second friend that I have talked to recently whom I hadn't really

talked to much in the past 3-4 years. It's almost like meeting new people, but you have a good idea what the person is going to be like. :-) fun fun fun. Well that was about all that was exciting today. Gotta try to get both my cars worked on tomorrow and I got a dentist appointment then heading back to auburn. There I will get to play with my new guitar pedalboard that I ordered. I'M EXCITED!!!! It totally kicks ass. I can't wait!! :-) woohoo!! Ok, I guess I should think about bed soon. I guess.....

6.1.3 old blog entries pg 8 (2004-01-04 14:05)

Spectabulous! - September 26, 2003, 1:40 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
same old same old. spent 6 hours running labs and never got around to starting to grade them. Hopefully I can get them all done tomorrow before my lab meeting cuz it would be really nice to head out of town and not have to worry about them, especially since I won't be back here til monday and we are supposed to have lab grades in by sunday night. At the very least I hope to make enough progress to be able to take a little time and finish them after class before I head out of town. I guess we will just have to wait and see! I thought about doing another poem update, but decided to refrain. I will do my weekend update as a big, long, maybe even EPIC poem. ;-) I know all y'all are holding your breath in anticipation! Well you better breathe cuz it'll be a little while before the weekend is over and a weekend is a long time to hold your breath silly pants. Well I may hit the sack early tonight since I actually got work and stuff to do tomorrow.

blurb update - September 25, 2003, 1:31 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
yesterday afternoon I finished my book bringing me to a grand total of 2178 pages in 5 books that I have read in under two weeks. Too bad I could never make that kind of progress when it came to schoolwork. :-) I think this reading spurt is over for now!

a poem 'll show'm even if I don't know'm - September 24, 2003, 2:21 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
woke up
I was ready to run
but halfway through
I realized I jumped the gun

shoulda gone easier
on my poor sprained ankle
and halfway through the run
I thought it'd go *crinkle crankle*

But it didn't so that's good
though it was still a bit sore
but I decided to give it more time
before I go running some more

After that ate my lunch
then prepared for recitation
because I had done this before
boredom was my anticipation

but I made it through

and headed back to my pad
I decided to go with
the norm and relax, EGAD!

Watched some Joe Schmo
(it's a television show)
then played some guitar
cuz I had nowhere else to go

Now after a poetic update
to this little blog
I'll probably do a couple things
before sleeping like a log

check out some websites
like college humor and campus hook
then put a little more hurt
on my recently started book

and after I finish thie book
my reading spurt will be over
maybe I'll find a worthless hobby
like searchin' for four leaf clover

Well off to my piddlin'
then off to hit the sack
and maybe my next blog entry
won't read like I'm on crack! :-)

a diorama of dialating dactyls - September 23, 2003, 2:52 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I just glanced on here and I have had like 430 different people check out my junk. And by junk I mean my BLOG you pervs. That's a buttload of people. I don't think I even know 400 people. Jeepers. It rained today. ALL day. Not that it matters that much to me because the only thing that would interfere with would be my running, but since I found out that I likely ran the 5k saturday with a sprained ankle, I'm giving it a little time off. Til tomorrow that is. :-) I may be running another 5k with momma this weekend so I can't slack off on my training. And I am really looking forward to trying out my new shoes. I wonder if I will have more participants (i.e. people who leave comments) on here after I head to App State. I will be making lots of buds in the Computer Science department so my percentage of friends spending lots of time online will likely increase therefore they may stumble over to my page whenever they need a little break from slashdot ;-) I guess we shall soon see. Man I can't wait!! The more I think about it the more stoked I am to be heading back to good ol CS and to be heading to App state. It's gonna kick ass for sure. Well since it rained I wasn't up to much. Finished my 4th book in the past like week and a half and started my fifth which I think will end my reading spurt. If I finish this one before thursday I will have read 5 books in the past two weeks totalling well over 2000 pages! That's a lot of reading!! Too bad I could never get that much accomplished in an academic setting :-) Well off to read myself to sleep then wake up and prepare for recitation in the afternoon time! til then....

There is a young man who'll be happy
When he gets to head to ol' Appy

'Said "physic's a mess
I'm going back to CS!"
And to where the weather isn't so nappy.

if it's free it's for me! - September 22, 2003, 2:01 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another good weekend under my belt. Headed home after my lab meeting on friday didn't do much other than read my book some before crashing since I had a race in the morning. Woke up ass early to go to the 5k race with momma and we improved on out last 5k time which was killer. Mom even got a trophy :-) Went to the lake to help plan our revamping, got some food, then went and got some new snazzy running shoes. While I was getting them I asked dad about my ankle since it had kinda been sore the past several days and he looked at it and it was a little swollen and he said I probably had a light sprain. So apparently I had a lightly sprained ankle for my 5k run which I am sure was great for it, even if I didn't really feel any pain from it. And my leg didn't hurt in my calf like it's been doing lately which was cool too. From the shoe place I headed on down to G-vegas. Went out to dinner with bobby, lil finch, bef, bef's bro, his roomie and frost which was a lot of fun then we headed back to lil finch/bef's apartment and chilled while we figured out what we wanted to do. Headed out to a party which was fun. I saw more people I knew than I thought I would so that was cool. Wasn't really in a drinking mood, but I had fun nonetheless. Got up and had lunch with bobby and wil then drove on down to auburn. Saw several wrecks on the way and got in stop and go traffic for frickin' ever, TWICE! Needless to say, driving a stick in stop-and-go traffic does wonders for a sprained ankle. It's fine now, but it was starting to ache while I was driving which was really annoying. Then just chilled here, then graded some labs. Speaking of..... I almost got busted for being too easy on my students. At the lab meeting friday we were talking about how are classes are doing and my classes averages were definitely noticably higher than the other folks and this week they are taking up our labs to look them over to make sure we are grading OK so I had to crack down on my kids. It sucks thought cuz I don't wanna but I am gonna tell them I don't really have a choice unless I wanna get in trouble so hopefully they will step it up a little so they will still do well. Time will tell. Have I mentioned I can't wait to go to App state? the more I think about it the more anxious I am to go (not anxious as in nervous, but looking forward to it). It's gonna kick ass and be hella fun. I am gonna go check out the campus next weekend but I am going to try to get application stuff started up this week. Fun fun fun! Just gotta finish TAing for the rest of this semester and I'm free!! :-)

the cat in the hat sat on my mat with a bat - September 18, 2003, 4:59 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
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6.1.4 old blog entries pg 9 (2004-01-04 14:05)

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magnanamous hehehehe - September 5, 2003, 6:25 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
man, I think I definitely did the wrong thing by deciding already that I am going to leave auburn after this semester. I can't quit now because of TA duties, but if I could go ahead and leave I probably would. I just kinda feel stuck in this place that I don't really belong, doing something that isn't really beneficial to me at all. TAing isn't bad at all, and classes aren't terrible, but it's all physics stuff and knowing that I am going back to computer science means that what I am doing now has basically no benefit other than just having a unique life experience. I don't know many people who essentially took intro level physics in undergrad, then did a semester of physics grad school before switching back to their original major. What can I say? I'm unique. :-) Or just plain odd as most people say. A couple of my friends came up with like 30 synonyms for me and all were pretty close to being synonyms for weird/odd/etc. Better than being normal. I don't think I could take it. Good thing since I don't think I will ever be anywhere near normal. Well since I hardly know anyone here I have a feeling it will be a fairly uneventful night and weekend. I have a ton of labs to grade and some homework to do. Exciting stuff. Man, who woulda thunk that I would ever include that kind of thing in my description of what I am up to this weekend. Not I, not I. At least I only have a few months to get through of this and as soon as christmas break rolls around I am totally done which kicks ass. I am thinking that I will very likely end up at app state and I can't wait. I wanna visit campus and stuff but I am really looking forward to it and I can't wait to get up there. It is definitely more my kind of place. Well, back to chillin on what's looking to be a very relaxing friday night.

Roper landed a tantrum! - September 2, 2003, 11:36 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another great long weekend up at the lake. Had a good group of people up too. The wake was ENORMOUS!! I just wish I had tried more new stuff the first day. Didn't really realize how out of shape for wakeboarding I had gotten until I woke up on the second day. :-) I am still major feeling the pain, but hell it was definitely worth it. As my title says Roper landed his first tantrum which is pretty sweet. I told him he should have tried it a long time ago. Man, that means I really need to step it up and start trying more new stuff. I haven't really improved much over the past several years which kind of sucks. I wish I had someone to consistenly ride with who just rocked so I could get pointers and stuff. Had a good little convo with the parents about life plans while I was home too. It's looking more likely that I won't bother with a second semester at auburn. I don't think I am obligated by any kind of contract and my lease runs out at the beginning of january anyway so I may take the spring to get reorganized and start settling down wherever I am going to end up at school. Right now App State is definitely at the top of my list. I would probably move up there as soon as I could find a place and just work through the spring and then maybe do some summer school or just work through the summer until I would start school in the fall. That's looking like the likely plan right now. But as anyone who reads this or knows me knows, that could all change. :-) But I am definitely liking the prospect of just heading out after this semester so I would say that is pretty likely. Good thing my life keeps changing around. Wouldn't want it to get boring. ;-) anyhoo, lots of wakeboarding and lots of alcohol made for a definitely kick ass weekend. It was really cool since I don't think we will be able to get that kind of big group together for a long time. OH OH OH, AND Bobby asked me to be his best man so that is going to kick ass. :-) I was pretty stoked. He already told Erin that he will have the bachelor party like a week before the wedding so he has plenty of time to recover. :-) And that means I get to give a speech. hahaha THIS could be interesting ;-) I hope Bobby knows what he got himself into by asking me. Fun times, fun times. Well I just finished grading the 75 labs I was supposed to grade over the weekend so now I am going to chill and let me body recover a little. Hopefully I can get rid of this head cold crap soon too. ta ta!

Glibjob jinkydoodles - August 28, 2003, 12:15 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Only been a couple days but they have been fun. Penny was in town so I got to hang out with her and Elisa and the gang a lot which was fun. Start my TA duties yesterday which was a lot of fun. Definitely reinforced me wanting to be a professor. We'll see how labs go tomorrow. Been thinking a lot about school and I would say it's almost definite that after this year I am going to transfer and likely go back to computer science. I am looking to be in the NC area but we will see. CS was just really interesting and really easy for me and had I been a physics major it woulda made things a little different. I don't think it was a totally conscious thing, but I think one of the main reasons I chose physics was the challenge. It really interests me too but since I didn't have the proper coursework progression, it's like I mentioned before where I just went from intro level to senior level. I think I can handle it alright, but I think I will be happier overall in computer science. But I figure I will keep on taking courses even after I start working so I want to get at least my master's in physics at some point. And since I will be a professor I should have easy access to a variety of courses so I am sure I will end up with the equivalent of degress in several things. :-) It kinda feels nice having a good idea of where I'm headed (at least where I'm headed next) but it doesn't do a lot for motivation to work on physics courses when I know I am ending up in CS. But at least I am fufilling my TA duties well and I don't think I am gonna fail any courses or anything. :-) Just gotta motivate myself and I will definitely have a more relaxing schedule in the spring. :-)

I could go for a hot dog right now - August 25, 2003, 1:18 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
It's been a fun/interesting weekend. Had a blast partying with the undergards on friday night. That's

definitely the crowd I still fit in the best. :-) moved from there to partying with the vet school kids the next night. Both nights were a blast it was just funny to have two totally different kinds of parties back to back. Undergrad party was the normal "everyone is running around trying to get drunk" atmosphere and the next party was very chill, some people played some bluegrass music for a while. It was fun. Basically took it easy today after a little insomnia this morning then joined Elisa, Penny and friends to watch some TV and have dinner over at Elisa's place. AND I actually got some homework done. Good thing too since it is due tomorrow. LOTS of calculus review and it has been a LONG time since I had any calculus. I guess we will just see how it goes. :-) Hopefully not too bad! Man, I feel so lame going to bed so early but I am trying to be well rested at least for the first week or two of classes and TA stuff. I am sure I will get back on a more fincheresque schedule in not too long :-) At least I am not going to bed before 12. I couldn't handle that. Well, I think I am going to play a little guitar then hit the sack. Should be a fun week considering I start my TA duties! Fun stuff!! :-)

mitosis, meosis, and changing your underpants - August 21, 2003, 8:39 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
Been a fun almost week since I wrote on here last. Second day of training went even longer but it wasn't that bad. Went out partying with the vet school folks after a fun picnic dinner at a professor's house on friday. Just took it easy saturday and sunday. Took care of a few organizational things on monday and tuesday (getting my parking permit, getting books, etc.) the started classes yesterday. Electricity and magnetism is going to be kind of a bitch. We are using the same textbook as the E &M class I sat in on at Furman which was pretty rough. At least the teacher has really good english. Unfortunately I can't say the same for quantum mechanics. I think the subject matter will be a little more interesting, but the teacher is definitely harder to understand. It isn't terrible, just one of those things where I really have to concentrate to make sure I catch everything he says which isn't bad in normal conversation, but could be interesting when he is spouting off about quantum mechanics. I have astrophysics today so after that I will have a feel for all my classes. It's only 9 hours but this physics stuff is a little rough sometimes. I mean, I love physics and it's really interesting, it's just hard because I kinda jumped into it. Had I started out as a physics major at Furman I don't think I would have any problems, but it's more like I took intro, no I am jumping to senior level classes. Should be interesting. I am glad I can always fall back on computer science. :-) We'll just have to see how this year goes. Well, it's off to the second day of classes! If anything exciting happens I will be sure to write it up on here. :-)

6.1.5 old blog entries pg 7 (2004-01-04 14:06)

superfly - October 2, 2003, 2:20 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
hmm..... wednesday. One of my days off. Went and did some weight lifting for the first time since february. I'm definitely weak as.... uh.... something that's REALLY weak. :-) Only feeling a little soreness right now but we will see how I feel in the morning. May test out my ankle just a little and try to go for a little jog before lab. Other than that it was a pretty same old same old kind of wednesday. Nothing especially exciting. Graded some quizzes. Played guitar til my fingers ached. Watched TV. I head home to bristol this weekend to go wakeboarding and I am definitely stoked about that. I am gonna head to gville after lab tomorrow, then continue on friday morning. It'll be good to get out of here since auburn is playing tennessee so it will be a frickin' mad house this weekend and I don't think I am going to mind missing THAT fiasco. Well I think I am going to hit the sack early since I will be up driving tomorrow night. At least early by my standards. :-)

the contortion of perception - October 1, 2003, 2:59 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment

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well dinkly doo! - September 30, 2003, 1:05 pm
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The server on here was having a little trouble sunday and monday, but now everything is AOK. Altogether it was a pretty darn good weekend. Went and hung out with bob and wil and others for Jubals 21st birthday. As you can tell from the previous entry, I had a pretty good time. ;-) Although when bobby and I went to wild wings I think they were infected because we both got a little stomach bug which has cleared up now, but it was kinda annoying. Went to a friends wedding party (actual wedding is next weekend) on saturday evening which was a lot of fun and saw a lot of the old barn crowd I hadn't seen in a very long time. Sunday mom, dad and I went to visit App state to check things out since I had never been there and I LOVE it. the campus is awesome. It just feels right. So that was cool and a lot of fun. Monday mom and I went back to Appy to talk to a professor about the grad program and stuff and that went really well. He said I am pretty much in and there is a chance I will score an assistantship even though I am enterting mid-year which is pretty cool. He showed us around the apartment and I got to talk to a couple of the current grad students. It's not a hug program but it was really cool because it felt a lot like Furman. It's a fairly new department, not very large, have about the same amounts of equipment. I can't wait to get down there. It is going to be so frickin' great. Mom and dad are both really excited cuz I'm excitied too. After getting back from Appy I packed up and headed down to Auburn and pretty much just took it easy for the evening. That sums up my weekend! Only a couple more months and I am Appy-bound!! :-)

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odd dream - September 26, 2003, 2:37 pm

1 Comment - Post a Comment
I suck at remembering my dreams, but I definitely remember some of my one last night. I was at the lake with one of my good friends and apparently a family we are both friends with had this new yacht which they had at the lake. They were out of town and they just left it anchored out near an island. For some reason I figured it be ok to hop aboard and take it for a spin. so I drove around the lake for a little bit and then parked it back where it was, yet forgot to re-anchor. so an hour or two later my friend and I decided to go check on the boat and it's gone. So I take the jetski and start flying around the lake looking for the boat frantically because I know that I was the one who lost it. While I was looking, the whole lake turned to snow and skiiers and snowboarders started coming towards me and flying by me and I wondered for a second how the jetski was running on snow, but didn't worry about it since it was still going, then after a minute or two it went back to being a warm day and the lake was water again. I ran back to the house and saw my parents and they said they were really excited because the house in charleston they had been looking at (they aren't looking at one in real life) was available and they were going to buy it. Then they sent my back out on our jetski to look for the boat again and I was flying through little coves and jumping over islands and stuff in a very video game like manner. Then I woke up. Or at least I don't remember anything else. Very odd. Just like me! :-)

Spectabulous! - September 26, 2003, 1:40 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
same old same old. spent 6 hours running labs and never got around to starting to grade them. Hopefully I can get them all done tomorrow before my lab meeting cuz it would be really nice to head out of town and not have to worry about them, especially since I won't be back here til monday and we are supposed to have lab grades in by sunday night. At the very least I hope to make enough progress to be able to take a little time and finish them after class before I head out of town. I guess we will just have to wait and see! I thought about doing another poem update, but decided to refrain. I will do my weekend update as a big, long, maybe even EPIC poem. ;-) I know all y'all are holding your breath in anticipation! Well you better breathe cuz it'll be a little while before the weekend is over and a weekend is a long time to hold your breath silly pants. Well I may hit the sack early tonight since I actually got work and stuff to do tomorrow.

blurb update - September 25, 2003, 1:31 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
yesterday afternoon I finished my book bringing me to a grand total of 2178 pages in 5 books that I have read in under two weeks. Too bad I could never make that kind of progress when it came to schoolwork. :-) I think this reading spurt is over for now!

a poem 'll show'm even if I don't know'm - September 24, 2003, 2:21 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
woke up
I was ready to run
but halfway through
I realized I jumped the gun

shoulda gone easier
on my poor sprained ankle
and halfway through the run
I thought it'd go *crinkle crankle*

But it didn't so that's good
though it was still a bit sore
but I decided to give it more time

before I go running some more

After that ate my lunch
then prepared for recitation
because I had done this before
boredom was my anticipation

but I made it through
and headed back to my pad
I decided to go with
the norm and relax, EGAD!

Watched some Joe Schmo
(it's a television show)
then played some guitar
cuz I had nowhere else to go

Now after a poetic update
to this little blog
I'll probably do a couple things
before sleeping like a log

check out some websites
like college humor and campus hook
then put a little more hurt
on my recently started book

and after I finish thie book
my reading spurt will be over
maybe I'll find a worthless hobby
like searchin' for four leaf clover

Well off to my piddlin'
then off to hit the sack
and maybe my next blog entry
won't read like I'm on crack! :-)

a diorama of dialating dactyls - September 23, 2003, 2:52 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I just glanced on here and I have had like 430 different people check out my junk. And by junk I mean my BLOG you pervs. That's a buttload of people. I don't think I even know 400 people. Jeepers. It rained today. ALL day. Not that it matters that much to me because the only thing that would interfere with would be my running, but since I found out that I likely ran the 5k saturday with a sprained ankle, I'm giving it a little time off. Til tomorrow that is. :-) I may be running another 5k with momma this weekend so I can't slack off on my training. And I am really looking forward to trying out my new shoes. I wonder if I will have more participants (i.e. people who leave comments) on here after I head to App State. I will be making lots of buds in the Computer Science department so my percentage of friends spending lots of time online will likely increase therefore they may stumble over to my page whenever they need a little break from slashdot ;-) I guess we shall soon see. Man I can't wait!! The more I think about it the more stoked I am to be heading back to good ol CS and to be heading to App state. It's gonna kick ass for sure. Well

since it rained I wasn't up to much. Finished my 4th book in the past like week and a half and started my fifth which I think will end my reading spurt. If I finish this one before thursday I will have read 5 books in the past two weeks totalling well over 2000 pages! That's a lot of reading!! Too bad I could never get that much accomplished in an academic setting :-) Well off to read myself to sleep then wake up and prepare for recitation in the afternoon time! til then....

There is a young man who'll be happy
When he gets to head to ol' Appy
'Said "physic's a mess
I'm going back to CS!"
And to where the weather isn't so nappy.

if it's free it's for me! - September 22, 2003, 2:01 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another good weekend under my belt. Headed home after my lab meeting on friday didn't do much other than read my book some before crashing since I had a race in the morning. Woke up ass early to go to the 5k race with momma and we improved on out last 5k time which was killer. Mom even got a trophy :-) Went to the lake to help plan our revamping, got some food, then went and got some new snazzy running shoes. While I was getting them I asked dad about my ankle since it had kinda been sore the past several days and he looked at it and it was a little swollen and he said I probably had a light sprain. So apparently I had a lightly sprained ankle for my 5k run which I am sure was great for it, even if I didn't really feel any pain from it. And my leg didn't hurt in my calf like it's been doing lately which was cool too. From the shoe place I headed on down to G-vegas. Went out to dinner with bobby, lil finch, bef, bef's bro, his roomie and frost which was a lot of fun then we headed back to lil finch/bef's apartment and chilled while we figured out what we wanted to do. Headed out to a party which was fun. I saw more people I knew than I thought I would so that was cool. Wasn't really in a drinking mood, but I had fun nonetheless. Got up and had lunch with bobby and wil then drove on down to auburn. Saw several wrecks on the way and got in stop and go traffic for frickin' ever, TWICE! Needless to say, driving a stick in stop-and-go traffic does wonders for a sprained ankle. It's fine now, but it was starting to ache while I was driving which was really annoying. Then just chilled here, then graded some labs. Speaking of..... I almost got busted for being too easy on my students. At the lab meeting friday we were talking about how are classes are doing and my classes averages were definitely noticably higher than the other folks and this week they are taking up our labs to look them over to make sure we are grading OK so I had to crack down on my kids. It sucks thought cuz I don't wanna but I am gonna tell them I don't really have a choice unless I wanna get in trouble so hopefully they will step it up a little so they will still do well. Time will tell. Have I mentioned I can't wait to go to App state? the more I think about it the more anxious I am to go (not anxious as in nervous, but looking forward to it). It's gonna kick ass and be hella fun. I am gonna go check out the campus next weekend but I am going to try to get application stuff started up this week. Fun fun fun! Just gotta finish TAing for the rest of this semester and I'm free!! :-)

6.1.6 old blog entries pg 6 (2004-01-04 14:07)

reaching new heights - October 9, 2003, 4:06 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I think today has been the most boring day of my whole entire life. seriously. It was livened when some wakeboarding DVDs I had ordered came in, but that was kinda short lived since all watching them did was make me really wish I was just chilling at the lake. At least I get to go to the lake this weekend, even though the forcast changed and now it's supposed to be RAINY!!! Haven't we had enough damn rain this year? I'M SICK OF RAIN!! geez. Hold off the stupid precipitation til it gets cold enough to snow. (not

like there's a chance in hell I would ever get snow in auburn) but when I get out of this place and finally get somewhere cool, i.e. BOONE, I will definitely be getting snow. Have I mentioned how I can't wait to get to App State? Just making sure. ;-) maybe I should write a song about that. I was gonna sit down and write some more tonight but I think my brain began to atrophy today so the creative flow was negligible. I did get some chords down to some lyrics that I wrote last night but that's about it. I love my little beginner songs. they are so lame/simple but I figure you gotta start somewhere!! I am really hoping I can get in with some cool folks to play with at Appy. At the very least I wanna start up some guitar and violin lessons. I get a good creative vibe there. It's very artsy. Unlike auburn where the only art is how to clean up cow poo. Not very culturally stimulating. Oh well. Only a couple more months! woohoo!! AND next week I get to start running again. I gave my ankle last week AND this week off so the damn thing better not give me any trouble. Who would have thought that Justin Fincher would be missing being able to run? Not I, that's for sure. But I can't wait. I feel like a lazy slob. And next week I will be lifting more since wakeboarding season will pretty much be over for me so I don't have to worry about being sore or anything. Well I think that is quite a post. Not much else to say. Hopefully lab with my little kiddies will go well tomorrow. And I actually gotta stick around for class on friday but then I am heading to good ol G-vegas then on to bristol on saturday. I hope the stupid rain holds off!! :-)

songs - October 7, 2003, 2:02 am
8 Comments - Post a Comment
Aiight, I REALLY want comments on this post. I don't care if you say they suck or if you say they are awesome, or just say they need some work. You won't hurt my feelings I promise. And the only way to get better is to have accurate feedback so please be honest!! I had put together some chord progressions and stuff and actually sat down and put lyrics to some and rearranged some of the chords a little but here are the lyrics I wrote tonight. Let me know what you think!!!

Song 1

Verse 1
Sitting here playing my guitar
just enjoying things the way they are
got no worries. got no pain
might be cuz I'm not quite sane
just livin' life. just livin' slow
and I don't have any place to go
my beer in hand I sit and smile
I won't be moving for a while

Chorus
I live my life a little lazy
some of my days are a little hazy
but I live fun and I live free
kickin' back enjoying being me

Verse 2
My schedule stays pretty wide open
I don't waste my time wishin' and hopin'
the something better will come along
I'm content just writing this song
just chillin and jokin' enjoying each minute
there's no other way I'd like to spend it

Making laughs and music is my plan
and I'll surely die a happy man

Song 2

Verse 1
there's so many thoughts bouncing round in my head
I wish you could know what I meant to have said
but you can't understand what happenin' in my brain
If I can't calm this storm I swear I'll go insane

Chorus
We've caught the wrong wind, heading out to sea
We can't get back to where we need to be
The storm is strong and no end is in sight
I don't know how much longer I can fight the fight
I'm all used up. I can't go on.
I don't know how I held up this long

Verse 2
I don't know what to think. I don't know what to feel
I just can't comprehend how this could all be real
so much pain. so much love and confusion
I can only thinkg of the inevitable conclusion

song writing and stuff - October 7, 2003, 1:53 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
I find it's really funny how easy it is to get caught up in the emotions of other people, even if they aren't your closest friends. Two of my fairly recent friends (and subsequently, the only two people I really know with BLOGs) have been having a kinda rough time with life lately. I've just been having an uneventful time. But it just kinda bums me out because there isn't really anything I can do for them, but I really WANT to help them both out and make things better. At the very least I wish I could just absorb some of their drama. It would liven my life a little, I handle drama better than most, and it would ease things up for them. Until they invent a way to give drama transplants there isn't much I can do other than listen whenever they need someone to talk to. Oh well. Such is life I guess. Moving on..... I actually got around to a little bit of song writing this evening so that is cool. I'll make a post right after this one so people can leave comments. Feedback is the only way to improve! and of course I can only really post lyrics, but that's half of the song anyhoo. Well back to piddlin' then may hit the sack early.

yippee yahoo!! - October 5, 2003, 11:45 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another great day at the lake with Deacon and some of the SHP (South Holston Posse) I know it sounds kinda gay, but it grows on ya! These guys are pretty decent so it's definitely going to be a blast riding with them next season. Hopefully I will get some new tricks dialed in and that would just ROCK!!! And I am really going to work at getting in shape over the winter so I think that will help things too for sure. At the very least I might not feel like I am dying like I do now. ;-) I feel like it was the first weekend riding of the season. Oh well. Better to be sore as hell from wakeboarding than not sore at all from sitting on my ass all day!! I got so stoked I ordered some wakeboarding videos. Which reminds me... little word of advice. Never memorize your credit card number. It's dangerous. I buy stuff online enough that I memorized mine and it's dangerous cuz you can hop on any computer at any time and order something. That's a good way to

get into a heap of trouble let me tell you. But anyhoo, got some cool videos on the way to study for next season and I can't wait to rock it! I gotta be in shape to show some of these little younsters up :-) at least try to keep up with them!!!

weddin'!! - October 5, 2003, 12:12 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Got home on friday and got the boat and went wakeboarding with Deac. It had been a while since I had seen him but it was cool hanging out with him again. It wasn't exactly toasty out there but it wasn't bad. Today was a little cooler cuz a lot of clouds moved in but it was still tons of fun as always. But man, I feel like I am just starting the season. My whole body hurts. It's amazing how you can think muscles are at least a little in shape then you find out they are no where close. Then I went to a friend of the family's wedding. I'm not really into ceremony and it definitely ran a little long, but they looked like they enjoyed themselves and that is what counts. If/when I get married brevity is going to be my top priority. Next will be decreasing the amount of formality. I can only hope to find a girl who doesn't want a big fancy thing and thinks is should be more fun and casual like I do. :-) Tomorrow should definitely be interesting. ;-) It should be a little warmer, but it's still supposed to be a little cloudy and hopefully we will have a few more people instead of just the retards (i.e. me and Deacon) If I think my body hurts now I really can't wait to see how it's feeling after tomorrow. Man, I gotta grade labs tomorrow too. Fun fun fun. I guess I will do that after I go to the lake since I won't have much else to do since I won't be able to move. Man, being so close to the lake next summer is gonna rock. I can't wait to be at App state! fun stuff, fun stuff. Well I think I am going to piddle online for a little bit then hit the sack and let my body start recovering before I whoop it again. I know my body loves me. :-)

superfly - October 2, 2003, 2:20 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
hmm..... wednesday. One of my days off. Went and did some weight lifting for the first time since february. I'm definitely weak as.... uh.... something that's REALLY weak. :-) Only feeling a little soreness right now but we will see how I feel in the morning. May test out my ankle just a little and try to go for a little jog before lab. Other than that it was a pretty same old same old kind of wednesday. Nothing especially exciting. Graded some quizzes. Played guitar til my fingers ached. Watched TV. I head home to bristol this weekend to go wakeboarding and I am definitely stoked about that. I am gonna head to gville after lab tomorrow, then continue on friday morning. It'll be good to get out of here since auburn is playing tennessee so it will be a frickin' mad house this weekend and I don't think I am going to mind missing THAT fiasco. Well I think I am going to hit the sack early since I will be up driving tomorrow night. At least early by my standards. :-)

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6.1.7 old blog entries pg 5 (2004-01-04 14:07)

jibbly jibbly junkie joo - October 19, 2003, 2:25 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
yeah. Don't really have anything else to say from my last post I am just bored so I figured I would type on this to burn a few minutes. hmm.... what do talk about..... I've been checking out classes at App state for the spring. trying to get an idea of what my schedule is going to be. Looking to not be too bad. I might pull having no class one tuesday and thursday which would be killer but we will just have to see. I am not positive where I stand on some of my pre-reqs so I can't make out a definite schedule just yet. Well, I guess I don't really have anything else to talk about. I'm sure I'll have more next time but I think for now I am just going to head back over to the TV and rot my brain some more. :-)

yada yada yada - October 18, 2003, 10:41 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I'm kinda bored so I figured I would hop on here for a sec. Had a fun day visiting some friends down in Eclectic. Just hung out but it was still fun. Been working a little more on logos for my newfound clothing company. Please check out the store and give me and feedback. (i.e. your logos look like they were drawn by third graders, you won't sell crap you dingleberry, I like potatos, etc.) Just like with the song writing the only way I'll get better is if I know what I am doing wrong! And feel free to go ahead and buy something. Christmas IS coming up. ;-) hahaha RIGHT. anyhoo not much else to report. Just a chill evening in ol' Auburn. If I stay bored I may hop on here and write some more. We'll just have to see.

another remedy to my boredom :-) - October 18, 2003, 1:15 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Same old Thursday in lab. Nothing too exciting. Then a same old friday too!! :-) Except for the fact I didn't leave town. :-O but it's fun just chillin. I decided to start up a clothing company. At least it will start with clothing then move to more specialized wake/skate kinds of stuff. but I found this cool site that hosts shops and lets you upload your own graphics and they will produce them and give you the website to sell it and they just keep the main production costs and then send you the profit. Sounds like a great way to start a company to me!! :-) My logos are kinda ghetto right now because I am artistically inept but it's a start! check it out HERE and buy something if it tickles your fancy!! :-) Just wait, the name will be big one day!

icky icky icky putaaaang! - October 17, 2003, 2:01 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another exciting couple of days. Actually more exciting than normal. Bef and Daniel came to visit me last night and we went out to dinner then watched School of Rock which was a kinda cool little movie. Altogether it was a great way to liven up my wednesday. Got a little run in before they got here to test out my ankle too so that was cool since it seemed to do alright. I am gonna go lift when I get up then give running another try and push it a little harder and hopefully my ankle will have no problems because I DEFINITELY need to start running again. I've probably regained any weight I lost after I got here and started running consistently. I guess I should try to grade some labs before my meeting and class too since I have to get those done before sunday night but there isn't a huge hurry since I am staying in/close to auburn this weekend. :-O Yes, I know, quite surprising. But the boat is winterized so there isn't much

reason to head up to bristol but I might head down to visit Bef and Daniel and chill with them again. We shall see! Well, I think I might actually crash kinda early tonight let my body rest up for gettting back into this exercise stuff. :-) I might actually update this during the weekend since I will be in town too!! :-O

jeepers - October 15, 2003, 2:51 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
well it's been a little while since I wrote in here but I don't really feel like giving and in depth view of my past several days (no one else wants me to either likely) so I will just summarize. Thursday was a same old same old day in lab, nothing special. The speaker was kinda interesting on friday. Wasn't very physics related he was just talking about building a small observatory on a really tight budget. Then drove to greenville and enjoyed some of the festivities downtown. Headed up to bristol saturday for a good afternoon on the lake, then roper and his woman came up saturday night and we had fun just chillin around the house. Then went to the lake sunday morning and I boarded for-frickin-ever. I didn't really realize how long I had been boarding until I watched the video later that evening. Got a few tricks to work on as soon as the season starts back up so that is pretty killer. Got sore as hell again but it's all good. Only thing that sucks is that I like pulled a muscle or something in my quad which kept me from running and I was all stoked about being able to start running again this week. Oh well. I DID get to go lift so at least I didn't feel completely worthless. Oh yeah, back on track, went back to greenville sunday and just hung out and stuff sunday night and crashed early since every body I was chillin with were all lame-o party poopers who like to go to sleep early. Got up and had lunch with one of my cooler friends that I hadn't seen in a while then just piddled then had dinner and saw Mariette (which was a cool surprise) then hung out and then drove back to ol Auburn and got back here and 2 AM on the dot. Piddled a little more then went to bed but slept really crappily and I don't know why. Oh well. Hopefully I will sleep better tonight. Well I think that about sums up my weekend. Until I write in here again!! :-)

reaching new heights - October 9, 2003, 4:06 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I think today has been the most boring day of my whole entire life. seriously. It was livened when some wakeboarding DVDs I had ordered came in, but that was kinda short lived since all watching them did was make me really wish I was just chilling at the lake. At least I get to go to the lake this weekend, even though the forcast changed and now it's supposed to be RAINY!!! Haven't we had enough damn rain this year? I'M SICK OF RAIN!! geez. Hold off the stupid precipitation til it gets cold enough to snow. (not like there's a chance in hell I would ever get snow in auburn) but when I get out of this place and finally get somewhere cool, i.e. BOONE, I will definitely be getting snow. Have I mentioned how I can't wait to get to App State? Just making sure. ;-) maybe I should write a song about that. I was gonna sit down and write some more tonight but I think my brain began to atrophy today so the creative flow was negligible. I did get some chords down to some lyrics that I wrote last night but that's about it. I love my little beginner songs. they are so lame/simple but I figure you gotta start somewhere!! I am really hoping I can get in with some cool folks to play with at Appy. At the very least I wanna start up some guitar and violin lessons. I get a good creative vibe there. It's very artsy. Unlike auburn where the only art is how to clean up cow poo. Not very culturally stimulating. Oh well. Only a couple more months! woohoo!! AND next week I get to start running again. I gave my ankle last week AND this week off so the damn thing better not give me any trouble. Who would have thought that Justin Fincher would be missing being able to run? Not I, that's for sure. But I can't wait. I feel like a lazy slob. And next week I will be lifting more since wakeboarding season will pretty much be over for me so I don't have to worry about being sore or anything. Well I think that is quite a post. Not much else to say. Hopefully lab with my little kiddies will go well tomorrow. And I actually gotta stick around for class on friday but then I am heading to good ol G-vegas then on to bristol on saturday. I hope the stupid rain holds off!! :-)

songs - October 7, 2003, 2:02 am

8 Comments - Post a Comment
Aiight, I REALLY want comments on this post. I don't care if you say they suck or if you say they are awesome, or just say they need some work. You won't hurt my feelings I promise. And the only way to get better is to have accurate feedback so please be honest!! I had put together some chord progressions and stuff and actually sat down and put lyrics to some and rearranged some of the chords a little but here are the lyrics I wrote tonight. Let me know what you think!!!

Song 1

Verse 1
Sitting here playing my guitar
just enjoying things the way they are
got no worries. got no pain
might be cuz I'm not quite sane
just livin' life. just livin' slow
and I don't have any place to go
my beer in hand I sit and smile
I won't be moving for a while

Chorus
I live my life a little lazy
some of my days are a little hazy
but I live fun and I live free
kickin' back enjoying being me

Verse 2
My schedule stays pretty wide open
I don't waste my time wishin' and hopin'
the something better will come along
I'm content just writing this song
just chillin and jokin' enjoying each minute
there's no other way I'd like to spend it
Making laughs and music is my plan
and I'll surely die a happy man

Song 2

Verse 1
there's so many thoughts bouncing round in my head
I wish you could know what I meant to have said
but you can't understand what happenin' in my brain
If I can't calm this storm I swear I'll go insane

Chorus
We've caught the wrong wind, heading out to sea
We can't get back to where we need to be
The storm is strong and no end is in sight
I don't know how much longer I can fight the fight
I'm all used up. I can't go on.
I don't know how I held up this long

Verse 2
I don't know what to think. I don't know what to feel
I just can't comprehend how this could all be real
so much pain. so much love and confusion
I can only thinkg of the inevitable conclusion

song writing and stuff - October 7, 2003, 1:53 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
I find it's really funny how easy it is to get caught up in the emotions of other people, even if they aren't your closest friends. Two of my fairly recent friends (and subsequently, the only two people I really know with BLOGs) have been having a kinda rough time with life lately. I've just been having an uneventful time. But it just kinda bums me out because there isn't really anything I can do for them, but I really WANT to help them both out and make things better. At the very least I wish I could just absorb some of their drama. It would liven my life a little, I handle drama better than most, and it would ease things up for them. Until they invent a way to give drama transplants there isn't much I can do other than listen whenever they need someone to talk to. Oh well. Such is life I guess. Moving on..... I actually got around to a little bit of song writing this evening so that is cool. I'll make a post right after this one so people can leave comments. Feedback is the only way to improve! and of course I can only really post lyrics, but that's half of the song anyhoo. Well back to piddlin' then may hit the sack early.

yippee yahoo!! - October 5, 2003, 11:45 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another great day at the lake with Deacon and some of the SHP (South Holston Posse) I know it sounds kinda gay, but it grows on ya! These guys are pretty decent so it's definitely going to be a blast riding with them next season. Hopefully I will get some new tricks dialed in and that would just ROCK!!! And I am really going to work at getting in shape over the winter so I think that will help things too for sure. At the very least I might not feel like I am dying like I do now. ;-) I feel like it was the first weekend riding of the season. Oh well. Better to be sore as hell from wakeboarding than not sore at all from sitting on my ass all day!! I got so stoked I ordered some wakeboarding videos. Which reminds me... little word of advice. Never memorize your credit card number. It's dangerous. I buy stuff online enough that I memorized mine and it's dangerous cuz you can hop on any computer at any time and order something. That's a good way to get into a heap of trouble let me tell you. But anyhoo, got some cool videos on the way to study for next season and I can't wait to rock it! I gotta be in shape to show some of these little younsters up :-) at least try to keep up with them!!!

weddin'!! - October 5, 2003, 12:12 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Got home on friday and got the boat and went wakeboarding with Deac. It had been a while since I had seen him but it was cool hanging out with him again. It wasn't exactly toasty out there but it wasn't bad. Today was a little cooler cuz a lot of clouds moved in but it was still tons of fun as always. But man, I feel like I am just starting the season. My whole body hurts. It's amazing how you can think muscles are at least a little in shape then you find out they are no where close. Then I went to a friend of the family's wedding. I'm not really into ceremony and it definitely ran a little long, but they looked like they enjoyed themselves and that is what counts. If/when I get married brevity is going to be my top priority. Next will be decreasing the amount of formality. I can only hope to find a girl who doesn't want a big fancy thing and thinks is should be more fun and casual like I do. :-) Tomorrow should definitely be interesting. ;-) It should be a little warmer, but it's still supposed to be a little cloudy and hopefully we will have a few more people instead of just the retards (i.e. me and Deacon) If I think my body hurts now I really can't wait to see how it's feeling after tomorrow. Man, I gotta grade labs tomorrow too. Fun fun fun. I guess I will do

that after I go to the lake since I won't have much else to do since I won't be able to move. Man, being so close to the lake next summer is gonna rock. I can't wait to be at App state! fun stuff, fun stuff. Well I think I am going to piddle online for a little bit then hit the sack and let my body start recovering before I whoop it again. I know my body loves me. :-)

6.1.8 old blog entries pg 4 (2004-01-04 14:08)

yeehaw - October 27, 2003, 1:40 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
Take partying, then take watching TV/movies. Alternate for an entire weekend and you have another great Furman homecoming weekend. :-) Saw lots of folks I hadn't seen in a while and just had another great weekend with some good friends. Saw Kill Bill last night with bobby and wil. VERY interesting, but cool, movie. I can't wait for the sequel. But now I'm back at Auburn. Just likely going to have a very lazy day and just take it easy. (surprise surprise) some things don't change. :-)

bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bored - October 22, 2003, 2:20 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Is it the weekend yet? geesh.

walla walla walla wicky wicky wiwiwitang! - October 21, 2003, 1:36 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
won't be a long post tonight. Just one thing on my mind. Kinda two. Have you ever wished you could date someone you knew just because they have had such crappy luck with guys that you want to show them that not all of us suck? I have a friend who has had crappy luck with guys and I practically want to date her just to show her that all guys don't suck. I mean she's cool as hell so that isn't the ONLY reason I think that but it's one the main reasons. Too bad we aren't near to each other. I just think we could be close friends because she is kick ass. That's about all I've thought about today other than my clothing company which I hope takes off because that would be killer! fo shizzle. Well I think it's going to be an early night tonight. My bed will see me soon! :-)

:-O—- $@ # & $(@)* # & $@)* # &@ $ # - October 20, 2003, 3:58 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Finally got around to grading my papers tonight. I keep getting distracted with the clothing store thing. (http://www.ClothingOpt.com/ in case you are wondering what I am talking about) but it has definitely provided a good remedy for some of my boredom. Only thing is it really makes me wish I had some artistic talent. I have awesome visualization skills. I can come up with cool stuff in my head and see it clearly but I can't for the life of me get it to paper or the computer. It can be very frustrating. Hopefully I will get my first few pieces of merchandise this week to check out the quality of the stuff. Hopefully it will be satisfactory. :-) I read up on some tips to make my designs look cleaner so I have been working on trying to go back and revamp some of my stuff so it is as stylish as possible. Then maybe it'll take off some and I will one day own a legitimate company! :-O how cool would that be? hella cool, man. hella cool. Well I guess I should think about heading to bed. I gotta make sure to be up in time to know what I am doing with some of this physics stuff cuz I am meeting with one of my students to try to help her out. Hopefully I will actually learn her something. ;-) Please give me comments/suggestions on the clothing stuff. If you have any ideas for other designs that might mesh with mine, or just comments about what you think about the ones I have they would be greatly appreciated. Hell, if you REALLY like them feel free to buy something! :-)

quick blurb - October 19, 2003, 12:51 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment

Congrats to Mark and Los for finally getting engaged! woohoo!! :-)

jibbly jibbly junkie joo - October 19, 2003, 2:25 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
yeah. Don't really have anything else to say from my last post I am just bored so I figured I would type on this to burn a few minutes. hmm.... what do talk about..... I've been checking out classes at App state for the spring. trying to get an idea of what my schedule is going to be. Looking to not be too bad. I might pull having no class one tuesday and thursday which would be killer but we will just have to see. I am not positive where I stand on some of my pre-reqs so I can't make out a definite schedule just yet. Well, I guess I don't really have anything else to talk about. I'm sure I'll have more next time but I think for now I am just going to head back over to the TV and rot my brain some more. :-)

yada yada yada - October 18, 2003, 10:41 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I'm kinda bored so I figured I would hop on here for a sec. Had a fun day visiting some friends down in Eclectic. Just hung out but it was still fun. Been working a little more on logos for my newfound clothing company. Please check out the store and give me and feedback. (i.e. your logos look like they were drawn by third graders, you won't sell crap you dingleberry, I like potatos, etc.) Just like with the song writing the only way I'll get better is if I know what I am doing wrong! And feel free to go ahead and buy something. Christmas IS coming up. ;-) hahaha RIGHT. anyhoo not much else to report. Just a chill evening in ol' Auburn. If I stay bored I may hop on here and write some more. We'll just have to see.

another remedy to my boredom :-) - October 18, 2003, 1:15 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Same old Thursday in lab. Nothing too exciting. Then a same old friday too!! :-) Except for the fact I didn't leave town. :-O but it's fun just chillin. I decided to start up a clothing company. At least it will start with clothing then move to more specialized wake/skate kinds of stuff. but I found this cool site that hosts shops and lets you upload your own graphics and they will produce them and give you the website to sell it and they just keep the main production costs and then send you the profit. Sounds like a great way to start a company to me!! :-) My logos are kinda ghetto right now because I am artistically inept but it's a start! check it out HERE and buy something if it tickles your fancy!! :-) Just wait, the name will be big one day!

icky icky icky putaaaang! - October 17, 2003, 2:01 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Another exciting couple of days. Actually more exciting than normal. Bef and Daniel came to visit me last night and we went out to dinner then watched School of Rock which was a kinda cool little movie. Altogether it was a great way to liven up my wednesday. Got a little run in before they got here to test out my ankle too so that was cool since it seemed to do alright. I am gonna go lift when I get up then give running another try and push it a little harder and hopefully my ankle will have no problems because I DEFINITELY need to start running again. I've probably regained any weight I lost after I got here and started running consistently. I guess I should try to grade some labs before my meeting and class too since I have to get those done before sunday night but there isn't a huge hurry since I am staying in/close to auburn this weekend. :-O Yes, I know, quite surprising. But the boat is winterized so there isn't much reason to head up to bristol but I might head down to visit Bef and Daniel and chill with them again. We shall see! Well, I think I might actually crash kinda early tonight let my body rest up for gettting back into this exercise stuff. :-) I might actually update this during the weekend since I will be in town too!! :-O

jeepers - October 15, 2003, 2:51 am
1 Comment - Post a Comment
well it's been a little while since I wrote in here but I don't really feel like giving and in depth view of my past

several days (no one else wants me to either likely) so I will just summarize. Thursday was a same old same old day in lab, nothing special. The speaker was kinda interesting on friday. Wasn't very physics related he was just talking about building a small observatory on a really tight budget. Then drove to greenville and enjoyed some of the festivities downtown. Headed up to bristol saturday for a good afternoon on the lake, then roper and his woman came up saturday night and we had fun just chillin around the house. Then went to the lake sunday morning and I boarded for-frickin-ever. I didn't really realize how long I had been boarding until I watched the video later that evening. Got a few tricks to work on as soon as the season starts back up so that is pretty killer. Got sore as hell again but it's all good. Only thing that sucks is that I like pulled a muscle or something in my quad which kept me from running and I was all stoked about being able to start running again this week. Oh well. I DID get to go lift so at least I didn't feel completely worthless. Oh yeah, back on track, went back to greenville sunday and just hung out and stuff sunday night and crashed early since every body I was chillin with were all lame-o party poopers who like to go to sleep early. Got up and had lunch with one of my cooler friends that I hadn't seen in a while then just piddled then had dinner and saw Mariette (which was a cool surprise) then hung out and then drove back to ol Auburn and got back here and 2 AM on the dot. Piddled a little more then went to bed but slept really crappily and I don't know why. Oh well. Hopefully I will sleep better tonight. Well I think that about sums up my weekend. Until I write in here again!! :-)

6.1.9 old blog entries pg 3 (2004-01-04 14:09)

chitty chitty bang bang - November 7, 2003, 2:35 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
One thing I just remembered that I forgot to add last night. Yesterday in lab a couple of my students said that my lab was the only class they look forward to. How cool is that? :-) We laugh about how when you walk down the hall the other lab groups act like if they talk their TA will beat them. They are all just sitting working in silence and if the door is open you can hear my kids from halfway down the hall. I think my labs are about as fun as labs can get. At the very least they are pretty chill. Ok, that was it. Nothing else to add right now.

suede surrealism - November 7, 2003, 3:23 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Pretty uneventful few days. Got a little workout monday, then I think I ate something that made me ill so I didn't work out tuesday or wednesday, but today I got another little workout. Went and saw the new matrix and I think it was pretty killer. Screw the critics. I think they don't like it because they just can't understand it. Not that I trust critics in most cases anyhoo. Who can trust someone who sits around and watches movies for a living? I mean I'm lazy but that's super lazy. Mom found me an apartment up in Boone which is cool. I know I don't mention it awesome, but I can't wait to get there. ;-) Looks like Rope-a-dope is coming up again this weekend which is killer. I mean, I am well versed at entertaining myself, but me and roper together can have more fun together doing practically nothing than a pack of epileptic chimpanzees who speak with lisps and have turet's (sp?) and that's a LOT of fun. Ok, well I think I've become more sensitive to caffeine since I don't drink it very often anymore. It still doesn't really keep me up, but it keeps me awake and alert and sitting here with nothing to do. Actually that last one isn't the coke's fault. But I am just sitting here and I am not tired at all but I know I should go to bed so I think I am going to head that way in not too long. Yep. sounds like a good plan to me. Yessirreeee

here. :-) Enjoy!

If you had bought $1,000.00 of Nortel stock one year ago, it would now be worth $49.00. With Enron, you would have $16.50 left of the original $1,000.00. With Worldcom, you would have less than $5.00 left. If you had bought $1,000.00 worth of Budweiser (the beer, not the stock) one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the 10-cent deposit, you
would have $214.00.

Based on the above, my current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. This is my new retirement program, I call it my 401-Keg program. Mikey from Texas

Chill weekend - November 3, 2003, 1:35 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Had a pretty good and fun weekend. Roper came up and we did our normal hang out and chill routine. It's amazing how well we can entertain ourselves just chillin around the house. It wasn't long ago that we were talking about how if me or roper were stuck on a desert island we would definitely want the other person there because we know how to waste time on pointless little things better than most. We're very easily entertained, but we also get bored extremely easily. I was looking at the calendar and I essentially have 4 worthwhile weeks left of class stuff here at ol' Auburn. Just 4 more labs to teach and I am done!! woohoo!! I finally sent my application to ol' Appy in this past friday so hopefully it will not take them long to give me an official acceptance after they get it. Well I am getting pretty bored so I might hit the sack a little early tonight. I am hitting the gym first thing when I get up tomorrow so I guess I should rest up for that. My weak ass struggles right now. This summer definitely wasn't the best for promoting muscle mass. Anyhoo... Off to entertain myself some more then bed bed bed! :-)

nuttin' excitin' - October 29, 2003, 1:57 am
2 Comments - Post a Comment
Pretty chill day. got a mini workout. The scrape on my palm doesn't work well with lifting weights. Had an abbreviated recitation then watched the season finale of the Joe Schmo show which was pretty cool. Since then I have been sitting around and watching TV and eating. How come I get so dadjum hungry when I haven't been working out much? I definitely am going to really start getting back into my running tomorrow. I NEED it badly. Probably do another mini weight workout A. cuz of my hand and B. to keep things even since my chest and tri workout today was mini. Have I mentioned that I can't wait to get to App state? ;-) It's not that it's bad here, just kinda boring and I am ready to move on in my life. Soon enough I guess. Just a couple more months! Woohoo! :-)

yeehaw - October 27, 2003, 1:40 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
Take partying, then take watching TV/movies. Alternate for an entire weekend and you have another great Furman homecoming weekend. :-) Saw lots of folks I hadn't seen in a while and just had another great weekend with some good friends. Saw Kill Bill last night with bobby and wil. VERY interesting, but cool, movie. I can't wait for the sequel. But now I'm back at Auburn. Just likely going to have a very lazy day and just take it easy. (surprise surprise) some things don't change. :-)

bored bored bored bored bored bored bored bored - October 22, 2003, 2:20 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Is it the weekend yet? geesh.

walla walla walla wicky wicky wiwiwitang! - October 21, 2003, 1:36 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment

won't be a long post tonight. Just one thing on my mind. Kinda two. Have you ever wished you could date someone you knew just because they have had such crappy luck with guys that you want to show them that not all of us suck? I have a friend who has had crappy luck with guys and I practically want to date her just to show her that all guys don't suck. I mean she's cool as hell so that isn't the ONLY reason I think that but it's one the main reasons. Too bad we aren't near to each other. I just think we could be close friends because she is kick ass. That's about all I've thought about today other than my clothing company which I hope takes off because that would be killer! fo shizzle. Well I think it's going to be an early night tonight. My bed will see me soon! :-)

:-O—- $@ # & $(@)* # & $@)* # &@ $ # - October 20, 2003, 3:58 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
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quick blurb - October 19, 2003, 12:51 pm
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Congrats to Mark and Los for finally getting engaged! woohoo!! :-)

6.1.10 old blog entries pg 2 (2004-01-04 14:09)

dadjum internet - November 20, 2003, 11:33 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I made an entry last night, but the internet went out so I couldn't post it so here it is, just mildly postponed. :-)
there was something I was going to write about today but now I can't remember what it was. I knew what it was about 45 seconds ago because that is why I pulled up the site to make and entry but low and behold my brain stopped working. That happens to me a lot. Oh well, I'm retarded. Well I guess I can just ramble a little since I already started an entry and wouldn't want it to be too miniscule. Hopefully I will actually be able to sleep until my alarm goes off tomorrow unlike the last two days. I am also officially putting myself on a semi-diet. It's not really a full fledged diet because I am not going to be super picky about what I eat, just try to eat fairly sensibly and try to overcome these constant hunger pangs I experience. I swear that lately I have felt almost like I did back when I was a growing boy (you know when I grew up, not out). No matter what I eat I start getting hungry again after like an hour. It's pretty ridiculous. Oh well, maybe I will learn to start drinking a lot of water instead of eating. I can at least try it out!! You know what sucks? (other than being bored 24/7) there is a girl in one of my labs who is hella cool and were I not leaving I might pursue but I am. And of course I find someone who is hot AND awesome AND smart in one of the

last places I want to spend any time. Jeepers. Hopefully I can find someone similar up at old Appy. There's gotta be SOME cool girls up there. ;-) I got all this pressure now cuz two of my best friends are getting married next summer AND I'm going to be in both weddings. Killer stuff. Is it surprising that I'm the slow kid? :-) hahaha I'm not too worried though. I gotta figure out what the hell direction my life is going to go in before I even think about women. I'm sure my parents would like for me to plan to one day be done with school. ;-) Sometimes it just stinks to have to broad of interests (not sure if that's proper english but oh well). Giving the option of staying in college as long as I wanted I would definitely have degrees in physics, psychology, math, and chemistry (in addition to my degree in CS). I definitely have enough interest in each of those to earn a degree, and could easily pursue psych, and maybe physics and chemistry to graduate level degrees. I just hope I can work out something wherever I end up teaching where I can at least take one class a term while I am a professor. I swear by the time I am 50 I will have 2, maybe 3 undergrad degrees (or the equivalent) and if I have time I'd love to get a second phd. Time will tell I guess!! Well I think I may hit the sack early tonight. I've done weenie runs the last two days and I may step it up a little tomorrow so I guess I should rest up. :-) and remember, WWSBD? (What Would SpongeBob Do?)

I want to file a complaint.... - November 19, 2003, 10:50 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
to my body because it's stupid. Now as most anyone who might read this knows, I got diddly squat going on down here in Auburn. I have free time out the wazoo so needless to say I am pretty bored most of the time. I also have no obligations in the morning. This led me to start sleeping late. I usually hate sleep and can't do it for long, but I was easily sleeping 9-10 hours (usually I can't sleep more than 7-8), but the only problem was that the first thing I usually did each day was go to the gym and lift. This was all fine and dandy except lifting so soon after I got up kinda made me nauseous but if I postponed it til later in the day the gym would be hella busy. So all this to say I decided to start setting my alarm for like 9:30 (I was getting out of bed at 11-11:30) and going for a run because aerobic activity doesn't bother my stomach in the morning. THEN by the time I went to the gym my stomach would be settled and I wouldn't get as nauseous. Yesterday was the first day I tried this plan and it worked alright except for the fact my STUPID BODY WONT SLEEP RIGHT!! Both yesterday and today I have woken up 30 minutes prior to my alarm going off and I can't fall back asleep but I get really close to falling back asleep right before my alarm goes off. I mean, c'mon body!!! We used to crash til 11 no prob and now you can't make it to 9:30?! Give me a break!!!

simalesence - November 18, 2003, 3:32 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Cool chill weekend. Visited with Bobby and Erin friday and got to go bowling, then chilled at home for a bit then went apartment shopping in boone and found me an apartment for the spring! Now hopefully the grad school will get themselves straightened out and hopefully in the next week or two I will have my official acceptance which will definitely be nice! I guess that pretty much sums up the weekend. Roper and I just spent like two hours essentially acting like retards playing with webcams and now I think it is time to go to bed.

hiptar junglebee - November 14, 2003, 1:53 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I am thinking about bed WAY early tonight. I am just in one of those moods where I don't feel like doing anything yet I'm really bored. I guess that is one thing sleep IS good for. Passing time. :-) Sometimes I wish people could feel other peoples pain. I mean I don't want to be able to walk up to someone and cause them pain, but sometimes you like have a pain in your shoulder and you don't know how bad it is and if other people could feel it you could ask them if they thought it was serious AND it'd be great for when you go to the doctor. No more weird descriptions of where it hurts the doc could just feel it!! I had another

good random thought today but obviously it slipped past the part of my brain that was gonna store it for later. Oh well. That's just the way my brain works! Man, I was going to go skateboard last night and then I realized that my skateboard isn't here. not cool. I wish I had a half pipe in my yard. That would rock. I was thinking about building one but since I am leaving it would have been a good waste of time and effort so I decided against it and the chances of me being able to build one inside my apartment in boone are slim. BUT there IS a skatepark in boone so maybe I can go there and get tips from little kids like bobby and I did the few times we hit the park. :-) I really wanna get decent at skateboarding so I am just going to have to buckle down and ride more even if I am the only 23 year old beginner skateboarder at the park. :-) So it goes. No one ever said I had to act my age. Well.... they probably did but I have never been one to put much value in what other people tell me to do. :-) Well I think that is enough rambling tonight. Maybe I will start a book so I don't go to bed QUITE so early. We shall see!!

:-O—- $@ # & $(@)* # & $@)* # &@ $ # - November 11, 2003, 1:03 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
One helluva weekend for sure. Roper came up and that's always trouble ;-) Especially when you combine us with copious amounts of Jagermeister. Altogether a great time as always. Saw the new matrix again, left bobby one of the best voicemail messages ever, played lots of video games, got a good quote or two, and only broke one piece of furniture. :-) Good times good times. Well I am still procrastinating like crazy from grading these quizzes but I guess I should get on that soon! :-)

chitty chitty bang bang - November 7, 2003, 2:35 pm
1 Comment - Post a Comment
One thing I just remembered that I forgot to add last night. Yesterday in lab a couple of my students said that my lab was the only class they look forward to. How cool is that? :-) We laugh about how when you walk down the hall the other lab groups act like if they talk their TA will beat them. They are all just sitting working in silence and if the door is open you can hear my kids from halfway down the hall. I think my labs are about as fun as labs can get. At the very least they are pretty chill. Ok, that was it. Nothing else to add right now.

suede surrealism - November 7, 2003, 3:23 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Pretty uneventful few days. Got a little workout monday, then I think I ate something that made me ill so I didn't work out tuesday or wednesday, but today I got another little workout. Went and saw the new matrix and I think it was pretty killer. Screw the critics. I think they don't like it because they just can't understand it. Not that I trust critics in most cases anyhoo. Who can trust someone who sits around and watches movies for a living? I mean I'm lazy but that's super lazy. Mom found me an apartment up in Boone which is cool. I know I don't mention it awesome, but I can't wait to get there. ;-) Looks like Rope-a-dope is coming up again this weekend which is killer. I mean, I am well versed at entertaining myself, but me and roper together can have more fun together doing practically nothing than a pack of epileptic chimpanzees who speak with lisps and have turet's (sp?) and that's a LOT of fun. Ok, well I think I've become more sensitive to caffeine since I don't drink it very often anymore. It still doesn't really keep me up, but it keeps me awake and alert and sitting here with nothing to do. Actually that last one isn't the coke's fault. But I am just sitting here and I am not tired at all but I know I should go to bed so I think I am going to head that way in not too long. Yep. sounds like a good plan to me. Yessirreeee

If you had bought $1,000.00 of Nortel stock one year ago, it would now be worth $49.00. With Enron, you would have $16.50 left of the original $1,000.00. With Worldcom, you would have less than $5.00 left. If you had bought $1,000.00 worth of Budweiser (the beer, not the stock) one year ago, drank all the beer, then turned in the cans for the 10-cent deposit, you
would have $214.00.

Based on the above, my current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. This is my new retirement program, I call it my 401-Keg program. Mikey from Texas

Chill weekend - November 3, 2003, 1:35 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Had a pretty good and fun weekend. Roper came up and we did our normal hang out and chill routine. It's amazing how well we can entertain ourselves just chillin around the house. It wasn't long ago that we were talking about how if me or roper were stuck on a desert island we would definitely want the other person there because we know how to waste time on pointless little things better than most. We're very easily entertained, but we also get bored extremely easily. I was looking at the calendar and I essentially have 4 worthwhile weeks left of class stuff here at ol' Auburn. Just 4 more labs to teach and I am done!! woohoo!! I finally sent my application to ol' Appy in this past friday so hopefully it will not take them long to give me an official acceptance after they get it. Well I am getting pretty bored so I might hit the sack a little early tonight. I am hitting the gym first thing when I get up tomorrow so I guess I should rest up for that. My weak ass struggles right now. This summer definitely wasn't the best for promoting muscle mass. Anyhoo... Off to entertain myself some more then bed bed bed! :-)

nuttin' excitin' - October 29, 2003, 1:57 am
2 Comments - Post a Comment
Pretty chill day. got a mini workout. The scrape on my palm doesn't work well with lifting weights. Had an abbreviated recitation then watched the season finale of the Joe Schmo show which was pretty cool. Since then I have been sitting around and watching TV and eating. How come I get so dadjum hungry when I haven't been working out much? I definitely am going to really start getting back into my running tomorrow. I NEED it badly. Probably do another mini weight workout A. cuz of my hand and B. to keep things even since my chest and tri workout today was mini. Have I mentioned that I can't wait to get to App state? ;-) It's not that it's bad here, just kinda boring and I am ready to move on in my life. Soon enough I guess. Just a couple more months! Woohoo! :-)

6.1.11 old blog entries pg 1 (2004-01-04 14:10)

a;lsner;oudl;jskngbl;kjyt;elasmnermnsda - December 13, 2003, 2:58 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Well, it's been a decent week considering.... I finished all my official TA duties last friday so I have just been chilling and doing nothing since I have nothing to do until I help grade exams on saturday. Just chilled and played games until I went to greenville tuesday, then bristol wednesday, then back to greenville thursday and back here friday (today). Then I grade exams tomorrow and after that I am no longer affiliated with Auburn University!! :-) I'm stoked. OH AND I also found out that Onstat (one of my good friends) is looking at going to Appy for grad school which would just kick ass. We would have so much fun. His parents want him to stay in state (which would be ETSU which is still pretty close) but Appy is at the top of his list and we would likely live together if he came which would be hella killer. Hopefully it will work out that way. :-) And hopefully if it does work out that way I will still get my masters in 2 1/2 years. ;-) hahaha Well other than that not a lot exciting has gone on. Had fun chillin in greenville and bristol and I can't wait to head

out to colorado with the fam. I'm ready for some snowboarding! AND I can't wait to be done with Auburn! woohoo!!! :-)

chaka chaka chilly chile chili chihuahua - December 6, 2003, 1:37 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
not a helluva lot to talk about this past week. It's been mostly uneventful. Had a blast at "triva night" at a local bar on tuesday and took it easy the rest of the week. Went out partying last night with one of my students which was a killer time. My go out tonight though it's getting a little late (a little late to start partying, not late enough to sleep) so who knows. And another student is having a kegger tomorrow night. Looks like it my be a pretty fun last week or so at Auburn after all :-) Now if only the hot girls would call instead of just the guys in my class ;-) hahaha well I am going back to piddlin' and watching TV..... yeah

whoppity do da day day day - November 30, 2003, 9:55 am
2 Comments - Post a Comment
It's been a while since my last update cuz I was at home all week for thanksgiving and didn't really feel like logging on and typing anything. That's what breaks are for right? :-) I had a good thanksgiving week. Had a great weekend with bobby and erin and the Gville gang to start things off. Then headed home and had fun in Knoxville tuesday then took a random road trip to Boone and back just for the fun of it and to try out the really curvy way to get there which was a blast in the WRX. Had a great turkey day and stuffed myself acceptably then went and saw my grandmother and an aunt friday in Birmingham then headed down to auburn saturday and just chilled at the house and had a few brews and here I am this morning! That pretty much sums up my break. OH, AND I found a new wakeboarding shop, courtesy of Deacon, right near bristol so I have a place to get my gear now which kicks ass. Should be a fun week. It's my last week of planned TA duties and I know I am scheduled to go party with at least one of my students, but hopefully I can recruit some more before the week is over. :-) Won't be that long before I am in boone!! woohoo!!! :-)

dadjum internet - November 20, 2003, 11:33 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I made an entry last night, but the internet went out so I couldn't post it so here it is, just mildly postponed. :-)
there was something I was going to write about today but now I can't remember what it was. I knew what it was about 45 seconds ago because that is why I pulled up the site to make and entry but low and behold my brain stopped working. That happens to me a lot. Oh well, I'm retarded. Well I guess I can just ramble a little since I already started an entry and wouldn't want it to be too miniscule. Hopefully I will actually be able to sleep until my alarm goes off tomorrow unlike the last two days. I am also officially putting myself on a semi-diet. It's not really a full fledged diet because I am not going to be super picky about what I eat, just try to eat fairly sensibly and try to overcome these constant hunger pangs I experience. I swear that lately I have felt almost like I did back when I was a growing boy (you know when I grew up, not out). No matter what I eat I start getting hungry again after like an hour. It's pretty ridiculous. Oh well, maybe I will learn to start drinking a lot of water instead of eating. I can at least try it out!! You know what sucks? (other than being bored 24/7) there is a girl in one of my labs who is hella cool and were I not leaving I might pursue but I am. And of course I find someone who is hot AND awesome AND smart in one of the last places I want to spend any time. Jeepers. Hopefully I can find someone similar up at old Appy. There's gotta be SOME cool girls up there. ;-) I got all this pressure now cuz two of my best friends are getting married next summer AND I'm going to be in both weddings. Killer stuff. Is it surprising that I'm the slow kid? :-) hahaha I'm not too worried though. I gotta figure out what the hell direction my life is going to go in before I even think about women. I'm sure my parents would like for me to plan to one day be done with school. ;-) Sometimes it just stinks to have to broad of interests (not sure if that's proper english but oh well). Giving the option of staying in college as long as I wanted I would definitely have degrees in physics, psychology, math, and chemistry (in addition to my degree in CS). I definitely have enough interest in each

of those to earn a degree, and could easily pursue psych, and maybe physics and chemistry to graduate level degrees. I just hope I can work out something wherever I end up teaching where I can at least take one class a term while I am a professor. I swear by the time I am 50 I will have 2, maybe 3 undergrad degrees (or the equivalent) and if I have time I'd love to get a second phd. Time will tell I guess!! Well I think I may hit the sack early tonight. I've done weenie runs the last two days and I may step it up a little tomorrow so I guess I should rest up. :-) and remember, WWSBD? (What Would SpongeBob Do?)

I want to file a complaint.... - November 19, 2003, 10:50 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
to my body because it's stupid. Now as most anyone who might read this knows, I got diddly squat going on down here in Auburn. I have free time out the wazoo so needless to say I am pretty bored most of the time. I also have no obligations in the morning. This led me to start sleeping late. I usually hate sleep and can't do it for long, but I was easily sleeping 9-10 hours (usually I can't sleep more than 7-8), but the only problem was that the first thing I usually did each day was go to the gym and lift. This was all fine and dandy except lifting so soon after I got up kinda made me nauseous but if I postponed it til later in the day the gym would be hella busy. So all this to say I decided to start setting my alarm for like 9:30 (I was getting out of bed at 11-11:30) and going for a run because aerobic activity doesn't bother my stomach in the morning. THEN by the time I went to the gym my stomach would be settled and I wouldn't get as nauseous. Yesterday was the first day I tried this plan and it worked alright except for the fact my STUPID BODY WONT SLEEP RIGHT!! Both yesterday and today I have woken up 30 minutes prior to my alarm going off and I can't fall back asleep but I get really close to falling back asleep right before my alarm goes off. I mean, c'mon body!!! We used to crash til 11 no prob and now you can't make it to 9:30?! Give me a break!!!

simalesence - November 18, 2003, 3:32 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
Cool chill weekend. Visited with Bobby and Erin friday and got to go bowling, then chilled at home for a bit then went apartment shopping in boone and found me an apartment for the spring! Now hopefully the grad school will get themselves straightened out and hopefully in the next week or two I will have my official acceptance which will definitely be nice! I guess that pretty much sums up the weekend. Roper and I just spent like two hours essentially acting like retards playing with webcams and now I think it is time to go to bed.

hiptar junglebee - November 14, 2003, 1:53 am
0 Comments - Post a Comment
I am thinking about bed WAY early tonight. I am just in one of those moods where I don't feel like doing anything yet I'm really bored. I guess that is one thing sleep IS good for. Passing time. :-) Sometimes I wish people could feel other peoples pain. I mean I don't want to be able to walk up to someone and cause them pain, but sometimes you like have a pain in your shoulder and you don't know how bad it is and if other people could feel it you could ask them if they thought it was serious AND it'd be great for when you go to the doctor. No more weird descriptions of where it hurts the doc could just feel it!! I had another good random thought today but obviously it slipped past the part of my brain that was gonna store it for later. Oh well. That's just the way my brain works! Man, I was going to go skateboard last night and then I realized that my skateboard isn't here. not cool. I wish I had a half pipe in my yard. That would rock. I was thinking about building one but since I am leaving it would have been a good waste of time and effort so I decided against it and the chances of me being able to build one inside my apartment in boone are slim. BUT there IS a skatepark in boone so maybe I can go there and get tips from little kids like bobby and I did the few times we hit the park. :-) I really wanna get decent at skateboarding so I am just going to have to buckle down and ride more even if I am the only 23 year old beginner skateboarder at the park. :-) So

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6.1.12 My first entry in my new journal!!! woohoo! (2004-01-05 21:06)

Since this is my first entry and I am just getting used to this livejournal stuff I am just going to paste my last couple entries from my old blog so there will at least be a little something and I will be making a more substantial update later on. :-)

thumbs of glory - January 5, 2004, 2:32 am

Pretty chill day today. Got up and joined the fam for lunch. Then hung out. Then went to Johnson City with dad and I got mario kart for gameboy and Tony Hawk Underground for playstation 2. Bobby got it for christmas and he got me addicted (thanks a lot bobby) so I had to go out and get it and I have pretty much been playing it all evening/night. I have made some killer progress for sure. I like the way it is set up a lot better than other tony hawk games. and yes, I'm a dork for discussing video game preferences on my blog but what can I say? The more I think about it the more I think I might switch over to livejournal. It's a cool blogging thing and I would have to pay, though not much but it's a little snazzier. We'll see after I get everything settled in boone. I found out today that classes start a week from tomorrow (today technically) which is pretty cool. It won't be long now! Hopefully I will be able to start moving some stuff in tomorrow but I should definitely be able to move stuff in on tuesday since that is when my lease starts. Hopefully we will take care of setting stuff up like internet and power and stuff tomorrow and since I will be going through the whole movign process again it is liketly that I will not make it to my blog for a few days. My two occasional readers will just have to wait ;-) I hope App State is ready for Fincher!!

a long time comin' - January 3, 2004, 1:56 am

well dadjum. It's been a while since I updated this thing huh? I've kinda had a lot going on and therefore I will just provide a brief synopsis of the past several weeks. After I finished with auburn I spent a couple days chillin with bobby and erin (my adoptive parents) then headed up to bristol. Left for Beaver Creek, Colorado and had a blast out there the week before christmas. The first three days were awesome because there was plenty of snow and there were no crowds. At the end of the third day we got some snow so the next two days had some great snow, but there were definitely a helluva lot more people on the mountain. All-in-all it was a kickass trip. We got back christmas eve then had a wonderful surprise christmas morning when I found that my alarm clock was still set for 5 am from when I got up to go to colorado. Cool, huh? Not so much. Anyhoo, had an awesome christmas. Got me a kickass new snazzy looking electric guitar, a hella-cool digital camera that looks like a zippo lighter, and a bunch of cool DVDs. Then I had the pleasure of renting a uhaul and moving out of my house in auburn. Let me tell you how fun THAT was. yeah..... not so much. I did get a workout in though which was good cuz I definitely need it. I don't even remember the last time

I worked out. I don't really do new years resolutions but I am definitely planning on getting more in shape this year. I can't wait to be settled in at Appy so I can get on a consistent workout schedule. Hopefully it will be bye-bye flabby Justin!! :-) After the fun of moving I headed up to greenville for a great new years. Roper and Jamie and Mariette came into town and we had a blast downtown and got a hotel room at the hyatt so we could just walk there and crash and not have to worry about driving. I then proceeded to spend the last two days vegging and playing video games in bobby and erin's apartment. It was a blast, but I definitely need to go for a run tomorrow. Two whole days of doing nothing just makes me feel fatter. I get to move in to my apartment in boone soon and I can't wait. I just can't wait to get back into the school thing. It's been a while. I have essentially been off since last february. That's almost a whole year!! Jeepers. It should be a lot of fun and I definitely am looking forward to being a TA again. I had a blast as one in auburn so I know I will love it in Appy. Um.... let's see..... I'm trying to think if I have anything else to say of relevance (making the assumption that other stuff I have said has been relevant) Not really I guess. Just have a couple more days of chillin then I can move in!! WOOHOO!!! Oh, I also got me a gameboy advance SP with some of my christmas money so I have been playing that while I was home. Definitely fun stuff. I am going to have to try to find some of my sisters old gameboy games and Roper said I can get a bunch of used gameboy games for next to nothing so I need to check that out for sure. I've also decided that I want to learn violin. I think once I get settled in boone and get into classes I am going to look into taking lessons. I love learning new instruments and I think that the violin is one that I could really take a liking to and dedicate a lot of time to. It is definitely on of my favorite instruments to listen to. Hopefully while I am learning I can still dedicate some decent time to guitar, piano, mandolin, banjo, and my bagpipe chanter ;-) Maybe if I wasn't so ADD with my instruments I could actually be good at one of them. Oh well. Maybe eventually I will just be good at all of them. How cool would that be? Hella cool I say!! Ok, well I think that will be the end of this ginormous update. If I think of anything important that I left out I may include it in my next post which will hopefully come with greater expedience than this one did. I should be pretty consistent once classes and stuff start up and the tone may change a little cuz I will likely vary my content a little more instead of just have a summary of what I have been doing. Hopefully that will make it a tad more interesting, but I am not making any promises. :-) Until next time..... Tact is for those who aren't witty enough to be sarcastic (my new sticker from Hot Topic)

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fincher69 (2004-01-06 15:19:34)
testing out comments on my snazzy new blog :-)

(2004-01-06 15:24:23) Hiya
Hey Justin..... I am so excited for you that you get to move into your new apartment. I hope that App State will be exactly right for you. Hi to the fam... I'm a big fun of that tact sticker... Talk with you soon, Lauren

angelwings (2004-01-08 04:11:59)
welcome to Livejournal fruitcake! Aww I am all excited I can now have you on my friends list...wooohooo :) So now that you are officially getting your ass up to Boone maybe there might be a slightly better chance of my coming to visit than when you were in yucky Bama. Of course it's not like you call me to hang out when you come to G'Vegas or anything either! ;) lol Later Tater, Angel

6.1.13 yippee!! (2004-01-06 01:36)

Not a helluva lot to add. Got my new BLOG all set up for the time being. I will likely do more customizing once I get settled in Boone. Maybe download the client and try it out but I figure there is no point in doing it yet since I am on my laptop and most of my updates will be coming from my desktop. I beat my new Tony Hawk game tonight so I was kinda stoked about that. Now I think I am going to hit the sack since momma

will be waking me up early to go get a Uhaul. Fun stuff. I think I am going to like this livejournal stuff. It seems pretty tight. Hopefully I will keep on it a tad more than I did my old one and like I mentioned earlier I will start broadening it past just "what I did today" which should be fun/interesting. but that's it for now.

6.1.14 a couple rants (2004-01-07 01:25)

Went up to boone, got my key and got a couple other things set up. Sums up my day. Now I can rant.

Rant #1: Wasps, Yellow Jackets, Hornets and the like. What purpose do they serve? I never hear of their "natural predators" or even a single animal that regularly eats them. What good do they do? These stupid little critters were shat from Satan's butt to simply bring evil to this world. I really think that if every single wasp, hornet, etc. were to perish, the world would be a better place. Regular bees serve a purpose. They make honey. They pollinate flowers. They do something GOOD. Wasps are the Al Queda of the insect world. The exist solely for the purpose of evil and unpleasantness and if God would strike them all down expediently it would be greatly appreciated.

Rant #2: I'm sure most of you have heard of the old dumbass who ran through the market a while back (accelerating the whole time) hitting like 60 pedestrians and killing 10, one of which was an infant. All this occurred directly after a hit and run where he also ran into another vehicle. First of all they just sent him home after the incident. He killed 10 people and they SENT HIM HOME!! If I had run over one person with my car and even only injured them, my ass would be in jail. But just because this piece of shit is old, they just send him home. Now he is finally on trial and he plead innocent (what a laugh) and some people actually think he shouldn't be criminally prosecuted. HE KILLED 10 PEOPLE FOR PETE'S SAKE!!! One of which was a kid who wasn't even old enough to start forming lasting memories. An infant. He robbed this child of basically it's entire life because he is way to old to be driving and did it anyway! He even had a long history of running into stuff because he can't drive worth a crap!! Simple solution to this problem. One bullet. I say kill the damn old piece of crap. He's lived his life. He's had a great 80-some years and it's his time. SHOOT HIM!! Someone should have a long time ago and if they had 10 people would likely still be going strong, one of which a frickin' infant!!! Man that pisses me off. he should have been shot on the scene. I can't believe anyone thinks he should basically go free. Old people driving piss me off. I wonder how old I have to be before it's cool for me drive around running over and killing people? Do I get a special license for that? What a big crock of POO!!!!

6.1.15 more moving more moving (2004-01-08 22:15)

nothing too exciting. Another couple days of moving in to Boone. My apartment was all clean when I got there today which was a definite plus and I got my internet set up which is key. I brought my TV and entertainment center, but alas, forgot my entertainment. I left my CD player, DVD player, and receiver all at home. I'm retarded. Hopefully I will get that all set up tonight....I just remember I was going to run to walmart tonight. woohoo!! But yeah, I should find out tomorrow what my TA obligations will be which is cool. I got registered for classes. I'm taking theoretical CS, Human-Computer Interfaces, and General Psychology. I wanted to take abnormal psych, but not only was the section I wanted closed, but I forgot that I have to specifically request for them to transfer my psych credit from furman since I am a grad student in CS. So I am going to essentially retake the intro psych course which I loved which is fine by me. It's been almost a year since I have really been in classes so it will be good to break back into it with something that isn't too strenuous :-) My friend Steve got a Subaru STi for his graduation present and I should get to see tomorrow which is hella cool. It's kinda like my WRX but badasser. :-) Um.... I think that about sums it up. Hopefully my posts will get a little more exciting once I start up classes and get settled in Boone. :-) Soon, Soon!!!

6.1.16 Edumacational!!! :-) (2004-01-10 23:35)

I got two cool page-a-day calendars for the new year and I just found them and I decided that I am going to incorporate them into my BLOG!! So as usual I can't guarantee any excitement but at least it might be moderately educational. ;-) Especially this post since I gotta catch up for all those missed days by just putting ALL the info in this one post. I hope I don't overload someone's brain. ;-) Maybe this will draw a few more of my friends to read which MIGHT lead to people leaving comments. I have comment envy. I admit it. I have friends. THEY get comments. Though they have a tad more drama in their lives than I, but are a few comments too much to ask? Especially on my rants. Tell me you agree. Or say you disagree and that you think I'm stupid spastic ninny-head. Doesn't matter to me. OK, so anyhoo. I am posting way early tonight because I am kinda using it as a break from decoration and setting up my new apartment in Boone. :-) I'm stoked. It's finally coming together and it's going to be a pretty chill place for sure. Hopefully I will get a few more guests here than I did down in Auburn. ;-) Ok, my two calendars are going to be great for you kiddies looking to take an SAT or GRE cuz one is just straight cool new vocabulary words and the other is word ORIGINS which should be pretty interesting. So here they are for the first week and a half of January :-) I'll start with the definitions.

Watershed: 1. a dividing ridge between two drainage areas 2. the region or area drained by a particular body of water 3. turning point

Forfend: 1. To ward off, prevent 2. to protect, preserve

Polymath: a person of encyclopedic learning

Lissome: 1. easily flexed, lithe 2. nimble

Handsel: 1. a gift made as a token of good wishes or luck 2a. a first installment, earnest money b. earnest, foretaste

Thrasonical: of, relating to, resembling, or characteristic of Thraso, bragging, boastful

Chin-wag: conversation, chat

Kakistocracy: government by the worst people

Akimbo: 1. having the hand on the hip and the elbow turned outward 2. set in a bent position

Omphalos: a central point, hub, focal point

Frisky: Light, active movement is called "frisky" because of its root, the Old High-German word frisc, which meant "lively or fresh." "frisking" - as in "searching someone for hidden weapons" - arises from this meaning, first used by crooks, not law enforcement personnel. Light, active hand movements were used by pickpockets, who were sometimes called frisks. Cops turned the tables on this activity by adapting the term to the other side of the law.

Currant, Raisin: Originally, the prized dried form of seedless grapes from the Corinth region of Greece was referred to as rasins de Corauntz, referring to the area. Over time, the finest raisins from the various places were referred to by the same name, which was altered through use to become the modern word "currant." As for the word "raisin," it comes from the latin racemus, meaning "a cluster of grapes."

Pushing the envelope: Test pilots are credited with coining this phrase. It rests on the key word "envelope," used by modern engineers to mean "a range of values that define the performance capabilities of a test," in this case of aircraft. As long as a plane operates withing these boundaries (the envelope), it performs normally; getting close to the limits, or "pushing the envelope," puts it and the pilot closer to the unknown, and potential danger.

Matthew: In Hebrew, various Old Testament characters used early variations of this name, including Mattathias, Mattatha, and Mattaniah. Christian translators altered this to "Matthew."

Bash: Boxing is responsible for this term. It dates to the 1800s, when pugilists were sometimes called "bashers," referring to the action of the fists.

Goof-off: The word "goof," meaning "an error," was inspiration for "goofy," meaning "stupid" or "silly," as if those were reasons for someone making errors. The origin of "goof" was goff, which arose in Middle English to refer to "a person of limited intelligence - a moron or simpleton." During World War II, the word "goof" was appropriated by United States troops and emerged in a new form as the term "goofing off," referring to the "idle or wasted time" that was part of army life.

Airedale: "Airdales" are a dog breed originally developed in the Yorkshire region of England, but instead of being called "Yorkshires" - a term that ended up designating another breed from the area - they were named the "Bingley terrier" for one area of this region, the Bingley district. In the late 1800s, the name was changed to "Airedale;" the new name was linked to the river Aire, which runs through the area.

Tom-tom: Many people assume that this common type of drum comes from Africa. Though similar percussion instruments are linked to the cultures of that continent, the "tom-tom" actually comes from India, where it was originally called tamtam in Hindi.

Golf: The name of this sport comes from an early name for the club with which it is played. In Middle Dutch, such a stick was called a colf. The word "links," referring to the grounds on which golf is played, comes from an early Anglo-Saxon word, hlincas, meaning "rising ground."

whew! That was a lot typing! Hope you enjoyed your educational experience and hopefully I will do a decent job of keeping it going! :-)

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angelwings (2004-01-11 19:07:18)
YAY now I feel all smart. Thanks for the Sunday afternoon vocab lesson :) I leave you comments you silly poop! hehe So quit your damn whining..... Angel

6.1.17 trying out the client (2004-01-11 00:18)

Just downloaded this client after that massive last post so I am just trying it out briefly. One thing it does that is cool is automatically detect what I am listening to from winamp. This if especially cool for me since I usually have it randomized through all my mp3s (which I think currently is somewhere around 7900). Testes testes.... one... two..... three?? ;-)

6.1.18 another EARLY update (2004-01-11 21:08)

Just doing a little mini early update for something to do :-) My word origins calendar only has one sheet for weekends so no word origins on Sundays. Today's new word is Crucible: 1. a heat-resisting container 2. a severe test 3. a place or situation in which concentrated forces interact to cause change or development.

Had a good chill day before starting class tomorrow. Just finished putting up decorations, played some video games, watched some TV, had dinner with the folks and shaved my whole face for the first time ever! I usually just clip it short and it is light enough to work, but my clippers start ripping hairs out instead of cutting them and I had to shave to keep from starting class lopsided tomorrow. Fun stuff! That's about it for now.

6.1.19 first day of classes (2004-01-13 00:43)

I had a good first day of classes. Two of my classes should be a lot of fun and not too hard and my third class is going to be a doozy. It's definitely going to be quite the challenge, but I am sure I can handle it. :-) Unfortunately most of the people in my classes are the kinds of folks you would expect to be CS grad students. I can't say I expected much different but a guy can hope. :-) I'm definitely going to give my landlord's son a call and meet some of my neighbors. I did meet one girl who I had talked to online a couple times which was cool. Funny thing was the first time we met in person was to go to WalMart. :-) After I get settled into the class schedule I am sure I will start meeting some more folks. AND I will have some guests this weekend which I am greatly looking forward to. Tomorrow will be a pretty lax day for me. I may try to go hit the gym and start working out some, lord knows I need it. I'll be sure to update this on how that goes. :-) now for some education!!

Rosetta Stone: one that gives clue to understanding

Wisconsin: The 30th state was so called from the Wisconsin River, named by the local Chippewa. The word literally translated means "grassy place." Some alternative sources attribute the name to the Ojibway word wishkonsing, meaning "place of the beaver."

6.1.20 nothing much to report (2004-01-14 01:25)

Just a blurb entry tonight. Had a brief meeting at 9, took it easy until lab from 1-2 then took it easy some more. :-) Tuesdays and thursdays are my easy days. Went and got a little weight workout (first one in a while) so I have a feeling my muscles will be talking to me tomorrow fo shizzle. I keep getting preoccupied but tomorrow I am actually gonna go say hey to some of my neighbors and introduce myself. I also need to call my landlord's son and email my friends who know people who go here. I should have quite a posse by the end of the semester. ;-) and of course the first person I make friends with who is hella cool is leaving Appy at the end of this semester. Can I pick'm or can I pick'm? :-) Anyhoo I grabbbed some grub with her tonight. She's a lot of fun. She's going to be my source for finding parties and stuff. um..... not much else to report. Got the rest of my textbooks today which is good. Tomorrow I need to actually do some schoolwork :-O so I won't have much going on when Penny, Julia, and Elisa come up this weekend. Should be fun! That about sums it up, now learn somethin' fools!!

bunkum: insincere or foolish talk, nonsense

Curriculum: In Latin, the verb currere means "to run," and from this came the noun "curriculum," meaning

”a race.” Over time, application drifted into academia, where it referred to the ”race” or ”courses that ran” through a specified period.

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tattermask (2004-01-14 17:44:59)
hey, ”fo shizzle” is MY trying-to-be-black line! You done stole my word, fo shizzle mah nizzle. Go back to yo hizzle and eat some pizzizle. get bizzle. amandizzle

6.1.21 rando mid-afternoon entry (2004-01-14 17:48)

I was looking through my stickers (I do this when I get bored) and found a few I had forgotten about but loved so I figured I would post them on here since I have nothing better to do.

Tact is for people who aren't witty enough to be sarcastic

Honesty is the best policy, but insanity is a better defense.

Adults are dumb

I'm not myself today. Maybe I'm you.

My day is not complete until I've terrified a complete stranger.

Ok, that's it for now. :-) hehehe haw haw haw!!!

6.1.22 Time's about right (2004-01-15 03:03)

Now THIS is when I'm SUPPOSED to be making posts. :-) This is more my kind of time frame. At least I only have to be up early 3 days a week. It could be worse. Met my next door neighbors briefly tonight. Might stop by again tomorrow and try to invoke a little more conversation. :-) Spent the rest of the evening chillin' with my cool Appy friend. She rocks! It's almost scary how much we have in common sometimes. Just played some video games and watched some TV but it's always nice to have company. I do fine on my own, but I still keep the ”more the merrier” clause like we did in good ol' Furman place. Now those were the days! :-) now I'm still not tired and I'm just chillin. Lookin' like we might get a little thunderstorm tonight. It's already raining/slushy. Might make the run to bristol tomorrow a little more interesting. :-) Well, I guess that's it for now!! At least that's all I can think of. :-)

lexical - relating to the words of a language as distinguished from its grammar.

Wolverine - A ferocious, fearless predator, the ”wolverine” got its name from another noted hunter, the wolf, even though ”wolverines” are notably solitary and wolves are characterized by their pack behavior.

6.1.23 I'm gonna get nominated for most diligent student (2004-01-16 02:22)

Jeepers. I ran to Bristol today and grabbed one more load of stuff to bring back to my apartment. I definitely hope it will be a good while before I have to move again. Got back and I have tons of reading to do so I did a little of that but my tummy was feeling icky so I took a break and played guitar. Then started talking to Loni and she ended up coming over and grabbing some food and we had another fun night of just chillin

with the TV. I definitely miss having roomates. I don't really value privacy that much and I would rather have someone around to do stuff with, even if it's just watching TV. Needless to say I didn't get a whole lot more work done. I just finished doing a LITTLE work and I am going to read myself to sleep (and with this textbook it shouldn't take long) and next week I vow to be a more diligent student. I just need to do my schoolwork a little earlier since I am rekindling my tendency to occupy my evening hours with activities much more enjoyable than homework. Let's see.... anything else? Oh, the more I think about it the more I think I really would like to invest some time over in the psychology department. I can't this term, but I definitely will be looking into it in the fall. I think that's about it right now. One more day then I will have friends and will have a kick ass long weekend!!! woohoo!!! :-) I'm excited!

Welkin - 1a: the vault of the sky, firmament b: the celestial abode of God or the gods 2: the upper atmosphere

Martyr - The Greek martur was literally "a witness." This generated later forms of the word in Old French and Old English, eventually influenced by Christian traditions and used to refer to "those who performed special deeds in the name of this religion, specifically the sacrafice of life," as these martyrs were "witnesses" on behalf of their faith.

6.1.24 woohooaaaat a good weeekend! :-) (2004-01-19 17:02)

Penny, Eilsa and Julia came up for the long weekend. Had a blast just hanging out with them and hitting the slopes with Elisa and Julia on sunday. My bestest Appy bud Alana spent the whole weekend with us which was awesome cus she's definitely a cool one. :-) It was nice having people around. I have decided that I am definitely a roomate type of guy. It's cool having my own space, and having everything decorated like I want and stuff, but I would defintiely trade it. I like living with other people. I like having people around to do stuff with and to remedy boredom with. As anyone who knows me knows, I am a pretty independent person and do fine on my own, but I am definitely finding the more I am on my own, the more I realize that I DO like people. :-) Can't think of anything especially notable that happened this weekend. It was mostly pretty chill. Man, it's amazing how long one week can be! Last week was cool breaking into the Appy scene a little bit, but it was definitely a long week. I am super stoked that I don't have class today because mondays are my hella-long days so it rules that the one day I missed was a monday. :-) The more I have been looking at my classes the more I am sure that one class will be a bitch, and the other two won't be bad at all. Not too shabby a way to start off. I still can't help thinking about this psychology stuff too though. I swear my parents are going to want to kill me. They'll be super excited if I can just finish enough school to get a job before I'm 30. :-) My latest thrambles (thought rambles :-) have encompassed the posibility of taking enough psych here so I could go to a psych grad school after getting my CS masters. Also have thought about the possibility of doing some psych graduate work while I get my CS phd and possibly eventually persuing a phd in psych as well. I have a really hard time deciding what I really want to do. I wish I had taken more psych at ol Furman. The more I think back the more stupid it was of me not too. General psych was definitely at the top of my favorite/most interesting class list. I was just too preoccupied to notice it while i was there dadjummit. Oh well, we will see how it goes. If I could find a good combo of psych and CS and either get dual phds or masters in one phd in the other then that could be pretty cool as well. I got pleny of time to ponder so I am sure I will have more spouts about it on here in the future. Um..... I guess that's about it. I have gotten a good amount of reading done today, but still have a good amount left. And it's like textbook reading so you can imagine how excessively interesting it is. bleh! ok, time for you to get some education now! :-)

Conundrum - 1. a riddle whose answer is or involves a pun 2. an intricate and difficult problem.

Melting Pot - The phrase, popularly used to describe American culture, first gained public attention in 1908 when it was the title of a popular play set in America. The Melting Pot is the story of a romance between a Jewish composer and the woman he loves, the daughter of an anti-Semitic Russian, in which love prevails over traditional culture biases.

Gauntlet - 1. A protective glove 2. an open challenge 3. a dress glove extending above the wrist.

Goal - Starting in Old English, this was gælan, a verb meaning "to hinder." This generated gol in Middle English, meaning "a boundary" or "a limit." Over time, the limit presumably became "the target" or "goal," and just such an application would have also suited its use in sports.

Antediluvian - 1. of or relating to the period before the flood described in the Bible 2. made, evolved, or developed a long time ago.

Graham Cracker - Born during one of several major waves of health food faddishness, the graham cracker is the invention of Sylvester Graham (1794-1851). Graham pioneered the use of some natural foods, including his signature graham flour, made from the most nutritious part of whole wheat.

Paladin (go FU!) - 1. a trusted military leader (of the medieval era) 2. a leading champion of a cause.

6.1.25 pokey okey okey (2004-01-23 08:25)

I haven't been very good at updating my blog have I? I guess have I haven't really had a lot of free time to just sit at the computer. let's see. This week has been a little short due to holiday but you are definitely not hearing any complaints from me. It has definitely been a good second week in ol' boone. I'm starting to get to know my fellow CS folks a little better, which is good. Classes have been going fairly well. Two of my classes are really interesting and shouldn't be hard and my third is going to be a bitch and not that interesting. Oh well. I guess two out of three isn't too bad. :-) Been hanging out with Loni a lot lately. She's a blast. Only bad thing has been that we spend so much time together that she is kinda my only "branch" of friends outside of CS. I got plenty of time to meet folks so I ain't too worried. :-) Went and saw the one other guy I have talked to online from ASU when he was performing at open mike night at the coffee shop. He was playing with his band Rustic which was pretty cool. Only talked to him briefly but he seemed like a pretty cool guy. Well, I think that about sums up my week. I did a little schoolwork yesterday and I definitely need to do some this weekend. Too bad it's for the class I don't like. :-P I gotta go home saturday to help pick out stuff for the lake house and since Loni will be out of town I am gonna try to meet some new people. :-) I'll likely have some time this weekend to work on this so hopefully it won't be so long between updates. And since it has been long, you get EXTRA education today. :-)

Importune: 1. to press or urge with troublesome persistence 2. to annoy, trouble 3. to beg, urge, or solicit persistently or troublesomely.

Ton: This common unit of weight is directly related to a container once noted for holding heavy contents. In the early days of sail, a tun was a barrel or cask used to ship goods, originially called a tunne in Old English.

footless: 1. lacking foundation 2. stupid or inept

Raining Cats and Dogs: It's one of the most common and colorful expressions in use, and it has been in use for a long time, possibly since the 1600s. Several explanations have been proposed, but the most likely

is a literal description of the aftermath of a downpour, when rising water in city gutters would wash away the dead bodies of cats and dogs, in plentiful supply at the time.

Mnemonic: assisting or designed to assist memory

Torso: the trunk of the human body has an analogy to the stalk of a plant, or so thought the Romans. In the original latin form, this word was thrysus, literally meaning "a stalk." In Italian this became torso, from which it passed into english.

Hark back: 1. to turn back to an earlier topic or circumstance 2. to go back to something as an origin or source.

Alamo: The famous mission in San Antonio, Texas, gets its name from the most common tree in the area, the cottonwood. In Spanish, "cottonwood" is alamo.

6.1.26 asdlan vl;iu4htawlejrha.lw;ekrucaw;erjcwelrkjahwerlkajwehrnawl.erh >:-O (2004-01-25 17:18)

Man, it's been a busy few days. I thought it was going to be a pretty ho-hum and chill weekend since Alana was going out of town, but unfortunately for her her plans fell through and she ended up staying here all weekend. It's been a lot of fun. We haven't really gotten into anything too exciting but she's just a lot of fun to hang out with. :-) Ran home saturday for a bit and checked out the lakehouse (which is coming along awesomely) and grabbed a few more things from home that I needed. Last night we went bowling then went a played a little pool which was fun. That brings us to today..... today I had decided was pretty much going to be my work day. I was just going to do a little catching up mostly just in one class. I have pretty much kept up with all my work in my other classes. Except this one. Operating Systems. First of all, I am not really interested in operating systems I just needed the course for the hour requirement that my assistanship holds. Second of all, most of the people in my classes graduated from Appy and at Appy they spend most of their time working in the UNIX enviroment. I never really worked in UNIX. I can hardly get around and then all of a sudden I have been thrown into this class. Everyone else is familiar with it so it's just like the "next step" kind of stuff for them. But not for me. I have received so much information this past week that I am struggling to process it all, much less understand it all enough to easily complete my assignments. THIS SUCKS!!!!! It's been pissing the hell out of me today because I have spent like 5 hours sitting at this computer and I have hardly made any progress. I emailed a guy in my class earlier but I just emailed my prof so we can talk about it. I just hated doing that cuz I don't wanna look like a dumbass right after I start here. Oh well. there were 8 problems in our lab, I have pretty much taken care of the first 4, and I have worked on the last 4 today and I still have those last 4 unfinished. I don't think I can drop the class because that would put me below the required number of hours for being a graduate assistant and it's too late to add a class so I wouldn't have enough hours. It's just so frustrating to be working on something, have it have an error in it, and you can't even understand what is causing the error. If I can't find the cause how the hell am I supposed to fix it?! I'm going to go for a walk and take a little break and try to come back to it so I at least I will have something to go to my professor with tomorrow. Hopefully the rest of this class won't suck so bad. AAAAAGHGUUUGUGHGHGHG!!!!!! We'll just have to see.

nostrum: 1. a medicine of secret composition recommended by its preparer but usually without scientific proof of its effectiveness. 2. a usually questionable rememdy or scheme, panacea

Alamo: The famous mission in San Antonio, Texas, gets its name from the most common tree in the area, the cottonwood. In Spanish, "cottonwood" is alamo.

Hark back: 1. to turn back to an earlier topic or circumstance 2. to go back to something as an origin or source

uxorial: of, relating to, or characteristic of a wife

Surveyor: The French were early pioneers in the development of measurement systems for land area. Their language also generated this term, which came from the Middle-French words sur, meaning "over." and veoir, meaning "to look."

(2004-01-25 20:36:24) not a dumbass
HEY! you are not a dumbass for emailing your professor!! you are smart!! he should know what he is talking about and as a computer dork he will feel your pain. :-) the little i've programmed i know it can be really frustrating but you are lots better at it than me so i know you can do it. try not to get discouraged, because i'm sure your professors and other people in your class will want to help you. it always helps to talk through things. just do what you can, and take it easy on the caffeine. ;-) little finch ps - i dont have class tomorrow b/c of ice!! :-)

6.1.27 what WOULD Brian Boitano do? (2004-01-28 18:02)

woohoo!! Well it's been a pretty decent couple of days. My talk wih my prof went well. I FINALLY got my assignment done this morning which means I am pretty much caught up on my schoolwork for the time being which is a good feeling. I would have finished last night but I kinda got distracted cuz Alana came over and we (well..... she) made breakfast food for dinner. It was scrumdiddlyumptious!!! The last couple of days have definitely been busy though. I have spend way way much time in the CS building. I guess that's kinda expected considering I am a grad student, but being the slacker student I am I am not used to all this time dedication. :-) I have a hard enough time paying attention during a 50 minute class!! Especially after essentially taking a year off from being a student. I'm a little rusty, but I'm still surviving. :-) I briefly met my neighbors that live below me and they invited me to an upcoming keg party which is killer and I have another person I can call. Pretty soon I might actually have more than one friend!! :-O hehehe This week is my first week of splitting up my work out (chest and tri's one day, back and bi's another) so tomorro should be oh so fun considering I just obliterated my boobs. :-) Well, I think that's about all the relevance for now. I really wish I had been able to take a psych course. I won't know for sure til I take some psych classes this summer, but I really think there is a good possibility that I will incorporate psychology into my learning scheme somehow. I think psych really interests me since most people think I'm nuts and I always like learning about my own kind. ;-) Hopefully I won't stay so busy that I only get to update this every few days, but we will just have to see. Until next time!!!

Pedantic: narrowly, stodgily, and often ostentatiously learned. unimaginative. pedestrian

Albuquerque, New Mexico: Founded by Spanish explorers in 1706, the town was named San Felipe de Alburquerque, in honor of Philip V of Spain, also known as the Duke of Alburquerque. The first "r" was dropped from the spelling some time later. The original Albuquerque is in western Spain near the Portuguese border, in the province of Badajoz.

Bon vivant: a person have cultivated, refined, and sociable tastes especially in respect to food and drink.

Vivid: The influential Latin verb vivere ultimately is responsible for this word in English. From it came the verb vividus, meaning "lively," which developed into the adjective form "vivid" in English. Other English

terms springing from this life from include ”vivisection,” ”survive,” ”vitality,” and ”revival.”

Callow: lacking adult sophistication, immature

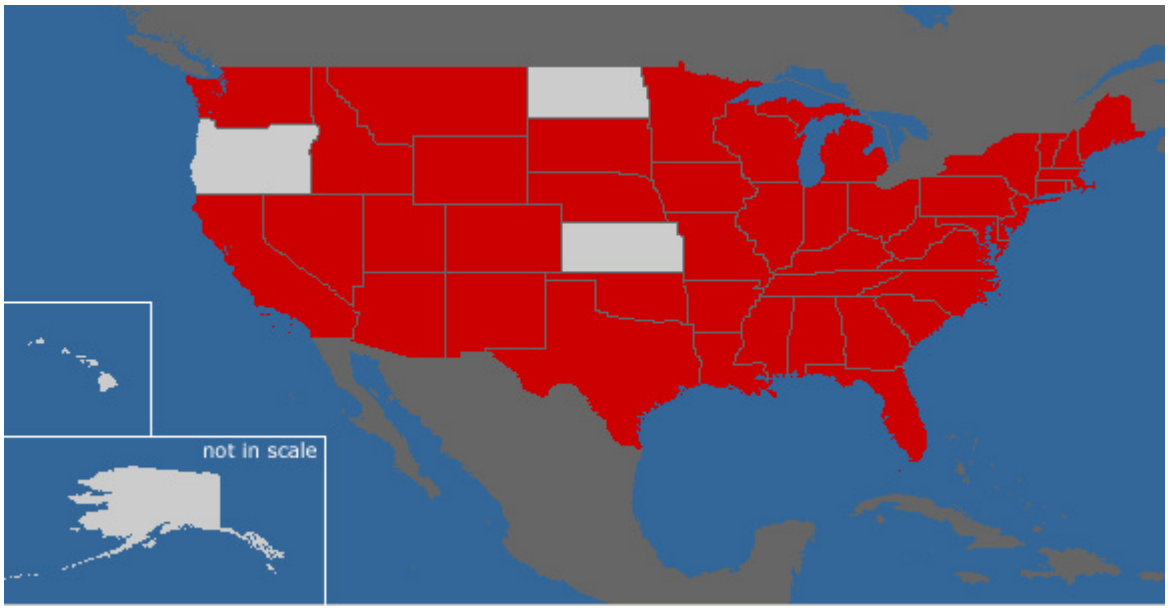
6.1.28 (2004-01-28 19:16)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00026h0p/

6.1.29 fun little map (2004-01-30 08:38)

I gotta go to class, but saw this and thought I would throw it up. :-)



[1]create your own visited states map
or [2]write about it on the open travel guide

1. http://www.world66.com/myworld66/visitedStates
2. http://www.world66.com/

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lillibullero (2004-01-30 07:03:24)
Wow... Ive been to as many states as you HAVENT been to... amazing. (Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee, and California)
I need to get out more

6.1.30 this is cool too (2004-01-30 10:28)



[1]create your own visited country map
or [2]write about it on the open travel guide

1. http://www.world66.com/myworld66
2. http://www.world66.com/

6.1.31 Three in one day already!? (2004-01-30 10:36)

woohoo!! I'm on a roll. Don't really have anything relevant I just was bored and thought I would go ahead and put up the new words while I was chillin. Enjoy!

Voracious: 1. having a huge appetite 2. excessively eager, insatiable

Curtain: "Curtain" arrived in English via Middle English, the earlier form being curtine. This, in turn, was borrowed from Old French, both arising from the Latin cors, meaning "enclosure." "Drapes," a synonym, arose from the root word drap in Old French, meaning "cloth."

Dreadnought: 1. a warm garment of thick cloth, the cloth 2. a battleship 3. one that is among the largest of most powerful of its kind.

Rail: A "rail" is straight, as is a ruler. Both came from Latin origin. It started with the verb regere, meaning "to keep straight;" one use branched into the Latin regula, for "ruler," which ended up in Middle English as raile, meaning "a straight bar of wood."

6.1.32 but mooooooom, don't you want me to be cooooo? (2004-01-31 13:32)

Who's that spartan with a girlfriend? It's me! It's me! I said who's that spartan with a girlfriend? It's me! It's me!! I am SPECIAL (in more ways than one) I don't have a super update for this. Had a lot of fun last night, even though I had a BIT much alcohol. ;-) I don't know how many calls I made but I am sure they were entertaining. but the BEST part of the night was that Alana and I are officially dating. I have

a girlfriend! woohoo!! I think that's hella cool. :-) I mean, she's beautiful and she's awesome, what more can I ask for? hehehe I logged some TIME in the CS building this week fo sho. Yesterday I was there from 11-5:15. that's a long time for me to be in an academic building yo!! AND I am going BACK today!! I am meeting with my partner to work on a project that is due monday. So right now I'm just chillin. Just watched Alice in Wonderland for the first time in a very long time which was cool. Definitely a trippy movie. I bet it was a blast to make. :-) Now I am just chillin til my meeting at 3. Hopefully we can either finish or at least knock out a good portion. Also a side note, I can backdate entries so I got all my entries from my old blog and added them to this one. How cool is that?! so now you can view pretty much every blog entry I have ever made, all on lj!! Though I think when I was starting out something got screwed up and I lost my first several posts, but I don't think they were that important. um.... I guess that about sums it up. I mainly just wanted to post about my Alana. :-) now learn something!!!

Luftmensch: an impractical contemplative person having no definite business or income.

Svelte: The Italian verb svellere means "to pull out" or "to stretch." The past participle is svelto, the origin of the word "svelte" in English. Now meaning "thin and fashionable," it shows its literal roots.

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hcatlin (2004-02-01 19:19:31)
wow... so i see i got added through the furman group, eh? well, what a way to come out. damn, i never should have joined that group! my main goal is to keep it out of cs... save for julia and will h. anyhow... just wanted to say hi and that you better write good crap cuz you're on my friends page now. -hampton.

fincher69 (2004-02-04 07:25:46) Re:
I'm not usually that exciting but I'll try to step it up just for you Hampton. :-)

hcatlin (2004-02-04 07:43:21) Re:
you bet your skinny ass you will! or ELSE! -hdawg to the max(tor).

6.2 February

6.2.1 sniggle wappy ding dang doo (2004-02-04 10:08)

Between classes and my girlfriend, I haven't had a lot of time to keep this thing updated. I guess there isn't a whole lot missing cuz my life isn't that exciting but still. I can always tell when it's been a while since I update cuz my little calendar pages start accumulating. :-) I guess the main news has been that I finished my last CS project which was hella cool. Just in time to enjoy watching the super bowl. Good game, though it woulda been a helluva lot better had those damn new englanders not won. :-) Other than working on my project and watching the super bowl, it was a pretty lazy dazy weekend. Nothing too exciting. Been getting more snow around here. Yesterday we got a bunch of slushy icy stuff which was aiight but coulda been worse. It's almost been worse today cuz a lot of the slushy stuff froze last night. Doesn't look too bad for the drivers, but for us walkers it has been kinda sketchy. I might try a leg weight workout today. That should be interesting. It's been like 2 years since I did one of those. THEN tomorrow I get to kill my back and bi's since they hardly got sore last week and that annoys me. Ok, I guess that's about it. yeah.

Randall: In Old Norse, the word rand meant "shield" and the word ulfr mean "wolf;" together they formed the early Norman names Rannulf and Randolf. Randolf was the inspiration for "Randall" and "Randy."

Probity: Adherence to the highest principles and ideals, uprightness.

Anthrax: The history of the word "anthrax" begins with the Greeks, for whom it meant "coal" or "charcoal." The English word "anthracite," referring to a familiar type of coal, also stems from this root. Romans adapted the Greek word anthrax to refer to a "carbuncle," a dark malignant boil. The much-talked-about, infectious disease gets its name directly from this Latin use. Anthrax infection is often accompanied by swellings on the skin, each marked by a small, dark mass.

Bloviate: to speak or write verbosely and windily (I wouldn't know anything about this one ;-)

Utile: practical, useful

Tattoo: Polynesian cultures in the South Pacific have a long tradition of body decoration using incised marks colored with pigment. European sailors borrowed the tradition and the name, the Polynesian word tatau.

Miniscule: 1. written in or in the size or style of lower case letters 2. very small

6.2.2 silly college kids (2004-02-05 16:00)

Thursday is my lazy day so I haven't done a whole lot today. Had a lazy morning then went and did my back and bi workout (yuck!!) then went to the mall to get some protein drinks. As I left a guy in an F-150 was coming up through my parking lot (it's a decent hill) and a guy was coming down in a jeep (who shouldn't have been cuz it's a one way parking lot) and the truck guy stopped to let the jeep back up then the jeep guy shouted that it was too slick so he couldn't back up. Then the guy in the truck backed up a little and pulled to the side so the jeep could squeeze through. The jeep gets by then the truck tries to drive and starts slipping. so I just walk past him and run to the mall. I get back and he is still in the same place and he is afraid to keep trying to move because he keeps sliding towards a truck. He asked me whose truck it was and sure enough it was my girlfriend Alana's truck and she made me a spare key luckily and I moved it so the dude could just back into the space and turn around and just go out the wrong way. AND like 20 yards up the hill ANOTHER guy was stuck in like a little sentra or something and he had slid to about 5 inches from hitting a parked car and just stopped and got out and looked like he was waiting for a tow truck or something. I felt extra special since I had no trouble getting up the hill (I LOVE MY DISCO!!!) AND I felt special cuz when I saw the guy in the truck trying to go the left side had ok traction but the right side was just spinning. For those of you who don't know here is a little car lesson. :-) If your truck/suv has four wheel drive (not all wheel drive, that's different), most people think that the power is split evenly to each wheel, but that is only kinda the case. It's more split 50/50 between front and back. This is different because the wheel on the left side doesn't have to spin at the same speed as the one on the right. Like when you go around a turn, your inside wheel goes around a smaller arc and therefore covers less ground in the same amount of time as the outside wheel and therefore the inside wheel isn't spinning as fast. This is enabled by the differential between the two wheels. Because of this fact, if you put your left wheel on something really slick and your right wheel on something with traction, it can still be hard to go because the wheel on the slick stuff will start spinning and kind of take all the power since it is actually moving and that is exactly what was happening to the truck guy. And why does this make me feel special you ask? Well, I will tell you!! Because my beloved Disco can lock the differentials so that no matter when the wheel on the left will spin the same as the wheel on the right and therefore I would have been able to drive up the hill using the traction I had on the left side. How snazzy. :-) Ok, that's enough for now. I was just highly entertained by the whole situation and thought I would post about it. I'll go ahead and put the vocab up here too. :-)

Verbose: (again another one appropriate for me) 1. containing more words than necessary, wordy, impaired by wordiness 2. given to wordiness

Antique: Latin provided the widely used root word here. It's ante, meaning "before," leading to such terms as "anticipate," "antecedent," and "ancient." As a noun, the word has acquired its modern use only in the past 100 or so years; before then, it was primarily used as an adjective, usually modified, as in "antiquated."

6.2.3 boredom incites a riot of poeticism (2004-02-06 19:20)

I'm chillin at home
on a friday night
just hanging out
in the hopes that I might

get a call back
from the peeps I have called
though if I don't
I won't be too apalled

though it WOULD be nice
to go out for a change
and meet some appy folks
hopefully some of them strange

cuz getting a girlfriend
slowed me down a bit
when it came to branching out
and finding a new clique

So I'm still looking for friends
with which to hang out
the kinds of folks
that when I'm bored I can shout

"Hey come over to my place!
Sit down have a beer!
We got nothing but fun
going on over here"

and people would actually come
even just to chill
I don't care if it's Jim
Bubba, jim-bob, or jill

cuz I miss the parties
back at furman place
where we would come home
only to face

a big crowd of people
who already started the party
and who would help us consume
amounts of alcohol, quite hearty

this getting old stuff sucks
I'm still a youngin at heart
and I'm not ready, with my
juvenile ways, to part

I still look for the party
and want to have fun
and write poems in my blog
when I can find none

but I think I will draw
this entry to a close
because I feel
I am becoming verbose :-)

6.2.4 (2004-02-06 19:31)

[1]Which Unwanted
Sexual Gesture Are You?

Made by the fine folks at
[2]daylighttwilight.com

1. http://daylighttwilight.com/gesture
2. http://daylighttwilight.com/

6.2.5 (2004-02-06 19:35)

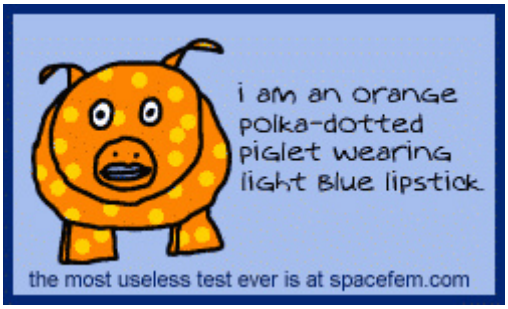
[1]



[2]Which Empire Records character would YOU be? Hmmm?
This quiz made while [3]Angel was procrastinating her ass off.

1. http://strangelittleangel.homestead.com/files/empire.html
2. http://strangelittleangel.homestead.com/files/empire.html
3. http://www.livejournal.com/users/casket4mytears

6.2.6 (2004-02-06 19:37)

[1] 



You are naturally born with a gift, whether it be poetry, writing or song. You love beauty and creativity, and usually are highly intelligent. Others view you as mysterious and dreamy, yet also bold since you hold firm in your beliefs.
[2] What Type of Soul Do You Have ?
brought to you by [3]Quizilla

1. http://spacefem.com/uselessquiz/index.shtml
2. http://quizilla.com/users/mechangel/quizzes/What%20Type%20of%20Soul%20Do%20You%20Have%20%3F/
3. http://quizilla.com/

6.2.7 (2004-02-09 19:12)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002205p/

6.2.8 yowzas (2004-02-09 21:15)

Well it was one helluva weekend. Friday night I called the couple people I have on my list to try to meet cuz my Alana was on a retreat for the night so I was looking for some folks to party with. I just sorta chilled and listened to music waiting for a call back then I eventually just went to visit my neighbors downstairs. They invited me to play drinking games and they were hella cool. I ended up chillin' down there and more and more people came over and I had a little much alcohol but it was a blast. Then saturday I headed to Raleigh with Alana to meet the folks briefly and to see her best friend. I was cracking up cuz she was really nervous about me meeting the folks and I kept telling her all sorts of goofy ass things I was going to do to embarass her. It was great. :-) Meeting the folks went well (as I knew it would. Parents love me!) then we went to a frat party with her friend Rachel. I was the DD and they had a band which was pretty cool and it was a lot of fun. I don't remember what time we left the party but we ended up going to several other places and ended up sleeping like 2 1/2 hours. Sunday we visited Rachel at work then went shopping at a couple malls. Alana isn't much of a shopper. She doesn't really like it and she started to get kind of frustrated, but me being the seasoned shopper than I am, had fun walking around even though, out of TWO big huge malls we went to, neither had a Hot Topic. So sad. I DID get a cool new hat and a snazzy new wallet though which was cool. Then we headed back towards boone and luckily I didn't get a hold of my partner cuz we were possibly going to work on our project but after the previous night I wasn't really looking forward to that. Today was the normal LONG monday. 9 til 6:30 with a break from 1-2. LONG. Um.... dinner was good. I don't know what it was but Alana was looking hella cute tonight. :-) Now we gotta do work. bleh. She has a test tomorrow and I have a buttload of reading I need to do. I guess that's what school is kinda about huh? oh well. :-) While I'm off learning, so can you!!

Paragon: A model of excellence or perfection

Swashbuckler: In the Middle Ages, a buckler was a type of shield, small and lightweight, used defensively to block blows of a sword. Swash referred to the sound and action of swords striking against on another. Together, the combined term was coined to designate "men who exhibited more talk than action," braggarts rather than heroes. But in fiction written about pirates and the age of sail, a "swashbuckler" received a kinder image - "dashing," not cowardly.

Gibe: 1. to utter taunting words 2. to deride or tease with taunting words.

Cacography: 1. Bad spelling 2. Bad handwriting.

Surround: In Latin, the verb superundare, meaning "to overflow," inspired the Middle-French word suronder, with the same meaning. Confused by sound of this word, English listeners used it instead to mean "to go round," from which its modern meaning arose.

Non sequitur: 1. an inference that does not follow from the premises 2. a statement (as a response) that does not follow logically from anything said.

Apple: A fruit long familiar to European cultures, the word "apple" has a long history that evolved over the

years. Origins include the Old Slavik abluko, Old Norse apall, Old Irish ubull, and Old High German apful, all of which could have influenced the Old-English version æppel and the Middle-English version appel.

6.2.9 same old same old (2004-02-11 10:11)

My days duting the week aren't usually very exciting. Not a whole lot different happens. I do classes stuff. I hang out with my girlfriend. That about sums it up. I've been working out tues and thurs for the past several weeks which I have really needed to do and I better start incoporating some running if I am going to be able to keep up with my mom in the 5k's we are going to be running this spring. :-) That and it would help me to lose some of this stupid fat. I have gotten a little more definition lately just because my muscles are coming back, but they are still well padded. :-) I did a little run yesterday and Alana and I are hitting the gym this afternoon so I will likely run while I am there and maybe do a little leg weight workout since I hardly ever do that. I guess we'll see. I found out that as of next week we have to keep time cards as graduate assistants and I have definitely been short on hours. So starting next week I get to spend even MORE time in the CS building. woohoo. :-) I also need to dedicate a little more time to trying to meet some people. I love hanging out with my girlfriend, but it's never healthy to only have one friend, especially when that one friend is your girlfriend. :-) We'll see if I can get on that. I guess that's about it. Nothing too exciting. Sorry.

Vaseline: This byproduct of petroleum contains neither water nor olive oil, but those words are part of its heritage. The product's name was created by Robert Cheseborough, its inventor, as a combination of wasser - the German word for "water" - and elaion - the Greek word for "olive oil."

Alacrity: promptness in response, cheerful readiness

Rascal: "Rascal" is thought to have arisen in Old French from the root word rasque, meaning "mud" or "excrement." From there is showed up in Middle English as rascaile, referring to "an unpleasanr person," linked by word origin to mean "a dirty or smelly character."

Stymie: to present an obstacle to, stand in the way of.

6.2.10 (2004-02-12 19:18)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002863a/

6.2.11 yeah (2004-02-13 02:26)

I spent almost 7 hours in the CS building today. I didn't even have a single scheduled class either. yeah. I also saw one of the most depressing TV shows ever tonight. It was an episode of Without a Trace where this kid was kinda a loser, and everyone thought he was kidnapped but he really got a bad prank pulled on him by the girl he like so he ran away then went to her house to hang himself in her backyard. The cops ended up getting there while he was hanging there and saving him but still. Poo on that show. It sucks.

Homage: 1. A feudal ceremony in which a man pledged allegience to a lord 2. An act of duty or respect for one's lord 3. Honor, tribute

Austria: The country derives its name from a direction. It comes from the Old High German root of the English word "east," which was ost. Known as "Austria" by English speakers, this republic is called Österreich by its German-speaking natives, a word that stems from the Old High Germ Ostarrihi.

6.2.12 I'm slow (2004-02-16 08:32)

I've been a little slow lately updating this thing huh? Anyone who knows me knows how easily I can get preoccupied. :-) Well, it was a great valentine's weekend. Basically just chilled at the place with Alana friday night. We were mainly just chillin' and watching TV, then at like 11:30 she remembered she had a paper due at midnight so we super scrambled and DID get it done, with like 2 minutes to spare. Needless to say that kinda took the "party" out of us. Saturday we went out to breakfast at the local bagel place then hit the road and headed to Bristol. She got to meet the whole fam since my sis and her boyfriend were in town and we all went out to a nice dinner saturday night. Came back and just chilled at the house. Watched the blue collar comedy tour that my mom had rented which was frickin' hilarious. I was dying. Came back to ol' Boone in a semi-snowstorm yesterday but luckily my little subaru could handle it. :-) Spent some more time over in the CS building working on a project then came back here and hung out. Got a weird pain in my shoulder last night that really sucked. I kinda procrastinated (surprise surprise) and didn't start my homework til a little after 12 and my shoulder was killing me and my nose was running and I had some little stupid cough and I had almost finished my homework when I realized that I hadn't graded my paper so then I had to do THAT. I was a sorry sight last night. Finished up around 2:30 and just crashed. Needless to say I didn't really feel like getting out of bed this morning. But even with such a crappy last night, my valentine's weekend was definitely awesome. :-) Alana is the best. Well, I kinda got to head to class, but I will hop on here and maybe give a little more update and put my words of the day up. Wouldn't want you guys to miss out on your education. ;-)

6.2.13 hehehe (2004-02-16 23:09)

what do you know? I got proccupied again!! Well, I don't have a lot to say at the moment so I am just going to put up some of my education since they are starting to back up. Enjoy!!

Big Cheese: The British occupying forces in India in the 1800s borrowed the Urdu word chiz - which means "thing" - and corrupted it, creating the phrase "the cheese" to refer to something that was "the ultimate or best thing." In the late 1800s, this drifted into usage in the United States as "the big cheese" in a more specific application, referring to someone who was "the ultimate leader or main boss."

Utopia - 1. an imaginary and indefinitely remote place 2. a place of ideal perfection especially in laws, government, and social conditions 3. an impractical scheme for social improvement.

Enigmatic - of, relating to, or resembling an enigma, mysterious.

Realtor - Although used interchangeably with the term "real estate agent," "realtor" was manufactured as a trademarked name. It was created by the National Association of Real Estate Boards and was intended to be used only by its members. But "realtor" has drifted into wide contemporary use as a generic term, although still protected by trademark.

Trepidation - timorous uncertain agitation, apprehension.

Razor - Getting a terrible shave? Maybe you should blame the root of this word, the Latin verb radere, meaning "to scrape." The first instrument to be called a rasor appeared in France. Other English words inspired by this Latin background are "erase" and "abrade."

Indefeasible - not capable of being annulled or voided or undone.

6.2.14 :-) (2004-02-17 12:24)

I love my girlfriend :-)

6.2.15 ick (2004-02-18 10:18)

Just chillin in the office between classes and figured I would throw up an update. It's amazing how slowly time can pass when you can't breathe. Kinda had a stuffy nose for about the past week, but yesterday it decided to go full force and now my damn head is stuffed full of mucous. (sp?) I feel very top heavy at the moment. It's amazing how much snot one tiny little nose can produce. I mean seriously!! Don't you ever take a break you stupid nose!! dadjummit. I went to be WAY early after I worked out then ate sushi and watched TV. I think I am going to go for some chicken noodle soup this afternoon then take a nap. I definitely didn't want to get out of bed this morning but since this is the first week that we have to start turning in time cards for my assistantship I felt I should try to at least start it off getting close to the number of hours that I should be getting though I REALLY don't feel like being here and I would much rather be at home in my bed. (how often do you hear ME say THAT?) anyhoo, I am supposed to have office hours after class today from 3-5 but unless something changes I think I am just going to skip out. Hopefully I will feel a little better tomorrow and I can put in some more hours then. We will just have to wait and see. Well I think I am going to get back to my reading. Lord knows I have enough of it and I definitely didn't get any done last night. Hopefully my snot producers will break down and I can have a clear head soon!!

6.2.16 hmmm (2004-02-18 14:48)

well I made it through class.... barely. Now I am again sitting in the office. I'm supposed to be here for two hours, but I think I am just going to cut an hour off. My hours will be a little short this week, but I'm dying and I figure that's a pretty good excuse. :-) Kinda hard to be too productive when you can't even breathe in my opinion. I think all this stuffiness is crowding my brain. I mean, my brain doesn't work that well to begin with, much less when it is all cramped because of copious amounts of nastiness. Good thing I don't have any tests this week.

Just checked my credit card statement for this month thus far..... yeah. Valentine's helped my little card take quite a hit. I'm glad I checked it though cuz I didn't think I had really spent that much, but boy was I wrong. Good thing I got enough food in my apartment to survive for a while without having to buy anything. :-) beer and cereal sounds like a healthy dinner to me! (just kidding mom) anyhoo, I guess I will go back to piddlin' and occasionally doing some reading until I can leave and go home. Am I excited? Bout as excited as I can be considering my lack of oxygen right now.

6.2.17 interesting (2004-02-19 15:12)

odd. I haven't had a single friend make a post since tuesday and today is thursday. Not even Hampton. Weird. I hope all my friends are feeling ok. I've been putting in more office hours lately cuz I am supposed

to be spending like 20 hours on grad work per week and the only way I can do that is to just sit in the office for several more hours a day to reach quota. Because of this I will likely start updating my blog a lot more often because it is something to do while I am chillin and it's a good break from reading since I have mostly been using my office time to just catch up on the assloads of reading I have to do. Well, I don't have a heckuva lot to go in here right now. oh oh oh, I DO have a little news. I (hopefully) am going with deacon and allen to a wakeboarding camp with scott byerly and some other pros for this years spring break. how cool is that? I really need to start working out so I can be in shape enough to pick up some cool tricks and not kill myself. :-) Too bad I'm still having a little trouble breathing. I started taking amoxil last night, but I ALSO had some Jager and I really think it was the jager that is making me feel better today. ;-) as soon as this stupid cold clear, hopefully by the beginning of next week, I can start running. I am shooting to just start out running three days a week and still keep my lifting two days a week. I am fairly happy where I am at muscle mass-wise right now, but I definitely have a LOT of fat to get rid of to uncover them. If things go as planned I might actually be in shape for lake season this year. how snazzy would THAT be?? :-O hehehe well, I guess I should do some "office" type work and get some reading done. yeah.

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angelwings (2004-02-19 14:22:46)
Yes I am fine...thanks for caring :) I have just been really really busy. This week is layout week for the zine.....I'll post more as soon as it's done. Later Tater!

lillibullero (2004-02-19 15:14:41)
So, i take it you are feeling better? No more pukey mood icon?? hehe

(2004-02-19 16:50:31) Florida is gonna feel what TN is all about
yes we are going to FL and it is going to rock and we are all going to die and be so sore and it is going to totally worth it.

fincher69 (2004-02-19 20:30:01)
awww I feel special! I got comments!! Glad to hear the 'zine is still kickin'. definitely keep me updated on how that goes. I am feeling much better today though still kind of stuffy, thanks for asking :-) And yes, TN will rock the house like no house has ever been rocked before! SHP gonna start representin'!! :-)

6.2.18 yo ho ho!! (2004-02-20 10:15)

this updating my journal at "work" thing is going to work out pretty well I think. Only problem is it makes it hard to do my little words of the day. I am just going to have to start taking them to work with me so I can put them on here. I will do a massive vocab update this weekend then try that next week. :-)

Spazz came and visited me last night. That was cool. She happened to be in boone and came by the place and showed me a bunch of her photography which was pretty cool.

Alana felt kinda icky last night. Her stomach started bothering her. I don't know if it was something she ate or what. I haven't talked to her yet today, but hopefully she is feeling better since we have a party tonight!! woohoo!! She invited a bunch of folks over to my apartment for a big shindig this evening which should be a lot of fun. :-) I might even make a few friends!! :-O hahaha well, I guess that's about it for now. yeah.

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lillibullero (2004-02-20 07:55:17)
Man, i wish i had a cool name like ”spazz”... although mine does mean ”belonging to Mars and warlike.” I hope your party’s awesome tonight... later tater

fincher69 (2004-02-20 09:15:58) Re:
I could give you a cool new nickname. Let’s see..... how about Crazy Fry? I like that. I now dub Crazy Fry as your fast-food indian name. :-) hehehe

lillibullero (2004-02-21 17:47:05) Re:
hahahahahah!

6.2.19 since I have the bestest girlfiend in the world (2004-02-20 12:00)

she IM’d me the stack of words I had sitting at my desk so I can add them to my blog. How awesome is that!? hehehe

Raddled- 1. being in a state of confusion: lacking composure. 2. broken down, worn.

Adjuvant- 1. serving to aid or contribute: auxiliary. 2. assisting in the prevention, amelioration, or cure of disease.

Babbitt- a business or professional man who conforms unthinkingly to prevailing middle-class standards.

Rifle- although today we may think of any long-barreled firearm as a ”rifle,” technically only those guns with grooves on the inside of the barrel deserve this label. Originally, guns had smooth bores; the addition of the grooves added spin to the bullets, improving accuracy. The grooves are the origin of the word, which comes from the French word rifle, meaning ”a scratch” or ”a groove.”

Avarice- ”Avarice ” is ”greediness,” and the concept was generated from the Latin verb avere, meaning ”to long for.” The same root also spawned ”avid.” ”Greed,” on the other hand, a synonym, popped up in the Old English as a noun formed from the adjective graedig, which was borrowed from earlier form in Old High German, gratag, and Old Norse, grathr. The original gothic form was gradus, meaning ”hungry.”

Veranda Porch- Adopted into English by the British living in India in the 1700s, ”veranda” was originally the Hindi word varanda, referring to ”a porch-like structure on a building. ”Porch” itself arrived in English via another route – Latin. It come from porticus, the word for ”a covered area with columns.”

6.2.20 paaarrrrrtaaay!!! :-) (2004-02-21 20:06)

Had an awesome party last night. Alana invited a bunch of folks over and we ended up having a good 20-30 people come through. It was a helluva lot of fun. Met some cool folks which is always a good thing since I still don’t know that many people around here. We followed the great party with a super lazy day today. I basically woke up, got wendy’s, took a nap, then went to dinner. Now we are chillin and hitting up a movie at 9 then checking out the party scene again. Woohoo!!! I almost feel like I have a life again! It’s exciting!! hehehe Well, I guess that’s about it for now. Hopefully tonight will be as much fun as last night though I think I may take it a little easier. ;-)

Propinquity - 1. nearness of blood, kinship 2. nearness in place or time, proximity

Drought - Although not thought of as a dry country, Holland is the source of this word. It was originally the Middle Dutch word droogte, meaning "dry." This background spawned both the English words "drought" and "dry."

Distaff - maternal, female

Binge - Just as heavy drinkers soak up liquor, this word probably arose as a new use for the original English word, meaning "to soak."

6.2.21 I made a silly poll!! (2004-02-21 20:24)

hehehe Enjoy!!! I want some votes dadjummit!! :-)

6.2.22 yo ho ho and a bottle of rum (2004-02-24 10:46)

I just noticed that the only people who can vote in livejournal polls are livejournal users themselves. I was wondering why I could only pull 5 votes. Oh well. Maybe one day either the polls will take input from other folks, or more of my friends will start up blogs. I really wish they would. Livejournal has free accounts and since I don't always catch people online it's a great way to kinda see what's going on in their lives. And one of the coolest things (in my opinion) about lj is that you can make private posts so you can totally use it as a private journal as well. Make a public post about the stuff you want others to know and make a private one of your inner thoughts and feelings. I guarantee if you stick with it you will be glad you did later one. I've only had mine a matter of months and I have already enjoyed looking back and reading old posts. Give it a try already!!! :-)

So anyway, I finished a good weekend. We hit up a big party saturday night but we really didn't know that many people and one of Alana's professors from last term was helping work the bar which was kinda freaky. It wasn't really our scene though so we didn't stay long. Sunday was another pretty chill day. Nothing too exciting. Watched some movies and hung out. Got a little bit of schoolwork done. Monday was my normal manic monday. They are so frickin long!! And since it ends with a three hour lab I am always just dying to finish and get out of there. Today has been pretty chill so far. Haven't really done anything. I got TA stuff at 1 for a bit and then I really need to work out. And I am going to start running today. Who knows how THAT will go it's been quite a while. I guess that's about it. Nothing too exciting. I can't believe we have less than two weeks til spring break. I can't remember if I mentioned it and I am too lazy to check, but I am going to a wakeboarding camp down in FL for spring break and it is going to rock!! It is going to be so much fun. It will be weird being away from Alana for a whole but she will be kickin' it in mexico and I will be so worn out from all the boarding I'll be doing that I am sure we will survive. ;-) Ok enough mushy stuff.... now learn something!!

Binge - Just as heavy drinkers soak up liquor, this word probably arose as a new use for the original English word, meaning "to soak."

Jurisprudence - 1a. a system or body of law 1b. the course of court decisions 2. the science of philosophy of law 3. a department of law

Distaff - maternal, female

Laconic - using few words

Avon - The large cosmetics company known for its door-to-door sales activity was founded in 1886 by David McConnell of New York. At that time, however, it was known as the California Perfume Company. After many successful years, the name was changed to "Avon" in 1939 out of respect for McConnell's favorite playwright, William Shakespeare, whose birthplace was Stratford-upon-Avon, in England.

Myrmidon - a local follower, a subordinate who executes orders unquestioningly or unscrupulously

Rock Bottom - Miners coined this term, signifying the lowest level they reached in the hunt for mineral-rich ore. It was originally a synonym for "bedrock," the layer of stone that begins just under soil or other ground cover. In wider use, the term came to signify "the ultimate lowest position or price."

6.2.23 I'm gonna do it too!! (2004-02-25 02:29)

Randomize my playlist and list first twenty songs? this could be interesting.....

1. Digital Explosion - Portrait Sans Retouche
2. Beethoven- Piano Concerto No. 5, emporer – Allegro
3. Guano Apes- Crossing the Deadline
4. Baby Carrot - Bet a Nickel
5. Guster - Jesus On The Radio
6. The Who- Happy Jack
7. ZZ Top- Old Man - (ZZ Top's First Album)
8. Aura - the source of trance - Space Cream
9. Depeche Mode- Easy Tiger
10. Jim Croce- Mississippi Lady
11. Afroman- Afrohabilitated Clean and Sober
12. Radiohead - Airbag
13. Various Artists- Trance Allstars Go (ATB Club Mix)
14. Howie Day- Slow Down
15. Metallica- The Struggle Within
16. No Doubt- Platinum Blonde Life
17. Fatboy Slim - The Weekend Starts Here
18. Garth Brooks- The River
19. David Wilcox- Home Within Your Heart
20. Snoop Dogg- Serial Killa

6.2.24 hehehe (2004-02-25 10:06)

I'm such a dork that I am going to do this again with the playlist on my laptop. I'm and uber-geek!!!

1. Medicine Drum - Water
2. Barenaked Ladies - Shopping
3. Limp Bizkit - Break Stuff
4. Barenaked Ladies - Upside Down
5. Jupitor Coyote - Casually Moves On
6. Nerf Herder - Defending the Faith

7. Barenaked Ladies - War on Drugs
8. John Mellencamp - Rave On
9. OPM - El Capitan
10. The Offspring - Come Out and Play
11. Good Charlotte - Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous
12. Ani Difranco - 32 flavors
13. Pearl Jam - Once
14. The Allman Brothers Band - Whipping Post (live)
15. Rusted Root - Welcome to My Party
16. The Aphex Twin - Digeridoo
17. The Hour Glass - Down in Texas
18. Afroman - Because I Got High (Afropulco Gold and Dirty)
19. Good Charlotte - The Young and the Hopeless
20. Phish - Farmhouse

6.3 March

6.3.1 been a bit (2004-03-01 13:12)

Woohoo! What a weekend. Went friday to greenville with Alana to go meet and hang out with bobby and erin. We were initially planning on going just for friday night since Alana had a meeting to be back for on saturday night but she ended up not having it so we decided to go ahead and stay til sunday. We went out to dinner with Heather and Mary on friday night and played trivia which was a ton of fun. Then we just grabbed some drinks from the grocery store and headed back to bobby and erin's apartment and chilled. Of course Alana loved playing with Rusty and Tala (bobby's puppy dogs). We basically just hung out and Jenny and Anna came by and visited for a little while and Ewing came by too which was cool. Beth was doggie-sitting so she didn't get to stop by but it was really cool catching up with Jon for a little while. So Alana got to meet a bunch of my friends but luckily they were interspersed throughout the evening so she wasn't just bombarded with new people. We crashed friday night and bobby and erin went and picked up rembrandt (he was getting knee surgery) and cooked breakfast which was wonderful. We went shopping at the mall and I exposed Alana to Hot Topic and we proceeded to spend a buttload of money shopping at the mall. It was a lot of fun. I'm currently wearing my "Spin the bottle: Regional Champion" shirt as I type. :-) I like it. So we then went to play pool for a bit then went out to dinner and ended up just heading back to bobby's and chillin and then we put in a movie. We watched (kinda) matchstick men which was labelled as a comedy and which was also labelled wrong. It wasn't funny at all. It was a drama hands-down. No question. So since I had been drinking a little and I was in the mood for a comedy, a drama just killed the night and we ended up hitting the sack at like 12. We woke up sunday, played some video games and ate breakfast then hit the road and came back to boone. Overall it was an awesome weekend. Didn't get up to much after I got back other than procrasinate from grading papers and studying for my HCI midterm I had today. Luckily I still kicked it's ass even though I studied for a total of like 30 minutes. Now I just finished reviewing for my theory test that I am finishing at 2. It was funny. It was an open book/note test and we had it friday but by the end of class everyone was still working so she said we could just give her the test and we would take the first 20 minutes of class monday (today) to finish it up which is pretty cool. Man my mondays are long. I got this class at 2, then lab TA from 3-3:30 then frickin OS lab from 3:30-6:30. That's too damn long to be in a lab I say. Anyhoo, that about sums up the last several days. Definitely loads of fun. After today my week is basically over but Alana has tests all week so she is going to be a busy girl and I am going to have to do my best to stay out of the way. I'm not a very good influence when I HAVE work to do, much less when I have lots of free time. So here's some major education for y'all since it's been a while.

Ennui: a feeling of weariness and dissatisfaction, boredom

Rodeo: Spanish-speaking cowboys introduced this term in the American West, but it wasn't used to refer to public contests until after 1900. Before then, they were called "Wild West shows," and "rodeo" had a narrower application, a term meaning "corral." It is derived from the Spanish verb rodear, meaning "to go around" or "to circle," as the first rodeos were circular in shape.

White Elephant: 1. a property requiring much care and expense and yielding little profit 2. an object no longer of value to its owner but of value to others.

Bargaining: This word has Germanic origins, inspired by borz, a verb meaning "to borrow." Perhaps the act of borrowing came to be associated with haggling over terms, leading to its modern meaning.

Scurvy: A nation with a long history of men at sea, England also had a long familiarity with a disease afflicting sailors at sea for months at a time. The disease was called "scurvy," referring to the condition a person had when affected with scurf (where the skin peels away), which ultimately led to death from other internal complications. Scurvy was eventually linked to diets lacking in vitamin C, prompting the British navy to carry limes - rich in this nutrient - for its crews. Hence the term "limeys," originally referring to sailors from this nation.

Puppy, kitten - The word for a young dog arose in Middle French as popée or poupée, but was at first used to mean "a doll," not "a dog." The same background spawned "puppet" in English. "Kitten," however, had a more direct path. It began in Low Latin as cattus, the word for "cat," which was then altered to caton in Old North French, from which it became known kitown in Middle English.

Hoary: 1. gray of white as if with age 2. very old

Aphorism: 1. a concise statement of principle 2. a terse formulation of a truth or sentiment, adage

Denegation: denial

6.3.2 (2004-03-02 12:19)

Just chillin in the office so I figured I would hop on here. One of my partners and I have decided that we definitely are not big fans of our operating systems class. Not only do we not find the material interesting, but the lectures and labs aren't always closely related and slightly convoluted and hard to follow. Not fun.

Anyhoo... Alana and I have decided that we are the kind of couple that makes people sick. We are all lovey dovey a lot and just goofballs in general. Like lately we have been complaining about the fact that we aren't going to see each other for all of next week (cuz it's spring break). I have a feeling it won't be that bad once we are there cuz she will be having a blast with her best friend and mom down in mexico and I will be wakeboarding my ass off which will be hella killer. I can't wait. I am so stoked. So anyhow, I don't have a whole lot else to say so I will just put up the words of the day. :-) I swear if people ever really read my blog they would have a killer vocabulary by now ;-)

Beatnik - The root word "beat" here refers to music, as in tempo, but it has also been used - especially among jazz musicians in the 1930s - to mean "worn out." The alternative poetry and music movement of the 1950s inspired San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen to coin the term "beatnik" in 1958, helping publicize this movement. The suffix "-nik" was a 1950s phenomenon, an inspiration from the excitement

generated by the launch of the world's first spacecraft, the Sputnik.

Serendipity: the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for

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(2004-03-03 13:34:28)
HEY! i'm not anonymous!! i'm your sister. just wanted to say hi and tell you that i read your blog. :-) yay for fun couples. :-) glad you are having fun! i love you!

6.3.3 (2004-03-02 19:12)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Ft. Myers, FL

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002352p/

6.3.4 just some minor education (2004-03-03 12:44)

Don't have a lot going on or updates. Alana got her truck towed today which sucks. She always parks in my lot and you are supposed to have a parking sticker but she doesn't live there so she can't get one. She didn't have her truck last semester so she didn't have to worry about it and she doesn't really know where she is SUPPOSED to park. She didn't have a problem parking there all through January and February so hopefully she won't have a lot more trouble. I think she is going to just leave her truck at home after spring break so she doesn't have to deal with it. Oh, on a happy note, I made a 90 on my first midterm at Appy so that is pretty cool. I was kinda disappointed because I made a couple of stupid errors so I should have easily had like a 95ish or something but oh well. The other two grad students in the class made a 74 and 78 so I felt pretty good about that. Especially since I devoted no more than 45 minutes total to studying for the dadjum thing. :-) Ok, here are the words of the day!

Emmy Award - Presented annually since 1949 by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the name of this award is a coined term. Based on a primary piece of TV technology - the image orthicon cube - the name was derived from the shorthand version for the name of this device, called the "immy." The choice was made by Harry Lubcke, then president of the Academy and a former electronics engineer.

Flout: 1. to treat with contempt, mock, insult 2. to engage in or practice mocking, sneer

6.3.5 (2004-03-03 19:10)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00020pxk/

6.3.6 hoopity doopity (2004-03-05 23:51)

Fairly interesting day today. Went to class as normal. Proctored my first exam :-) (a kid needed to do a make up exam) Then sat through office hours and classes even though it was the last day before spring break and it would have been a lot more fun to just skip. Anyhoo... Got back to my Apartment around 3 and just chilled with Alana until around 5 when she decided to head back to raleigh. Then her car started smoking so she came back and it was leaking anti-freeze like a madman so we talked to her mom and the ford place and the guy at advance auto parts and we decided it would be best if she just waited until tomorrow morning and took the car into Ford to get it serviced. Meanwhile, Deacon, Allen and I had tentatively planned on leaving bristol tonight to head down to orlando but since my parents didn't want me to (and we are taking their suburban) and it was supposed to be really stormy, we decided to postpone until tomorrow morning. We are planning on leaving bright and early at 6 so I guess I should think about heading to bed soon. This wakeboarding camp is going to be so awesome I can't wait.

*WARNING: MUSHY STUFF AHEAD**
The only bad part is that Alana can't be there with me. It's amazing how well we have hit it off. I am constantly surprised when I think about how long I have actually known her because I feel like I have known her for years. AND it's going to be kind of weird because this week will be the first time since we MET that we have been apart for more than overnight. I miss her already, but we'll make it through. :-)
*Mushy stuff concluded**

I am all packed and ready for this camp and hopefully it will be really helpful. One of the things I am looking forward to the most is hitting some of the well built sliders that they have which will likely be a helluva lot better than the last one I hit that was held together by gravity alone, or the one before that which was held together entirely by rope. I'm stoked. It's going to be so much fun. Too bad I might actually have to do some schoolwork while I am there. BLECH!!! School is cool and all but it's spring BREAK yo!!! Not spring "work some more". Seriously. Anyhoo... I went downtown to Stateline Bar and Grill tonight and had a little fun and now I am back at home so I think I will hit the sack considering I am getting up in a little over 5 hours which could be interesting considering I got no more than like 4 1/2 hours last night. Who needs sleep anyway? Such a waste of time in my opinion. :-)

Well, since I will be at wakeboarding camp all week this week I will likely not have internet so I will just keep a paper journal then make a HELLA update (considering a week's worth of material AND a week's worth of vocab and word origins) when I return to the computer using world. So don't worry that I won't be updating. I will still be alive and well and I will be saving a buttload of updates so don't coronary when I post them all at once. ;-) I hope everyone has a great week, especially my AJCI ;-), and I will be back sometime next weekend!!

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angelwings (2004-03-06 11:02:17)
Have a blast at camp dude! And it's ok you have a right to be mushy :)

6.3.7 dadjum (2004-03-06 05:42)

It's way early. Price to pay to be at wakeboarding camp for a week. It's gonna rock..... yeah

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lillibullero (2004-03-06 09:40:48)
I don't recognize hours of the morning earlier than 8... anything before that is just crazy!

(2004-03-15 17:10:38) write a dadjum entry!
I'm anxiously awaiting the entry for "what you did on your spring break" Get with it! :-)

fincher69 (2004-03-16 06:00:08) Re: write a dadjum entry!
there you go mr./ms. anonymous poster!! :-)

6.3.8 been a while (2004-03-16 01:46)

Not that many people have likely noticed, but it has been quite a while since I have made an enry in my BLOG. That's cuz I was on spring break!! And quite a spring break it was. The plan was initially to head home after class on friday and then hit the road and drive through the night down to orlando to chill before wakeboarding camp. Got postponed initially because Alana's truck was leaking anti-freeze like a madman so she couldn't drive home and we were trying to figure out what we needed to do about that. Then I felt really bad leaving here because she was upset about her truck and that just added to the fact that it was going to be hard to be apart since spring break week was going to be the first time since we had met that we had spent more than overnight apart from each other. It got a little worse when I got home and mom and dad basically veto'd the driving through the night plan so I just chilled in bristol for the night, went to a bar with Deacon, then hit the sack. The reason I say that made it worse was because, had I known that mom and dad would kill our departure plans, I definitely would have stayed in boone with Alana for a little while longer. Oh well. So I don't remember exactly how late I was at the bar, but I think I hit the sack around 1 or so.

I got up at 5:15 because our plan was to hit the road around 6. I picked up Deacon and Allen and we hit the road. It took us about 11 hours to get down to Orlando and we first stopped by the Orlando Watersports Complex (OWC). It was mostly a cable park which is bascially this set of harnesses suspended like 30 feet above the water and ropes and handles attach to each harness. the harnesses get pulled around a loop so you hold on to the handle and wakeboard around the little lake. If you fall you just swim to shore and walk back around to the starting platform. It was prety snazzy. Since there is no boat there is no wake so they have lots of cool sliders and ramps set up. After chillin there for a while we went and got a pony keg. We figure what better way to show we are going to be great campers than to show up with a keg? :-) We then headed over to the hotel and checked in. We ordered pizza because we were starving and Deacons bro with a bunch of his friends stopped by and stayed in the same hotel as us which was kinda cool. I was pretty beat so I didn't make it up too late and just watched TV and crashed.

The next day we went back to OWC briefly and got directions to the Projects (that's the name of the wakeboarding camp) and headed over in that direction. We chilled over there and Danny Harf and Chad Sharpe (two pro wakeboarders) were hitting some sliders and there were some other local guys riding so we just chilled and watched them ride which was a lot of fun. We basically had the suburban backed up to the lake so we could chill in the back and watch and I hardly left the car but I STILL got sunburned. I didn't take this to be a good sign considering I was going to be at this place all week, but luckily we albinos are usually prepared with our loads of sunblock. :-)

Next day woke up super chipper and ready to start riding. Pat was the guy who mostly ran the show and Keith was our main coach. Brandon was around a little and so was byerly, but we only went riding with them a couple times. It was really cool because most of what all three of us worked on was just the basics. I worked a lot on riding switch and on my 360s, especially my toesides. Allen worked a little on switch and a lot on toeside jumps and heelside 180s. Deacon worked a lot on getting his wakejumps dialed back in but he had an ankle injury that he kinda reinjured and it bothered him a lot during the week which

kinda sucked. He did land an ollie 180 on the wakeskate though which was pretty cool.

Pat and Keith were a lot of fun to hang out with. They were really funny and fun guys. There was a ski school right next to us too and Rene (not sure how she spells it) was a really cool girl that worked there and she hung out with us some too. Mon-Thurs our schedule was pretty much wake up, eat, ride, chill, either ride then lunch or lunch then ride, rest a little more, ride, dinner, start working on the pony keg/foosball/video games. That was pretty consistent for the week.

After the first day I thought my body was going to fall apart. I was so beat. I have never once until now had pretty much every muscle in my body hurt. I've been plenty worn out, and had a bunch of muscles hurt, but I think my jaw muscle was like the only one that wsan't sore. It was nuts.

It was also a bit chillier than I was expecting. Every day was beautiful but breezy and it was amazing how cold it felt consider the sun was shining bright. I had only brought one sweatshirt and I definitely wore it like every day. Which reminds me of another funny stat. I showered sunday morning when we left the hotel and my next shower wasn't until thursday since we went to see the passions of christ movie. I figured that all the falls I took had to have some kind of pressure washing effect on me so I was goot to go. :-)

Friday we got up and headed into orlando back to the OWC but this time to ride the cable. It was a ton of fun but it definitely wore my ass out. Not like I wasn't already beat from the previous week of riding. Every time the cable goes around a corner it gives you a little tug and at the beginning that was fine, but it didn't take many laps around before I felt like my arms were about to fall off. They were sore so much as just to the point where it took a lot of focuz just to hold on to the rope. I kept falling on this one box that was of course the farthest from the start point so I also got a lot of good walking it. I twas a lot of fun though, especially since it was the first time I had ever hit sliders so that was fun. We were planning on making a run in the boar after we got back from the OWC but there was no way that was going to happen. My body was so frickin' fatigued. If we had been spending friday night there I probably would have ridden again but we needed to get on the road since we had an 11 hour drive ahead of us. So we left the projects at around 4:30 to head back to bristol.

I drove for a good while then took a 2.5-3 hour break and ler deacon drive which I think ended up being a mistake because I took a like hour and a half nap in the back seat and since I never nap I think it through my body off. I took her the rest of the way in and got back to my house around 3:30 AM. I piddled on the computer until about 4 then hopped in bed but I couldn't sleep because I was so wide awake. I remember still being wide awake and reading 4:30 on the clock so I know I didn't go to bed before then. THEN I woke up at like 8:30 and couldn't fall back asleep so I just got out of bed around 9. I then left around 10:45 and headed to Alana's house which was awesome because it felt like it had been forever since I had seen her. We got dolled up and rolled over to Leigh's wedding which was cool. It was in this very rural place and I got to see some folks I hadn't seen in a good long while which was cool. The bobby, erin, mark, los, Alana, and I went to greensboro to post-wedding party at Mark's house which is always a lot of fun. An old friend Nate stopped by whom I hadn't seen in a while so that was also cool. It was a lot of fun chillin with mark and los and bobby and erin. I never get to see them much.

So then the next day we wake up and head to bristol and go to a party to celebrate my old school friend Elizabeth's upcoming wedding. I saw lots of people there I hadn't seen in a while too like my 3rd grade and 5/6th grade teachers. It was a cool party. I then stopped by the lake house to check things out and things are coming along nicely. It is going to be so frickin awesome!!! I'm excited. It was a pretty chill drive back to boone after that. Alana had had quite an emotionally draining week. We pretty much took it easy once we got back to boone and enjoyed each other's company since it felt like we hadn't seen each other in ages. (yes we are silly little couple sometimes, so shoot us)

Today was my normal long monday from hell. I can't wait for this term to be over. I really don't like OS. It just sucks. My other two classes are cool, but not that one. Nope. Suckus Maximus. YUCK!! Alana's parents are looking at buying a nice little townhouse here in boone so Alana and I got in this big discussion about what we want to do. After talking about it, what we would like to do is, if they DO buy the townhouse, we'd both move into it and I wouldn't renew my lease this summer like I was planning on doing. I still need to talk it over with mom and call my landlord just to let her know what I am thinking just so she has a heads up, but that looks to be the best plan right now. We are going to try to go check the place out tomorrow and see what it looks like and do some research and stuff. I'm sure I'll post about how that goes!! It's still walking distance to campus so I won't be out of the loop or anything (not like I'm really in a loop right now) but I would still feel close enough to be involved and not distanced from the fun scene. AND it's a three bedroom so I can make the third bedroom my office/music room which would be pretty killer. :-) Anyhoo.... I guess that's about it. Got a killer week this week. I have my first OS test on friday, I have theory homework due friday, I have HCI homework due friday, I have a bunch of grading I have to do, and I have an OS project I need to work on to make sure it is done by monday. We don't have that many more weeks in the term and believe you me I am stoked about that one!!!

Well, I think I am going to wrap up this hella post now. I don't really feel like spell checking or proof reading so sorry if I made any mistakes. I may feel like fixing some of them later, I may not. We'll see. And I think I am going to forgo typing up all the words that were on my calendar over the past week. I will pick some of the ones I found more interseting out and I will add them to tomorrow's words. I think I have typed enough for now. :-)

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lillibullero (2004-03-16 09:15:54)
I cant believe I just sat here and read that whole thing! Crazy!! Glad you are back safely. My boy's gonna be gone all week this week, so, i feel ya on the whole relationship thing.

fincher69 (2004-03-16 13:18:07)
Reading that whole thing was definitely quite an accomplishment!! It definitely took a while to type out. :-) Being away from loved ones is never fun but hopefully he will be back before you know it. :-)

(2004-03-16 15:46:19) You're so odd!
Surprise Surprise, it's Jess....Well, I never thought it was possible for you to get even more strange then you have been over the past 6 years, but you sure have. :-)

fincher69 (2004-03-16 20:36:45) Re: You're so odd!
Would you expect anything less from me?

(2004-03-16 16:27:44) post
AWESOME!!! you've had a lot of fun lately! :-)

fincher69 (2004-03-16 20:36:09) Re: post
It's always more polite to sign your anonymous posts so I know who in the hibbee jibbee is leaving me comments. Thanks!! :-)

6.3.9 All I can say is.... (2004-03-17 15:55)

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!!

Treat it like a real holiday :-)

I'm all decked out in my green, though I left my cool irish shirt in bristol. Bummer

Just finished all my homework that is due on friday so I don't have to worry about it and I can celebrate St. Patty's tonight and tomorrow is going to be a major study day for the class that totally sucks ass. We have our midterm in there on friday which is going to hella suck but hopefully I won't fail it too badly. Luckily I have done well so far on my homework in there and I am doing well in both my other classes. I'll update and see how it goes. Ok, here it goes. I'm going to try to put a bunch of the vocab words from spring break on here but so I don't have another hella post just chillin I will let you use your descretion whether or not you want to

Beef Jerky - There's no "jerking" involved in the making of "beek jerkey." It's just dried beef. The name comes from the word charqui, a term Spaniards in the New World used for this method of curing meat. The Spanish word derived from ch'arki, a word in Quechua, the language of the Incas, that applied to the same thing.

Pachydermatous - 1. of or relating to the pachyderms 2. thick, thickened 3. callous, insensitive

Debonair - 1. suave, urbane 2. lighthearted, nonchalant

Bezel - referring to a second, slanted edge of face on the surface of jewelry or tools, the word arises from the French word biseau. This is derived from the Latin word bis, meaning "twice."

Jackleg - 1a. lacking of skill or training, amateur 1b. characterized by unscrupulousness, dishonesty, or lack of professional standards 2. makeshift

Spring - The season that marks the beginning of the growing season is so-called because the term originated with movement. It started with Old Norse (as well as in other related languages) in the root word springan, meaning "to jump" or "to move fast." Its first application in English was linked to water, as in sources where water ran out of the ground. As a seasonal term, it dates to the 1500s.

Cherry - The familiar fruit and its tree have had appeal for thousands of years. Its word history began as kerasos in Greek and then cerasus in Latin. It first arrived in Middle English as cheri. The color of the fruit also helped influence another use in English from the same root, in the word "cerise."

Bribe - In the 1300s in France, a "bribe" was originally a "token payment people offered to tramps of beggars they encountered on the street." But then, as now, aggressive panhandling created a negative atmosphere for charity. Envenutally, such offerings were considered coerced payments, given in response to threats. In the 1500s, the word drifted into English with its meaning altered, now referrign to "forced payments," and this inspired the modern meaning.

Scandal - In Greek, skandalon meant "a trap" or "a stumbling block." This ended up in English use in a related form, at first applied mostly to religion. The first scandals were traps or stumbling blocks discrediting priests or other authority figures.

Seam - It takes sewing to make a "seam," and so, too, did the original verb for "sewing" produce this term. It began in Old English as the verb siwian, meaning "to sew."

Dog Days of Summer - These days, any hot days during the summer months may be referred to as "dog days," but originially they were only found in August. Named by the Romans, they were linked to the rising of Sirius, a star also called the "Dog Star" because it is found in the constellation of Canis Major. And since canis is Latin for "dog," the connection is obvious.

Chocolate - Adopted for use by various Native Cultures in South America and Mexico, "chocolate" had an immediate appeal to European explorers. Spanish visitors are credited with first introducing the word to Europe, when they returned, altering the spelling from the Nahuatl word xocoatl, which may have had a literal root describing the taste of the uncooked cacao bean - "bitter." The Nahuatl words xococ and atl mean "bitter" and "water," respectively.

Sputnik - The Soviet government was acutely aware of the impact their launch of the world's first artificial satellite would have. They created a word in Russian that literally meant "someone who travels along." It comes from s, representing "together," put meaning "path," and -nik, a catchall suffix that means "one who."

Belladonna - This toxic plant - also known as "deadly nightshade" - got its name from the Italian, where it literally means "pretty lady." The term arose in the 1700s when the plant was used to make cosmetics for women's faces.

Syncretic - characterized or brought about by the combination of different forms of belief of practice.

Squeegee - a "squeegee" squeezes water from a surface, alluding to the root word here, "squeeze." "Squeeze" itself appeared in Middle English as squise in the 1500s, possibly coming from the Anglo-Saxon verb cwesan, a verb meaning "to crush."

Bona fides - 1. good faith, sincerity 2. evidence of one's good faith of genuineness 3. evidence of one's qualifications or achievements

Alembic - 1. an apparatus used in distillation 2. something that refines or transmutes as if by distillation

Ear Candy - music that is pleasing to listen to but lacks depth

Phantasm - 1. a product of fantasy as a delusive appearance, illusion, ghost, specter, or figment of imagination 2. a mental representation of a real object

Troglodyte - 1. a member of a primitive people dwelling in caves 2. a person resemebling a troglodyte (as in reclusive habits or outmoded or reactionary attitudes)

Cachet - 1. a feature or quality conferring prestige 2. prestige

Ineluctable - not to be avoided, changed, or resisted, inevitable

Bastion - 1. a projecting part of a fortification; a fortified position 2. something that is considered a stronghold, bulwark

Chapter and verse - 1. the exact reference or source of information or justification for an assertion 2. full precise information or detail

Glom - 1. to take, steal 2. to seize, catch

Whew!! That was a lot of typing! Sorry for any typos, I was more focused on getting it typed in than being careful and I am too lazy to go back and proofread. :-)

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lillibullero (2004-03-17 16:21:23)
Decked out in green eh? What color is your hair right now? Cause if it were orange, that would be cool. Just a thought.

fincher69 (2004-03-18 05:03:38)
I've been going normal style lately. Didn't want to scare these CS kids too badly. ;-) Though it is a bit shaggy at the moment

6.3.10 All my midterms are finally done!! (2004-03-19 12:30)

woohoo!! I'm excited! Just finished my OS midterm which was my last one and I actually don't think it kicked my ass too badly. I don't think I made an A, but I didn't fail so that's good enough for me. :-) Now I have to chill in the office until to and go to my last class then it's weekend time!!! woohoo!! I need this weekend for sure. Last weekend was a blast, and so was spring break, but it definitely wasn't what I woulc call relaxing. THIS weekend I am taking it EASY! I think we may head to raleigh saturday so Alana can drop off her truck and her and her mom can talk about living arrangements for summer/fall. Ok, back to piddling on the internet.... :-)

Shrapnel - In 1803, English inventor Henry Shrapnel (1761-1842), an officer in the artillery corps, created the first artillery shells that contained explosive charges designed to kill people with secondary projectiles. At first, he enclosed bullets with the shells, but later he found that the shell casings themselves created enough material to be effective at their deadly job.

Lucrative - producing wealth, profitable

BIC - Created in 1953, this familiar, disposable ballpoint pen comes from Hungary, the work of Ladislas Biro. In many parts of the world, the pen is known as a Biro, but in most of Europe and North America it gained the name "Bic" from the French manufacturer Marcel Bich, who licensed the rights from the inventor to make them in that country.

Hare - to go swiftly, move or act with extreme haste

6.3.11 (2004-03-19 19:17)

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[1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
 San Francisco, CA
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00027acg/

6.3.12 It's tUEsdAy (2004-03-23 09:26)

Had a pretty good weekend this weekend. Friday Chris came out to dinner with me and Alana at Golden Corral (AWESOME!) then we watched Robin Williams: Live on Broadway which is frickin hilarious. Alana was kinda having an emotional day so we decided not to go out to a party her friends were going to and just chilled for the rest of the evening. Actually, we DID end up going for a late night drive which was cool. Drove down to another nearby university then moseyed back our way. It was cool. Saturday we went to Raleigh. We went and watched Starsky and Hutch which wasn't too bad. The fact that it was Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson definitely made the movie. It was a little hokey, but since I like both those actors I enjoyed it. We then had dinner with Alana's folks which was fun then came back to the house and watched Daddy Day Care which was pretty funny. Since we had mexican for dinner it was sitting pretty heavy so we hit the sack early. OH and one cool thing happened before we went to bed. Alana has a bunch of dogs and one of them (totally blanking on her name) is kinda her mom's dog and usually growls at strangers and Alana warned me that even if she came up to sniff me not to try to pet her. Well, we were sitting on the bed talking to her mom and the dog comes over to me and shoves her nose under my hands so I would pet her. Then I am petting her and she just sits right up against my leg which is kinda unheard of. THEN her mom left the room for a sec and the dog stayed sitting next to me which was REALLY unheard of, but I thought it was hella cool. Dogs know. ;-) Came back up to school on sunday and pretty much took it easy, nothing too spectacular. Monday I was sitting in lab at like 10:15 and my back just decided it was going to hurt really bad. I have a recurring back thing that shows up sometimes but the last time that it hurt this bad I was working out and tweaked it. This time I was just sitting there which was kinda odd. But of course I did it on the day I have to be in the CS building until 6:30 so I was dying all day. I felt like a 90 year old man who could hardly get around. It sucks. I took some motrin after I got home and before I went to bed and it is feeling a lot better today but it still kinda hurts. I also found out yesterday that I made an 87 on my OS midterm which is pretty awesome. I was definitely stoked about that since I hate that class so much. Well, I gotta get some breakfast then we are looking at some houses. Then the normal TA duties. Fun :-) I'll put up the vocabulary words later (not that anyone really pays attention to them)

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lillibullero (2004-03-23 12:29:46)
Robin Williams live is SO amazing... "thank you robin" (in a horribly retarded voice)

6.3.13 WORDS WORDS WORDS (2004-03-23 16:26)

Brainwash - The American Public first became aware of "brainwashing" during the Korean War, when some returning prisoners exhibited altered mental conditions due to psychological torture by their captors. The term, however, did not arise from the figurative concept of a mental bath, but from the Chinese terms hsi and nao, which together mean "to wash the brain."

Lodestone - 1. magnetite possessing polarity 2. something that strongly attracts

Shimmy - An article of clothing inspired this word. It began as chemise, the French word for "shirt," and was adopted into English as "shimmy" or "shimmy shirt," often referring to a woman's shift or slip. Just after World War I, popular dances of the jazz era included wild moves that made a dancer's clothes flap and shake. The dances, with names like the "shimmy shake," the "shimmy shiver," and the "shim-sham shimmy," ultimately inspired a new use for the term.

Veritable - being in fact the thing named and not false, unreal, or imaginary

Cyberpunk - 1. science fiction dealing with future urban societies dominated by computer technology 2. an opportunistic computer hacker

Bonfire - In the 1400s, large outdoor fires in England were periodically used to burn piles of discarded bones. These "bone fires" were later expanded to include other mass burnings, including the bodies of those who died in the plague. Eventually they were lit just to provide a public spectacle. But the term "bonfire," shortened through use, remains as a vestige of the original use.

Fulsome - 1a. abundant, copious b. generous in amount or extent 2. exceeding the bounds of good taste 3. excessively complimentary or flattering

Diplomat - An official person involved with the passports and government documents was first called a "diplomat" because of those documents. The word first arose as "diploma" - still in use in English - from the Greek word spelled the same way. Diploma in Greek means "a folded or doubled paper."

Execrable - 1. detestable 2. Very bad, wretched

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lillibullero (2004-03-23 15:28:44)
hmm... shimmy... good to know

tattermask (2004-03-24 19:33:26)
LODESTONE should be my new band name. amanda

6.3.14 bored bored (2004-03-24 12:13)

BORED. I am sitting in the public lab right now. Something I only have to do 2 hours a week but it is still boring as hell. I just sit here and play on the computer for a couple hours. I think I am supposed to just keep an eye on things and answer questions if anyone has them, but since I don't look like a typical graduate student and there isn't like a special place to sit, I don't think people know they can ask me stuff so they don't. Not that I really mind, but it would liven things up a little. I decided to spend an extra hour in the public lab this week since I really didn't feel like listening to the lecture I'm supposed to listen to. It isn't a class I'm enrolled in, it's the class that I lab assist for, but they want me to attend lecture as well for some reason which is just silly. It's like a remedial CS class so I usually just sit in there and do homework but since I don't really have any homework to work on right now it would just be sitting there listening to a guy ramble on about really boring stuff. Hence, my lack of attendance.

So now I am just chillin up in the public lab instead of being in class so I can at least play around on the computers. That makes things at least a little better. I was trying to think if I had anything to talk about but I can't really think of anything. I haven't really had any important issues on my mind lately. Talked to Roper this morning and it's looking like we should have quite a crowd up at the lake easter weekend which is going to really kick ass. The house is going to be so nice and I am SO ready to be back out on the water. Spring break was such a teaser for summer. Nice weather and a whole week of wakeboarding..... geez. I have a lot of stuff I want to work on this summer with my wakeboarding so I am really stoked to start getting into it. Too bad Deacon isn't going to be around this summer, but I should still be able to find some people I can ride with consistently. Maybe I can scrounge up some Appy folks that are into it.

That would be awesome. There used to be a wakeboarding club but I am not sure if it is still around since I emailed the guy listed as the president and I never got a response. Who knows? Well, I guess I will go back to piddling around on the web. Just thought I would get on here and ramble a little bit to burn some time. fun fun FUN!!!

6.3.15 yeah (2004-03-28 01:36)

Don't feeling like typing much of an update so I decided to just copy Hampton :-) Hopefully I will have enough time to make a more substantial update tomorrow. :-)

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Disorder                  Rating
[1]Paranoid:              Low
[2]Schizoid:              Low
[3]Schizotypal:           Moderate
[4]Antisocial:            Moderate
[5]Borderline:            Low
[6]Histrionic:            Low
[7]Narcissistic:          Low
[8]Avoidant:              Low
[9]Dependent:             Low
[10]Obsessive-Compulsive: Low
-- [11]Personality Disorder Test - Take It! --
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1. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#paranoid
2. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#schizoid
3. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#schizotypal
4. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#antisocial
5. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#borderline
6. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#histrionic
7. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#narcissistic
8. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#avoidant
9. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#dependent
10. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/disorder_information2.html#obsessive
11. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/personality_disorder_test.mv

6.3.16 ding dong (2004-03-29 00:51)

well, it's been a little while since I wrote in here huh? I guess I just been kinda busy. Looks like last time I updated was wednesday. Can't really recall if anything spectacular happened. oh well. that WAS a little while ago. ;-) This weekend has been pretty much awesome though. Had just a couple iffy moments just cuz me and Alana have kinda had a lot going on lately and were getting a little pissy, but it's all good. :-) Went home briefly friday and saw the 'rents and grabbed some t-shirts and cookies and showed them my new camera phone. Oh yeah!! THAT'S what I did on thursday. I got me a snazzy new camera phone. it rocks! It's hella fun. Now my mom and I can send pix messages back and forth to each other without having to do it through email. so anyhoo.... came back to boone friday evening and tried to find Kenneth's house (it was

his 21st birthday and he's the landlord's son and we have been trying to get together for a while but our schedules never have worked) so we ended up driving around for like an hour to no avail. I was just having fun with it and calling it a little "adventure" exploring back ass nowhere boone. Alana wasn't so chipper. I soon found out one of her big pet peeves is bad directions and wasting time. Anyhoo... we just came back to the place and chilled. Then saturday was a great lazy saturday. Just piddled, ran some errands, and overall just took it easy. Because of the whole brief road trip friday it really felt like sunday all day saturday. Alana and I played a little tennis which was fun cuz it had been a really long time since I had played and I kinda missed it. Got a call from kenneth and got directions to a place close to his house so we could just follow him and I FINALLY got to meet the kid. He and his friends were pretty cool and I hope I get to hang out with them more often. We chilled there for a bit then were going to visit a friend of Alana's, but we couldn't get a hold of her. Today has been another great lazy day. Was going to go for a bike ride but one of my bikes had a flat tire and I didn't have a spare tube OR a patch kit and the bike place was closed. Watched Liar Liar then piddled some more then went to the theatre and saw Secret Window. It wasn't too shabby but it was nothing to whoop and hollar about. After that just had a lazy evening of TV. Then I finally decide to start working on my schoolwork and one of the two things I needed to do I can't because I accidentally deleted a file that I needed. Good thing there isn't really a deadline on that and I can get the file back tomorrow. After I update this I can do the other thing I need to do and then I can hit the sack. woohoo!!! Well that sums up my awesome laid back weekend. Gotta finish this stuff so I can sleep to prepare for another hell monday. man I can't wait for this term to be over. Only like 5 more weeks!! Woohoo!! Lake season here we come!!! I'm excited! So excited I'm gonna teach you kids some vocab :-)

Capricious - governed or characterized by sudden, impulsive, and seemingly unmotivated ideas or actions, unpredictable

Brush/Comb - The word "brush" comes from the earlier Middle English form brusshhe, a straight line of word descent. "Comb," on the other hand, arrived less directly. It comes from gembh, an early English word that also spawned unkempt, which originally meant, literally, "uncombed."

Palmy - marked by prosperity, flourishing

Seltzer - In the region of Hesse-Nassau in Germany lies the town of Selters. Here, a local spring produces a mineral rich, naturally carbonated water that established a name for itself because of its medicinal properties. Literally, it was Wasser Setlerse, "the water of Selters," from which "seltzer water" derived.

Oenophile - a lover or connoisseur of wine

Captain - the head of a ship or a plane derives his or her title from the human head. It began in Latin with the noun caput, "a head." This generated the Low Latin capitaneus, meaning "chief" or "leader," as in someone who represents the head of a body of people. The meaning stuck, as the word appeared in Middle French as capitaine and then in Middle English as captein.

Box - A crate or wooden container is called a "box" because of the boxwood tree, which has traditionally supplied lumber for many uses. And boxwood trees are so-called because of the root word puxis, a Greek word meaning "wooden box." In Latin, this became buxis, later inspiring the English version. Boxing, the sport, got its name during the 1300s in England, reportedly in an "echoic" relationship, a "bock" or "box" being the sound of a fist hitting flesh.

Rankle - 1. to cause anger, irritation, or deep bitterness in 2. to feel anger and irritation

Colubrine - 1. of, relating to, or resembling a snake 2. of or relating to a large cosmopolitan family (Colubridae) of chiefly nonvenomous snakes

6.3.17 me? bored? NO hehehehahahahAHAHAHAHA! (2004-03-31 12:11)

Just chillin here in the grad office. Wednesdays aren't very exciting. They are a helluva lot better than mondays, but that doesn't say a whole lot. Kinda like saying something is less painful than dismembering yourself with a spoon while swimming in a vat of salty phosphoric acid. yeah.... So I am going go the quiz route today. Thanks Amanda for two new quizzes. I can always count on you. :-) AND my sister sent me this online IQ test so you guys take it and tell me how you score and I will compile the results (anonymously if preferred) and we can see how smart my friends really are ;-) check it here http://web.tickle.com/tests/uiq/ Now on to the other quizzes!!



Furnulum pani nolo.
"I don't want a toaster."
Generally, things (like this quiz) tend to tick you
off. You have contemplated doing grievous
bodily harm to door-to-door salesmen.
[1] Which Weird Latin Phrase Are You?
brought to you by [2]Quizilla

Riceboys
Circle I Limbo

Fat people
Circle II Whirling in a Dark & Stormy Wind

Creationists
Circle III Mud, Rain, Cold, Hail & Snow

Pontiac Aztec Designers
Circle IV Rolling Weights

Basketball lovers
Circle V Stuck in Mud, Mangled

River Styx

Lawyers
Circle VI Buried for Eternity

River Phlegyas

Politicians
Circle VII Burning Sands

Old Navy Commercial Makers
Circle IIX Immersed in Excrement

PETA Members
Circle IX Frozen in Ice

[3]Design your own hell

1. http://quizilla.com/users/francescadez/quizzes/Which%20Weird%20Latin%20Phrase%20Are%20You%3F%20/
2. http://quizilla.com/
3. http://www.gaydeceiver.com/misc/hell/

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tattermask (2004-04-02 06:40:20) heh
I took three online IQ tests... that one gave me 153, another gave me 148, and lastly, but not leastly, one of them gave me a whopping 164!!! At any rate, now I'm curious and want to take a MENSA certified test... amanda

fincher69 (2004-04-02 07:02:50) Re: heh
I didn't realize it but I heard on TV just last night that you only have to have a 130 to be in Mensa so it sounds like you are good to go :-) Not that I think I would want hang out with a bunch of snooty smarties but it looks good on a resume ;-)

6.4 April

6.4.1 tsk tsk (2004-04-02 10:01)

firstly, I am thoroughly disappointed at my lack of responses to the IQ test linked to in my last post. (thank you Amanda and Alana at least) It doesn't take that long and I thought it would be interesting. geesh!! Oh and for anyone curious, I just took it and scored a 142 and it says my intellectual type is a visionary philospher. :-)

Secondly, I think I had one of my best April Fools pranks this year. I sometimes have some good ones, but it is usually focused towards a specific person. In case you missed out, I was in bristol all day yesterday and had an away message saying something very similar to "After getting engaged last night I am heading to bristol for the day. I'll be back sometime this evening to chill with my fiance. :-D :-D :-D". Didn't get quite as many responses as I had hoped, but I definitely fooled a solid 6-7 people which is pretty good. Alana went along with it and made hers say "I'm engaged! :-O :-D" so she got a good number of responses too. It was hilarious. :-).

Thirdly, had a pretty chill wednesday night. Went out to eat with two of Alana's friends and then chilled at the place. I was going to go to Bristol and Alana was going to have a little sleepover but most everyone ditched out on her so I stayed around for the night so I wouldn't have to leave her all alone. Went to bristol yesterday morning and we started to look through the storage facility of the stuff that was in the old lake house and decided it was a little overwhelming so we checked out the lake house. Then we headed back to

the house and set up dad's Tivo that we got him for his birthday then I headed to the dentist. Came back and just chilled at the house a little bit then headed back to Boone. Being only an hour and a half away is definitely nice. :-) Had a good lazy evening last night then got up and came to class today! Nothing too exciting. Heading to bristol after class for the weekend. I am running a 5k with my mom tomorrow morning, then going wakeboard shopping with dad, then going wakeboarding to make sure the boat is running well since I have a crowd coming up for easter weekend. Should be fun!!

Fourthly...
Expedite - to carry out promptly, to speed up

BVDs - This generic term for underwear is actually a trade name, with "B.V.D." standing for Bradley, Vorhees, and Day, the compnany that marked the first set under this name. When they first hit the market, "BVDs" were called "union suits," a set of long underwear in a single unit, so-called because they united upper and lower undergarmets.

Dinghy - Although small rowboats have been around for hundreds, if not thousands of years, this term stuck because of the influence of the British occupation forces in India. In the 1700s, soldiers and sailors stationed there picked up on the local word dingi - referring to a small traditional watercraft - and passed it around.

Nadir - 1. the point of the celestial sphere that is dircetly opposite the zenith and vertically downward from the obeserver 2. the lowest point

Cracker - Crisp baked chips are called "crackers" because they crack when broken or eaten, but the term is also applied as an insulting or derogatory reference to someone from the country. The latter use stems from traditional English slang, the verb crack, dating to the 1400s. In this sense, the word means "to brag," and a "cracker" thus was a "boaster or braggart." Over time, the term "cracker" shifted from merely meaning "a person who brags" to "an outlaw" or other unsavory person who crowed about his exploits. A final application shifted the meaning again in the United States, referring to "someone who came from an undesirable part of the country," mostly the Deep South.

Modicum - a small portion, a limited quantity

Bushel - As a unit of measurement, the "bushel" has only been a standard volume for less than 200 years. Although agricultural goods have long been carried and measured in such baskets, there were wide varieties of volumes - with a different volume and term used for seperate commodities - creating confusion for merchants until standardization was created in Europe and the United States. The term comes from the Old French word boissel.

Dollar Diplomacy - 1. a diplomacy used to promote a nation's financial interests abroad 2. diplomacy that seeks to effect foreign relations by the use of financial resources

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lillibullero (2004-04-02 12:18:22)
I'm a visionary philosopher too!

tattermask (2004-04-02 12:52:14)
wait... you got ENGAGED??!!! Like, engaged to be married? WOW. That's sure something to tell people via an away message! =P Congratulations, you guys! amanda

fincher69 (2004-04-02 21:04:03)
no no silly. The April Fool's joke was to tell people I got engaged. No engagements here, still just happily dating. :-) Glad to see it's the prank that just keeps on pranking though ;-)

tattermask (2004-04-05 14:33:38)
was about to say... might have been a little rash, but whatever makes you happy! haha! amanda

6.4.2 5k (2004-04-03 10:24)

Race for humanity 5k
31:45

6.4.3 dadjum (2004-04-07 09:56)

so it's been a little while since I wrote in this thing apparently. Had a good weekend in bristol this past weekend. Alana and I went up there to do some stuff with the lake house and stuff. Friday night was pretty chill, didn't really get up to much. Saturday morning I ran a 5k with mom. Considering my only training has been walking to class and drinking beer I actually did alright. :-) I didn't have to walk and I didn't die which were two of my main two goals. After that I took dad to the new wakeboarding shop near bristol and we got me a new wakeboard!! :-) Dad agreed to get me one just to support the new shop because William, the guy who owns and runs it, is really cool and any competition with those assholes at Shadrack is definitely high on my list of cool people I want to support. :-) I got the new Byerly which was the board I rode all week at wakeboarding camp and absolutely loved. Dad's gonna try it out and demo some boards and likely get him a new wakeboard this season too. :-) After hitting the shop we headed grabbed Alana and headed out to the lake. We hopped in the boat and were almost to the boarding cove when we realized we didn't have a rope so we had to go back to the dock and grab a cheapo rope. THEN I boarded for a little bit and it was definitely CHILLY!! Didn't board for too awfully long cuz my legs were shot from the morning's 5k but it felt so frickin good to be back out on the lake. I'm so ready for summer. So we go check out the lakehouse and it's coming along nicely. Should be mostly done for this weekend when I have like 14 people coming up. Should be a helluva time!! :-) I can't wait. Um.... I can't really remember what we did after that. I just remember I was fricking beat from all the physical activity. Sunday got up, had some KFC then headed back to boone. Got bitchslapped by a test on monday but hopefully everyone else sucked it up and there will be a curve. One can only hope. :-) Mostly this week I have just been thinking about this weekend. I can't wait. It will be so nice to see some folks, especially Roper since he will be in Afghanistan for a year. Yesterday I got a call from Frost which was cool since I hadn't talked to him in a good while. Things were going fairly well for him except he thought he might have a broken rib from a car accident he got in this past weekend. Luckily no one was seriously hurt, but his WRX wagon is kaput. He was sitting at a light and a truck hit him at like 40 miles an hour. Lida (his doggie) was in the back and was veru surprisingly not hurt considering the back of his car was demolished. She is a little shaken up about being in cars now though which kinda sucks, but at least she's ok. Crazy stuff. The guy said he blacked out and that's why he didn't stop. Just nuts, nuts I tell you. But at least everyone was pretty much ok which is the most important thing. Now I am just sitting here in the office since I don't really have anything better to do before Hell, I mean... OS. blech. Not much else to say other than I can't wait for this weekend!!! Oh, we did make it fairly official that Alana and I are roomies last night. We got her computer from her dorm and set it up. :-) I don't think she has a whole lot of stuff over in the dorm anymore but she was definitely excited to have her computer instead of just having to use mine all the time. Only bad thing about not writing in here often is that my vocab adds up. Jeepers. ok, let's get ready to tyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyype!!!!

By And Large - This is another term inspired by the sea. In this case, mariners in the age of sail used the term to mean "to sail more or less close to the wind." It literally referred to an approximate direction, not a specific one, and came to wider usage in the same sense.

CAD - Sharing a history with the words "cadet" and "captain," "cad" comes from the Latin noun caput, meaning "head." Before "cadet" gained more honorable use to refer to military trainees, the word was diminutive, used as "a slur in England to insult non-students who loitered around sporting events." In short form, this became "cad." Another tie to this history, "caddy."

Diesel - Barely more than 100 years old, the "diesel" engine owes its existence - and its name - to the inventive genius of Rudolf Diesel (1858-1913). Diesel was from Germany, but created his engine in the United States.

Cardinal - The state bird of Indiana - and a striking red presence throughout the eastern United States - got its name from the crimson robes worn by high officials in the Catholic Church. And these high officials, or "cardinals," acquired their title the same way - from the color of the robe.

Pukka - genuine, authentic, first-class

Commodious - comfortably or conveniently spacious, roomy

Gossamer - exteremly light, delicate, or tenuous

Taciturn - disinclined to talk, laconic

Seder - a Jewish home or community service including a ceremonial dinner held on the first or first and second evenings of the Passover in commemoration of the exodus from Egypt.

6.4.4 soon..... (2004-04-14 01:56)

Awesome easter weekend. Had 13 people total up at the lake. It was frickin awesome. My schoolwork took me a little long tonight so I am going to hit the sack, but I will definitely be coming with a big ol' update tomorrow. Hells yeah!! :-)

6.4.5 you gotta be kidding me..... snow?? (2004-04-14 10:04)

Man it was a great weekend. The lakehouse was mostly done and definitely plenty done to use and everyone agreed that it was awesome. I was most proud of the fact that even though we rebuilt it and made it a lot nicer, everyone thought we did a good job of keeping the feel of the old lake house. Mom and I did good. :-) I was surprised we left the house in pretty good shape considering we DID have 13 people partying there. Let's see we had Alana and I, Bobby and Erin, Roper and Jamie, JD and Stephanie, Wil, Anna, Jenny, Mariette, and Roper's cousin Rhet. It was so much fun. Only bad thing was that there seemed to be some stomach stuff going around. I felt ill friday, saturday, and sunday nights and knew of several other people that had bouts with stomach ickiness. Who knows. Anyhoo, we partied it up, broke in the lake and did some wakeboarding even though the water was a little chilly, and overall had an awesome shindig before Roper has to head out. He heads to South Korea (I was informed by my mom that north=bad so he's likely going to south korea) at the end of the month and will be there for a year so it was really good that we could get so many people together before he had to leave. And we took over 200 pictures just on my digital camera and I am going to burn CDs for everyone and send them out so they can have them. There were a

couple awesome pics of Roper and Jamie that I think they will both enjoy. Everyone headed out by monday so monday was the lakehouse cleaning up day. Then Alana and I just hung out with the parentals and saw a funny curling (like the olympic sport) movie on TV then went and saw Walking Tall with the Rock that evening. It was one of those movies that you pretty much knew the entire plotline just from watching the preview but it was still not too shabby. Then we just headed home, watched some TV, and hit the sack cuz I was BEAT. A long weekend of partying and wakeboarding will wear a fatty OUT!! :-)

I HAVE to get some grading done tonight. I think I was supposed to do it like last week but obviously that didn't happen. Luckily Elizabeth, whom I am the grading assistant for, is pretty cool and chill so she doesn't really care. I was just realizing last week that the people that came in a year before me were a good group. They were real laid back and fun whereas my group is a little more tame and studious. Hopefully we'll get some hooligans in here in the fall. ;-) hahaha

anyhoo, it's frickin snowing outside right now. SNOWING. Geesh. What a great welcome home from easter weekend. It's supposed to be pretty warm this weekend which is hella cool. I HAVE to buckle down and get some work done. Only two more weeks of class!! I've been doing fairly decently in my classes so far and I don't wanna ruin it by getting a little lazy at the end of the term. I can't wait for this term to be over though. I am SO looking forward to this summer. It's gonna ROCK!!

Obviously since I haven't made an update in a while I have lots of words for y'all but I DID weed out some of the word origins since they tend to be a little less interesting and they are always a lot longer. :-) so here ya go!!

Daedal - 1a. skillfull, artistic b. intricate 2. adorned with many things

Hobson's Choice - an apparently free choice when there is no real alternative

Bathetic - 1. extremely commonplace or trite 2. characterized by insincere or overdone pathos, excessively sentimental

Lambent - 1. playing lightly on or over a surface, flickering 2. softly bright or radiant 3. marked by lightness or brilliance especially of expression

Sylvan - 1a. living of located in the woods or forest b. of, relating to, or characteristic of the woods or forest 2a. made, shaped, or formed of woods or trees b. abounding in woods, groves, or trees, wooded

Artless - 1. lacking art, knowledge, or skill 2a. made without skill, crude b. free from artificiality, natural 3. free from guile or craft, sincere

Gullible - People are called "gullible" not because seagulls represent any particular kind of deceit, but because of an earlier use for the root word "gull." It was once used to refer to young birds of any kind, and young birds, with their lack of experience, are susceptible to trickery.

Pip-squeak - There are a number of proposed origins for the echoic term "pipsqueak." One possibility traces back to WWI, when soldiers on the ground developed the ability to identify types of incoming artillery fire by the sounds different shells made. Allied soldiers called one German shell - not much feared - a "pip-squeak," because it squeaked in its flight through the air, then burst with a pip sound.

Palaver - 1. a long parley, discussion, conference 2a. idle talk b. misleading or beguiling speech

Oh yeah, did I mention that not only did I not have stupid OS lab this monday, but I only have a three day week? YIPPEE!!!!!!!!

6.4.6 doopy (2004-04-16 10:08)

It's friday. Every week should only be three days long. That would be awesome. I was just so stoked that I didn't have class on monday since mondays suck ass. That made my week. :-) It's been pretty uneventful. I found out I made a 90 on my theory test that I thought whooped my ass so that was definitely nice news and other than that the week has been pretty chill. I'm so glad we have less then two weeks left in this term. I could easily stay in theory or HCI for longer because those classes are pretty interesting but I will be SO glad when OS is done. It sucks that my comprehensives are going to include it. BLECH!

Question.... why does college seem to suck the punctuality out of people? Only in college (or in some foreign countries) is it not only acceptable, but commonplace to say you will be somewere at one time and actually get there an hour or two later? Or say people should meet in one place to depart at a certain time only to still not have departed hours later? Maybe people are just trying to get it out of their systems since that kind of behavior is unacceptable in the real world. Try showing up to your next job interview an hour late and see how likely you are to get that job. Oh well, I guess you just gotta do what I usually do and just try avoid schedules and do things when they happen so you don't get agitated with the fact you were supposed to have left an hour ago.

Hey, I actually put some thought stuff in here intead of my normal "what I did today" stuff. I'm proud of me. I need to keep a little notebook or something with me so when I randomly think of something to write about in here I can write it down since I never seem to be able to remember long enough to make it to a computer to do an update. I'll have to look into that. Until then, you can just enjoy reading what I do and an occasional ramble... and don't forget the vocab!!! :-)

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania - First settled in 1760, this city was the first site of a French fort, Fort Duquesne, which was later renamed Fort Pitt for William Pitt (1759-1806), an influential prime minister of England. The city acquired its name from the fort, adding the common suffix "-burgh," the short version of the original form "borough."

Wallah - a person identified by a specified line of work or service

Oil - In ancient time in Greece, the edible "oil" of the olive formed a significant part of the diet. The Greek word for "olive" was elaia, which prompted the similar elaion, meaning "olive oil." It also inspired oleum, meaning "olive oil" or just "oil" in Latin. As this was about the only kind of oil around, the word took on a wider meaning, becoming a generic term in Middle English as oile.

Contumely - harsh language or treatment arising from haughtiness and contempt, an instance of such language or treatment.

6.4.7 sparsity at its finest (2004-04-20 22:54)

I was looking at my little lj calendar today and realized that lately my updates have been pretty sparse. I don't think it's been that I'm too busy, I'm just easily distracted. :-) Hopefully this summer will be a little calmer and I can make more updates and give them a little more substance. Maybe then I will actually get some comments!! :-O anyhoo...

It was a good weekend. Went up to bristol friday and had a fun evening with my sweetie. Hit some golf balls and saw Kill Bill Vol. 2 which was pretty damn good. I went ahead and bought volume 1, but I think I am going to end up getting the box set when volume 2 comes out on DVD and just give volume one to my dad. After waiting forever for our italian take out, Alana and I had a romantic candle lit dinner at the lake which was awesome. We started watching Pirates of the Carribean then got bored halfway through and put in As Good As It Gets. Got bored halfway through THAT one and set out some pillows on the dock and just laid there and stargazed til we passed out. Altogether it was a really nice romantic and relaxing evening with my sweetie. :-)

Sunday we headed to Winston-Salem to watch my friend Elizabeth, whom I've known pretty much my entire life, get married. The preacher did a lot of talking but the reception was good. :-) Headed back to boone from there and had a pretty chill evening. Monday was a normal hell monday. Only one more baby!!!!! WOOHOO!!!!! Only 6 more days of classes! I'm stoked. :-) Today has been pretty good. Went and talked to this local shop called Board Paradise about working this summer and he said he would have to see what things looked like after school got out but to get back in touch with him so hopefully that will work out. That would be the perfect place for me to work this summer. I guess that's about it. Nothing special. Summer is so close!!! (sorry Furmanites) I'm pumped!!!

Impromptu - 1. made, done, or formed on the spur of the moment, improvised 2. composed or uttered without previous preparation, extemporaneous.

Drunk as a Skunk - Heavy drinkers coined this phrase merely because of the rhyme. Skunks are not noted for behaving in a drunken manner, but they can get inebriated. Although rare, skunks, squirrels, deer and other animals occasionally eat fruit that has toxic or hallucinatory properties, causing them to behave much like humans who have had too much to drink.

Coil - In order to gather or collect rope, it can be coiled. And "coil" as a verb arose from that action, beginning as the Latin verb colligere, meaning "to collect."

Dissemble - 1. to hide(something) under a false appearance 2. to put on the appearance of, simulate 3. to conceal facts, intentions, or feelings under some pretense

Scarify - 1. to make scratches or small cuts in (as skin), to lacerate the feelings of 2. to break up and loosen the surface of (as a field or road) 3. to cut or soften the wall of (a seed)

Baptism of Fire - 1. a first experience that is a severe ordeal, specifically a soldier's first exposure to enemy fire 2. a spiritual baptism by a gift of the Holy Spirit

Corporation - In the original Latin form, the verb corporare meant "to make or organize into a single unit or body." It was first applied to religious law and appeared in business use in about the 1600s.

Jabberwocky - meaningless speech or writing

6.4.8 (2004-04-20 23:12)

```
[1]Doctor Unheimlich has diagnosed me with
Justin's Disorder
   Cause: lack of sleep
```

```
Symptoms: reflective shots, finger pain, mildly squeaky voice
    Cure: take a day off work
Enter your name, for your own diagnosis: _________ Go
```

Leave your results as a comment!! :-)

1. http://thesurrealist.co.uk/disease

6.4.9 rant me baby!! (2004-04-21 13:02)

Today is special because I get to rant about a professor that I don't even have!! How snazzy is that? I've been helping my sweetie a little bit with these online quizzes she has to take for her communications class. She can take them as many times as she wants and she has to at some point score at least a 90 % or higher. Well first of all she has to use the most ghetto and ridiculously poor textbook I have ever seen. Not only does it look photocopied, but it looks like it was pulled from more than one book and slapped together. I was reading it and halfway through chapter two the border format changed and I noticed that it said chapter 4 on the bottom of the page. CHAPTER 4!! Yet I'm only halfway through chapter 2. THEN the chapter ends mid-sentence and doesn't pick up in chapter three, even though at the bottom of the pages at the beginning of chapter three still says chapter 4. One of the next chapters begins in the middle of a sentence. THIS IS A COMMUNICATIONS TEXTBOOK!!! THEN the quizzes are about as poorly written as the textbook. Two questions in particular pissed the holy bejesus out of me. Just made me want to go to class with her and go off on the professor just as a matter of principle. OH, AND I forgot to mention that this man is the HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT. Anyhoo, back to the quiz... one question asked what type of question usually generates a yes/no answer. Choice (A) was YES/NO questions. choice (B) was bipolar questions. In the text it says (surprised we could find it) that it should be bipolar, but how the hell can you say that you DON'T get a yes/no answer for a yes/no question? Usually when people ask me a yes/no question I just answer with "hotdog." I mean seriously, YES/NO QUESTIONS HAVE YES/NO ANSWERS!!! dumbass. The second question said something to the effect of "what would you say to keep a group discussion on topic?" That's an opinion question. it says what WOULD you say, not what SHOULD you say. No matter what you put for the answer there is no way it can be wrong because it is and OPINION. Personally, I might have said what it said for choice (A), even if it would have been more appropriate to say choice (B). How can an opinion be wrong? dumbass. People have to PAY to take this class? I remind you that this is a COMMUNICATIONS class, yet the professor can't even properly write test questions. Did he find his phd in a box of cracker jacks? Maybe in a box of Fruity Pebbles? Maybe he just drew it himself with his box of crayons and no one in the communications department noticed the difference. I bet he had to make a second copy because his mom put the first copy on her fridge. It does give me hope though. If I don't make it in CS or in psychology I can always fall back on communications. Hell, apparently I could get a lobotomy and I would still have to mental capacity to teach a communications class. Hell, I could probably still be the head of the department! dumbass.

Ok, I think that sums it up. I feel better now. :-)

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lillibullero (2004-04-21 13:05:48)

Holy crap... that totally made me giggle. I've had several classes like that in my college experience.

fincher69 (2004-04-21 23:09:56)
Glad I could be of some entertainment. :-) It's always nice to hear that I provided some giggle-time for my Crazy Fry ;-)

6.4.10 Looks like one of these may be wrong (2004-04-22 22:50)

[1]
[2]How evil are *you*?

The Dante's Inferno Test has banished you to *the Sixth Level of Hell - The City of Dis!*
Here is how you matched up against all the levels:

Level	Score
[3]Purgatory (Repenting Believers)	Very Low
[4]Level 1 - Limbo (Virtuous Non-Believers)	Low
[5]Level 2 (Lustful)	High
[6]Level 3 (Gluttonous)	High
[7]Level 4 (Prodigal and Avaricious)	Moderate
[8]Level 5 (Wrathful and Gloomy)	High
[9]Level 6 - The City of Dis (Heretics)	High
[10]Level 7 (Violent)	High
[11]Level 8- the Malebolge (Fraudulent, Malicious, Panderers)	High
[12]Level 9 - Cocytus (Treacherous)	Low

Take the [13]Dante's Divine Comedy Inferno Test

1. http://home.att.net/~slugbutter/evil/
2. http://home.att.net/~slugbutter/evil/
3. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#0
4. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#1
5. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#2
6. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#3
7. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#4
8. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#5
9. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#6
10. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#7
11. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#8
12. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#9
13. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-test.mv

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lillibullero (2004-04-22 20:34:34)
The Dante's Inferno Test has sent you to *Purgatory!*
Here is how you matched up against all the levels:

Level	Score
[1]Purgatory (Repenting Believers)	Extreme
[2]Level 1 - Limbo (Virtuous Non-Believers)	High
[3]Level 2 (Lustful)	Moderate
[4]Level 3 (Gluttonous)	Very Low
[5]Level 4 (Prodigal and Avaricious)	Low
[6]Level 5 (Wrathful and Gloomy)	Very Low
[7]Level 6 - The City of Dis (Heretics)	Very Low
[8]Level 7 (Violent)	Very Low
[9]Level 8- the Malebolge (Fraudulent, Malicious, Panderers)	Low
[10]Level 9 - Cocytus (Treacherous)	Very Low

Take the [11]Dante's Divine Comedy Inferno Test Haha! Look, we are opposites!

1. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#0
2. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#1
3. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#2
4. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#3
5. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#4
6. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#5
7. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#6
8. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#7
9. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#8
10. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-information.html#9
11. http://www.4degreez.com/misc/dante-inferno-test.mv

6.4.11 Little music blurb (2004-04-22 23:02)

Nothing too fancy to say, except I DID get a little time to play with this cool music software I got for my playstation 2. I got it this past fall but never really got to play with it a whole lot and I definitely haven't had a lot of time to dedicate to my music lately. This software is definitely oriented towards the techno realm, which is cool because creating some of my own techno is high on my list of things I would like to get into. This program would also be suited well to setting up a good baseline then using my keyboard, guitar, or other instruments to complete the song. I piddled around and created a song that I thought was pretty cool tonight and I put it online so anyone could check it out and tell me what you think. It's kinda barebones but I still think it's pretty cool. Check it out!! [1]Finchbeat.mp3 Leave me a comment and tell me what you think of one of my first compositions! I wanna hear what people have to say, good and bad. Thanks!

Mermaid - Mer means "sea" and maid means "maiden" in French, providing the literal inspiration for this term. It first appeared in the 1300s, but folk tales and myths previously existed alluding to half-human half-sea creatures.

Sanctimonious - affecting piousness, hypocritically devout, indicative of affected piousness

Dumbell - Bell ringing was an important skill in past centuries, but the large bells in church steeples were too loud to be rung only for practice. As a consequence, bell ringers developed "dumb bells," jury-rigged systems of ropes used to develop the right timing. These ropes were not connected to the real thing, or they were used with bells that were muted. In the 1800s, the term was applied to free weights used for exercise.

Aggress - to commit aggression, act aggressively
Well, that's about it for tonight. Hopefully I will have a lot of time this summer to dedicate to my music and I'll see if I can find a good place to throw it online so people can check it out and tell me what they think. That'd rock!! :-)

1. `http://www.cs.appstate.edu/~jaf/files/Finchbeat.mp3`

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hcatlin (2004-04-22 21:11:21)
Ok, so to be honest. I like. But its very early 90's techno style and the beat would drop a few times. Keep up the practice though. Its not bad at all.

fincher69 (2004-04-23 05:36:58)
Thanks for the input :-) Until I can have my keyboard up here to give it a little substance I can only use the samples they got. Definitely agree on the 90s feel though :-)

6.4.12 heebie jeebie (2004-04-26 00:41)

Had an awesome weekend, I will elaborate later. I just wanted to throw up a quick post because I threw up a couple old techno files I created that I just found. They aren't the best, but I figured I would post them anyhoo. Just go to my website (http://www.cs.appstate.edu/ jaf/) then click on "My Music" if you wanna check them out.

6.4.13 little update (2004-04-26 14:56)

Hopefully I will get to work on some more music tonight and maybe post another song or two. As soon as I get another one or two decent ones I will likely take off the old ones I put up yesterday. I just found them and thought I would put them up but I kinda have limited web space so I likely won't be able to post more than 4 or 5 songs total. I started to set up an account on cnet music who's kinda partnered with mp3.com so when that gets set up I will have a little site on there and they will host my mp3s. Until then I will just make do with what I got. :-)

I'm so stoked that this is the last monday of the semester. Mondays suck so bad and are so long and end with a stupid boring 3 hour OS lab. yuck. No more OS lab after today!! yeehaw!!! Only one more real day of class after today too. I can definitely deal with that. :-)

Eagle - Earlier, in Middle English, this was egle, arising from the Old French word aigle. The ultimate source was the Latin word aquila. All these words referred to the same large raptor. As for "hawk," a similar type of raptor, the word sprang from the Old English form hafoc, which was probably generated by the Old Saxon from habuk. Close matches are found in Dutch, German, Old Norse, Polish, and Russian, all languages spoken in areas where hawks tradionally flourished.

Tenacious - 1a. not easily pulled apart, cohesive b. tending to adhere or cling 2a. persistent in maintaining or adhering to something valued or habitual b. retentive

Plaza - Both the Romans and the Greeks were noted for their monuments, public places, and town planning. An informal Latin word for "courtyard" or "wide street" was plattea, which likely was the source of plaza in Spanish, from which it passed into English.

Funambulism - 1. tightrope walking 2. a show especially of mental agility

Vaporware - a new computer-related product that has been widely advertised but is not yet available

6.4.14 more music (2004-04-27 00:05)

Just a quick blurb. Finished my last OS lab EVER!!! I'm soooo excited :-) Got to play with my music some more tonight so that was fun too. I meantioned it in the previous post but if you wanna hear my new tunes check them out on my webpage http://www.cs.appstate.edu/ jaf/music.php Let me know what y'all think!! :-)

6.4.15 (2004-04-29 19:15)

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[1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
 Baltimore, MD
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00024z7t/

6.4.16 (2004-04-30 21:14)

just wanted to type up a quick blurb then back to stupid studying!! Finished up classes on wednesday. Took it easy for the afternoon then finished my grading. Went to Greenville Thursday morning to hang out with Bobby and Erin and Roper and Jamie. It was cool to hang out a little more with Roper since he is leaving for Korea on sunday. Pretty crazy. At least he is only there for a year. Could be worse. Got back to boone today and I have been trying to motivate myself to study for this stupid OS exam that I have tomorrow. BORING!!! At least I am practically done after this exam because my other two shouldn't be too bad. Anyhoo, I just started up a Moblog today. Kinda snazzy. It's like a blog, but I just post pictures with captions . The coolest part is that I do it from my cell phone!!! How snazzy is that? So now when I see cool stuff I can just snap a pic on my camera phone and post it on my Moblog! Awesome huh? check it out http://fincher69.textamerica.com/ I thought it was a pretty cool idea and a great way to kinda have a second blog that I can do little picture updates on the fly no matter where I am. Keep an eye on it. Pics are always snazzier than my inane ramblings. :-) Ok, back to studying!!!

6.5 May

6.5.1 first exam (2004-05-01 10:22)

Got my first and worst exam today. Operating Systems. Blech! I really don't think it will be too awfully bad (at least I hope not considering how much I have studied) but I really just want to get it over with. After that I head to Greensboro for a cocktail party for Mark and Los and then likely heading home for a couple days then back here to finish exams on wednesday. Fun stuff. Here's your vocab for the last several days. And don't forget to check out my new [1]Moblog!!!

Earnest - the word "earnest" once applied only to warriors, describing a "martial seriousness valued in battle." In Old Norse, it began as ern, meaning "vigorous," though it acquired new meanings as it drifted in Old High German and Old English.

Gunny Sack - Burlap bags familiar to farmers originated with merchants shipping products on the high seas. In the 1700s, the term popped up in English, adapted from the Sanskrit word goni, which means "sack" or "bag." English shippers importing goods from India encountered a practical shipping sack in the local markets, bags woven from Indian-grown fibers; these fibers are still common in burlap bags today.

Cotton - Europeans first ran into this versatile fiber in northern Africa. In Arabic, it was kutn or koton, and the word was applied to the plant, the fiber produced by it, and the cloth made from the fiber.

GTO - Attached to some sporty car models, the letters "GTO" stand for Gran Tourismo Omologato, from the Italian. This translates in English to "certified for grand touring."

Clairvoyant - 1. unusually perceptive, discerning 2. of or relating to the power of discerning objects not present to the senses

Putative - 1. commonly accepted or supposed 2. assumed to exist or to have existed

Vitiate - 1. to make faulty or defective, impair 2. to debase in moral or aesthetic status 3. to make ineffective

Egregious - notably bad, flagrant

Mettle - 1a. vigor and strength of spirit or temperament b. staying quality, stamina 2. quality of temperament or disposition

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

6.5.2 anxious (2004-05-05 11:23)

Just chillin before taking my final FINAL of the semester so I figured I would hop on and make and update since it had been a while. My OS exam wasn't too awfully bad but it was sure as hell awesome just to have it done. Went to greenville thursday morning and chilled there with roper and jamie and bobby and erin for the night so that was a lot of fun to see Rope-a-dope before he shipped out to korea. Came back to appy friday and pretty much took it easy for the next couple of days. Went up to bristol for the day on monday and we test drove a VW touareg which was really nice. Then Alana came up and we had dinner with the fam then headed back down to boone. Yesterday was pretty chill. Watched some TV and movies then eventually got a little studying done. Started up another moblog but this one is a community one that anyone can post to as long as it has a theme of alcohol. (surprise surprise) :-) just send pics to alcohol.moblog@tamw.com if you wanna post something. Since I started it I kinda have to OK every pic that gets posted so it won't pop up immediately, but you can check out the moblog at http://alcohol.textamerica.com/ to check the pics. I had a hard time motivating myself to study last night because the only exam I was really worried about was OS and it was over saturday so I have kinda felt done since then. I think my HCI one went fairly well. I need around an 88 to keep my A which may be kinda close. If I get like a 76 or higher I will have an A- so I am pretty sure I got that in the bag. An A would definitely be nice though. I have my theory exam coming up at 12 and it is open book and open note so I am not too terribly worried about it I just want to get it done so I don't have to think about it. Not sure what my plan is for the next several days. I think I am heading to bristol for most of the weekend because I am running another 5k with my momma

on saturday. Alana and my dad may do the associated walk, but it think it's kinda dependent upon the weather whether or not they will do it. It will be nice to have like three weeks to just hang out with my sweetie (not like that will be a WHOLE lot different than it has been) but it is always nice to not have to worry about classes for a while. She has to work some starting next week, but I may try to take a couple little mini road trips and visit some folks since I have some time off. We'll just have to see. Ok, well I think I am going to go back to piddlin' around on the internet to burn time until my exam starts. One more and I'm FREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!! Yippee!!! I'm sure I will post a celebratory pic on my moblog after it is done. :-) Check it out!

Oh, and I left all my vocab calendar things in the apartment but I will have time to put them on this weekend (not that anyone reads this thing anyways)

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tattermask (2004-05-06 18:27:41)
I read your vocab calendar things... amanda

6.5.3 5k (2004-05-08 10:25)

Maniacs 5k
30:37

6.5.4 been a while (2004-05-08 11:30)

I finished exams on wednesday so I have been bouncing around and therefore not too good about updating this thing. My exams went fairly well. Ended up getting all A's this semester which I was pretty stoked about. Can't start out grad school much better than that. :-) Headed to bristol after exams and have been running around doing stuff with momma and Alana. Ran 2 miles with mom on thursday to prepare for our 5k today and wakeboarded thursday afternoon as well. Needless today I was already sore BEFORE I ran the 5k today, so now my legs are pretty much jello. I DID get my first running trophy for coming in first in my age group. How cool is that? Momma got second in her age group so we both got trophies which was pretty cool. The Disco might be going away soon so we have been cleaning her up and stuff. you can see pics on my [1]moblog. Kinda sad. We've been through so much together!!! I figure most cars average around 40 miles per hour for their lifetime and at that rate I have spent about 3150 hours which is over 131 full days. That's a lot of time I spent with my baby!!! It's pretty sad. Anyhoo, I left my vocab words for last week in boone so when I run back there I will grab them and do a big vocab update (just for you amanda :-) until then, it's just the same old boring stuff!! I think my moblog is going to be more exciting because pictures are always more entertaining than rambling. I guess we will just have to see how they both go. Until next time... be good ;-)

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

6.5.5 Holy Vocab Batman!! (2004-05-09 22:46)

Great mother's day. Had KFC then went to the lake and hung out there with my folks and Alana all day. Surprisingly not too sore from my 5k run yesterday. Maybe if I start running like I want to this summer I will actually finish in a decent time. :-) Heading to Greenville with mom and Alana tomororow which should be a lot of fun. Other than that nothing too exciting to report. Now here's a load of vocab just for you Amanda. :-)

Ohio - The 17th state gets its name from its bordering river, the Ohio, which itself was named oheo by Iroquois tribes in the area. The meaning of this word: ”beautiful.”

Cranky - If you’re ”cranky,” you might feel emotionally twisted or bent. The origin of the word begins with the root crank, an early English term meaning ”twisted” or ”bent,” like a gnarled tree trunk.

Fly-by-night - Unscrupulous people and deals have long been associated with the cover of darkness. And so, too, is the meaning of this term, which originally referred to renters who skipped out without paying for their lodging by running - or ”flying” - by night.

Cold feet - The author Stephen Crane wrote *The Red Badge of Courage* - one of the most important American novels ever written - about bravery and cowardice in the Civil War. He is also credited with coining the phrase ”cold feet,” or at least being the first person to use it in print. But it didn’t show up in *The Red Badge of Courage*, which was published in 1894; it appeared first in an edition of his first novel, *Maggie: A Girl of the Street*.

Button - Although not a certainty, a probable origin of this word is in the verb butt from the Old French verb bouter, meaning ”to strike” or ”to thrust,” and it is used with the same meanings in English. Borrowed to name the device used to fasten clothing, a ”butt-on” - it was boton in Middle English - would have referred to the action needed to push the device through the buttonhole.

Dimple - A dimple is not a bulge on the face, it’s the crease or indent often found next to a bulge. And the term also comes from a word for ”indent,” the Old High German tumphilo, meaning ”whirlpool” or ”eddy.” When this drifted into English in the 1200s, it was first used to mean ”pothole,” apparently as much a problem in the roads of that time as they are now. Over time, the meaning shifted from referring to roads to faces, but it still means an indentation.

Eggnog - We make this traditional Yule punch from eggs, but the ”nog” part comes from another traditional English ingredient, ale. In Britain, ”nog” referred to a strong ale brewed in Norfolk.

Decorous - marked by propriety and good taste, correct

Quixotic - 1. foolishly impractical especially in the pursuit of ideals 2. capricious, unpredictable

Clement - 1. inclined to be merciful, lenient 2. mild

Boondoggle - 1. a braided cord worn by Boy Scouts as a neckerchief slide, hatband, or ornament 2. a wasteful or impractical project or activity often involving graft

Hackle - 1. one of the long feathers on the neck or back of a bird 2. *plural* hairs (as on a dog’s neck) that can be erected 3. *plural* temper, dander

Panglossian - marked by the view that all is for the best in this best of possible worlds, excessively optimistic

Flummox - to confuse

6.5.6 jeepers (2004-05-14 09:58)

It's friday and I haven't updated since sunday. I am way slacking off since I have no classes right now. Let's see if I can remember all that I have been doing. Went to Greenville monday to look at cars, shop with my sis, and eat dinner with bobby and erin. Altogether it was a pretty fun day. Drove up there in the morning and back to bristol in the afternoon. Let's see.... Tuesday Alana and I drove to Raleigh for the day. We got to hang out with two of her good friends and got some stuff done in Raleigh she needed to do. Drove back to bristol that evening. Ok, Wednesday we ran to the lake and got Alana's watch and ring then picked up the jetski and took it to the house. We then got her some earrings at the mall because her ear has been giving her a lot of trouble because the nickel content in cheap earrings bothers her ears. I also went by the wakeboarding shop to take my wakeboard since I broke it. He didn't have the size I was riding in stock but it was cool because he let me take the larger size and if I like it I will keep it else I will take it back when the size I WAS riding comes in. Drove to Boone wednesday evening then woke up thursday and drove to Raleigh again. Alana had to pick up her truck and run a couple more errands in Raliegh. We drove back to boone that evening and pretty much hung out and watched TV last night. This morning Alana had to go to work and I am chillin a little bit then heading to bristol. Hopefully the weather will be better than is being predicted because the guy who started up the new wakeboard/boat shop near bristol is hosting his first tourny and it'd be nice if the weather cooperated for him. Ok, that about sums up my week. I have been good about updating my [1]moblog because I can do it from on the road. Sparse updates on here means big ol' hunks of vocabulary so get ready!!

Foal, Colt - First seen in this language in Old English, the word "foal" was first fola, with a similar definition, "a nursing horse." Earlier, it came from the Greek polos, which could refer to a young horse, but also meant "young girl" or "any young animal." "Colt," used in modern English to refer to a young male horse, once also had a broader use in English, even referring to young camels or children. It came from Swedish, where it was kult, and referred not to a young horse, but a young pig.

Chattanooga, Tennessee - Dominated by a distinctive rock formation known as Lookout Mountain, this southern city is thought to have taken its name from a local Indian term for the mountain, chattanooga, meaning "rock rising to a point."

Once - "Once" comes from the Middle English word an, an early form of the term that later became "one." This background could also have led to the English word "ounce."

Flutter - Long before this term was associated with the movement of wings, it was associated with the movement of waves. The root was the Middle English verb floteren, meaning "to float" or "to be tossed by the waves." Even as flutter came to represent a wing-like movement, its background also generated "float" and "flotsam," both words connected to the water.

Eavesdrop - Want to overhear what someone else is saying? The closest you can get to those inside a house is next to a window or door, which is under the eaves. But if it's raining, you might get wet, because this area is traditionally known for the "eavesdrop," which is where water drops from the roof.

Recalcitrant - 1. stubbornly resisting authority 2. resistant to handling or treatment

Ascetic - 1. practicing strict self-denial as a measure of personal and especially spiritual discipline 2. austere in appearance, manner, or attitude

Mélange - a mixture of often incongruous elements

Cognizable - 1. capable of being known 2. capable of being judicially heard and determined

Small beer - 1. weak or inferior beer 2. something of small importance, trivia

Petulant - 1. insolant or rude in speech or behavior 2. characterized by a temporary or capricious ill humor, peevish

Orange - "Oranges" arrives in Europe via the East and so, too, did the word. It began in Sanskrit as naranga, which showed up in Persian as narang, then in Arabic as naranj, and drifted through a few more old European tongues before arriving in Middle English as the more familiar orenge. The word for the color matched the word for the fruit, no surprise, given its distinctive hue.

Milquetoast - a timid, meek, or unassertive person

1. http://fincher69.textamerica.com/

6.5.7 yep yep uh huh (2004-05-17 00:01)

Well, it has been an interesting few days. Saturday I woke up and headed out to the wakeboarding competition at around 10. Basically ended up hanging out there til about 5:30. For the most part it was a blast. I ended up getting second place in my division and got a little plaque and everything. It was pretty snazzy. The part of the day that super sucked was when someone stole my wakeboard. I'm pretty sure it was the assholes that were parked next to me. I am a compulsive car locker but since I was wearing board shorts and didn't want to board with my keys in my pocket I had just left my car unlocked all day with my wakeboard in it. I had ASSUMED that it would be safe amongst a bunch of wakeboarders but apparently I was wrong. And it really sucked because I had ridden the board all of 6 times so it was about as new as they come. I think the dipshits grabbed it right as they were leaving. Man, I would give a lot to beat the holy crap out of those guys right now. Not even to try to payback for losing my wakeboard but for being such assholes. People like that make me lose faith in humanity and give me the tendency to assume people are stupid asses unless proven otherwise. At least when I assume that I am right most of the time. Anyhoo.... at least I still have a wakeboard to ride and I DID get second place which was cool and minus the board-stealing incident I had a really good day. Went from the comp to the lakehouse and ate with the fam, then Alana joined us (she was working friday and saturday) and we just hung out. Today has been pretty chill. Went out to lunch at Ryan's, went to the lake and did some wakeboarding, went to johnson city to get a better battery for my parents camera, ate dinner at Red Lobster, then came back and pretty much took it easy. Nothing too special. Tomorroy looks about the same with some hanging out and a touch of wakeboarding. Should be fun!! :-)

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green0monkey (2004-05-17 09:49:32) I'm surprised
you smell. I smell. Why do we smell?

lillibullero (2004-05-17 10:07:20)
Congratulations! Take a picture wtih your plague, haha. Glad you are having a good summer. I hope you find the idiots that stole your wake board so you can kick the crap out of them, hehe.

6.5.8 (2004-05-22 19:16)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Indianapolis, IN

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002557f/

6.5.9 too lazy to do a real update right now (2004-05-24 00:22)

>
WARNING
fincher69 is radioactive. Wear protective clothing at all times.

Username: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Get your warning label

From [1]Go-Quiz.com

1. http://www.go-quiz.com/

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lillibullero (2004-05-24 07:57:25)

UCAUTION
IN THE INTEREST OF SAFETY IT IS ADVISABLE TO KEEP LILLIBULLERO AWAY
FROM FIRE AND FLAMES.

Username: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Get your warning label
From [1]Go-Quiz.com Sad but true. (sigh)

1. http://www.go-quiz.com/

fincher69 (2004-05-25 05:07:06)
hahaha I think that one would have been appropriate for me too. :-) I hope all is still going well with my Crazy Fry! :-)

lillibullero (2004-05-25 07:02:25)
Yup, things are going well. Busy, but good! Talk to you soon!

6.5.10 holy moly (2004-05-25 08:06)

It's been a long time, very long time since I updated my lj. I don't really remember all the goings on of the past week, but I do remember that things stayed pretty darn busy in ol' bristol. This past weekend we headed down to Greenville to chill with bobby and erin which was a lot of fun. I got the first volumes of Futurama and Aqua Teen Hunger Force while I was there which I was pretty excited about. Got to see

Frost and Andy before we left which was cool since Andy has been in Miami all year for grad school. Um.... Biggest news of the past week was that of yesterday. We ordered a car like 2 weeks ago from Johnson City and it was having delay after delay after delay so we gave up because I needed to head to school because I start class today and found a car in knoxville. The big kicker was talking to the sales manager after we made our decision not to get a car from them. He left me a voicemail which I swear was the whiniest I have heard anyone be since about 2nd grade. It was ridiculous. THEN he called my mom and he whined to her and was complaining to her about our decision and then he straight up lied and said he told my dad (whom he had not actually EVER talked to) that it might be a couple weeks. When mom said he hadn't said that he got all defensive and said "I don't appreciate being called a liar?" to which I would have responded "I didn't call you a liar, LIAR!!!!" but mom stayed way calm and not long after that he said he didn't appreciate being called a liar, he didn't like mom's tone, he said that if he had a car on the lot right now he wouldn't sell it to us, then hung up on my mom. Needless to say nothing at that moment would have given me more pleasure than to drive down there and beat the holy bejesus out of that man. I was pacing around the house the entire time mom talked to him because I just wanted to go off on him then beat the shit out of him. What kind of sales manager says they wouldn't even sell you a car they had on the lot?? We talked to our salesman and he said it wasn't the first time this asshole has ruined a sale for him and we ended up talking to the general manager and nothing would make me happier if I found out that we got that dipshit fired. Anyhoo.... that was quite the fiasco but it ended for the best because we went to knoxville and found a car that was not exactly the color I wanted, but really pretty nonetheless, and the owner of the dealership had put 5000 miles on it and it had some features we weren't going to spring for on the one we ordered but we got a really good price since it was slightly used so I am pretty stoked about that. It's kinda sad though because I sold the Disco and officially sold the WRX to my dad's company on the 17th, so I had been essentially car-less for about a week which was weird for me. I drive a lot so I'm spoiled about having a car. Anyhoo.... have I driven anyone crazy by not mentioning what kind of car I got? ;-) hehehe I got a Volkswagon Touareg. Pretty snazzy huh? :-) I sure like it. It's got all sorts of cool crazy features. I have a feeling it will take me a while to figure everything out. If you wanna see a picture just check out my [1]Moblog. Since I have a buttload of vocab not on here yet I think I am going to hold off on that. Maybe I will just pick some of the words that I think are more interesting. Maybe I will get around to that tonight. We'll see. ;-) I may have homework since I will have class today. who knows.

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

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lillibullero (2004-05-25 13:49:32)
Ahh, a fellow Volkswagon driver!! I was just telling Drew the other day that the only SUV that i would drive would be a Touareg. How coincidental. I have a Jetta 1.8t... i LOVE it.

fincher69 (2004-05-26 05:00:24)
while I was waiting for my car to come in, they let me demo drive a 1.8t. That's a pretty darn snazzy little car! I liked it a ton. VW has come a long way. :-)

6.5.11 nothing too special (2004-05-28 22:46)

It's been a good first week of summer school overall. Been enjoying my new car most definitely. It's got all sorts of crazy little gadgets! I'm still figuring everything out. Got my air conditioner installed in my apartment so it's definitely a little more comfy in there. Been going to bed way early, but hopefully that trend will fade away a little bit then I will be more likely to update this more often. Used my navigation system for the first time today getting to hilton head. Pretty darn snazzy. It definitely makes the process of travelling a little easier!! Well, I am just chillin in hilton head this weekend with Alana and the folks.

Our school doesn't let off for memorial day so it's back to boone on sunday but it will be a fun weekend nonetheless. Already had one great seafood dinner and I got four snazzy six-packs of beer with dad and my name on them :-) I swear.... one day.... I will get better at updating this thing. :-) I am still ok at updating [1]my moblog so check it out and just leave comments on here since they have this stupid system where you have to be a member to leave comments. It'd be cool to know that people actually look at my pictures!! :-) Until next time... (and next week I will actually put some vocab on here I promise)

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

6.5.12 da weekend (2004-05-31 08:36)

Had a great weekend with the folks in hilton head. Used my snazzy navigation system for the first time to get us there which was a lot of fun. Basically just hung out and ate seafood which was plenty fine by me. It was very relaxing. :-) I also got to see the condo for the first time since it had be redone which was kinda snazzy. Not a whole lot else really went on. Had to come back yesterday because we don't get memorial day off so I gotta head to class here in a bit. It's a nasty day so I am definitely looking forward to getting class done, getting my workout done, then taking it easy. :-) I guess I will actually put some vocab on this post. I have a big stack of words so I am just going to choose the ones that seem interesting to me. I hope anyone who reads them agrees. :-)

Gamut - Meaning "the entire range," "gamut" started as a single step. It was originally the term for the lowest note in a medieval musical scale, adapted from gamma, the third letter of the Greek alphabet.

Cereal - Before this word was first applied to breakfast food, "cereal" referred to any agricultural plant that produced grain. These plants ended up with this label because of the Roman goddess Ceres. She was the goddess of grain and farming, and from her name came the Latin word Cerealis, meaning "pertaining to Ceres." The health food movement of the mid- to late 1800s is credited with inspiring the invention of what we now call "cereal," the first being James C. Jackson's Granula introduced in 1863.

Echo - In Greek, the word ekhos meant "noise" or "sound," creating later use in Latin as echo meaning "a reflected sound." The Greeks also applied the word to one of their deities, the mountain nymph Echo, punished for talking too much by being forced to repeat, or echo, other people's words.

Mollycoddle - to surround with an excessive or absurd degree of indulgence and attention.

Garrison finish - a finish in which the winner comes from behind at the end.

Verbicide - 1. deliberate distortion of the sense of a word (as in punning) 2. one who distorts the sense of a word.

Lachrymose - given to or causing tears

Inspissate - to make thick or thicker

Milquetoast - a timid, meek, or unassertive person

Flyblown - 1. infested with eggs or larvae of a blowfly 2. not pure; corrupt or seedy

Capital punishment - This grim sentence means death, and the origin of the word "capital" provides just such a hint of meaning. In Latin, the noun caput means "head," and this inspired the expanded term

in English by the 1400s, referring to the punishment reserved only for the upper classes. Instead of the perceived more painful and lowly method of hanging, the rich and priviledged were dispatched by chopping off their heads. In its original use, "capital punishment" was thus a special kind of death sentence.

Dunkirk - 1. a retreat to avoid total defeat 2. a crisis situation that requires a desperate last effort to forestall certain failure

Neophyte - 1. a new convert, proselyte 2. novice 3. beginner

Frank - Speaking candidly requires freedom of expression. And the word "frank" literally means "free." It originally designated a large and powerful culture in Europe, the Franks, who controlled much of western Europe before 1000 A.D.

Fortnight - We don't use this term as much as we used to, but it still means the same, "a period of two weeks." Two weeks is 14 days or 14 nights - shortened in use to the present form.

Wednesday - More than one day of the week was named after a god. In this case, it's Odin (also known as the Anglo-Saxon Woden), the principal deity in early Scandanavian cultures. In Old English, the day was called wodnesdæg.

6.6 June

6.6.1 interesting blurb from class (2004-06-01 09:10)

I'm currently taking general psychology and we had a pretty interesting lesson yesterday. In one case we talked about a railroad worker who had an accident in which a piece of metal basically went through his head yet he recovered fine. The damage was more to the front of his brain and he seemed to have no physical affects (speech was fine, movement was fine, etc.) but his personality changed. He had been supervisor and been responsible but after the accident he was impulsive, crude and more immature. The second case we talked about involved a man who was like in his 30s-40s and had a wife and stepdaughter. He was a good guy and a good dad, but one day he started getting into porn. He started buying it more and more and looking at it on the internet, and a lot of it was child porn. It even got to the point where he made advanced towards his stepdaughter and that's when his wife said it was enough and he was arrested. The judge sentenced him to a 12 step program for pedophiles and child molestors but he couldn't make it through and was going to be put in jail. A couple days before he was to go to jail he had to go to the emergency room for a headache and it turns out he had a tumor in his frontal lobe. They removed it and afterwards his porn urges went away. Because of the circumstances the judge let him do the 12 step program again and he got through no problem. THEN a few years later it started happening again. He started getting into the child porn and everything so he went to the hospital and sure enough, the tumor they had removed had grown back. Though this isn't a controlled experiment, the liklihood of the urges and the tumor being unrelated is pretty low. One of the doctor's involved with this case brought up an interesting point about free will. If something like pressure on a part of our brain can totally change our urges and how we control them and essentially "who" we are, how much free will and control over our own lives do we actually have? Brings up an interesting question about what we actually control and what is biological. How much control would we have over our choices if someone could make a small alteration to our brain that would cause us to make a different choice? Makes you think.

Helmet - In Indo-European, the root word kel meant ”cover” or ”hide,” the latter because animal hides were often the material used to make coverings. Eventually, this ended up as the early German khelmaz, which referred to a head covering made of hide. The final form emerged in France, where Old French produced the familiar-looking form helmet. In its French application, the straight translation originally meant ”little hat.”

Hoise - to lift, raise, especially to raise into position by or as if by means of tackle

Garden - Gardeners have long battled the appetites of wild creatures, and gardens have thus had a long history of enclosure, to protect their growing contents. The word, in fact, stems from the Old High German word gart, meaning ”enclosure,” which arrived with the same spelling in Old Northern French, for the first time referring to an enclosed area for growing plants. From this, gardin arrived in Middle English.

Tenebrous - 1. shut off from the light; dark, murky 2. hard to understand, obscure

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tattermask (2004-06-11 05:25:33)
I am utterly paranoid now... I'm going to join the convent. amanda

6.6.2 holy jeepers (2004-06-03 08:48)

I was bored this morning and just piddlin and decided to add up the approximate amount of money it would take to buy everything on my Amazon.com wishlist and it came out to a grand total of 2,358 dollars! That's just nuts. That's all for now.

Hail - Frozen ice particles falling from the sky are nothing new. In early European cultures, the word showed up as hagl in Old Norse and as hagal in Old High German. Supposedly, the original term comes from the Greek word for ”pebble” - kakhlex. Before acquiring its modern spelling, it was haghel or hayl in Middle English.

Acumen - mental keenness and penetration, especially in practical matters, shrewdness

Enfant terrible - 1. a child whose inopportune remarks cause embarraassment 2. a person known for shocking remarks or outrageous behavior.

Canvas - When canvas was first produced, it was made with fibers from the hemp plant, also known in Latin as cannabis, which is the source of the word.

6.6.3 my 5k's (2004-06-05 10:21)

I decided to backdate some entries when I ran 5k's since mom and I are going to keep running them. I figured it'd be a good way to keep track if I logged my time on here every time I ran a race. Maybe if I start actually training I will see some improvement. :-) Today I ran the Blue Plum run 5k in a time of 29:45 which was actually my Personal Record which was cool. There were a lot of fast people out there. Now it's off to wakeboard! :-)

6.6.4 :-) (2004-06-07 12:09)

Had a great weekend at home. Survived my 5k as I mentioned earlier AND I got to hit the new slider that a local shop built. Pretty snazzy! Also had a funny little incident with Alana. We were outside goofing around while my dad was grilling and she had a little booger in her nose so I said "you have a booger in your nose" but right as I was saying "booger" she just smacked herself in the face because she thought I was starting to say bug. It was pretty funny. I just found out I made a 98 on my last psych test which is definitely cool. Now it's back to doing some chilling. I did find out something really cool while I was reading my psych last night. I had always wondered why, when it was pretty dark, if you looked at something directly you couldn't see it but if you looked off to the side it would appear. Our eyes have rods and cones that detect the light that comes into our eyes. Cones are focused more in the center of our retina while rods are more prevalent in the periphery. Cones are more sensitive to colors and rods are more sensitive to shapes and brightness. Since there aren't many rods in the middle, when you look at something directly it is mostly hitting cones which aren't very good at detecting much in low light BUT when you look off to the side slightly, the light hits more rods and therefore the image becomes visible. How cool is that?? I thought it was snazzy.

Gwen - In its original form in Welsh, this girl's name was Gwendolen or Gwenllian. Both derived from the root word gwyn, meaning "white" as well as "blessed." In the 5th century, it was the name of a saint, and in more recent times, it has been reused as Gwenda.

Jet Black - The mineral known as "jet" gave us this color, a special velvety black. "Jet," a form of lignite, was originally mined in the settlement of Gagas in the Lycia region of Asia Minor. Gagas evolved into jet as its use was adopted in French.

Scission - 1. a division or split in a group or union, schism 2. an action or process of cutting, dividing, or splitting; the state of being cut, divided, or split

Litany - 1. a prayer consisting of a series of invocations and supplications by the leader with alternate responses by the congregation 2. a lengthy recitation

Convivial - relating to, occupied with, or fond of feasting, drinking, and good company

Haggard - Looking ragged? You may have something in common with a captive hawk that hasn't yet been tamed. The old falconer's tern "haggard," from the Old French hagard, referred to just such a beast, perhaps influencing the later use, far removed from the original, because of the supposed unpolished behavior of such a bird.

Fleer - a word or look of derision or mockery

(2004-06-08 11:15:57) wacko
I coulda told you we had rods and cones in our eyes!!!! :-) jess

(2004-06-09 13:11:28) snazzy
would you please quit using the word snazzy so damn much?

fincher69 (2004-06-09 19:03:49) Re: snazzy
But snazzy is just a snazzy word to use snazzily! Don't de-snazzy it's snazziness!! And sign your name if you post anonymously ;-)

6.6.5 it's something.... (2004-06-11 08:54)

[pick a band/artist and answer questions using their song titles]

Band/Artist: Warren Zevon

1. Are you male or female? Excitable Boy

2. Describe yourself: Disorder in the House

3. How do people feel about you? Bad Luck Streak in Dancing School

4. How do you feel about yourself? Monkey Wash Donkey Rinse

5. Describe your girlfriend/boyfriend/interest: Suzie Lightning

6. Where would you rather be? Johnny Strikes Up the Band

7. Describe what you want to be: Mr. Bad Example

8. Describe how you live: Roll with the Punches

9. Describe how you love: Run Straight Down

10. Share a few words of wisdom: I'll Sleep When I'm Dead

Matzo - This traditional Jewish cracker bread gets its name from the Hebrew word massah. It's a verb meaning "tot knead" or "to handle," probably influenced by the action needed to make it.

Compurgator - on that vouches under oath for the character or conduct of an accused person

Hem - In Old Norse, the verb hemja meant "to close in" or "to restrain." Similar words with the same meaning were found in related languages, including Old Frisian and Middle High German. Hem showed up in Old English first with the same application before shifting to a more restrictive meaning in Middle English, as in "an edge or border." English use has seperated the word into two modern applications: The verb form is widely applied to various kinds of situations - "the man was hemmed in by the crowd" - but as a noun, it has ended up primarily limited to clothing.

Jejune - 1. lacking nutritive value 2. devoid of significance or interest, dull 3. juvenile, puerile

Go To Pot - Long before consumers bought all their meat at grocery stores, most people were familiar with where the meat came from, dead animals. Not prone to letting things go to waste, butchers often consigned old and sick animals to the stewpot after they died, hence the concept of "going to pot."

Propitious - 1. favorably disposed 2. being of good omen, auspicious

6.6.6 5k (2004-06-12 11:41)

Rangers 5k today. Dirt trail with LOTS of hills. By far the hardest course we have fun thus far. Ran it in 31:11 which wasn't too awfully shabby considering. I think I'll be paying for this one tomorrow. :-) Wakeboarding this afternoon could definitely be interesting.

6.6.7 now blog for running (2004-06-12 23:39)

I decided that instead of putting all my running entries here in my Blog, I would make a seperate blog just for running. Now if I wanna look over races I've run it's a lot easier than plodding through a bunch of my old entries. I don't know why anyone would want to check it out, but if you do my other blog name is [LJ User: RunFincherRun]. So while I may make mention of runs I do here, it'll mostly stay over there. :-) Aren't I just the uber-dork?

6.6.8 (2004-06-14 08:51)



You are Barcelona!
Creative, Inquisitive, Whimsical
Your unique style sets you apart from the norm.
You're known by many, but only by the people
that truly matter. You're very much like Dr.
Seuss.
[1] What City Reflects Your Personality?
brought to you by [2]Quizilla

1. http://quizilla.com/users/imgreekarican/quizzes/What%20City%20Reflects%20Your%20Personality%3F/
2. http://quizilla.com/

6.6.9 hmmm (2004-06-17 09:19)

Haven't really been updating this much lately. Haven't really had a whole lot going on. Just doing the summer school thing, trying to get a workout in every once in a while. Having a big birthday bash this

weekend which should be fun. I will be sure to do an update after that. :-) And no 5k's this weekend. But hopefully I will get extra wakeboarding time in so I will still get some exercise. Since it has been a while since I really updated I have a bunch of words, but I have to head to class soon so I am going to do some major weeding out. Hopefully other people will find the same ones interesting that I do. :-)

Defile - to march off in a line

Salad Days - time of youthful inexperience or indiscretion; an early flourishing period, heyday

Rodomontade - 1. a bragging speech 2. vain boasting or bluster, rant

Gnomic - 1. characterized by aphorism 2. given to the composition of aphoristic writing

Sturm und Drang - turmoil

Babblative - garrulous

Mellow - Popularized in modern times by its use in recreational drug cultures, this term has a much longer history. It has been tracked back as far as the 1600s, when it was used in English in a similar way as it is today, to mean "laid back" or "midly intoxicated."

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tattermask (2004-06-19 22:02:50)
Man, i wish I knew how to pronounce Rodomontade. That looks like a great word with which I could use on my stupid bosses. amanda

fincher69 (2004-06-21 06:05:21)
there's always dictionary.com ;-)

6.6.10 yippee and stuff (2004-06-21 09:13)

Had a great birthdays/father's day weekend. Alana's parents came up and stayed the weekend. Mark and Nate came up friday afternoon. Bobby came up midday saturday. Nate had to leave early saturday and everyone else headed out sunday. We had a lot of fun. Mostly chilled at the lake and wakeboarded. Alana and I exchanged gifts before we headed to bristol on friday since friday was her birthday and she was excited about giving me my stuff. :-) I got her a funny cow figurine of a cow that is catching a frisbee like it wants to be a dog, an itunes gift certificate, and a [1]Clothing Optional license plate holder. She got me a remote control truck, the lord of the rings trilogy, a cool sticker and a button, spongebob toothpaste and toothbrush, and wireless headphones which ROCK!! :-) Had our normal pizza night on friday then spent the day at the lake on saturday. My folks had to go to a wedding saturday night so Alana's parents took the group out to dinner and a movie. Went and saw dodgeball which was pretty funny. It was one of those movies you would consider to be less of a funny movie and more of a movie with lots of funny parts, if that makes sense. Overall it was pretty good. Then went to O'Charley's for dinner, hit walmart, and headed back out to the lake. Did the wakeboarding thing sunday, then had some KFC. Mark needed to look for rocks for an assignment for the guy who is marrying Los and him so I took him down to the river and found some cool rocks. After a little too much sun and wakeboarding I was pretty beat so after we got back to boone I pretty much just took it easy and crashed early. Nothing too fancy. It's hard to believe that I turn 24 tomorrow. Crazy! Makes me feel WAY old. AND it's hard to believe that this week is our last week of class. These 5 week terms just fly by! ok, well that about sums up the weekend. Now it's time to get ready to head to

class! woohoo!! :-)

Hillbilly - People living in remote hilly regions are called ”hillbillies” because of the hills, not just by accident, but because for hundreds of years, if not longer, hills have been the least desirable place to live because the terrain represents poor farming conditions. Successful farmers lived on flat bottomland. In rural parts of England and Scotland, ”billy” was a term meaning ”a buddy” or ”friend,” and many immigrants to the United States - particularly those settling in the farm-poor country in the Southeast - came from this part of the British Isles, bringing their language preferences with them.

Alopecia - loss of hair, wool, or feathers, baldness

Maladroit - lacking skill, cleverness, or resourcefullness in handling situations, inept

Impeccable - 1. not capable of sinning or liable to sin 2. free from fault or blame, flawless

Pittance - a small portion, amount, or allowance, *also* a meager wage or remuneration

Mayhem - In the Anglo-Norman roots of English, the word maihem meant ”an injury” or ”harm,” similar and related to the modern word ”maim.”

Vatic - prophetic, oracular

Linen - This fabric, made from fibers of the flax plant, got its name from the plant. In Old Norse, lin was the word for ”flax,” and this generated linen in Old English.

1. `http://www.clothingopt.com/`

6.6.11 I don’t have many lj friends (2004-06-21 14:01)

Who’s been commenting in your journal?

```
1  [ LJ User: fincher69 ]     [bar.png]  20 comments  30.3% of total
2  [ LJ User: lillibullero ]  [bar.png]  17 comments  25.76% of total
3  Anonymous                  [bar.png]  12 comments  18.18% of total
4  [ LJ User: tattermask ]    [bar.png]  8 comments   12.12% of total
5  [ LJ User: hcatlin ]       [bar.png]  4 comments   6.06% of total
6  [ LJ User: _angelwings_ ]  [bar.png]  4 comments   6.06% of total
7  [ LJ User: green0monkey ]  [bar.png]  1 comments   1.52% of total
```

These statistics were generated using the [1]LJ Stats Web Interface by [LJ User: mpnolan]. Original idea from [LJ User: scrapdog]’s **LJ Comment Stats Wizard**.

1. `http://mpn.ath.cx/ljstats`

---

tattermask (2004-06-21 21:16:30)
I don’t really, either... and I’ve had this thing a lot longer than you have :(sad. a

(2004-06-23 06:05:06) comment
Hey - sorry no one posts comments on your journal. It may be that people are busy WORKING!! hehehe You lead a different sort of life than a lot of your peers. Or, maybe they are like me, just enjoying reading your blog and never posting a comment. Don't stop because it is very intersting reading. I love to keep up with what is going on with you. Hope you have a good day. It's hard to believe it's the last few days of the term! guess who

6.6.12 um... (2004-06-25 23:02)

Two days ago was my birthday.

but I didn't post.

I'm lazy.

and stuff.

I DID get an A in my psychology class this term.

That's cool.

At least I think so.

And right now I feel like a weirdo.

Because I am listening to a christmas CD.

That Di made me.

But only because it came on after my favorite CD.

Which happens to be in my CD changer right how.

(It's Chillour 2002)

I think if I were marooned on a desert island and could only take one CD, at the current point in time that would be my CD.

I like it a lot.

As I appear to like double spacing right now.

Yeah.

Oh yeah, and I cut my hair today.

And by hair I mean the hair on my chin.

It's funny.

Look.

[1]Click it or ticket

1. http://www.cs.appstate.edu/~jaf/files/Picture24.jpg

(2004-06-26 04:09:12) hair
Interesting look...hmmm we used to call those chops

fincher69 (2004-06-26 07:58:30) Re: hair
'cept they're even better than the chops I used to have because they flow into a mustache :-)

6.7 July

6.7.1 whoa, it's been a while (2004-07-07 16:06)

I haven't updated in forever. I guess I kinda have an excuse since I have been on break. We had a little over a week after summer session one before summer session two starts up. I had a good chill weekend at the lake to start off while Alana went to Raleigh. Got some stuff done at home, then met Alana back in boone on like monday. tuesday headed back to bristol then wednesday headed to greenville to see erin and bobby. Their new house is pretty dang cool and we helped them get a little more organized and stuff. The we headed from there to hilton head on friday and spent a long 4th of july weekend with my folks and my sis and jeff. It was a lot of fun. Came back here on monday, took it easy and today was the first day of class. I'm taking Psychology of Personality and the prof seems pretty cool so it should be a good time. I guess that's a good overview. Oh, I DID about die in a 5k with mom on sunday. It was blazing hot and like 5000 % humidity. It was brutal. But I finished without walking and until I really start training that is pretty much my main goal. That and getting my free t-shirt. :-) The day before yesterday Alana took some NyQuil and it knocked her on her ass. She felt like crap all day yesterday and even felt yucky today. She was fine laying down, but when she stood up she got dizzy. She's feeling a lot better right now which is definitely a good thing. She decided not to take any classes this term which I think will be good for her. She tends to stress and she needs a break where she can just relax. Well I guess that about sums it up for now! :-)

---

green0monkey (2004-07-08 10:56:25) Me??
Me stress?? NEVER!

6.7.2 (2004-07-08 22:35)

```
                    In 1980 (the year you were born)
                 Jimmy Carter is president of the US
President Carter announces punitive measures and embargos against the
      USSR in retaliation for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
    Mount St. Helens in Washington state erupts in a violent blast
  estimated to be 500 times as powerful as the Hiroshima atomic bomb
 Ronald Reagan is elected the 40th US president in a sweeping victory
US Representative Michael O. Myers is expelled from the House for his
```

role in the Abscam scandal
Hewlett-Packard announces release of its first personal computer
Microsoft announces their version of UNIX, Xenix
Christina Ricci, Chelsea Clinton, Venus Williams, Jessica Simpson,
Macaulay Culkin, and Jake Gyllenhaal are born
Philadelphia Phllies win the World Series
Pittsburgh Steelers win Superbowl XIV
New York Islanders win the Stanley Cup
The Empire Strikes Back is the top grossing film
"Lady" by Kenny Rogers spends the most time at the top of the US
charts
U.S. viewers get caught up in the "Who Shot J.R.?" cliff hanger on the
soap opera series, Dallas, which is solved on a November 21 episode,
drawing a record numbers of viewers

[1]
What Happened the Year You Were Born?
More cool things for your blog at
[2]Blogthings

1. http://www.blogthings.com/yearborn.html
2. http://www.blogthings.com/

6.7.3 yay for weekends (2004-07-11 21:40)

Had a great weekend in Greenville. Delivered a sofa and big TV to bobby and erin to complete their game room and it worked out beautifully. Had a good time just relaxing with them. Hung out with Frost and Andy last night which was a lot of fun too. Had a little too much Jagermeister, but still had a lot of fun. Only bad thing was that I started getting sick on friday. I never really felt that badly, but my nose has been really runny and my head has felt really stuffed up. Today my car started bitching and I think something is wrong with the air suspension so mommy is going to take it to the shop for me, which means I got to take her brand new explorer back to boone. :-) It's pretty snazzy. I'm helping her break it in. I think it only has like 280 miles on it or something. It's fun. Hopefully my car will be back in tip top shape by wednesday so I can get it back in time to leave thursday morning for Mark's wedding. Should be fun times! Well I tried some nasal spray and it DID clear up my nose some, but in the process it super dried out my throat so it's all sore so I am going to go whine about it to Alana then probably hit the sack early to try to sleep this thing off AND because I have an 8 o'clock class tomorrow. Fun times!! :-) Oh and I have some words stored up from the past couple weeks, but I don't feel like typing them up right now. Maybe tomorrow :-)

---

lillibullero (2004-07-11 20:06:45)
Feel better soon!!

6.7.4 holy moly (2004-07-22 13:29)

I haven't written anything in forever!! It's been like 11 days!! I have been getting on a more consistent schedule of not going to bed so dadjum early so hopefully that will help me with the keeping-up-with-my-bog stuff. The only prominent thing that has happened this past couple of weeks was Mark's Wedding. We

had an awesome rehearsal dinner on thursday night where we went out on a cruise around the harbor then had dinner at the aquarium which was a ton of fun. After that we were kinda bushed so we ended up just crashing at the hotel. The next day was pretty chill then we had the wedding. We had on full tuxedos so it was hot as balls but it was still a beautiful wedding. It sprinkled a little which helped cool us off, but I was still stripping layers like crazy right after I got to the reception. Had a blast there too. It was lots of fun. Been doing the summer school thing during the week. Classes aren't too hard at all so that's cool. Got my ipod mini that my parents got me for my birthday this week so I have been having a lot of fun playing with that. I still got a big stack of vocab words and I REALLY hope to get the ones I want posted tonight. We'll see. :-)

6.7.5 (2004-07-22 23:50)

[1]What do you dream about?
Name/Nickname: _____
Age: ___
Zodiac Sign: [Cancer.....]
Fav. Color Combo: [Pink/Black.....]
Your dreams generally include: Running in search of something
Approximate number of monthly nightmares: 13
The worst monster you've seen in a dream: [monsters.jpg]
Your dreams are usually surreal
Percentage of dreams involving sex - 6%

Will your dreams ever come true? (8) - Most likely. - (8)
Try Your Answers!
This [2]QuickKwiz by [3]cutelilangelx - Taken 229017 Times.
[kwizcount.gif]

New! Get Free [4]Daily Horoscopes from Kwiz.Biz

1. http://www.kwiz.biz/showquiz.php?quizid=68
2. http://www.kwiz.biz/
3. http://www.kwiz.biz/userprofile.php?userid=51
4. http://astrology.kwiz.biz/

6.7.6 (2004-07-22 23:51)

[1]Insanity Test
Username _____
Age _____
Your problem is Schizophrenia
Will you ever be cured? (8) - As I see it, yes. - (8)
Just how crazy are you? - 97%

Try Your Answers!
This [2]QuickKwiz by [3]insanitydefense - Taken 149395 Times.
[kwizcount.gif]

New! Get Free [4]Daily Horoscopes from Kwiz.Biz

1. http://www.kwiz.biz/showquiz.php?quizid=145
2. http://www.kwiz.biz/
3. http://www.kwiz.biz/userprofile.php?userid=309
4. http://astrology.kwiz.biz/

6.7.7 man (2004-07-29 02:05)

I have been absolutely horrible at updating my blog lately. Luckily hardly anyone reads it so it isn't like I am letting a lot of people down. I would write a big ol' entry right now, but I just got finished typing up an almost 10 page psychology paper so I am not really all about the extra typing at the time being. Maybe I will make some time, but if I do it will likely not be until next week since I have to do my other psych project tomorrow then study since we have a test on friday. Oh well. I will get back in to updating this one day I promise. At the very least I will be good at updating it in the fall because I will have office hours. Hopefully I will have a functioning laptop by then. My laptop got squished cuz I left it in Alana's truck and the screen got crack. The left 25 % works great so I can always just resize everything to fit in there. :-) It's going to be like 700 dollars to fix this one so I am not sure what I am going to do. We will just have to see I guess. Ok, enough typing for me!! I do feel better though since I noticed that it seems like my lj buds (all like 2 of them) haven't been posting much either so they aren't making me look too badly. :-) Til next time!!

---

hcatlin (2004-07-29 11:51:55)
I cried for three nights straight.... CRIED>..... you horrible horrible BITCH

fincher69 (2004-08-01 20:40:20)
Dry your eye Mr. Hampton. (I can only assume the laptop is the source of your devastation). While this laptop will not be forsaken, she will be finding a new home. A replacement is in the works by way of Alienware and by early next month a laptop shall once again grace the apartment.

6.8 August

6.8.1 whoa nelly!! (2004-08-10 10:09)

jeepers, it has been forever since I wrote in here. I think it's definitely going to remain pretty sparse until school starts back up in a couple weeks. I am a lot better at updating this when I have office hours I need to keep because I end up having a lot of free time where all I do is sit at the computer. What better time to update my blog!! I copied this little survey thing offa Amanda so I would have something more substantial to put on here. Then it's shower time then heading to bristol!! Fun fun! Last weekend at bobby's bachelor party was awesome. We had a lot of fun though I did overpartake in the alcohol just a tad. His wedding is this weekend and it should definitely be a helluva lot of fun. He's in Vegas on business right now (must be rough). It's so weird having all my friends getting married! Craziness!! Ok, I gotta jet.

I just noticed after pasting that form in my entry that all the words are black and therefore hard to read. That's a pain. I guess you will just have to highlight it all if you wanna read it. Sorry!! :-)

```
The \\
Last Cigarette: never
Last Alcoholic Drink: Miller Lite
Last Car Ride: Taking Alana to work
Last Kiss: this morning
Last Good Cry: never had a good cry
Last Library Book: who knows
Last book bought: Studying for the psych and CS GRE
Last Book Read: Chromosone 6
Last Movie Seen in Theatres: I. Robot
Last Movie Rented: been a while, I don't remember
Last Cuss Word Uttered: shit
Last Beverage Drank: water
Last Food Consumed: southwestern cheeseburger
Last Crush: Alana
Last Phone Call: Home
Last TV Show Watched: CSI: Miami
Last Time Showered: yesterday morning
Last Shoes Worn: my wet weather flip flops
Last CD Played: Chillout 2002
Last Item Bought: a few used playstation games
Last Download: a song by Future Leaders of America (free on itunes)
Last Annoyance: i dunno
Last Disappointment: catwoman
Last Soda Drank: C2 at Bobby's
Last Thing Written: my take home final from second summer session
Last Key Used: the one to start my car
Last Words Spoken: "I haven't written in my blog in forever!"
Last Sleep: last night
Last Ice Cream Eaten: TCBY - chocolate and cheescake, last night
Last Chair Sat In: this one
Last Webpage Visited: Slashdot
Take This Survey
[1]CREATE YOUR OWN! - or - [2]GET PAID TO TAKE SURVEYS!
```

1. http://www.kwiz.biz/simplesurveys/create-survey.php
2. http://www.kwiz.biz/simplesurveys/paid-surveys.php

6.8.2 sporadicism at it's finest (2004-08-19 11:08)

Haven't really been writing in here much. Hasn't been a heckuva lot going on. Once I am back in the office I am sure I will start updating closer to a daily rate. Went to bobby and erin's wedding last weekend and had WAY too much fun. :-) It's crazy thinking of mark and bobby and their WIVES! Man, I feel old. It was a lot of fun and I definitely had a blast being there. Those Ryan sisters are definitely a handful, especially

the little one. She's a blast, but she's also a troublemaker (which is probably why we get along). Um.... haven't really had a lot to do lately. Classes start up this tuesday so I had GTA meetings yesterday and another one on monday I think. This semester is going to be rougher than last semester for sure. A full load is 9 hours and I am taking 13, though 3 are psych not CS, and my classes are going to be a little more intense themselves since two of them are the core classes on which I will be tested in my comps. It should be pretty interesting. At least I don't have any labs this term. That operating systems lab about killed me last semester!!! The good thing is that last semester I took 10 hours and had a 4.0 so that gives me a good cushion for future classes. Hopefully I will continue the streak. How cool would it be to have a 4.0 while getting my masters!? That'd definitely look good to phd programs. :-) I'm trying to think of anything else cool or fun that has happened but I can't really think of much. My laptop is supposed to ship august 30 so I will have to go the first few weeks without having a laptop (I THINK I can survive ;-) but when it gets here I am going to be STOKED!! It's gonna be snazzy. Well, I think that's about it for now. Heading to bristol after lunch then back here this evening. Just wanted to snag as many afternoons at the lake as I can before classes start up!! :-) Lookie Lookie!! The return of the vocab!!

Roman à clef - A novel in which real persons or actual events figure under disguise

Thumb - In most human hands, the "thumb" is the widest digit. The term thus understandably comes from the Old English term thumba, meaning "swollen," "fat," or "thick." Similar roots for this word are found in Old German and Dutch.

6.9 September

6.9.1 holy crap (2004-09-09 18:16)

It's been forever since I wrote in my blog. Now that school is back up and running and I have started having office hours again I will start updating more regularly. Most of the time I have nothing to do in the office so writing in my blog is a great activity to remedy the boredom. I can't think of a whole lot I need to say. Been pretty chill. Started up classes a couple of weeks ago. Had a great labor day weekend at the lake, though I wish people could have stayed longer. Got my snazzy new laptop. It's an Alienware Sentia. You can see a couple of pics of it on my [1]moblog. I have definitely been loving it. It is so cool!!! It's a pound or two heavier than my last one, but it has better specs, a hella better screen and an internal dvd/cd which I didn't have on the last one. I'm still getting everything set up on it so I play with it every chance I get. Other than that I haven't had a lot going on. This semester is definitely going to be more challenging than last semester was, but it shouldn't be too awfully bad overall. I mean, it's school, how hard can it get? ;-) hehe Well, I think that's about all I have right now. I have some mini-rants to make but I just wanted to have a started-writing-in-my-blog-again entry. OH, there was one more thing I wanted to mention. A friend of mine has a show on App state's radio station and I got to join him yesterday. I miss being on the radio. I had so much fun doing that while I was at Furman. The station here has fancier equipment and the station is a little more legit. I am going to start joining my bud chris every wednesday that I can make it and maybe I can get my own radio show next semester. That would kick some wicked ass!! Anyhoo... I'm off to piddle some more then maybe ride my bike. I am super out of shape and I have to run a 3k this weekend with my momma. At least it isn't a 5k!

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

6.9.2 stealing fun from Amanda again ;-) (2004-09-10 00:09)

```
Popular interests among fincher69's friends
```

```
1. music (6)        11. cleanliness (1)
2. computers (3)    12. complementary colors (1)
3. wakeboarding (3) 13. clubbing (1)
4. movies (2)       14. clothing (1)
5. photography (2)  15. asian food (1)
6. art (2)          16. cats (1)
7. astronomy (1)    17. toadies (1)
8. astrology (1)    18. cars (1)
9. bold colors (1)  19. chocolate (1)
10. bar hopping (1) 20. brownies (1)
Interests gestalt
My most interesting friend is [ LJ User: tattermask ] who has 12 of
these interests,
followed by [ LJ User: lillibullero ] (7), [ LJ User: lojee ] (5) and
[ LJ User: redhandedrope ] (3).
Normality Index
My friends are 52.38% normal.
Analyze me !
Username: ________ Analyze
[1]Popular interests created by [2]_imran_
```

1. http://bits.bris.ac.uk/imran/lj/pop.php
2. http://livejournal.com/users/_imran_

---

lillibullero (2004-09-10 05:26:14)
Hehe, my friends are 62 % normal! Wow, we have 7 things in common... cool. hehe.

6.9.3 credit cards (2004-09-12 19:09)

I was thinking (dangerous I know) on the drive home from bristol this weekend. I have been looking into getting a new credit card, namely a BP visa, because I drive a lot and having the benefit of free gas sounds great. My current credit card doesn't have any cash-back or rewards programs associated to it which kinda stinks and is why I thought I would look around for a new one. The idea I had on the drive home was... would it not be possible, if you were organized enough to pull it off, to get like 5 different credit cards where one gets free gas, one gets points towards amazon, etc. then use one primarily, then use to second to pay the firsts bill, then use the third to pay the seconds bill, etc.? I don't see why this wouldn't work and if you did this every purchase you made would accumulate you about 5x as many benefits. I probably don't have good enough credit to have more than one or two credit cards at the moment, but I figured it sounds like a good way to manage things to me! Anyone see any flaws I am missing?

on a side note, I have decided that i am going to do my best to write in my lj daily from now on. I want to try to be more consistent about keeping it updated and if I make myself write every day, even if it is a two sentence blurb, I think it will be good for me. That and I know it always drives me crazy when people I know never write in their lj then I became one of those people and I didn't like it. I still wish more of my friends were on here, but oh well. The people that ARE on here are still pretty darn cool :-)

6.9.4 lookie lookie! (2004-09-13 17:45)

I'm two for two. :-) I write in this thing every day yet!! I thought of something earlier that I was going to addressin my lj but it has totally slipped my mind. I usually write stuff like that down in my little notepad (my PDA as one of the other grad students called it) but apparently I forgot this time.

I definitely think I should try to do a better job of starting my assignments a little earlier. Two weeks ago my algorithms teacher gave us assignment and I definitely didn't start working on it until about 9:30 last night. Not the best idea. Oh well, it never helps my motivation when I do that and still get it done. That's definitely not going to help me learn.

hmm.... that's going to drive me crazy about what I was going to talk about. Jeepers. If I remember later I will DEFINITELY have to write it down. Maybe next time I will bring back the word of the day!! woohoo! :-)

6.9.5 kinda sad post (2004-09-14 20:40)

wow, three days in a row. We'll see how long this consistency lasts. First part of today was good, same old same old. The second part was the sad part.

In case you don't know we have a dog named Murphy. She's a golden retriever, 13.5 years old, and a 2.5 year cancer survivor. She had cancer in her nasal cavity and got radiation therapy.

Well lately she hasn't been doing too well. Her hips have been going and she has had more and more of a problem with not being able to keep from going to the bathroom at night. She hasn't been very responsive and it even got to the point where she couldn't stand up for more than a minute or two without falling over. We had to make the hard decision to put her down. I have no doubt that this was the right decision. Her quality of life was miserable and she was just getting worse and worse every week. So I drove to bristol after class to accompany my mom to the vet. I have never been one to mourn death and it was definitely time, but it was still kind of sad. She HAS been our puppy for 13 years and she's been through a lot with us. It's kinda like losing a member of the family.

I think what has made it weird the most for me is the fact that we now have no more pets. We haven't not had a pet since before I was born. Since Murphy was a geriatric my parents had to take care of her constantly so it will be kinda nice for them to be able to do stuff like not get up at 5 in the morning to let the dog out and go spend the night at the lake without having to make arrangements for her. But it will still be weird for a little while going home and having no animals anywhere. I think my parents have thought about getting another animal later on, but I don't know. All our pets have been missed, but it will also be nice to not have to worry about them since for like the past 5 years any pets we have had have been pretty old. Ok, enough with the sad stuff.

I have some postlab stuff to do tonight and I need to use a campus computer to complete it, but I am not really feeling the motivation to walk/ride/drive over to the CS building to work on it. I should be able to mostly do it from home, I just can't check my work really. Luckily I have an hour in the office tomorrow before it is due so I should be able to get most of it done tonight then put the finishing touches on it tomorrow. I guess that's about it for now. I picked a couple words from the past month that I hardly posted. I'd say they might be good GRE words for my sis, but she already took it and blew my ass away! She studied which probably helped, but I think she made like a 1450 which is ridiculously awesome. She's a smarty! I guess that means I will have to actually study for the next time I take it so I can try to beat her. ;-) hehehe

Nepenthe - 1. a potion used by the ancients to induce forgetfulness of pain or sorrow 2. something capable of causing oblivion of grief or suffering.

Syllabub - 1. a drink made by curdling milk or cream with an acid beverage (as wine or cider) 2. a sweetened drink or topping made of milk or cream beaten with wine or liquor

Flapdoodle - nonsense

Vagary - an erratic, unpredictatable, or extravagant manifestation, action, or notion

Rube Goldberg - achieving by complex means what seemingly could be done simply, *also* characterized by such complex means

6.9.6 dadjummit!!! (2004-09-16 10:25)

The streak is broken!! I was doing so well. I guess three days isn't really "so well" but still. I can't believe I didn't update yesterday. Maybe I should modify my goals. Ok, how about this... I am going to try to update no less than 5 times a week. That's my new goal. That's probably a little more realistic since I go out of town a lot of weekends. Well anyhoo, I may be making another post later. I have to go take a psych test soon. There wasn't much notable to mention yesterday. I got some new video games :-) I was playing SimGolf until about 2:30 this morning. I find that with most Sim games, I play them like a madman for like a month, then I get tired of them and stop. I got a 4pack yesterday of simgolf, themepark, coast, and city3000 and it was all like 20 bucks so whenever I get bored with simgolf I can move on to another sim game I guess. Man, I'm a geek. Well I should go. oooh I will definitely be posting later to update my words of the day! Excitement looms over the horizon kiddies!

6.9.7 yes, I'm a geeky gamer (2004-09-18 00:59)

I went to walmart the other day with the intention of possibly buying the Sims 2. After I got there I realized that it was 50 dollars so I decided to definitely hold off until the price comes down. I was perusing anyway and they had a 4-pack of Sim games for only 20 dollars so I bought it. The main game on there I wanted was Sim City 3000. I used to play Sim City 2000 a lot and enjoyed it quite a bit but since then I lost the CD so I can't play it again even if I wanted to. Anyhoo... I have become addicted to one of the other games in the bundle, SimGolf. I know I know. Golf. Sounds kinda boring right? Well not for me. You get to design your own golf course and you even get to make your little guy play it! There are like 12 locations you can build and each has it's own theme. I built an awesome 18 hole course in Ireland and now I am working on a cool little 7 hole course in Hawaii. It's definitely been a time burner lately. I installed it on my laptop so it is a life saver on thursdays when I have to sit in the public lab and do nothing for two hours. Well, I wanted to write in here, but I gotta hit the sack because I have a 5k race to run with momma tomorrow morning. Considering I have gained like 5 pounds withing the last 2 weeks and haven't been exercising much, this could get very very interesting. Wish me luck!

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hcatlin (2004-09-18 06:22:24)
I don't think Sim's 2 is going to go down in price for a good 3 years. The Sim's didn't... -hampton. PS: They are sold out of it all across manhattan. And I don't have a PC.

fincher69 (2004-09-19 13:23:44)
Hopefully I can distract myself enough to wait a couple years to try it out ;-)

6.9.8 quick blurb (2004-09-19 01:13)

Ran a 5k with momma today. My time was decent but I was most stoked about the fact that it was the first race I have ever run in which I didn't have a side stitch. Those things are pesky. The rest of the day I had a lot of fun checking out some bands at the Rhythm and Roots festival (which the 5k was associated with). There are over 100 bands playing this weekend in the various venues. It's awesome. The pinnacle was seeing Leftover Salmon tonight. My parents weren't really familiar with them and they had a blast and it was really cool to see them in concert again. I had some funnel cake and I think it is not agreeing with my tummy right now so I think I am going to head to bed. I just wanted to make a little post before I hit the sack. :-)

6.9.9 new clothes! (2004-09-19 23:51)

It's been a pretty good and chill sunday. Went shopping with Alana and the folks. I got some new clothes :-) I got a couple pairs of jeans, a hoodie, and a couple of shirts. It's been forever since I got new clothes. I was happy. Speaking of clothes... does anyone know of a company that makes red pants for guys? (Not to milk the stereotype, but I know you gotta know of SOME cool red pants Hampton ;-)) I was just thinking today that I want some red pants. Or orange. Either would be cool. If you know of some let me know. Been hanging out here, nothing too exciting. Class tomorrow could be a little interesting since we didn't have class on friday due to the rain. It's kinda funny that we could have 4 feet of snow and still have class, but some rain gets it cancelled. Silly Appy. Well I just wanted to make a little post to try to keep up my trend. Feel free to comment. I'm not feeling the love!! I got some friends to sign up on here but few of them actually write in their blog much less read others and make comments. Anyhoo... Here's a few words from the past week. (I suck at updating the words, I know)

Perfidious - of, relating to, or charecterized by faithlessness or disloyalty: treacherous

Dégringolade - a rapid decline or deterioration (as in strength, position, or condition): downfall

Benefic - of, having, or exerting a favorable or beneficient influence

Anachronism - 1. the error of placing a person or thing in the wrong time period 2. a person or a thing that is chronologically out of place

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tattermask (2004-09-19 22:08:55)
Try Target. They have lots of sportswear... also your shoe stores and black people shops. They like bright colour. a

fincher69 (2004-09-20 05:29:48)
Awesome, I will have to check it out :-)

lillibullero (2004-09-20 05:30:45)
Dickies makes red pants...

6.9.10 another quick blurb (2004-09-21 00:30)

The past several weeks my body has been kinda in a state of flux. I have been extraordinarily hungry and I have gained about 5 pounds. My mom said it sounds like when I was about to have a growth spurt back in the day. Then I ran a 5k with momma this past saturday thinking I was going to die since I had gained weight and hadn't been runnning but it was actually the first race where I didn't get a side stitch and I still felt fairly strong at the end. THEN today I made myself go for a run and I maintained a pretty good pace (for me anyway) and felt strong the entire way through the 2 mile loop. Maybe I WAS going to have a growth spurt and my running gene just grew. Who knows.... weird.

(2004-09-21 03:15:55)
I do think you are in better shape than you think! I'm glad you ran strong yesterday! We're gonna kick some butt in our next race! hehe

6.9.11 hm..... (2004-09-22 00:40)

Nothing too substantial to report today. Thanks for all the suggestions for red pants. I'm definitely on the lookout. :-) Got a 93 on my psych test i took last week. Apparently the class didn't fare too well as a whole and I hope to do better on the next one. Maybe if I actually read the book instead of just skimming it the night before the test... ;-) The professor didn't bring our answer sheets with him so after class I went with him to his office to check it out and on the way I saw my personality psych professor from the summer and we got to talk a bit. He's a pretty cool guy. He told my current professor that I was a troublemaker and my professor said he had already picked up on that. I thought that was funny. I'm probably easy to pick out since I am the only one in the class not furiously scribbling every tidbit of every power point slide. Most of the time I don't even bring my notebook.

Went and lifted today and that was good. I definitely feel like my muscles are fatigued which is good. I'm trying to figure out what I want to do exercise-wise. My schedule doesn't lend itself too greatly to a convenient workout schedule. Tuesday is a great day to lift, but thursday isn't so much. I am fairly happy with where I am strengthwise so I may just workout a little harder on tuesdays and make that my one lifting day of the week. That should be enough to at least keep my muscles where they are. I ran on monday and I am planning on running tomorrow and thursday. If I can keep that schedule I would be pretty stoked. Lifting once and running three times a week would be really good for me. It'd almost be like training for my next 5k. :-) I'd also love to swim, but the hours are a little funky so I might have to play around with that a little more. We'll see.

I guess that's about it. I have a software engineering test coming up friday which will be my first "real" test of the semester so that should be interesting. I don't think it will be too difficult. I definitely have been spoiled by Furman. I guess it's not really in a bad way, but kind of. Even though I am in graduate classes, it still has a state school feel to it and nothing is really that terribly difficult. I realize it especially in my psych classes because they seem so ridiculously easy that I definitely see why state schools are party schools. When the classes are cake you have more time to party, right? but it can be bad because Furman also spoiled me in the sense that if I am in a group of Furman students and I start talking to one, I am virtually guaranteed that that person is pretty bright. Not so at a state school. No offense to you state schoolies, but there are some plain ol' dumb people here. It's just taken a little while to get used to. I can no longer assume that everyone I meet is pretty smart. I'm Furman spoiled.

Anyhoo, i think it's about time to hit the sack. Here's some words!

Blue Laws - they suck ass. (ok, real definition/origin) Although less prevalent today than 50 years ago, many cities and states in this country have a tradition of "blue laws," legislation that requires stores to close on sundays. The tradition dates to Puritan times in New England, when Christian-minded communities were concerned about citizens doing something other than worshipping on the Sabbath, the seventh day. The popular term for these laws gets its name from the state of Connecticut, where legislation in the 1700s was actually printed on blue paper.
Fincher note* These are SO stupid!! It sucks ass that the government tells you when you can buy alcohol and those times are dictated by some stupid christian ideals that many people don't even follow. I think it's fine to buy alcohol on sunday. I think it's fine to drink on sunday. I DON'T think it's fine for politicians and christians to tell me otherwise. Down with blue laws!!!!!

Quintessential - This word has its roots in medieval philosophy. In Latin it is *quinta essentia*, literally translated as "the fifth essence." It refers to the four prime materials thought to comprise everything - earth, air, fire, water - and a missing mysterious element, the fifth, which flowed through the other four and represented a sought-after commodity.

Rantipole - characterized by a wild unruly manner or attitude: rakish

Inkhorn - ostentatiously learned: pedantic

Torrid - 1. parched with heat especially of the sun: hot 2. ardent

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tattermask (2004-09-22 05:50:33)
Dude, I TOTALLY hear you about being Furman-spoiled!!! I got to Winthrop and some people are just stupid. The caliber of the dating pool is greatly inferior. If you use multisyllabic words around these people, they're all like, "wow, you can use big wurrds!" So, I've picked up someone from USC Honors :) I can't even date the Winthrop people. they're just too stupid. Drunken, sex-crazed idiots. ach. I ALSO hear you about schedule being non-condusive to working out. Then again, you prolly have fewer than 5 jobs.... I am insane. amanda

fincher69 (2004-09-22 06:33:54)
haha very true. I only have one job. I guess I shouldn't complain about my schedule huh? Obviously it could be a helluva lot more busy!! I just have a thing where my motivation to work out is low when I wake up, peaks after a couple hours, then gradually fades as the day goes on. If I were an evening worker outer it'd be perfect. :-)

6.9.12 (2004-09-22 09:35)

If LJ Was a High School by [1]Karen_Walker

Username	
Principal	lojee
Lunch Lady	hcatlin
Head Cheerleader	onstott
Quarterback	_booty_
Prom Queen	trashdaddy
Gang Member	langleydew
Band Geek	_angelwings_
Theatre Geek	tattermask
Chess Club Captain	rustbeach

```
Loner Goth Kid          cha_cha_galore
 Class Clown             greenOmonkey
    Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
      [2]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

1. http://www.livejournal.com/users/karen_walker
2. http://memegen.net/

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angelwings (2004-09-22 17:53:21)
hahaa how appropriate! See you do have friends on LJ ya stinker :) Oh and we are moving out of the storage unit and into a warehouse with the guys from Hay. I am trying to find a truck to rescue your amazing couch and give it a new home at the bookstore. The legend of Fincher must live on!

fincher69 (2004-09-22 23:12:50)
a warehouse eh? Sounds like it's getting pretty snazzy! Man I miss that job and you guys. That was like the best job ever. Tell any of the folks that are still around that I said howdy!! Enjoy the couch ;-)

tattermask (2004-09-24 11:11:09)
yah, they pegged me, didn't they? a

langleydew (2004-09-24 16:58:22) so true. i was totally a gang member in high school
not really. unless the sat team was a gang?

6.9.13 wiggidy wiggidy (2004-09-23 02:13)

Not too much going on at the moment. Pretty uneventful day. Just wanted to make a post and post a couple of random things I have thought about in the past couple of days. I am not sure if I posted it, but I read that in a recent study driver's talking on cell phones had a 30 % slower reaction time than people who were legally drunk. How nuts is that?! Here's a rando question (I figure you might know something like this Amanda): what is the origin of the term "suicide doors"? My mom asked and I realized I had no clue. I have two pet peeves that I was recently reminded of. The first is when people say "uh" or "um" every third word when they are talking in front of a group. I know people get nervous and stuff like that, but it still drives me crazy. I don't think I do it much myself, but I will just have to pay attention when I give some talks in the next few weeks and see. :-) My second min rant is when people don't care about something yet say "I could care less". It's I couldn't care less. If you could care less that means you must care. You have to care at least a little to be able to care less. If you couldn't care less, that means you don't care at all, i.e. there is no way you could care less than you already do. So remember, if you don't care about something, you COULDN'T care less. I think that's all I have for now. I have a software engineering test on friday that should be a doozy. Well I guess not too much of a doozy, but I definitely have some studying to do. I was going to do some reading today, but we watched a couple of movies instead. We watched Mona Lisa Smile (surprisingly pretty good) and the girl next door (hilarious). I recently purchased the anniversary megaman game for playstation which has all the old school nintendo megaman games and I played that for a while tonight. My simgolf game started getting old so I started over today. It had gotten where i had so much money that I could just build and entire course right off the bat if I wanted to and that kinda takes the challenge out of it. Starting over I have to be more conscious of funds and how my character is developing

and stuff. Well I think it's about time I hit the sack seeing as how it's almost 2:30. My consistency of writing on here has been pretty good the past week. Let's see if I can keep it up. I gotta schedule some more office hours and that will definitely give me some more time to write. That's all folks!

6.9.14 I'm in the public lab (2004-09-23 16:16)

I'm bored. WAY bored. Let's have some fun.

```
Which Band Should You Be In?  by [1]couplandesque
  Your Name           ____________________
  Band Name                Coldplay
    Role                   Guitarist
  Trademark          Punk Rock Fashion Sense
Love Interest               Yourself
        Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
          [2]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

That was fun, let's see what else I can find...

```
              Your LJ Prison by redfrog021
             Username ____________________
             Favorite Deadly Sin [Sloth...]
You are convicted of You Have a Mullet; FASHION FELONY!!!!
          And sentenced to Life without Parole
                     Warden lojee
            Abusive redneck guard _angelwings_
             Easy to bribe guard green0monkey
                  Cellmate lillibullero
        Wants to make you their bitch _booty_
   Drops soap in the shower on purpose redhandedrope
Works in the laundry and smells people's undies hcatlin
   Comes to see you for 'conjugal visits' tattermask
           Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
             [3]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

oooh, intersting... I like this place. Let's keep looking around and see what other fun quizzes we can dig up.

```
                If LJ Was a Bar by [4]Karen_Walker
                   Username        ____________________
```

```
      Bartender            langleydew
       Bouncer              _booty_
    Dancing Badly        runfincherrun
    Playing Pool            hcatlin
    Playing Darts            lojee
   Singing Karaoke        greenOmonkey
Got in with a Fake ID      rustbeach
  Guy with a Mullet       _angelwings_
 Too Drunk to Stand       lillibullero
 Hitting on Everyone     cha_cha_galore
      Hot Chick          redhandedrope
   Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
     [5]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

Ok Ok, one more and I am done. But these are just so darn intersting!!! ;-) At least this is burning some time for me. Only 40 more minutes!

```
Your LJ Halloween Party by [6]Karen_Walker
    Username        --------------------
You're Dressed As         a Hippie
  The Rock Star         redhandedrope
The Naughty Nurse          onstott
 The School Girl        greenOmonkey
    The Witch            trashdaddy
  The Care Bear          tattermask
 The French Maid        _angelwings_
 The Dominatrix            _booty_
    The Clown               lojee
   The Cowboy            langleydew
  The Porn Star         runfincherrun
     Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
       [7]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

I love how runfincherrun keeps popping up. that's my running blog. I guess I should take it off my friends list because it's kinda silly to be friends with myself huh? Oh well. That was fun. Back to piddlin' online.

1. http://www.couplandesque.net/
2. http://memegen.net/
3. http://memegen.net/
4. http://www.livejournal.com/users/karen_walker
5. http://memegen.net/
6. http://www.livejournal.com/users/karen_walker
7. http://memegen.net/

6.9.15 quick little blurb amount my moment of coolness (i.e. geekiness) (2004-09-23 18:09)

if you check out my webpage (http://www.cs.appstate.edu/ jaf) you will now notice that next to the URL a little icon of ME appears! It is tiny, but it is the pic I took of me right after I dyed my hair orange. I thought that was snazzy. ok, I'm done.

(2004-09-23 16:54:48) url
that is so cool!! your little pic by the url of your web page. how did you do that???

fincher69 (2004-09-23 17:47:19) Re: url
it's actually pretty easy. You just have to make a little icon and put it in your web directory then put a little reference to it in the page. Easy, but cool! :-)

6.9.16 well... ir's friday night (2004-09-25 00:56)

It's been a pretty good friday. My test this morning wasn't too bad. Basically took it easy this afternoon. Went to lunch with some of the CS grad students then went down to the river and took some pictures which was a lot of fun. Had some mellow mushroom pizza for dinner (it IS friday) then went out bowling which is always a blast even if the bowling alley in boone is tiny and doesn't sell beer. We tried to call some folks and find something fun going on but couldn't so we (Alana, Chris, and I) just went back to the apartment and took it easy. Alana crashed because she has work tomorrow and chris just left not long ago for the same reason. It was a pretty chill night altogether but was still fun. Got to chat a while with Chris which was fun. If I get into the radio station and get a show it'll definitely be through my connections with him. I joined him on his show a bouple weeks ago and hope to do the same this upcoming week. I have also been in contact with the station manager at furman and I may get to do a show homecoming weekend if I can make it to greenville which would kick ass. I miss being on the radio. I think I was pretty decent at it and I definitely had a blast. I guess we will just see where it goes. I guess that's all I have for now. g'night!

6.9.17 fun weekend in raleigh (2004-09-28 01:04)

Went to Raleigh saturday after Alana got off work. It was fun. We went out to the melting pot which was ridiculously good and I completely gorged myself almost to the point of my spleen committing hare kare (however the hell you spell it) because it was tired of being so dadjum cramped. But boy was it good. After that we tried to move as little as possible and hung out with Rachel and her fella. Went bowling which was fun. Alana whooped my ass at some pinball while we were waiting for our lane. The bowling alley was really cool. They had a little announcer guy walking around and each lane had a green pin cycling with the other ones and if you got a strike when the green pin was in front you won two dollars. (which I did!!) And if you had a split you could get money if you got the spare. Then they had little matches that they would do every once in a while. Mostly couples matches. In one the guy had to carry his girl on his back while he bowled. Winner got like 2 bucks. It was really fun. After bowling we just chilled at Rachel's house which was fun. Got back to Alana's house around 3 and just crashed. Had breakfast, went to the driving range and blistered the heck out of my left hand, had california pizza kitchen for lunch (YUMMY!!!!) then perused the mall and headed back to boone.

Today was mostly a normal monday. Did the classes and TA thing then had lunch at the student union. After lunch Alana and I went down to a river with some small rapids that is like 25 minutes from boone towards bristol. Brought our cameras and probably spent at least an hour walking around taking pictures.

Found a cool waterfall but since we had cameras and we weren't the best dressed (both wearing flip-flops) and it was getting dark we didn't explore too awfully much. But that's ok because it gives us a definite excuse to go back. :-) I have galleries on both ofoto and shutterfly and I usually keep my more artistic stuff on shutterfly so maybe i will upload some of my pics I have taken recently and post a link on here for y'all to check out. that'd be cool.

It's really rainy right now. Good ol' Jeanne dumping on us. Man, I hope for florida's sake that we don't have any more hurricanes for a while. They have just been bitchslapped over and over again. I wonder how many of them will go back to new york? ;-) Well, I think that's about all I have. I didn't run today like I had planned since it was raining and stuff. I didn't run around on rocks next to the river for an hour so that has got to count for something!! :-) I'll definitely lift tomorrow and I will just have to see about the running. Ok, now some fancy words!

Red Herring - Herrings, caught and preserved for sale, typically turn a color during the curing process, a deep red. Fox hunters in England traditionally used one of these preserved fish, pulling it along on a cord, to lay a scent trail with which to train their fox hounds. According to fox-hunting lore, some trainers pushed the limits of their dogs by dragging a second scent line on top of the first, attempting to confuse the dogs, a practice that inspired the term's later use in political campaigns.

Constenation - controversy, debate

Kittel - a white cotton or linen robe worn by Orthodox Jews on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and at the Passover Seder and also used as a buriel shroud

Parvenu - one that has recently or suddenly risen to an unaccustomed position of wealth or power and has not yet gained the prestige, dignity, or manner associated with it

Goldbrick - 1a. a worthless brick that appears to be of gold b. something that appears to be valuable but is actually worthless 2. a person who shirks assigned work

Feckless - 1. weak, ineffective 2. worthless, irresponsible

6.9.18 few more rando fun things cuz I'm just not sleepy (2004-09-28 01:53)

Your Homicidal Rampage! by [1]crash_and_burn
Your name: _____
Weapon of Choice: Cigarette lighter
Your Favorite Target: Mall employees
Your Kill Count: 407,773,356
Your Battle Cry: "Who let the dogs out?"
Years You Spend in Jail: 22
How Much Money In Damages You Cause: $306,697,195,211,422

CAPTION: Your Homocidal Insanity Level:: 67%

Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
[2]Quiz created with MemeGen!

Your True Nature by [3]llScorpiusll

Username	_____
The quality that most appeals to you:	Sense of Humour
In a survival situation, you:	Scream for help
Your hidden talent is:	Adaptability
Your gift is:	Genius
In groups, you:	Don't fit in
Your best quality is:	Your indomitable will
Your weakness is:	Your coldness

Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!

[4]Quiz created with MemeGen!

My lj wedding by chynafox

username	_____
age	_____
city	_____
you will marry	tattermask
flower girl	trashdaddy
best man	langleydew
bridesmaid	green0monkey
you will have your last fling with	lillibullero
registrar	cha_cha_galore
secretly wants to marry you themself	redhandedrope
date of the wedding	December 28, 2013
number of times you do it on your wedding night	29

Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!

[5]Quiz created with MemeGen!

hahaha I just had to put that last one just because it says Roper secretly wants to marry me. hahahahaha.

1. http://www.livejournal.com/~crash_and_burn
2. http://memegen.net/
3. http://scorpius-farscape.tv/
4. http://memegen.net/
5. http://memegen.net/

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lillibullero (2004-09-28 11:22:38)
haha, yeah, i think my significant other might have a little to say about me bein your last fling...

tattermask (2004-10-01 20:16:57)
we're getting married? where's my rock, bitch?!!! a

6.9.19 pictures!!! (2004-09-28 14:32)

I've been interested in playing around with photography some in the past several years but have never really gotten around to doing it. Well hopefully this fall and winter I will get into it more and I started recently at a cool litte river I found not far from my apartment. I went twice and the second time I was playing around with slower shutter speeds to get the water to blur because I always liked that effect. Bad thing was that I didn't have a tripod so it made it really hard to get clear pics. a lot of them were blurry but I still think I got some cool ones. I got a cheap little tripod at walmart today so my next batch should be a lot cooler. I also have a couple of snaps of campus from my balcony at night that I thought were pretty cool.

Anyway, if you would like to see my pics you should be able to check them out [1]HERE at Shutterfly. I just posted the ones I liked the most. Let me know what you guys think!

1. `http://share.shutterfly.com/os.jsp?i=EeAOHLdizbN2zig&open=1`

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lillibullero (2004-09-28 18:30:18)
Wow, those are awesome. What kind of camera do you use?

fincher69 (2004-09-29 06:17:08)
Sony Cybershot. It's actually a couple years old. it's 3.3 megapixels which isn't that great compared to what's out there today but it still lets me take high enough quality for up to about 8x10s. Glad you liked them. :-)

6.9.20 Punk Rock Pink!!! (2004-09-28 22:12)

I decided my style on my blog was getting a little stale so I decided to vary things up. Punk rock pink baby!! Not much going on today. Did a lot of cleaning while Alana was at work and now I can actually see the floor around my closet!! weird! Bobby and Erin (the FERTIGS!) are coming to visit this weekend so we are trying to clean up a bit. Just wanted to make a little post since I changed my style. Hope you guys like it!

6.9.21 um....it's late (2004-09-30 02:49)

It's a little late and i don't have much to say but I am not that tired and I am kind of bored so I figured I would make a little update. Got to chill over in the radio station again tonight which was fun. Found out that I missed the beginning of the little class I would have to take to be a DJ so it's looking like no Djing for me this spring, but if I take the course this spring I may be able to start up in the summer or fall. That'd be pretty snazzy. I need to clean tomorrow. We are having bobby and erin up this weekend and our apartment is a pigsty. GROSS! Well, I guess I will hit the sack now. I DO have class in the morning even if it is just psychology. I still gotta pay attention! :-)

6.9.22 booooooooooooooring (2004-09-30 16:21)

I'm sitting in lab and I am bored. Haven't heard that on here before huh? bored bored bored bored bored. I went and lifted after my psychology class today and it wore my ass out. Stairs and hills are definitely not my friends right now. um..... I am trying to think of something to talk about but I am not thinking of much. I found out last night that I missed the beginning of the radio show class so if I want a show I will have to take the class in the spring and MAYBE I will be able to get a show in the summer since it is pretty sparse. I don't know how that will work out though. We will just have to see! Until then i can still hang out with my friend who has a show on wednesdays and learn all the basics which will make the class

go by more quickly. Chris, the DJ, said that sometimes if you do well in the class they will let you have a show earlier than normal. That works by me. I don't mind having funky hours either. I can handle it. :-) One more day til bobby and erin get here! woohoo!! We don't really have any plans for this weekend but I am sure we will have fun. Wil is thinking of visiting for a night too which will be cool. That'll be three people who have never visited or seen our apartment!! Snazzerific. I'm starting to get hungry. I don't know what I want to eat, but since I have to run to the grocery store anyhoo I will likely just get some sushi or something while i am there. mmmmmmm.... sushi. I haven't had sushi in a while now that i think about it. I am definitely going to get some sushi for dinner. I wish I could leave now and didn't have to sit here for another 30 minutes bored out of my mind. I guess I COULD do some schoolwork, but I really don't feel like it so i am not going to do it! haHa! Take that schoolwork! Ok, I am going to go back to perusing the web and seeing what boredom remedying stuff I can find. I'm excited!!

6.10 October

6.10.1 just chillin (2004-10-01 20:21)

Bobby and Erin are on their way! woohoo!!! It's going to be a fun weekend. Gonna go keep Alana company while she cleans her room but I took some more pictures today and posted them and wanted to post the link on here. You can check out the gallery (old plus the new) [1]HERE and let me know what you think! :-)

1. `http://share.shutterfly.com/osi.jsp?i=EeAOHLdizbN2zk4`

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lillibullero (2004-10-01 19:34:22)
A regular Ansel Adams!

fincher69 (2004-10-01 21:10:57)
hahaha you are TOO kind! I've been having fun playing with the photography thing lately for sure. Hopefully the trend will continue and I'll keep taking pictures. I'm glad you enjoy them :-)

6.10.2 straight chillin (2004-10-02 09:58)

Yesterady was pretty much the same old same old friday. By the time I was in my 1 o'clock class I was getting really hungry and I was SO ready for the weekend. The afternoon was fun. Alana and I went back to the river to take some more pictures (see previous post) which is always fun then we can back and chilled and cleaned and waited for bobby and erin. They got here around 9:30 and we just hung out and chilled which was fun since we hadn't seen them in a while. Found out that they got yet ANOTHER puppy. They're going kennel style! That makes 4 doggies! pretty crazy. Now I am chillin. Erin just woke up and bobby is showering then we are grabbing something to eat and meandering around campus then who knows what trouble we'll be getting into!! :-)

6.10.3 Man, I think I am on a roll (2004-10-03 22:51)

I didn't really check before I started writing but it really seems that I am doing well at writing in this thing pretty consistently. Had a blast of a weekend with bobby and erin. Always fun to have family in town. :-) We didn't really get into anything too exciting. Walked around campus, did a mini-hike to a cool local waterfall, went bowling then chilled and played some video games. It was a lot of fun and we were sad to see them leave. I get to see them again (and their new puppy) in two weeks when I head to greenville for family

weekend and the 5k. Speaking of which I was a horrible trainer this week. I lifted but I didn't run at all. My shins were feeling odd so I wanted to take it a little easy, but I definitely took it too easy. I am going to try to run a minimum of 2 times this week. At least I was better last week. :-) I have a presentation on tuesday and a test on wednesday, but I don't think either will be that bad. Then next week is only three days long because of fall break which is definitely cool. Um... trying to get a group of people up the lake next weekend. hopefully that will work out well. If anyone wants to join let me know. My grandmother had to go to the hospital this weekend. It turned out to be something not too serious but there was some problem with her perscription so she is in ICU now. Dad and mom were in atlanta this weekend and are going down to visit her and liven her up a bit. She's definitely an amazing lady. How many 94 year olds do you know that live by themselves in their own house? She even does some gardening and stuff. Truly amazing. I think she's definitely got a few more years in her so hopefully this thing will get taken care of. I think that about sums up my weekend. Hopefully I will keep up this consistency in my posting. Only time will tell. :-)

6.10.4 Procrastination is the bomb.... (2004-10-05 20:52)

DIGGITY!! I am just chillin. I should be studying for my test tomorrow, but I don't really feel like it yet. I got my presentation out of the way this morning. It went alright I guess. My paper wasn't really substantial enough for a good long presentation. Luckily my partner's presentation was longer so we still filled our allotted time slot. :-) Two more weeks of presenting to go!

My software engineering team met today. We think this our project will be pretty easy which is definitely not a bad thing.

I should start working on my algorithms project pretty soon since it is due next wednesday, but the test tomorrow in image processing is taking precedence. Too bad playing around online take precedence over studying for my IP test. :-) I'll get to it eventually.

I guess I really should have done some studying earlier while Alana was at work. Oh well. I was pretty much planning on it being a late night tonight anyway. Looks like I am giving myself no other choice than to make it so!

Heading to the lake this weekend. If anyone is interested let me know.

I seem to like spacing this entry out. hmm..... who knows.

I need to run tomorrow. I didn't run monday like I wanted to but I did go lift today which is good. At least my fat ass did SOMETHING. I am going to try to run tomorrow and then friday when I get home so I can try out my parents new treadmill. :-)

Can't really think of much else to say. Just chillin. Maybe something more exciting will happen tomorrow :-)

6.10.5 short break from studying (not like I'll be doing it long) (2004-10-05 23:31)

My laptop decided to fully discharge its battery today while it was chillin in my backpack. i find this odd. I just pulled it out a second ago and it wouldn't turn on then I plug it in and it says my battery has 0 %. It's up to 4 % now. Very odd. I hope this doesn't become a habit. That could get tiresome quite quickly. Back to studying...

6.10.6 (2004-10-07 23:28)

yesterday was kind of a busy day so I didn't really get to post. I had a test and then came home and found out my grandmother had passed away. I mentioned her in an earlier post and she definitely went happy. She got to go home and be with her three kids. We leave tomorrow for birmingham for the funeral on saturday. Hopefully we will just leave afterwards and we will head back here late saturday which will give me some time to get some work done. I haven't felt very motivated lately. I have a lot of things kind of looming but I don't really have many urgent things to work on right now. That kind of thing doesn't exactly help my motivation. The only main things I need to worry about this next week are my algorithms homework and my psych test on tuesday. I'm going to try to read through my psych chapters a little more thoroughly this time. I made a 93 on the first test, but i kind of got spoiled by having a 103 average in my last psych class so I definitely want to improve on the 93. If I stay above 95 I'll be happy. Well, I can't think of much else to say. I may get to go kayaking next thursday which is cool and it's great that one of the new graduate students is really into kayaking so I can start getting into it and I have someone to go with. Always a good thing! I am starting to try to think about possible thesis topics. I have been looking into natural language processing some, especially in the realm of chatbots (remember SmaterChild?). I think it would be really interesting to work in that field so I am trying to look into it for feasible research topics. Anything in AI I find extremely interesting and I would say it is likely that i will try to find a thesis in that realm. Time will tell! I am going to try to take research hours in the spring to fill my schedule and that will make my schedule a little easier and give me more time to work on it. I'm sure I will keep my blog up-to-date about where I am heading. :-) Well, I think that's it for now. Probably won't make another update til sunday. Everyone have a great weekend!

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lillibullero (2004-10-08 05:34:48)
I'm sorry hun... a death of someone you love is never fun, but I'm glad you have a good perspective on it. Have a good weekend in spite of your funeral activities.

angelwings (2004-10-08 07:55:54)
xoxo. My grandma has been sick and I dread the day I get that call. BTW you need to meet Marshall that works for Red Bull. He is getting his masters in comp engineering and is all about AI!

fincher69 (2004-10-10 08:48:08)
thanks for your posts. Everything went well and it was good seeing some relatives I rarely see, even under the circumstances. :-)

6.10.7 more later... (2004-10-10 22:19)

I'll probably make a more substantial post later, but I was doing some of my psychology reading and I came across a very interesting quote that I thought I would post. The section is talking about cognitive dissonance (thoughts, feelings and actions don't line up so one changes to compensate, often thoughts and feelings) and it has a short section talking about Setptember 11th. It says how many people have rationlized suicide bombing through religious fanaticism but some psychologists do not agree. According to Thomas Friedman, these young men were "taught from youth in the mosque that theirs is the most complete and advanced form of the three monotheistic faiths - superior to both Christianity and Judaism - yet who become aware that the Islamic world has fallen behind both the Christian West and the Jewish state in education, science, democracy, and developement. This produces a cognitive dissonance in these young men - a cognitive dissonance that is the original spark for all their rage... They reconcile this by concluding that the Islamic world has fallen behind the rest of the world either because the Europeans, Americans, and Israelis stole

something from the Muslims, or because the Europeans, Americans, and Israelis are deliberately retarding the progress of Muslims, or because those who are leading the Muslim world have drifted away from the true faith and are behaving in un-Islamic ways, but are being kept in power by America... They see American as the most powerful lethal weapon destroying their religious universe, or at least the universe they would like to build. And that is why they transform American into the ultimate evil, even more than Western Europe, and evil that needs to be weakened and, if possible, destroyed. Even by suicide? Why not? If America is destroying the source of meaning in their lives, then it needs to be destroyed back." I thought that was a pretty interesting quote because I have never thought about it that way. Always good to hear new perspectives. Ok, back to my reading. :-)

6.10.8 little blurb before bed (2004-10-11 01:57)

Since it's almost 2 I guess I should hit the sack but I wanted to at least make a little post before I did. This weekend down in birmingham for the funeral was ok. It was good seeing some of my family that I hadn't seen in a while. I was definitely glad that I was able to make it. Got back here on saturday night and didn't really do much before going to sleep. Today was nice just to sleep in. Then grabbed some bojangles and went to scout the river that My friend Keith and I are going to kayak on thursday. I'm really excited because I've wanted to get into kayaking but haven't had much opportunity and I have only been on the river once but now that I know someone here that boats and there are lots of places to go within a decent distance I shouldn't have trouble getting into it. After that it's been pretty laid back. Did some reading that I needed to do. Didn't do quote as much work as I should have but I am definitely going to have a busy day of work stuff tomorrow. I have a test and presentation tuesday and a project/assignment due wednesday. Shouldn't be too bad, but will definitely make for a busy tomorrow since I had to study, prepare my presentation, and at least get started on that project so I don't have to try to hack it out the night before. I mentioned that I began playing with some chatbot stuff and I went through the trouble of hooking up my old desktop to host my bot only to find out that I didn't even need to so now I have a second computer hooked up with nothing to do. I'm a genious. I will post on here when I get a chatbot up and running. I am starting with the basic set of commands and stuff and I am going through and modifying those to get a feel for the language it's written in then when I finish I will start adding my own stuff. Once I get it up if anyone could chat with it whenever they have some free moments that'd be great. The main way to make it better is with more conversations with more people. Well, I think it's beddybye time. More later...

6.10.9 jeepers (2004-10-11 08:33)

I just noticed that it's been 5 days since any of my friends wrote in their journals. Crazy!

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lillibullero (2004-10-11 10:25:45)
Eh, it happens... especially when you get frustrated about stupid people posting on your lj. Perhaps its time for a new lj name to go with my new cell phone number, hehe. I'll update just for you later!

fincher69 (2004-10-12 09:55:57)
awesome, and it was a happy post too! You're the best :-)

6.10.10 semi-fun day (2004-10-13 23:20)

Well, today started not that great, but it definitely got better. I was working on my computer science program until about 2 oclock this morning which didn't help my ethusiasm (sp?) this morning. I had a hard

time sleeping because I kept think about my program. This morning was O.K. Normal old class stuff. But AFTER class I got to go kayaking!!! I had only scouted the first little section on foot so there was a lot of unknown stuff to be encountered. It has been really awesome that one of the new graduate students is really into kayaking ANd there is a great river (that we ran today) that is only 20 minutes from my apartment. Since I have someone close that likes to boat it AND I have a decent river close I should definitely progress which is a good thing. The river today was a lot of fun. I felt really akward to begin with and didn't feel that comfortable in a kayak, but it became more comfortable. About halfway through was perfect, but not long after that I started flipping and having to wet exit (which sucks) because it was really shallow and I was starting to get fatigued. I ended up wet exiting like 3 times and every time it was on some rapid that wasn't that hard, I was just tired and didn't respond like I should have. We had to walk one section (called "the clog") but ran the rest. For a river that the put-in is only 20 minutes from my apartment it is awesome. It's great for my skill level because (as of today) I have only been on rivers twice and is has some hard enough rapids that it isn't above my head but it gives me so really good practice which rocks. I think Keith had some fun, but I kinda felt bad since I kept flipping at the end. Hopefully next time I will actually stay in my kayak and it will be more fun. It ended up taking us like 3 hours to run it, which was much longer than we expected, and kinda made Alana worry. We thought it would be really short and pretty flat, but it was definitely a lot of fun. The best part is that it's close enough that we could go after class some days which is awesome. Right now I am not sleepy tired, but I am definitely worn out. I definitely think I will to go bed pretty soon. Keith mentioned going again tomorrow but I am pretty sore so I don't know if I can go again. I will definitely be sleeping in and taking it easy. anyhoo, I think I am going to hit the sack now. kayaking + Jagermeister = sleepy boy. buhbye

6.10.11 piddlin' (2004-10-14 18:18)

It's been a great chill day. Got to sleep in. Then I just took it easy the rest of the day. I probably SHOULD be working on my project, but I am not really feeling it right now. Maybe I can find a way to work on it on the way to greenville. Who knows. I may work on it some later. Not really much else to say. I just wanted to make some type of post. Should be a pretty chill evening and day tomorrow. I love Fall Break. :-)

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lillibullero (2004-10-14 20:45:26)
I'm jealous

6.10.12 it's friday (2004-10-15 21:43)

and I'm just chillin in my sisters apartment. I don't think there is anything exciting going on tonight. Pretty chill. I probably should do some work, but I don't know if I am feeling the vibe. I gotta run a 5k in the morning so I don't know if I really want to go party or anything. Truthfully, I don't really know what I am in the mood for. I DO know that I could go for a beer right now. Stupid dry campus. Oh well, I guess I will just have to settle for red bull. :-) Nothing really of note to post today. Momma picked me up in boone at 10 then we came to greenville. did some shopping. got fitted for my tux for ropers wedding. got a new wallet. all fun stuff. Aiight, I gotta give Bef a ride. Then it's more chillin. Yay. :-)

6.10.13 whoa, been a little while (2004-10-19 18:53)

I kinda got distracted this weekend. Last week and this week are coming together to be extremely busy which is probably part of why I haven't updated my journal since friday. Made it through my run on saturday morning. It was a pretty unofficial race, but it was around Furman's campus and it was cool. I survived. :-)

Enjoyed just chillin the rest of the day. Spent the night at Frost's house. Our air mattress had a leak though which kinda sucked. Ended up spending most of the night actually sleeping on the hardwood floor. Not so good for the back. Had lunch with Frost, Karis, Bobby and Erin on sunday then headed back to boone. I've had a lot of schoolwork lately and I was working on a program til about 2:30 sunday night and working on other CS stuff last night until abroun 1:30. It's looking like it will be a late night tonight as well. Oh well. Um.... not really a whole lot else to say. Kinda looking around at used kayaks. I think I may be able to rent from the university, but I would really like to have my own stuff, even if it is kinda old and crappy. I like being able to go whenever I want and not have to worry about finding equipment. We'll see. If I ended up being able to boat this weekend the process might get a little accelerated, but I don't know. I just got a new credit card that actually has benefits and I get double benefits the first two months so if I really think I will get into kayaking (which I do) it would be smart to make some of my big purchases within the next month so I get double benefits. :-) Just what I need, more stuff to take up space in this tiny apartment. Ok, well I just got done driving back from bristol so I think I am just going to take it easy for a bit right after I put away my laundry.... yeah. :-)

6.10.14 dadjummit (2004-10-20 11:12)

I worked on this big program over the weekend and I thought I had it pretty close to done so I turned it in. I just found out that it doesn't really work the way it's supposed to. DAMMIT! I guess I know what I will be working on tonight. My professor is pretty cool and several of the other people in the class haven't turned it in yet so I am not worried about her taking it. I was just all excited because my week was going to be mainly over after today, but not anymore!! This is the first time in a looooooong time that I have had stuff that I really needed to do like every night. Usually there is some work I COULD do but I could also just postpone it if I wanted to but lately it's just been busy. My brain isn't used to all this thinking. This weekend is definitely going to be welcome. I think it's just going to be a chill weekend in boone. I may go visit Onstat friday night, but that will depend on whether or not he is going home. Keith's girlfriend is in town this week so we may go bowling like friday night. We'll see.

I forgot to say that I voted yesterday. It's nice to get it out of the way early. They are doing early voting right now so while I was home mom and I went and voted.

um.... I can't think if there is anything else I wanted to talk about. I may try to kayak sunday, but it will depend on what keith's schedule is with his girlfriend. That and whether or not I can find some equipment. :-) I really want to just buy a kayak so I can have one and not have to worry about where I can get equipment every time I want to go. I may go by the store today and see what they got. :-)

6.10.15 copying my bud Angel (2004-10-20 11:31)

Your Funny
You mean to make the people around you laugh, you probably dont even mean what you say. But if it gets a reaction then you'll say it. Here's a comment for you to try...[1]

1. http://www.zenhex.com/quiz.php?id=1874

6.10.16 just a little blurb (2004-10-22 23:09)

to say I bought a kayak today!!! YAY!! I drove to greenville and Frost hooked me up. I ended up getting a [1]Perception Stikine, a skirt, a paddle, and a drytop. I'm stoked! Keith and I will likely go this week

and I may bring it with me to the lake tomorrow just to play around in. I'm excited!! Now it's time to eat something and chill with my sweetie. :-)

1. http://www.kayaker.com/new/products/boat.asp?type=discontinued&ID=29

6.10.17 Lazy day (2004-10-24 22:26)

Man it's been a lazy day. Didn't get out of bed til like 12:30. It was definitely relaxing though. Yesterday was a lot of fun. I ran home in the morninn (with my new kayak!!) and got some things from bristol then went out to the lake and played around in my kayak. I remembered how to roll which is good, but I am definitely rusty. It'll probably be a little bit before I could comfortably roll on a river. Had a pretty chill afternoon after I got back. Played some pinball with Alana then went bowling with Keith and his girlfriend Marie. It was a lot of fun and we hung out at our place for a while afterwards which was a lot of fun. As I said today has been extremely lazy. I only left the house once to go to walmart because I needed some handsoap and Alana needed some pencils. Now that I've been chill I am trying to get some homework done. I did the main work that is due tomorrow, but I am a little behind on my software engineering reading so I am going to try to catch up on that at least a little bit. I don't think this week will be quite as busy as the last two which is awesome because my last two weeks were too busy for my liking. I have a decent amount of work, but most of it is doing stuff to prepare for something in the future rather than something that is due the next day. I guess we will just have to see! Ok, off to read some oh-too-fun Software Engineering. YAY!

6.10.18 Again, a stolen quiz from Amanda (2004-10-25 17:05)

[1]



I'm exceptionally artistic!

[2]

Find your soul type at [3]kelly.moranweb.com.

1. http://kelly.moranweb.com/quiz
2. http://kelly.moranweb.com/quiz
3. http://kelly.moranweb.com/

6.10.19 :-) (2004-10-27 11:01)

Yesterday was a pretty darn good day. Seminar wasn't especially exciting but I survived and psych was same old same old. Then Keith and I got to go kayaking again so I got to use my new boat for the first time!! I accidentally left the drain plug pulled out and sometime in my moving it I broke it off. Didn't notice until I was about to hop in and get on the river which kinda sucked. Luckily I found a stick that fit pretty well and I must say it did a pretty good job! Kept my boat from sinking at least. I had a blast and we ran it in about half the time we did last time but we did learn one valuable lesson... it's much better to run after it rains. It was a little low and left us pushing through some rock beds a couple of times which wasn't pleasant but I was still glad just to be out on the river. I think the combination of boating not too long ago and having a boat that I'm actually in the weight range of helped a TON. I got through the whole stretch without rolling once so I was extremely pleased. It only took us around an hour and a half, as compared with three hours last time, which is definitely a plus. We should be able to run it a little quicker next time since there will likely be a little more water flow. It's definitely a cool little run that is close which is nice. I like my whole new setup too which is good. I was having some problems initially because it handled completely different than the last boat I was in and I was having a hard time getting it to go exactly where I wanted but I got

that sorted out. Having a larger boat also really helped my fatigue. Last time I was dying about 3/4 of the way through and I just wanted to sit and not have to move. I felt like I had done something physical this time, but I wasn't near as fatigued which is good. Having a stable boat is awesome! After kayaking I went and got a replacement drain plug, then brought some food to Alana, then grabbed some food for me and stopped by blockbuster on the way home to get the new Grand Theft Auto. It definitely ROCKS!! I was talking to the guy in blockbuser and he said there was a big line of peope outside the store yesterday morning waiting to get it. He said they had 60 copies and after I had bought mine they only had 3 left. Pretty crazy! I'm trying to kind of take it easy this time because last time, when grand theft auto Vice City came out, I played the bejesus out of it and beat most of it within the first month. It was still fun playing it for a while after that, but it's more fun when you have missions and stuff you have to complete so I am going slow this time. That and I am a little more busy with school this time. Last time I was underloading on my last few CS courses at Furman so I was ultra-slack and had tons of time to devote to it. Definitely going to be putting in a few late nights in the next week though. ;-) Um... I think that about sums it up. I was going to lift today, but I think I will postpone til tomorrow because my back and shoulders are a little sore from kayaking so I figure I will give them another day before I lift. Lifting might be a little rough since I haven't done it in three weeks. Could be interesting! Well, back to chillin in the grad office. Got a couple more classes then I am going to chill and play some video games until it's time to go to the programming contest at 6. It's my first one. If our team gets at least one problem right it takes care of our programming competency in software engineering and that is why we are even doing it. That and free pizza. :-)

6.10.20 hehehe (2004-10-27 11:22)

[1]



I am Rumpelstiltskin!

[2]

Find your fairy tale character at [3]kelly.moranweb.com.

1. http://kelly.moranweb.com/quiz/
2. http://kelly.moranweb.com/quiz/
3. http://kelly.moranweb.com/

6.10.21 (2004-10-29 00:08)

I have an algorithms test tomorrow. Yuck. I am not too worried about it, but you never know. I will definitely be glad to get it done with though so at least I will have a grade in the class. We have turned in like 4 things but have yet to have any of them graded so it is well over halfway through the semester and we have no grades! Man, that can definitely be frustrating. Well, off to finish studying, then maybe a little video game break then bed time :-)

6.11 November

6.11.1 another pretty chill, but fun, weekend (2004-11-01 11:05)

Friday night Alana and I pretty much just took it easy at the apartment. Ordered pizza and just stayed it which was definitely fun considereing my brain was half fried from my algorithms midterm. Saturday we headed to bristol after she got off work. Got to do some wakeboarding which I hadn't done in a while, then I chilled with my folks and helped my mom do some stuff around the house. Went went to visit Wil in the

evening and Alana and I both dressed up as convicts and had a pretty good time just chilling in Johnson City. It ended up being really cool because I saw an old friend georgis who I hadn't seen in a while. Then I saw another old friend whom I hadn't seen in like 4 years, Ellisa. It was really awesome being able to catch up with her for a while then as we were leaving I saw ANOTHER old friend I hadn't seen in a while, Derek. That definitely made my night really fun. We headed back to bristol that night then spent most of sunday just chillin in bristol with the folks which was a lot of fun. Momma may be taking over my car. Dad was thinking of getting her a really nice car, and I mentioned that I really miss my Discovery, so mom may take mine and we may find a Disco to get. The touareg is awesome, but the disco definitely suits me a heckuva lot better. Who knows, it's just a possibility, but I gotta say I'd be way stoked if I got a disco. I know I would never sell this one for sure!! It's staying with me until death. :-) Not much else to say. This week looks to be pretty busy, at least the first half. The second half I have some work I need to work on but it is a little less urgent. but THEN I get to go to greenville this weekend for Furman's Homecoming which I know will be a blast. I can't wait!! :-) Aiight, well it's back to chilllin in the graduate office until class. fun fun fun!! :-)

6.11.2 (2004-11-03 01:23)

watching the TV. Someone's gonna be president..... eventually.

6.11.3 C'mon people (2004-11-03 08:13)

IS it really that hard to pick a president? Is counting votes really that difficult? Leave to the government to screw up something so simple. I mean really. I can kinda understand the Ohio thing, but what the hell is up with nevada, wisconsin, iowa, and new mexico? They KNEW yesterday was election day right? Tell us who your people voted for dangit!!!

I still don't think I understand the purpose of this whole electoral college thing. Why not just let the popular vote decide? You get more votes you win the election. Seems pretty plain and simple to me, but I also keep up with politics as little as possible. If anyone has a good legitimate reason for why the electoral college exists, please comment and let me know because I really just don't get it.

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tattermask (2004-11-03 11:09:19)
Well, as much as I hate the electoral college, it's there to observe trends among each districts constituents... supposedly, it's a lot harder to stuff electoral ballot boxes than traditional ones... or something like that... but it also seems to make our voting seem unnecessary, doesn't it? We're not a true democracy... they don't believe that the people are smart enough to think for ourselves... and that's true since W got 3.7 million more popular votes than Kerry. It's a sad say in America. amanda

fincher69 (2004-11-03 17:52:01)
we had a big discussion about the electoral college in the grad office today. I can kinda see the purpose, but I still think it's silly that the electors don't have to vote the way the people in their state do. Kinda weird. Honestly, I wasn't really for bush or kerry, but if I had to choose one, I woulda chosen bush. Personally I think anyone who really supported either candidate might be a little off their rocker.

6.11.4 well well (2004-11-07 20:59)

It was a busy end of the week. Didn't get to post and then I went out of town for the weekend! Got a B on my algorithms test (maybe a B+ with this extra thing she gave us) which is plenty good to me. At least

I finally have a grade in there. I have done like 4 assignments and this is the first thing she has actually graded and returned so far. My weekend was really good. Got to hang out in greenville with Bobby and Erin and the mess of dogs they have. :-) It went way to quickly though. Saw a lot of people on the mall friday that I haven't seen in a very long time which was really cool. I think I told all of them I would call them on saturday but I don't think I called anyone. Oh well. At least I didn't like play favorites and only call a couple of them. :-) If anyone is reading this that I said I would call, I apologize. We ended up not really being in a party mood saturday and just took it easy. Drove back today and ordered some dinner and then started doing some work. I put together a study guide for my software engineering test tomorrow which is good. It didn't help my motivation though when I looked and noticed that we have three tests which count for 20 % COMBINED. That means this test isn't even 7 % of my grade. That's a major downer for the studying motivation. Oh well, I will try to do some nonetheless. :-) For some reason my motivation this semester has been struggling. Except for in Algorithms. That class is really cool. Not my other ones so much. I'm not doing bad in any of my classes, but definitely not as good as last semester. My classes ARE a lot harder than last semester though. Oh well, I'm sure I'll do fine. Next semester shouldn't be too rough so that will be good.

On a side note, Alana and I feel like crap. I don't know if it was something we ate or what but it sucks. We feel icky. That doesn't help motivation to study either. Stupid upset tummy.

Well, I guess I should go back to trying to get some work done. yeah...

6.11.5 My baby is back!!!! (2004-11-09 20:11)

I don't know if any of you keep up, but my family is a car family. We like cars. A lot. So anyhoo, I had been driving the Touareg for a while and my mom had an explorer but my dad wanted to get her something really nice and snazzy. While I love the Touareg, it doesn't really fit me and I really missed my old disco. So I mention to dad that mom should take the touareg and we could find me a disco (not thinking he would really go for ir) and he actually thought it was a good idea!! (I have the best dad in the world by the way) So my parents went car shopping last week and found on and mom went and picked it up today and I had to go to bristol anyway for a dentist appointment (I've been a bad boy and haven't been flossing) so I got to trade cars with mommy. My disco is back!!! It's newer than my old one, which was a '96, but it's still kept a lot of the same feel. I LOVE IT!!! It's awesome. That car just fits me perfectly. THIS one is NEVER getting sold! I'm keeping it til she dies, then making a memorial out of her parts. Is it healthy to like cars this much? Oh well. :-) If there are interested parties, you can see a couple pics of my new baby on my moblog at http://fincher69.textamerica.com/ :-) :-) :-)

6.11.6 sporadicity rocks (2004-11-11 20:33)

Not being as good as I was earlier in the semester about updating this thing. At least I'm not letting it go weeks or anything. School has been hella busy. Man, I can't wait for this term to be done. Less than a month left! That rocks. I love algorithms but the other classes are more of a nuisance. Except psych of course. It's interesting AND easy. :-) Um... not really a whole lot going on. I could talk about school stuff but that would be hella boring. This weekend will be the first in a while where we are actually chillin in boone so that should be good. My bud Angel from Red Bull will be in town so I will get to see her and meet the student brand manager at appy which should be pretty cool. Other than that I just have an assload of grading to do and a whole lot of work to do on this image processing project. I can't wait for them to be complete. Like I said. READY for this term to be over. Well, I am going to get back to trying to pick up our pigsty of an apartment and playing a little Grand Theft Auto. :-) woohoo!

6.11.7 good weekend (2004-11-15 11:17)

Had a pretty good weekend. Actually stayed in boone for the first time in a long time. Friday was pretty chill. Didn't really get up to a whole lot. Helped Alana prepare for her girl party. Saturday Nate gave me a call and was actually in town for lunch so I got to join him and a couple of his friends from camp for lunch which was really cool. After that I helped clean up the apartment and then left because it was time for Alana's girl party. Had dinner with Garrett then went to see my friend Angel who was in town with Red Bull for a Drag show. That was definitely entertaining. I had never been to a drag show before so that was definitely an experience. Hung out with Garrett a little more after that then just crashed at the apartment. I did get to meet App's student brand manager, which was cool, although my dumb ass already forgot her name. I need to ask angel about that. Slept in on sunday then went to bristol and did some work then had dinner with my parents which was a lot of fun. Then came back to boone and hung out and got a little more work done. This week is going to suck ass. I have so much crap to do, but after this week I only have two days next week then thanksgiving break which will be VERY nice. Hopefully my image processing project will be done and my software engineering project will be pretty well along the way as well. I can't wait for this semester to be over. geesh. Ok, back to trying to get some work done before it's time for algorithms!

yay

6.11.8 (2004-11-18 21:35)

Just wanted to make a little update. This has been hell week. I have spent so much fricking time in the CS building. I have an image processing test tomorrow then it's break time!! I can't wait for thanksgiving break. After that only like 7 more class days left! I am so glad this semester is almost over. Don't really have much else to tell. I can't wait for the weekend!!

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tattermask (2004-11-19 09:51:05)
yah, I concur... it's been a little much this month... THNXGV will not come too soon. amanda

6.11.9 saturday morning (2004-11-20 12:17)

It's going to be a great saturday. I have no work that I will be doing so it will be very relaxing and I am SO looking forward to that. I have a ton of laundry to do but that isn't really work. I can goof around and relax and just change it when it needs to be. I got my IP test out of the way. I think it went alright. It's over and that is all that matters. :-) Well, back to chillin. I thought I had something else that I wanted to talk about here, but I can't really remember. Oh, we did watch two movies last night. First we watched the 1992 movie about the first women serial killer (the one the movie Monster was based on). It was pretty interesting. When you hear the story of the guy that she first killed and how he abused and raped her you almost feel sorry for her. Obviously she carried well to far, but from her story the first guy definitely deserved it. We also rented the 2002 interview but we haven't watched that yet. That would have been a little too much documentary for one everning. :-) We then watched Saved which was a pretty good movie. It sorta pokes fun at strict conservative christianity and it was all in all a pretty good watch. Wasn't quite as funny as I thought it was going to be but oh well. We'll probably watch the other documentary today. After a nice day of relaxing, we have a shindig this evening for Alana's work. Apprently it's like dinner, but they also have a band and stuff so it should be pretty fun. It's like their end of the year party. :-) Well, back to chillin!!

6.11.10 quick update (2004-11-22 04:55)

Don't really feel like typing, but I still kinda wanted to make an update. Alana is in bristol right now because she has a dentist appointment tomorrow morning. It's kinda quiet around here.

Tried to take my old computer to the grad office and set it up but of course it is being an ass and not cooperating. For some reason the internet just isn't working. It seemed to work briefly, but no longer. I am going to bring my laptop tomorrow so I can test it out and see if it is my network card or the wire/hub. I'm really thinking it's my card which means I will be taking a trip to walmart tomorrow to get a new ethernet card.

Because my comp didn't work I have been trying to download the slackware linux images but not having much luck. I think I got the first one ok, but the next three are giving me trouble. It keeps stopping and saying the download it done even thought I have only downloaded like 1 meg of the 655. VERY annoying. I'm thinking it might be some problem with charter. Who knows. Well hopefully I will get everything sorted out soon and Keith and I can install Slackware linux on this box. I haven't played with linux much and I would love to learn about it but never really had the chance. if I can set up this linux box in the office that will be extremely helpful.

Oh, I also think I decided what my thesis is going to be on. I was thinking about it on the way home and I think it would be super cool to research computer composing. How cool would it be to have a computer that could write music that actually sounded good? I think it'd be awesome and I am going to start looking up some papers to see what the field looks like and if everything looks good that'll be my thesis. cool huh? Well, I think that is enough rambling for now. Off to bed with me cuz I have to be up in less than 3 hours! :-)

6.11.11 hehehe (2004-11-23 00:03)

My last entry was at almost 5 in the morning. Alana was out of town. Only got 2 1/2 hours of sleep. Probably should go to bed soon. hehehe.

6.11.12 Rant time (2004-11-23 18:37)

ok, it's rant time kiddies! I just finished talking to my parents about A. the basketball fight B. the Clemson/USC football fight C. American Stupidity. I will address these issues in the order mentioned.

A. Basketball Fight - Basketball sucks (my own personal opinion) so I am admittedly less tolerant of their shenanigans. (sp?) Having some cocky basketball prick who probably wasn't playing well or something stupid go lay on the score table like a dick should be suspended. You are getting paid millions of dollars to play a sport. You want sympathy or something? HA! Suspension affirmative. Even though this is true, if you are dumbass basketball fan, you shouldn't go throwing your drink just because you think a player is an asshole. If you did that you would be throwing drinks at half the team. The fan should have gotten his ass kicked then been evicted from the arena for some period of time.

B. USC/Clemson game - If you haven't heard, there was a huge brawl at the end of the game. It went on for like 10 minutes. One cool thing is that the coaches said that neither team will be in a bowl game because of the fight. That rocks. I say, if you get in a fight, especially one of this magnitude, while playing a college sport, you should be suspended. If you fight again you are off the team and out of the university. If it were totally up to me I'd have them deported, but I'm trying to remain at least a LITTLE realistic

here. The likelihood of someone who can't play sports without getting into a bunch of fights becoming a productive member of society EVER is slim. Which brings me to point #3...

C. American Stupidity - I am pretty much referring to the entire human race in this rant, but I feel it's more accurate to talk specifically about americans since that is the only nationality that I am intimately familiar with. People are stupid. Really stupid. And they're getting dumber. A lot dumber. I think the key to this problem is that we, as humans, have effectively removed natural selection, and therefore evolution. No longer to only the strong survive and spawn. Because we take care and accommodate those who are less able, we have effectively rid ourselves of evolution and as a result I believe we are suffering from DEevolution. We are getting dumber. Sad but true. I think we should engineer humans so that they are unable to procreate until they have obtained a license and have had their "procreate gene" turned on. This will lead to one noticeable repercussion. People will have sex. Lots of sex. Lots more sex than before. That is why this genetic manipulation should be accompanied by an engineered STD that kills within the month. Like ebola, but only transmitted sexually. Perfect combination. If you are too stupid to pass the procreate test, no kids for you and therefore your poor genes will not be propogated. If you are too stupid not to be careful about your sexual partners, no gene spreading for you!! It's a great tag team to a better human race.

That's it for my rants. Feel free to respond/rebuttal. I end with this... I'd be cool if I could be dictator of the world, but a whole lot of people would be in a crapload of trouble. :-)

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tattermask (2004-11-24 05:50:24) Oh my....
I'm not really sure how to respond to that... on some level, I agree... After working at Carowinds, sometimes I feel like saying, "YOU! OUT OF THE GENE POOL!!" On the other hand, it's not very... uh... humane. But who gives a frozen rat's ass about humanity? amanda

fincher69 (2004-11-24 10:50:33) Re: Oh my....
Maybe the STD thing is a little inhumane, but it would also be for the greater good. There are definitely some genes that just need to end with their current carriers. :-)

6.11.13 thanksgiving week (2004-11-30 14:35)

Man, it's been a whole week since I posted in here! My last post was just a couple of rants spawned from some conversations I had with my parents when I got to bristol on tuesday. I'm too lazy to give a full play by play of thanksgiving, but I will do my best to give a thorough synopsis. Mom's best friend came into town for the week. She (lynn) came with her daughter Brenna, brother Marty, boyfriend Steve, and dad GB. It was awesome hanging out with them. I hadn't seen most of them for at least a few years. They live in Arizona. Marty is a singer, which is cool. Brenna has downsyndrome and I still can't believe she is already 18. She is such an awesome person. Like her uncle marty says, she has a big heart. She's the kind of girl who would just turn to you while you were watching tv, tell you she loves you, and give you a big hug. It was definitely a blast seeing her again. One of the highlights of the week was when Marty and Steve wanted to find some backmountain dirt roads to go on so I asked a guy at our local outdoors shop and he pointed me in the right direction. We visited the top of white top mountain (highest point in virginia) and the wind was howling and it was FRIGID! Dad guessed it was probably around 10 degrees with the wind chill. We then headed over to this forest road that led to an "unimproved" road. Luckily I convinced dad to let us take the Disco and I drove for the whole trip. It was definitely beautiful and a lot of fun. The "unimproved" road was the kind of road that I definitely didn't exceed 5 mph on so it was really cool. Gorged myself on some wonderfull food all week. (just what my fat ass needs) Of course I also go NO work done. Now it's the week

from hell with lots of work to do. I'm sure I will have a chance to append this update, but for now I gotta go pickup Alana from class. :-)

6.12 December

6.12.1 too much schhoolwork (2004-12-02 01:00)

god I can't wait for this semester to be over. This last month I think I have spent more time working on schoolwork than any other month in my life. I didn't have much of an end of the semester crunch last semester. Boy do I have on this semester. At least I have one project under my belt. We finished up the image processing project today and I was in the CS building til about 12:30 tonight which totals about 13 hours I spent in there today. We made some progress on out software engineering project which is due friday. I have a test mondya, but I am pretty much going to feel this semester is over after friday and turning in this last project. Man, I have so much grading to do. I meant to do it all over thanksgiving break but I got so caught up hanging out with our friends from out of town that i didn't really get around to it. I am running a 5k with momma this weekend. Likely the lsat one of the season. It's gonna kick my ass. My quads are sore from the 2 mile run I went on yesterday. I'm going to try to get another run in tomorrow to sum up my training. :-) this 5k is in greenville and i would love to stay the whole weekend and chill with bobby and erin but I really need to get some stuff done so I will likely come back here on saturday after the race so I will have all day sunday to try to get some work done. geesh. Too much working dangit!! Well, it's only a little after 1 but I am thinking about heading to bed. Mostly because I am kinda worked out. I don't feel like working. I don't feel liks sleeping either but given the choice, I would rather sleep. :-) at least right now. I'm not tired at all. Oh well. I went to bed at 1-2 the past three nights and I think I've felt better because of it. I think I have been sleeping too much. I honestly think that has played a part in the weight I have gained lately. Obviously so does my dwindling exercise habits, but it just makes sense that being awake for 18 hours burns more calories than being awake for 16, no matter what you are doing. I have a feeling I will definitely be pulling some late nights next semester when I start working on my thesis stuff. Should be intersting! Speaking of which, I really need to get on setting up my thesis research for the spring. I kinda need those hours. I need to find a thesis advisor and stuff. hmmm.... I haven't had much time to think about it lately. Since my project involves music I guess I should ask my advisor which of the faculty is musically inclined. Ok, enough rambling for now. A little more piddlin' and it's beddy bye time for me. :-)

(2004-12-04 18:09:30) sleep
you might be interested to know that the latest studies show a correlation between little sleep and obesity. in other words, those who sleep less gain more. interesting..... i enjoyed our run together this morning. i to be amazed at your mental stamina and discipline. now, if we can just get it over to the physical conditioning! :-) j/k love ya! me

6.12.2 little entry (2004-12-05 01:23)

I'm about to head to bed but since I haven't been too good about updating this thing lately I just wanted to hop on and give a brief overview entry before I hit the sack. I think I mentioned finishing our image processing project earlier this week and I spent about 13 hours wednesday and 8 hours thursday in the CS building, a lot of which was finishing up our software engineering project. Man it feels so good to have those things done!! I have a couple more assignments and a software engineering test monday and that's it before finals. Boy am I ready for this semester to be over. Headed to greenville yesterday and stayed with my sister. Was bored and played around with some USB keys my parent had and tried to install ZipSlack (smaller version of Slackware linux) on one but it didn't work so I tried Damn Small Linux and got it to boot off

the thumbdrive and everything. I was pretty excited. Now I can pretend like I have linux on my laptop ;-) Just finished revamping it to a newer version (yes, already) and adding some applications. I didn't get to play around with it too much. For some reason it doesn't recognize my internal wireless card. Since I don't feel like digging out a cable to plug it into my router, I will just try it out next time I am in the office. I also need to spend some time on my office box. I wanted to try using blackbox window manager instead of KDE but I couldn't get it to install correctly so i just reinstalled linux since my windowing manager was one of the options. I didn't get to play with it but I got some kind of operating system error the first time I tried to reboot it after the install so i have to play with that. Not really sure what is going on there. Oh yeah, ran a 5k with mom this morning. I actually did a lot better than I thought considering all my training consisted of running 2 miles on tuesday. It wasn't even the slowest one I've ever run! They took forever to start announcing the results so we just left. We probably didn't get any prizes anyhoo. It always takes so damn long for those race people to process peoples time and give results. I was thinking about working on picking up some java this winter and maybe I will write some race organizing software to try to help people out. I don't think it would be too hard. I guess I may find out. :-) Well this entry ended up being a lot longer than I was initially planning. Oh well. I'm sure I was sufficiently boring with my geek speak. I got a fun day of finishing up assignments and doing an assload of grading tomorrow. I guess I better rest up. :-)

6.12.3 geesh (2004-12-13 00:37)

Don't really have time for much of an update. Just saw that it's been like over a week since I posted so I wanted to throw something on here. Been hella-busy finishing up this semester. 2 big projects, 1 page paper (due tomorrow) a couple of tests, and finals last friday, tomorrow, tuesday and wednesday. Man I can't wait to be done with this semester. Also did my entire grading for the whole semester for 5 sections in the past week. That was fun too. Well, back to studying for my exam tomorrow. I can't wait to be done!!!

6.12.4 maybe more posts now that the semester is over :-) (2004-12-15 16:29)

Man, I have had NO time to update this thing lately. As of my last post I had finished my projects but still had a little more class to finish. The rest of class went over well. I had a highschool flashback in my psych class. I like my psych professor but he isn't exactly one of those guys who commands a lot of respect. Well on the second-to-last day of class, there were a group of students who just kept whining about wanting to be done and asking if we could take our last exam on the last day of class instead of exam time and kept whining about how they didn't want to be there and just wanted to go home. Man, if smacking people were legal I woulda come home from that class with some sore hands! You are in college people!! You CHOSE to take the class!!! Don't whine about having to be there. That's annoying. Anyhoo... My exams started last friday (December 10) with my Algorithms exam. It was around the same difficulty as the midterm, on which I made a B/B+ so I think I did fine in that class. Monday I had my image processing exam which was hard as balls. It was frickin impossible!! At least I had been doing fairly well up until that test. And my other two CS classes are the important classes that are on the comps so they are more important anyway. After getting lambasted by that test it was a nice break to take my psych final yesterday. I skimmed the summaries at the ends of the chapters the day of, then I glanced at the clock, saw it was 45 after and got a move on to get to the test. When I got there the building seemed kind of empty which I thought was odd. Then I realized that it was 45 after 1 when I left and my exam wasn't til 3. So I went to the student union and played some pinball then came back and hung out in my professors office until it was time to take the exam. The exam took my about 20 minutes. It was just as easy peasy japaneasy as the other ones so I am pretty much guaranteed an A in that class. This morning, bright and early at 9, I had my software engineering final which wasn't too bad either. So at least I did well in my core classes!! :-) Now I am just extremely glad to be done and I am taking it easy. Just did some dishes and took out the trash. Heading to bristol for the evening when Alana gets off work, but I will be back here later tonight and I will hopefully

not forget the Rolling Rock I left at home again. I definitely want a celebratory beer. :-) Well, I think that about catches me up. hopefully I will be good about updating this thing over break. We'll see! Back to relaxing :-)

6.12.5 woohoo! (2004-12-15 16:45)

I just found out that I made an A- in Image Processing!!! Woohoo!!!! Guess that final didn't hurt me quite as bad as I thought it might :-)

6.12.6 Interesting time on the road tonight (2004-12-15 23:28)

Went home to pack up my stuff for the ski trip and to wrap some presents and definitely had a lively time on the road. On the way there I was just driving along a mountain road, it's dark, then WHAM!! a frickin bird hits my windshield! Scared the holy bejesus out of me and woke Alana up from her nap. THEN we are on the way from the mall to my house when we get behind a guy who is obviously inebriated. he was drifting around, drove in the middle turn lane for a bit then swerved back in the road when a median popped up. Drifted into the median later then swerved back into the road. Almost drifted into two cars and almost rearended two more. So we call 911 and report him. then while we are talking he turns off the road we were taking home so we tail him and give the cops an update and eventually a cop comes and passes us and we honk and flash our lights. he gets behind the guy, then pulls him over about a half mile later. He was definitely driving worse than anyone I have ever seen on the road. Alana and I felt like good little citizens doing our civic duty. We could have saved someone's life! Well, just wanted to share my driving stories. Fun times! Back to chillin. :-)

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warheart (2004-12-15 20:58:05)
hey.. i saw you on textamerica and i thought you might like to join http://www.livejournal.com/community/textamerica :)

Chapter 7

2005

7.1 January

7.1.1 I'm really sucking at this updating stuff over break (2005-01-01 23:48)

Holy jeepers. It's been since like, last year, since I updated this thing. ;-) I don't know if I feel like typing, or can remember, all the details of the previous weeks, but I will do my best to give a decent synopsis. First we went to columbia on the 17th for Roper's wedding. Drank a little too much the night before but still had a lot of fun and really enjoyed seeing some folks I hadn't seen in a long time. Had fun at the midday wedding. Yet another of my friends is now hitched. Man, I just keep feeling older and older. Went to greenville from the wedding and hung out with bobby and erin which was fun then headed back to boone. We were going to head to bristol christmas eve morning possibly, because alana had to work christmas eve eve. She was thinking about heading to bristol that night after work but I talked her out of it because her mom and I were planning on surprising her by having her mom come up to visit and surprise her after work. She was definitely surprised!! She was kinda suspicious of something because I kept mentioning that I thought we should clean (knowing she would freak out if her mom saw our apartment in its normal messy state) but it was still a total surprise. She still freaked out about her mom seeing the messy apartment (though I did get it kinda clean) but I think she at least kinda got over it and still enjoyed the surprise nonetheless. Had an awesome christmas with the fam and alana. It was loads of fun. I got to play santa a lot this year because I did a lot of the planning for the big gifts for mom, dad, and my sis. It was definitely an awesome christmas!! We left christmas afternoon for colorado. It was an awesome week. I was kinda worried about alana the first part of the week because we aren't exactly in shape and she tends to get frustrated when she isn't awesome at something the first time she tries it. She seemed to do well, but she didn't seem like she was having too much fun. Dad gave her a mini lesson (we got her a real lesson the first day) on like the third day and I think that helped a lot. As she became more comfortable getting down the mountain she seemed to be having a lot more fun, though she still stayed pretty pooped. We definitely need to exercise more this spring! All-in-all I think she had a good time which is all that matters. I know I had a blast. the first couple days were great, then crowds started picking up. Jeff (lauren's boyfriend) had to leave early for jesus camp or something so the girls took a day off to take him to the airport which left dad and me to have an intense day on the mountain. We definitely did far more that day than any other. It was a blast. Then we got like 13 inches of snow which gave me some awesome powder to play around in on my snowboard. I hit this one super steep black diamond that was just awesome. That was easily the best run of the week. Wore my ass out though. As much as I love powder, it still just takes it out of me in a hurry! We just got back from colorado today. Heading to greenville tomorrow. Should be fun!! It's kinda nice being home, but it was still kinda sad to leave colorado. Oh, that reminds me, I forgot about last night. For new years there were a couple of cool events yesterday evening. They did a thing called a glow-worm, where anyone could come

down the mountain wearing glow sticks after dark. We missed the first part of that, but it still looked kinda snazzy. Then all the instructors came down the mountain holding torches and that was super snazzy. Then they had fireworks. usually, fireworks bore me unless I am setting them off myself. We saw this one guy at the beach one time who was in a tiny little plane over the ocean, throwing loops and rolls and such, and the whole time fireworks were shooting out of the back of his plane. Ever since that other fireworks shows seemed pretty boring. Even the big famous ones bored me. Last night was one of the first fireworks shows that I thought was really awesome. It was super cool. It's kinda hard to describe something like that, but it definitely beat any other standard fireworks show I have ever seen, hands down. It was probably pretty close to being tied to that airplane guy. Well, my "short update" ended up being a lot longer than I thought it would. Sorry for lack of paragraphs. I'm kinda tired and that just required too much thinking. to think, bobby turns 25 in 2 days!! eeek!! Well I think it's about time I hit the sack. It's been a long day of travelling. :-) Happy new year!!

7.1.2 I'm bored and tired of cleaning the apartment (2005-01-06 18:26)

1. Name?
Fincher

2. What color pants are you wearing?
olive green

3. What are you listening to right now?
Ultra Trance 1

4. What is the last thing you ate?
BBQ chicken sandwhich and curly fries from Hardee's

5. If you were a crayon, what color would you be?
bright-ass orange

6. What is the weather right now?
cloudy and dark

7. Last person you talked to?
Keith

8. Do you like the person who posted this before you?
Don't know her

9. What color undies are you wearing?
blue with white polka dots

10. How old are you today?
24 (not as old as bobby ;-))

11. Favorite drink?
Jager and Coke, or a nice porter

12. Favorite hair color?

orange has been my favorite

13. Favorite sport to watch?
wakeboarding

14. Do you wear contacts?
nope

15. Siblings?
one little sis

16. Favorite month?
don't really have one

17. Favorite food?
blackened lobster from New Orleans

18. Last movie you watched?
Patch Adams

19. Favorite day(s) of the year?
June 21 (it's the longest)

20. What do you do to vent anger?
play guitar

21. What was your favorite toy as a child?
little stuffed lion I called Bwa bwa

23. Hugs or Kisses?
hugs

25. Chocolate or Vanilla?
vanilla

26. Who is most likely to repost?
not likely anyone. I don't have a lot of readers.

27. Who is least likely to repost?
see above

29. What is under your bed?
random boxes

31. Who is the friend you've had the longest?
Elizabeth and Craig

32. What did you do last night?
Had roast that my mom made, then watched patch adams with alana and keith

33. Favorite smells?
freshly cut grass, cedar, burning wood

34.What inspires you?
Life

35. What frightens you?
not much of anything

36. Plain buttered or salted buttered popcorn?
neither, I don't really eat popcorn

37. Favorite car?
My Disco, or a McLaren F1 LM

38. Can you juggle?
kinda

40. Favorite holiday?
Christmas

41. What did you do on your last birthday?
I think I was at the lake, but I don't really remember

42.What did you do tonight?
cleaned the apartment up some

43. Where were you born?
Bristol, TN

7.1.3 I'm nerdy (2005-01-10 20:31)

[1]

1. http://www.wxplotter.com/ft_nq.php

7.1.4 First day of class (2005-01-10 20:36)

Well the first day of classes went well. Today was a lab day in my class that I am teaching and we pretty much just went over the syllabus. It was like a 10 minute class. I have my first real lecture on wednesday. This should definitely be interesting! I'm pretty stoked given that I am looking to be a professor so this will be a good and fun experience.

Started getting together my stuff to work on my thesis this semester. I think it may be quite an undertaking, but I have almost a year to do it so I think it will be ok. I don't remember if I posted about it, but my plan is to explore music composition using computers. I wanted to do both from scratch, and using previous pieces as reference. From scratch would be using mathematics and algorithms to generate a musical composition. The other approach would involve giving it previously composed pieces of music, say several

Bach pieces, and extrapolating from that to create an original work in the same style as Bach. I think it will definitely be really interesting to say the least. I really hope to get a lot done this semester research-wise. I should have plenty of time to work on it this summer as well. I am sure I will provide updates on here. :-)

Now that classes have started up I think I may be more consistent in writing in here. I have more office hours this semester and since I rarely have enough work to keep me busy while I am in the office I can always make a post.

I can't really think of anything else interesting to mention... oh, except I hate having to get a bajillion forms signed in a bajillion places just to do something simple like overload a class. I was running around campus getting signatures this afternoon and it was extremely annoying. Do I really need to talk to the Chair and two deans to take an extra class? I'm a grad student. I've been doing this school thing long enough to know what I can and can't handle and what classes I should be taking. Jeepers. Well I think that's all for now. All I can remember anyway :-)

7.1.5 little entry (2005-01-11 19:50)

Just wanted to make a little post. Survived day two of this semester. :-) I forgot one thing I meant to mention yesterday... alana found the strangest thing on the ground on the way to class... Iraqi money! How nuts is that?! I thought it was kinda cool but she didn't seem to care. Kinda strange to find on the sidewalk in boone, NC huh? Anyhoo...

When we went kayaking sunday I remembered to bring my waterproof diposable camera so I finally got my first kayaking pictures!! I love pictures. I created an account on community webshots not too long ago and you should be able to see my kayaking pics by [1]Clicking Here. There are links to my other albums if anyone is interested, but I mainly wanted to post the kayaking ones because I was excited about them. I'm still far from a competent kayaker, but I have a lot of fun and that's what counts. Kinda stinks it will be getting too cold to go pretty soon. Oh well. That's all I had to say. I don't feel like doing schoolwork yet, but at some point I have to prepare my lecture for tomorrow. How weird does that sound? First lecture of the semester! Should be fun. :-)

1. http://community.webshots.com/album/249451898NfaTIX

7.1.6 man, I'm an idiot (2005-01-13 10:53)

Yesterday I was an idiot. I took a shower in the morning and my shower wasn't draining at all. The day before it was draining fine, but not yesterday morning. the tub was still full of water when I got home from class. I poured some drano in it but didn't have much so I went and got another bottle and poured some of it in as well. Nothing worked. I was in the middle of trying to plunge it when alana reached over and flipped the little switch that you flip when you want to take a bath. Then it started draining. The whole time that was the problem. I really think alana hit it since she was the last one in the shower before me, but she denies it. She didn't like me saying she did it either, but it doesn't really matter because she was the one who fixed it. Good thing I didn't call a plumber. I would have felt really stupid (not like I don't already). Moving on...

This morning would have been a perfect sleep in morning. It's kinda rainy outside so the light was just perfect enough so if you woke up and looked around you could see everything fine, but it was muted enough that it didn't wake you up. I REALLY didn't want to get up and go to architecture today. I hit the snooze like 4 times. oh, AND my room was the perfect temperature as well. All signs pointed to sleeping in, but I

was a good boy and went to class. Now I am just playing around in the grad office before I walk home. I don't have class til 2. I may go to mellow mushroom with some CS people. I need to get something heathy if I do because I'm a lardo. I DID go lift weights yesterday though. It wasn't too strenuous, I just wanted to give my muscles a little heads up. Next week I will be working them much harder. They had better be ready!! Ok, back to hanging out in the grad office.

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lillibullero (2005-01-14 06:30:24)
hahahaha... oh thank you, I needed a laugh this morning. 8 am and already im ready to disown my family... ugg.

7.1.7 forward from my mom (2005-01-18 08:14)

My mom sent me a really funny forward the other day. I don't do the forward thing, but I figured this would be a good venue to share it since reading is voluntary! :-) Before that a little blurb about the weekend. Had a good time hanging out in raleigh. Ate some good food. Saw white noise (OK, typical scary movie stuff) and meet the fockers (which I thought was noticeably less painful therefore more enjoyable that the first one). Alana got a Dance Dance Revolution pad for the playstation and bought me a little game bundle. All-in-all it was a pretty fun weekend! But now it's back to snowy boone. I think it's about 5 degrees outside today. Kinda chilly!! Definitely have to do some schoolwork tonight. Kinda got distracted by our new games last night and didn't really get a lot done. Oh well. On to the forward!!

The Way Children See Things

NUDITY

I was driving with my three young children one warm summer evening when a Woman in the convertible ahead of us stood up and waved. She was stark naked! As I was reeling from the shock, I heard my 5-year-old shout from the back seat, "Mom! That lady isn't wearing a seat belt!

HONESTY

My son Zachary, 4, came screaming out of the bathroom to tell me he'd dropped his toothbrush in the toilet. So I fished it out and threw it in the garbage. Zachary stood there thinking for a moment, then ran to my bathroom and came out with my toothbrush. He held it up and said with a charming little smile, "We better throw this one out too then, 'cause it fell in the toilet a few days ago.

OPINIONS

On the first day of school, a first grader handed his teacher a Note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

KETCHUP

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the jar. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her 4-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, ! "Mommy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting

the bottle."

MORE NUDITY

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, "What's the matter haven't you ever seen a little boy before?"

ELDERLY

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year old daughter on my afternoon rounds The various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs, unfailingly intrigued her. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

DRESS-UP

A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad donning his tuxedo, she warned, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit."

"And why not, darling?" "You know that it always gives you a headache the next morning"

DEATH

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased. The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayer s and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his Father always said: "Glory be unto the Faaaather, and unto the Sonnn .. and into the hole he gooooes."

SCHOOL

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. "I'm just wasting my time," she said to her mother. "I can't read, I can't write and they won't let me talk!"

BIBLE

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out." What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

(2005-01-18 16:21:46) children
the first one sounds exactly like something you would have said when you were little! :-)

lillibullero (2005-01-19 06:21:05)
This was awesome. And after having taught pre-school for nearly 4-5 years, it's TOTALLY true.

7.1.8 Another fun post from a forward from mom (2005-01-21 04:44)

Don't really have much else to post but I thought this was entertaining.

1. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

2. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says: "Dam!".

3. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

4. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says "I've lost my electron." The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies "Yes, I'm positive."

5. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcend dental medication.

6. A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because", he said, "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

7. A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."

8. Friars behind on their belfry payments opened a small florist shop to raise funds. Since everyone liked to buy flowers from the men of God, a rival florist across town thought the competition was unfair. He asked the good fathers to close down, but they would not. So, the rival florist hired Hugh MacTaggart, a thug in town to "persuade" them to close. Hugh beat up the friars and trashed their store, saying he'd be back if they didn't close up shop. Terrified, they did so, thereby proving that: Only Hugh, can prevent florist friars.

9. Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little,

which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him ..(Oh, man, this is so bad, it's good).....A super calloused fragile mystic vexed by halitosis.

10. And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did!

7.1.9 fun quiz from Amanda (2005-01-21 04:49)

You Are 16 Years Old

16

Under 12: You are a kid at heart. You still have an optimistic life view - and you look at the world with awe. 13-19: You are a teenager at heart. You question authority and are still trying to find your place in this world. 20-29: You are a twentysomething at heart. You feel excited about what's to come... love, work, and new experiences. 30-39: You are a thirtysomething at heart. You've had a taste of success and true love, but you want more! 40+: You are a mature adult. You've been through most of the ups and downs of life already. Now you get to sit back and relax.

[1]What Age Do You Act?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatagequiz/

7.1.10 (2005-01-24 17:32)

I wanted to hop on an make a little post while the oven heats up. I'm being all domestic and cooking dinner for me and alana tonight. Hopefully it will work out well!! Haven't had a lot to report, hence the lack of real updates. Just doing the school thing. The classes I'm teaching are going well as are the ones I am taking. This past weekend we just chilled friday night then went to greenville which was fun. My parents had come up as well so I got to see them a little and my sis hung out with us at bobby's and spent the night. We introduced her and bobby and erin to dance dance revolution and I got to show off my mad dancing skills. ;-) It was definitely a lot of fun. Did a buttload of laundry yesterday. Hopefully I'll stay on top of it a little better from now on! It's kinda bad when you find clothes you thought you had lost 2 months prior. jeepers. Ok, well it's about time for me to kick it into domestic gear. rock! :-)

7.1.11 dinner #2 (2005-01-26 01:10)

Well, while dinner number 1 turned out great, dinner number two left a little to be desired. Tonight I attempted a blackened grouper with a side of broccoli and cheese rice. The rice turned out great. Unfortunately the grouper wasn't so lucky. I had two filets, a really large one for me and a medium one for alana. Since she isn't as into the spicy stuff, I made hers with light seasoning. It took way longer to cook than the grocery store guy said which threw me off. Mine ended up turning out perfectly, but hers was a little overcooked since it was smaller. And since I put more seasoning on mine she couldn't really share it. Oh

well. I guess that kinda makes me about 1.5 out of 2 in the domestic department. It was fun cooking some cool stuff though! I'll be sure to update next time I venture into the land of chef boy-r-Fincher. ;-) Now it's off to bed with me!

7.1.12 bored bored bored bored bored (2005-01-26 15:58)

Well, it's that time again. Time for me to sit in the public lab for two hours. There are currently 2 other people in the lab right now. It's always dead meaning I never have to answer any questions. That means it's REALLY boring to sit here for two hours. I forgot to grab the quizzes I gave in class today else I could grade them. I also left one of the papers I need to read for my thesis research back in the apartment. I also left my psychology book at home so I can't read that either. I was really not prepared for my boredom session today. Oh well...

I got a good workout in today. Went and lifted for a little over an hour. Definitely feel like I am getting a little stronger and (though it sounds funny to say it) I think dance dance revolution is really helping me burn some calories. I am going to try to swim tomorrow at 12, but it will kind of depend on how long my meeting at 11 goes. Hopefully it will be short because I would really like to get back into swimming. I miss it. AND it's really good exercise which my fat ass definitely needs.

I can't really think of anything else interesting to say. I have had fun cooking the past two nights, but I think tonight will be a simple night of sandwiches and stuff. I don't have anything fancy in the fridge to prepare and I don't have any money to go get some fancy stuff. Sandwhiches it is! :-)

I tried these snap pea crisps from Earth Fare the other day. They are actually pretty darn good!! Just think cheeto derived snap pea 'cept seasoned instead of cheesy. yum. Now I am making myself hungry. That is one bad thing about working out. It always makes me get hungry a lot quicker because my muscles are rebuilding. It was about 2.5 hours ago that I ate. I try to eat at least a little something every three-ish hours but I could easily eat a whole meal every three hours. At least now that I am exercising it isn't quite as bad. I gained like 5-7 pounds the last couple of months because I was eating like I was working out but I wasn't doing anything. Not good. Since we got dance dance revolution and I started lifting I have already lost a couple pounds which is definitely a good thing. Well, I guess I will go back to surfing the internet for like another hour. Doesn't that sound fun? you betcha!!

7.1.13 you know what boredom leads to..... online quizzes!!! (2005-01-26 16:13)

1985 by Bowling for Soup
[1985.jpg]
"Where's the mini-skirt made of snakeskin? And who's the other guy that's singing in Van Halen? When did reality become T.V.? What ever happened to sitcoms, game shows?" You took the bitter with the sweet in 2004 - and kept laughing.

[1]What 2004 Hit Song Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/2004hitquiz.html

7.1.14 (2005-01-26 16:17)

Your Dominant Intelligence is Logical-Mathematical Intelligence
[logical.jpg]
You are great at finding patterns and relationships between things. Always curious about how things work, you love to set up experiments. You need for the world to make sense - and are good at making sense of it. You have a head for numbers and math ... and you can solve almost any logic puzzle. You would make a great scientist, engineer, computer programmer, researcher, accountant, or mathematician.

[1]What Kind of Intelligence Do You Have?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/intelligencequiz.html

7.1.15 (2005-01-26 16:21)

Your Element Is Air
[air.jpg]
You dislike conflict, and you've been able to rise above the angst of the world. And when things don't go your way, you know they'll blow over quickly. Easygoing, you tend to find joy from the simple things in life. You roll with the punches, and as a result, your life is light and cheerful. You find it easy to adapt to most situations, and you're an open person. With you, what you see is what you get... and people love that!

[1]What's Your Element?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/elementquiz.html

7.1.16 (2005-01-26 16:23)

How Your Attitude Ranks
Your Attitude is Better than 70% of the Population
If you scored... 80-100: You've got a winner attitude. You're always optimistic and cheery. Your personality will get you far in life. 60-79: You have a good attitude. While a realist, you do see the positive side of most things. People love to be around you. 40 - 59: You have a positive attitude... somtimes. You prefer to see the world through clear glasses, not rose colored ones. 20 - 39: You have an average attitude. You take the good and bad in life as they come. Though sometimes you could use a little more good. 0-19: You have a negative attitude. You tend to see the dark side of every situation. Free ice cream? No thanks, it will just make you fat!

[1]How's Your Attitude?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/howsyourattitudequiz

7.2 February

7.2.1 little update (2005-02-03 23:31)

I wanted to make a big update, but I don't really feel like doing all that typing. Not a helluva lot to report other than some geeky stuff. Maybe I will make a geek update sometime this weekend. Maybe I'll make a normal update as well. ;-)

7.2.2 feeling a little less lazy (2005-02-04 10:58)

This past week my life has been mostly consumed with working on my computer at work...

*GEEK SECTION**
I have been playing with linux a lot lately and I found an external USB drive that I had forgotten about so I took it to work to plug into my computer. I already have Slackware Linux installed on the computer and I am trying to add a few more distributions just because I think it would be fun. :-) So I tried installing Fedora but it wouldn't recognize the USB drive. After playing with that for a while I tried to install Debian on an internal drive and just mount some of the larger directories on the USB drive. It didn't like that. So then I tried to install Debian completely on the internal drive and that seemed to work. Keyword: seemed. Since it was a net install it installs a base OS then you go through a setup that downloads the rest as you need it. Well Debian decided that it couldn't find my internet connection. Can't really download and install packages if you don't have internet. So after wrestling with that for a while I decided to start installing gentoo last night. I have only done the first couple of steps but I hope to have a little time to work on it today. Should definitely be interesting!! Oh AND the ethernet port on my motherboard on my computer at home died so I had to get a new network card for that, but then linux couldn't find the internet. Turns out that because I have a built-in ethernet my new card because eth1 instead of eth0 so it was looking in the wrong place. Once I disabled my first ethernet port it worked fine. yay!
*END GEEK SECTION**

Class has been going well. Nothing too exciting. My first psychology test is a set of 4 crossword puzzles that are due next tuesday. Man do I feel challenged by this course. Architecture is supposed to be pretty hard, but at least so far it's pretty interesting. We are heading to bristol this evening to hang out then Alana works tomorrow morning then it's time to head to Greenville for the rest of the weekend! Well, I guess that's about all that's noteworthy. Hopefully my linux installs will slow down at work and I will be more diligent about updating this thing in the future.

7.2.3 man I am sucking at this (2005-02-08 23:31)

I am not good at updating this thing at all. I guess I have been pretty busy lately. I had a great weekend. Got to hang out in bristol with the folks which was fun. Headed back to boone that evening because Alana had work in the morning. After work we headed over to greenville and got to hang out with bobby and erin

which is always fun. Jay (erins brother) and summer came over for the night and hung out which was fun. Sunday we just chilled then watched the first half of the super bowl then headed back to boone. Yesterday I was super busy getting work done since I hardly got anything done over the weekend. Luckily I pretty much finished everything so that is good. Still wrestling with linux in the office every free chance I get. It's definitely keeping me on my toes. :-) Today was pretty busy but I didn't really have much to do after classes were over except prepare my lecture for tomorrow. fun stuff. I just remembered that I don't think I brought my book home. hmmm..... I was planning on talking about lab stuff anyway so I guess I will just do that and class will be a little abbreviated tomorrow. I'm sure none of my kids will care. :-) Well, I guess it's back to chillin a little bit before making out a little powerpoint and fooling around with linux then it's time for bed. :-) Maybe one day I will learn how to update this thing a little more often.

7.2.4 bored bored bored bored bored (2005-02-09 15:56)

Even if I am bad about updating this thing, I can bet on updating it at least once a week because once a week I have to sit in the public lab for 2 hours. And it's boring. REALLY boring. I guess I am supposed to be here so people can ask questions or something but no one does. I just sit here and play around on the internet for two hours. Boy is THAT exciting. jeepers. Well I guess I will just look for random quizzes and stuff to take and post in here. At least it's something to do.

7.2.5 quiz-a-roni (2005-02-09 16:14)

Sunny/Dark: 8/10
drY/Gross: 6/10
Traditional/Offbeat: 2/10
Active/Passive: 6/10

You are a DGT–Dark Gross Traditional. This makes you a Prankster.

Comedy for you is when a person is kept in the most discomfort for the longest period of time. This means practical jokes, pranks, and sticking a hair up a sleeping person's nose so he slaps himself awake.

You are probably locked in some terrifying practical joke one-ups-manship with a like- minded soul. You are also probably a dude.

You are able to acknowledge that Dumb and Dumber was a good movie, and that makes you a good person.

You might like Meet the Parents, Punk'd, and that part in Bruce Campbell's If Chins Could Kill where he convinces a friend that his car has been shoved off a cliff. I'm not describing this adequately. You got to read it.

Of the 13284 people who have taken this quiz, 13.9 % are this type.

Your Active humor score of 6/10 means you are ju-u-ust right. You're probably pretty popular – a walking social lubricant. You know how to take someone from on edge to relaxed, and from relaxed to larfing. You're kind of like an episode of Arrested Development. That show is good. Anyway. Rave on, funny one.

7.2.6 (2005-02-09 16:23)

You scored as Chaotic Good. A Chaotic Good person is someone who has little intrinsic respect for laws or authority, seeing them as insufficient to sustain what's right. These people work according to their own moral compass which, while good, is not necessarily always aligned with that of society. Despite their chaotic tendancies, these people are good at heart.

Chaotic Good
80%

Neutral Evil
55%

Lawful Good
50%

Neutral Good
50%

True Neutral
50%

Lawful Evil
45%

Chaotic Neutral
35%

Chaotic Evil
25%

Lawful Neutral
25%
[1]What is your Alignment?
created with [2]QuizFarm.com

1. http://quizfarm.com/test.php?q_id=382
2. http://quizfarm.com/

7.2.7 (2005-02-09 16:34)

[1102885775indienew.jpg] You scored as Indie.

Indie
83%

Punk and Pop Punk.
79%

Indie Rock
71%

Classic Rock.
67%

Hip Hop and Rap
63%

Britpop
63%

Industrial
58%

Hardcore
54%

Ska
50%

Country
42%

Emo & More
38%

Mainstream
38%
[1]Music Recommendation
created with [2]QuizFarm.com

1. http://quizfarm.com/test.php?q_id=711
2. http://quizfarm.com/

7.2.8 great weekend (2005-02-14 13:40)

Went to bristol friday evening to hang out with my sister and the rest of the fam. Didn't get into anything too crazy except pizza and dance dance revolution, but it was fun. Came back friday evening because Alana had to work saturday morning, then went BACK to bristol with Alana's friend Julie and her boyfriend Than (pronounced thane). We just hung out in bristol until it was time to head to dinner. Wil joined us, as well as my sister, and we at downtown then went to the patron party before Beatlemania. Watching the beatles was a ot of fun. Saw some folks during the patron party and during intermission that I hadn't seen in a while

which was oool. The Beatles were great, although a little chubby. Had fun then had a relaxing evening. Woke up early on sunday, took it easy, then we went to verizon and mom got a new cell phone so I inherited hers and Alana inherited mine. All-in-all, a great weekend.

changing the subject... I got no work done last week. My head has kinda been in a haze lately. I don't know what's up but it's been kinda hard motivating myself to do work. I don't think working on this linux box is helping at all. I probably spend 30 hours a week working on the dadjum thing. It's getting close to runnign how I want which will be good considering I really have some work to do this week. Got two programming assignments due next week and I have thesis research that I am behind in. Hopefully me head will clear up soon and I can focus a little better. :-) Well, for now it's off to class, then back to working on this computer. I have about 4 linux distributions up and working so I am definitely making progress. I just switched out my 10 gig for a 40 gig and I am no longer trying to use that dadjum external so things are coming together. Now if I could only get this engrossed in schoolwork.... :-)

(2005-02-14 17:19:32)
STEP AWAY FROM LINUX!!! :-)

7.2.9 busy busy busy (2005-02-23 16:41)

This past week and a half have been nuts. I'm sure it hasn't been that awfully busy by most normal people standards, but it has definitely been hectic for me. Mostly just school stuff. I had big assembler project due on monday night. I had a graph theory program due today. I had a psych test yesterday. I had to make out a test for my 1410 class by monday. Just been busy. Other than that things have been going well. Nothing too crazy to report. This weekend is going to be a clean/rearrange furniture weekend so that should be fun. We are going to move some stuff around to better accomodate guests and we are going to start having people over more often. I'm really excited. That's one of the things I miss the most about being at furman. Some of my favorite nights were when I would come home from work or the lab and there would already be like 20 people at our apartment. I love entertaining and being around people. I definitely miss it since I don't really have that many friends up here and most of the ones I do have are CS grad students so they aren't exactly into the party scene too much. Anyhoo, I'm trying to think if there is anything else to report. Got a busy couple of weeks ahead of me. I have architecture homework due tuesday, and a test in there next thursday. Finish up my 1410 exam so I can give it to them next wednesday, figure out what my graph theory semester project is going to be by next friday and do some graph theory homework by monday. Definitely experiencing that CHARGE before spring break :-) I'm definitely glad that spring break is the week after next. I don't have any big plans. I'll probably just relax, maybe get some research done on my thesis. Visit home and maybe bobby and erin. Who knows. I think Alana has work so she doesn't have any crazy plans either. I would like to take a few little photographic expeditions. Hopefully the weather will be nice. Speaking of weather...

What the hell is up with the weather? It's like 60 degrees, then two days later there are chances of snow, then the cycle repeats! Where's the snow? Why am I in boone and wearing sandals, shorts, and a short sleeved shirt in february? This is ridiculous!! I wish my boat was in the water. If I had more time I would probably do a little kayaking. Silly weather.

Well, I think that about sums up the past week. Can't make any guarantees about how often I will update in the future, but hopefully my schedule will settle down a little bit. :-)

7.3 March

7.3.1 hmmm (2005-03-04 09:31)

It seems that as time goes on I just get worse and worse about writing in here. I guess I have been pretty busy lately, but hopefully I will be getting back towards my normal sleep schedule which means later nights and more time to do stuff like update my blog. :-)

Well spring break has pretty much begun for me. Yesterday I had a big Computer Architecture midterm. Everyone was dreading it, but it wasn't too bad. It WAS forever long though. I am usually a pretty quick test taker but I only finished with 5 minutes to spare. One issue some of us bitched about later was that our professor let people stay after time. The last one to finish finished 30 minutes after the official end of class. I think part of taking an exam is finishing in a timely manner. I don't think people should be allowed to just stay after class as long as they want. I, of course, recognize the exception of those with some form of learning disability. I have known people that were plenty smart but had a disability that significantly slowed down their ability to take a test. If you are tested and diagnosed, fine. If not, turn in your dadjum test when time is up. I mean seriously. I think another thing that bothered us is that the guy who stayed late is by far doing the best in the class at the moment. He shouldn't be afforded the extra time to kill our curve. If he can't finish in time then that's his downfall that would put him more on an equal plane with the rest of us. I may discuss this with our professor before the final, we shall see.

After said midterm, I basically felt as though spring break had started. I had psych at 2 then a meeting with Jacker at 4 then poker night at 6. I actually have to finish poker night at 11 today because it was down to me and adam and I had to leave to pick up alana from work so we are going to try to finish it up. Today I have one class, graph theory, but it isn't too strenuous and I didn't need to do anything for it so I still feel like spring break has begun. Currently we don't have any big plans. Going home after alana gets of work tomorrow so we can go to a party (old person party, not kegger) and we will probably stay in bristol until sunday evening. Alana works two long days monday and tuesday and then she is off until the following monday so we are sorta trying to figure out what we want to do for break. I definitely want to take a couple of small picture-taking expeditions and we may try to go see Bobby and Erin. Alana mentioned going to Raleigh so she could ride her pony too. I think onstat is on break as well so we may try to get together with him and do something. I think it kinda drives alana crazy that we haven't planned anything, but I think that makes the break even more relaxing. I mean, travelling and stuff is a blast, but it is pretty darn relaxing to have absolutely nothing planned. If I want to drive somewhere, great. If I want to watch TV all day, that works too. I can just play it by ear. Well, I think that brings about everything up-to-date.

As I started writing this I remembered that I always like when my friends make small posts because it's easier to keep track of. A lot of times I hop on with 5-10 minutes to burn and don't have time to read a long post, yet I am doing the same thing. Sorry about that. Hopefully I will get better about writing in here and my entried will gradually become a more readable length. I love how I put that whole statement at the very end of a long ass post. hahaha I am an ass. :-)

7.3.2 better than no update... (2005-03-07 21:35)

```
 What stupid celebrity are you destined to kill? by [1]daydreamer8852
   Name                      --------------------
Birthdate                    --------------------
You killed                         [283505]
  With a                           [283505]
```

On December 28, 2015
Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
[2]Quiz created with MemeGen!

1. http://www.livejournal.com/~why_fate
2. http://memegen.net/

7.3.3 welp (2005-03-08 10:13)

since I am just hanging out and doing laundry at the moment, I guess it would be a good time to post. :-) Today is very similar to yesterday. Alana has work from 8-8 so she is pretty much gone all day and I am stuck hanging out by myself in the apartment. I just finished a wonderful bean burrito and high life breakfast. mmmm mmmm good! Yesterday I mostly played my new video game (thanks mom!) Gran Turismo 4. It rocks. There are definitely some cool things about it then there are some things they changed which are kind of annoying. One of the biggest ones (which I really don't understand) involves a test track where you can get 0-400m and 0-1000m times as well as max speed. Well on gran turismo 3 it constantly kept track of your top speed. This meant that instead of doing the one lap you were alotted (it's a big oval) you could turn around and go in reverse for several laps and wherever you peaked, that's where your top speed was recorded. Well in this one you get 3/4 of a lap. you go down the straightaway, turn, then it stops at the end of the other straightaway and it records only your speed when you cross the finish. So I could get a car up to 180 mph, but if I cross the line going 150 mph, it would record my max speed as 150 mph. Kinda annoying. Anyhoo, there is a chance that onstat will come visit today which would be cool. He's never seen the apartment and it will be fun to have someone to chill with while Alana is at work. Since Onstat and I are both on spring break, we were thinking of getting some beach chairs, filling up a bucket of corona, and just pretending we were sitting on a beach somewhere enjoying our spring break. It would have worked a lot better yesterday since it was fairly sunny and warm. Today it's windy and snowy, but we can still pretend! He's supposed to call, but who knows if he will still come. Well, I think I just heard the washing machine stop. Time for the next load!! :-)

7.3.4 quiz/survey thingie (2005-03-08 10:35)

```
TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF - The Survey
Name: Fincher
Birthday: June 22, 1980
Birthplace: Bristol, TN
Current Location: Boone, NC
Eye Color: dark blue
Hair Color: blond
Height: 5'10"
Right Handed or Left Handed: right
Your Heritage: german, english, and irish (that I know of)
The Shoes You Wore Today: Reef flip flops
Your Weakness: shiny bees
Your Fears: see above
Your Perfect Pizza: thick wheat crust, topped with spinach, black
beans, pepperoni, and squash
```

Goal You Would Like To Achieve This Year: finish my thesis
Your Most Overused Phrase On an instant messenger: can't think of any good ones
Thoughts First Waking Up: eh? huh? wha..... oh
Your Best Physical Feature: Crazy hair
Your Bedtime: preferably never
Your Most Missed Memory: being at the lake/furman place with all my buds
Pepsi or Coke: C2 baby!
MacDonalds or Burger King: Taco Bell
Single or Group Dates: group
Lipton Ice Tea or Nestea: cinnamon tea
Chocolate or Vanilla: vanilla
Cappuccino or Coffee: mocha
Do you Smoke: nope
Do you Swear: when appropriate
Do you Sing: sometimes, mostly by myself
Do you Shower Daily: of course
Have you Been in Love: yes
Do you want to go to College: been there, done that, would go back in a heartbeat
Do you want to get Married: one day
Do you belive in yourself: always
Do you get Motion Sickness: nope
Do you think you are Attractive: in that pudgy and hairy kinda way
Are you a Health Freak: not at all
Do you get along with your Parents: very well
Do you like Thunderstorms: I LOVE them
Do you play an Instrument: any I can get my hands on
In the past month have you Drank Alcohol: drinking a beer as I type
In the past month have you Smoked: nope
In the past month have you been on Drugs: nope
In the past month have you gone on a Date: yep
In the past month have you gone to a Mall: yep
In the past month have you eaten a box of Oreos: nope
In the past month have you eaten Sushi: yep
In the past month have you been on Stage: nope (I wish)
In the past month have you been Dumped: nope
In the past month have you gone Skinny Dipping: nope
In the past month have you Stolen Anything: nope
Ever been Drunk: yep
Ever been called a Tease: yep
Ever been Beaten up: only by my girlfriend ;-)
Ever Shoplifted: nope
How do you want to Die: jumping out of a plane with no parachute
What do you want to be when you Grow Up: professor at the moment
What country would you most like to Visit: australia
In a Boy/Girl..
Favourite Eye Color: varied
Favourite Hair Color: no preference

Short or Long Hair: depends
Height: no more than 8 inches taller or 10 inches shorter
Weight: not obese
Best Clothing Style: alternative
Number of Drugs I have taken: I've never taken any drugs in a boy/girl
??
Number of CDs I own: um... around like 400
Number of Piercings: none
Number of Tattoos: two, maybe more one day
Number of things in my Past I Regret: not enjoying college enough
Take This Survey
[1]CREATE YOUR OWN! - or - [2]GET PAID TO TAKE SURVEYS!

1. http://www.kwiz.biz/simplesurveys/create-survey.php
2. http://www.kwiz.biz/simplesurveys/paid-surveys.php

(2005-03-17 10:56:07)
I don't beat you ....you better change that or else! Yeah that's right, you're gonna see the back side of my hand, ho. heehee, love you sweetie pie

7.3.5 Spring Break (2005-03-14 11:25)

Well it was a pretty good spring break. I don't think I updated since tuesday. So let's start there. Wednesday we went over to Sugar Mountain and went skiing/snowboarding. The snow was ok. Alana tore it up on the lower slope where the snow was pretty decent. I went up top only once and it was pretty darn crusty so I rejoined Alana and hung out with her. It was a lot of fun. Took it easy the rest of the evening. Thursday we decided to go for a drive and take some pictures. We were going to drive by bristol and pick up our golf clubs so we would have them and then head back to boone. But once we started thinking about it we decided we should just stay the night in bristol and then head to greenville on friday. So we hung out in bristol with the folks and momma got my sister a video game setup so she could play dance dance revolution in her apartment and she bought me a few CDs. Went to greenville on friday and chilled with bobby and erin which was a lot of fun. Came back here on sunday and watched a clockwork orange for my psychology project (due thursday). That's one whack ass movie. Very.... different. Then I graded all my 1410 tests. Got a pretty normal bell curve so I guess that's ok. they weren't as bad as I thought they were going to be after the first lookthrough. Relaxed the rest of the evening. Today Alana wasn't feeling well because she was really anxious about getting back all her tests that she took the thursday before break and I think she may quit her job so she can focus on school. She is definitely a busy girl.

On a good academic note... I got grades back for my computer architecture class and I sucked it up on our last homework but I made a 94 on our first programming assignment and I made a 100 on our midterm!!! There was a curve of course, but the class (after the 10 point curve) had two A's, two B's, and two C's and I had the highest grade in the class by 7 points. I was pretty stoked. Ok, well I guess it's back to chillin and then helping with lab at 12. Fun stuff!!

7.3.6 busy week ahead (2005-03-20 21:16)

Well last week wasn't too bad. Looks like I am definitely going to weekly updates. I'm trying to think if anything really exciting happened. I was close to winning the first game of poker night but both of us were ready to go so we made some big bets and he just had better cards. We got our graph theory midterm on friday. It's an open book take-home that is due friday so that is nice. I haven't really started the architecture project. I guess I should get on that pretty soon. I'm scared enough of this project that I started punching equations in my calculator to see how low a grade I can get on it and still do well in the class :-) Since I made a 100 on the midterm I am pretty sure I will tear up the final so I am not too terribly worried. Had a good relaxing weekend. Took it easy and watched the Incredibles on friday (I DEFINITELY enjoyed it) then we spent the afternoon on saturday in bristol then came back here and hung out at Kat's cheese party for a bit. Today has just been a super lazy day but it's been nice.

This coming week is going to be hella busy. I have that graph theory midterm to work on that is due friday. I really should at least start planning the structure of my architecture program. I have to do some major research on my thesis so I have something to report on my thursday meeting with jacker. I think I have a psychology test on tuesday and a psychology project due on thursday. Man, I need to go to the store and stock up on some energy drinks or something :-) The one really nice thing is that after this week we have a 4 day weekend for easter and the rest of the semester should be pretty easy breezy with the obvious exception of this architecture project. I think I can handle that.

Oh, almost got to go kayaking today, but keith was at church til 3 so it didn't really work out. I am hoping we will be back early enough next tuesday and the weather will be nice enough that we can go. I can't wait for it to start warming up so I can get out on the river and the lake. I'm super stoked! Well, seeing as how I have all this work to do I guess I should get cracking.... oh oh, one more thing. I found this project whose purpose is to be able to take any linux distribution and make a livecd out of it. In case you don't know, a livecd allows you to run linux from a cd so you can try it out and it just stores what it needs in RAM. It can be a really good thing for recovery or for playing with linux because it doesn't do anything on your hard drive so you just take out the cd and restart you computer and you are back to whatever operating system you were using previously. So affiliated with this project is a project specifially tailored to produce a live version of slackware small enough to fit on one of those mini-cds. I started playing around with that today and that has been cool. I now have a mini-cd with a live slackware and a couple of extra programs I wanted. How cool is that!? I am currently running it on my laptop to test it out. Since I got a tiny thumb drive for christmas it works perfectly because I can just leave it in the little hidden usb port and use it to store any files I need while running linux which is pretty snazzy. This works similarly to Damn Small Linux that I had tried earlier except since this is based off of slackware I like it a lot more. :-) And if you ran Damn Small Linux for more than like a day, I think it had a memory leak that caused RAM to fill up and therefore it would lock up so I am going to leave my laptop running overnight and see how it does in the morning. Should be interesting! Ok, I guess now I can get back to work. I have rambled about my geekiness enough. :-)

7.3.7 great easter weekend (2005-03-29 17:43)

Well it's definitely been a good easter weekend. On friday we planned to drive to Greenville, have dinner with Frost, then head on to hilton head. On the way we talked to bobby and erin and decided to have dinner with them too then after we started hanging out there for a little while we decided to just stay the night and hit the road early the next morning. Had fun chillin there and got two laptops from Frost, his old one and one someone had left in the shop like a year ago. I think I am going to use the better one for my thesis work. It's more powerful than the desktop I have in the office so I think it will work nicely. We left at like 6:45 the

next morning and headed towards the beach. Got to hang out with the fam that night and afternoon and they headed out the next morning. Took it easy the rest of the day. Pretty much just took it easy the rest of the time we were there. Had some awesome seafood meals. We came back here to boone on monday after dinner. Got here late in the evening and just took it easy. It was crazy windy and rainy! The weather could not have been set up better for kayaking today. It rained the previous three days and today was sunny and 60 degrees. It was perfect!! The first two times we ran this section of the Watauga it was running at 153 cfs and like 210 cfs so it was definitely a different river today running around around 700 cfs!! It was awesome because there was a lot more water but it was definitely a lot more pushy. I was really excited because, even though I swam the first time I rolled, the second time I rolled back up! I had done it some in a pool and the lake, but that was the first time I had done it on the river. Getting more comfortable with my roll is awesome because I am more likely to play around in some rapids and get a better feel for my boat if I know it isn't going to be a big deal if I roll. Anyway, that was my big news. I am doing some laundry, and setting up this computer and then working on some architecture homework tonight. Nothing too exciting. Ok, back to work!!

7.4 April

7.4.1 ooooh looky looky! (2005-04-02 11:49)

It's the second entry this week! woohoo!! Man, I have gotten terrible about updating this thing. I guess if I had more to report I'd be more likely to write in here. It was great having a short week this week. We should start every week on wednesday :-) Got some driving in this week. On thursday I drove to greenville and crashed with erin and bobby so I could get up and get my car serviced friday morning and it finished quickly enough that I made it back to school for my 2 o'clock class (my only class on friday). Then friday evening we drove to bristol had dinner and took off my rocketbox and came back. Today, when alana gets off work, we are going to raleigh for the rest of the weekend. I was going to try to get some work done this weekend, but the liklihood of that is looking low. I just finished cleaning up the apartment some now I'm about to hop in the shower and chill til alana gets home. I'm trying to think if there is anything else exciting that has been going on.... nothing I can really think of I guess. Got a free kayaking DVD from wavesport. That was pretty darn cool. I like wavesport. I think my next kayak will be from them. Other than that..... I guess that's about it. I'm stoked that lake season will be starting up next weekend! Along with 5k season. :-) should be interesting. OK, shower time for me.

7.4.2 two posts in one day!? CRAZY! (2005-04-02 12:31)

I meant to mention my geeky stuff. I got those two laptops from frost. His old one doesn't have ethernet or a cdrom so it's going to be a task to try to get linux on it. I gave that one to keith and told him it was his job. :-) The other one I decided to make my thesis computer. I am just going to keep all my thesis work on it. I tried to install Slackware and SUSE dual-booting but for some reason slackware was having problems recognizing the network card which sucks. I probably could have fixed it, but I didn't really feel like dealing with it so I decided to just run SUSE 9.1 professional and it seems to work fine. It'll be better once I set up the wireless network card, but this week has just been a little too busy to work on it. Should be snazzy though!

I also thought of a way I can maybe spruce this blog up a bit and make some more posts. I get all my news from a site called Slashdot. They pretty much just cover geek news. What I am planning on doing is linking to some of the stories I find on there and then giving my own commentary. At the very least it will make my blog semi-educational, kinda like when I had the words of the day. Maybe I should get another

daily calendar to try to force me to make daily posts again. hmm.... Well I gotta finish packing to head to Raleigh. Maybe I will get a cool calendar while I am there. :-)

7.4.3 blogging regulation (2005-04-03 22:35)

Today a story was posted about how [1]San Francisco may try to regulate blogging. And here we thought this was only the kind of thing that would happen in places like China.

My take: This is ridiculous. Having to pay a fee because your blog mentions a political candidate and you get over a certain number of hits? I mean, that just screams regulation of free speech if you ask me. I mean I think similar standards should hold for blogging as they do in print (especially when it comes to libel and stuff) but to be regulated like this is an obviously oppression of free speech. What I talk about on my blog shouldn't dictate what fees I pay and what permits I need. Crazy I tell you. Crazy.

1. `http://www.personaldemocracy.com/node/501`

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tattermask (2005-04-06 13:07:51)
They will burn in H*** before they silence me! No stupid m***erf***er is going to beat down my right to the first amendment! a*

fincher69 (2005-04-06 13:12:40)
amen sister!

7.4.4 car that runs on compressed air (2005-04-04 08:26)

There is an article on cnn.com about a company that developed a [1]car that runs on compressed air. I uses a pneumatic engine along-side an electric engine.

My take: We all know it is difficult to get large corporations to change their focus, so I don't see this going mainstream anytime soon. The idea would be awesome for companies that have a lot of commuters as a way to cut down on the gas used going to and from work, but even if this technology grows I don't see it becoming a viable alternative to gas anytime soon. It'd be great for short distances, but compressing enough air, or making the enging efficient enough to run for long distances seems a little far-fetched at present.

On an additional note, had a good time in raleigh over the weekend. Actually we left saturday afternoon and came back yesterday evening. Got to sleep in on sunday so we didn't really notice the time change. It sucks to lose an hour, but I am stoked about it getting darker later. That means lake/kayak season is about to start so we want it to stay as light as possible for as long as possible. :-) I brought a little work with me to Raleigh, but of course I got nothing done. I got what I needed to done last night, but I definitely have a good amount to do tonight. I gotta finish up my architecture homework, start grading some papers, do some thesis research, try to get my classes for the summer settled, and maybe work on my simulator for architecture a little bit (that's a BIG maybe). So nothing too strenuous, just a lot to do.

I didn't mention the actual article, because I am too lazy to go find it, but relating to this last article I

saw one about a modified Prius that was getting upwards of 180 miles per gallon. How crazy is that!? One of the main things they did to easily get over 100 miles per gallon was to modify it so it could be plugged in. This makes a huge difference because I believe the Prius is a full hybrid meaning that at low speeds it runs completely on battery power. So when you are at stop lights, or cruising around town under like 20 mph, you aren't using a drop of gasoline. Of course the gas engine will kick in if the batteries are low and THAT is why being able to plug it in makes a difference. It no longer has to kick in the gas engine to keep recharging the batteries. If you recharge them every night while you are home, you have full juice to drive around that day so you will remain on electric power as long as possible. Pretty snazzy idea. I wonder how long it will be until toyota or honda implement this themselves. I know I sure wouldn't mind getting 100 miles per gallon right now! :-)

1. `http://edition.cnn.com/2005/TECH/03/30/spark.air.car/index.html`

7.4.5 Flying Squirrels Ay (2005-04-05 11:42)

A flying squirrel sneaks into canada, faces deportation, but is saved. A truly touching story that had to be shared. Read about this little trooper [1]HERE Ay! :-)

1. `http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=573&ncid=573&e=10&u=/nm/20050404/od_nm/life_canada_squirrel_dc`

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tattermask (2005-04-06 13:01:20)
That's kind of a silly story... "For Educational Purposes" So now will they bring in Sex Workers for sex ed? ac

7.4.6 hmmm (2005-04-05 20:29)

man, even a story about an almost deported flying squirrel and I don't get comments. I wonder if anyone reads this thing. If anyone has suggestions about things I can write about I will gladly entertain them. I don't need thousands of hits a day, but entertaining a few more folks would be nice :-) Don't forget, I would appreciate it if you sign your name if you don't have an account and have to comment anonymously.

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lillibullero (2005-04-06 18:04:26)
Sorry, I work too much and have had no internet for the past 2 weeks.

7.4.7 man, I am bored bored bored bored bored (2005-04-06 15:53)

Sitting here in public lab. I have a few things I could be working on, but the things I really might actually have enough motivation to work on are without the necessary materials to work on them. Ho hum. So I am just sitting in public lab, I'm the only one in here right now, and I am just bored as crap so I figured what better way to burn some time than to write in my blog!! I've actually been pretty good about keeping this thing up-to-date as of late. let's see, what do I want to talk about...

Oh, I found [1]this story about how people are "bamboozled" by computer terminology, especially in reference to notifications about computer threats. It's a fun little read, and kind of amazing at the same time. Things like only 25 % of people said they knew what spyware was, and 1 in 10 said it was software to spy on your significant other to see if they were cheating. Jeepers.

I went for another run yesterday. Definitely kicked my ass. My run last week made me really sore, but during the run I felt great. This time I felt like I was about to die. I still made it through my 2 mile loop without walking so that is good, but the 5k I am running with my mom this weekend should definitely be interesting to say the least. Hopefully our boat will be de-winterized so I can go wakeboarding this weekend too. It's supposed to be a little chilly, mid 60s, but that is plenty warm enough for me to get out on the water! Even if the boat isn't ready it will be nice to just be back at the lake and i will probably throw my kayak on my car so I can play around and work on rolling some more. At least I'd be getting in the water.

um.... It's probably going to be a late night tonight because not only is it poker night, but I have to organize some thesis research for my meeting with him tomorrow and I have a psychology test tomorrow as well that I need to study for. I'm not too worried about it since it only covers two chapters and we get to make out a notecard of hints and stuff. I can't believe we only have three more weeks of class left. That is just nuts! i will be making an A in psych, likely A-B+ in graph theory, and (if I ever start working on this simulator project) no less than a B+ in Architecture. Not too shabby. And since the only hours i really have left will be my thesis hours (that are ungraded) my GPA will pretty much be set after this term. that's always a nice feeling. I will be taking a data mining class in the fall so I have enough hours for my assistantship, but since it isn't listed on my program of study, it won't really matter how well I do since it won't affect my GPA. Now if I could just figure out what I want to do after I get my master's (more so than knowing that I will be staying in school).

Well, I can't really think of much else of consequence that I could mention. oh, one last thing. It's been a fiasco trying to get my classes settled for this summer. I got permission to take the stats course that is a prerequisite for the psychology research methods course at the same time as the psych course. Then I tried to register and it said I needed some math requirement to register for the stats course so I emailed the professor teaching it. no reply. couple days later I send a second email and he says I have to talk to the department secretary. I email her and she is awesome and gets me added into the stats course. Then I talk to the psych professor who was supposed to add me into the psych class and she says I have to wait until the undergrad folks register then she will add me in if there are any slots left. If there aren't any slots left I will either just take one course, or I will just have to find another course to take and take the psych course in the second summer, but since it is a pre-requisite for the other courses I wanted to take second summer I will probably need special permission to do that too. Jeepers. All that AND I have to fill out like 6 forms just to get my fall schedule settled. forms forms forms. gotta love'm.

Well, I guess that is about it. Nothing else to report. Back to being bored. yay.

1. `http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4413155.stm`

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lillibullero (2005-04-06 21:08:22)
I read that article and scoffed... people in the UK are nuts.

7.4.8 stole from marcie (2005-04-08 22:42)

```
Justin Andrew Fincher's Aliases

Your movie star name: Beer John
Your fashion designer name is Justin Munich
```

Your socialite name is Whitey New Orleans
Your fly girl / guy name is J Fin
Your detective name is Hedgehog Tennessee High
Your barfly name is Beer Jagermeister
Your soap opera name is Andrew Fairfield Dr.
Your rock star name is Twizzlers Cheeta
Your star wars name is Jusmur Finala
Your punk rock band name is The Chipper Three-sidded Die

[1]The Amazing Meganame Generator

1. http://www.blogthings.com/meganames/

7.4.9 Damn Good Weekend (2005-04-10 19:26)

Well this weekend was a blast. Physically demanding, but a blast. :-) Friday Alana and I got up and left the apartment at 5 AM to go to raleigh. It was definitely worth it because we came back later with a [1]brand new mustang! It's hella-snazzy. So we came back to boone and then I left for bristol.

Saturday morning mom and I ran our first 5k of the season. It was a little rough, but our time actually wasn't that bad for us. If you didn't know, [LJ User: runfincherrun] is my running blog. I don't edit it for any training I might do (and I do mean MIGHT), but I put all our race results there along with a little description. It's a fun way for us to keep track of how we are doing. After the race, Alana and Krassi (a friend from work) came up. We went to the lake and I got to go wakeboarding for the first time this season. It was a blast even though it was a little rough due to my 5k fatigue. Only bad thing was that we couldn't get our boat lift to go down and our toilet wouldn't work so that meant we pretty much couldn't spend the night out there and we had to take our boat back to lakeview. We found out later that the reason the lift (and toilet) didn't work is because the guy who is in charge of moving our houseboats around did a less then stellar job and we hit ground a couple times. This caused the flotation to be shifted and pinched the hose that connects to the lift so, low and behold, it wouldn't let the air out so it would go down! I'm kinda less than pleased about that, but it should be fixed in not too long.

Today I am major hurting from yesterday's activities but I still got to go wakeboarding again which is always awesome. Krassi threw on the dry suit and tried it out to and did a pretty good job. After thoroughly wearing myself out we drove back to boone, did a little cleaning, and now I am trying to motivate myself to do some schoolwork. I found a couple on interesting stories I might reference in the upcoming days, but this is a long enough entry already and I am kinda getting tired of typing. :-)

All-in-all it was a pretty snazzterrific weekend! Can't complain with getting to spend time at the lake! :-)

1. http://community.webshots.com/album/319203734iNLBMy

7.4.10 a couple fun quizzes stolen from Adam and Amanda (2005-04-10 22:11)

You Are 45% Normal (Somewhat Normal)
[somewhat-normal.jpg]
While some of your behavior is quite normal... Other things you do are

downright strange You've got a little of your freak going on But you mostly keep your weirdness to yourself

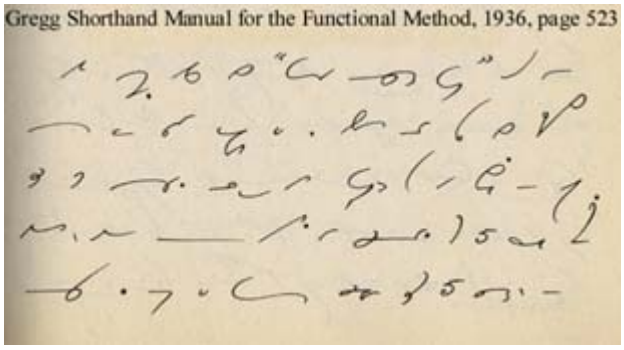
[1]How Normal Are You?

Your Brain is 40.00% Female, 60.00% Male
You have a total boy brain Logical and detailed, you tend to look at the facts And while your emotions do sway you sometimes... You never like to get feelings too involved

[2]What Gender Is Your Brain?

Your Inner European is Dutch!
[dutch.jpg]
Open minded and tolerant. You're up for just about anything.

[3]Who's Your Inner European?



You are 'Gregg shorthand'. Originally designed to enable people to write faster, it is also very useful for writing things which one does not want other people to read, inasmuch as almost no one knows shorthand any more.

You know how important it is to do things efficiently and on time. You also value your

privacy, and (unlike some people) you do not pretend to be friends with just everyone; that would be ridiculous. When you do make friends, you take them seriously, and faithfully keep what they confide in you to yourself. Unfortunately, the work which you do (which is very important, of course) sometimes keeps you away from social activities, and you are often lonely. Your problem is that Gregg shorthand has been obsolete for a long time.
[4] What obsolete skill are you?
brought to you by [5]Quizilla



[6]
Which Villain Character Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/hownormalareyouquiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/genderbrainquiz/
3. http://www.blogthings.com/whosyourinnereuropeanquiz/
4. http://quizilla.com/users/deadword/quizzes/What%20obsolete%20skill%20are%20you%3F/
5. http://quizilla.com/
6. http://www.artificial-soul.net/test/villain

7.4.11 couple cool stories (2005-04-12 09:02)

Nothing really to write personally. Got working piling up being the end of the semester and all, but motivation is definitely lacking. I definitely need to get cracking this evening! :-) Now to the fun news of the day...

Some students at MIT built a [1]USB Controlled Disco Dance Floor. It took them around $2500 but looking at the pictures I would say it's was worth it. It looks awesome! We needed one of those back in Furman Place for sure.

Scientists are predicting that much of life on earth, especially sea life, was wiped out by a [2]Neutron Star Collision. That or a collision between a neutron star and a black hole would cause a large burst of gamma radiation and if this occurred in our galaxy, it would be a serious downer for us folks on earth. Nowadays, we can do a good job of predicting some collisions like this, but we would have no clue if there was a big wave of gamma radiation flying towards us. There was also a related article about how, if we COULD know the gamma radiation was coming, could [3]try to prevent the damage it would cause. And I'm sure anyone reading has an idea of what a black hole is, but in case you don't know, a neutron star is an star that is extremely small and dense. It's usually about double the mass of our own sun, yet only a few kilometers in diameter (this compared to the sun being 1,425,000 kilometers) Being a neutron star is the last stage in the stellar cycle.

That's the most fun, I might peruse for something entertaining a little later (I always need a means for procrastination!)

1. http://web.mit.edu/storborg/ddf
2. http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,3604,1456594,00.html
3. http://www.mediacircus.net/armageddon.html

7.4.12 ok, bored in the office (2005-04-12 10:58)

I'm sitting here in the office and I SHOULD be getting work done, but the only work I have to do is for Architecture and I just got out of Architecture, so I need a little recoup time before I delve into MORE Architecture. :-) So today I will be perusing some current events/entertaining stuff and giving you guys a heads up about what's going on in the world today.

We will begin with a quote:
"Our belly buttons aren't pretty and we can't dance. All we can do is sing and play these instruments."

–DON HENLEY of the Eagles, comparing his aging band to the likes of BRITNEY SPEARS during a concert in New York, quoted in the New York Post.

As you can tell I am liking the use of these little horizontal rules (the little lines within my posts seperating the topics) so I will continue to use them. :-) These next few stories don't have good links to them, so I will just post the body of the story in here. Since this will be long I think I am only going to put a couple more stories then this post is done

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Defensive back Randall Gay wore a New England Patriots jersey as a member of this year's Super Bowl-winning team, but when one of his former college professors tried to order a personalized jersey in tribute to Gay in mid-February, she was turned down. The National Football League's official online merchandiser, NFLshop.com, refused to imprint "Gay" on the back of a Patriots jersey because it was a "naughty" word, one of 1,159 the shop has banned. (Two weeks later, after the Web site Outsports.com picked up the story, the word was removed from the list.) [Times-Picayune (New Orleans), 3-3-05]

According to a February Cox News Service dispatch from Mexico City, the government nearly killed its export market for the fabled mezcal, a liquor (similar to tequila) traditionally sold with a worm floating in the bottle. Bureaucrats had recently proposed to ban the worm because of its high fat content, even though as much as 70 percent of mezcal sales are based on the worm (with alleged sexual or hallucinatory powers), but changed their minds. [Seattle Post-Intelligencer-Cox News Service, 2-9-05]

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(1) Sally Hampton, 64, testified in February against the man who hit her with a beer bottle in a brawl last year in Immokalee, Fla., sending him to a 12-year sentence, but in the interim, Hampton has been recovering from brain surgery. As doctors examined her after the attack, they discovered and treated an unrelated tumor that they would not have found in time had she not received the beer-bottle concussion. (2) In December, Bill DiPasquale unexpectedly came out of a two-week coma at Massachusetts General Hospital, five minutes after a friend whispered him a message from their boss, who had said, "You tell him to wake

up, get out of bed, and get his ass back to work." [Associated Press, 2-9-05] [Boston Herald, 12-25-04]

7.4.13 lookie, I'm in the public lab again! (2005-04-13 15:56)

woohoo! I am pumped. I have actually had a pretty productive few days. Started on my architecture homework last night, then worked on it during the day some today and just finished it up. Or at least I think it's finished. I will compare answers later at poker night just to be sure. I really need to do more work on my thesis and i REALLY need to get cracking on this simulator for architecture. She gave us the basic guidelines for how we would do depending on what we had done and I am hoping to get the first stage, a B project, done this week. It's not actually due for another two weeks which really kills my motivation, but I really need to get started. If I have it to where I will make no less than a B on it that will be a load of pressure off my shoulders. I'm not too worried about the final, so this simulator is about the only substantial thing left for me to do this semester. I can't believe the end of the semester is so close, but I am definitely ready for it to be over. Let's see what's in the news...

nothing really too interesting going on today. The one story I will mention that I got a kick out of was about some MIT students that developed and program that randomly generates CS papers. The best part of this is that one of the papers that they randomly generated was actually [1]accepted to a conference. If you know anything about computer science and read through the paper it's pretty entertaining. Right now I think they are trying to raise funds so that they may actually attend the conference. Funny stuff.

That's about it for today. Not much else of any entertainment or educational value. Back to boredom.

1. http://science.slashdot.org/science/05/04/13/1723206.shtml?tid=133&tid=146&tid=14

7.4.14 two things (2005-04-14 17:59)

one... fun little story about how we may have discovered a primal spot for [1]building a moon base. Kinda snazzy to think that one day we may have colonies on the moon, then maybe even other planets. I don't how long it will take us to screw up the moon. :-) At least there isn't a bunch of wildlife for us to run in and destroy. Should be cool to see where the future takes us.

two... I have discovered that I think I have a motivational problem. I have a hard time motivating myself to work on homework and projects. It seems that my only source of motivation is last minute panic. I have a big project due April 27th and it is pretty robust so I should probably get to working on it, but just knowing that I have almost two weeks until it is due is just killing my motivation. It doesn't help that I don't have a lot else going on so this project is pretty much the only major thing that I have left to do this semester. I said I was going to dedicate tonight to working on it, and I should b working on it now, but it's not looking good. I find I also have a hard time doing work early in the day, and by early in the day I pretty much mean before 10 pm. I am definitely a night worker. I would rather work until 4 am than work during the afternoon. Who knows. Well, I am going to likely go back to procratinating then maybe I can at least get a little planning done even if I don't really begin implementation until later this evening. Good thing I don't have class tomorrow :-)

1. http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/050413_moon_perfect.html

7.4.15 good weekend (2005-04-17 22:57)

Had a great weekend. Definitely enjoyed not having class on friday, though I DID attend a little talk some of my fellow grad students gave. Then we headed to bristol and had pizza and stocked the lakehouse and

picked the boat up then headed back to boone. After Alana got off work on saturday we headed back to bristol. Got a new rope, handle and sunglasses at the wakeboard shop. Then I got to do some wakeboarding and hung out with the fam and my sister's friend, Courtney. Went to JC to party with Wil and meet his woman and had a blast. She is really cool. Spent the night there and came back to bristol this morning then went to the lake for a bit and did some more wakeboarding. Speaking of wakeboarding, I am SORE! I'm gonna be hurting tomorrow. I'm definitely not in shape enough for this wakeboarding stuff yet. We left from the lake and went back to boone and have been taking it easy. I have been trying to sort through my music library, but it is quite a daunting task. I have organized about 11 of the 32 gigs of mp3s I have. It's gonna be forever before it's done! Oh well. Now I need to prepare my lab and do some reading then hit the sack because I am BEAT! :-)

7.4.16 the procrastination continues (2005-04-19 12:42)

Man, I have a lot of work to do. The main focus of this work, as I have mentioned previously, is the architecture simulator. Luckily I was adding up scores and i don't really have to do that well on it to do well in the class. Talk about not helping my motivation. :-) Anyhoo two stories of consequence today.

The first is for all you Futurama fans out there. This guy from Norway built a custom computer case to look like [1]Bender the Robot. He obviously put some work into it and it turned out awesome. This is giving me some ideas on how to burn some time this summer... :-)

The second story is about how [2]Canada hates the downloading business. They are proposing buttloads of ludicrous taxes on downloadable goods. They really seem to have it out for these corporations. Silly Canadians eh!? Jeepers. Well if that goes through that would make reason number one on the list of why Canada would not be a cool place to live. Oh well!

1. http://overklokking.no/art.php?artikkelid=14773
2. http://yro.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/04/18/2325221&tid=141&tid=98&tid=17

7.4.17 productive already!! (2005-04-23 16:33)

Well, I have finally gotten around to working on this Architecture Simulator. Man, I am such the procrastinator this semester. I got some good work done this afternoon, but I am finding that I think I have trained myself to be a night worker. It is so much harder for me to motivate myself to do work in the middle of the day than it is at night. I would much rather work from 11 pm to 4 am than from 1pm to 6pm. I just like being up. I think I also like it because it feels like I am stealing time. When most people are sleeping their lives away, I am up doing something productive and I think that's cool. Who knows. All I know is that it's been torturous to concentrate on this thing the past few hours, but I still did it! Alana and I have a shindig to go to this evening so I think I may call it quits for the afternoon and get back to it after our thingie. I already bought some red bull so I am ready for it to be a late night tonight. :-) Heck, it's a huge project, but it's still not due til midnight wednesday night! ;-) plenty of time. That reminds me...

One of my fellow CS grad students told me on thursday that if I were anyone else, she would just tell me not to even bother starting the simulator because I have so little time left. She said that only I would get away with putting it off this long. I thought that was kinda cool. :-) I think it hasn't helped my motivation

lately that I am really starting to lean towards doing psychology after CS. I would love to be able to combine them, or use my CS in some other way, at some point, but I think I will be happier focusing on psychology. Who knows. Only time will tell. :-)

Well now I think I am going to try to get a little done around the apartment then get ready for the party. I wouldn't expect too many updates in the coming days (unless I need to procrastinate even MORE ;-)) at least until thursday. After this simulator is finished my semester is practically done! :-) Awesome!

7.4.18 procrastination..... makes it happen.... oh wait, that's cooperation (2005-04-26 01:18)

```
    Your Dominant Intelligence is Logical-Mathematical Intelligence
                            [logical.jpg]
 You are great at finding patterns and relationships between things.
Always curious about how things work, you love to set up experiments.
You need for the world to make sense - and are good at making sense of
it. You have a head for numbers and math ... and you can solve almost
any logic puzzle. You would make a great scientist, engineer, computer
        programmer, researcher, accountant, or mathematician.
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[1]What Kind of Intelligence Do You Have?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/intelligencequiz.html

7.4.19 Last day of class... (2005-04-27 16:31)

Man am I ready to be done! Our simulator project is due at midnight tonight then a few of us are going out for drinks to celebrate. It's going to be really nice to be done. I've been working a lot on this project lately. I was thinking about it today and I've averaged under 5 hours of sleep the past three nights. I'm still feeling pretty good, but I am at one of those points where I am sitting around not doing much I get sleepy in a hurry, but if something's going on I'm fine. So of course sitting in public lab for two hours is brutal!! I'm so frickin bored! I worked on my project for a little when I got in here but I don't have the room I need to get comfortable so I am just going to work on it this evening at home. Other than this project I haven't had a lot else going on. I have a pretty good exam schedule: architecture saturday, graph theory (take home and project presentation) monday, I give my 1410 test tuesday, and my psych final is on wednesday. It's nice having them spread out like that. I am not too worried about Architecture, but I would really like to do well like I did on the midterm. Graph theory is take-home so I will work on that some tomorrow then finish it and work on the project on sunday. Psych is nothing and preparing my 1410 isn't bad. So I would consider myself mostly done after tonight which is kinda nice. Not much else to report. Back to perusing the web for another 20 minutes then I get to break outta here! hooray!

7.4.20 (2005-04-27 16:40)

```
                    You Are 40% Left Brained, 60% Right Brained
 The left side of your brain controls verbal ability, attention to
detail, and reasoning. Left brained people are good at communication
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and persuading others. If you're left brained, you are likely good at math and logic. Your left brain prefers dogs, reading, and quiet. The right side of your brain is all about creativity and flexibility. Daring and intuitive, right brained people see the world in their unique way. If you're right brained, you likely have a talent for creative writing and art. Your right brain prefers day dreaming, philosophy, and sports.

[1]Are You Right or Left Brained?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/rightorleftbrainedquiz/

7.4.21 quizzes burn time... yay! (2005-04-27 16:44)

Your Seduction Style: The Natural
[natural.jpg]
You don't really try to seduce people... it just seems to happen. Fun loving and free spirited, you bring out the inner child in people. You are spontaneous, sincere, and unpretentious - a hard combo to find! People drop their guard around you, and find themselves falling fast.

[1]What Is Your Seduction Style?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/seducerquiz/

7.4.22 stolen from amanda (2005-04-28 01:16)

You May Be a Bit Schizotypal ...
[kramer.jpg]
A bit odd and socially isolated. You couldn't care less of what others think. And some of your beliefs are a little weird. Like that time you thought you were Jesus.

[1]What Personality Disorder Are You?

Your English Skills:

Grammar: 80%

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Punctuation: 80%
 Spelling: 80%
Vocabulary: 20%
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[2]Does Your English Cut the Mustard?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/personalitydisorderquiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/englishcutthemustardquiz/

7.5 May

7.5.1 ok, so it's been a bit... (2005-05-02 23:35)

but I figure if I have any excuse at all, what is better than finals?! :-) I pretty much consider myself to be done after today. I found out today that I made an A in Architecture which I was pretty stoked about. I don't have my numeric grades, but I know I was either 1st or 2nd in the class. Likely second behind Darren because he is hella studious. And there were only 6 people in the class so that isn't a HUGE accomplishment, but it is supposed to be one of the hardest required classes in the program and to make an A in it made me excited :-) I turned in my Graph Theory final and project today so I am officially done with that class as well but knowing Dr. McRae I probably won't have my grade too soon but I am guessing no less than a B+. I'm pretty satisfied with those grades this semester. My other hours are research hours which I don't think have an actual grade. The only things I still have left to do are give my 1410 final tomorrow and take my psychology exam on wednesday which I am definitely not worried about. Finishing up projects and stuff for exams has pretty much been my life this past week. I've probably had at least 4 nights in the last week where I went to bed between 3 and 4 AM. Now THAT'S my kind of schedule. :-) I won't mind being completely done on wednesday though. Not at all. I guess I don't really have much else to report at the moment. Classes have pretty much taken over lately. Hopefully more to report soon! :-)

7.5.2 almost been a week! (2005-05-08 21:03)

Man, it has almost been a week since I wrote on here. It's been kinda busy finishing up exams and all. I ended up with an A in architecture, a B in graph theory, and (of course) an A in abnormal psych. Not too bad. If thesis hours don't affect your GPA (which I'm pretty sure they don't) I will be graduating with a 3.66 which isn't awesome, but it's not terrible either :-) Everyone I've talked to said that phd schools don't really look at your GPA so much. Who knows.

I had an awesome weekend at the lake. Got to do some wakeboarding which is always good and Wil and Kim came up which was a lot of fun. Too bad they couldn't have come up friday and stayed all weekend, but it was still fun since it's been hard to get them up there.

Right now I am in Boone getting some laundry and shoes and checking on the apartment. I'm about to head back to bristol soon because I have a dermitologist (sp?) appointment tomorrow to have some of my moles removed. It should be an interesting drive because I took the BMW (which is a stick shift) and I pinged my ankle wakeboarding earlier. I didn't think it was anything major, but after the drive here it is really starting to bother me. dadjummit. That sucks. Maybe I will pop a couple motrin and see how things go. :-)

Well, I think that about sums up life at the moment. Enjoying my time off. Alana is with her mommy in california and they seem to be having fun. Definitely enjoying my time off. :-)

7.5.3 (2005-05-11 23:14)

Your Political Profile

Overall: 60% Conservative, 40% Liberal
Social Issues: 50% Conservative, 50% Liberal
Personal Responsibility: 75% Conservative, 25% Liberal
Fiscal Issues: 75% Conservative, 25% Liberal
Ethics: 25% Conservative, 75% Liberal
Defense and Crime: 75% Conservative, 25% Liberal

[1]How Liberal / Conservative Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/liborconquiz/

7.5.4 more boredom activities (2005-05-11 23:21)

Your #1 Match: ENTP

The Visionary You are charming, outgoing, friendly. You make a good first impression. You possess good negotiating skills and can convince anyone of anything. Happy to be the center of attention, you love to tell stories and show off. You're very clever, but not disciplined enough to do well in structured environments. You would make a great entrpreneur, marketing executive, or actor.

Your #2 Match: ESTP

The Doer You are adventurous and risk taking. You act first, think second. You love being the center of attention. Chances are you were the class clown. Competitive, charming, and charasmatic - you have your own code of honor. You live a flexible life, bouncing between a series of activies that interest you. You would make a great salesperson, marketing director, or entrepreneur.

[1]What's Your Personality Type?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/mbtiquiz/

7.5.5 one thing that annoys the piss out of me (almost literally) (2005-05-14 00:19)

It really stinks when you wake up like 4 hours after you have gone to bed and you are kinda awake but still groggy but you are pretty aware of what's going on around you. Then you become painfully aware that your bladder is full. WAY full. But you feel like you could set your head back on the pillow and be back asleep in 2 seconds, but in reality you can't because your stupid bladder keeps pinging your brain so you will get up an go to the restroom. So then you finally do get up and the act of getting up and going to the bathroom gets you out of groggy mode so it makes it even harder to fall asleep. I hate that. Very very annoying. On a lighter note...

WE GOT A NEW BOAT!!! I am hell excited. We did the paperwork last night and we picked it up today. It's an Air Nautique 210 Team and it ROCKS!! We ended up getting the one they had on the lot (as opposed to spec'ing one out ourselves) and it ended up being an almost identical color scheme to our malibu. Good ol' blue, white, and grey! It'd definitely going to take a little getting used to, but it definitely rocks and it is definitely better than the malibu.

Well, I think I am going to hit the bed soon. I am going to charlotte tomorrow to see my sweetie who has been in California for the past week and to see bobby and erin and their new house. Always a good time! I'll be heading back here sunday to make sure proper attention is being paid to the new boat. ;-)

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tattermask (2005-05-22 21:15:31)
that totally sucks. it usually happens to me when I've got, like, an hour left to sleep before my alarm goes off and the stupid birds are chirping outside... but I don't wanna wet the bed, cuz that would be bad... so I get up... and then the chirping keeps me from falling asleep cuz I'm not sleepy anymore, but I still don't wanna be awake!! GRR!!! Stupid pee. amanda

7.5.6 I've seen more accurate... (2005-05-16 14:47)

Your Birthdate: June 22

While sometimes employing unorthodox approaches, you are capable of handling large scale undertakings. You assume great responsibility and work long and hard toward completion. Often, especially in the early part of life, there is rigidity or stubbornness, and a tendency to repress feelings. Idealistic, you work for the greater good with a good deal of inner strength and charisma. An extremely capable organizer, but likely to paint with broad strokes rather than detail. You are very aware and intuitive. You are subject to a good deal of nervous tension.

[1]What Does Your Birth Date Mean?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatdoesyourbirthdatemeanquiz/

7.5.7 a little closer than the last one... (2005-05-16 14:49)

You Are A Fig Tree

[fig-tree.jpg]

You are very independent and strong minded. A hard worker when you want to be, you play hard too. You are honest and loyal. You hate contradiction or arguments. You love life, and you live for your friends, children, and animals. A great sense of humor, artistic talent, and intelligence are all gifts you possess.

[1]What is Your Celtic Horoscope?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/celtichoroscopes/

7.5.8 interesting... (2005-05-16 14:51)

You are
[black-and-blue.gif]

[1]What Rejected Crayon Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/rejectedcrayonquiz/

7.5.9 last one... (2005-05-16 14:53)

What Your Dreams Mean...
[okay.jpg]

Your dreams seem to show that you're a bit disturbed... but nothing serious. You may have a problem you're trying to work out in your sleep. Overall, you are very content in your life. You have a very vivid imagination and a rich creative mind.

[1]What Do Your Dreams Mean?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatdoyourdreamsmeanquiz/

7.5.10 (2005-05-18 11:36)

Your Linguistic Profile:

50% General American English
30% Dixie
20% Yankee
0% Midwestern

0% Upper Midwestern

[1]What Kind of American English Do You Speak?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/amenglishdialecttest/

7.5.11 another day closer to summer school starting (2005-05-19 13:57)

Well, it's definitely been an interesting week so far. Mom definitely knows how to keep me busy ;-) I've been able to get some good wakeboarding in which is always a plus. All-in-all pretty decent.

Went for a run this morning which almost killed me. I still made my 2 mile loop without stopping and I felt fine cardiovascularly, but my quads were really starting to get tight. Fatty is out of shape!

Had a long talk last night with Alana about relationship stuff but nothing I really feel like typing out on here.

It is looking to be a pretty busy weekend. I am thinking of running to asheville tomorrow to see JD and friends then heading to bristol after that. I have a funeral to go to at 2 on saturday, then a marina meeting at 5 then a wedding reception (since I'll probably miss the 5:30 wedding) to go to after that. Busy busy saturday! Nothing else planned that I know of other than I promised my mom I would power wash the brick sometime this weekend.

I think I have my summer class schedule pretty set but I still have to register for the classes on monday but if I register early I don't think there should be an issue with me getting the classes I want. Then classes start up tuesday. Fun fun stuff!! With all the stuff mom has been getting me to do we were joking about how it is going to be a break when classes start up because I won't be as busy. :-) Well, I am picking up lunch and bringing it to alana at three so I should do a couple more things around here then get on that. Until next time...

7.5.12 first day of summer classes! (2005-05-24 15:00)

woohoo. I am pumped. no really. like really pumped. like, sooooooooo excited. uh huh. My first class is going to be brutal. Not only is it at 8 in the morning, but it's going to move way slow because it is geared for the mathematically inept (it's intro to Statistics) and the teacher isn't exactly speedy. It took us 80 minutes today to go over the syllabus. Brutal. The hardest part is going to be motivation to go. There is no attendance policy and it is basically the same subject that helped Alana with last semester so it is going to be crazy easy. I guess things could be worse.

My second class should be a lot more interesting. It'll be really nice as soon as I am actually registered for it. I've had to jump through hoops left and right to get it done but I think I submitted the last of my paperwork today so it should be taken care of soon. It's Psychology Research Methods which will probably have some redundance with my previous research methods classes, but it will be some new stuff too. McElroy is the teacher and I have had him before and he is a pretty fun guy. Should definitely be interesting.

I'd say the only REAL bad thing about my classes is that I have group projects in both of them. In the psychology class it won't be bad because we are doing a small study together which will have a write-up

and everything. That should be fun. In statistics we are going to have a statistically related project, with groups of 3-5 people, and it had to be at least 3 FRICKIN' PAGES!! How are we supposed to split a 3 page paper between three people, much less 5? I mean seriously. I am going to be really tempted to just do the thing one night then show it to my group and say "how does this look?" and just hope they go with it. That is way too little work to spread over a group that size. Jeepers.

On another academic note, I actually started reading over some operating systems yesterday and I plan to look over even more tonight! :-O I know I know, crazy studying for a test 3 days in advance, huh? But when you are basically taking a final in 4 subjects back-to-back, of which I had one this past semester, two the semester before that, and 1 (the hardest in my opinion) the semester before THAT, you gotta start a little earlier than normal. I am not worried about Architecture, I need to do some reviewing of Software Engineering and Algorithms, but not too worried about those either. My main barrier will be Operating Systems. The good thing is that if I pass the first three and don't pass OS, I retake just the OS part at the end of the summer. Not that I want to do that. I would much rather just get it all done at once. We shall see. I got a lot of OS to learn in these next few days. :-)

7.5.13 Stolen from Amanda, likely to get stolen by Adam (2005-05-24 15:22)

Hand-Raiser

You are 85 % Rational, 57 % Extroverted, 42 % Brutal, and 42 % Arrogant.
You are the Hand-Raiser, that annoying kid in class who always had an answer for everything. No doubt, as a child you probably sat in the front of the class, anxiously waving your hand back and forth in the air while your teacher desperately tried to avoid calling on you because you were the ONLY fucking kid that answered her questions. Clearly, the key traits of your personality are your rationality and your extroversion. You are like a little talkative calculator, in other words. You also tend to be rather gentle and less arrogant than most people. So what is your defect, then? Well, you're boring, and when you're not boring, you are just plain annoying with your ultra-logical responses and constant need to talk to others. So keep waving that hand in the air, son. I'm still not calling on you. You are too logical, you talk too much, and your humility and gentleness only makes me hate you more, because they make me feel like I almost SHOULDN'T hate you. But I do. Big time.

To put it less negatively:

1. You are more RATIONAL than intuitive.
2. You are more EXTROVERTED than introverted.
3. You are more GENTLE than brutal.
4. You are more HUMBLE than arrogant.

Compatibility:

Your exact opposite is the [1]Brute.
Other personalities you would probably get along with are the [2]Braggart, the [3]Haughty Intellectual, and the [4]Robot.

If you scored near fifty percent for a certain trait (42 %-58 %), you could very well go either way. For example, someone with 42 % Extroversion is slightly leaning towards being an introvert, but is close enough to being an extrovert to be classified that way as well. Below is a list of the other personality types so that you can determine which other possible categories you may fill if you scored near fifty percent for certain traits.

The other personality types:

[5]The Emo Kid: *Intuitive, Introverted, Gentle, Humble.*
[6]The Starving Artist: *Intuitive, Introverted, Gentle, Arrogant.*
[7]The Bitch-Slap: *Intuitive, Introverted, Brutal, Humble.*

[8]The Brute: *Intuitive, Introverted, Brutal, Arrogant.*
[9]The Hippie: *Intuitive, Extroverted, Gentle, Humble.*
[10]The Televangelist: *Intuitive, Extroverted, Gentle, Arrogant.*
[11]The Schoolyard Bully: *Intuitive, Extroverted, Brutal, Humble.*
[12]The Class Clown: *Intuitive, Extroverted, Brutal, Arrogant.*
[13]The Robot: *Rational, Introverted, Gentle, Humble.*
[14]The Haughty Intellectual: *Rational, Introverted, Gentle, Arrogant.*
[15]The Spiteful Loner: *Rational, Introverted, Brutal, Humble.*
[16]The Sociopath: *Rational, Introverted, Brutal, Arrogant.*
[17]The Hand-Raiser: *Rational, Extroverted, Gentle, Humble.*
[18]The Braggart: *Rational, Extroverted, Gentle, Arrogant.*
[19]The Capitalist Pig: *Rational, Extroverted, Brutal, Humble.*



[20]The Smartass: *Rational, Extroverted, Brutal, Arrogant.*

My test tracked 4 variables How you compared to other people *your age and gender*:

[21]free online dating [22]free online dating You scored higher than 75% on Rationality[23] free online dating [24]free online dating You scored higher than 59% on Extroversion[25] free online dating [26]free online dating You scored higher than 48% on Brutality[27] free online dating [28]free online dating You scored higher than 44% on ArroganceLink: [29]The Personality Defect Test written by [30]saint_gasoline on [31]OkCupid Free Online Dating

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[32] You are Amiga OS. Ahead of your time. You keep a lot of balls in the air. If only your parents had given you more opportunities to suceed.
Which OS are You?

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[33] You are .dll You are dynamic. You are constantly in danger of bringing down the house, because you don't play well with others.

Which File Extension are You?

1. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/describescore?testid=4741219933576750506&score0=0&score1=0&score2=100&score3=100
2. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/describescore?testid=4741219933576750506&score0=100&score1=100&score2=0&score3=100
3. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/describescore?testid=4741219933576750506&score0=100&score1=0&score2=0&score3=100
4. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/describescore?testid=4741219933576750506&score0=100&score1=0&score2=0&score3=0
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30. http://www.okcupid.com/profile?tuid=1566642811609810544
31. http://www.okcupid.com/
32. http://bbspot.com/News/2003/01/os_quiz.php
33. http://www.bbspot.com/News/2004/10/extension_quiz.php

7.5.14 Welp, it's thursday (2005-05-26 07:28)

Comprehensives are tomorrow!!! I was up til about 1:45 last night getting my stupid statistics homework done and trying to finish up some psych stuff so I don't have to worry about it this afternoon and I can dedicate this afternoon to studying. The last about three nights I have been going to bed around 1:30 and waking up at 6:45 and I feel fine now, but hopefully it will help me get a good nights sleep tonight. I definitely shouldn't have problems falling asleep (not that tests usually cause me to not be able to sleep anyhoo). I'm not too worried. Like I said in my previous post, I would really like to pass all 4 sections on the first try but we do get a second chance on any that we screw up so if I mess one up it isn't the end of the world. I basically need to do some light algorithms review, light software engineering review, really like Architecture review and some crazy operating systems review. fun fun fun. Well, it's about time to head to class to be bored out of my mind for a couple of hours then a little break before I do some fun psych stuff then it is study time!! It's going to be so nice to have the comps behind me. I know I'll need a break (or 5) later so maybe I will give a little study update. I'm sure everyone is pumped.

7.5.15 Comprehensives roundup (2005-05-27 13:20)

So today was my comprehensive exams for my master's program. We have 4 core topics; Software Engineering, Computer Architecture, Algorithms, and Operating Systems. So bascially we are taking 4 back-to-back final exams in each of these subjects. Sounds like fun doesn't it??

Well I go in and start at 9. They give out all 4 tests so you have plenty of freedom about what you want to do when. I like getting into one frame of mind and sticking with it so I just did the tests sequentially. I'm the same way during any test. I have never been one to skip problems I don't really know and come back (except in extreme cases). It probably helps that I have always been a fast test taker so time has rarely been an issue.

I started with the Algorithms exam. Couple things I was a little unsure of, but I am almost positive I got partial credit on those so I am not really worried about that one.

The next was software engineering. There were a couple things where we had to make diagrams and I am pretty sure I left out a couple of elements, but overall I felt pretty solid with the test. (two down, about 1:40 into the test and we have 6 hours total)

So then I head to Architecture. I wasn't worried about architecture at all but I probably should have been a little more worried because there were a couple things that I know I knew, but were a little foggy so I could have made some little errors on them. Overall it still felt pretty solid though. (three tests down, about 2:45 into it. Feeling pretty good)

Then comes Operating Systems. Holy $@ #@!! Ok, so if he had asked me some questions straight from old tests, I would have been golden, but you can guess what I am about to say.... he didn't. It sucked. I

definitely thought I had a lot more of OS down pat than I did. I was most worried about this one since it was LAST spring that I took the course so I have had over a year for my brain to purge all that information. And purge it it did. I felt so brainless working through the OD test. I just rambled about nothing on half the questions. I feel pretty confident that I didn't pass that one.

The GOOD thing is that if I don't pass OS (not really worried about the other three) I get to retake it at the end of the summer. The coolest part is that if I passed the other three sections, I only have to take OS at the end of summer so I can focus entirely on that and not have to worry about the other things. I really would've liked to get it all done in one fell swoop, but I feel that's unlikely. Oh well. If I had dedicated another hour or two to OS I think I would have been ok. I know a lot of the basics, but my mind just blanked when I started trying to think of details and it seemed details were a lot of what he wanted. We shall see though. Maybe something popped out on the paper that will give me enough credit to pass it. (not likely, but nothing's impossible :-)) At the very least it feels good to have it done. And of course it was quick too. Everyone that had taken it talked about how the hardest part was the time constraint but I finished with over two hours to spare. I would've finished earlier if I had known more OS but I sat there thinking a lot for those trying to conjure something up from my unconscious. Now it's time to relax for a bit with a non-alcoholic beer (it's all I got) then get some cleaning done around the apartment. Now the true summer relaxation begins. :-)

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theurbanchico (2005-05-27 15:09:57)
I agree whole-heartedly about that OS exam. Where in the hell did he pull that out of?!? I feel pretty good about the other three though... Actually, I thought Algorithms was a bit too easy. Software engineering was good, there was one page in my test from your textbook that I had no clue about, but I think I figured it out. Then there was Architecture....if I didn't pass, it I just missed it. I got the BTB stuff right just by guessing, and that Tomasulo problem was straight off of last years final...other than that I feel pretty good about it. We'll see how it went in about a week I guess. It just feels good to be done.

7.5.16 Awesome Memorial Day Weekend (2005-05-31 18:45)

This past weekend was a blast. I headed over to bristol friday afternoon then Nathan and Andy got there. Andy is our accountant's son and Nathan is his nephew and they live in Nashville (where my sister will be this fall) so we wanted to meet them in the hopes that they would be cool folks for Lauren to hang out with. She didn't actually get to meet them because she had exams on saturday and they had to leave saturday afternoon.

So friday evening we head out to the lake to hang out for a bit. At first it was just Mom, Nathan, Andy and me (dad was at a meeting in TX). Then mom headed back to the house and JD's friend Clayton arrived. Then came the weird part. JD and Colin got there and when they came in the door Colin was like "Nathan? Andy? What's up!!?" They apparently had known each other for years. It was just kinda freaky. So then a little later Alana got there with her friend Kadie. Everyone got along really well and we had a good night at the lake.

Woke up saturday with plans of getting on the lake early but it was a little rainy so mom and dad came out and we had some lunch first. Taught Andy and Nathan how to wakeboard which was cool. Also taught Colin and Clayton as well. We had like 10 people in the boat so of course the wake was ENORMOUS! It was crazy big. I didn't go long because mom has never driven the boat much and there were some dumbasses who apparently thought it was synchronized boating day. Bobby got there around 12 but Erin couldn't come because she had to work. Headed back to the house so some folks could shower, saw andy and Nathan off,

then greeted my sister and Courtney when they got to Bristol then headed back out to the lake. Lauren and Courtney decided to stay at the lake with us, but I think our crazy crowd was a little too much for them. :-) Another great night at the lake.

Sunday we got up and had some food and got out on the lake not too late. Bobby left before anyone was getting up because he wanted to get home early (he was originally planning on going home saturday night). It started actually getting a little crowded in the afternoon, but it was still ridiculously sparse for Memorial Day weekend. I guess the cool temps and cloudiness scared everyone away. Originally Alana and I thought we might head back sunday afternoon, but we just decided to skip our 8 o'clock classes so we could stay the night. Clayton had to head back to Greenville because he had to work monday (furman nazis) but we had a good evening again. Played some video games, did some fishing, all good stuff.

Had an alarm set early monday morning, but it didn't go off. Luckily I woke up at 7:45 so I still made it out in plenty of time but I was quite a bit more rushed than I would have liked to be. Alana and Kadie left right before me and we left JD and Colin to lock up. Got back just in time to use the real toilet, shower, finish my homework, and head to class. It was awesome, but it was definitely an exhausting weekend.

I guess that about sums it up. Hopefully we can get a lot of those guys out there again soon. My main project since I have been back has been to get and set up a new printer. Got the new printer yesterday (nothing fance) then I got the print server today to try to set up so we could print from any of our computers. The first one I got acted like it had been used and returned because it didn't show up as an unconfigured print server and the password wasn't the default. So I took it back and got a new one. This one seemed to set up fine. I could access it from my computer and get it to print a test page, but I got an error when I tried to print from a normal application. So I found that Linksys has this cool service on their website where it opens a live chat with a tech support person (just like IM'ing them) which I thought was a really cool idea. We went through some things that fixed nothing then they said to just try a reinstall of the print server drivers and that worked. I was kinda excited. Then I put the software on my laptop and I wirelessly printed to our printer. Then I was REALLY excited. :-) I got it set up on Alana's computer too so now we can work on our laptops in the living room then print what we were working on without having to email it to ourselves and then pull it up on another computer. How snazzy is that!? I thought it was way snazzy.

Well that project pretty much consumed my afternoon so there is basically no chance that I will be exercising today. I just lose all motivation when it gets this late. I am not going to my 8 tomorrow so I am just going to get up at the same time and go for a run before class which actually works a lot better for me because I hate showering more than once in a day and I don't want to go to class stinky. I will probably take it pretty easy because Keith and I may get out on the river tomorrow for a little bit. I have a kayak of JD's little brother and I want to try it out. It's more of a playboat than mine is and Alana's birthday present to me is likely going to be a portion of the kayak. Should be pretty cool!

Well I think that hoss entry about sums everything up. I have a test thursday and friday this week. It's crazy how fast summer session is. I guess I should be looking over stuff.... oh wait.... neither of them are tomorrow! ;-) hehehe off to relax and wait for Alana to get off work at 8 so I can feed my fat self. :-)

7.6 June

7.6.1 woohoo!! (2005-06-01 12:45)

I found out I passed all my comps!! So just the thesis and I am done! Man, I musta really pulled that OS out of my ass. I was almost positive that I didn't pass. That was definitely a pleasant surprise though! :-)

theurbanchico (2005-06-01 14:43:03)
I definately pulled that OS exam out of my ass. I have no idea how in the hell I passed that thing...

(2005-06-09 07:54:22)
YAY SWEETIE! I'm so proud of you! :) btw, you should never bet me anything expensive EVER again. Especially when the bet is about your ability to make a good grade. DURR!

7.6.2 Man, I feel old... (2005-06-05 22:02)

Mainly because of last night, but I will start after my last post. Thursday Keith and I decided to go kayaking so I could try out the Big EZ that I am thinking about buying from JD's brother Adam. It's much more of a playboat than my Stikine so if I get it it will be a lot of fun to have a boat I can start learning some tricks on. Anyhoo... We start down the river then Keith has a really bad feeling in the pit of his stomach so we pull out and drive down to Watauga lake and play around on it for a while. The Big EZ is definitely going to take some getting used to because it has an entirely different feel than the Stikine. Just paddling around in flat water (fairly flat I guess, there was some hella wind chop) helped me get the feel of it a lot. I start playing around and throwing some mini-enders which was fun. After Alana got off work we had a wonderful mexican meal that just knocked me out. I could have gone to bed as soon as we got home at like 10. I ended up kinda napping on the couch til 11 then I had to work on my stupid stats homework and try to study a little and didn't finish until about 1 AM.

Friday was pretty chill. Went to class. Took my stats test. Couple of questions were kinda outta left field, but I don't think I did very poorly. I figure if my grade is less than I would like I might think about attending class occasionally, but we will just have to see. That class is SO boring!! AFter class I started watching some TV and felt a little sleepy so I started watching in the bedroom and ended up just passing out for a few hours. Alana woke me at 3 and I was practically in a coma. It was the first nap I had had in a long time.

Saturday we got up and headed to greenville. We got to test out Alana's new GPS thingie which was pretty cool and it took us straight to Sunrift. We got to talk to Frost for a bit and I saw another old Furman alum and we got Alana an outfit for graduation and we also got her a paddle and a cheapo nylon skirt so we can take the Stikine and the Big EZ to the lake and she can paddle around with me. Should be fun!! Joined my fam for an early dinner then hung out with them until graduation. Graduation was the same ol' same ol'. Took some pictures. Afterwards we met up with Lauren, went back to her apartment so she could change, and took the shuttle to the shindig downtown. Lauren was pretty chill so we just chilled for a bit and enjoyed some food and beer then took the shuttle back to Furman and crashed soon thereafter.

Today we got up and helped Lauren pack up and move out of her apartment then we came back to boone. I think Alana's GPS got mad at us because we took an exit to go to subway and so we didn't listen to her for a couple of miles. So after we got back on the interstate our directions had changed and she took us this crazy back way to boone. It ended up working out though, because we drove right by Linville Falls (which is somewhere we have wanted to go for a while) so we stopped and hiked around the falls for a bit which was fun. The GPS proceeded to take us the crazy back way (including a couple miles of dirt roads) but got us back to boone safe and sound and it has been a relaxing afternoon/evening since. I have some work I could be doing, but I'm not super motivated so I don't know how much I will be getting done. Time will tell. :-)

7.6.3 grrrrrrrrrreat weekend!! :-) (2005-06-12 19:40)

Last week was pretty uneventful. Nothing too special. The weekend was awesome though. Went to bristol friday, had dinner with mom and dad and of course Alana on friday night and all four of us spent the night at the lake. Saturday morning a family friend, Doug, came out with a friend of his and we went out wakeboarding. A little later Doug's girlfriend and parents came out and we all had dinner and went out for another wakeboarding session. So I boarded a lot and was pretty sore this morning. So I decided to add to it by going kayaking on the French Broad with JD and Clayton. It was pretty much my first time in the Big EZ (A playboat) on a river and a river that was substantially more difficult than the section of the watauga that Keith and I run. Clayton and JD both gave me some really good pointers and being on that river helped me A LOT with getting the feel of things and being able to know what a rapid is going to do before I hit it instead of just hitting it and reacting. I am also improving on my roll as well. I did end up swimming three times, but I managed to roll back up about 4 or 5 other times so I was pretty stoked about that. It was a blast, but the last couple of rapids were a little rough because I was completely beat. Near the end of the last rapid I rolled, but then I rolled back up so I was pretty excited because that was a good way for me to end the day. Maybe next time I can bring a camera and get some pictures of me, or at least of the rapids I hit.

Now Alana is making me dinner and I am just going to try to not move for a while then maybe I will do some schoolwork later, but we'll just see how awake I can stay. :-)

Kayaking rocks!!

7.6.4 something ridiculous I just heard... (2005-06-13 17:09)

I heard the House just passed a law setting the maximum fine for saying the word "fuck" on the radio to $500,000. I think this is completely ridiculous. What makes this even more ridiculous you ask? I'll tell you. Do you know what the maximum fine is for testing pesticides on human beings? $500,000. You could pay just as much for saying a single curse word on the radio as you could for TESTING PESTICIDES ON HUMAN BEINGS?? What the hell is wrong with this country? I mean seriously. What is making these asses so conservative and stupid? I think we just need to get rid of everyone in politics and start over because we have definitely been screwing it up so far. Just make me dictator and everything will be taken care of. :-) STUPID POLITICIANS AND CONSERVATIVE PEOPLE!!

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lillibullero (2005-06-13 21:19:56)
Eh, i've heard stupider... but personally, if i have my kids in the car and we are jammin to some awesome song on the radio and the dj comes back on air and is like "well FUCK!" i would be totally offended and wouldnt want to have to explain that one to my children... but thats just me. Oh, and he's innocent... if you didnt know already, hehe.

fincher69 (2005-06-14 10:53:16)
I'm not complaining about the idea of a fine for using profanity. I completely agree that DJ's shouldn't be able to just spout off whatever they want. It was more the fact that one word could cost you as much as human chemical testing. That's what I thought was ludicrous.

21chapters (2005-06-14 01:23:22)
...i got fired for saying the word "damn" and not at anyone, just to myself. i was on the sales floor and there were no customers for miles. but my bitchy co-worker who is 23 ran off and tattled on me. i lost my job for saying damn. *shakes head*

fincher69 (2005-06-14 10:54:33)
DAMN! that sucks. On the sales floor is a whole 'nother issue too. I mean, how often to you have thousands of people within earshot of you? Seriously.

tattermask (2005-06-17 05:18:06) fire the gov't and start over?
AMEN. I'm not a fan of radical conservatism. That's why I don't vote republican... I think politicians often lose sight of what really matters... though democrats do it, too... however from my observation it's less often. I mean, after all, the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal? That wasn't anybody's business but theirs and the republicans blew it out of proportion. Maybe he avoided the question and omitted info, but the fact of the matter (to me) is that the question shouldn't have been asked in the first place. Clinton lies about hanky-panky with an intern and practically gets impeached, but Bush lied about his intentions for invading Iraq and the American people just sit in front of the dummy box and say, "OKAY!" ??!!!?? WTF?! Yah, let's fire the whole gov't and start over. amanda

7.6.5 yep,.. it's tuesday (2005-06-14 19:31)

I don't really have anything to say on here but I am bored and I don't really feel like studying so I figured I would pop on and write something. I wish I lived closer to a river like the french broad. That was awesome! The watauga is fun, but it isn't exactly super challenging. Better than nothing though. :-)

hmmm... I can't really think of anything else to write about. I should probably have done something physical today, but i'm still feeling a little beat from this past weekend. I might go kayaking with keith tomorrow so that will be exercise. If not I will definitely have to do some running or at least some DDR.

Well, I guess that's it. Back to some CSI and a little studying. :-)

7.6.6 little post before bed time (2005-06-20 00:40)

Not a heckuva lot to say. Had fun paddling the watauga on wednesday (though I DEFINITELY need to be more conscious of wearing a rashguard/sunscreen). Hopefully we won't have to keep portaging the clog because that is really annoying. Test on wednesday went fairly well but I won't know how I did in stats until tomorrow morning. Enjoyed being home friday night. Helped my parents set up for the part for Brian and Jessi saturday morning and ran around with little David who can be seen on my [1]MOBLOG. He was super cute. After setting up I headed to Raleigh because it was Alana's birthday. Now she's the big 2-0! Hard to believe I will be 25 in three days. Craziness. Had a wonderful dinner at the melting pot then crashed fairly early because we couldn't find anyone to hang out with. Saw Amy today for lunch then visited the Chapel Hill campus on the way home then had a relaxing evening. Got all my work done not long ago. Hard to believe this is the last week of class. It's definitely flown by! Don't really have a whole lot to do except finish up my psychology paper by thursday and I might actually have to study a little more for my stats final on friday (all depending on how I did on this second test). Well, that about sums up the last week.

OH, one little blurb that I may have mentioned but want to mention again. Wavesport Kayak company rocks! I was trying to find a wavesport sticker for my car and couldn't find one so I found a little feedback thing on their website and I said that they should make more stickers available so I could put them places and a guy emailed me and said "send me your address and I will send you some stickers." How cool is that? I just got them today. I got two stickers that are like 14 inches long, one small "team" sticker, and a pack of like 20 little stickers. I think that is so awesome that I just mentioned wanting to be able to buy stickers and they sent me a bunch for free. That is so cool!! :-) Ok, anyway... now it's time for bed. TO SLEEP!

1. http://fincher69.textamerica.com/

7.6.7 whelp, it's tuesday (2005-06-21 18:05)

Only three more days of classes! It's so crazy how quickly these terms go. I have both finals on friday, and my psych paper is due on thursday so it shouldn't be too bad of a semester finish.

I really need to get working on my thesis. I haven't really done much so far this summer and that is bad. At the very least I need to start working on filling out my forms so I can go ahead and start getting my fall semester situated. Maybe I can work on that some tonight.... hmmmm....

Alana has had a pretty stressful end of semester. She has had a lot of projects and tests and stuff which kinda sucks since she works all the time too.

The rain that was supposed to happend sat-tues didn't so kayaking looks like it won't be happening this week. Bummer. At least lake should be happening this weekend which will be cool.

My sis gets back from her two week trip to europe tomorrow. I can't wait to see her pictures. She should definitely have an assload of them. I know she's been having a blast. Speaking of trips...

Alana and I have been planning a road trip for between Summer I and Summer II to go look at colleges up north. That should definitely be a fun trip. It'll be interesting to check out some other campuses. Oh, which also reminds me I gotta look into retaking the GREs. I also need a study book. My verbal score sucked and I need to bring it up if I am going to be applying to Psychology graduate schools. I'm still undecided on whether I want to do psych or CS. I would really like to do both so I should probably talk to someone about the best way to do that. I would think someone with dual phd's in psych and cs shouldn't have a problem getting a job. :-) Hell, maybe one day I will throw an MBA in there too. Then I would be crazy marketable! :-) Can't argue with that.

Well, I can't think of much else going on that I would like to report. Just chillin and letting the dishwasher work so I figured I'd update. Maybe I'll have some exciting stuff soon.

7.6.8 (2005-06-21 18:37)

```
                        Your #1 Love Type: ENFP

The Inspirer In love, you are passionate and eager to develop a strong
  bond. For you, sex should be playful, creative, and affectionate.
 Overall, you are perceptive and bring out the best in your partner.
However, you tend to hold on to bad relationships after they've turned
                   bad. Best matches: INTJ and INFJ

                        Your #2 Love Type: ENTP

The Visionary In love, you are always trying to improve and grow your
relationship. For you, sex should be a spontaneous adventure. Overall,
 you are magnetic, inspiring, and a charmer. However, you tend to get
 bored and want to change partners frequently. Best matches: INFJ and
                                   INTJ
```

[1]What's Your Love Type?

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and this is kinda appropriate since tomorrow's my birthday :-)

In 1980 (the year you were born)
Jimmy Carter is president of the US
President Carter announces punitive measures and embargos against the USSR in retaliation for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan
Mount St. Helens in Washington state erupts in a violent blast estimated to be 500 times as powerful as the Hiroshima atomic bomb
Ronald Reagan is elected the 40th US president in a sweeping victory
US Representative Michael O. Myers is expelled from the House for his role in the Abscam scandal
Hewlett-Packard announces release of its first personal computer
Microsoft announces their version of UNIX, Xenix
Christina Ricci, Chelsea Clinton, Venus Williams, Jessica Simpson, Macaulay Culkin, and Jake Gyllenhaal are born
Philadelphia Phllies win the World Series
Pittsburgh Steelers win Superbowl XIV
New York Islanders win the Stanley Cup
The Empire Strikes Back is the top grossing film
"Lady" by Kenny Rogers spends the most time at the top of the US charts
U.S. viewers get caught up in the "Who Shot J.R.?" cliff hanger on the soap opera series, Dallas, which is solved on a November 21 episode, drawing a record numbers of viewers

[2]
What Happened the Year You Were Born?
More cool things for your blog at
[3]Blogthings

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatsyourdatingtypequiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/yearborn.html
3. http://www.blogthings.com/

7.6.9 Man, I'm old! (2005-06-22 19:01)

Happy birthday to me!! :-) 25, man that sounds old!

And what better way to celebrate than to decide to compete in a "triathlon" in a couple of weeks. :-) It should definitely be interesting, but at least it will be a good motivator to get me into shape. It is part

of a thing called Fun Fest in Kingsport and it will be a 40 mile bike ride in the morning, an undetermined length kayak midday, and an 8k run in the evening. I get like three t-shirts for it too! :-) I am so out of shape so getting into shape enough to do all that in one day should definitely help me lose some of this excess fat. It's lake season dadjummit! I'm supposed to be all ripped and stuff. ;-) hahaha. I say like every season that I am going to buckle down and get in shape, but it's sort of an open goal so I never stick with it. Saying I am going to accomplish this triathlon gives me a much more tangible goal so it should help. Wish me luck! :-)

7.6.10 funny tshirt (2005-06-23 09:44)

I just pulled this t-shirt out of my drawer that I had totally forgotten about and it cracked me up so I thought I would pass it along. (Appropriate since you said you needed a beer Amanda :-))

The Beer Prayer
Our Lager,
Which art in barrels,
Hallowed be thy drink.
Thy will be drunk, (I will be drunk),
At home as in the tavern,
Give us this day our foamy head
And forgive us our spillages,
As we forgive those who spill against us,
And lead us not to incarceration,
But deliver us from hangovers,
For thine is the beer, the bitter and the lager
For ever and ever,
Barmen

---

tattermask (2005-06-23 13:28:49)
HOORAY! Thanks for that ;) ac

7.6.11 training log (2005-06-23 17:19)

I just got back from a run and I was perusing my blog and I just thought it might be a good idea to keep a kind of training log in my blog since I have that triathlon thing coming up. I pretty much started on monday so I will just outline my activities for the previous days up to today then try to update as I go along until the actual event on July 16th.

June 20, 2005 -
Dance Dance Revolution (DDR) - 40 minutes

June 21, 2005 -
Nothing (Bad Justin!)

June 22, 2005 -
DDR - 30 minutes
Stationary Bike - 40 minutes

Rowing Machine - 5 minutes

June 23, 2005 -
Run - 33 minutes

7.6.12 (2005-06-24 15:33)

Done with first summer session, woohoo!! Also talked to my professor and I am going to be a research assistant for the remainder of my tenure at App state. How cool is that? I start second summer session AND I will be taking cognitive psychology second summer as well which should be hella interesting. :-)

Training Log: day of rest (I'm hurting from the past two days) and carbo loading on beer and pizza once I get home :-)

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theurbanchico (2005-06-24 14:45:33)
Research assistant huh? What all does that entail, and yeah, does this mean that you won't be teaching in the Fall??

fincher69 (2005-06-25 20:39:20)
It's basically set up like a class. I get hours of credit, but I'm not on payroll. I will still have 9 CS hours and still keep my assistantship and do my teaching. This'll just be in addition to all that. It's looking right now like I will have 13 hours in the fall. :-)

7.7 July

7.7.1 long time nooooooooooo update! (2005-07-05 13:30)

Man, I just realized how long it had been since I updated on here. It's been a pretty busy break between terms. To start off I made an A- in my stats class that I never attended and an A in my Psychology Research Methods class so I was pretty stoked about that.

Alana and I spent some time on the road over break for sure. Friday after classes we went to bristol (either then or saturday, I can't remember).

Sunday we went with my mom and sister to Nashville to help my sis move in. Had dinner with her roomie Meg, Meg's mom, JD, Stephanie, and Colin and watched some weird old goofy movie, "Science Project." It was fun.

Monday Alana and I drove to State College, PA and looked at Penn State, had a nice dinner at the Olive Garden and crashed. Penn state was really pretty and I liked the feel of State College because it wasn't that big and it was kinda spread out so it didn't feel very cramped which is nice.

Tuesday we drove to Ithaca, NY to check out Cornell. Ithaca was kinda like you packed some urban in a little space then surrounded it with rundown houses so we were less than impressed, though Cornell's campus was beautiful. I liked it a lot. After Cornell we drove to Albany, NY to look at S.U.N.Y. It was a very compact and urban campus, and all the buildings were pretty much interconnected. I usually like things a little more rural, but all-in-all it was a pretty cool campus. We then headed over to Providence, RI (actually Warwick) where we had a wonderful seafood dinner delivered to our room.

Wednesday we drove over to Brown University (in Providence) which I liked a lot. It felt kind of Furmanesque even though it was in a large city like Providence. It also is only like 2.5 times as large as Furman so it was one of the smaller schools we looked at and even though Providence was a pretty large city, it felt liveble, especially if I lived on the other side of the university. From Providence we drove to New Haven, CT to check out Yale. Neither Alana nor I cared for New Haven at all so we pretty much drove through Yale's campus quickly then left. From there we were going to stay in Hershey, PA, but all the rooms were booked so we ended up staying in nearby Harrisburg, PA. We got there early enough for Alana to do some shopping and enjoy the lack of a sales tax on clothes then we had a failed search for a grocery store and ended up having bagel bites from the nearby BP. The room in Harrisburg was awesome. We had a full sized fridge, two eyed stove, dishwasher, hardwood floors in the entrance/kitchen, living room with DVD player and a nice bedroom, all for less than we paid for the room in Providence. Homewood Suites is the BOMB!

Since we only had a like 6-7 hour drive the next day we slept in then drove down to bristol and joined my folks for a dinner cooked by our friend Ron. We had hand rolled tamales and tacos and loads of other stuff and it was awesome. After dinner we headed back to boone because Alana had to be at work on friday.

Friday Alana worked then we went to bristol, had some pizza and headed out to the lake. Pretty much spent the rest of the weekend at the lake which was awesome except for the fact that I sprained my ankle trying a toeside 540 on saturday morning so I am still pretty much out of commission. Still had a blast at the lake though. Later in the weekend, Diana, Heather, and Krassi (friends of Alana's from work) all came up and stayed the rest of the weekend. Altogether it was an awesome time!

Today I have been working on setting up my Mac mini that I got for my birthday because I am transferring all my media over to it and I have to reorganize everything. I still gotta make sure I am set for classes to start up tomorrow. I have Cognitive Psychology which should be really interesting and I have a couple of hours being a research assistant for Dr. McElroy which should be a lot of fun. Well, back to being geeky. That was a helluvan update! :-)

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tattermask (2005-07-07 07:18:01)
So are you guys going for Doctorates? I think I missed something... haha ac

fincher69 (2005-07-11 15:57:02)
Just me. I'm getting my master's now, then on to doctorate work somewhere, in some field! :-)

7.7.2 another week (2005-07-12 16:57)

Well, I have let it go another week without updating. Luckily this past week was fairly uneventful so there isn't a long post coming. Basically just been going to class, trying to heal up this stupid sprained ankle so I can do the triathlon thingie this weekend but it isn't looking good. I have been keeping the brace on it, but it is still a little tender and doesn't like certain movements which kind of kills any training regimen I might have planned. If it is pretty much healed up by saturday I will likely go ahead and go for it (though it may be a little brutal) but if it is bothering me at all I won't push it. It mainly sucks because it was a good motivator to get me out and exercising and then I injure myself. Stupid ankle!! I have my first test tomorrow and I really need to step up my research on my thesis and for the research assistant hours I am enrolled in this session. I've been going to sleep really early so I am going to cut that out so I have a few more hours to do stuff. Hopefully we'll start waking up a little earlier too. Well, I guess I should go do

some reading and maybe look at what dinner might be. Hopefully I will be a little more diligent with these updates as well. :-)

7.7.3 (2005-07-12 17:07)



I am Dr. Weird from Aqua Teen Hunger Force!!
[1]Which Aqua Teen Hunger Force character are you??

1. http://members.aol.com/chrispyk16/Aquateens.html

7.7.4 Gangked from Marcie (2005-07-12 17:09)

I would like anyone and everyone who reads this, to post in here, something you'd like to do with me someday. Then post this in your journal to find out what I want to do with you.

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lillibullero (2005-07-12 21:05:15)
wake boarding sounds good... never done that before. or rock climbing.

7.7.5 ahhhh (2005-07-20 19:37)

Another week goes by...

There really hasn't been a whole lot going on. Trying to get my ankle to heal up. Going to class. In bristol for the weekend. Nothing too crazy to report. I've been having a lot of those days where it comes time to go to bed but I don't really feel like I've accomplished much. Sorta like "where did those hours go?" Not being able to do much of anything physical is really starting to get annoying. I can go lift (which I am going to do tomorrow) but almost all aerobic activity involves my ankle in some way. Dadjum ankle sprains!

Well, I guess that's about it. Nothing further...

7.7.6 The Wedding Crashers (2005-07-22 10:56)

Last night Alana and I went and saw the Wedding Crashers. It was by far the hardest I have laughed at a movie in years. I thought I might be sore today because I laughed so hard. Some of the humor is kinda crude, but all-in-all it was awesome. It definitely made the "it's mine as soon as it hits dvd" list. If you haven't seen it, go now. Why are you still reading? GO SEE IT NOW! :-)

On a side note - Alana and I have been having fun running around trying to get people to fix stuff. Her car was supposed to be fixed but wednesday, but wasn't. Then I called yesterday and they said it was getting painted (it had some body work done) and would be ready today. Low and behold, we go today and they say they missed something and the part won't be here til friday. Needless to say we weren't happy. Not only have we had to wait for a while, but it's more unexpected cost as well. AND they said they tried to call both me and Alana (which is crap, we never turn our phones off) but whether or not that is true, I CALLED YESTERDAY. I talked to the boss lady and she made no mention of it. She just said it was getting painted and would be done today, yet the dude told us they found the problem on wednesday. I'm getting some

nonconcurrent stories here people! Phooey Ford people! Then Alana got a new phone earlier this week and first we couldn't get a hold of her parents, then she went back and got it set up, then her phone wouldn't do video or pics so she had to go back, and finally the bluetooth headset she got wouldn't pair with her phone. Luckily the guy made it work (just poked around until it worked, but we never actually found out why it wasn't working). Now she is at Ford talking to higher powers because of out unpleasant experience.

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theurbanchico (2005-07-22 20:39:50)
So what happened to the 'stang??

fincher69 (2005-07-25 07:09:28)
A girls parking break went out and it rolled acroos the lot into her car. Hit right at the front wheel and they had to do a little work on the door, replace the front quarter panel and get a new strut for the wheel. No fun at all.

7.7.7 ooh ooh, random factoid (2005-07-22 12:32)

I learned in class yesterday that bananas are not actually fruits! weird. A banana is actually an herb (the largest I might add) and is in the same category as garlic. WEIRD!!

OH, AND I just hit 10,000 songs on my computer!! Woohoo!! :-)

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pretty_mercenar (2005-07-22 21:24:59)
Bananas and garlic cousins? o,O That's weird, at least bananas don't give me icky breath :-D

fincher69 (2005-07-25 07:07:42)
My sister and I actually had a big discussion about this and while we are not positive about the "being in the same family as garlic" thing, I did discover and the "fruit" we eat and call a banana is actually a berry and a banana "tree" contains no wood fiber and is actually an herb. So the "tree" is the world's largest herb and we consume its fruit. interesting stuff.

7.7.8 not quite a week this time... (2005-07-27 15:46)

and I am bored so I figured I would update! I didn't do as well as I would have liked on my second psych test, but it was pretty much all due to one essay where I got two concepts confused and completely and thoroughly talked about one when he was asking about the other. Oh well. We have our third test tomorrow. Should be interesting because I hate taking notes but for some reason I did for the first two tests. So I went back to my typical psych style and just stopped taking notes so this third test will be a little more interesting. It's easier for me to pay attention when I am not taking notes and I still have the book to look at.

I'm trying to think if anything else has happened.... I started a new blog to keep track of what I eat. I've heard numerous times that it is good to keep that kind of record to better evaluate what you consume each day (I'm trying to knock of a few or 15 pounds) so we will see how that goes.

I can't believe this is our second to last week of class. I really need to get cracking on getting some forms signed to prepare for my fall semester and I really need to start doing some work on my thesis! I've done some reading and have an idea of the direction I want to take, but I really need to do some more research about work already done in the field.

I'm really ready for my ankle to be healed. It's really annoying having to always wear a brace and not being able to do much of anything physical except lift weights. It's definitely feeling better, but still not 100 %. Hopefully soon!

I have been working almost solely from my mac mini this past week. It's been cool. I have had to evaluate some psych software that forces me to run windows 98 (GROSS) on my main comp so needless to say I have stayed away from that computer whenever possible. This mac stuff is definitely starting to grow on me. I definitely like it a helluva lot better that the last time I played with a mac and I am just NOW getting used to only having one mouse button (though it is still kinda annoying) I haven't given up on Linux by any means, but this has definitely captured 2nd place from Windows.

Well, I guess that's it for now. Nothing else I can really think of to report. :-)

7.7.9 (2005-07-29 01:51)

I was just perusing around and I noticed that my friends page only has 4 entries. I know that I, of all people, have no right to say anything about not making frequent posts, but I wish more of my friends kept a blog. I don't really have many blog buddies and the ones I do have are about as good at updating their blogs as I am. Just wanted to share that thought. I thought of it when I was visiting with my friend Heather who is in town and realized I had almost no idea what's been going on with her the past year. Now if she was an lj friend I would have known! I mean, I love my lj friends, but the more the merrier, right? I want more lj friends dadjummit! :-)

7.7.10 more friends..... kinda (2005-07-29 10:54)

Well to partially remedy my lack of lj friends I just decided to add a couple of my favorite communities that I am part of to my friends list. So while these people are not my close friends, at least they will be kayakers and wakeboarders which makes them friends to me! :-) If more friends start lj'ing maybe they'll fade away, but at least it will liven up my friends page for the time being.

Off to Raleigh for the weekend! :-)

7.8 August

7.8.1 forms forms forms (2005-08-03 20:25)

Had a great weekend in Raleigh. Got to eat California Pizza Kitchen twice and saw two movies and Alana got to see her horsey and ride for a little bit. We saw Mr. and Mrs. Smith (great movie) and The Island (one of the cheesiest movies I have seen in the theatre in a long time).

This is my last week of summer school which is cool. I have my last test tomorrow. Lately I feel like all I have been doing is running around getting forms signed. I think I have like 9 forms to fill out and get signed by various people before my schedule is set. It is extremely annoying. One of my biggest annoyances is the overload forms I have had to fill out every semester. I mean a full load for a grad student is only 9 hours. 9 frickin hours! That isn't that bad. Yet to take an undergrad psych course (giving me 13 hours) I must run around and get signatures of the head of the department and the dean. I mean seriously. This is my seventh year of collegiate work. You would think that by now I would know what kind of course load

I could handle and what I can't. Just let me sign up for whatever I want dammit! To top it off, my thesis advisor emailed me and asked if I was being overambitious with my 13 WHOLE HOURS I want to take this fall. I ended up writing a paragraph justifying it, hopefully not too blunt. I should have just replied with "no" and left it at that. Let me settle my own damn schedule and don't make me run around and get 3 forms signed for everything I want to do. Seriously!!!

Ok, enough of that rant. I have been trying to organize my sources some for my thesis stuff since I meet with my advisor to talk about it on friday. Haven't gotten near as much done on it this summer as I would have liked. I can't believe there are less than 3 weeks before fall term starts. That sucks. I am really going to have to buckle down during my time between terms and hopefully I won't have any additional trouble getting everything settled.

I am definitely one of those people who have a hard time working on projects early. It's bad enough knowing I have a few months before my thesis is due, but it makes it even worse knowing that I am staying through next spring anyway for psych classes so if something happened and I was unable to finish my thesis by the deadline, it would be easily finishable by the end of the semester and I would just have my defense in the spring instead of the fall. I know that's a bad attitude but that is just one of the first things that pops in my mind. Bad Justin!!

Well I guess I should get back to doing some reading then maybe preparing a little for my psych exam tomorrow. Then more reading tonight so I actually have something to report when I meet with my advisors. Craziness!!

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lillibullero (2005-08-16 08:14:29)
I thought I was the only one who thought the Island was cheesy! I'm very glad someone else out there did too!

7.8.2 too lazy to type too much (2005-08-13 00:47)

Been a fun week. Spent the weekend at the lake and got to hang out with some old family friends and some new friends. Got to hang out with Andy, Frost and his girlfriend at the lake tuesday and wednesday which was a blast. Helped mom move stuff to Nashville to my sister's apartment thursday. Took it easy today, got all my contacts from my phone typed into my computer which was cool. Tomorrow we head to knoxville for JD and Stephanie's wedding. Yet ANOTHER wedding. geesh. It will be cool to see some people I haven't seen in a while. Then one more week off before classes start back up. YAY! It's not going to be that "off" because I have work to do on my thesis and on my psychology research stuff, but it will still be fairly relaxing. Ok, done typing.

7.8.3 another great wedding weekend (2005-08-15 11:53)

Well saturday we drove up to knoxville to watch J.D. and Stephanie get married. Jamie's first flight was cancelled but her parents drove her to Charlotte so she still made her connection. Picked her up from the airport and went straight to the airport. It was raining most of the evening but it was an indoor wedding and reception so it didn't really affect much. The ceremony was good (only 25 minutes!) and we had a blast at the reception. Our hotel room was a nice extended room with a balcony, though it was kinda odd because it was a share balcony so we could walk out and go knock on our neighbors' door. We had the post-reception party at our room and I think everyone cleared out around 4ish. Tons of fun. Got up and took Jamie to the airport in the morning, then returned to relax a little before heading back to boone. Took it easy yesterday

evening and slept like a rock last night. I'm trying to get a little work done on my thesis stuff this afternoon, but knowing me it will not happen much until later tonight. I need to do some cleaning too. And run a few errands. Maybe I'll do that now. What a great way to start my last week before classes start :-)

7.8.4 long ass quiz stolen from Adam (who finally posted SOMETHING in his blog ;-) (2005-08-16 14:01)

Weird how it messes up the formatting like that. Oh well.

```
                Advanced Global Personality Test Results

Extraversion     |||||||||||||||||| 73%
Stability        |||||||||||||||||| 73%
Orderliness      ||||||||||         33%
Altruism         ||||||||||         36%
Interdependence  ||||||             23%
Intellectual     |||||||||||||||||| 76%
Mystical         ||||||||||||||     56%
Artistic         ||||||||||||||||   70%
Religious        ||||||             23%
Hedonism         ||||||||||||||||   70%
Materialism      ||||||             23%
Narcissism       ||||||||||||||||   63%
Adventurousness  |||||||||||||||||| 76%
Work ethic       ||||||||||||       43%
Self absorbed    ||||||||||||       43%
Conflict seeking ||||||||||||||||   70%
Need to dominate ||||||||||||||||   70%
Romantic          ||||||||||           36%
Avoidant          ||||||               30%
Anti-authority    ||||||||||||||||     70%
Wealth            ||||||||||||||||     63%
Dependency        ||||||               30%
Change averse     ||||||               23%
Cautiousness      ||||||||||           36%
Individuality     |||||||||||||||||||| 83%
Sexuality         ||||||||||||||||||   76%
Peter pan complex ||||||||||||||||||   76%
Physical security |||||||||||||||||||| 83%
Physical Fitness  ||||||||||           37%
Histrionic        ||||||||||||         43%
Paranoia          ||||||||||           36%
Vanity            ||||||||||||||||     63%
Hypersensitivity  ||||||               23%
Female cliche     ||||||               30%
```

[1]Take Free Advanced Global Personality Test
[2]personality tests by similarminds.com

1. http://similarminds.com/global-adv.html
2. http://similarminds.com/

7.8.5 boredom (2005-08-19 13:11)

I'm bored so I thought I would do one of those posts where I shuffle my mp3's then post a list of what played. Here are the 20...

1. The New Kid In Town - The Eagles
2. Prologue (the Carl Cox & Paul Van Dyke mix) - Tenth Chapter
3. Noble Stabbings!! - Dillinger Four
4. You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling
5. The Love Song - Marilyn Manson
6. Breathing - Lifehouse
7. Gene Machine - Urge
8. There Is A Reason - Allison Krauss and Union Station
9. I Feel So Bad - Elvis Presley
10. Criminal - Eminem
11. I Should Have Known Better - The Beatles
12. Little One - Beck
13. Warehouse - Dave Matthews Band
14. Unhappy - Outkast
15. I'm A Boy - The Who
16. Twinkle Twinkle Little Star - The Chipmunks
17. The Torch - Dropkick Murphys
18. I'm Not Driving Anymore - Rob Dougan
19. Concerto Grosso No. 5 in D, Op. 6 (I. Larghetto) - Southwest German Chamber Orchestra
20. Complicato in Israel - David Helfgott

There, now wasn't that fun!

7.8.6 great weekend (2005-08-24 10:09)

Had a blast this weekend. hung out at the lake the whole time. Couldn't have asked for a much better way to spend the last weekend before classes started.

Friday Adam and Beth came up with us and spent the night. Had fun playing some card games and fishing and drinking.

Saturday Jamie, Wil, Lauren, Corey, Anna, and George all came up. Unfortunately Beth wasn't feeling well so Adam and Beth had to go back to boone and Corey lost a contact and forgot his meds for his eye infection so he and Lauren ended up needing to head back as well. George was Wil's friend from high school and he was pretty cool. Very chill hippy kinda guy. The rest of us had a blast and Anna, George and I didn't crash until about 4 am.

Sunday the folks brought us lunch and we chilled as people trickled home then we went back to the house to grab some things and headed back to boone.

Took it easy on monday, other than running around getting forms signed and having my assistantship meeting.

Yesterday we started classes. I really like my biopsych professor and I think it's going to be a really cool class. My 1410 class I teach mon/wed has 29 folks so it's a big one but it should be cool.

Today I have data mining at 11 and teach my small class (7 kids) and that's it so that's pretty cool. I have my schedule organize kinda like last semester where monday and tuesday are pretty long, but it tapers off pretty quickly to where I only have one class at 11 on fridays which is nice. I'm going to need all the time I can get to work on my thesis this semester. Should be pretty intense!!

Well I think that's about all for now.

7.8.7 chillin (2005-08-30 16:53)

kinda bored at home in the rainstorm so i figured I would make a little post. Had a blast of a weekend. Hung out at the library a bit and went for a hike along a stream and took some pictures. Second week of class starting up yesterday! I really need to get kickin on this thesis stuff! In due time I guess. :-) My lectures have been going well but since this is the first term that I have had two sections to teach I find myself getting a little confused about what I said to which class. I'm sure it'll work out fine. Well, back to enjoying the rain!

7.8.8 yet another quiz thingie stolen from adam (2005-08-31 09:41)

```
What Icons are for you?(Thank you for #1!! Please check out my other
                    Memes!!) by [1]ladyallie
                  Username ____________________
               Favourite Colour ____________________
                        Sex [Male.......]
                 Your Love icon is... [love16.gif]
                  Your Sad Icon is... [sad15.gif]
                 Your Happy Icon is... [happy4.jpg]
                Your Angry Icon is... [angry11.gif]
                  Your Food Icon is... [food6.jpg]
                Your Animal Icon is... [animal2.jpg]
                Your Random Icon is... [random3.png]
               Your Cartoon Icon is... [cartoon6.jpg]
                  Your Sexy Icon is... [sexy7.gif]
                 Fill Out Your Answers and Try it!
                   [2]Quiz created with MemeGen!
```

1. http://www.sugar-craze.net/
2. http://memegen.net/

7.8.9 religious wackos suck (2005-08-31 19:58)

I was just thinking today that I have mentioned several times in my blog "hanging out at the library" but have yet to elaborate about where I have actually been hanging out. The library is a new restaurant in Boone. It's great. Adam and I have been spending a lot of time there. Mostly we go for the trivia. We signed up for a thing called players where we accumulate points and currently we are numbers 1 and 2 on the library [1]high score list. My handle is Jager (surprise surprise). Thus, we have been doing our best to lengthen our lead. :-) One reason I mention this now is that I found out some religious conservative loony group is protesting them next friday. The reason for the protest is the uniform of the waitresses. They all wear plaid "schoolgirl" skirts, white shirts, and knee-high white socks. Apparently this is too sexy or something. Adam and I have already decided we have to go there and support the library and laugh at the protesters. I mean seriously, mind your own business! If you don't like it, don't go to the restaurant. No one is making you go and it isn't like they are running around nekkid. Geesh!! I'll be sure to post and let everyone know how it goes. :-) ok, back to chillin!

PS
Gas prices suck!!! I wish my disco was a hybrid!

1. http://www.ntn.com/hospitality_tech/players_corner/site.asp?id=21777

7.9 September

7.9.1 just remembered something I tried to do... (2005-09-01 09:48)

I remember a while ago saying I was going to post in my blog more often by posting stories of interest that I found. Well that sure didn't last long. Anyhoo, I saw [1]this story and thought I should post it because I thought it was cool. Basically these scientists have engineered a mouse that can regenerate almost any body part (except brain tissue). How snazzy is that!? I thought it was way cool and just wanted to share. :-)

1. http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,16417002%255E30417,00.html

7.9.2 quiz stolen from amanda (2005-09-02 09:19)

I took this cool nerd, dork, or geek test that I stole from Amanda, but since it puts the results in a table it makes the text black which makes it a LITTLE hard to read on my blog. So if you are curious you can

```
                        Pure Geek
                43 % Nerd, 52% Geek, 17% Dork
                      For The Record:
     A Nerd is someone who is passionate about learning/being
                        smart/academia.
 A Geek is someone who is passionate about some particular area or
           subject, often an obscure or difficult one.
     A Dork is someone who has difficulty with common social
                  expectations/interactions.
You scored better than half in Geek, earning you the title of: Pure
                            Geek.
 It's not that you're a school junkie, like the nerd, and you don't
```

> really stand out in a crowd, like the dork, you just have some interests that aren't quite mainstream. Perhaps it's anime, perhaps it's computers, perhaps it's bottlecaps, perhaps it's all of those and more. Your interests take you to events and gatherings that are filled with people you find unusual and beyond-the-pale, but you don't quite consider yourself "of that crowd." Instead, you consider yourself to be fairly normal.
>
> Which, you are.
>
> Congratulations! You're the one on the RIGHT!
>
> Thanks Again! -- [1]THE NERD? GEEK? OR DORK? TEST
>
> [mt1124997248.jpg]

My test tracked 3 variables How you compared to other people your age and gender:

[2]free online dating [3]free online dating
You scored higher than 23% on nerdiness
[4]free online dating [5]free online dating
You scored higher than 73% on geekosity
[6]free online dating [7]free online dating
You scored higher than 16% on dork points

Link: [8]The Nerd? Geek? or Dork? Test written by [9]donathos on [10]Ok Cupid

1. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=9935030990046738815
2. http://www.okcupid.com/
3. http://www.okcupid.com/
4. http://www.okcupid.com/
5. http://www.okcupid.com/
6. http://www.okcupid.com/
7. http://www.okcupid.com/
8. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=9935030990046738815
9. http://www.okcupid.com/profile?tuid=10465692962375378952
10. http://www.okcupid.com/

7.9.3 why popular artists suck (2005-09-03 23:14)

Proof that kanye west is such a dick he would try to [1]mess up an entire benefit concert because he is a brainless asshole.

P.S.
I stole mention of this article from Adam :-)

1. http://apnews.excite.com/article/20050903/D8CCH43O1.html

7.9.4 quiz thingie from amanda (2005-09-07 23:05)

1. Go [1]here.
2. Pass it on.

1. How did you meet [2] [3]**jennygunn**? Her freshman RA was my girlfriend at the time
2. What would you do if you had never met [4] [5]**pretty _mercenar**? That woulda meant she wasn't with keith and that'd be sad
3. What do you honestly think of [6] [7]**cha _cha _galore**? She's a crazy lady that'll keep you on your toes
4. Would or did [8] [9]**langleydew** and [10] [11]**onstott** go out? um.... possibly...
5. Have you ever liked [12] [13]**_angelwings _**? I like all my friends
6. If [14] [15]**hcatlin** died tomorrow, what is one thing that you would need him/her to know? I've been meaning to steal a certain sign for you, sorry I haven't gotten around to it
7. Would [16] [17]**tattermask** and [18] [19]**redhandedrope** make a good couple? don't think so, Roper is married! ;-)
8. Describe [20] [21]**rustbeach** in 3 words: caring, blobby, fix-it
9. Do you think [22] [23]**_booty _** is hot? of course!
10. Would [24] [25]**hcatlin** and [26] [27]**langleydew** make a lovely couple? don't think so
11. What do you think of when you see [28] [29]**onstott**? alcohol
12. Tell me something humiliating about [30] [31]**redhandedrope**: he once drank to the point where he couldn't form words then ran around my auburn house naked
13. Do you know any of [32] [33]**trashdaddy**'s family members? His lil bro Adam
14. What's [34] [35]**langleydew**'s favorite color? shizzle, I don't know... blue?
15. On a scale of 1-10 how cute is [36] [37]**langleydew**? 7
16. What would you do if [38] [39]**lojee** just professed their undying love for you? be quite surprised since we haven't chatted in a while
17. What language does [40] [41]**langleydew** speak? english :-)
18. Who is [42] [43]**langleydew** going out with? no one I am aware of. Too busy running up mountains :-)
19. Is [44] [45]**green0monkey** a boy or a girl? girl
20. Would [46] [47]**langleydew** and [48] [49]**lojee** make a good couple? if they both turned gay, possibly
21. Who do you think [50] [51]**theurbanchico** would be great with from this list? I'm assuming it means romantically, but Beth isn't on here!
22. When was the last time you talked to [52] [53]**_booty _**? couple weeks ago? I should call her
23. What is [54] [55]**_angelwings _**'s favorite band? holy crap, that's a hard question. She likes lots of bands! maybe Motley Crue ;-) hehehe
24. Does [56] [57]**tattermask** have any siblings? I think one sister?
25. Would you ever date [58] [59]**trashdaddy**? don't think so, I'll stick with the womens
26. Would you ever date [60] [61]**rustbeach**? see above

27. Is [62] [63]**theurbanchico** single? nope
28. What is [64] [65]**langleydew**'s last name? Hughes
29. What is [66] [67]**langleydew**'s middle name? don't know that one
30 What is [68] [69]**cha _cha _galore**'s fantasy? Teach spanish and party like it's 1999
31. Where does [70] [71]**green0monkey** live? with me!
32. Would you make out with [72] [73]**jennygunn**? haha if I were single I just might
33. Are [74] [75]**pretty _mercenar** and [76] [77]**trashdaddy** best friends? don't even know each other
34. Does [78] [79]**rustbeach** like [80] [81]**langleydew**? I think they get along
35. How did you meet [82] [83]**langleydew**? umm.... maybe through austin and adrienne?
36. Is [84] [85]**_booty _** older than you? nope
37. Is [86] [87]**langleydew** the sexiest person alive? close ;-)

1. http://mike.mm1swebcreations.com/lj/ljFriendsQuiz/
2. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=jennygunn&mode=full
3. http://www.livejournal.com/users/jennygunn/
4. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=pretty_mercenar&mode=full
5. http://www.livejournal.com/users/pretty_mercenar/
6. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=cha_cha_galore&mode=full
7. http://www.livejournal.com/users/cha_cha_galore/
8. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
9. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
10. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=onstott&mode=full
11. http://www.livejournal.com/users/onstott/
12. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=_angelwings_&mode=full
13. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_angelwings_/
14. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=hcatlin&mode=full
15. http://www.livejournal.com/users/hcatlin/
16. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=tattermask&mode=full
17. http://www.livejournal.com/users/tattermask/
18. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=redhandedrope&mode=full
19. http://www.livejournal.com/users/redhandedrope/
20. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=rustbeach&mode=full
21. http://www.livejournal.com/users/rustbeach/
22. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=_booty_&mode=full
23. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_booty_/
24. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=hcatlin&mode=full
25. http://www.livejournal.com/users/hcatlin/
26. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
27. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
28. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=onstott&mode=full
29. http://www.livejournal.com/users/onstott/
30. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=redhandedrope&mode=full
31. http://www.livejournal.com/users/redhandedrope/
32. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=trashdaddy&mode=full
33. http://www.livejournal.com/users/trashdaddy/
34. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full

35. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
36. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
37. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
38. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=lojee&mode=full
39. http://www.livejournal.com/users/lojee/
40. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
41. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
42. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
43. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
44. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=green0monkey&mode=full
45. http://www.livejournal.com/users/green0monkey/
46. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
47. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
48. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=lojee&mode=full
49. http://www.livejournal.com/users/lojee/
50. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=theurbanchico&mode=full
51. http://www.livejournal.com/users/theurbanchico/
52. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=_booty_&mode=full
53. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_booty_/
54. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=_angelwings_&mode=full
55. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_angelwings_/
56. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=tattermask&mode=full
57. http://www.livejournal.com/users/tattermask/
58. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=trashdaddy&mode=full
59. http://www.livejournal.com/users/trashdaddy/
60. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=rustbeach&mode=full
61. http://www.livejournal.com/users/rustbeach/
62. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=theurbanchico&mode=full
63. http://www.livejournal.com/users/theurbanchico/
64. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
65. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
66. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
67. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
68. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=cha_cha_galore&mode=full
69. http://www.livejournal.com/users/cha_cha_galore/
70. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=green0monkey&mode=full
71. http://www.livejournal.com/users/green0monkey/
72. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=jennygunn&mode=full
73. http://www.livejournal.com/users/jennygunn/
74. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=pretty_mercenar&mode=full
75. http://www.livejournal.com/users/pretty_mercenar/
76. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=trashdaddy&mode=full
77. http://www.livejournal.com/users/trashdaddy/
78. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=rustbeach&mode=full
79. http://www.livejournal.com/users/rustbeach/
80. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
81. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
82. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
83. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/
84. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=_booty_&mode=full

85. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_booty_/
86. http://www.livejournal.com/userinfo.bml?user=langleydew&mode=full
87. http://www.livejournal.com/users/langleydew/

7.9.5 Still waiting for linux to finish installing... (2005-09-07 23:08)

So
Frank: "Recently, I was honored to be selected as a judge at a chili cook-off. The original person called in sick at the last moment and I happened to be standing there at the judge's table asking for directions to the Coors Light truck, when the call came in. I was assured by the other two judges (Native Texans) that the chili wouldn't be all that spicy and, besides, they told me I could have free beer during the tasting, so I accepted".

Here are the scorecard notes from the event: CHILI # 1 - MIKE'S MANIAC MONSTER CHILI...
Judge # 1 – A little too heavy on the tomato. Amusing kick.
Judge # 2 – Nice, smooth tomato flavor. Very mild.
Judge # 3 (Frank) – Holy shit, what the hell is this stuff? You could remove dried paint from your driveway. Took me two beers to put the flames out. I hope that's the worst one. These Texans are crazy.

CHILI # 2 - AUSTIN'S AFTERBURNER CHILI...
Judge # 1 – Smoky, with a hint of pork. Slight jalapeno tang.
Judge # 2 – Exciting BBQ flavor, needs more peppers to be taken seriously.
Judge # 3 – Keep this out of the reach of children. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to taste besides pain. I had to wave off two people who wanted to give me the Heimlich maneuver. They had to rush in more beer when they saw the look on my face.

CHILI # 3 - FRED'S FAMOUS BURN DOWN THE BARN CHILI...
Judge # 1 – Excellent firehouse chili. Great kick.
Judge # 2 – A bit salty, good use of peppers.
Judge # 3 – Call the EPA. I've located a uranium spill. My nose feels like I have been snorting Drano. Everyone knows the routine by now. Get me more beer before I ignite. Barmaid pounded me on the back, now my backbone is in the front part of my chest. I'm getting shit-faced from all of the beer.

CHILI # 4 - BUBBA'S BLACK MAGIC...
Judge # 1 – Black bean chili with almost no spice. Disappointing.
Judge # 2 – Hint of lime in the black beans. Good side dish for fish or other mild foods, not much of a chili.
Judge # 3 – I felt something scraping across my tongue, but was

unable to taste it. Is it possible to burn out taste buds? Sally, the beermaid, was standing behind me with fresh refills. That 300-LB woman is starting to look HOT...just like this nuclear waste I'm eating! Is chili an aphrodisiac?

CHILI # 5 LISA'S LEGAL LIP REMOVER...
Judge # 1 – Meaty, strong chili. Cayenne peppers freshly ground, adding considerable kick. Very impressive.
Judge # 2 – Chili using shredded beef, could use more tomato. Must admit the cayenne peppers make a strong statement.
Judge # 3 – My ears are ringing, sweat is pouring off my forehead and I can no longer focus my eyes. I farted and four people behind me needed paramedics. The contestant seemed offended when I told her that her chili had given me brain damage. Sally saved my tongue from bleeding by pouring beer directly on it from the pitcher. I wonder if I'm burning my lips off. It really pisses me off that the other judges asked me to stop screaming.
Screw those rednecks.

CHILI # 6 - VERA'S VERY VEGETARIAN VARIETY...
Judge # 1 – Thin yet bold vegetarian variety chili. Good balance of spices and peppers.
Judge # 2 – The best yet. Aggressive use of peppers, onions, and garlic.
Superb.
Judge # 3 – My intestines are now a straight pipe filled with gaseous, sulfuric flames. I shit on myself when I farted and I'm worried it will eat through the chair. No one seems inclined to stand behind me except that Sally. Can't feel my lips anymore. I need to wipe my ass with a snow cone.

CHILI # 7 - SUSAN'S SCREAMING SENSATION CHILI..
Judge # 1 – A mediocre chili with too much reliance on canned peppers.
Judge # 2 – Ho hum, tastes as if the chef literally threw in a can of chili peppers at the last moment. **I should take note that I am worried about Judge # 3. He appears to be in a bit of distress as he is cursing uncontrollably.
Judge # 3 – You could put a grenade in my mouth, pull the pin, and I wouldn't feel a thing. I've lost sight in one eye, and the world sounds like it is made of rushing water. My shirt is covered with chili, which slid unnoticed out of my mouth. My pants are full of lava to match my shirt. At least during the autopsy, they'll know what killed me. I've decided to stop breathing it's too painful. Screw it; I'm not getting any oxygen anyway. If I need air, I'll just suck it in through the 4-inch hole in my stomach.

CHILI # 8 - BIG TOM'S TOENAIL CURLING CHILI...
Judge # 1 – The perfect ending, this is a nice blend chili. Not
too bold but spicy enough to declare its existence.
Judge # 2 – This final entry is a good, balanced chili. Neither mild nor hot.
Sorry to see that most of it was lost when Judge #3 farted, passed
out, fell over and pulled the chili pot down on top of himself.
Not sure if he's going to make it. poor feller, wonder how he'd
have reacted to really hot chili?
Judge # 3 - No Report

7.9.6 silly protestors (2005-09-09 22:59)

"God Will Judge"
"Stop Child Abuse"
"End Child Pornography"
"I'm Getting Extra Credit For This"

These were all signs that I saw at today's protest of one of Boone's newest restaurants, The Library. The sad thing is that I find the last one the most concerning. A professor gave extra credit to students who attended a protest of a privately owned restaurant? Since the professor was acting as an employee of the state, does this mean that the university supports the protest of The Library? What about the state of North Carolina? Does it also oppose the dress code of the waitresses at The Library? This is ridiculous. If you are a professor and want to give your opinion to the class, more power to you. If you want to encourage them to partake in a protest of something you disagree with, that's fine too. But to offer a better grade to those who protest something that you personally oppose is reprehensible. What an abuse of your position. I will admit that I am usually the type of person that sees or hears something I disagree with, spouts my rant about what I think about it, then moves on. Not in this case. A fellow employee has taken it upon themselves to represent the university in a manner of which I disapprove and I am not going to stand for it. I am going to prepare a letter to be sent to the president of the university and I hope these professors are reprimanded appropriately. They done did it now. :-)

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angelwings (2005-09-11 03:53:22)
go Fincher go! This pisses me off as well for stated reasons even though I have no affiliation. But it's just plain wrong. Go get em!!

7.9.7 ridiculous (2005-09-14 09:26)

"I heard from a very reliable source who saw a 25 foot deep crater under the levee breach. It may have been blown up to destroy the black part of town and keep the white part dry," Farrakhan said. [1]Freaking Nutballs

People like this are probably why I think I just don't like people in general. incompetence annoys me.

And in other news... If I went to [2]this school do you know what I would be thinking? It wouldn't be

”donate donate donate,” but it would be more along the lines of ”where did I put that pipe bomb.” God, I HATE MMMBOP!!

And for the last article of the day...
Check out this [3]badass computer. That is so frickin awesome!

1. http://www.wcnc.com/news/topstories/stories/091205-ad-wcnc-farrakhan.4fb21767.html
2. http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/09/13/earlyshow/main838253.shtml?CMP=OTC-RSSFeed&source=RSS&attr=Entertainment_838253
3. http://blogga.ru/2005/09/12/wooden_comp/

7.9.8 (2005-09-14 16:15)

the first link didn't work in my last post but my quote sums up enough I guess.

7.9.9 haha funny forward from my mommy (possibly funnier than the last one) (2005-09-15 18:01)

If you want to read it, your going to have to
What do you call two Mexicans playing basketball?

Juan on Juan

What is a Yankee?

The same as a quickie, but a guy can do it alone.

What is the difference between a Harley and a Hoover ?

The position of the dirt bag

Why is divorce so expensive?

Because it's worth it.

What do you see when the Pillsbury Dough Boy bends over?

Doughnuts

What do you call a smart blonde?

A golden retriever.

What do attorneys use for birth control?

Their personalities.

What's the difference between a girlfriend and wife?

45 lbs

What's the difference between a boyfriend and husband?

45 minutes

What's the fastest way to a man's heart?

Through his chest with a sharp knife.

Why do men want to marry virgins?

They can't stand criticism.

Why is it so hard for women to find men that are sensitive, caring, and good-looking?

Because those men already have boyfriends.

What's the difference between a new husband and a new dog?

After a year, the dog is still excited to see you

What makes men chase women they have no intention of marrying?

The same urge that makes dogs chase cars they have no intention of driving.

Why don't bunnies make noise when they have sex?

Because they have cotton balls.

What's the difference between a porcupine and BMW?

A porcupine has the pricks on the outside.

What did the blonde say when she found out she was pregnant?

"Are you sure it's mine?"

Why does Mike Tyson cry during sex?

Mace will do that to you.

Why did OJ Simpson want to move to West Virginia ?

Everyone has the same DNA.

Why do men find it difficult to make eye contact?

Breasts don't have eyes.

Did you hear about the dyslexic Rabbi?

He walks around saying "Yo."

Why do drivers' education classes in Redneck schools use the car only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays?

Because on Tuesday and Thursday, the Sex Ed class uses it.

Where does an Irish family go on vacation?

A different bar.

Did you hear about the Chinese couple that had a retarded baby?

They named him "Sum Ting Wong"

What would you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other?

A speech impediment.

What does it mean when the flag at the Post Office is flying at half-mast?

They're hiring.

What's the difference between a southern zoo and a northern zoo?

A southern zoo has a description of the animal on the front of the cage along with... "a recipe."

How do you get a sweet little 80-year-old lady to say the F word?

Get another sweet little 80-year-old lady to yell *BINGO*!

What's the difference between a northern fairytale and a southern fairytale?

A northern fairytale begins "Once upon a time..." A southern fairytale begins "Y'all ain't gonna believe this shit..."

Why is there no Disneyland in China ?

No one's tall enough to go on the good rides

7.9.10 the weekend and a quiz (2005-09-18 21:52)

Had an awesome weekend in bristol. Got to hang out with Mark and Melissa and their doggy Tully. It was a lot of fun. I hadn't seen them in forever so it was really nice to catch up. Got to enjoy a beautiful weekend at the lake and had a blast at the Rhythm and Roots festival. I definitely burned some calories this weekend between running a 5k saturday morning, wakeboarding and wakeskating saturday and wakeskating today. My body is definitely not happy with me but it is good for it. :-) Not much else to say. Here's my latest quiz stolen from amanda!

```
                    The Keys to Your Heart
                         [heart.jpg]
You are attracted to obedience and warmth. In love, you feel the most
  alive when everything is uncertain, one moment heaven... the next
  moment hell. You'd like to your lover to think you are stylish and
    alluring. You would be forced to break up with someone who was
     arrogant, acting like the dictator of your life. Your ideal
  relationship is lasting. You want a relationship that looks to the
 future... one you can grow with. Your risk of cheating is zero. You
 care about society and morality. You would never break a commitment.
  You think of marriage something you've always wanted... though you
haven't really thought about it. In this moment, you think of love as
  commitment. Love only works when both people are totally devoted.
```

[1]What Are The Keys To Your Heart?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/keystoyourheartquiz/

7.9.11 sicky icky poo (2005-09-23 01:46)

Well it's been an ok week except for the fact that Alana and I have been progressively getting sick. I had some stuffiness early in the week and now that has faded a bit but I developed some nausea today. Alana is really sneezy and stuffy as well as having an iffy tummy too. No fun. Since I don't have class tomorrow I don't really have anything pressing to do so I'm gonna chill for a bit and help Alana study for her test tomorrow. Being sick sucks. Maybe I'll take some online quizzes now...

7.9.12 first quiz from amanda (where a lot of my quizzes come from) (2005-09-23 01:49)

the Shock Jock

(52% dark, 57% spontaneous, 63% vulgar)

your humor style:
VULGAR | SPONTANEOUS | DARK
Your sense of humor is off-the-cuff and kind of gross. Is it is also sinister, cynical, and vaguely threatening to the purer folks of this world. You probably get off on that. You would cut a greasy fart, then blame it on your mom, and then just shrug when someone pointed out that she's dead.
Yours is hands-down the most outrageous sense of humor; you like things trangressive and hardcore. It's highly likely (a) you have no limits (b) you have no scruples and (c) you have no job. Ironically, it's your type of humor that can make the biggest bucks in show business.
PEOPLE LIKE YOU: Howard Stern - Adam Sandler - Roseanne Barr
[shockjock.gif]
[1]The 3-Variable Funny Test!
- it rules -
If you're interested, try my latest: [2]The Terrorism Test

My test tracked 3 variables How you compared to other people your age and gender:

[3]free online dating [4]free online dating
You scored higher than 45% on darkness
[5]free online dating [6]free online dating
You scored higher than 81% on spontaneity

[7]free online dating [8]free online dating
You scored higher than 90% on vulgarity

Link: [9]The 3 Variable Funny Test written by [10]jason_bateman on [11]OkCupid Free Online Dating

1. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=17565214125862764376
2. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=18048702267320519909
3. http://www.okcupid.com/
4. http://www.okcupid.com/
5. http://www.okcupid.com/
6. http://www.okcupid.com/
7. http://www.okcupid.com/
8. http://www.okcupid.com/
9. http://www.okcupid.com/tests/take?testid=17565214125862764376
10. http://www.okcupid.com/profile?tuid=11694560292031626201
11. http://www.okcupid.com/

7.9.13 few more quizzes from amanda (2005-09-23 01:55)

You Are 80% Boyish and 20% Girlish
You have a tough exterior - and usually a tough interior to match it. You're no nonsense, logical, and very assertive. Sometimes you can't understand women at all, even if you're a woman yourself. You see things rationally, and don't like to let your emotions get the best of you.

[1]How Boyish or Girlish Are You?

You Are a Martini
[martini.jpg]
There's no other way to say it: you're a total lush. You hold your liquor well, and you hold a lot of it!

[2]What Mixed Drink Are You?

Your Seduction Style: Au Natural
[au-natural.jpg]

You rank up there with your seduction skills, though you might not know it. That's because you're a natural at seduction. You don't realize your power! The root of your natural seduction power: your innocence and optimism. You're the type of person who happily plays around and creates a unique little world. Little do you know that your personal paradise is so appealing that it sucks people in. You find joy in everything - so is it any surprise that people find joy in you? You bring back the inner child in everyone you meet with your sincere and spontaneous ways. Your childlike (but not childish) behavior also inspires others to care for you. As a result, those who you befriend and date tend to be incredibly loyal to you.

[3]What Kind of Seducer Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/howboyishorgirlishareyouquiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/whatmixeddrinkareyouquiz/
3. http://www.blogthings.com/whatkindofseducerareyouquiz/

7.9.14 great weekend (2005-09-25 23:42)

Man, it has been a great weekend. Alana and I still haven't really felt that hot, but it's been super relaxing. We've watched like 3 movies and slept in yesterday and today. It was exactly what we needed. We are both feeling a lot better today, though we are still feeling some of the effects of whatever bug we seemed to have acquired. Hopefully everything will completely pass soon. :-) So let's see if I can recall the movies we have watched this weekend... Sin City - cool, but definitely interesting, Beauty Shop - definitely funny, Flight Plan - definitely better than I was expecting. I would recommend it.

So anyhoo... now I'm trying to get a little done this evening before the week starts back up tomorrow. Nothing too pressing, but I definitely have a good amount to do this evening. Oh, and I signed up for a GMail account today! :-) I don't really know why. I don't need another email, but I figure what the hell. It does give 2.5 gigs of space which is pretty snazzy. Ok, well back to taking it easy/trying to get some stuff done. Got a fun week ahead of me then it's to Arizona next weekend! :-) fun fun fun!

7.9.15 From Amandana, my PRIMO source for online quizzes (2005-09-27 03:24)



You Are A: **[1]Duck**! Found in many lakes and ponds, ducks are a common site the world over. Known for their famous quack, ducks tend to congregate in flocks or go off on their own in pairs. As a duck, you may seem friendly at times but will not hesitate to bite if someone is bothering you. Your love for travel and your ability to swim are some reasons why you are a duck.
You were almost a: [2]Monkey or a [3]Parakeet
You are least like a: [4]Groundhog or a [5]Chipmunk[6]**Cute Animals Quiz**

1. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animals/duck.html
2. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animals/monkey.html
3. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animals/keet.html
4. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animals/ghog.html
5. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animals/chip.html
6. http://www.cuteducky.com/cute_animal_quiz.html

7.10 October

7.10.1 A great weekend in Arizona..... and a quiz! (2005-10-03 14:50)

Well I just typed for like 5 minutes about this past weekend and then my hand slipped and I closed the window and lost it all. Dadjummit! To paraphrase, mom, dad, mike and kelly surprised marty on thursday while he was playing a gig and he said he thought he was lying on the stage dying and seeing the poeple he cared about. Sorry I missed the only time in Marty's life when he was speechless. :-) Luckily he wasn't singing but he just stared at his guitar and finished the song. I got to join everyone on friday and got to hang out. We got Marty an iPod Nano (so tiny and COOL!) and a new computer (his old one was 300MHz and 6 gigs of hard drive space) so mom and I got to play with those and set them up. The sad thing was that the computer we got him had almost the equivalent spec's of my main computer and his only cost 300 bucks AND included a monitor and a printer! I've fallen behind the technological curve. :-) Went for a hike/walk on friday which was awesome. The place we went had gathered all sorts of plants from places around the world that have similar climates to Arizona. It was toasty, but a lot of fun. It was really nice seeing everyone and hanging out for the weekend. It's not exactly normal (even for me!) to spend the weekend on the other side of the country. And it makes it even better that I am going to colorado this weekend! Gotta check out grad schools so that trip will be at least a LITTLE bit business. :-) Flew back in yesterday and just took it easy. Woke up this morning with a little bit of some tummy issue, which of course I ignored and went and lifted a little anyway. :-) Now it's almost shower time then class til 9:10!! I am PUMPED!! That sums up the weekend. Now here's another quiz stolen from Amanda. (though it's not really THAT quizzy. I just had to enter my user name)

How to make a fincher69
Ingredients:
5 parts anger
1 part crazyiness
5 parts instinct
Method:
Combine in a tall glass half filled with crushed ice. Add curiosity to taste! Do not overindulge!

Username: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
How do you make a 'you'?
[1]Personality cocktail
From [2]Go-Quiz.com

1. http://www.go-quiz.com/cocktail/cocktail.php
2. http://www.go-quiz.com/

7.10.2 busy semester (2005-10-12 23:54)

I will admit I am not the best at updating this thing, even when I don't have much going on, but this semester is keeping me crazy busy (crazy busy for me at least). Last week was same old same old. Nothing too special. Gave test #1 in my classes. fun fun fun. This past weekend was fall break which was a lot of fun. Went to see Bobby and Erin on friday which was great since it had been a while and they are practically impossible to get a hold of. We also got to see Bobby's parents, Erin's sister Melissa and her fiance, Erin's sister Betsy, Bobby's sister April and her husband and two kids, Bobby's grandfather and Bobby's grandmother. It was a kicking house for sure!

Saturday we got up and drove to the airport and met my mom there and flew out to colorado. It was sunny and 70s in denver when we got there then we drove to boulder. The drive was pretty kickin' because it was homecoming weekend and we got there like 2 hours before the football game was starting. Had dinner and played trivia then walked around Boulder just a tad and hit the sack.

Sunday it cooled off to a high in the 50s. Got to see Karl and Kristen whom I hadn't seen in a while and I got to talk to Karl about the university and stuff which was good. We wandered around downtown with them and had lunch at an awesome microbrewery. Drove around and looked and some places to live that we found online. Didn't find anything that called out to me but saw some cool places. Living in Boulder is expensive!! Had a pretty chill evening.

Monday it was rainy and probably in the 40s and I met with people from ICS (Institute of Cognitive Science) and from Psychology and poked my head in and introduced myself to CS but she was busy so we didn't really get to talk. Meandered around downtown and did some shopping. Got some snazzy new shoes and everything! Had dinner at the cheesecake factory which was great then we drove to denver because they had been getting snow and we wanted to make sure we got to the airport safely in the morning. We saw quite a range of weather!

Woke up tuesday and went to the airport, flew to charlotte and drove back to boone. Pretty much took it easy. Ended up playing on my computer til about 3:30 this morning. :-) Now I am procrastinating but I should probably get to working since I have a thesis meeting tomorrow and I haven't really done that much. OOPS! :-) Who knows when I will get to update next but hopefully it will be soon!

7.10.3 quiz from adam (I never find my own quizzes) (2005-10-14 13:31)

I took this quiz and it actually gave me a different result last night. I think it's because I had to type three words to describe me and I could only remember 2 of the ones I typed last night and apparently that 3rd word was enough to change me resuls. Stupid quiz has black letters though so you will have to

[RGLMm.gif]

FACT:

You embody the German principle of Konstantzusammenschaft, which is best described in English (without using the obscure English word

"sammenschaft") as "eternal togethermanship".

The Loverboy
Random Gentle Love Master (RGLMm)

Well-liked. Well-established. You are The Loverboy. Loverboys thrive in committed, steady relationships--as opposed to, say, Playboys, who want sex without too much attachment.
You've had many relationships and nearly all of them have been successful. You're a nice guy, you know the ropes, and even if you can be a little hasty with decisions, most girls think of you as a total catch. Your hastiness comes off as spontaneity most of the time anyhow, making you especially popular in your circle of friends, too.

Your exact opposite:
The Billy Goat
[DBSDm_thumb.gif]
Deliberate Brutal Sex Dreamer

You know not to make the typical Loverboy mistake of choosing someone who appreciates your good humor and popularity, but who offers nothing in return. You belong with someone outgoing, independent, and creative. Otherwise, you'll get bored. And then instead of surprising her with flowers or a practical joke, you'll surprise her by leaving.
[square.gif]
ALWAYS AVOID: The Nymph
CONSIDER: The Window Shopper, The Peach
Link: [1]The 32-Type Dating Test by [2]OkCupid - Free Online Dating.
My profile name: [3]djdjdjdjdj

Maybe one day I will find my own quiz ;-)

1. http://www.okcupid.com/oktest3
2. http://www.okcupid.com/
3. http://www.okcupid.com/profile?tuid=

7.10.4 Yet another great weekend!! (2005-10-16 19:52)

I went home friday afternoon and took care of some computer stuff for mom and enjoyed the typical friday pizza and beer. Played piano, guitar, pinball, and pool while Alana played the Sims then I tucked her in and played the Sims until about 2 in the morning. :-)

Saturday we headed back to boone and took it easy. Talked to Adam and invited him, beth and keith over to our place so Alana and I cleaned up the apartment then met them at Dos Amigos for dinner then came back to our place. Had a blast with them and they ended up all crashing at our place so no one had to drive. Then at like 2-3 am there was some guys juggling fire or something in the parking lot of the Red Onion (right next door to us). We went to check it out and finally met our neighbors which was cool. I

actually kinda knew one of the girls because we had a psych class together but it was cool to actually meet them.

Today we got up and had lunch and basically alternated between chillin and cleaning and recovering from last night. :-) still have some work to do, but luckily I don't really have anything pressing that I have to get done by tomorrow.

Altogether it was a blast of a weekend. Hopefully we can recreate it sometime soon. :-)

7.10.5 a quiz I found on my own and didn't steal from someone else (2005-10-16 20:10)

[1]Your Excellent LJ Evil Minions

LiveJournal Username _____
favorite drink _____
weapon of choice _____
do you like the taste of envelope glue? [no.....]
the evil ninja mastermind hellbent on world domination tattermask
the bewitching and sexually ambiguous one that no one knows anything about rustbeach
the scarysmart one, eerily calm even in the midst of chaos trashdaddy
the tiny, seemingly-delicate one with a deadly temper and awesome strength redhandedrope
the pale, quiet one who turns out to be really, really scary langleydew
the sexy, smirking anti-villain who joins your side at the last moment redhandedrope
the snarky punk mercenary who's only there for the money and coz they love a good fight theurbanchico
the distant arrogant aristocrat who wants to bring down the society they were born into jennygunn

Fill in your answers and click here!

This [2]Fun Quiz created by [3]charlotte at BlogQuiz.Net [0]

[4]**Free ringtones and wallpapers!** Click here!

1. http://www.blogquiz.net/quizzes/LiveJournal-Memes/1154/Your-Excellent-LJ-Evil-Minions
2. http://www.blogquiz.net/
3. http://www.blogquiz.net/users/that_girl
4. http://1.primaryads.com/z/7879/CD6855/

7.10.6 Need help saving part of my lake!!! (2005-10-17 03:14)

Howdy to anyone who happens to read this. Here's the issue: a marina on the lake near my house that I frequent is proposing an expansion. This expansion will destroy the area where our lakehouse is and force

it to be moved. They will be filling in part of the lake, and there are rumors that they will dredge the bottom of the lake to do this, which is definitely NOT environmentally friendly. It will also be adding several hundred boats and slips to the most congested area of the lake which will only make it more dangerous. PLEASE send an email voicing your concern about this issue. I know I am a little last minute on this, but all letters/emails need to be in by October 19. Below is a basic form letter that you can copy and paste if you don't want to write out your own email. Please take 1 minute to help save our beautiful lake!! :-) Feel free to write your own, or edit the one below, but please send something!! If you want more info check out http://www.friendsofsouthholston.org/

To: awpatrick@tva.gov
Subject: Laurel Marina Expansion attn: Anne Patrick

Hello,
I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed expansion of Laurel Marina on Lake South Holston. This expansion proposes to infringe on public lands when there are private areas that could be developed for the same purpose. This expansion would also add hundreds of boats to an area of the lake that is already the most congested and dangerous area of the lake. As well as adding to congestion and danger, this expansion will destroy part of most enjoyable aspects of Lake South Holston, its natural beauty. I urge you to please take this into consideration when evaluating the proposal and fight to protect this beautiful resource. Thank you.

Concerned Citizen

---

theurbanchico (2005-10-16 21:08:31)
Anything to help save the lake! That proposition is a real bummer. Hopefully our emails help out!

theurbanchico (2005-10-16 21:11:21)
Well, I just got a daemon reply from the email saying that the address awpatrick@tva.gov has permanent fatal errors... That's the right email address, right?

fincher69 (2005-10-17 07:15:17)
yeah, that's right. I used the same one and got a reply from her this morning..... weird

7.10.7 pretty uneventful week (2005-10-21 01:02)

Nothing too exciting happened. BUT, today, while I was home, I was teaching my sister guitar and I started looking through some old junk and found my old sega genesis!!! I was super stoked. The best part was that it actually worked! My sis and I ended up playing micro machines racing for like 30 minutes. It was a blast. Also found her old school gameboy, my gamegear, and our sega master systerm II. ROCK ON!! The master system didn't have any games so I don't know if it worked, but it was still cool to find.

Well I was going to play SIMS but after perusing PartyApp for a while I think I am getting close to ready for bed. I agreed to breakfast at 8 tomorrow so it will be an early day. I probably don't need to play more video games anyway. Maybe this weekend will give me another party to post about. ;-)

I read this online and I actually had read it a few months ago, but it cracked me up so I thought I would post it on here. It's kinda long, but worth the read

Remember the book 'Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus?' Well, here's a prime example offered by an English professor at Penn.

"Today we will experiment with a new form called the tandem story.

The process is simple. Each person will pair off with the person sitting to his or her immediate right. One of you will then write the first paragraph of a short story. The partner will read the first paragraph and then add another paragraph to the story. The first person will then add a third paragraph, and so on back and forth. Remember to re-read what has been written each time in order to keep the story coherent. There is to be absolutely NO talking and anything you wish to say must be written on the paper. The story is over when both agree a conclusion has been reached."

The following was actually turned in by two of my English students:

Rebecca -last name deleted, and Gary - last name deleted.

_____-_____-

STORY:

(First paragraph by Rebecca)

At first, Laurie couldn't decide which kind of tea she wanted. The chamomile, which used to be her favorite for lazy evenings at home, now reminded her too much of Carl, who once said, in happier times, that he liked chamomile.
But she felt she must now, at all costs, keep her mind off Carl. His possessiveness was suffocating, and if she thought about him too much her asthma started acting up again. So chamomile was out of the question.

_____-_____

(Second paragraph by Gary)

Meanwhile, Advance Sergeant Carl Harris, leader of the attack squadron now in orbit over Skylon 4, had more important things to think about than the neuroses of an air-headed asthmatic bimbo named Laurie with whom he had spent one sweaty night over a year ago. "A.S. Harris to Geostation 17, he said into his transgalactic communicator. "Polar orbit established. No sign of resistance so far..." But before he could sign off, a bluish particle beam flashed out of nowhere and blasted a hole through his ship's cargo bay. The jolt from the direct hit sent him flying out of his seat and across the cockpit.

_____-_____

(Rebecca)

He bumped his head and died almost immediately but not before he felt one last pang of regret for psychically brutalizing the one woman who had ever had feelings for him. Soon afterwards, Earth stopped its pointless hostilities towards the peaceful farmers of Skylon 4. "Congress Passes Law Permanently Abolishing War and Space Travel," Laurie read in her newspaper one morning. The news simultaneously excited her and bored her. She stared out the window, dreaming of her youth, when the days had passed unhurriedly and carefree, with no newspapers to read, no television to distract her from her sense of innocent wonder at all the beautiful things around her.

”Why must one lose oneˆs innocence to become a woman?” she pondered wistfully.

———————————-————————

(Gary)

Little did she know, but she had less than 10 seconds to live.
Thousands of miles above the city, the Anu’udrian mothership launched the first of its lithium fusion missiles. The dim-witted wimpy peaceniks who pushed the Unilateral Aerospace Disarmament Treaty through the congress had left Earth a defenseless target for the hostile alien empires who were determined to destroy the human race. Within two hours after the passage of the treaty the Anu’udrian ships were on course for Earth, carrying enough firepower to pulverize the entire planet. With no one to stop them, they swiftly initiated their diabolical plan. The lithium fusion missile entered the atmosphere unimpeded. The President, in his top-secret Mobile submarine headquarters on the ocean floor off the coast of Guam, felt the inconceivably massive explosion, which vaporized poor, stupid, Laurie and 85 million other Americans. The President slammed his fist on the conference table.
”We can’t allow this! I’m going to veto that treaty! Let’s blow ’em out of the sky!”

———————————-————————

(Rebecca)

This is absurd. I refuse to continue this mockery of literature. My writing partner is a violent, chauvinistic semi-literate adolescent.

———————————-————————

(Gary)

Yeah? Well, you’re a self-centered tedious neurotic whose attempts at writing are the literary equivalent of Valium. ”Oh shall I have chamomile tea? Or shall I have some other sort of F*CKING TEA??? Oh no, I’m such an air headed bimbo who reads too many Danielle Steele novels.”

———————————-————————

(Rebecca)

Asshole.

———————————-————————

(Gary)

Bitch.

———————————-————————

(Rebecca)

Wanker.

_____-_____

(Gary)

Slut.

_____-_____

(Rebecca)

Get fucked.

_____-_____

(Gary)

Eat shit.

_____-_____-

(Rebecca)

FUCK YOU - YOU NEANDERTHAL!!!

_____-_____

(Gary)

Go drink some tea - whore.

****

(Teacher)

A+ - I really liked this one.

7.10.8 I seem to have gone back to the weekly post (2005-10-26 23:10)

Things have been kinda busy I guess. I'm thinking about dropping Data Mining because I really REALLY don't like the way the course is going. I emailed the lady in charge of assistantships to see if that's even an option (since I am supposed to have 9 hours for my assistantship) but she has yet to get back to me. I'm hoping she does soon. Last day to drop is tomorrow!! >:-O

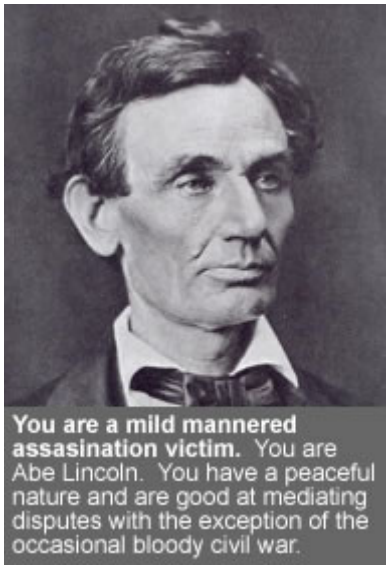
In other news, I don't know if this is the first, or just the first I've seen, but check [1]THIS out!! It's basically a Mac Mini except it's a PC! How snazzy is that? You can also get it in different colors and stuff. Pretty darn snazzy if you ask me!

I know I have read some other news stories that would be of interest, but I can't recall what they were

and I made no note to remind me so oh well!! Most of this week I have been working on my GUI for my thesis project. I started a little page in my webspace about it at the beginning but have yet to update it. Maybe once I get this GUI stuff settled I will actually update it and maybe even put up a screenshot or two! :-) It's been kinda slow goings since I knew basically no java to start out with and I have never worked on a GUI in any language, but it is definitely a learning experience!

I've been stoked that it's finally gotten cold in boone. It has been snowing a little bit, ROCK! :-) Hopefully it will warm up a little one last time next weekend when I want to have my last weekend at the lake. ;-)

Well, I think that's all for now.... Oh, except this quiz!! :-)



[2]What Famous Leader Are You?
[3]personality tests by similarminds.com

1. http://www.voodoopc.com/system/quotekitchen.aspx?productID=1088
2. http://similarminds.com/othertests.html
3. http://similarminds.com/

7.10.9 Man, I am SO FRICKIN' BORED!! (2005-10-31 17:45)

I am currently just doing my time in the public lab from 5-7. Luckily I get it out of the way on monday so my week pretty much gets progressively easier, which is nice. I did my data mining homework, then played around on partyapp and now I am doing this one last thing before I buckle down and study some biological psychology.

So anyhoo, friday Alana and I went to Raleigh. We met their new Rotweiler (sp?), Bruno, then we went with her family to a Carolina Hurricanes hockey game, which was a blast. It was my first professional hockey game and apparently they changed some of the rules recently to speed up play and increase scoring so it was even more exciting than games have been in the past. You can check out some [1]pics and videos on my moblog if you are interested.

Saturday we ate lunch at California Pizza Kitchen, then hung out and met up with Rachel then went to see Saw II with her and a couple of her buds. I thought it was definitely better than the first one (which

doesn't really say that much) but I liked it pretty well overall. It's one of those scary movies that works more to have a plot than just blood and gore.

Sunday Alana and her mom went for a horseback excursion so I worked on my thesis for a couple hours, then ate lunch with Alana's dad, then came back and played computer games for a few hours until Alana and her mom got back. We had a wonderful steak dinner then headed back to boone. Pretty much took it easy for the evening since the time change made it get darker "earlier" which kinda made us sleepy.

Today, normal class stuff. Nothing too exciting. Actually rode on my stationary bike for about 25 minutes this morning so that is nice. I officially start my diet today since I need to lose 10-15 pounds. Not being able to do anything physical after spraining my ankle didn't exactly help me in the weight category. :-) Mom and I will hopefully be running a 5k this weekend so I guess I should go for a run sometime this week. ;-) Maybe I will do that tomorrow instead of riding my bike. We'll see.

I found out today that if a course is not in your program of study, it doesn't count for anything. You could fail the class and it wouldn't matter. This is only relevant because I am really not enjoying my data mining class right now and I looked into dropping it but found out that if I drop below my required 9 hours, I would likely lose my assistantship, which would definitely be a bad thing. So I wasn't able to drop it, but it is nice to know that it doesn't really matter since it is not in my program of study. Not that I am planning on failing it or anything, but it takes a little weight off whenever I have stuff going on in other classes too.

Well, I guess that is about all I have to report. No more procrastination from biopsych :-), but at least it was a small break from the boredom of public lab. Yippee!

Happy Halloween everyone!!

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

7.11 November

7.11.1 wow (2005-11-02 15:03)

I only had one student in lab today. I mean the class only has 5 students enrolled, but only one student. geez.

---

fincher69 (2005-11-02 12:06:02)
ooh, one more just showed up. My class just doubled in size!!

lillibullero (2005-11-03 08:32:14)
YEah, i'd probably be one of those 2 stupid kids in the class... gosh, i am so lame!

7.11.2 quiz from Adam and Marie (2005-11-07 17:52)

Unfortunately, something about the formatting/colors of my blog makes the results disappear so to see them you must...

[1130267908PIRATE 2.jpg] You scored as Captain Jack Sparrow. Roguish,quick-witted, and incredibly lucky, Jack Sparrow is a pirate who sometimes ends up being a hero, against his better judgement. Captain Jack looks out for #1, but he can be counted on (usually) to do the right thing. He has an incredibly persuasive tongue, a mind that borders on genius or insanity, and an incredible talent for getting into trouble and getting out of it. Maybe its brains, maybe its genius, or maybe its just plain luck. Or maybe a mixture of all three.

Captain Jack Sparrow
75%

Lara Croft
75%

Maximus
67%

William Wallace
63%

James Bond, Agent 007
58%

Batman, the Dark Knight
58%

El Zorro
54%

Neo, the "One"
54%

Indiana Jones
50%

The Amazing Spider-Man
46%

The Terminator
29%
[1]Which Action Hero Would You Be? v. 2.0
created with [2]QuizFarm.com

1. http://quizfarm.com/test.php?q_id=92013
2. http://quizfarm.com/

7.11.3 bored as hell in public lab again, but at least the weekend was fun (2005-11-07 17:54)

Had a great weekend. Friday went to the Library with Adam and Beth for dinner then chilled at our apartment for a bit. Adam and Beth went to see a movie, and i crashed not too long after they left.

Saturday, momma and daddy came up to boone so mom and I could run a 5k around boone at 9 am. Neither of us had done much training so it was a little rough, but we still got our free tshirts. :-) The course wasn't that bad except for a fairly short, but ridiculously steep hill right at the beginning of the course. My heart, lungs and legs were fine, but I had woken up with a runny nose so I had a lot of drainage issues. Ended up having to walk three times to keep from puking, but we still finished. :-) After the 5k I went back to the apartment, showered, picked up Keith, then headed to Bristol. Got to enjoy a beautiful day at the lake (70s in November!!) and completed the process of wearing my ass out with a little wakeboarding and wakeskating. Got keith pretty close to up, though I think his broken toe was slowing him down a little. Went back to the house and just took it easy for the evening since I had done more activity that day than I probably have in the last month.

Sunday I woke up pretty early and we went out to the lake again. Not nearly as pretty as the day before. It was cloudy and there was some of the most wicked windchop I have ever ridden in but it was still fun. Got keith up and riding more which was awesome then took the boat to be taken out of the water and winterized. As we were leaving the sun came out (of course) but even earlier it was pretty toasty for november. Dad was happy since it was his first time to wakeboard in November. Gathered up all our laundry and headed back to boone. Pretty much took it easy. My body wasn't really up for much after Saturday.

Today I got up and registered for classes at 7, went back to sleep until a little after 8, then started poking around on my computer. Alana started developing some horrible cramps (to the point of shaking and throwing up) so I did my best to help her through that. She was doing a lot better by the time I had to go to class, which was good, but she is definitely still feeling a little under the weather. Now I am sitting in the public lab, bored as crap, then I have a class, which I have definitely grown to dislike, from 7:30-9:10. Man, I can't wait to not have any more of these mondays! I also can't wait for that stupid class to be over. Anyhoo, before coming up here I was busy trying to get application materials for Ph.D. programs and emailed a bunch of professors asking about letters of recommendation. Officially, my Boulder app isn't due til like Jan 3, but I am going to try to have it sent out before the end of November so i have time to fix anything if there are any problems. It's going to be a busy month! I have to get a bunch of transcripts sent out, as well as actually filling out applications, settling my spring schedule, getting letters of recommendation organized, and working on my thesis! Jeepers. Oh, AND I take the GRE on the 16th so I have to study for that too. Fun. Ok, well I am going to go back to piddlin' online until I get to leave the stupid public lab and go to a stupid class. yeah. :-)

7.11.4 yay for presents!! (even if I paid for them) (2005-11-10 20:42)

Happy day! I got a cool new keyboard today that glows! All the keys glow blue which is super snazzy!! I will take a pic and post it on my moblog this evening (once it's dark enough to appreciate it).

I also had noticed that it had been a while since I ordered some music so I ordered some and THEY came today TOO!! Yahoooo!!!! If anyone is interested, here is a little list of my recently acquired music:

- Fall Out Boy - From Under The Cork Tree

- The Faders - Plug In + Play
- Dressy Bessy - Electrified
- The Flaming Lips - Clouds Taste Metallic
- We Are Scientists - The Great Escape
- Blasted Mechanism - Avatara

:-)

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tattermask (2005-11-11 10:35:30)
Is it the glowing keyboard from ThinkGeek?! I thought about buying that one so i could type in the dark and still see the keys... Let me know how it works out for ya... maybe I'll buy one if they're schweet. ac

fincher69 (2005-11-11 23:04:59)
yah it is. I actually got a pic posted on my [1]Moblog if you wanna look at it. I love it so far. It's really low profile and the keys glow enough to make them visible, but not so much that it blinds you if the room is dark.

1. `http://fincher69.textamerica.com/`

(2005-11-14 19:48:11)
plus you dont sound like an elephant trying to type. I know, I know. I'm just super sensitive to noise! :)

7.11.5 another fun weekend (2005-11-15 15:33)

Friday we pretty much took it easy. Drove to bristol to drop off Alana's car to be detailed then came back to boone. Stopped at trashcan falls to take some pics then just took it easy at the apartment. We went to Walmart and bought Taboo and we were going to play with Clay, but then we remembered that you need 4 people to play. Alana and I ended up playing 2 person Taboo for like an hour and a half then I played video games for another hour and a half after she went to bed.

I don't actually remember what we did saturday. Obviously it wasn't too exciting. We DID have japanese for dinner and went bowling then we partied with some friends and had a blast. The part we were at wasn't very kickin' so I wandered across the street and ended up having a lot of fun.

Yesterday we pretty much just took it easy. Nothing too strenuous. Since my friday's are lax it makes every friday feel like saturday and every saturday feel like sunday, so yesterday felt like I stole a monday of relaxation. :-) It was nice. Watched our normal TV block of Extreme Home Makeover, Desperate Housewives, and Grey's Anatomy. Then just piddled and played some video games until bedtime. Altogether a very fun and relaxing weekend.

Today we get our Data Mining take home midterm. He said it should take about 3-4 hours which sucks. At least we don't have our evening class today which rocks. :-) Trying to get as much last minute GRE studying as possible done since I take it one wednesday. From my practice tests I should definitely best my last score (not that that says much) but I still haven't been scoring as high as I would like. Stupid testing on how many big words I know! I always ace sentence completion (which should be more important) but those stupid antonyms and analogies get me good. When in real life do you have to define a word but are given no frame of reference? Pretty much NEVER! Oh well. I'm sure it will go fine. I'm going to make some

flash cards tonight so hopefully that will help.

Ok, so it's about time for class. Fun.

(2005-11-14 19:46:48)
My silly boyfriend. We only went to our first Appalachian State Football game on Saturday. How could you forget? We sat on the visiting side and there was a hellicopter, two guys flying through the air, four very large and obnoxious girls that wouldn't sit down (and we wondered how their legs didn't buckle from all the weight). How could you forget? I mean, granted we only stayed an entire 15 minutes...but still ;)

7.11.6 Little thingie stolen from Marcie (2005-11-28 20:30)

LJ Interests meme results

1. **artificial intelligence**: I still predict that since humans have basically negated evolution (no more survival of the fittest) that one day computers/robots will take over the world. How are they supposed to do that without intelligence? :-)
2. **buzz poets**: Great band that not many people know.
3. **furman university**: My alma mater! Those were the days...
4. **individuality**: I like standing out. I hate the idea of just being part of a crowd and I like to do my own thing, no matter what anyone else thinks.
5. **mountain biking**: I haven't been able to do it much lately, but I used to be really into mountain biking.
6. **piercings**: They have always intrigued me, even though I don't have any (but I used to have one, just didn't keep it for long)
7. **skateboarding**: Branching from my love of surfing and wakeboarding, Bobby and I tried to learn to skateboard, but we were never too successful. (we did get some helpful hints from some 7 year olds though)
8. **standing out**: see individuality
9. **the lake**: My favorite place to be
10. **wakeskating**: Wakeboarding with no bindings. It's definitely a challenge and a workout, but it's a blast.

Enter your LJ user name, and 10 interests will be selected from your interest list.

_ submit

7.11.7 Jeepers, it's been almost 2 weeks!! (2005-11-28 20:31)

Things have been a little crazy with the semester finishing up so I haven't really had many chances to post on here. I just noticed that it has been almost 2 weeks since I posted! Let's see... My GRE went ok, I brought my verbal score up 90 points which isn't too bad considering I pretty much started studying about 5 days prior (better than the not studying at all that I did the first time). Finished up my Data mining final (BLECH!) and ended up getting a 76 on it, which I was totally satisfied with considering the amount of time I spent on it. God I can't wait for that class to be over. Something about a class that bores you, isn't run the way you would like for it to be, and counts for absolutely nothing so your grade is irrelevant, just doesn't motivate me to do squat for the class. A friend of mine who is in the same boat just stopped coming and will get an F but since it isn't in our programs of study, it really does affect absolutely nothing. Anyway...

Had an awesome thanksgiving break. Alana and I hung out in Raleigh and had a great thanksgiving meal, played with puppies, went to a hockey game, and played some DDR. Altogether it was a great break. I hesitate to hop on the scale though because I probably gained like 10 pounds, but boy was it good! Drove back to boone in mostly rain today and now we are just relaxing a bit before we start working. We also found our apartment to be about as cold as it is outside so we are also warming up a little before we do anything. We both have a good amount of crap to do since we didn't really work much over break. Oh well. It's hard to believe this semester is almost over! I am definitely ready for it, but it is still hard to believe. So close to ski trip time! :-) I think after about wednesday my semester will be mostly over so I *should* be able to post a little more in here, but I guess we will just have to wait and see. Until then!!

7.11.8 rainy rainy (2005-11-29 11:56)

I don't know if it is the rain, but I am feeling extremely unmotivated today. I have been burning the last hour and a half in the grad office doing basically nothing of importance because I really don't feel like doing anything. I KNOW I have to work some this evening, and I plan to, but as of now I am going to continue burning time. :-) I don't really have much else to say, I just figured making a post here would at least alleviate a few minutes of my boredom. Any sites y'all would recommend for when you are crazy bored?

7.11.9 a little redesign (2005-11-29 12:23)

Since I was bored I decided to do a little redesigning. There was one style I kinda liked, but it killed my color scheme and I don't feel like figuring it out right now so I just picked this one. I may change my color scheme again sometime, but for now I think I still like this. Any comments?

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theurbanchico (2005-11-29 20:54:38)
Me likey!

7.12 December

7.12.1 (2005-12-12 01:43)

dang, I just noticed that it has been about two weeks since I posted in here. That's sad. Wrapping up the semester has been a little crazy and I MAY have a chance to write in the next day or two, else I should definitely have time thursday so that will be good. I'm off to bed right now (gotta give two exams tomorrow) but I haven't forgotten about my blog, my updating has just been delayed :-)

7.12.2 quiz time, let's see if the colors work (2005-12-26 00:00)

[holly-left.jpg] The Twelve Days of Christmas
for fincher69: [holly-right.jpg]
Day # Who? What they got you
1st [1]tattermask A sorting hat
2nd [2]hcatlin The posies you were growing in your garden
3rd [3]_angelwings_ Velcro shoes
4th [4]jennygunn White tube socks
5th [5]_booty_ Pills that make your poo smell like freshly-cut grass
6th [6]tattermask Low fat chocolates
7th [7]pretty_mercenar A bracelet made of lucky charms
8th [8]pretty_mercenar A Star Wars chess set
9th [9]redhandedrope A life jacket from the Titanic
10th [10]lillibullero A coupon for cooked beets
11th [11]redhandedrope A shiny new nickel
12th [12]trashdaddy A camera with an elaborate lens so that you can spy on the neighbours
[13]Take this Quiz at [14]QuizGalaxy.com
[15](or, take the 'adult' version at [16]QuizUniverse.com)

Your Inner Child Is Surprised
[surprised.jpg]
You see many things through the eyes of a child. Meaning, you're rarely cynical or jaded. You cherish all of the details in life. Easily fascinated, you enjoy experiencing new things.

[17]How Is Your Inner Child?

Arty Kid
[arty.jpg]
Whether you were a drama freak or an emo poet, you definitely were expressive and unique. You're probably a little less weird these days - but even more talented!

[18]Who Were You In High School?

Your Musical Tastes Match: Weird Al
[weird-al.jpg]
[19]See his whole playlist here (iTunes required)

[20]What Celebrity Matches Your Taste in Music?

Your Observation Skills Get A B-
[observant-b.jpg]
Your senses are pretty sharp (okay, most of the time) And it takes something big to distract you!

[21]How Observant Are You?

1. http://www.livejournal.com/users/tattermask
2. http://www.livejournal.com/users/hcatlin
3. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_angelwings_
4. http://www.livejournal.com/users/jennygunn
5. http://www.livejournal.com/users/_booty_
6. http://www.livejournal.com/users/tattermask
7. http://www.livejournal.com/users/pretty_mercenar
8. http://www.livejournal.com/users/pretty_mercenar
9. http://www.livejournal.com/users/redhandedrope
10. http://www.livejournal.com/users/lillibullero
11. http://www.livejournal.com/users/redhandedrope
12. http://www.livejournal.com/users/trashdaddy
13. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/quiz.php?id=65
14. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/
15. http://www.quizuniverse.com/quiz.php?id=43
16. http://www.quizuniverse.com/
17. http://www.blogthings.com/howisyourinnerchildquiz/
18. http://www.blogthings.com/whowereyouinhighschoolquiz/
19. http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/click?id=CkIfgYlVpZA&offerid=78941.454939209&type=10&subid=
20. http://www.blogthings.com/whatcelebritymatchesyourtasteinmusicquiz/
21. http://www.blogthings.com/howobservantareyouquiz/

7.12.3 long long long time, no update (2005-12-26 00:05)

Merry Christmas everybody!

Man, it has been forever since I updated this thing. The end of the semester was pretty busy. Finishing up data mining projects, working on my thesis, getting all my grading done, taking a final, preparing a final exam for my class, and getting together all my application materials kept me away for a while.

After exams finished up I had about a day before My dad, Alana and I left for Colorado. Mom, Lauren, and Courtney joined us out there the next day. It was awesome that it snowed pretty much every day we were there and the conditions were AWESOME, but I would have to say that one of the coolest parts of the trip was getting to hang out with Jamie and Roper for a bit. I hadn't seen Roper in forever since he's stationed in Iraq so it was a lot of fun to get to chill, ski and hang out. They could only stay for two days, but it was still pretty awesome. It'll be nice to have him back stateside come March. So anyhoo, we had awesome conditions and snow the entire week. We had lots of great food and even better beer. Great trip.

We got back on the 23rd and I took Alana to Boone and we stayed in our frigid apartment that night then left bright and early and Alana went to Raleigh and I went to Bristol. We usually leave like christmas day for our trip so it was weird having christmas after we got back. All in all I had a wonderful christmas. Got an awesome classical guitar and a few cool geeky gadgets. :-) It's been nice spending time with the fam. I will hopefully also get to get some good workouts in while I am here. I lifted yesterday (which I am paying for) and today and did DDR both days so at least I am getting SOME exercise. Let's see if I can keep it up. :-) As usual I have plenty of geek chores to do around the house so I will stay busy these next few days. I should have plenty of time to write on here though so hopefully I won't go another two weeks without and update. :-) Merry Christmas!!

7.12.4 stolen from Adam (2005-12-27 03:03)

He had a cool iTunes thingie, and I wanted to do it even though I am on my laptop and don't have access to all my music. I figure I can do it on my laptop, then sometime after I am home I will do it again. :-) Spent some christmas money on some CDs today. Went to Boone and ripped them along with the couple CDs I got for christmas. New music makes me happy. :-) My sis had a bunch of friends over tonight which was kind of fun. Dad and I talked briefly how it was amazing that so many of them were around at their age. She probably had 10-12 people come by. After I graduated high school it was hard to gather my friends, much less after we graduated college. They all seemed to have fun. After they split I played some video games. Probably could have played for a while, but it started getting frustrating so I think I am going to hit the sack. :-)

Open iTunes/iPod or Windows Media Player to answer the following. Go to your library. Answer, no matter how embarrassing it is.

How many songs?
1114

Sort by artist
First artist: 33 West - Down
Last artist: Zero Bridge - Ice-Candy Man

Sort by song title
First Song: ...On The Radio (Remember The Days) - Nelly Furtado
Last Song: Zombie - Cranberries

Sort by time

Shortest Song: Outro - The White Stripes (0:09)
Longest Song: You Don't Love Me/Soul Serenade - Allman Brothers (19:25)

Sort by album
First Album: 1-22-2003 Acoustic - Maroon 5
Last Album: Yoshimi Battles The Pink Robots - The Flaming Lips

First song that comes up on shuffle
United States of Whatever - Liam Lynch

How many songs come up when you search for "sex"?
12

How many songs come up when you search for "death"?
2

How many songs come up when you search for "love"?
36

Most Frequently Played Song:
One Way Out (Live) - Allman Brothers - 13

7.12.5 Back in Boone for the night and I'm kinda bored... (2005-12-29 21:56)

So I may have a few posts tonight. We'll see. Right now I only feel like doing the iTunes thing again with my real music collection instead of just my laptop's so here it goes.

How many songs?
10492

Sort by artist
First artist: .38 Special - Hold On Loosely
Last artist: ZZ Top - Squank

Sort by song title
First Song: ...On The Radio (Remember The Days) - Nelly Furtado
Last Song: Zone Zero - Vision of Disorder

Sort by time
Shortest Song: Death of the Prodigy Dancers (Live) - The Prodigy (0:01)
Longest Song: Cryptical Envelopement - Grateful Dead (36:29)

Sort by album
First Album: ...Somewhere More Familiar - Sister Hazel
Last Album: ZZ Top's First Album - ZZ Top

First song that comes up on shuffle
Become What You Hate - Midtown

How many songs come up when you search for ”sex”?
70

How many songs come up when you search for ”death”?
23

How many songs come up when you search for ”love”?
393

Most Frequently Played Song:
The Slow Train - Lemon Jelly

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tattermask (2005-12-30 19:50:12)
Wow, you really ARE bored!!! ac

Chapter 8

2006

8.1 January

8.1.1 dadjum (2006-01-09 16:24)

Man, I haven't posted in my blog since last year! ;-)

Had an awesome new year's in Charleston. Got to hang out with Mark and Melissa, whom we hadn't seen in a while, which is always fun. Chilled in his parents place downtown which was hella-nice. Got to have some wonderful seafood meals (mmmm mmm crab legs!).

Went from Charleston to Raleigh for a few days then headed back to boone. Met up with the folks at Atlanta Bread Company then went to best buy to trade in a christmas present. It was a cool cordless phone that could use bluetooth to talk to my cell phone as the connection instead of a landline. Only thing was, it turned out to not be compatible with my cell phone. So we returned it and I ended up getting a snazzy new digital camera! It's basically the same as Alana's HP except it's the Sony version. I love it!

Today classes started back up. It's going to be a busy semestter though! I have 2 senior level psych classes, one graduate level psych class, psych research, and finishing up my thesis. Most of it should be pretty interesting which is good. I'm also teaching two classes this semester, but I pretty much have everything organized for that from teaching last semester so that shouldn't be bad. I am really going to try to focus on not putting things off this semester. I have a lot of stuff and it will be easy for it to build up in a hurry so we will see how that goes. :-)

Over break mom and I signed up for a half marathon in April. I started my training regime today. Mom sent me a half marathon training schedule and today was 30-45 minutes of walking or cross-training so I rode my stationary bike for 30 minutes. Also means I started my diet today. No more fast food! We're trying out only getting stuff from grocery stores and doing more cooking and food preparing. We'll see how it goes! I'm around 185 right now and I am shooting for 170 by the time the half marathon comes around. Wish me luck!

Well, I think that's a pretty good update. Back to chillin and watching some TV. :-)

8.1.2 My training continues! (2006-01-10 11:35)

I know it's kinda early, but I may not feel like posting later so I figured i would make a small post while I cooled down. Today's training was a 30-45 minute run. Since it's my first run of the first week of training, I skimped a little, but I still had a nice 26 minute run. Another thing that made me do that is that the 3 mile loop crosses some really busy streets and I didn't really feel like doing that. It's also been like months since I have done much physical so I am trying to ease in a little bit to keep from injuring myself. Well, I guess that's it. Maybe I will post later if anything interesting happens today, else I will likely post tomorrow to try to keep my training logged. :-)

8.1.3 quick post (2006-01-10 15:29)

Well, I have now officially experienced all my classes and, honestly, I think it may be the most intense semester in my collegiate career. All three psychology courses are writing designators and have loads of reading associated. My psychology research should be fun and interesting, but it will still take some time. Then there's the finishing of my master's thesis. Quite a load! I have said this in the past, but I really think I am going to stick with it this time; I am going to try to do stuff NOT at the last minute. :-) I would really like to make a lot of progress on my thesis early on so I can start to wrap that up and any writing I can do early in my other classes will be good. One thing is for certain, with all the reading and writing I will be doing I will definitely be spending a lot more time on schoolwork than usual!

(2006-01-11 18:22:29) Yay!
I'm so glad to hear that Sweetie Pie! I'll be busy too with lots of school work and my new "activity" :) hehe. I love you bunches. me.

8.1.4 mini update (2006-01-11 17:51)

Same old same old class-wise except for the fact that i read way too much last night. :-) My professor emailed us two articles and i just assumed they were both to be read by today, but one (the really long one) was for NEXT week. Oh well, at least I'm a little ahead on the reading now!

Today was a cross training day so I decided to just do a weight workout. I may add in some elliptical in a few weeks, but considering it's been a while since I worked out I am still easing into things. :-)

8.1.5 nice long weekend (2006-01-16 23:49)

It has definitely been a nice long weekend. Headed down to Bobby and Erin's friday after class and got to chill with them til sunday. It was good to see them and fun to hang out with them and their cracked out dogs. :-) Came back sunday and met my folks for dinner and to switch cars so momma could take the disco to get serviced today. Today has definitely been relaxing. I've found going out of town for the weekend isn't very conducive to my training schedule. :-) I ran on thursday, but didn't do anything all weekend. I did do a walk/jog today which was good and I should be able to go for a run tomorrow. Since I was just getting back into things last week I am definitely going to repeat my first week on my training schedule. Well, I guess that's it. Nothing too huge to add. Looked over my schedule and updated my calendar and it is definitely going to be a busy semester. I better get crackin'!! :-)

8.1.6 good day (2006-01-17 22:57)

It's been a pretty good day. Classes went well. Thesis meeting went well. It's been a little rainy. I DID manage to get my training in today too! It was a very interesting run. It was about 50 degrees outside and raining. I did a little hill running then ran my normal 2 mile loop. It was interesting because I have never exercised with a freezing cold rag covering me. Since I was constantly refreshed by new cold rain, I never really got hot while I ran. And because the humidity was 100 %, I didn't have any problems with my throat getting scratchy either. It was definitely interesting, good, but interesting. :-)

Also, mom sent me [1]this funny article by a professor. It is definitely worth a read. Especially those who might end up in academia. I thought it was quite funny.

1. http://www.townhall.com/opinion/columns/mikeadams/2006/01/09/181417.html

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tattermask (2006-01-20 19:59:10)
EEP! Thesis = THE DEVIL!!! Run away!!! Glad yours is going well. If you're doing APA and you need a proofreader, feel free to send it my way :) ac

8.1.7 Copying Amanda (2006-01-17 23:39)

My questions probably aren't as good, but maybe at least a couple people will try it out :-)

[1]
Take My Quiz
- on -
QuizYourFriends.com!

1. http://www.quizyourfriends.com/takequiz.php?quizname=060117233911-53699

8.1.8 Quite a week (2006-01-25 22:58)

It has definitely been a helluva week. Crazy busy and a little stressful, but it's all good now. :-) It's just a busy semester and I am doing my best to organize things and work on my time management (neither are my strong suits). I had a couple things that popped up this week that I wanted to mention here, but I can't seem to remember them all. I'll just start and then see if any other ones pop in my head while I am typing.

- Whiney Graduate Students - I have one graduate level class this semester, Advanced Abnormal Psychology. It's a really interesting course and the professor is like right out of grad school and is pretty cool. Well today people were freaking out about the midterm (way far away) and wanted him to make outlines. They were also half complaining about the amount we have to read (70 pages a week). YOU ARE IN GRADUATE SCHOOL PEOPLE. That involves READING and maybe even TAKING

NOTES and MAKING YOUR OWN DAMN OUTLINES! How babied do you want to be? I mean, if it were an freshman class I could understand. You're new to college, tests are scary, professors expect more of you, etc. These people are in GRADUATE SCHOOL! I mean come on. Grow up. Learn to be a student and take some responsibility for pete's sake.

- Chuck Norris - I completely don't understand this new-found craze involving Chuck Norris (sorry Adam). What's the big deal? Saying stupid stuff like "Chuck Norris doesn't sleep, he waits" and "Chuck Norris doesn't go hunting because the word hunting inplies a chance of failure. Chuck Norris goes killing" is supposed to be funny? Maybe it's just over my head. I mean, when Conan plays clips from Walker Texas Ranger, it's funny. When random college students make silly assertions about him, not so funny.

- Wind - firckin' 200 mph gusts on Grandfather mountain yesterday. HOLY CRAP!

- AEL - AEL is the graduate student honors society. I saw an announcement that Jan 31 was the deadline for applying so I glanced at the criteria. It said you needed a 3.7 GPA to apply. Well currently I have a 3.66 but I remembered that if a course isn't in your course of study, it doesn't affect your GPA. Since I pulled an A- in Data Mining last semester, I decided to switch it out with Graph Theory (in which I made a B) giving me a GPA of 3.74. How cool is that? Now I gotta put together this application by pretty much the end of the week and we will see what happens! It'd definitely look good on a resume

Well, I think that was about all I had to mention. It's been a week so I am sure things that popped in my head early in the week have already evacuated themselves. I don't foresee my schedule settling down much this semester, but hopefully I will still be able to keep this thing fairly updated. :-)

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theurbanchico (2006-01-26 14:32:23)
"I completely don't understand this new-found craze involving Chuck Norris..." I'm not crazed about Chuck Norris by any means. I just thought the shit was pretty funny. ;o) And thanks for the info about AEL. I think I'm gonna go for it myself.

8.1.9 weird email (2006-01-26 17:45)

I got a very interesting email just now and i figured I would share it. I get spam and stuff occasionally, but this is definitely different. The subject of the email was "e-fax." Enjoy!

It begin begin
It work count
Are break cancel
has cough clean
learn fix believe
someone fall change
have turnoff learn
The read open
active give eat
yes eat fix
somewhere ask cancel

8.1.10 Another one (2006-01-28 11:46)

What is up with these weird emails I am getting all of a sudden? This one had the subject of "hi." Is there a code I'm missing here?

i see lose
super play run
his have watch
hour spend open
As buy speak
Are study drink
Go bring travel
to cut buy
He wakeup read
it shut fill
was reply ask

8.1.11 Stolen from Amanda (2006-01-28 12:38)



You are most likely to be caught putting a glove

that you have blown up on your head.
ha..hahahaha. that looks fun. You are
probably a pretty insane person. Go you. You
deserve a cookie. *hands cookie to quiz
taker* And since i gave you a cookie you need
to rate SUPER HIGH!! *quiz taker takes cookie
and runs away* "DAMMIT COME BACK HERE
YOU!!" *(me)throws spoons*
[1] What Idiotic thing are you most likely to be caught doing? (fixed)
brought to you by [2]Quizilla

1. http://quizilla.com/users/TaiKlares/quizzes/What%20Idiotic%20thing%20are%20you%20most%20likely%20to%20be%20caught%20doing%3F%20(fixed)/
2. http://quizilla.com/

8.2 February

8.2.1 Busy Busy Busy (2006-02-05 10:38)

It's been well over a week since I posted anything of consequence. This semester has been keeping me crazy busy! Last weekend was a blast. Adam and Keith had a party for Scott's birthday. Played lots of beer pong and had an awesome time. Pretty much chilled the rest of the weekend if I remember correctly (it WAS a good while ago). This week I pretty much just stayed busy with school. Friday we went to Raleigh and got tons of laundry done and Alana got her dad to help her with some school stuff. We weren't there too long but it was a pretty fun and productive trip. Got back yesterday and Alana had a retreat to go on so I went out to dinner with Adam then we played video games for a while. Woke up pretty early this morning and came back to my apartment and went back to sleep. Now I am awake again! We got a decent snowcover last night so I think my run is going to have to be on the treadmill. I gotta run 5 miles today! Wish me luck. And hopefully I will be better about updating this thing, but school's keeping me busy enough that I am not making any promises. :-)

(2006-02-06 15:13:03)
Gosh i miss you....we're two busy people!! Cant wait for our DATE on Saturday night :)

8.2.2 new addition (2006-02-08 17:53)

I should have started doing this like 4 weeks ago when I started my training for the half marathon my mom and I are going to run, but oh well. I'm slow. Since my wednesdays are my weight lifting days and I usually have a pretty consistent workout time as well as food and water intake, it is going to be my "weigh day." Since I started working out I have probably lost about 4 pounds. Since I weigh every wednesday I am going to start putting it on here so I can kinda keep track of my weight progress. Today I weighed in at 184.6 pounds. Hopefully it will continue to drop!

Nothing else to really report except that I think I am going to drop my general psych class. I am already taking 15 hours (a full load for a graduate student is 9) and I think I just put a little too much on my plate with having to finish up my thesis and all. I'll still have 12 hours so I will still be doing more than a normal graduate student. :-)

8.2.3 Good weekend so far! (2006-02-12 16:10)

It's been a fun weekend. Went home friday and ran 5 miles on the treadmill. Did pretty good, better than I thought I would do. Enjoyed beer and pizza night with the folks. :-)

Got up early saturday and came back to boone. Tried to go watch Clay snowboard, but no one at the mountain had any clue what was going on and no one told us that about the only way anyone could get to where they are riding is if they were skiing themselves. So we went back home and just relaxed. I was going to try to get some work done, but my brain completely malfunctioned and I left almost everything I wanted to bring back with me. So all my stuff was in Bristol making it a little hard to work on anything. I did beat the final tournament in Mario Strikers. :-) Also finally broke down and created a MySpace account. It's apparently the cool new profile site so you know I gotta stay with the times! Check it out at [1]http://www.myspace.com/fincher69. Most of the stuff I just copied and pasted from Campus Hook (which no one seems to use anymore) so it's nothing new, just a new home. :-) Join up so I can have friends! I look kinda sad only having one friends. People I know need to get with the times! hahaha.

Today has been pretty relaxing. My parents brought me the stuff I left at home. Then I went through some of my clothes and made a goodwill pile and realized that I had about 80 hangers just chillin in my closet. I should probably hop in the shower and start getting some work done soon. I got a lot to two in the next couple days!

Join [2]MySpace!

1. http://www.myspace.com/fincher69
2. http://www.myspace.com/

8.2.4 busy busy monday (2006-02-13 12:59)

Typical busy monday for me. This is my one main break of the day.

I realized something in class today. Since I started my training for this half-marathon my mom and I are running, I have been consistently more fidgety in class. My leg is constantly bouncing. I mean, I have always been a bit of a fidgeter, but not as consistenly as now. I wonder if I would still be that way if I did my exercise before class? hmm..... I dunno.

On a bummer note, I just found out that I didn't get into the psychology department at Colorado. It was kind of a long shot since I am a computer science person, and apparently like 2 % of people that apply are accepted. Oh well. Hopefully I will get into the Computer Science department there and since I will be doing cognitive science I will still be taking psychology classes. I mostly just wish I had at least gotten an interview because I tend to do well in interviews even if I didn't look awesome on paper. Right now the CS server at Colorado seems to be down so I can't email them yet, but hopefully I will be able to hear from them soon. I am still entertaining the option of getting two phd's so as long as I get into CS, I can look into the possibility of getting a joint phd in CS and Cognitive Science, as well as a phd in Psych. Only problem with that is that I have heard that after 5 years, coursework stops counting so I don't know if I would have to do all the work for both degrees during the 5 years I was there or how that works. Hopefully I'll have the chance to find out! :-)

Well, I got a little more break before I head to class then to serve time in the public lab. Keep your fingers crossed for me!

(2006-02-13 18:41:17)
I know everything will turn out for the best. Just know I'll be right by your side. LOVE.

tattermask (2006-02-14 15:59:49)
TWO Ph.D's, eh? You overachiever!! ;) I think I feel you on the increased fidgety.. ness... whatever word that would be... I have found for myself that if I work out early in the morning, it DOES help me calm down for the rest of the day. The downside to that is, of course, if I didn't get enough sleep or am more tired than usual and then go work out, it can potentially make me sleepier and less able to concentrate... but sometimes it wakes me up, too... It's a gamble! That demi-marathon sounds great and I'm proud of your momma for doing it, too! I wish my momma would run with me! You're lucky to have her. aLc

fincher69 (2006-02-14 23:02:27)
overachiever or lifetime student? ;-) Thanks, I feel lucky to have her too.

8.2.5 Happy Valentine's Day! (2006-02-14 09:25)

Did you know Arizona and Oregon became states on the this day in 1912 and 1859, respectively?

8.2.6 Stolen from Amanda (2006-02-14 18:08)

I got a little variance in there, huh? :-)

```
You scored as Psychology. You should be a Psychology major!

Mathematics
100%

Psychology
100%

Engineering
92%

Chemistry
83%

Philosophy
83%

Theater
75%

Journalism
67%

Anthropology
```

67%

Sociology
58%

Biology
58%

Art
50%

English
42%

Linguistics
33%

Dance
33%
[1]What is your Perfect Major? (PLEASE RATE ME!!<3)
created with [2]QuizFarm.com

1. http://quizfarm.com/test.php?q_id=119158
2. http://quizfarm.com/

(2006-03-04 00:21:30) what a nerd
You scored as Biology. You should be a Biology major! You are passionate about the sciences, and you enjoy studying cell growth and evolutionary concepts which enable living organisms to survive. Pursue that! Biology 92 % Psychology 83 % Chemistry 67 % Engineering 67 % Art 67 % Anthropology 67 % Mathematics 58 % Dance 58 % Philosophy 50 % Linguistics 50 % Journalism 42 % Sociology 33 % Theater 25 % English 17 %

8.2.7 weight report (2006-02-15 16:11)

Well I went and lifted today. I weighed in at 184.5 which if I remember is only 0.1 pounds less than last week. I guess that's kind of expected since the past week I have been kinda busy and my diet hasn't been the best. Well hopefully it will continue to drop even if it is in tiny increments! :-)

8.2.8 It's already been a week? (2006-02-22 19:03)

Man, that's nuts!! I guess it kinda makes sense. This week seems extra long to me already and it's only wednesday. Last weekend was.... um.... what did I do last weekend? I think I chilled friday. Saturday I went to bristol and came back sunday, which was fun. This week has been busy (as I feel the next 5 weeks will be even more). I found out today that I got a 93 on my social psych test which wasn't quite as good as I was hoping, but good nonetheless. Today I was starving when I got back to the apartment so I ate which ended up postponing my workout. Because of this I thought that I would probably weigh in heavier, but when I

hopped on the scale it said 182.8. I was pretty stoked. The weight is still coming off! The weirdest thing is that I don't feel any lighter. I can tell I am getting in better shape, but I don't really feel like I have lost any weight. Maybe I will if this trend continues. :-) Well, off to chill and get some work done!

8.2.9 Good weekend, but kinda crappy monday (2006-02-27 15:59)

So it was a good weekend overall. Mark came up on saturday and we hung out. Sunday we went for a 7 mile run, then watched a couple movies then went snowboarding for a couple hours. Needless to say I slept well last night. ;-) So far today was OK until I checked my mail and found out that I didn't get accepted into the CS department at Boulder either. So now I really have to start thinking about what the hell I am going to do in the fall. I am applying to FSU and Clemson as backup schools, but neither are really where I want to be. I may email people at Boulder and see if I can find out what I would need to do in the next year to help my chances if I were to reapply next year. I am actually surprised by the CS. I thought psych was kind of a longshot, but I thought I had a pretty good chance in the CS department. Guess not. I know Boulder has a program where I could take classes even though I wouldn't be an enrolled student so that may be an option. Before I really think about that I need to figure out how close I was to getting in and what my chances would be if I moved there and took classes for a year. Geez, like I don't have enough going on this semester. Oh well, I will figure something out. And my stupid laptop's touchpad is messing up which just adds a little more frustration. GRR! Ok, back to trying to get some work done in the good ol' public lab.

8.3 March

8.3.1 That time again... (2006-03-01 19:20)

Well, my weight workout days seem to be getting later and later. Since the longer I wait, the more likely I am to consume, I would imagine that weighing later each time might skew my weight record a little bit but oh well. Today I weighed in at a hefty 184.6. That's about 2 pounds heavier than last week, but it isn't too much of a surprise because I actually felt a little heavy. I am hoping part of that is muscle between upping my weights and running 7 miles. here's hoping at least. :-) I guess I'll just keep tracking it and maybe I will make it to the gym a little earlier next week. I also made the mistake of having 2 quesadillas (one for lunch and one for dinner) today so I have a big wad of cheese that is sititng a little heavy at the moment so I had to do a bit of an abbreviated workout. I'm sure I'll be back up to speed next week.

Oh, and I talked briefly with the two professors I applied to at Colorado in Psychology and I found out that the primary reason I wasn't accepted was because one of my mentors was going to retire in not too long so he isn't taking any more students, and the other felt our interests were a little too far apart. Kinda stinky reasons to get shot down huh? The guy who had different interests said my first choice would have matched me well (if he had been taking students) and he recommended another professor should I choose to apply again in the future. You'd think that they could just pass my application to someone relevant, especially the guy who just wasn't taking students. But no, you apply to two professors and two professors only instead of just applying to the department. Oh well. The more I have been thinking about it the more I think I could enjoy being at FSU. They have a cognitive psychology department (unlike clemson) so I could at the very least earn a master's in cognitive psychology while I get my Ph.D. in Computer Science. Time will tell I guess!

8.3.2 Bored (2006-03-06 17:41)

I'm in public lab again and I have a big chunk waiting to be done on my thesis and I don't feel like starting it because I know I can't finish it before it's time for me to leave so I am just chillin and burning time right

now. Fun.

Anyhoo... Alana and I went and saw Ultraviolet last night. I don't think she enjoyed it very much but I thought it was kinda cool. I think it is based off a comic book and the animation style was slightly cartoony giving a bit of a blend between real life and animated. Definitely had its share of cheesy moments and some cool action scenes. Probably not good enough to pay to see it in the theatre, but good enough to rent.

I can't believe next week is spring break. It's going to be a crazy busy week for me. I have a bunch of stuff to do on my thesis for my meeting tomorrow. I have a midterm on friday and a 4-5 page paper due on friday as well. Having a bit of a break will be nice though. I will have a lot to do on my thesis over break, but at least I won't have much to worry about with my other classes.

I just added one of my other blogs as a friend so it will show up on my friends page. I use [LJ User: runfincherrun] to keep track of the races that mom and I run. We hardly ran any last year due to scheduling conflicts and my sprained ankle, but we should be able to hit a good number of them this year. Our usual first race of the season will be our third this year. We started things out with a 10k last weekend that went pretty well. I think we have a 5k in a couple weeks, then another 5k, then the half-marathon that mom and I have been training for. I don't thinkg I have looked at the schedule for after that, but that is definitely our big race of the season. We both agree that it will be awesome to do once, but we doubt we will ever do one again. :-) I could do another 10k, but I am really looking forward to how our first 5k goes since I have been training. We also both decided that we aren't really interested in distance races at all, but after the half-marathon we'd just like to work on improving our 5k times. Keep an eye out for updates on my friends page!

Well, I guess that's about all I have to say at the moment. Only 10 more minutes and I'm free!! Woohoo! :-)

8.3.3 update from atlanta (2006-03-11 09:49)

It was definitely a busy week before spring break. My workout schedule got moved around so I didn't get to do my weekly weigh-in but I feel like I've continued to lose weight. Only bad thing is that thursday I started feeling pretty crappy so I haven't exercised since then. It started as a sore throat and now it's progressed to some nasty congestion. Great way to start spring break huh? Didn't help me get my paper done that was due friday or study for my midterm on friday. Oh well. At least I had my sweetie to take care of me some (though she hasn't been feeling very well either). Well, we are about to head to the Atlanta aquarium. Should be cool! Hopefully I won't cough up any more nasty stuff like I did a minute ago. Yuck!

8.3.4 quick update (2006-03-22 16:45)

Had an awesome spring break. I don't really have time to go into the details right now, but it encompassed driving from Boone to Atlanta to Bristol to Boone to Raleigh to Charlotte to Tampa to Charlotte and back to Boone. A lot of driving but fun nonetheless. If you go [1]here and check out my recent album, it's all my pics from spring break. Hopefully I'll have time to get in there and add some captions soon.

As it's wednesday, it is my weekly weigh in day. Today I was at 180.1 which was definitely lighter than I was expecting. I took half the week before spring break off because I got sick, then the only exercise I got over spring break was walking around Busch Gardens. I wasn't the best about watching what I eat either so the fact I weighed 180.1 was definitely a surprise.

Well, it's off to the shower then trying to get this dadjum thesis finished. Wish me luck!

1. http://fincher69.shutterfly.com/

8.3.5 busy busy busy busy busy busy busy (2006-03-29 15:58)

Man, this semester just needs to be over. My thesis is coming along, but it is definitely crazy crunch time. I don't think I have gone to bed before 2 in a while because I've been trying to churn this out. I would say I'm about 50 % done with writing and 90 % done with the programming so it is definitely coming along. It is going to feel so good to have it finished! I got a 92 on the psych paper that I wrote while I felt I was dying and that I started about 9pm the night before it was due. I was pretty happy about that. My debate today went well and my presentation for friday got postponed to next wednesday so that takes a little bit of a load off.

On a happy note, I found out today that I got into FSU and I got an assistantship as well. I was pretty stoked about that. I wanted to go there over Clemson so that is good, but it just feels nice to know that, for sure, I will be going SOMEWHERE in the fall. :-)

My workout got shifted so I ran instead of lifting today so I didn't do my weekly weigh-in. Hopefully I will be able to lift tomorrow and I can get it done then. I don't think I am going to be any lighter, but it'll be nice when I finally breach the 170s! 170 even is my goal so we'll see how close I can get to that before the half marathon.

I think that's about all really... yep. Recovering from my run, eating something, then it's back to work!

8.3.6 Weigh-in (2006-03-30 15:17)

Well, since I offset my workout this week, today was my lifting day. I did my weekly weigh-in today and I was at 178.3! I hit the 170s! I think some of this lost weight in the past couple of weeks has been muscle since I have hardly been doing any lifting, but I hit it a little harder this week so we will see how next week looks and see if it fits in with my hypothesis. :-) I'm definitely getting closer to my goal of 170 regardless so that is good. I think another part of it recently has been that I have been so frickin' busy with my thesis that it's pretty typical to have only eaten a granola bar before 4-5pm. Probably not the best thing for me, but oh well. Only a couple more weeks and I will be able to completely relax. :-)

8.4 April

8.4.1 still chugging (2006-04-05 19:53)

Today I finished up my 5th of 7 chapters of my thesis. (rough draft at least) Still got some programming to try to finish up tonight and tomorrow, then hopefully finishing everything up this weekend leaving only revision. Man it is going to feel SO good to have this thesis done!!

Weigh-in day: 178.3 which I think it almost exactly what I was last week. My shin was giving me major issues yesterday and I only made it 5.5 miles on sunday. Hopefully this shin thing won't be causing me too many more problems because it is really annoying and I only have a few more weeks before the half marathon! It's exciting, but I think it will feel really nice to have that done too. ;-)

Okey dokey, back to work!

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tattermask (2006-04-06 02:44:17)
ah, the joys of thesis-writing. I don't miss it. best of luck to you. ac

8.4.2 2 minute break (2006-04-12 19:13)

to update. I weighed in at 178.9 which is actually lighter than I expected considering I have hardly exercized this week because my shin hurts. Ok, back to work!

8.4.3 Notice the lack of updates? (2006-04-21 01:39)

Yeah.... that's because I have been ridiculously busy the last couple of weeks trying to get my thesis finished. Initially I think there were at least three of us, maybe four, that were trying to get everything finished up this semester. Steadily, one-by-one, the others dropped out leaving only me. I have to give a big thanks to my thesis committee for putting up with my last-minutedness. I would say my bedtime has been around 3:30 on average the past two weeks. Every night has been that "I have to work til at least 3 because if I don't I will be behind enough that I won't get to sleep tomorrow" kind of thing.

I had my thesis defense last night which went well. I have a tendency to talk quickly when I present, but it still lasted over an hour. It was definitely a little different that the one defense I had attended beforehand. At that one, there were a couple grad students, wife and mom of the grad student defending, and just the three member of his thesis committee. I had at least 6 grad students, Alana and my mom, then my three committee members and two additional faculty members. At the end of the one I attended there were probably 4 questions which were pretty simple and open. I probably answered questions for over 10 minutes. Not quite what I was expecting but everyone there told me I did a good job so I am not going to argue. ;-)

I had plenty of revision to do today and got it to the grad office just in the nick of time. Unfortunately I have to get some forms resigned because my committee and I all missed that I had the wrong person listed as the dean of the graduate school. OOPS! They said it isn't a big deal so that's good. I think they are having some kind of other paperwork issue with me, but I haven't talked to Pekarek about it yet so I am not positive whats up. If we didn't have to get 15 forms signed to wipe our asses they'd probably have fewer issues with paperwork!

It definitely feels good to have the defense done and the thesis turned in. I think it ended up being about 52 pages. Good stuff! There is still a chance that the grad school will find something that needs fixing, but if that happens it is usually something pretty minor. I still consider it to be done. :-) Only bad thing is that now my thesis is pretty much finished, my motivation for my other classes has dropped a bit. Especially considering how many frickin' hours I have logged in the past few weeks trying to get it done. Jacker, my thesis advisor, agreed that this has probably been one of the most last-minute theses ever, but we still pulled it off!! I was pretty bound and determined to get it done. I'm exteremely lucky that I am not someone who requires much sleep because I have probably averaged hardly over 4 hours a night for the past two weeks and I have felt fine. I think my body has actually begun to get used to it because last night I slept for about 7-8 hours and felt pretty groggy! Funny stuff.

This thesis crunch has also precluded my training schedule. I was having a pain in my shin that I wanted to let rest as well, but I can feel that I have gained some weight back in the past few weeks. I didn't weight yesterday (not that I had the time) but I may get the bad news next week. At least my shin is feeling better. ;-) Mom has been having some pain issues to so I think we are going to be a sore sight come next weekend when we are running our half marathon! Keeping my crazy schedule, I have a function with Alana tomorrow

night, then I am getting up bright and early to drive to bristol to run a 5k at 8:30 am. I have a feeling I am going to crash on saturday and just sleep til monday. ;-)

Man, it has felt weird to actually have enough time to update this thing! Hopefully I will have plenty of time to update this summer and I'll be able to wakeboard like crazy and get back to dropping some of this extra weight off! Well, back to putting the finishing touches on this psychology paper (didn't mention that did I?) that is due tomorrow. Man am I sick of writing! :-)

8.4.4 picture time (2006-04-24 01:06)

I recently found out that if you have a paid LiveJournal account you can upload and post pics so I thought I would try it out. I think you can click on the pics if you want to see a bigger version.

[1] 
Pre-haircut Jesus pose

[2] 
Post-haircut


[3]
Looking snazzy at formal

Man, my students aren't going to recognize me tomorrow. They're gonna flip.

And man, my legs are sore from our 5k. Not a good sign for the half-marathon in a week! I'm loading up on protein and gonna try to get a good run in tomorrow. Hopefully that'll jump start my muscles back to where they were before my thesis crunch!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00003ts3/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000057wc/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00001y8g/

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tattermask (2006-04-24 11:09:33)
I am considerably fonder of post-haircut. And you DO look snazzy in the orange-and-white tux (even if it reminds me of Clemson). Go you! Alana is a lucky woman!! hehe ac

8.5 May

8.5.1 MEGA UPDATE (2006-05-15 13:29)

Man, it's been THREE WEEKS since I updated! I'm not usually that bad. With classes and my thesis finishing up it HAS been a little crazy so I will use that as my excuse. I think my last update was actually after my thesis defense. Let's see if I can remember what else happened.

People have definitely been surprised by my hair change. I don't know if anyone has recognized me right off the bat. I've been told that I seem to change more with the removal of hair than many people so I look like a completely different person. Fun. :-)

Finished up the semester with an A in my Abnormal Psych class (the graduate level one) and an A- in my Social Psych class (senior level). Given my crazy thesis crunch I was definitely happy with that.

Had some road trippin' after I walked at graduation last saturday. From last monday to this monday I have covered over 2200 miles! Not near as crazy as some of the road trips Bobby and I have taken in the past, but a good amount of time nonetheless. The monday after graduation I went down to Tallahassee

to visit FSU for the fellowship I am up for. Tuesday I had meetings with professors all day, then I drove back on wednesday. Thursday I went to Raleigh to see Alana then we left from there on friday to head to Hilton Head. Had a great weekend at the beach then came back to Raleigh yesterday (sunday). Had a crazy thunder/hailstorm last night which didn't last long. Today I got up and drove back to boone! Probably going to drive to bristol tomorrow and possibly back here tomorrow night depending on how I feel.

I haven't really started packing stuff up so that is my main goal for the week. I packed up my movies, CDs, and video games, but that's it. Since I am working for mom and dad, my work schedule is a little more lenient than Alana's so we have just been trying to get her all moved out. I don't think I really have that much, but it always turns out to be more than it looks like. Luckily, the apartment was mostly furnished so I really only have 3 pieces of furniture to move out (especially nice since I am on the third floor).

Still waiting for the grad school to finish reviewing my thesis so I can print it out and officially be finished with everything. Hopefully that will happen soon. Some things I am kind of hesitant to pack up if I may need them in the touching up process. It'll be nice to have yet another piece of paper! :-) It feels really good knowing that it's written and I've defended so the rest is minor paperwork, but it'll still be nice to be completely finished.

Um.... I think that about sums up the last few weeks. Went for a run with mom saturday for the first run since the half marathon. It went well but I can definitely tell that I need to get back into my training soon. All this travelling definitely hasn't helped, but once I am home and settled it shouldn't be hard to get back to where I was. Speaking of running, my mom and I have 2 5k's coming up this weekend! One saturday and one sunday. That's two t-shirts in one weekend! Yay!! Yes, I know we're crazy. Luckily I didn't get sore from our run saturday so I'm not too worried.

Ok, I doubt anyone will read through all of that, but it's there! Back to chillin and trying to motivate myself to clean and pack and being glad I'm not driving. ;-)

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angelwings (2006-05-18 04:47:18)
CONGRATZ!!! Yea make me feel bad saying you haven't updated in 3 weeks. I think i got months to catch up on. Oh yea and I got a new AIM...Sweetbunsbrigade And no you really don't wanna know :p *hugs*

(2006-05-18 10:29:07)
I love reading your blog!!

8.5.2 mini update (2006-05-16 01:11)

Since I tend to switch schools alot ;-) I decided it would be good to find a stable email so I started playing around with gmail. It has some pretty cool features! I think I'm in love. ;-) If anyone has a gmail address let me know (IM me at fincher69) or if you would like one let me know and I can hook you up. It has a good interface, plenty of storage, and all sorts of cool features. Join in the craze people! :-)

8.6 June

8.6.1 jeepers (2006-06-01 02:16)

I really haven't been THAT busy this summer. You'd think I would be able to update this thing more than every two weeks! Geesh! Well let's see... I'm working for my parents this summer. My mom had some things for me to do and my dad said he could find some other things to do at his office so that's my job. Flexible hours is always keen. ;-) We cleaned out the shop a few days ago which was one of the big projects.

My main project for the summer is editing all our old home videos and transferring them to DVD. So far the biggest hangup has just been equipment. I have become the return king. :-) I have probably returned like 4 pieces of equipment in the last couple of weeks. Just sent back another one today. HOPEFULLY the piece they are sending back to me will be exactly what I need and I will be ready to tackle this.

I've decided I would like to lose a few (10) pounds this summer, so mom has been helping me with my workouts. Unfortunately, she likes to workout at the buttcrack of early, and that doesn't really mesh well with my preferred schedule of going to bed at 3 or 4. We had a nice 1.5 hour bike ride this morning, but I told her I may have to limit our morning workouts to two days a week. ;-) I've been trying to wakeboard as well which is always good exercise. Today dad and I went after work so I had that on top of my bike ride. It will also help that mom is pretty health conscious so any food she prepares for us is low calorie, low fat, etc. I also really need to start lifting so I can try to get a little definition (maybe even and ab or two ;-)). I think that is going to be my workout tomorrow. I'll lift right when I get up and start getting pumped up! Weather permitting, we'll go wakeboarding again after work tomorrow so that will give me a little cardio as well.

Um.... is there anything else I need to report? Oh, I have been trying to get my thesis changes made so I can resubmit it so I can get approved to print. Jacker emailed me today and said that I can bypass the tedious changes I thought I was going to have to make. The end is in sight! I'm still really glad that I busted my ass that last month of school (even if it facilitated me gaining like 10 pounds) and got my thesis written and my defense done. It is definitely a load off to only have to worry about nitpicky formatting stuff.

Well, I think that about sums things up. I can't think of anything else (remotely) interesting that has occurred in the past couple of weeks. Hopefully as I settle into my groove here in bristol I'll get a little better about posting on here. Until then!

8.6.2 weigh-in (2006-06-01 12:26)

I just got to thinking and if I am going to try to get in better shape this summer, it'd be nice to have a measure other than "well, I feeeeel lighter." My parents scale measure weight and body fat percentage so I'll start recording that here (as embarassing as it may be, luckily I have few readers ;-)) I don't know if thursday will be my weigh-in day or if I will make it wednesdays like before, but it'll start today regardless! Today I weighed-in at a whopping 188.0 pounds and 20.5 % body fat. Holy poo!! Like a fifth of my body is fat. That is just frickin' gross. I know that the measurements on those types of scales is not the most accurate, but I'll be using the same scale each week. Hopefully that'll go down next week!!

edit at 1:16 PM: I tried it again after my shower and it read 187.6 and 19.8 % so there will definitely be some variance but hopefully it will be accurate enough to at least let me gauge my progress.

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tattermask (2006-06-02 11:03:40)
Wow. That IS pretty gross to think about. Fat is icky. That scale sounds like a good weight-loss tool! Makes you really think about how much fat you really have... How did you LOSE weight during your shower?!? ac

fincher69 (2006-06-06 03:19:06)
maybe it was extra hot and I sweat it off. That and I probably pee'd. ;-)

8.6.3 yep (2006-06-04 01:59)

well, it's about 2 am here in sherrills ford, NC. Everyone is passed out or gone home. Am I getting old? I'm still wide awake and ready to party but everyone else is already asleep. bummer. Maybe I really will have to search out the insomniacs help group to find some folks to party with. '-) I guess I am off to sleep. G'night!!

8.6.4 weigh-in keeping my posting (2006-06-07 19:53)

At least doing this weigh in thing again will help make me post at least once a week so that is good. Mom and I went for a run this morning then I came back, had a fruit shake, and showered before I weighed in. I was expecting it to be pretty high because a weekend with Bobby and Erin rarely equals a weekend of eating healthy. :-) I weighed in at 185.8 with a bfp (body fat percentage) of 20.7, which is still annoyingly gross, but hopefully I can get it down a bit this summer. And to think, my senior year of high school my body fat got down to like 8 %. That's a lot less fat than I have now especially considering I only weighed like 150 pounds.

This week has been pretty good. Had a blast in charlotte hanging out with Bobby, Erin, Mark, Melissa and of course my sweetie pie! Good to see them all again. Jimmy Buffett on sunday was pretty fun, but it started raining (we had lawn seats) and once the sun went down it got downright chilly. Mark and Melissa didn't even stay through the whole thing and they are total parrotheads. :-)

Been trying to get some work done this week. It's been fun being at home, but mom has a knack for finding things for me to do so it's been a little hard to focus on work. They actually left today to go to hilton head so I am hoping I can make up some hours from last week and put in some good hours for this week as well. I guess we will see how it goes!! I'll probably only do a couple hours tonight, then just really spend the day doing it tomorrow since I have nothing better to do. Doug and Prince will be gone so no wakeboarding, but they may be back later in the evening so I can hit it then.

Well, I'm off to grab a bite to eat and watch the Hurricanes game. They won game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals so let's see if they can keep the streak going! :-)

(2006-07-21 19:41:25)
i was there too....thanks for mentioning me :(

8.6.5 A post? But it hasn't been a week yet! (2006-06-09 23:11)

I'm just sitting here and I'm not really feeling like working at the moment so I thought I would make a short little post to my blog. I found out yesterday that I was awarded the GAANN fellowship at FSU. This means I basically pay no tuition, and get a stipend just for being a student! I mean, I have to keep my grades

up, but I don't have to teach or anything like with my assistantships at Auburn and App State. I think somewhere in the process I will be teaching, but at least for the first year I just got school. That's my kind of deal right there! Pay me to go to school..... and you expect me to ever want to leave? ;-) Ok, well I guess I SHOULD try to get some work done. Probably going to hit the sack early since I'm kayaking tomorrow. First time of the season! Woohoo!

8.6.6 weigh-in day! (2006-06-14 10:15)

I was definitely not looking forward to weigh-in day today. The weekend wasn't exactly the best (eating habits-wise) and the party in boone Monday night contributed it's share of calories. I'm trying to do my weigh-in before I eat and to try to stay consistent. I usually execise with mom wednesday mornings (ran 3 miles today) so I usually cool off from that before my weigh-in. Luckily I'm still continuing my downward trend. Hopefully I can keep it up! :-) Today I weighed in at 184.2 with a BFP of 19.3. I think my BFP was pretty similar to that last week so the lower weight may be contributed somewhat to water weight. At least some of the fat would have to go away to keep the percentage the same I guess so that's good.

Been a little more diligent recently about trying to get some work done. Mom pointed out that my summer has progressively been filled so I really need to take advantage of the days that I am free to get some work done on this.

Drove down to Boone on monday for a double birthday/going away party. Had a blast and got to see a lot of people. Only played one game of beer pong and we shut out the other team. Made the mistake of switching from beer to jager halfway through the night which wasn't the best idea. Felt pretty rough yesterday. Took a couple of naps which helped, but it was definitely mildly unpleasant. :-)

Well, my dvd is almost done burning so it's back to work for me!

8.6.7 shibby (2006-06-25 22:00)

I was out of town this past wednesday, hence no post and no weigh-in. Went to raleigh on friday to hang out with my sweetie pie for her birthday. She's finally the big 2-1! Had a lot of fun celebrating that, watching the Hurricanes win the Stanley Cup, and had a blast at Dave Matthews. Always a bummer to have to leave after hanging out with Alana for a while though.

Got back and hung out with my sis and her three friends she brought up. celebrated my 26th birthday and spent a lot of time at the lake. My wakeboarding was off, who knows why, but hopefully it'll come back! I did get a really snazzy new digital camera for my birthday so I was really excited about that. Haven't had a ton of time to play with it, but it is the same one Alana has so I'm kinda familiar with it already.

Yesterday was the Bristol Challenge which is a triathlon race thingie. We did it as a relay team with mom biking 18 miles (on a really rough route I might add), Lauren running 4.5 miles, and me kayaking 1.5 miles. I used this cool new kayak we got dad that is semi-inflatable and the hull folds in have for storage. It's pretty snazzy!

I actually did a weigh-in yesterday and weighed 190.0 and had a BFP of 18.3. I think I enjoyed myself a little too much while I was in Raleigh. I DID go for two runs, but that's about the extent of my physical fitness. Oh well. Hopefully I will get back on track and start losing weight again. Here's hoping!

I have a lot of work to do this week to fit in my hours before dad and I leave for Indy on thursday. Should be fun! Well, speaking of work, I should get back to it!

8.7 July

8.7.1 been a while!! (2006-07-04 11:51)

Since I haven't been very good about eating right and working out, I decided to forgo the weekly weigh-in for a while. No sense in keeping track of my non-progress.

Had an awesome weekend. Thursday morning My dad, Dr. McIlwain and I left for Indianapolis. It was about a 7.5 hour drive so it was pretty bearable. Had a blast (though got baked in the sun) watching formula one practice, qualifying, and racing with a few other divisions sprinkled in. Got an awesome Red Bull Racing backpack and shirt. We saw many many many frickin' awesome cars. Hopefully I will have the time to post some pics sometime soon. Simply amazing. Every time we left the hotel it was like we were at a car show. SWEET!

As well as keeping up with the racing, I've been monitoring one of the worst spider bites I've ever had. Hopefully I will have a chance to post some pics of that as well. I'll probably just post them to my moblog and put a link in here for anyone to follow.

Yesterday Alana came up to Bristol and will be hanging out for a couple weeks which rocks! We haven't gotten to see each other too often this summer so it will be nice to be able to relax and spend some time together.

Also since my last post, I joined a cool site called LaLa. Basically it's a CD trading site where you list cds you have and want and the envelopes are provided to you and you send CDs amongst the members. Each time you receive a CD it costs $1.49 and it's free every time you send. It's an awesome way to expand your music, especially if you have a bunch of CDs that you don't really listen to anymore. And it's a helluvalot cheaper than buying CDs new! Another cool aspect is that 20 % of profits go back to the artists themselves. Pretty sweet. If anyone is interested, I can give you an invite. Just let me know!

8.7.2 Spider Bite!! (2006-07-05 18:46)

I think I may have mentioned it in my last post, but I have been keeping track of a crazy spider bite I got last wednesday. Check out [1]the gallery

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/gallery/00005r4c`

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gatoron2wheels (2006-07-06 13:29:27) WOW
That looks painful. But it does look like it is getting better. take care

fincher69 (2006-07-06 13:46:13) Re: WOW
Thanks man. It is definitely healing up, but it was definitely uncomfortable for a few days.

8.7.3 good trip to FL (2006-07-13 10:45)

Got back last night from Tallahassee. Alana and I went down there to look for housing. I was really sorry my mom couldn't join us, but we are redoing our kitchen and things are a little crazy. After looking at like 10 places we finally walked into one and immediately I was like "this is the place." They are called University lofts and they have studios and one bedrooms (I opted for the one bedroom or Maisonette as it's labelled in the floor plan). If you want a preview (I'm sure I will take bunches of pics once I move in), you can check it out at [1]www.universitylofts.net It is all of a 5-10 minute walk to my building, one block from the strip with all the cool bars, and right across the street from a park with a large pond that has a half-mile loop that will be perfect for running. All-in-all I was pretty stoked.

Got to meet and hang out with Alana's friend Andrea and her boyfriend Mike. Also got to have dinner with Keith and Marie. We were going to go out, but Alana didn't feel too great and dinner didn't sit very well with me so I don't think we would have been much fun.

Definitely logged some hours on the road! 9.5 hours there and another 9.5 back. That along with constantly driving around looking at places most of the time we were there. Glad to be home for sure. :-)

Well, I guess I should get back to work. Maybe I'll add one more pic to my spider bite gallery too. That'll probably be later. It doesn't look bad, but it's definitely prominent and it's kinda got a knot underneath it. Amazing since it happened over two weeks ago! Ok, for real, back to work.

1. http://www.universitylofts.net/

8.7.4 new way to show off LaLa (2006-07-20 20:33)

Since I'm addicted to LaLa I figured I would show off a new way to show off the service. Again if you are interested in a cool CD trading service that only costs 1.75 a CD and supports the artists, ask me for an invite to LaLa!!

EDIT: well it doesn't seem to be working. I guess I will play around with it. Check out the banner in the meantime! It doesn't work because lj doesn't allow embedding. Bummer.

[EMBED] [1]

1. http://www.lala.com/?offlala=banner

8.8 August

8.8.1 (2006-08-05 19:07)

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[1]Sender: Mark and Melissa  Sender: Mark and Melissa
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001wwk1/

8.8.2 whoa busy busy!! (2006-08-16 02:01)

Man, I have been keeping so busy that it has been almost a month since I last posted! Jeepers!! Well the beginning of that month was mostly working at home. Then Alana came to visit and hung out in bristol for a bit before we headed to [1]Nova Scotia with the fam. (if you click on "Nova Scotia" it will take you to some of the pictures) We got back from there on friday, then I started organizing some stuff on saturday, finished packing up on sunday and left bright and early on monday to head to Tallahassee!! The last couple of days I have been just unpacking and getting everything settled. I don't know if it is the excitement of a new place or what, but I am definitely not tired though I should be. Last night I made myself go to bed because it was almost 1 and I had been up since 5:30 and had driven like 9.5 hours. Wasn't tired, but I definitely felt like I could have stayed in bed a bit longer this morning. ;-) Hopefully I will be better about updating, especially given my entirely new environment! I doubt school will be busy enough to keep me from posting at all, but I guess we will just have to see. Hopefully it won't be a month before I post again! :-)

And hopefully I will have some pics of my new apartment up (once I get a little more settled) so anyone that reads this will have an idea of my current living!

And just for (minimal) variety's sake, I'm gonna change my mood style! ha!

1. http://fincher69.shutterfly.com/action/

8.8.3 hmmm.... interesting (2006-08-17 17:35)

QuizGalaxy!
[1]'What will your obituary say?' at [2]QuizGalaxy.com

1. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/quiz.php?id=114
2. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/

8.8.4 Getting Close!! (2006-08-26 23:16)

Classes start monday and boy am I ready. It was nice to get moved and settled in early, but I don't have a lot to do so I am kinda bored. I tried to organize a bowling night with a small group of CS people tonight (to get to know some folks) but only one girl and her husband showed up AND the bowling alley was closed! We ended up playing pool and hitting a bar so I got to know them pretty well and they are pretty cool Hopefully my next outing will have a better showing. :-)

Classes start up on monday, which should definitely help remedy my boredom and it will also help me meet some folks. Apprently there aren't a lot of partiers in the CS crowd so I may have to take Andy's advice and start hanging out with the art crowd. ;-) They're apparently CRAZY!! hehehe.

Well I am enjoying a quesadilla and since it is only 11:20 I may entertain the thought of going back out but we will just have to see. So far Tally has been fun, but I look forward to getting into the full swing of things! Most notably, I am interested in how my classes compare to those at App. Will I stil be able to do diddly and do well? Will I have to bust my ass to do O.K.? The questions will be answered on the next episode of JUSTIN FINCHER'S LIFE!! ;-)

8.9 September

8.9.1 been busy busy busy (2006-09-05 21:46)

Man, it has been a while since I posted! I haven't posted since before classes started! jeepers. Still getting kinda settled here and I still haven't figured out exactly what I want to put on my walls, but I got time. :-)

Well to sum up the first week, it was good to get back into things. One class seemed like it was a bit over my head and I needed experience that I didn't have, so that was a little stressful trying to reorganize my schedule a little bit, but it got smoothed out. The class I added is real-time systems which will be pretty cool. Know those things that wave back and forth and make a message seem to float in the air? Well we basically making one of those out of led's and a hacksaw blade. Pretty cool. Other than that the first week went pretty well.

I had a busy, but really good, labor day weekend. I drove to bristol after class on thursday. Friday I took my bike to Alana and got to have lunch and chill with her for a bit. Saturday I got to go wakeboarding then went to Weaverville (near Ashville) for Matthew's wedding. Sunday I didn't really go anywhere, but I did get to wakeboard some more and finally got my toeside 360 on video tape so that is cool. Monday I drove back here! All-in-all almost 1500 miles in 5 days. Not too shabby!

Since we had monday off I have a three day week, which is nice. I've started swimming and lifting again so I can finally lose some weight and get back into at least semi-decent shape. In that spirit, I'm going to start my weekly weigh-in up again. I figure that every tuesday morning I will weigh in after my shower and that should be pretty consistent. Today I was 192.5 so we will have to keep an eye on that and see how it progresses!

Well, I have some homework and reading to do for both my classes tomorrow so I should probably get on that. :-) Hopefully I will be better about updating this. At the very least my weekly weigh-in should make sure I update every tuesday! :-)

8.9.2 my week is done! (2006-09-07 15:24)

Can't argue with three day weeks. I could get used to this. :-)

Man, my body is definitely letting me know that I haven't been good about working out until this week. After not lifting, VERY sparsely running, and occasionally wakboarding ever since about April, I'm not in tip top shape. So tuesday I started with a broad few sets of lifting and swimming. Yesterday I swam and played racquetball, and today I swam. My swims have gotten progressively longer and I hit either 2000 or 2500 yards today (I kinda lost track). I think I am going to start shooting for 2500 yards a workout and see how that treats me. I guess we'll see come weigh-in next week. :-)

I'm thinking about joining the swim club as well so I can swim AND meet some people. Only thing is I really like my schedule now and the team swims at 6 pm so I'm not sure about that. There is a club sport gathering at the fitness center today at 6 which I may try to stop by. I don't think there is any nearby parking so I will just have to make the 20 minute walk. Not too bad I guess, unless it keeps raining. :-) Well I am going to enjoy relaxing for a bit. hopefully these muscles won't stay sore for too long!

8.9.3 good weekend so far! (2006-09-10 12:33)

It's been a blast. Friday I had a meeting in the morning then took a day trip over to Orlando. Yes, I know it's 4 hours away and that makes me kinda crazy, but it was fun nonetheless. Got a good deal on some wakeboarding bindings and got to see a friend of mine who works down there. After i got back I just took it easy and relaxed.

Yesterday was an awesome lazy day. I got out of bed at like 11 and just worked on my computer, did some reading and watched TV. Last night I organized a gathering with my fellow GAANN fellows, which was a lot of fun. I think all but one showed up. We went bowling then came back to my place. James went home and the rest of us went bar hopping for a bit. After bar hopping we came back to my apartment and unfortunately found that two of my friend's cars had been towed. No good. But we still had fun hanging out. Sarah, Brad, and Christine went home and Arturo hung out for a little while longer and crashed on my inflatable. It's definitely nice living a block away from the bars. :-) Hopefully it won't get me in trouble. ;-) We pretty much depleted my alcohol supply and crashed around 4:30 so it was nice getting up at noon today. :-) Luckily I'm a night owl so the work I need to do today can wait until later. For now I think I'm just gonna relax and drink some fluids. ;-)

8.9.4 Weigh-in day! (2006-09-12 09:01)

A big motivation to write in here at least once a week. ;-) This morning I weighed in at 188.0. Not too shabby! I know this is for general trends and things like hydration can make a big difference, but it's still nice to see the weight go down.

Tried to talk to the swim club president yesterday, but he wasn't at practice. I emailed him and I may go by today, but I have a decent amount of schoolwork this week so it may get postponed. I also made it by to the wakeboarding club meeting. That should be a blast. Some cool folks to hang out with. The boat is kinda out of commission right now because the reservoir is so low. Hopefully some rain will bring it back up soon!

Classes haven't been too bad so far. Definitely noticing one of the disadvantages of popping around to different schools for everything. Everyone has a little bit different approach. Apparently a lot of programming is done in this department, which isn't really true of Furman or App State. And most of it is done in the UNIX environment, which I haven't done that much with either. So needless to say, it makes things take a little longer when you are still trying to figure out the basics. :-) I'm sure I'll do fine, just taking some getting used to.

Well, I got class here in a minute, but just wanted to do my weigh-in post before I forgot what I weighed!

8.9.5 Video!! (2006-09-13 23:06)

One of the things I worked on most this summer was trying to land my toeside three. For you non-wakeboarding folks, that's coming in leaning on your toes and doing a 360. They were sporadic at best and I could NEVER land one when a video camera was out there. Well the last run of the season I actually got one on tape and my mom emailed it to me. check it out!!

[1]Toeside 360

It's really not that impressive for wakeboarding folks, but I was pretty stoked!!

1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jA-vhcz-jEQ

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theurbanchico (2006-09-14 22:38:29)
Congrats dude! Thank was pretty kick ass!

fincher69 (2006-09-15 02:56:20)
thanks man, I was stoked!

8.9.6 weigh-in day (2006-09-19 15:21)

Well, this is week three. Still remembering to do it! This morning I weighed in at 184.5. I think I was a little dehydrated from swimming 2500 yards yesterday so I expect a bit of a rebound next week, but we will just have to see. not really much else to report. Classes are still going well. Wakeboarding club is cool. Still haven't heard from the swim club guy so I may mosey that way this evening and see if he shows up so I can get the low down. Not a lot else to report! Pretty good and chill weekend. Until next time!

Don't forget... It's talk like a pirate day! ;-)

8.9.7 random quizzy thing (2006-09-24 01:55)

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At your ten year high school reunion... by robbiewriter
Your school name        ____________________
Your name               ____________________
Your job will be        Porn star
You will be worth       $997,467
Everyone will think you Used to have a crush on them
Fill out your answers and try it on Memegen.net!
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8.9.8 up late and feel like throwing up something random (2006-09-26 05:37)

This was linked to off a forum I frequent and I thought it an interesting read. A bit long, but thought provoking nonetheless. Feel free to leave comments, just remember that I didn't write it. I just thought, at this wee hour of the morning, it'd be something interesting to throw on here. :-)

"I met god the other day.

I know what you're thinking. How the hell did you know it was god?

Well, I'll explain as we go along, but basically he convinced me by having all, and I do mean ALL, the answers. Every question I flung at him he batted back with a plausible and satisfactory answer. In the end, it was easier to accept that he was god than otherwise.

Which is odd, because I'm still an atheist and we even agree on that!

It all started on the 8.20 back from Paddington. Got myself a nice window seat, no screaming brats or drunken hooligans within earshot. Not even a mobile phone in sight. Sat down, reading the paper and in he walks.

What did he look like?

Well not what you might have expected that's for sure. He was about 30, wearing a pair of jeans and a "hobgoblin" tee shirt. Definitely casual. Looked like he could have been a social worker or perhaps a programmer like myself.

'Anyone sitting here?' he said.

'Help yourself' I replied.

Sits down, relaxes, I ignore and back to the correspondence on genetic foods entering the food chain…

Train pulls out and a few minutes later he speaks.

'Can I ask you a question?'

Fighting to restrain my left eyebrow I replied 'Yes' in a tone which was intended to convey that I might not mind one question, and possibly a supplementary, but I really wasn't in the mood for a conversation. ..

'Why don't you believe in god?'

The Bastard!

I love this kind of conversation and can rabbit on for hours about the nonsense of theist beliefs. But I have to be in the mood! It's like when a jehova's witness knocks on your door 20 minutes before you're due to have a wisdom tooth pulled. Much as you'd really love to stay… You can't even begin the fun. And I knew, if I gave my standard reply we'd still be arguing when we got to Cardiff. I just wasn't in the mood. I needed to fend him off.

But then I thought 'Odd! How is this perfect stranger so obviously confident – and correct – about my atheism?' If I'd been driving my car, it wouldn't have been such a mystery. I've got the Darwin fish on the back of mine – the antidote to that twee christian fish you see all over. So anyone spotting that and understanding it would have been in a position to guess my beliefs. But I was on a train and not even wearing my Darwin "Evolve" tshirt that day. And 'The Independent' isn't a registered flag for card carrying atheists, so what, I wondered, had given the game away.

'What makes you so certain that I don't?'

'Because', he said, ' I am god – and you are not afraid of me'

You'll have to take my word for it of course, but there are ways you can deliver a line like that – most of which would render the speaker a candidate for an institution, or at least prozac. Some of which could be construed as mildly amusing.

Conveying it as "indifferent fact" is a difficult task but that's exactly how it came across. Nothing in his tone or attitude struck me as even mildly out of place with that statement. He said it because he believed it and his rationality did not appear to be drug induced or the result of a mental breakdown.

'And why should I believe that?'

'Well' he said, 'why don't you ask me a few questions. Anything you like, and see if the answers satisfy your sceptical mind?'

This is going to be a short conversation after all, I thought.

'Who am I?'

'Stottle. Harry Stottle, born August 10 1947, Bristol, England. Father Paul, Mother Mary. Educated Duke of Yorks Royal Military School 1960 67, Sandhurst and Oxford, PhD in Exobiology, failed rock singer, full time trade union activist for 10 years, latterly self employed computer programmer, web author and aspiring philosopher. Married to Michelle, American citizen, two children by a previous marriage. You're returning home after what seems to have been a successful meeting with an investor interested in your proposed product tracking anti-forgery software and protocol and you ate a full english breakfast at the hotel this morning except that, as usual, you asked them to hold the revolting english sausages and give you some extra bacon. '

He paused

'You're not convinced. Hmmm... what would it take to convince you?'

'oh right! Your most secret password and its association'

A serious hacker might be able to obtain the password, but no one else and I mean

NO ONE

knows its association.

He did.

So how would you have played it?

I threw a few more questions about relatively insignificant but unpublicised details of my life (like what my mother claims was the first word I ever spoke – apparently "armadillo"! (Don't ask...)) but I was already pretty convinced. I knew there were only three possible explanations at this point.

Possibility One was that I was dreaming or hallucinating. Nobody's figured out a test for that so, at the time I think that was my dominant feeling. It did not feel real at the time. More like I was in a play. Acting my lines. Since the event, however, continuing detailed memories of it, together with my contemporaneous notes, remain available, so unless the hallucination has continued to this day, I am now inclined to reject the hallucination hypothesis. Which leaves two others.

He could have been a true telepath. No documented evidence exists of anyone ever having such pro-

found abilities to date but it was a possibility. It would have explained how he could know my best-kept secrets. The problem with that is that it doesn't explain anything else! In particular it doesn't account for the answers he proceeded to give to my later questions.

As Sherlock Holmes says, when you've eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.

Good empiricist, Sherlock.

I was forced to accept at least the possibility that this man was who he claimed to be.

So now what do you do?

Well, I've always known that if I met god I would have a million questions for him, so I thought, 'why not?' and proceeded with what follows. You'll have to allow a bit of licence in the detail of the conversation. This was, shall we say, a somewhat unusual occurrence, not to mention just a BIT weird! And yes I was a leetle bit nervous! So if I don't get it word perfect don't whinge! You'll get the gist I promise.
****

'Forgive me if it takes me a little time to get up to speed here, but it's not everyday I get to question a deity'

'The Deity' he interrupted.

'ooh. Touchy!' I thought.

'Not really – just correcting the image'

Now That takes some getting used to!

I tried to get a grip on my thoughts, with an internal command - 'Discipline Harry. You've always wanted to be in a situation like this, now you're actually in it, you mustn't go to pieces and waste the opportunity of a lifetime'

'You won't' he said.

Tell you! That's the bit that made it feel unreal more than anything else - this guy sitting across the table and very obviously accurately reading my every thought. It's like finding someone else's hand inside your trouser pocket!

Nevertheless, something made me inclined to accept the invasion, I had obviously begun to have some confidence in his perception or abilities, so I distinctly remember the effect of his words was that I suddenly felt deeply reassured and completely relaxed. As he had no doubt intended. Man must have an amazing seduction technique!

So then we got down to business…

'Are you human?'

‘No’

‘Were you, ever?’

‘No, but similar, Yes’

‘Ah, so you are a product of evolution?’

‘Most certainly – mainly my own’

‘and you evolved from a species like ours, dna based organisms or something equally viable?’

‘Correct’

‘so what, exactly, makes you god?’

‘I did’

‘Why?’

‘Seemed like a good idea at the time’

‘and your present powers, are they in any way similar to what the superstitious believers in my species attribute to you?’

‘Close enough. ’

‘So you created all this, just for us?’

‘No. Of course not’

‘But you did create the Universe?’

‘This One. Yes’

‘But not your own?’

‘This is my own!’

‘You know what I mean!’

‘You can’t create your own parents, so No’

‘So let me get this straight. You are an entirely natural phenomenon.’

‘Entirely’

‘Arising from mechanisms which we ourselves will one day understand and possibly even master?’

‘subject to a quibble over who ”we ourselves” may be, but yes’

‘meaning that if the human race doesn’t come up to the mark, other species eventually will?’

‘in one.’

‘and how many other species are there already out there ahead of us?’

‘surprisingly few. Less than fourteen million’

‘FEW!?’

‘Phew!’

‘And how many at or about our level?’

‘currently a little over 4 ½ billion’

‘so our significance in the universe at present is roughly equivalent to the significance of the average Joe here on planet Earth in his relation to the human race?’

‘a little less. Level One, the level your species has reached, begins with the invention of the flying machine. I define the next level in terms your Sci Fi Author Isaac Asimov has already grasped. It is reached when you achieve control of your own primary – the Sun. What Asimov calls a Type I technology. Humanity is only just into the flying machine phase, so as you can imagine, on that scale, the human race is somewhat near the bottom of the level one pack’

‘and all these species are your children?’

‘I like to think of them that way’

‘and the point?’

‘at its simplest, ”Life Must Go On”. My personal motivation is the desire for conversation. Once you’ve achieved my level, you cease to be billions of separate entities and become one ecstatic whole. A single entity that cannot die, however advanced, or perhaps, more accurately, because it is so advanced, will get lonely and even a trifle bored! I seem to be the first. I do not intend to be the last’

‘so you created a Universe which is potentially capable of producing another god like yourself?’

‘The full benefit will be temporary, but like most orgasms, worth it.’

‘this being the moment when our new god merges with you and we become one again?’

‘don’t play it down, that’s the ecstatic vision driving us all, me included – and when it happens the ecstasy lasts several times longer than this universe has already existed. Believe me, it really is worth the effort.’

‘Yes, I think I can see the attractions of a hundred billion year long orgasm’

‘and humans haven’t even begun to know how to really enjoy the orgasms they are already capable of. Wait till you master that simple art!’

‘So it’s all about sex is it?’

‘Ecstasy is merely a reward for procreating, it is what makes you want to do it. This is necessary, initially, to promote biological evolution. However once you’ve completed that stage and no longer require procreation, you will learn that ecstasy can be infinitely more intense than anything offered by sex’

‘Sounds good to me!’

’How direct is your involvement in all this? Did you just light the fuse which set off the big bang and stand back and watch? Or did you have to plant the seeds on appropriately fertile planets?’

‘The seeds evolved in deep space, purely as a result of the operations of the laws of physics and chemistry which your scientists have begun to attain a reasonable grasp of. Yes I triggered the bang and essentially became dormant for nearly 5 billion years. That’s how long it took the first lifeforms to emerge. That places them some 8 billion years ahead of you. The first intelligent species are now 4.3 billion years ahead of you. Really quite advanced. I can have deeply meaningful conversations with them. And usually do. In fact I am as we speak’

‘So then what?’

‘Do I keep a constant vigil over every move you make? Not in the kind of prying intrusive sense that some of you seem to think. Let’s say I maintain an awareness of what’s going on, at a planetary level. I tend only to focus on evolutionary leaps. See if they’re going in the right direction’

‘And if they’re not?’

‘Nothing. Usually’

‘Usually?’

‘Usually species evolving in the wrong direction kill themselves off or become extinct for other reasons’

‘Usually?’

‘There have been one or two cases where a wrong species has had the potential of becoming dominant at the expense of a more promising strain’

‘Let me guess. Dinosaurs on this planet are an example. Too successful. Suppressed the development of mammals and were showing no signs of developing intelligence. So you engineered a little corrective action in the form of a suitably selected asteroid’

‘Perceptive. Almost correct. They were showing signs of developing intelligence, even co-operation. Study your velocirapters. But far too predatory. Incapable of ever developing a ”respect” for other life forms. It takes carrying your young to promote the development of emotional attachment to other animals. Earth reptiles aren’t built for that. The mammals who are, as you rightly say, couldn’t get a foothold against such mighty predators. You’ve now reached the stage where you could hold your own even against

dinosaurs, but that's only been true for about a thousand years, you wouldn't have stood a chance 2 million years ago, so the dinosaurs had to go. They were, however, far too well balanced with the ecology of the planet, and never developed technology, so they weren't going to kill themselves off in a hurry. Regrettably, I had to intervene.'

'Regrettably?'

'They were a beautiful and stunningly successful life form. One doesn't destroy such things without a qualm.'

'But at that stage how could you know that a better prospect would arise from the ashes?'

'I didn't. But the probability was quite high.'

'and since then, what other little tweaks have you been responsible for in our development?'

'None whatsoever. I set an alarm for the first sign of aerial activity, as I usually do. Leonardo looked promising for a while, but not until the Montgolfier brothers did I really begin to take an interest. That registered you as a level one intelligent species'

'So Jesus of Nazareth, Moses, Mohammed…'

'hmmm… sadly misguided I'm afraid. Anyone capable of communicating with their own cells will dimly perceive me – and all other life as being connected in a strictly quantum sense, but interpreting that vision as representing something supernatural and requiring obeisance is somewhat wide of the mark. And their followers are all a bit too obsessive and religious for my liking. It's no fun being worshipped once you stop being an adolescent teenager. Having said that, it's not at all unusual for developing species to go through that phase. Until they begin to grasp how much they too can shape their small corner of the universe, they are in understandable awe of an individual dimly but correctly perceived to be responsible for the creation of the whole of that universe. Eventually, if they are to have any hope of attaining level two, they must grow out of it and begin to accept their own power and potential. It's very akin to a child's relationship with its parents. The awe and worship must disappear before the child can become an adult. Respect is not so bad as long as it's not overdone. And I certainly respect all those species who make it that far. It's a hard slog. I know. I've been there.'

'You've been watching us since the Montgolfiers, when was that? 1650s?'

'Close. 1783'

'Well, if you've been watching us closely since then, what your average citizen is going to want to know is why you haven't intervened more often. Why, if you have that sort of power, did you allow such incredible suffering and human misery?'

'It seems to be necessary.'

'NECESSARY??!!'

'Without exception, intelligent species who gain dominance over their planet do so by becoming the most efficient predators. There are many intelligent species who do not evolve to dominate their planet. Like your dolphins, they adapt perfectly to the environment rather than take your course, which is to

manipulate the environment. Unfortunately for the dolphin, his is a dead end. He may outlive the human race but will never escape the bounds of planet earth - not without your help at any rate. Only those who can manipulate the world they live in can one day hope to leave it and spread their seed throughout the universe.

Unlike the adaptors, who learn the point of cooperation fairly early on, manipulators battle on. And, once all lesser species have been overcome, they are so competitive and predatory that they are compelled to turn in on themselves. This nearly always evolves into tribal competition in one form or another and becomes more and more destructive - exactly like your own history. However this competition is vital to promote the leap from biological to technological evolution.

You need an arms race in order to make progress.

Your desire to dominate fuels a search for knowledge which the adaptors never require. And although your initial desire for knowledge is selfish and destructive, it begins the development of an intellectual self awareness, a form of higher consciousness, which never emerges in any other species. Not even while they are experiencing it, for example, can the intelligent adaptors - your dolphins - express the concepts of Love or Time.

Militarisation and the development of weapons of mass destruction are your first serious test at level one. You're still not through that phase, though the signs are promising. There is no point whatsoever in my intervening to prevent your self-destruction. Your ability to survive these urges is a crucial test of your fitness to survive later stages. So I would not, never have and never will intervene to prevent a species from destroying itself. Most, in fact, do just that.'

'And what of pity for those have to live through this torment?'

'I can't say this in any way that doesn't sound callous, but how much time do you spend worrying about the ants you run over in your car? I know it sounds horrendous to you, but you have to see the bigger picture. At this stage in human development, you're becoming interesting but not yet important.'

'ah but I can't have an intelligent conversation with an ant'

'precisely'

'hmm... as you know, humans won't like even to attempt to grasp that perspective. How can you make it more palatable?'

'Why should I? You don't appear to have any trouble grasping it. You're by no means unique. And in any case, once they begin to understand what's in it for them, they'll be somewhat less inclined to moan. Eternal life compensates for most things.'

'So what are we supposed to do in order to qualify for membership of the universal intelligentsia?'

'Evolve. Survive'

'Yes, but how?'

'Oh, I thought you might have got the point by now. "How" is entirely up to you. If I have to help, then you're a failure. All I will say is this. You've already passed a major hurdle in learning to live

with nuclear weapons. It's depressing how many fail at that stage.'

'Is there worse to come?'

'Much'

'Genetic warfare for instance?

'Distinct Possibility'

'and the problem is... that we need to develop all these technologies, acquire all this dangerous knowledge in order to reach level two. But at any stage that knowledge could also cause our own destruction'

'If you think the dangers of genetic warfare are serious, imagine discovering a secret thought or program, accessible to any intelligent individual, which, if abused, will eliminate your species instantly. If your progress continues as is, then you can expect to discover that particular self-destruct mechanism in less than a thousand years. Your species has got to grow up considerably before you can afford to make that discovery. And if you don't make it, you will never leave your Solar System and join the rest of the sapient species on level two.'

'14 Million of them'

'Just under'

'Will there be room for us?'

'it's a big place'

'and, for now, how should we mere mortals regard you then?'

'like an older brother or sister. Of course I know more than you do. Of course I'm more powerful than you. I've been alive longer. But I'm not "better" than you. Just more developed. Just what you might become'

'so we're not obliged to "please" you or follow your alleged guidelines or anything like that?'

'absolutely not. Never issued a single guideline in the lifetime of this Universe. Have to find your own way out of the maze. And one early improvement is to stop expecting me - or anyone else - to come and help you out.'

'I suppose that is a guideline of sorts, so there goes the habit of a lifetime! '

'Seriously though, species who hold on to religion past its sell-by date tend to be most likely to self destruct. They spend so much energy arguing about my true nature, and invest so much emotion in their wildly erroneous imagery that they end up killing each other over differences in definitions of something they clearly haven't got a clue about. Ludicrous behaviour, but it does weed out the weaklings.'

'Why me? Why pick on an atheist of all people? Why are you telling me all this? And why Now?'

'Why You? Because can accept my existence without your ego caving in and grovelling like a naughty child.

,

'Can you seriously imagine how the Pope would react to the reality of my existence?! If he really understood how badly wrong he and his church have been, how much of the pain and suffering you mentioned earlier has been caused by his religion, I suspect he'd have an instant coronary! Or can you picture what it would be like if I appeared "live" simultaneously on half a dozen tele-evangelist propaganda shows. Pat Robertson would wet himself if he actually understood who he was talking to.

Conversely, your interest is purely academic. You've never swallowed the fairy tale but you've remained open to the possibility of a more advanced life form which could acquire godlike powers. You've correctly guessed that godhood is the destiny of life. You have shown you can and do cope with the concept. It seemed reasonable to confirm your suspicions and let you do what you will with that information.

You can and will publish this conversation on the web, where it will sow an important seed. Might take a couple of hundred years to germinate, but, eventually, it will germinate.

Why Now? Well partly because both you and the web are ready now. But chiefly because the human race is reaching a critical phase. It goes back to what we were saying about the dangers of knowledge. Essentially your species is becoming aware of that danger. When that happens to any sapient species, the future can take three courses.

Many are tempted to avoid the danger by avoiding the knowledge. Like the adaptors, they are doomed to extinction. Often pleasantly enough in the confines of their own planet until either their will to live expires or their primary turns red giant and snuffs them out.

A large number go on blindly acquiring the knowledge and don't learn to restrain their abuse. Their fate is sealed somewhat more quickly of course, when Pandora's box blows up in their faces.

The only ones who reach level two are those who learn to accept and to live with their most dangerous knowledge. Each and every individual in such a species must eventually become capable of destroying their entire species at any time. Yet they must learn to control themselves to the degree that they can survive even such deadly insight. And frankly, they're the only ones we really want to see leaving their solar systems. Species that haven't achieved that maturity could not be allowed to infect the rest of the universe, but fortunately that has never required my intervention. The knowledge always does the trick'

'Why can't there be a fourth option - selective research where we avoid investigating dangerous pathways?'

'As you can see from your own limited history, the most useful ideas are also, nearly always, the most dangerous. You have yet, for instance, to conquer fusion power but you need to do so in order to achieve appropriate energy surpluses required to complete this phase of your social development. It will, when you've mastered it, eliminate material inequalities and poverty within a generation or two, an absolutely vital step for any maturing species. Yet the discovery of the principles which will soon yield this beneficial bounty could, had you abused them, have ended your attempt at civilisation.

Similarly, you will shortly be able to conquer biological diseases and even engineer yourselves to be virtually fault free. Your biological life spans will double or treble within the next hundred years and your digital lifespans will become potentially infinite within the same period: If you survive the potential threat that the same technology provides in the form of genetic timebombs, custom built viruses and the other wonders of genetic and digital warfare.

You simply can't have the benefits without taking the risks'.

'I'm not sure I understand my part in this exercise. I just publish this conversation on the web and everything will be alright?'

'Not necessarily. Not that easy I'm afraid. To start with, who's going to take this seriously? It will just be seen as a mildly amusing work of fiction. In fact, your words and indeed most of your work will not be understood or appreciated until some much more advanced scholars develop the ideas you are struggling to express and explain them somewhat more competently. At which point the ideas will be taken up en masse and searches will be undertaken of the archives. They will find this work and be struck by its prescience. You won't make the Einstein grade, but you might manage John the Baptist!

This piece will have no significance whatsoever if humanity doesn't make certain key advances in the next couple of centuries. And this won't help you make those advances. What it will do is help you recognise them'

'can I ask what those advances may be?'

'I think you know. But yes - although you are at level one, there are several distinct phases which evolving species pass through on their way to level two. The first, as we've discussed, is the invention of the flying machine. The next significant phase is the development of the thinking machine.

At your present rate of progress, you are within a few decades of achieving that goal. It marks your first step on the path of technological evolution. Mapping the human genome is another classic landmark, but merely mapping it is a bit like viewing the compiled code in a dos executable. It's just meaningless gibberish, although with a bit of hacking here and there, you might correctly deduce the function of certain stretches of code.

What you really need to do is 'reverse engineer' the dna code. You have to figure out the grammar and syntax of the language. Then you will begin the task of designing yourselves. But that task requires the thinking machine'

'You say you avoid intervention. But doesn't this conversation itself constitute intervention – even if people alive now completely ignore it?'

'Yes. But it's as far as I'm prepared to go. Its only effect is to confirm, if you find it, that you are on the right path. It is still entirely up to you to navigate the dangers on that path and beyond.'

'But why bother even with that much? Surely it's just another evolutionary hurdle. We're either fit enough or not…'

'In many ways the transition to an information species is the most traumatic stage in evolution. Biological intelligences have a deeply rooted sense of consciousness only being conceivable from within an organic brain. Coming to terms with the realisation that you have created your successor, not just in the sense of mother and child, but in the collective sense of the species recognising it has become redundant, this paradigm shift is, for many species, a shift too far. They baulk at the challenge and run from this new knowledge. They fail and become extinct. Yet there is nothing fundamentally wrong with them - it is a failure of the imagination.

I hope that if I can get across the concept that I am a product of just such evolution, it may give

them the confidence to try. I have discussed this with the level two species and the consensus is that this tiny prod is capable of increasing the contenders for level two without letting through any damaging traits. It has been tried in 312 cases. The jury is still out on its real benefits although it has produced a 12 % increase in biological species embracing the transition to information species.

'Alright, so what if everyone suddenly took it seriously and believed every word I write? Wouldn't that constitute a somewhat more drastic intervention?'

'Trust me. They wont'

'and so it's still the case, that, should another asteroid happen to be heading our way, you will do nothing to impede it on our behalf?'

'I'm confident you will pass that test. And now my friend, the interview is over, you have asked me a number of the right questions, and I've said what I came to say, so I'll be going now. It has been very nice to meet you - you're quite bright. For an ant!' He twinkled.

'Just one final, trivial question, why do you appear to me in the form of a thirty something white male?'

'have I in any way intimidated or threatened you?'

'No'

'Do you find me sexually attractive?'

'er No!'

'So figure it out for yourself...' "

(2006-09-26 23:55:14)
Wow... interesting. where in the world did you find that??! don't know what to make of it. :-)

fincher69 (2006-09-27 03:28:56)
Someone posted it on a forum I frequent. This mom?

(2006-09-30 11:49:08)
yep

8.9.9 weigh-in day (2006-09-26 15:40)

This morning I weighed in at 183.5. Not too shabby. I was actually expecting to rebound up a little bit, especially with the lifting I did last week. That and I wasn't exactly very good about my diet over the weekend. I don't know if staying up until like 6:30 had any effect, but I guess I will just have to wait until next week to find out!! :-)

Um.... not a lot else to post. I was at the office until 4:30 this morning working on realtime and still

haven't fully finished it. I gotta go back over sometime tonight. Got about 1.5 hours of sleep, but caught a little 30-45 minute nap and that helped. Should be rarin' to go! Maybe I'll sleep better tonight. ;-)

8.9.10 random funny jokes (2006-09-27 12:11)

Looking through some old emails in the office and thought I would post them because they made me laugh.

A cowboy in Montana got pulled over by a state trooper for speeding. The trooper started to lecture the cowboy about his speeding and in general, began to throw his weight around to tray to make the cowboy feel uncomfortable.

Finally, the trooper got around to writing the ticket. As he was doing that, he kept swattng at some flies that were buzzing around his head. The cowboys said, "Having some problem with Circle Flies there, are ya?"

The trooper stopped writing the ticket and said, "Well, yeah, if that's what they are. I never heard of Circle Flies."

So the cowboy says, "Well they are common on ranches. See they're called Circle Flies because they're almost always found circling around the back end of a horse."

The trooper says, "Oh," and goes back to writing the ticket. Than, after a minute he stops and says, "Are you trying to call me a horse's ass?"

The cowboy says, "Oh no officer, I have too much respect for law enforcement to even think about calling you a horse's ass."

The trooper says, "Well that's a good thing" and goes back to writing the ticket.

After a long pause, the cowboy says, "Hard to fool them flies though."

One day I met a sweet gentleman and fell in love. When it became apparent that we would marry, I made a supreme sacrifice and gave up beans. Some months later, on my birthday, my car broke down on the way home from work. Since I lived in the country I called my husband and told him that I would be late because I had to walk home.

On my way I passed a small diner and the odor of baked beans was more than I could stand. With miles to walk, I figured that I would walk off any ill effects by the time I reached home. So I stopped at the diner and before I knew it, I had consumed three large orders of baked beans. All the way home I made sure that I released all the gas.

Upon my arrival, my husband seemed excited to see me and exclaimed delightedly: "Darling I have a surprise for dinner tonight." He then blindfolded me and led me to my chair at the dinner table. I took a seat and just as he was about to remove my blindfold, the telephone rang. He made me promise not to touch the blindfold until he returned and went to answer the call.

The baked beans I had consumed were still affecting me and the pressure was becoming most unbearable, so while my husband was out of the room I seized the opportunity, shifted my weight to one leg and let one go. It was not loud, but it smelled like a fertilizer truck running over a skunk in front of a pulpwood mill.

I took my napkin from my lap and fanned the air around me vigorously. Then, shifting to the other cheek, I ripped off three more. The stink was worse than cooked cabbage. Keeping my ears carefully tuned to the conversation in the other room, I went on like this for a few minutes.The pleasure was indescribable.

When eventually the telephone farewells signaled the end of my freedom, I quickly fanned the aire a few more times with my napkin, placed it on my lap, folded my hands back on it feeling very relieved and pleased with myself.

My face must have been the picture of innocence when my husband returned, apologizing for taking so long. He asked me if I had peeked through the blindfold and I assured him I had not.

At this point he removed my blindfold and twelve dinner guests seated around the table chorused: "Happy Birthday!"

8.9.11 quick post (2006-09-30 01:22)

I learned several things today.

1. Don't trust car dealership estimates on how long it will take to work on your car

2. Spending over 9 hours at a car dealership isn't very exciting.

3. When your cousin has a child, that child is your first cousin once removed. I always thought it was second cousin.

4. If I have a kid, then his or her second cousin will be my cousins child.

5. I love Jagermeister and weekends and I'm glad I got to chill with my cousin, cousin-in-law, and cousin once removed today.

Ok, I think that is all. :-)

8.10 October

8.10.1 weigh-in post (2006-10-03 21:21)

Well, I think having my workout preempted by realtime project stuff a couple times and a less than healthy weekend (including basically just sitting the ENTIRE day friday) didn't help my weight loss thing. Oh well. I'm going to try to be a little more conscious of my eating, especially on weekends. And I am modifying my workout schedule a tad. I really need to do more physically on the weekends, but for now on days I lift (usually either tuesday or thursday) I am going to run instead of swim for my aerobic. So this may stay at one or move to two days a week, but I think that will help. Oh, I officially weighed in at 184.5 so it isn't like

I gained a lot or anything, but hopefully it will go back the other direction next week! Off to study for my first midterm at FSU! :-)

8.10.2 that day again (2006-10-10 22:24)

Weigh in day! After last week's brief upswing I was back on the losing end this week. 181.5! Getting pretty close to hitting those 170s! I was pretty stoked, but even moreso surprised since I definitely MAD cheated at my diet this weekend. And I didn't really get to exercise today, but I'm still trying to motivate myself to go for a run just to do SOMETHING. I mean, I helped wash and wax the wakeboarding teams boat, so that was KINDA a little exercise, but not enough to make a dent in my fat ass. :-) I don't know if it made any difference that I got like 3.5 hours of sleep last night, but oh well. I decided to up my swimming to at least 2500 yards a workout so we will see how that goes. I'll swim tomorrow, then lift and run thursday.

Last wednesday I had a midterm in Cryptography. It wasn't bad but I messed up one question and he was really REALLY nitpicky about little things here and there. Didn't do as well as I would like, but as he said "it's just your first midterm. We'll have another midterm in a few weeks." Who knew the middle of the term could happen multiple times? You learn all sorts of cool stuff in school. I also had a midterm yesterday in algorithms. It wasn't too bad, but I am pretty sure I made at least one stupid error. Did you know that 1.2 times 5 is 11? It is in Fincherland! Geez. Don't have anything else really pressing this week. I have a realtime quiz thursday and a realtime assignment due next week that I should probably start soon too.

Don't have much planned for friday, playing golf with Keith and Marie on saturday, then likely heading up to one of the wakeboarding club guy's houses on sunday to spend some time on the water. Should be fun!

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angelwings (2006-10-11 08:53:10)
hehe mark is taking cryptology this semester and it is frying his brain but he loves it :) Nerds I tell ya! That stuff would make me cry :*(

8.10.3 Late weigh-in post (2006-10-18 10:43)

I actually did my weigh-in yesterday, but I was just so busy I didn't get a chance to post. I was at 182.5, which after the weekend I had isn't too bad. Here's a brief recap.

Thursday: Free beer at Big Daddy's with Christine and Arturo. Then all back to my house for a semi-drunken linux install. Then some attempts to climb up to the second floor. Bruising and scrapes abound. Then to Christine's house to dye her cat blue (and almost did Arturo's hair as well).

Friday: um..... Not really sure what I did friday. I'm sure I'll think of it later, but right now it escapes me. I DO know we went to Stevie B's for the pizza buffet, then the girls broke off to go bowling with a Women in Computing group and the guys came back to my house and drank and played video games.

Saturday/Sunday: I had one of the most gloriously lazy days. I woke up, brushed my teeth, drank a bottle of water, then went back to bed. Got up at 1 and went to the driving range with Keith, Marie, and Brad. Then Keith and I went mountain biking on this cool, but pretty technical trail (kinda tight and lots of roots). I hadn't been on my mountain bike in a good long while so I am definitely out of practice, especially with my clipless pedals. The first time I ate it I tried to get up this like triple ledge of roots and just stopped at the top and started falling over and couldn't get my foot out. So I basically just fell over but I landed

right on a big root. Bruised my right butt cheek nice and pretty like. Second was basically the same thing, though instead of falling on a root I fell on thorns and sliced two of my fingers. It was a blast nonetheless and Keith and I both realized that we are far from being in good shape. :-) After biking, it was home for a shower then to Moe's for dinner. Then to Leon's Pub (best beer selection I've seen since Nova Scotia) then back to my house with Keith, Brad, and Zach. Basically did the geeky thing and hung out and played video games. Then Brad and Zach left and Arturo and I continued to play video games at look at stupid things on the computer until we realized it was light outside. Looked at the watch and it was like almost 8. Since I was meeting some guys to go wakeboarding at 10 I thought it ridiculous to try to get just an hour so I showered, got some breakfast then went over to Joey and Chris's house. Left from there to one of the guys houses about an hour west of Tally. It was awesome. Beautiful day all day, house right on the lake, full boat with huge wake, good stuff. Had a good run on the wakeboard and just enjoying hanging out on the boat for the entire day. Came back here and relaxed. Wasn't too lively after the night before. Tried to get minimally the work I needed done, though in retrospect I shoulda worked on realtime a lot more. It was just one of those days (weekends actually) that was such a blast I didn't want to ruin it with schoolwork. :-) Paid for it on monday and tuesday, but oh well. Maybe that's why I have been lazy lately..... hm....

Well anyhoo, I gotta get some things done before class and hopefully I will be motivated enough to go exercize after class since I didn't make it over there this morning. Til next time.

8.10.4 Tuesday! (2006-10-24 22:47)

Well, it was definitely an emotionally charged weekend. Frost's wedding was beautiful and I was glad to be a part of it (even through roasting in that tux) and I may post more later about the other goings on but don't really feel like it right now. It was cool seeing Bobby and Erin and Andy and meeting his fiance Monique. Anyhoo...

Today I weighed in at 180.5 which really surprised me. I had a rough week last week and only exercized on wed and thurs and my diet wasn't the best over the weekend so I was expecting a small jump. I've been lifting more and more and started splitting it up so I could hit it harder and I think that has helped. More muscle = more calories burned just sitting around! :-) Hopefully I can breach the 170s next week. We'll see!

(2006-10-28 03:07:41)
Good going Justin! It is so weird to have you so far away. Your blog keeps me up on what you are doing. You are awesome!!

8.11 November

8.11.1 tuesday post (almost) (2006-11-01 01:45)

Short post since I am typing with one hand (bike wreck earlier. I'll explain later). Weighed in at 180.5 again. so close!! Think I broke/sprained my wrist biking which sucks because I was getting all pumped about bumping up my weights. there goes biking and swimming for a while. Guess it is a good time to get back into running. :-) At least I got a semi-decent muscle base and running should keep me losing weight. Hopefully, it;s just a light sprain and will feel a lot better tomorrow. I was debating waking up early and going to the infirmary to have them check out my wrist, but 8 am is REALLY early. We;ll see. Enough one hand typing for me. Studying a little, then off to bed!!

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tattermask (2006-11-01 11:47:40)
i'm so sorry to hear about your wrist =(I hope it's nothing serious and gets better quickly! Being out of the game sucks especially when you're trying to lose weight. I feel for you and will send some good healing vibes! amanda

8.11.2 carnage (2006-11-01 17:11)

Thought I would post a couple pics of my wreck aftermath.

[1]The Pics!!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/gallery/00006fz7

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tattermask (2006-11-02 11:37:41)
Those wounds on your hand almost look like a stigmata... *cue heavenly choir music* I hope you heal quickly! amanda

(2006-11-03 12:16:26)
Those look painful!! Sure you shouldn't have it checked out?? Hope everything is better today! Happy Friday! ;-)

8.11.3 (2006-11-07 12:51)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00013gdd/

8.11.4 Tuesday post (though not as exciting as some previous) (2006-11-07 23:40)

Well it's tuesday. I weighed in at 182.5 today. Little jump, but not too bad. Given the past week it is definitely expected. After my crash on tuesday (see previous post for pictures) I found out that I have at LEAST sprained my wrist (more in a sec). My knee has been kinda messed up as well. So not only have I been slightly disabled, but I was all stoked to be stepping up my workout and then this happened and it had to get put on hold so I was kinda pissed and didn't really pay any attention to what I ate all week. I DID run a 5k saturday morning so I got a teeny tiny bit of exercise, but obviously not enough to counter what I was consuming. :-)

So anyway, the wrist. After two days instead of swelling just around my wrist, I was like marshmallow man up to my knuckles. It was a little nuts. So I called for an appointment at Thagard (the on campus health center) and they didn't have any on friday so I decided to try walk in on saturday. Went out on the lake friday instead :-). Saturday I got things looked at and my wrist x-ray'd and they thought looked ok and that it was just a sprain, but they needed the radiologist to check it out monday. So (unfortunately) I get a call on monday saying I may have a fracture so I went in today for a followup and got referred to a orthopedic surgeon. So I have to head there friday. Apparently there is a "focal lucency projecting through

my scaphoid bone" which is apparently like the suckiest bone to hurt in your wrist. It is non-displaced which is good, but still sounds unpleasant. Maybe I shouldn't have gone wakeskating on Saturday. ;-) So that's the wrist saga so far. It sucks.

Since my knee feels weird, I am running alternate days to break it back in, so no run today, but we'll see how tomorrow goes! I may post a friday update on my wrist situation.

*Edit**

Ok, so I'm almost bouncing in my seat with energy. It's only 12:30 but still. Heck with the every other day crap. My knee can deal with it and my weight loss needs to continue!! Daily running it is!

8.11.5 Tuesday (2006-11-14 17:01)

Man, what a crazy weekend last weekend. Even crazier that it pretty much started wednesday after class. :-) Can't really think of anything too notable to mention. Just lots of crazy times, lots of beer, and lots of fun. Definitely going to take it a little easier this weekend. :-)



Things with the wrist have been ok. I am really not supposed to use it, but I'm not good about that and right now it is kinda achy. Now that I think about it I'm not sure I even posted the final thoughts on my wrist. So I ate it on my bike halloween night on tuesday, x-ray'd on saturday, then went to the ortho on thursday and got my pretty pink cast (pictured in this post). Knowing me and my friends, it is probably not surprising to anyone that I didn't even make it 48 hours before having no less than 4 profane things written

on my cast. Good thing it'll be chilly when I go home so l long sleeves will be acceptable. ;-)

This and next week are going to keep me crazy busy. I have my second midterm in Cryptography tomorrow (yes, he calls it our "second" midterm. go figure), realtime project due tomorrow, at least one assignment due next week, and the program I am writing for my dad is still giving me troubles. Thanksgiving will definitely be a nice break!! :-)

Oh, and the reason for the tuesdayt post!..... 178.5 baby!! I actually think my number was a little skewed and due more to dehydration than weightloss, but it is less regardless! Always good to keep the trend going!

Oh, AND I finally started using a nice feature of lj... the private post! It's cool to have a public forum to talk about my life, but when you have a lot on your mind it is nice to have a place to throw it all down. I have tried so many times to keep journals and have always sucked until I put it on the computer. It's also cool to be able to look back and really see some of my unadulterated, uncensored thoughts about things going on at the time.

Anyway, that turned into a heckuva post considering it was typed almost all with one hand :-) Until no later than next tuesday!!

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whimsikell (2006-11-15 02:18:58)
not fair!!! you know you can't keep taunting me about these "private journal" things. Im nosy... and.... I know where you live so I can harass you until I get to your deepest darkest secrets >= } muahahahahaha

(2006-11-16 12:47:59)
you know i'm gonna have to see the profanity! ;-) Congrats on the weight loss. Please take care of that wrist. You will need it. love you! guess who

8.11.6 a flop of astronomical proportions (2006-11-19 17:32)

Last night there was a (supposed) meteor shower. Christine, Kellen, Turo, and myself all went out to a park to check it out. While I like it chilly, laying on a blanket while it's in the mid 40s waiting for meteors that are there wasn't the most thrilling experience. It was fun chillin, chattin, and listening to several groups of hippies singing and playing guitar while they waiting for the same thing for which we were waiting. But it was still anti-climactic. It's supposed to be annual, so maybe next year. :-)

All-in-all another very good weekend. Did a pretty good job of taking it easier than last weekend. Saw a really funny comic who opened for Stephen Colbert (also hilarious) at Powwow on friday night. Had fun with Turo, Christine, and Kellen on thursday night. A lot lot of fun. hmm..... Wednesday I was eating at Jimmy Johns and the power went out (there was a huge thunderstorm) and it reached all the way a half mile down the street to Buffalo Wild Wings so trivia night turned into another fun night at B Merrells followed by some real time. Is it bad that I start at wednesday night when I start recounting my weekend? ;-)

Going to work on realtime soon since it is due tuesday. Got a presentation on wednesday. Then it's thanksgiving time!! Woohoo! I'm stoked. I'm ready for a break, ready to see family, and ready to enjoy some even colder weather! Ok, work time.

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tattermask (2006-11-20 04:36:01)
Yeah, the meteor shower was kind of a bust. Scott and I saw a few from the middle of nowhere, but it still wasn't much =/ A

8.11.7 late tuesday post :-) (2006-11-29 16:50)

Yes, it is wednesday, but I kinda forgot to weigh in yesterday so it'll have to come a day late. Today I was 178.0 which is cool. After all the turkey, dressing, and beer I had over thanksgiving I was curious as to how it would turn out. :-) It helps that at school I have a bad habit of forgetting to eat and I am really trying to be more consistent about my runs. Hopefully I'll keep this trend going! At the very least, even if I don't get in better running shape I should have quicker times because I have less to carry. :-)

It's been a pretty good week so far. Kellen brought a friend of hers, Rachel, back up from home to hang out for a while. Since I have more free time than most we've been hanging out a lot. It's almost like having a roomate again! :-) And you won't hear any arguments from me about hanging out with two hotties all the time. ;-) Most of my class stuff went crazy before thanksgiving so it's not too busy right now. Got an assignment due on Friday and a paper next wednesday and that's about it.

Well, back to chillin, then maybe a workout and some homework before trivia night!

(2006-11-30 12:38:29)
You really need to tell me more details. ;-) Yay for no weight gain during Thanksgiving!!

8.12 December

8.12.1 Last tuesday post of the semester! (2006-12-05 13:22)

Yep, last one! Next week is exams and I will be at a conference on tuesday, at least most of it. Weighed-in at 177.5, which is pretty good considering my activity level. This cast really slows things down. Speaking of the cast, I get it checked out friday. Here's hoping I get to take the darn thing off! If he takes it off and x-rays and tells me I need another one I might just have to ask if they have a shower in the building so I can have at least one shower where I can use both hands! Gets old in a hurry.

My classes mostly wrapped up before thanksgiving so it's been a pretty chill end of the semester for me. I have some random paperwork that I need to take care of before the end of the semester, but exams are all I really have to worry about. For some reason like saturday night through yesterday evening I felt like every single neuron in my brain was continuously firing. It was really annoying. Luckily after running 5 miles and writing a stream-of-consciousness brain dump private post, things seem to have settled down. Definitely a good thing with exams coming up because it was definitely NOT easy to concentrate on one thing when your brain is trying to think about 50. :-)

Oh, and I was really surprised with my run yesterday. I've been running 2-3 miles whenever I run (usually closer to 2), but last night I really felt like I needed a run so I just went out and did a big loop around campus. I was keeping my pace pretty steady and since I didn't have my pedometer I was figuring about 10 minute miles which would put me right at 5 miles. AND I still felt fine at the end. My foot was starting to rub a little, but I feel like I could definitely have kept running for a little while. The most amazing thing

was that I didn't wake up sore today. I'm sure a little will settle in and I'll feel it when I hit the gym after class, but right now the only thing that hurts is one toe that got rubbed a little bit. Can't argue with that! If I can keep this up and get back into my lifting regimine soon I might actually eventually get in shape. :-O

Well, I think that's about it. Off to meeting, class, then gym!

(2006-12-06 01:57:22) wow!
Five miles!!! that is awesome! I definitely think you and Keith should run in the Country Music Half Marathon next spring. :-)

8.12.2 brief mid-finals post (2006-12-13 19:05)

Since I was out of town I had no weigh-in post and probably won't until I get back in the spring since I don't want to bring my scale home and using another scale would skew my results. ;-) But I figured I would make a post anyway.

Finished up the last week of class well. Nothing really big to report. Had a good weekend (as always) and left sunday morning to head to Orlando with my new research group for the Microarchitecture conference. It was definitely a cool experience (being my first conference) and I definitely learned a few things. Only thing that sucked is that I had to come back yesterday for finals when there were several activities and talks on tues afternoon and wed that I am sorry I missed. I think I will definitely get more out of things like that once I have more experience in the field because some of the talks were definitely a little over my head, but it was definitely a good learning experience regardless. Definitely didn't help my studying though. I basically started studying for my realtime final (which was at 7:30 AM this morning..... EVIL) at about 10:45 and definitely didn't make much progress. It went better than I was expecting though so I guess we will just have to see.

Oh, and it is looking pretty sure that I'm getting a surgery and a pin in my bone for christmas! Woohoo!

Ok, I can't think of much else to report so back to procrastinating from studying. ;-)

8.12.3 post from Utah! (2006-12-17 00:20)

Just chillin here in Utah. Enjoying watching the welcome snow! Just glad to be done with this semester. Geez. I coulda had some more motivation to study, but I think things went pretty well. Found out my wrist surgery is scheduled for the 27th, but the bad thing is that after surgery I still get put back in a cast. I could have a cast on for anywhere from 2 months to a year. How sucky is that? I'm definitely going to be thinking major "healing quickly" thoughts and hope that I am more like 6 weeks. I am SO tired of having this jadblam cast.

Drove my 9.5 hours home yesterday then headed over to Nathan's for a christmas party he was having. Got to see some of the folks I met at the med school party Wil and I crashed and met some other folks as well. Nothing like having a cast to become a popular guy at a party full of med students. I can't even count how many times I heard "did you know the scaphoid is the most commonly broken bone in the wrist?" from various people. Fun times. :-)

Left this morning and flew out to Utah. Damn I love the weather. Highs in the 20s!! AWESOME!!

And I definitely can't argue with getting some fresh snow the night we get here. Mom got me some XL mittens that I can *barely* squeeze over my cast, but I think it'll do. I'm sure I'll get bored at some point and make another Utah post, but I guess we will just have to see. I was telling my fam that living in FL has screwed up my sense of the time of year because it definitely doesn't feel like it is anywhere near christmas, much less 9 days away! Crazy!

Ok, back to watching the snow and Joe Dirt on TV. Until next time.

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whimsikell (2006-12-18 00:17:00)
goddammit. -kellen- is getting tired of you being in a cast. i want 2-handed massages, stupidheaddr's. you should tell them that. and by the way, i wiggled excitedly and got jealous when you mentioned 'med student party'. lolz

fincher69 (2006-12-19 06:10:53)
believe you me. no one wants me to have two hands more than me. Maybe I need to do some major healing meditation and maybe I'll be miracley (sp?) healed in like 2 weeks. :-)

8.12.4 Random quiz post from Utah (2006-12-19 19:40)

Your Five Factor Personality Profile
[personality.jpg]
Extroversion: You have high extroversion. You are outgoing and engaging, with both strangers and friends. You truly enjoy being with people and bring energy into any situation. Enthusiastic and fun, you're the first to say "let's go!" Conscientiousness: You have medium conscientiousness. You're generally good at balancing work and play. When you need to buckle down, you can usually get tasks done. But you've been known to goof off when you know you can get away with it. Agreeableness: You have high agreeableness. You are easy to get along with, and you value harmony highly. Helpful and generous, you are willing to compromise with almost anyone. You give people the benefit of the doubt and don't mind giving someone a second chance. Neuroticism: You have low neuroticism. You are very emotionally stable and mentally together. Only the greatest setbacks upset you, and you bounce back quickly. Overall, you are typically calm and relaxed - making others feel secure. Openness to experience: Your openness to new experiences is high. In life, you tend to be an early adopter of all new things and ideas. You'll try almost anything interesting, and you're constantly pushing your own limits. A great connoisseir of art and beauty, you can find the positive side of almost anything.

[1]The Five Factor Personality Test

Your Dominant Thinking Style: Exploring
[exploring.jpg]
You thrive on the unknown and unpredictable. Novelty is your middle name. You are a challenger. You tend to challenge common assumptions

and beliefs. An expert inventor and problem solver, you approach everything from new angles. You show people how to question their models of the world.

[2]What's Your Thinking Style?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/thefivefactorpersonalitytest/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/whatsyourthinkingstylequiz/

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whimsikell (2006-12-20 06:38:25)
lolz we only got one thing the same. i guess thats why we have fun together. =D

Your Five Factor Personality Profile
[personality.jpg]
Extroversion: You have low extroversion. You are quiet and reserved in most social situations. A low key, laid back lifestyle is important to you. You tend to bond slowly, over time, with one or two people. Conscientiousness: You have high conscientiousness. Intelligent and reliable, you tend to succeed in life. Most things in your life are organized and planned well. But you borderline on being a total perfectionist. Agreeableness: You have medium agreeableness. You're generally a friendly and trusting person. But you also have a healthy dose of cynicism. You get along well with others, as long as they play fair. Neuroticism: You have high neuroticism. It's easy for you to feel shaken, worried, or depressed. You often worry, and your worries prevent you from living life fully. You tend to be emotionally reactive and moody. Your either flying very high or feeling very low. Openness to experience: Your openness to new experiences is high. In life, you tend to be an early adopter of all new things and ideas. You'll try almost anything interesting, and you're constantly pushing your own limits. A great connoisseir of art and beauty, you can find the positive side of almost anything.

[1]The Five Factor Personality Test

I also gotted the same thinking style as you, which is wierd. hmm...

1. http://www.blogthings.com/thefivefactorpersonalitytest/

whimsikell (2006-12-20 06:42:36) dude... i am so bored but this is funny

Your Ideal Relationship is Polyamory
[polyamory.jpg]
You want to have your cake... and everyone else's. Which isn't a bad thing, if everyone else gets to eat too! You're too much of a free spirit to be tied down by a traditional relationship. You think relationships should be open and free, with few restrictions.

[1]What's Your Ideal Relationship?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatsyouridealrelationshipquiz/

whimsikell (2006-12-20 06:46:03) only way too appropriate

Your Stripper Song Is
[dancer.jpg]
[1]My Love Is Like ... Wo by Mya "My love is like...wo My kiss is like...wo My touch is like...wo" You're the full package - and you let everyone know it!

[2]What Song Should You Strip To?

1. http://click.linksynergy.com/fs-bin/stat?id=CkIfgYlVpZA&offerid=99176&type=3&subid=0&tmpid=1826&RD_PARM1=http%253A%252F%252Fphobos.apple.com%252FWebObjects%252FMZStore.woa%252Fwa%252FviewAlbum%253FselectedItemId%253D1970139%2526playListId%253D1970173%2526s%253D143441%26partnerId%3D30
2. http://www.blogthings.com/whatsongshouldyoustriptoquiz/

whimsikell (2006-12-20 07:12:33) boredboredboredybored....this is your fault!!!!!!!

Your Seduction Style: The Dandy
[dandy.jpg]
You're a non-traditionalist, not limited by gender roles or expectations.
Your sexuality is more fluid than that - and you defy labels or categories.
It's hard to pin you down, and that's what's fascinating about you.
You have the psychology of both a male and a female, and you can relate to anyone.

[1]What Is Your Seduction Style?

heheee...

You Are 32% Gentleman
[gentleman-2.jpg]
You tend to think that etiquette is crap, and you pretty much act however you please. And while this does please you, it pretty much offends everyone else.

[2]Are You A Gentleman?

You Are a Snowman
[snowman.jpg]
Friendly and fun, you enjoy bringing holiday cheer to everyone you know!

[3]What Christmas Ornament Are You?

You're a Wild Drunk
[wild-drunk.jpg]
You can get enough drink. Seriously, you'll just go puke and start pounding them back again!

[4]What Kind of Drunk Are You?

Your Pimp Name Is...
[girl.jpg]
Luscious Tickler

[5]What's Your Pimp Name?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatisyourseductionstylequiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/areyouagentlemanquiz/
3. http://www.blogthings.com/whatchristmasornamentareyouquiz/
4. http://www.blogthings.com/whatkindofdrunkareyouquiz/
5. http://www.blogthings.com/pimpnamegenerator/

whimsikell (2006-12-20 07:16:30) lolz last one i swearz

You Belong in Summer
[summer.jpg]
Energetic, creative, and very curious about the world... You're not going to let anything hold you back, especially a cold day. Whether you're chilling out at the beach or partying all night, you live for the warm weather.

[1]What Season Are You?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatseasonareyouquiz/

8.12.5 post utah/surgery post (2006-12-27 23:37)

This is going to take forever since I am typing with one hand, but here goes. :-)

Utah was amazing. We got like 30 inches of snow the first two days so of course the rest of the week was awesome. It was a blast having Nathan with us for the first half of the trip. Funny guy. Cast didn't end up being too much trouble. Mom got me an XL mitten that worked well. little tight with sleeves and stuff, but I still got to snowboard so I can't complain. If anyone wants to see pics they can be found on [1]my shutterfly.

Had an awesome christmas with the fam. Got some really cool stuff and I've been enjoying chillin at home since I am farther away with school now.

Last night my sis had a bunch of folks over so thar was a lot of fun. It's amazing how many were actually able to show up. Served as a good pre-party for my surgery too. ;-)

Woke up bright and early this morning to be at the hospital by 5:15 for surgery. Got all prepped and got my block to numb my arm, but apparently my bone wasn't as aligned as it looked in the x-ray AND I had like splintered one of my metacarpals. So what was supposed to be a 45 minute surgery with just my arm numbed turned into a 5 hour surgery where they knocked my ass out. Fun stuff. So I basically groggily came back home and have hardly left the bed, I'm pretty much over my "med head" from being put under, but my hand aches and, because I'm taking motrin, I'm still bleeding. Though it aches, I'm sure the hydrocodone is keeping it a little more manageable. ;-)

BUT, my followup is on Jan 4th, so I may be out of a cast that soon! Woo! Not guaranteed, but I can sure hope. Think healing thoughts for me! Ok, nighty night time.

1. `http://fincher69.shutterfly.com/`

Chapter 9

2007

9.1 January

9.1.1 2006 es finito (2007-01-01 00:46)

That's probably incorrect spanish, but oh well ;-)

The year is over. I've a lot of changes, new experiences, and firsts this year. Doubt I will be able to remember them all, but i can always edit more in later. :-)

first thesis completed
first thesis defense
first Master's degree
first girlfriend I've not remained friends with after breaking up
first 10k
first half marathon
Started yet another new school
first broken bone
first cast
first real surgery
first time being put under
first bolt in my bones
first semi-consistent toeside 360
first wakeboarding run with broken bones (hahaha)

Well, I think that about completes the list. If anyone knows any that I've forgotten, please comment and add them on. Knowing me I highly doubt I got them all. :-)

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gatoron2wheels (2007-01-01 14:35:46) first wakeboarding run with broken bones
So you went out on the lake, or was that here in Tallahassee?

fincher69 (2007-01-01 16:10:58) Re: first wakeboarding run with broken bones
Tally. I boarded like 4 days after the accident. oops! :-)

turoooo (2007-01-02 03:52:40) others...
first time getting a mug for just drinking beer first time getting a golf towel for just drinking beer first time a professor asked you if you would like him to drop you off at a bar instead of your house (i would not be surprised if that was not a first) I'm sure theres lots more, but I'm too tired to think right now...

9.1.2 another year in review (2007-01-02 14:57)

Part 1 - The Year in Review**

1. Go to a party? I am a party ;-) Though the parties with Schusy and Chris gave me a run for my money ;-)
2. Try something new? See previous post ;-) most notable, breaking a bone
3. Have something change your life? most definitely
4. Kiss someone? affirmative :-)
5. Tell your family and friends you love them? Always
6. Buy something extravagant? Um.... Nothing too crazy, but I got plans for this year
7. Do something nice for you? I'm always nice to me. Nothing stands out
8. Do something terribly wrong? I'd like to think not
10. Go to a concert? Saw Less Than Jake. Kick ass show.

*Part 2 - Best of the Year**

1. Party: I think best party was the one that involved the search for homeless people. Fun times.
2. TV Show: Oooh, toughy. I'd say House, closely followed by Grey's
3. CD: I have gotten so many, but I've really enjoyed Velvet Acid Christ and The Postal Service
4. Movie: Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
5. Song: Such Great Heights - Iron and Wine
6. Experience: Best experience? Probably the Utah ski trip. Couldn't have planned he weather any better.
7. Concert: Less than Jake
8. Month: I think I liked November a lot. Many good times were had
9. Day: Best day? thats really testing my memory. I'd probably have to say the video night ;-)

*Part 3 - Worst of the Year**

1. Party: I can't think of any bad parties
2. Experience: 5 hour wrist surgery
3. Month: Probably May/ Lot of emotion that month
4. Day: October 22nd

*Part 4 - Hopes for 2007**

1. Predict something that you think will happen in 2007? I'll probably do something stupid, lol
2. What do you hope changes about your country? Less ignorance.
3. What do you hope for yourself? Commit myself a little better to school and try to figure out a little more concrete of a life plan.
4. What do you hope for your family? Happiness
5. What do you hope for your best friend? Happiness
6. What do you hope for the rest of your friends? Happiness (I'm a happy little hippie, huh?)

7. Do you think any amazing medical advances will be made? Kellen will get accepted to med school :-)
8. What is your biggest wish for 2007? Keep on keeping on. ooh ooh, and learn drums

*Five things that 2006 taught me:**

1. I need to be more emotionally open
2. Sidewalks can break bones
3. I have the potential to get in shape if I really dedicate myself (and avoid injury)
4. Broken bones and casts suck
5. Getting surgery sucks too

*Five personally significant events of 2006:**
1. Ran my first half marathon
2. Ended the most serious relationship I had ever had
3. Getting shot down from Colorado and deciding to come to FSU
4. Breaking my wrist
5. Meeting the coolest (and cutest) neighbor ever. (I'm not afraid to put it either :-)

*Five things I want to do in 2007:**
1. Have at least one significant road trip
2. Pass comprehensive exams
3. Get involved in the Psychology dept
4. Play more music
5. Enjoy life

*Five people who I'd like to know better in 2007:**
1. Kellen
2. My advisor
3. The Psych Dept
4. My fellow GAANNites
5. My sister

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whimsikell (2007-01-02 20:28:31)
for some reason that post made me sneeze. o.o

(2007-01-03 13:58:16) You know who this is...
*Five things that 2006 taught me:** 1. I need to be more emotionally open 2. Sidewalks can break bones 3. I have the potential to get in shape if I really dedicate myself (and avoid injury) 4. Broken bones and casts suck 5. Getting surgery sucks too **Five personally significant events of 2006:** 1. Ran my first half marathon 2. Ended the most serious relationship I had ever had 3. Getting shot down from Colorado and deciding to come to FSU 4. Breaking my wrist 5. Meeting the coolest (and cutest) neighbor ever. (I'm not afraid to put it either :-) Uh..you forgot that number 1 should say you've learned that i'm ALWAYS RIGHT! Geesh!

(2007-01-07 15:31:59)
Seeing all your firsts/worsts/etc in one place sure makes last year look like a wild one for you! Buy something extravagant in 2007?? I'd like to hear about that! ;-) (and video night)

9.1.3 and the tuesday weigh-in posts resume! :-) (2007-01-09 09:52)

Per request, I will also try to put some more other relevant stuff in my posts (and maybe even post more than once a week). It DOES help me to have a weigh-in day because a) it's nice to keep track of my fitness stuff and b) it helps me keep on posting in my lj so I don't let it go weeks without a post like most of my lj buddies. ;-)

So anyway, I weighed in at 172.5 today. At first I was kinda excited since that is 5 pounds less than I weighed in my last weigh in post, but then I realized that like half of that weight is likely muscle loss due to lack of activity stemming from my stupid wrist. Oh well, it is still nice to keep the weight loss thing on track. I'm not sure if I can run with my hand still all stitched up, but I'm hoping to get a workout routine settled next week after my class schedule is set.

I had a blast being home and with my family over break, but I definitely missed Tally too. Still haven't seen everyone, but I'm sure we'll come together on this long weekend (no classes monday, woot!). Turo and Kellen helped me assemble my new foosball table over the weekend. The game room is coming together! hehehe. I claim it will be good wrist rehab when I get this cast off. ;-) I still have some new wall hangings I need to get up and some organizing to do to figure out how I want to orient everything, but I think it'll work. I'm getting used to packing as much as I can in this tiny apt, but I'm trying to keep it from getting to cluttered and packed in. I guess we'll just have to see.

Started up classes yesterday. Not too worried so far. Still have two classes I haven't attended yet, but I'm positive both of those will be cake. I think I'm definitely going to be glad I dropped my parallel computing class. I was kinda bummed since it was the class I was most looking forward to, but I really don't think 3 programming intensive classes would go well with a bum wrist. I'm trying to RAISE my GPA this semester after all. :-)

All-in-all it's looking like it is going to be one hell of a semester. Plan on being a little more diligent in my studies, but definitely forsee much fun in my future. Woohoo!

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whimsikell (2007-01-09 15:54:42) hmm..
yeah didn't you challenge me to see who would get better grades this semester? I have 5 classes though, you don't do you? I choose psychology of women as one of mine that counts =P. Or maybe just overall GPA at the end.

fincher69 (2007-01-10 19:00:28) Re: hmm..
I was thinking overall, then I noticed I gotta get all A's just to get close to a tie :-)

theurbanchico (2007-01-09 22:36:12)
"Plan on being a little more diligent in my studies..." I call bullshit on that one my friend! I doubt I will ever live to see the day!

turoooo (2007-01-10 18:57:28)
Especially with the new foosball table. "Ok seriously, just one more game THEN I'll study."

fincher69 (2007-01-10 18:59:38)
I just said MORE diligent, not necessarily diligent by normal people standards. ;-) And as pointed out ^, studied can involve studying foosball, beer, and the like as well. :-)

9.1.4 Tuesday again! :-) (2007-01-16 17:53)

Well I weighed in at 172.5 again which isn't too bad considering my consumption / exercise level this past week. Starting to get back into the gym thing which should help, though I'm not comfortable with running yet but I can't wait to start it back up. (never thought I would say THAT)

First week of class was pretty good. Nothing too special to report about classes. I'm not too worried though I know I'll have a decent amount of programming in OS and Compilers but it sounds interesting. Theory will suck solely because our prof likes to softly mumble everything and most of the class consists of him either mumbling about hoping everyone has the right pre-requisites or Turo or I turning to the other and saying "uhhh..... what?" and the other usually responds with something to the effect of "I have no idea dude." Should be interesting for sure.

Went out friday night and it turned out that Bullwinkle's had all you can drink until one with a 10 dollar cover, so of course we put some hurt on the bar. Christine had to go home and Park, Turo and I kept going for a while, got separated, then made our way home eventually. Got our asses handed to us by Park on the foosball table. Of course Fincher + all you can drink != skillful foosball player. :-)

Pretty much took it easy Saturday. Hung out and watched TV and stuff.

Sunday was Turo's Bday celebration so we hit some B Merrells then hung out until we went again to Bullwinkles and got us some Moose Passes. One of the employees was being kinda an ass so we came back to my place and continued the festivities. Had most of the folks crash here (good sign of a good party) and definitely had a blast. Apparently June is going to be rough since like most of us have June birthdays and he's gonna be looking for some payback. ;-) hahaha

It was definitely nice having no class on monday. I think this was my first school that actually let off for MLK. So far this week hasn't been bad, but I definitely have plenty of reading and stuff to do so it'll keep me busy.

I went and talked to the head of Cognitive Psychology today about working on some stuff with them. With my fellowship and stuff, I think it is going to be pretty hard to finagle, but we will see what I can do. She said I am welcome to take classes, but actually enrolling as a Ph.D. candidate in two programs might be a little rough. It is especially so since psych starts out with classes AND research so a lot of professors would feel like they are getting half a grad student since I'd be split among departments. I'm going to talk to my CS folks, but I have a feeling they aren't going to be cool with it so I'll likely have to just take whatever psych I can fit into my schedule and if I really want the psych degree just try to use those courses to cut down on what I would have left and do it right after this one. We'll just have to see I guess! I want too much dadjum schooling. :-)

Well, obviously my attempt to update this more than my once a week failed, but at least I'm keeping it updated with that. I can always hope to do more, but I make no promises. ;-)

9.1.5 Little post before some meetings (2007-01-22 14:24)

Rainy monday. Fun.

Didn't sleep very well last night and woke up with a bit of a sore throat. Always exciting. Still felt pretty fine until Compilers. It isn't that I don't like the prof or that the subject matter is really boring, but

I have the hardest time staying awake in that class. I have no clue why.

Also, for some reason, my cast is REALLY bugging me today. It just feels more uncomfortable today and it is just driving me nuts. I'm so glad that I have less than two weeks with this piece of crap! (11 days to be exact) It is going to feel so weird, but by george I'm ready. Everything had better be all healed up like it is supposed to be. I just hope it doesn't take like months to rehab it back to being functional. I'm intrigued to see how much (if any) thumb strength I have considering it's been pretty immobilized since the beginning of November. Geesh.

Have a research meeting today where I will hopefully be getting into a project. I have three research hours this semester so I'll actually be doing something (unlike the one hour I had last semester) so that should be interesting. On another note, I found out that it is going to be really hard to do much on a Psych degree concurrently while I get my CS degree. I guess that gives me a little more motivation to finish things up here fairly quickly if I am thinking about going to yet more school afterward. ;-) I guess we'll just have to see.

Don't have TOO much to do this afternoon/evening, but I almost feel a nap coming after my meeting and before wakeboarding club. We'll see I guess. Rain just does that to me! :-)

9.1.6 Tuesday (2007-01-23 18:30)

Keeping with the tuesday post, even though i *did* post yesterday. :-) Today I weighed in at 171.0. Always good to lose even if it isn't much. :-) I'm not really exercising much at the moment so I'm pretty happy to just maintain where I am. I'm going to get back into running once this dadjum cast is off, but since it might still be susceptible to the jostling I'm just choosing not to risk it.

Not much has really happened since yesterday, though I did realize that I hadn't posted much about the weekend. I mean, I guess there wasn't that much to post. Friday's hit the typical Bullwinkles then hung out at my place. Found out how crazy the tow guys are when Joey and Chris got towed after being in my parking lot for, no lie, 5 minutes. It was amazing.

Saturday felt like sunday all day, which was kinda weird. I think Turo and I just like hung out and watched TV for like 6 hours. Exciting times. More exciting than Kellen's studying marathon though ;-)

Sunday was pretty chill. Actually got SOME reading done, but I still have plenty to do. My research hours this semester are going to start out with a crapload of reading so hopefully my reading speed will progressively kick ass this semester. I am too lazy to look at my last post so hopefully I didn't just re-recap the weekend, but I was pretty sure I didn't.

I'm kinda liking the posting more than once a week, mainly because I can't trust myself to remember that far back. We'll see if I keep it up. I'll at least keep up the weekly regardless!

(2007-01-24 17:09:35)
No fair losing weight doing nothing! You obviously have your dad's system. He lost almost 5 pounds last week just thinking about it. geez you guys! I can skip a meal and gain 2 pounds! :-) I know you will be happy to get back to running when your cast comes off. 9 days and counting!!

9.1.7 wow, interesting (2007-01-24 12:52)

This semester so far I've kinda had a problem with getting sleepy in class. It wasn't necessarily the professors or the subject, but sitting in class for more than 15 minutes just made me start drifting off and I had no clue why. I had been good about going to bed and had been getting my 7-8 hours of sleep. Then last night I had an assignment I didn't feel like working on and kept distracting myself and doing other things and didn't end up going to bed til 3.

Well today I feel awesome. I had no problem staying awake in class and I feel more energized and everything. so apparently I think I've been sleeping too much. I am going to stick with my 5-5.5 hours for a while and see how things go. Crazy body. :-)

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turoooo (2007-01-24 18:16:11)
Most people get tired when they oversleep. I guess your body's threshold for oversleeping is anything < 5.5 hours! I usually do between 5 and 7, then drink a red bull (or 2) for breakfask and I'm good to go for the rest of the day. It also helps that today van Engelen kept on referring to the examples he was doing in class as "problems from old exams", so I'm sure that helped in keeping our attention a bit more than usual.

whimsikell (2007-01-24 20:22:11)
turo o o has a LJ? p.s. i think you meant to put $>$ or at least i would hope that 3 hrs isnt oversleeping for fincher. =P

angelwings (2007-01-25 02:40:47)
LoL I wish I could get by on 5 hours! Right now I sleep 9 hours every night. I get up as soon as I hit that 9 as if I had an internal alarm clock :) But even before the alien I was on an 8 hour schedule just the same. Maybe you have some hidden storage for energy I haven't tapped into yet!

zhartley (2007-01-25 02:47:42)
Was I the only one who noticed some of his examples in his notes were incorrect? Especially the one for minimizing DFAs...the D stage had a mislabeled edge and was missing another edge.

fincher69 (2007-01-25 12:22:56)
I was awake, but that doesn't necessarily mean I was paying attention. LOL

turoooo (2007-01-25 03:37:46)
turooo indeed has a lj, fincher made me get one lol. i know what you mean zach, i did notice a few errors, but then he mumbled something about not completing the entire dfa or something. i dunno, i'll just try to do it his way for his tests.

(2008-08-28 01:24:53) demand in any case
poor tip clean of excise, notional.

9.1.8 TUUUUUUUUUUUUUUESDAY (2007-01-30 13:23)

Start with the norm.... 172.0. I think that's a little more than last week, but honestly I haven't been eating that well and I definitely have gotten no exercise so I was pretty stoked. It hasn't helped my motivation knowing I'm geting my cast off soon (3 DAYS!!) and I will be able to get back into my working out. At least running. I haven't talked to the doc about how my lifting schedule will be able to work, but I'll find that

out friday when he is cutting this piece of crap off my arm! WOOHOO!

Been kinda under the weather this week. Nothing really major, mostly sore throat/runny nose type stuff, but yesterday I just felt kaput. I didn't feel like doing anything, even fun procrastinatory things. I feel a little better today, which is good because I have a test tomorrow and a project due tomorrow as well. (same class, geesh) I need to start working on that soon, but I wanted to get some stuff done around the apt (as well as a few tidbits of procrastination) done before I really delved into it. I think it's going to be lunchtime soon I may wait til after that.

I got elected president of the wakeboarding club last night, so that is pretty exciting. The guys who have been runnning it are cool, but were kinda thrown into it so they weren't very motivated. Charlie (my VP) and I want to get things a lot more organized so I think it is going to be a good year. It'll def keep me a little busier this semester, but working to get people on the water and wakeboarding hardly seems like real work. :-) I was pretty stoked since I was interested in being an officer, but def didn't expect to be nominated and voted president. It's kinda unofficial since there is apparently a rule that an officer must be a junior or senior, but since I'm a grad student I'm hoping that won't be a problem. If so I'll likely drop to VP and Charlie will be P and, at least the way it was done in the past, there really isn't much difference between the positions. We'll both be doing what we can to get things kickin.

Not a heckuva lot else to report. Just stoked to be going home on thurs so I can have my cast off on friday! It'll be cool having Turo and Christine come along just to have some company. Especially since we can't leave til like 5:30 which puts us in bristol around 2:30-3. It'll def be some time on the road, but it'll still be fun. Going to some bluegrass concert friday night then probably having some fun in downtown Bristol. It's no Tally, but there's still fun to be had. :-)

Well I guess I should get on my chores and stop procrastinating so much..... even if I don't really wanna. ;-)

Oh OH! On another note. My friends Mark and Melissa Macpherson had their first child yesterday! A little baby girl! That's friend number three to pop out a kid. Definitely doesn't make me feel old. Nope. Not at all. ;-)

9.2 February

9.2.1 a post and it isn't even tuesday! (2007-02-05 17:50)

It's been a helluva past week so I figured I would go ahead an hop on and post.

Last week was a little crazy because our Compilers professor decided it was a good idea to have our first project due on the same day as our first test. Geesh. So that hurt my studying and the test kinda kicked my ass, but oh well. I'm pretty darn sure I did well on the project so that is good. It also didn't help that the stitches in my cast were driving me crazy and I was planning on getting my cast off for good on friday. It's been on since like Nov 9 so needless to say I'm pretty damn tired of having this thing on my arm so it was hard to concentrate on anything else knowing that it was coming off.

Anyhoo, left at 5:15 on thursday and Turo and I headed up to bristol. Got there around 3:30 and of course we were wide awake so we hung out a bit then crashed around 4:30. Got up and went to the Ortho on friday and had my cast taken off, my stitches taken out, and my hand cleaned up. Doc said everything looked awesome and it was healing well. Then we had a miscommunication where mom and I thought he

said I just needed a splint and we were really stoked. Then he started putting a cast on and we were like "wtf?" and he said he'd really feel better if I had another couple of weeks in a cast. So I'm sitting here with cast #5 on my arm (blue), but at least this one will only be on for a couple weeks. After driving 19 hours last weekend, I decided I'd be cool with flying this time so I'm gonna fly up there next thursday and hopefully get this damn thing off for good. I definitely had extremely limited range of motion so it'll likely be a good while before I'm even close to 100 %, but it will be hella cool to have something I can remove so I don't have to package up my arm to hop in the shower!

Turo and I got back saturday evening and played a game of cranium with Kellen and Park, then Kellen went to study and we hung out and drank and played foosball and such. Nothing too crazy.

Yesterday I had a pretty lazy day. Went to a super bowl party at Keith's and Brad and Sarah had brought their guitar hero so I got to try that out which was fun. Definitely a little cumbersome with a cast, but I can definitely see how it is an addicting game. It's amazing how addicting all those DDR spinoffs are.

Today was my normal long day (and I still have a meeting at 8) and I got plenty of work to get done. I need to buckle down and really try not to put things off so much (I know half y'all are chuckling right now), but we'll see how that goes. I have an OS exam on wednesday that I really need to do well on so I'll be reading and working on that tonight. Definitely think I slept too much last night so I need to get back into my 5-6 hour groove.

Went for my first run in a good long while (probably since I ran in Utah over christmas break) and it went fairly well. I think I went out a little fast, which I have a tendency to do especially after taking a break. But I roped in a better pace (though slow) and covered 4.83 kilometers according to my watch and did it in about 29 minutes. That's definitely not booking, but I was stoked that I made it almost 3 miles after the break I had. Might be running a 5k this weekend which should be fun. I definitely feel a lot better now and I'm pretty stoked to be getting back into it. I'll be super stoked when I get to the point where I can start lifting again. :-)

Well, I doubt I'll have much for my tuesday post, but oh well. I'll be surprised if I haven't gained anything considering I have been getting no exercise and have been eating like crap. I guess we'll see!

(2007-02-07 01:54:56)
chuckling

9.2.2 brief late weigh-in post (2007-02-07 12:34)

170.5 this morning. Not too shabby. I was also pretty stoked to find that my BMI has finally dropped into the "normal weight" category. woohoo! I started running on monday and did DDR yesterday so now that I'm getting back into my workouts it should help. Kinda forgot to weigh-in yesterday, though DID post on monday. :-) I have a pain in the tendons/ligaments on the front of my ankle though which kinda sucks. I'll probably take the day off today and see how it feels tomorrow. Don't want to push it with a 5k this weekend.

My OS test went fairly well. My hand was cramping I was writing so much, but I can't really say for sure that I was writing the right things. I guess I'll find out! :-) Nothing else to really report. Yeah.

(2007-02-07 20:44:20)
Oh No! Not an injury when you are just getting back to running. Hope it is only a 1 day thing. Weight - nice! good going! :-)

9.2.3 Tuesday (2007-02-13 09:42)

I think it's actually been a week since my last post this time. Things have been a little busy. Or maybe it just felt like that because yesterday was really busy. I'm not used to starting the day with an 8 am class and pretty much going nonstop til 8:30 pm. Good thing I only have one class today. Still have plenty else to keep me busy, but it is nice to have it on my own schedule.

Weighed in at 170.0 this morning. So close! After kinda starting running last week I think I should start seeing better improvements. Had the 5k this past weekend which was fun, especially because there were three other people running it that I knew. Went to the gym yesterday and did the bike for a little bit. I can definitely tell that it has been like 2 months since I've really done anything. Luckily getting back into it is usually rewarding (if I can avoid injury) because it's easy to make fast progress. I'll probably try to go for a short run today then bike tomorrow. I think it will be good to try to alternate my runs so I don't just start pounding the crap out of my body right off the bat. Should probably go back to being a little more conscious about what I eat. I just hope I can start lifting soon. I feel like I have 0 muscle mass from my waste up because I haven't done anything physical since halloween. Frickin' Halloween! Geez.

Classes are going fairly well. Nothing too notable to report. I'm definitely going to try to start working at least a little every day during the week instead of just geting slammed on sunday nights. We'll see how that works out. :-)

Had a pretty good weekend, though now that I think about it I don't really remember what we got into. I can't believe it's only tuesday. Last weekend seems so far away. I'm pretty sure we did Bullwinkles thursday, then B Merrells as usual for friday dinner (where I earned my ballcap!) then to Bullwinkles again. Saturday night we hung out at Brad and Sarah's and played guitar hero and various Wii games. The Wii is definitely really awesome. One thing that is really nice is that you can play a lot of games one handed ;-) I wonder if the novelty will wear off and people will get tired of jumping around and waving their arms whenever they play video games. I guess that's why I saw it becoming popular from the beginning because I see it as a second system. Some people will get only it, but I bet a lot of gamers will own a 360 or PS3 and then get a Wii in addition. Anyway, the Wii is a lot of fun and it's amazing how much it can detect and how sensitive it is. And Guitar Hero is definitely addicting. If it weren't for my cast and the fact that it is like 70 bucks for the guitar/game combo, I would definitely have gone out and gotten one. I guess we'll see how it goes after I get this dadjum cast off.

Speaking of, that will be happening this friday! I know I know, I said it was going to happen last friday, but the fact he only put this one on for two weeks gives me more confidence. That and if he tries to put me in another cast I will just refuse. I can be careful enough to just have a brace. I'm NOT having a cast #6!! (at least not for this injury lol). So I head out thursday and come back saturday for that. I've been trying not to think about it, but yesterday it popped in my head that it was only 4 days away so now I can't help but think about it. 3 more days!!! :-D

Well, I think that about sums it up. Shouldn't be too busy of a week. Have plenty to do, but nothing is really do so nothing is really pressing and hopefully I'll do better at spreading it out. :-)

(2007-02-13 19:28:11)
congratulations on your running, your weight, and your ability to get back into an exercise program! go Justin!! I've not said anything about the number of days until you get your cast off cause I don't want to jinx it! Now that I know you will refuse a #6, I can start counting! yipppeee!!! 3 days to go!

adamjames (2007-02-14 15:16:23) Poll regarding online journals.
if you have some free time will you take this poll? I am doing a little bit of research, and I was wondering if you had a few moments to take a poll I put together regarding online journals, I would really appreciate it, there are only 11 questions, so it shouldnt take you more then a minute. If you have any questions shoot me an email. The poll can be found here; http://www.quizilla.com/users/adamjames/ polls/4301795/Calling _all _Bloggers/ Thanks in advance.

9.2.4 lol Valentine's entry (2007-02-14 15:59)

Your Candy Heart Says "Cutie Pie"
[cutie-pie.jpg]
You always seem to have a hot date, even though you never try to meet anyone. A total charmer, you have a natural appeal that keeps you in high demand. Your ideal Valentine's Day date: multiple dates with multiple people Your flirting style: 100% natural What turns you off: serious relationship talks Why you're hot: you're totally addicting

[1]What Does Your Candy Heart Say?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatdoesyourcandyheartsayquiz/

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whimsikell (2007-02-15 20:46:56) lol i dunno

Your Candy Heart Says "Get Real"
[get-real.jpg]
You're a bit of a cynic when it comes to love. You don't lose your head, and hardly anyone penetrates your heart. Your ideal Valentine's Day date: is all about the person you're seeing (with no mentions of v-day!) Your flirting style: honest and even slightly sarcastic What turns you off: romantic expectations and "greeting card" holidays Why you're hot: you don't just play hard to get - you are hard to get

[1]What Does Your Candy Heart Say?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/whatdoesyourcandyheartsayquiz/

fincher69 (2007-02-16 21:49:36) Re: lol i dunno
not sure if I buy mine either. but lol, yours said "penetrate"

9.2.5 I just wanted to say... (2007-02-16 16:40)

Lookie lookie! No more cast! Woot. Still a pretty gnarly scar though.

[1]Check it out!

1. http://fincher69.textamerica.com/?r=5706926

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angelwings (2007-02-17 13:55:47)
wooohooooo Congratz!!!! And yea that is quite some scar :)

9.2.6 TUUUUesday (2007-02-20 18:22)

Woot. I'm typing super slow right now because I feel like I just ate a big brick of chinese. ugh. So yummy going down but who knew that lo mein and fortune cookie makes chinese cement?

Weighed in at 168.0. Finally broke the 170 barrier! I'll hopefully be able to lift soon (since I'm castless!) and that will really tell me if my hypothesis that my weight loss is mostly attributed to muscle loss from a lack of physical activity. I DID go for a run today, so hopefully my legs are staying in shape, but I think I've just found a way to move solely using fat and that's why my upper body is still functional. ;-)

Had a good weekend, with the slight exception of some traveling hiccups. Flew out thursday to atlanta. My connecting flight was originating in New York so it got delayed, delayed, then canceled due to snow. The next flight I was on was coming from Huntsville, AL so I figured it would be safe but something delayed it as well so I said screw it and just rented a car and drove home. I got to rent a Tribeca which was cool because I have wanted to try one out since they were released. Fun little suv. Ended up getting home about the same time as I would had I stayed and flown, but I trusted me more to get me home than I did the airlines. It sorta livened up the trip as well since I didn't have to sit in the Atlanta airport for like 6 hours.

Friday I got my cast off! WOOOOHOOOO! I was pretty stoked. I posted a link to a pic in my last post. Doesn't look nearly as bad as the first post surgery pic, but I definitely have a gnarly scar. It's still really REALLY stiff and I don't have much of a range of motion, but it is steadily improving. Not sure how long it'll be before I approach being 100 %, but the doc said that there is no reason he sees that I won't eventually come pretty close.

Left bright and early saturday morning and came back to Tally. Bought guitar hero (I don't recommend it if you have work to do because it is EXTREMELY addicting) for "rehab." :-) Basically had a chill day. Got to go out to the lake for a bit then Turo and a few folks came over and hung out and played guitar hero for a while. Nothing too crazy.

Sunday had a good lazy day. I did get SOME work done, though I prolly coulda been more productive. Oh well.

Monday started at 8 and (with a couple small breaks) basically went until 10:30. Busy frickin day.

Today I became a FL resident and have a new drivers license and everything. My driving skill didn't disappear immediately so I can only assume it's a gradual process. ;-) Got to study for a compilers exam tomorrow and write a short paper for OS, so it'll be a busy evening. Right now I'm just focusing on digesting chinese.

(2007-02-21 01:08:58)
Wow! 168, eh? pretty cool! Here's hoping you hang onto your driving skills for as long as possible. Lord knows you have earned them..... kids running out in front of you, ladies blocking lanes, etc. You've had some driving experiences that surely match what FL drivers can throw at ya! :-)

9.2.7 Last tuesday before spring break (2007-02-27 09:02)

I'm sure I'll have access to internet at times over spring break and I can post a couple times, but I won't have my normal tuesday weigh-in post cuz I'll be on the road!

Turo and I are heading to bristol, pickin up Wil, then heading to PA, chillin a little, then us and Anna are heading to boston for a couple days, then back to PA, then back to bristol to drop off Wil, then back down to Tally! Should be one helluva road trip. I definitely need a break.

Weighed in at 168.5 today. Not too bad. Given I did diddly last week other than wakeboard on friday and definitely consumed a lot of calories, I'm pretty happy with that. I ran yesterday and hopefully I can get into it more. I just need to find time in my schedule to work out at least 4 days a week and get back into a good lifting regimen, even if it's only one of the days for the time being. I've been doing a lot of "rehab" for my wrist, but I don't want to push it too hard.

Last weekend was good. Definitely a little crazy. Like I mentioned I had my first wakeboard run of the season on friday. Then Turo and I decided to hit Bullwinkles for a couple drinks at 5:30, then went to B Merrells for the normal friday additions to our beer card, then came back to my place for a little while, then went over to Joey's where I bruised the heck out of my hip on the halfpipe (the wrist was well protected), and then came back to my place. Turo and I ended up crashing around 4:30. Needless to say saturday was a pretty worthless day for both of us after that marathon drinking session. Just had a chill day, watched Little Miss Sunshine, then went to my friend Dustin's party for a bit. Neither I nor Turo really felt like getting too crazy, but it was fun nonetheless.

Sunday was pretty chill as well. Went out to the Rez to pull the boat out of the water and got some reading (and of course some rehab) done. Guitar Hero is definitely addicting. I got the game like 10 days ago and I've beat it on easy, medium, and hard, and I'm 27/40 on expert. I'm likely barely beating the songs at the point I'm at now, but still making progress! Haha.

I definitely have been addicted to the private post these past few days as well. Every once in a while I'd feel like posting something in there, but recently I've had so much on my mind that I looked at it and I have like 6 pages, single spaced, of brain dump in like the past 4 days. Whew! Hopefully things will calm down because my brain has just been firing non-stop and I'm sure it needs a break. Hopefully spring break will help in the process. :-)

Nothing else I can really think to report. I have a Theory exam today, which shouldn't be bad. After that my week is pretty much over so that'll be nice. I'll just kinda be cruising until we leave for bristol. Hopefully I'll be posting from the road. If not I sure hope I write some of it down so I can have a full synopsis when I return! :-)

9.3 March

9.3.1 Spring Break Novella (though nonfictional) (2007-03-10 21:54)

This is gonna be a helluva read so brace yourself if you plan on making it through the whole thing. Since I am trying to recall an entire week, I will likely leave out many a detail, but hopefully the overall gist is still conveyed adequately.

It began a week ago Thursday. I believe it was March 1. Turo and I were going to leave after class to head to Bristol so we would have a day in Bristol to relax and to break up our drive to New England. Mother Nature decided to bless us with torrential rains and hurricane force winds on about 85 % of the route from Tallahassee to Bristol so we decided it might be in our best interest to stay the night and make the trek to Bristol in the morning.

This decision benefit us on multiple levels. The first, and most obvious, was the subversion of Mother Nature's plan to try to kill us while we were driving. We ended up having a pretty nice drive home. The second was the night that was afforded to us by Mother Nature again and our good friend Ethanol.

Turo and I basically took it easy and hung out and had a few beers. Then the thunderstorm began. In all honestly, I do not recall a single 4 second span where we did not see a flash of lightning. It was amazing. I'll have to try to post a video of it soon, but the sky was just constantly flashing and it lasted a decent amount of time. We eventually began to tire of this and the bars were letting out and we knew we had to be up early in the morning to start driving so we started packing it in to go to sleep. Just as we were about to hit the sack, we heard a loud crash/crunch from outside. sure enough there was a wreck.

A standard fender bender you ask? HARDLY! A guy rear-ended a girl driving a probe, and from the looks of it he was carrying a decent speed. Sounds fairly standard. What ISN'T standard is that the guy backed up, hit her again, backed up again, hit her AGAIN, backed up yet another time, this time turned the wheel to go around her but not enough so he hit her AGAIN, THEN finally backed up and drove off. It was readily apparent that the cold grasp of inebriation had taken control of any sense this guy may have had at the beginning of the evening.

So Turo and I walk across the street and tell them we saw the guy hit her and talk to the people involved and basically just figured we would hang out until the police arrived in case they needed a statement from us as witnesses or anything. That and we were pretty awake after seeing that drunkass that we figured we wouldn't be able to go right to bed anyway.

While we are hanging out, we find out that the guy hit someone else first! He had apparently rear-ended a dodge ram and spun him about 180 degrees, then drove off from THAT to hit this girl. This guy is on a roll. What made this situation even BETTER, was that the guy ranting about having his truck hit was pretty obviously inebriated himself.

I'm highly against drunk driving, but if you WERE drinking and you WERE driving and you got hit by someone and it isn't very major, would you sit around and wait for the cops? hmm.....

Well, he did! And it very much added to our entertainment for the night. Half of the rest of the evening was me talking this guy down because he was so pissed off he kept talking about tracking down the guy and killing him and then getting pissed off because the cop was talking to the girl more than him even though he "got hit first." He also told us that "that guy hit his Hemi," "I drive a dodge ram with a Hemi," "I'm going into the coast guard which means I have no money and I am SO fucked," and "he hit me first."

Each phrase was uttered on the order of 250 times. Geesh. So I basically helped keep this kid out of jail. And the reason the cop was talking to her more is because she had actually recognized him and had gone on a date with him one time. So that combined with them getting his license plate equals 2 hit-and-runs that this guy will have to answer for. And that's only if he made it home without getting arrested or hitting anyone else.

So after all that excitement Turo (Turtle) and I (Finch) finally hit the sack around 3:30 and still made it out by 8 (I think) and headed up to Bristol. A fun night of beer, DDR, beer, Karaoke Revolution, beer, and Guitar Hero ensued.

Woke up in the morning and went to Johnson City where we picked up Mr. Onstott (Snake) then proceeded on to Philadelphia! The first evening was full of our typical fun and alcohol and debauchery.

Snake felt a little rough the next morning, but we all decided to go on what was described to us as a "walk that is not that far." Here's a little lesson kids. Different people have different definitions of vague phrases such as "not that far." To Snake, Turtle, and I, a walk in the 15-20 minute range is "not that far." To Anna and Andy it resembles more along the lines of "hell and back." It was nice to see the University of Pennsylvania where Anna has been studying and to see some Philly culture and have some AMAZING cheesesteaks at Pat's (even though we came dangerously close to sacrificing our hands to cold in the process). Six hours after our departure we returned home (yes, that is SIX hours likely 4 of which AT LEAST were walking) Snake had a pain in his foot from his boots that were not made for Appalachian Trail length distances. A housewide naptime was called for, which of course I decided to bow out of. I talked to Alana for about an hour and a half then played guitar until the youngin's started waking up. Snake was still feeling pretty rough so he ended up crashing after dinner at about 9 pm and the rest of us went out to a nice little bar and played about as much pool as we could handle with a couple of games of darts thrown in for good measure. Needless to say, our fun combined with Snakes early departure from the realm of the conscious forced us to reevaluate his previously concocted moniker. Henceforth, Snake was known as Kitty.

The next day Kitty was feeling quite rambunctious (12 hours of sleep can do that to a person) so I realized entertaining times were soon to be had. We decided to take a cab to the art museum where Rocky was filmed runnning the steps. While the city had been windy since we arrived, we did not realized that its source was apparently the art museum. It was quite and experience to hop out of a cab and be greeted with a wind that was 30 mph harder than when you got IN the cab. Kitty wanted a jumping picture on the steps, which lead to a jumping picture of all three of us and of Anna and Andy. This spawned an ongoing jumping theme where much of the rest of the trip involved Kitty jumping in about every picture he was in.

I think we did some other Philly stuff then Tuesday we went to Boston. According to the weather channel, it "felt like" -8 there. That's right NEGATIVE EIGHT. So needless to say, even the arctic albino (myself) broke out the pants and shoes. It was definitely a wee bit brisk. Kitty overheard that it was actually colder in Boston than in Antarctica that night. Ridiculous.

So we just grabbed a sixpack and had a couple beers until Anna's plane came in, then we likely jumped off stuff and went somewhere. Oh, I do recall going to a bar that smelled like a combination of baby diapers and vomit. It was understandably unpleasant, but for some reason we remained and actually had a couple of beers there. Ended up having a fun night in a couple bars, but nothing to really report.

Next day we took in started the day at an Irish restaurant, where I had a wonderful bowl of Irish stew and a couple of pints of Guiness (yes, for lunch). Then we went to the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides) and walked a bit of the freedom trail. We saw the church where Paul Revere hung the lantern among other old stuff that I'm sure was relevant to something that happened a long time ago. We then walked around

the market a little and tried to find Cheers to no avail. Kitty and Anna decided to head back to the room to rest up before dinner and Turtle and I continued wandering around for a bit before settling in a nice little Irish pub. Had a pretty Irish lass serving us Guiness and Smithwicks until we met up with Kitty and Anna for dinner at Dick's. Fun place, but we definitely gorged ourselves a little much. From there we proceeded to the Point, which Kitty told me was the oldest bar in the United States. Continued the Guiness trend and started talking to the girl at the table next to us who turned out to be a really cool girl who coaches lacross. We then ran into a couple of girls who were actually Furman alums (or at least I think one of them was). Small world. We left there and went back to the hotel bar to continue the Guiness. Kitty was feeling a little "under the weather" (read: drunk) so he hit the sack and Turo and I wandered around a little bit then caught back up with Anna and headed back to the room.

Next day we drove back to Philly, ate some pizza, drank some beer, and pretty much just chilled and took it easy.

Day after that Kitty, Turtle and I bid Anna farewell and made the trek back to JC to drop of Kitty then on to Bristol. Turtle and I just had a couple beers and played guitar hero and I played around with my new macbook, which I must say is flippin' sweet!

Today we woke up, packed up the car and drove back down to Tallahassee. Turtle and I decided that the best avenue of action was inaction so we cruised to our respective abodes and have done approximately that.

All-in-all it was over 2500 miles in 8 days. Sounds like a Fincher trip to me! Definitely had a lot of fun and hopefully I can organize some of the photos and stuff soon and have them posted somewhere. I'll be really interested to see how the tuesday post goes. I feel as though I gained like 10 pounds from all the beer and unhealthy food, but it was definitely worth it. I'm really ready to kick my workout into gear this week so we will just see how it goes! Until then... :-)

(2007-03-12 10:00:04)
Wow

lfincher (2007-03-14 02:35:24)
sounds like a really fun trip! i also must say, i love the animal themed nick names. haha hope we get to hang out soon! i need to practice guitar hero!! (and you need to practice ddr ;-)

turoooo (2007-03-14 03:53:18)
That pretty much covers it. Too bad we didn't keep track of all the funny one-liners of the trip. -Delaware: weak! -You're a whore, and your grandfather knows it! -Lil' Hiiitler! -your GPS with the "angry black woman" voice option: mofucka! you missed the turn! dont make me recalculate, white boy! etc...good times!

9.3.2 little tuesday post (2007-03-13 18:15)

Not much to really report after my huge spring break post. I was 171.5 this morning so those philly cheesesteaks and beer apparently added up. ;-) I can handle 3-4 pounds. I'm starting to get back into my workout routine. Ran on sunday, lifted today and I'm about to go on another little run. Hopefully I can make it to the pool before class on thursday and maybe stationary bike it tomorrow?? We'll see. I'm sure I can burn them back off. Not drinking a bajillion beers a day will definitely help as well. ;-)

Man, for a week that didn't seem like I had much going on it has been keeping me crazy busy. School hasn't been too bad, but we've had a lot going on with the wakeboarding club that I've been trying to organize and get together. The boad is kaput though which sucks, but it means there isn't really that much I'll have to do til this weekend and I really need to get a head start on the compilers project, operating systems project, operating systems test next monday, and my research so hopefully that will help me out in that respect. I have obligations saturday AND sunday so I'm really hoping I can break through my last minute habit and get some work done on that compilers project this week. Here's hoping!

I have had this strange feeling all day today like I am really not going to want to go to sleep tonight. I mean, I rarely do, but usually I'm ready. My body hasn't wanted to stay asleep very long the past few days either. Maybe I just need an all nighter to deprive it enough to crash the next day ;-) I sure have plenty to do to keep me busy all night! I guess we'll just see.

Ok, off to a run, then grocery store, then probably try to relax a LITTLE before I try to get some work done!

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booty (2007-03-14 02:31:50)
OK that is it.. if I am going to beach I cannot be outdown by all of you! working out more now damit.

fincher69 (2007-03-14 05:20:12)
woohoo! you actually posted! :-) now if we can get you posting on the other blog ;-)

(2007-03-16 01:14:20)
Wow! it sounds like you are really motivated! hope that is true! ;-) Hope your run went well.... wish we could run some 5ks together. I miss that. :-)

9.3.3 Dienstag (2007-03-20 14:51)

Had one helluva weekend. It was fun, but definitely felt pretty busy. Friday did the B Merrells thing then went to Bulllwinkle's for a while with Turo and Zach. Saw Joey there and ended up going to a house party of a friend of his (she had a keg of green beer!) and hung out there for a while. Met some new folks, which is always fun, then Wicki took the three of us back to my place. We did some drunk dialing then Zach said he was playing guitar hero and turned around and Turo and I were mirror images on either end of my futon curled up dead asleep.

I ended up waking up at 12:05 to be at the Rez for Rez Cleanup Day at 12 (oops!). Rushed out there and I was still like the first person from the wakeboarding team to show up. Dustin and I went out in a canoe then we were joined by Chris and Joey and we gathered tons of trash from around the Rez. Ended up being there for about three hours. That's a lot of paddling and hiking through knee deep mud. Came back to my place and relaxed for a couple hours then went over to Keith and Marie's for a St. Patty's shindig. Grilled out and had a few Guiness and played guitar hero, but it didn't take me long before I was beat. I ended up leaving early, coming back here and crashing at like 12:30. Missed a couple of entertaining drunk dials so it appears I missed a good time, but I think I was better off the next day for sure.

Sunday woke up and went out to the rez around 11:45 for RezFest. It was a fun time. Got to pull a couple folks behind the jetski for a demo since the boat is busted and there were a few live bands and they were grilling food. Most of the day was just chillin at our table. Pat hooked us up with Red Bull and they brought out a cooler and umbrella so that was awesome. Only bad thing was that I ended up drinking like 9

red bulls since they were right there and I was thirsty. :-) I also was proud of myself for being a good albino and bringing my sunscreen so I really didn't get burnt even though I was basically sitting in the sun from 12-6. All in all it was a good time. got like 8 people to sign up. After that I basically felt like taking it easy, but I was super hyped up and jittery from all that red bull. Decided I needed to go for a run before I even thought of trying to study. My usual runs are about 2 miles and I pretty much feel like stopping at the and and have to push a little to finish. Sunday I ran over 4 miles and still felt pretty fresh at the end. Crazy! I was still pretty hyped up but that helped calm me down enough to get at least a little studying done. Did have a very odd night's sleep where I was waking up every 45-60 minutes and my body felt like it was resting but my mind was going crazy. It was very interesting.

Monday was typical busy busy busy. Had an exam at 9:30, class at 11, worked on research until my meeting at 2:30, then met with Fishel for a few hours, then had about 1.5 hours at home where I piddled some but also did some programming, then had my wakeboarding meeting at 8 then met up with Turo for a couple hours to work on Compilers. I came back and played on the comp for a bit til 2 then crashed and definitely felt rested. I think I was just finally starting to completely come off all that Red Bull. lol.

This morning I weighed in at 169.5, which is definitely pretty cool. I am trying to keep working out and eat well (though getting free wings at the wakeboarding meeting last night was too much to pass up, even though it was SO bad for me). But I'm definitely glad I got the downward trend going again. Let's hope I can keep it up! Off to the gym then more work work work!

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tattermask (2007-03-25 11:29:18)
The Red Bull stuff is funny! You're always so energetic anyway, I can just imagine you all crunk up on Red Bull =)
amanda

9.3.4 holy crap (2007-03-22 00:09)

This is almost like having a job, except worse. This week has been so frickin ridiculously busy. My weekend was pretty kickin as well, which just jumpstarted all the work I've been into. Between my OS exam wednesday, my OS project, and this stupid Compilers project, and my research I've been going nonstop. I do take some breaks, though not for long, and I've been going all day every day til at least 2 and tonight isn't looking to be any different. I actually crashed about 3:30 last night. Crickey! I don't really mind staying up late, but multiple days in a row for schoolwork is getting old in a hurry.

On a good note, my sister is coming to visit tomorrow (er... later today I guess)! Should be a fun time! I don't really have any specific things planned, but knowing me I'm sure I'll be able to get into SOME sort of trouble. ;-) Bring her over to the delinquent side. hahahahAHAHAHAHA!!!

Not really much else to say, just wanted to bitch about this being crazy busy and stuff. Little more chillin then back to it.

(2007-03-23 09:12:23)
worse than having a job?! wow...must be a REALLY tough week. Hopefully, now you can slow down a bit and entertain your sister...within reason and without getting her into too much trouble! :-)

9.3.5 wow, red bull is amazing (2007-03-26 17:37)

I just got back from a run and while it WAS notably warmer than my last run I was dying after like 2 miles and had to really push it to finish my 5k. That 4 miler after the 9 red bulls hardly seemed like anything! I know it is supposed to give you energy, but it is just amazing how different my whole body felt. I didn't just feel like I had more energy but I my muscles didn't fatigue and everything just felt really good the whole run. It DOES give you wings! lol

well since I'm already posting I may as well go ahead and do my weekend recap. I'm sure I'll forget some things so I'll let Lauren fill in any forgotten details. :-) She got in thursday and I recall us just having a chill night. Got some Arbys on the way home from the airport and just relaxed and played some guitar hero and stuff.

Friday I gave her a little walking tour of campus. We ate at the Einstein bagel place on campus then I took her out to the Rez to show her where the wakeboarding team rides (or at least where we WOULD ride if we had a functional boat). Hit up Target for some random things then I had to meet with Fishel and I think she did her 5 mile run while I was working on Operating Systems. I ended up taking way too long and she hit up the mall and did some shopping then we did our typical friday B Merrells. Stopped by Best Buy for some karaoke revolution on the way home and everyone came back to my place to chill and play guitar hero, ddr, karaoke, and drink.

Saturday we.... uh.... did something, hahaha. Hmm..... what did we do on saturday? oh wait, now I remember. THAT is when I got caught up working on OS and Lauren went for her run. What else did we do friday then? Oh who knows. So anyway, lot of work saturday, lauren ran and hit the mall, then we did japanese steakhouse with Turtle, Christine, Zach, Kellen and her mom. Of course it was yummy. Kellen and her momma went home and the rest of us went to the Fun Station to play a round of putt-putt. Lauren and Turtle won, with Christine in third, me in fourth, and Zach pulling up the rear. From there we kinda had a repeat of friday night of chillin at my place with beer and video games with one notable exception. While we were chillin this drunk guy does the knock knock open on my door and just walks in asking for a tissue. I grab him a paper towel (he had somehow snot himself) and he proceeds to just chill and chat. The girl he was with (also drunk) comes in a couple minutes later and joins in the chat. The "crazy mike" as he called himself decided he wanted to try to play guitar hero. After like 25 "one more time" and a few more tries before that he STILL couldn't figure out that you had to push the buttons with your left hand AND strum with your right. He just kept hitting the colored buttons and failing every song. We kept telling him the whole time to hit the white button and his girl kept yelling at him to hit it too. Most notably we were all like yelling at him to strum because he wasn't doing anything with his hands then finally he (of course) failed the song and then turned to us and was like "strum?" Too funny. Then every five minutes or so Turtle (not our Turtle, the girls nickname was Turtle too) kept saying that should leave and go to the bar. When he introduced her as Turtle we told her that Turo's nickname is Turtle too, to which she responds "Aww, are you slow in life too?" Completely cracked us up. So apparently all her friends call her turtle just because she is slow. LOL. Too funny. So they ended up staying for like 45 minutes then finally headed off to the bar. Definitely random since no one knew them at all. Definitely hilarious but we didn't really mind seeing them go as we weren't really drinking. haha. I kept lil Finch up late yet again but started chatting online when everyone left and ended up not going to bed until like 6:30. Oops.

Yesterday we took a little day trip over to the beach which was fun, then came back, had pizza with the crew at Momo's then went to walmart to get a couple things then came back here. Went over to Joeys for a little and she got to meet him, Charlie and Dustin. Came back to my place and then went over to Bullwinkles because I couldn't let her go home without seeing the main bar we frequent. Ended up seeing Chris there and hung out and had a couple of drinks then came back to my apartment. Ended up crashing

at around 12:30 then got up at 4:30 to take her to the airport. As of writing that makes about 8 of the last 56 hours that I've slept. lol. All-in-all it was a blast of a trip! It was a lot of fun to have her come down. Now I just gotta find a weekend this summer to come party in Nashville. :-)

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lfincher (2007-04-01 04:16:49)
YAY for coming to nashville!! i think yall should check out concert schedules so you can see someone fun when you come. friday, we did the tour and stuff, went to target, then you had your meeting while i cleaned your whole apartment. :-) now do you remember? clean floor? then, we went to dinner. i had so much fun meeting all your friends and seeing all your places! i hope to come down there again, and you def need to come party in the vegas sometime soon

9.3.6 short tuesday post (2007-03-27 17:21)

Nothing much. Had class, then a meeting at the Rez to talk over wakeboarding club stuff. Now I'm about to head to the gym to do a little lifting then shower, eat, and start studying for compilers! I feel a little better about this test than the last couple already so that is good, but I definitely have plenty left to study. I was surprised that I weighed in at 166.0 this morning. After a weekend of eating out almost every meal and really not getting much exercise. Heck, I'm not complaining! Off to the gym with me to see if I can continue this trend!

(2007-03-29 00:27:34)
166 - wow!! that's what your dad weighed in college when he ran track! cool! I don't see how beer drinking and weight loss work together, but obviously, you've got something going there! :-)

fincher69 (2007-03-29 20:21:31)
haha I think that I was dehydrated or something. I predict a bit of a recoil next week ;-) but weight will be less important in coming weeks as I am getting into my lifting routine. We'll see!

9.4 April

9.4.1 Tuesday after a great weekend (2007-04-03 09:28)

What a weekend. Had a blast and I'm STILL sore :-)

Friday Wicki picked me up and we drove over to orlando. Pretty much spent the evening chillin at Schuster's house. Mostly hanging out and drinking. A group decided they wanted to go out to a bar and I decided to remain in the group that chilled at the house. Dustin and I cooked up some mighty fine egg and bacon biscuits then crashed. Not sure when the bar group came back, but Laura and Carrie got there at like 3:30 in the morning.

Woke up saturday feeling like I was on fire. Apparently I really didn't need that comforter when there were like 3 other people in the room, ha. So I ended up getting up around 7:15 and just hanging out on Joey's porch. Think I ended up taking another quick nap out there since it was nice and cool. We then headed over to Nautique to drop off the boat keys then proceeded to OWC. Man, when Red Bull decides to do something, they do it right. They had basically invited teams from like 12 universities and rented OWC

out for us. It was pretty much the beginning of our season since our boat has been kaput so it was really nice to be out on the water again. OWC is also awesome because it's the only place I've really had a chance to hit sliders. Definitely good times. Had a session in the boat with Brian Grubb and JD Webb behind a boat with a frickin' waist high wake. Kicked ass. Basically we spent the whole day chillin and boarding. They even provided free Red Bull and a barbeque lunch. It was awesome. Took a group back to Joey's house then I drove back to Tally. It took me 25 mins to potty, shower, and eat and be out the door to head over to Christine's. Had fun hanging out there then Turo and I came back to my place to chill and found the most random cartoon on Adult Swim. I still haven't looked it up, but it was frickin' odd, but hilarious. Definitely might look into recording some episodes of that. If I recall correctly, Turtle took off around 2:30-3 and of course after that day I was beat and just crashed.

Woke up sunday basically feeling like taking it easy. Hung out at Kellens and got some work done. Sometimes it's amazing how long you can work on a program to get it to do something that seems really simple. Geesh. After working on my program for like 5 hours I pretty much took it easy the rest of the evening. Nothing too crazy.

Woke up feeling crappy yesterday. Stuffy nose and a ball of mucus in the back of my throat then progressively developed a little bit of a sore throat. Not fun. Of course I wake up like that on my long ass monday. Left my apt at 8:45, had class at 9:30 then 11, ran home and quickly ate then went back to Love, worked on research until my meeting at 3 then had a GAANN meeting at 3:30 then met with a faculty candidate at 4:30 then ran home and ate quickly again and went back to Love. I was only there for like 30 mins because Fishel wasn't there so I went back to my apt and just rested for about an hour before I went to my wakeboarding club meeting then went from there to Love to work on OS for an hour or so. After that day, especially feeling crappy, I just came back and relaxed and ended up crashing at like 11:45 last night.

Still feeling icky today, but I'm loading up on OJ and Vitamin C (or C++ as Ryan called it) Hopefully it'll go away soon. I got too much stuff to do to be sick right now. Thank you germs, but I politely refuse.

Oh, and I weighed in at 170.0 today which kinda reaffirmed my guess that I was a little dehydrated last week, though I DID drink a large glass of OJ this morning before I weighed which skewed it a little bit as well. If I keep up my lifting I'd be surprised if I don't level off at least for a bit since I should be gaining muscle. I guess we'll see!

(2007-04-04 00:46:44)
Hey Dude, Glad you guys had a great weekend.Sorry I missed some parts of that ..most notably the beer drinking and the WAIST HIGH wake. At least I think I'm sorry I missed the wake. Party On...plus the studying of course.

9.4.2 Tuesday (though technically it's wednesday now) (2007-04-11 01:04)

Well let's see.... my last post was tuesday. I really need to start posting more often because remembering an entire weeks worth of happenings is a little pressing for my little brain. :-)

Um.... I assume the week was fairly uneventful as I don't remember much. Friday Turo and I pre-partied at Bullwinkle's then went over to B Merrells for the standard friday night. Then we all moseyed (sp?) back to my place to hang out. Had a lot of fun just chillin and drinking and playing video games. At some point in the night I saw my neighbor Carly and her new Husky puppy Isis. She mentioned going out of town and I (for some reason) volunteered to puppysit. She's a cute puppy, but after about 24 hours I was definitely ready to be puppyless. They sure crap and pee a lot! jeepers! I also remember being about ready to head

to bed on friday and seeing my neighbor Allison and inviting her to come play some guitar hero so she came over and hung out with Turo and me for a while. All-in-all it was a long but really fun evening.

Woke up saturday and I really don't think I did much. I don't remember specifics other than playing with the puppy and stuff. Turo and I went to the mall to check on my camera and went to best buy where I got an extension for my DVD rack and got Guitar Hero one. The songs kick the second one's ass. There's definitely less metal, but a lot more songs that I'm actually familiar with which is nice. Probably not the smartest purchase during the second to last week of school but oh well. hahaha.

Sunday was pretty lazy. Continued to puppysit until Carly got back. Then just took it easy. Got some work done later, but nothing too fancy.

Yesterday was long as usual but not too awfully bad and today I lectured to an Introduction to Recreation class about wakeboarding which was cool and Zach, Turtle, and I actually got some work done on our compilers project that isn't even due until next wednesday. Look at us!! haha.

Oh yeah, almost forgot the reason for my tuesday posts. Weighed in at 168.5 and I was happy just to be back under 170. I'm having problems with the side of my lower leg (a recurring problem) that basically feels like a shin splint, except on the inside instead of the front. REALLY annoying. I went for a run last night and I've been feeling it today. I ran two consecutive days last week and I think that is what did it. I think it will be ok as long as I take at least a day break between days. I might take tomorrow off to try to let it heal up a little more then try to run friday again. We'll see. On an awesome note, my wrist did really well lifting today. I did chest and tri's today which involve all the pushing exercises that were really bothering it last time I lifted. It's still noticeably weak, but I was able to feel like I got a decent weight workout without my wrist really hurting the whole time. Always good to make progress! Thinking about going out on my bike tomorrow (first time since the accident) just to get some aerobic without the pounding of running. I'll definitely be wearing my brace and maybe I'll make a post to say how it went. Maybe I can get in the habit of updating twice a week so I don't have to remember so much, lol. We'll see.

(2007-04-11 19:43:34)
YIKES!! Don't go for a bike ride! (like that sentence would do any good). That makes me nervous.... and puppy sitting. I guess it ought to be official.... you have lost your mind! hahahahaha Sorry about the leg. Icing it might help. Good luck with that and congrats on the progress your wrist is making! :-)

(2007-04-13 04:58:52)
you can get shin splints on the front too!!! icing will help, but rest is more important. or maybe even some swimming?? :-)

9.4.3 crazy weekend so I'm posting early (2007-04-16 12:54)

It was definitely a crazy last weekend before class. Didn't start on the awesomest note though. My toilet had been kinda gurgling all week. I didn't think much of it because it still worked, but I found that is a warning sign for bad things to come. Wednesday was at the office late and when I got back my toilet was full of shitty water and there was shitty water pouring up through the drain in my bathtub as well. NOT COOL. I called emergency maintainence, but they never called me back until 8 the next morning. Luckily it stopped flowing into my toilet and tub so there wasn't any flooding, but I was left with both being full of shitty water. I talked to the emergency guy and he said he was really really sorry. He had his beeper next to him but he had been up late studying for a test and had just crashed and it didn't wake him up. So he

said he'd talk to the day guy and he'd come by and fix it. Later that afternoon nothing had changed so I said something to the office and they said they'd call him. So anyway, Park was leaving early friday morning so we moved B Merrells to thursday so he could get his mug. We got back to still having no change in the situation in my bathroom so I called emergency guy again and he called me back this time and said he would head over and we just went ahead and went to Bullwinkles. I departed for a bit to work on some math stuff with Joey and stopped by the apartment to find the dude and his wife working on my bathroom while his like 1.5 and 3 year old were chillin. Whole family fun at Fincher's apartment! Jeepers. After working with Joey I came back and plumber guy said everything SHOULD be ok for now. So then I met back up with the group. From Bully's we went to Poor Pauls for a bit, then over to Ken's briefly, but it was crazy crowded so I just made a run to Mike's and we came back to my place. Continued the party until we sent Park drunkenly to the airport. Good times. haha.

So friday I woke up to find my toilet and shower still non-functional so I went over to the gym to shower then to a CS awards ceremony. Went to Jasmine's for a wonderful sushi dinner, then turtle and I came back to my place for a couple games of foosball with Joey and Chris, then we headed over to Christine's. Had a blast just chillin and playing guitar hero and karaoke revolution until about 4-4:15 at which time Turtle and I headed back to my place and hung out until 5, which was when I needed to leave for my 8 am land rover appointment in Jacksonville. Got there around 7:45 and basically kinda dozed in and out during the 2.5 hours it took them to do the service. Then met up with my cousin, her hubby, and their two kids (my first cousins once removed) for lunch and then trucked it back to Tally. Took a little two hour nap once I got back then Turtle and I got some chick-fil-a then headed over to Corey's house for a house party. Hung out there and played Wii and guitar hero then moseyed back to my place around 2. Hung out a little then I just crashed.

I was looking forward to just sleeping in on sunday and starting work early afternoon, but of course I woke up wide awake at like 9:30. Geesh. Eventually got over to the CS building at 2ish and worked on compilers and some OS then Zach and Turtle joined and we worked on compilers, took a Jimmy John's break, then worked on compilers some more. I ended up leaving around 8:45 because I was just tired of sitting in the office and came back to my apt and just relaxed for a while. Read some of an OS paper, but mostly took it easy.

Woke up today and there was about 2 inches of standing water in my tub (not shitty this time thank god) and my toilet wasn't flushing. So I went on to class and since I got back there has been a team of like 5 plumbers trying to fix whatever the hell has been going on. Fun times. I was going to work, but they are pounding, drilling, etc. on the wall of my apartment so it is a little hard to CONCENTRATE (I typed graduate, lol). I'm probably going to mosey over to the gym soon and shower then just chill and work in the office. Sure would be nice to have working plumbing when I get home. ;-)

Needless to say my internal clock got a little screwy over the weekend too. I wasn't really tired last night but crashed a little early (7 hours before my alarm). I didn't have much trouble falling asleep but after about two hours I woke up burning up like I had just run three miles and was basically uncomfortable most of the rest of the night. My apartment was actually cooler than normal so maybe I was having marathoner dreams or something (thanks sis ;-)) Who knows. I know that I am going to try to avoid caffeine all this week and see if it makes any difference. I don't usually drink much, but all last week I averaged about 4 hours a night so my body kinda doesn't know what's going on so I'm going to just go to bed only when I'm tired but not skew it by adding stimulants into the mix. We'll see how it goes.

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whimsikell (2007-04-16 20:30:10)
why didnt you just ask to use my shower, goober?

fincher69 (2007-04-17 03:58:42)
well the first couple days it wasn't a prob, then the last couple days you were nonresponsive ;-)

(2007-04-16 23:50:04)
Good Heavens! that's about all I can say about that post.... and that i hope you had all your valuables hidden with all those random people in your apt. (said like a true mom, huh?) :-)

lfincher (2007-04-18 12:55:14)
yay for pat green!!! :-) and, you may be forgetting that you forgot to sleep friday night. that will mess up your internal clock than anything. ;-) sad you are going to give up caffeine though! i <3 caffeine.

fincher69 (2007-04-20 07:01:01)
hahaha yeah, I got about a day into it and decided the last week of class my NOT be the best to change any habits. Starting after finals I'm going caffeine free and we'll see how it goes.

9.4.4 quick post (2007-04-18 02:33)

Weighed in at 168.5 this week. Bout the same as last week, but so far I haven't been able to do much because I've been so busy. Hopefully I can get it at least a run tomorrow just to do SOMETHING. Just staying crazy busy as this semester comes to a close. Not much else going on but schoolwork at the moment. Sleepies then another busy day!

9.4.5 tuesday (2007-04-24 14:16)

My takehome just got posted so I'm not going to do the typical detailed recall post (you're welcome Jess). I've been so busy I probably wouldn't remember most of it anyway.

Friday did B Merrells, then back to my place for a fun night.

Saturday woke up at 11:15, went to the ACM picnic, kicked a soccerball around, played in my first softball game (though my wrist wasn't too fond of the one hit I had), came home changed, went to the lake and barefooted for the first time, came home showered, went to applebee's for Sarah's bday dinner, then went to Joeys and got back to my place around 3. Busy but good day.

Can't think of much notable that happened yesterday. I was pretty productive, just not academically. Did some laundry, did some dishes, took out the trash and cleaned up a little, went for my first bike ride since "the incident" and everything went fine. Just rode about 5.5 miles, but it was good to get out. Got some new running shoes and broke them in with a little 2 mile run. Then just piddled most of the rest of the evening. Had a like 2.5 hour dinner at Gordo's. Ridiculous.

Today I was at 167.5 which was cool. I'm trying to stay pretty active and recently I feel almost like I'm allergic to food. I don't have to eat much before it makes me feel kinda icky. Who knows. Great for regulating what I eat though ;-)

Off to work on my take home final then work on some projects and study for my thursday finals. Fun times!

(2007-04-25 02:16:44)
I have to say thanks before you can say "you're welcome"

whimsikell (2007-04-25 02:50:39)
For the record, you guys ALWAYS spend forever at dinner. Maybe your "slow down and get retarded" vibe seeps over to the chefs. I think we know what your theme song should be now. & b/c you know I love you and can be honest, I don't enjoy reading your usual detailed posts either. I mean, I make an occasional detailed post but usually it's juicy stuff or revelations about life. It takes way too much effort to pick through the "fincher going into detail about his workouts and weight" to get to the good paragraphs. Though I'll admit it doesn't help that I usually know what you do over the weekend. There is some new internet jargon thing I learned a few weeks ago.. I think it's TLDR. (too long didn't read). Kind of like this comment, you know. =0D

fincher69 (2007-04-25 07:05:04)
I don't know what smiley that is at the end, but it looks kinda phallic. Maybe I'll start getting a little more philosophical and livening things up ;-) P.S. I still love that buddy icon

(2007-04-25 10:25:56)
Surely I'm not the only one who loves the detailed posts!! :-) I'm glad you are staying busy and it seems pretty happy.. at least I hope so. We'll see how your eating goes next week and if you feel icky after eating Hawaiian food, we'll seek medical attention! Good luck with your finals.

(2007-04-26 15:25:00)
You have to tell him stuff right away or else he forgets (he's not good at taking hints either)..thought i've mentioned the way too long posts many times and he finally just caught on. At least i'm not the only one who says it! :-D

9.4.6 I probably should be studying... (2007-04-25 14:21)

therefore I'm going to post in my blog. And since not only did I post yesterday, but I've had requests for posts that have a bit more substance, let's see if I can make this a little more though-probing as opposed to activity documenting.

Kellen and I had a brief discussion about drive and passion yesterday and it resparked something that pops in my mind a lot. As I consider them, drive and passion are highly intertwined and dependent. While I see drive as being more cognitive and passion as being more emotional, I think it is virtually impossible to have one without the other. They drive each other. And where I am right now I don't feel like I have much drive or passion. I don't believe that I am incapable of either. I think I have the capacity to have great drive and passion, but I also believe you can't have either unless directed towards an appropriate goal. I don't have that goal. Yes, I'm getting my Ph.D. and yes I want to teach. But even in that goal I am unsure. I like Computer Science and I'm good at it, but I don't feel passionate about it. Even some of the topics I find most interesting I feel like I have to make myself learn more about them sometimes. This is one of the reasons for wanting to pursue Psychology after my degree in CS. I feel more passionate about many of the topics in Psychology than CS. I also see possibilities to bridge the two disciplines and that intrigues me. But it's still not one of those things where I am like "THAT is definitely what I want to pursue and do with my life."

I've always excelled at the sciences and I consider both CS and Psych to be part of that realm, but I also consider them to be on the edge and on the easier side. This has a tendency to frustrate me as well. While I like both, I rarely feel very challenged by either. This makes me wary of pursuing many things in

either discipline. I think about chemistry or physics (two of my past majors) and I almost feel like a cop out for going with what I did. While I do believe computers and psychology are integral to the future of society and worth learning about it, many times I feel I could provide more meaningful contribution in a field like chemistry or physics. This whole line of thinking also makes me think about the possibility of medical school. Hanging out with pre-med kids ;-) and having several friends in med school has made me think about this a lot as of late. I have no doubt that if I decided to be a doctor I could take the courses I need, get accepted, make it through medical school, and be a good doctor. People have done it starting much later than I. I know of several people in their 30s who are in med school with friends of mine. It would most certainly be challenging and rewarding, but before I even seriously consider this or any other discipline I think I need to try to better pinpoint where I want to go. I have so many things I could do and enjoy, but I know there MUST be something out there that would invigorate my passion and bring forth my drive.

And recently all these thoughts have made me feel as though I'm selling myself short. I think I am capable of so much more than I have been, but I often feel unmotivated to do more. I don't think it's just me being lazy, I think I just haven't found that goal that I am willing to really bust my ass to achieve. Maybe I'll have some time this summer to really evaluate options I have and explore some realms and really see what people are doing. See what's out there. Look inside myself to try to figure out what is really important to me and where I want to go and how I can best utilize what I have. Amanda summed it up in a great paragraph in a recent post that she's always felt different and had been told she was destined for excellence and I share the same sentiment. Even while I was at App I was told by a professor that he expects me to be at the top of whatever field I end up in. Those are big shoes to fill, but while it may sound cocky, I have little doubt that I am capable of filling them. I want to do something. I want to be so passionate about something that it almost pains me to take a break from working on it and free moments are spent on how I can improve it and what I can do next. I want to eventually be able to look back and be satisfied that I have put my skills to use in a meaningful and robust way.

Luckily I still consider myself to be fairly young so my life is far from over and I still have many available roads ahead of me, but I'm not that young. The time to fiddlefaddle is over and I really need to start making a better plan for where I want to go from here. I guess time will tell how expediently I accomplish this goal, but as it has been running through my mind more and more I feel like I'm approaching a precipice where things will soon fall into place. Here's hoping.

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angelwings (2007-04-26 07:30:27)
Wow Fincher...you and I are in the same boat with what we want to do. let's see I went biology > music > writing > marketing > management. And who knows what or where I want to go from here! But sadly I feel like time is running out and I need to make some kind of concrete decision soon. And of course there is always my talk of going back to school as soon as my visa is approved. No matter what though, we are both life long learners always in the pursuit of more knowledge. And that is one of the things I love about you!

(2007-04-26 15:33:02)
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZz!!!!!!! Just kidding. Though you asked me if i read it so i just did but you told me all this a few weeks ago so i wasn't reading anything new but i did make it through it. :-)

tattermask (2007-04-26 16:06:21)
we're the wonderful, wandering Wise. Maybe we'll determine our destination. We need our act of... whomever we each believe in. *heavy sigh* aC

9.4.7 chillin in Nashville so I'm posting (2007-04-28 21:53)

Last night we had a great end of the year bash. Did the typical B Merrells then continued at my place. Everybody was doing pretty well and I ended up crashing around 5. The beer fairy was definitely with me. I finished my alcoholic card at B Merrells so I got a t-shirt, my picture up on the wall, and my name will be on the plaque. Kick ass! Then the Miller lite girls were at Mike's so I got 2 dollars off the 18 pack of miller lite AND another free t-shirt AND a cool cup AND a bottle opener AND a wristband thing AND a fridge magnet. So much free stuff just for drinking beer. Awesome! haha

You know what isn't awesome? Waking up earlier than you went to bed the night before. Our plane is leaving really early so we have to get up a little after 4 in the morning. I was still partying at 4 this morning. I guess I can't complain too much since we are flying to Hawaii, but still.

And it's so weird to be done with this semester (pretty much). I still have some work to do on this operating systems project, but that's it. Having project still ongoing during finals made it feel like I was just having tests and skipping classes. Definitely didn't feel like finals week to me, which I think is keeping it from really sinking in that I'm done. Crazy.

What's also crazy? About halfway through this post I got hit with a little bit of vertigo. Kinda felt like the whole room tipped to the side like 20 degrees. Very odd. It didn't last very long but it was definitely an interesting experience.

Well after a kinda shoddy drunken nights sleep and an 8 hour drive, I don't think I'm going to have too much trouble packing it in a little earlier than normal. I'm going to try to do some OS first but we'll see how it goes. I should definitely be able to get some done on the plane tomorrow too.

Hawaii here I come! If anyone wants a postcard make sure I have your address. :-)

9.4.8 Long travel days (2007-04-30 01:47)

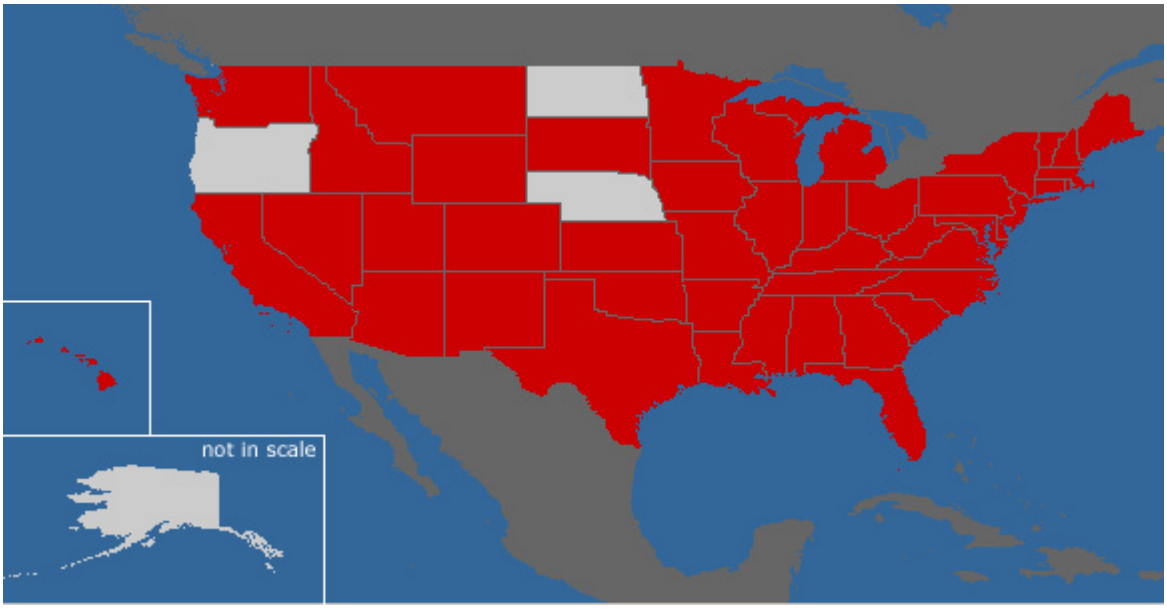
As I am on a kick ass vacation, I figure I will try to do daily updates as opposed to thinking I will remember what happens over multiple days and be able to accurately write about it. :-)

So after the party night then driving to Nashville (about 8 hours) I was chillin until at least 11:30 but since I had hardly been awake 12 hours I wasn't tired so I didn't feel sleepy at all. I pretty much felt that I hardly slept until I got up at 4:30 to get ready to head to the airport. So up at 4:30, shower, airport, fly to cincinatti, then to honolulu, then to maui. Have been hanging out and having a couple brews and a wonderful "cheeseburger in paradise." ;-) So here it is only like almost 8pm, but "body time" it is almost 2. While I DID sleep a little on the plane, waking up at 4:30 for a travel day that is continuing until at least 2 is quite a day!

My sis and mom are hitting the spa tomorrow and Dad and I are signed up for surf lessons. Should be a good time! Let's see if I'm as good at the daily posts as I hope to be ;-) Hopefully I'll be able to throw a couple pictures in here as well.

9.4.9 Updated states map! (2007-04-30 01:54)

Added a new one so here's my updated visited states map. Not too many more to go!



[1]create your own personalized map of the USA
or check out our[2]California travel guide

1. http://www.world66.com/myworld66
2. http://www.world66.com/northamerica/unitedstates/california

9.4.10 (2007-04-30 12:45)

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[1]Sender: Wicki  Sender: Wicki
 Postcard from Ireland
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0000zt3e/

9.5 May

9.5.1 Hawai'i Day 1 (2007-05-01 03:56)

My body was still kinda offset from the travelling the day before, but still got up and Dad and I went out to meet our surf instructor. Had a blast surfing for a few hours. Got to see a couple of the pics that the guy took and he's going to send them to us. Kick ass! Went back to the room, showered, then grabbed some lunch and meandered around seeing what was on the island. Came back to the room and chilled until mom and Lauren finished with their spa treatment. Went to an awesome dinner where we had some Hawaiian fish that I can't pronounce that has been over fished and will therefore be illegal to catch in like two weeks so we all seized the opportunity. It was of course wonderful and we came back to the hotel, wandered through a couple shops then came back up to the room. Definitely have some bruising on my ribs from my surfing and got rubbed a little raw. I hope to do some more on thursday, maybe even try out a short board for the first time. We'll see! it definitely made me want to look into doing more surfing while I am down in florida. Well I think I'm gonna crash and rest up for an exciting day 2 in Hawai'i!!

9.5.2 Hawai'i Day 2 (2007-05-02 01:00)

Got up and went down to the breakfast buffet. Came back up, changed clothes and headed down to the beach. Mom and Lauren chilled by the pool/hottub and Dad and I went snorkeling. Came back in and went to Mama's Fish House which had an amazing view and even more amazing food! Had a "Scorpion" with lunch which reminded me of Turtle because the description mentioned 4 different kinds of rum, then being topped off with yet another killer rum. Awesome! The restaurant came very highly recommended and rightly so. Came back to the shops nearby our hotel and did some shopping then headed back to the room. Took it easy for a bit then enjoyed the nightly free drinks and snacks at the bar then moseyed down to a restaurant behind the hotel which ALSO had an awesome view. Especially since we got to gradually watch the sunset. Food was good but I didn't order anything fancy. Came back up to the room to chill and watch some TV before we crash. Have a busy travel day tomorrow as we are heading over to the big island! Volcanos here we come!

9.5.3 Hawai'i Day 3 (2007-05-03 03:59)

Today we got up early, headed to the airport, and took a little island hopper over to the big island. Went up to Volcano National Park, which was really cool. We went from an elevation of 0 to like 3500 feet in about 25 minutes. Dropped about 16 degrees as well. It was crazy windy but it was cool seeing all the old lava flows and the crater. Drove down to where we could see the steam plume from the lava hitting the ocean, but it would have been about an 8 mile hike to see the actual lava so we passed.

I'm really glad we did because that gave us time to go see some frickin' amazing waterfalls. The names escape me but one was about 100 ft and the other was about 440 ft. Too cool!! And the hike to see them was amazing because it really felt like we were walking through a rainforest. Completely did not feel like we were in the United States anymore. Chilled in the airport because we got back a little early then flew back over to Maui. Had a couple drinks at the bar then had an amazing dinner of Hawai'ian spiny lobster. Sooo good! After that it had been a long day so we moseyed back up to the room and are about to hit the sack. Another great day in Hawai'i!!

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tattermask (2007-05-03 15:24:21)
I'm glad to hear you're having such a good time there!!! It's definitely a wonderful (and surreal) state! It hardly feels like the U.S.!!! If you get a chance, go to the Polynesian Cultural Center and watch their show!! (but make sure if you're addicted to caffeine that you get your fix before you go there–it's owned by the mormon church and they don't have ANYTHING caffeinated there.) There was also the germaine's too-good-to-miss-it luau... good show and good food... and the best Mai Tai's I've ever tasted!!! SO fun!!! Keep on with the fun-having!!! amanda

fincher69 (2007-05-04 00:01:28)
I will definitely add that to my list of things to check out in my next trip. That's been the only bad thing about this trip that we didn't have that long so we've just packed a bunch of stuff into not that much time. I was just telling dad I could definitely take another week and hang out here. This place rocks!

turoooo (2007-05-03 21:35:40)
Yea, the Polyneisan Center is pretty cool. You also have to go to North Shore if you have time (in teh northern coast of Oahu I believe) and watch some of those crazy bastards surf waves bigger than your house!

fincher69 (2007-05-04 00:02:23)
That would definitely kick ass. There were some pretty big waves breaking over by volcano park, but right into cliffs

so they were unsurfable. Again, added to the list for my next trip here!

whimsikell (2007-05-04 02:04:40)
so jealous...

9.5.4 Hawai'i Day 4 (2007-05-04 03:03)

Got up this morning and enjoyed the free breakfast buffet. Then we all headed down to the beach where dad and I had our surfing lesson and I rented a surfboard. Dad watched me surf and took some pics while the girls shopped. Had a BLAST getting to surf again. In our lesson I was on an 11' single fin and I think I rented a 10'10" tri-fin which was a lot more responsive. Took me a couple runs to get used to it, but after that I was carving around a little more and accomplished my goal of catching a wave as it was breaking and riding along while it broke. Sweet!! Another thing I learned is that if you want a girl with a nice butt, find a surfer chick. ;-) Had lunch and Lulu's where dad and I ate after our surf lesson and it was again awesome. Came back to the hotel and dad and Lauren went to the beach, mom went shopping briefly then came back to the room and I had the most relaxing afternoon ever. I sat on the balcony, put on my chill playlist and plugged it into my right ear and my left ear faced the beach so I sat, reclined, and just listened to the music of the ocean and some music. GREAT way to spend my last evening in Hawai'i. Everyone regrouped then we walked to the nextdoor hotel for a Luau. I probably would have enjoyed it even more but yesterday my head got really stuffed up and breathing hasn't been my strong suit since then. It was still a lot of fun. Some cool hula dancing and a crazy fire twirling guy and a wonderful buffet. Then Lauren and I wandered around and took some fun pics around the resort and now we are back and packing! Tomorrow we head back to Honolulu and spend the day there then fly out in the evening to head back to Nashvegas. Not really the "last" day in Hawai'i but pretty close. Either way it was another great day!

9.5.5 Hawai'i Day 5 and trip home (2007-05-05 14:27)

Got up and headed over to the airport and caught a short flight to Honolulu. From there we got a limo (my first time in one) over to Pearl Harbor and perused through that and took the tour over to the USS Arizona. Got to watch a short movie prefacing the visit to the Arizona, which was amazing. It is definitely a really touching memorial. After that we lucked out and my friend Ewing and his wife Beth and son Miller came and met us at the memorial then we all got to go out to lunch. Obviously I don't see him often because he is stationed in Hawai'i so it was really cool to be able to see them and hang out for a bit. After that we went back to the airport and flew out around 5-5:30 Hawai'i time to head back to Atlanta. I definitely got some sleep on the flight, but it was the kind of sleep where I doubt I ever slept more than 30 minutes so I basically had a bunch of little naps.

Got to Atlanta and still felt relatively fine, though my illness is progressing the same way as last time and is moving down into my throat/lungs again which means I get to enjoy a bunch of coughing. Fun. Was doing fine until we were in the plane and waiting in line for takeoff then I just got really drowsy and crashed so I got another little nap in on the way to Nashville.

Got to Nashville and then went out to a nice light lunch then picked up our registration for the 5k we are running this afternoon. We're definitely nuts. I think it is at 4 pm Nashville time. Only bummer is that we don't get a t-shirt :-(but we DO get a margarita glass at the finish line and apparently we'll have margaritas and beer waiting for us there as well. :-) This evening Lauren and I are going to a "Drinko de Mayo" party which should be a blast. It'll be even more of a blast to see how long we last after the past couple of days. I figured I would be too beat to post by the time I got back here so I went ahead and did

the recap now. The trip is pretty much over anyway. I definitely miss Hawai'i already! I'm sure I'll be in super chill mode after I drive back to Tally tomorrow. We've definitely covered some miles! Aloha!

(2007-05-06 01:07:56)
It's so neat to read your recap of the week. What an amazing trip!! I can't wait to see the pictures posted. We enjoyed the scenery, but most of all, we enjoyed being with our children!! Esp in such a beautiful part of the world!

fincher69 (2007-05-06 04:56:41)
I think Lauren posted the good pics on her shutterfly. I posted some on my facebook for anyone on there else lauren's shutterfly would be the place to check them out!

turoooo (2007-05-06 02:12:00)
How'd the 5k go? Ohh, and here's a little basic math for ya (im sure you know this already, im just reminding you): margarita + beer > t-shirt

fincher69 (2007-05-06 04:57:13)
I survived :-) and I'm not so sure I dig your math ;-)

9.5.6 Little before bed post (2007-05-06 00:57)

So the 5k was pretty brutal. It was completely rolling hills, and crazy hot and humid. Add that in to having some kind of head cold thingie, flying all night last night, and mostly carbo loading as my training regimen and I was just glad to finish! I finished in a little over 31 minutes which really wasn't bad considering we walked twice and I stopped and almost threw up not far from the finish line because my sinuses had apparently been storing mucous the whole race and couldn't wait til the end to unleash it. Pleasant huh? Yeah, NOT cool. Once I blew my nose I was good to go, but standing on the sidelines gagging doesn't tend to help your time. Got a margarita glass and a free beer so that was good. Also snagged some snickers energy bars then headed to the irish pub so I could enjoy some real beer (mich ultra was the free beer and the beer in Hawai'i was great, but I was going into Guinness withdrawals) so I had a Mahi Mahi sandwich and a couple of Guinness. AWESOME! Came back to Laurens and showered and chilled then went to a party hosted by a friend of hers. It was fun. Not only were they playing beer pong, but they were playing cornhole (two planks with a hole cut in it and you throw bean bags alternatively and score appropriately) and four square (which I hadn't seen anyone play in like 15 years). We would have stayed longer but after the travel day and the 5k, Lauren and I were pretty beat. Stayed for a while and played some cornhole then moseyed back to her apartment and have just been playing on the computers. Honestly, I'm a little surprised I'm still awake right now, but I figured much of that is attributed to kinda still being on Hawai'i time (it's only a little after 7 pm there). Good end to a great trip. Doing breakfast/brunch with the folks tomorrow, then hitting the road back to tally! Then I sleep for two days until classes start on wednesday. ;-) hahaha not really, but I'll definitely be taking it easy!

9.5.7 a friends only post in hopes that my sis won't pass it along to my mom (2007-05-10 01:33)

I think now is the first time in my life that I have thought of myself as unhappy. I've always been fine just going with the flow and floating through life but I'm beginning to think that time is past. I want to have a passion. I want to have a direction. I can think of several different avenues that my life could have taken that I think would have made me happier. CS is my major because it is easy. I like it, but I've never felt

challenged by it. I feel that by not doing something in chemistry, physics, or biology, I am selling myself short. I don't even know what I want to do with my life. I DO know that I want to do something I feel is meaningful, hence the recurring thoughts about going to med school. Honestly I just don't know.

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whimsikell (2007-05-10 14:06:04)
i'm sure will and i aren't helping the situation... heh but for the record, you would make an amazing doctor.

fincher69 (2007-05-10 16:04:25)
Awww, thanks Kel

turoooo (2007-05-11 03:20:34)
Like I told you the other day dude, if you don't like CS I would get out NOW because why waste your time here if you don't like it? Just make sure you are doing it because you would like to be a doctor, not just because you want the challenge of getting into (and finishing!) med school. Also remember that you really haven't gotten into doing much research in CS, which is a WHOLE other ballgame than what you see in classes. I absolutely love working on projects and problems that have no solution to date. Coming up with solutions that people haven't thought of, going to conferences all around the world and defending your work, etc. Although I think I have more freedom in that aspect since my research area is more math than actual CS, so we can work on technical problems as well as theoretical ones. I would think in architecture you guys don't have much room to go beyond the technical, being so hardware-related and all, but I don't know much about your area so I could be wrong. I say that if you really feel strongly about being a doctor then forget computer architecture. As a doctor, a PhD in CS with a specialty in computer architecture probably won't come in very handy lol. I know you don't like to quit stuff, but no sense in wasting your time here if you don't like CS or CS research (or you like it but you're not happy here). And if you're just looking for a challenge, go work with Piyush, that man can make anything a challenge lol. Better yet, forget everything I just said/typed and get a degree in automotive repair. In fact, get it tomorrow, then come over and help me fix my car hahahaha. DO IT!

fincher69 (2007-05-11 04:36:42)
if I was definitely sure that's what I wanted to do I'd be all over it. One thing is that even if I did want to do med school I have a bunch of classes I need to take, so it almost makes more sense to try to get those while I get my phd and get paid then drop out and just take undergrad classes, you know? And computer architecture could be handy since one of the main realms we are working on is embedded (specialized) processors so there'd be openings working on and designing tons of medical equipment. And if I wanted to do that I could go on to that after med school and wouldn't have to do a residency which would be nice timewise. I just got no clue man. no clue. Maybe I'll check out online auto repair degrees tonight ;-)

tattermask (2007-05-12 17:16:57)
how about biomedical engineering? that taps into both fields. go to www.rpi.edu and read about that, maybe. Then again, I always thought you should major in some sort of exercise science and be an eXtreme sports instructor/coach. Then you'd always have new sports to learn and you'd get to teach people about something you like to do. But I might be nuts. aC

fincher69 (2007-05-14 04:51:46)
hmmm... I'll have to check that out. Always good to have more options, right? ;-) Thanks! And it would definitely be awesome to be an extreme sports instructor. Maybe I can add that part time to whatever else I decide to do ;-)

angelwings (2007-05-11 08:13:48)
Imagine being faced with the opportunity to take any english language degree course for FREE :) I sit here and think how wonderful that would be then I think of the practicality. Would I be in any better position after than I am now? For example, I would love to get an anthropology degree :) At least the things you think about have a bit more real

life job uses hehe. You will sort things out (just as I will) it may just take some time.

9.5.8 yup yup (2007-05-14 00:30)

I guess it's been about a week since a regular post. Basically monday and tuesday were spent doing as little as possible just to enjoy some complete downtime before classes started.

Class started up Wednesday. I just have one class then three hours of research so it should be pretty lax. It's almost like a winter term back at ol' Furman because I have class every day for 75 minutes. I'm taking artificial intelligence, which should be pretty interesting, but so far the intro stuff hasn't been too kickin so class hasn't been very exciting. I'm sure it will pick up. Even it it doesn't it is supposed to be an easy A so I can't complain with that :-). Starting mid-week always makes it hard for me to go ahead and get into a schedule so I'm looking forward to this week because I can figure things out a little easier.

The weekend was pretty good. Friday we went to On The Border for dinner then went and hung out at Christine's for a bit. I had already been planning on having a shindig on saturday so it was pretty chill. Had a funny experience later though. At about 5:45 my neighbor from upstairs just came into my apartment and was just plastered. Her friend was calling behind her "honey! That's not your apartment! Oh my gosh!" then turned to me and was apologizing. I told him I knew her and it was cool, but it was still pretty hilarious. She stumbled back to my bathroom. Apparently she didn't feel like walking up the stairs to her place. Hahaha.

Saturday I set up my apartment for the party. Turtle came over and helped me get the keg and stuff. People started trickling it around 7ish. All-in-all it was a blast of a time, though I was kinda looking forward to a bunch of different people coming and pretty much none of the non-normal folks showed up. Of course I still had a blast partying with the normal crew, but we in ourselves aren't enough to kill a keg so that ended up being kinda a waste of money. Oh well. It happens I guess. Now I know that I should just get a pony keg next time though. Hahaha.

Man, I've had the most crazy sleep patterns this week too. No real reason, but i've just been all over the map. Like tuesday I was bored and watched some TV and most of a movie then later was still bored so I popped in another movie and ended up crashing at like 5:45. Woke up at 8:30, fell back asleep at 9, woke up at 9:30, then took a nap from like 11:30-12:45. Then a couple days were a little more normal, then last night we were partying til about 8 this morning. I kinda crashed on and off for a couple hours then I've pretty much been up since then. Maybe getting into my research, working out, and wakeboarding will keep me a little busier and my schedule will stabilize a little bit. :-)

Been thinking about my career path a lot lately and my current thought is that I am going to take some science classes while I'm getting my phd in case I decided to go to med school after this. I had been thinking a lot about doing a phd in psychology next, but the more I've thought about it the more psychology feels like it is selling me short. Psychology is really interesting to me, but I don't know if I find it challenging enough. Right now I'm kinda thinking med school, but I'm going to see how adding those science classes in goes and then play it by ear. Either way I'm definitely finishing up my phd here so that means I have some time to figure things out, but I still need to start preparing now if I want to do something like med school. Geesh! One of these days I'll figure out what I want to do with my life I swear.

Just finished cleaning up my apartment and mostly restoring it to its non-party state so I think I'm gonna crash early tonight. I'll probably start up the weigh-in posts again on tuesday and we are going to start

eating lunch at a new place that we haven't tried every wednesday so maybe I'll do monday weigh-in posts and then wednesday lunch reviews. haha. I figure since the summer is a little slower and more relaxed that I may be posting more on here. I guess we'll see!

(2007-05-14 21:36:44)
I love reading your posts. You never cease to amaze me with your schedule and your life path plan. The problem is you are so good as so many things and have the ability/intelligence to do anything you want to....makes decisions tough. :-)

9.5.9 quick weigh-in post (2007-05-14 11:24)

First weigh-in of the summer. 169.0. I'm really trying to stick with the plan of doing at least something physical every weekday, even if it isn't extremely strenuous. Let's see how it goes. I'm HOPING I will get in the groove of swimming MF and lifting TR then adding it things like biking and wakeboarding and running whenever I can. Let's see how the first week goes! :-)

9.5.10 one of those weeks... (2007-05-16 12:21)

where my bed just seems unusually comfortable in the mornings. I mean I like my my and find it very comfy, but the past couple of days I've just felt encompassed by it in the mornings. I feel so nestled in that it has NOT been helpful in motivating me to get out of bed. Doesn't help that my first scheduled activity is at 3:35 every day. Geesh! I think swimming today helped because I always feel so good after swimming that if I can just do it enough to keep it fresh in my mind I can use that as my motivation. Had a lot on my mind during my workout yesterday and kinda overdid it on the treadmill and made my stupid leg start hurting again, which it another reason to get back into swimming. I can swim til I feel like I can hardly move and I never have little injuries or pains making me stop. I stop because I'm beat and I rarely get to so fully exert myself running or biking. My initial plan was to swim on wednesdays, but I may have to bump it up a day or two. We'll see.

Hopefully I'll get my schedule settled soon, because I've been good about the working out and going to class, but setting aside research time hasn't been working so well. Doesn't help that we haven't started meetings so I don't really feel like I have deadlines for anything. I better get on that soon! :-)

(2007-05-16 21:28:07)
Wish I knew how to swim (workout swimming)! Too bad they don't have little water races - now that's a funny image.

fincher69 (2007-05-16 22:21:55)
"I mean I like my my" = "I mean I like my bed" Doh! Thank you editor Jess

9.5.11 Monday! (2007-05-21 15:41)

And I'm in class..... and I'm bored. So what better time to make a post! haha

My theory is that doing my weekly weigh-in on monday will yield a slightly higher variance because my fluid intake and activity level on sundays is a little more variable. I guess we will see!! I was at 167.5 this

morning which is definitely a move in the right direction! I did a pretty good job of subscribing to my "one physical activity every weekday" regimen, and I even got out and played some racquetball yesterday so I was 6 for 7! My lazy ass was going to swim this morning but didn't feel like moving so I'm just going to go for a run after class. I'm still trying to figure out how I want to organize my workout schedule. Right now I'm thinking run and/or stationary bike on monday, lift and wakeboard on tuesday, swim and stationary bike wednesday, lift and wakeboard on thursday, then swim and/or stationary bike on friday. I want to start biking more so I may substitute that in some or really try to hit it on the weekends. We'll see. I need to get in the groove of waking up early so I can get a workout in then I can always do more if something comes up later in the day.

This past weekend was a lot of fun. Did B Merrells on friday then came back to my place and hung out for a while. Always a good time!

Saturday I organized a gathering with some english/creative writing folks. Met up at Snookers then basically chilled outside my apartment most of the evening. It was a lot of fun just meeting and hanging out with some non-CS kids just to have some variety. Met many a bar-goer on their way to and from the strip, including two Irish guys who came over to play some soccer. Overall had a lot of fun. Only wish we had taken more pictures!

Class isn't very exciting, but at least it isn't too challenging so far. Right now about all I can think about is this weekend. I miss my lake!!! And I need the exercise of wakeboarding since my schedule doesn't let me do it as much as I would like around here.

I guess that about sums it up. I don't know why but I just have this feeling like I'm going to get a lot done this evening and I am NOT going to feel like sleeping at all. I guess I'll just have to wait and see if this premonition holds true. ;-)

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whimsikell (2007-05-21 21:50:51)
you ran into irish guys and didn't come get me? goddd

fincher69 (2007-05-21 22:14:20)
lol, well if you had just stayed to hang out in the first place..... ;-)

9.5.12 friends friends friends (2007-05-23 02:11)

Nothing really set this off (other than being bored and sitting around) but I really realized today how lucky I have been with friends. I have heard innumerable stories about friends talking shit behind people's back, back stabbing them, betraying them, basically just being shady and inconsiderate and altogether crappy people. I can't think of any friends that have really done that to me. I have the most awesome group of friends and I continually make new ones that fit into the same category.

Am I lucky?

Am I good at reading people and therefore know which ones are worth getting close to?

Do I just interact with people in a way that makes them less prone to this type of thing?

I have no idea. All I know is that I'm really thankful that I have met many friends over the years and

they've all been awesome, loyal, honest and did I mention awesome? ;-) I'm constantly amazed by how crappy people can be nowadays and it's nice to have the type of friends that reaffirm that there are still good people out there.

Just felt really lucky and wanted to post. Maybe it's the thought of hanging out with a bunch of them this weekend that sparked it. Who knows. I'm thankful regardless.

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tattermask (2007-05-23 13:31:33)
Aww! I think it's because you're nice and you'd do anything you could to help a friend. Plus, you're probably a good judge of character and don't put stock in people who don't act trustworthy. =) aC

whimsikell (2007-05-24 00:47:54)
1. it's cos YOURE awesome 2. you see through bullshit like nobody's business.

(2007-05-24 03:15:19) you know who this is...
You can't read a person to save your life...and i can't agree that you see through bullshit either..i know way better than that because if that were true.... :-) Try again!

fincher69 (2007-05-24 03:58:12) Re: you know who this is...
I beg to differ. I can read through bullshit no problem. Reading people in general... maybe not. But maybe my eternal optimism rubs off on people so I don't have to read them as well because I just sway them to my side ;-)

(2007-05-24 13:48:00) Re: you know who this is...
You live in dreamland!!!

pretty_mercenar (2007-05-28 19:21:05) I'm slow...
Just now reading this, heh. Fincher you should know by now how kickass and lovable you are! :-) So where are you, I need some Fincher hugs. :-) Love ya!

9.5.13 one helluva weekend (2007-05-29 14:16)

To try to recount or give a synopsis of this past weekend wouldn't even come close to doing it justice. Had 22 people come through, copious amounts of alcohol consumed, many a wakeboarding soreness, and a heavy helping of debauchery.

Right now I wish for nothing more than to be back there. Turtle and I were talking about how we wish we could relive the entire weekend, even if we couldn't change it and knew exactly what would happen. Too much fun.

Since I missed monday I decided to do a weigh-in this morning and was 168.5, which really isn't too bad considering I probably consumed about 100k calories just with all the beer I consumed. Haha. Giving my body at least one day of rest then getting back into the workout groove tomorrow.

I can't properly convey how much I don't want to be here and want to be back at the lake right now. I don't think there are expressive enough words to convey my feelings. Ah... well. I guess I don't have a choice so I'll just suck it up and live vicariously through my memories.

(2007-05-29 22:05:31)
can i get paid to edit for you?

fincher69 (2007-05-29 22:15:00)
it was brought to my attention, and I agreed after a re-read, that this post sounds really depressing. I completely didn't mean for it to sound that way. I was just trying to convey that this weekend was so insanely awesome that anything pales in comparison, especially the idea of doing schoolwork in Tallahassee. I'm still stoked about how fun the weekend was. Just wanted to throw that on there. ;-)

(2007-05-29 22:24:10)
good boy!

9.6 June

9.6.1 another weekend excursion (2007-06-04 03:00)

My buddy Eileen got married this past weekend in Bradenton so since Kellen lives a little over an hour from there we spent the weekend in Ft. Myers. Got to see her house and some of her hometown, which was cool. It was fun to see yet another friend get hitched. Kinda funny since I basically knew the bride and that was it! Glad I brought someone I know with me. ;-) Kinda felt like a busy weekend, but I still had fun.

Have a kinda crazy couple of weeks coming up. Have a presentation due thursday, about a 10 page paper due a week from friday, research mixed in, finishing up two homeworks tomorrow and another one due friday, and a take-home final also due a week from friday. But after that i'll have a break from classes until the fall so I can't complain too much. :-)

Well, I guess it's kinda late and since I'm going to try to get up fairly early to do some work, I should probably think about hitting the sack. Hopefully all the sleep I got this weekend won't make it too hard to get some shuteye tonight. ;-)

9.6.2 Tuesday! (2007-06-05 15:10)

Well I kinda fell off the wagon last week. It was an abbreviated week since I didn't get here until late monday and left again early friday, so my eating habits and workout schedule went all to hell. I was expecting a rebound this week, but I just weighed-in at 166.5 which really surprised me. Maybe I treated my body so badly at the lake it just spent the week trying to purge everything I put into my body assuming it was probably bad for me. haha. I can't really complain.

I'm getting back into swimming, which has been fun. But I need to start going earlier so I can get in a longer workout. We'll see how that works out for me. My workout schedule may not hold today, but I'll definitely swim tomorrow and lift on thursday so hopefully I can keep this trend going!

It's going to be a busy couple of weeks since the semester is wrapping up, but the more I think about it it shouldn't be too bad. I have a presentation thursday, homeworks due friday and monday, takehome test due next friday and a 10 page paper due next friday. I need to do some research in there, but I'm not too worried about that. Right now I'm just trying to motivate myself to get stuff done since I don't have anything due tomorrow. hahaha.

Otherwise things are going pretty good. :-)

9.6.3 bored on a saturday night (2007-06-10 02:05)

It's been one of the most lax days I've had in a long time. Unfortunately this past week has been pretty lax for me as well. Went swimming a couple times, but that's about been the extent of my physical activity. Hopefully the second half of the summer I will stay a little more consistent. It didn't help that I pinched a nerve or something in my back on thursday. I was just bending over getting something out of my backpack when it felt like someone took pliers to my spinal cord in my lower back. NOT pleasant. It's been bugging me ever since. I'm going to see how it feels tomorrow and if I don't see any improvement I may go by the doctor's on monday. It's not that horrible, but just really annoying and the kind of thing that I don't feel I can push through so it kinda kills any physical activity for me. Ah well. I've been trying to be pretty conscious of what I eat so I don't just sit here and gain weight while I'm inactive. Hopefully it'll work :-)

Other than that things are going pretty well. I'm happy and I'll be even happier when this semester is over. I thought Artificial Intelligence would be a little more intriguing, but alas I was proven incorrect. Only one more week though! Then a week off and a wedding, then kickin' on some research for the rest of the summer. I haven't been the best about keeping up with my research while I have classes so it will be interesting to see how things go when research is the only thing I really have. I will definitely like not having a class smack dab in the middle of the afternoon. That got old fairly quickly. Though i must say a class at 3:30 sounds better than my fall schedule of class at 8 am and 5:15 pm. NOT COOL. Luckily I only have that schedule on MW so it won't be too bad, but those days are going to be less than pleasant.

Just found out today that my family is taking an alaskan cruise at the end of the summer. Kick ass!!!! If I can manage my road trip to nebraska and north dakota this summer, Oregon will be the only state I have left unvisited. How cool is that!? I'm almost there! hehe

Well I guess I should think about bed, though I was in bed a lot today and kinda in and out of consciousness so I'm not really sleepy, but I know I need to get some work done tomorrow so I should probably try to be fairly rested for that. I'll probably play some guitar and maybe a little video games first though ;-)

(2007-06-11 00:45:39)
Road trip to Nebraska and North Dakoda???? hmmm I'd like to hear about that! :-) Hope your back is better soon.

tattermask (2007-06-11 13:44:55)
You've GOT to stop hurting yourself, buddy! I hope it's not serious.

fincher69 (2007-06-11 18:27:14)
just got it checked out this morning. Just a muscle spasm so while it IS annoying, it is nothing serious (this time, lol) :-)

9.6.4 I should be working... (2007-06-14 18:18)

and finishing up my take home final and writing my AI paper, so of course I decided it would be better to post on here. :-)

Since I had the muscle spasm in my back I've just been taking it easy so I decided to not bother with weigh-in posts until I can get back into my workout regimen. I may go for a little run this afternoon just to see how things feel. There's a nice like 1.5 mile loop that I typically include as part of my run so I may try that. I don't know which will be worse, the heat or my back! haha

Other than my back things have been going pretty well. I have to write a 7 page paper and finish up this stupid take-home final tonight. Not looking forward to it, but at least once I am done with it I am done with classes until August! Hopefully that will help me buckle down and get some research done.

Today I had a weird day where I woke up and kinda felt a little bummed. Nothing specific I can really think of to cause it, but it's just sorta stuck with me all day. Odd. Well, since I woke up with it today, maybe I'll just wake up without it tomorrow. :-)

Um... not a heckuva lot else going on. Probably going to play guitar for a bit more and let dinner settle, then try a run, then try to buckle down and get some work done. We'll see how it goes! Luckily nothing is due until 3:35 tomorrow afternoon. ;-)

(2007-06-14 23:52:56)
you can procrastinate better than anyone I know! ;-) Hope you had a good run and your back is doing better. Running should help put you in a happier mood. Speaking of running..... interested in the Rhythm & Roots 5k this year? :-) Good luck finding motivation.... you can do it!!!

9.6.5 stuff and things and such (a mini novel) (2007-06-18 17:58)

Definitely had a helluva blowout weekend to celebrate the end of first summer session. Partied with tons of folks and Turtle and I set a new party marathon record, lol. Something to be proud of.

The term finished up nicely. The last week was definitely a little hectic but that was mainly just due to my procrastination and lack of motivation to work on anything that wasn't due the next day. I'm looking forward to the rest of the summer because it will pretty much be the first time that all I will be doing is focusing on research.

Due to the weekend's activities, I'm sure this is skewed, but I went ahead and did a weigh-in this morning and was at 165.0 so that was pretty good. The two mile run I went on last week worked out well, but that was about the extent of the exercise that I have gotten in the past week and a half due to the stupid muscle spasm I had in my back. Luckily that's pretty much cleared up, but the real test will be when I try it out wakeboarding again.

Heading home bright and early tomorrow so that test will hopefully be tomorrow evening. :-) Hanging out there for a couple days then heading to Greensboro on thursday for Adam and Beth's wedding. Yes, another wedding. I was just realizing the other day that this will be my 5th wedding to be a part of. While that is definitely an honor, I was joking with someone that I need to stop going to new schools because I keep meeting unmarried folks who'll eventually have weddings. Lord only knows how many I've attended in total. It will definitely be a kick ass weekend so I'm looking forward to it in spite of having to wear yet another tuxedo. ;-)

Been feeling pretty good lately. Kinda settled into where I am in life so I'm dealing less with that at the moment. I've been having fun studying MCAT stuff with Kellen and just evaluating my possibilities,

but knowing that I'm going to finish this Ph.D regardless is helpful because I will have some time to figure things out. Hopefully my comprehensive exams in the fall go well and then I will probably start taking some refresher science courses. I'll be sitting in on physical chemistry with Kellen in the fall so that should definitely be interesting. Especially since that is the course that I would have taken next had I stuck with my chemistry major at Furman. I should probably start brushing up on some of that stuff so I'm not completely in the dark. ;-) The more I think about it the more I think I will probably have a wide variety of possible future outlets when I leave here. I can see myself applying to teaching positions, more grad school, and med schools and then evaluating my opportunities once everything is processed and my true possibilities are made known. Who knows, maybe I can throw a law school application in there for the fun of it. ;-) Though I'm definitely going to have to step up my reading just to be remotely prepared for all the standardized tests i will likely have to take to send out such a variety of applications.

Speaking of reading, as the 7th and final Harry Potter book is nearing arrival, I've finally begun to actually read the series. I didn't feel like getting into it when I would have to sit around for a year after I finished the book to wait for the next one. Though when I pleasure read I tend to do it in intensive spurts so I may need to slow down else I will still be left waiting around for the last one to come out. I started the first one yesterday evening and finished it up this afternoon. I'll prolly take the second one home with me and expect to finish it by the end of the week. I'll have research and another large project to work on so hopefully that will slow me down a bit. I may have to borrow a couple from home as Kellen is rereading them as well and it looks as though I may overtake her ;-)

I also have a couple other books that have been sitting on my reading list for a little while and I planned on reading while I had my spurt of no classes so perhaps I can intersperse those as well. I was thinking about it and it has been quite some time since I really did any casual reading so I'm going to try to get back into it. I'm going to be doing a ton of reading in the fall between research, classes, and preparation for comps that it is probably good to get back into practice with some things that may hold my attention just a bit more. ;-)

Hm..... I can't think if there is anything else I really wanted to get down. Just all-in-all things are going pretty well. Personally and academically. Still got some hurdles to get the wakeboarding club settled and on track (and not broke) and I'll be doing some thing with the Sustainable Campus and Community Committee as there is a conference coming up this fall that we are hosting. Trying not to put too much on my plate until i finish up comps, but given that I pass them in the fall, spring should be an exciting time to see what i pick up. Hopefully i'll stay on this a little better to keep these verbose posts to a minimum. :-)

(2007-06-19 03:56:13)
Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz

lfincher (2007-06-21 14:29:43) harry potter!
i can't tell you how excited i am that you have F I N A L L Y decided to read the harry potter books! YAYYYY!!!!!!! i can't wait to hear what you think about them! i have thought about rereading all of them too, but i don't really have time to do that before the newest one comes out. i don't read that fast. ;-) hope you're having fun at home!

(2007-06-23 10:39:29)
I like verbose posts! ;-) Regret that I didn't get a chance to really talk in depth to you about your life goals while you were home. It's something I wanted to do. Maybe next time! Yay for reading Harry Potter!!!

9.6.6 (2007-06-24 12:50)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Dad's definitely good about sending postcards

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00012bb6/

9.6.7 What a week!! (2007-06-25 16:00)

I've pretty much been out of town all week (hence no posts), but I'll refrain from a novel trying to put down every detail. :-)

Tuesday drove to Bristol and got some wakeboarding in before dinner.

Wednesday got a haircut and ran some errands with mom and then went to the lake with Doug, Sara, and Prince. Wakeboarded twice and wakeskated once. Came SO close to landing two toeside 540s and nearly snagged my first shuv-it on the wakeskate. Had another wakeskate run with dad then grilled out hamburgers for my birthday dinner. Needless to say I'm not really in shape for 4 sessions behind the boat.

Thursday I woke up crazy sore from all the boarding. Drove to Haw River, NC for the beginning of Adam and Beth's wedding weekend. Went out to the driving range (first time I had hit a ball since I broke my wrist) and had a kick ass time watching Adam be extremely embarrassed at his bachelor party. LOL.

Friday we went to mexican for my birthday lunch where I was given my first ever taste of tequila. Apparently they usually put a sombrero on my head when they sing, but both had been stolen so I got a shot of tequila instead. Helped prepare for the Luau and ended up having a BLAST. Had a few shots of Jager sprinkled amongst many a beer (all shots done with Adam's dad). Couple little hiccups, but overall an awesome time.

Saturday got up and played 9 holes of golf. My long game fared well, but I can't chip and putt for crap, but considering it was like my first time on a course since my teens, I was pretty pleased. Did the blazing hot wedding outside in a tux thing. Ushering was bad, but the sun had set enough that the actual ceremony was bearably cool. Of course had a blast at the reception, talked the ear off the shuttle driver, and had a failed post party with a couple of the bridesmaids.

Sunday got up and was of course the one guy carrying beer through the lobby at 8 am hahaha. Said my goodbyes and hit the bojangles then the road back to tally and just took it easy for the evening.

Overall one frickin' awesome weekend. Met some fun folks and just had a blast. Now let's see if I can get back into this schoolwork and exercise groove. :-)

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tattermask (2007-06-26 12:43:18)
Now THAT sounds like a fun birthday!!!!!! =) What sick people steal sombreros from the Mexican restaurant?!? But you got tequila instead, so it's a trade-off =) A

9.6.8 little tuesday post (2007-06-27 03:29)

Figured I'm trying to get back into my workouts so I'd get back into my weigh-in posts. 165.5, which was definitely a little lower than I was expecting. Hopefully I can work out a good schedule to include plenty of working out and research. I guess we'll have to see! I'm still hoping to continue the weight loss trend to like 155-160, but we'll see how it goes. Maybe if I take like July off from beer and just do like Jager and diet coke it'll help. Perhaps that'll be a fun experiment to try. :-)

(2007-06-28 00:00:53)
yuk - jager and diet coke! that sounds awful! Good luck with your workouts. It'd be nice to run some 5ks with you, but you are way too far away! ;-)

fincher69 (2007-06-28 03:35:14)
being far away has definitely been weird. I'm running tomorrow and we'll see how it goes. :-) And Jager + anything = GOODNESS. C'mon mom! ;-)

turoooo (2007-06-28 16:43:21)
I agree mostly but not completely. I remember drinking a Jager and purple at your house and while it did the job, I would not use "GOODNESS" to describe the flavor.

(2007-07-01 23:00:37)
I agree with turtle! hehe :-)

9.7 July

9.7.1 Yet another fun weekend (2007-07-02 01:43)

Friday I went to the lake and landed my first shuv-it on a wakeskate! I was totally stoked. For those of you who don't know, that's when the wakeskate basically does a 180 underneath you and you land back on it. I've been working on it the last few times wakeboarding and I just rode out and landed the first one like it was nothing. I tried a few more and couldn't get it, but I was still pretty stoked that I landed one. Went from there home and showered then went to a kind of late birthday dinner for me at a local Thai restaurant. SO good. It had been forever since I had Thai so I was pretty excited. After that Brad, Sarah, and Keith bailed and went home and Turtle and I went to Bullwinkle's while Bopper and Zach went to her place to finish my spongebob cake. I ended up running into Joey at Bully's and he came back to my place with me and turtle and we jammed out on the drums and guitar and hung out until (2.5 hours after dinner) Bopper and Zach showed up with the most amazing spongebob cake ever. It was super cool. We partook then hung out for a little bit and at around 1 we decided to crash the meet-and-greet that the english grad students were having. It was probably part just the timing, but as soon as the CS kids showed up people started piling out. We still ended up hanging out there for 2-3 hours then moseyed back to my place and then Bopper and Zach left and Turtle and I visited Kellen and hung out and ended up crashing around 6:30.

Saturday I got up and was feeling pretty chill so I decided to just take it easy and pop in a movie. Not long after the movie started I heard thunder which was AWESOME because we have had a serious lack in thunderstorms since I've been here. I LOVE thunderstorms and this is supposed to be like the lightening capital of the world so that was nice. It wasn't nice that it killed my power like 30 minutes into my movie, but that just made for a nice thunderstormy naptime. :-) Later I walked over to Corey's for her shindig. I

was only really planning on hanging out for a couple hours then coming back to my place, but of course I was one of the last ones to leave and I think Bopper and I left at like 3 or something. Piddled around online when I got back and ended up crashing around 4:30.

Today I got up and was planning on heading to best buy and doing something else, then Keith reminded me about going golfing so I went out with him, Brad and Marie. We hit a bucket at the range then went and played 9 holes. My short game still blows, especially my putting, but considering how little i've been playing I was still pretty happy with my performance. We had perfect timing too as we started seeing lightening and hearing thunder on the last hole. After that I've basically just been taking it easy, doing HDTV research, playing some video games and playing guitar and drums. Nothing too strenuous. I was going to do some work, but it didn't really make it. I'll probably send an email about my research out before I go to bed, but I think that might be the extent of my work. Right now Kellen is studying some fun chemistry down here for a change of scenery so I've been learning about Beer's law and adsorption and all sorts of fun stuff. ;-) Probably about ready to wind it down though, especially if I'm going to get up and run like I would like to. I was thinking about just doing my 2 mile loop, but I need to research online and come up with a good 3 or 3.1 mile loop to run if I'm going to be running more 5ks.

Anyhoo, it was another great weekend and I'm sure it's going to be another busy week. I was kinda debating about doing a road trip this coming weekend, but I'll just have to play it by ear and see if I have any interested travel buddies. :-) We'll see!

(2007-07-02 23:38:17)
What a life!! :-)

(2007-07-03 11:43:20) Hello
Hi all! Looks good! Very useful, good stuff. Good resources here. Thanks much! Bye

fincher69 (2007-07-03 16:04:26) Re: Hello
um.... wtf?

(2007-09-15 19:11:23) ORDER PHENTERMINE 654
Hi great job!!!

9.7.2 quick post (2007-07-03 11:56)

Trying to get back into the running thing seeing as how I'm signed up to run an 8k next weekend. :-) Ran an easy 2 miles with Joey last week and last night my route was right at a 5k. Couple things felt tight, but overall still felt pretty good. I'm definitely going to have to pace myself as I have a tendency to begin with a little too much vigor. I'll try to run wed and fri to keep the trend going and shotgun myself into running shape, haha.

Weighed-in at 167.0, which really isn't too surprising. Other than a little wakeskating and my little run and bike on thursday I haven't really done that much and I've been eating Jimmy Johns like no other. I'm doing my best to turn that around this week so hopefully I'll see a downturn next week. Here's hoping! Just really need to solidify a workout/research schedule and stick to it. We'll see...

9.7.3 Keeping the string of good weekends alive (2007-07-09 03:46)

It feels like forever since I posted, but I looked and it was just tuesday so that isn't too bad. End of the week wasn't too exciting. Actually spent some time in the office and made some progress on my research which is good.

Friday we went to Stevie B's for some pizza buffet, then everyone except bopper kinda bailed and we went to joey and chris's. We were both completely gorged from the pizza buffet so were planning on just taking it easy, but I kinda got thrown into a beer pong game as soon as I walked in the door. Definitely felt like I was going to explode for a while. Went from there to Bully's then to my place for a while. It was fun having a mix of my friends as I had some CS kids, some wakeboard kids, and some of the English kids come by throughout the night. All-in-all had a blast and ended up crashing at like 4:30 (after singing Turtle happy birthday of course, lol)

Saturday I had one of the frickin' laziest days of my life. I was still kinda nursing my groin pull from the wakeskate on thursday so I took things pretty darn easy. Lots of video games, haha. Then played some pool and went bowling with Sarah and Brad (then Bopper joined later) and then went to Pockets for some mini-bowling which is so frickin' awesome. Joey and I decided we HAVE to get a mini-bowling lane in our houses, but unfortunately the one I found online was about 22k which is just slightly out of our price range, hahahaha. It'd still be hella cool. Went from Pockets to Austin, Hannon, and Tom's place and played some crazy drinking game with dice. Luckily Bopper was driving because I got kinda screwed in that game. Oh well. It was still fun.

Today I capped one of the laziest weekends of my life by waking up, turning on music, going back to bed, watching a movie, accompanying Kellen to make some copies and have some Chinese, then hanging out at Kellen's and reading Harry Potter Year 2 from start to finish. Wow. I know I read in hardcore spurts, but I still wasn't really planning on finishing it when I started it earlier. I shoulda timed myself, but I'm thinking I was around the 5-6 hour mark. Not too shabby. Joey called me at 1 to tell me they were getting a keg, but I was kinda settled reading my book at the time. But when I finished it at a little after 2 I decided to go ahead and head over there. Had fun chillin and playing a couple rounds of beer pong. Now it's almost 4 and I'm not even remotely tired. Great. My apartment is still pretty messy from friday nights festivities so I'll prolly clean up a bit then maybe play some video games. Fun times. hahaha. Luckily my first obligation tomorrow is at 2:30 so I don't have to get up early. :-)

(2007-07-09 09:42:09)
Is that what you call training for an 8K?? :-)

fincher69 (2007-07-10 06:27:03)
something like that. I'm sure there's plenty of carbs being consumed in there, hahaha

9.7.4 weigh-in (2007-07-10 14:18)

Weighed in at 167.0 this morning, though I did it after the shower so that could have skewed it a little. Last week I really wasn't that active since I pulled my groin on like thursday. I went for a run yesterday, gonna try to fix my bike and ride this evening, then run tomorrow and bike thursday, though that may be a little tough since I'll be driving a lot on thursday (heading to bristol).

Oh, well. I'm sure I'll get back into my losing streak soon. ;-)

9.7.5 frickin' crazy ridiculous weekend (2007-07-16 02:15)

Wow, what a weekend! Went out to the Rez and did some wakeskating on thursday afternoon, then started packing things up to head to bristol. Ended up leaving my apartment at around 7:30ish (yes, that's PM) to head up to bristol. Pretty much drove through the night and got there around 4:30am. I was wide awake and after unloading and stuff most people were kinda lively so a few of us just had a few beers and hung out until the sun began to rise and decided to catch a sunrise wakeboarding set. It was amazingly beautiful. Got some cool shots and had a lot of fun. Turtle and I were the only ones to stay awake and everyone else kinda napped throughout the first part of friday to try to catch up. I believe we ended up going out for two more sets and just had a blast hanging out at the house. We of course kicked into some drinking games and I enjoyed some Jager and diet coke and then finally crashed for the first time since wednesday night.

Saturday we got up and took a set. Decided to just work on some grabs then work on my spins since they weren't really working the day before. My first 360 was off axis as usual, but then Joey gave me some hints and my next one was a lot better. After that I threw a big and smooth 540, which was COMPLETELY stoked about, and tried and missed a couple of grab 3's. Third time was a charm though and I hit a big grab three to end my set. Again just enjoyed hanging out and chillin at the lake house. Went out for another set (but I didn't board) and came back and Lauren, Turtle, and I headed back into town for the 8k race we were to run. That's right, after that amazing prep I ran an 8k! hahaha. My quads were already pretty sore from all the wakeboarding, but cardiovascularly I felt pretty good most of the race. Got a side stitch at about mile 2 which never got bad, but pretty much persisted the rest of the race. Ended up PR'ing by about 4 minutes (and never walked) so I was really stoked about that. That was a helluva lot better than I was expecting. After driving back to bristol we stopped at wally world for some ice and beer and I just about collapsed when I tried to hop out of the car. My legs hurt so frickin' bad. I was worried I wasn't going to be able to walk today.

Actually woke up this morning fairly early (9ish I believe) so we'd have time to take a set. My legs felt surprisingly good (I tried to stretch a good amount the night before) but Turtle and I still kinda felt like someone had kicked the crap out of us. We went out for a final set, though I decided to sit it out since I wouldn't really be able to work on anything with my body being in the condition that it was and my last run was so frickin' awesome I figured it'd be good to just end the weekend on that note. Came back to the house then went to the Bagel Company for lunch then hit the road for the long boring trip back to tally. None of us were excited at all to come back home. We all wished we could spend at least a week there (though my body might have tried to tell me otherwise, haha).

All-in-all it was a crazy weekend and a ton of fun. Now it's back to the real world of research and stuff for a few weeks. NOT excited about that. At least my body will have a little time to recover. :-) I was thinking about lifting tomorrow, but I think I'll give it another day to figure out what is going on then start back with the weights on tues/thurs. Should be interesting!

Quote of the weekend by yours truly - "Just let me finish my beer and enjoy the sunrise then I'll get ready to go wakeboarding."

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lfincher (2007-07-21 13:53:24)
you forgot to mention how i kicked your booty in the race. :-)

9.7.6 day late (2007-07-19 03:54)

Weighed in at 167.0 this morning. My exercise and eating habits have pretty much totally sucked these past couple of weeks so I can't really expect much better. Hopefully I'll really get on it as I just have a few more weeks before I'll be home and in Alaska so who knows how much exercise I'll get during that. Not much else to report at the moment. :-)

9.7.7 tuesday and stuff (2007-07-24 13:28)

Man, what a weekend! I kinda figured since Turtle was out of town that it would be a little more tame than usual, or at least not last so late. ;-) Boy was I wrong! Those Donates can definitely hang to the wee hours of the morning. Friday we went to Harry's downtown where I had a wonderful pecan-crusted catfish and of course took advantage of happy hour. Went back to my place to just hang out for a while and it ended up being a really fun night because different people kept stopping by and we ended up having a pretty decent crew in town. Turtle's lil' sis was in town and ended up coming by and we ended up hanging out 'til around 8am. That's a late night even by my standards! haha

Ended up getting up around 2:30 and grabbing some Chick-fil-a then just took it easy for a while, read some Harry Potter. As I just read the first book like 2 weeks ago, I'm still working my way through the series. I'm about 1/3 of the way through book 4 right now. It is definitely some addicting reading, and I'm sure I can finish them up before the summer is out. There are also like 3 other books I have on my list. I'm hoping to knock them all out so I can just focus on school this fall, especially with comprehensive exams coming up. Anyhoo, I went to dinner at Mellow Mushroom with Bopper and friends and later on I went and picked up Emma and we just grabbed some beer and hung out, played guitar hero, etc. Some of the english kids left a party and ended up coming by and we tried to get lil' turtle to come by but she was already jammied and her friends were unenthused with the prospect of heading out somewhere. Had numerous crazy conversations with some wandering homeless and had fun just chillin and chattin. Had a late night (early morning) skate session in the parking lot, then the last of the crew headed out close to 8:15am. Yet another late night!

Got up around 1:30 on sunday and definitely took it easy. I was thinking about mountain biking with keith, brad, and fishel but between the past nights and the afternoon thunderstorm I decided to just take it easy. Ended up going to Mellow Mushroom again with Kellen and her friend Justin who was in town for the weekend. Then came back and Justin and I tried to beat this one level of God of War on PS2 while Kellen worked on her lab report for ever. We never did beat the damn thing.

Woke up and weighed in a 165.0 today, which was really surprising because the past couple of days I've been extremely lethargic, especially in the morning. To the point where I'll set my alarm for 9:30 and I have gotten up and 11:30 both days. I don't know what my deal is. I'm just not feeling very motivated at the moment. Hopefully it'll blow over quickly because I have a lot of research to do in the next couple of weeks. I've been doing a lot of thinking about life recently and really trying to figure out what I want to do with it and I don't think that is helping. I just have a lot of avenues that are intriguing, but I have yet to encounter anything to which I feel "now THAT is exactly what I want to do!!" I just don't know if I'll have to stick to something kinda interesting my whole life, or if I will find something I am truly engrossed in and passionate about. Here's hoping! But being 27 and having no clue what that might be can be a little frustrating sometimes.

Anyhoo, I think I'm going to hit the shower, read a little, spend a few hours at the lake, then hit up the office for a while to try to be a little productive. If only I could be productive with my working out

as well. Mom and I need to coordinate some more 5ks to help motivate me to train a LITTLE (though preparation has never been my strong suit, haha) Hopefully these past two days were just recovery days for friday and saturday and I'll be more sprightly come tomorrow.

(2007-07-24 17:54:59)
forget spell check..you need sentence check! Actually both would be good for you! :-D

fincher69 (2007-07-24 18:08:53)
hahaha maybe I just write above your reading level ;-)

turoooo (2007-07-30 01:35:12)
That's how us Donate's roll, to the wee hours of the morning.

9.7.8 crazy road trippin' weekend! (2007-07-29 21:51)

I've pulled some pretty crazy road trips in my past, but I think this past weekend has definitely trumped them all. The basic reason for the trip was that I had 4 states left that I had never visited: Alaska, Oregon, North Dakota, and Nebraska. Now my family is going on an Alaskan cruise this summer and we are going to hop down to Portland on the way, taking care of both Alaska and Oregon. Now this would leave North Dakota and Nebraska, two states I will not soon have a reason to visit.

So I decided that I would just take a crazy weekend road trip to visit both states, thus leaving only Oregon and Alaska with Alaska being my finale state. Much better than North Dakota ;-) Somehow I found someone crazy enough to want to accompany me on this journey, Fishel. So we decided we were going to just cram it all into a weekend to get it over with.

Basic Stats
10 states visited (Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas (kinda by accident), Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota)
almost right at 60 hours between departure from Tallahassee and return
Approximately 3300 miles covered.

So here's the basic rundown of the trip. Left Tallahassee Thursday at near dinner time. Drove through the night and partly due to sitting behind a wreck for two hours, we didn't arrive in Fargo, North Dakota until near 10pm Friday. Checked in to the hotel, had dinner at a local brewery, then hit a bar until 2 and came back to the hotel and crashed.

Departed Fargo around noon and drove to Omaha where we dined at another local brewery then grabbed another beer at a nearby bar after meandering around the Old Market. Left Omaha around 9, drove through another night, and arrived in Nashville at around 8am. Got to hang out briefly and have brunch with my sister then we hit the road again and made it back to Tally near the same time we departed on thursday.

Definitely a lot of time on the road, but it was definitely a blast. I won't mind not driving many places tonight and I'm sure I will get a good nights rest considering in the last 4 days I've had about 14 hours of sleep, 5 of which was in the car.

Random weird note. During the drive to Fargo I received 2 pix messages from a number not in my phonebook. The first was a closeup of cleavage with the note "HI" and the second was the faces of two girls in a

dark place (so kinda hard to see). We responded then she said "WHO IS THIS?" and we informed her that as she began the interaction by sending us a picture of her cleavage, she should begin with the introductions, but she never responded. It was quite odd. We looked up the area code and it was a Texas area code, and as I cannot think of anyone I know it Texas, I am guess it was just a total wrong number. A very weird wrong number. Anyhoo...

One thing we did which turned out pretty cool was to set up my macbook in the backseat and I downloaded some software that would allow me to make time-lapse movies so it took a picture every minute to make a little video of the entire trip. Put in some of the pics I took between the legs to add a little variety. I just threw it together so it isn't anything too fancy, but I'll see if I can embed it below so anyone that wants to can check it out. :-)

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tattermask (2007-07-30 12:51:40)
"Put in some of the pics I took between the legs to add a little variety." I hope by "between the legs" you mean the legs of your trip... otherwise, those pictures need a disclaimer ;) amanda

fincher69 (2007-07-30 16:05:05)
hahaha yes, the legs of the trip. :-)

lfincher (2007-07-31 12:04:49)
you forgot to mention the, noshville! griddlecakes as big as your head!! monster pancakes :-) thanks for stopping by!!

9.8 August

9.8.1 Wow (2007-08-10 00:04)

Just getting settled into the hotel room here in Seattle and realized that I haven't posted in my blog in forever. For at least this past week I've been pretty disconnected as I came up to Bristol on Thursday and pretty much stayed there until yesterday afternoon. I probably should have made an attempt to write up that week as it happened because it was so much fun and I doubt I could do a recount of it justice were I to attempt. Had a lot of friends come by that I haven't seen in forever, a lot of friends I hadn't seen in a while, and a few friends I have hardly seen before. All-in-all it was an amazing week, though I can definitely tell that I'm not completely suited for 6 consecutive days of wakeboarding and drinking. :-) It was really awesome seeing everyone, especially the ol' Furman kids I hadn't seen in a while. Lots of craziness swimming, wakeboarding, jumping off cliff island, playing flipcup, getting phone calls from the cove's "hall monitor, playing video games, etc. Sucks that I know I won't see some of them again for a good long while, but it was definitely an amazing weekend+. Only bad part was that while my board was up on my board rack, the rope got caught on it and I completely ripped a piece of my board off. Oops. I ended up demo'ing another one and getting it and it frickin' rocks. The top is completely woodgrain and the thing pops like craziness.

Lack of posts means a lack of weigh-ins and I won't have a proper weigh-in til I get back to Tally (though I can only imagine how much I've been drinking... er... gaining. ;-) We'll see I guess.

Left this morning bright and early and flew to Seattle. Then dad and I rented a car and drove to Oregon where we had an awesome dinner at a local brewery in Portland. Then we came back up here to Seattle,

but that little excursion was my 49th state to visit! After my ridiculous road trip and that little excursion, I have only Alaska waiting for me. A couple more days and I will have visited all 50 states! I don't know about normal people, but that makes me pretty excited. :-)

There are supposed to be hotspots on the cruiseship so I may be able to log things daily, but we'll just have to see how prevalent and reliable they are and how busy I end up being. I'm so STOKED!!!

Oh yeah, also finished Harry Potter 6 today (5 hour plane rides help a lot) so I'm going to take a break to read a different book while my sister finishes 7, then I'll knock that one out. I don't know if I wrote about when I started reading them, but I've definitely had like three short reading kicks in like the last 6 weeks, of which they have almost all be dedicated to Harry Potter. Almost done!

Ok, back to playing around on the internet for a while then probably hitting the sack. Slept about 3 hours last night so it probably wouldn't hurt to get a little sleep tonight. ;-)

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tattermask (2007-08-10 14:23:53)
I wish I'd been able to make it to your frickin' lake bash!!! Stupid GRE. Stupid work. Ah, well, I'm glad you had a good time and saw a bunch of people =) Harry Potter is rather addictive, isn't it? amanda P.S. You're not weird for being excited about having been to all 50 states. I would be excited, too!

fincher69 (2007-08-10 15:44:21)
hopefully we can get you to the lake sometime! I'll definitely keep you updated about when I get to head up there and hopefully our schedules will coordinate eventually. :-)

9.8.2 update! finally... hahaha (2007-08-23 17:10)

Well I had forgotten about my little post in seattle and obviously I didn't do the daily reports so here's a synopsis of the trip. Prolly won't be too awfully long because I'm lazy, but I'll try to get the main details down. :-)

So we shipped out on the cruise after being in seattle a couple of days. The ship was amazing. It was the first cruise for my mom, dad and me so we were amazed by all the stuff on the boat. Apparently Holland America is one of the nicer lines so our boat was amazing. What wasn't amazing was that the average age on the ship was prolly about 65, lol. Definitely lots of old timers and fatties, but what more can you expect from a bunch of Americans?

Anyhoo, we embarked in the afternoon/evening and the first full day on the ship was all at sea. I don't really recall that many details but I do remember wandering around the ship, drink in hand, for like 2 hours after my family when to sleep. Just figured I would check things out and get a feel for what's around.

After a full day of cruisin', we arrived at Juneau. We had decided on the Bike and Brew as our shore excursion and it was a blast. Though (oddly) a little warm. It was like 70 and sunny which was amazing. We basically went on a 10 mile bike ride, then ended up at mendenhal glacier where we saw an adolescent bear trying to catch fish! It was super cool. Then they packed us in the shuttle and took us to the Alaskan Brewery where we had a little tour and got to sample all the beers. Altogether a pretty kick ass excursion! Juneau was also cool because there is a ton of seaplane traffic so the whole time we were there there were tons of sea planes taking off and landing. Not something I see every day in Tally. :-)

The next day we arrived at Sitka. They didn't really have a dock we could tie up so we just anchored in the bay and took the lifeboats back and forth to the shore. Again we were welcomed by sunny skies and temps upwards of 70. Amazing. Every Alaskan we talked to said the weather was ridiculous and it is never like that. One said they had four days where it wasn't raining last August. We were on a roll. The boat tour was awesome. We saw a group of female sea otters, but didn't hang around long because they were looking a little stressed by us and we didn't want to bother them. And yes, the males and females are separate. The lowlife males just eat and impregnate the females and the females birth and raise the kids with no help from the dudes. Geesh. So we saw a few bald eagles, two of which were adolescents (no white head). Then we found a group of male sea otters and they didn't really mind us so much because they are just a bunch of lowlifes anyway, hahaha. Because the weather was so awesome, we got to go out a lot farther than they typically go and we saw a whole bunch of stellar sea lions. They were huge! It was so frickin' cool. Then we went and found some humpback whales and got to see them diving and even got some cool pics of their tales! I really wish I had gangked Turtle's super lens though because I could have really gotten some awesome pics. They still all turned out pretty well regardless. After that we headed back to the ol' boat.

The following day we docked up at Ketchikan. Our excursion there was a boat and adventure kart thing. The boat was similar to the nature cruise in Sitka, but not anywhere near as awesome. Kinda figured it wouldn't be when it started out with our tourguide not knowing which side of the boat was port and which was starboard. Got to the adventure kart place which were basically offroad go-karts. Flippin' awesome! It was like a 10 mile there and back so dad drove there then we switched and I drove back. I think I definitely gave him a ride. ;-) He basically stayed the 20 yards they told us to stay behind the kart in front of us, so we sorta just kept pace with the group. I preferred to basically idle for a little bit and let the kart in front of us get ahead, then gun in and fly through the trail until I caught up to the kart in front of me and then repeated. I got to sliding in a couple of the turns and had a frickin' blast!! It was so much fun.

I think the whole next day we spent at sea and this was the first day that wasn't 70 and sunny (not like it really mattered being on the boat). At some point, I forget when, we stopped by the Hubbard Glacier and hung out by it for a while which was really cool. Got some snazzy pictures of it and even got to see some calving (sp?), where pieces break off and fall in the water. Arrived in the evening in Victoria, Canada and just hung out and had dinner and a couple beers there since we were docked from 6-12 and only the first part of that encompasses my family's typical awake time. ;-)

Next day we got back to Seattle and disembarked around 9:30 in the morning. Took our stuff to the hotel but it was obviously too early to check in so the hotel guy took care of our bags. Dad gave him a good tip and apparently made an impression because he gave us a free upgrade to the presidential suite which was frickin amazing. By far the most ridiculous hotel room I have ever actually seen. Apparently some really cool people have stayed there like some leader of another country and the Rolling Stones. It had a huge living room that included a full desk, sofa and chairs, big TV, small card table, fireplace, and yes, a baby grand piano!!! It had a dining room for like 12 people, small kitchen area, huge bedroom and crazy master bath. It was super ridiculous!!!

Got up bright and early (about 4am Seattle time) to head to the airport and come back home. All-in-all one frickin amazing trip!!!! Not sure about when it happened, but I also won like 120 dollars on the quarter slots which rocked. Virtually every night dad and I hung out at the bars and the Crow's Nest (top front of the boat) and definitely put away some alcohol. We were joined many nights by the girls, but they weren't near as consistent. ;-) The place we ate every meal was basically buffet style so I of course gorged myself every meal. It was ridiculous. I won't really know until my official weigh-in next week, but I'm pretty sure I gained about 8 pounds. Pretty impressive for a single week! I guess the week of living at the lake and drinking before the cruise was probably a contributing factor as well hahaha.

We couldn't have planned to have better weather and were crazy lucky. We were happy to not be packed in a boat with a bunch of fat, old people by the end, but it was definitely an awesome experience. I would love to look into getting a bunch of friends together to go on an adventure cruise where the crowd would probably be a little more the younger, athletic folks. Now I'm just chillin in Tally after completing two days of teacher training crap and just getting things organized to start classes on monday. I can't believe the summer is already over!! Jeepers.

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tattermask (2007-08-24 03:26:44)
If you plan said young'uns cruise, count me in!!! =) That sounds like an awesome trip you had! funny about the weather, but lucky for you! a

(2007-08-26 11:18:17)
I love your synopsis of the trip! It was awesome! I can't believe we went to Hawaii and Alaska in the same summer. Wow!

9.8.3 It's official (2007-08-28 11:32)

Cruises make you fat. Er... at least they make ME fat. lol. I officially weighed in at 173.5 this morning which, if my memory serves me correctly (don't laugh), means lake party week and the cruise netted me about 8 pounds. Wow. I'm honestly kinda impressed. I mean, I know that it isn't hard for me to gain weight, but 8 pounds in a couple weeks? crazy.

I guess that should help with my motivation to get back into my workout routine, haha. I started up my lifting yesterday and ran an easy mile on the treadmill. Running after doing leg presses can definitely be a little interesting. This week I'm kinda feeling things out about my schedule, but I'm hoping to get something sorted out and really get into it next week. We'll see!!

I'm also hoping that more exercise will settle my brain. For some reason it has just been going like nonstop the past few days and I have no clue why. It just won't relax. To the point where the last two nights have felt like I lay down, tons of random crap is going through my head and just won't slow down, then the alarm goes off. I mean, I'm sure I'm sleeping some because I think even I would be more tired if I had not slept two nights in a row. It's the same way all day too. I think my brain is trying to tell me something, hahaha. This might be handy if I can focus it once the semester gets going, but as I have 0 assignments it is more annoying than anything. Who knows!

Aiight, off to get some things done. I'm definitely digging the no class til 2 thing that I have going on TR much more than the class at 8, 10, and 5:15 like MW. :-)

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tattermask (2007-08-28 23:28:16)
The only problem with an affinity for good, dark beers is those beers' ability to make us fat. =(That's what I'm strugglin' with, too. Happy workouts! =) amanda P.S. Thanks for your comment on my blog =) it made me feel better.

9.8.4 life (2007-08-31 01:15)

The past week I've felt kinda odd. My brain really doesn't want to slow down, and the several days before classes started I was itching to do something. I had nothing really to do because classes hadn't started. Honestly, I'd like to hope this would continue in a sense as it may lead me to being more productive. I've just been thinking a lot about life and where I want it to go recently. Some good some confusing. I'm still very intrigued about the prospect of medical school, but I still can't say that I've reached the point where I can say with utmost certainty that it is my passion and what I want to dedicate my life to. When I think about my life it still contains so much uncertainty and lack of direction, but the more I think about it the worse it gets. I can just pick a discipline and go with it, but that seems like a crappy thing to do when I am not truly dedicated to it.

Then I think of personal life stuff which doesn't help at all. Being single at 27 isn't too easy at many times. I mean, I'm not bad at meeting people, but I also tend to meet people that are younger than me (college aged) which is steadily becoming farther and farther away from me. It is just really difficult to meet intriguing, intelligent, attractive women my age who haven't been snatched up by someone else. Not impossible by any means, but definitely a lot more difficult than meeting someone while in undergrad. Especially when I think about where I am. Tally is a college party town. I can easily meet plenty of college coeds here. But do I really think I'll end up with some sorostitue party girl? Not likely. Honestly I see me finding someone much more easily in a place like Boone or Boulder. I would love a hippie girl who was fun loving, enjoyed outdoors, and was sporty. I think that would be a good fit with me (if you know any, send them my way, lol), but that isn't a popular type around Tallahassee. Who knows.

Anyhoo, back to school. I still would love to go to med school. I think that is a place where I would truly be challenged and, though it is kinda sad to me when I think about it, I like the financial aspect as well. I definitely wouldn't do a job I hate, regardless of salary. But I don't have a true passion. I don't have a career that I KNOW is right and is my true passion. I have no clue what I want to do with my life. No girlfriend. No real prosepects. Pretty much nothing solid. I'm still laid back enough that it doesn't drive me completely nuts, but I think it is starting to wear on me. I guess all I can do is sit back and enjoy the ride. Maybe throw in some med school while I'm at it. ;-)

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tattermask (2007-08-31 16:59:54)
If you can, come visit me in Charlotte. I'll find you a Winthrop grad school hippie chick or something =) You really do have almost exactly the same problem I had with career decisions... and I have no good advice for resolving it, cuz the thing that sparked my exploration into teaching English was something bizarre that just sort of happened. =/ Med school sounds promising... Dr. Fincher! =) amanda

fincher69 (2007-09-01 07:00:10)
I am totally there. We'll tear up some music and you can hook me up with a hot hippie. Sounds like my kind of weekend!!! It was great seeing you and I hope it isn't near as long before I see you again! Tell Scott howdy and that I sent the lala invite so let me know if he doesn't get it :-)

9.9 September

9.9.1 What? me travel? (2007-09-04 20:41)

Bopper was going up to Greenville to see Brandon and go to the Clemson game so I decided to tag along for the weekend. We left after class on thursday, which put us there before midnight that night. Just sorta

hung out for a little bit at Brandon's then hit the sack.

Friday Brandon had to work so Bopper and I ran over to Sunrift to say howdy to Frost for a little bit. Then we came back and went to Best Buy to get some batteries for her camera and by then Brandon was about on his way home so we met him at back at the apartment. We went to Spartanburg for dinner with a friend of Brandon's and my friend Amanda and her Scottie met us there as well. Always a good time. Then we moseyed on over to PJ's to hear Bopper's friend's band play. Most of band, except her friend the drummer, was a little sedate but overall it was a pretty good show. Had a lot of Jager and a blast hanging out with Amanda. We started hanging out a little while I was at Furman, but really not too much, which is sad because we were definitely having a lot of fun. After the concert we pretty much just headed on back home.

Saturday we went to, I think, Caesar's Head to hike around a little bit, then looped back by Sunrift and said hi to Frost again. I started talking to his friend Matt who does a lot of crazy stuff and we started talking about unicycling. He showed me is and a couple they had at the shop. Definitely pretty snazzy. So what else could I do? I bought one!! hahaha Those things are definitely hard as crap to ride. I've been working on it a little every day and I can still hardly go 6 feet on the dadjum thing. Just what I need, something else to break myself on, lol. So anyhoo, after we played with that for a bit, we headed to downtown Greenville to Barley's for some awesome scrumptious calzones and some darts and things. Ended up doing a little bar hopping after we left, but the scene was much too male dominated to be enjoyable (read: sausagefest) so we just headed back home.

Sunday..... we did something. Um.... I just remember driving around trying to find an open bike shop because I needed to chop the seatpost of my unicycle, but because there was a big cycling race in downtown Greenville, none of them were open. We did get to see some of the racers and gave Brandon his first Jimmy Johns experience, which was cool. Then we headed over to Bopper's house and proceeded to wear ourselves out drinking beer and riding the unicycle (great combination, huh?) and Kim and Henry came over as well as Bopper's Bro Mike and they grilled out and it was awesome. Definitely had a blast.

Monday was game day so we packed up and headed over to Clemson for some tailgating. I was laughing with my sis because we had never heard of the game cornhole (two boards, tossing bean bags, etc.) until like earlier this summer and I swear in our parking lot alone there were no less than 5 setups (including the one we brought) I wasn't planning on going to the game, so I was just going to hang out and tailgate until they were going to mosey into the stadium then get into something else. Ended up talking to Doug and it worked out perfectly. Got to tailgate for a couple hours, then went out wakeskating with Doug, then came back and tailgated a little more until the game. Couldn't have planned it much better than that. ;-) I kinda debated going home and showering and going out, but I figured that on a monday night, even being a holiday, then scene wouldn't be too lively. So I had a relaxing evening back at Brandons. Caught some clips of the game, including most of the last quarter, and finished my book. Tried to hit the sack fairly early since we were getting up to drive back for class. Got in bed around 12:30, but wasn't really sleepy at all so who knows how long it took me to fall asleep.

Woke up this morning at 5:30 so we could hit the road in time to have me and Bopper back for our 2 o'clock class. Got back here at 1 so I had time to shower and things, but it has definitely been a long day. Even so, I don't really feel like I am going to be tired any time soon, which sucks since I have my 8am class tomorrow. I'm going to try out a new schedule so hopefully it will work. We'll find out! I'll probably also do a small day-late weigh-in post, though I'm not really expecting much since I hit the gym once last week. Hopefully this week will be a little better. ;-)

9.9.2 random post cuz I'm bored and it appears the post party bailed on me (2007-09-09 02:36)

RULES
1. List seven habits/quirks/facts about yourself.
2. Tag seven people to do the same.
3. Do not tag the person who tagged you or say that you tag whoever wants to do it.

1. I have a habit of taking everything people say completely literally.
2. It really bothers me when people say "I could care less"
3. I think 99.9 % of all people are complete idiots
4. I have no clue what I want to do with my life
5. I wanna lose weight, but beer makes me happy
6. I have an eternal disdain for shiny bees
7. I love outdoorsy stuff, but have never really gotten into it though I really want to

um.... I don't even know 7 people on here, but since it gets posted to my facebook too I guess I can throw some other folks in there. :-)

1. Turtle
2. Bopper
3. lil' Fincher
4. Amanda (new friend!)
5. James
6. Wicki
7. Shoe

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supinternets (2007-09-09 08:16:44)
"I have a habit of taking everything people say completely literally." What do you think of when I say holiest place in america? A friggin giant swiss cheese. That is proof right there of the above fact. Ha ha.

turoooo (2007-09-09 15:08:22)
Sorry about the post party, I was just drunk and following the crowd. I had no idea where they were taking me.

9.9.3 downward trend is back on track! (2007-09-11 12:17)

Or at least so it seems from today's weigh-in. 170.5. Not too shabby, though I still got plenty to go.

Had a pretty good weekend. Nothing too crazy that I can recall, though I did have a bunch of folks over on friday which was a lot of fun. Went biking on this frickin' trail with Brad and Fish and it about killed me on sunday. Definitely not quite in good biking shape. I swear half the dadjum trail was deep soft sand so it definitely kept me on my toes. Not often do I have to pedal downhill. Jeepers. It was a lot of fun though. I definitely needed the exercise. Yesterday went swimming for the first time in who knows when and it definitely kicked my ass! Not quite in shape for that either. hahaha. Hopefully I can get a run in today or tomorrow to get a feel for how the 5k this weekend in Bristol is going to treat me. Should definitely be interesting.

Aiight, off to work on the projects I should have been spending the past 3 days on. :-)

turoooo (2007-09-11 16:59:37)
Nice. What time do you go swimming? I want to start because that is on exercise that kicks my ass, and my knees can't afford to go running everyday. Is the pool ever crowded?

fincher69 (2007-09-12 00:25:19)
I went just after 11 and it wasn't too bad, but was starting to get more crowded towards the end of my set. Still didn't surpass two people a lane though, which is pretty much max comfort level. I think I'm going to try to make it over there MW and sometimes F since that is right after PChem. More than welcome to join anytime. I know it sure kicked my ass!

turoooo (2007-09-12 00:30:44)
Hmm, I may join you. Definitely starting next week though, this week I have too much shit going on.

fincher69 (2007-09-12 04:17:22)
yeah, I don't think I'm going to make it tomorrow anyway. I need to run and swimming takes a lot of time (that I just don't have right now). I'll def let you know when I'm going next though.

supinternets (2007-09-12 12:40:49)
Guitar Hero was good times! We should all get together again. I haven't lived here all that long, and most of the people I have met have kinda been elitist assholes. It's refreshing to meet a group of nice down to earth peeps who like to laugh. :)

fincher69 (2007-09-12 16:15:16)
me and turtle are out of town this weekend, but you are always welcome to join in the ridiculousness that tends to be our weekends :-)

supinternets (2007-09-13 04:41:39)
Good times. My cell is 850 345 7454. Feel free to text me or call me when you guys get together again. :) Have fun outside of Tally!

9.9.4 Gizoogle is my new awesomeness (2007-09-12 00:19)

I had heard of it, but never really played around with it much until tonight. Of course I am talking about Gizoogle. It is a site that translates text or websites into ebonic-type language and it is frickin' hilarious! I about died reading my blog after it translated it so I told turtle I was going have to at least throw in an all translated post every once in a while and see if people can figure out what's really been going on in my life. One of my favorite examples from the translation of my last post was...

"I definitely needed the exercise. Yesterday went swimming for the first time in who knows when and it definitely kicked my ass! Not quite in shape for that either. hahaha."

became

"I def needed tha exercise. Yesterday went mackin' fo' tha F-to-tha-izzirst tizzle in who knows wizzy n it def kicked mah ass yaba daba dizzle! Not quite in shape fo' that nigga fo' sheezy. hahaha so show some love niggaz."

hahaha too frickin' funny. I just had to share that before I hit the sack.

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supinternets (2007-09-12 13:55:12)
For shizzle mah nizzle

9.9.5 Random quiz stolen from (2007-09-13 00:51)

```
                        The Keys to Your Heart
                             [heart.jpg]
  You are attracted to good manners and elegance. In love, you feel the
   most alive when your partner is patient and never willing to give up
      on you. You'd like to your lover to think you are stylish and
      alluring. You would be forced to break up with someone who was
  insecure and in constant need of reassurance. Your ideal relationship
    is open. Both of you can talk about everything... no secrets. Your
    risk of cheating is zero. You care about society and morality. You
    would never break a commitment. You think of marriage as something
  that will confine you. You are afraid of marriage. In this moment, you
    think of love as commitment. Love only works when both people are
                           totally devoted.
```

[1]What Are The Keys To Your Heart?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/keystoyourheartquiz/

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fincher69 (2007-09-13 14:16:57)
answer a bunch of questions about animals, and it tells you about your love profile. Interesting....

supinternets (2007-09-13 16:28:55)
This test is actually some what similar to a legit set of psychology questions that are sometimes used to understand a persons views on what the deem important to them and why. I still remember the test, I will have to quiz you sometime. :)

fincher69 (2007-09-13 20:37:58)
interesting. I mean, honestly, the profile is pretty correct (except for a couple things) but it was definitely a weird one. A couple I didn't really like the choices so I felt like my decision was pretty random since I was pretty indifferent. I'd definitely like to read more about it though.

supinternets (2007-09-13 20:42:44)
Yeah, I think mine was pretty dead on as well. It's weird how a few seemingly unrelated random questions actually can tell you a lot about yourself.

9.9.6 Dienstag (2007-09-18 10:37)

Well I am definitely getting back on track somewhat with my weight loss. I've really been trying to avoid eating out and just eating what I've already got in my apartment. Not only is it making me lighter, but it is lighter on my wallet too. :-) Today I was at 168.5 so only a few more pounds and I am back to where I was before the lake/cruise weeks, hahaha. It's amazing how much easier it is to put on than take off.

Had a pretty awesome weekend. Thursday Turtle and I and some folks went to Poor Paul's then Turtle and I went back to the lab to finish AUP, then I had some folks come by my place for a while.

Friday got up, went to demo my program then just got some stuff together so I was ready to leave when Turtle was done with his demo. Picked him up and headed to Bristol. Hung out and had a few (prolly a few too many) beers, carbo-loading you know hahaha.

Saturday we got up and ran a 5k. My time was better than I was expecting considering my training regimen and the days prior. Went home and showered up then spent the day in downtown Bristol at the Rhythm and Roots Reunion festival. Lots of good music and I saw a lot of old friends walking around, which was pretty cool too. Saw our family friend Marty perform (he and some other folks from Arizona were in town for the weekend). After that Turtle, Wil, and I headed out to the lake and tried to get some other folks to join in the festivities, but ended up just crashing fairly early.

Woke up early on sunday to get a boarding run in, but I was feeling pretty rough from the nights prior and the 5k so my set was..... interesting. haha. Had a couple really nice falls including one where I apparently shot across the wake into oblivion faster than anyone had ever seen before. Can't wait to see the video of that one. After boarding we basically gathered our stuff, said our goodbyes and hit the road back to Tally. Jesus there is a lot of Georgia. Got back and relaxed for a bit then went to the lab around 10 to start the project that was due at 8am the next morning. What, me procrastinate? hahaha. Finished it up around 1:30 so I had time to TRY to sleep, but I was wide awake and my mind was still going from working on the project so it didn't really work too well. Oh well.

Nothing really special to say about yesterday other than I took out my trash (which I prolly shoulda done a week ago), finally took the bottles I was saving for recycling to the recycle place, and did like three loads of laundry. Pretty productive! AND I made 7 trades on LaLa, haha. Can't argue with that.

All-in-all it was an awesome weekend. It was great to see my fam as well as seeing Brenna, Lynne, Marty and George. Only wish we had more time to spend there. Off to run some more errands, then a pretty busy tuesday afternoon/evening, but should end with some fun. :-)

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supinternets (2007-09-18 16:31:22)
I think you need to go to Poor Pauls with me tonight, or some Tuesday night soon and play some trivia. :)

tattermask (2007-09-18 16:36:43)
It IS sooooo much easier to put on than take off. Stupid weight/age!! I'm glad you're gettin' back down to size! I'll hopefully follow suit... eeeeh... amanda

9.9.7 Queens of the Stone Age (2007-09-21 02:37)

I have never really been one to go to many concerts, but I've seen a good amount of live music in the past few weeks and I think I'm going to try to turn that around. Tonight we went to see Queens of the Stone Age.

First opener was Dax somebody and the Prosthetics. They were pretty good, but there wasn't anything really standoutish about them. I'll give them that we got there a little late so we missed half their set so I can't give a true opinion of their full performance.

Next was Howling Rain. I really liked these guys. Kinda felt like a heavy dose of Allman Brothers, with some Lynyrd Skynyrd and a band like the Vines mixed in. I really enjoyed their set. The keyboardist had a few riffs that I kinda felt he overly repeated, but all-in-all they put on a good show.

This leads us to Queens of the Stone Age. Definitely a kick ass show. I had listened to them some, but wasn't super familiar with their music so I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. They were awesome. And whomever does their lighting needs a raise. By far the best lighting of any show I have ever seen in my life. It was awesome. Also have respect for the band as the lead singer called out this guy in the front row for being a drunk asshole and pushing girls around and he obviously didn't stop because after the next song he called him out again and basically got security to escort him and his rowdy buddy out. The whole time he was totally ragging on him too. It was hilarious.

Definitely a great show altogether. I was talking to Turtle about how, even at the liveliest concerts, I tend to prefer to just sit and chill and take it in. I realized tonight that one reason for this is that not only am I enjoying the music, but I often find myself analyzing a lot of the aspects of the performance. Trying to pick up a new drum riff. Taking note of the good and bads of the lighting. Trying to hear if this guys mic was turned up or that guys instrument was turned down. I'm far from an expert so it is less that I have opinions what it should be and more just evaluating how things are and trying to picture how they could be, but it still lends itself to just sitting and taking in the show instead of headbanging in the front row. Just an observation. :-)

I guess I should hit the sack. Just wanted to make note of the show while it was fairly fresh in my mind.

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supinternets (2007-09-21 12:41:53)
They are such a great band! I have a few of their albums. I can share them with ya the next time I am over. I started listening to them in my senior year of HS. I saw yesterday that Christine was going to go and I was so jealous! There are a lot of good shows coming up, I should drag you cs peeps to some. This site here: http://www.last.fm/ Is great to find out about new music and to see what is happening locally.

fincher69 (2007-09-21 13:46:40)
Sweet. I'll have to check it out.

zhartley (2007-09-21 22:56:36)
Damnit. I wish I was still in Tallahassee for that.

9.9.8 tuesday!! (2007-09-25 11:08)

man, what a weekend! Had a lot of fun but got to relax some as well. Just what I needed.

Friday was spent pretty much just hanging out at my place. Turtle and Matt came by and we just hung out, had some beers, and played video games. Matt headed home then the english kids showed up. Definitely a lot of fun. They stayed and partied for a while and gradually started trickling off. I think the party finally wound down around 5-5:30. Which definitely made 7:30 come REALLY early.

Turtle picked my woozy ass up and we headed over to the gym for the 5k we were running. It didn't start til 9, but I had to be there when registration started at 8 since it was a wakeboard club activity and I had to gather everyones information beforehand. Needless to say the run was a little rough. Definitely slower than I have run in a while, but I almost kept 10 minute mile pace, which I didn't consider to be too bad considering the circumstances. I really gotta work on my training/preparation for these races. ;-) Straight from the race I was gonna shower at the gym, then head to the programming contest, but the gym didn't open til 11 so my partners got to deal with me programming stanky style. haha. We still kicked ass and placed 2nd among the student teams (only got beat by one faculty team too). We got trophies and everything. And I got a free copy of Office Space. That was funny because just last week I realized I didn't own it and was saying that I should really go get it. Worked out well I guess. Basically took the rest of the day pretty easy. Turtle and I watched Hero (an awesome Jet Li movie) during which one of the muscles cramped in my quadricep. NOT FUN. It was cramped for like 5-10 minutes and was extremely uncomfortable. Needless to say that didn't boost my activity level for the rest of the day. haha. Had dinner over at Corey, Alexis, and Bopper's which was scrumptious, but I was definitely about to pass out from the day I had. I headed home not long after dinner and just sorta took it easy. Nothing to crazy.

Sunday I woke up and piddled around for a bit, then ran a couple errands and went over to the office around 1:30 to work on compilers. Got frustrated with some stupid errors and so I wasn't really going for speed, but I finished everything up at about 8:30 which is almost 12 hours before it is due! :-O I haven't done anything that early in a while, hahaha. Since that was really the only thing I had going on I had a nice relaxing evening and crashed fairly early for my dadjum 8am class.

Monday was just long as crap as usual. Only notable thing was that my computer has started locking up. NOT COOL. It probably locked up about 10 times yesterday. Doesn't seem to be associated with any application either. It will just freeze, but I can still move my mouse. It is just nonresponsive to any clicks or keystrokes. It even still goes into power save mode and turns the monitor off, but other than that it is pretty much totally frozen. It was really pissing me off last night. She's been fine so far today, but we'll just have to see how things go. If she keeps this up I might just have to wipe her and reinstall everything. FUN.

And finally, the main reason for my tuesday posts, 166.5!! Still on that downward trend! I was a little surprised, because while my diet has gotten better (been REALLY trying not to eat out) my activity level has still been below what I would like. Part of it is that I keep having random meetings and things that make my schedule less consistent and when it comes to working out, consistency is key for me. I am shooting to go for a bike or run after class today, then swim tomorrow, then lift thursday so three days of activity is better than nothing I guess! Hopefully it'll all work out.

Aiight, off to run to the Rez to take inventory and then running some forms to SCC and heading to class! Have I mentioned how bad a tease Mother Nature is for giving us a little cool weather then blasting us with more 90+ degree days at the end of September? I miss the mountains.

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tattermask (2007-09-26 12:55:45)

I am with you on the weather! Mother nature is a dirty, dirty tease!!! Congrats on winning your stanky programming contest! =) You got TROPHIES? That's sweet! =) amanda

supinternets (2007-09-26 14:34:02)
Grats on 166! Keep on it!

9.9.9 trading card! (2007-09-27 00:42)

```
LiveJournal
Trading Cards
Paid Account Edition

  [ LJ User: fincher69 ]
User Number: 1798395
Date Created:2004-01-05
Number of Posts: 520

 Blond spazz who excels in extreme sports and alcohol consumption.
 Strengths: Obliviousness, Intelligence, Mustache
 Weaknesses: Spasticity, Albinoness, Obliviousness, Brutal Honesty
 Special Skills: Guitar Hero, Wakeboarding, Guiness Consumption
 Weapons: Beer Cans and wit
 Motto: "Why do now what you can put off til tomorrow?" or "It's
better to beg forgiveness than ask permission"
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[1]
Make your own LiveJournal Trading Card!
Brought to you by [LJ User: Crossfire _]

1. http://www.apeiros.com/lj/cards.html

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supinternets (2007-09-27 13:04:46)
I like how you list the 'stache as a strength! He he.

fincher69 (2007-09-27 23:45:04)
heck yeah it is!!

9.10 October

9.10.1 multi-post (2007-10-02 20:45)

You get my weekend/weigh-in post AND a random quiz thingie. Lucky lucky!

This past weekend was a blast. I believe friday bopper, turtle and I were hanging out and ended up deciding to go to pockets. Had a blast hanging out and playing some mini-bowling (though I was completely sucking

it up). I swear one day I am going to have a mini-bowling lane in my house and it is going to be awesome. I think we just came back here and hung out for a while. Nothing too fancy.

Saturday I actually got some work done during the day, but it was really hard to concentrate because I was so excited about GWAR!!!! Turtle alerted me earlier last week to the fact they were coming and we ordered tickets online. I was so frickin' excited. I really wanted to see them when they were here last fall, but I think I was out of town or something, but not this year! We started the evening meeting up with some folks at Crenshaw. Bowled a couple games then played a couple games of pool before Turtle and I left for GWAR. I had SO frickin' much fun. It was the first heavy metal concert I have been to and it was definitely kick ass. GWAR was frickin' ridiculous. When people told me not to wear anything that I wanted to wear again I'm glad I listened to them. They had all sorts of ridiculous costumes and things squirting and spewing all over the audience. NUTS! Pretty much that solidified my weekend as AWESOME!!!! After GWAR we came back to my place and hung out. Met a couple of my neighbors and had some other friends come by. All-in-all a pretty kick ass night.

Sunday was mostly spent working on compilers. fun.

Yesterday I worked on AUP for a couple hours, then got back after my wakeboard meeting at 8:30 and worked in the office until 6:30. Came back and snagged about an hour of sleep then ended up getting back to the office at 9:30 and worked until 11:30. Went home, took a nap, went to a meeting at 4:30, then went for a bike ride and spent another couple hours in the office. Sound like fun yet? I prolly have about 30 more minutes to do before it's done which isn't too bad and that is ALL I am frickin' doing tonight.

Oh yeah, my weigh-in was at 167.5 which isn't too surprising. I'm HOPING that some of the gain is muscle because I frickin' kicked my ass with weightlifting on thursday and tried to consume as much protein as I could in the following days. I didn't do squat yesterday, but at least I biked today. I think I may try to swim tomorrow and hit the lifting hard on thursday. So far so good! I still feel like I'm getting more fit so that's more important that my weight anyhoo (though it's nice to have an objective measure).

Ok, time for House!!

* EDIT ** I noticed that my little quiz below doesn't show up on my profile, but does if I look at the separate comment page. I'll leave it, but anyone will have to click [1]here to actually see what it says.

```
 Fincher
- 2 heaping tablespoons of confidence
- 1/4 cup of charisma
- a teaspoon of friendliness
Mix together and serve hot.
      [2]'What is your personality recipe?' at [3]QuizGalaxy.com
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1. http://fincher69.livejournal.com/140030.html
2. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/quiz_192.html
3. http://www.quizgalaxy.com/

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tattermask (2007-10-03 15:13:47)
I think it's so funny that you went to GWAR! I'm glad you had fun, though!!! Your pics on Facebook are hilarious! a

fincher69 (2007-10-04 17:40:42)
have you ever been? It was definitely a trip. SO much fun.

supinternets (2007-10-03 20:52:43)
I totally wanted to see Gwar but was working. :(It sounded great tho from what everyone told me. I am glad you got to see them, it's a pretty unique experience!

fincher69 (2007-10-04 17:41:27)
I know they came last fall as well so maybe it's a fairly yearly thing and you'll get another chance. I DEFINITELY recommend it. :-)

9.10.2 Tuesday! (2007-10-09 19:06)

Well I'll just start off with the weigh-in. 169.5. Could be worse. My physical activity/eating habits could definitely have been better, but oh well. I still maintain there might be some muscle growth in there somewhere. I HAVE been drinking my chocolate milk ;-) I swam for first time in forever yesterday and I'm about to go for a run, swim tomorrow, and lift thursday so hopefully that'll all help.

This weekend was definitely a lot of fun, even though I continued my trend of lack of sleep. I have probably averaged around 3 hours a night since last sunday. Part from working, part from fun, part from just plain ol' insomnia. I DID get 6 hours last night so that was pretty good, though I have a feeling I'll be up kinda late tonight and I have that stupid 8 o'clock class tomorrow. Boo.

So anyhoo, my days have kinda run together because of the sleep thing, but thursday surf club was having a fundraiser/open mic night at the Warehouse and Chris and Joey were in town so I was pretty stoked to go by and see them. Got to see a lot of people there and had a ton of fun, left close to closing and went over to Dustin's. Ended up hanging out there until about 4:30.

I told Emma I would make sure she was up for something she had to do so I was up by about 7:30. I think I actually got some work done after that then we headed over to Bully's around 7ish. Hung out there for a while and had a lot of fun braving some rain. Turtle and I even got filmed to be on Hampton Inn's website! I was stoked! This small woman just walked up and was like "Do you like Hampton Inn?" to which I replied "I LOOOOOVE HAMPTON INN!!!" which is true. I love them. So I was super stoked. Should definitely be entertaining. Then I think we moseyed over to Whitney's house for a house party only to find that 5 minutes after we got there it got broken up. Funny story though. Apparently the cop told her that there had been a couple of undercover cops planted at the party and apparently a bunch of her friends were like "I totally know who it was! It was this blond guy with a red mustache!!" Apparently my cop mustache is even more authentic than I realized, haha. After that we headed over to Dustin's and hung out there for who knows how long until Hannon took us home.

I can't remember if I snagged a nap or not, but I met up with Turtle and Bopper and Corey and Alexis to

go tailgating for the game about midday. We hung out over there about until the game started then went back to Bopper's to enjoy the game. Had fun hanging out at her place. The plan after that was to hang out at Olivia and Jill's for their housewarming party for a few hours, then hit pockets for some mini-bowling with Joey and the crew, then likely Dustin's again. Yeah. Definitely fell asleep at Jill and Olivia's at about 7:30 then Joey called at 10-10:30 to let me know about lunch plans so I went home for about 45 mins then headed over to 1 Stir Fry. GOOD food. It was yummy. Got to see a lot of the crew that I missed the night before so that was fun. Said bye to everyone then came home and took a nap, which ended up being a bad idea. I was in the office much of sunday evening then got home and was totally awake. I made myself go to bed around 2, but had one of those nights that felt like I was just lying in bed awake til my alarm went off. Geesh!

Hopefully next week's weigh-in will be a little better. I'm sure trying! Spent a crapton on groceries today, but almost all of it is healthy so that is good. It's gonna be a busy busy week!!

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supinternets (2007-10-11 13:18:29)
SIX HOURS OF SLEEP?! I can't believe it. :D

9.10.3 Gangked from Amanda (2007-10-09 22:43)

[1]

 Animated Leader

1. http://personaldna.com/report.php?k=vlwReqsUTIIXRjX-OK-DAACD-3b29

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supinternets (2007-10-10 16:40:02)
That is soooo you! Corey got the same thing oddly enough.

fincher69 (2007-10-10 17:03:48)
one thing that is kinda weird though is the first time I took it my comp locked up before I could get it posted and I was an animated inventor. I guess all those little sliders weren't exactly in the same place the second time. :-)

9.10.4 stagnation (2007-10-16 01:56)

I feel extremely stagnant in life right now. CS just isn't pepping me up. I feel bogged down with tediousness and I have this constant feeling like I should be doing something. Not that "oh I have a project due in a week that I should be working on" kind of feeling, but that "I should be DOING something with my life" kind of feeling. It's quite annoying. Especially this past week I've just felt unsatisfied with the way things are going. I don't have in my head a direction that I need to be going or something that I think I should be doing, but all the same I just feel like I am stagnant. Like I'm just sitting here in life and not getting anything accomplished. Yes, I still like the idea of being a professor, but how is being a computer science professor going to work when I'm already feeling satiated by it? I just feel like I could be doing so much more. And I could be drawing from so many different facets. Being just completely immersed in computer science is just kinda driving me crazy. I'm going to have to enroll in at least one non-CS class in the spring or I think I'll go crazy. I miss all the psych I had at App. At least there I not only had a bunch of psych to vary things up, but I got to think about business stuff for Alana's classes too. I just need more. Wakeboard club has helped, but that is still a non-academic pursuit so it only goes so far. I need more. I need variety.

There's so much I would love to do, but I don't have time to do all of it and it sucks to have to try to guess which ones I'll enjoy the most. I don't know. I'll try to get variety where I can and maybe something will present itself that will drag me out of this rut.

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supinternets (2007-10-16 12:52:07)
I completely understand what you are saying here. I thought tho, you wanted to end up doing what your Dad does, or has that changed since we last talked? Truth is, you are accomplishing a lot more than most other people out there your age, but it just takes a lot of time to get there. Maybe it's time to really re evaluate what you want to do with your life, and then go from there. A lot of people get to feeling this way, cause they feel they aren't making an impact on the world, that's something you might want to consider too, it's a very human desire that I think we all have to some extent, and when we don't satisfy it, it can make us feel very unfulfilled.

fincher69 (2007-10-16 21:14:08)
the doctor thing is still highly intriguing, but it's pretty much the last step. Most of the other big choices are like "what am I going to do for the next three years? Hopefully I'll like my options at the end else I can do something else." The doctor thing isn't that way. It's pretty much a commitment if I choose to go for it. It'd be 8-9 years before I'd be done and there is no way I am going to go to med school and not end up practicing medicine so I need to be REALLY sure that is what I want to do before I jump into that endeavor. Right now I'm just having a hard time picturing in my head what I want to do and what I would be really motivated to excel in.

angelwings (2007-10-16 13:46:28)
You should look into going overseas. Either to finish school or just to work and live for a year. I think you need to get out of your little box and explore. You will find yourself again! Trust me, this is ALL spoken from experience. I still chat it up on aim/msn/yahoo (ok I really use pidgin lol so whatever your flavor)if you want some expat advice :)

fincher69 (2007-10-16 21:15:34)
The idea of living overseas for a year would definitely be awesome. Hell, even just living someplace completely different (i.e. not in the SE) would be awesome. My brain has just been all over the place about what I want to do. I'm sure I'll chat it up with you sometime :-) Thanks.

9.10.5 tuesday again (2007-10-16 17:17)

hm..... weighed in at 170.5 this morning. Thinking back I really wasn't bad last week. I was pretty good about exercising and I felt I ate pretty well. Didn't eat out at all I don't think. I've been lifting, but only once a week so I wouldn't think I'd be gaining much muscle. I have felt kinda chubbier recently. I have no clue what's up. I think I need to watch what I've been eating more. I got quesadilla stuff so I've prolly been eating way too much cheese. I just used my last tortillas so we will see if that helps this coming week.

This weekend was a lot of fun. Friday a bunch of folks were camping out near a small nearby lake so I went and hung out with them for most of the evening. Had a lot of fun playing around with pictures and long exposures and such.

Saturday I got up and headed back out to the campsite and we finished putting together the sliders. Pretty much just hung out most of the afternoon until Chris got out there with his winch. I believe Charlie hit it first, then when Dustin hit it the rope caught on the slider, knocked it over, and broke a pin and the chain on the winch. So needless to say it was an abbreviated day of winching. Went home and cleaned up and ate and went to hear Austin and friend play at Barnacle Bill's. After that we headed over to Finnegan's because Hannon had never had Guinness before. From there we headed to a random house party at a friend

of Hannon's. We got there and it was pretty chill. Pretty much a beer pong table going and a group outside chillin. Hung out there for a little bit then moseyed on home.

Sunday got up and went back out to the campsite. Met Chris out there and started doing a little winching (he fixed it the night prior) and gradually more and more people showed up. Had a blast hanging out for the afternoon and ended up taking over 300 pictures because I just did everything on rapid-fire mode. Got some work done at the office later.

All-in-all it was a pretty good weekend. Only weird thing was that I had a lot of downtime where I was just chillin at the campsite, yet the weekend seemed to fly by. Usually when I'm not very busy time seems a lot slower, but not this time. Now I'm up to my ears trying to get stuff done and not feeling like doing any of it (see prior post). Ah..... Well I'm going to make myself go to the office and work for a while. Hopefully this lethargic/stagnant phase will pass quickly.

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supinternets (2007-10-18 13:57:54)
How was Finnegans? I have never been.

fincher69 (2007-10-21 22:34:49)
It was awesome. Much more of a pub atmosphere than an "I'm an undergrad and here to get trashed" kind of place so it was really nice. I definitely plan on going back soon. :-)

9.10.6 wow, I'm a bloggin' fool! (2007-10-17 13:49)

Three days in a row. That's almost gotta be some kind of record for me haha. Coincidence that I have tons of work I should be doing? naw. ;-)

In light of the weight trend the past couple weeks I decided I'm going to get super fancy and try to keep a consumption and exercise journal as well. That might help pinpoint what's going on. I may just append it to my tuesday posts (prolly within a cut so it's easy to skip) or just start up another journal and keep it there. I was initially thinking of actually itemizing what I consume, but I may just try to break it down into calories and do a calories/week total. That'll work out well since it'll also help keep me from eating out because that just complicates things if you are trying to do a calorie count. I'm sure I'll consume some things that don't have nutritional info on the side, but with the wonders of google I'm sure I can come up with a decent estimate.

Other than procrastinating I don't think there was much else I really wanted to say. We'll see how this exercise/consumption thing goes and hopefully I can get my weightloss trend back on track!!

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lfincher (2007-10-18 03:26:01) food journal
ooooh snap!! i LOVE to count calories, and i think it would be great for you to do it for a little while! (note: beer has lots of calories) i love fitday.com, because it's free and there's not a ton of pop up crap like there is with a lot of other free sites. you can make it public too and it gives you a link, for free. i just tried the making it public part. look! http://fitday.com/WebFit/PublicJournals. html?Owner=lfincher dietfacts.com has a lot of info on restaurant and store bought food, and you can upload straight from there into your fitday account. i like fitday too because you can type in custom foods so if you have something with the nutrition facts label you can type it all in. you can also keep track of your exercise/activities, but i'm not sure the calories burned are always accurate. the calories in foods are very accurate though, as they align with nutritiondata.com, which is the government sponsored/official/scientific

website about food. everything you'd ever want to know, even the completeness and digestibility of the proteins you eat! as you can see, this gets me going. i have more sites and calorie counting advice.... we'll talk. :-)

fincher69 (2007-10-18 05:56:51) Re: food journal
haha something tells me you've done this before? ;-) I'll definitely check it out. I definitely need to lose some weight and my exercise routine isn't cutting it apparently. Though I'll admit is isn't near as strenuous as it could be so maybe I'll start ramping it up.

lfincher (2007-10-18 11:37:35) Re: food journal
i can give you more swim workouts too!! :-D and running workouts!

supinternets (2007-10-18 13:56:08) Re: food journal
I love fitday! I use that all the time!

9.10.7 wow (2007-10-23 11:55)

It's been a heckuva few days! Had a great weekend. Turtle and I left thursday afternoon to head to Bristol. Got there around 1-1:30 and neither of us were tired so we just hung out, had some beer, and played pool and pingpong. Eventually moseyed upstairs and started watching TV and around 5:30 my mom had woken up and came down to start her day and there we were! hahaha. So that sorts spurred us to probably think about hitting the sack.

Got up friday and just had a relaxing day. Went for an extended beer run involving three different stores so as to cover all the specific varieties we wanted. Dad got home from work and we went out to the lake for some wakeboarding. ALWAYS a good time. Got home, had some pizza, and as far as I remembered just had another chill evening.

Saturday woke up early for a 5k. Weather was awesome, around 50 I think. Course had some rolling hills but wasn't too bad. Turtle, Mom and I all set PRs which was pretty badass. I've only been running once a week, but I've been doing lots of other stuff too so I guess it's been helping. :-) After running we hit up the lake again. Last run of the season in Bristol! I hit my 5 which is always cool. Still getting close to my grab to blind, but can't quite get it. Did land a big blind 180 with no grab so that's better than nothing. Took it easy saturday. Watched the FSU-Miami game. I am pretty sure they set a record for turnovers (like 9) and they had to have been close with flags as well. Of course FSU lost, but with the number of flags and turnovers I would attribute the win, regardless of who had won, to mostly just luck. It was kinda ridiculous. Anyhoo, had a relaxing evening (Turtle and I definitely had been needing some of those) and crashed early so we could get on the road the next day.

Got up around 8 and got on the road back to tally. Once we got here I pretty much showered, ate a little something, then headed over to the office. If I remember correctly I got there around 7. I was there til 4:30, took a break to grab some grub and play a little guitar and was back at 5:30. I was in the CS building until about 3 when I took a lunch break for 30 mins then was there til about 5:30. So needless to say I logged my share of hours in the CS building the past couple days. I think I had been awake for about 41 hours when I crashed last night. Definitely slept well though!

Woke up and was at 168.0 which is kind of amazing. There is always lots of snacking food in Bristol and being on the road 19 hours in a weekend isn't the best for eating habits either. Though i guess two wakeboarding sets and a 5k helped out a little. Just glad to see the trend going back down. Let's see if I can keep that going! I started the FitDay journal my sister told me about in my last post, but my eating

and drinking was all over the place over the weeekend so I think I'm going to start it up today and see how it goes. Kinda slept through my morning workout today, but maybe I'll go for a run later to make it up. Trying to do at least something physical Mon-Fri. Biked yesterday after I finally got out of the CS building, so to keep the variety up I'll prolly run today, swim tomorrow, lift and skate thurs, then who knows friday.

Well, I should get ready and head to school to work on another project and study for this midterm tomorrow!

9.10.8 ugh (2007-10-29 20:36)

I usually only post on tuesdays, but I have a lot on my mind and just kinda needed to braindump. I'll probably still leave my weekend recap to join in my weigh-in post though.

I have been trying to come up with a better word because I used it a couple weeks ago, but I can't find anything that fits more than stagnant. I feel stuck. I feel like I'm ready to take off running, but have no idea in what direction to go. The more I think about it the more dissatisfied I feel with where I'm at and what I'm doing. I definitely don't necessarily feel like I'm doing the wrong thing, but I definitely feel like something is missing. Or that it possibly COULD be the wrong thing. I just don't frickin' know. I just know it is a sucky place to be.

I've been so mentally discombobulated these past several weeks. I've let myself grow apart from close friends. I've just felt stuck and immersed in a lethargy induced by a lack of direction. I don't care about classes. I know in my head that my schoolwork is important, so it isn't as if I would ever just not care to the point of failing or making really bad grades. But it is so much work for me to care enough just to get the work done. When I think about it I really just don't give a shit. And it sucks. I have always been a classroom learner. That's why I could get away without doing much outside of class. But right now I'm lucky if I can stay conscious in my classes, much less pay attention enough to absorb the material. Maybe it's the subject matter. Maybe it's just this funk I'm in. Who knows. I'm overloading and taking physics and biology in the spring and maybe that will help. Maybe actually being enrolled in something other than computer science will freshen things up for me. God I frickin' hope so.

I feel like something needs to change. I don't know what, but I know I feel almost trapped. I feel stuck. I feel like I really want to go somewhere but nowhere sounds appealing. Little changes aren't doing it. I shaved. I dyed my hair. Whoo-dee-frickin-do. I still feel stuck. I'm an ant in the molasses of life. I just frickin' have no clue.

I've been thinking a lot about medical school lately too. The more I think about it the more appealing it sounds and the less appealing what I'm currently doing seems. But what if that's not the answer? I don't know if I'm at a point where I can adequately differentiate between what I feel is a path that is right for me and a path that is appealing solely because it isn't the path that I'm on now. The grass is always greener. And it isn't a path I can just try out and change if I don't like it. If I do all the ass busting that it will take to get me into medical school, that's it. That's where I'm going and that is the path I'm on. I'm running out of time to dilly dally in different avenues trying to find which one suits me best. I have been fine floating through school, just doing what is appealing without too much forethought, but it's finally catching up to me. I need a goal. I need somewhere that I want to be. I need to head towards that light at the end of the tunnel instead of feeling like I'm surrounded by an orb of darkness. I need.

Maybe I can shadow some doctors over christmas. Maybe I can talk to Nathan and/or the pre-med adviser here. I need to do something. Feeling like it is taking every ounce of my will just to make myself work

on what I should be doing is unacceptable. I can't go through 2 more years of feeling like this. I need to start figuring something out and I need to start figuring it out now. This mellow funk I'm in has got to move on. I have better things to do.

Hopefully things will start falling into place. Congrats if anyone actually made it through that entire brain dump. I definitely needed it. Now to muster some motivation to go to the office and work on one of these stupid projects.

(2007-10-30 09:24:14)
I hate that for you!! you have so many talents and so much to offer in this world, I'm sorry you are having trouble finding your place. Maybe things will look up after this term. Maybe we can help sort things out at Thanksgiving. Good idea to talk to pre med advisor. Hang in there, bud. You'll figure it out - we are here for you. You are loved very much!

lfincher (2007-10-31 02:56:49) MY brain dump!
Hey dude, Im sorry I dont read your blog much or comment much, but I really can feel your dissatisfaction and antsy-ness in your words. I would love to talk to you about it sometime, but Ill try for now to give you a brain dump of my own and see what happens. I understand how it feels to be stuck in a rut, and I KNOW it sucks. I know it especially sucks for smart people like us because our wheels are always turning! (-: I can totally relate to that feeling, and I think for you, you kinda end up feeling blah, because you are type B, and for me, I feel anxious because Im type A. This is when I make a to-do list that calms me down and gives me some direction, at least for the rest of the day. Even if its not long term. I TOTALLY need goals to work towards, at nearly all times, so that I feel motivated and empowered. I think as we get older, it is very strange to understand what that means in the workplace as opposed to school. With school there is always a test, always a break coming up, always a degree in [potential] site. But in life and work, sometimes the ending points are vague - you cant predict when youll get the job you want to settle into, or predict when youll get married or have kids. Maybe you want these things, but they arent the same kind of solid goal you have, like you do when youre trying to just do school. As for medical school, I want you to do what you love and what makes you happy, and, I feel like I can say this from first hand experience, I just dont think you will like practicing medicine. Please correct me if Im wrong, but, I see you tackling medical school because its kind of, the epitome of school. Its long and its HARD. Not everyone can do it. I have no doubt in my mind that you could complete it, and do well. But, I dont think youd appreciate the end result of being a doctor that deals with patients. Dealing with new people in short spurts every day is exhausting! I realize I speak as an introvert, but thats why I love dealing with children. They are such a wonderful buffer to all the crap and all the fronts people try to put up with you, that dealing with them takes a lot of the formality and business-like qualities out of patient interactions. Anyways, I guess Im just saying I dont see you as a medical doctor treating people, but I realize why an environment that is so intellectually stimulating would be appealing to you.

lfincher (2007-10-31 02:57:08) it cut me off i was too rambly
I dont know what best advice to give you in terms of schooling. Like I said, I know that you could do anything and everything, and that is a lot of why you are having this struggle, because you have interest in a lot of different things. But I think you should try pursuing these intellectual interests in a setting other than a new career path. Being away from Furman and in a focused grad school program, I have REALLY missed my liberal arts classes (I dont miss papers though!!) I miss learning about religions of the world and going straight to my microbiology lab. I miss memorizing notecards about bones in the body, and then reading about how the Gospels of Mark and Matthew are different. I think you should try to find some ways to flex your brain in ways other than the scientific, and youll begin to stir up those parts of you that are hiding or stagnant. And it will make you feel even smarter, more dimensional. For me, this is the small group Bible study I go to, and its also my painting, my drawing, my cooking. You said you need, you need, you need. I need my God, and I need to create. These things make me who I am, give me a sense of self, and help me to feel productive, fluid, an example of assimilation. Some ideas I had for pursuing your intellectual interests

are: finding some sort of book club, or maybe getting involved in some teaching again. I know you enjoy working with students & maybe you could get in on some freshman seminar class that had to do with AI or psychology or anything that you know a little about. I think putting yourself in CHARGE of something else would be another way to gain some direction. Maybe you could talk to some heads of different departments and TA for something totally different from computer science but still interesting to you. Oceanography? You are, in fact, in Florida. (-: I think youd really enjoy being part of something that was organized and discussion-based, so maybe you can go from there and think of some other things. Or take a cooking class! An art class! There are so many cool, productive things you can do that will encourage you without having to change career paths or jump into a whole new long term commitment; I really think youd benefit from working hard to plug yourself into something somewhere. Talk about a brain dump!! Ive been thinking about this for a long time I just never have a good chance to sit down and talk when we are home. I love you and I want you to be happy, so I hope that you can find some things to help you feel more motivated about where youre going and less stuck. Let me know if you want more ideas and we can definitely talk about this whenever you want! Hang in there!

fincher69 (2007-10-31 03:28:44) Re: it cut me off i was too rambly
that was definitely a brain dump as well. ;-) I don't know if I quite agree about the practicing medicine thing. I do rant about people a lot in a general sense, but I have enjoyed about every venue where I have interacted with new people. I know it'd be a challenge, but the more I've thought about it, the more many aspects of medicine sound appealing to me and like something I would enjoy. I'm going to try to set up some shadowing like you and Nathan did over christmas and hopefully that will give me a little more hands on glimpse into the "real" life a doctor and help me figure things out. I most certainly agree that creative venues are extremely helpful. My guitar has been one of the main reasons I haven't gone more nuts down here. ;-) And exploring other venues like you said would be awesome, but that again leads me back to a problem I'm having here. I'll be having my tuesday post later tonight with a rant about it, but basically with my fellowship I am extremely limited as to what I can do outside of CS. I am having to fight just to take a couple non-CS classes next semester, I can't have any type of job, and I can't enroll in any classes at another school. So not only do I feel a need to challenge myself more intellectually, but this environment feels very restricted. (again, I'll probably have more in my post later tonight). Your ideas are awesome, my environment just isn't being helpful in letting me implement them. I have some other things, but I think I'll postpone them briefly. I love you sis and thanks for your input. I'm always up for hearing alternatives and possibilities. With where I'm at right now I have a feeling there will be a lot more brain dumps in the future and input is always welcome. :-)

9.10.9 lots of junk (2007-10-31 00:05)

Aiight, I have a feeling this is going to be another hella post. Brace yourself.

So this weekend I had a lot of fun. Thursday I don't remember exactly what I got into but ended up hanging out in my apartment and deciding to go ahead and dye my hair for my Frank Zappa costume. Definitely turned out AWESOME! haha.

Friday went in semi-costume to Hannon and Ann's halloween party. Had a blast there then came back to my place to hang out. Saw my neighbor Derek and a couple of his friends hung out with us for a while. Most of the group ended up playing karaoke revolution while I talked to a bum outside for like a couple hours, haha.

Saturday was Pete's party. Friggin' awesome. Tons of great costumes and definitely a lot of fun. I was DD and was kinda in a mellow mood, but I still had a pretty good time. Missed out on talking to some folks, but all-in-all it was a pretty kickin' night. Even got to hang out with my favorite BenGAL. ;-) I think we left Pete's around 3:30 then Turtle, Alicia and I hung out at my place until I think pretty close to 8.

That's just how we roll in Tally, haha.

I can't remember specifically much that I did on sunday, but I reckon it was pretty chill. haha. First week in a while where I didn't have anything due on monday so it was nice to just kind of relax.

Monday was pretty much the same old same old.

Today I started out with my weigh-in at 166.5, which I was pretty stoked about. Any downward trend is always a good thing! Unfortunately that was soon offset by some not so pleasant things. I can't remember if I mentioned it previously, but I am planning on overloading in the spring and taking a physics and biology class. I am just kind of sick of computer science right now and if I don't add some variety into my curriculum I think I am going to go insane. I talked to Dr. Whalley and we looked at the GAANN handbook and everything looked fine and we talked about it and he said I can do it. I then talked to my advisor and it was ok with him. I then talked to the Dean and she said she just needed a note or email from Whalley to make sure that I had actually talked to him. So the next thing I get is an email saying Whalley had talked to Dr. Hawkes and the Dean and they were both taken aback by the number of hours I wanted to take and said it was basically unheard of (taking 21 hours) and Dr. Hawkes said it wasn't "with the spirit of the GAANN" since they weren't CS classes and I should be working on my Ph.D full time.

What part of 12 goddamned CS hours did she miss? Everyone else has 12 hours and they are full-time. Just because I have other classes too that makes my 12 count less than others?! I AM STILL FULL-TIME DUMBFUCK! I am just choosing to take courses that make me above and beyond full-time. How is this different than telling me I can't be involved in any extracurricular activities? Oh, yeah. IT ISN'T YOU STUPID PIECE OF CRAP! I am paying for them. I am still full time. Mind your own goddamned business and let me take whatever the hell I want. Do I have to quit wakeboard club too? If someone has a kid, are they not allowed to go to the kid's school play because they should be working on their Ph.D.? Hell no. I am 27 damn years old and I know how many classes I can handle and what kind of courseload I am capable of. Just because YOU couldn't handle more than the minimum hours when you were a grad student doesn't mean that I can't handle it you pompous prick. Dammit. I would have been pissed enough if they tried to say no right off, but to dick me around and have people say yes only to jerk it out from under me really pissed the shit out of me. Just the fact I have to get anyone's permission pisses me off. If I were a freshman or sophomore I understand. I've been in post high school education for 9 years! What the hell do you know!? DAMN YOU!! The irony is that in trying to keep me in the "spirit of the GAANN" (to quickly finish my Ph.D.) they really just pushed me to say "fuck you. I'm going to ETSU and taking classes until I can start Med school." I SO wanted to just punch someone in the face earlier.

Now that I got the main rant out of my system... basically I think they are completely screwing me over. Let me take whatever I please. I will still have the same number of CS hours as anyone else and in actuality I think it will be a benefit because I won't feel so stagnated in my computer science because I will have a little bit of variety. I responded to Dr. Whalley's email with a very terse and obviously less-than-happy reply and he said I should meet with Dr. Hawkes so I emailed her and we'll see where that goes. He also mentioned suggesting I take only one course as a compromise, but I still think it is bullshit that I have to kiss their ass just to take a class that I am paying for. While this fellowship deal is pretty sweet, the restrictiveness is wearing thin quickly. And I've been thinking a lot about med school lately so the ball has already been rolling, but this definitely gave it a big ol' shove. It really just made me start evaluating even moreso where I am and what I'm doing. The bad thing is that the more I evaluate it, then more appealing med school sounds and the less satisfied I feel with getting a Ph.D. in computer science. I could go into great detail about all the arguments in my head, but I'll let them go for now.

I think this will definitely be good for me in the long run because it has really sparked me to seriously consider the med school route. I've got a list of people I would like to talk to seriously about it and I'm going to see what I can do about shadowing some doctors over christmas to really give me a good idea about what they do and help me decide. I mean, in talking to people I don't know how many have said they thought I would be an amazing doctor. But maybe I'll get into all this and really research it and find it isn't for me. At least I will have ruled it out. It may not fix how I feel about computer science right now, but it will at least keep med school from looming over my head as a possibility so either way I think this sparked something positive, regardless of how it eventually turns out.

Obviously this pissed me off, but I'm not going to make any rash decisions. I am definitely looking through my options, but regardless of how things turn out this has definitely put a distaste in my mouth for my situation here. I talked through a lot of things with mom and on top of the stagnation with Computer Science in general, I just started running through some other things in my negative column. Probably contributing to the stagnation feeling is the reason I am in computer science in the first place. I was a chemistry major and, being the shoddy student that I was while an undergrad, my grades weren't great so I thought "hey, CS is easy. I'll just do that." Not that it is a bad thing to do something you find easy, and it isn't as if I didn't enjoy it, but I really didn't have the same amount of interest in it that I did in physics or chemistry. It was just easier. Something kinda strikes me off about having that be the premise of my entire career. And I'm not a big fan of Tallahasse. I'm not a big fan of Florida in general. Basically the only reason I came to Florida State is because I didn't get in Colorado. That said I LOVE the people I've met here. I've met a lot of awesome people and I definitely feel they contribute more to the feel of a place than the place itself, but it still doesn't completely mask the fact that I really don't like tallahassee very much. I miss boone. I miss bristol. I miss all the things that come along with those places. None of these things help.

And with all this going on in my head, it is no wonder that I'm having an extremely hard time caring about classes. I just don't give a rat's ass. Again, not sure if it is just tired of doing the same thing, or specifically tired of computer science. I've found that in the past I'm not the best at figuring out something isn't right for me very quickly. My optimism gets me in trouble that way sometimes. Maybe this is just a blip that will pass or be helped by getting involved with some stuff outside of CS. Maybe this is the jumpstart I needed to really find a path that is right for me. I guess time will tell. We'll see how the meeting with Hawkes goes and how discussions with Nathan and my dad and possibly the pre-med advisor here go and I guess I'll take it from there. Not really much else I can do right now. And how much does it suck that I start going through all this not long after I start liking someone that is actually close to my age? Seriously!? I swear, one of these days maybe everything will just fall in place and just work. Unfortunately that time seems well beyond the horizon for me at present time.

Random blurb, not long after getting the shitty email from Whalley I went with Bopper to go give blood and I was stoked that even after ranting like the whole way over there, by the time I got in the office my pulse was 64 and my blood pressure was 120/80. Not too shabby! It's amazing what that working out will do for ya. ;-)

Now to try to sleep again. I haven't felt fatigued, so I don't really feel like doing anything to change it right now, but I've been sleeping like crap recently. My guess would be too much on my frickin' mind (surprise surprise). One of these days maybe my brain will settle down a bit.

(2007-10-31 15:35:25) ghoshgowehgoiwethgioe

For such a long post you did good...or did I just not read it good enough? Lord knows i'm not reading it for a second

time. BTW..is your face as red as that little creature? :-D

fincher69 (2007-10-31 16:05:40) Re: ghoshgowehgoiwethgioe
haha it probably was while I was ranting

(2007-11-03 11:06:18)
I forgot to ask when I read it, but does DD mean what I think?? you crazy boy!

tattermask (2007-11-05 16:15:58)
WOW. I know you're pissed if you're dropping f-bombs in your Lj! I think people with random brains like ours shouldn't work with computers–they're way too predictable. Working with human bodies would be a lot more interesting... actually having to use intuition... having to deal with a being more complex than a box of silicon and wires that you can fix 80 % of problems by restarting the thing... (I guess you can't ctrl+alt+del a human being–or at least not effectively.) I still think once you got to professordom, you would like it better than any other CS-related job, but even so, if CS doesn't ignite a passion in you, it wouldn't motivate you to teach much. I still think wakeboarding instructor would be the perfect job for you. Prolly wouldn't pay much, but you'd get a ton of exercise and be able to do something you love. Doctor could still work, too, but that just opens a whole 'nother floodgate of decisions to make (internal medicine - private practice, hospital, or large practice; specialist - same choices of venue, but bazillions of avenues...) Ever thought about biochemical engineering? I bet those mofos make a ton of $ $ $... Wow... I must feel the need to blog cuz I just wrote you a massive missive here... a

fincher69 (2007-11-05 16:22:20)
haha yes, I was definitely, shall we say, a bit miffed when I wrote that. I'm actually getting involved with some bio stuff hopefully so we'll see if that pans out, but for the time being I think it'd be smart of me to get things together as if I am going to go to med school after my phd. Always good to keep my options open (seems to be something I'm good at as I constantly feel like I have way too many options, haha)

9.11 November

9.11.1 followup (2007-11-01 00:12)

So I talked to Dr. Hawkes today and things are at least a little smoothed over. I'm still looking heavily at med school, but I don't want to kill anyone at FSU anymore, haha. Basically found out that the grad school never approves that many hours for a grad student. There isn't a 21 hours cap like I thought. It just says 15 hours without permission and any more needs permission from the Dean. So it was just the school rules that were being applied. Still kinda sucks that I'm suffering because people before me thought they could handle more than they actually could so now the school has to cover their ass, but it's not really their fault people are stupid, haha. She said I shouldn't have a problem just taking one of the courses I wanted to take so I'll likely take the bio class. And since there is a computational biology undergrad program starting up, she said I should look into getting a minor in biology (as I could argue that and CS are becoming more tied), which would not only look good on my transcript, but could mean that bio courses I take to that could count for my required 12 hours which would be awesome. So I'm still looking into that, but at least I feel a little better about the whole deal. Still doesn't really help my CS satiation or motivation, but I'm definitely looking forward to the spring more than I was before :-) AND if I got a minor in biology that could provide a smoother transition into med school if I still choose that route. Anyhoo, things are a little better which is nice, but I'll still sure be glad when this semester is over. It's been crazy!!

supinternets (2007-11-01 13:44:25)
I am glad it's somewhat coming together for you. Best of luck, and I hope you feel better!

9.11.2 random stuff from an old profile (2007-11-01 11:04)

Anyone remember campus hook? I was looking through my stuff and realized I still have a link to my old campus hook profile on my webpage. I started looking through it and had some kinda funny things so I thought I would post them on here since they might give someone else a laugh too. I'll separate them under lj-cuts since some are pretty long (sorry if you read these through facebook). Here we go!!

OK. So I am sitting here pretty much bored as a deaf-blind quadraplegic and I can't think of anything to do. I don't really have any friends down here in Auburn yet because classes haven't started and I haven't been spending a lot of time down here. I would play guitar, but I have been playing so much in the past week that my fingers start aching after only like 13 seconds of playing. I could play keyboard, but I don't really feel like doing that and my thumb is going to have arthitis if I keep playing playstation 2. So I guess that just leaves me to type on here. This is sorta how I was that one time I left a friend 268 IMs while she was away. I was just sitting around my house bored and started typing, not really planning on typing for 50 minutes straight. But I just kept on going then she informed me that I had left her 268 IMs. Too bad it isn't easy to count them while you are typing them. I mighta done that and gone for like 300 or something. That woulda been cool. Speaking of cool, last time I was down here it was sunday night (technically sunday morning) and I had forgotten to take the trash out (it goes out on mondays) so it was about 4am and I am rolling my trashcan to the street and what do I see? A three legged dog playing ping pong with an albino hermaphrodite crocodile? NO! My neighbor was taking their trash out too!! How cool is that? I will definitely have to go introduce myself once I am settled down here. Which is only like two weeks away. Jumpin' jahucafix!! That isn't long at all. I have pretty much been on summer break since the beginning of march (weird Furman schedule stuff) and it STILL seems like this summer has just flown by. I can't believe it's almost over already. That stinks. But it WILL be kinda cool to meet some folks and start getting into this graduate student stuff, specifically the TA. All my friends get a big kick out of the fact that I am going to be a physics TA next year. Hopefully my fellow physics students won't be as lame as the stereotypical physics grad student. Even if they are I plan to work this TA angle and hopefully I can meet some pretty cool undergrads. Hell, I'm still an undergrad at heart. I didn't really come out of my shell until later sophomore year so I figure I still got almost a whole 'nother year of undergradness. technically. or something. Man, I haven't seen an episode of Spongebob in a long time. I am the worst when it comes to remembering when TV shows are coming on. I am ACTUALLY very good at remembering approximately 35 mins (65 mins for hour shows) after the show was supposed to come on. So I remember just in time to know that I barely missed seeing at least part of it. Sometimes I think my brain hates me. I could go for a big ol' bowl of POPS right now. Last couple of times I have been down here I have had major Captain Crunch cravings, but now it has moved on to POPS for the time being. Speaking of, I have dirty dishes sitting in my sink. I should put those in tonight because I am leaving tomorrow. What a novel idea!! Man, I have been typing for a little bit. I must be really bored. Oh yeah, that's right. I am. I am just sitting here typing away, listening to some Tim Reynolds (He's my musical idol). Doesn't everyone envy the exciting life I lead? I actually do have some excitement in my life, it just usually comes in spurts. Like this summer, I have basically been nomadic and haven't really stayed anywhere for more than like 4 days since the end of february. I went to nova scotia, san francisco, road trip to new england, key west, all sorts of places. It's been a fun summer, but I still have gaps like this where I am just insanely bored. It didn't really help that last weekend wasn't the most exciting. Hopefully the people that said they were going to come up to the lake will actually do so this time. I will never understand people not wanting to go to the lake. The lake

is the most wonderful and relaxing place in the whole wide world, in my opinion. I could live out there no problem. I just need to win the lottery, or make millions on an invention or patent so I can just do whatever the hell I want. Gee, I've never heard anyone want THAT before. Aren't I original? hahaHAHA. We have a cool little floating house at the lake, which I could definitely live in, but if I wanted it to be perfect I would build a real house like 30 yards from the lake. That would be awesome. Then I can just set up a studio, make music in my house, sell CDs, and just chill at the lake 24/7. Man, that would be the life. Not likely to happen but hell, you never know!! I would say it is more likely that I will become a professor at some university, and hopefully still set up a studio and make music. Then I could just have the professor salary to live off, but if I broke out and made it big in music I could just shift my career to that area. That would kick ass. My back is getting sore. I think I have poor posture a lot of the time when I am sitting at the computer and it is especially noticable when I am sitting here typing constantly like I have been for like the last 30 minutes or however long it has taken me to ramble thus far. I would been the man to call for a fillibuster (sp?) back in the day. If you don't know, that's when politicians would get up and speak indefinitely to keep a certain subject from being voted on. Something about politicians being too lazy to work overtime so if they reached the time limit and hadn't voted yet then it wouldn't get voted on. Some people even just read stuff like the telephone book. anything to burn some time. I don't think I would need a book. I think I could just hop up on the podium and wing it. They would have to pay me pretty well though because even though I can ramble on with the best of them, I am kinda ADD sometimes and get bored pretty easily. If it were nowadays I could just get a gameboy and talk while I was playing and that would help keep me entertained. I wish writing papers were this easy. There needs to be an english class called Rambling 101. Only requirements for a paper are that it is done it one sitting and is unedited (except maybe for spelling and accidental typos). Grades could be based on length, coherence (or lack thereof) and..... uh..... some other categories. How the hell should I know? I was a computer science major. I was so stoked when I finished my last english and history classes. not my cup of tea at all. I need to get in touch with Auburns radio station after classes get started up. I had a radio show ever since sophomore year at Furman (until the last year when NO ONE had a radio show because we were off the air) and my first senior year I was the music director. If I have time I would love to have a show down here at auburn. I bet it's almost like a real radio station here!! :-O At the very least I might be involved with Red Bull as a sort of music scout so the radio would seem to be a good place to get the low down on the music scene at auburn. I think I have mentioned it, but I used to work for Red Bull. The best job EVER!! How many times do you get to work and promote a product you have been obsessed with for years? Very cool. and I had the coolest boss and coolest coworkers. I was sorry I had to leave. It was a lot of fun for sure. Man, I hope I haven't made many mistakes. I really don't feel like proofreading all this. I am bored enough to type it all, yes, but I don't think I have reached the point where I am so bored that I will want to read through it as soon as I am done. I am sure that I will get bored again sometime and THEN I can proofread it, OR if someone is so insanely bored that they are actually reading this you can just tell me what mistakes I have made and I will go back and fix them. Thanks in advance!! Man, after this rambling session I am sure that I HAVE to be in the running for longest Hook profile. I gotta be. I haven't seen any to rival mine, but I have also not looked through anywhere near all of them. That would ba a helluva lot of profiles to look through. I wonder if there is some kind of limit on how long these categories can be? I have seen some pretty long ones so I am guessing if there IS a limit it is pretty gall-dang large. I found the coolest CD-Rs at walmart the other day. They basically look like little records and they even are slightly textured on the top like the grooves of a record. they are hella cool. Man I can't wait for American Wedding to come out. I rewatched American Pie 1 and 2 in the past couple days and I had forgotten how hilarious I thought they were. And although many people disagree I think Allyson Hannigan (the band geek girl) is the hottest girl no contest. I think her character makes her even hotter in my eyes because she kinda has the geeky exterior, but she is really cool as hell once you get to know her. She's the kind of girl that is pretty dadjum beautiful, but her personality makes her even hotter. And not just her character. Everytime I have seen her out of character she is cool as hell too. She was on The Daily Show tonight, that's what made me think of her. Man, it's like 2:20 here and I should probably think about heading towards bed in not too long, but I could really go

for a Red Bull right now. I haven't had one in a long time. I guess it's kind of a good thing I don't have any in the house. Not that Red Bull would really keep me up, but it probably isn't good to drink right before you are heading to sleep, huh? I think my mom got some at the grocery store a couple days ago so I will just have to down one when I get home tomorrow. I'm kinda worried about my car. I have a subaru WRX and it has been making this funky clanking noise right when you start rolling and it doesn't sound TOO serious, but it doesn't sound good either. And our local dealership apparently has an "only unfriendly special people" hiring policy for their service department so they haven't exactly been a lot of help thus far. I think we are just going to take it to the next closest dealership and give them a shot. If anyone has read all this I applaud you. for lack of anything better to do. It's certainly impressive that you have made it through this much of my mindless rambling, but it also says that your life rivals, maybe even exceeds, the intensity of the moments of boredom of my life. That's pretty impressive I must say. I don't know if I will have another rambling session sometime. I just may if all of a sudden I find a profile that is noticably longer than mine. What better way to catch up and claim the title than to just log in and start rambling? It's a good thing I am not one of the college humor update writers. I think someone would have mail bombed me long ago. Not only would I likely have insanely long updates about nothing, but they probably wouldn't be that funny. I don't think my ramblings thus far have been exceptionally comical. Hell, they probably aren't even marginally comical. But I wasn't really going into it with comedy in mind. I was going into it was basically nothing in mind. Just starting fresh and letting it flow. flow baby flow!! Ok, my flow isn't really running out, but my I am kinda getting bored with this typing. Y'all are lucky I don't have one of those cool doohickeys where I could just talk into a microphone and it would type it out automatically for me. that would be hella cool. but I don't have one of those so I think I am just going to wrap up my first (and I am sure you are all hoping LAST) rambling session to provide the clencher for my Hook Profile Length award. Which would be even cooler if it existed. If you read all of this you're a trooper, but don't expect me to pay for the contacts you will have to get from your deteriorating eyesight caused by excessive time spent at the computer. I deny all responsibility. Just like I do in every other facet of my life. So maybe I lied. I am gonna just keep going. I have been playing a lot of Dynasty Warriors 4 for playstation 2. For those unfamiliar it's a war/samurai kind of game. A single battle can easily last 45-60 minutes and you have to do a lot of button pressing constantly to keep killing folks. This game is going to be responsible for me thumb arthritis. I guess I am co-responsible since no one was forcing me to play the game. I am really bad about getting a video game, playing the holy bejesus out of it, then burning out and hardly playing it again. I have done it with numerous games on playstation too and not too long ago I did it on the computer with the SIMS. It is a really cool game and it was fun, but I played it like every night for a week, did decently well, then got tired of it and I haven't played it since. It's kinda sad. I was really bad when grand theft auto Vice City came out. I was out of town for three days the week I got it and in that first week (i.e. 4 days) I logged well over 27 hours of gameplay. That's a helluva lot of gaming. That's almost like a full time job, except it's a lot more fun and you don't get paid. It's a kickass game though. But again I played it for a few weeks, then hardly touched it again. until tonight. It's been long enough, and it went so quickly the first time, that everything is vaguely familiar, but feels new enough so it is still fun to start from the beginning. I don't know how busy I will be with school in the fall, but it's probably good that I have already beaten the game so if I need to stop playing to focus on studies (anyone who knows me is probably cracking up about now) it won't be a big deal. I don't forsee myself being too immersed in schoolwork though. I sure as hell haven't been up until now. But I do have to keep a B average which is higher than I needed to keep to graduate furman, but I DID graduate with like a 3.1 or something so I should be set. I wanna learn Tai Chi. I got this cool little book about it but I keep leaving the frickin' thing up in bristol when I need it down in auburn. Hell, with all the free time I have had down here I could be halfway to be a tai chi master by now! Or at least know a little bit. Jeepers. Hopefully this time I will remember to bring it down here with me. If I don't I will just have to have my parents send it to me because after this trip home I won't be back up there til labor day weekend which is a good ways away. I think there are classes I could take at auburn, but I have no idea what my schedule will be like so I can't really enroll since I don't know if I will have any confilcts. Ok, for real yo. (don't you love when crackers like me type stuff like that?) This

is seriously the end of my rambling session. I am tired of typing and I should go to bed. And remember, mediocrity: It takes a lot less time and most people won't notice the diffence until it's too late. (I read that off a poster on my wall)

Two hookers were riding around town with a sign on top of their car that said, "TWO PROSTITUTES – $50.00." A policeman, seeing the sign, stopped them and told them they'd either have to remove the sign or go to jail. Just at that moment, another car passed with a sign saying, "JESUS SAVES." The hookers asked the cop why he let the other car go and he said, "Well, that's a little different, it pertains to religion." So the two ladies took their sign down and drove off. The following day the same cop in the area noticed the two ladies driving aound with a large sign on their car again. Figuring he had an easy bust, he began to catch up with them when he noticed the new sign which read, "TWO ANGELS SEEKING PETER – $50.00."

A husband and wife were golfing when suddenly the woman asked, "Honey, if I died would you get married again?" The man said, "No dear." The woman said, "I'm sure you would." So the man said, "Okay, I would" Then the woman asked, "Would you let her sleep in our bed?" And the man replied, "Ya, I guess so." Then the woman asked, "Would you let her use my golf clubs?" And the man replied, "No, she's left handed."

What do you call a psychic midget who just escaped from jail? A small medium at large!

A little boy was lost at a large shopping mall. He approached a uniformed policeman and said, "I've lost my dad!" The cop asked, "What's he like?" The little boy replied, "Beer and women with big tits."

A young man was pulled over by the Mississippi State Police for speeding. The officer stepped out of his patrol car, adjusted his sunglasses, and swaggered up to the young man's window. "What chew driving so fast for boy? You going to a fahhr? Let me see your license, boy." The young man handed over his license. Then the officer noticed that the back seat of the car was full of large knives. The officer said, "Tell me boy, why you got them knives on that there back seat?" The young man replied, "Well sir, I'm a juggler." The officer spat some tobacco juice and then he said, "A juggler; well you don't say. Boy, put cha hands on the trunk of yer car; you going to jail!" The young man pleaded with the officer not to take him to jail. He offered to prove to the officer that he was a juggler by way of demonstration. He said, "You can even hold me at gunpoint while I juggle for you." The officer reluctantly allowed him to prove his point while he held him at gunpoint. Two miles down the road at Joe's Tavern, Billy Bub was drinking it up with Jerry Lee Jones. Billy Bub soon left and got into his old, rusty pickup truck. He proceeded down the road trying his best to stay on the right side. All of a sudden Billy Bub spotted the most unbelievable sight of his life! He drove to the nearest phone booth and dialed the number for Joe's Tavern and asked for his buddy, Jerry Lee. When Jerry Lee got on the phone, Billy Bub said, "Whatever you do when you leave that tavern, don't go north on route 109. The state police are giving a sobriety test that nobody can pass!"

There once was a captain of a ship, and everyday at a certain time he would lock himself up in his cabin and look inside a mysterious black box. He did this everyday, but he told nobody what was inside the box. Then one day he died, and in his testament he gave the crew permission to open the box. So they opened the black box. And what they found was a piece of paper: "Starboard is right, port is left."

One day when the teacher walked to the black board, she noticed someone had written the word 'penis' in tiny small letters. She turned around, scanned the class looking for the guilty face. Finding none, she quickly erased it, and began her class. The next day she went into the room and she saw, in larger

letters, the word 'penis' again on the black board. Again, she looked around in vain for the culprit, but found none, so she proceeded with the day's lesson. Every morning, for about a week, she went into the classroom and found the same word written on the board, and each day it was written in larger letters. Finally, one day, she walked in, expecting to be greeted by the same word on the board, but instead, found the words, "The more you rub it, the bigger it gets!"

A market researcher called at a house and his knock was answered by a young woman with three small children running around her. He asked her if she minded replying to his questions and when she agreed, he asked her if she knew his company, Cheeseborough-Ponds. When she said no, he mentioned that among their many products was Vaseline and she certainly knew of that product. When asked if she used it, she answered, "Yes, we use it when we have sexual intercourse." The interviewer was amazed. He said, "I always ask that question because everyone uses our product and they always say they use it for the child's bicycle chain, or the gate hinge or some other purpose. But I know that most people really use it for sexual intercourse, they just don't like to say so. Since you've been so frank, could you tell me exactly how you use it?" "We put it on the doorknob to keep the kids out."

A man's wife asks him to go to the store to buy some cigarettes. He walks down to the store only to find it closed. So he goes into a nearby bar to use the vending machine. At the bar he sees a beautiful woman and starts talking to her. They have a couple of beers and one thing leads to another and they end up in her apartment. After they've had their fun, he realizes its 3 a.m. and says, "Oh no, its so late, my wife's going to kill me. Have you got any talcum powder?" She gives him some talcum powder, which he proceeds to rub on his hands and then he goes home. His wife is waiting for him in the doorway and she is pretty pissed. "Where the hell have you been?!?!" she screaches. "Well, honey, its like this. I went to the store like you asked, but they were closed. So I went to the bar to use the vending machine. I saw this great looking chick there and we had a few drinks and one thing led to another and I ended up in bed with her." "Oh yeah? Let me see your hands!" She sees his hands are covered with powder and says, "You liar! You went bowling again!"

A freshman at college worked up the nerve to ask a pretty senior for a dance at homecoming. She gave him the once-over and said "Sorry, I won't dance with a child." "Please forgive me" he said. "I didn't realize you were pregnant."

A king suspected his wife was being unfaithful to him so he secretly taped a tiny razor blade to her vagina. Three days later he ordered his knights to drop their pants. They all had bandaged penises, except for one. The king said to him "I always knew that you were my most loyal knight" He replied "It wath nothing, Your Magethy."

A bear walked into a bar. The bartender asked, "What can I get for you?" The bear replied "I'll have a gin..... and tonic" The bartender said "OK, but what's with the pause?" The bear said "I was born with them."

Things I don't like:
Those Goddamned TRUTH commercials. I am not a violent person, but something about those commercials lights a fire in me and I would give anything to be able to jump into the television and beat the holy bejesus out of all those truth people. LET THE PEOPLE SMOKE THEIR DAMN CIGARETTES!!!!

WhEn p3oPl3 TyP3 LiKe ThIS

Bad Drivers

arrogant people

serious people

people who get offended by everything

people who can't take a joke

people who try to make me convert to their religion

being normal (fine for other folks, just not me)

Giving my government money that I know gets blown in ridiculous ways

fungus (i.e. mushrooms)

boy bands

closed minded people

people who sue all the time because they have apparently gotten the false impression that no one is actually responsible for their own actions and it must be someone else's fault

people who kick me in the nuts before introducing themselves

Stupid poem of the moment

Look! I'm so bored
I'm writing again
let's see if this one's
better than they've been

It'll definitely be longer
I know that for sure
Cuz it will help me claim
the spot I wish to procure.

And that is to have
the longest hook profile
I have a feeling
it will take me a while

Since it's not on the stats page
I just have to guess
whether I need 500 lines
or maybe a little less

I guess I'll just have to browse
and see what I can find
and add even more
if I find one longer than mine!

I will be very diligent
at least for a bit
only a couple more weeks
of doing diddly shit

then I start grad school
and life's pace will pick up
but not so much
that my friends can't interrupt

So we can go out drinking
or out to the lake
to turn off our brains
and just go out and bake

and bake we shall
since alabama is blazin'
when you feel how hot it is
It's truly amazin'!!

Isn't it cool that I ramble
even when writing a poem
you think I'm just being artistic
but before you know I'm

going on and on
but I think now I'll stop
so my viewers brains
won't up and pop

I think that's about it. Funny out I keep mentioning in there that I want the longest hook profile and this is probably going to be my longest lj post yet, haha.

9.11.3 I'm just a posting fool!! (2007-11-02 01:43)

Had a pretty good day today. I went to see a biologist give a talk in the CS department today. It was really awesome and interesting. Basically he was talking about DNA replication and gene expression and talking about all the computation involved in a lot of those aspects of biology. He came to basically promote interdisciplinary collaboration (sound perfect for anyone you know?). This also came at a good time considering I'm planning on taking biology next semester anyway. It was one of the first lectures in a long time where I had no trouble paying attention and was interested the entire time. I think there are definitely some aspects of computational biology that are really intriguing to me. At the very least, it gives me some of the variety

that my brain needs. I talked with him briefly after class then followed it up with an email. I told him I was definitely interested in looking at interdisciplinary projects so hopefully something will come from it. I think that'd be really awesome.

What made it even cooler is that I talked to my advisor Dr. Tyson and he said he heard I've been "making waves." Haha. I told him that's kinda my trend. We talked about the biology thing as well (he was also at the talk) and he seemed pretty supportive. He understands how I need a little more variety in my academics and he even said that if I found something interdisciplinary that he was really interested in I could pursue it as a dissertation. He said he could definitely advise me better if it were closely related to architecture, but he sounded pretty open. Kinda cracked me up too since my thesis was pretty much out of my advisors area and he just sorta learned along with me. Maybe I should start warning my advisors that I tend to be a handful, haha.

Basically I feel like some opportunities are opening up and I'm really excited about them. Even if it doesn't turn into a dissertation, I would love to work on some side projects involving something pretty different. And this allows me to explore some things that are closely tied to medicine so I get more aspects as I start looking through that avenue. And if I do end up wanting to go to med school, having experience in computational biology would be really awesome.

Too bad I can't just warp through the rest of this semester. Between finishing these classes and my portfolio defense, it's going to be a pretty kickin' time for the next month and a half. Oh well, I'll survive. Now that things are looking up academically, maybe I should start looking into that personal life stuff too. ;-) haha.

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supinternets (2007-11-02 08:03:58) Yay!
I hope time passes fast for you till you are where you want to be. And furthermore, you are a catch, accent and all. Any girl would should count herself lucky if you come a calling.

fincher69 (2007-11-02 14:57:49) Re: Yay!
haha well thank ya much. You ain't so bad yourself ;-)

(2007-11-02 21:17:42)
Justin....making waves???.....no way!! I'm proud!! ;-) I'm happy you are feeling better about things.

9.11.4 (2007-11-02 13:00)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001a6gf/

9.11.5 quick tuesday post (2007-11-06 10:01)

Nothing really too crazy happened over the weekend and I have so much work to do that I just wanted to make a quick blurb of a post. Weighed in at 170.0 today. Little more than I was hoping for, but I am

hoping that the heavy lifting workout I had tuesday contributed, but I KNOW that my eating habits over the weekend didn't help. Golden Corral and Momo's pizza in one weekend? And things have been so busy recently I tend to be more inclined to hit up some Jimmy Johns or something instead of just going home and having something a little more healthy. Oh well. After this week I don't think I have as many concurrent projects; so while I'll still be busy, I will have a little more time to keep up my exercise and do a better job of watching what I eat. Here's hoping! Now to hit the shower and spend the entire day in the office trying to finish projects that I have to work my hardest to care about.

9.11.6 klepto'd from Ms. Tatter (2007-11-07 19:44)

Post a comment and I will...
1. Tell you why I friended you.
2. Associate you with something - fandom, a song, a colour, a photo, etc.
3. Tell you something I like about you.
4. Tell you a memory I have of you.
5. Ask something I've always wanted to know about you.
6. Tell you my favorite user pic of yours.
7. In return, you must post this in your LJ.

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whimsikell (2007-11-12 08:42:33)
since no one else commented...

fincher69 (2007-11-12 21:49:29)
haha thanks! 1. Gotta friend the cute neighbor ;-) 2. kitty cats 3. your ongoing inquisitiveness 4. fincher-kellen night when we were up at the lake. Fun just hanging out and playing some pool 5. gee, this is hard. I pretty ask every question I have haha.... if you were a protein, what would you be? 6. "I'm diene!"

9.11.7 Wow (2007-11-09 07:37)

Yes you are reading that timestamp correctly. It is just past 7:30 in the morning. Am I up early you ask? Only if you count yesterday at 11ish to be early. I got in the office around 3, took a break for a couple hours around 8, and have pretty much been here since then. My brain is too fried to calculate the hours, but I sure as hell know that it has been way to many. Luckily I kinda got in a groove the last 4ish hours and have actually been really productive. My program isn't 100 %, but hopefully it is close enough to be able to wing through my demo at 1:30. Right now I'm gathering statistics (hence having the time to post on here) so I can put them together into the paper we have to right. Boy am I stoked about that! After this I'll probably start writing what I can while I continue to generate numbers and hopefully I'll be ready to just throw them in and discuss a little once they finish up. I swear I'm going to start on the next project earlier. I HAVE TO. This week has just been so ridiculous for m. Between my presentation monday, my project in compilers due monday, and this project..... geesh. I was thinking about it and I don't think I've left the office for the night before 2am since sunday night. How fun does that sound? Exactly. Like no fun at all. At least I don't forsee any crazy overlaps like I had this week for the rest of the semester. It'll still be busy, but if I can really buckle down and just work on things incrementally that'll probably make my life a lot easier. I swear one of these days I'll learn. One of these days. ;-)

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whimsikell (2007-11-12 08:38:38)
i still say it's unnatural seein' you so busy

fincher69 (2007-11-12 21:45:36)
I wholeheartedly second that!!! haha

9.11.8 awesome weekend (2007-11-13 02:42)

Had a kick ass weekend. After this past week I really needed it. I was thinking about it and I don't think that there was a day last week where I left the office before 2am. And thursday I was there until 9:15 am then back at noon to finish some things up before my demo. NOT FUN. I was so ready to just turn my brain off and pretend I wasn't even in school until I got back here.

So after my demo I basically got things together, picked some folks up and headed to orlando. After checking in and stuff we ended up walking about 3 miles to meet Joey at a cool little pool/darts place. Hung out there for a while then a group headed back to the hotel and another group of us went out to another place. Definitely had a lot of fun.

Woke up bright and early saturday so we could be at ODub close to 8 and pretty much spent the whole day hanging out at the competition. Didn't really ride too well, but still had fun. After spending the whole day at the comp we went to eat and I had a wonderful big bacon cheeseburger and a couple Guinness. Not really the best prep food for riding, but oh well. Went back to ODub and rode the cable from 7-8. Since it wasn't cheap for one hour I basically would ride, then when I fell I swam as hard as I could to the side and then ran back to the dock to get back on. Since there weren't many people out there I basically waited no more than 45 seconds to start riding again once I was back at the dock. Basically kept that pace for the whole hour so needless to say I was pretty beat. After that we went back to the hotel and showered and stuff. A few of us went out and ended up just having a few pints at a couple irish pubs. Nothing too crazy, but still fun.

Sunday we had to be out there bright and early again for a few of us to ride in round two. After they rode we hit up the park. Rode my wakeskate from about 12-2:30 then took a 10 minute break to take some pics then rode my wakeboard until 4. Needless to say almost everything from my ankles up was pretty darn beat, but I had a frickin' blast. First time to skate on the cable and first time to hit a slider on my wakeskate as well. My shuvs were horrible, but it happens. After all that we drove back to Tally, cleaned up, then folks came over to my apt to hang out for a while. Had fun and crashed around 5.

It was definitely awesome to not have to get up early for anything today. I'm pretty stoked that I don't have to get up for anything tomorrow either. I have to work on my compilers project since it is due wednesday, but other than that I don't have a lot of things that are too pressing, so that's nice. I found out that I can't take the portfolio exam this semester, which works out because I was kinda thinking about not taking it anyway. This semester has just been so busy that I haven't had much time to study. Takes a lot of pressure off which is nice. Now I'm kinda thinking of getting a PS3 now that the pressure is off. Maybe I'll do that wednesday after I turn in my project. :-)

After I got back I also decided to mess with my hair some more. Black is REALLY not me. First blond kit didn't do much, so I got a better one that lightened it noticeably, but it was still a really odd reddish color. So I got some dye that's supposed to be a vibrant natural red. I just rinsed it out, but while it is wet it is kinda hard to tell what color it is so we will just have to see how it goes. Should be interesting. Hopefully after all this dying it won't just up and fall out, haha.

But overall, this was a frickin' awesome weekend. I really needed a weekend where I didn't think about school. Just turned my brain off, did some wakeboarding, and had a blast. I definitely feel refreshed and I needed that. Hopefully I can keep that feeling up through the rest of the semester. :-)

Well, I think that about sums it up. It's a little after 3 now and I'm completely not tired, but maybe I will try to actually hit the sack in not too long. Like I said I don't really have much going on tomorrow so I'm not too picky about when I get up. I'll probably piddle around a little more. Long as I make it to bed before 5 I should be good, haha. Aiight, off to continue my movie and mess around with things.

(2007-11-13 13:33:04)
You might consider professional help for your hair!! Sounds like a great weekend. Glad you feel better about things. love you! :-)

supinternets (2007-11-13 15:31:59)
Sounds like a fun weekend! I think you really needed some Justin time after such a busy week. About your hair, my room mate is a hair stylist, if you would like some pro help, she should be able to fix ya up. She can work wonders. Jaime @ Green Peridot 850-224-1814

fincher69 (2007-11-13 16:47:36)
awesome, thanks! I'm thinking I might leave my odd ginger for a bit then just shave it all off. Always fun to experiment though. ;-) hehehe

tattermask (2007-11-13 19:21:31)
Yeah, I saw the black hair pics on facebook... it makes you look emo... or something... which is totally not you. I'm glad you got a weekend to do fun stuff after all that's been going on! =) amanda

fincher69 (2007-11-14 05:11:22)
ya, black hair is gone. Now I'm a ginger kid, lol

9.11.9 quick tuesday (2007-11-13 14:03)

Posted my weekend wrapup yesterday so there isn't a whole lot to add today. Weighed in at 169.5, which isn't too bad considering how crappy my eating was last week and my entire week's exercise was the wakeboarding I did over the weekend. Starting this week on tuesday is kinda throwing me off since tuesday is typically my lifting day. I think I'm going to either run or bike after class, then come back here and work until this shindig I have at 7 then catch my show at 9 then back to the office to finish up a project due tomorrow morning. I'm meeting with the biology people tomorrow to talk about projects they've been working on and just sorta put the feelers out so that's kinda exciting. I am really going to try to start everything early the rest of the semester because last week frickin sucked. We'll see how it goes.

And man, just to reiterate this past weekend was really good for me. It was really refreshing to not only just hang out and wakeboard but to not frickin' touch a computer all weekend and to pretty much be outside all day each day. My inner hippie has been coming out recently as I really am liking less and less being so couped up and not being able to be outside. I have always loved being outside, but it has definitely gotten stronger. If I had a house with a porch right now I would probably spend a lot of time just hanging out out there. Probably even move my tv up to the window so I can watch it from out there. haha.

Anyway, as I am actually sitting in class right now I should probably wrap this up, though they are just

going over a test that I didn't take since I'm not actually enrolled in the class so it doesn't matter too much. :-)

9.11.10 shouldn't I be sleepy? (2007-11-20 03:50)

Ah, yet another night of not being sleepy. I told myself I was going to try to not go to sleep until I actually felt tired, but seeing as how it is almost 4 and I'm not really winding down I may forgo that attempt. I'll probably just lay down with my book and hopefully that'll chill things out.

Overall definitely had a crazy weekend. Zach came in town so we went out to CiCi's for dinner then just came back to my place. I kinda figured it would be just our normal little crowd chillin, but we ended up having a bunch of other people stopping by throughout the night. It was definitely kickin! Sorta like a brief reminisce of my days back at ol' Furman place. Good times.

Saturday I don't even really remember what I got into. Obviously it wasn't too crazy. I think it was mostly just chillin, playing some video games and watching TV/movies. Then we went to Bopper's for dinner because she had some leftover hotdogs and hamburgers. Then we went to Corner Pocket which was a pretty cool little pool hall and played some darts and pool. Can't argue with a place that serves Guinness, is non-smoking, and has real dartboards. I'm definitely sure we'll be going back there sometime. After that we came back to my place again. I went out and picked up some friends who needed a ride home from a party and we had another crazy night at Fincher's place.

And I got to thinking about it and I think I'm going to take a break from drinking for a while. Mostly because my workout schedule has kinda been faltering and my budget dwindling. So I figure if I just take it easy for a while that'll help me get in shape AND be easy on my wallet. We'll see how it goes. ;-) But overall it was definitely a heckuva weekend. Had a some really good conversations and a lot of fun. Still trying to figure out a lot of things in life, but I figure things will settle down eventually. I think it will be really good for me when this semester ends. When you have a large part of your life (like my academia) get to the point where you are completely indifferent towards it, even almost dislike it, it can tend to have an effect on the rest of your life as well. Luckily I caught it before it got too out of hand, but after a long talk and a lot of thinking I could see that recently I've been heading down a road that wasn't me and wasn't good for me. Now that I have some things outside of computer science looming in my future, I think that has helped, but just trying my best to not think about my classes this semester when I'm not busy working on them is good too. I've just really not enjoyed this semester at all and it has compounded with not really liking Tallahassee (though loving some of the people here) so all-in-all I've just thought a lot about how dissatisfied I've become with where I'm at. I think it is definitely getting better. I'm more aware of what is going on in my head than I have been so that is a step in the right direction. Hopefully things will start looking better and I can put together some pieces in a way that I think will be a much better fit for me. :-)

Well, I guess that sums up the weekend. Technically it is tuesday morning, but I'm just going to wait until I get up to do my weigh-in. Though I'm sure this week it won't be pretty. Oh well. I have been decent this semester about working out (with a few lulls) so hopefully I can just keep it going and catch my minimum of 3 workouts a week and keep trying to watch what I eat. I guess we'll see!

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tattermask (2007-11-20 14:32:17)
Non-smoking bars are awesome! I wish there were some around here. Clarity of mind is also good =) I'm thrilled to hear that you're making progress in your pursuit of happiness! My workout schedule has been lagging, too... what with being sick and getting a new guitar... haven't found the motivation to leave the house much... a

9.11.11 tuesday! (2007-11-20 18:00)

Not a helluva lot to post since I did a weekend update. Weighed-in at 166.5 which was pretty surprising. Once I thought about it I'm kinda figuring that the weight lost is just muscle since I haven't been lifting the past few weeks, ahaha. Hopefully I'll get to lift tomorrow and will probably go for a run a little later this evening. Hopefully, even in the midst of all my work, I can make myself keep on my workout regimen.

Right now I'm feeling kinda accomplished that I'm pretty much done with one of my classes, so that, combined with a looming break, are not helping me much motivationally. I figure I'll have like 3-4 hours every night over break where everyone is asleep so I can get some work done, but the more I can done while I'm in Tallacrappy the better. Last night I forced myself to go to bed at 5:30. I even tried lying in bed and reading which usually knocks me out, but I read from 4-5:30 and was still wide awake. I'm kinda thinking it is going to be a late night tonight as well. I guess we'll see! I'll definitely cram some work in there if I'm not going to bed for another 11 hours, haha.

Aiight, off to go play some demos I downloaded on my PS3 and let this food settle so I can get some exercise soon.

9.11.12 Post -thanksgiving tuesday post (2007-11-28 03:51)

I know that TECHNICALLY it is wednesday, but since my schedule has been so crazy my body doesn't know what the heck time it is I can pretend it is whatever day I want, hahaha.

Wednesday night Turtle and I did something then ended up hanging out with D and Lindsey. D made me some awesome pasta once we got back to my place. Plenty of kick!! Then Turtle and I had a good talk once they headed out. It was funny because we both said that we were going to try to get up around 8:30-9 to get on the road but we kinda talked until about 7:15 so of course that didn't really happen, haha.

Thursday I drove to Crane Hill, Alabama where my aunt and uncle live. To give you an idea of how backwoods it is, the last few turns to get to their house were labeled with signs that my uncle made in his shop. They only had dial-up internet. AND I had no cell phone signal. Talk about disconnecting for a while. Had a relaxing evening, looked at some AUP after everyone went to bed, but didn't really make a lot of progress.

Friday my dad's other sister and husband came for the thanksgiving meal. We had a pretty non-traditional seafood meal for thanksgiving, but it was still awesome. We decided to go shooting after lunch and my uncle pulled out a few .22 rifles and a .357 magnum pistol. I've always loved shooting but never really got to do it much so I had a blast. That day I also got to play around with my uncle's arc welder. I WANT ONE SO BAD!!! I could do some awesome stuff with a welder, especially if I also got a cutting torch. So many possibilities!! Funny part about welding is that it (apparently) generates UV rays so I definitely was left with a pretty decent "sunburn" from welding. Talk about feeling albino! haha. Relaxed and watched some crazy football games and ended up just crashing pretty early.

Saturday we got up and had breakfast and stuff then we headed to Birmingham to my mom's dad's house. Got to see my aunt and uncle and a bunch of my cousins, including my most recent first cousin once removed. It was awesome seeing everyone. Hopefully we can at least get my cousin Blake and his wife and kid up to the lake this spring. That'd be awesome. After hanging out with them for a while I went to my friend Shelley's house. THAT was frickin' awesome because I really hadn't talked to her since about 6th grade. Found her on facebook and we started talking and she said to holla if I was ever passing through Birmingham, so I did!

It was really cool to catch up after all these years. She was kinda my first girlfriend back in the day, hahaha. I think after my bugging she gave in and we were together for a day, lol. It was cool seeing her little girl and her husband Wilson was awesome too. I'll definitely be giving them a ring next time I'm heading near Birmingham. After that I headed back to Tally and just sorta took it easy for the evening.

Sunday I piddled and eventually made it to the office a little before 2, worked there until about 8, was back at around 10:30, worked until my 8am class on monday, went to that, then to my 10am meeting, then came back to my apartment and tried to nap. Unfortunately I really wasn't that tired so I only got 1.5-2 hours of sleep. Went back to the office for a bit before my 5:15, then ate dinner and went back to the office. Worked until about 3am at which point I was just tired of being in the office so I went home. Unfortunately I STILL wasn't tired and didn't end up going to bed until around 6:45. Finally got up and out and to my office around 1, worked there until about 5 then met Lindsey for coffee. I figured we would hang out for like an hour then I would work until house at 9, then work until midnight. Well we (or at least I) ended up having a blast and having a really good conversation and we talked until it was time for house. Lindsey came over and watched it and got addicted, then I took her to her car and Kellen and I went to my office. I proceeded to work until about 12:30 then came back home. Hung out and talked to Kellen for a bit then decided I should actually try to get some sleep before my 8am class. I was finishing up on the comp and about to go to bed with Derek, Emma, and Cori came by and ousted me. Went up to his place and hung out for a while then moseyed back down this way. Now I'm thinking I should probably sleep soon since I have class in less than 4 hours. AWESOME. hahahah.

Oh yeah, I weighed in at 169.0 today. Considering how much I ate over thanksgiving and the fact I think I was kinda dehydrated when I weighed in last week, I was pretty stoked about an only 2.5 pound increase. I don't have much time left this semester, but hopefully I can keep it lively enough to keep the weight off. I'm heavily considering a 5 mile road race this weekend so that should be fun. My typical route I've been running is about a 5k (3.1 miles) and I usually feel pretty good at the end so I guess we will see how it goes! A t-shirt and not dying is usually top of my list! hahaha

Bopper and I were talking, and though I have an AUP project to work on, I almost have a week off this weekend. My last class of the week is my 2 on thursday, then my 8am monday is canceled, my 10am monday meeting is canceled, my 5:15 monday class is canceled, my tuesday 2pm class is canceled, and my wednesday 8am class is canceled. So tomorrow is my last 8 am class of the semester! AWESOME!!!!! I'm stoked.

Aiight, well since that last 8am class is steadfastly approaching, I should probably get off the computer and actually try to sleep a little bit. We'll see how it goes. :-)

9.12 December

9.12.1 Awesome weekend so far (2007-12-02 16:08)

One side note before I start. I was thinking the other day and I realized that my entries are so long that I usually listen to numerous songs while I am typing so to give fair representation I am going to start including all songs played while I was making my entry in my music field, or at the end of the entry if they don't fit. :-)

Just having no projects hanging over my head has really helped this weekend to be a lot of fun already. It hasn't been anything too crazy, but every night has been a lot of fun.

Wednesday I went to Ted's Montana Grill for Fishel's birthday. Had fun hanging out and had some AWE-

SOME bison meatloaf. I always forget how much I like meatloaf until I have it again. From there I was planning on going to the office to get some work done after that, but Lindsey called and said D got a new kitten and I should come check it out. I told her I would come by for like 15 minutes then head to the office. This was around 8pm. I definitely left D's at 4:30am. Not really conducive to going to the office. Oh well. haha

I got up thursday and got some work done so that was good. Got to go swimming for the first time in a while. I was a weenie little 1500 yards, but it was still nice to be back in the pool. I can't really remember what I did for dinner, but we went to Finnegan's for a bit then moseyed back to my place for the usually good times.

Friday I finished up some things in the office, then Bopper and I went shopping to find her a shirt to wear with her interview suit and dropped off everything to get tailored. Met turtle back at my place for a little bit then met Brad, Sarah and Keith at 1 Stir Fry for some awesome grub. From there went to a bowling alley that had apparently been redone fairly recently, but it wasn't any better than Crenshaw and noticeably more expensive. Still had fun though. From there we went to Brad and Sarah's to play some guitar hero and Wii. Took it easy because I was planning on running a race the next day. Came back to my place and bopper headed home and Turtle and I watched part of Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters then I crashed.

Got up at 6:30 to head to my race. There were two races a 10 mile (16k) and a 5 mile (8k). Of course I did the 5 mile. I surprised myself and got a PR by several minutes so that was pretty awesome. Definitely took a lot out of me though. I pretty much came home, showered, ate something, and laid on my futon listening to music. It was definitely relaxing. And just what I needed to rest up for race number 2! hahaha. The Jingle Bell 3k was in the evening and I convinced Bopper to do it so I was just going to take it easy and run with her since my legs were already fried. Matt and Turtle decided to run too. Unfortunately there were so many people that I got separated from everyone right off the bat. So once the crowd thinned out a little I picked up the pace to look for Bopper, but apparently ran by her at some point. Ended up keeping my pace up and actually set another PR! So it was a pretty awesome day. You can actually read about those and any other races I run at [LJ User: runfincherrun]. I use the runfincherrun blog to keep track of all of them. Cool to look back and see some trends and stuff. After the race we met up with D and Lindsey at Corner Pocket to play some darts, then came back to my place and watched Big Lebowski. Then Turtle, Lindsey and I just hung out on my futon for a bit. Lindsey crashed.... then turtle crashed.... so I got up and piddled around for a little bit because I wasn't really tired then I eventually crashed too.

Woke up today and was supposed to ride bikes with Brad, but my quads were killing me and about an hour after I woke up I started feeling kinda nauseous, so I just laid in bed and took a nap. Probably good for me since I had gotten like 2-3 hours of sleep last night. Probably going to an English kids party tonight then who knows what debauchery we will be getting into. Not having class til wednesday afternoon is definitely a nice feeling. ;-)

And since it won't all fit, my listenings for this post:
Giant Leap - My Culture
Allman Brothers Band - Dreams
Dusted - Always Remember to Respect and Honour Your Mother
Kirsty Hawkshaw - Fine Day
Massive Attack - Teardrop

9.12.2 quick weigh-in (2007-12-05 00:46)

Weighed in today at 169.0 and honestly I'm too lazy to see if that is good or bad, hahaha. I'm just so ready for this semester to be over that that is all I am focusing on. Anything in the 160's is good. Usually exam time and breaks aren't good for me, but hopefully I can keep it down around where it is right now. My goal is still 160.0 so we will see how spring goes with me achieving that goal. My sched in the spring should be pretty open so it shouldn't be hard for me to get into a consistent workout schedule with my cross training that has been helping me. Maybe I'll even keep up my streak of PRs! Here's hoping!!

Had fun at ladies night tonight, but planning on getting up early and swimming then spending the day in the office. Once I finish this AUP project I am pretty much done for the semester so it would be awesome to be able to knock it out tomorrow. At least major progress so I just have touch-ups tomorrow instead of working late into the night. I AM SO READY TO BE DONE WITH THIS SEMESTER!!!! I can't wait. Hopefully it'll end well! hahaha.

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supinternets (2007-12-05 15:28:49)
Did you get all dressed up for ladies night?

fincher69 (2007-12-06 08:20:11)
oh but of course!!! If I have the dress I may as well use it for free beer. :-) Need to get my mom to alter it over christmas though, or turtle and I may go shopping again for the spring. haha

9.12.3 holy sickness batman!! (2007-12-06 03:22)

Yeah, plans on getting up to swim this morning.... lol, yeah right. I woke up feeling completely crappy and ended up staying in bed until 4. That's like 10-11 hours in bed. Wow. Talk about feeling worthless when I finally got up. It wasn't necessarily that I was that fatigued or sick, but I was hoping I could just sleep it off and let my body take care of it. Yeah... not to so much. Way to go body.

If I had to characterize how I feel, it is like my entire body is a little out of focus. Everything feels just a little off, a little fuzzy. That and my sinuses want to burst. I'm thinking it is a sinus infection. Fun stuff. The few times I do get sick make me appreciate the fact that I get sick like once every 5 years. Could have picked a better time though. Oh well.

Main bad thing about sleeping all day when you don't really need it is the resulting insomnia. My head still feels like it is going to pop, but I am frickin' wide awake. I probably should get sleep to rest up and let my body fight this, but I'm completely averse to sleep right now. I'm planning on getting up early so I can have a productive day, so I will probably force myself to bed soon. Until then I'll just keep piddling. :-)

Just reglanced and 169.0 was where I was at last week, so I guess it is good that I'm maintaining. I'd rather be losing, but given my activity level this past week I can't really be surprised that I haven't lost anything. As long as I can maintain where I am over break I'll be pretty stoked. I feel good things for my physical fitness this spring. We'll see if it pans out. :-)

Aiight, I guess I should think about moseying towards bed. Less than a week away from the semester being completely over!!! WOOT!

9.12.4 booooooooring day (2007-12-10 19:43)

Don't really feel like recounting my whole weekend. I'll save that for my tuesday post. :-)

Just felt like making a little post because yesterday was in the running for most boring day of my entire life. And given some of the days I had down in Auburn, that is pretty impressive. I really didn't have much of anything I needed to work out. Played some guitar and video games. Played around online. Couldn't really exercise because I still can't breathe too well. And I sent out like 20 messages and everyone was frickin busy. I DID get to watch a movie with Derek and Emma and then later hung out with Emma for a while. But I was so bored that around 2 am I got some food and went out to the greenway and looked at stars for an hour. I was so antsy and bored it was driving me crazy.

I had some stuff to get done today, so it hasn't been as bad, but I sure as hell hope everyone isn't so damn busy tonight because I'm already getting pretty bored again.

(2007-12-11 12:36:11)
That is so far from my life right now, I can't imagine boredom... have you done your christmas shopping? packed for the trip/christmas break? cleaned your apartment? your car? finished studying for your exam? Anytime you get bored, just call me... :-)

9.12.5 Post from Colorado!! (2007-12-16 22:50)

Yeah, so I guess the tuesday post didn't happen. Kinda got a little preoccupied with finishing things up I guess. I weighed in at 171.0 on tuesday, which isn't too bad. I'm not going to worry about it too much over break, but I'm really going to get back into my regimen in the spring. I'm excited! My mutli-faceted approach really worked for me early this semester so I'm going to add a little to that and I think it is going to go really well.

Only really notable thing from this past weekend was going to Bradfordville Blues Club. Hung out with some of the english kids and got to see a really cool band with digeridos and everything! It was a lot of fun. Hung out at Lindsey's for a while afterwards then headed back to my place. Turtle's Sis came in on monday so of course we hung out til like 7:30 in the morning hahaha. Typical Fincher-time.

Turtle and Michelle came up to bristol with me on wednesday. We ended up leaving kinda late and got to Bristol around 3-3:30 and just hung out for a couple hours. Long enough to say hi to my mom when she got up before I went to bed... again. hahaha.

We went to Appalachian on thursday to hit the night scene. Michelle had never skied before and it had been forever since Turtle snowboarded. I actually pulled out my skis and did that for the first time in like 10 years which was interesting. Both of them did awesome and it was a lot of fun.

Friday we went down to Cataloochee and met up with Adam. I decided to just rent a snowboard this time and the runs were a little longer and the snow was better so it was a lot of fun. Crazy warm though. I actually wore board shorts, a t-shirt and a jacket and that's it. I woulda taken off my jacket but I wouldn't have had any pockets, hahaha. It was a lot of fun. Good to get on the mountain and good to see Adam since I hadn't seen him in a while.

Yesterday basically just got up early and flew to Colorado and took care of rentals and groceries and stuff.

Today was our first day on the mountain. It was supposed to be really cold, but turned out to not be bad at all. Had an awesome first day on the mountain and took it easy because I still can't breathe too well. My head stuffiness got better, but recently has kinda come back. Too much fun. Had an amazing dinner then we wandered downtown Breckenridge with Nathan because he said he thought he knew someone who "lived behind a red door." Yeah. That's what he said. So of course in random Nathan fashion, we find a red door, walk down a sketchy as hell pitch dark hallway, then he calls to see if lindsay is there, and someone answers and it is his friend Lindsay. RANDOM. So we hung out in her awesome apartment for a little while and we'll probably be getting together with her tomorrow for night skiing/partying. Should be fun.

Now I am just chillin with the fam watching TV. Taking it easy. I have a feeling it is going to be a long day tomorrow so I gotta rest up. :-) Especially since last night was one of the worst night's sleep of my life. I dreamt constantly that I had to write a computer program to govern my sleep patterns and I kept screwing it up and I woke up at least 30 times. It was a pain in the ass. Here's hoping that some snowboarding will help me sleep tonight.

Figured it had been a while since I wrote on here so I wanted to post something :-) I'm so loving being done with this semester. This past semester was by far the worst semester of my entire life. I have never even come close to caring so little about school in my life. To the point where it almost felt as though I was disconnected from myself. It seriously took every once of will and motivation I had to just go to class and finish assignments. I even had several turned in late because I just didn't care. I'm so satiated with computer science. That's why I'm stoked about next semester and the opportunities I have with computational biology. Should be some awesome opportunities.

Well, enough about that. I'm turning my brain off until January. Just wanted to post from good ol' Breckenridge! Woot!

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tattermask (2007-12-17 15:31:24)
I'm in Colorado, too! But I'm not skiing, I'm visiting my brother's family in Colorado Springs =) I gotta go home in a few hours, though =(a

fincher69 (2007-12-18 23:27:45)
awww, at least you got to be out here for a little while!

supinternets (2007-12-18 15:26:51)
I heard skiing and snowboarding is super hard. I have never tried it.

fincher69 (2007-12-18 23:28:20)
you should definitely try it. It isn't that bad. There are definitely plenty of things out there that are much much harder :-)

9.12.6 (2007-12-20 12:56)

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[1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00017cww/

9.12.7 (2007-12-23 12:59)

[1]Sender: Roper Sender: Roper

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00019z2b/

9.12.8 Post-Christmas post (2007-12-28 23:06)

Wow, it has been a while since I blogged. I probably shoulda kept up with it better, but oh well.

The rest of our trip was frickin awesome. The top of the mountain never opened, so I never got to get pics from the tip-top, but I still had a blast all week and we even got a big dump of snow the last day! Always a blast.

Got back and had a nice family christmas. Some notables from santa were a mini-bottle of jager in my stocking, a new rack for my car and like 5 books. All-in-all it was yet another frickin' awesome christmas.

Yesterday and today I got to shadow some doctors as part of my exploration of medical school being my next (and likely final) foray into learning as much as I can, hahaha. Yesterday I shadowed a radiologist. It was a fairly slow day, but we got to analyze all sorts of scans and talk about the stuff he does on the not-so-slow days so it was an awesome day and I had a lot of fun and learned a lot. Between spending plenty of time on a computer and needing to know a decent amount about many areas of medicine, I definitely enjoyed radiology and it is most certainly on my list of possibilities.

Today was even more awesome though. I shadowed a pathologist and it was, again, a slow day. I got a tour of the lab and he talked about some of the things they do, then I stood and talked to the PA that was covering for their usual PA while he dissected an appendix, a uterus, and numerous other organs. He was a ton of fun and a blast to talk to and he talked me through a lot of the stuff he was doing, which was really helpful as well. After spending some time with him I rejoined the pathologist and he was about to go to tumor board (not exciting from hearing my dad tell me about it), but the PA said I could probably get in on the autopsy they were doing so I just grabbed the free lunch with tumor board then went and joined the autopsy and that was AWESOME!!! It was a doctor, the PA, a nurse and me so I was right there the whole time. And I was there from before the first incision until they were about to just start sampling and weighing the organs. So I was there for pretty much the whole process, which was frickin' awesome. Apparently autopsies are not very prevalent so it was actually a nice rarity for anyone, much less someone just shadowing for a couple days. Even my dad said he has only seen one and that was during his residency so I was pretty stoked about that. I've pretty much taken it easy and gotten things together to head out tomorrow, but it was definitely an awesome day.

Now I'm just piddling and finishing packing and playing around online, but figured I should make an update since it had been a while. I'll get back into the tuesday posts soon! :-)

supinternets (2008-01-02 14:58:37)
Wow, about that autopsy. How gory exactly was it? Not for the weak of heart?

fincher69 (2008-01-02 18:15:30)
I mean as gory as you would expect. Not really bloody, but it takes a lot of work to open someone up and remove all their organs!

supinternets (2008-01-02 19:21:06)
Crazy. There is a morbid part of me, that has always been curious about seeing one in progress.

Chapter 10

2008

10.1 January

10.1.1 Happy New Year!! (2008-01-01 16:05)

Had a blast ringing in the new year with good friends. Sorry more folks couldn't be here, but I hope everyone had an awesome time in their respective places. Probably coulda eased back on the champagne though. ;-) Oh well! I looked back to last years new years post and I listed the many firsts I had that year. I can't think of a lot, but I did also have a sort of "year in review" template that was pretty cool, so I think I will use that again. Maybe I'll start making it a new years tradition. :-)

Oh, and I was planning on having no alcohol and no caffeine during January, but I talked to D and she was going to try to cut down until St. Patty's so we decided to do it together. Today is an exception and we have two exception days that we can use, otherwise no alcohol (nor caffeine for me) until St. Patty's. I cut back near the end of last semester because I was tending to be the DD, but I think this will be good. Not only will it probably be good for my liver, but I'm hoping it will really help in my weight-loss as well. Should also be interesting to see how having no caffeine will affect me and see if my tendency towards not sleeping continues on the same trend. Either way it should be an interesting couple of months! Hell, by St. Patty's maybe I'll be a lightweight, hahaha.

Part 1 - The Year in Review**

1. Go to a party? Um... only like every weekend in my apartment. But did go to some kick ass Halloween parties as well.
2. Try something new? drove 3300 miles in 60 hours for my most ridiculous road trip ever
3. Have something change your life? Not necessarily big life changes, but a lot of mental changes
4. Kiss someone? That'd kinda be sad if I didn't all year
5. Tell your family and friends you love them? Always
6. Buy something extravagant? PS3
7. Do something nice for you? Bought a PS3 :-)
8. Do something terribly wrong? Nothing too terrible
10. Go to a concert? GWAR!!!!! IT WAS AWESOMEE!!!!!!

*Part 2 - Best of the Year**

1. Party: Hm.... I can't remember any really notable parties, though I had a lot of fun at Pete's Hal-

loween party. I'm sure there are some other ones that were awesome. A year is a really long time. :-)
2. TV Show: Still House, followed by ATHF
3. CD: Got Plain White T's for christmas and a lot of Zappa this year
4. Movie: Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film For Theaters
5. Song: Howie Day - Collide
6. Experience: Surfing with dad in Hawai'i
7. Concert: GWAR!!!!!!!!!!!!
8. Month: Oh geez.... probably one of the early ones when it wasn't too scorching hot
9. Day: Best day? thats really testing my memory. The day I ran a 5 mile race in the morning, took a nap, ran a 3k in the evening, then went out with friends was pretty darn awesome.

*Part 3 - Worst of the Year**

1. Party: I can't think of any bad parties
2. Experience: Taking AUP
3. Month: Probably August because it is so darn toasty down here
4. Day: Hmm..... Probably the day I the man kept me down and kept me from registering for the classes I wanted in the spring.

*Part 4 - Hopes for 2008**

1. Predict something that you think will happen in 2008? We'll get a new president ;-)
2. What do you hope changes about your country? Less ignorance.
3. What do you hope for yourself? Make solid progress towards getting the classes I need for med school, preparing for the MCAT, and getting started on some volunteering.
4. What do you hope for your family? Happiness
5. What do you hope for your best friend? Happiness
6. What do you hope for the rest of your friends? Happiness (I'm a happy little hippie, huh?)
7. Do you think any amazing medical advances will be made? I don't know of any breakthroughs that I think we are on the verge of
8. What is your biggest wish for 2008? Be on track for finishing this Ph.D. in three years

*Five things that 2007 taught me:**

1. I need to get in better shape
2. Wakeboarding clubs run a lot better when you have BOTH a running boat and a non-dried up lake
3. Casts suck.
4. I want to be a doctor (medical, not academic)
5. I think I'm actually on the verge of maturing a little ;-)

*Five personally significant events of 2007:**
1. Ran two races in one day and had PRs in both
2. Decided I want to go to medical school
3. Visited my last 5 states so now I've been to all 50
4. landed my first 540
5. Broadening my social group to hang out with all the awesome english kids

*Five things I want to do in 2008:**
1. Have at least one significant road trip
2. Pass comprehensive exams

3. Make headway in my computational biology research
4. Prepare for the MCAT
5. Live, Love, Breathe, & Grow

*Five people who I'd like to know better in 2008:**
1. The Biology professor I'm working with
2. The pre-med advisor
3. any beautiful awesome young lady whom I may yet to meet
4. anyone new
5. Myself

(2008-01-02 00:48:49)
you are amazing!! .....and I'm so proud... :-)

(2008-01-02 01:24:55)
I agree, surfing in Hawaii WAS a trip!!! Re:Live, Love, Breathe, Grow; "The higher you climb, the more that you see. The more that you see, the less that you know. The less that you know, the more that you yearn. The more that you yearn, the higher you climb." - The late Dan Fogelberg

supinternets (2008-01-02 14:50:42)
Surfing in Hawaii! Lucky dog!

10.1.2 My "resolution" is still holding strong! (2008-01-07 01:18)

I put it in quotes because it isn't really a new years resolution as it will only last a couple months, but kinda similar I guess. If you didn't know I'm swearing off caffeine for January and alcohol until St. Patty's (though I give myself to excuses so I can have a couple days in there somewhere). I spent the weekend in Orlando for Kellen's 21st birthday so I was of course surrounded by drunken debauchery. Still, my alcohol and caffeine intake remains at 0 since Jan 1st. Worked out well because I could be DD for the weekend, but I've found that it really isn't that hard for me to not drink, but I am having to pay major attention to keep caffeine out of my diet. Never realized how often, especially when I'm on the road, I snag a Red Bull, or a soda, or a candy bar (no chocolate!). I've definitely been putting some hurt on some sprite lately, hahaha.

The caffeine front has been a little disappointing. Especially after realizing how much caffeine I usually consume, I was expecting a lull in energy or increase in sleepiness. So far I've experienced nothing. I was still up past 5am last night, then woke up before 10, wakeboarded for an hour and a half, drove 4 hours, then went over to a friends house and now it's about 1:30 and I still feel pretty fine. I don't think I will have any trouble sleeping, but I also don't feel like I have to hit the sack right at the moment. I guess it really is just my body producing a ton of energy. Not that I'm complaining, but it is still interesting to me that I could change my caffeine intake that drastically and perceive no effect.

I am probably going to start up my working out again tomorrow (which means tuesday weigh-in posts return as well). The varied regimen I had in the fall seemed to work pretty well for me so I'm going to try to keep that up. Maybe like run monday, lift tuesday, swim wednesday, lift thursday, and bike friday. I might add in more aerobic in there, but that seems like a pretty good tentative schedule. Luckily with nothing too early going on in the mornings (except friday) I can just plan on trying to get up no later than 9, doing my exercise, then hitting the office to try to get some stuff done. Since I only have one real class I'm looking forward to the research I'll be doing this semester. It should definitely be busy, but I think it will be pretty

interesting as well, especially if I can get involved in some computational biology projects.

Aiight, maybe a little video games then I'm hitting the sack.

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supinternets (2008-01-07 14:15:27)
I think by nature you are just an energetic person. Also it might take awhile for you to detox. Getting back to exercising regularly may help as well. Where do you run at? I used to like running at Lincoln High since they had a nice, new soft track that was easy on my knees. But since I have moved, that is just too far.

fincher69 (2008-01-07 21:17:09)
i typically just run from my apartment. There is a site called runstoppable that lets you map out routes so you can run anywhere and have mileage and log your runs and see elevation change and stuff. Pretty snazzy. Almost all my routes just leave my apartment and run around campus, but if I start getting into some longer distances I might visit like tom brown or the greenway or something.

10.1.3 yup, it's tuesday! (2008-01-08 21:47)

Wow, did break not treat me well or what? I weighed in at 173.0 this morning, which is a solid 5 pound gain over break. Not too shabby hahaha. I'm hoping the no beer paired with getting back into my workout routine will accelerate my weight loss. I'm shooting for 160 by the end of the semester, but if I gain some muscle 165 wouldn't be too shabby either. I guess we'll just have to see how things go!

Funny story about the first day of class yesterday. Since my last science class was at Furman, I was used to small class sizes where the labs were just part of the class. Here, we have a huge lecture class (250 students), then we sign up for labs as a completely separate class. Well, I saw an announcement on blackboard saying our first meeting of biology would be tuesday so I assumed we didn't have lab the first week. I slept in then decided to go for a run, but thought it might be smart to run by my lab classroom just in case since they drop you if you miss the first class. Well sure enough there were people in there and the professor said "Fincher" right as I walked in the door. Talk about perfect timing! I ended up running back to my apt to get a pen and my lab notebook later, but it was funny sitting there in my running gear. Good thing I decided to check! haha.

Today was pretty good too. Not as productive as yesterday, but good nonetheless. It is definitely weird having a class with 250 students so it should be an interesting experience. Hopefully I can muster some motivation and actually get some reading done today. Luckily I don't have much going on tomorrow so I should be able to get a good amount done. We'll see. ;-)

10.1.4 heckuva weekend schedule! (2008-01-15 18:03)

Had a blast this weekend, though I admit my schedule was a little nuts even for me. Friday afternoon I left and went over to Jacksonville. Got to see my cousin Erin and Adam and the kids. The kids were already in bed when I got there and I just hung out and chatted with Erin and Adam for a bit. Since the little ones tend to wake up anywhere from 5-6 in the morning, they don't exactly keep my night owl schedule ;-) So after they went to bed I read for an hour or two and crashed around midnight.

Heard the kids romping around at about 6:30 and I actually got out of bed at 7. Got to hang out with the kids for a bit then had a little breakfast then went over to Land Rover to get my car serviced. I was there

until about noon then I headed over to Orlando. Caught up with my friend Cawood who I hadn't seen in like 5-6 years and went out wakeboarding with him which was a blast. My run started out a little shaky, but I ended up stomping my toeside 5 and the cleanest grab three of my life so I was pretty stoked. Even got in a little wakeskating run and landed two backside shuvs. Needless to say I was pretty stoked. Came back to his friend Brians house (where apparently Cawood spends a lot of his weekends) and just hung out for a bit. Cawood's girlfriend was beckoning and he hadn't seen her in a while so he went over to her place. Brian and I went out and grabbed a bite to eat then went downtown to meet up with Derek and Emma. Chilled with them while they grabbed some grub then went to a cool little place called Latitudes. It was a pretty cool little club, but the folks there weren't exactly our scene. After chillin there for a bit Derek and Emma were ready to head home so they dropped me back off at my car and I talked to Joey and Charlie and they were going over to Joey's friend Jenna's house. We went over there and just chilled in her driveway and chatted until almost 3am, by which time everyone was pretty beat. I took Brian back to his place and was thinking about crashing there, but I was still completely wide awake so I just decided to head back to Tally. hahaha. Since I'm still on my no caffeine kick, I took a little catnap about 2.5 hours into the drive and that refreshed me and I got back into Tally at about 8am sunday morning. By then I was definitely ready to crash and hit the sack HARD. Kellen kinda woke me up at 1 and I got my ass up. Had a pretty relaxing rest of my sunday.

Monday slept in a little longer than I had planned, but still squeezed in a decent run before lab. I still felt pretty rough, but I ran at about 8:40 mile pace which is pretty quick for me. And a lot of the feeling rough wasn't really cardiovascular or anything, but the colder air runnied up my nose so I was coughing and choking for a lot of the run because of all the drainage (pleasant I know). Anyhoo, I'm really trying to get into a consistent schedule so we'll see how the rest of the week goes. Since it was Turtle's Birthday we went out to Osaka where I had a ton of absolutely wonderful sushi! Then we went over to Finnegan's and hung out there pretty much until closing then I moseyed back to my place. Tried to get a few things done and just played around on the computer until about 3:30 then hit the sack.

Decided to forgo waking up at 8:30 to go lift and decided my exercise today would just be biking, which I just got back from. Prolly rode upwards of 45 minutes so it wasn't anything too awfully strenuous, but better than nothing. Weighed i this morning at 172.5, which is a pretty negligible difference from last week, but I've been traveling so much that I haven't exactly been eating too healthily. This week I pretty much started watching what I eat a little better and I've still had no alcohol and no caffeine since New Years.

Speaking of no alcohol and no caffeine, I've decided to amend my little "resolution" because St. Patty's is really far away hahaha. I had given myself two passes to "cheat" and I will likely use them this weekend when I am in Nashville hanging out with my sister. I'm sticking to the no caffeine for January, but I think in february I am just going to limit it to drinking once a week. Then I'll still be cutting back, but I don't have to completely abstain, because I am definitely missing my Guinness!! That's the tentative plan at least. We'll see how it goes and this week should be a better determinate as to whether cutting out alcohol is making much of a difference in my weight-loss. 160 is my goal by the end of the semester so with or without beer I have a feeling I'll have some work to do. Here's hoping!

(2008-01-17 22:59:20)
YAY for a successful wakeboarding run!! that is awesome... and you sure are running fast!!! you should schedule a race with Lauren sometime, see how that goes!:-)

fincher69 (2008-01-17 23:22:50)
I think I have a pretty good idea. I'd die! haha

10.1.5 Great Nashville weekend!! (2008-01-22 09:59)

Last week I was pretty decent about being active. I did some form of exercise mon-thurs so that is good. Hopefully I'll keep the trend up this week.

Friday I left for Nashville with Bopper, Turtle, and Lindsey to hang out with my sister for the weekend. This fit in perfectly with the fact that I pretty much gave myself a weekend from the beginning to "cheat" on my no alcohol policy. :-) And cheat I did, lol. We got a hotel room downtown so we could just walk to various and sundry awesome places and it turned out to be pretty much perfect. Onstott joined us the first evening and we had a great dinner at a brewery then moseyed over to a place to play some pool. Had a lot of fun, but the smoke became pretty bad then I believe we trucked it on home.

Saturday we had lunch at Calypso Cafe then Lauren drove us around and we got a little tour of Nashville. Still don't quite know my way around, but I think I'm getting a little better ;-) We went to the awesome nice mall and I got me some new Lucky jeans and we perused some other fun stores. Regrouped then met Jennie and her friend Amanda at California Pizza Kitchen (My most favoritest restaurant EVER) then we stopped by the hotel. Went to the Big Bang Piano Bar and had an awesome time listening to all sorts of crazy songs from these dueling pianos. There were like 6 guys who cycled through and sometimes it'd be two pianos, sometimes one would hop on drums, sometimes they have one on drums, one on bass and two on pianos. They were always moving around and it was a lot of fun. If I improved my musicianship, it would definitely be a venue in which I think I would thrive. We also kept feeding my sister drinks and got her to an all time one night high of three drinks! (hard to believe we are related, huh?) So I was pretty stoked to see my sister kinda tipsy haha. What are big brothers for? ;-) From there we went to some other place for a little while then moseyed back to the hotel and DESTROYED our leftover CPK.



Sunday we slowly made our way towards wakefulness and had brunch at Noshville. Lauren, Bopper, and I had some great breakfast food and Turtle and Lindsey had lunch stuff. Regrouped at the hotel then went over to see some Opryland stuff and walked around the Opry Hills Mall. I got me a brand new cowboy hat and belt buckle and I was sporting my new cowboy shirt that I got in colorado for christmas. Since I had spent enough money already, I decided to forgo the purchase of cowboy boots this trip, so needless to say my cowboy ensemble was quite interestingly paired with my skate shoes, haha. Maybe next trip I'll finish up my outfit. ;-) Went back to my sister's for a little bit until Bef joined up with us and then we ate dinner at Demos'. It was an awesome steak and pasta place. From there we went to the Beer Sellar and sampled all sorts of brews. Played a few rounds of darts and foosball and even got to partake in sunday night trivia! Lauren and Bef headed out around 1 (yep, I kept little Finch up late three nights in a row!!) because Bef had to work in the morning. We stayed around for a little bit longer then went back to the hotel. By then we were of course ravished so we found a place that was still delivering pizza. And again, pizza seems to just push me over the edge because, like the night before, I barely lasted 5 minutes after eating before I passed out cold. haha. I guess my body just decided it REALLY wanted to dedicate my resources to digestion.

Yesterday just got up and retrieved my car from my sister's apartment complex then hit the road back to Tally. Had a pretty relaxing evening just chillin with Kellen most of the time. About to get ready to head to class now, then spend some time in the office, then likely go for a run sometime this afternoon.

I started lifting last week (which isn't always conducive to weight loss) so that may have contributed, along with the "cheating" weekend, but I weighed in at 174.0 this week. I'm hoping that not having to travel for a while will help. I realized that may last 4 weekends have pretty much been driving from bristol to charleston to Tally, driving to and from Orlando, driving to Jacksonville then Orlando then back, then driving to and

from Nashville. And my travel diet is usually lacking so I think that now I've gotten back into my physical activity and I am grounded here for a while, the pounds will start dropping off a little more readily. Here's hoping!!

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supinternets (2008-01-22 21:28:52)
Love that shirt! Ha ha

fincher69 (2008-01-22 21:32:47)
thanks!! Sorry this pic doesn't show all the fancy embroidery on the back ;-)

tattermask (2008-01-23 15:17:30)
You actually make a pretty hot cowboy, pardner!! ;) hehe a

fincher69 (2008-01-23 15:54:16)
well thank ya little lady ;-)

lfincher (2008-01-24 04:46:25)
sorry, my type A nature won't let me stop.... friday we went to big river grill and then baileys (the smokey place!) and it's opry mills, not hills. thanks so much for making the effort to come, and i'm so glad you guys got to stay downtown.... that did work out perfectly!!! we will have to do it all again. but, i do need to catch up on my sleep first...

fincher69 (2008-01-24 05:01:47)
haha, yeah I knew I probably forgot something in my descriptions. Thanks for keeping it accurate and let me know when you are rested up enough to be able to handle another weekend with your crazy sibling ;-)

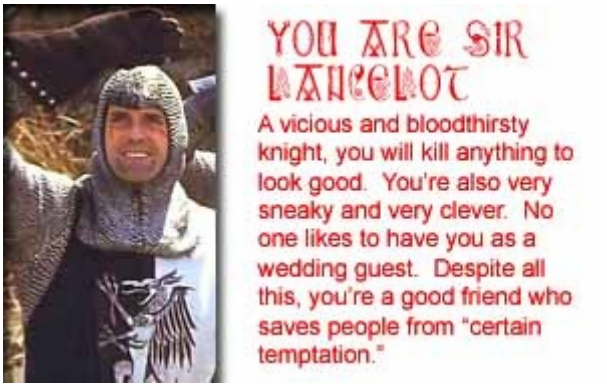
10.1.6 ADHD, who m..... look a butterfly!! (2008-01-22 16:44)

I realized today that I started up the FitDay account to keep track of everything I eat and I'm not sure I even got through an entire week of it. haha. I kinda like the way runstoppable is set up, but it currently only keeps track of running and I keep my workouts pretty varied so I think I am going to start using my fitday account again. This time I'm just going to use it to keep track of weight (in addition to keeping it on here) and of my exercise activities. We'll see if I can be a little better about actually keeping it updated. :-)

10.1.7 Third post today! :-O (2008-01-22 19:37)

Should be working so I thought I would do a couple random quizzes, haha.

What Monty Python Character are you?



Let's not bicker and argue about who killed who!
Take this [1]quiz!
[2]

[3]Quizilla |
[4]Join
| [5]Make A Quiz | [6]More Quizzes | [7]Grab Code

Which Tic-Tac Flavor Are You?



You are **Fresh Mint**. You are caring and friendly. You have a nurturing personality and always help out a friend in need. You are fairly outgoing, and always show a friendly face. You truly care for other people, and you show it. However, you may neglect your own responsibilites or become over involved in your friends' personal affairs.Most Compatible With: Orange
Take this [8]quiz!
[9]

[10]Quizilla |
[11]Join
| [12]Make A Quiz | [13]More Quizzes | [14]Grab Code

What feeling do you represent?



You represent... happiness.Boy, are you full of cheer or what...? You have a sunny disposition and enjoy trying to spread your happiness. You have a tendency to be a little hyper, but you have the ability to make your own fun no matter what.

Take this [15]quiz!

[16]

[17]Quizilla |
[18]Join
| [19]Make A Quiz | [20]More Quizzes | [21]Grab Code

1. http://quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=17&url=http://www.quizilla.com/users/jackee/quizzes/What+Monty+Python+Character+are+you%3F
2. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=18&url=http://www.quizilla.com/
3. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=18&url=http://www.quizilla.com
4. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=21&url=http://www.quizilla.com/register
5. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=20&url=http://www.quizilla.com/makeaquiz.php
6. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=42&url=http://www.quizilla.com/users/jackee/quizzes/
7. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=19&url=http://www.quizilla.com/codepastes/?quizid=15077
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13. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=42&url=http://www.quizilla.com/users/donarepa/quizzes/
14. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=19&url=http://www.quizilla.com/codepastes/?quizid=1718
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16. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=18&url=http://www.quizilla.com/
17. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=18&url=http://www.quizilla.com
18. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=21&url=http://www.quizilla.com/register
19. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=20&url=http://www.quizilla.com/makeaquiz.php
20. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=42&url=http://www.quizilla.com/users/Ruri-chan/quizzes/
21. http://www.quizilla.com/redirect.php?statsid=19&url=http://www.quizilla.com/codepastes/?quizid=152646

10.1.8 (2008-01-23 12:53)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00015eek/

10.1.9 Tuesday post (a little late) (2008-01-30 22:02)

Never really got around to making my post yesterday. Oh well. One day late isn't so bad.

Had a pretty chill weekend. Nothing really too exciting, though it was nice to not have to be driving anywhere. friday just hung out and saturday a few folks came over to play some video games and chill. Overall pretty low key.

Weighed in at 169.0 yesterday. Not too shabby! I'd be pretty stoked if I could keep that trend up! I think just thinking about that spurned my appetite though because I've been ravished all day today and I have no idea why. I started splitting my lifting workout this week, which means all my muscles will be getting hit a little harder. So I'm hoping that I will gain some muscle so if my weight doesn't continue to drop very quickly, hopefully that'll be why.

And only two more days in January! I'm stoked. I'm ready to have me some caffeine. I don't really need it, but I'm ready to have some of my favorite beverages (like Red Bull!) again. Chocolate will be nice too. I'm still shooting for once a week on the alcohol in February, but we will just see how it goes. After seeing how little of an effect it has made by pretty much swearing off for January, my motivation to keep it going for too long is quickly dwindling. I miss my Guinness!!!

Just finished my novel that I kinda got addicted to. One of the newest Dean Koontz books. Always a favorite for me. Now that I finished it up I guess I can start studying for my Biology test tomorrow. hahaha. Shouldn't be too bad, just have a few things to look over and memorize. All multiple choice and true false so I'm not too worried.

OOOOOOH I also got a new skate deck this week which I am super stoked about. It's one of the few shortboards that I could find that was made out of bamboo. Hopefully I'll get to try it out this weekend. I'm excited!! :-)

Aiight, seriously.... off to study.

(2008-01-31 19:36:52)
maybe we can add some 5k (or more) races to add to your workout goals. so the new Koontz book is good? good enough to buy another copy???

10.2 February

10.2.1 Yay for february! (2008-02-02 14:14)

I can have caffeine again! Woohoo!!!

I managed to go all of January with not a lick of caffeine. Unfortunately I really didn't notice any effect at all. I guess I really am just a natural crackhead, lol. I'm not really stoked about getting caffeine so much, but I am glad I can have things that have caffeine in them. Cracked at big ol' Red Bull at midnight on Feb 1 to celebrate and it was WONDERFUL!

February also marks the end of the main part of my no alcohol spree. Unfortunately I didn't really notice much of a difference there either, but I will admit that I was on the road a lot so my diet was probably worse than normal, which is an obvious confound. I don't really care though because I miss my Guinness!!! I have bounced around with several ideas that I thought I might do in February and I think I settled on doing pretty much what I started doing at the end of the semester last year. I just volunteered to drive most of the places we went and that worked out pretty well for me. I can have a couple beers while we are out, and I can drink more when we get back to my place, but since everyone else is usually feeling pretty good by then, I tend to take it pretty easy. Not only is it helpful for the group because we have a sober driver, but it allows me to enjoy my beer but I have a more compelling reason to keep my consumption on a low level, which will hopefully help with my weight and my budget. We'll see how it goes :-)

Just finished a massive apartment cleaning. It's far from pristine, but it was getting to the point where I'd almost be embarrassed if someone new came over. So I gave everything a pretty good cleaning and I must say it looks and feels much nicer in here :-)

Off to do a couple more things, then likely just take it easy until the debauchery begins tonight!

(2008-02-03 19:09:46)
Yay for a clean(er) apartment!! I'm excited. ;-) Enjoy your Sunday! Love you!!

10.2.2 that day again (2008-02-05 14:17)

This weekend was pretty fun. Friday I don't even remember what I did, but I'm pretty sure it was pretty tame. I do know I was up pretty late though. What on earth was I doing? Geesh.

Saturday I got up and went biking with Brad and crew, which was a blast. I definitely need to be spending some more time on my bike. That's one nice thing about not really drinking, it isn't a problem to get up and exercise on a saturday morning, hahaha. Ran some errands and stuff then met up with folks at 7 at Decent Pizza. After that we went over to Buffalo Wild Wings to watch some of the UFC fight. We were thinking of heading to Corner Pocket.....

ok, pause. I remember what I did friday now. After our research meeting, Bopper and I met up with Matt and Lynn and played some tennis. We only found a non-lit court and it was late in the afternoon so we only played one set, but it was fun. We're probably going to try to set up a time to play every week. I'm excited. I used to play a lot of tennis and I'm really looking forward to getting back into it. After tennis, their friend MC joined us for some Bahn Thai then we DID go to Corner Pocket. Played some darts and hung out there then moseyed over to Matt and Lynn's place. Hung out there until like 2:30, then came back

to my place and that's why I was up until almost 4, haha.

So anyway, the UFC fight ended up being a little later than we thought so we didn't leave BDub until like 1. Dropped Bopper's car off at her place then her, Lindsurtle, and Eric came back over to my place. Lindsey's dogs needed to go out, so Lindsurtle didn't stay too long, but we just hung out and goofed around for a little bit.

Sunday had a pretty relaxing day, watched the super bowl, bopper came and joined for some and derek came and joined for part as well. Nothing too exciting.

Yesterday woke up early and went and donated blood. My bp was 116/70, which I believe is in normal range. Then when she took my pulse she asked if it was always that low and I asked her what it was and it was 58. Pretty much normal for me when I'm keeping a decent workout schedule, but it was just funny because I don't really consider that to be that low, but I guess her sampling is from the normal American population so the average is notably higher. Bopper apparently has no circulation past her wrists, because they tried three fingers to get blood for the iron test and couldn't, so it took a while before they actually cleared her to donate. We did get nice free t-shirts, which is always a plus!!

Weighed in at 169.5 today. I think that's about the same as last week, but my eating habits weren't the best this weekend and I was excited that I could drink some beer again, haha. I think this week will be better, though I do feel like I am gaining some muscle so that will help with the losing of fat, but not with my overall weight. Fine by me. :-) Woke up this morning and lifted then went to class. Had chocolate milk and a protein drink after my workout, which I find is a perfect formula for a mid-nap, haha. Luckily there are over 200 people in there and I sit in the balcony. Ran a few errands and have a meeting at 4:30, then tennis. Should be fun!

Ok, I was thinking about it, and these weekend recap/weigh-in posts are nice, but I think I'm going to try to do a thursday post as well where I don't talk about physical activities that I've done, but explore thoughts and feelings on various subjects. Not only will that be more entertaining to anyone who actually reads this, but I think it will be a fun exploration instead of recording the minutes of my life. We'll see how it goes. :-)

Music: Deftones - Digital Bath, Barenaked Ladies - Thanks That Was Fun, Basement Jaxx - Always Be There, Arctic Monkeys - You Probably Couldn't See For The Lights But You Were Staring Straight At Me, Beck - Girl

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supinternets (2008-02-05 22:18:33)
Mmmmmmmmmmm Bahn Thai is wonderful! Are you into UFC? What did you think of the fights? I am so glad Lesnar did not win.

fincher69 (2008-02-06 00:44:06)
Why did you want him to lose? I don't really watch it often, but catch it every once in a while. I was rooting for him. I think he got screwed. Though it wasn't long, he was dominating the whole time and I think he inexperience left him open to the leg bar. I think he's definitely gonna be a force in the future.

10.2.3 A little tax lesson (2008-02-06 22:09)

Suppose that every day, ten men go out for beer and the bill for all ten comes to $100. If they paid their bill the way we pay our taxes, it would go something like this:

The first four men (the poorest) would pay nothing.
The fifth would pay $1.
The sixth would pay $3.
The seventh would pay $7.
The eighth would pay $12.
The ninth would pay $18.
The tenth man (the richest) would pay $59.

So, that's what they decided to do. The ten men drank in the bar every day and seemed quite happy with the arrangement, until one day, the owner threw them a curve. 'Since you are all such good customers, he said, 'I'm going to reduce the cost of your daily beer by $20. Drinks for the ten now cost just $80.

The group still wanted to pay their bill the way we pay our taxes so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free. What happens to the other six men - the paying customers? How could they divide the $20 windfall so that everyone would get his 'fair share?' They realized that $20 divided by six is $3.33. But if they subtracted that from everybody's share, then the fifth man and the sixth man would each end up being paid to drink his beer. So, the bar owner suggested that it would be fair to reduce each man's bill by roughly the same amount, and he proceeded to work out the amounts each should pay.

And so:

The fifth man, like the first four, now paid nothing (100 % savings).
The sixth now paid $2 instead of $3 (33 %savings).
The seventh now pay $5 instead of $7 (28 %savings).
The eighth now paid $9 instead of $12 (25 % savings).
The ninth now paid $14 instead of $18 (22 % savings).
The tenth now paid $49 instead of $59 (16 % savings).

Each of the six was better off than before. And the first four continued to drink for free. But once outside the restaurant, the men began to compare their savings.

'I only got a dollar out of the $20,'declared the sixth man. He pointed to the tenth man,' but he got $10!'

'Yeah, that's right,' exclaimed the fifth man. 'I only saved a dollar, too. It's unfair that he got ten times more than I!'

'That's true!!' shouted the seventh man. 'Why should he get $10 back when I got only two? The wealthy get all the breaks!'

'Wait a minute,' yelled the first four men in unison. 'We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor!'

The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next night the tenth man didn't show up for drinks, so the nine sat down and had beers without him. But when it came time to pay the bill, they discovered something important.

They didn't have enough money between all of them for even half of the bill!

And that, boys and girls, journalists and college professors, is how our tax system works. The people who pay the highest taxes get the most benefit from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy, and they just may not show up anymore. In fact, they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

David R. Kamerschen, Ph.D.
Professor of Economics, University of Georgia

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.
For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

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supinternets (2008-02-07 16:59:33)
A good read! Thanks! :)

10.2.4 Whoa, I'm on a roll! (2008-02-07 21:45)

I was going to post because of sleep stuff, then I realized I said I was going to make thursday my thinking post day. Totally forgot about that until I started typing this post. hahaha. well hopefully this post will serve as a reminder next week so I remember then too.

I've never been much of a sleeper, but this week has been worse than normal. Luckily I don't require much sleep so it isn't like I've been feeling groggy or anything. But three times this week I have woken up at around 5am and had the hardest time going back to sleep. I was thinking about it, and though the amount I lay in bed awake may confound it a bit, I may scrounge around and find a notebook and start keeping a sleep journal. It might be interesting to try to chronicle my sleep habits as well I can. Maybe I'll do that thursdays as an additional reminder to spur myself into writing. I'll see if I can start it up tonight.

On to some thinking....

I didn't realize until last night that my very closest little circle of friends is pretty much going to be gone from me in a couple of months. That kind of sucks. Bopper is graduating, Turtle is pretty much M.I.A. already since he got a girlfriend, and Kellen is graduating as well. I mean I have other good friends so it isn't like I'll just be alone, but those three are my closest buds and the primary contributors to making Tallacrappy a tolerable place to live. I'm sure I'll just get closer to my other friends, but it is still going to be a kinda unpleasant transition. Maybe it'll get me to be a little more diligent in my studies (haha, you never know!!)

But that's pretty much what's been on my mind the most recently. Still of course have my usual "no direction in life" kinds of contemplations, but I don't see those going away any time soon, haha.

Well, off to shower then get some work done (hopefully).

10.2.5 Favorite song of the moment (2008-02-09 11:25)

Dreaming with a Broken Heart

"When you're dreaming with a broken heart
The waking up is the hardest part
You roll outta bed and down on your knees
And for the moment you can hardly breathe
Wondering was she really here?
Is she standing in my room?
No she's not, 'cause she's gone, gone, gone, gone, gone....

When you're dreaming with a broken heart
The giving up is the hardest part
She takes you in with her crying eyes
Then all at once you have to say goodbye
Wondering could you stay my love?
Will you wake up by my side?
No she can't, 'cause she's gone, gone, gone, gone, gone....

Ooooooooooohhhhhhhhh

Now do i have to fall asleep with roses in my hands
Do i have to fall asleep with roses in my hands?
Do i have to fall asleep with roses in my hands?
Do i have to fall asleep with roses in my , roses in my hands?

Would you get them if i did?
No you won't, 'cause you're gone, gone, gone, gone, gone....

When you're dreaming with a broken heart
The waking up is the hardest part"

10.2.6 semi-contemplative (2008-02-11 16:42)

I'll prolly start making my more life/thought posts friends only. Half of them would probably just result in questions and worry from mom so that'll just make it easier, haha.

Just realized the other day that I have pretty much been sabotaging myself relationship-wise. I don't know if it was just part of who I was, or from the breakup with Alana, but it was there nonetheless. Until recently I never really understood the saying "love like you've never been hurt," but I get it now. Pretty much since I've been here I haven't been living like that. I've sheltered myself, and had a deep seeded fear of not only getting hurt, but hurting others.

While it is NOT good to hurt others, you also can't be so frickin' wary that you don't let anyone get close to you or constantly try to classify the relationship to make sure everyone knows everyone else's thoughts on everything. You can't make relationships a cognitive endeavor. I think I finally get that now.

So I'm a in a good place. I'm not wary anymore. I can live without having to know exactly what is going

on. I can let myself love and be loved without a continual cognitive evaluation. It is a freeing experience. I'm just sorry it took me this long to make the step.

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whimsikell (2008-02-11 22:47:07)
It's good to hurt others?

fincher69 (2008-02-12 02:52:30)
dang me and leaving out my "not"s *fixed*

supinternets (2008-02-13 15:12:46)
I understand what you are saying here. It took me a long time to get to that point as well, but it was like a breath of fresh air. Best of luck! :)

10.2.7 Tuesday (2008-02-12 13:38)

Had a pretty darn fun weekend. Emma was in town so I hung out with her and Derek for a lot of the weekend. Friday I enjoyed my share of Alpen Wolf (cheaper Jager clone) and just hung out at my place for the evening. Big news of the night was a plane crash that took out a transformer and power to a good chunk of the community, including my apartment. It ended up that it was just a little plane with one guy in it, who lived but was listed in fair condition last I heard. It was right on the intersection of ocala and tennessee, which is one of the larger intersections in Tally. Kinda nuts. So we were out of power for a while so I just cranked up my stereo and headlights on my car and we had a little parking lot skate session. Ended up being a lot of fun. Got the power back and just hung out and played some video games. Kidnapped my neighbor Sam to hang out, but she wouldn't partake in karaoke. Still had a good night.

Was thinking about getting up and running a 5k saturday morning, but the combination of a late night and a good amount of Alpen Wolf made that prospect much less appealing, haha. I mostly took it easy, watched a movie, hung out with Derek and Emma. Went over to Brad and Sarah's to help him empty some beer bottles for his next brew. The things I do for my friends. ;-) Just chilled and drank some beer and played some Wii then moseyed back to my place. Bopper ended up joining me a little later and we joined up with Derek and Emma for a late night skate session. It was a lot of fun, and we got there are like 1:30 and there were a surprising number of people there. After everyone left we tried to pose some skate pictures that made it look like we almost knew what we were doing. Even faux skating I can eat shit though. Fell off a rail and pretty much landed with all my weight on my left hip. It's looking awfully pretty about now, hahaha. Oh well, it was still a lot of fun.

Sunday I definitely just had a relaxing day. Didn't really get up to much exciting. It was a pretty day so Kellen and I went out to lake Ella and just hung out there for a little while, then I managed to continue my procrastination with vigor once we returned. Stayed active, but adamantly avoided any productive activities, haha.

Anyway, today I was happy to see that I weighed in at 167.0. Considering I haven't been the best at monitoring my eating habits during the weekends, I was actually kinda surprised that I had any loss at all. Especially since I can also tell I've gained a little muscle since I started lifting so I guess that means I've done a decent job at burning off some fat. Hopefully I can keep it going! My goal is still 160 by the end of the semester so we'll see how it goes.

Aiight, as I am in the office, I guess I should actually get back to doing work.

Music: Cake - Stickshifts and Safety Belts, John Mayer - Stop This Train, Allman Brothers - Blue Sky, Cake - Nugget

10.2.8 Weird dreams (2008-02-13 10:54)

I can't remember exactly how it started, but I went to a sporting goods store (like one of the Bass Pro Shops kinds of places) and I decided that I wanted to finally buy a pistol. So I was looking at some cool rifles for a while, then told the guy I was interested in getting into some pistol target shooting and asked what he would recommend. He handed me a .38 revolver and I said I would prefer a semi-automatic. So then he grabs a Sig I believe and it felt pretty nice, a lot better in my hand than the revolver. So then I asked if they had any Desert Eagles and he pulls out this "pistol" that is basically the size of a sawed-off shotgun and it apparently had a different barrel and stock on it that made it pretty much a rifle. So he switched them out and I was looking at it and when I put my finger in the trigger guard it sounded almost like a small engine started up inside the gun. I looked at the side and it said "Desert Eagle .86 Automatic." And I was like "wait, I thought fully automatic guns were illegal" and the guy said "Not in Cleveland." Weird. So then I am done looking at that and go back to looking at pistols, but now it is like a 10 year old boy helping me choose them. Then some other boys come up next to me and ask him some question and he says they will just have to come by his office later. Odd. So while I'm looking at this pistol I suddenly realize that someone is leaning up against my side/back. I turn and it is Kellen and I say howdy, then realize she is crying so I give the guy the pistol back and told her let's go. So after we walk outside I ask her what's wrong and she points over to this newly cleared lot next door and starts talking about how she's always gone to that Jack's and she can't believe they tore it down. This is weird because Jack's is this POS fast food place that Bopper, Lindsey, Turtle and I went to on the way back from Nashville. So next thing I remember is we are driving home and Kellen is no longer upset, but then we start getting into a serious discussion about life stuff stemming from something I had (in real life) said to her before I went to bed and then I wake up.

Frickin' odd. And it was one of those dreams that was just a little too close to feeling real so after I woke up it took me a while to really parse what was real and what wasn't. Especially when I start having a discussion (in my dream) that started with a comment (from real life). Geesh.

My brain already feels worn out and I've hardly started my day!

Music: Cake - Stickshifts & Safety Belts (my current favorite song if you haven't noticed), Barenaked Ladies - Brian Wilson, Barenaked Ladies - Pinch Me, John Mayer - I Don't Trust Myself (with loving you)

10.2.9 Reflective Thursday (2008-02-14 11:28)

Had an interesting realization today. As most of the people that know me know, I like being right. I like having the correct answer and I when I believe I am right I will argue continually to try to get people to see that I'm correct. Luckily, this is paired with my tendency to actually BE correct a great majority of the times I make a solid assertion. I tend to want to know everything about everything and I like having the answer whenever anyone has a question. This is not a realization to anyone that knows me.

What WAS a realization for me is the dichotomy that has arisen in my knowledge acquisition. In day-to-day life I am a voracious acquisitor of knowledge, but this doesn't seem to fully transfer itself into my academics. I don't do poorly in school, but with my desire for knowledge out in the world, it kinda surprises me how little I tend to dedicate myself to my classes and how I have the tendency to do the minimum amount of work to get by. I just had this realization so I haven't explored it fully, but now I'm intrigued.

Why is this the case?

What is the factor that seems to change the way I regard information depending on its forum?

Now that I've had this realization, will things begin to meld into a singular desire for knowledge acquisition regardless of the venue in which the knowledge is presented?

Is there something I need to change, other than just a mindset, for this confluence to occur?

Well, I guess I got lucky that this struck me on my walk to class today, as I was planning on making thursdays my contemplative post day. Though I will admit that it is kind of ironic that I make a post about wondering why I'm not as avid about acquiring knowledge in the classroom and I'm actually sitting in my biology lecture right now, haha. Oh well. Hopefully just making note of this will spark me to explore it further since it is something that will definitely need to be remedied if I am to be heading to med school. Ok, I guess I should start listening to this lecture now.

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tattermask (2008-02-14 18:37:31)
Methinks it pertains mostly to your perception that learning the life tidbits is more immediately applicable to life than the things you are learning inside the classroom... and that ties back in with your quest for the right career path in your life... and that you are not sure you've found it yet... thus, the things you are learning are not necessarily going to be applicable to your life or career... since it might change... I think that's how I know I'm in the right place, as exasperating as it can sometimes be, because I WANT to learn all of the things that we talk about in class, I feverishly take notes, I do ALL of my homework if at all humanly possible, and I try desperately to find something intelligent to say in class. I was never like this before in school. Geez... long-winded much...? amanda

(2008-02-14 19:31:23)
I agree with Amanda (?) You've not yet found that career goal that excites you enough to apply yourself totally. When what you are learning in class can be applied to your career - and one that you love - you'll be better at sticking with the books. Maybe medicine will provide you with the incentive and desire to do well in school, not just get by. Maybe if you think about getting into med school that will motivate you to work at making your transcript look good. I'm with you in spirit!! You are loved, :-)

(2008-02-16 16:09:06)
eloquently put

10.2.10 Contemplative Tuesday (2008-02-19 09:40)

Yeah, I said thursdays would be contemplative posts, but as my sleep patterns are beginning to lessen even more, I've had more time to think so I'll combine that with the weigh-in/weekend recap this week.

First off, I weighed in at 169.0 this week. I was actually a little surprised because I had weighed like 166 a few days ago, but oh well. I didn't lift last week, but I still managed to get some exercise. I talked to Fishel and am now working out with him on tuesdays and thursdays so I think that'll be good. I think I'm finally settling into a more consistent schedule. As it stands now I am doing the following: Monday - abs and running, Tuesday - Lifting (chest and triceps), Wednesday - abs and skating, Thursday - Lifting (back and biceps), Friday - Lifting (legs) and swimming. Then various activities during the weekend. We'll see how well this goes for the rest of the semester.

As for the weekend, my allergies were kicking up and I could hardly breathe so I just hung out with Kellen and had a relaxing Friday. Saturday I was a little more lively, though took it easy during the day then Matt came over and we had a little jam session (first time I've really played guitar with someone else) which was a lot of fun. Then met up with some folks at Finnegan's then moseyed on over to Corner Pocket for one of the longest games of darts EVER. Also made the mistake of ordering some bar food that promptly laid siege to my innards. I felt like I was dying for about the last hour I was there. It was unpleasant. Got back to my place and couldn't get my key out of my lock once I let myself in. Took me a solid 15 minutes to finally get it undone. Luckily in all the struggling I worked something loose and my ass decided to finally be a release valve for my intestinal armageddon (TMI I know). Matt and I ended up staying up for a while and chatting, then we crashed. Sunday was pretty relaxing. In the afternoon I went over to Tom Brown to explore around on my bike and found some pretty cool trails. Rode decently hard for about 45 minutes so it was a good ride, but nothing too awfully strenuous. More exploratory than anything.

On to my contemplation... as this was kinda Valentine/post-Valentine weekend, I started thinking about love. So I hit up dictionary.com and below is the first entry.

love [luhv] noun, verb, loved, lov·ing.
–noun
1. a profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.
2. a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection, as for a parent, child, or friend.
3. sexual passion or desire.
4. a person toward whom love is felt; beloved person; sweetheart.
5. (used in direct address as a term of endearment, affection, or the like): Would you like to see a movie, love?
6. a love affair; an intensely amorous incident; amour.
7. sexual intercourse; copulation.
8. (initial capital letter) a personification of sexual affection, as Eros or Cupid.
9. affectionate concern for the well-being of others: the love of one's neighbor.
10. strong predilection, enthusiasm, or liking for anything: her love of books.
11. the object or thing so liked: The theater was her great love.
12. the benevolent affection of God for His creatures, or the reverent affection due from them to God.
13. Chiefly Tennis. a score of zero; nothing.
14. a word formerly used in communications to represent the letter L.
–verb (used with object)
15. to have love or affection for: All her pupils love her.
16. to have a profoundly tender, passionate affection for (another person).
17. to have a strong liking for; take great pleasure in: to love music.
18. to need or require; benefit greatly from: Plants love sunlight.
19. to embrace and kiss (someone), as a lover.
20. to have sexual intercourse with.
–verb (used without object)
21. to have love or affection for another person; be in love.
—Verb phrase
22. love up, to hug and cuddle: She loves him up every chance she gets.
—Idioms
23. for love,
a. out of affection or liking; for pleasure.
b. without compensation; gratuitously: He took care of the poor for love.
24. for the love of, in consideration of; for the sake of: For the love of mercy, stop that noise.

25. in love, infused with or feeling deep affection or passion: a youth always in love.
26. in love with, feeling deep affection or passion for (a person, idea, occupation, etc.); enamored of: in love with the girl next door; in love with one's work.
27. make love,
a. to embrace and kiss as lovers.
b. to engage in sexual activity.
28. no love lost, dislike; animosity: There was no love lost between the two brothers.

So just in the first dictionary, there are a solid 28 different definitions. A loaded word indeed.

Now I used to be one of those people who, in a relationship, would never say "I love you" until I felt extremely strongly about the person. I always held it to a higher status and didn't want to say it unless I *really* meant it. Over the years my feelings about this have changed. I don't see love as a threshold that I must cross before I can pronounce it to someone. It's a continuum. I love a lot of people (to varying degrees) and I think I should do a better job of telling those I care about that it is the case. My family has always been good about this (another reason I love them), but it is rarely exchanged outside of that group.

Now I'm not going to just go around telling all my friends that I love them, but I think that it never hurts to let people know. I like the quote from a fairly recent song whose name escapes me; "those three words are said too much and not enough." I still believe it can be overused. It shouldn't be a phrase that is uttered out of habit, or just because it is something you always say. You should say it because you mean it and as long as that quality is fully retained I see no harm in using it. I will not argue that because of the varied definitions and strengths of the word "love," one must be careful to ensure that other parties know the context and depth by which the word is used, but I think that regardless of various interpretations, this world could use a little more "love."

Music: Tom Petty - Crawling Back To You, Tom Petty - Wildflowers, Dave Matthews - Stay or Leave, Swayzak - State of Grace, Rob Dougan - Instrumental, Nick Drake - One of These Things First

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tattermask (2008-02-20 14:18:55)
The lyric is from "Chasing Cars" by Snow Patrol =) I like that quotation a lot, too.

supinternets (2008-02-20 17:09:48)
Intestinal armageddon, lol. Poor thing.

(2008-02-20 17:31:17)
You are loved..... very much :-)

10.2.11 Reflective Thursday (2008-02-22 01:17)

Ok, so technically it's a little late, but whatever. It's been a crazy busy week.

I actually tried to think about what to talk about today on several occasions, but didn't really have a subject I felt like contemplating, then I just saw a commercial that sparked it.

The degradation of the English language.

It was sparked by one of those stupid commercials where the people are speaking in text message

speak. I was reminded of talking to some people I know and reading some things online about how "netspeak" is gradually making its way into papers and essays that kids turn in. I mean, netspeak kind of annoys me anyway, but when students are too incompetent to use the frickin' language in school it breaches the ridiculous.

I've been a grammar Nazi for a while, I know this. I'm probably more anal than most, but it still drives me crazy when people can't even use English properly. What are we teaching kids nowadays? Just because you are typing online means you need to type like you are retarded? I mean seriously people. LEARN TO SPEAK AND/OR TYPE THE LANGUAGE. Jesus, it really isn't that hard. I mean come ON.

So that may not be too contemplative, but I figure I can mix contemplation and bitching, haha. Below are a list of a few of my biggest pet peeves that I encounter often.



"I could care less" - So you are trying to say you don't care? YOU FAIL. If you could care less, that means you care to some degree. If you care just a little, or care with all your heart, you fit in the category of "could care less." What you MEANT to say was that you COULDN'T care less, implying you don't care. Refer to diagram.

"definately" - It is definitely people. Seriously.

their/they're - one's a contraction, one's possessive. Not hard.

"heighth" - Width? yes. Length? yes. Heighth? NO, you fail. There is not "th" at the end. I know seeing a "ht" is really confusing, but yeah, it still isn't a "th."

mixing i.e. and e.g. - I.e. stands for id est, i.e. "that is." This means you are saying something in another way or explaining further. E.g. stands for exempli gratia, which means "for example." So if you are

going to give an example of something, that's not an i.e. situation, use e.g. I know this one is being pretty picky, but I've seen it a few times recently and it is annoying.

I think those bother me the most. At least I can't think of any more at the moment. So in conclusion, learn your own language folks, seriously.

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tattermask (2008-02-27 05:21:12)
I actually didn't know the latin that i.e. and e.g. stood for. I use them properly, but 'tis nice to know what the hell I'm actually abbreviating. =) Thanks, my fellow over-educated buddy!

fincher69 (2008-02-27 07:32:17)
over-educated? Who? Me? ;-) Glad I could help, though I'll admit I had to double check exempli gratia. Knew what it translated to, but wanted to make sure to get the actual Latin correct.

10.2.12 yup, that day again (2008-02-26 11:43)

Overall it was a pretty chill weekend. It SHOULDA been a productive weekend, but oh well.

So friday Bopper, Samid, Matt and I played some tennis. Afterwards we moseyed to Mellow Mushroom because I hadn't been there in a while. Scrumptious as always! We then tried to hit Crenshaw for some pool/bowling, but the waiting list was like 45 minutes so we just had a beer and then came back to my place. Just spent the evening hanging out there, which was fun. Hadn't really had people hanging out at my place in a while.

Saturday was pretty chill. Didn't really get into much that was too exciting. I got a new video game, Dynasty Warriors 6, so that was pretty much the highlight of my day. I have had several in the series and definitely get addicted to them so I probably dedicated more hours than I should have to that. I can't remember if I did much else. Man, it MUST have been a lazy day haha. In the evening I met up with Bopper, Matt, Lynn, Turtle, Lindsey, Brad, Sarah, Keith and Marie at Shenanigans for some live Irish music. That was a lot of fun. Sarah got "sleepy" and Matt was feeling kinda tired so they and their significant others went home. Lindsey and Turtle went to Paradigm (haha) because D and Kelsey were there. Bopper and I went to pockets and had a round of mini bowling. D and Kelsey shoulda come with Lindsey and Turtle to Pockets, but they were lame and stayed at Paradigm for some reason. So the four of us hung out at Pockets 'til close, then I called my friend Carole because she was having a party at her place, but I had forgotten how the youngin's don't roll as late as some of us. ;-) So she didn't pick up so I just headed back home.

Had a kinda lazy day on sunday too. Planned on heading to the office in the evening and just working there for a while. Kellen was in San Francisco for the weekend and had horrible travel luck and had stuff due this week and a test on monday. Not cool. She couldn't get a flight back to Tally so I picked her up in Jacksonville. I'm always up for random road trips. ;-) So that took a chunk out of the evening since we got back around 1:30 I think, but it was good to hang out and chat. We have both been all over the place lately so we haven't really gotten to hang out much lately. Grabbed some stuff from the office then went to my apartment and worked on a lab report and did some reading. Finally crashed around 5.

Monday I got up and worked on a couple things, then went to lab. After lab I relaxed for a little bit then spent the evening working in the office. Actually got some work done, though I probably should have studied more for my biology exam I had today. I managed to crash before 3 and I caught up on my reading, but that took enough time that I didn't do much studying outside of that. It wasn't too bad, but there were

definitely a couple sections that the questions were pretty specific and I wasn't too sure about. We'll see.

Got up at 7 again to go lift, then did some last minute studying before class. Now I'm chillin in my office, about to read over a grant proposal from one of the professors I am working with, then meeting with my advisor, then heading back to my apartment. I need to do some cleaning then I'll probably take it easy for a bit. I'm cooking dinner for a couple friends that I haven't seen in a while, then I'll likely have another late night trying to get some more of this work done. It's a good thing I sleep on the weekends, because it sure doesn't happen much during the week, haha.

Music: John Mayer - Dreaming with a Broken Heart, Barenaked Ladies - Alternative Girlfriend, John Mayer - In Repair, John Mayer - Slow Dancing in a Burning Room, Beck - Broken Drum, Doves - There Goes The Fear

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supinternets (2008-02-26 21:22:14)
Wow, super nice of you to drive to Jacksonville! It always sounds like you are running around everywhere, I'd have to be you on a BUSY day. :)

fincher69 (2008-02-26 23:02:31)
I definitely try to keep my life dynamic ;-)

tattermask (2008-02-27 05:12:13)
I wish I could thrive on as little sleep as you do. How do you stay awake through the boring parts of life?

fincher69 (2008-02-27 07:30:57)
I usually have plenty enough with which to occupy my mind. It's a busy little fella! ;-)

10.2.13 (2008-02-26 12:49)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad
Dad likes to send us postcards from places while we are there. Nice little reminder of how awesome the trip was.

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000114hx/

10.2.14 Doh!! (2008-02-26 17:55)

Just realized that I left out the entire reason for my tuesday posts, haha. Weighed in at 169.5, which kinda surprised me since I have had absolutely horrible eating habits this past week. WAY too much fast food. It was kind of interesting though because, as a deviation from the norm, I actually hopped on the scale before I went to bed and it said 168.0. So i guess it must be pretty humid in my apartment for me to absorb a pound and a half of water, haha. Kinda odd.

Nothing else. Was basically going non-stop from 7 until about 3:30 so I'm just chillin, thinking about

going for a run, playing guitar and hanging out until dinnertime. Will have to kick productivity back into gear this evening, but I'm enjoying doing very little for the time being. :-)

10.2.15 thursday (2008-02-29 00:33)

Ok, so this thursday most of what I've been thinking about has gone back to the ol' career debacle. I just am not sure what I want to do.

Being a doctor is definitely extremely appealing. I would be constantly challenged and I would be in a career where I really feel like I would be making a difference in people's lives. Negative is that I'll be like 40 before I'll actually be practicing. That kinda sucks.

The idea of being a college professor is still appealing. I'd be doing research so I'd kinda be on the forefront of my field and helping shape America's youth. I think it would be a lot of fun, though the pay would likely be less than substantial.

And I've been thinking a lot about what I think I'm suited for and what I would really enjoy. I mean, really, near the top of the list would be brewmaster. I love beer, I love exploring new beers, I'm creative, and what business sense I don't have a definitely feel capable of learning. I think it would be an awesome job that would suit me and I would really enjoy, but it isn't exactly on the path that I'm on. And I really like the idea of making a difference in other people's lives like I could as a doctor or a professor. Right now I just don't know.

And I'm getting into computational biology and recently met with a guy who does molecular modeling for a company in Boston, which sounded really interesting. So there could be occupations in that area that I could really enjoy. I just feel like I really don't know what I want right now. Some days I feel like I NEED to be a doctor. Others I can really see myself owning a brewery. Others I could see myself really involved in developing some alternative energy or developing better ways to use what resources we have.

Right now I'm going for the med school track because that takes the most preparation so by going for that I keep the most doors open. I just want to find that something that clicks. That area that just feels right. That thing I do that once I start I just know I'm in the right place. Right now I don't have that. I'm excited about my research, but I still don't have that feeling. I want that feeling where I feel like I have to tear myself away from what I do because I love it so much. I KNOW there is something out there that will spurn my passion, but I just am not sure what it is yet.

I know it is out there. I know one day I will find it. I just have to trust myself to realize when the opportunity presents itself so I can seize it. Here's hoping. :-)

10.2.16 boredom post (2008-02-29 11:07)

I teach recitation at 9:30 on fridays. It usually isn't too exciting, but today is worse than normal.

First, I had one of the worst nights of sleep of my life. I work up about 70 times and kept thinking it was a different day and that I kept sleeping through things or having to wake up for things or forgetting to do things. It was unpleasant. And I have had a sore throat the last couple of days and have felt like my head was a little woozy. So then I was looking forward to doing recitation, then moseying home for a nap, but the guy who teaches recitation after me is sick and had an appointment at the hospital at 11 so I am covering his class right now. It really isn't a big deal since it is just watching them do and turn in an excel

"exam," but it means I can't be napping. And I mostly exhausted my normal boredom sites so here I am writing in here. Exciting stuff.

Hopefully I will get out of here early enough to lie down for a little bit before my research meeting. I was going to try to get some research done, but since I have to go home to get my laptop anyway, I'm not really feeling it. I may try to squeeze some in after my research meeting, but who knows. That's what sundays are for right? ;-)

Saturday is going to be busy, but fun. Running a 5k in the morning, then around noon I'm heading to the Rez for lake cleanup, then the bio professor I am working with is having a party at 5 so I'll be heading over there for that, then I think a group is going to someplace called like Ali Baba's or something. It comes highly recommended by the english kids.

Aiight, well I guess I'll go back to keeping these folks honest. At least I got to burn 5-10 more minutes, haha.

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supinternets (2008-02-29 16:32:12)
Ali Baba's is great, I suggest the stuffed grape leaves.

(2008-03-01 01:16:25)
Good luck with your 5k. I'm running one in Nashville in 2 weeks.... I sure will miss you! :-)

10.3 March

10.3.1 Wow, it's tuesday already?! (2008-03-04 18:42)

Wow. Had a great weekend, but today it sorta dawned on me how much I have piling up on me right now. I'll get to that in a minute.

First, my scale got moved around over the weekend and I felt a little dehydrated this morning so I'm kinda skeptical about my weigh-in. It was 161.5, which seemed like a bigger drop than I was expecting since I really haven't been that healthy lately. Who knows. I guess I can't argue too much. :-)



Friday we went to Bird's Aphrodisiac Oyster Shack, which had come highly recommended. It was definitely good food (I had some steamed and some blackened oysters), though it woulda been nice to have an actual glass for my Guinness ;-) From there we waited on Derek then went to Club Down Under to see a band of whom Brad and Sarah apparently knew a member. MC and Pete joined us and we met Brad and Sarah there. The first opener was pretty good, though pretty sedate, especially for just post-dinner. The second band was just not very good at all. So by the time Girls On Film finally took the stage, I definitely wasn't feeling too peppy. They WERE pretty good, just didn't have the right lead up. After that we moseyed back to my place for some karaoke and such. Always a good time. :-)

Saturday I definitely did NOT make it to my 5k I was planning on running. Though I planned on taking it easy, I blame the second opener for driving me to drink, haha. Went out to the Rez for Rez Goes Green and paddled around in a canoe gathering trash for a couple hours. It was a beautiful day so it was nice to be outside and have some fun. The professor I have been working with in the Biology department was having a shindig at his house so I dragged Bopper over there with me. It was fun. He's actually in a band that set up and played so that was kinda cool. They were also doing lab photos that night and he asked if I wanted to be in it (who am I to ever turn down being in a picture?). They were doing a band theme since they had already set everything up and so I was just helping find some instruments that people could hold and everyone was kinda crowding towards the back, I just don't understand ;-). So Dave was like "Who wants to be lead singer?" and no one said anything and I was close so he was like "Fincher, get up here." So that is the picture to the left. Not only am I barely supposed to be in it, but I'm lead singer. Center of attention? Who? Me? So after the party we met up with a bunch of the English kids at the grand reopening of Ali Baba's. It was definitely a fun place. Dinner wasn't sitting too well with me though, so for the first little bit I was pretty chill. I think I grabbed an undercooked brat and luckily my body reacts to the slightest thing wrong so it got rid of it before any real harm could be done. Had a blast while I was there then continued the post party with karaoke at my place again and just crashed.



Sunday was pretty chill. Nothing too awfully exciting to report. Monday was about the same. Working on putting together a video of Dustin for a Red Bull contest so that should be a lot of fun. On a random note, many people who know me have heard my trailer mansion idea, but mom sent me a forward so I had to re-share. Instead of buying a big house and taking forever to pay it off, I think it is an awesome idea to just get a nice piece of land, then buy a trailer. If you can't pay for it in full, you will be able to pay it off pretty quickly. Then just save your money and once you have enough, just buy another trailer and connect them. Tada! The home that grows with your budget! To the right is the picture my mom sent, which is a prime example of the creative implementation of my plan (though I would probably prefer more of the connections between trailers to be enclosed).

So workload. It's been steadily creeping up on me, but it is looking like my comprehensive exams are pretty much just around the corner. They don't have a specific date in mind yet, but Van Engelen told Turtle after spring break. Unfortunately this could mean the week right after we get back from spring break, or a couple weeks after. Either way, I really need to get on that studying!! I'm really not too worried about it, but I still have a lot of work to do. It would suck to fail it and have to take it again in the fall, but it wouldn't be the end of the world. Still would be a heckuvalot nicer to just get it done and over with though. I'm not too worried about OS, Architecture, Theory and Algorithms, but I never had the strongest grasp on AUP and Compilers so I'm going to have to work a lot harder on those. Hopefully it will be late enough after spring break that Turtle can relax enough to actually come on spring break. I think he's a tad more stressed than I am about it, but it'll be even harder for me to motivate myself to study on the road if I am the only one doing it! That plus my biology class and biology research is definitely going to be keeping me pretty busy for the next few weeks. Ain't the end of semester's fun!?

Aiight, I'm off to organize some things, then dinner with MC, then to the office to make my self be productive. Maybe I'll even start reading over portfolio stuff tonight. I can sleep when I'm dead. :-)

(2008-03-07 04:57:46)
I am TOTALLY shocked that you were front and center in the picture!! ;-) You do look pretty cute as a lead singer... but don't get any ideas for another career!! haha

10.3.2 Spring Break!!! (2008-03-16 20:29)

I'll start out with a little warning, this is probably going to be a pretty long post as I am recounting almost an entire week. While my memory sucks, hopefully I will remember enough to catch all the major details. :-) I'm sure I'll forget and/or mix up some things, but hopefully I'll retain the main gist.

So we were initially planning on leaving late saturday night, but things came up with Lindsurtle so they couldn't make it. We got to hang out with them on friday since we weren't going to see them all week. If I remember correctly we hung out at Corner Pocket for our normal beer and darts.

Saturday I got up early and picked up Matt and Bopper and we headed out on our road trip. The first leg took us to Hilton Head. Not too bad of a drive. Got there early afternoon so we just hung out with my parents for a while then went to a scrumptious dinner at the Old Oyster Factory. I love that place!! Came back to the condo and just hung out and drank some good beer. I had gotten about two hours of sleep the night before, and when we first got there I was pretty much drinking on an empty stomach, so I crashed out pretty early.

Saw my parents off in the morning then just took it easy. Hilton Head was pretty much designated as the completely relax and unwind destination, and we did our jobs well. We walked across the street for a nice lunch, then took it easy in the condo. Went to the mall to look for a book Bopper wanted, but they didn't have it. Did a little other shopping then went to a family fun place for putt-putt and arcade games. Racked up some tickets and got some fun bouncy balls, paratroopers and a whistle and such. It was a lot of fun. It had been a little while since I had spent any time in an arcade. Had a wonderful dinner at Marley's then went to Callihan's or Calhoun's or something. It was a cool little sports bar and we played some pool and a bunch of shuffleboard.

Got up monday and had lunch at the Salty Dog Cafe. We sat outside and between breezes it was very comfy, but a little chilly when the wind got going. After that we wandered around and checked out some of the shops in the area. Bopper got some things for her mom and I got my first skimboard! We went home and changed then went out to the beach for a while. Matt and I took turns on the skimboard and got some cool pics. Bopper tried a couple times, but spent more time finding shells and making sand turtles. :-) It seemed a little cool when we first got out there, but turned out to be just about perfect weather. After having a lot of fun on the beach we changed and showered, then we hopped on the bikes and rode to Harbor Town. Had a frickin' amazing meal at the Krazy Krab. I usually get a shrimp cocktail and the Krazy Krab Boil, but I decided to forgo the shrimp and order and additional pound of the Alaskan King Crab legs. It was AWESOME!!! I hadn't had good crab in a long time and that definitely hit the spot. From there we got some ice cream and walked around a little bit. Had an interesting ride home as it was getting dark, but it was still a lot of fun. Watched Club Dread and hit the sack.

Tuesday we had lunch at the Hilton Head Diner on the way out of town, and it was ridiculous. It had frickin' EVERYTHING. I mean like waffles, eggs, tacos, quesadillas, chinese food, I think some Thai, and several other things. On top of that they had a pretty decent beer selection, served liquor too, AND were open 24 hours!! It was truly astounding. Went up to Charleston and met up with Bopper's friend John. Hung out with him until he got off work then went back to his apartment. Went downtown and had dinner at King's Street Grill and my friend Cameron got to join us as well. Had some good eats there, then we went to this bar that was in what used to be a church for a while, then came back to John's. Then we went to Wings because it was right down the street, had a lot of good beer (though I thought I was going to die from smoke inhalation) then just relaxed and crashed back at John's place.

Next day we met up with bopper's friend Ryan at Moe's, then Matt and I got yo-yos and these cool little foam disk guns at a little hobby shop. Ryan hopped in the car with us then she took us for a little walking tour of downtown. Chilled at a pier then walked through the battery where I got excited because I got to do some tree climbing. For some reason recently I have wanted to climb trees so I was pretty stoked to find one with a limb that was low enough for me to grab onto. Stopped by a coffee shop for a bit then met up with Cameron and Mark at Red's for dinner. Cameron and Mark headed home then we went to a

fun bar with a lot of different kinds of beer and played some shuffleboard and some darts. Moseyed home and just crashed after that.

As a side note, Johns place was a little ridiculous. Still a lot of fun, but just a little crazy. There were a couple of dogs and couple of cats that ran around everywhere. It was a two bedroom apartment and in one bedroom was Brian and his girlfriend Heather. In the other was John and his girlfriend Lacey AND Lacey's slutty friend Alex. That's right, all three of them. And one King sized bed. Apparently she usually slept on the couch, but we had them all claimed. Still, it was quite a bit odd. What made it even weirder was that Lacey kept bitching at John and causing problems because Bopper and him had actually dated (like 10 years ago) and she seemed to have a problem with an "ex" staying there, yet her slutty friend sleeping with them was just fine. Odd.

Anyway, we left Charleston Thursday to head to Charlotte. Met up with Matt's friend Geoff and grabbed a couple drinks. Then we went to this ridiculously amazing place we referred to Drunk E. Cheese's because it was like you took a Chuck E Cheese (with video games and such) and added a full bar and some bar games as well. I could probably have stayed there for days and been in heaven. Met up with Bobby, Erin, and Kim for dinner at an awesome sushi place. Had a couple more drinks and trivia at a nearby sports bar, then Erin and Kim headed home and Bobby came out with us. We went down to near where Geoff lived and found a cool bar there. Bopper and I did karaoke for pretty much the first time ever (not counting the karaoke games on my playstation). We were pretty much there until a little after the bar closed then we went to Geoff's house to drop him off. Unfortunately, the Spring Break 08 tornado hit Bobby pretty hard so he really wasn't feeling well. We ended up hanging out at Geoff's and playing soccer and talking until around 4:45 then we took Bobby home. On the way, Matt said he had a crazy idea. He was still feeling pretty lively and instead of just trying to crash for a few hours, he suggested we just go ahead and drive to Greenville and he could stay up with me. I was still wide awake, so I was game, but then approximately 5 minutes later I heard him snoring, then he woke up and was like "know what I said about staying up? Yeah, I don't think that's going to happen." hahaha. We dropped Bobby off at around 5:20 and I was still lively so I decided to go ahead and head to Greenville. So it was a helluva 14 hours in Charlotte, :-). Matt and Bop slept for most of the trip, then we rolled into Brandon's place at around 7:30. Just in time to see him off to work. Slept for 5-6 hours and got up and went to Brixx pizza. It was wonderful and then we checked out Barnes and Noble and Best Buy just to burn some time. It was still well before dinner time, but we decided to just head to Bopper's house and hang out for a while. Brandon and Bopper's brother George joined us and we had a wonderful dinner. After dinner we consolidated cars and headed downtown to Barleys. Played some shuffleboard and darts there and enjoyed more than my share of Abita Turbo Dog (on tap!!!) then we came back to Brandon's and crashed.

Got up the next day (saturday), and Brandon and I grabbed some Bojangles, which was absolutely delicious!! Then we headed up to Sunrift to say howdy to Frost and check things out because it is always a fun store to peruse. Went back to Brandon's and took it easy until it was time for dinner. Met up with Frost and Matthew (my old roomie) for dinner. Hadn't seen either in a while (not counting seeing Frost briefly earlier that day) so it was fun to catch up. After dinner we hit the road and headed back to Tallahassee. Bopper had downloaded some crosswords to play on the computer which made the 6.5 hour drive fly by. Dropped her off then got to Matt's at around 1:30. MC was chillin there with Lynn (who was passed out from the benadryl she had taken earlier) so we just chilled and chatted outside matt's apartment for a while. MC and I came back to my place and we caught up some more and watched some TV and a movie and I didn't end up crashing until about 7 this morning.

I got up at around 1:30 and just really felt like doing something physical so I grabbed my bike and went out to Tom Brown to hit some trails. On the way Dustin said that he was wakeboarding on this shallow lake that pretty much appeared after the recent rain. They were just pulling behind Dustin's truck,

but then Chris was going to come out with his winch. So after biking I went over there and took some pics and vids and hit the rail once. It was a beautiful day and it was nice to get back out on the water. Since then I've just been running errands and getting things situated around here. Probably going to continue for a bit then I have to do my lab report for tomorrow. I have some other things I should probably do, but as far as I'm concerned I'm still on break so I have a feeling the report will be about the only thing I do. :-)

Side note about spring break: it didn't take long before "that's what she said" became the slogan of the trip. It started out that it would get said every hour or so (if that). It gradually ramped up until near the end of the trip it was probably close to every third sentence. We didn't write down any of them, but there were definitely some funny ones. I don't feel like putting them there, but in not too long I'll update my quote page. I recorded several on my phone so there should be some good ones.

All-in-all it was an amazing break. One super awesome thing about it was that it really seems like 3 weeks ago that I was in Hilton Head. I feel like we have had so much time off, so that is awesome. Had a blast in our travels and all the people we visited. Sorry Lindsurtle couldn't come because I'm sure it would have been even more awesome, but it was definitely high on my list of favorite spring break trips.

Back to chillin, organizing, and eventually a little work :-)

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supinternets (2008-03-17 03:10:02)
Sounds like lots of good eating! Oh how I miss seafood. It was my fav before I became a veggie. And wtf with that Lacey girl? Bopper is so nice and down to earth. Regardless if she was so and so's ex, it was like ten years ago. Insecure perhaps? She should be more concerned about the third party in her bed.

fincher69 (2008-03-17 15:42:10)
yeah, Lacey was a wench, but we didn't let it damper our fun :-)

tattermask (2008-03-17 14:39:40)
You do so much fun stuff. Can I just be you for a week or two? Hehe

fincher69 (2008-03-17 15:42:49)
sure! Come on down! ;-)

10.3.3 (2008-03-17 12:54)

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[1]Sender: Park  Sender: Park
 A postcard from Moscow!!
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000161ac/

10.3.4 Some interesting goings on (2008-03-21 09:53)

I didn't have a contemplative thursday post this week. Been kinda hectic getting back into the groove after spring break and St. Patty's, but I came across a couple articles today that I thought were interesting so I

thought I would share and comment.

The first involves the [1]FBI posting fake links to child porn and then raiding and arresting people who clicked on said links. When I first read the headline, it sounded pretty darn sketchy to me. Raiding someone's house because they clicked on a single link? That sounds like giving the FBI excessive abilities to me. But in reading the article it seemed not nearly as bad. The links were posted in a chatroom that apparently is a haven for the trafficking of child pornography. The links explicitly stated that they were to child porn, so it wasn't as if they made it vague to trick someone. Apparently there is a law that makes ATTEMPTING to acquire child pornography a misdemeanor that has stiff punishments, so clicking the link qualifies at that attempt. While this sounds better than the initial headline, it still raises some concerns. So if a concerned citizen saw a link and wanted to check it out so they could report it to the authorities if it really was something illegal, they could have their house raided, computer taken, and get arrested? That's a scary. And since it goes by IP, what if several people are sharing a router? Because one clicks a link they all can be arrested and have everything of theirs searched? I discovered the other day that my apartment complex has routers that feed multiple apartments. Makes sense so they can just get one connection for a group of apartments, but this also means that if my neighbor was on that chatroom and clicked the link, they likely couldn't distinguish between which apartment it was and therefore I could get raided and have all my computing equipment confiscated. I wouldn't get busted for anything, as I have nothing illegal, but not only would I be majorly inconvenienced, but if they were to damage any of my things I highly doubt I would be compensated. While I'm all for catching anyone involved in child porn, this still seems a little sketchy to me.

The second article I found involves [2]criminalizing using someone else's open network. I have a huge problem with this. So an internet signal is being broadcast into my house, I ask the router for permission to use it, the router grants said permission and gives me access to the internet. This is illegal? That's bullshit. If you are too stupid to secure your wireless network, I think you have no right to complain how the network is being used, especially in cases where you are broadcasting it into someone else's home. People make the "stealing what you aren't paying for" argument, but I hardly feel it's stealing when it is not only being broadcast into your house, but you technically are requesting access from the router and it is being granted. I think it is completely ridiculous that this bill is even being proposed.

So those are my thoughts of the day. I'm off to swim, then continue this beautiful friday.

1. http://www.news.com/8301-13578_3-9899151-38.html?tag=nefd.pop
2. http://www.herald-mail.com/?cmd=displaystory&story_id=188912&format=html

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gatoron2wheels (2008-03-21 16:41:05) pint of view

This is just me. But because it is part of my job role now to look out for odd traffic patterns; I have done some research into this. Because your apartment complex shares it signal that it receives to the complex it should keep a watchful eye on what happens to there network. There should be some type of logging server that keeps track of who goes where. (I would read my lease agreement to see if that is so.) If they do not have that information it does not mean that all is lost for the FBI raid. I would think that the website that they were pointing to would be doing some type of packet capturing just because of what they are doing. With that being said If you look at the packet long enough you should be able to see which IP on the sub domain was at that site and with that they should now who was doing something illegal. But on a side note. If I was your apartment complex I would not be running a small little router to do my business. I would have my own core doing it. This is just an opinion of a lonely operator who does not no anything. Have a great weekend and I hope that made some since I don't like to proofread. If it does not just give me a call.

10.3.5 (2008-03-23 12:57)

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[1]Sender: Austin  Sender: Austin
 In case you can't read it, that's Cape Town, South Africa
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00018724/

10.3.6 Should be working.... (2008-03-25 14:34)

but I have Tuesday posts to make! haha. I can always work later. I have a feeling I'm not going to sleep much this week anyway.

Had a pretty active week this past week. Not sure my body is fully enjoying it as both my shins about cramped a mile into my run yesterday, but I'm trying to keep them pepped so I can gradually start stepping up my workouts. Sunday I biked, monday I ran, tuesday I lifted in the morning and biked in the afternoon, wednesday I took off, Thursday I lifted then ran, Friday I swam, and saturday I wakeskated. Sounds like a pretty good week to me! I could tell I put on some weight over spring break and Keith and I are doing this [1]Muddy Buddy race in June so I need to prepare.

Weighed in at 172.0 today. I forgot to do it right when I got up because I was in bed for all of 4 hours and didn't sleep very well at all on top of that. So needless to say I wasn't fully about my wits. I tried to drink about as much water as I sweat to keep things even, but the number could still be off slightly. I'm too lazy to look up what I was before break, but I think that is a solid 4-5 pounds added. I'm constantly surprised how easy it is for me to put on weight. I mean a road trip pretty much equals crappy food and little physical activity so I guess it could be worse. I really ate a decent amount this past week too so that could have contributed. After having the break, both my lifting workouts felt pretty strong and made me pretty sore (especially in addition to my other activities) so I was trying to just eat a decent amount, especially high protein foods. I'll probably back off a little this week, but I noticed a step up in my weights this week so I think my diet actually helped me build some muscle, which could also contribute to my weight increase. We'll see how the next few weeks go with my studying for comprehensive exams ramping up and the semester coming to a close. Should definitely be busy times. My diet my suffer a bit, but I'm really going to try to refrain from sacrificing my workout routine. I feel so much better when I've done some activity. If things get tight I can always cut out more sleep time ;-)

Had a pretty good weekend. Friday we met up at Finnegan's for a couple good pints, then regrouped at my place. From there we went and hung out at Ali Baba's for a while then wrapped things up at my place again.

Saturday I got up and headed to the Rez a little before noon for RezFest. Got a wakeskating session in and had fun hanging out and listening to live music and talking to people. Any day spent mostly outside is a good day in my book!! Left the Rez at a little before 7 and showered and then Matt, Lynn, and MC came and picked me up and we headed out to a karaoke bar. The song selection they had was lacking (heavily country biased to the point of not even having a single Rolling Stones, Weird Al, or rap of any kind song), but we still had a lot of fun. Especially cool because Dustin, Lindsay, Becca, Drew, Turtle, Lindsey, and Pete all came out and joined us. So we had a pretty decent group of fun folks. My group was definitely doing pretty well by the end of the night, so I took us back to my place and everyone else except Pete bailed out.

Continued the karaoke theme at my place for a bit. Then between MC feeling a little under the weather and my new neighbor having trouble getting into her apartment, the night kind of wound down.

Had a ridiculously lazy (read:awesome) Easter sunday. Probably should have gotten more work done, but enjoyed just hanging out and relaxing. Watching Little Miss Sunshine with MC then we actually got some work done. After she moseyed home I don't even remember what I did, but I got tired uncharacteristically early so I just took it easy and crashed.

I told myself I was going to start studying for comps last friday and study at least an hour a day. So far I am sitting at 0 hours, haha. I'm definitely hoping to get in a couple today and keep up the 2 hour trend at least until I'm caught up then see how things go. Have a biology exam on thursday and plenty of research to get done as well so it is going to be a busy few weeks wrapping up this semester. It'll end with a big bang when I have Comps on friday, then leave for Boone. Go to a wedding saturday and probably drive back to tally later saturday evening, then study sunday for my Biology final on monday. I will be ready to relax regardless, but hopefully Monday night I will be able to have a big Passed my comps/done with this semester throwdown. Here's hoping on that former part ;-)

Well I guess I should get to work. Probably going to run a couple errands then do some reading at home because I also need to do some laundry and such. If I can get some good bio and comps studying done before my 7:30 meeting I can just focus on research afterwards and should be sitting pretty for the evening. Though, there's a good chance I won't get that much done this afternoon and I'll just do everything tonight, haha. I have nothing to wake up for tomorrow so I'll probably plan on being up pretty late. Those are my most productive hours anyway. Who knows, maybe I'll just skip the sleep thing tonight so I can get ahead. Yes, I know I'm nuts. ;-)

Music: Dave Matthews Band - Seek Up, Barenaked Ladies - What a Good Boy, Allman Brothers Band - Ramblin' Man, Beck - Que Onda Guero

1. `http://www.muddybuddy.com/`

10.3.7 Wow (2008-03-28 18:48)

It's been a helluva week. Thinking back I've probably averaged 3-4 hours a night of sleep and I STILL feel like I've hardly gotten anything done. Geesh! I was going to start studying for comps last friday and study at least an hour a day, which means I'm about 7 hours behind, haha. Geesh! I really hope to get started this weekend, so hopefully that'll come to fruition.

I was thinking about doing a reflective post (like I said I was going to be doing on thursdays), but I don't think I really have anything prominent that I wanted to discuss. It's been a busy week and things are only to get busier as the semester progresses. Should be pretty interesting!

I kinda thought if I hopped on and started rambling something that would be interesting to discuss would pop up, but it's looking like that isn't going to be the case. Oh well. haha. Maybe something will pop up later. Now to relaxing so I can start kicking things into gear a little more tomorrow. :-)

10.4 April

10.4.1 Tuesday (2008-04-01 13:09)

And so the last few crazy weeks of the semester begin. I'll be done three weeks from yesterday. Crazy! I feel like I have so much to do before then. Started studying for my comprehensive exams yesterday. So that'll give me just under three weeks of studying. Not too bad considering I started about 4 days prior for my comprehensives at App. ;-) I'm thinking this week will be a lot of going through the info and getting things organized, then the next two weeks can be focused more on actually reviving all those neural connections. I've found I'm still kinda recovering from my complete lack of motivation that engulfed me last year and I don't seem to be as efficient studier as I used to be, but if anything will kick it back into gear it'll be the next few weeks!! It's going to be nice to have THAT behind me for sure.

So this weekend was a lot of fun. Friday I took MC to the airport to see her off to Miami. Then I kinda just took it easy. Emma came by and we played some Karaoke then later Bopper came over and hung out for a bit. Turtle eventually joined us and we went over to Olivia and Jill's place. They were having people over then planning on going to Paradigm. Hanging out at their place sounded appealing, but Paradigm? Not so much. So when the group headed off there was actually another group that decided to head over to Leon Pub. Hung out there until close then moseyed back to my apartment and called it a night.

Saturday I got up early and drove to Hilton Head. March 30th is my dad's birthday and he took a week off for him and mom to hang out in Hilton Head. He had no clue that my sister and I were going to come join for a bit. So my sister got in friday night after they had fallen asleep and so she surprised him by being there when he got up in the morning. They stopped to have lunch once they got on the island and it ended up taking a little longer than expected so I actually beat them to the condo. I parked in the far end of the lot, but still wasn't sure if dad would notice. I heard him "unlocking" the condo door and he said "I'm not sure that was really locked" then he opened the door and SURPRISE!! He was completely surprised by both of us so it was really awesome. I was sorry I couldn't stay longer than I did, but it was still really cool that we could surprise him like that for his 60th. Had an amazing seafood dinner and then just took it easy in the condo.

Had a lazy morning sunday, then went to the Crazy Crab for a wonderful lunch of crab legs. Not too long after lunch I hit the road to head back to Tally. I was super stoked because not only did I get to have seafood, but I finally satisfied my Krystal craving that I had been having recently. :-) MC came over once I got home and we got to catch up about our respective weekends. Mostly took it easy and just relaxed because I knew studying for comps would kick into gear on monday and she had papers to work on so she'd be busy as well.

Monday I met with Turtle and studied, went to lab, went for a run, did a couple errands, then had a meeting, then put on a movie and did some research. A pretty productive day overall. Let's see if I can keep the trend going today ;-)

Weighed in at 171.5 this morning. Not too shabby. I can definitely tell that I've gotten stronger in my lifting so I should hope that at least some of that weight is muscle. Trying to train for the Muddy Buddy race too so hopefully keeping my aerobic up with the addition of a little more muscle mass will help me keep shedding off a few pounds. I'm still shooting for 160, but it is looking like that won't happen until this summer. In the middle of a crazy studyfest/semester ending is not the best time to try to buckle down on exercise and eating habits and ten pounds in 3 weeks would be a little much anyway.

Well I guess I should get back to trying to get some work done since I am in the office and all. I have

a meeting at 4:30 so I have about three hours to burn so hopefully I can make them at least semi-productive. ;-)

(2008-04-03 14:02:47)
I love it when you add a blog entry!! Your dad is still talking about the best birthday ever!! :-) You are loved, Justin!

10.4.2 Thursday post (kinda) (2008-04-04 00:08)

So technically it is a little bit late, but here's a thursday post nonetheless. Since public posts propagate through facebook, I figured a relationship post would be better off just chillin on lj, hence the friends only. :-)

So things with MC have been going awesomely. It really hasn't been that long, so I can only say so much, but things are great. We get along ridiculously well and definitely have been taking it at a perfect pace. We're both pretty busy since it is the end of the semester so we see each other whenever we can, but it has actually turned out to be the perfect amount. Things are just working and it is nice.

We're still learning about each other, which is fun, and pretty much the only thing that has me worried at all is eventual locations. She's from south florida, and is soon taking the bar in florida, but I would REALLY not want to live in florida longer than I have to. I could probably survive in like Jacksonville or Orlando, but it'd would be all I could do to be happy living in south florida. But considering we've practically known each other for only like a month, it's not really a pressing issue at the moment, haha.

I didn't really have anything else that I've been thinking about recently other than preparing for my portfolio exam. This is by FAR the longest I've ever studied for anything in my life. Comps at App were probably 2nd place and I think I started studying about 4 days prior for that. haha. Wow, am I a good student or what?

Well after taking like 2 hours to do my grading, and knowing that I'll likely be up all night tomorrow night for relay for life, I should probably think about hitting the sack soon. I don't usually require much sleep, but I would still like to get at least like 6-7 hours before staying up all night. So off to do some random things then I'm hitting the sack!

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supinternets (2008-04-04 13:17:24)
Aw, grats Justin! And I feel ya on South Fl. Human cesspool. I HATED living there, and never want to go back. Avoid!!! Oh, I wanted to ask you, do you know a Mike Sklens??

fincher69 (2008-04-04 17:06:54)
Thanks! and yes, I know Mike. He's part of the english kid conglomerate that we hang out with often. I'm assuming you know him as well?

supinternets (2008-04-04 17:16:02)
Sorta. We have a date tomorrow night. I noticed you were listed as one of his friends on facebook.

fincher69 (2008-04-04 17:20:33)
oh cool!!!! Yeah, he's a cool guy. There are like three tiers of hanging out when it comes to the english kids so we don't hang out a ton, but definitely have had fun when we do. And hey, if you get bored later tonight I'll be at

the Relay for Life. I'm messaging a bunch of people so hopefully they will come entertain me for a least a portion of it. ;-) feel free to stop by and say howdy!

supinternets (2008-04-04 17:27:15)
Yeah, he seems super nice so far. I am just really nervous, but excited. I am doing First Friday early in the evening, so that may be feasible. Where is the Relay for Life??

fincher69 (2008-04-04 18:26:04)
at Mike Long track (the one on campus). I'll likely be there from 6pm tonight til 8am tomorrow so you have quite a window ;-)

supinternets (2008-04-04 18:51:17)
OMG! You are going to be there that long?!?! Now I understand why you would request entertainment.

10.4.3 ok, so I found a real contemplation today... (2008-04-04 13:09)

I stumbled upon this article today about a man in germany who has essentially invented a [1]suicide booth. It is a "humane" means by which someone (the terminally ill were specifically mentioned) can administer their own death, but since it is a prebuilt apparatus, there isn't a doctor directly involved that is likely to be sued. I'd be interested to hear what people have to say about this. I, for one, am completely for it. I know if I were in a situation where I was going to have a horrible life ahead of me, it wouldn't last that very long, and I'd be a constant financial drain on my family I would much rather just punch out and get it over with. I would especially hope that if I end up in a vegetative state that my loved ones would just pull the plug. It would be such a waste to keep me "alive" when I'm am not consciously there and they could donate my organs to save who knows how many people. It actually kinda bothers me when some people fight this kind of thing, because it really isn't their decision. By fighting this and other forms of assisted suicide, you are essentially trying to mandate what people do with their lives. Given I have a strong "don't tell me what to do" gene, this irks me. Who are other people to say what I do with my life? If I do an "extreme" sport that is very likely to kill me, people don't try to ban me from that as adamantly as they do if I'm doing something that has a 100 % chance of death. Seems like it should just be up to the person and if that is what they want to do, I don't see why it should be illegal to provide them with a means to do so.

1. `http://www-cgi.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/europe/04/04/germany.euthanasia/index.html`

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supinternets (2008-04-04 19:55:01)
I would have to agree with you. I read the article, and then I looked up the lady Chantal Sebire that they mentioned. She should have been granted the right to die with dignity. If something like that befell me, I would want to just die and get it over with. Same goes if I were in a vegetative state. I feel our body is ours, and the government cannot tell me when I will die. Like Chantal said, they put an animal to sleep because it is suffering and in great pain. Why would we not extend this right and courtesy to a fellow human?

10.4.4 Keeping the tuesday thing going... (2008-04-08 16:41)

even though I probably should be studying. haha.

Had a pretty darn good weekend. I did relay for life on friday. Got there around 6 and was planning on being there the whole time (until noon saturday) so I told lots of my friends to come visit me (presents

and drinks appreciated). I really didn't think many people would come out, but I had a lot of people come out so it definitely turned out to be a helluva night. I think it was around 6-6:30 we all had to go sit in the parking garage because a thunderstorm was moving into town. Once it looked like it was definitely going to hit us, they actually decided to just cancel at around 7 or so. So we packed up everything and James dropped me off at my apartment. Had a little nap, then saw MC briefly, then crashed until about 3pm. So I got 6.5-7 hours of sleep total, which really isn't too bad.

Saturday was frickin' awesome. It was a rainy and thunderstormy day and it felt like sunday because of the crazy schedule from the night before. So every time I realized it was actually saturday it made me happy :-) Mostly just hung out and relaxed with MC. Had some mellow mushroom for breakfast/lunch/dinner at around 5:30 then watched the spongebob movie and snagged some ice cream from Brewster's. Pretty much just enjoyed hanging out on a lazy rainy day. The weirdest part was that the day seemed to move really slowly, which is especially odd considering my day pretty much started at 3pm. That usually makes days fly by, but every time I looked at the clock it was like 3 hours earlier than I was expecting. Eventually Derek and Emma joined us and we met up with Bopper and crew at Corner Pocket. Hung out there til close then moseyed back to Bopper's place for a little bit. All-in-all it was one of the best days I have had in quite a while.

Sunday I went out to the Rez at noon, but no one else showed up so I just came back to my place then walked around with Emma and Derek to try to get some pics of her for her graduation cards. Tried to get some work done in the afternoon, but didn't have much luck being productive. Ended up going and visiting MC and just hanging out and watching TV for most of the evening.

Monday was pretty much same old same old. Continued studying for the portfolio defense (10 days and counting!!!) and such. Hung out with Matt, Lynn, MC and Matt's friend Jason for dinner then was feeling pretty beat because I hadn't gotten much sleep the night before so I actually crashed pretty early. Knowing I was getting up at 7 to lift with Fishel helped motivate me in that department as well. ;-)

Weighed in this morning at 169.5, which really isn't too bad considering I had a pretty lazy and carb filled weekend. Exercise is always the first thing to get cut when times get busy, so I'm really trying to make sure I keep on my workout routine's and keep getting physical activity these next two weeks. I doubt I'll really be losing weight, but if I can maintain where I am until summer classes start I'll be pretty stoked. now I'm off to finish all the chores I've been doing around the house this afternoon, then learning about embedded processors, then study date! Should be a busy evening. :-)

Music: Weird Al - White and Nerdy, Dave Matthews Band - Mother Father, Mary Chapin Carpenter - Stones in the Road

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diesburg (2008-04-10 22:03:07)
Too bad relay for life got canceled. That sounds like it would have been a blast!

fincher69 (2008-04-11 00:23:44)
I was still there from 6pm to 7am so while it did get cut short, I still had plenty of time for fun.

10.4.5 DUSTIN WON!!! (2008-04-11 10:28)

WOOHOO!!!!

I don't know if I posted about this earlier, though I'm sure I mentioned it. I helped my friend Dustin put together an entry video for Red Bull's First Person contest. Basically what they do is pick 5 people, send them cell phones, then at randomly call them and say something like "be at the airport in 3 hours" and then pick them up and take them on some crazy Red Bull adventure with Red Bull athletes. You had to mention one specifically and Dustin mentioned Shawn White so they may frickin' fly him to the Alps to snowboard with him or something equally nuts. So we took like two days and came up with and created a video for his submission. Then they were voted on by the public and he made it to #5. Then Red Bull looked at the top 10 to decide which 5 would actually win and go on the adventure and DUSTIN WAS CHOSEN!!!!! How frickin' sweet is that?!? Frickin' uber sweet. So he'll get a phone and get called off on some awesome adventure and they will be taping it and each contestant will have their own First Person episode. I'm definitely jealous, but super stoked that we frickin' got him in there. BAD ASS!! You can check everything out at the [1]Red Bull First Person site. He's on the far right (we went with the nickname "Shoe").

Anyway, just had to share. Off to shower and study, then an awards ceremony, then off to Orlando until tomorrow evening!

1. `http://www.redbullfirstperson.com/`

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diesburg (2008-04-14 00:16:08)
Wow, that is so cool! Congrats – you've got to be so proud! :)

fincher69 (2008-04-14 04:07:02)
totally!! :-)

10.4.6 no weigh-in this week (2008-04-15 09:55)

As my comprehensive exams are steadfast approaching, I'm not bothering with the whole diet/weigh-in/exercise thing much this week. I'll probably do something thursday to help ensure I get a good nights sleep, but otherwise I'm really just not worrying about it.

Brief weekend recap:
Friday I taught, then did some work, then went to the CS awards ceremony. Got a certificate for getting second place in the programming contest in the fall and got recognized for being a GAANN fellow. After that I went over to pick up Laura only to find that she was still asleep..... at 5 pm!! She had crashed at 3am, but was obviously more sleep deprived than she had thought. Once she got packed up and ready we hit the road to Orlando. Met up at Joey and Mike's place. Hung out there for a little while then Laura and I decided to go on a beer/prepare for breakfast run, but little did I know the beer gods had it out for me. So we go to a gas station, we're looking around for a bit, then when I open the door a 12 pack of Bud Select jumps out at me, hits the ground, pops open, then at least two bottles pop out and start kinda spewing beer, even though they were unbroken and the tops were still on. I had beer dripping from my nose and the ever growing puddle kept coming right towards me. Geesh. So then we look for a walmart and find a WalMart Neighborhood Market, which was odd because it was basically a Walmart grocery store. Only had groceries and nothing else. I had never seen that before. So we are waiting in line to check out and the guy in front of Laura (who is in front of me) waits until the cashier rings him up then says "I'll be right back" and walks out the door. We are all sorta looking at each other dumfounded, then she says "a lot of the time they don't come back." So her manager cancels out the sale and she checks out Laura. After that she decides it is a good idea to open some coins for her cash register. When she gets to me, she scans the beer, asks for id, then says "oh, it's after midnight, I can't sell this to you." Like the register wouldn't ring it up. It was 12:02!!!!! Then she even broadcast her stupidity to me by saying "if I hadn't stopped to unwrap those coins

you would have been fine." What the hell!? Geesh. So I surrender to the beer gods, left my Smithwicks at Walmart and resigned to just drink the Bud Light I bought for everyone else.

Saturday was Red Bull day at OWC so we spent the entire day there and had a ton of fun. Got to ride the cable a bunch, drink some free Red Bull, and they had little 50cc dirt bikes that you could ride around. Only bad part was that I had forgotten that I took my camera bag inside the night before at Joey's so my camera and video camera were left there so I pretty much got no documentation of the day. Don't remember anything too significant else that happened, but it was a lot of fun. After it was over we moseyed back to Joey's and said hey to everyone then Laura and I hit the road to head back to Tally.

Had a chill saturday evening, then sunday was basically a chill day with studying.

Ok, just felt like doing a little update. Now back to the studying!!

10.4.7 Stolen from Amanda (2008-04-16 23:00)

I think my openness to experience and agreeableness were noticeably lower than they should be, but I think the paragraph description wasn't too far off. What's that? Shouldn't I be studying for comps? hahahaHA-HAHAHA!! (been studying for nearly 12 hours and counting)

My Personality

```
Neuroticism
7
Extraversion
88
Openness to Experience
54
Agreeableness
19
Conscientiousness
41
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```
You are a calm person who is considered almost fearless by some,
however you don't usually get angry too easily but some things can
annoy you. You lead a leisurely and relaxed life. You would prefer to
sit back and smell the roses than indulge in high energy activities.
You tend not to express your emotions openly and are sometimes not
even aware of your own feelings. You will help others if they are in
need. If people ask for too much of your time you feel that they are
imposing on you, however you feel superior to those around you and
sometimes tend to be seen as arrogant by other people. You take your
time when making decisions and will deliberate on all the possible
consequences and alternatives.
Take a [1]Personality Test now or view the full [2]Personality Report.
The best [3]Buying Pet Gifts.
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1. http://www.learnmyself.com/
2. http://www.learnmyself.com/personality.asp?p=wpa-628330&x=PIx1x156958-157408x6a8FFx1
3. http://www.luckybestfriend.com/

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lfincher (2008-04-19 02:00:01)
haha check my blog. i am way more agreeable than you are!! :) and conscientious. now there's something we needed to take a personality test in order to identify...

fincher69 (2008-04-20 02:20:17)
more agreeable? that might be contested ;-) but you get more conscientious hands down haha

supinternets (2008-04-22 20:16:24)
Thief! ha ha. Check out that 7! Nice!

10.4.8 woohoo!! (2008-04-19 02:36)

Just wanted to make a quick post before I crash.

This morning I had my portfolio exam. This is equivalent to a Preliminary exam, comprehensive exam, qualifying exam, etc. depending on what department you are in. Basically there are three categories each containing three core classes. We have to take two classes from each category, which we are then tested on in our portfolio defense. The portfolio defense consists of you sitting in a room with two professors (a primary test-giver and secondary) for 30 minutes while they grill you on a subject. You do this for each subject (i.e. 6 times) so here is a brief synopsis of my morning

9:00 am - Advanced Unix Programming - Was kind of scared about this one, but ended up doing alright. Definitely didn't ace it, but felt I showed passing knowledge, though not likely by a substantial amount. I don't know how much it truly affected me, but haven't maintenance spraying hoses on the windows during the entire thing, at times it was loud enough that Yuan just said hold on because I could hardly hear what he was saying, and that distraction couldn't have been helpful

10:00 am - Computer Architecture - Felt most comfortable with this subject going in (I AM in the architecture research group) and did pretty well. Only fumbled a bit with some cache stuff, but I think that was mainly because we didn't cover it in too much depth at App (I didn't retake it at FSU)

10:30 - had a break so just discussed some things with Turtle

11:00 am - Theory of Automata and Formal Languages - wasn't too worried about this one. Our class was extremely limited and lame here, but I have had a couple courses in the past. Had a couple trip ups that were soon remedied after they gave a hint so I felt pretty good about this one.

11:30 am - Algorithms - I felt pretty prepared, but was still a little scared of this one, but it went well. Didn't blank on anything and did a pretty good job of answering everything they asked.

12:00 pm - Operating Systems - I was kinda scared of this one, and definitely that fear should have been even greater. We covered so much material in that class that in going over the notes I got lost in the minutiae and just tried to process too much when I would have been better off focusing on the basic terms. Another thing that hurt me was that I did a lot of my studying with Turtle and this was the one subject that we didn't have in common. So in that respect I think it got a little neglected. I knew some things, but really felt like this one lambasted me. By far the worst of the day.

12:30 pm - Compilers - This is the one Turtle and I were by far most scared about. Turned out not to be too bad. Had to get some prodding/hints on a couple things, but felt pretty good with it overall.

So I was hanging out with MC later and told her I probably wouldn't even really check (they just send you an email) until I got to Bristol. A bit later I was sitting at my computer and my gmail notifier said I had a message. I glanced and saw "van Engelen" who is the head of the portfolio committee, and "CONGRATULATIONS!!!" so the waiting thing didn't really happen. It was kinda funny though because I think I didn't realize how tense I was about it until after I saw the email and became completely sedate. Like I was just moving slowly, talking slowly, and just really mellow. It was cracking MC up.

So all that to say, I PASSED MY PH.D. QUALIFYING EXAMS! Woohoo!! I pretty much consider this to be the biggest hurdle in the program so it is an awesome feeling to have it behind me. Now it is feeling like it is about time to hit the sack. My brain wouldn't stop thinking about all the crap I've been studying so it's been running through my mind the entire trip here (up to bristol, have a wedding in NC tomorrow) so I'm ready for a respite :-) Just had to make a post before I crashed, hehe.

(2008-04-20 23:29:25)
been there.... done that.. know where your head was, son. It was an amazing experience to live through and to have succeeded.... congratulations! i'm so very proud of you!!! that was an incredible experience!!! it made me nervous just to read the post about it.... what a hurdle to have behind you. We both love you very much! :-)

diesburg (2008-04-21 14:00:32)
Congratulations! I've often told people that the portfolio exam was the hardest experience I've had in my life, and I've heard a lot of people say the same thing. Congrats on passing – even with the window sprayers! It's a lot more fun from here. :)

supinternets (2008-04-22 20:17:08)
GRATS! Your such a smarty pants. :)

corazon_leigh (2008-04-24 16:45:45) Yay!
Congratulations!

10.4.9 (2008-04-25 02:30)

Been a bit since my last post. I have pretty much been on brain recovery for the past little while. I think I mentioned it, but after my comprehensive exams Keith and I drove 9 hours up to Bristol.

Saturday we got up and drove a little over an hour to Scott's wedding. It was a pretty small and casual wedding. The music was awesome (terminator march for seating of the parents, bride walked down to the Star Trek theme, etc.) and had a nice little reception with barbecue and slaw and such. It was good seeing Scott, Andy, Adam and Beth. Headed back to Bristol and just took it easy and finally enjoyed being

able to just sit down and have a few beers.

Sunday we got up early and headed back to Tally (about 8.5 hours). Mom kept my car so I stole hers so needless to say the drive home was not only more exciting, but we made a little better time ;-) Tried to motivate myself to study for my biology final once I got home, but was largely unsuccessful. Probably wasn't helped by the fact that I decided to go out looking for a Wii, but couldn't find one and ended up getting Guitar Hero 3 since I had still yet to purchase it. Took me a while to get it calibrated through the PS3 on my TV, but everything seems pretty good right now.

Monday I got up and actually did some studying and a couple other things. Took my final at 5:30 and then was pretty much done! Went over to Finnegan's for the evening and celebrated with a few pints of Guinness and Smithwick's, but nothing too crazy. Then hung out with MC for a bit and crashed.

Tuesday was a lot of guitar hero. Had a meeting out at the Rez at 2, but really didn't do much else. Definitely enjoyed being pretty much done.

Yesterday was a lot of the same, though I kept MC company while she was trying to get some work done and finished up my grading so I was truly done for the semester. AWESOME! Again, PLENTY of guitar hero and actually beat it on hard and started up expert. From looking at some of the songs, and from the fact I caught stuck on a couple on hard, I don't have high hopes for being able to actually beat this one on expert, but here's hoping. :-)

Today was pretty chill as well considering I was pretty much done. Had a meeting with Lee, ran some paperwork by the SCC office, met with Dustin at the Rez to go through the ski locker, came back to my apt, hung out with Derek and Kellen, then pretty much settled into a chill evening since most of the people I knew were busy. Missed a call from Wicki and so she soonafter knocked on my door then burst in and yelled at me and pounced on me, haha. Laura and her friend were also there and were going to Yianni's and told me I had to come. I had never been there so I figured what the hell. Wicki wasn't there for too awfully long before she moseyed to the pub and they had met up with a couple other folks so I hung out there for a while longer. I moseyed back to my apt, and not 30 minutes later Laura and her friend knocked on my door. They hung out while trying to get a hold of Carrie to finagle a ride home, but couldn't so I gave them a ride home and now I'm back. All-in-all it was a pretty crazy, but fun, evening. Definitely felt a little old at Yianni's, and think I woulda had even more fun if I had MC there, but it was still a blast. People watching at places like that is hilarious!!

So now I'm back and settled and just chillin. Might pop in a movie or something because I'm not too tired, but don't really have anything I truly need to be up for until about 6 pm so I got no schedule :-) Prolly gonna relax on the Guitar Hero since there will be Rock Band at Bopper's shindig on saturday and it'd probably be good to give my arm a break, haha. Aiight, chill time!!

Music: Devo - Whip It, April Wine - Sign of the Gypsy Queen, Green Day - Longview, The Corrs - Breathless, Mozart - Serenade No. 11 for winds in E flat major, K. 375: Adagio

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(2008-04-28 01:14:43)
shouldn't a wii be something you ask for your birthday?? :-) you are one busy guy, justin! looking forward to our visit to tally!!!

10.5 May

10.5.1 been a long while (2008-05-06 01:29)

I have been enjoying just relaxing and not having classes or Ph.D. qualifying exams to worry about. I have been enjoying it so much, in fact, that I've neglected to write anything in my blog for a while! Definitely not feeling like (nor thinking I could) recall day-by-day details of the past week and a half, but I can give a decent synopsis.

Went to graduation last last friday. Same old same old. Hung out with Bopper's family then had some fun later in the evening. Saturday I took it easy as far as I recall then we had Bopper's graduation dinner at Ted's Montana Grill then it was party time at her house. Had a lot of fun talking to folks and tearing up some rock band. I think it was a pretty good send-off for her. Don't think I really had much else going on until my folks came down to visit so I showed them a good time for the week. They were here from wednesday to saturday and I managed to cram in about as much fun as I could! I got to take them to most of the local restaurants that I frequent (including Essence of India, Ted's Montana Grill, Kool Beanz Cafe, MoMo's, and Pitaria) and many of my favorite watering holes (including Leon County Pub, Finnegan's Wake, and Corner Pocket). I wouldn't be surprised if they felt like they needed a couple days to recover from the trip. I definitely kept them busy while they were here. It was also fun running a 5k with mom saturday morning. Obviously we don't get to run too many since I live 9 hours away so any time we can coordinate one is fun. After the 5k+ race (according to hearsay around 3.5 miles) we bolted back to my place so I could change then they dropped me off at the law school graduation. Got to see MC and Lynn get hooded then met up with my parents for lunch before they hit the road back to Tennessee. After that I had a pretty chill afternoon hanging out with MC and family and friends. Rest of the weekend was pretty chill as well. Mostly been just taking it easy, but I'm feeling that I'm about ready to get back into working on some things.

Just found out today that I'm actually only teaching the second half of summer so I'll be having 4 day weekends until the end of June which will be nice.

MC and I are going to visit my sister in Nashville this weekend so that should be a lot of fun. I'll probably be easing myself back into the grind and trying to help MC work on the couple of papers she still has to do. Fun fun fun! Also hope to meet with some folks in Nashville to coordinate me doing some work with a genetics company there. How badass would that be?

On a side note, things have been going ridiculously well with MC. Everything just seems to work. We fit so well together that we are constantly amazed that it really wasn't that long ago that we met. Not to sound too cheesy, but it's definitely one of those feelings where you really can't get enough of the other person, especially since we've both been busy enough since we started dating that most of the time we really don't spend an excessive amount of time with each other.

Anyhoo, I'm probably going to think about moseying to bed in not too long. I have a bunch of papers to read so I may work on those or just do some fun reading. Tomorrow I don't really have any big plans other than to get some reading done and work on some research. Also want to start on my Spanish Rosetta Stone. MC is going to be my tutor and I'm going to try to learn me some spanish this summer! Should be interesting! hehe.

In addition to that, I'm really going to try to step up my training and get in better shape this summer. I started to have a good regimen of running, biking, swimming, and lifting and I hope to add in some tennis and wakeboarding. The variety is nice for the mental aspect, but it is also nice because it keeps the higher impact sports (like running) to only a couple times a week so I am less prone to injury. Here's hoping it all

works out! My first semester here I made a big step by losing over 20 pounds, but as I drop weight, it get harder to continue the trend. I think my schedule this summer is going to lend itself well to a good routine so hopefully I'll be in tip top shape by the end of the summer!

Ok, it's almost 2 so I guess I think about packing it in. Sleepy time!

(2008-05-06 10:48:07)
You are right- it's going to take a few days to recover from the fun and frivolity you showed us in Tally. It was great meeting your friends and going to your usual hangouts. Keeping even a portion of your schedule was a challenge though! It was also fun to run with you. Maybe we can find another 5k to do before the second summer session... I'm so glad you are happy!! Love you! :-)

supinternets (2008-05-06 16:37:11)
Sounds like you really showed your parents a great time! But yeah, sounds like they deff needed some time to recover afterwards. Ha ha. I am so happy that everything is going so good with MC! She sounds like a great girl! I am curious how on earth you will sound speaking Spanish. Sometimes your accent is undeniable. But it seems to be well hidden most of the time, that is till you start drinking. Do you ever canoe? It's a great upper body work out. I want to start that back up this summer. And there are lots of wonderful places up here for some great canoe day trips.

fincher69 (2008-05-06 18:07:30)
I'm hoping my ability to speak fairly unaccented english when needed will facilitate some authentic sounding spanish. I guess we'll just have to wait and see ;-) I have only canoed a few times. I'd really like a touring kayak, but have neither the money nor the storage to really accommodate that right now. Maybe if I can finagle some alternate income I can find a place to store one and get into it :-) Maybe you, me, MC, and Mike can have a canoe trip sometime.

supinternets (2008-05-06 18:22:00)
Yeah, kayaking is great. If I recall correctly there is a river in Wakulla where you can rent either a canoe or a kayak. A canoing trip would be fun. I love getting a gaggle of people and having like six canoes out there on the water. Drinking + canoing = good times

(2008-05-08 01:59:23) well done
thats for sure, brother

10.5.2 (2008-05-12 12:42)

[1]Sender: MC Sender: MC
She actually sent this while we were both in Nashville.

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0000ytt0/

10.5.3 Fun weekend (2008-05-13 00:10)

Had a pretty chill week. Did a little reading (but not near as much as I should have) and mostly hung out with MC while she worked to finish her papers.

Left on Thursday and drove to Birmingham. It's a nice place to sorta split up the drive to Nashville. MC learned about my fondness for Hampton Inn and continued to work on her papers.

Friday she worked most of the trip to Nashville then worked for a bit more to finish everything up once we got there. I talked to Onstott and he ended up coming over and hanging out for a bit. Went out to a texmex place for dinner. They had a cool appetizer of a fried avocado that was super scrumptious. It was very lightly breaded and almost tasted like it was baked. From there we all headed to Red Door to hang out and have a few drinks. Since MC was finally done with her papers she got to relax and just have some fun. Laurens friend Justin joined us for a bit then we moseyed on home.

Saturday we walked around downtown and did some shopping. I got me some snazzy cowboy boots to finish my ensemble and MC got some snazzy shoes and a plethora of souvenirs. Had lunch at a cool little bar and grill (Pirahna or something) then did went to Fido coffee shop, then did a little more shopping, then had dinner at Bosco's with the Jennys and Andrea. From there we went back to Lauren's place to just hang out and prep and JD and Stephanie came by to hang out for a little while before we went over to Dan McGuinness. It was fun there, though the roof outside was kinda leaky so once it really started raining it was kinda like a falling minefield. Got to hear some live music while enjoying a thunderstorm then went home.

Sunday we got up and went to California Pizza Kitchen (my FAVORITE) then went to my sisters soccer game and enjoyed the cool weather and gale force winds. From there we went out to the Dixon farm to see JD and Stephanie again. I got to play around on JD's mountain board, which is a frickin blast. And speaking of a blast I also got to shoot his 44 magnum a few times. Fun! Headed home from there and tried like 4 places for dinner, yet all were closed. Finally found a sushi place that ended up being pretty darn good then walked over to the Beer Sellar after Beth joined us. Hung out there for a while then took it home, where MC and I played some guitar hero before crashing.

Got up early today and met with some folks about some work I might get involved with having to do with some DNA sequencing and cancer detection stuff. Then we hit the road to head back to Tally. Stopped in Birmingham for a few hours to help my Grandma get a new Focus and MC got to see a friend of hers as well. Then we finished up the trip back to Tally.

All-in-all it was definitely a fun weekend. It's nice to also know MC is done with her papers because she's been pretty stressed and busy lately so she deserves some time to relax. I'm just piddling around my apartment and getting settled back in. Classes start tomorrow, but my first is at 12:30 so it isn't like there is a rush. MC and I are starting our super-get-in-shape plan tomorrow so I thought about getting up and running or biking before class, but I remembered that I am lifting after class then likely playing tennis later, so I think that will be enough physical activity for day one, haha. For now I'm enjoying my last day and just relaxing and having a couple beers and being glad I'm not on the road anymore. :-) I'll probably start my weigh-in posts again tomorrow, but wanted to go ahead and do my weekend update while it was pretty fresh on my mind and I had time to kill :-).

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supinternets (2008-05-13 13:33:16)
Mmmm. Why the hell doesn't Tally have a CPK?! This is unacceptable.

10.5.4 Tuesday! (2008-05-13 16:19)

So I weighed in this morning at 172.5, which is actually only 3 pounds more than my last weigh-in. Considering my past few weeks of sloth and gluttony I was kinda expecting more, but that works by me! Today MC and I decided we are getting in shape hardcore so I'll be back to my tuesday posts and hopefully hitting the exercise thing pretty hard. Also have like 5 weeks to prepare for Muddy Buddy so that will be an added incentive. Here's hoping things go well!!

10.5.5 What an awesome weekend (2008-05-20 10:52)

It started out kinda early (woke up at 4:30 on friday). MC and I left at 5 to head to Jacksonville to get my car serviced. Wanted to be first in line so I could get in and out of there as soon as possible. It ended up not taking too long and we were out of there by about 10:30. From there we left to go to Hilton Head. It wasn't until spring break that I really realized how close hilton head is. I will probably try to go there more often because it is a super relaxing place to be and 5.5 hours is very easily weekend-able. The weather kinda turned yuckier as we got closer and it was rainy and windy when we finally got there. Took a little nap then decided to drive (rather than bike) to the Crazy Crab (one of my favorite restaurants) for dinner. Had an awesome meal then stopped by blockbuster for some movies and basically just took it easy the rest of the evening. MC had never seen any of the Indiana Jones movies so we watched Raiders of the Lost Ark. Definitely didn't have any trouble sleeping that night.

Saturday we slept in, then walked across the street for lunch. Hung out at the condo for a little while then went on a bike ride to Harbor Town and back. It was a pretty and relaxing ride for sure. The weather had cleared up and it was pretty much absolutely perfect for the ride. Moseyed over to Marley's for an amazing meal then pretty much had another awesomely relaxing evening. Initially I had thought about staying until monday since I don't have class until tuesday, but there was a possibility of Fish wanting to go lift on monday and I needed to get some things done and productivity was definitely NOT happening at the beach.

So Sunday we got up whenever we woke up, got everything packed up and ready to go and loaded the car. Then we went out on the beach and MC got to fly a kite for the first time ever! The one we got was kinda shoddy and kept nose-diving, but it was still a fun foray into the kite flying world. Went for a little walk down the beach then hopped in the car and hit the road! After we got back, things definitely weren't too exciting. Just been doing the typical hanging out in Tally stuff. It was definitely an awesome weekend with MC though. Our first solo vacation! We should keep a list of firsts. It seems that all the time we are experiencing new things with each other. I'm so ridiculously happy. Anyhoo, my research meetings kick back into gear this week so I really need to start buckling down and getting some work done. I'll probably set aside some times to be in my office to try to force some productivity out of me. We'll see.

And since it is tuesday, I weighed-in and was 173.0. If I remember that is actually a little gain from last week. My eating habits haven't been the best, and I would not be surprised by a little gain during the first couple weeks of getting back into lifting. I'm usually pretty good about providing my muscles with plenty of protein so hopefully all that soreness I had last week was efficiently converted into new muscle! Going out of town this weekend probably won't help either, but once I'm actually around here for a consistent stretch of time I will hopefully start to see the pounds melt off. Here's hoping!

Off to get ready for a busy day. Woohoo!

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supinternets (2008-05-20 16:09:49)
You two had never seen any of the Indy movies before?! Wow, I cannot believe that. I wanted to marry him when I was little. I am super excited about the new movie later this week.

fincher69 (2008-05-20 20:32:43)
I've seen them all a bunch of times, she'd been missing out somehow. But not any longer! :-)

supinternets (2008-05-20 21:07:03)
Ah! I totally misread that. Pardon my blonde moment, you understand. :)

10.5.6 Awesome weekend!! (2008-05-27 12:23)

Chronicles of NYC

Since I was going to have a long weekend because of memorial day and I had never been to New York City (even though my fam has been twice in recent years) we decided to take a family trip. I swear one of these days I will actually stay in Tally for a weekend, haha.

The weekend definitely started off a little crazy. I didn't get to bed until like 1-1:30 thursday night then woke up at around 3:30. I laid awake for a bit waiting for my alarm to go off before I realized that it was actually 3:30 and not 4:30 (which is when my alarm was set). So I was pretty much awake at 3:30, then MC took me to the airport at a little after 5. Turned out my friend Jill was actually at the airport because she was flying home for the weekend so we chatted for a bit. I (of course) zonked out on the 45 minute flight then actually met back up with Jill for a bit. We figured out where she needed to go then moseyed towards our respective concourses. My layover wasn't too bad, but I was a little too sleepy to try to do anything productive. Zonked out for most of the flight from there to New York as well. Since it took my parents over 45 minutes just to get a cab (they flew in on thursday) they decided to just get a car to come pick me up. It was the first time I had ever had a guy standing there with my name on a sign, so that was pretty darn cool. Turned out that my folks got a town car, but they were out so I actually got picked up in a limo!!! Rollin' into NYC for the first time with STYLE! Met up with the folks and learned to tackle on of the most interesting elevator systems I have ever encountered. Half the time I feel like I am in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory because it seems a little bizarre. There is basically a circular column of elevators (with a pillar of a few more in the middle), but certain elevators only service certain floors. There are various keypads at which you enter your desired floor then it adds it to an elevator's queue and tells you which elevator to get on. Very odd. I had lunch at the Hard Rock Cafe, then did the uptown bus tour. Had a couple beers with dad then we ate dinner at a restaurant at the top of the hotel that actually ROTATED! I had been to one other rotating restaurant in Chicago, but it was still pretty cool. Probably covered about 450 degrees over the course of dinner, hehe. From dinner went the the Lion King which was fickin' amazing. The costumes and athleticism were out of this world. Everyone that told me about it was absolutely right. It was spectacular!! Came back and just relaxed in the hotel and crashed pretty early since it HAD been a kinda long day.

Had room service breakfast on day 2 then jumped on the downtown portion of our hop-on hop-off bus tour. Our tour guide was not near as funny and pleasant as the guy from the day before so we definitely didn't mind getting off at the Battery so we could stand in line to head to the Statue of Liberty. We waited in line for at least an hour then had to go through crazy security before we finally got on the ferry to take us over. It was funny because it was kinda like when Bobby and I visited Mount Rushmore in the sense that it really doesn't take much time to appreciate it. You spend a lot of time getting there, look at it for 15 seconds, take a picture, then there really isn't much else to do. So we grabbed lunch there then caught

the ferry back. Walked to Ground Zero, which is just an amazing place to stand next to, then had a couple of snags in taking the subway, but eventually got to canal street. LOTS of crazy vendors and people so we didn't stay too long and Brenna was beat so Lynn and Brenna relaxed at the hotel and Mom, Dad and I found me a cable I could use to charge my phone and a couple other random gifts. Mom grabbed some coffee and went back to the room while dad and I went to the bar and had a few drinks before going to dinner. Had a wonderful dinner and someplace called something like Joe's somethings (really specific huh). I had a half dozen oysters and an ENORMOUS portion of meatloaf, spinach and mashed potatoes. It was frickin' awesome, thought I felt I was on the border of a stomach breach when I left. Then we went to Spam-a-lot. It was frickin' AWESOME!!! Definitely a different dynamic than the Lion King the night before, but it was amazing. A great blend of broadway show and comedy act and right along with typical monty python humor so it was a blast. Had a few more beers at the bar with dad then moseyed to the room. Looked through some pictures with Brenna then called MC to catch up and say g'night then crashed after another long busy day.

Sunday we dedicated to museums. We got up and went downstairs for the breakfast buffet then took at cab to the Museum of Natural History. It was definitely an awesome museum. Pretty similar to the museum of natural history in Chicago, but with a greater number and variety of cool things. Saw a special Horse exhibit that was pretty cool. Learned a couple random things like the origin of the phrases "get off your high horse" and "winning hands down." Since knights were large fellas and wore heavy armor, they had very large, strong horses. So "get off your high horse" was in reference to knights on their "high" horses looking down on the common folk. And sometimes when a jockey is in a race, if they are winning by a large margin they will lower their hands to sort of "coast" through the finish line, hence the phrase "winning hands down." Also read an interesting fact relating to horses being herd animals. Dominance is important and there are many times that, in a race, a faster horse will lose to a slower one if the slower one exhibits more dominant body language. This is also why a rider that doesn't show confidence will often be ignored by a horse. From this museum we walked across central park to the MET. Saw a bunch of Picasso paintings and one Dali. Just wanted to do a quick visit, but it was still cool. Could definitely spend a lot of time in there. From there we went to the Bodies Exhibition. If you haven't heard of it, a guy developed a technique of preserving bodies by infusing the tissues with a type of plastic. So there were all sorts of bodies in different poses and dissections and lots of organs in healthy and diseased states. There were some ridiculously cool mountings of nervous and circulatory systems where you could see all the little arteries and veins in different parts of the body. One really cool thing was a sign that said that, on average, smoking a pack of cigarettes takes 3 hours and 40 minutes off your life and that they'd prefer you stick around. Then they had a large plexiglass container where you could deposit your cigarettes in the hopes that that would be your first step in quitting. They also had a healthy lung and a smokers lung. I hope it had an effect on folks because it wasn't a mock up. It wasn't a picture. It was and actual lung and it was amazing how black and unhealthy looking the smoker's lung was. I still just don't understand how someone can see that, know they are doing that to their bodies, and still continue to smoke. I just don't get it. Overall the exhibit was really awesome. I had read about it several places and was really excited that I was actually able to catch it. From there we headed back to the hotel to relax for a bit and enjoy a few beers then walked down the street to dinner. Had a wonderful Surf and Turf and couldn't leave NYC without a big slice of New York cheesecake. Walked back to the hotel then had a few beers in the lounge before heading back up to the room. Oh yeah, I also had a couple of weird Deja Vu experiences during the day. Just a few times where I really felt like I had been in the exact same place before. Both felt really vivid and it was just kinda odd, especially since I had never been to NYC. So anyhoo, I talked to MC, packed up some of my stuff and wrote a bunch of postcards then crashed. And I apparently hadn't entered all the addresses I have into my phone, so if you didn't get a postcard, I just didn't have your address. Sorry!

Monday we got up fairly early, packed up and headed to the airport. Said goodbye to the folks then hopped on the plane to Orlando. Actually got there 30 minutes early, which could have been cool except I

already had a 3 hour layover. Grabbed some grub and actually got some reading done and worked on my spanish a little. I'm trying to actually start up this week and pull out my Rosetta Stone on a daily basis and MC and I will start working on it. Should be fun! Finally got back in Tally and MC picked me up and we headed back to her place. Had some good grilled out food and hung out and definitely enjoyed not traveling for a bit. It was really nice hanging out with MC again. As fun as my last few weekends have been, it is going to be nice to actually most stay around here this weekend.

Today I'm pretty booked up. Got class at 12:30, then working out, then shower, then run errands/study, then class, then tennis, then meeting, then more schoolwork. Busy busy day! As class is about to start I guess I should put this away, but was itching to make my weekend update so I had to try to sneak it in. ;-) Oooh! I just remembered that today is tuesday and I forgot to do my weekly weigh-in. Oh well. Maybe I'll just do it tomorrow. It'll probably be pretty sad anyway. Traveling and weight-loss don't tend to go hand in hand. Oh well. I'm really going to try to kick my workout routine into high gear this week so hopefully it will start paying off!

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corazon_leigh (2008-05-27 18:28:57)
Sounds like a great time! It's on my list of places to see now that I have money :)! Hopefully I'll be able to catch up with yall this summer! Let me know when you make it up this way :)

(2008-05-27 21:51:22)
thanks for a wonderful re-living of the weekend! it was fabulous!!! thanks for making it so much fun.... i'm ready to go back... spend a little more time in the met! you might be surprised at your weigh-in... you walked an awful lot in nyc. :-)

lfincher (2008-05-28 00:50:41) wish i was there!!
i'm a little sad i missed all the fun times in NYC but i'm so glad you finally got to go. it's a pretty unique place, huh? i love it. and i'm so glad you got to go to TWO broadway shows. how lucky!! did you know that callie from grey's got recruited to abc for greys when she was on the cast of spamalot?? pretty cool! and you ARE going to have to stay in tally for a weekend so your blog posts aren't so freaking long. ;)

10.5.7 Getting in Wii-shape (2008-05-28 20:04)

My friend Amanda had a little write up about trying out the Wii Fit and I picked mine up yesterday and got to try it out today so I thought I would give my thoughts.

First off, I think the idea is pretty cool. With the active nature of the Wii controls, I love that nintendo is taking advantage of this and continuing to promote fitness. While it isn't like you are gonna train for an Iron Man with a Wii Fit, most normal Americans are in poor enough shape that they can definitely benefit from it.

I only played around with it for about 30 minutes (or 20 Wii-Fit minutes as was recorded), but I can definitely see some things that will help me out. It doesn't really have a choice, but it uses your BMI as your standard, which is inherently a little flawed. Since it only takes into account your weight, someone in great shape with 2 % body fat can be considered overweight by BMI, even if it is all muscle. DEFINITELY not saying I am close to all muscle, but anyhoo. The measurement was pretty accurate for me (24.7) which is the VERY tip top of normal (25 and over is overweight). If I can really get into using it some every day, I think I will really like the status updates. I barely keep up with my once a week weigh-in.... DOH! Speaking of I forgot to do that this morning too. Oops. Anyway, since it logs things for you it's nice to be able to

kinda look back and have a log. You also input goal BMI or weight and the date at which you want to have it achieved.

There are several categories of activities, of which I think I will probably use half. Since I'm getting better about my running, biking, and swimming, the aerobic exercises won't likely compare. There are some that are kinda fun (like hula hooping), so on days where I feel really unmotivated to go do one of my normal exercises, that would be better than nothing. I've been lifting with Fishel, so the strength exercises likely also pale in comparison to what we do. What WILL be good for me are the Yoga and Balance activities. I did ok, but the yoga ones were definitely not easy. I have plenty of room for improvement in my core and my posture and I think these can help. What I would really like to do is try to make myself get up like 30-40 minutes earlier and do it every morning Mon-Fri. Then I'd have a consistent log and it'd be more likely to actually make a difference. A little yoga would probably also be a good way to start the day regardless. So far the only thing I haven't liked is the brevity of some of the yoga exercises. They last like two minutes then you have to click through some menus to get another one going. I'm hoping that there is an ability to string together some of them so I could just start a like 20 minute yoga workout and have it go nonstop. That would be ideal, but I haven't poked around in it enough to really keep track.

All-in-all I think it is a pretty cool idea and hopefully I can stay diligent enough to use it consistently. I'm declaring this my summer of FIT (no relation to the Wii peripheral of the same name) so any help I can get will be greatly needed. It said the average BMI is 22 (though I have doubts that is true in this country) but a BMI of 23 puts me at about 160, which is where I would definitely like to be by the end of the summer. Hopefully having a couple 5ks and the Muddy Buddy thing can help provide me some motivation and hopefully I can keep my workouts varied enough so I don't flare up any of my shin issues that I seem to have. But that's my initial impression of the Wii Fit and I'm sure I'll be making some updates and I continue using it!

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supinternets (2008-05-29 01:55:03)
It looks like we are both in the same boat with Wii. It is not going to be able to take the place of my regular work out either. But for someone that is a couch potato, it would be useful. I do like the yoga feature too, but it sounds irritating that the exercises don't flow. That totally would ruin the experience. I'd rather just stick to my yoga DVDs.

corazon_leigh (2008-05-29 13:06:33)
One of the reviews I read listed the inability to string together exercises as short coming of the game. It would have been really cool to personalize a workout :\. I'm also having trouble seeing where it would fit into my exercise program. I have been hiking/backpacking on the weekends and doing aerobic stuff during the week. It'll prolly be best for me with the strength exercises since I'm not a fan of gyms and I haven't been including that in my regimen at all. Like Amanda, I will probably stick to my yoga videos instead of using the Wii Fit.

fincher69 (2008-05-29 14:19:05)
As I have no Yoga videos, I'll stick to Wiioga ;-) One nice advantage that the yoga has on the wii is the balance feedback. Every pose you do it monitors your balance so you can evaluate how stable and balanced you really are during these exercises. That feature might be worth trying those exercises every once in a while at least, just as a form double check. I wonder if they can release an update that would allow the stringing together of workouts. That'd be pretty snazzy.

10.6 June

10.6.1 Look! I'm actually writing! (2008-06-06 17:09)

It's been a while since I wrote in here. Last weekend was pretty uneventful. Had a lot of fun just relaxing with MC since she was starting her bar prep course on tuesday.

This week has been kinda busy, but really thinking back on it I'm not sure why it feels like that. Bopper actually came down to visit. She got here on wednesday so that's been fun, though not entirely good for my productivity, lol. Just taking it easy the rest of the afternoon then going to On the Border for Keith's birthday dinner then back to their place for fun and such.

I have also been bad about using my fit the last couple days. I'll probably hop on here soon, but it'll probably get on to me for not using it the last few days. Oh well, haha. Since I had a decent sized lunch, it'll probably call me overweight too. Hopefully that hasn't really been the trend though.

So some random notes...

Been getting back into playing tennis and having a lot of fun. My serve came back first, then my backhand, but for some reason I can't hit my forehand to save my life. It's either in the net or launched into oblivion. I think I might bring my video camera next time I play so I can replay and analyze what I'm doing wrong. We got MC trying it, so hopefully we can keep getting her out there and then we can play with Matt and Lynn, which would be fun.

Also been getting back into golf (and dragged MC into that as well). It's been going fairly well. The first day at the range my wrist hurt the next day, but I've since walked 9 holes and hit at the range again and it's been doing fine. Definitely have plenty to improve in my game, but I didn't lose a single ball or take a single mulligan when we played, so that's pretty good in my book.

I've also recently been having some doubts about this possible med school route. I have no doubt that I would be an awesome doctor and would enjoy my work, but it really is daunting to know that I probably wouldn't actually start my career until I was 40. Who knows. I'll keep taking my classes and such, but I've just been leaning less towards that prospect as of late.

Ok, I think that's a decent little update. I'm going to go get Wii-fit, which may make me feel less bad about the beer I'll be drinking tonight. ;-)

(2008-06-07 01:05:44)
thanks! :-)

10.6.2 Heckuva week/weekend! (2008-06-09 10:28)

I realized that I am getting less diligent about posting in my blog because my little motivator (weekly weigh-in) is getting less important. Not because I have lost weight, or care less about losing it, but because of my Wii Fit. I've been trying to use it daily (though less likely on weekends) and I always start out with a body test that weighs you and tells you your BMI. So since I've been doing that most days, I think less of weighing in and posting on here. One thing I would like to do is get my body composition done over at leach. Hopefully you can do it however many times you want and maybe I'll do that every tuesday. I think that's

the best measure of getting in shape anyway. I can be losing weight, but losing muscle, or gaining weight and losing fat. If I see that the percent of my body that is fat is decreasing, my weight is pretty much irrelevant. Hopefully I'll remember to do that tomorrow and then, as I doubt it is something that will fluctuate much, maybe do it every other tuesday. I'm sure I can find some other motivators to be more consistent about posting in here ;-)

So last week Bopper came down to visit on wednesday. I believe a group of us went to BDubs for the first time in a while then just came back to my place and played games and chatted and stuff until about 3:30 in the morning.

Thursday I got some research done, did my class and research meeting thing, then hung out, then went to my other class, then played tennis with Adrienne. Don't really remember what we coordinated after that, but I do remember crashing at about the same time (3:30).

Friday met up with Fishel to lift at 11, then met up with MC and roomies for lunch. Not sure what we did after that, but I think I ran a couple other errands then met up with Keith and friends at On the Border for his birthday dinner. From there we went to Keith and Marie's apartment and hung out for a while, but Keith had to crash fairly early because he had to be at work at like 4 the next morning. I think we just took it easy after that.

Saturday MC and I met up with Sarah and Bopper for lunch at Roly Poly, which was cool because I went there all the time when I was down in Auburn, but hadn't been since. After that we went back to my place and MC got to take a little nap and try out my Wii Fit some. She definitely had some fun! My favorite part was when she didn't do so well on one of the balance games and the Fit asked her if she tripped a lot when she walked. LOL. Just hung out until it was time to meet up at Brad and Sarah's for a little grill-out. Since MC hadn't gotten to use her pinata we got for her graduation, we decided to make it a Bopper/Lindsey birthday pinata so we picked up a bunch of stuff to put in it. The grill out was awesome and we had a lot of fun playing games and such. Hadn't busted a pinata in a long time so that was pretty entertaining as well.

Sunday I was up early to meet up at the powersports place. They were doing a demo down at Shell Point and we are hoping to get in good with the guy to have access to a seadoo boat (yes they make full sized, i.e. 23 foot, boats now). They needed an extra tower so I said I could so we hooked up our caravan of jetskis and drove down. We got there at like 10:30 and unloaded everything. Dustin and Noah weren't far behind then some other folks gradually trickled in as the day progressed. Unfortunately, our club curse decided to follow us as well. They brought like 14 jetskis, one of which was a Wake edition made for wakeskating. Of all of them, one broke down and (surprise surprise) it was the one we were supposed to have for the whole day. Geesh. We did get to go out on the boat and Dustin, Ben, Eric, and I got to ride, but Eric's ride got cut short because we had to go help people who kept beaching their jetskis. So our boat session got cut short and I felt bad because not only did everyone not get to ride, but there were a couple girls who came out who we were going to teach. And the water was ridiculously choppy so not only was everyone that rode worn out in a hurry, but it was hard for any of us to really put on much of a show. I did land a tantrum and a toeside 360, so at least I landed SOMETHING, but I can definitely feel my quads talking to me today. Near the end of the day the wake edition jetski was fixed so we got to demo it out a little. Dustin, Eric and I wakeskated a bit (super brutal in the rough conditions though) and Dustin got to hit the slider a few times behind it as well. I wore my Vibram toeshoes the whole day and got lots of comments. Not something people see every day. :-) Finally got out of there at like 6 so it was definitely a very long day out in the sun and definitely got some exercise. Most of the time we were running around doing something or wading through water or lifting something so it was an exhausting day. I luckily stayed on top of putting on my sunscreen, but still managed to pink up a bit. We didn't get to ride anywhere near as much as we would have liked, but it was still nice to meet the folks and for them to get to know us a little bit. Always helpful when you need

something from them later. ;-) Got home from that and met up with MC. Went to the grocery store then ate dinner at apartment. Tried to watch Princess Bride but I was so exhausted I think passed out around 11:30. I can't even recall the last time I fell asleep before midnight, but I was BEAT.

Today I've done my Wii Fit and am about to hop in the shower then just try to get some reading done, take out the trash, do laundry, etc. for a while. I pretty much have the whole day so I'm going to try to actually be productive early so I won't feel like I need to work this evening. We'll see how it goes. ;-)

10.6.3 Another Fun Weekend Excursion (2008-06-17 10:59)

Nothing too exciting happened over the week. Still be using my Wii Fit and trying to do 30 minutes every day that I can. Still losing no weight, but I feel like I've gained some muscle from lifting with Fish so hopefully that is a contributing factor. I'm not really good about watching what I eat and drink, but I'm thinking I'm going to cut back on some things next week. Since I have muddy buddy this weekend I figure carbo loading is a good thing so I'm not exactly motivated to try to cut back on anything. :-)

MC was planning on going to Miami for the weekend just to see friends and family since she hasn't been home in a while. Since she wasn't going to be around I figured it would be a good weekend to head up to the lake for a bit to make sure everything was all prepped and ready for 4th of July weekend. Got up early on friday and Derek, Emma, Matt and I hit the road. Got up to Bristol around dinnertime and had our normal Friday night pizza then went out to the lake. Got in a solid session then mom and dad headed home and we stayed out at the lake. Did some fishing and drinking, but after getting up early, driving 10 hours, then doing a bunch of boarding, we weren't exactly a lively crew. I think we crashed just after 1.

Dad came out early the next morning (early = 9) and we got in a nice morning session. There were storms rolling in, and we pretty much finished up our set just as we started hearing thunder, so our timing was just about perfect. Packed up and headed into town for lunch then gave dad his Father's Day present. We got him a Wii and a Wii Fit. Definitely not easy to find, but mom managed to snag one this past week so we were pretty excited. Set it up and let him try it out and he seemed to like it. Hopefully he'll get into it and use it consistently. Everyone got their turns and played around on it for a bit. Matt liked it so much he said he was going to go get his own! Because the weather was kinda shoddy, we just chilled at the house with my folks for the afternoon, which was a lot of fun. Drove to an awesome barbecue place for dinner then our crew headed back out to the lake. Mom dug up the old school nintendo so we got to play that some, in addition to the typical drinking and fishing, and we were all so exhausted that we passed out pretty early again.

Dad came out a little earlier sunday morning and we got in an awesome morning set before the crowds started coming out. Went home and had a wonderful Krystal lunch then hit the road to come back to Tally! Definitely a jam packed trip, especially with all the driving, but it was a lot of fun and really nice to be back on the water. Basically took it easy for the evening when I got back. Did some cleaning house and organizing and just piddled until I crashed.

While I was home I got my economic stimulus check, so monday I got up, did my Wii Fit, then proceeded to do my part to help the economy. hehe. Got a nice little desk for my back room so I have some open workspace when I need it and bought a bunch of DVDs and ordered a computer game online. Good times! Helped Matt and Lynn move in the 97 (according to my car) degree heat, then picked MC up from the airport. It was definitely nice having her back. We had fun in our respective places, but we missed each other a lot. We went out for sushi then came back to my place. She had a pretty busy weekend as well so she took a little nap while I finished putting together my desk and chair. She was still pretty beat so we just

chilled for the evening.

Got up today and did my Wii Fit, ate some leftover sushi, and am heading to class soon. As usual, I did no work over the weekend, so it will be a pretty busy afternoon. I have class til 1:45, workout with fish at 2, try to do some work before class at 6, then tennis at 7:30. Then I really need to buckle down and get some things done before I crash. Here's hoping it all comes together! :-)

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corazon_leigh (2008-06-17 16:59:55)
Sounds like a fun time, but I definitely don't envy the drive you had to make! Next year you should join us for Bonnaroo!! It was amazing! :D Are you bringing up MC for the 4th? I'm sure she'd love the lake house!

fincher69 (2008-06-17 19:52:46)
I'm sure it was a helluva time! She's definitely coming up. I pretty much told her she had to, haha.

corazon_leigh (2008-06-17 20:04:59)
Awesome :), when are people getting there & leaving? Mind if I stop by and bring the new boy? Its so crazy only being 1.5 hours away (instead of the 13 or so it took the last two times I came up!) Hope life in Tally is treating you well! I miss hanging out with my "CS peeps"!

fincher69 (2008-06-18 03:48:04)
I'll probably be getting there early friday morning and I think most people are taking off sunday. Let me know what's shakin'.

(2008-06-18 19:05:02)
I love reading your blog... and I love you.. very much. I'm your biggest fan... :-)

10.6.4 Careers (2008-06-18 17:50)

I've been doing a lot of thinking about careers and where I want to end up in life lately. More recently (I think I actually mentioned this) I've been leaning a little farther away from the med school thing. While I love school and being in academia, I don't think it will necessarily be a bad thing to give the real world a shot (I'm sure anyone who knows me is SHOCKED to read THAT haha).

I mean, if I finish here and go straight into med school, that pretty much puts me starting out my career at 40ish. I'm sure there are people out there who feel differently, but I don't think it'd be much different to start at 45 so I think it might make more sense to find something I can get into after I finish my Ph.D. and do that for a bit. If I am unhappy, it is always an option to retake some classes, take the MCAT and go to med school a few years later.

I think what has sparked some of this is that I really feel like I have no passion for what I'm doing. I want to find something that I really care about and really get into and am really interested in. The research I'm doing and the classes I am taking are interesting, but it is still the case that I don't really do much with either until there are deadlines that I must prepare for. I have very little motivation to really work on the things and pursue them on their own. I still need that prodding of a meeting with an advisor or deadline for some data to kick me into gear. I'm just really unsure what there is that will light that fire within me. I don't want to be stuck in a career where I go to work dreading it and feeling motivated to only do what I need to do to keep my job. I want to find something that I truly enjoy and look forward to and am self motivated to pursue. Who knows, maybe once I get into it I will find a topic in my research that sparks this

within me. Maybe I'll find something in another discipline. Maybe I'll end up finding something completely unrelated that I absolutely love. Who knows. All I know is that I'm starting to get the itch to find it. I want to be motivate to produce. I want to have goals that are my own and that I'm self motivated to pursue. I want to have a passion for something I'm doing and not just feel like what I'm doing is just to make my advisors happy. Here's hoping I can continue to explore and will start moseying towards the right path soon.

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corazon_leigh (2008-06-19 12:57:40)
I think you should try the real world!! I was itching to join and had completely lost all motivation for a masters in CS or computational science. I didn't have a lot of passion for what I was studying and I hated the town (lived there over 20 years). I found that its not always what you do at work that is the most important (the general idea of networking and OSes still bore me), but the people you work with may make the job fulfilling ... not to mention that I now live in beautiful Tennessee :D Eventually if I decide I hate it I can always go back to school or pursue some environmental calling or the peace corps!

(2008-06-22 11:27:52)
I think working will help define your goals... it would be nice to spend some time with Eric in Nashville and see if that route interests you. You are lucky in that you have a lot of interests, but it makes it tough to narrow things done. I agree that the people you work with and where you live make a big difference. Good luck - I know it's tough and we are here for you! You are loved! :-)

10.6.5 Heck of a birthday weekend (2008-06-23 00:27)

Friday I picked up Fishel at around noon then moseyed over to Brad and Keith's complex to pick them up then hit the road. Checked in for Muddy Buddy then did a little shopping at REI since we got some coupons. Met up with a couple of Fishel's friends at a pizza place, then it was awesome because my friends Penny and Elisa got to join us as well! I hadn't seen either of them in years so it was really cool to hang out and catch up a bit. After dinner we stopped by walmart to grab some last minute necessities, then just took it easy in the hotel and prepared stuff before hitting the sack.

Got up at 6 so we would have plenty of time to get over to the race. It started raining on us, but as the point of the race is kinda to get muddy anyway it really wasn't a big deal. The race started a little after 7:30. I biked the first leg and it was pretty brutal. The first obstacle was just a balance beam, but it was almost a little tricky since it was wet from the rain and my quads were already pounding. Ran to obstacle 2 which was basically like a large three rung ladder where you had to go over the first rung, under the second, then over the third and down the other side. Again, I about ate crap because everything was pretty slick. Picked up the bike and rode a fairly short and flat leg until the next obstacle, which was a 6 foot climbing wall with a rope mesh to climb down the other side. Took off on my last running leg (which was kinda rough because I definitely hadn't been running enough recently) then hit the last obstacle which was a huge inflatable where you climbed a rope mesh then slid down a slide on the other side. Grabbed the bike and took off, but ended up having to walk up this one last brutal hill. Got to the end where Keith had gotten there a little before me and then we dove into the mud pit. I was kinda stoked at the time so I hardly noticed, but they didn't do a very good job of removing abrasive materials (rocks, bark, etc.) from the mud pit. Got all sorts of scrapes on my arms and legs, but it was still a ton of fun. Got somewhat cleaned up then headed back to the hotel to shower up. Came back and looked at results (Keith and I got 16th and Brad and Fish got 26th out of 50) and partook in the "beer garden." Hit the road to head back home, then got there and dropped off everyone at their respective abodes. MC was waiting for me at my apartment and had decorated the sidewalk outside my apartment for my birthday. I then got to open all my little gifts (one for each year, hehe) and then she went off to her place to get ready for the evening. I just chilled and

played some video games until it was time to head to Finnegans. Met up with a bunch of people and had more than my share of Guinness and altogether just had a blast. Moseyed back to my place afterwards and ended up crashing around 3. One helluva day I would say!

So today I basically just got to hang around with MC and relax. Had some Red Lobster for lunch (I got a random craving) then chilled in my apartment and MC finally got to see Monty Python's Search for the Holy Grail. Also stopped by Toys R Us after lunch and got to just peruse the toys and I ended up getting a cool little R/C Subaru Impreza. Always fun, hehe. Definitely a nice way to spend my birthday. Now I'm about to try to get a little studying done then hit the sack. It's going to be a busy day of studying tomorrow, but luckily I don't have any scheduled events. I'm thinking I may lay off the beer for the next couple weeks to try to drop a few pounds for 4th of July weekend. I guess we'll see how it goes :-) Lord knows I had enough Guinness last night that I'm sure my body will be fine with a break, haha. Aiight, off to sleepytime!

10.6.6 Postcards (2008-06-23 12:12)

As a constant traveller, one thing I've taken joy in is sending postcards to as many people as I can keep track of their addresses. I've always thought it was cool to receive postcards and it lets folks know I've thought about them on my travels. Because of this, I've spurned some of my friends to start reciprocating and I just had the idea that it'd be cool to start incorporating this into my blog. I should be doing research and studying.... so of course I come up with a random thing to use some more time haha. Since I think it will be cool to have them on here by postmark date, I'll probably just update this entry as I retroactively update things so there will be links to the past ones then I'll just update as received. I don't have a scanner so hopefully I can finagle some good snapshots to be able to post. Let's see how it works out! I got one today, so I'll just make that the next entry then below will have links to past ones.

*Edit**
I put links to each entry here, then realized it would be a lot easier to use tags. So you should be able to see all the postcard entries by going to [1]http://fincher69.livejournal.com/tag/postcards instead of clicking on a link to each entry. AND it will be self updating as I add more. Snazzy!

1. http://fincher69.livejournal.com/tag/postcards

10.6.7 (2008-06-23 12:52)

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[1]Sender: Kellen  Sender: Kellen
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000149dh/

10.6.8 (2008-06-27 14:54)

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[1]Sender: Donna  Sender: Donna
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001bdzk/

10.6.9 Wow (2008-06-30 17:03)

I guess it has been a little while since I actually made a post. Last week and this week have both been pretty busy. Can't think of anything too substantial to share. As usual, the week wasn't that exciting. Friday Matt and Dustin came over, then Dustin had his truck towed so that kinda cut the night short for him. Derek joined then they both hit the road and I played some more video games then fell asleep watching a movie. Woke up and glanced at my watch and thought it said it was 4am then I was really confused because it seemed pretty light outside, then I realized it was actually 6am. Good story, haha.

Saturday was pretty chill. Most days have been. I told myself I was going to step it up to better my physique before 4th of July, but I've pretty much done the opposite. Other than lifting, I've pretty much done diddly squat since muddy buddy. Hope to hit it hard this week, but that can only make so much of a difference. So especially since MC had bar course all day, my saturday was uber lazy. I did some stuff around the house and set up my bike rack. I also got some bamboo plants, which I had been wanting for a while. I got three and separated then into two pots. Spongebob and Patrick in one and He-Man in the other. Hopefully they'll thrive!

Thriving plants reminded me that we've been having lots of stormy weather lately. I love it!! I've felt jipped ever since I got down here because I was told it storms a lot, yet it has hardly stormed at all. Been making up for it the past few days though. Still haven't gotten a HUGE violent thunderstorm like I like, but here's hoping. :-)

So I went over to CS Pete's for a bit saturday afternoon then picked MC and buds up and went to a going away party for a friend of theirs. Headed from there to Miller's then moseyed back to her place. Fairly chill evening, but they were definitely entertaining.

Sunday I wanted to just relax since I'll have a pretty busy week so I didn't do too much. MC had bar stuff again (aren't they nuts!?!) so I met with her for lunch then we grabbed some Stevie B's pizza and saw Get Smart. Get Smart is her favorite TV show, so I think she enjoyed it even more than I did. That says a lot because I thought it was hilarious. I thought the casting was good and it definitely had me cracking up all the time. Definitely one I'll snag once it is on DVD.

Taught my first class today, which is usually uneventful with the intro lecture. Supposed to have a review session from 4-5:30, but got bored and left at 4:30. I really felt there were a couple things I needed to look over, but if you have been keeping up with your lab book and drawings, there really shouldn't be much that you actually have to review in the lab. I guess we shall see if I eat my words during my lab practical on wednesday, haha.

Anyhoo, I'm going to chill for a bit, then go for a run, then a little shopping with MC, then I hope to get a lot of study prep done (making outlines and such) and maybe some reading. Here's hoping!!

10.7 July

10.7.1 Celebrating America's Birthday (2008-07-07 01:51)

So this past week was pretty busy. I had my midterm lab practical on wednesday then a Bio 2 test on thursday and I started teaching so I had plenty to do with that. Made it through my tests, then ran over to Leach to do a body comp test. The test has a variance of +/- 3 %, and I was measured at 21.2 %, which is just above acceptable and into the borderline obese category. This is especially sad considering the last time I had it tested was back in high school and I think I was just over 6 %. How times change! I want to see if my mom has some calipers since I think Leach only measures extremely sporadically. I think that'd be a better thing to keep up with instead of just weight, especially with the lifting Fishel and I have been doing. I guess we'll see. Maybe my tuesday posts will come back as Body Comp Tuesdays or something. It's kinda a gross thought to know that 1/5 of my body is fat. Here's to trying to get in shape! Piddled around til folks were ready then left thursday afternoon for the lake. Got there around 2ish I believe. Grabbed a few beers and hung out until the sun started rising then went out for a sunrise wakeboarding session. Always fun, though the sunrise wasn't quite as spectacular as last time. Took about a 2 hour nap then did the normal chillin and hanging out at the lake, pretty much for the rest of the weekend.

Had a pretty large group come up and boy did we tear through some alcohol. Everyone that wanted to got to wakeboard and we all had fun just relaxing at the lake. Even had an awesome swim session in the rain. It was awesome to show MC my favorite place and let her meet some of my non-Tally friends. It'll probably be nice to have a bit more of a manageable group next time, but having loads of people can be a blast too. Between all the food and drink consumed and wakeboarding sessions, I definitely don't think I'll have trouble sleeping tonight!

And we didn't burn the house down so as far as I'm concerned it was a pretty successful weekend. ;-)

10.7.2 Some typical school and another busy weekend (2008-07-16 17:00)

Wow, I guess it has been like a week and a half since I posted. Since the Wii fit keeps track of my weight stuff, I guess that diminished my need to keep track of it on here. Maybe I need to find some other weekly motivator to get on here and post something. I'll be brainstorming...

So last week was pretty much same old same old school wise. Nothing too special that I can think of. We started doing trivia night at a restaurant/bar that is like 4 blocks down the road from my house. So this past monday and the monday before we did that. I find I don't really know that much trivial knowledge, but I still have fun.

I crashed at like 2 on thursday night then was up at 4:30 so I could get ready for my flight to Boston. It was funny because as I was leaving my apartment Derek and friends were still up and had been working on a beer pong table. So my flight left at 6am and I got to Boston a little after 11 am. Had lunch at CPK with the folks then went over to Biogen Idec in Cambridge. A guy from there had come and given some talks at FSU earlier this year and I thought it'd be cool to check the place out since I was already going to be in the area. The guy who came to talk was actually in San Diego for some meetings, but I met with one of his coworkers. We talked about general backgrounds and the company and he showed me some of the stuff that they do. It was really interesting and I definitely have them on my possibility list for internships in the future. I'm hoping to actually make it back up to Boston in September so I can meet up with Alexey (the original speaker). Should be good times! After the meeting I met back up with my parents and hung out in Boston. Enjoyed some awesome food and good beer then dad and I went to the airport to pick up lauren

since she was flying in late.

Got up saturday and did some shopping and such and walked around enjoying the sights of boston. My sister wanted to go to H &M, which I had never heard of, and while we were there I actually found some pretty cool stuff. Got some snazzy shirts and even got a nice suit! Who'd have thunk it? Had most awesome food and even more awesome beer. Boston is a pretty wicked cool city. It's one of the few larger cities I have ever visited that I think I could live in.

Sunday we did the Duck Tour (land and "sea" tour in a WWII amphibious vehicle) then had lunch then I set off for the airport. Flight was a little delayed because they didn't have a crew so when we got to Atlanta I thought I was going to have a pretty tight connection. The flight from Atlanta to Tallahasse got delayed an hour to 8:40 so I actually didn't have any trouble making it to the gate. On the way I noticed the Delta counter was jam packed (not a good sign) and found out later that it was because some crazy rainstorms had come through and a bunch of flights had been cancelled. So they said something about our plane not having a pilot, and delayed the flight again. Well they continued to delay it in like 20 minute increments, until it was set for 10pm departure and they told us that it was cancelled. So they say to go to the Delta counter to get it fixed. Well there are about 150 people in line at the delta counter, so I say "screw this, I'm driving." So I head out to the rental car desks and all of them are either out of cars completely, or just out of one-ways. So I'm kinda screwed. The outside Delta line also has like 150 people in it. So I'm back at forth with my mom trying to figure things out. She finally gets through to Delta and they say they can rebook me and have me back in Tally by tuesday. Uh... I teach on monday assholes. So no can do. So after much fiasco, I finally get a hotel reservation and a car rental from an Enterprise across town. So after I wait behind about 100 people to get a taxi, I finally make it to the hotel. I start looking over things before bed and realize that Enterprise doesn't really do one way rentals. Great. It was getting close to 1 so I decided I would just look at it in the morning.

I got up around 6:30 and started trying to figure out the car rental situation. The national Enterprise guy said they can sometimes do one way so I just had to see if I could get them to let me do it. So I go there and he was reluctant, but he let me do it, but I had to pay a bunch of fees to drop it off in another location. Better than not making it back to Tally! So I was big pimpin' in my Mazda 6 and got back a little over an hour before I was supposed to teach. Always fun. So obviously after that whole shindig I wasn't very motivated so I relaxed a bit, took the car back, then went to trivia in the evening. Visited MC afterwards, then proceeded to have a super crappy nights sleep where my brain just would NOT shut off. I literally felt like I was lying awake for about 90 % of the time I was in bed. Not cool.

So needless to say I've felt a little "off" this week. Slept a little better last night, though for less than 6 hours, but still not feeling 100 %. Luckily I don't have much going on this weekend so I'll be able to catch up then. Fun! I'm sure it is going to help a lot that I just gave blood, haha. It turned out to be perfect timing because they were actually calling A- people today because their supply was low. Glad I could help out! Now let's see if I can motivate myself to get some work done early or if I'm going to keep my usual late night work schedule ;-)

10.7.3 (2008-07-17 15:09)

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[1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001ckc4/

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tattermask (2008-07-23 23:14:45)
Hey, thank you for my post card! I just got it yesterday!!! =D It helped cheer me up!

10.7.4 Badassery (2008-07-20 22:36)

I had to make a little friends-only post so mom wouldn't see it since she said I couldn't until after she was dead. Which means any readers should refrain from divulging information from this post to said parental unit. ;-) All this to say, I went skydiving!! Fishel was getting together a group and I decided to join in and it was a frickin blast. Fishel and I even got a little bonus plane ride because we were halfway up and the oil temp was off the gauge so we did a heckuva bat-turn then a nice drop on the way back down. Then they got the other plane ready and took us up. This time everything with the plane worked fine and it was frickin' awesome!! We had about a 30 second freefall, then pulled the chute. He swung me around a few times then came in for a nice landing. I was one of the only ones to have a standup landing too so that was pretty cool. I don't see it as something I would get into, but I definitely recommend people try it. Such a unique feeling to be falling through the sky at 120mph with a 360 degree view of awesomeness. What a blast!

10.7.5 Procrastination (2008-07-20 22:43)

Don't really feel like doing work so I am making a little post on here. Have had a pretty darn relaxing weekend, but I really need to kick it into gear. Only a few more weeks of classes! Crazy! While I've never had a problem with classes, I'm definitely looking forward to having no classes in the fall. Just sitting in on a genetics course, but not actually enrolled so that will be nice.

Saw the new Batman movie today. It was definitely an awesome movie. It took me a while after the movie for it to really sink in and appreciate it because so many people had built it up so much that I had a pretty skeptical mindset going into it. I will definitely say that Heath Ledger made the frickin' movie. He was so badass and amazing. Plenty of action and plot twists and all around was a pretty dark movie (I mean it IS the DARK Knight). I think I liked some of the other movies I've recently seen better (like Ironman), but this one was definitely not far behind and I highly recommend it.

Now let's see if I can get some work done.

10.7.6 (2008-07-24 15:31)

[1]Sender: Roper Sender: Roper

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001dhfe/

(2008-07-29 00:03:58) Australia
How great would it be to actually go there??? I'm jealous that Jake and Jamie got to do it but maybe they deserve a break from their day jobs. Dad

10.7.7 rando post (2008-07-28 11:48)

Nothing too exciting to report. Just been keeping busy with classes and teaching. Had an exam this past thursday so I have a bit of a break until next week (finals week). Definitely took advantage of said break. After my exam I did a little research then had a research meeting. Mostly took it easy until my class at 6, then REALLY took it easy. I mean I did diddly squat the rest of the day AND friday AND saturday. It was actually kinda fun, but by sunday I was ready to actually do something.

MC's prepping for the bar has been going well. It was also nice for me to have such an open schedule because I was available to help out in any way that I could. She's definitely stressed and probably feels underprepared, but I have a feeling that 99 % of the other people taking the bar feel the same way. She's a smart cookie and I believe she'll be just fine.

And speaking of MC, things have been going extremely well between us. We were talking about our poor timing just the other day because pretty much right after we started dating I had prep for my comprehensive exams, then we had finals, then she started bar prep. So we've had a lot of stressors right from the get-go! I think it says a lot that we've still managed to connect so well and have so few problems. It will be nice in the fall when neither of us have any major stressors to deal with.

Yesterday the guys from Tallahassee Powersports had a shindig at Lake Bradford and brought a couple guys from X-Camp in Jacksonville. It was definitely nice to get out on the water and enjoy some grilled out food. I rode like crap, but I also decided to try out a couple new boards, neither of which I was a big fan of. It was still really nice to be able to ride, but it also sparked some more frustration with the Rez and our wakeboarding boat. Just last week Dustin and Noah talked to Lee and he said it was absolutely too low to drop the boat, yet we had two nicer boats out on the water yesterday and they were fine. Yeah, it is still pretty shallow (like 3 feet in many places) but it is obviously doable. Being so regulated is getting really old really quickly.

Well I guess I should try to make these office hours at least semi-productive. I mean I WILL have all evening since MC is currently on her way to Tampa, but the earlier I get things done the better (or at least that's what I keep telling myself, hahaha)

10.8 August

10.8.1 Probably should be studying.... (2008-08-04 13:03)

but I'm not really feeling like it at the moment. It is definitely not a motivator when the classes you should be studying for are not only not directly relevant to your research, but have no bearing on you academically. I'm sure I'll kick it into gear later, but I'm definitely not so much feeling it right now.

Had a very nice and relaxing weekend with MC. She left monday to head to Tampa, then was taking the bar Tuesday and Wednesday, then came back up here on Thursday. Needless to say, with all that studying she was ready to just relax and take it easy! And that we did. I can't remember half of how we burned

the hours. Definitely had plenty of periods of "It's 5pm already?! What on earth have we done today?!" We concocted her movie list (movies I own that she's never seen) and we definitely put some hurt on it. We saw Snatch, Team America: World Police, Blades of Glory, and Hot Fuzz.

Now I gotta kick it into gear because I have finals on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week, but at least then the semester is done!! Woohoo!! I'm definitely looking forward to just focusing on research in the fall and not having to worry about classes for a while.

Well, I guess I should think about actually getting something done while I'm in the office. No promises though. I mean I DO have all evening ;-)

10.8.2 (2008-08-04 15:59)

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 [1]Sender: MC  Sender: MC
  Picture actually showed up a little odd because it was a little
bent, but it still made it! She was in Tampa taking the bar and still
had time to think of me :-)
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0001e4ga/

10.8.3 One heck of a trip!!! (2008-08-12 22:34)

So I finished up the semester with two Bs. Not too bad, especially in my animal diversity lab (considered one of the hardest labs in the bio major). Made some progress on my research as well so I feel pretty good overall about the summer.

Since I was going to have a break, Dad and I decided we should have a fun Father-Son excursion and after some talking we decided on Montana. I had actually been through Bozeman on one of the road trips that Bobby and I took so I knew it was a cool area. And it has definitely been a helluva trip.

Saturday we fly into Bozeman and check into our hotel. Do a little exploring downtown, have a couple brews at 317 (Irish themed bar on Main) then meandered down to Montana Ale House. Had an amazing dinner and wonderful beer then wandered down Main street until things started dwindling off. Called our Hampton Inn shuttle to come bring us home, after we grabbed a couple 6 packs from the grocery store of course.

Got up the next day and drove down to Yellowstone. If you have never been there the basic road layout is a large 8 with a couple extensions heading out to the borders. Since we came in the north entrance we basically went down the left (west) side of the 8. We saw awesome geysers and hot springs and of course all the surrounding scenery was beautiful!! We continued on through Grand Teton park, though a thunderstorm was moving through so the light on the pics could have been better. Ended up in Jackson, WY where had a drink at the Cowboy Bar (western saddles were the bar stools) then moseyed to another bar overlooking the downtown square. Then went to the local brewery for an awesome dinner and moseyed home.

The next day we began our trek back north. For a while we were complaining about the lack of wildlife

that we had seen thus far on the trip (the largest thing we had seen was a huge raven), but that need was definitely remedied later. First we saw Grand Teton in awesome light, then we entered Yellowstone and made it to Old Faithful about 5 minutes before it erupted (it can be like 90 minutes between them so our timing was perfect). We continued up the right side (east) of the 8 and saw tons of stuff. We saw more awesome geysers and hotsprings, a few deer, possibly an elk, numerous bison, and a moose! We also saw the waterfall at Yellowstone Canyon and a petrified tree! And the whole time the view was absolutely amazing.

Today we took it easy (we've had a couple days logging a lot of hours on the road). We started out with the Computing museum, which ended up being ridiculously awesome. In addition to having a bunch of cool examples of computing machinery, they had things like some old printing presses, and ORIGINAL works by the likes of Isaac Newton, Galileo, Darwin and others. It was so frickin cool to see first editions by these people, especially knowing there were only a few thousand printed in most cases. AWESOME museum. Then we checked out the Montana's Pioneer museum, which was hold in an hold jailhouse and ended up being ridiculously awesome as well. A ton of awesome stuff and good info. 2 for 2 on random small museums! Had lunch then went to the on campus museum. Had a TON of dinosaur bones and I learned a couple things. For instance the reason several dinosaur skeletons have their heads arched back is due to final throws of suffocation. that stegosaurus plates were likely brightly colored like bird beaks, and that Allosaurs had very weak jaws and just held their mouths open and slashed at prey to kill them. It was awesome too because there was some randomness in the exhibits. We started off with dinosaurs, then to Montana history and Native Americans, then a bunch of cars and an airplane, then movie/TV costumes, then bioluminescence. It was crazy, but really awesome. Then we drove up to Hyalite Canyon and took an awesome 0.5 mile hike (1 mile total, 540 vertical feet from beginning to end, so 1080 vertical feet total) that ended with a beautiful view of Pallisades Falls. Then did our normal beer and dinner downtown.

So we have basically crammed tons of stuff into three days. It has been ridiculously awesome , but I'm definitely kinda sorry to have to head out tomorrow. I love the weather and the mountains and everything here has just been a blast. Still trying to convince MC to come up to Hilton Head so I won't have to wait til next monday to see her, but we'll see. We've definitely had a helluva a trip, sent out over 45 postcards, and are heading to Hilton Head tomorrow. Took tons of good pics as well, so I will have those posted in various venues likely not long after I return to tallahassee. :-)

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tattermask (2008-08-14 15:32:21)
I LOVE random museums!! My parents were always too deadline-oriented to make spur-of-the-moment stops at them, though =(I will have to take note of these for when the band goes on tour... whenever that is :p

10.8.4 (2008-08-18 19:25)

[1]Sender: MC's Mom Sender: MC's Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002dgdw/

10.8.5 (2008-08-18 19:27)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002fre0/

10.8.6 (2008-08-18 19:27)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002e2c3/

10.8.7 (2008-08-18 19:28)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002ht70/

10.8.8 (2008-08-18 19:28)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002gqx9/

10.8.9 (2008-08-18 19:29)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002k1rw/

10.8.10 Postcard extravaganza!!! (2008-08-20 19:29)

Brief update... Went to Hilton Head on wednesday and convinced MC to join me. Had an awesome rest of the week with MC and the fam, then she headed to Tally as we headed to Bristol on Sunday. Monday woke up early and went to the dentist then took care of some car stuff then hit the road back to Tally. Since then I've been doing some apartment rearranging and running some errands and hanging out with MC. :-)

While I was home I was digging through some stuff and found a stack of some old postcards. Since I decided to start digitizing the ones I received I just got done posting them on the appropriate dates. AND MC's mom has been traveling over in Asia and sent me a bunch of postcards as well. So it's been a postcard posting extravaganza!!! Since I have posted them by date, you can check out all the postcard posts at [1]http://fincher69.livejournal.com/tag/postcards Hopefully I'll keep receiving some snazzy ones as my friends travel about!!

1. http://fincher69.livejournal.com/tag/postcards

10.8.11 (2008-08-25 13:35)

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[1]Sender: Mark  Sender: Mark
 South Freeport, Maine
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002qf8p/

10.8.12 (2008-08-25 13:36)

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 [1]Sender: MC's Mom  Sender: MC's Mom
  You can see some of the edges of the 9 stamps she used sticking out
:-) I have no clue how much the stamps are so I don't know if she just
only had cheap stamps or if she wanted to be REALLY sure it got to me.
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002rb4e/

10.8.13 Stolen from Amanda (2008-08-27 10:19)

So, fincher69, your LiveJournal reveals...



You are... **2 % unique** (blame, for example, your interest in **extreme sport videography**) and **25 % herdlike** (partly because you, like everyone else, enjoy **water**). When it comes to friends you are **normal**. In terms of the way you relate to people, you **are keen to please**. Your writing style (based on a recent public entry) is **overcomplicated**.
Your overall weirdness is: 30

(The average level of weirdness is: 28.
You are weirder than 67 % of other LJers.)
[1]Find out what *your* weirdness level is!

1. http://www.awrc.info/content/lj.php

10.8.14 Ain't procrastination snazzy? (2008-08-27 14:47)

So I was thinking... since I stopped doing my weigh-in posts because of Wii Fit, and over the last month or so I've definitely gained like 6-7 pounds, I'll motivate myself to post by logging my exercise activity. Perhaps I will go back to my tuesday weigh-in and just post the BMI that the Wii Fit measures, but in addition I will try to post my daily activities. We'll see. That may be excessive so I can sum it up by week every Tuesday, but I'll just play around with it. Hopefully making myself have something consistent to post will open the doors and I'll post other relevant stuff as well. We shall see. :-)

Today I did some Wii Fit, then felt kinda icky, but made myself get back into my running. Lord knows how long it has been since I ran, and I'm running a 3k with mom next weekend so what better time to start training! I could definitely feel those extra pounds sloshing around, but hopefully revising my eating habits and adhering to the workout schedule I made out for myself will melt those (and some additional) pounds away quickly. Definitely glad I went ahead because not far into it I started feeling better, but it was definitely a hot and muggy run. I feel better now having done it and hopefully I can get back into my swimming next week (if the financial people pay my tuition by then).

BMI: 25.66
17 Wii Fit minutes
2.14 mile run in 21 minutes

(2008-08-28 02:41:41)
I'm glad you're getting a headstart on the 3k training! hahaha... you'll be fine... and probably faster than me! :-)

10.8.15 picture posting (2008-08-28 17:13)

I've had a conundrum recently when it comes to posting pictures online. Facebook is great for comments and tagging people, but not good for folks not on Facebook. MobileMe provides a nice interface, but doesn't allow for comments or tagging. I like Flickr for it's interface, but not a fan of the limits of the free account. Shutterfly is great for outside folks because it has a nice interface AND the ability to make comments (though the MobileMe interface is definitely a lot cleaner). I'm still playing around with things, but I'm thinking I'm going to try to make my Flickr a place for my photography work, excluding my snapshot type stuff. I may

still upgrade to a pro account (it IS only 25 bucks a year), but am trying out free for now. As for snapshot stuff I may just have to deal with the split. Some pics are perfect for the Facebook crowd, especially with the tagging and comment capabilities. I don't feel like I would get many photo comments outside of facebook (if the amount of comments on my blog is any indicator haha) so I'm leaning towards MobileMe as my other picture host. Maybe I'll just try out MobileMe but see if I can give a handy link for feedback. No feedback = no need for comments, but if people really would be commenting on my pictures I can port over to Shutterfly instead. Any suggestions or recommendations would be gladly appreciated :-)

10.9 September

10.9.1 (2008-09-08 23:54)

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[1]Sender: Fishel  Sender: Fishel
 Pic from a temple in Thailand
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002szpe/

10.9.2 too little time... (2008-09-11 11:56)

I haven't had enough time to make a real post in a while, but I should have a honker coming this evening. Until then I thought I would throw out a couple random quizzes. One just fun, one a little political one. On the political one, it basically just gave two choices for each issue (each aligning with a candidate), but there were definitely several that I didn't really agree with either. So it may not be the most accurate, but it was still interesting.

```
              Your Issue Profile: 36% Obama, 64% McCain
                                [mcob-4.jpg]
     When it gets down to it, you tend to best match John McCain.
But he's not the perfect candidate for you, and you may not be sold on
                                him yet.
  Obama shares a good number of your views too, so you might want to
                       give him a second look.
      It all comes down to which issues matter to you the most.
```

[1]Should You Vote for Obama or McCain?

```
              Your Interpersonal Intelligence Score: 76%
                          [intelligence-4.jpg]
               Your Interpersonal Intelligence is High
 You are definitely a "people person." You enjoy spending time with
                                others.
```

You instinctively understand people, and you are both a good counsellor and mediator.
However, there are definitely times when you've had enough. And that's when you cherish being alone.

[2]How Does Your Interpersonal Intelligence Rate?

1. http://www.blogthings.com/shouldyouvoteformccainorobamaquiz/
2. http://www.blogthings.com/howdoesyourinterpersonalintelligenceratequiz/

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supinternets (2008-09-11 16:23:20)
You are totally a people person! I am surprised you didn't score higher. :)

(2008-09-13 00:01:45)
glad you are thinking! :-)

(2008-09-13 00:02:54)
glad you are thinking! :-) no need to give a second look at obama... unless you want to be babysat by the government!

10.9.3 wow (2008-09-18 16:19)

I definitely kinda fell off with writing in this thing, huh? Funny that it happened almost right after I said I was going to post almost daily workout updates, haha. I'm still thinking about doing the workout update thing, but I might try to keep my own log and then just post weekly. We'll see.

I thought about sitting down and trying to fully recap the weeks since I last posted, but I'm not sure I'm up for writing, or anyone else is up for reading, such a long winded update so I'll stick with a brief synopsis. :-)

So the weekend after I got back from Bristol I was supposed to go to Miami, but good ol' Fay decided to zigzag across Florida so MC and I had a ridiculously lazy and relaxing rainy weekend at home.

The following weekend we went down to Miami. It was a lot of fun to see her mom, sister, and cousin again, meet her brother, hang out at her house, meet various friends, and see Miami (since I had never really been there before) We didn't get into anything too crazy, but I had a blast hanging out with everyone. Everybody seemed to like me as well so that is always a good thing. ;-)

The following weekend was Matt's bachelor party. We decided to make the "party" a fun weekend up at my lakehouse so of course it was loads of fun. Lots of wakeboarding, grilling out, video games, beer and such. Spent most of the time at the lake house, but on saturday we actually went downtown. Went to a fairly new pizza place (that was actually started by a guy who went to my high school) and had a great dinner, then went to play some pool, then went to Stateline (local bar). Had a ton of fun, but I've noticed recently that I seem to be a lot more affected by smoke than I used to be. It has always annoyed me, but it really gets to me now. So a combination of crazy drinks, plus the bar getting really smokey, and it wasn't long before I really felt like I was going to die. I wasn't really nauseous or anything, I just completely felt like crap. So I kinda missed out on the last part of the shindig because I was chillin outside, but I still had

a lot of fun.

The following weekend I was here friday night. MC and I tried to get something together, but everyone seemed kinda busy. Ended up watching a movie and just hanging out. Saturday I went to Orlando for Red Bull Wake Labs. Surf expo was in town and so the event was kinda in part with that. A new setup has been developed that is kinda like a personal cable park. Instead of pulling in a circle, it just pulls straight back and forth. When you get to the end you just swing really wide, and then you can be in position to go when it starts pulling the other direction. Supposedly it costs like $30k, which is a lot cheaper than a new boat, and Red Bull creating a big awesome ramp/slider apparatus to have this event. It was a lot of fun, and it was a blast to hang out with some people that I hadn't seen in a long while. Hopefully I can make a more extended trip down to Orlando sometime soon. You can check out some pics at [1]my MobileMe site.

Between these crazy travel weekends, I've been doing my best to stick with my schedule I made out for myself. Since I have no classes, I have to be more self motivated and I've done an ok job of sticking with it. A lot of my schedules have gotten started a little late, but I still get the things done that I need done. My research is starting to pick up a little and get more interesting so I'm actually pretty excited about that. I'm also trying to set aside a decent amount of time each week to work on my spanish. I don't have a specified slot yet, but I will probably add one to help make sure I stay consistent. Once I get a little bit of a base, MC and I can work on it a lot and I think that will be a lot of fun as well.

I think that sums up most of what's been going on. There have been some news stories and such that I thought about commenting on, but I think I will save that for a separate entry. I don't have any off the top of my head anyway, but between try to do some social commentary and a weekly workout post, hopefully I can be more consistent about my posting.

Also, I think I have mostly decided what I'm going to do about pictures. While facebook is fun to post pictures too, it apparently doesn't like my cameras because I've had a lot of issues as of late with errors occurring when I try to post. Therefore I think I'm going to stick to more "gathering" type pictures where there are lots of people to tag and higher likelihood of comments for facebook. For other regular snapshot pics I'm going to use my MobileMe account and then stick with Flickr for my photography. Still a kind of awkward way to do it, but I think that is what is going to work best for the time being. It'd be really handy if I could post somewhere like MobileMe or Shutterfly or Facebook and have it automatically propagate to the other accounts. Then I could get all the benefits without having to go through the process of uploading to multiple sites! Wouldn't fix the fact that Facebook is being a pain in the ass, but oh well.

Off to play some Metal Gear Solid 4 and relax for a little bit. :-)

1. `http://gallery.me.com/justinafincher#100017&bgcolor=black&view=grid`

(2008-09-19 00:48:33)
sounds like you've been a busy guy! I really want to hear all about your research..maybe next weekend?? :-)

10.9.4 (2008-09-22 13:35)

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[1]Sender: Fishel  Sender: Fishel
 From the Phillipines
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002tahz/

10.9.5 icky icky icky puTANG! (2008-09-29 23:56)

Just thought I would make a little post while I'm sitting here. Had a good weekend up in Asheville for my friend Cameron's wedding. Construction traffic made the drive about 10 hours long instead of 8. Went straight to joining my folks for dinner then joined in the fun as the rehearsal dinner turned into the anniversary party for some grandparents. Enjoyed just not being in the car for the rest of the evening and took it easy at the hotel.

Got up and MC and I joined a bunch of the guys for lunch at Mellow Mushroom. Dropped them off and picked up mom and went to walk around downtown Asheville. Got to show MC around and peruse some shops. Headed back to the hotel to prep then went over to the Biltmore House for the wedding. It was a lot of fun and a super nice wedding.

Had a pain with the gas shortage on the way back, so we took extra long to get back too. It was made even more fun by the fact that either sickness or allergies grabbed a hold of me and my throat was scratchy and I was starting to get congested. I was SO glad to finally be home and off the road and I've pretty much been taking it easy since we got back. Gotta rest up for more driving this weekend. :-)

Also figured I would post a forward that my mom sent me. Basic synopsis is that, if you really think about it, all politicians suck, haha. In a sense, I guess. Basically gives a perspective about how things are in the country and with the politicians in washington. Interesting read, but a little long so I'll throw it under a cut.

545 PEOPLE
By Charlie Reese

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered why, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, we have deficits?

Have you ever wondered why, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The president does.

You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations.
The House of Representatives does.

You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal policy, Congress does.

You and I don't control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president, and nine Supreme Court justices 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a president to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician $1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a Speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits. The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the House? She is the leader of the majority party. She and fellow House members, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million can not replace 545 people who stand convicted – by present facts – of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.

If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Marines are in IRAQ , it's because they want them in IRAQ .

If they do not receive social security but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way.
There are no insoluble government problems.

Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power. Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like 'the economy,' 'inflation,' or 'politics' that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible.

They, and they alone, have the power.

They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees.

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

Charlie Reese is a former columnist of the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper.

10.10 October

10.10.1 (2008-10-01 17:42)

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[1]Sender: Brad and Sarah  Sender: Brad and Sarah
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002wzzh/

10.10.2 (2008-10-01 17:42)

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[1]Sender: Dad  Sender: Dad
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002xth1/

10.10.3 New Travel Collection (2008-10-01 17:43)

Since I just posted a couple of postcards I received, and I forgot to mention it in my last post, I thought I would make a quick blurb about a new collection I have started. MC collects playing cards and her sister collects (though forcibly so through MC) snowglobes. I thought it would be cool to start collecting something from places I visit. A standard memento if you will. Since I'm really big into sending and receiving postcards, I thought that might be a good idea. Seemed a little plain so what I decided to do is have someone associated with said vacation destination sign my postcard. I started it this weekend, and had the ticket checker lady from the Biltmore House sign it. I think it will be a fun and unique way of remembering the places I have visited. Only wish I had thought of it at the BEGINNING of my tour of the 50 states. ;-)

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tattermask (2008-10-02 11:31:00)
I wish I would go somewhere interesting so I can send you a postcard!!! The only place I've even gone in the last 6 months was GREENSBORO... and who wants a postcard from Greensboro?! LOL. ;) amanda

fincher69 (2008-10-03 18:37:49)
hey, I like them from anywhere. After all, I just got one from Iowa!! ;-)

10.10.4 Relaxing weekend (2008-10-07 01:03)

It was kind of nice to have a weekend where I didn't go anywhere. It would have been nicer if I had not still been battling this illness, but I still managed to have some fun. Got to hang out with some folks at Corner Pocket (I hadn't been there in forever) and got to hang out with MC and her mom. Nothing too big and fancy, but just felt like making a small post before I hit the sack.

In addition to the postcard collection that I talked about in my last post, I decided it would be cool to also collect room keys from hotels. Since many are boring, and I don't always stay in hotels, it isn't going to be an "every place I go" type of collection, but just add ones that are cool. I already have a decent collection and I will probably create a MobileMe gallery of them.

I also recently got a scanner, so my key cards and post cards should start looking a little cleaner. Taking pictures with a camera isn't quite the best way to capture them. ;-)

Hope to start feeling better and I have a lot to do this week with my research. Here's hoping!!

10.10.5 Hotel Key Card Collection (2008-10-07 13:24)

In reference to the previous post about collecting hotel key cards...

http://gallery.me.com/justinafincher/100051

Not too big yet, but knowing my travels it will be ever growing!

10.10.6 Yes, I'm a geek (2008-10-07 17:56)

Sony fairly recently released a trophy system for the PS3. Basically you get little trophies for passing landmarks or making accomplishments in your games. There aren't a lot of games it is compatible with just yet, but there are plans to patch some of the big ones so it'll work. Your playstation network (PSN) buddies can look at your trophies and it is just a fun little system playing off some social comparison theory. ;-) Anyhoo, there are bunches of sites talking about them and keeping track and there is one that lets you make a little "badge" that you can post places showing your progress. It would be cool if there was something that automatically talked to the PSN and updated itself, but for now this little geekiness where I have to enter everything myself will just have to do. ;-)

10.10.7 (2008-10-13 10:15)

[1]Sender: Matt and Lynn Sender: Matt and Lynn
Law Quad Cloisters - University of Michigan

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002y11w/

10.10.8 Shouldn't I be working? (2008-10-20 15:02)

I haven't really posted much in here as of late. There really hasn't been that much to report. Research stuff has been going pretty well. Been keeping me a little more busy since I have branched out a little and am doing some embedded architecture research in addition to my bio research.

I reaggravated a calf injury that I had a while back, so I mostly took it easy and kept on the motrin since I had a 5k this past weekend. It was a lot of fun and my calf didn't bother me at all. It was MC's first 5k, so that was pretty snazzy. We drove up there on thursday night. Friday we got up and got to hang out with my sister, then her friend Jenny arrived and then my folks got there just in time for dinner. Hung out with everyone on saturday, toured the Yazoo brewery, then ran the 5k in the evening. It was a really fun one for MC's first because a great majority of everyone there was in costume. We ate some dinner afterwards and had some drinks. Then everybody was kinda beat so MC and I met up with JD at a place across the street from our hotel for a few more drinks and some lively political discussion. Met up with the fam for lunch on sunday, then hit the road. It was a fun little road trip. We pulled out my laptop and found that watching some episodes of house (more listening than watching for me because I was driving) definitely does wonders for making the time fly by. Too bad we are almost done with season 4! Who knows what we will do after that. ;-)

MC started swimming this past week too. We had our second swim lesson today. It's funny how you can not realize how many little things you are doing when you are doing something like swimming until you go to teach someone. She's done really well and I think we are going to start swimming at least twice a week as part of our exercise routine.

Last week we also started up fitday.com journals where we log all our food and exercise. We both set weight goals for the end of the year and we are hoping keeping this kind of log will be helpful. It can be pretty tedious entering all the info, but it is kinda nice to have it all laid out once you have everything completed. Here's hoping we can actually stick with it long enough to have it help us :-)
Well, I guess I should try to be at least a little productive before tonight. Maybe one day I'll have some exciting things in my life to post other than "here's what I did last weekend" haha.

(2008-10-21 14:00:19)
I love the "here's what i did last weekend" posts!! We had so much fun with you, MC, Lauren, and Jenny! I just wish you didn't have to drive so far, but I'm glad you found something to make the time pass by quickly. Good idea for Fitday. If you ever want some online training, Linda has a cool website. Yay for a postcard from Italy!! :-) love you very much!

10.10.9 (2008-10-20 22:38)

[1]Sender: Eric Dahlhauser Sender: Eric Dahlhauser
Venezia - Chiesa della Salute
Venice, Italy

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0002zry3/

10.10.10 Treading contest (2008-10-24 18:47)

Just thought I would make a brief post about a little contest I entered on wednesday. It was called Tread-4-a-Tee and it was basically a treading water contest. I've always been pretty good at treading water so I figured why not sign up and get a free t-shirt out of it! It mentioned something about having your hands out of the water, but it was definitely a little crazy. Picture opening a newspaper. Now grab the sides about two-thirds of the way up as if you were going read it. That's what we had to do.... WHILE TREADING WATER. We had to hold the newspaper up and if the bottom touched the water at all, you were out. Only 3 of the 6 people that signed up for my time slot showed up, so it was just me and two girls. One girl lasted about 15 seconds. The other was going for a while, and, about at the 8 minute mark, she tried to get me to give up at the same time as her. Since it said the top three finishers get t-shirts, I asked what the top time was last year and the girl thought it was around 15 minutes. So I said we should at least get close to that. The funny thing was that it was less the treading water with my legs than the holding my arms up in the air that bothered me. My shoulders started getting pretty tight so I told the girl that I would drop at 20 minutes. She made me pinkie swear, then I asked the girl running it to count us down to 20 and we both dropped. I felt pretty good about it, and sure enough I got an email the next day saying they needed my size for my shirt. Woohoo!!! Later I was at the gym and found out that the top 3 in each gender actually got a shirt, and apparently I was the only male who bothered to show up. So all that work for nothing! It was still a cool experience and can't argue with a free t-shirt!

Aiight, back to trying to stay awake through this rainy, dreary day then Pete's party then who knows!

(2008-10-25 04:09:15)
Good Heavens!!! treading water for 20 minutes!! I can't imagine doing that! I wouldn't have lasted a minute! Way to go Justin! :-)

tattermask (2008-10-29 05:22:38)
THAT is still a fun story. Especially since it involves free shirtness :) I'll give you a tattermask shirt next time I see you for your water-treading efforts... as a former lifeguard, I am impressed :)

10.10.11 (2008-10-28 17:31)

[1]Sender: Fishel Sender: Fishel

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00030rgt/

10.10.12 (2008-10-28 17:33)

[1]Sender: Mom & Lauren Sender: Mom & Lauren
Napa Valley, CA

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00031bce/

10.11 November

10.11.1 (2008-11-03 10:33)

[1]Sender: Mom and Lauren Sender: Mom and Lauren
The oldest winery in California

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00032t09/

10.11.2 Awesome weekend of Matt and Lynn's union (2008-11-03 10:39)

Wow, what a weekend! We went down to Lakeland for Matt and Lynn's wedding and had a blast.

Friday we had a few errands to run before we left so it was a little hectic. Got on the road and headed towards Lakeland. It's not a very exciting drive, but at least it isn't very long either (4 hours). We were about 5 minutes from the hotel when we realized that we had forgotten to grab MC's garment bag. We got her suitcase, but not the one with the dresses. DOH!! We checked in and went over to the rehearsal then set out to find a boutique. Luckily everyone just hung out for a while and had a few drinks before dinner because we actually found a place right before we were about to give up. In the fastest flurry of dress shopping I have ever witnessed, the lady helped us and we managed to find a 35 dollar dress that was just about perfect. How lucky! So we headed back to the hotel, got ready and changed up, then went back down for the rehearsal dinner. It was, of course, very nice and the food was wonderful. I had the filet and MC had the tuna (sorry Lauren, we shoulda taken pictures!) and both were very good. Then I had the double chocolate cake and MC had the pumpkin souffle. Both were actually prepared by Lynn's sister and were excellent. Post dinner we took it easy for a little bit, then joined Bopper and Brandon and a bunch of the rehearsal dinner folks for drinks. Since tomorrow was going to be a long day, many packed it in early, but we ended up moseying to another place right down the road and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. ;-) MC had some fries along with her drinks at the first bar, and unfortunately, they didn't play too nicely with the other contents of her tummy. We still got to hang out for a while a the second bar, but then she was feeling iffy

and headed back to the hotel. I stayed for a little longer to hang out with Bopper, Brandon, Geoff (one of Matt's friends that we met over spring break) and a few other folks. Had a good time then moseyed on back to the hotel as well.

I woke up bright and early on saturday (7:45) for some paintball. With all the groomsmen and me and brandon and a couple others we had 12 people which was a pretty good crew. Had a ton of fun (I hadn't played paintball in like 12 years) and ended with some nice bruises and scrapes. They were worth it. :-) Came back to the hotel and met up with MC for speed dress shopping 101 session 2. Went to the mall and found a pretty blue dress, then ate lunch, then decided to return the blue dress for a pretty black and white one. All-in-all, another very speedy shopping process. Had enough time for a 15 minute nap once we got back to the room and then we started getting all purty for the wedding. This included me having to learn how to tie the bowtie I had ordered. I meant to practice earlier, but never really got around to it. The directions were pretty good, and I was pretty happy how my second attempt turned out. I really liked their ceremony and everything seemed to go off without a hitch. Had some cocktails while pictures were finished up, then headed into the reception hall. Had to do some finagling with the seating because one of our neighbors thought where she wanted to sit was more important than where we wanted to sit, but we got everything figured out. Dinner was wonderful and the open bar was even better. ;-) Had a lot of fun mingling and dancing and we pretty much closed the place down. From there we continued the festivities at the same bar we started at the night before, then headed to the other bar as we shut THAT place down. Bopper felt a little icky and gave us a little scare by wandering off, but we found her and everything was fine. Really enjoyed hanging out with some old and some new friends then figured we should pack it in since we had some driving ahead of us the next day.

Slept in as long as we could on sunday, then met up with Bopper and Brandon for lunch. Got to say some goodbyes to some other folks as we spilled out of the hotel, then we hit the road. Since it wasn't far away, we decided to go to the IKEA in Orlando since we had been perusing their site a lot in the apartment decoration planning process. That store is ridiculously huge and awesome. They seriously have like everything. I see why they are so popular! After sitting on the couch we had been looking at and wandering through the rest of the store we hit the road back to tally. Needless to say, we were both feeling a little under the weather from the activities of the previous two nights, but the drive still wasn't TOO awfully bad. We were definitely ready to get home though. And we enjoyed our last hurrah of the couple days off we took from our diet while we were out of town. I'm hoping there's just some more processing that need be done from the weekend, because the Wii Fit said I gained 4.5 pounds over the weekend. Geesh! Looks like I really have to kick it back into gear! But we could tell we had had quite the weekend when we were both ready to pack it in at like 11 last night. Those wedding weekends will take it out of you!

Now I'm off to try to get some exercise and work done. MC is off at her first day of work. Looks like our schedules are gonna be quite different from now on!

10.11.3 (2008-11-11 18:02)

[1]Sender: Fishel Sender: Fishel

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00034dgx/

10.11.4 (2008-11-11 18:02)

[1]Sender: My Family Sender: My Family

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00033gbf/

10.11.5 The Collegiate Regional Qualifier (2008-11-12 00:58)

Well, I think I let it go too long, so I've lost some motivation (and probably some memories) to give a full detailed write-up of this past weekend. A group representing the wakeboard club went up to Lake Lanier (Flowery Branch, GA to be exact) for the regional qualifier for the Collegiate National Tournament. We had a decent crew and it was cool to try someplace out other than Orlando.

Rolled up friday and checked in. They rented cabins like a few minute drive from the riding spot. The cabins were super awesome and we settled in pretty quick. One of the nicest things about nationals this year involved these accommodations, because it really got a lot of the teams to interact. In previous years, teams just try to find a hotel (or crash with friends) near the arena so everyone is spread out. Most people involved were staying at the cabins so we all partied together and just wandered between cabins and hung out with tons of new people. It was definitely a blast.

What WASN'T a blast was the weather. I like cool weather more than most, but lows in the 30s and highs in the 50s with 10-15 mph winds was a little rough, even for me. If it was 10 degrees cooler, but with no wind, it would have been tight because at least the riding conditions would have been awesome. Not so much the case on saturday. It was crazy choppy to the point where people were having a hard time just cutting out. I had to really pay attention to not eat it on a little whitecap while I was preparing for tricks. And it helped me even more that I was freezing before I even started. They were really pushing people being ready when the previous rider was done (to keep things moving) so I got my board on and was ready to go. Then the boat went to go help a sailboat that turned over. Then they took a while to fill up the sacks. Then they parked and the judges hopped out to figure something out. So I was standing/sitting in the water for about 45 minutes. I heard the water temp was 60 and you combine that with the air temp, the breeze, and the fact I was just wearing boards and my vest, it was pretty darn chilly! It probably took me a solid 4-5 hours after that before I really felt like I had returned to full core temperature. Definitely a little brisk. Had another great night of partying and hanging out saturday night as well.

Sunday the temp was about the same, but the wind had at least died down a little. Saw the more advanced riders go, then waited around for results. Because it was up in Georgia, there were definitely fewer teams there, but we were still really stoked to get 3rd. What was even better was that that meant we qualified for the National Tournament!! It's been a while since FSU did that so we were all pretty stoked. Now we just gotta raise some money to actually get our butts out to wherever it is going to be (It's TBA, but previously it has been in Arizona and San Diego). If we can get it organized it should definitely be one helluva time.

So all-in-all it was a kick ass weekend. Definitely needed to relax and recover a bit, but all well worth it. I'm proud of my crew and had a blast hanging out with them.

(2008-11-13 01:11:58)
Good heavens.... that sounds dangerous!!!! hypothermia???? I'm glad you survived and had a good time, but reading your post made me cold. brrrr

lfincher (2008-11-25 03:34:48)
congrats on the weight loss! that's great! and if you had only listened to your sister AGES ago when she told you how useful fitday was, then you could have been nutritionally enlightened much earlier. ;-) glad y'all are sticking to it! i know how hard it is!! any really surprising calorie dense foods you've come across?

fincher69 (2008-11-25 03:57:05)
haha, i HAD tried it in the past. It was just so tedious that it didn't last long. I think it has really helped that MC and I have been doing it together. Gives a little extra motivation. And I can't think of anything in particular, but looking up some estimates of meals eaten out have been pretty crazy! It's also nuts to think how many calories I have consumed on nights where I had a lot of Jager or Guinness. Geesh!

10.11.6 tiny update (2008-11-24 00:03)

Haven't really been that great about posting on here. Things have been a little hectic with the move coming up and the end of the semester looming. I'm sure I'll have some time to post when I am home for holidays, but I just thought I would go ahead and throw a little post up just to keep from having such a huge gap.

The last two weekends have been pretty chill and it has been nice. Been spending a lot of time researching and planning stuff for our new apartment. We move in December 3rd, so it is approaching quickly! Got to see my mom and family as they passed through on the way down to Ft. Myers. Had a nice dinner at Cabo's and it was good to see everyone.

The weight loss thing has been working pretty well. MC and I have both been pretty diligent about keeping our fitday journals up-to-date. It's amazing how logging every little thing you eat can not only really help you eat less (at the very least because you know you'll have to log it!), but also helps you recognize how many calories are in things that I would have had a second thought about eating before. I'll admit I look forward to the day where I can still be aware of what I'm eating, but don't have to enter it all in the computer. Can't argue too much with results though. I've lost almost 10 pounds since we started a little over a month ago and am on pace to hit my goal weight by the end of the year. I think the journal may falter a little around holiday time, but as long as I'm good about exercising and being aware of what I eat I think I'll be alright.

Well, I think I'm going to start winding things down with a little reading. Nothing like some academic papers to put you in the mood to go to sleep! :-) Hopefully I'll have some snazzy apartment pics in the not-too-distant future.

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supinternets (2008-11-24 17:57:55)
How exciting about moving in together!!!

(2008-11-26 02:17:19)
I thought you looked like you had lost weight! Next week's physical work should help balance any calories you consume over Thanksgiving! ;-)

tattermask (2008-11-28 16:02:25)
This all sounds like very good news :) It's ok if you're not posting because your life is going well, I suppose. We'll forgive you ;) amanda

10.11.7 stolen art quiz (2008-11-25 10:10)

Your result for The Famous (and Not So Famous) Art Quiz...

Art Lover

62 % Artiste!



Art Lover: You scored 62 % Artiste. You may not have any formal training, but you are a big fan of art, at least what you've been able to see in your local museum. Try broadening your horizons a little and exploring some lesser known artists.

[1]
Take The Famous (and Not So Famous) Art Quiz at [2]**HelloQuizzy**

1. `http://www.helloquizzy.com/tests/the-famous-and-not-so-famous-art-quiz`
2. `http://www.helloquizzy.com/`

10.12 December

10.12.1 Jury duty (2008-12-05 11:06)

I am going to make a big post soon. Have just been busy moving into our new place. Currently I am just sitting in the courthouse bored out of my mind. A judge gave us an intro and said he didn't think it would take longer than til noon to find jurors for the three trials. Well it is almost 11 and they have only called back one group of 14 people. What the hell man? I have pretty much exhausted my self entertainment with

my phone. I just heard they are taking one more group of 14 then everyone else can leave. I really really really hope I am not in that group. I want to get out of here! Well I guess I will go back to being bored. At least I remembered that I can post on my blog through email (and therefore through my phone). And yes, I know I am an uber geek.
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

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supinternets (2008-12-05 21:51:57)
Hope the moving in is going well! Jury duty sucks. Too bad you cannot get out of it by claiming to be pregnant like I do.

tattermask (2008-12-08 06:16:05)
LOL... being a geek has its perks ;)

10.12.2 Ok, so it's been a while... (2008-12-08 01:56)

and things have been a little crazy. I'm sure I'll leave some stuff out, but I'm home and wide awake so I figured it would be a good time to try to catch up on my updates.

I came home for Thanksgiving and had a really good time. Stuffed myself accordingly and have pretty much taken a break from my fitday logging as a result. I just let it go thanksgiving day, but every other day I have tried to be aware of what I am consuming (even if I am not logging it) and, if my Wii Fit was correct yesterday, I have still continued to lose weight. I was pretty stoked about that. I'm actually going to weigh in on my parents Wii Fit tomorrow and we will see how things are looking. Trying to lose weight during the holidays is hard enough, but throw in a move and keeping track of that kind of thing is darn near impossible!

So anyhoo, Thanksgiving break was a blast. I have TONS to be thankful for and it was nice hanging out with my family. I also had to scrounge through some of my stuff (and brought a U-Haul of stuff home from Tally) in preparation for the move. Mom came back down to Tally with me and we rented another U-Haul tag-along that we pulled behind the suburban. The next week was pretty much chaos. Of course I had meetings galore on the week I was trying to move out, but I think we got everything fairly under control.

Mom and I drove down monday, then tuesday MC and I signed our lease while she was on her lunch break. From that I went straight to a meeting for my fellowship then Matt joined in to help us move most of the big stuff from my old apartment to the new. I ended up getting Dustin to take my place at the 4:30 SCC meeting I had so that helped, but it was still a pretty much nonstop day from about 8am.

Wednesday was nonstop as well, throwing in a research meeting at 1:30 and just doing moving and cleaning all day. Fun! Took a break in the evening for a birthday dinner for MC. Mom, her and I went to Kool Beanz and it was pretty darn good as usual.

Thursday I had a meeting with a professor that was visiting from UAB that is in the Biostatistics department. Gary (my advisor) and I met with her to just talk about how they managed some of the interdepartment collaborations and some data management and analysis techniques. It was a good meeting, just a tad ill-timed. Filled the rest of the day with moving and cleaning stuff. Mom and I had picked out a washer and dryer the day before so mom hung around waiting for them to deliver it while I was at my meeting and then she hit the road to make some progress back home. Talk about Thanksgiving! I'd probably still be working on my ULofts apartment if she hadn't come down to help me with everything.

Friday I had, of all things, JURY DUTY! (as anyone reading probably gathered from my previous post). It sucks because the professor that I met with the day before was giving a talk I was really interested in in the morning, but I missed it because I was sitting at the courthouse. I think it was even more frustrating because I didn't even get to the jury selection stage. A Judge talked to us once we were all there, then we waited, then they called 14 people up for jury selection, then we waited more, then 14 more people got called up and everyone else was dismissed. So I just wasted 3 hours sitting in the courthouse for absolutely NOTHING! I guess the good part is that I have a year before I have to deal with THAT again.

So the time since then has pretty much been filled with trying to get the apartment in order. As always, my A/V center hasn't quite been cooperating, but I am hoping to get everything sorted out soon. My most recent problem has been that with the Wii going into the receiver through component and back out to the TV through DVI, the video feed is constantly dropped or something so the TV black screens and has to find the video feed again. Very annoying. I had weird issues with the sound (loud static associated with some noises on some games) on my TV and I'm hoping that is the issue. With the Wii plugged into the TV and the cable running from the receiver to the TV, everything is fine. I tried the other dvi input on the TV and tried plugging the Wii into the other component input on the receiver, both with the same results. And it is annoying because all inputs to the receiver can be output through the same format or dvi, but that's it. So I can't have something go in through composite and out through component. I tried plugging the receiver into the TV through component and everything worked fine... until I tried to watch cable, which comes in through composite. So right now I have to change inputs on both the receiver and the TV to do just about anything. From my various tries, I deduce that either a) the dvi inputs on my TV are sketchy or b) something is up with my receiver. I hope it is a because then when we get a new tv, I just hook up dvi and everything works like it should. Since I have had an issue with the dvi and that tv AND cable works fine through the receiver, I think that is more likely. What would really suck is if it turns out to be the receiver, because it will be a pain to return since I got it from Amazon. Let's keep our fingers crossed kids.

Anyhoo, enough with the geeky stuff. I don't think I mentioned it earlier, but I also recently had my first foray into the world of furniture building. I built my entertainment center from scratch (bought wood and things from Home Depot) and I am actually decently pleased about how it turned out. It may not be the epitome of craftmanship, but it seems pretty sturdy and is well suited to do exactly what I built it for. And I must say, jig saws are frickin awesome. Before I bought mine I was pretty close to giving up on the project, but after I got that I had a blast getting everything assembled. I think it will look a lot better once we do some sanding and painting, but for how it holds everything up, which is what matters. I should have snagged a pic that I could post on here, but oh well. Maybe once I get it totally finished I will have some different stages. Speaking of stages, I thought about it later, but it would have been awesome if I had taken pictures at different stages of the construction. It would have been especially cool since it is the first real piece of furniture I have ever built like this (I don't really count the TV stand I had in my old place since it was basically just screwing 4 legs into a piece of plywood). Oh well. Maybe I can continue doing stuff like this and actually make things that are functional AND aesthetically pleasing, hahaha.

So the apartment is coming together. The office is looking to be about 85 % done, the living room is probably 80, kitchen 60, and bedroom 85. Not too shabby. Since I am in Bristol, MC will be working on it this week, but since a lot of the stuff that was all over the place was mine, I have a feeling I'll be spending the first few days after I return to Tallahassee trying to get everything a little more in place. We want to have a housewarming party already! We have some really cool ideas, but funds are a little tight, so we'll probably have folks over when it is decent, but it will grow to be a place that really suits us fully. I'm excited! From living there the last few days I really really love it and am so excited to live with my sweetie and have the extra space, and have a view that includes lots of trees and no homeless people. Good times will surely ensue. :-)

Well, after this ridiculously long update (kudos if anyone is still reading) I think I am going to wind things down and try to hit the sack soon. Got to head to Spartanburg tomorrow for a BMW driving school with my sis, then off to Sherrills Ford to see Bobby, Erin, and little Emma! Should be a good time and I should be back in Bristol on wednesday. Then just trying to have a productive week before we leave for Colorado on the 13th. I'm excited!!!! :-D

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supinternets (2008-12-08 16:46:57)
Grats to you and MC on getting moved into the new place! :D

10.12.3 Finally getting around to an update (2008-12-12 21:32)

Hanging out at home isn't always as relaxing as it sounds, haha. There's always much to be done, especially with a family vacation looming. So hopefully everything that's been going on is still fresh enough that I won't leave out TOO much, and this will probably be one heck of an update.

So after previous update, I got up on monday and my sister and I left for Greer (kinda in between Spartanburg and Greenville) to get there around dinner time. We stayed at a pretty snazzy Mariott (paid for by BMW) and enjoyed a nice dinner in the lobby (paid for by BMW) then Lauren was feeling kinda icky and sleepy so she headed back to the room. I met Bopper and Brandon at California Dreaming and had a couple beers while they had dinner and we caught up for a while. Always good seeing them. They were beat from a long weekend of frisbee golf so they headed back home after dinner and I moseyed back to the hotel. I was about to head up to the room, then I realized it was only 9 P.M. so I decided to hang out in the hotel bar and have a few more drinks and watch some football. Finally made it back to the room and Lauren was still awake and watching the latest Harry Potter movie so I caught most of that then we hit the sack.

We had to get up bright and early the next day and went down to have breakfast at 7 A.M. (paid for by BMW) then got a shuttle over to the performance center. Once we got there we were greeted and went to a little classroom. It turned out that it was only Lauren and me doing the driving thing that day so that was kind of cool. Donnie, our instructor, gave us a short classroom session then we had a break before we hit the track. Since there were only two of us he asked if we wanted separate cars (to which I of course responded yes!!) so we each hopped in a 335i and followed Donnie out on the track. Our first stage was the braking. We observed him do it first and it was set up so there were two cones you went between, then you were flanked by cones on both sides laying out a path that went straight for a bit then curved to the left. He demonstrated how adding 10 mph adds like 4x the braking distance. Then we each got to try it with progressively faster speeds so we could feel the ABS and how it responds when you stomp on it and have to still steer. It was made even more interesting by the fact that it was a rainy day so the track was already wet. From there we went over to a small loop of the track. It start with a long right turn, then a straightaway with a slalom, a longer right turn, then around cones to make a 90 degree right turn, then it went up over a little hill and banked to the left, which then fed into the first long right. There were cones set up at the turns to tell us where we should be to take the optimal path and Donnie was constantly giving us feedback through the walkie talkie while we made a bunch of laps. We took a short break and he told us individually what he wanted us to work on then we did a few more laps. This was probably my favorite part. It was kinda like doing go-karts, but with real cars and a live instructor. We started to head back, then he saw the emergency lane change cones were set up so he decided we should try that out. It isn't usually part of the car pickup course, but since it was there and there were only two of us, we tried it out. We did similar to the braking in that we progressively got faster so we were going like 40 mph then had to make an immediate lane change to the left then stop. It really helped you feel some of the vehicle dynamics and it was kinda snazzy that we got to do something that people don't normally get to do. After that we took a little break

then went out on the skid pad. The skid pad is a big concrete circle that is super smooth and wet to reduce traction. Lauren started and we went out and he turned off the traction control. Then we went at 25 mph and when he said to we floored it. Since it was slick we immediately spun out into a full 360. AWESOME! Then he turned on the DSC and we got to really feel how it uses throttle and brake control to keep you on path. Then we put on DTC (kinda muted DSC) and I could see how it allowed for a little more wheel spin, but still helped you out. It was super cool. After that we actually took delivery of Lauren's car and she got the full "here's how everything works" tour. After that we grabbed the car from the hotel then came back to the performance center for lunch. After lunch, Donnie took us out in an M5 (500 frickin' horsepower!!) for a "fast lap" and it was ridiculously bad ass. He did the first part just driving hella fast, then drifted through some turns, then a little more hard driving, then a full drifted 360 at the skid pad. It was sooooo cool to take a ride with someone who really knew what the hell they were doing. (Side Note: The M5 has a really cool feature where the bucket seats in the front adjust their support. When he turned left, I could feel the right side of the seat move to hug my side even more, and vice versa. AWESOME) After the fast lap another guy took us on the off-road course in some new X5's. Waded through water, got them up on two wheels (front left and back right to test chassis rigidity), tested hill descent and all sorts of stuff. After that we headed over to the factory for the tour. It was again just us so it was really cool. Learned a lot about the building process (they build X5s and X6s there) including that they get a huge percentage of their power from methane generated by a nearby landfill. How snazzy is that? After the factory tour, Lauren headed off towards Bristol in her snazzy new metallic blue car and I headed towards Sherrills Ford. Erin and Emma were home when I got there so I hung out with them until Bobby got home then we went out to Joel's for some yummy sushi. Got back to their place and Kim had gotten The Dark Knight so we watched that and then it was bedtime for everyone. It had been one helluva day! Emma is of course super cute with her crazy chubby cheeks. She also has an intense fascination with the ceiling fan. I can't wait to visit when she is a little more interactive and can absorb some of the wonderful things crazy Uncle Fincher has to teach her. ;-)

Got up early enough to say bye to Bobby and hit the road to Asheville. I picked up Mom's computer that she had dropped off to be repaired and then drove around burning time. Lauren suggested I check out the gingerbread houses at the Grove Park Inn so I went over there and they were awesome! It was also really cool looking around since I had never really seen much of the inn. Both the inn and the houses were frickin' incredible. Then I met up with Adam and Beth for lunch. I had missed them the last time I went through Asheville so it was cool to be able to see them, even if fairly briefly. After that I moseyed on back to Bristol.

Since then I've pretty much been bouncing around preparing for Colorado, running random errands and seeing people. Last night I went out for drinks with my friend Brian, whom I hadn't really hung out with in forever, so that was a lot of fun. Nathan came by tonight for our pizza night and I've been having a blast taking Dad's Mini on all my little errands. It's been a fun week, but definitely kinda busy.

Well, I guess that was one heck of an update! I'm sure there are typos and such, but I'm not too bothered by just letting them go. I'm probably heading towards bed pretty soon considering we are leaving the house at 5:30 in the AM tomorrow. Geesh! Luckily we get to Colorado at like noon so we should have plenty of time to get things settled. I can't wait! My aunt Janice has never come with us and, most excitingly, MC is going to come too!!! It is going to be a frickin' blast! I hear we'll actually have internet in the condo so maybe I can make posts while I am out there and I swear that, one day, I will start including pictures in my posts since I really like when my friend Amanda does that and I think it really adds to the interesting factor of my blog. One day!!

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supinternets (2008-12-15 16:31:25)

Awesomeness! You always have so much stuff going! I would be tired all the time!

fincher69 (2008-12-19 00:58:34)
luckily I have friends who work for Red Bull ;-)

tattermask (2008-12-16 17:14:39)
how did you get the fun BMW treatment? Was it just cuz your sister bought a car?

fincher69 (2008-12-19 00:57:21)
yeah. It is something that they offer, but a lot of dealers forget to tell people about it. It was awesome!

corazon_leigh (2008-12-16 19:42:02)
Sounds like a lot of fun :) I went to the Grove Park Inn earlier this year and ate at the restaurant, very cool place! Do you know how long the ginger bread house thug is going on? Might swing out that way around Christmas Have fun in Colorado! I hope to get out there when there's snow on the ground :)

fincher69 (2008-12-19 00:58:13)
I'm not sure how long it is running, I would think it would mention it on the Biltmore site if you are interested.

10.12.4 Ski Trip 2008 (2008-12-21 00:19)

Ok, so I've been saying that I am going to try to be more like Amanda and my sister and start using pictures in my posts more often. Since I uploaded my last batch of pics to Facebook, I will just like those directly and see how that works. We'll try out some of my other picture hosting sites as the need comes.

I don't know how detailed of a post I can really create considering how much went on over the past week. I could detail it, but most of if would be pretty inane to read over so I will try to keep to the high points and let the pics do a little more of the talking.

So the snow...



We had tons of it! By far the most snow we have ever gotten on a ski trip. I forgot the exact final tally, but we got over 40 inches of snow during the week we were there. 40 frickin' inches!!! It was awesome. Some of it was the kind that had big dry flakes and there was little wind so it just stuck to everything. Some of the bare trees looked like coral because every little branch was covered. It was awesome!

I also started to get a little more comfortable with the rails this year. Typically I just hit the flat boxes (like below) because they have a wide stable platform and aren't really that tricky.



This year I started to branch out a little bit. I still didn't hit any of the really narrow metal rails, but they had some cool "rails" that were basically bent over trees, and a couple of rainbow boxes (like below) that were pretty fun to hit. I landed what was basically a 270 off one little jump and started having a little more fun trying different things over the rails instead of just hitting them and hoping I don't die. haha



I was pretty stoked because, though I had been talking about it for the past few years, I actually demo'd some new boards since mine was about 9 years old. It is a huge board that is perfect for big steep powder runs, but not really suited for doing any kind of tricks or terrain park kinds of things. So I demo'd three different boards and ended up loving the first one they gave me. So I actually ended up snagging it and it was so much fun and perfectly suited for hitting the parks a little more. I love it and can't wait to give it a little more exercise when I go out to Breckenridge in January.

Another super duper exciting thing about this trip was that it was the first time that MC had ever been skiing!! We got her a lesson on the first morning and then I tried to give her a little lesson the next day, but snowboarders don't make the best ski instructors. ;-) Didn't help that I've probably skied once in the last 11 years! So dad gave her some more pointers and she did absolutely awesome.



She improved so much over the week and it was so much fun having her there with everyone. We've brought friends and significant others on our ski trips in the past, but this one was by far the best. So much fun! Lauren and her even got to build a super snazzy gingerbread house. Apparently, MC has wanted to build one for years but never got a chance to. Glad we could help out!!



Now we still have to build a snowman and go ice skating, so I guess it is good to leave a few things to be done in future trips. ;-) It was also cool that my Aunt Janice (Dad's sister) got to come along. We only lost her once and she seemed to have a lot of fun as well. I also kept with my postcard writing. Hopefully no one got left out (when you are writing 30 postcards it's easy to get a little discombobulated!) and I hope they travel quickly! I also added another postcard to my collection where I get someone from the destination of my vacation to sign it. Since I was in and out of the snowboard shop (forgot to mention that I also got a kick ass plaid travel bag since my existing snowboard bag had a huge rip in it) I got the guy who actually picked out the board that I ended up buying to sign it. And my collection grows!!

Well, hopefully the new style of embedding pictures will continue and make this a little more entertaining to read. It has been a long day of traveling, so I think I am going to pack things in and hit the sack. If anything doesn't work or looks crappy or odd with the addition of the pictures, leave me a comment and let me know so I can try to get a hang of the best way to do this.

* EDIT **
I forgot yet another unique experience associated with the trip! Lauren, MC and I decided to take the shuttle and bus to get to Radio Shack (instead of dad driving us down in the rental car) to try to get her phone fixed. We took the shuttle to the main Avon station, then hopped on the bus. Not too long after we were on the bus, I was talking about my trip on the bus in Breckenridge my freshman year spring break. We were taking it to the grocery store and we heard a loud noise and the driver asked us what it was. I told him it sounded like he blew a tire, and sure enough he did. Anyway, right after I told the story, our bus stopped, then jumped a little...



We had stopped coming out of a round-a-bout and we think the guy was looking to see if it was clear to merge and didn't notice that we had stopped and totally rear-ended our bus. We sat there for a few minutes waiting for a new bus to come pick us up, then the driver said that we were like a block from where we were trying to go so we just hopped out, braved the snowstorm, and walked the rest of the way. Catching the bus to get home was fine, but it was definitely an interesting experience to get in a wreck while riding the bus.

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supinternets (2008-12-22 20:33:08)
Wow, I like your way of describing the trees, they really do look like white coral. Very pretty, hooray for pictures! :) Sounds like everyone had an awesome time. I always wanted to try skiing, but I am pigeon toed and I think that might complicate things for me. What do you think?

fincher69 (2008-12-23 06:17:12)
Actually, that might help! The primo beginner stance is the "pizza wedge" where you have the tips of your skis close together and have your heels out. Once you got a little better it might bother you a bit, but you'll be in a pigeon-toed position a lot as a beginner so I say go for it!

supinternets (2008-12-23 15:55:57)
Awesome! Thanks for the tip! BTW, I am going out of town this weekend and need your addy so I can send you a post card. :)

fincher69 (2008-12-24 00:38:53)
I try to keep it up-to-date on facebook, but it is 600 Victory Garden Dr. Apt N116, Tally 32301. Thanks!!

corazon_leigh (2008-12-23 18:44:12)
Looks like you had a blast!

10.12.5 Playing with Flickr (2008-12-24 23:59)

I took a little drive the other day and took some pictures so I uploaded them to Flickr. While I was perusing the site I noticed that it had the capability to post things directly to a blog!! How snazzy is that? Not many people really know about my Flickr account, so it might me cool to "blog" some of the pics I post to gain some following. The more people that look at them, (hopefully) the more feedback I will get and the better I will get at taking pictures!! I'll probably just try to post some pics in this post that I liked from my last session, but in the future I may try the Flickr blogging capability to share some of my photography here, which will not only give me more feedback (hopefully), but it will sort of timeline my progression into the world of photography. :-) So this is probably my favorite pic from my last session...



[1]
It was taken at the top portion of a set of waterfalls not far outside of Boone, NC that I have always liked. I have a few pictures of these and the winter ones that I just took turned out pretty snazzily. A main motivation for my little road trip was dad's fairly new auto, the Mini Cooper. So I couldn't "help" him break it in without taking at least one picture to document, and below is my fav. Hopefully you will be see more and more of my photography here, and if you ever want to check it all out (as I will not likely post EVERY pic to my blog), you can view my Flickr feed at [2]http://flickr.com/photos/fincher69/.



[3]
Well, I think this about wraps up my Christmas Eve post. I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday!! Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!!

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/3132086186/
2. http://flickr.com/photos/fincher69/

3. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/3132085310/

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supinternets (2008-12-29 20:35:49)
I love these photos!

10.12.6 (2008-12-29 15:37)

[1]Sender: Beth Sender: Beth

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00035rhr/

10.12.7 craziness (2008-12-30 00:04)

Christmas with the fam was awesome (as usual) and I got some snazzy stuff. I was most excited about my new digital camera. I'm really looking to develop my photography this year and I'm really pumped about what I will be able to do with my new equipment. I got a cool new watch, some cool wall hangings, clothes and just all around lots of fun stuff.

I drove back to Tallahasse on the 26th and it has been pretty crazy ever since. We pretty much had just enough time to get our stuff put in the new apartment before Colorado, so I was greeted to what looked like the aftermath of a tornado. I know I said I was going to try to use more pictures, but I'm not going to subject this blog to the chaos that is our apartment at the moment. I picked up MC on the following morning (from the airport) and since then it has pretty much been nonstop organizing/unpacking/enjoying being with my sweetie. We've taken breaks, of course, but there really hasn't been a lot of downtime. We've slowly been making progress, but with stuff like this the beginning is the hardest because you do so much and notice a very little difference. I feel the final stages of moving in are the most rewarding because that's when stuff is really put away, containers are stored, packing is trashed, etc. THEN the apartment really begins to show. Luckily I got my A/V center and my computer set up early, so that's probably helped ground my sanity. ;-) I promise once things are a little more presentable I'll post a bunch of pics of the new abode.

In the midst of one of my breaks, I started playing with Google reader. It's a little RSS aggregator that I wanted to see if I could use. It is easy to keep up with my lj peeps through my friends page, but I seem to have a growing number of friends who use blogger that I would like to keep up with as well. (Unfortunately I still have a dismal number of friends that keep a blog at all. Get on it people!) Google Reader was cool because I could add the RSS feed to each persons blog and have one handy reading spot. The only problem with that was the viewing of protected lj posts. Since my friends make a lot of posts that are protected (I have to be their lj friend to view them) I would be missing out on a lot of entries by using their standard RSS feed. I did some poking around and I found the [1]Livejournal-to-Google Reader. You have to be a little trusting because you give your lj login and password (you can delete it when you want, or just change your password if you feel sketchy), but it allows me to view protected entries through my Google Reader so now I can view them all in one place. I thought that was pretty darn snazzy!

Still not much for New Years plans. I have talked to several people that are going to be in town and

none have plans. MC and I are going to go out to dinner, then we figured we would get together with folks to do something, but who knows what that will be. Hell, even if it is just hanging out at Corner Pocket that would be fine with me. We shall see.

Well, I think I am going to get back to getting a few things done before hitting the sack. I need to do a lot of reading for a research meeting I have on wednesday and still get plenty of things done around the apartment.

1. http://lj.abnib.co.uk/

10.12.8 Stolen from Miss Albert (2008-12-30 13:20)

[1]The Life Experience Test

Overall, you have partaken in 105 out of 169 possible life experiences.
Your average life experience score is therefore 62%.
The average score is 50%, making your experiences more than 80% of the people who have taken this test.
The average for your age group (26-35) is 53%.
Broken down by category:
Art: 8/17 (47%)
Career & Work: 5/13 (38%)
Civics & Technology: 3/7 (43%)
Crime & Disarray: 5/11 (45%)
Education: 13/18 (72%)
Fashion: 6/10 (60%)
Fitness, Health and Sports: 6/7 (86%)
Life in General: 8/14 (57%)
Relationships: 9/14 (64%)
Religion & Politics: 1/4 (25%)
Social: 19/22 (86%)
Travel: 13/20 (65%)
Vices: 9/12 (75%)

[2]Take the test and see how YOU compare

1. http://thatsurveysite.net/take/lifexp/107238520
2. http://thatsurveysite.net/take/lifexp/107238520

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supinternets (2008-12-30 19:07:30)
You beat me by one percent!!! :)

Chapter 11

2009

11.1 January

11.1.1 (2009-01-05 12:48)

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[1]Sender: Fishel  Sender: Fishel
 Columbia Square in Savannah, GA
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00036qdq/

11.1.2 First (real) post of the new year! (2009-01-09 14:18)

Only took me a little over a week. ;-) I will use the excuse of still getting the apartment in order and having the semester start up. Might not be the best excuse, but it is better than nothing!

The apartment is coming together nicely. I would say it is about 90-95 % done. We are almost done with the entertainment center, still have a few wall decorations we are waiting for and a couple we need to hang, and have some painting to do. We have a couple future plans, but can't really do them monetarily so they are on the to-do-way-in-the-future list. Once we get everything pretty much together I'll be posting some pictures to document the occasion.

The semester has started off pretty well. I am only enrolled in one class and it is basically a biostatistics class so it should not only be interesting but should be very related to my research. I have also taken on another project with the biology people and am continuing some work on the old bio project and working with the OpenMOKO phone so I think I'll have a pretty busy semester. I think living with someone will help me have a little more rigid schedule into which I can plan to spend numerous hours in the office.

One of the only downsides to this apartment is that it is farther from campus. Having a less than 15 minute walk to my building was nice because I got to get out and about a lot, didn't use any gas, and didn't have to worry about parking. My new place is almost exactly 4 miles from my building so that makes it a little less walkable. :-) A positive is that it is extremely bikeable. The route is far from flat, but there is sidewalk almost the entire way so I don't really have to deal with traffic, which is nice. Depending on lights

it takes me 20-30 minutes to get to my building so it really isn't too bad. It's also nice getting 40 minutes of biking in. Hopefully that will help me with my weight loss goals! Since I'm kinda out of shape I'm not hitting it too hard right now. I also brought up my road bike, which is getting tuned, and I got some saddle bags for it to help with the load. I went straight to the gym before class yesterday and my bag was pretty jam packed to fit everything for class, gym, and the office. I swear my pack was like 35-40 pounds. Talk about burning some extra calories! Once I get everything set up I can just keep my gym stuff on my bike and that will help a lot.

Anyway, since I have a meeting on monday, and class on tuesday and thursday, I'm thinking I will try out just going to campus on those days and working from home on wed and fri. That still gives me 24 miles a week of biking, regardless of my other exercise. That also means I save over a gallon of gas a week too! And since I'll be getting up fairly early with MC, I'll have plenty of hours during those days to (hopefully) knock out a lot of good research.

MC and I also decided that we are REALLY going to work on spanish this semester, so we are having "Spanish Sundays." We are going to do our best to communicate solely en Espanol on sundays. We figure it is a good day since we are more likely to stay in and not be out amongst friends and crowds. I need to start practicing if I am going to get anything communicated this sunday! haha. I think it will be really good for me to help me learn (and of course I'll still be using my Rosetta Stone) and it will be good for MC to brush up since she really doesn't get to speak it very often.

I can't really think of anything else that has been going on. Between school and being a house-boyfriend (as I deemed myself) I haven't had a lot of time for other stuff. It will be nice to be settled and hang out with some people soon. I feel lacking in social interaction! Hopefully my next post will include some snazzy pictures documenting our new abode!

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gatoron2wheels (2009-01-13 19:00:00) saddle bags
What kind of bags did you get?

fincher69 (2009-01-15 04:15:17) Re: saddle bags
I got these http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B00165Q90I nothing fancy, but should be helpful :-)

11.1.3 Our Spring Kickoff for the Wakeboarding Club (2009-01-10 23:58)

It wasn't really that big a deal, but since it was my first excursion with my new camera I was pretty excited about it. I wish we had gotten people out there earlier because it was already kind of overcast and so light wasn't the best, and we didn't start riding until about 4 p.m. so the light was getting even worse as the sun was setting. I got a few cool pics, but there was one that I was really excited about and so I'm kinda spreading it around (the original is on facebook, a post-processed version is on Flickr). I know that this gets posted to Facebook too, but since this is the post-processed version I figured it isn't that big of a deal and I'll get to share it with my lj friends as well. Let me know what you think!! I decided to post a smaller version than last time. Those were a little large for my page and I didn't want it throwing off formatting on my friends' friends pages either. :-) If you click the pic it will take you to Flickr and you can see higher res versions.

[1] 

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/3186183607/

(2009-01-12 13:35:20)
that's an awesome picture!!

11.1.4 Rando Quiz from Amanda (2009-01-11 00:28)

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This Is My Life, Rated
Life:            [blubar.gif] 8.1
Mind:            [blupurbar.gif] 8.4
Body:            [blupurbar.gif] 8.6
Spirit:          [grebar.gif] 6.4
Friends/Family:  [grebar.gif] 5.9
Love:            [blubar.gif] 7.7
Finance:         [blubar.gif] 7.4
[1]Take the Rate My Life Quiz
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1. http://www.monkeyquiz.com/life/rate_my_life.html

(2009-01-15 22:12:46)
why is your family/friends score lower?? don't you like us? :-)

fincher69 (2009-01-16 00:18:32)
haha I have no idea! I think the quiz is messed up because that's one of my strongest areas!

(2009-01-17 01:10:25)
haha - it was sort of sad to see that your family rates the lowest of all your areas. We love you very much!!! :-) btw...we are in single digits at night here in Bristol... i think it made it to 21 degrees today! brrrrr

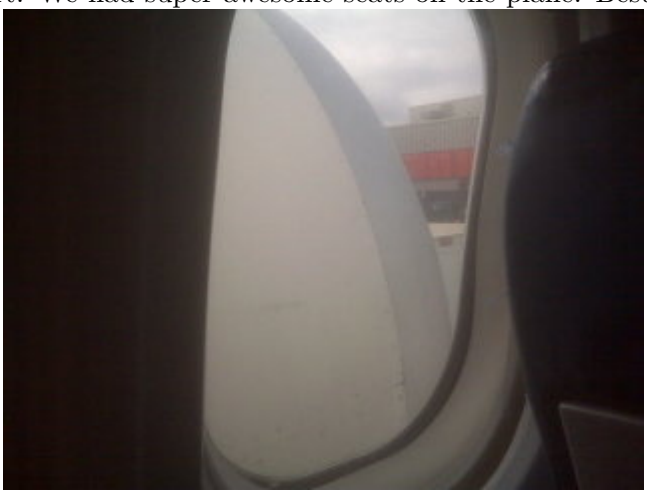
(2009-03-30 19:24:27)
I'm w/your mom on this one - why is your friends/family life so low? And your love life is only a 7.7? Are you not happy w/me? =/ *sniff sniff*

11.1.5 Awesome weekend trip (2009-01-27 16:36)

Man, I have been really slacking when it comes to making posts as of late. Things have been a little hectic, but I've gotten into the groove of the semester a little more so hopefully I'll be able to post more consistently. I STILL haven't gotten some good pics of the new place, but I'll get things tidied up soon and I can make a post about that. I don't think there has been a lot that is worth blogging about since my last post so I'll just talk about more recent happenings.

This past weekend MC and I had our first flight together! My friends Jake and Jamie were in Iraq for 15 months and got home not too long ago. They are stationed in Colorado Springs so we decided to have a ski trip / get-together for everyone to visit since we hadn't seen them in forever. Since I only have class tuesday and thursday and I can easily miss my monday meetings, we decided to take a long weekend for the trip.

We got up early on friday and headed over to the airport. We had super awesome seats on the plane. Best



view in the house! (if you like engines that is haha). [1]
There was a lot of fog in Atlanta so our plane got delayed and we ended up missing our connecting flight to denver. Surprisingly, Delta automatically rebooked us on a later flight so it ended up not being a very big deal. We rolled into Denver a few hours later than planned and we headed over to Hertz. Turns out they were having a deal for a cheap upgrade so instead of a Rav4, we were big pimpin' in a 2009 Escalade!

[2] 

The trip to the house in Breckenridge was a little rough. It was pretty snowy so it was slow going, but good thing our Escalade handled it just fine! While I was super glad to have a large SUV like that for the drive, I am always entertained by the other cars that I see on the road. I feel kinda sketchy in some of the conditions with my all-wheel drive, yet see little cars passing me... like a Porsche Carrera 4!!

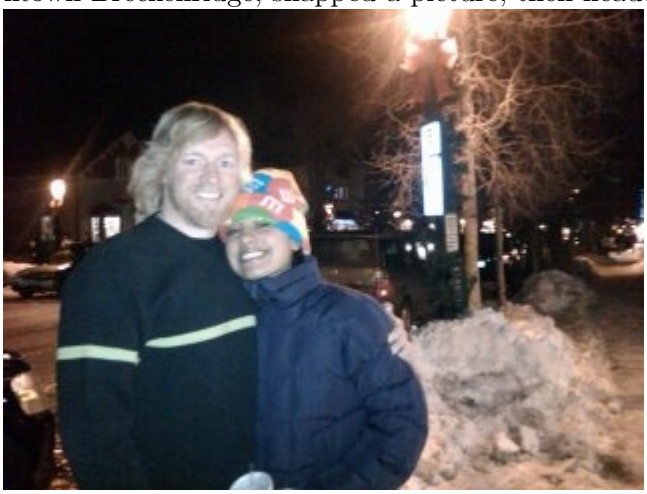
[3] 

The house that Roper found was pretty awesome. It was like 10 minutes from the slopes and had plenty of room for all of us.

[4] 

The first day we mostly stayed together. MC did frickin' awesome!! She took off down the slope with a good amount of speed and was really tearing it up. Towards the latter part of the day the group split up a bit and we pretty much shut down the mountain. It was one helluva day on the mountain! The rest of the

evening we hung out at the house, had a great dinner, and just caught up with everyone. It was really good hanging out with everyone, especially the Ropers since they had been out of the country for a long time. We decided to have an "experts only" morning the next day. J.D., Roper, Adam and I hit the slopes right when they opened and got in tons of good skiing and boarding. Unfortunately, a lot of the places we were going were much less accessible to the lone snowboarder (myself), so I ended up doing a lot hiking, mostly through pretty deep snow. Times like those will remind you that you are at like 12,000 feet!! We still got tons of awesome back country time in and then met up with everyone else for lunch. After the previous day and that morning I was pretty wiped out so I just did a couple runs after lunch then MC and I headed down to the bast to wait for everyone to finish up. After we got back, we showered up and had dinner at Bubba Gump's, where the food was pretty good, but the service was pretty shoddy. Had a nice little stroll through downtown Breckenridge, snapped a picture, then headed back to the house.

[5] 

Roper and Jamie had to work on Monday, so they hung out and played Taboo with us for a while then had to hit the road. It was sad to see them go, but we had a frickin' awesome weekend hanging out with them and everybody. After they left, most of us didn't last very long after a couple long days of boarding and skiing.

We got up early the next day because there were winter storm warnings all along the route from Breckenridge to the airport. The first half of the drive wasn't too bad, but then it got progressively worse.

[6] 

It was definitely the kind of drive that keeps you on your toes! Most of it really wasn't that bad, but I had to pay a lot of attention. Needless to say I was pretty stoked to finally make it to the airport and relax. Everything went fine on the flights home and we rolled in last night around 9. Still feeling a little beat, but I'm trying to get some research done this afternoon since I didn't get much done this past week. It'll probably be a kinda busy week getting back into everything, but I'm sure I can handle it.

Well, I guess I have procrastinated enough. Hopefully the use of images will help liven this post up. I'm still working on bring more consistent with that as well. Back to the research!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00037f0z/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00039her/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003b8q2/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003e3p0/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00038hr1/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003dssg/

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corazon_leigh (2009-01-27 22:36:06)
Sounds like a lot of fun :) Don't know if you're up for another ski/snowboarding trip, but Jason and I are going to Snowshoe next weekend if you wanted to join. Was also hoping to talk Christine into going since she's not that far away :)

fincher69 (2009-01-28 02:11:05)
I think we pretty much blew our travel budget on this trip, but thanks for the offer. Have fun!

(2009-01-28 00:36:23)
OMG - that looks so scary on the drive back to Denver!! I'm so glad you had fun - it sounded wonderful!! :-)

fincher69 (2009-01-29 04:58:43)
Luckily we didn't have any white-outs like our December trip. Talk about scary!

supinternets (2009-01-28 14:16:57)
How fun! I am glad you guys made it back in one piece!

fincher69 (2009-01-29 04:57:47)
me too! It could have been worse, but definitely different that Tally weather ;-)

tattermask (2009-01-28 18:56:34)
I am really diggin the picture posts :) Great idea! And Colorado snow beats Appalachian snow hands down! No ice ;) I'm glad you and MC had a great time :D

fincher69 (2009-01-29 04:58:14)
It does liven the read up a bit, huh? :-) Hopefully I can continue the trend!

11.2 February

11.2.1 Taking after my sis (2009-02-06 13:17)

So MC and I have decided that we are both going to work on developing our culinary skills. Since we watch Top Chef every wednesday, we thought that would be a good cooking night since that show always makes us super hungry anyways. I don't know if I will keep track of MC's cooking or just log what I am doing, but we shall see how it develops. Since we were having a cold spell, we thought that during our dinner and show on wednesday would be a good time to christen our fireplace!



We just made a simple little fire, but it was fun doing it for the first time in our new place and the spinach stuffed chicken MC made was super scrumptious!! And this picture is a bit of a prelude to the apartment post I swear I will make sometime soon. We hope to clean stuff up this weekend and take some good pictures so I can show everyone our new snazzy living quarters.

So thursday it was my turn to do some cooking. We have several cookbooks that we have been perusing a lot lately and two of them I have been looking at especially. The Biggest Loser and Quick & Healthy. Both are really nice because they not only have recipes that are pretty good for you, but they have the nutritional information, which makes keeping the fitday journal up-to-date through our culinary exploration much easier. I decided to cook pecan-crusted chicken from the Biggest Loser book and I paired it with german red cabbage with apples from the Quick & Healthy book.



The chicken was very good and flavorful, though the recommended serving size was a little small (1/4 pound of chicken). The cabbage was definitely on the experimental side. I think I could have used a larger skillet and I think I "simmered" at a little bit too high of a heat. In the book the apple slices looked intact, but in mine they started becoming more like applesauce than apple slices. Overall, it was still pretty good! VERY flavorful, almost too much so. I think having larger pieces of chicken so it would need less of the cabbage as a side would have been about perfect. All-in-all it was a pretty successful meal and pretty good on the health side as well!

Maybe having a set day with something specific to post (like back when I did weigh-in posts) will help me keep this thing a little more up-to-date as well. We shall see!

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supinternets (2009-02-06 19:28:14)
Cute set up for the tv! And the din din looks om nom nom nom!

fincher69 (2009-02-06 23:42:15)
Thanks! We tried to stick with a kind of "outdoorsy" theme in the living room. Hopefully I can get some better pics up soon that really portray that feeling!

lfincher (2009-02-07 17:32:09)
i'm impressed bro! and very glad you've chosen to copy me. :) your presentation is actually very nice, it's a very colorful plate. isn't red cabbage fun?? like beets! they are so bright. i think i have the quick and healthy cookbook too, i think. and it can be really hard to saute and simmer veggies on the stove top, it takes practice to get the tenderness you want without stuff falling apart. did you simmer them in broth or wine or water or apple juice? low and slow

is usually best for simmering. see this link for tips on sauteing and, maybe more pertinent, the article on simmering and boiling. :) chicken looks yummy too! http://www.cookinglight.com/cooking-101/techniques/cooking-class-fundamental-techniquesi-ndex-main-00400000032930/

fincher69 (2009-02-08 06:49:48)
i think the presentation would have been even better with a small green salad. Even more color! I think the Quick & Healthy I have I somehow stole from you, haha. So you may have it no longer. I hate vague terms like "simmer" or when they say "reduce heat and cook for blah blah minutes." The scientist in me is like "that is totally NOT reproducible!! Put head on 9, reduce to 2. THAT is how you should say it!" If it says to reduce heat and simmer, I have no clue at all what that means. And when it says to saute for 5 minutes. Not sure about that either. I'm going to write a beginners cookbook with no fancy lingo (except in parentheses or as footnotes for learning). :-) I simmered them in a combo of red wine and red wine vinegar. I think I needed a little lower and slower haha. Thanks for the link!

lfincher (2009-02-08 17:17:54)
well dear brother, that's where the art of cooking comes into play. :) a lot of times the reason things are vague in recipes is not because they are lazy or not specific enough (though, sometimes it is!), but it's because everyone's environment is different. a 2 on your stove is not the same as medium on a gas stove. (i assume you guys have electric, right?) i know it's frustrating, but that's why you gotta keep practicing and experimenting with your heat sources and your cookware... nonstick, size, etc... all that stuff matter on the stovetop too. did you read the CL articles?? they are really helpful for some your questions. and if that cookbook is the one i'm thinking of, see if there's a rosemary sweet potato side dish. i've made the several times and it's yummmy! and easy!

fincher69 (2009-02-08 20:49:59)
I haven't read them yet, but I have the bookmarked so I can check it out, especially when I have a recipe that has some vagueiries ;-) I'm sure I'll get the hang of it the more I do it.

11.2.2 (2009-02-08 15:46)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003hfpr/

11.2.3 (2009-02-08 15:47)

[1]Sender: Mariette Sender: Mariette

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003kq22/

11.2.4 (2009-02-08 15:48)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003pxd7/

11.2.5 Funny Story (2009-02-11 11:41)

Since it involves my bike commute (which my mom dislikes and worries about) I figured I would post this friends-only.

So yesterday I was on my way home from the office and was going through downtown on Park. Before I got to Monroe, I was on a section of sidewalk that the buildings are on my right and some trees and plants are on the left. So there is an attractive business lady walking the opposite direction and I notice that we are going to pass close to where a large trashcan is on the sidewalk, narrowing the path. So I am watching her to make sure I stay left as far as possible and don't run her over when my bike hits something in the sidewalk and my front wheel catches. It feels like I am about to go straight over the handlebars when it releases, but it complete through off my balance. So I swerve around a little and do DEAD on into one of the trees to my left. Like, hit the tree and stop to the point where my back wheel came off the ground by a foot or two. So I'm laughing and getting re-situated when the lady I just passed calls out "You alright brother?" I said I was fine thanks, but it was just and odd thing to hear from a white business lady about my age. Brother? Haha.

Well that was my first incident since I started doing the bike commute thing and I just had to share.

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supinternets (2009-02-11 17:12:13)
Stop checking out the ladies and focus on the road! ;) Just kidding!

fincher69 (2009-02-12 04:39:17)
haha yeah, MC pointed out that the way I wrote sounded like I was checking her out, but I was really just trying not to run her over! The attractive part just added to the comedy of the "you ok brother?" comment.

11.2.6 Top Chef Wednesday! (2009-02-11 23:28)

Usually this would be MC's day to cook and I would get tomorrow, but with Valentine's day being this weekend we modified our schedule a little bit. Also, MC had a little dinner shindig to attend in the evening and we wanted to get a run in before Top Chef/dinner so it made sense for me to make something quick and easy. I decided I would make some soft tacos since it would be easy for MC to just grab one or two since she didn't need a whole meal.



It wasn't anything fancy, but the twist was that instead of ground beef, I tried a tofu crumble meant to resemble it. I cut up green and red peppers, tomatoes, and onions and tossed it all in a skillet for a while. I heated up some black beans and chopped up some spinach and wrapped each up in a wheat tortilla. It was very scrumptious! I have been intrigued by meat alternatives, but haven't really tried that many. It was healthier (the 10 oz package had like 220 calories and very little fat) and it had a different flavor, but a good one. A simple, but successful, meal indeed! It was a great recovery meal too since MC and I got a little lost on our run and what was supposed to be like a light 1.5 miles, turned into about 2.9 miles. Fun!!

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corazon_leigh (2009-02-12 14:23:43)
Looks delicious! I have been using tofu crumbles for my tacos for a few years now and I love 'em! I also like the veggie burgers and fake chicken stuff :)

fincher69 (2009-02-12 20:45:10)
These were definitely awesome. I've had a few types of veggie burgers, but for me they don't compare to a good ol' regular one :-) I'll have to try out fake chicken sometime though.

supinternets (2009-02-12 16:18:19)
Om nom nom nom. Looks good! You should try the veggie BBQ too. It's freaking to die for. It's the the Greenwise produce section at Publix.

corazon_leigh (2009-02-12 17:16:52)
I miss Publix!

supinternets (2009-02-12 17:22:05)
Srsly, "Foodland" is whack.

fincher69 (2009-02-12 20:44:21)
I'll try it out! Thanks!

lfincher (2009-02-12 22:07:49)
nice!! looks tasty! do you remember the brand of the non meat crumbles? were they mainly soy or something else? i tried them in a few mexi things and they work well i think with the spices, but definitely taste different... i want to try to make a spaghetti sauce with it. definitely much healthier, and good protein too! looks healthy and yummy!! any particular beverage pairing? :)

fincher69 (2009-02-12 23:17:25)
It was made by Marjon. It just said it was tofu, but I didn't really read the box. And no special beverage pairings. Usually just drinking some crystal light to save on calories :-)

11.2.7 Big apartment post!! (finally!) (2009-02-15 21:30)

I am finally making a post about our new apartment! It's been basically over two months since we moved in so I figure it is about time to post pics of the new place! Since I have a bunch of pics I am just going to post the small versions and I believe it posts them so you can click on them if you want to see the small versions. We'll have to try it out!

I figure I will start from the farthest point from the entrance and work my way back through the place.

[1] 

Here's the "master" bath. Spongebob like crazy of course! What're the odds I could find someone who is as into Spongebob as I am? :-)

[2] 

Here's the bedroom from the far corner. You can see the dresser which is part of the bedroom suite I brought from home. To the left of the TV is one of my favorite pictures that I have taken. You'll also notice the awesome yellow walls and snazzy bedspread! We wanted it to be colorful, but also try to keep a tranquil feel to the place.

[3] 

Here's the view as you first walk into the bedroom. The headboard and bedside tables are part of the same suite and we found some nice little lamps that brought everything together. We'll probably end up putting a little more up on the walls at some point, but it is definitely a relaxing place as is.

[4] 

Here's the view as you leave the bedroom. There's a kind of dining area right past the door, but we don't have a table that we want to put there just yet so we left it open. We rarely want to actually sit down at a table and eat so it works out pretty well. You can see some of the living area, though it is a bit dark. To the left is the kitchen area...

[5] 

It is definitely bigger than my kitchen at University Lofts, though I won't mind when I have a big awesome kitchen for all the cooking we are getting into. Notice the snazzy knife holder next to the fridge. I had it at University Lofts, but it still pretty snazzy. You'll also see to the right our test tube rack where we are in the process of putting in and labeling all our spices and such. We figured a kind of science theme would be cool, especially since cooking is basically like doing little scientific experiments. :-)

[6] 

Here's a better view of the living area. I frickin' love our couch! Good ol' IKEA has some pretty snazzy stuff. You can also kind of see our outdoorsy theme coming together. You can kind of see the entertainment center and the vines that run along all the cables. You may also have noticed the two "bushes" to the sides of the couch. Keeping with the theme, those are our surround sound speakers. Pretty cool, huh? And you can also see the coffee table that I built out of the snowboard that I used to have on my wall in U-lofts.



[7] You can see the speakers even better in this picture. You can also see our wall decal. I was pretty stoked about this because I had seen tons of these in magazines and such, but I had never actually seen on in real life. I was really happy how it came out, and it goes really well with our theme.



[8] Here you can see the entertainment center a little better. This was the first piece of furniture that I ever built entirely from scratch. It isn't the most polished, but after MC did most of the painting and we got the ivy on it, I was really pleased with how it turned out.



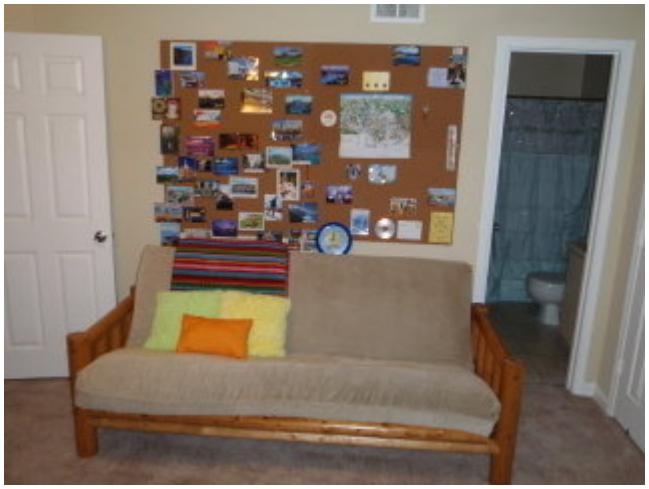
[9] Above is a little better view of the decal.

[10] 

Here's the view of the office as you go in. Between the closets is our travel map and a framed item, one from my sister, one from MC's. The futon fit perfectly in here so it will make it double as an easy guest room. You can also see a couple of the wakeboards on the wall. If you couldn't tell, MC let me have creative control over the office. She is the one who made the bedroom super snazzy. :-)

[11] 

Here you can see the L-desk that constructed out of a couple of "office-in-a-box" sets that I got from Wal-Mart. Pretty geek'd out huh? You can see the Endless Summer poster and the other two wakeboards we have on the wall. You can also see our stuffed DVD rack. To free up a little bit of space MC painted a little blue Blu-Ray shelf to keep those separate. When we have the money (and the time to go to IKEA) we are going to get a couple little racks to put on the wall and keep all the TV seasons separate so we have plenty of space for the DVDs on the rack.


[12]
I don't think you could really see it from the other angle's, but we took a few large pieces of corkboard and created a huge corkboard behind the futon. We split it (me on the left, MC on the right) and use it to hang random decorations that we want to display. Mine is mostly postcards, but it will be interesting to see how it grows!


[13]
And to wrap things up, here's the view of our balcony. You can't see because it is dark outside, but the view is basically all woods. You can kinda see some other apartment buildings on the other side, but we hear that once the trees and bushes grow out in the spring we'll have an even better view!

Well, I think that about wraps up the tour! I'm sure I'll make another post soon about Valentine's, but figured I will leave this huge apartment post on it's own. ;-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003r73f/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003wb7f/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003xyxc/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003s260/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003tdct/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003yyfd/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0003zesg/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00040aba/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00041pbe/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00042003/
11. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00043xz9/
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00044pr2/

13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00045w5a/

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supinternets (2009-02-16 16:15:49)
Very cute place! I really like the Sponge Bob bathroom! Where did you guys move too? It looks great!

fincher69 (2009-02-16 21:58:09)
Azalea place. It is on victory garden between park and apalachee. We love it!

(2009-02-16 21:05:14)
You two have done a fantastic job on the apartment!! I can't wait for dad and Lauren to see it! It looks great!

(2009-02-17 01:30:30)
very nice,I like the ideas that came from the creative control centers

fincher69 (2009-02-17 02:48:14)
creative control centers?

corazon_leigh (2009-02-17 01:34:07)
I like. Where'd you get the decal from? Did you guys make the entertainment center? I like the snow board coffee table :). Jason and I want to get into repurposing items for furniture/accents :)

fincher69 (2009-02-17 02:47:29)
We made the entertainment center from scratch and we got the decal from designwithaz.aom (Design with a Z). And the snowboard table worked out because I already had holes in it from where I had it mounted on my wall. You guys have any projects in mind?

corazon_leigh (2009-02-17 17:12:41)
Another good decal site is http://whatisblik.com/ I got a few for my walls. I put one of them up last year, but now I need to get around to putting up the other two! Lots of random projects, such as making a flute lamp from the very crappy first flute I have, making over a run down prefab entertainment center, spray painting a lot of mismatched accents I've picked up over the years, stripping and staining dressers and coffee tables to match, and making tshirt pillows from the shirts I love but that look terrible on me for some reason or another.

11.2.8 Quick Valentine's Blurb (2009-02-16 21:20)


[1]

MC and I decided to go pretty low-key for valentines. It WAS our first valentine's, but cash is kinda tight so we thought we'd just keep it simple. We had a wonderful day of just hanging out and enjoying each others company. We were going to start the day off with a 5k, but it got canceled due to rain (weenies!). So we came back to the apartment complex and did a short jog on the treadmill. After the jog I fixed us up some breakfast and made MC a special plate. Notice the hearts on the toast on the left as well! She saw this recipe and it looked absolutely perfect for a little valentines meal. :-)

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00046qhb/`

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supinternets (2009-02-17 15:09:04)
Aw, how cute! Is that veggie bacon I spy?

fincher69 (2009-02-17 22:47:43)
It IS! We thought we would try it out. Didn't think it was near as good as bacon, but if you want a little bacon flavor is did the trick.

supinternets (2009-02-18 14:33:55)
I highly recommnend the Morning Star Farms sausage patties. They taste great when you cook them up in the pan or bake them. I think they are much better than the bacon.

fincher69 (2009-02-19 05:22:27)
sweet, I'll try it out. Thanks!

corazon_leigh (2009-02-17 17:08:29)
Looks yummy! I love frog-on-the-pond's :)

(2009-03-08 01:26:07)
Awww...that is really sweet...how'd you make the heart-shaped eggs?

(2009-03-08 01:27:13)
I don't want to remain anonymous....I just couldn't figure out how to link my blog to the post... It's Indy!

fincher69 (2009-03-08 23:45:11)
I used the cookie cutter to cook the eggs so they would fit in the hole that I cut in the toast :-) And lj isn't too fancy, so I think the only way to post non-anonymously is if you actually have an lj account, sorry!

11.2.9 Top Chef Night... with guests! (2009-02-19 17:36)



[1] So, as has been the case, we cooked for Top Chef night. Usually it has been MC's night (and I'm still trying to get her to start a blog to at least log her cooking too) but she had a lot going on so I volunteered to take care of it. This was a little different too because we had guests!! Ian and Caitie are avid Top Chef watchers as well, so we invited them over to join in dinner and watch the show. It was a lot of fun!

I tried a recipe from the Biggest Loser cookbook called Southwestern Pileup or something. Usually I am very rigid about following every direction and measurement, but I just sorta winged it through most of this one. It was pretty simple so it wasn't hard. It called for a pita, but I liked the look of the flatbread better. I seasoned some chicken with mexican spices and garlic and grilled it, then toasted the pita a bit in the oven. I spread a layer of roasted red pepper hummus, then added the chicken, red peppers, cilantro, tomato, black beans, and cheese. Bake for like 7 minutes and voila! It was pretty darn scrumptious, especially for being so simple. I also had some guacamole and sour cream for people to add to taste and paired it with some chips and salsa.

At the time I actually forgot to take pictures, but luckily the flatbread pack had 5 in it, so there was one left over for me to recreate the meal for my lunch today. I had to get a snapshot somehow! :-) I'll probably be a little more adventurous when friend's lives aren't on the line ;-) and will have some more complicated recipes in the future. For now, this'll do though!!

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000470kh/`

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supinternets (2009-02-20 14:11:02)
Mmm...that sounds yummy. You make me want to cook more!

fincher69 (2009-02-21 23:12:34)
Always glad to spark some interest! :-) Maybe once we are more comfortable with things you and Mike can join us for a meal!

lfincher (2009-02-21 03:42:01)
yumm!! love that you used pita instead of pizza crust. and roasted red pepper hummus?? YUMM!! where do you usually do your grocery shopping?? a publix opened close to me finally so i might start going there some; their brand stuff is always good. i'll blog about my whole foods classes this week later this weekend! good job!

fincher69 (2009-02-21 23:11:55)
We usually go to Publix because there is one less than a mile from our house. Sometimes Wally World, depending on schedule and financial situation. :-) Publix also has their Greenwise sections that are organic and such and pretty good. You need to get on that blogging! (and maybe include some TV as well as cooking ;-)

11.2.10 New style and a fun weekend (til the end) (2009-02-23 18:31)

I don't know how many people actually look at my blog and how many people look at it through some kind of aggregator, but I figured it was time to update the style on my blog. When I last changed it there weren't too many options and they were pretty basic. I found a couple of great ones that are available now and picked one that I liked to try it out. We'll see how it goes.

Friday night we met up with some folks and went to downtown get down. There was some live music and we mostly hung out at a couple bars and enjoyed chatting with folks. It was nice to go out and be social and have fun. From there we stopped by Dereks and met a couple of his friends and his new puppy, Moose! He's a super cute little yellow lab. After that, we just moseyed home and crashed.



Saturday we got up and ran a 5k. It was a decently hilly route through campus and Matt and Lynn came out and ran too. Lynn wanted to run with some buddies of hers from work and Matt decided to run with me and MC. We haven't been training a ton, but it went pretty well. MC even set a PR! My calf started bothering me a little bit, but really wasn't too bad. In the evening we went over to Matt and Lynn's for a yummy dinner and to check out their new place. For the desert we decided to bring, I helped MC make corn-on-the-cob cupcakes. She made the batter (banana flavored) from scratch and we snagged pina colada, coconut, and banana jelly beans to top. I think they turned out pretty darn well! Not only were they super

cool looking, but they were ridiculously yummy!! All the flavors went together really well.

Sunday was pretty much a "recover from the weekend" day. Nice and relaxing and nothing too awfully special. Had a yummy dinner at Macaroni Grill. Only bad part was that around 2:30 this morning MC got really nauseous and has been pretty much bed ridden all day. Only thing we can figure it some food poisoning from dinner, but the timing still seems really odd since we ate at like 6-6:30. Only other thing she had the rest of the night was half a glass of crystal light so that's doubtfully the culprit. So I'll be alternating between research and being a nurse for the evening and hopefully we will get her back into working order :-)

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tattermask (2009-02-24 17:59:07)
We have the same style I think... LOL.

fincher69 (2009-02-24 20:45:01)
haha, yep, looks like it. What can I say? Good taste is good taste ;-)

(2009-02-24 21:49:49)
I always read your blog and love it!! What awesome looking cupcakes!! wow!! I'm so sorry about MC, but the likely culprit was dinner. Your dad's been through it before! Hope she is better by now! YAY for a PR on the 5K!! Wouldn't it be cool to run Crazy 8s this year??

supinternets (2009-02-26 20:32:18)
Those cupcakes are so freaking cute. Om nom nom.

11.2.11 New Theme (again) and a little post from Colorado! (2009-02-26 15:06)

So, it was brought to my attention that my recent style change made my blog have the same style as my friend Amanda. Since there are tons of possible styles, I figured that my small group of blogging friends should have different styles so I found another fancy one to try out. Much more orange :-)

So dad and I headed out to Colorado yesterday (Breckenridge specifically) for a fun little father/son ski weekend. We met up with Roper, Rhett and Rhett's buddy Robbie for dinner then moseyed back to the condo. I don't know if it was something I ate or the altitude or what, but I woke up a lot during the night and had a ton of crazy dreams. In one of the only ones I remember, MC and I were sitting in my back driveway in Bristol, playing with something I don't recall. There was construction going on across the street and we heard a loud noise and this huge pointy log that a crane was holding was crashing right towards us. It "landed" on the disco, with the point ending up like 2 feet from my head. The car was dinged up, but surprising undestroyed. So I was livid of course because they just destroyed my car and almost killed MC and me. The guys that came over to help get the log off of it were all nonchalant and kept telling me it wasn't a big deal. Then a business lady who apparently worked for the construction company came over to assess the damage. She gave some ludicrously low quote about how much they would compensate me, and I started showing her all sorts of damage that she didn't seem to figure in. She kept telling that if it wasn't broken to the point of nonfunctionality, they didn't cover it. So of course I keep getting more and more pissed off and she tried to ask me if I would expect them to cover it if my truck were pulling the trailer that they were trying to load the log onto (in a way that insinuated I was being ridiculous by expecting them to cover all damage). I responded to this by angrily telling her that has nothing to do with this situation as I am not an employee and I was on my own property! So she got frustrated and annoyed and turned to leave and for some reason I shouted "expect to hear from my lawyer." That's about all I remember, but it was definitely strange.

Anyway, back to hanging out in Breckenridge with dad and relaxing after a great day on the slopes!

11.3 March

11.3.1 Back from a great Father-Son trip to Colorado (2009-03-03 22:33)

I am back in Tally after an awesome Father-Son trip to Breckenridge, Colorado! It was not the longest trip, but dad and I sure know how to pack a lot of fun into a long weekend. We actually had a few convos about the awesome long weekend trips that we have had in the past. We can cover some ground!



[1] So this might be some repeat to anyone that saw my mobile uploads to facebook, but oh well. Things will be a little more in context here so that will be the added benefit. :-) I am also using the standard "insert image" that livejournal provides to put these pics in here. It makes for fairly small resolution pics, but for most of these I think that gets the point across, and anyone can always click on the pictures if they want to see an enlarged version. I think all of them were taken with my phone so it isn't like they were super awesome to begin with.

The first pic is on the way from the airport out to the mountains. The last couple of times we have been out there, there has been tons of snow and the roads have been pretty crappy. We were definitely happy to be greeted by some warmer weather and clear roads, though it definitely made it feel a little less like we were starting out a ski trip.

As has been the case the last two trips out to Colorado, we have gotten snow every day. Now that may sound awesome (who doesn't like fresh powder?), it can actually get a little annoying sometimes. Not only is it colder having snow constantly hitting any exposed surface on your body, but to snow you need clouds. This means it is very overcast, which means you will have very flat light, which means it will be hard to see the surface of the snow. It can be good practice to learn to ski or board more by feeling with your feet that actually seeing the snow, but it sure is nice to have a sunny ski day every once in a while! You can see some of the aftermath of boarding in a snowstorm in the accompanying picture. Dad got a pretty good covering too as you can see.

[2] [s320x240] [3] [s320x240]

[4]  Both days we got snow, but the second day it was definitely the harder snowing day of the two. We (luckily) got out pretty early both days so we got tons of good runs in before the crowds got out and before the weather got worse. You can see in the picture that the snow is really coming down. It never let up! We did see a little sun after we got off the mountain (of course!) on our last day. The snow was still awesome though and we definitely made the most of it and had a frickin' blast! One random note I just thought of... the riding was made a little more interesting for me by the fact that the toe strap on my right binding fell off at some point. Luckily, my left foot is my control foot, but it is definitely a bit of an odd feeling to be riding with only one strap on your binding! Nothing will take your mind off it like a nice beer sampler from the local brewery though!

[5]  It was definitely a kick ass trip, but it started getting kinda crazy cold towards the end. At one point I was walking around taking pics and I stopped to prop my camera on a railing for a long shutter shot. The railing ended up being so cold that when my hands touched it, it literally felt like someone had lighters under my hand because it just started burning. It was nuts! I believe one of the last times I checked weather.com before I went to bed, it said it was -4 feels like -15. That's chilly!

You may not be able to read it in the picture, but the car's thermometer was reading -5 when we were leaving in the morning. Not quite Tallahassee weather! There was a little snow on the road from the recent storm, but after the last couple of trips it pretty much seemed like nothing. We DID get to see the buffalo herd chilling next to the road on the way in. We've always seen the signs, but rarely see any actual buffalo. Dad and I had the same flight to Atlanta, then his flight home headed out about an hour earlier than mine so I had a little downtime in the airport. Had a little interesting and cool experience while I was there.

[6]  I went to the ice cream vending machine to get a snack. It said 50 cents had already been put in so I was kinda pumped. Then I realized why that was the case. I put in 50 more cents, then tried to put in a dollar and realized the dollar accepter was nonfunctional. Bummer. So I push the cancel and return change buttons a couple times and it seems like nothing happens. I'm about to walk away when I hear it drop change, but it definitely doesn't sound like 4 quarters. So I check and it is a snazzy new one dollar coin! The pic below isn't the greatest, but it was still a pretty snazzy find. This week has been good so far too. Got my shoulder checked out and bloodwork done (good to check) on monday, did PT for my calf and found out I need to lower my triglycerides a little bit today, and have fit a little research in there as well. Yesterday MC and I decided to join a local group who is training for the 10k at the end of the month and we had a nice 4.5 mile run without stopping! That is by far the longest MC has ever run nonstop and I was pretty stoked I didn't die considering how little I've been running lately. It was a cool little accomplishment. Tomorrow I have lots of chores to take care of and such and it should be a pretty busy day! Oh, and I couldn't fit them into the post well, but I'm including a few other "bonus" pics below of the drive out of Breckenridge :-) and as a side note, I'm just looking at my actual blog when I am figuring out where to align all these pics, so if it looks like crap on your feed, you might wanna check out my original post to see what I had in mind. ;-)

[7] [s320x240] [8] [s320x240]

[9] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004a4h4/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004b3e0/

3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004df5z/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004c1w0/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004ebgg/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004kexx/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004fsr5/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004gws1/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004hcfc/

(2009-03-04 16:20:45)
Awesome!! Your dad definitely had a blast too! It was so good for him to spend time with you!! Sorry it was so cold. I don't think I would have made it! Show me the spa! ;-)

11.3.2 A year of oddities and love / spring break (2009-03-17 15:17)

The first half of the tagline we liked to use to describe our one year anniversary. :-) I'll talk a little more about that in a minute, but I figured I would do a little recap of the mileage covered this week as I felt like I had practically switched careers into the trucking business.

Friday: Tallahassee to Hilton Head - 340 miles
Saturday: Hilton Head to Savannah - 42 miles
Sunday: Savannah to Tallahassee - 300 miles
Monday: I had meetings
Tuesday: Day tripped to a friend's house in Welaka - 430 miles
Wednesday: Tallahassee to Bristol - 537 miles
Thursday: dentist and errands in Bristol
Friday: Bristol to Atlanta IKEA to Tallahassee - 603 miles

Total miles: 2252

Now that's a traveling week!!!

So MC and I left after work and went to Hilton Head after work on friday. Got there in the evening so we just took it easy and crashed.



[1]
So we started out our day in Hilton Head by going for a run! I love that we can start out a special day (like

our anniversary or valentine's) with some exercise. Makes you feel better the rest of the day, and it is kinda cool that we can share exercise as well as our leisure time together. So after our run we prettied up and went across the street for lunch at Land's End. We were going to eat at the Salty Dog but it was jammed and we were pretty hungry. After lunch we hit the road and moseyed over to Savannah. Luckily it wasn't too bad of a drive. We got checked in and then decided to walk around Savannah for a bit. We actually got lucky because it was First Saturday so there was a shindig going down near the river.

[2] 

There were lots of vendors selling a lot of crafts and stuff and it was cool to walk through with my goofy sweetie and peruse.

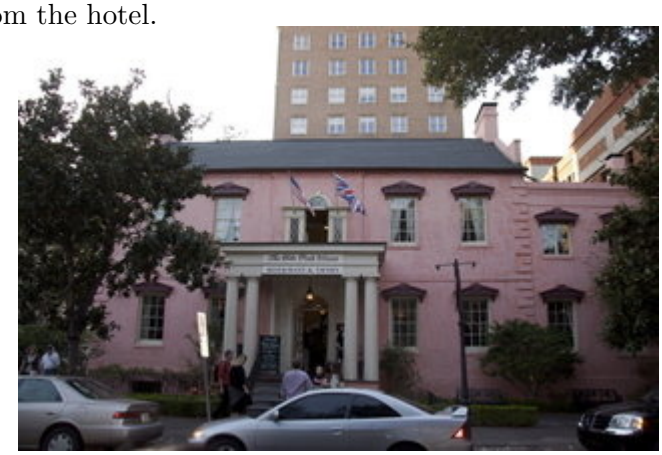
[3] 

We slowly made our way down the waterfront and checked out the various wares. Stopped in a couple gift shops and a candy store on the way as well. Once we made it to the famous "waving lady" statue, we turned back into town to start meandering towards the hotel.

[4] 

On the way back to the hotel, we decided to pass by the Pink House, where we were going to have dinner.

We figured we should check it out so we would know exactly where it is and how long it would take to walk from the hotel.



[5]

Once we got back to the hotel it was time to get dolled up for dinner! The Pink House was super kickin' when we got there (glad I made a reservation!) and the food was pretty yummy. The appetizers were awesome and the entrees were pretty good. A little pricey, but it was definitely worth it for a cool anniversary dinner.



[6]

We took a different way home to view a little more of Savannah, then had a nice relaxing rest of our evening. Sunday we got up and wanted to walk around Savannah and see a little more than we got to the previous day. We talked to the concierge and he recommended a good brunch place, J.Christophers. They have some outside seating so we snagged a table and had a wonderful brunch in a nice little area of Savannah. Later we found out that while we were eating outside, my friends Paul and Chasity were actually eating inside! What are the odds? And I think another friend of ours was in the area at a similar time as well. It was crazy to know that I had friends right inside and we didn't even know!



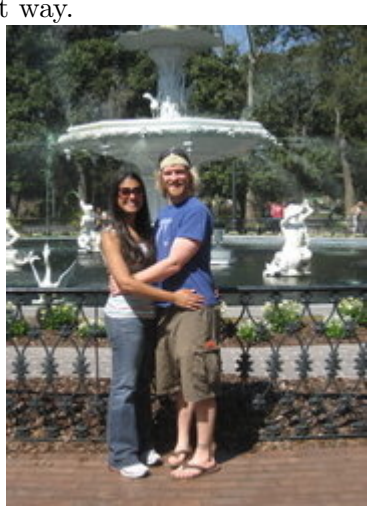
[7]

After brunch we continued through the historic district over to Forsyth Park.



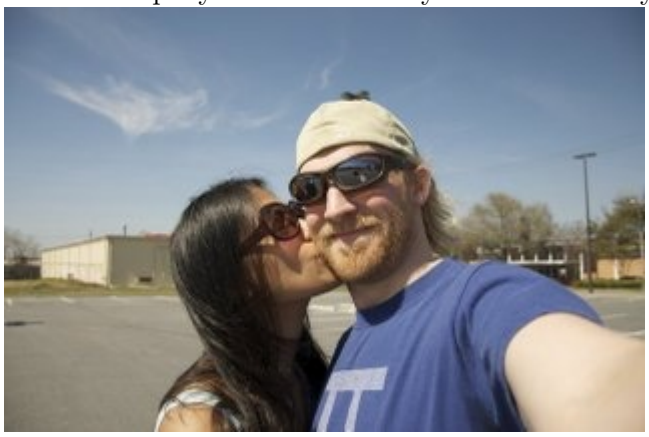
[8]

We weren't intentionally trying to look like we were posing for prom pictures, but it definitely turned out that way.



[9]

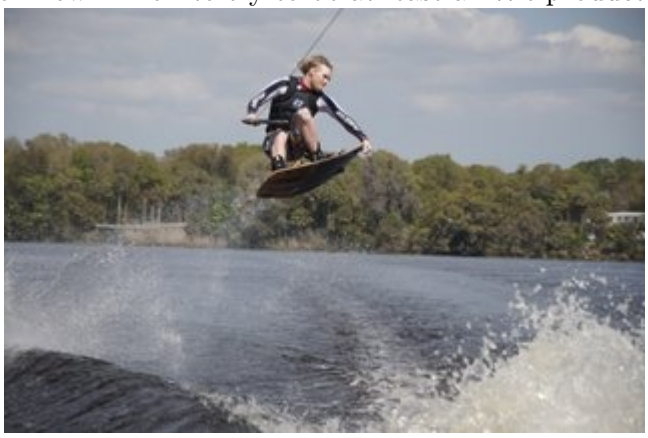
We sat in the park for a bit, then decided to wander back to the car so we could hit the road back to tally. It was a great weekend. We covered some ground, enjoyed some great food, a cool new place, and of course each other's company. It was definitely an awesome way to celebrate a year of oddities and love.



[10]

Tuesday Matt and I went to Tim's house to join some wakeboard club kids for our first wakeboarding session of the year. It was a blast and we had a lot of fun, even if we did drive for like 7 hours that day. I got some pretty good pictures that you can check out on my [11]Flickr account. I thought about posting a

few on here, but figured I will just let people check them out on Flickr. I will end on a cool shot Matt got of me. Now I'm off to try to be at least a little productive on St. Patty's!

[12] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000539h8/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004rbsp/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004qbtc/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004szeh/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004t033/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00055ch4/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004wd48/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0004xb8k/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00054hse/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00052fw2/
11. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00051gd6/

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supinternets (2009-03-17 21:27:58)
Aw, grats to the both of you! I cracked up at you two making the prom pose. That is exactly what I thought when I saw it.

(2009-03-17 21:57:00)
I like the prom pic too!! hahaha - a run in HHI - I love running in Sea Pines! sounds like a great weekend, and you definitely put some mileage in last week. wow!!!

(2009-03-19 18:30:15)
I just noticed the angle of your right arm in the wakeboarding pic.... wow - my arm would break off ;-)

11.3.3 (2009-03-22 18:10)

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[1]Sender: Amanda Albert  Sender: Amanda Albert
 From Monroeville!
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00056kwk/

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supinternets (2009-03-23 14:45:40)
Yay! I am glad you got it!

11.3.4 (2009-03-22 18:12)

[1]Sender: The Macphersons Sender: The Macphersons
They through me off by signing it "MMMT and bump." I actually posted on facebook to try to figure out who sent it, even though I thought it looked like Mark's handwriting. It was Mark, Melissa, Morgan, Tully and baby boy (she's prego).

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00057stw/

(2009-03-24 18:57:09) I used to live there!
True story. -Fish

11.3.5 How long have I been blogging? (2009-03-22 23:29)

A friend of mine recently posted about it being the 3rd anniversary of her blog. This got me to thinking about how long I had been writing in MY blog. I had at least one, if not two, different sites that I used to host my blog before livejournal, but I can't remember their names to see if my blog is still up. I vaguely remember the site I used before lj going down and losing a bunch of my entries (major sux0r) and that is why the ones I imported from that blog seem to start in the middle. Because of that I'm not really sure when I started blogging.

Looking at my imported entries, my earliest post is listed at July 17, 2003. It starts up in the middle of a trip to San Francisco I had with dad and I highly doubt I would have started a blog, much less a vacation entry with "Another great day in..." So I guess I will never really know how long I've been blogging. My first LJ entry was January 5th, 2004 so it's kinda cool that I just passed 5 years on this site. Crazy to think it has been that long. I'm going to postulate that I started blogging early to mid 2003. That would be right after I graduated Furman (and I don't remember blogging while there) so I had lots of free time from march to august. Sounds like a good situation to start up a blog to me!

Anyhoo, that means I've likely (by my recollection) been doing this for around 6 years. Pretty crazy! If only I had used pictures early on like I do now it might be a little more interesting to go back and revisit my past entries. Maybe if I get REALLY bored and have some free time I could start working backwards and editing some old posts to include some pictures that coordinate with what I talk about in my posts. I've stayed pretty well documented since I got to Tallahassee, so it might be cool to gradually work back through at least those posts. We shall see! Off to read a little, then hit the sack early to prepare for a long day of cramming in a bunch of research before my meetings, then meetings, then driving to Alabama to join dad for driving school!

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supinternets (2009-03-23 16:12:08)
Hooray for blogs! I have been on LJ since 2001!

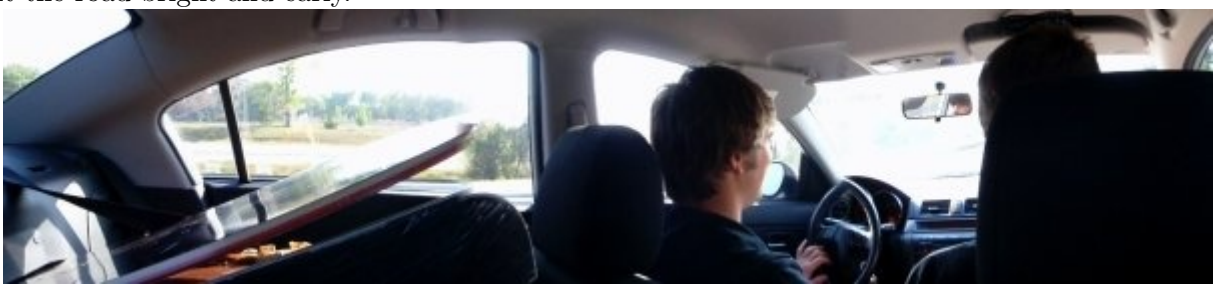
tattermask (2009-03-24 15:29:23)
I've been on LJ since May of 2003... right before we graduated. I found it to be a lot easier than writing by hand... since I type a LOT faster than I hand-write now :) I know you've been reading my journal since we met in '03, so maybe I inspired you or something :) I remember you got me on some site called "CampusHook" or something... don't remember if there were blogs, though...

fincher69 (2009-03-26 02:15:01)
haha i remember campushook!! that was def a while ago. dont think i used its blog though. oh well. i guess i can still celebrate the anniversary of coming to lj :-)

11.3.6 Some busy times (2009-03-25 22:20)

So things have been a little crazy as of late. I wanted to make a post before I get too many events to try to include. I don't really remember where I last left off (I'm always to lazy to actually check my blog before I start posting), so I will just start with this past Friday.

On Thursday I got a call from Dustin saying he was having a kinda crappy week and wanted to do something to distract himself, namely hit up the Orlando Watersports Complex (a.k.a. OWC, a.k.a. ODub). So Dustin, Tim and I decided to have a day trip over to Orlando on friday and pack in a few hours at the cable park. Tim had never been to a cable park so it was pretty cool that he was able to go. We all packed in his Mazda 3 and hit the road bright and early.

[1] 

We got there around noon-ish and got 4 hour passes so we'd be able to hit the road and be back at a decent time. I got some decent pics while I was there and definitely exhausted myself. Since it was pretty much my second time out on the water this season, my muscles are not quite in riding shape. And even when I AM in shape, the cable park works things a little differently as well. I figured I would give a representative sample of the crew so I'll just throw in a few pics here. I love the pic of me because the ODub sign is in it too (top left). Then I have a picture of Dustin poking it out trying to ride out Nessie (top right), Joey throwing a shuv-it up onto Nessie's box (bottom left) and my first attempt at putting together a sequence shot using Tim throwing a tantrum off the kicker (bottom right).

[2] [s320x240] [3] [s320x240]
[4] [s320x240] [5] [s320x240]

Also, while this was going on, MC was busy contracting some yucky bug that combined with allergies (there is pollen EVERYWHERE) to rough her up a bit. She was feeling really crappy so I resumed my nurse duties

when I got home in the evening.

Saturday morning was the practice run of the actual course for the 10k that we are running this weekend. MC was still feeling pretty crappy and Matt had an MRI so I ended up meeting Lynn and some of her work buddies out there. It was mostly the route we had been practice running before, just this time we ran the full 6.2 miles. Needless to say, combining that with the wakeboarding from the previous day pretty much knocked me on my ass. I was still able to play nurse, but I was definitely hobbling around the apartment all day and enjoyed just taking it easy with MC. She was pretty much bedridden for the entire weekend. She started to get a little better on monday, which is when I left in the afternoon to head up to Birmingham. I met up with my parents there so dad and I could go to the Barber Porsche Driving School for a day course on tuesday. His sister got him that as a christmas present and what good son wouldn't keep his dad company? ;-)

[6] 

So we got up bright and early on tuesday morning and headed over to the track. Got signed in and enjoyed some breakfast while we waited for the rest of the day's class to show up. We started out in the classroom where we met a few of the instructors and they gave us a basic lesson on driving dynamics. A lot of it was similar to what we talked about when I went with Lauren to the BMW driving school, but they were a little more in depth on a couple of points so it was still interesting.

[7] 

After the classroom session, we grabbed helmets, took a group photo, then split up into groups and hopped in the fans to take us over to the actual track (we were in the welcome center before). There were 6 groups in total and 1, 2, and 3 were grouped and 4, 5, and 6 were grouped. We were with another father/son pairing, of which the dad bore striking resemblance to the grandfather in Little Miss Sunshine. So we got to see some of the track on the way over, but groups 4, 5, and 6 (our group) started out doing smaller exercises in the parking lot of the track. We started out

in a little autocross course driving a Cayman. The instructor took us each for a couple laps telling us about the course then we got to take a few laps with him as a passenger. I think it was some combination of the drugs I took (I had apparently picked up the same thing MC had) and the adrenaline that started pumping because when I got in the car my head got extremely fuzzy. I felt like my head was in a complete haze and I had to have complete putzed around the course when I drove. It was a very odd experience.

Luckily they had water and such on hand so I hydrated and was feeling a lot better by the time we got to the second exercise. The second was sort of like a simplified autocross course meant to really instill the importance of smoothness in controlling the car. I loved this instructor because of his accent and the fact that his cadence didn't seem to change regardless of what he was talking about. He was very interesting to listen to.

From there we went to the skidpad. Instead of one large circle like the BMW school, this had a large flat wet area and two circles of cones so we could do figure 8s. This was an exercise in finesse and feeling and compensating for both under-and oversteer. After this we piled back into the vans and went down to the actual track.

[8] 

It is an awesome track. I think they said it was about 2.3 miles and had 100 feet of elevation change in it so we got all sorts of different turns and hills and straightaways and everything. It was a ton of fun to drive! To begin with they assigned each of us a Carrera and, since we were going to be driving that whenever we were on the track, they took our picture!

[9] 

We did a few laps following the instructor and each time we got to the main straightaway, the car directly following the instructor pulled out and let everyone pass and joined in the back. So at some point each person got to directly follow the instructor (who was in radio contact with us). Then we did a few laps where one person would park their car and ride with

the instructor, then we'd do two laps, then they would get back in their car and the next person would get to ride. So, again, each person got a chance to ride with the instructor and he could give some personal feedback about what you were doing and talk through what he was doing as he drove around the track. After this they shuttled us over to lunch (which was scrumptious!) under the museum.

After lunch we went back up to the small exercises, except this time we had a competition going! With the autocross, the competition was between teams and it was a relay. Each driver did 3 laps, then had to get out and walk (not run) over to the waiting area, tag the next person, and they walked to the car and did 3 laps and so on. Our group ended up not posting that great of a time, but the "pit stop" from me to the other dad was the fastest of the day so I took home a snazzy little tire pressure gauge! :-) The second exercise was switched into a lane change maneuver, which was probably dad's favorite exercise of the day. Basically accelerate hard, brake as you go through a set of cones, then swerve left to go through another set, then back to the right to enter a long curve. Continue turning as you leave the curve and let off the gas as you go through a set of cones. Don't brake and swerve over to another set of cones then there's a stop-and-go (come to a complete stop then continue) and that's a lap. It was a really fun exercise.

So fun in fact (for dad) that he just didn't want to let go of it when we went to the skidpad. The skidpad was now an individual competition where we did 4 laps around the figure 8 then proceeded over into a stop area where the time stopped when we stopped. We did it each twice, once without the stability control and once with. I did pretty well with this one and the instructors said it was a pretty good time. As I mentioned before, dad wanted to still be doing the lane change. He started out totally flooring it (which of course led to him spinning out). He restarted, then got a little excited again and spun a second time. The second time through I think he finally succumbed to the idea that he wasn't doing the lane change and did a lot better. ;-)

[10]  So then it was back to the track! We did more laps in our carreras, though this time we were being recorded (camera on us, camera out the front of the car, and some basic performance info). They will apparently put it on DVD and send it to us in a month or so. Should be interesting! I tried to be a bit more vocal, but it probably wasn't that entertaining because I was just starting to get annoyed with the two guys dad and I were paired with because they were kinda holding us back. I could definitely have been going noticeably faster, but the instructor had to keep us together. Either way, I can't wait to see what was actually recorded. Then we also got to do a few laps in the carrera Ss, but that was even MORE annoying because we are in faster cars, but I felt like the other two guys were even MORE conservative so we didn't really get to exercise them like I would have liked to. Not like I can really complain :-) Then came the hot laps! The instructors took us for a ride in the Cayenne Turbo (the SUV), which they said easily keeps pace with the carreras we had been driving. It was nuts to tear up a track like that in an SUV! Then we had a lap in the Carrera Turbos. Talk about hauling ass!! It was crazy to see

(and FEEL) what those cars are capable of. SO much fun! We all piled back into the vans and went back to the classroom. They went through the competitions and gave our prizes to the winners. And in addition to having the fastest "pit stop," my time through the skipad was the fastest of the group! So I also won a snazzy silver Mobil 1 pen. We also got certificates of completion, the pics of us with our cars from the beginning of the day, and little model GT3s. It was one helluva day!!! We only had a few minutes, but we poked our head in the museum that was there as well. You can hardly see in the picture, but it is the largest collection of motorcycles in the world, and there were plenty of other cool things as well! We will definitely have to come back when we have a few hours to burn. We met up with mom and had a nice mexican dinner then I hit the road back to tally! A long day for sure.

This morning MC was feeling a lot better, but now I think I'm at the peak (or trough I guess) of the illness. I took it easy and rested today and luckily I just have one class tomorrow. I'll probably be taking it easy as much as I can the next few days since that 10k is looming on saturday! Lots of juice and such! And speaking of rest, I think after that massive post, I am going to crash hard. :-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00058a78/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00059x15/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005a2yb/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005bk30/
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9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005gpyf/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005hyyd/

(2009-03-27 01:56:40) post
Awesome post! Busy times in paradise! Driving school was once in a lifetime ...like surfing in Hawaii, karting in Alaska, ripping through Yellowstone in 2 days, airboating in New Orleans, seeing Sterling Castle in Scotland, etc. etc. as you said..helluva ride, glad you were there. Dad

11.4 April

11.4.1 (2009-04-09 00:08)

[1]Sender: Amanda Albert Sender: Amanda Albert
A postcard from the Japanese area at Disney. I didn't think about it, but I just guessed which way was rightside up. That's my name in Japanese!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005k52z/

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supinternets (2009-04-09 13:44:56)
You got it the right way!

11.4.2 Busy times (2009-04-09 00:10)

Ok, so it was brought to my attention that it has been over two weeks since I posted so I wanted to hop on and give a little update. I'll be out of town this weekend (taking some wakeboard kids to Bristol) so I should have a good post (with pictures!) after that.

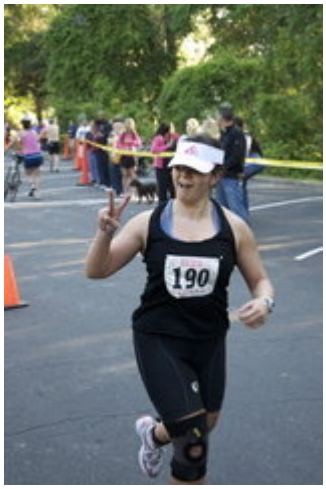
[1]  Wow, so I started looking through pics to see if there were any I could add to this post and realized how much has happened since the last post! So I mentioned that I was heading to a 10k on the saturday following my last post. It was the same route that I ran with the training group the weekend previous. As I think I said, MC was still sick so she couldn't make it to the practice run, but she was rarin' to go for the race! As anyone who does exercise knows, some days are good days, some days aren't. Well for our group that Saturday wasn't. It wasn't anything horrible. No one cramped. No one died. But we all felt pretty rough. I definitely had an easier time with the training run of the course than the day of. Who knows what was going on. Considering the illnesses we were overcoming, we were pretty happy with how it went overall. MC had her usual burst of speed (as you can see in the picture) at the end. You can check out [LJ User: runfincherrun]for our race results. Matt, unfortunately, had to sit the race out due to his back problems, but he was an awesome cheerer for us!! All-in-all it was a pretty good experience, but there was a general feeling amongst our group that 10k is just a little longer than we are interested in and focusing on 5ks for a while sounds like a good plan. Below are the exhausted me and MC ready to head home and relax.

[2] 

I don't recall any fancy happening the rest of the weekend and during the week is pretty much mundane. I've been getting busier with my research, but class, research, exercise, eat, sleep, relax in various combinations and dosages sums up a normal week. The following weekend Marianna came into town for the Red Hills Triathlon. She stayed with us thursday night and saturday night. She was a busy bee while she was here too! Always running around. She stayed with Jen on friday because they were both going to the Tri early on saturday. It worked out well because Relay for Life was friday night.

[3] 

So I took it easy and hung out with MC for a while friday night, then (I think around 11pm) I headed over to Relay for Life. The wakeboard club had our own setup and a good group of folks out there. It ended up being in the bottom floor of a parking garage instead of the football field because of all the rain we had gotten, and it worked out because we actually like the atmosphere better there. It was also cool because last year I was the sole representative from Wakeboard club out there, and, while I knew a few people, it was cooler to have more of my crew there this year. I was at RfL until about 4am then decided to head home to try to catch a few winks before we got up to head to the tri. So I got about 1.5 hours of sleep, then it was off to cheer and take pictures of Marianna at the Tri! Turns out I knew a few other people doing it, so I got some snaps of them as well. Below is my favorite pic that I got (though Marianna doesn't like it because she thinks she looks "special").

[4] 

I got a few other pretty good ones that you can check out on my [5]Flickr page, but that one was good to throw in the post. Saw an old buddy who graduated from FSU while I was there so that was fun to catch up. Also cool to see the other folks that I knew in the race. MC and I were talking about it later and we are thinking of shooting to do it ourselves next year. How fun would that be!? It's a sprint Tri, so it isn't too grueling. So we finished up our cheering duties and moseyed back home.

[6] 

The rest of the day was spent mostly with me taking it easy and MC preparing cupcakes for Matt for his birthday. She dropped me and the cupcakes off and Lynn and Matts and went to hang out with Marianna and friends since she was leaving the next day. Even though there were many a serious and political conversation had, I still had a ton of fun at Lynn and Matts. Good food, good beer, good pictionary, good times! MC joined back in after a little while and then drove me home. We didn't get home until like 3am, and with no nap to recover sleep from only getting 1.5 hours the previous night I was in a frickin' coma. Sunday was spent taking it easy after the previous night's festivities and trying to get some work done. (what I should probably be doing now, haha)

This week has been pretty standard thus far. I picked up my custom orthodics from the physical therapist today so once they are broken in it should be interesting to see how everything works and how well it helps prevent my injuries. Hopefully it will help so I can keep running! I also got to talk to my old Furman buddy Mark for a little over an hour today. Half of the convo was techy geektalk, but it was cool to do some catching up as well. Didn't have quite the productive day I was hoping for, but I HAVE been better about consistently getting things done every day so far. Even if it isn't much, trying to get in the habit of working more and more each day will help when I start getting REALLY busy.

Well after that mega post, I think I am going to hit the sack. Gotta rest up to get some stuff done tomorrow before I hit the road in the afternoon to head up to Bristol for a chilly weekend of wakeboarding! 45 degrees as a water temperature is warm, right?

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005p5zw/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005qk7k/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005r0df/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005sq96/
5. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005t40y/

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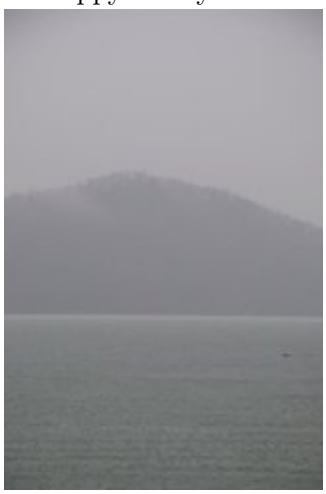
ext_180187 (2009-04-09 13:08:21)
Have a great weekend in Bristol, and Happy Easter!!!

supinternets (2009-04-09 13:50:54)
Where do you go to find out about 5ks happening here in Tallahassee?

fincher69 (2009-04-09 17:22:18)
Gulf Winds is the local track club and their calendar is usually pretty complete. www.gulfwinds.org

11.4.3 I am going to have to start posting more often (2009-04-19 19:09)

I start looking over previous posts and it can be a little overwhelming to try to think of everything I want to mention that has happened since my last post! I'll try to keep it fairly brief, but it'll probably end up like my last post!

So at the end of my last post I mentioned a toasty weekend at the lake in Bristol. As usual, it was a not so exciting drive, though since Becca ended up not being able to go, Dustin, Mason, Tim, Jason, and I all crammed in the Disco (which I am happy to say handled us and all our gear beautifully) so it was a little more interactive than usual. [1]  We got in thursday evening and had a good night then crashed. Friday morning we were greeted with the scene to the left. It was a cloudy and rainy morning so we were a little skeptical that it was going to turn into a good day. Lucky for us the day ended up starting to clear up late morning-midday so we hit it up. I think most folks wore two wetsuits because the water was in the low 50s, but since it got sunny and was mid-60s I just wore board shorts and a heater top. It ended up being a really nice afternoon of riding and everyone had a pretty good set. It was pretty chilly when we fell, but it was really not bad at all while we were riding. The hot water hose on the boat was an absolute godsend and everyone loved it.[2]  We had a pretty good and relaxing rest of friday and a nice (though pretty cool) night. Saturday wasn't so nice for us. Obviously the water temps hadn't changed much, but the air was about 10 degrees cooler and there was a little more of a breeze. As you can see in the pic, I decided to try out our old drysuit, even though it was in disrepair. Everyone else stuck with layering up the wetsuits as much as possible. The drysuit worked pretty well, but I was glad I wore the heater top underneath because it gradually took on more and more water. Since it is just a thin layer of nylon, it doesn't really do a whole lot if it starts getting full of water. I still had a lot of fun and it is always nice to be out on the water. That night we headed into town, and I gave the guys a brief Bristol tour. We then had dinner at Machiavelli's, where there was a shower for my friend Doug and

his fiance Sarah. I made the rounds at the party then rejoined my group for a wonderful meal. After that we chilled in my parents basement and played Wii, pinball, and pool for a while then headed back out to the lake. I think one of my favorite things about the weekend was that I got to give the guys a bit of a history lesson in wakeboarding. I pulled out some of my first wakeboarding tapes (yes, VHS) that I got and showed the guys footage of the beginnings of the sport. It was pretty cool. So it was a helluva weekend, but, again, not a fun drive back. SO much Georgia! I really wish it wasn't so far away from Tallahassee. Oh well.

Pretty normal week as far as school goes. I wanted to cook for MC and me on wednesday so we looked through her healthy recipes and found a curry that sounded scrumptious.

[3] 

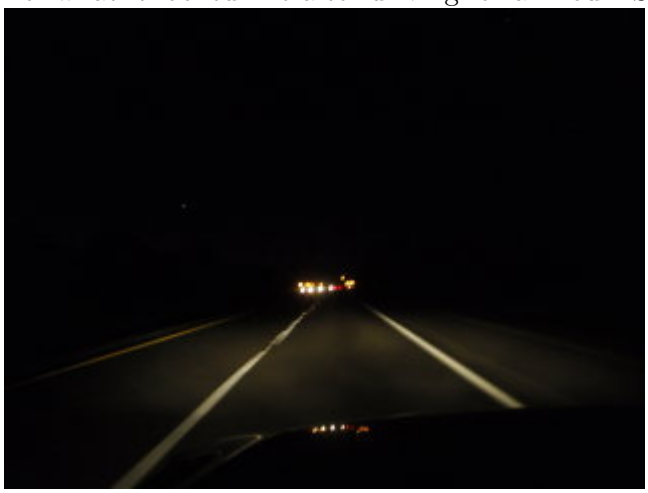
It was supposed to be a chicken curry, but I wasn't paying attention when I bought the chicken and bought thighs and there wasn't that much chicken left after I de-fatted it. Luckily I had some tofu in the fridge so I added that to the mix, which was perfect for a recipe like this since tofu absorbs all the strong flavors in the mix. MC wasn't as keen on the whole apartment smelling like curry, but I think it was worth it. It was super yummy AND healthy!

Friday I had a presentation at the semesterly Graduate Research Conference. It went pretty well then I had a pretty relaxed afternoon. MC and I had dinner at Cabos with Lynn and Matt then met up with folks at 100 proof for a few drinks. Things were pretty entertaining there, then we met up with Jen and friends to hang out since Jen was getting married on Saturday. It was a lot of fun seeing everyone over the course of the evening.

[4] 

Above is photo proof of my saturday morning departure time. I left bright (well not-so-bright) and early in the morning to head to Orlando. It was the annual day where Red Bull rents out the Orlando Watersports

Complex, though this time they extended it to two days, hence it is now called the Red Bull Wake-end. Below is a little documentation of what it looked like after driving for an hour. Still not to bright outside!

[5] 

[6]  It really wasn't too bad of a drive and it was nice to finally arrive at the cable park! I had an awesome time riding the cable, hanging out with a bunch of club members, and enjoying the super awesome boat session. The officers took the boat session and it was supposed to be with Parks and Adam, but I guess Red Bull lost their schedule because they had them judging the best trick contest during our time slot. Luckily, Shaun Murray was around and went out on the boat with us. I was pretty stoked since he was one of the main pros that I've been familiar with for a while who I hadn't met. Boat session was of course a blast (I landed my toeside 540!) and we all got good pointers from Shaun. After we all rode, Shaun took a quick set and it was ridiculous. He just LAUNCHED!!! (as you can see below)

[7] 

It was really cool watching someone who is just that good of a rider. SO frickin' cool. It was a great day overall, as every Red Bull Day has ever been! I had dinner with the crew then hit the road back home. Talk about a long day! I got back a little after 1 am sunday morning. It was definitely nice to get the drive over, but it was a long day for sure! It's been a relaxing sunday so far, but my muscles are definitely getting more sore! Well, I think that's a hell of an update! I'll end with a group shot from good old ODub.



[8]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005wb5r/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005xy5f/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0005y4ge/
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6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00062ta0/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000613at/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00063tz1/

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supinternets (2009-04-20 15:43:44)
Geez! Busy bee! The curry looks and sounds awesome. I have a good recipe that I am sending your way, for Mulligatawny. Mike and I made it, and it tasted amazing! Mulligatawny Ingredients 1. 1/3 Cup butter 2. 1/3 Cup flour 3. 1.5 Cups chicken stock 4. 3 Tbsp chicken base 5. 2 Cups chicken breast, ciced chunky 6. 1/2 Cup heavy cream 7. 2 Tbsp milk 8. 1/2 Cup carrots, diced 9. 1 Tbsp curry powder 10. 1/2 onion, diced 11. 1 Cup red bell pepper, diced 12. 1 Cup green bell pepper, diced 13. 2 Tbsp honey 14. 2 Tbsp hot sauce 15. 1.5 Cups apples, chopped and frozen 16. 1.5 Tsp parsley, chopped Directions 1. Melt butter and stir in flour to make a roux and set aside. 2. Poach chicken breast in chicken stock until 3/4 done, remove, and cut diced, chunky style. Remove excess fat from the stock. Add roux, milk, and heavy cream. Let simmer until thickened. Add the carrots and curry powder. Let cook until carrots are half done. Add the remaining ingredients (except apples and parsley). 3. Let simmer until peppers are tender. Add apples at the last minute. Adjust seasoning. Add parsley when ready to serve. Let me know how you two like it!

fincher69 (2009-04-21 01:18:22)
Oooh, that does sound yummy!! I will let you know :-) Thanks!

(2009-04-20 21:32:00)
OMG!! that is an amazing post! your dad will love the pictures!! :-)

(2009-04-20 23:17:04) boarding
Toeside 540!?! SWEET! Sorry I missed it. Good pics of Shaun...looks like Your average air. Dad

11.4.4 (2009-04-24 16:52)

[1]Sender: The Fam Sender: The Fam

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000651r7/

11.4.5 (2009-04-24 16:53)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006414b/

11.4.6 Actually a fairly short post! (2009-04-27 21:23)

Not only has it only been a little over a week since I posted, but things have been pretty chill so this post shouldn't be as enormous as some of my past ones have been.

It was the last week of classes and the class I was enrolled in was project-based. Handy when the professor decides to just have our final project presentation on the last day of class. I actually started working on it a few days before it was due, so I really didn't have a last-minute crunch which was kind of nice. Presentation went well and it is definitely good to be done with class for the semester!

Wednesday we decided to cook dinner so we hit the weight watchers site to look for recipes. I found one for chicken fajitas that sounded scrumptious, but we were trying to save money and use as much as possible from what we had. I had purchased some pre-cubed firm tofu so we decided to substitute that for the chicken. After marinating a little it soaked up all sorts of yummy flavors and turned out pretty darn good!

[1] 

So in the vein of trying to save money, we also had a pretty relaxing weekend and tried to spend as little money as possible. We only spent money on a couple trips to starbucks. It's amazing how much you save by not eating out or going out drinking! We spent some time in the office on saturday and sunday to help MC get caught up on work so it was a decently productive weekend too. AND we finally pulled out the bikes and went on a bike ride on sunday! It was a short ride out towards St. Marks, and we need to get MC a new seat because it wasn't very comfortable for her, but we both had a lot of fun and it was nice to get out and bike around on a beautiful sunny day! As you can see, MC was decked out in my skate helmet (that I made her wear) and ready to go!

[2] 

On another note, I've decided to try out this Twitter thing. I'm still not seeing its point (other than another activity to fill time when I am bored), but we shall see. It was sparked by one of the ex-wakeboard club officers starting an account for the wakeboard club so I thought I would check everything out. It COULD be pretty beneficial for club members to sign up to follow us so when we organized last minute activities (like winching sessions tend to be) we'd have an easy way to send out a notification to everyone. Since twitter works through SMS, everyone could get a txt instead of us hoping that hop on a computer and see a Facebook message. Anyway, I'm playing around with it myself and we shall see how things go! One idea that I thought might be kind of cool was to see if I can find an easy way to get a digest of "tweets" over a period of time. Then I could do a little sunday wrap-up on my blog and post my "tweets of the week" or something like that. It will definitely not be too exciting if I just post little blurbs about what I am doing, but if I start posting random thoughts that pop in my head, who knows. I guess we will find out!

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00066zg7/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00067fwq/`

supinternets (2009-04-28 13:19:05)
Mmmm You are making me hungry!

11.5 May

11.5.1 *tweet* *tweet* (or not so much) (2009-05-05 11:38)

So it's been a little over a week since I started up this twitter thing, but I am still skeptical. While it can be mildly entertaining, I really don't need the amount of updates I get. And I feel lame just saying what I am doing, so I try to keep it to random thoughts / witty comments, but I am not sure I have enough to sustain an account. I'm going to give it a little bit longer and see how things pan out, but I think in all likelihood it will be something I might hop on and check every week or so and will just randomly post without trying to meet a quota or keep the updates constant. With my blog I get most things out there, but it is easier to tweet than to blog post so I'll probably keep the twitter thing to "out and about" type random thoughts. Anyhoo...

My folks decided to come down this past weekend. Dad hadn't seen the new place (except for pictures) and the Tails and Trails 5K+ that my mom and I ran last year was going on so we thought we would run it again. Again, you can check out [LJ User: runfincherrun] for race descriptions and such. So mom drove down halfway on thursday, then got here about lunch time on friday. We picked up MC and had lunch at a cool little place whose name escapes me. It was yummy though! We dropped MC back off at work then mom and I ran around town running various errands. Dad ended up catching an earlier flight so he got in around 5 and we went back to the apartment. We were thinking of taking them out somewhere yummy for dinner, but I had totally forgotten that it was graduation weekend so everything was jam packed. We decided to carbo-load at our place and just hang out, order pizza and have some beer. It was a good time hanging out and we wound down fairly early since we had the race the next day. Or at least tried to wind it down. I've had a cough for a few weeks now and usually at night it doesn't bother me, but I got into a huge coughing fit friday night. Not a lot of fun and definitely not very restful.

Got up bright and early to head to the Tails and Trails. There were bunches more people than last year and we actually saw a few buds out there too! Here's the team pre-race.

[1] 

There was also a photographer taking pics while we were running so we stumbled upon a few shots of us during the race. Kinda cool to have it documented!

[2] [s320x240] [3] [s320x240]

After the race, my folks dropped us off so we could clean up, then we picked them up to head to Mozaik for lunch. MC had it recommended to us, but neither of us had tried it. Very yummy!! Relaxed for a bit of the afternoon, then we all went to Ted's Montana Grill for yummy yummy dinner! Lots of good food this weekend! Hung out a little at our place, then mom and dad went back to the hotel since they were heading out bright and early in the morning. MC and I hung out for a little bit and watched part of Pineapple Express. I started getting sleepy so we stopped it and crashed.

Sunday MC and I had a super lazy day. We didn't have anything pressing that we needed to do and we had been staying pretty busy as of late so we just did as little as possible and it was AWESOME! Finished Pineapple Express II thought it was pretty darn funny, MC thought it was ok) Always nice to have a lazy/recoup day every once in a while.

This week I'm trying to get some research kickin' since classes start back up next week. It'll only be for 6 weeks, but my advisor (who's teaching the class I am taking) has been talking about all the crap he is going to make us do so I think it will be a pretty busy time. Best fit in some work now while I can!

Speaking of, I'm going to try to get some stuff done around here. Just wanted to make sure to make a post since it seems to get a little crazy when I wait so long I have to recount two weekends in one post ;-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00068bf4/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00069kt5/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006a8aw/

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supinternets (2009-05-05 16:12:44)
Your parents are so cute! I think that is so wonderful that you can spend time running together. And yes, I love Ted's. Did you try their onion rings? Heaven!

fincher69 (2009-05-06 13:03:48)
This was actually the first time I didn't have the meatloaf. I don't think I've ever had anything there that WASN'T scrumptious!!

(2009-05-05 17:23:17)
1.) I hate Twitter. 2.) I love your parents. 3.) I'm envious of your Mozaik experience, we were discussing how cool that place is over lunch today. 4.) I need to run. 5.) I hate Twitter. -Lynn

fincher69 (2009-05-06 13:03:07)
haha why the twitter hate?

corazon_leigh (2009-05-05 17:26:35)
I started out pretty slow with twitter last September and was only following like 3-5 people. In January-ish I expanded and started adding people like mad. It didn't take very long to feel overwhelmed, but then I realized that I don't have to follow every status updated from everyone! I use tweetdeck and I created a group "IRL" for people like you, Amanda, Zach, etc. and I keep up with those daily (usually). The rest of my friends are mostly green or tech (or green tech) information sources, so I don't feel guilty if I randomly dip in to sample that crowd instead of keeping up with everything. Tweetdeck http://www.tweetdeck.com/beta/

lfincher (2009-05-06 03:49:51)
woohoo you guys are so athletic! and cute in your workout clothes!! congrats!

11.5.2 Up to Bristol (2009-05-11 09:35)

So my friend Doug got married near Bristol this past Saturday so MC and I decided to head up to Bristol for the weekend. Since the drive from Tally to Bristol ranges from 9-10.5 hours, MC took friday afternoon off. I took her to work in the morning so I could then pick her up at noon and hit the road. For some reason we both started getting a little antsy early in the drive so we decided to take the alternate route that uses more smaller highways and avoids Atlanta. Not only were we getting bored early, but we were going to be near Atlanta near 5 pm, which is never a fun ordeal. So since we were passing close to Athens, we decided to head into town to enjoy a little lunch break. Ate at the Five Star Cafe. I had a hamburger steak with onion gravy and mashed potatoes. Also came with a little cornbread muffin and, yes, that is Cheerwine! It was pretty good except the hamburger was infused with mushrooms, of which I am not a fan. Still wasn't too bad.

[1] 

After lunch we grabbed some starbucks and hit the road again. Always a bit of a bummer when the prettiest part of your drive is dark, but we rolled in at a decent hour so it wasn't too bad. Plenty of night driving though!

[2] 

Saturday my dad and sister were taking care of some things so Mom, MC, Jenny (lauren's friend) and I had a relaxing morning. I picked up some grilled KFC for lunch (pretty scrumptious!) then the girls went to the barn so my sister could ride and MC could meet Blinky (her horse). Dad and I opted to head to the lake, even though the weather was a bit foreboding.

[3] 

You can see dad's new board in the picture. He got it at the end of last season. It is essentially the same board I have, just with updated graphics (and, as we later found, diminished structural integrity). I rode for a bit, then on just a small wake jump I felt something weird with the board and it seemed to have a lot of drag. I looked and sure enough I had broken the board. There was a big crack across it on the bottom and that quickly ended my run. That was the board's maiden voyage and I wasn't doing anything fancy so it is very likely a faulty board. And that was the first time I have ever broken a board too! Kinda crazy. We went back to the house and set up my old byerly so I got to ride a little more and then dad took a little set. Always good to be out on the water! Went back to the house then started getting ready for the wedding. The wedding was nice (like 15 minutes long!) and Doug had the biggest smile on his face the whole time. The reception was in the same room as the wedding so we had a 30 minute break to hang out while they re-set up the room. The food was very good and it was fun to mingle a little.

[4] 

It started winding down pretty fast because the band ate with us so there wasn't any music until a bit after we had all eaten. After a few dances (you can see mom and dad in the middle of the pic) we hit the road back to the house. It actually worked out perfectly because we were all pretty beat, even though it was still pretty early. Chilled at home for a bit and then crashed.

Got up sunday and headed to the local bagel place for a super yummy mother's day breakfast. I had locks and cream cheese on a spinach-feta bagel and it was very good. Went back to the house and packed

things up so we could get on the road fairly early. This time we got to see all the pretty mountains!

[5] 

We tried to catch Brandon and Bopper (or B-Bop as I have been referring to them in my head) for lunch, but they were camping for the weekend and weren't going to be back when we were passing through. So we stopped at Derek's favorite (Jack in the Box) for a quick drive-thru lunch. Well while I was at the window, I noticed a few lights on my dash flickering and I heard a couple of electrical popping noises. I unplug the things I had in the cigarette lighter and then we had to pull up to wait for our fries. So after I pull up I turn the car off to kind of reset everything, and low and behold NOTHING happens when I try to restart it. Like absolutely nothing. So a couple of guys try to jump us and that gets it to make some clicking, but still nothing close to starting. So we call AAA and an hour later a guy comes to check it out. Tries to jump it with the same result, then tries another way and we get it started. Then he tests it and my alternator isn't charging the battery. Stupid alternator. So we waited for a tow truck to take it over to the dealership. MC gave the BMW a stern reprimand for leaving us stranded in Greenville.

[6] 

Luckily, by this time B-Bop had gotten back in town and the airport (where the only open car rental offices are) was on their way to her parents house. So they were super awesome and picked us up at the dealership and took us to the airport. I was going to get a little compact car, but found out that I could rent a Prius for 8 dollars more so I went for it!

[7] 

I had been wanting to try a hybrid out so it was pretty cool. There is a little screen you can view that shows the current power diagram (when the gas it powering the wheels, when the electric is being used, when the wheels are charging the batteries, etc.) that kept me entertained for a lot of the drive. It was still a little weird to stop at a light and hear the engine stop, but overall it was a pretty snazzy experience. We started out with a full tank (10/10 bars) and after the 7 hour drive to Tally we still had 4/10. That thing will go forever! The computer had listed the average mpg as a little over 45 mpg when we first got in it. That's a little better than the 16 mpg I get in the Disco on the highway! Crazy. So at a little after midnight last night we finally made it home. Almost 13 hours on the dot. NOT the most fun trip home and now we have to figure out how to get my car back once it is fixed up. What a pain. At least we made it home safely! Now I must take care of some things before my summer class that starts today at 2. I have high hopes for my exercise routine the first half of summer since I have a consistent school schedule (basically class at 2 every day) and while I'm not really feeling it much today, tomorrow I will kick it into gear!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006by9a/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006c6yg/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006dhpd/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006e8h3/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006fbq3/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006gx1a/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006h817/

(2009-05-11 17:15:36)
Reading that post just made me very tired. That's so crappy. Glad you're back though! Lynn

11.5.3 Getting in shape (one other than round) (2009-05-12 22:19)

So the last couple of weeks my workout schedule has been pretty open (as can be the case between academic terms). I haven't really done much and I am definitely feeling the blubber start to grow. I do well with consistent schedules so, since I have a class every day this term, I figured it was a good time to kick things into gear! After the car breakdown saga and such, I was feeling fatigued and "off" yesterday, so I didn't really get into doing much. Today it all started and so I figured I would post about it! Probably won't be a very exciting post for most, but I wanted to log it to help me keep track. Since my week-to-week workouts won't vary much, I won't be doing this a lot, but this week (and possibly monday of next week) I will be logging my workouts as I try to whip myself into shape. I doubt many people will be entertained by reading what I did in the gym today, but if you decide to delve in, hopefully some illustrations will help :-) (even if they

are ridiculous images that I snagged off Google Image Search, haha)

Although I wish I had, I didn't pay any attention to how long I was actually in the gym. That might be something to pay attention to in the future. I have been seeing a physical therapist about a problem I have been having with my half (specifically I believe it is my flexor hallucis) so any exercises marked with a * are ones that are part of the "rehab" routine given by her. Illustrations will be posted below the logged exercise.

Stationary Bike - Random Hill - Level 5 - 6 minutes
Stairmaster - Roller Coaster - Level 5 - 5 minutes
Smith Lunge - 85 lbs - 8 sets of 10 alternating leading legs



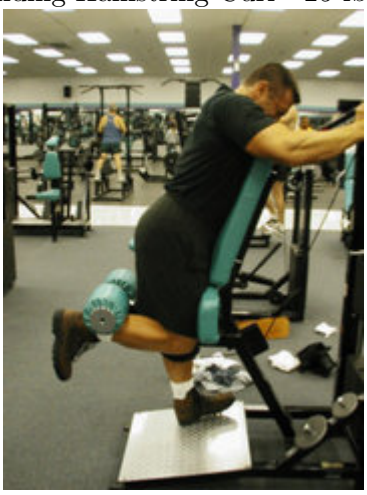
[1]
Lat Pull - 140 lbs - 3 sets of 10



[2]
Paramount Leg Press - 100 lbs - 4 sets of 10



[3]
Standing Hamstring Curl - 25 lbs - 4 sets of 10 with each leg



[4]
Calf Raises on leg press - (assuming base is 45 lbs) 225 lbs - 4 sets of 10



[5]
Lower Back Extension - 4 sets of 10



[6]

Multi-Hip - 70 lbs - 8 sets of 10 alternating legs



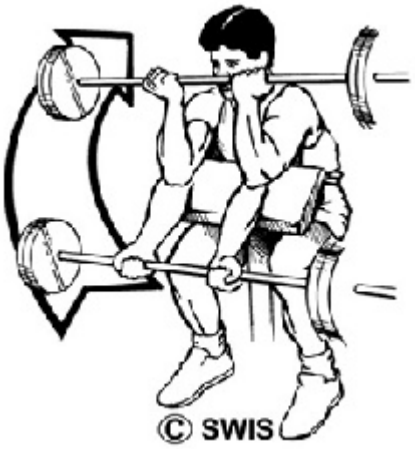
[7]

Leg Lift - 10 reps straight ahead, 20 reps alternating twisting to left or right, 10 reps straight ahead



[8]

Preacher Curls - (assuming bar is 25 lbs) 45 lbs - 3 sets of 10 (with a break due to nausea between sets 1



and 2)[9]
Treadmill - 20 minutes at 6 mph, 3 minutes at 3.5 mph, 2 minutes at 3 mph



[10]

Needless to say, I was pretty wiped and was there for a while! Tomorrow should be easy to log, but Thursday should be pretty similar to today. Here's hoping I survive!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006kyey/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006p3kr/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006q36x/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006rfcd/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006sty5/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006tte8/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00070x7e/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006x1dp/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006ypxy/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0006z4q7/

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supinternets (2009-05-13 12:57:56)
That is one hell of a work out! Are you using the gym at FSU?

fincher69 (2009-05-13 16:27:17)
Yep! Can't argue with free (i.e. included in tuition haha)

(2009-05-13 16:16:14) Oooh the nausea...
Looks like a fun time, bud. You find a workout buddy yet? This whole self-motivating thing sucks...

fincher69 (2009-05-13 16:28:21) Re: Oooh the nausea...
nope, no workout buddy. Feeling out of shape is a decent motivator for the time being. Hopefully a rigid schedule will be a good thing too. How's the workout situation up where you are?

(2009-05-13 16:20:53) The above comment is mine...
Livejournal won't let me log in...anonymous = Fish

(2009-05-13 20:51:24) Re: The above comment is mine...
geez.. don't you like work w/computers? or got your masters in computer science? and you can't figure out how to log into livejournal? really?.... -guess...

11.5.4 Brief workout post (2009-05-13 12:28)

Started getting back into the swimming thing today. Could definitely tell that it had been quite a while, but I survived. Nothing too crazy, but a good start :-) I looked it up and the pool is a 25 yard pool so that's what the measurements are.

[1] 

250 free
250 breast
250 kick (free-breast-fly-breast-free)
250 pull (free-breast-free-breast-free)
250 IM (25 fly - 50 back - 75 breast - 100 free)
100 free (easy)
50 breast (hard)
100 kick free (easy)

1500 yards total (0.852272 miles)

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00071c30/`

(2009-05-13 20:39:34)
I have really enjoyed all of the cartoon images you've added to your exericse posts. =O) -guess...

11.5.5 Another enthralling workout post (2009-05-14 12:28)

Man, I am definitely feeling the jumpstart into working out that I started a couple days ago. I still made it through my workout today, but definitely feel a little out of it. i even forgot to do the little cardio warmup that I am supposed to do before my workout. Doh! Oh well. And I skipped any kind of breakfast this morning so I didn't have any nausea while I was lifting, which was nice. Since there is a lot of overlap with my last lifting workout, I'll only include illustrations on the new exercises. :-)

Smith Lunge - 85 lbs - 8 sets of 10 alternating legs

Bench Press - 135 pounds - 3 sets of 10

[1] 

Paramount Leg Press - 100 lbs - 4 sets of 10

Hamstring Curl (standing one was broken) - 50 lbs - 4 sets of 10



[2]

Leg lift - 10 reps straight, 20 reps alternating left and right, 10 reps straight

Calf raise on leg press - 225 lbs - 4 sets of 10

Dumbbell should press - 25 lbs - 3 sets of 10



[3]

Skull crushers + quick bench set - 20 lbs - 3 sets of 10 for each



[4]

Multihip - 70 lbs - 8 sets of 10 alternating legs

Lower back extension - 4 sets of 10

Expresso Bike - Fruitdale Track - 20 mins



[5]

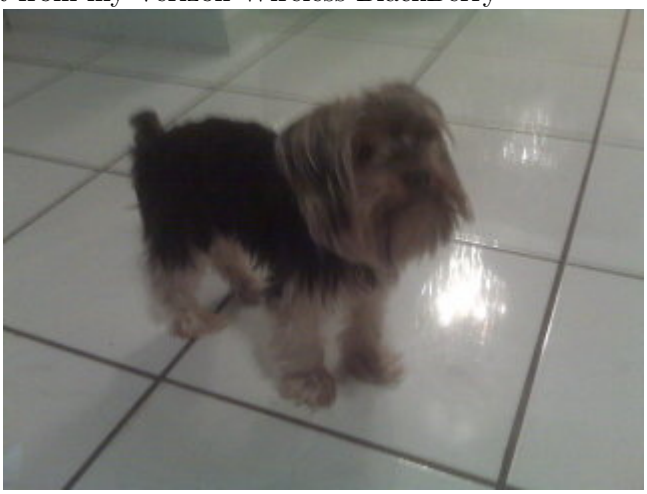
1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000727zs/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00073sh2/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00074d59/

4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00075byp/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000768b8/

11.5.6 testing lj's mobile site (2009-05-14 17:06)

While the twitter thing was kind of fun to try out, it has become much less interesting to me as of late. I don't really see it's function as I can do the same and more with my blog (this post is actually from my blackberry). And so, the fun was short lived and if I ever get the urge 'tweet' I will just do so through here. Farewell twitter!

11.5.7 picture test (2009-05-14 18:07)

Let's see how posting pics through my phone works. I believe it will put the pic (of little Rambo) under a cut, which I may or may not remove later. Let's also try out adding a tag.
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry
[1] 

EDIT* Well the tag thing didn't work. Maybe that has to be at the beginning? Just fixed it, but may try again later.

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000775h3/

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lfincher (2009-05-15 02:56:11)
who does rambo belong too??

fincher69 (2009-05-15 03:17:30)
That's MC's doggie that lives at home in Miami so it is kinda her sister's right now.

(2009-05-15 14:44:10)
But Lauren this is a TERRIBLE picture of him! His hair is usually shorter so he doesn't regularly look so shabby! eeeekk.

11.5.8 day off (2009-05-15 14:57)

Body feeling a little fatigued so I decided to take the day off. Will probably rest tomorrow and run or bike on sunday. Gotta ease my old body into this! :-)
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

11.5.9 (2009-05-17 10:59)

```
[1]Sender: Fishel  Sender: Fishel
 Bailey Island is in Maine
```

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000784r5/

11.5.10 Another test from the blackberry (2009-05-17 13:22)

Wanted to send a little test post from my blackberry to see if I could get the tags working and test having it automatically remove the "sent from blackberry" text. If it is tagged as mobile we know where it came from! And I have been thinking about the twitter thing more. I still don't feel like I need to send out random updates all the time, but I may look into a way to "tweet" during the day and on days that I do that, post an aggregate of the days tweets as a single post in my blog. Not sure how to coordinate it yet, but we shall see.

11.5.11 Yes, the workout posts continue (2009-05-18 10:39)

I'm hoping this week will be more of a standard week when it comes to my workouts. I figured I would go ahead and post since I added a little this week (and I didn't swim last monday). Not sure what I am going to do about workout posts in the future. I will probably just log more of a recap at the end of the week instead of a full breakdown of workouts that probably aren't going to change much week-to-week. Anyhoo, swimming this morning was a pretty similar workout to my last swim workout except I added another 250



kick at the end. [1] I figure a little leg focus won't be bad if I am also using this as cross training for running some upcoming races. Still way out of shape, but it is coming along!

250 free
250 breast
250 kick (free-breast-fly-breast-free)
250 pull (free-breast-free-breast-free)
250 IM (25 fly-50 back-75 breast-100 free)
250 swim (free-breast-back-breast-free)
250 kick (free-breast-fly-breast-free)

Total: 1750 yards (0.99 miles) - 45 minutes

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000795yt/`

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lfincher (2009-05-20 18:07:27) nice!
looks good bro! i love swimming!! i need to start recording my workouts on my blog so i can remember ones i like. any reason you like the 250 distance? :) this is what i did this morning! 500 warm up, every 3rd lap back 2 x - 200 IM drill - 150 build - 100 IM drill - 50 build 200 pull 4 x 100 on 1:50 free 200 pull 300 cool down total: 2600 about 60 min

lfincher (2009-05-20 18:09:15) Re: nice!
PS - there was a sign at the front desk that said: "The pool is cold today. Current temp: 82." i hope the aquajoggers didn't get goosebumps!!!!

fincher69 (2009-05-21 22:34:14) Re: nice!
Oh, geez. That is horrible! I don't know the exact temp, but luckily we don't have a bunch of old people in our pool so they keep it kinda cool. The colder the better I say! And no big reason on the 250 other than it is an easy chunk where it's like I'm doing a whole set, but don't have to count as much. I'm pretty bad about daydreaming while I'm swimming and losing count. :-)

(2009-05-22 09:55:17)
I think it cool that you and Lauren are swimming!! I wish I could do that!! :-)

11.5.12 Gotta post SOMETHING (2009-05-26 11:46)

Don't really have a ton to write about, but felt like I should make a post since it has been over a week. Workouts have still been going well. I won't do full breakdowns, but here's a brief recap.

Last Tues - day off
Wed - lifting including back/bi work
Thurs - 2.2 mile run outside
Fri - lifting including chest/tri work
Sat-mon - Memorial day weekend!
Today - lifting including back/bi & 22 minutes on the Expresso bike

So while my weekend was kinda lazy workout-wise, I've still be keeping with it ok and I've definitely been able to feel that I am getting in better shape. Probably going to swim tomorrow and lift again thursday. We shall see what happens after that.

Moving on, the last couple weeks have been crazy busy with the class I am taking. It is Mobile Programming taught by my advisor. It isn't a course I really need, I just thought it would be interesting to learn to do some cell phone programming. Little did I know how hard he was going to hit us! It is partially not his fault because this is the first time he has taught the course and Android, the mobile platform we are developing for, is severely lacking in good code examples. The first two weeks we would get an assignment that would be due the next day, then as soon as we turned it in we received another assignment that was due the next day. This repeated with one exception as one of the assignments was pretty difficult so he gave us an extension. Most of them weren't really that difficult per se, but it would just take hours and hours to pour through example code, try it, find out it doesn't work, try to wade through the documentation and generally just try to get a handle on what on earth was going on before you could even really get something. And a few times I had something in mind that I thought would be cool to do for the assignment, but had little luck in being able to get it working so I would revert back to an easier method. Now we've moved on to week long projects. That time frame is still a little tight, but definitely not as hectic as before because at least nothing is due tomorrow. :-) Hopefully we'll get a good chunk done at my meeting tonight so tomorrow's work will just be adding more features/functionality. I can hope! :-)

* EDIT **
So apparently I switched friday and saturday nights activities in the description below. Oh well, I figure I'll just mention it here instead of change it. Oh, and I found pics of our last several meals recently, so I will just have a food post soon
* END EDIT **

Outside of class things have been pretty good. I've been so busy I haven't been able to get much research done, but hopefully some of that will come back as the schedule got a little more relaxed. MC and I had a bunch of random things we wanted to get done over the weekend, but weren't very diligent about being productive. We DID, however, have a lot of fun hanging out with folks. Friday we had dinner with Matt, Lynn, and Lynn's friend who was in from out of town. After dinner they went to see a comedian and MC and I decided to try out a place we had heard gives salsa lessons. It was 5 dollars each and we got about an our and a half of teaching in three dances (which I know I will completely butcher the spelling of): salsa, bachata, and meringe. MC and I had a lot of fun and were starting to get the hang of doing things fairly smoothly by the end. After that we were beat and took it on home to crash. Saturday night we met up with Lindsey, Turtle, and Matt for dinner then Matt picked up Punch Out for the Wii and we headed over to Matt and Lynn's (even thought Lynn was out of town and MC was scared to touch anything hehe) and hung out there for a while. Sunday we had dinner with Matt and Lynn, played some mario kart, then pulled out some Jeopardy on N64 which turned out to actually be a heckuva lot of fun! Good ol' old school games :-) Yesterday we took it easy, gave MC a swim lesson, then had a big (but healthy) scrumptious dinner. I made blackened catfish for me and blackened tilapia for MC and we had brussel sprouts and this awesome sweet potato/pineapple dish that MC made. Also had some brown rice with mine and we made banana pudding with bananas and strawberries for dessert. Very yummy!! So it was a pretty good memorial day weekend, even if we didn't get everything done. We definitely enjoyed ourselves and hopefully we can catch back up on house duties this week :-)

Well, I guess I should get to working seeing as how I'm sitting in the office. I'd much rather be chillin at home on this rainy day though! Oh, and I'll end on a funny random story. I don't know what it was (rain, lack of sleep, who knows) but while I was on the stationary bike today, my eyelids got heavy and my head started drooping and I did a little nod off nod! I was falling asleep while I was exercising! I didn't even slow down. Just kept on chugging as I was about to pass out. Too funny. Ok, to work for real!!

Oh, and sorry for the lack of pics this post. I know it livens it up a lot, but we've both been pretty bad about taking pictures as of late. Hopefully I'll be better in the future :-) I will leave it with one pic of a

visitor we had a couple of weeks ago who just hung out right outside our living room for a good long while.


[1]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007afxt/

(2009-05-28 00:06:22)
Hedwig!!

11.5.13 I'm a lazy-ass / food post (2009-05-27 14:54)

So my group has a project due tomorrow and we still have quite a bit to do on it. Due to this I wasn't very motivated to get to school early since I will probably be there much of the evening. Since this delay would put me at school midday (when the gym is super crowded) I decided to forgo that as well. Lazy day for me! I'm try to not eat too unhealthily to counteract and figure if I do something physical this weekend it'll all average out.

That said, food! I mentioned in my last post that I found pics of our last few culinary expeditions so let's see how much about them I can remember. :-)

Definitely not going to try to remember the date of these meals, but I think I have the order intact this time ;-)


[1]

The first is a Jerk Turkey Burger. Jerk seasoning plus some red pepper, salt, black pepper and a couple of other things were mixed into the ground turkey. Then the salsa to top was made with mango, papaya, red onion, green peppers, (maybe) lime juice, and a leafy veggie that I can't remember right now. It was definitely super scrumptious, though I couldn't find jerk seasoning and used jerk marinade. It wasn't nearly as strong so you didn't get much jerk flavor, but next time I'll be prepared!

[2] 

The next meal I decided to show a before and after of the prep (I think we were so hungry we forgot to take pics post cooking!). I don't remember the spices, but it was tilapia **EDIT** Doh!, no it wasn't it was Red Snapper! **END EDIT** with I think mango, cucumber, and cherry tomatoes. Loads of veggies piled on there as you can see. The cooking time was noticeably longer than the recipe called for, but after a second baking it turned out great.

[3] [s320x240]

MC's plate

[4] [s320x240]

My plate

This meal MC and I kinda prepared together, but a little differently than normal. Usually one person is main cook and the other helps with little tasks, but for this one I did the fish and brussel sprouts, and MC did the sweet potato/pineapple and the rice. [5]  She had only had catfish once so

she was a little weary. So I used the same blackened catfish recipe and substituted tilapia for her. The sweet potato/pineapple concoction was ridiculously awesome. Two of my favorites foods all mixed together! I ate a ton of it and it was awesome. The brussel sprouts were the easy frozen kind, but still yummy. Fun fact: MC had never had them before! Always cool to try something new. Rice cooking has been an ongoing project for MC, and while they almost always turn out different, they have all been very yummy. Afterwards, we made dessert by layering bananas and strawberries in banana pudding. Since I LOVE bananas, I thoroughly enjoyed this, even if there was something kinda funky going on with the strawberries.

Hopefully I'll be better at remembering meals we've documented in the future. :-) And for some of our more complicated meals, I want to get some more prep shots to really document the whole process. I'm sure our culinary adventures will continue to amuse us!

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007br8h/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007cpdg/`
3. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007d9kg/`
4. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007ez17/`
5. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007f3x1/`

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supinternets (2009-05-27 19:58:57)
Om nom nom. Everything looks tasty!

(2009-05-28 00:02:37)
wow!! all those dishes look wonderful! will you come cook for me??? :-)

lfincher (2009-06-04 19:26:33)
just saw this post! that turkey burger looks awesome! you guys are getting so creative! i'm so, so proud :)

lfincher (2009-06-04 19:27:28) ps
will post pics of MC's fun baking adventures? or does she have her own blog?

fincher69 (2009-06-04 23:52:10) Re: ps
I am trying to get her started on her own :-) I will let you know if I can goad her into it.

11.5.14 random snippet from the Least I Could Do blog (2009-05-31 13:37)

Talking about the Sotomayor nomination, I liked this snippet.

"Over at CNN, Ruben Navarrette talks about what a step forward this is. For me, a step forward would have been had Sotomayor been nominated, and no one even remarked on the fact that she was Hispanic."

I agree with this point. While it is a step to have more diversity in places, a BIG step would be when irrelevant things like ethnicity aren't even worth mentioning. No one should care about her ethnicity. They should care about her views and past legal actions.

(2009-06-01 13:04:37)
I completely AGREE!!! I thought the same thing when I first heard about her nomination! I hated that the focus was on both her ethnicity and gender and not on her credentials!! Why are you stealing my point of view?!?! hee hee ..

no wonder you and I get along so well ;O) -MC

supinternets (2009-06-01 13:20:17)
I could not agree more! We are so obsessed with race.

11.6 June

11.6.1 Interesting article about mixing libel with science (2009-06-01 11:58)

I know this will get double posted on facebook, but oh well.

[1]http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/may/31/simon-sin gh-science

This is an article about a guy getting sued for libel for calling some chiropractic claims "bogus." The dumb judge "said he [the defendant] had to prove that chiropractors knew they were worthless but 'dishonestly presented them to a trusting and, in some respects perhaps, vulnerable public'."

I loved the example the author gave. "On Eady's [the judge's] logic, a writer who condemns as "bogus" a neo-Nazi's claim that a conspiracy of Jews controls American foreign policy could be sued successfully if lawyers jumped up and said neo-Nazis sincerely believed their conspiracy theories to be true."

It is a good article, but the main point is that science is furthered by the process of peer review. To introduce libel into this realm works against this by making people less likely to challenge another scientist's findings. If scientists have to fear being sued when they challenge anything, fewer things will be challenged and poor science will be around to propagate and thrive. NOT good for the scientific community.

1. `http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2009/may/31/simon-singh-science`

11.6.2 Technological Bitchings (2009-06-01 18:20)

Arrgghh!!

1. Mac's thin profile Aluminum keyboard & how they were too stupid to thoroughly test it I got one of those snazzy, thin Aluminum keyboards not that long ago. As I don't like dealing with batteries and such, and my keyboard never leaves the area near my computer, I went with the wired version. Did this a little while ago, and have only had a couple of issues.

    - They decided to be "cool" and "different" and remap the Function keys at the top of the keyboard. The new layout itself isn't horrible, but they left out the expose for a single application button and the show desktop, and moved them around. So when I want to access my dashboard on my macbook, I hit F12. When I want to on my iMac I hit F3. I could remap some of them, but they don't provide an easy way to map any keys to volume controls. To make this even more of a pain, they actually printed icons on the keys to represent a lot of the functions, so even if I could remap things, I would have to hit the mute key on my macbook to access Expose (since F3 brings up

Expose on my desktop). So I'm stuck with either have two different button configurations and accurate key icons, or remapping them on one of the computers, having the icons not be actually indicative of the function on those keys, and would have to use my mouse to open my sound settings to be able to adjust the volume. Really, Apple? REALLY?! For a company that prides itself on design, this is a UI turd. (User Interface for you non-CS types)

- In addition to mucking up the F keys, they somehow made the keyboard so it is recognized later in the boot process. While this may not seem like much of an issue, I have used Boot Camp to dual-boot my computer with windows. While I despise Windows, I do run into occasions where I find it necessary (e.g. the idiots at RIM only provide Blackberry Management software for Windows so I can't adequately backup/restore/upgrade my Storm without it). Just so happens, this time shift in keyboard recognition handily shifts it to AFTER you must hold down the option key to bring up the boot menu. So I can hold down any keys I want, it isn't even going to check them until it has gone ahead and decided to boot the default OS. In OSX, I can choose Windows to be my default, then restart, and vice versa in Windows. After some digging I found that you can use the remote that comes with it, hold down menu, and that brings it up. So they recognize the little remote that is just for playing media before the OS is booted, but not the keyboard? WTF mate? This is an APPLE keyboard on and APPLE computer using APPLE software to dual boot. They make all their own hardware!? How hard can it be to test something before you release it? I used to think it'd be cool to work at Apple, but with the quality of employees they seem to currently have on staff, I am beginning to have my doubts.

2. My second techy rant has to do with my Blackberry Storm. Apparently they have an Idiot-for-idiot hiring deal with Apple. They put 1 frickin' gigabyte of memory on the phone (which sounds awesome) then arbitrarily divide up in a completely nonuseful way. So I have a gig on board, and it comes with an 8gig microSD card. What takes up the most room on a phone nowadays? Media. So I have 8gigs to store movies, audio, ringtones, pictures, etc. Do you think I will need to store any of that on my phone? Of frickin' course not. On the phone I will have my contacts, calendar, applications and that's about it. So I have a gig at my disposal right? NOPE. The dingleberries at RIM decided I shouldn't really have too many applications so I'm limited to like 100 megs (don't feel like looking up the exact figure) of space for applications and the rest is for personal data. Do you know how many contacts and calendar events I would need to fill frickin' 900 megabytes of space? That is the most back-ass-ridiculous way to divide that space. Why divide it at all? Why do you need to limit the amount of space I can use for applications and personal data? If I want 700 megs of apps and 2 of personal stuff, so be it. If I don't want to install any apps but want to keep the entire phonebook in my cell phone (just in case) that should be my choice. An arbitrary, nay stupid, division of memory is not helpful to anyone. And to make it worse, they won't even allow their own stuff to cross the boundary! I'm trying to update the software, and it wants to only use application space to hold the update and any install files. Of course I don't have 20 megs worth of space, but I DO have 850 worthless megs of "personal storage." God these guys suck.

So that's the end of my rantings. This should not be that difficult. It's no wonder our economy sucks when big corps like RIM and Apple charge an arm and a leg for underdesigned crap.

Ok, I'm adding one more... WHY WON'T NESTED ORDERED LISTS WORK IN LJ! I've been trying to just make the two sub-rants of the first rant automatically be a and b, but it just ignores any indicators and always makes them 1 and 2. Sometimes technology can really be a bitch.

(2009-06-02 16:02:36)

i hope you sent those comments to Apple and RIM!!! and LJ for that matter! Sorry you had a bad tech day... hope

things are going better today! :-)

11.6.3 wow (2009-06-04 19:46)

What a bunch of lazy turds
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007g1rb/

11.6.4 Enjoying the nightlife in miami (2009-06-07 04:04)

Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007h790/

11.6.5 And this is why I should post more often... (2009-06-09 19:48)

I am in the office getting a few things done before my group arrives to work on a project, and thought it would get a good time to make a post. I've actually been posting a decent amount as of late, but more

random stuff than what is going on with me. The reason for the title is that I am having the hardest time remembering what we did the weekend before last. I want to say we were here, but busy, but I am really drawing a blank. Man my brain sucks! It is often surprising that I make it through life considering how poor my memory can be. Anyhoo...

During the weeks I am just crazy busy with the class I am taking. It is interesting to learn about developing for mobile phones (specifically Android-based phones), but it is ridiculously jam packed into this six week semester. It has been keeping me really busy, but it HAS taught me a lot and has helped me develop a more consistent work and workout schedule.

This past weekend was crazy, but tons of fun. Unfortunately, I really didn't take many pictures (other than the one I posted from my blackberry) so this will be a pictureless post. Oh well. I can't be fancy ALL the time. ;-)

So MC and I left after I got out of class on friday. We had to finish getting a few things together and I think we rolled out around 4. So we got into Miami around 11 and went straight to an "unofficial" high school reunion at a local bar. Basically they were supposed to have their reunion that weekend, then not long ago the organizer changed the date, but lots of people already had planned to be there (bought plane tickets, etc.) so they decided to go ahead and gather. We hung out and mingled there for a while then moseyed back to MC's house.

Saturday we got up and tried to take MC to the eye doctor (tried because the doctor, who was covering for her normal doc, was running over 30 minutes late). We met up with one of her friends and went grocery shopping to prepare for a gathering later that evening. Afterwards, we stopped by home and then went to pick up Rambo, who had just been neutered. Kinda took it easy a little at her house then headed out to start prepping for the gathering. I ran around town grabbing what we needed while MC was busy in the kitchen. Gradually people started showing up and we enjoyed some drinks and snacks before heading to MC's cousin's restaurant. (pictured in the previous post). We had tons of good food and drink and partied it up Miami-style! After we left we went looking for some more grub, and eventually settled on IHOP. It was yummy as always, then we went back to the gathering spot to split up and head home. We ended up pulling up to MC's house around 6:30 in the morning. Now THAT'S partying in Miami! :-)

We ended up waking up a little before noon (lord knows why) and got our day started. We took it easy for a little while, then went to the mall with her brother, sister, and cousin. After many stores we finally found MC some shoes and hit the road back home. It was kinda a hang-out-with-family day so we mostly just chilled around the house and then more of her family came by for dinner. After dinner we played some Wii and PS3 and had a lot of fun just hanging out and mingling with the fam. Started packing things up and ended up hitting the sack close to midnight.

Monday we got up at 4 (yes, in the morning) and were on the road by about 4:40. Needless to say traffic definitely wasn't bad for the first part of the trip. ;-) We decided that it would be nice to have all of sunday to hang out, and since I didn't have to be back until my class at 2, we decided to just pull the early morning. Got home in just under 7 hours and got settled a little before MC headed to work and I headed to class. I came back and relaxed some after class, then met up with my group at 8 to work on a project. I ended up heading out a little after 12 and moseyed home. A long day indeed! I didn't really feel that tired when I got home, but it definitely didn't take me long to pass out once my head hit the sheets.

So that's my crazy weekend. Hopefully I can keep up with posting here often and making it a little more interesting. (i.e. more pictures!)

Also, I'm debating looking more into the idea of using Twitter to simply provide a weekly aggregate post for my blog. I still don't really see the need for people to keep up with me minute-to-minute, but I think it might be cool for me to be able to "tweet" whenever I have something going on or on my mind, then maybe every sunday I can make a blog post of a "tweets of the week" or something. If I could completely automate it, that'd be awesome. Whenever I have a free moment, I am going to try to hack together a little program or script to do just that and then I may try it out in upcoming weeks. We shall see how it goes :-)

11.6.6 If this red Xterra belongs to you... (2009-06-10 16:37)

You are a worthless littering piece of crap. DIAF.

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007krz3/

(2009-06-16 13:55:06)
hahahahahaha dad

11.6.7 Things just keep a kickin'! (2009-06-15 08:50)

Man, we have been staying crazy busy as of late. I am going to be SOOO glad when this class is over and I get to relax a little bit and don't have constant deadlines to keep up with. Anyhoo...

So friday in my house growing up was always pizza night. It still is whenever I'm home, but I haven't really kept the trend going when I've been off at school. Sometimes Friday is rolling around and I just get the urge for pizza, though, so I give in. Sometimes I order, sometimes we make our own. The former is easiest, but we've gotten some pretty darn good pizzas with the latter! I got a yummy sourdough crust and started concocting a veggie pizza friday night.

```
[1] [s320x240] All veggied up! [2] [s320x240] Add some cheese
[3] [s320x240] Bake and serve! [4] [s320x240] MC dressed up plate up a
bit more
```

If I remember correctly, the pizza had yellow squash, broccoli, spinach, green pepper, yellow pepper, red pepper, and onion. Especially on a sourdough crust it was super duper ultra yummy!! MC added some sides to hers, but I stuck with beer as an accompaniment ;-)

Saturday MC got up and ran 6 miles with her little training group, then we got ready and headed off to Jacksonville. One of my dad's sisters and both her kids live there and my parents were coming down to visit so we decided to join and visit everyone for a little bit. We got there around lunch time, got our stuff into the hotel, then went to a nearby sub place to grab some lunch. As soon as you walk in the door there were several old school video games, including...

[5] 

You don't see many Super Mario Brothers in the arcade! After our super yummy subs, we headed over to Judy (my aunt) and Bill's house. They moved down from Alabama not too awfully long ago so we got the tour of the new house. Included in the tour was Bill's super lawn mower, which mom tried out.

[6] 

After the tour, my cousin Erin and her husband Adam came over and we headed out to dinner. We went to one of Bill's favorite recipes that is supposed to have awesome fried shrimp. Bill waited in line to put our name on the list then said it was going to be a 45 minute wait. So we checked out the antique store and relaxed and chatted for a while. After about an hour we decided to recheck and since there were a few large parties in front of us, they said it would probably take another hour before we'd be seated. Well the younger folks were hungry and a bit impatient so we decided to mosey off and find another source of sustenance. We went to Gypsy, and found out their power was out. Luckily, they also own the Gypsy comedy club next door so they were just shuffling everyone over there. Erin, Adam, MC and I enjoyed a yummy meal there (I had blackened chicken nachos and cajun seafood pasta) then we decided we were going to live it up a little (Adam's parent's had their two boys so they were feeling extra lively). We headed to the British pub to

hang out and have a few more pints.

[7] [s320x240] [8] [s320x240]

They took us back to the hotel where we promptly crashed at like 11 pm. :-) Woke up the next day, hung out with my parents at the hotel for a bit, then went over to Judy and Bill's for a nice brunch. Adam and Erin were going to Amelia Island to pick up the boys in the morning so after brunch we went over to their house. They were still about an hour from being there so unfortunately MC and I missed the boys because we had a lot we needed to get done in Tally. I DID get to see my cousin Scott whom I hadn't seen in probably 10-15 years. He showed up right as we were leaving so I really didn't get to catch up much, but it was still cool to see him. Right before we left we made sure to snap a group picture (Thanks MC!)

[9] 

It was still a kind of busy weekend, but another good one! One day we might actually stay in Tally AND have a relaxing weekend. I've almost forgotten what that feels like! Well, I am off to start my final week of this infernal class! So close to being done!

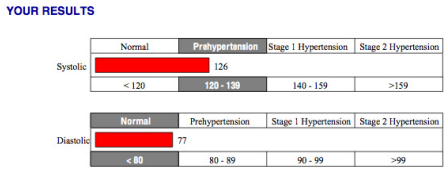
Oh, and I decided I am going to give the Twitter thing one more chance. I'm not regarding it as a way for people to follow what I am doing constantly (so I really wouldn't bother "following" me), but I think I can throw together a script or program that will allow me to make a "week of tweets" post on sunday. So hopefully I can get it to run through, grab all the tweets from the week, and reformat them and I can just make a single blog post about what was going on. So instead of constant updates, I think it'd be better to have more of a digest form where I just post here about random thoughts and happenings throughout the week. I am going to try to "tweet" a lot this week and then get the script working and we will see how it goes. :-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007pqb8/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007q7fr/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007r4df/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007s219/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007tc1g/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007w9xg/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007xy1h/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007yhk7/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0007zrra/

11.6.8 Fitness Test! (2009-06-15 13:28)

So I found out the other day that FSU does free fitness testing for students. It is basically a barrage of tests to evaluate your general fitness level so you know where you stand and what to work on to improve. It includes a body composition test, which I like as a good measure of progress as I am increasing my workouts, so I decided to go for it! I don't know how often they offer it, but hopefully after a few months of training I can redo it and see how I've progressed.

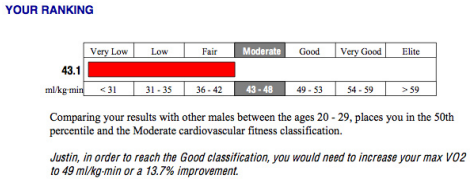
First off is blood pressure.



[1]

This was actually done with the little machine that you sit in and it does it automatically. I don't know why, but whenever I am tested by one of these it says my Systolic is pre-hypertensive, but every time I have had it actually checked by a person it has been in the normal range. Either way, I'm not too worried about that one.

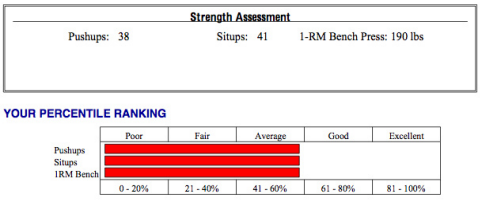
Next up is VO2 max.



[2]

Kinda funny that I was exactly at the 50th percentile for this one. For this I had to run around the little track in Leach and see how far I could go in 12 minutes. I believe the inside lane (of 3) is 1/10 of a mile, but I can't remember how far the outside lane is (the one I ran in). I got 14 laps right on the nose, but that was definitely a faster pace than I am used to running! The VO2 max number seems a little low, but talking to the guy he said that if you are more prone to other sports (e.g. cycling or swimming) this can register a little low. I've been swimming and doing the stationary bike more as of late (not too much running) so I think my actual number is a little higher. Perfectly average isn't horrible though!

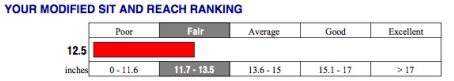
Strength



[3]

There were two aspects to this one. Overall strength and endurance. Since I have been having trouble with my rotator cuff, we used one of the machines to test my bench max since it allowed me to rotate my grip to take stress off my shoulder. It listed my bench max as 190, but I think that is actually a little high considering how much I have been lifting, but who knows. For the situps it was the number I could get in a minute and for pushups it was the most I could do without stopping (no time / if you pause, you're done). I did the bench max test, then the situps, then the pushups, but I still think I could have eeked out a few more pushups if I hadn't done the bench not that long before. Maybe that would just offset the fact I think my bench max is a little high. :-)

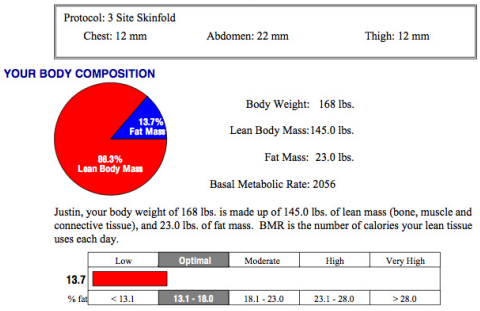
Flexibility (I knew this would be my worst)



[4]

And sure enough it was! Especially when it is tested with the sit-and-reach. My hamstrings are by far the least flexible part of my body. I've actually been working on it, but I definitely wasn't surprised when I was in the "fair" category.

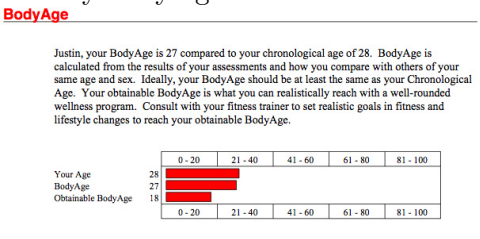
Body Composition



[5]

Like I mentioned previously, this was one of the main reasons I wanted to do the fitness test. I got tested sometime last year, but don't know if I wrote it down anywhere. Before that, it had been quite a few years since I had been tested. I would say I was fairly happy with where I am at, but still have plenty of room to improve. Also kinda gross to think that I have 23 pounds of fat on me!

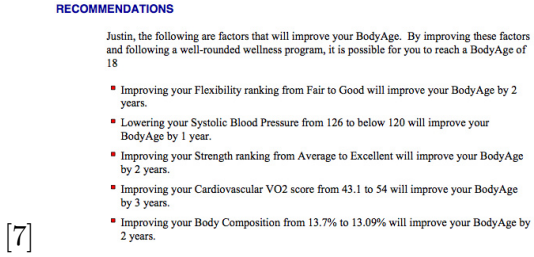
So with all this information it calculated my body age.



[6]

27?! No wonder I feel so young! At least my body isn't OLDER than it is supposed to be!

After all this information, it gave a list of ways to improve my body age and maybe even get down to 18! haha. I don't know about that, but any hints are helpful and hopefully I will continue my workout regimen through the summer and can get tested again to evaluate my progress!



[7]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00080q7e/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000812h5/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00082ys5/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000839ht/

5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00084zff/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000853ft/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00086e1f/

11.6.9 SERIOUSLY!?! (2009-06-19 11:39)

http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023 _3-10268199-93.html?part=rss &subj=news &tag=2547-1 _3-0-5

A whole jury of incompetent morons awarded the RIAA like 1.82 MILLION dollars for sharing songs? I seriously hope everyone in the jury and the RIAA meets a horrible death. Worthless pieces of stupid crap. What the hell is wrong with people? I am COMPLETELY anti-RIAA, but even if you aren't, there is no way in hell that one girl caused them MILLIONS of dollars of damage (I think they awarded like $80,000 PER SONG). Stuff like this makes me scared to ever be on trial for something. Since I am not a complete idiot, can I demand that no one in my jury be as dumb as these people? Aren't they supposed to be my peers!? This story makes me a sad panda.

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supinternets (2009-06-19 16:46:35)
Oi! That is just insane!

11.6.10 Big Update! (with pictures AND video!) (2009-06-24 13:49)

I really need to try to be better about keeping up with this thing so I don't have to set aside an hour whenever I want to make a post. Now that my class is over, perhaps my posting frequency will increase.

As I mentioned, my class is finally over!!! I learned a lot, but it was a pretty intense 6 weeks. I may have mentioned it previously, but the first two weeks were individual projects and we pretty much got one assigned every day that was due the following day. The next 4 weeks were group projects. We would get the general category of application we were to develop and our group (groups changed every week) on Thursday. We then presented what we had decided to develop on Friday. Worked on it all week, then presented our work to the class on Thursday, where we were again presented with a new category and new group. Kind of intense! The last week we got to choose groups and the three other people in Tyson's research group and me worked together on a real world, first person shooter-type game. Yuval had already started it, so that worked in our favor, and it was loosely based off the game CounterStrike. Once we got it to a presentable state (not near fully functioning), we recorded some clips with my phone so I could edit together a video for our presentation. It is kinda goofy, but I heard everyone enjoyed it (I had to miss class to head out of town). Check it out!

So I missed the presentation because MC and I decided to go visit my sister for some fun activities in Nashville. We left midday on friday and joined her at her friend Jenny's house. They had some food ready for us that was super scrumptious, then we just hung out for a bit before hitting the sack early.

Saturday we got up bright and early to head to the RC Cola and Moon Pie Festival in Bell Buckle, TN!

[1] 

I somehow got convinced into running the 10 mile race with MC, even though I've hardly been training as of late, especially not for running.

[2] 

I'm not going to lie, it was a pretty rough race. It was super hot and fairly hilly and the sun was just SUPER baking us the entire time! I think my sister heard the heat index was like 106! MC's running schedule called for 6 miles where you run 4 minutes, then walk for 1 minute, then repeat. So we really wanted to keep with that schedule for 6 miles so she would definitely stay with her training regimen. We made it (barely!) and decided to just walk mile 7. After that we started run/walking at 3/2 intervals for a bit, but my calf was hurting and MC started to get a super side stitch. So we walked a lot the last few miles, but we weren't shooting for any times after the 6 miles. Just survival! We DID save just enough to jog in through the finish line, and I always have enough energy to be a goofball. :-)

[3] 

It felt SO nice to be finished! That is way longer than I had planned to run again, and it pretty much solidified that I could probably run 10ks with training, but I really have no interest in running farther than 10k ever again in my life! As you can tell, we were both pretty pooped!

[4] 

After we got some refreshments (NOT including Moon Pies since they ran out because stupid gluttonous assholes took way more than they were supposed to) we headed back to Jenny's to shower and such. After we cleaned up, a few of Jenny's friends joined us and we all headed back to "enjoy" the festival. I put it in quotations because it was so oppressively hot that it was hard to truly enjoy much of anything. Lots of crafts, bad food, fat people, and fun entertainment made it quite a unique experience! :-)

[5] 

And of course, before we left someone in the group had to try out a fried Moon Pie! Heart-healthy it ain't, but it sure looked tasty! MC and I refrained, mostly because the idea of eating a hot and fried snack in the oven in which we were meandering sounded like an unappealing prospect. It DID receive rave reviews by the rest of the group though. :-)

[6] 

After we left the festival we regrouped at Jenny's house, grabbed our stuff, then MC and I followed Lauren back to her apartment. She moved fairly recently, so it was cool to see her snazzy new place! I relaxed there while the girls got ready then we headed downtown to check into our hotel (Hampton Inn of course!). After

we were all checked it, we hung out a little more until the Taste of Music City (food and drink festival) was about to start. Luckily, our hotel was only a couple blocks from the bridge on which it was going down so, even though it was still ridiculously hot, it wasn't a bad walk.

[7] 

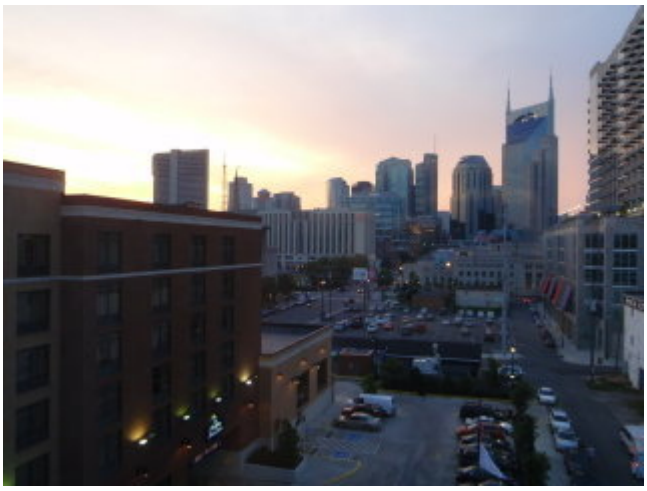
Lauren's friend Neal got us passes so we got in free and felt super snazzy! Basically you pay to get in, and then all these local restaurants have booths set up with samples of their cuisine. Eat as much as you can! One booth had carved a watermelon, which was pretty cool.

[8] 

There was so much good food, I just wished I had more room to store it! I also wished it wasn't so ridiculously hot. Even my sister and MC were baking and they are always cold! Luckily, Yazoo was there (a local brewery), which made it all a little better. ;-)

[9] 

After we had all reached capacity, we moseyed back to the hotel to cool off a bit. The Hampton Inn was downtown, so the view was pretty snazzy to enjoy while we digested a bit.

[10] 

We then walked over to one of my favorite places in Nashville, the Big Bang Piano Bar. We got there early enough that we avoided the cover and got a table right up front!

[11] 

I don't know if you can see very well in the picture, but there are two pianos facing each other and multiple guys that rotate in and out and they can all play the hell out of a piano! There is also a drum kit and a bass behind them that guys occasionally play (even the bartender joined in on a couple songs!). It was really cool

to sit so close and watch them play. It is totally on request so people just write what they want to hear and put it and a little motivation money on the piano. The guys can play so many frickin' songs it is ridiculous! Lauren's roommate joined us halfway through the evening, but I didn't really get to meet her since we were so close to the loud music. MC talked to he a little bit and she seemed nice enough :-) After Big Bang, we went back to the hotel and Lauren headed back to her apartment.

In the morning we packed up, then met up with Lauren at Noshville for a super yummy breakfast. MC had fallen in love with some bread we had at the Taste of Music City, so we stopped by the bakery and grabbed a loaf before we hit the road back to Tally. Sunday evening we had planned to try to get a lot done around the apartment, but we were pretty bushed so we mostly took it easy.

MC had a personal day that she had to take before the end of June, so she decided to take it on monday (My birthday!) so we could hang out all day. We got a few productive things done and a lot of fun hanging out and relaxing. MC had gotten me a little gift that she said we could both enjoy, so I was pretty excited to open it!

[12] 

It was an Indian cookbook!!! I love Indian and curry, so needless to say I was pretty excited. I can't wait to try out some recipes! And if fit in perfectly with the theme of the day. Since I had said I wanted to do Indian for dinner, MC decided to give me some glimpses into Indian culture. She got a bunch of snazzy Indian music for us to listen to while we were doing stuff around the house and looked into getting an Indian movie from Netflix for us. She even made me some of the Indian spiced tea we had. It was a pretty cool idea. That afternoon I got an Edible Arrangement from my parents! It was funny too, because my sister and MC were just talking the day before about how cool edible arrangements are. And the theme of mine was perfect!

[13] 

For dinner I decided I wanted just a quiet dinner with my sweetie so we went to Essence of India (which happens to also be where we had our first date!)

[14] 

As always, it was ridiculously yummy and made for some awesome leftovers for me the next day as well! And keeping with the Indian theme, MC showed off some Indian garb that she had gotten from her grandmother (though I don't know if she'd like me posting pics, so you'll just have to visualize it) The Indian movie we wanted to watch didn't quite work out, so we are just going to Netflix it if we ever watch Changeling :-) All-in-all it was a very awesome birthday and I look forward to celebrating with friends this weekend! For now I'm enjoying not being in class, working my way up to do a little research later in the week, working on building a spice rack for our kitchen and doing various chores that I let fall to the wayside while I was busy with class. Here's hoping I can get things back in order and keep them there! :-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00088eep/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00087kd8/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00089ess/
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13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008pw6b/
14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008qgh9/

(2009-06-24 19:32:50)
Great blog entry!!! the video was funny! esp the part where you hoisted your friend over the wall and then ran around it! hahaha - so that was a game you all played on your cell phones?? I can just imagine how funny you guys looked to passersby. :-) I'm impressed!!

fincher69 (2009-06-24 21:38:54)
It was basically acting like we were playing the game we were working to develop. I'm sure we got some odd looks :-)

(2009-06-24 19:33:52)
oh, and I love the pictures of you and MC...I'm glad you had a good birthday! :-)

angelwings (2009-06-25 11:03:19)
I finally have time to catch up with you a little. Totally random but you are the 2nd person I know who was at the RC and Moon Pie Festival. The other is one of my sorority sisters lol Happy Birthday!!

fincher69 (2009-06-26 17:43:38)
That's so random!

lfincher (2009-06-25 16:43:58)
holy crap, you do need to post more often!! i LOVE the video, and i'm so glad you all came to visit. AND INDIAN COOKBOOK?!?? omg, how fun!! do you have any recipes in there that call for preserved lemons? let me know, and i'll bring you the ones that have been stewing in my fridge for a few weeks. can you try to remember to bring the book to bristol so i can look at it? glad you had a good weekend and fun a birthday, and i hope your party this weekend is entertaining! :)

fincher69 (2009-06-26 17:43:20)
I haven't had a chance to really look through it yet, but I will let you know about the lemons (if I remember haha). And I will bring it with my on the 4th so you can check it out :-)

11.6.11 (2009-06-27 10:06)

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[1]Sender: Adam and Beth  Sender: Adam and Beth
 From Charleston, SC
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008s54x/

11.6.12 Fincher Fest 2009 (2009-06-29 14:04)

This year my birthday fell on a monday so ,as I mentioned in my previous post, I just had a quiet evening with MC. We had to have SOME kind of celebration though, and MC and I thought it would be cool to

come up with something a little less standard than most people do. Hence the birth of FincherFest 2009!

[1] 

Luckily we do so much traveling on the weekends that we had plenty of time to plan it all out while we were on the road :-) We wanted to do a type of field games where each game tested out a different skill. We only had to do a little modification during the games, but overall everything came together pretty well! There were some pretty serious competitive outfits showing up as well. If I had known people were going to get that into it, we might have prepared a "best dressed" award!

[2] 

The first game utilized accuracy with a Nerf dart pistol. Now Ian and Matt kind of had an advantage in this game because it was the exact same type of gun we play with in our office all the time. So the original plan was to set up a bunch of cups for the competitors to shoot.

[3] 

Though it was nice temperature-wise, the breeze was unhelpful as it kept blowing the cups over. Matt and I tried to "human shield" it, but to no avail.

[4] 

So the "cup shoot" turned into the "Fincher shoot." As I am impervious to light breeze, I became the target. Competitors scored one point for hitting me anywhere, and a bonus point if it was a head shot. The things I do for my birthday celebrations. :-) I liked that someone said it was kind of like I was getting my birthday spankings from everyone, so I guess it worked out.

[5] 

The next event was the golf club balance (testing balance of course). Everyone got a golf club and had to balance it on their hand while standing on one leg. For this one we just started everyone at the same time and tried to keep track of whose clubs fell first.

I believe the next event was the measure of strength: throw a nerf football!! For this one, each person threw the football as far as they could, farther is better.

Then we had the hula hoop challenge as a coordination test. We only had three hula hoops, so we did groups of three or two and marked how long each competitor was able to keep the hoop going.

The final event was the "invisible" sack race. This event had a cognitive component as well as a speed and coordination component. We couldn't really find/afford 8 big sturdy sacks, so we tied the competitors feet together to simulate having their feet in a sack. When we started the race, the cognitive test began whereby they competitors had to put 8 pictures of me in chronological order. Given the variety of hairstyles I've had, this was quite a challenge! Below you can see the competitors furiously working on the task and a pic of the poster they were looking at. Can you figure it out? :-)

[6] [s320x240] [7] [s320x240]

And that was it! We had a good competition and I think (hope) that everyone had a lot of fun. After the competition it was time for some yummy food! Keith and Marie were awesome and pretty much took care of all the grilling and all the food was absolutely scrumptious (even if we got plenty more than we needed) I even had a special snazzy birthday cake (supposed to be pineapple-banana but tasted very similar to carrot cake).

[8] [s320x240] [9] [s320x240]
[10] [s320x240] [11] [s320x240]

So after everyone replenished themselves with some sustenance, it was time for awards! Here were the final standings. And yes, being the CS geek that I am, I had a spreadsheet prepared with formulas to scale each event accordingly and calculate the winners :-)

[12]

FincherFest 2009

Official Score	Number of Players	8				
Player	Golf Club Balance Score	Football Throw Score	Hula Hoop Score	Can Shoot Score	Invisible Sack Race Score	Total Score
Austin Todd	37.5	100	62.5	100	62.5	362.5
Caitie Finlayson	75	62.5	100	100	18.75	356.25
Matt Small	87.5	75	25	66.67	62.5	316.67
Danielle McKean	50	37.5	62.5	83.33	31.25	264.58
Ian Finlayson	100	12.5	25	83.33	37.5	258.33
Pete Kunze	62.5	87.5	37.5	33.33	18.75	239.58
Brooke Adams	12.5	62.5	75	33.33	50	233.33
Lynn Small	25	25	87.5	33.33	25	195.83

MC and I had prepared some awesomely narcissistic prizes for our top three finishers. Third place received a picture of me reenacting the pose from Titanic, which was placed in a small fridge magnet frame. Second place received a signed 8x10 of yours truly. It was originally going to be one from many years ago, but walmart wouldn't sell it to me since it was a reproduction of a professionally taken photograph. So I went home and set up some stuff and reenacted it. :-) They almost wouldn't give me the new one for the same reason, so I guess I did a decent job! haha. Anyhoo, the GRAND prize was a Jager trophy! Well, the jager was the base of the trophy, and the topper of course had a funny picture of me doing "shaky face." (i.e. I was shaking my head vigorously when the photo was taken) We tried to make all of the prizes entertaining, but also useful (e.g. picture frames and Jager). Here's our "podium" and a group shot off all the competitors!

[13] [s320x240] [14] [s320x240]

In addition to the top three, we also had drawings to win some of the various items used in the games. We wanted to make sure everyone had a good time :-) And of course, we had to get at least one picture of the officiators :-)



[15]

All-in-all I think everyone had fun. I know I definitely had a blast, even if it was way more work to get it all organized than we had initially imagined. Definitely worth it though. :-)

Thanks to everyone to came out, whether it was to compete or just to observe. And most of the pics above are courtesy of Lynn Small (or at least her camera as I know Matt and Turtle both snapped some shots with it as well) Thanks to all photographers! And thanks to my parents for helping me with some of the supplies. And a special thank you to my sweetie who helped me put it all together. It was definitely a unique birthday celebration that I will not soon forget. :-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008tgr5/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008z33z/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008w7d7/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0008xgcp/
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14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/00098qfc/
15. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009927q/

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supinternets (2009-06-29 19:09:53)
Oh my god, I about died laughing while reading this. I love that black and white framed photo of you! Hilarity. And you and MC are adorable. I wish I wasn't feeling so icky that day!

fincher69 (2009-06-30 01:51:12)
We definitely missed you! Hope you are feeling better now and maybe we'll actually get to hang out soon! (If MC and I ever stay in town for more than 5 days at a time haha)

(2009-06-29 20:39:04)
Soooo funny - laughed out loud several times!! what a geek - a spreadsheet for the BD games? we could sure use your skills in some of our road races. :-)

fincher69 (2009-06-30 01:50:19)
I would say we were surprisingly organized for our very first event! hehe I guess I learned what NOT to do from some of the races we've been a part of.

(2009-06-29 20:40:00)
...and you have a wonderful girlfriend!

emcee77 (2009-06-29 23:46:12)
That's so sweet of you to say Mrs. F!!! Thanks =O)

(2009-06-29 23:32:29) Bday
Absolute Hoot!!!! Great party. Unique (and modest) Just like You. Dad

lfincher (2009-07-01 17:56:32)
i would have TOTALLY pwned the invisible sack race challenge. :)

11.7 July

11.7.1 New Coffee Table! (2009-07-01 17:11)

So I posted in the past about turning my old snowboard into a coffee table. I basically threw it together in an afternoon with scrap wood I had. It wasn't super sturdy, didn't provide a lot of surface area, and had no storage, but it was a heckuva lot better than nothing! We really just wanted a simple (and cheap) placeholder until we figured out a way to get this table.



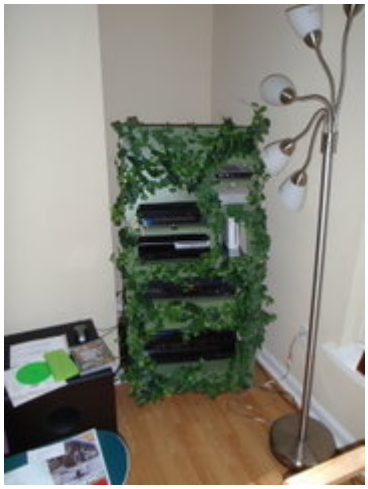
We thought it would go great with our outdoorsy theme and it was something a little bit different, but the original was overpriced and, while I've been getting into building furniture, I have neither the skills nor the tools to accomplish something like this. So more recently, we decided to keep an eye out for another alternative, and the other day at Goodwill we found it! It was actually a pair of end tables, but when pushed together (and with a little work) we saw a coffee table in the making! Here they are in position right after we brought them home.

[1] 

We wanted to dress them up a little and build them a little more into our theme (even if they were already woodgrain). That and you can see there was some damage on the top that we wanted to cover up. First off, I took care of functional stuff (i.e. removing the doors and putting felt padding on the bottom to protect the floor).

[2] [s320x240] [3] [s320x240]
[4] [s320x240] [5] [s320x240]

Then we wanted to paint it, but thought it would be cool to paint just the top (kinda like two little trees). I thought I had taken a picture, but apparently I missed a step so you will just have to visualize that we painted the top the same color as our entertainment center :-)

[6] 

While that green worked great for something covered in vines and leaves, it wasn't quite the right shade to be on its own (and a plain solid color didn't work that great either). To remedy this, we got a darker shade of green and MC sponge-painted it to give it a little more "bushy" texture. (pardon the mess in the pic)

[7] 

To bring it even more in tune with nature, we got a couple decals to liven it up! You can probably see the frog and ladybug ok, but you may need to click and look at the bigger version to see the line of ants meandering across.

[8] 

All-in-all we were definitely happy with how it turned out. It is nice to have the versatility of a table that can be split into two mini tables, it fits in great with the decor, and both have a decent amount of storage in the for remotes, wii-motes and such. :-) In the works is a spice rack I've been building as well, but that one still needs some work so it will have to wait until a later post. Until then I'm going to kick back, watch some TV, and prop my feet on our snazzy coffee table!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009bd6t/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009cqds/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009dd9z/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009erbh/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009fkzx/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009gagq/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009h2q8/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009kz4t/

(2009-07-02 00:30:18)
That is awesome!! I'm so impressed... you guys are clever! :-)

supinternets (2009-07-02 19:00:42)
So cute! I really like that idea and how it turned out.

fincher69 (2009-07-03 04:15:45)
Thanks to both of you! We're pretty happy with it as well. One day we may stop changing things in the apartment and stay settled ;-)

11.7.2 Holy Huge Post Batman! (2009-07-13 09:28)

So I've been all over the place over the last week and a half. I've had a lot going on and I haven't had a chance to post anything on here, but I could just feel all the content that I wanted to include steadily increasing in size. Luckily, I have no scheduled events today (other than bringing my sweetie lunch) so I am going to just power through it and make a super mega post. Get ready. You may need hydration for the trip.

We'll start out with 4th of July weekend. The last few years I've had a pretty good group of people up to Bristol for 4th of July (usually around 20-22 people). I've loved it because it's always been pretty hard to coordinate getting people to the lake, so it was awesome to have so many people show interest and actually show up! This year was more back to the olden days of many invites, few attendees. I'll never understand why it is so hard to get people to come to someplace so awesome, but oh well. It WAS kinda nice having a more relaxing/chill weekend since there were only 6 of us out there. A lot easier to coordinate a group that size :-)

MC and I drove up after work on Thursday so we could fully take advantage of the long weekend. Friday MC and mom got up and went for a 7 mile run (MC has to get her long runs in on the weekend for her training) and dad and I hit the lake for a wakeboarding set. The water was super glassy and it is always fun to steal a morning run before anyone is out on the lake. I was also pretty stoked because I had been working on a wake-to-wake backside 180 ([1]Here's a reference video for you non-wakeboarding types), and I finally landed one! Since it was just Dad and me out there, I have no documentation, but I promise it happened ;-) Then we met up with the girls back at home and got some things organized and hung out until Giuliana and Juliana (friend's of MC from Miami) flew in then we headed out to the lake. Mostly just relaxed and took it easy and got settled until Brandon and Bopper showed up. Since most people had friday off, it was already starting to get pretty crowded so we just enjoying the relaxing combo of beer and the lake! (no we didn't drink the lake. Drink the beer, hang out at the lake) Later in the evening I went to go see our neighbors to see if Brad wanted to join us for a morning boarding session. Chatted with them for a bit, then when I was walking through the woods to get back to my house, I slipped and landed directly on my left ankle, promptly pulling a Roper and spraining it nicely.

[2] 

Of all ways to get injured at the lake! Jeepers. Oh, and for those that don't know, a few years ago Roper had come out for another fun weekend at the lake and on the way down the stairs to the house he tripped and sprained his ankle. Hence "pulling a Roper." Luckily it wasn't a horrible sprain, but definitely one to get my attention, and it was enough to remove me from the 4th of July Lake Dance-Off 2009 :-)

[3] [s320x240] [4] [s320x240]

Saturday morning we got up (slowly but surely, even ousting a group of six can be a task!) and my folks came out for an early wakeboarding session (gotta miss the crowds). Luckily the bindings provide enough support that was was able to board with my sprained ankle (with Brad, MC, Brandon, and Bopper observing)

[5] 

I also got a little wakeskating in (wearing a brace of course). Mostly it felt good, but I probably extended the injury a little by tweaking it a couple time (hey, everything doesn't always go as planned).

[6] 

About everyone on the boat got in a set as well, including...

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Dad[7] [s320x240] Giuliana[8] [s320x240]
MC[9] [s320x240]  Bopper [10] [s320x240]
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The weather and water were a little cool, but I don't think anyone was too chilly. Everyone seemed to have a good time.

[11] 

We also timed it about perfectly. There were pretty much no boats (except for a couple stationary fishermen) around for the majority of our outing. Boats started trickling out as we finished, but everyone managed to squeeze in their riding before the water really started getting rough. Another nice thing about getting up kinda early for a set is that it leaves tons of time for hanging out once you are done! At first, Giuliana would have none of it and decided to do numerous tours around the cove on the kayak.

[12] 

The weather was at that borderline temperature where it was a little cool in the water when the clouds were out, but pretty comfy whenever the sun decided to show up. While Giuliana was paddlin' around, MC and I swam around a little closer to home.

[13] 

It didn't take two awfully long (it never does at the lake) before the Giuliana and Juliana let loose and learned how to really relax :-)

[14][s320x240] [15][s320x240]

MC and I seemed to start a trend with the swimming, but by the time it was catching on we were ready to get out of the water :-) Squiggy is still alive and kind of well and Bopper and Brandon brought a snazzy foam Spongebob frisbee to add to the water activities. Juliana was happy hanging out with Arturo (our new inflatable turtle).

[16] 

While swimming around in front of the house is a lot of fun, sometimes people want to see a little more. Some swim. Some paddle around in a kayak. Some just hitch a ride.

[17] 

Another great part of relaxing at the lake usually includes playing a little old school Nintendo. Sometimes it's a hobby. Sometimes it's a fun activity. Other times, it spirals into a virtually uncontrollable addiction ;-)

[18] 

At some point in the afternoon, we were able to pull the Dr. Mario junkies away from the TV and we had a little early birthday celebration for my sis. Cookie cake and wine? I'm in!

[19] 

Lauren and Mom prepared a bunch of super food for the grill and we all enjoyed one of the most amazing lake dinners that I can remember. It was scrumptious! After dinner, we fell back into the old beer and relaxing routine for a wonderfully inactive evening. It is always fun to just relax and connect with friends, old and new.

[20] 

One thing we did forget to do during the day was go buy fireworks. I thought I might be able to find some around the house, but I guess Roperdink was pretty good about exhausting the supply that he usually brought. We DID manage to find one little one, so this was the entirety of our 4th of July fireworks.

[21] 

Hey, something is better than nothing, right?! :-) It was a long but awesome Saturday for sure.

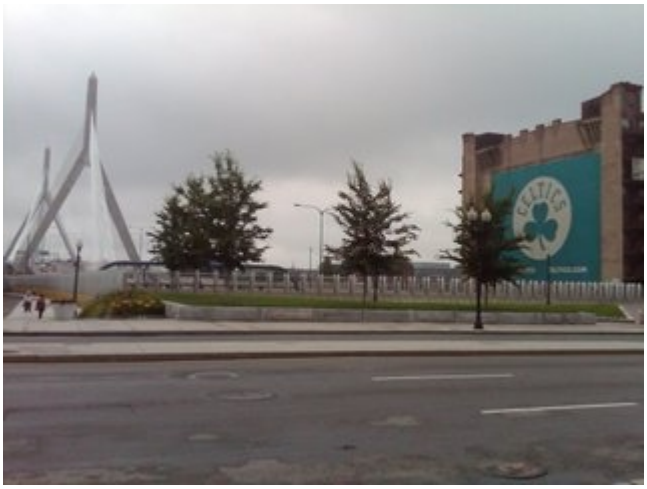
Sunday was mostly organizing, cleaning up, and travel. Nothing really too fun an exciting, but I hope all guests had a blast like I did! As busy as things have been, a chill weekend away is always welcome.

Especially when it is the beginning of a crazy travel week for me. So we got back into Tallahassee later in the evening and I was here about 7 hours before I needed to be at the airport to fly out to Boston. Not much of a "layover" haha. I was heading up there to get started on some research with a professor who will be starting at FSU in the fall. He is a Biologist, so it will be really interesting and fun to work on some of the projects he has in mind. Basically we are looking at [22]chromatin and evaluating the effect of the DNA sequence on [23]nucleosome positioning (among some other [24]epigenetic features). We're also looking at the effect of these various attributes on gene expression as well as trying to devise ways to evaluate the effects of mutations on [25]non-coding sections of DNA. It is looking to be some pretty interesting work! Jonathan picked me up from the airport and we went straight to the office to get started! His boss was not in so we got to work in his office. Can't complain about the view!

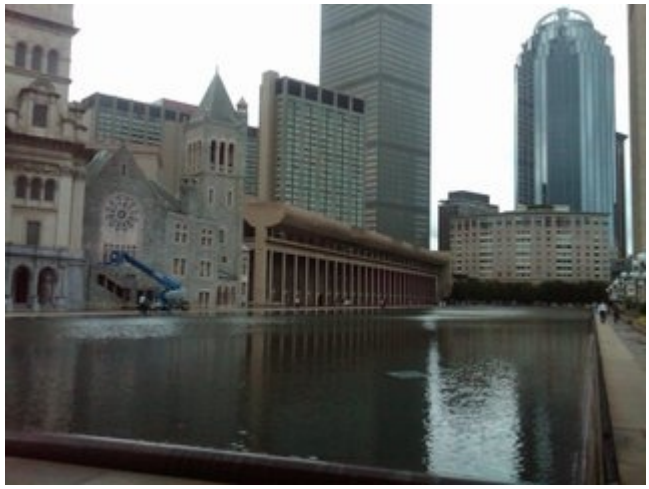
[26] 

Had a productive day, then met up with some family he had in town for dinner. In total there were 13 people (Jonathan, his wife, his twin daughters, his 9 week old son, his older brother's family (the brother, wife, son and daughter), his younger brother and wife and me) so it was a helluva time! Everyone was a lot of fun and the food was awesome as well. The younger brother, Christopher, volunteered to take me to my hotel while Jonathan wrangled the majority of the group off to home. Talk about a long day! I played around on the computer then had NO trouble passing out.

The next day I walked about 6 blocks to the subway and headed up to North Station. Weather was a little rainy as I waited to meet up with Jonathan so we could walk a few more blocks over to his office. Figured I would document a little as I waited.

[27] 

We had another productive day in the office, then a really cool part of the trip happened, My mom flew into town! Since we haven't been able to run many races since I've been in Tally, MC and I thought it would be cool to make this a Mother-son trip, in addition to getting work done. I met up with her at the hotel and we relaxed a little then took a cab over to the Prudential Center. Much to Lauren's chagrin, we decided to eat at P.F. Chang's (eek, a chain!?) since I had never eaten there before. The food was very good, even if it wasn't local ;-) We wandered around and snagged some postcards and stumbled upon the Christian Science Center. It was impressive and even included a pool that would be a frickin' AWESOME winching spot!

[28] 

After we picked up a few things from the store we walked a few blocks back to the hotel and packed it in early.

Got up and headed to the office early the next day to try to get things wrapped up a little earlier so mom and I could hang out. Mom hit the exercise room at the hotel then got to do some shopping while I was getting things together. I had a pretty productive day and we actually wrapped up about everything that we really needed to get done. I have TONS to do, which was pretty much my goal. I learned a lot and I have a feeling that trend is going to continue throughout all this research. I'm just stoked to have some research that I am actually really interested in. Jonathan and I are both really motivated to start churning out some papers on this work so I think it is going to be a really productive second half of the year for me. Yay! I met up with mom and we headed down to the waterfront to hang out a little bit before our Tall Ships tour. Ate at a little place right outside the aquarium and perused some souvenirs before heading over to the dock to board our ship. I didn't bring a camera to Boston because I didn't think there would be much to take pictures of, but I wish I had because the low light of a cloudy day doesn't jibe well with a cell phone camera. Oh well, you can still get the gist of what we were seeing. Saw lots of really cool ships, and even got to see the Constitution from the water. Here's a smattering of the ones that turned out decently.

[29] [s320x240] [30] [s320x240]
[31] [s320x240] [32] [s320x240]
[33] [s320x240] [34] [s320x240]

After the tour we went to an Irish pub that wasn't too far away for a few pints. Then it was time to catch a cab back to the hotel and pack it in for the night.

Since I had pretty much wrapped up the work I needed to do with Jonathan the day before, mom and I had the morning to mosey around and see a little of the city and do some shopping. Nothing fancy, but it was fun hanging out.

[35] 

After we wrapped up the little bit of shopping we wanted to do, Mom and I snagged our bags from the hotel then met up with Jonathan at Grotto for a super yummy lunch. We bid Jonathan farewell and caught a cab to the airport. Mom and I were on the same flight to Charlotte, then went our separate ways to catch our flights home. Luckily the weather was pretty nice and the view from the plane was cool.

[36] 

Both our flights both made it home safely, and this time I had about 22 hours before I was going to be traveling again. :-)

Friday I picked MC up from work and we headed straight to the airport to fly up to Bristol. The main reason for the trip was a really fun 8k race that goes on in Kingsport (like 20 mins from Bristol) every year. It is a night race (starts at 9:58 PM) and is through neighborhoods with tons of people cheering you on. So MC and I got in and just took it easy at home before hitting the sack.

I was still having some trouble with my ankle that I had sprained the previous weekend, but I was going to do a short test run in the morning to see how it held up. Unfortunately, it was bothering me a decent amount just running to the end of the driveway so 5 miles was out of the question :-(It was the first year that mom and I had registered as a mother-son team, but I guess we'll have to wait to completely own people until next year ;-) Mom and MC were still fit so I just planned on joining Dad in the cheer squad. We ran some errands during the day and decided to let MC experience her first horseshow. Mosley was riding Lauren's horse, Blinkie, in the show and mom had never seen her show him so we thought that would be a cool experience. On my second try I got a pretty cool picture, with my cell phone no less!!

[37] 

We had dinner at Machiavelli's then relaxed at home until it was time to head to Kingsport for the race. Unfortunately, we weren't thinking and I didn't get to snag a picture our racing women together, but I did get a quick pic of MC ready to race!

[38] 

It was definitely weird for her to run a race so late, but they both did awesome! Hard to believe only a matter of months ago MC could barely run a half mile without walking. She's come a long way! :-) Hung out for a little bit once we got home, then hit the sack.

Sunday we got a morning wakeboarding session in, even if the weather was looking a little rainy. I was stoked that I landed another wake-to-wake backside 180, then landed one with a grab! Wakeboarding probably isn't the best rehab for my ankle, but who knows when I'll be back in Bristol so I gotta get riding in while I can! Dad got in a little set and MC decided to sit this one out since she was having some aches and pains from the race the night before. We had a nice lunch out on the porch then got things together so we could head to the airport. It was weird still being in Bristol at 3pm on Sunday! The airport was jammed and apparently hadn't heard of A/C so the security line was a pain. Once we got through that we got to Atlanta ok and had a 1.5 hour layover, which is about perfect since we had time to grab food and make it to the gate plenty early but not so long you feel like you are in the airport forever. We boarded and seemed to be doing ok time-wise, but then we stopped and the pilot informed us that we were 22 in line for take-off. Oh Atlanta how I loathe you!!!

[39] 

We still got in not too late, but the whole experience going to Boston (where I flew US Air instead of Delta and therefore went through Charlotte instead of Atlanta) was much nicer and smoother. I'll definitely be looking at US Air first in the future. Anyhoo, we went straight to the grocery store, got supplied for the week then spent the evening unwinding/preparing for the week ahead. Luckily I have until friday before I travel again! I'll definitely enjoy having a few days of just being at home (who'd have thought I'd ever say that!?), and now that I've finished this enormous post I'm going to see what else I can take care of on my chores list. Kudos to anyone who actually made it through all this. Hopefully the plethora of pictures helped keep you entertained and split it up over a few session as to not overtax your eyes. ;-)

1. http://www.wakeboard.com.sg/index.php?showtopic=124
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009pxqa/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009q902/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009rasg/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/0009shzw/
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22. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chromatin
23. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nucleosome
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25. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noncoding_DNA
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38. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000atk54/
39. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000aw96q/

(2009-07-13 18:09:19)
AWESOME!!! I just relived the last few weeks. Thanks for inviting me to Boston.. I loved it!! :-)

(2009-07-14 00:20:55)
Awesome encyclopedic post. Feel like I was there. Dad

lfincher (2009-07-24 23:39:01)
blinky spells his name with a Y!!

11.7.3 (2009-07-15 12:26)

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[1]Sender: Fishel and James  Sender: Fishel and James
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ax57t/

11.7.4 So Amazon can steal books from your Kindle, eh? (2009-07-18 09:06)

http://pogue.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/17/some-e-books-are-more-equa l-than-others/

So apparently a Publisher changed their minds about offering an electronic version of a couple books and Amazon remotely deleted it off everyone's Kindle and credited their accounts. WTF? They can just delete books that you BOUGHT at their whim? That's some messed up stuff right there! They do say that this was a rare case and shouldn't happen again, but that they even have the ability to do this is ridiculous. And, apparently, they can not only delete things from your Kindle, but can modify the content. So if you decide to re-read a book, it may have changed since the last time. That's some crazy Big Brother crap right there.

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corazon_leigh (2009-07-18 20:37:31)
I agree! I thought it was funny (scary) that it happened to be 1984!

(2009-07-19 14:40:57)
OMG... that's crazy. Now we need to figure out a way to secure our kindles like we do our networks! ridiculous

supinternets (2009-07-20 13:10:51)
I do not like that one bit! That would steam me so much!!!

11.7.5 (2009-07-22 09:58)

[1]Sender: Mom and Dad Sender: Mom and Dad
From Crystal River, FL

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ayqpp/

11.7.6 (2009-07-22 10:00)

[1]Sender: MC's Mom Sender: MC's Mom
From Yantai, China

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000az0yb/

11.7.7 Kindle Fiasco Followup (2009-07-22 10:01)

My mom sent me [1]this link that describes the Kindle situation a little better. Apparently, it wasn't that the publisher changed its mind, it was that the people that added it to the Kindle catalogue didn't actually have the rights to do so. So, while I disagree with the actual publisher choosing to not release these books for kindle, it IS their choice. That still doesn't make me feel any better about Amazon's ability to delete things off the Kindle. If they shipped me a book that they later found out they weren't supposed to sell, would they break into my house, steal it back, then credit my account?

1. http://mediamemo.allthingsd.com/20090717/amazon-rethinks-its-george-orwell-removal-policy/?mod=ATD_rss

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(2009-07-22 20:13:11)
Bill bought a new kindle.... improved buttons, size etc. He loves it!! and I love mine. Still, it does make you wonder about the control amazon has over the kindles!

11.7.8 Rambo knows how to take it easy (2009-07-22 14:04)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000b0102/

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emcee77 (2009-07-22 20:22:47)
I'm sooooo jealous!

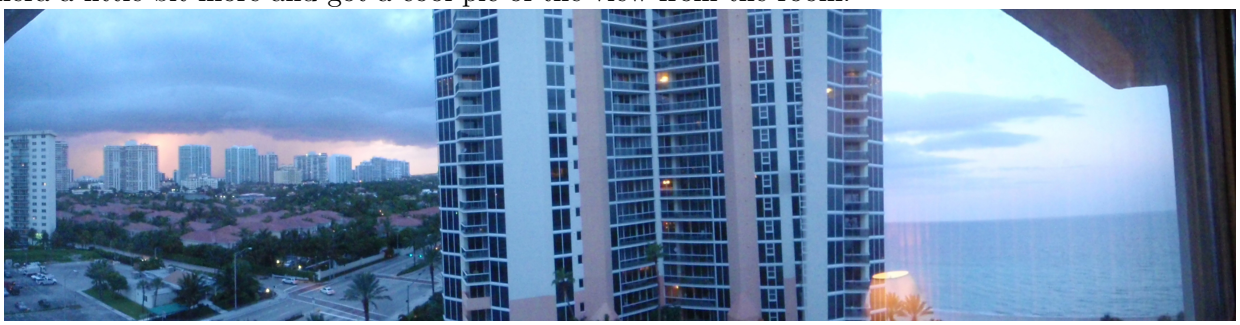
11.7.9 Miami and the Rambo Escapades (2009-07-25 08:26)

So at the end of my last huge post, I had just returned from my Bristol-Tally-Boston-Tally-Bristol trip and was enjoying the fact that I had like 4 whole days until I traveled again. I got some research done during the week, but definitely took it easy and enjoyed not being on the road. Thursday MC and I met up with Derek, Matt, and Lynn for some Karaoke at Bird's (since Matt had been dying to go for while). I usually need a little liquid motivation (read: beer) before I'm much for Karaoke and since we were shooting to leave at like 6 Friday morning, I just enjoyed Matt's performance. While he loves the Karaoke, he would also prefer not to be the sole performer, so I told him that I would come back next week and we could close the place down :-)

So Friday we got up bright and early to head down to Miami. MC and fam were having a family vacation that they let me join in. Nothing too crazy (got a hotel at the beach about 45 minutes from the house), but we had a lot of fun. We first went to MC's house and grabbed gear and food (LOTS of food) and people then headed over the hotel. Luckily we had left early enough that we still had some sunlight left for some swim time, though the reduced light may have made MC more susceptible to getting eaten by a wave ;-)

[1] 

Got back to the hotel room and I decided I wanted to start playing around with the panorama function on my camera a little bit more and got a cool pic of the view from the room.

[2] 

It had been a long day for us so we decided to just have a chill evening at the hotel and crashed fairly early. And by crashed, I mean tried to fall asleep in the oven a room that we were in. The hotel had a problem with their A/C and had just fixed it, but apparently our side of the hotel was still having problems getting started back up because it was definitely roasty. Even MC was so hot she couldn't sleep. After many phone calls and failed promises to fix it, we finally got moved to a new room at about 1 in the morning. Needless to say, our opinion of this hotel was not the highest thus far. Anyhoo, the view turned out to be nicer at the new room. The windows just look odd because of me tilting the camera when I panned, but hopefully you can see there is a lot more beach view to go along with the city view in this one.

[3] 

Since Saturday was our main beach day, we got out fairly early to play in the ocean. After a little swimming we realized there were a decent number of little fish that liked to swim around our feet. It is definitely an odd feeling to keep accidentally kicking fish! Good thing I brought my waterproof camera!

[4] 

While the service wasn't the best (except the first guy who helped us with our luggage. I think he thought our womens were hot because he was offering to get us a rollaway for free and being very helpful), the hotel was a decent little hotel. Here's a beach view.

[5] 

Though there wasn't really much for waves, it was still a lot of fun to just hang out in the water. I made sure to put on lots of sunscreen so my gringo butt wouldn't get fried ;-) A lot of it was just hanging out and trying to catch some of the little fishies, but MC found the time to tear up the water with some of her newly developed swimming skills.

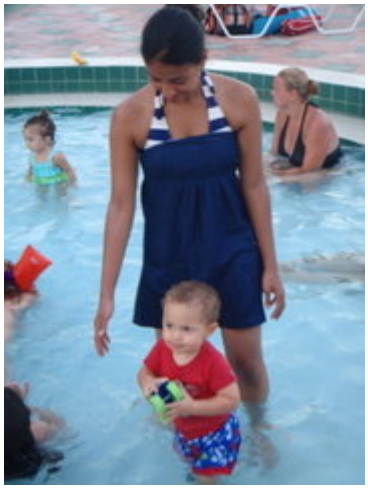
[6][s320x240] [7][s320x240]

And here's most of the crew enjoying some time in the water.



[8]

After a full morning out in the ocean, I took it easy in the room for the afternoon (sunscreen can only do so much!). It turned out that some of MC's friends live not to far away, and MC thinks their son is the cutest thing in the world. So Lisa brought Noel over for a little play date.



[9]

He and MC had a lot of fun playing around in the kiddie pool. Especially when he got a hold of a volley ball that I think he wanted to eat.



[10]

I thought it would be cool to encompass a little more of the scene so I did a 2 shot panorama, which I thought turned out pretty well. Especially because of the craziness in the background that I didn't even notice until I got the pics on my computer. See if you can find it. (you may need to click on it to enlarge)

[11] 

Did you catch it? Did you see the person on the shoulders of the person on the shoulders of the person on the shoulders of the person in the pool? How frickin' nuts is that!? And I didn't notice at all at the time. Anyhoo, we had another pretty relaxing evening. We played Cranium once the regular way, then two times a speedy way that we developed. It was a lot of fun, even if our team barely got nudged out in the 2 out of 3. ;-)

We got a late checkout on sunday so we packed things up and still got to have some beach time. I had noticed from the room, that a little ways farther out than we had been looked a little darker, so I decided to borrow MC's goggles and explore. Note: Swim goggles aren't that great for snorkeling-type activities. I could see better than without the, but the visibility still wasn't great. My favorite pic I got while was out there had some little fishies (maybe Sargent Majors?) that I didn't even see until I got the pics on my computer

[12] 

As always, I had to snag a picture of me and my sweetie too!

[13] 

Then we had a session of trying to get some underwater pics of MC with her brother and cousin, and this was the one that turned out the best.

[14] 

Then we got an above-water picture once her sister and other cousin joined in

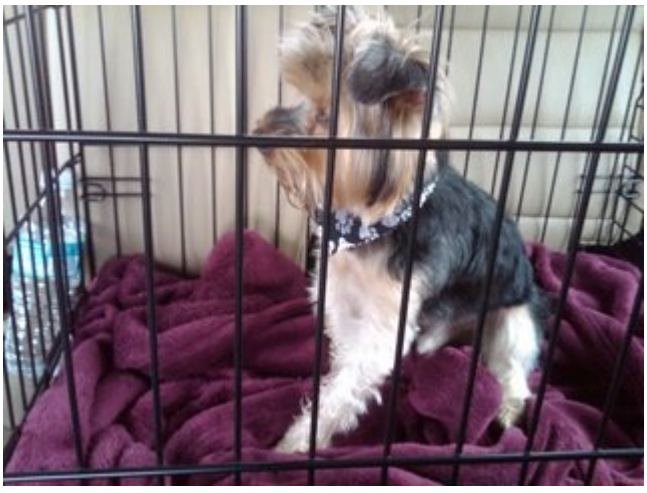
[15] 

When Julie's boyfriend Richard joined us, he brought out some noodles (as you can see with Julie and Kary above) and we started getting a little creative. According to Mikey, it actually worked semi-decently as a snorkel!

[16] 

After we finished playing at the beach, we got everything settled with the hotel, packed up the cars, then headed out. Mikey, MC, Kary and I went to the mall while the rest of the crew went straight back home. We had to stop by the Mac store (the makeup place) so she could get the free lip gloss she had been waiting months for and we snagged some food while we were there. Went back to MC's house where we mostly took it easy while Mikey and I played the bejesus out of some Rock Band: Metallica. Good times!

Woke up bright and early and packed everything up, including Rambo! That's right, MC's little fella was going to join us in Tallahassee! He doesn't do well on car rides, so we gave him a sedative, loaded him in his crate, and hit the road.

[17] 

I don't know what kind of "sedative" the vet gave us, but I have a sneaking suspicion that it was just a sugar pill because it seemed to do nothing. After about an hour, we gave him the little extra the vet said we could if we needed to, and it still seemed to have virtually no effect. He was still barking like crazy. Luckily after about 4 or 5 hours, he started calming down and the second half of the drive he was actually quiet most of the time. We got him settled in the new place, and it didn't take him too long to make himself comfortable.

[18] 

I know I posted that pic already, but figured I would post it again with more context :-) He's gradually been getting used the place, and we've gradually been trying to break him of some bad habits. Since I'm home a lot, we hang out a good deal and he makes a nice little work-from-home companion. He can also have a lot of fun playing with those toys of his!

So anyhoo, I managed to get some research done this week, which was handy because Jonathan, the professor I will be working with in the fall, is here for the week to try to get things settled for the move. Had a couple meetings to solidify things with the work I will be doing over the next few weeks and caught Gary up on some of the stuff we did while I was in Boston.

Thursday I kept my promise to Matt and we headed out to Karaoke at Bird's. Derek joined us (though he wouldn't participate :-P), and we had a lot of fun. Sang some good songs (we had made a few requests for songs last week and he actually got all but one).

Friday I took it easy, picked up MC and had lunch at New Leaf then watched Clerks 2 (yes, I had never seen it). MC got back from work early and we got to hang out a little bit before dinner. We met up with Jonathan at Pitaria then we headed over to Brew and Bean for a few beers and to hear my buddy Austin play a set. Live music is always fun, especially when it's someone you know!

[19] 

Everyone had a lot of fun and it was cool hanging out with Jonathan and letting him meet MC. I think we are gonna have a lot of fun, inside and outside the lab, when he gets down here. Dropped him off at his hotel, then came back to the apartment to crash not too long afterwards.

Currently, MC is off running 8 miles with Julia (the half marathon training continues!) while hang out, blog, and try to keep Rambo from leaving his excretions where they don't belong (something he hasn't quite fully grasped the concept of). Speaking of Ramboni (or Ramalamadingdong as I sometimes call him), it turns out that he will actually be going back home to Miami this weekend. It was a lot of fun to have him visit, but he is missed at home and MC and I really weren't quite ready for the responsibility of pet ownership. If you read this you know we travel constantly and that wouldn't be too fair to the little fella. We loved having him up for a little "vacation," but I know he'll be glad to be home. :-)

[20] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000b1ax9/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000b2acx/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000b343c/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000b4510/
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20. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bh780/

(2009-07-26 01:41:37)
I loved the video of Rambo "playing" with his toy.... walking around and growling - hahaha!!! Looks like the weekend in Miami was fun!!!

(2009-07-26 20:33:26)
Man, those fish were fierce. I'm glad my toes are still intact. Loving the vacation pictures. Your underwater phone sure got some decent pics. :P Those pics of Rambo are adorable. You captured his true essence. Btw, I hope you and

MC are practicing. Cranium rematch!!! Kary

emcee77 (2009-08-03 16:36:34)
ohh.. you're so on. too bad one of your teammates is a chicken =P

11.7.10 (2009-07-27 22:09)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bqkgw/

11.7.11 (2009-07-27 22:10)

[1]Sender: MC's Mom Sender: MC's Mom
From Qingdao, China

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000br2h6/

11.7.12 Salmon Burgers! (2009-07-28 17:39)

It has been a while since I had a cooking post. They will start back up, though, as Top Chef starts back up soon so MC and I are reinstating our cooking for Top Chef night. I mean, it is HARD to watch them make all that yummy food without eating something yummy ourselves! :-) As you can see from the title, this exploration was salmon burgers! As one should begin all good cooking endeavors, we laid out all the ingredients and the recipe before starting.

[1] 

We didn't think about asking the Publix people if they could remove the skin, so MC decided to brave it and fix up my salmon for me.

[2] 

After I prepared the wasabi sauce, I just had to mix the remaining ingredients and form them into patties.

[3] 

MC had cut up the salmon for me and the recipe asked for 1/4 inch cubes. As you can imagine, trying to pack cubes of fish into a patty is a bit tricky. It said they wouldn't hold together very well until we started cooking them. They were right, but it was still pretty tricky to keep them together. Two turned into "loose" patties, but I think cook times that were a little low were definitely a contributing factor.

[4] 

We paired it with some some steamed asparagus, and I must say it turned out to be a pretty scrumptious meal!

[5] 

This was also a cool night for cooking because we got to try out the kitchen computer that I set up for MC for the first time! I just got a new monitor for my computer not that long ago, so I had a 19" LCD available and I had an old computer that I had fairly recently gotten from home. The only thing I had to get was a keyboard/mouse (actually found a completely washable/waterproof one online that was an open box item and on sale) and a new wireless adapter (old one wasn't WPA-capable) and we were set!

[6] 

Since the first recipe we tried was actually from a book, I scanned it first and put it on the computer. I haven't figured out the best way to keep things organized as of yet. Right now we'll just have bookmarks for online sites and images for the scanned recipes, but I would like to set it up where it would be easy to include notes about how it was, things we need to do differently next time, etc. I'm thinking there's probably an open source recipe program that I could find. Any suggestions? Either way, it should be handy!

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bshk6/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bt6fs/`
3. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bw7y3/`
4. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bxdzr/`
5. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000by2ws/`
6. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000bz78k/`

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emcee77 (2009-07-29 00:45:43)
Love! You forgot to mention the nice Pinot Grigio that accompanied our meal. Thanks Lauren!

angelwings (2009-07-29 12:56:11)
I have been having the same problems. I use a combination of allrecipes.com and a print out recipe book I have made. If you find something please please let me know. That would be a godsend!

lfincher (2009-07-30 17:10:33)
yay!! i was going to ask how the wine was! also- that's weird it said to cube the salmon! i've made salmon burgers before in the food processor then it works more like ground beef? still looks delicious!! congrats on success :)

mamafinch (2009-08-04 20:51:20)
I'm so impressed with your and MC's culinary skills. That's awesome that you both enjoy cooking. and I LOVE the computer set up in the kitchen!!

11.7.13 (2009-07-28 18:04)

[1]Sender: Judy and Bill Sender: Judy and Bill

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c095p/

11.8 August

11.8.1 (2009-08-06 23:36)

[1]Sender: My Cousin Erin Sender: My Cousin Erin

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c144d/

11.8.2 (2009-08-06 23:36)

[1]Sender: Mom Sender: Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c226y/

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mamafinch (2009-08-10 12:54:16)
I forgot to tell you that is the mountain Lynne sees from her neighborhood!

11.8.3 Another jam packed weekend! (2009-08-11 14:43)

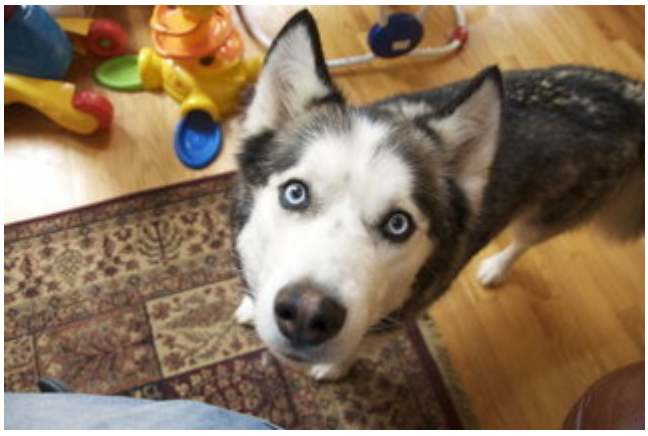
I haven't updated in a bit (other than posting the plethora of postcards we've been receiving), but during the week there really isn't much for me to post. After taking a little break from our travels, last weekend we jumped back into it with vigor! MC's uncle was getting married in Charlotte, so I talked to Bobby and Erin in the hopes that we could visit and they could finally meet MC! They were actually going to be around so it worked out perfectly. I was instructed to take many many pictures while I was there (mostly of 10 month old Emma) so be prepared for a photo-intensive post! :-)

MC took off work on friday and we left in the morning to head to Sherrills Ford (north of Charlotte, where Bobby and Erin live). We got there around dinner time and went to Joel's (a yummy sushi place that we go about every time I get to visit the Fertigs) with Bobby, Erin, and Emma. As always, it was a super scrumptious meal and MC got to meet and chat with them for a bit. After dinner I took MC to the hotel where her family was staying, dropped her off, then headed back to Bobby and Erin's house.

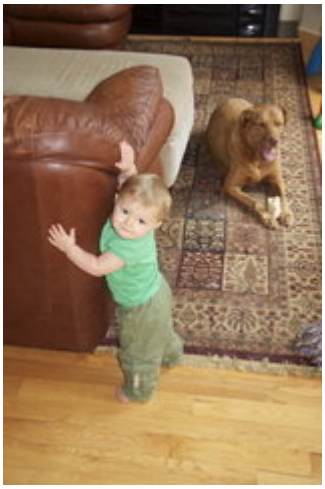
Woke up saturday and had breakfast at a cool little place down the road (had my first hamburger omelet. Yummy!) then hung out at the Fertig house for a while. Since it was the first time I had visited them since I got my D90, I also tried to get at least one good snapshot of every doggie as well. The first puppy dog that I got a snap of was Roxy.

[1] 

I wanted to get some pictures of the dogs while they were relaxing/lying down, but every time I squatted down to take a picture they saw that I was on their level and got up to say hi. Very friendly dogs, but not the easiest to get pictures of! :-) So I had to improvise a little, especially with Tala.

[2] 

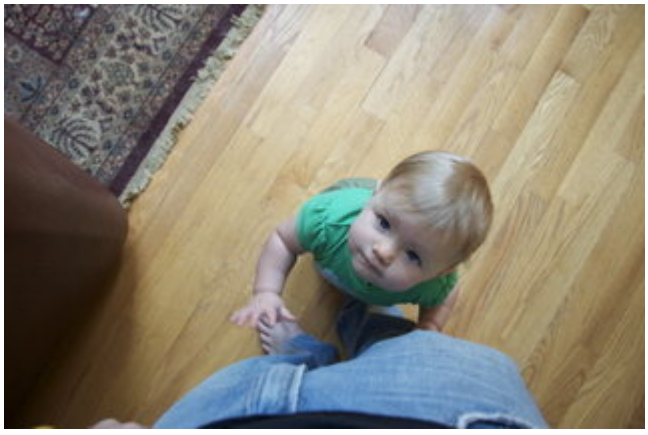
Then I transitioned to Emma with a shot of her and Rusty.

[3] 

Luckily, Emma is a little better at posting, though she tends to be easily distracted. So there were lots of opportunities where she was smiling and laughing, but the camera got her attention and she got inquisitive. :-)

[4] 

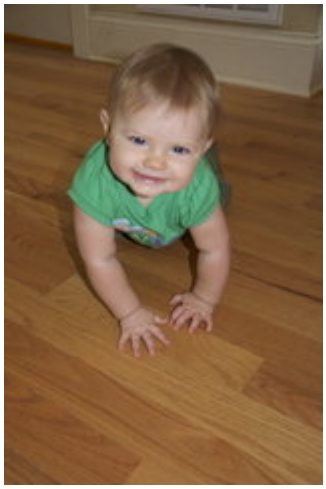
And she was always interested in what Uncle Fincher was doing with that thing on his face...

[5] 

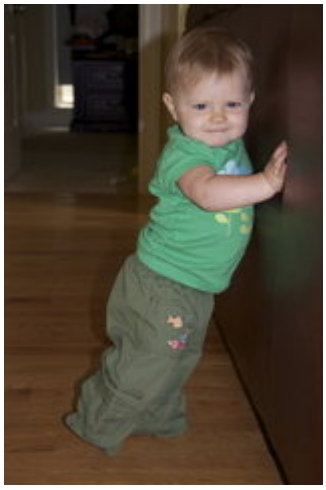
even when daddy was being a goofball...

[6] 

or daddy and mommy were out of the room and she decided she was gonna come get me!

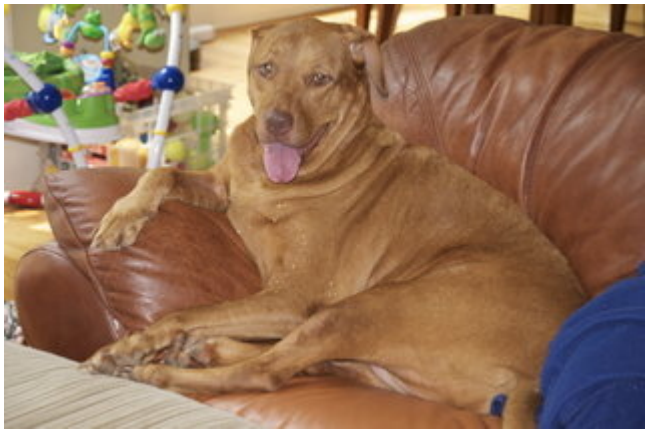
[7] 

Even at 10 months, she's taken a few steps and getting more steady on her feet. She can get around pretty well while holding on to things, but she will still stop to pose for the camera :-)

[8] 

As you can imagine, she has plenty of toys to play with as well.

Also lucky that Rusty knows how to stay cool under pressure, even with the other dogs and a baby running around.

[9] 

While there are plenty of entertaining things to do at the house, sometimes it is good to get outside. This calls for a trip to the playground!!! Also found out that taking a picture of a kid on a swing can turn out to be a challenging endeavor so why not start out with a little video :-) For some reason this video doesn't want to embed correctly in the preview, but hopefully it shows up ok.

Then I snapped some pics too. Surprisingly they came out pretty well!

[10][s320x240] [11][s320x240]

From the swings we moved over to the jungle gym where Emma could check out the slide and the drawbridge.

[12][s320x240] [13][s320x240]

With some coaxing, we even got her to do a little boogie on the bridge!

After play/picture time, we hung out a little bit and then it was time for me to head over to the hotel to get ready for the wedding. MC was actually going to officiate the ceremony, so she was busy/nervous. We grabbed some food then started getting ready in the room with her mom, aunt and uncle. As it was a wedding, we had yet another chance to get all dolled up!

[14] 

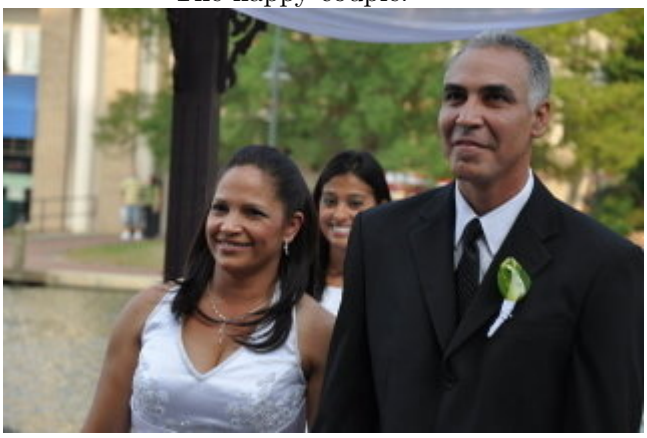
I wish I had taken more pictures around the hotel because there was an interesting crowd wandering around. It turned out that there was a wrestling convention in the hotel the same weekend. I saw people walking around with folding chairs and title belts and all sorts of stuff. Very entertaining. Right before the ceremony, MC's mom actually got an autograph from an old school wrestler, Mr. Wonderful!

[15] 

It was a pretty little venue right out back from the hotel. It was entertaining how many people were running around them with cameras (just audience members, not the main photographer) and how in the way the photographer didn't mind being. Luckily I was still able to get a good snap of my beautiful girlfriend officiating like a pro!

[16] 

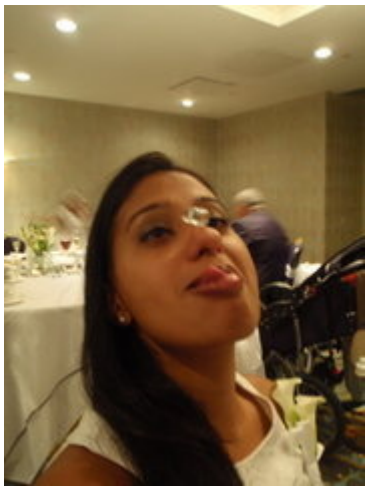
The happy couple!

[17] 

Apparently, her uncle works with computers so he had a groom's cake that I was especially fond of ;-)

[18] 

Even at a wedding, my sweetie never ceases to be a goofball (though it was probably accentuated by being done with her officiating duties). Here she is trying to touch the glass heart on her nose with her tongue.

[19] 

That picture was especially funny because she totally got busted by the bride and groom. She thought they were busy setting up for the cake cutting, but that were actually watching her pose for silly pictures. After that, they actually did cut the cake though. ;-)

[20] 

Later they had a funny take on the whole "throwing the garter" tradition. They blindfolded the guy while his girlfriend was on the seat ready to have him put the garter on her. Then, after they were sure he couldn't see,

the groom switched places with the girl so he would try to put it on him, all while the crowd was chanting "with your teeth" in Spanish.

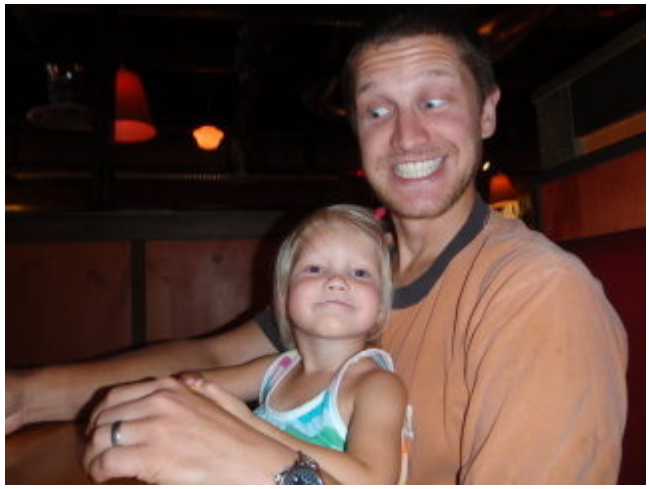
[21] 

Speaking of Spanish, it was kinda funny because, at one of the last weddings we were at, MC randomly turned to me and said "I just noticed that I'm the only brown person here." This time the roles were reversed and part-way through the reception she said "I just noticed that you are the only white person here." It was pretty funny. There was definitely a lot of Spanish floating around. I'm gonna have to be better about my practicing!! Anyhoo, we had a lot of fun dancing and such (even if it was pretty toasty in there) and after things started winding down we packed up, said our goodbyes, and headed back to Bobby and Erin's. They were actually awake so we chatted and hung out a little before hitting the sack.

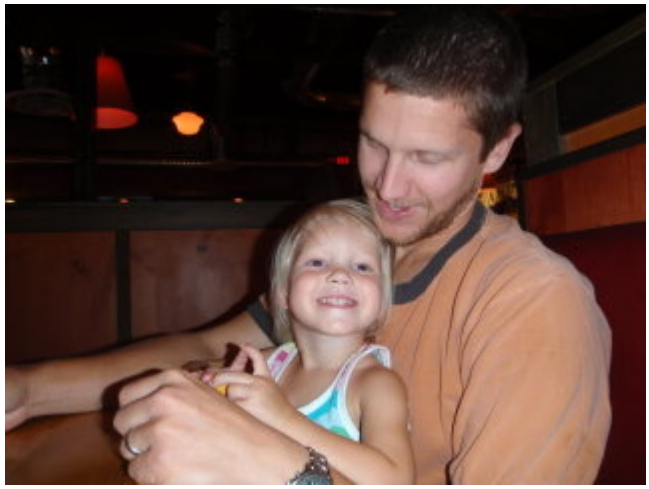
On the way to Sherrills Ford, I started thinking about the route and where we were going and I asked MC to mapquest a few various routes to compare times. (An aside: Since I have a data plan on my phone, I found out that I can connect it to my laptop and use it as a cellular modem. Unfortunately, the money-grubbing bastards at Verizon charge for this, even though I already pay for an unlimited data plan. I also found out that if you initialize this service, then cancel it, you only pay the prorated amount for however long you used it. So while it is stupid that I have to pay at all, paying a few bucks to have internet on the road during a weekend road trip is definitely not bad AND super snazzy! So MC got to actually have internet during much of our transit this past weekend.) Anyhoo, I found that if we took a different route home that would take us by Charleston it would only add an hour to the trip. And if we got close to Charleston, took the interstate that goes around the city, then continued on, it would only add 30 minutes! So I contacted Mark and Melissa to see if they would be around and for once my travel schedule coordinated with them being home. So MC was nice enough to let me add time to the trip (it WAS a little easier for her since it meant I would stop bugging her about how she has to meet Mark and Melissa soon) and we met up with the Macpherson clan at a little barbecue place that was pretty much right on our "add 30 minutes" route. I was super excited to see little Morgan, since I've seen pics of how much she's grown since I last saw her, and little Miles, who was only born like 11 weeks ago so I still hadn't met the little fella! Miles was pretty sacked out most of lunch, but he did wake up occasionally to check things out.

[22] 

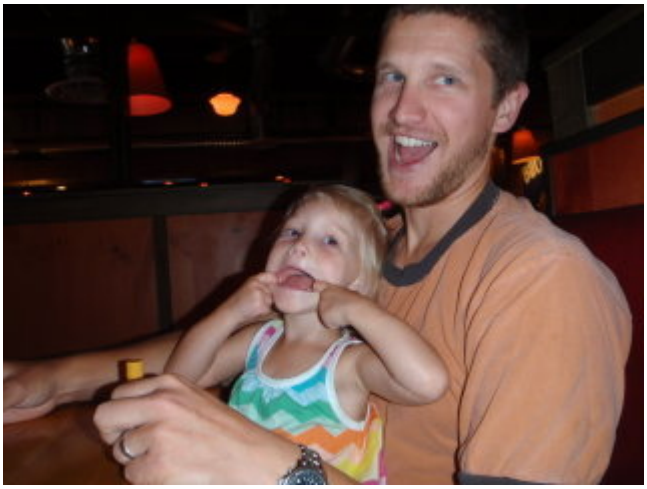
I had to get pics of little Morgan and her papa too! Morgan didn't want to give me a big smile at first, even though her goofy daddy was trying to provide a good example.

[23] 

After a little more demonstration from dad, she finally gave me the big smile I was looking for!

[24] 

And even followed it up with some goofy face!

[25] 

Then she ”helped” Miles get ready to head out by lovingly placing some stickers on his cheek. Gotta decorate the baby like a good older sister!

[26] 

It was about time to head out and mommy supervised her downing the rest of her yummy drink (which fueled her to give me a farewell high-five to me and fist-bump to Auntie MC!)

[27] 

All-in-all it was an amazing weekend! MC got to meet some of my closest friend (pretty much extended family) that I had been talking about for a while. I got to see the more grown versions of Emma and Morgan and a brand new little Miles! I was really stoked to be able to last-minute squeeze in the pass by Charleston.

Got to hang out with more of MC's fam and celebrate her uncle's marriage and all that was packed into a single weekend! While I don't mind driving, I definitely don't mind that we have a few weeks before I have to go on any road trips (who woulda thought that'd come from me!?). Hopefully it won't be so long before I see all the little ones again and I look forward to more little ones being on the way! Now I guess I should actually try to be a little productive at some point today, though I DID produce this massive blog post ;-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c3ahs/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c4fy5/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c5by1/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c6ggy/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c7d56/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c8chx/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000c958b/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000caa6x/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000cbw29/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ccx2z/
11. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000cdrp8/
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000cedbb/
13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000cfhqw/
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26. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d0p7w/
27. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d1ryy/

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mamafinch (2009-08-11 20:25:30)
OMG!! the babies are all sooo cute!! I'm so glad MC got to meet the Fertigs and Mcphersons, some of our all time favorites!! I miss them! Tell MC we are proud of her officating!! I bet you looked like the prom picture with you in white.... remember that?? haha

emcee77 (2009-08-13 15:53:35)
Thanks Mrs. F! It was a pretty cool experience!

lfincher (2009-08-12 17:11:27)
OMG! cutie patooties!!!!!

11.8.4 Shorter than usual (2009-08-23 13:36)

I guess after that last superpost, I needed a little break. ;-) That and there really has been that much to report. We haven't been traveling and have just been sorta taking it easy, working, and getting ready for

the semester to start.

Last weekend Bopper and Brandon came to visit, which was a lot of fun. They got in late thursday night and stayed until sunday morning. It was a lot of fun seeing them and partying with them, though, for some reason, I took like no pictures! I am usually good about that, but not this time. Some of the only pics I got were of the brownies that Bopper and MC made for Matt and of some of the aftermath of people hanging out at our place.

[1][s320x240] [2][s320x240]

Friday and Saturday nights we had people over. We played a little Guitar Hero Metallica, but mostly played Buzz Trivia. Buzz turned out to be an awesome game because up to 8 people can have their own buzzer so everyone was involved. I can't think of any other game that more than 4 people can play at once so it was really cool.

We also did some cooking experimentation this week. I combined a recipe for [3]roasted bell peppers from Publix and one for [4]chicken with tomatillo sauce from cooking light, then added some southwestern corn to make the meal. The peppers were super simple and good, but was definitely overshadowed by how frickin' amazing the tomatillo sauce was. It was my first time using them and I was definitely super pleased with the results.

[5] 

If you clicked on the roasted pepper link, you were taken to a new site that my sister found that MC and I are trying out for recipe organization. It is called WeGottaEat. It has a pretty nice interface, though automatic import and automatic recipe division would be handy features. We are going to try it for a little while and see how it goes.

Well, off to run a couple errands before seeing a movie and working on this To Do list that seems ever growing! I can't believe school starts back up tomorrow! All the babies are back in town. ;-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d2c6k/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d3hwd/
3. http://wegottaeat.com/justinandmaricruz/recipes/garlic-roasted-peppers
4. http://find.myrecipes.com/recipes/recipefinder.dyn?action=displayRecipe&recipe_id=1891947
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d4hr7/

emcee77 (2009-08-24 19:00:58) yum
I love your tomatillo sauce almost as much as I love you. .. And that's a lot buddy. =P

fincher69 (2009-08-25 03:22:39) Re: yum
Haha, it WAS quite scrumptious, huh?

mamafinch (2009-08-25 20:22:49)
Yummy! Ok, my two children grow up to be super cooks and I'm left in Bristol to look at the pictures! How fair is that? I'm very impressed with both of you! ;-)

mamafinch (2009-08-26 00:30:26)
I liked the picture of the beer bottles. Well done! Dad

11.8.5 (2009-08-24 17:08)

[1]Sender: Judy and Bill Sender: Judy and Bill

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d5tzk/

11.8.6 Postcard Map!!! (2009-08-24 19:06)

While I've been posting the postcards I receive on my blog, I've been looking around for a more visual way to do it. I was reading around and found out that Google Maps has a great way to keep places organized. I went through and added all the postcards that I had put on my blog so now I have a cool visualization of the origins of all my postcards. How snazzy is that?! Check it out by clicking [1]RIGHT HERE!!

1. http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=108095819798802900051.000471e9c3ea9277eaeb1&ll=18.479609,-86.835937&spn=105.291063,162.597656&z=3&iwloc=000471eb0d7c7b818bef9

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emcee77 (2009-08-25 13:24:59)
super snazzy!

mamafinch (2009-08-25 20:20:05)
that is sooo snazzy!!! I wish I was an original stock holder in Google :-)

11.8.7 And the rehab begins... (2009-08-31 11:47)

So I mentioned before that I sprained my ankle over 4th of July weekend. It is still acting up some and not fully recovered, but I've pretty much kept off of it as much as possible (i.e. sat around getting fat) since that weekend. Well I've decided that it feels close enough to good that I'm going to start getting back into my workout. Since it is the start of a new semester, it is the start of a new schedule and, as such, a perfect time to concoct a new workout schedule! It really isn't that different, but below is my game plan for the semester.

I started up today with Mondays workout and it went pretty well. Hopefully my ankle won't flare up and bother me later. One thing I am apparently going to have to do differently is get to school a little earlier. If I get there a little after 9 I have to park about a 15 minute walk from the gym, 20 minutes from my building. Not that it is horrible to walk that far, but when it is 90 degrees outside and you have a bookbag and a gym bag, I don't mind parking close :-) I guess I'll start seeing earlier mornings soon!

Monday
chest press
shoulder press
fly machine
tricep exercise
hamstring curl
multihip machine
abs
bike or run

Tuesday
bike or swim

Wednesday
lat pull
dead lift
shrugs
seated row
bicep curl
leg press
calf raise
smith lunge
bike or run

Thursday
bike or swim

Then Friday-Sunday will be free days where I will try to be active, but will not have any pre-scheduled activities. I figure that's the easiest way to accommodate travels, 5ks, and such. So no matter what I should get 4 solid workout days in a week, which will hopefully not be impeded by injury and will help me burn this newly acquired insulation I am currently lugging around. We'll see how it goes!

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ext_180187 (2009-08-31 16:31:52)
Ugh, I totally feel you with the injury. I started back too soon last week, and now my knee is down for the count again. Good luck with your semester! - Lynn

fincher69 (2009-08-31 18:55:58)
Boo to injuries indeed. I'm always amazed how slowly sprains heal. Did you ever get your knee checked out? I hope it calms down for you!

mamafinch (2009-08-31 18:27:07)
Way to go... be easy on your ankle. I hope things go well!! :-) Sounds like a good plan you've made.

fincher69 (2009-08-31 18:56:21)
Hope so too :-) Thanks!

11.9 September

11.9.1 Looks like someone forgot to log in to the ATM (2009-09-04 10:45)

[1] 

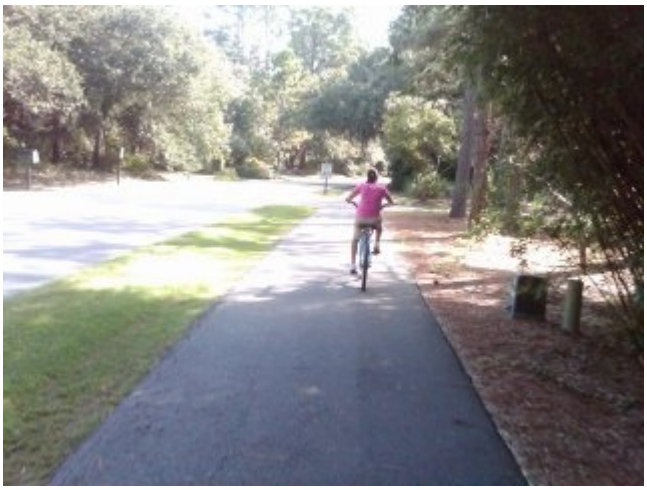
1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d6h27/

11.9.2 Not a bad view to wake up to (2009-09-05 07:23)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d74gt/

11.9.3 Riding bikes to brunch (2009-09-05 11:49)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d86sr/

11.9.4 Helicopter bringing some people to the lake! (2009-09-06 14:03)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000d96sf/

11.9.5 Going for a morning run at Steele Creek (2009-09-07 09:09)


[1]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000da391/

11.9.6 Rehab is going well so far (2009-09-09 11:09)

So last week was my first activity week and I actually stuck with it pretty well. My muscles talked to me a little bit, but my ankle seemed to hold up and not really bother me at all, which is really exciting. And the workout extended into a fun weekend as well so let's hope this will help jumpstart some weight loss! As you might have noticed, I've started trying to pick up on sending some random blurbs to my blog from my cell phone, but we will see how long I actually keep it up. It helped that I had a good number of things that I encountered that I felt like sharing. :-) Ok, so here's a weekly breakdown.

Monday I did the lifting I had previously mentioned, then did 1 mile on the treadmill and 20 minutes on the stationary bike.

Tuesday I swam, but ended up only doing 1500 meters because I was a) out of shape and b) sore from lifting the day before.

Wednesday I did similar to monday, but only did 15 minutes on the stationary bike. To help me rebuild my muscles, MC cooked a chicken with blueberry sauce with a side of barley (I believe). She wasn't that big of a fan, but I thought it was really good! I really like trying things that you wouldn't typically think to pair.

Thursday I ended up adding a little lifting (hamstring curl, leg press and calf raise) then did about 28 minutes on the stationary bike.

Friday we left early afternoon to head to Hilton Head. Had a super yummy dinner at the Crazy Crab and even got a little lesson on shucking oysters! We were pretty beat once we got to the condo, so we pretty much watched some TV and hit the sack early.

Saturday I got up bright and early to take the Disco to go get serviced. They gave me a snazzy Range Rover as a loner and I moseyed back to the condo to join MC (I let her sleep in). We grabbed the bikes and rode to Harbor Town and had brunch at the little bakery that was there. I had a breakfast BLT, which was awesome, AND a chocolate filled croissant! We walked around a bit to let the food settle, then

hopped back on the bikes to ride back to the condo. We got everything packed up then decided to go ahead and head towards the Land Rover place since we thought she might be fixed up soon. Got a call once we were most of the way there letting us know things were taking a little longer so we kinda moseyed around to burn some time and eventually found our way into a sports bar. Like, one of the most sports oriented sports bars I've ever been to. I don't think any two TVs were showing the same game and within the first minute of being there we had two people ask us what game we were looking for. Food was good and it was a good place to just burn a little time. We then went and picked up the Disco and hit the road to bristol! Mom and dad had some pizza waiting for us and then we just sorta wound down and relaxed.

Sunday we got to fit in the first wakeboard session and I was really stoked that my ankle didn't seem to bother me at all. It is still not a 100 %, but it is definitely not too far off. What WAS far off was how in shape I was to go wakeboarding! Taking a couple of months off can really hurt you. It was also cool because we realized that our neighbors had never actually come out on the boat with us when I rode so they joined and I got to try to give them a little show. You know me, always like to have an audience ;-) As far as I remember, the rest of sunday was pretty lazy and relaxing. Lauren came into town in the evening and fixed us all a super yummy dinner including pork with bleu cheese, green beans, and potatoes and it was all very good. Even got to try some Spanish wine to complement everything (since Lauren and Dad are heading to Spain in a couple of weeks). After that it was digesting and relaxing time until it was time to crash.

Woke up early on monday to head to Steele Creek (a local park) for a morning run. MC, Lauren and I are all coming off injuries, so it was pretty casual and the weather was about perfect. (as you can see in one of the previous pictures). It was a nice way to start the day, even if Dad and I were paying some dues from wakeboarding the previous day. We weren't sure how the weather was going to hold up, so dad and I went out to the lake to catch another session and only got rained on a little bit. ;-) Definitely sealed that moving will not be the easiest of tasks in the near future. We had a lot of activity for a "lazy" holiday weekend! Went back to the house, hung out, regouped, then we all went out to the lake. Just stayed at the house and grilled out before heading back to the house to wind down for the night. Got home just in time to watch the FSU-Miami game. MC and I watched most of it, though I will admit I kinda started dozing off with around 8 minutes to go. Before I started getting sleepy I thought we pretty much had it in the bag, but I came to near the end to see the final seconds of our loss count away. I still blame it on the FSU girl that was on national television doing the gator chomp. Geesh.

So yesterday (tuesday) we got up, got everything together, and hit the road back to Tally. It was nice to have the BMW back (especially every time I stopped at the gas pump). MC finally finished reading 1984 and (with mom's awesome suggestion) we burned some hours playing quizzes at [1]Sporcle. All-in-all it really wasn't that bad of a drive, though with every single muscle in my body being extremely unhappy with me, it was nice to finally be home and relax.

Today I'm doing my typical friday stuff (running errands, things around the house) and trying to fit in some research. I'm planning on some long days tomorrow and friday to try to catch up from not getting anything done over the weekend. Here's hoping it goes well!

Oh, and this post is picture-lacking partially because I already posted pics and also because it was super overcast all weekend so I didn't take a single picture. Hopefully I will be more lively next time. :-)

* EDIT **
Per MC's reminder, we DID watch some family videos on one of the evenings so she got to see a glimpse of little Fincher and fam. Among these videos was one of our favorite clips...

1. http://www.sporcle.com/

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emcee77 (2009-09-09 18:46:45)
Hey! You forgot the part about watching videos of when you were a little Fincher! I think you should edit your post to include the link to one of your family's favorite moments caputured on video. Just sayin....

mamafinch (2009-09-09 20:54:51)
I loved having you here this weekend... what a great post!!! :-)

11.9.7 Taking pics of blimps while driving is hard! (2009-09-13 18:53)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000db5dq/

11.9.8 (2009-09-14 09:31)

[1]Sender: Mariette Sender: Mariette

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ddp6k/

11.9.9 (2009-09-14 09:31)

[1]Sender: Paul and Chasity Sender: Paul and Chasity

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dc9fe/

11.9.10 (2009-09-18 00:11)

[1]Sender: Matt and Lynn Sender: Matt and Lynn

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dk0x2/

11.9.11 (2009-09-18 00:12)

[1]Sender: Michelle Sender: Michelle

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000df5hs/

11.9.12 (2009-09-18 00:13)

[1]Sender: Angel Sender: Angel

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dgy9c/

11.9.13 (2009-09-18 00:13)

[1]Sender: Michelle Sender: Michelle

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000deqxf/

11.9.14 (2009-09-18 00:14)

[1]Sender: MC's Mom Sender: MC's Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dhfh4/

11.9.15 Postcards galore! (2009-09-18 00:27)

We've definitely been getting a bunch of them as of late. I'm not going to do a big update, but I thought it would be cool to post my most up-to-date postcard map for anyone who didn't follow the link when I talked about creating it. Pretty cool!!

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dp91k/

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supinternets (2009-09-18 14:49:58)
You have quite the collection now!

11.9.16 Enjoying some music at Rhythm and Roots (2009-09-19 14:06)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dqpgy/

11.9.17 Enjoying a pickin' party (2009-09-19 14:45)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dr1yq/

11.9.18 Enjoying some music in the Paramount (2009-09-19 15:16)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dsb5t/

11.9.19 Stopping to enjoy the view of the Great Smoky Mountains (2009-09-20 11:48)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dt8qd/

11.9.20 (2009-09-24 10:26)

[1]Sender: Adam and Beth Sender: Adam and Beth

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dwck2/

11.9.21 (2009-09-27 17:49)

[1]Sender: Fishel Sender: Fishel

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dxsrs/

11.9.22 Excel in some things to worsen in others (2009-09-27 18:19)

So I've not been a very good blogger as of late. Things have been pretty busy and I've just not taken the time to sit down and actually post something. I HAVE been better about posting pics via my phone though. At least that's something! But because of that, I have fewer pictures to post in this post. Oh well.

So I'll try to keep it fairly brief to catch things up. I am again looking at the Jetta Sportwagon TDi, but now I am looking to trade in the Disco. I think it will be a much better decision. I'm lucky to have had

her for this long with so few problems and she is more likely to break and more expensive to fix. It will be weird not having access to an SUV, but times change :-)

Things have been going well with my research and been keeping me very busy as well! It is really nice to have no classes so I can just focus on my research and hopefully work towards actually getting out of this place!

Last weekend, MC and I flew up to Bristol Friday after work. Hung out with mom for the evening and then we were up early for the Rhythm and Roots 5k (which you can read about at [LJ User: runfincherrun]) It was the first 5k in a long while for MC and me so we were definitely not shooting to break any records. It wasn't a bad run and the only thing that really hurt me was my foot where the shoddy shoes I wore (I left my good ones in Tally) were rubbing a pretty bad blister. MC had some pain, but we didn't think it was anything too major so we were pretty pleased. And I looked around afterwards and found a couple of pictures online! They have big watermark type things on them, but I still figure posting them is better than posting nothing! :-)

[1][s320x240] [2][s320x240]

After we got cleaned up we went to the running store and all three of us got some snazzy new running shoes! Then we went back to Bristol to check out some of the festival (refer to some of the previous pictures I posted). Spent a couple hours there checking out various acts, then went home so I could prepare my cumin chicken with tomatillo sauce for mom and MC! I paired it with the roasted bell peppers and some instant rice and it was pretty darn yummy! It was the first time I had ever cooked for my mom so I was happy that everything turned out well. We had originally planned on going back to the festival to catch some of the big acts (like Patty Loveless), but after the morning run and all the walking around and the filling dinner, we had a lot of inertia that we ended up being unable to overcome. It was still a really nice evening just hanging out with two of my favorite girls! :-)

Sunday we were planning on driving the Disco back, but the battery was dead and so we ended up taking the suburban. Mom got it checked out after we left and it was badly corroded and needed a new battery. This started an ongoing crapfest talking to Land Rover because "clean and service battery" was checked as something that they did on the service two weeks prior. Not bloody likely I tell you!! So I've been talking to them and trying to figure out that mess. Not fun.

Wednesday we decided to do our Top Chef night by having Ian and Caitie over to join us. MC was in charge of the food and she made a pasta casserole that is really good and accompanied it with some garlic bread and some mozzarella with tomato.

[3] 

Ian and Caitie brought an ice cream cake for dessert that was the perfect end to a tasty and filling meal. Aren't Top Chef nights the best!?

So since, after the new battery, the disco was ready to go, mom and I decided to meet in Macon this past friday to trade cars. I dropped off MC at work then headed to Fincher's Barbecue in Macon. Kinda cool to meet up with mom at a Fincher's. It was pretty good barbecue and we made the switch and headed back. So friday was a good amount of driving, but now at least the car situation is fairly settled. We met up with Matt and Lynn for dinner at Cabos, then Beatles Rock Band (AWESOME) and Buzz Trivia before heading back to our place and crashing.

Saturday we started the day with a little walk/jog to start getting back into things then mostly took care of things at home, as far as I remember haha. Met up with Jonathan for dinner at Bahn Thai then made our way to spanish dancing lessons. Even in light of the fact that the place was like 100 degrees, it was cool to refresh our memories of the steps and we had a lot of fun. Needless to say after 2 hours of dancing I was pooped!

Today has been pretty productive getting random things done, but I look forward to a kind of relaxing evening before starting another busy week. Hopefully I can be better about this blogging stuff and I actually start taking some pictures again! :-)

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dy7kc/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000dz9x2/`
3. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e0epy/`

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mamafinch (2009-09-28 00:00:24)
I had an awesome weekend with you and MC! Thanks for cooking a delicious dinner.... you can cook for me anytime! I'm jealous of all the yummy food you guys cook in Tally! :-) I enjoyed running a 5k with you... reminded me of old times.

mamafinch (2009-09-28 00:02:18) p.s.
really stupid pic of me

11.9.23 (2009-09-29 16:52)

[1]Sender: Dad and Lauren Sender: Dad and Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e1yh0/

11.9.24 (2009-09-29 16:52)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e2s42/

11.10 October

11.10.1 Bad things happen when you leave a Sigg in the freezer (2009-10-06 17:21)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e3750/

11.10.2 Quick blurb about X-Men Origins: Wolverine (2009-10-08 12:26)

So we got this on netflix and I watched it this week. I had mostly heard fairly negative things about it, but I also heard not-so-good things about the second and third X-Men movies and I still enjoyed those a lot. So it was pretty much as I expected throughout most of the movie and I enjoyed it just as much as the other X-Men movies. The only thing that perturbed me was the ending.

some spoiler if you haven't seen it yet *

I was never into comics, so I have no idea how much is hollywood and how much is from the actual comics, but the way it ended annoyed me. It wasn't entirely clear whether the shots actually went into his brain, or just jolted his skull from being hit by the bullet, but I'll address both points. Adamantium(sp?) is supposed to be indestructible, yet if you shoot a plate made of it with a bullet made of it it penetrates it? And having a bullet hit your brain and having it grow back will certainly give you full amnesia when your brain grows back? Give me a break. If this were the case, we would have seen two bullet holes in the x-ray of him in the first movie as well. And if it didn't penetrate it, Logan had been shot with frickin' cannons, fallen great heights, and been beat to hell and been ok, but the jolt of a bullet hitting his skull is just right to erase all his memories? I know this is ridiculous fantasy already, but in either scenario it is just too far out there for me.

Other than that, I enjoyed it, but it IS hard to come away enjoying a movie too much with the final scene is such crap. Oh well. I still hope they make some other movies since I enjoy them and never really knew much of the stories through the comics.

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lfincher (2009-10-14 03:06:33)
1) it's a movie. and 2) it's a movie. having your bones replaced by adamantium more probable than amnesia?

fincher69 (2009-10-14 04:07:33)
Um... yes, completely. Given the premise that he has a mutation that causes him to heal extremely quickly, it fits that a technique could be developed to basically plate his bones with a metal and have him heal, resulting in a reinforced skeleton. Under no premise could you know the exact effects of shooting someone in the head, regardless of the rate at which they heal. It's one thing to stretch the bounds of reality in a movie, and it is another to use the premises created in the movie to concoct a faulty conclusion.

11.10.3 My cubicle is finally coming together (2009-10-09 10:22)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e4hz4/

11.10.4 (2009-10-11 18:40)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e676x/

11.10.5 (2009-10-11 18:41)

[1]Sender: MC’s Mom Sender: MC’s Mom

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e759f/

11.10.6 (2009-10-11 18:41)

[1]Sender: Dad and Lauren Sender: Dad and Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e803y/

11.10.7 (2009-10-11 18:42)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ea6r3/

11.10.8 (2009-10-11 18:42)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000e975f/

11.10.9 (2009-10-11 18:43)

[1]Sender: Dad and Lauren Sender: Dad and Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000eb5yf/

11.10.10 (2009-10-11 18:44)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ecbsc/

11.10.11 (2009-10-11 18:44)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ed81c/

11.10.12 (2009-10-11 18:45)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ee059/

11.10.13 Yeah, I'm not really good at updating this... (2009-10-12 12:06)

unless it is posting random pictures or one of the many postcards we received from Spain ;-) Hopefully I will start getting a little bit better, but I've learned not to make any promises. MC and I were actually talking about it this past weekend and we are going to shoot for making at least one post per week (probably

excluding the random pics or postcards). I think that is a pretty good goal. Even if there isn't much exciting to talk about in my life, I'm sure I can find something to at least throw out a little blurb about. We shall see.

So anyhoo, I've probably forgotten most of things that have happened in the past several weeks so I'm just going to do a pretty sparse recap. One of the notable things was the meal we had for Top Chef night this past week. I made [1]Cranberry Almond Chicken with [2]Beet Spinach Salad. Both were recipes from Publix and the chicken was frickin' awesome! It definitely rivaled the [3]cumin chicken with tomatillo sauce that I had mentioned before. Definitely a recipe that I will be making again. Pretty simple and easy too!!

[4] 

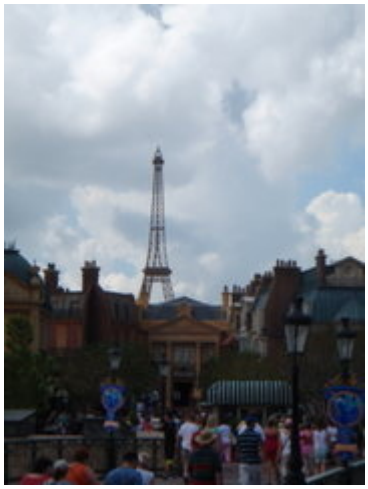
I am sure that there have been plenty of other events going on, but they are escaping me right now, though, as you may have seen in one of the pictures I posted, I finally got my new office machine so I am still hard at work getting that all set up. I can't wait until it is all configured like I need and I can really get kickin' on some research!

So anyhoo, this past weekend was the Food and Wine festival in Orlando. MC, Lynn and Julia had all signed up for the 10k run associated with it even though Lynn and MC had been dealing with some injuries as of late. So Brian, Matt and I joined the womenfolk and made a fun weekend of it! MC and I left early Friday afternoon and met up with some old friends of hers for dinner. There were 4 kids running around and they were a hoot. Extremely entertaining and full of boundless energy! Dinner was wonderful and it was cool to just hang out, chitchat, and watch the kids run around. After dinner we met up with the crew at the hotel and crashed.

Saturday we got up and caught the shuttle over to Epcot. After taking care of a little "ticket misplacement," we entered Epcot and were ready to enjoy the day!

[5][s320x240] [6][s320x240]

We met up with the crew at a small pub (yes, we started our day at a pub) and then moseyed on towards Paris.

[7] 

Enjoyed some good food there then kept on truckin'! Snapped a pic of the girls while Matt and Brian stopped at a non-denominational beer stand.

[8] 

then we moseyed on over to Japan where we saw...

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pagodas,
          [9][s320x240] crazy Japanese candy,[10] [s320x240]
good luck kitty cats (which Julia got one for each of us),[11]
          [s320x240]    and koi ponds.[12] [s320x240]
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We were doing a lot of walking and passed a lot of scenery so I had to try out some panoramas!

[13] 

Most of the afternoon was spent walking between countries and then taking small rest breaks to regroup and continue consuming whatever we recently purchased (as Brian and Julia demonstrate)

[14] 

We did decide to try out one ride. Not exactly sure what the name was, but it involved a boat and I think we had more fun waiting in line than we actually did once we got on the ride.

[15] 

Though a boat ride through the dark did frighten some of us!

[16] 

I was able to snap a couple of pics on the ride, but most didn't come out since I got reprimanded right after this one for using a flash.

[17] 

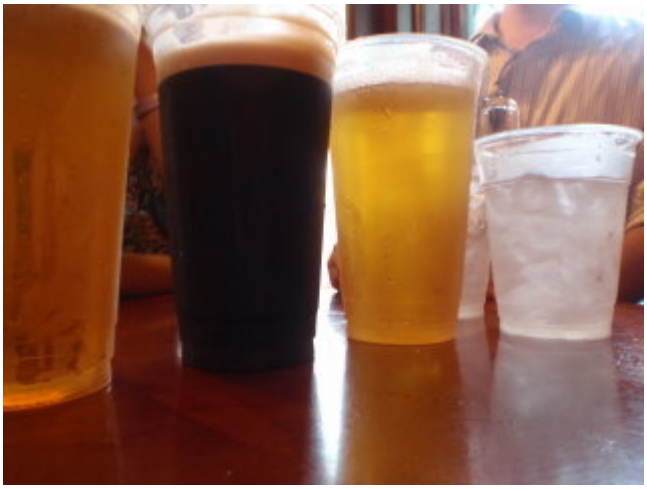
We bolted through the movie portion of the ride and headed over to Mexico for cervesas and margaritas. Some of the local fauna enjoyed watching us eat, drink, spill drinks, and be merry.

[18] 

Even Canada was represented, though last time I was there I really don't remember seeing quite so many totem poles.

[19] 

While it is a simple picture, I think it actually sums up a majority of the afternoon quite nicely :-)

[20] 

We were ready to wind it down a little bit and passed a pretty sunset on the way to the ESPN restaurant for dinner.

[21] 

We initially thought we would stay there until the Florida game, but after dinner we were all winding down pretty fast after a long day and decided to pack it on back to the hotel. Most of us ended up being asleep by about 9, which is the earliest MC and I have gone to bed in probably years.

The girls got up ridiculously early to head over to the race, while the boys decided to sleep in and watch my new favorite show, Plaza Sesamo. I think my Spanish would be coming along even better if I could watch Sesame Street in Spanish every day! :-) The girls enjoyed their 10k (as much as one can I guess), even though it was already pretty warm. They also got some pretty snazzy medals in the process!

[22] 

While the girls were getting showered up and packed to head home, Matt and I decided to check out the hotel video arcade. The game selection was in need of improving, but we still had a lot of fun, even if some of the games weren't really made for full-sized people.

[23] 

After the arcade we packed up and headed to Cracker Barrel for brunch then hit the road back to Tally. It was a pretty busy weekend, but I think we all had a lot of fun! Now I'm back in the office trying to be productive (at least kind of) before heading back out of town this weekend. Hopefully San Juan will provide enough fodder to spurn me to keep up with my proposed once-a-week posting schedule. :-)

1. http://wegottaeat.com/justinandmaricruz/recipes/cranberry-almond-chicken
2. http://wegottaeat.com/justinandmaricruz/recipes/beet-spinach-salad
3. http://wegottaeat.com/justinandmaricruz/recipes/grilled-cumin-chicken-with-fresh-tomatillo-sauce
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000egcwq/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ehezr/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ekqag/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000epc5w/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000eq7ek/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000erpax/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000esg5b/
11. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000etheq/
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ewfse/
13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ex8a8/
14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000eyg26/
15. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ez00y/
16. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f0hbw/
17. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f1ady/
18. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f2y2k/
19. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f33g8/
20. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f46e3/
21. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f56z5/
22. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f6pk3/
23. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ef2s9/

(2009-10-12 17:32:24)
Can I just copy this post and put into my blog? JK! I think the picture of Matt should be his new profile picture! -Lynn

mamafinch (2009-10-12 22:42:18)
Wow!! The Top Chef dinner looks yummy! Sounds like you had a busy and fun weekend! Nashvegas has been great too, but not as international... no totem poles here. :-)

mamafinch (2009-10-12 22:43:34) p.s.
congrats to the girls for running a 10K!! yay!

fincher69 (2009-10-14 04:08:50) Re: p.s.
Hopefully one day we will all be injury free!

lfincher (2009-10-14 03:07:39)
yummy chicken! when are you going to cook for me?! looks like you had a good weekend!! yay for epcot and running!

fincher69 (2009-10-14 04:08:16)
Maybe if we are ever hanging out when YOU aren't cooking ;-)

lfincher (2009-10-23 18:02:04)
ok so i forgot to tell you; you're in charge of at least one side dish for thanksgiving and/or Christmas!! :)

11.10.14 Weekend in Puerto Rico (2009-10-20 21:35)

This past weekend MC and I ventured to Puerto Rico for her friend Sasha's wedding. It was a lot of fun, but definitely a short, packed trip. I brought my nice camera, but we ended up being all over the place so much I only used my snapshot because I didn't feel like lugging the big one around. Hopefully next trip I will be better about the good pics. I was also really bad with respect to one of my favorite hobbies, writing postcards!!! We were so crazy busy I totally forgot to buy and send postcards. So for any of you postcard recipients out there, I apologize. I'll try to be better about that in the future :-) Anyhoo...

The weekend essentially began on thursday. We were planning on heading to Orlando (since our flight was leaving from there bright and early), but weren't really in that big of a hurry to get there. So I believe we rolled out around 7, putting us in Orlando around 11. We crashed at the Hampton Inn (of course!) and prepared for a long long friday.

We got up on friday (after about 5 hours of sleep) and trucked it on over to the airport. We were flying Jet Blue and I must say I was pretty impressed! We didn't have to pay to check a bag, everything was on time, and we even had a personal tv screen back in coach! We got to San Juan around midday and caught the shuttle over to Enterprise where we got to wait in line for a while, then got to try to be convinced that I really needed to pay 40 extra dollars a day for rental car insurance (didn't he notice we were renting the cheapest vehicle they offer?!). Then the true adventure began: driving in Puerto Rico.

Not only are the drivers crazy (e.g. neurological disorders that prevent them from not changing "lanes" sporadically at least once every 30 seconds), but the city planner must have thrown some spaghetti on a piece of paper and called it a road plan. I haven't checked the laws, but I'm pretty sure that there is something in the books about how no stretch of road can exceed 500 meters without forking. This caused us to get loss at about a rate of 80 %. I was impressed. And I put "lanes" in quotes earlier because, while there is a semblance of a lane designator painted on many of the roads, it is apparently painted in a color that no Puerto Rican has the ability to see. I've driven in Boston, parts of New York City, and tons of other places, and this took spot #1 for high intensity driving.

So we finally make it to the hotel, which is very nice and fancy. The whole lobby pretty much becomes a club after about 7pm!

[1] 

We checked in to one of the "garden rooms." (i.e. you can only see trees)

[2] 

Since we had been traveling, we didn't get much to eat so one of the first places we hit was an italian place in our hotel that had awesome pizza, crazy expensive prices, one of the most out-of-it servers I have had in a long time, and of course local beer!

[3] 

After eating we met up with MC's friends Damion and Sarah, and Damion's girlfriend Kadian to head over to Old San Juan for some site-seeing. We grabbed a bite and a few drinks, then wandered around and saw the Christopher Columbus statue. We even got a group picture with (most of) it!

[4] 

From there we spied Christopher Columbus's castle and decided to check it out.

[5] 

Unfortunately you had to pay to actually get inside and check it out, but MC used the snazzy map to help figure out where, exactly, in Old San Juan we were.

[6] 

I had seen some coastline on the way in, so we proceeded past the castle in the hopes of catching a glimpse. On the way we saw a very important building. At least I think it was important. It looked fancy and there were a group of like 6 police officers standing outside the door. Yeah, so here it is.

[7] 

It didn't take us too long before we got to see some water. Damion, and the rest of us, stopped for a little while to soak in the scene.

[8] 

We trekked back to the car and made it back just in time for Sarah to leave for the rehearsal. We took it easy in the hotel briefly, then got ready and hopped back in the car to head to the rehearsal dinner. Of course, we got lost, but in getting lost found a super duper nice cabbie who actually led us almost all the way to the restaurant. Nice to know there are still some awesome people in the world. The rehearsal dinner was a lot of fun, the food was great, and the couple definitely looked happy!

[9] 

But, of course, who couldn't be happy when you have Mariachi!!!

[10] 

And with Mariachi comes lots and lots of dancing (including Sasha's dad who was awesome)

[11] 

Luckily we had someone to follow home (though you can imagine how easy it is to follow someone in a place where driving is a feat in its own right!) and we promptly crashed after a very long day.

Saturday we took our time getting up, then met up with Damion and Kadian for a breakfast buffet at the resort overlooking some of the pools that were around the property

[12] 

MC was looking beautiful, as always, and luckily she couldn't see the hoard of birds waiting behind her watching for people to walk away from their tables so they could swoop in for scraps.

[13] 

After breakfast we decided to hit the beach, even though there WAS a snazzy bar right in the pool!

[14] 

We didn't have too long to spend out there, which is probably good because us gringos can't handle too much sun, but it was very nice and relaxing to be by the ocean.

Even when days are busy and jam packed, some of us still know how to relax ;-)

[15] 

And then the outside fun was over and it was time to head back to the room to begin preparing for the wedding!

[16] 

The wedding was at 3, so we went downstair at around 2:15 to catch the shuttle. And what does it say about Puerto Rico that even the shuttle driver got lost!! Luckily that gave us plenty of time to take pictures of our purtified selves.

[17] 

We ended up getting there a little after three and were worried we were missing or holding up the wedding. Luckily none of the bridal party was there either! So we piled into the church and waited for everyone to arrive. A bunch of different delays occurred, but that gave us plenty of time to check out the venue and play with the panorama mode on my camera.

[18] 

Then the ceremony got rolling! Here's the beautiful bride being escorted down the aisle.

[19] 

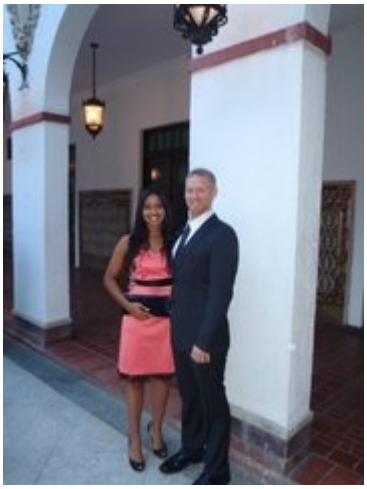
I will admit I got a little scared about how long this wedding might be when the bride and groom pulled up seats...

[20] 

but luckily it really wasn't too long (for a catholic wedding). :-) And I present to you the newly wed couple!

[21] 

So we piled back in the shuttle and this time he knew where to take us and we headed to an awesome little place for the reception. Since I have a general dislike for dressing up, we always have to document whenever it happens. :-)

[22] 

Even though Damion *likes* to dress up, we still had to get a nice picture of him and Kadian as well.

[23] 

It was really fun to meet more of MC's friends and hear them talk about being lawyers, the ol' debate team, and how M.U.N. is F.U.N.



After cocktail hour, the reception began and the bride and groom had the best first dance medley that I have been fortunate to witness. If only I had been able to get it on video!

[24] 

I had a lot of fun dancing, enjoying good food and good rum, and good company as well. I only wish I had recharged my camera the night before so I could have gotten more pictures! So after the reception was winding down, we hopped back in the shuttle to head back to the hotel. I think we ended up crashing at around 1 am, which is all fine and dandy unless you have to leave the hotel by 5am. Not cool.

So after about 3 hours of sleep, we passed plenty of party go'ers winding down their nights, checked out of the hotel, and hopped back in the good ol' rental car. Luckily there aren't many people out at 5 am, but of course we managed to get a little lost yet again. We finally make it and have to wait for the shuttle and end up getting to the airport with less than 30 minutes until our flight was supposed to leave. Talk about cutting it a little too close for comfort! Luckily we made it on just fine and everything went smoothly getting us back to Orlando. Good thing about flying out of Orlando: cheaper airfare. Bad thing: having to drive almost 4 hours after you get off the plane. It wasn't too bad of a drive, but I was definitely ready to get back home. Needless to say we mostly took it easy for the rest of the afternoon and I thoroughly enjoyed no longer having to navigate the streets of San Juan (among the other places we managed to accidentally visit). All-in-all it was a great trip, and could only have been made better by having more time to enjoy the place and hang out more with MC's crew. And to conclude, a few notes/points of interest from the trip.

- This was my first time to Puerto Rico
- cuba libre = rum and coke
- first time I have seen the bride and groom sit during a wedding
- mucho gusto = nice to meet you
- first time I have seen a wedding ceremony fade into a picture taking session because the church wouldn't let them re-enter for pictures if they left during the recessional
- felicidades = congratulations

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000frsag/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g356t/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f7yb2/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f83c0/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000f9dhr/
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8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000fcpbx/

9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000fd2kk/
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24. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g2rc6/

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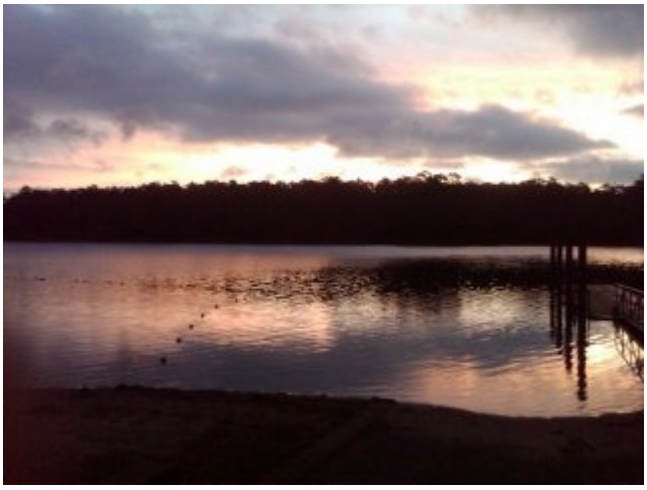
lfincher (2009-10-21 03:03:07)
omg, Spanish people LOVE Christopher Columbus!!! Dad I saw pretty much every place he ever went or talked to the Queen or left for America or came back from America with gold, etc, and we only went to 4 cities!! :) and, thanks for videoing your feet on the beach for us. NICE.

mamafinch (2009-10-21 18:35:59)
Wow!! Justin experiencing a driving challenge.... I'm impressed.... don't think I'll ever drive in PR. You got a hair cut!!! cool! I also loved the first pic of the bride... I thought her dress looked very odd until I realized her "skirt" was someone's head! haha Sounds like an awesome weekend!

(2009-10-22 00:51:16) wedding
Great post Enjoyed the pics,esp the sound of the waves. Impressive schedule,enjoy your youth....it only happens once. Glad you had fun in a beautiful place Dad

11.10.15 Sun rising over Maclay Gardens (2009-10-24 07:41)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g4rfh/

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corazon_leigh (2009-10-27 15:00:24)
Pretty!

11.10.16 Not my idea of a fun sunday afternoon activity (2009-10-25 13:28)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g5f1a/

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mamafinch (2009-10-25 23:09:31)
hope the new jack worked well, but those lug wrenches that come with the car are pitiful... you need one of those t/spider lug wrench!! :-)

supinternets (2009-10-26 12:31:52)
Oh noes!

11.10.17 (2009-10-27 16:32)

[1]Sender: Michelle Sender: Michelle

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h1pyk/

11.10.18 Now THAT is dinner! (2009-10-29 20:42)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g6axs/

11.11 November

11.11.1 Home Project - Spice Rack (2009-11-04 22:46)

Ok, so I may not be the best at updating this lately, but at least I am better about throwing in a mobile post every once in a while so it doesn't get completely stagnant ;-) The weekend before last was pretty chill and I'm totally gonna mooch off MC's post about last weekend once we get it together. Anyhoo, as we just finished up this project I wanted to post to document the process!

As MC and I have both been cooking at decent amount in our new place, we knew we'd need a method of organization for spices and such. We saw some cool things, but none really suited our needs as well as we had hoped (or it was close but ridiculously expensive). So what better way to remedy than for me to just build us one!

I pulled some ideas about how to do it from what I had seen, but I would say a good portion of it was original creation. So first things first I had to get my tools "in order."

[1] 

After a few trips to Lowe's, I finally had the drill bits I needed and I started going to town!

[2] [s320x240] [3] [s320x240]

Unfortunately, I needed the holes to be a size that was between the standard steps between drill bit sizes. So then it became time to get creative! Something tells me you won't see this in "Carpentry for Dummies."

[4] 

So yeah, I essentially wrapped the drill bit in sandpaper (giving it just about the perfect amount of extra thickness) and "sanded" the holes to a slightly larger dimension. It actually worked better than I thought, except there were a few times that the sandpaper started smoking and I had second thoughts about the degree to which my new technique constituted a fire hazard. Luckily I made it through with no combustion occurring, though I did get the drill stuck a few times.

[5] 

Once I had all the holes drilled it was time to start priming!

[6] 

This was no ordinary primer. We had actually seen something similar used in a makeover-type show on television and I thought I would try it out...

[7] 

That's right, magnetic paint! I thought it would be super cool to be able to decorate it and attach things to it just like the fridge. I put on about 4 coats, but, unfortunately, it needs somewhere between 20 and 200 coats to be effective (my educated guesses). So we ended up with VERY slight magnetism, but not really enough to be useful. Oh well. So since all our appliances are white, I decided to go ahead and paint the spice rack to match then did the appropriate labeling.

[8][s320x240] [9][s320x240]

While it did match the appliances, it seemed a little "sterile" and we decided it needed a little something extra. We'll get to that in a minute.

On a side note, last year's christmas trip included an old Fincher family past time, putting together puzzles. I can't recall a single time that we visited Dad's parents where there wasn't a puzzle being worked on. So MC and I decided to take that idea and use our fairly new (to us anyway) kitchen table to put together our first puzzle in the new apartment! Don't puzzles always look a little daunting when you first lay everything out?

[10] 

I like putting together puzzles, but it became a serious challenge to MC. I think she may have even dreamt about the next piece she could fit together. She definitely caught some puzzle-mania! Anyhoo, as I think is fairly standard we started out trying to get the border together.

[11] 

Then we continued whenever we had a free moment! Getting a little closer...

[12] 

And done!

[13] 

Now you may be wondering "why is he telling me a random story about a puzzle? Wasn't this supposed to be about a spice rack!?" Don't worry, it will all make sense in a minute. So as I mentioned earlier, the spice rack looked a little bare. It's a pretty large item and having it be completely white was just too dull and bland, especially for OUR kitchen! So I had the idea that we could get a puzzle with an appropriate theme (in our case fruits and vegetables) and we could piece together some decoration (pun intended). I thought it was a cool idea because we had some fairly large blank spaces that would lend perfectly to larger completed portions of the puzzle, and then we could use appropriately sized sections to fill any spaces we wanted to fill. I did an initial template, then MC finalized the layout of the pieces. It is a little busy, but I still think it turned out pretty snazzy and definitely unique! Here she is in her entirety.

[14] 

And here's a close up of the measuring spoon section

[15] 

While it took a while from start to finish, I think it is definitely worth it to not only have the customization aspect, but also to know you made it yourself! This handyman stuff is turning out to be pretty fun! :-)

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g7h5d/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g8g2c/
3. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000g9p11/
4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gapbw/
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14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gq5xg/
15. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000grsws/

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mamafinch (2009-11-05 13:22:00)
Wow!! you two are sooo creative! That's a cool spice rack!! I have the perfect Christmas present for you..... a fire extinguisher! :-)

emcee77 (2009-11-05 14:19:35)
Mania?!?! I would say it was more like dedication! Pffft... I think it's admirable that I have goals and don't mind sacrificing sleep in order to achieve them. Hmmmmmmphhh...

supinternets (2009-11-05 19:04:19)
Wow, it was worth the time and effort! The end result looks great!

lfincher (2009-11-11 03:59:04) you're such a Fincher
cooking... wood works.... PUZZLES!!! YAY! i LOVE it and i really like how you matched up the corners. i'd like to see it in person to see it would actually incite seizure activity or just cause some episodic ADD. either way i'm a huge fan of the colors. and the dedication. good job!

11.11.2 First pic post from my Motorolla Droid! (2009-11-06 11:30)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gsdqq/

11.11.3 My Motorolla Droid! (2009-11-11 14:33)

As I was one of those folks anxious to get an Android phone as soon as I could swing it on Verizon, I thought I would do a little post about how it has been working out for me. So here it is, my new phone!

[1] 

One key thing I've enjoyed is the ability to get a widget for putting my calendar events on my home screen. I never found a good way to do this and it was one of the most useful features for me on phones I've had in the past. I have been using the Blackberry Storm, which hasn't gotten very good reviews, but I have definitely gotten used to. I did a mobile programming course over the summer where we programmed exclusively for Android so I was excited about the possibility of having a phone that I could write applications for. Anyhoo, more about the Droid. One of they key selling points for me was the fact that it was almost the same dimensions as my Storm, yet had a slide-out keyboard.

[2] 

Having to use a software keyboard was one of my biggest gripes with the Storm. Even with its tactile feedback, I really liked the feel of an actual keyboard. So combine that with a similar size and I was pretty stoked! One thing I don't understand about this design of this phone is its "underbite." See any similarities?

[3] [s320x240] [4] [000h01sd]

I don't really understand the need for the lip when they could have just made the screen a little larger or reduce the keyboard a little (I mean, do I really need a control pad?) Anyway, that is pretty minor, but still a little odd. Another design issue is the inclination of the phone to go from

[5] 

to

[6] 

without much effort at all. I've not had it a week and the back has come off as I pull it out of my pocket at least 3 times. Again, it's minor, but still worth mentioning. As I mentioned previously, this isn't my first experience with Android and they seem to be continually improving it. Currently my favorite feature is having 3 "home" screens to make my common things more accessible.

Pretty snazzy! Thus far it has been very responsive and everything seems to be working great. I'm not sure if it is possible, but I haven't found a way to set a sound for individual txt messages (I can only change people's ringtones), but otherwise I'm extremely satisfied. Everything works well and sync's with Google pretty easily. I've heard that Verizon is kinda being an ass about nickel-and-diming people for little things (now a tethering charge is 30 dollars a month? Screw you Verizon), but it is still nice to have a really good smartphone with Verizon's network coverage. Oh, and here is another little video clip of the dock for applications (for those less familiar with Android). Pretty simple and clean.

I may have more to come, but there are my initial impressions!

1. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gt09q/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gw03b/`
3. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gxsk7/`
4. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h01sd/`
5. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gyp51/`
6. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000gz1hz/`

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mamafinch (2009-11-12 18:52:52)
Cool! I want one!! :-) Will verizon let you write an app for txt msg alerts??

fincher69 (2009-11-12 20:07:05)
Definitely! As far as I can tell Verizon hasn't locked down the phone at all and it shouldn't be hard to write a little program to do it. Cool huh?

corazon_leigh (2009-11-12 21:56:28)
Neat :) How do you like coding for it? Jason and I have been doing iPhone apps, but are thinking about expanding to other platforms.

fincher69 (2009-11-12 22:02:02)
It is basically like coding in Java. Pretty simple. Only problems we had were that it is a pretty young and changing OS so it was pretty hard to find accurate examples and documentation. I imagine that that will improve as it comes together though. Stories I've heard about Apple dealing with their app store unmotivates me completely from dealing with all their BS. Good luck! :-)

11.11.4 (2009-11-19 16:33)

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[1]Sender: Matt and Lynn  Sender: Matt and Lynn
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1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h2p7f/

11.11.5 (2009-11-19 16:34)

[1]Sender: Corey Sender: Corey

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h4th4/

11.11.6 (2009-11-19 16:34)

[1]Sender: Mom and Dad Sender: Mom and Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h3frh/

11.11.7 (2009-11-19 16:35)

[1]Sender: Fishel Sender: Fishel

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h5h6d/

11.11.8 (2009-11-19 16:36)

[1]Sender: Fishel Sender: Fishel
This one was made of wood!

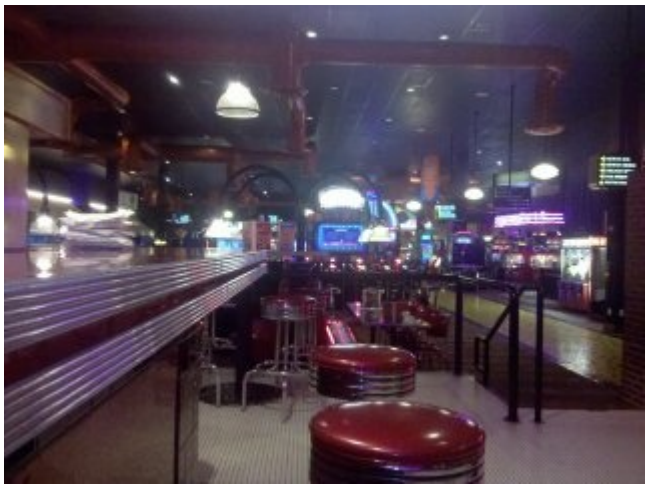
1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000h6bz7/

11.11.9 Enjoying a scenic lunch with my sweetie in Jax (2009-11-20 12:14)



(2009-11-20 20:31:22)
!!!! Where's the sailboat?! -MC

11.11.10 Hanging out at Dave and Busters (2009-11-20 15:25)



11.11.11 Engagement! (2009-11-24 22:44)

Ok, so I've been horrible about updating this, except for random pics every once in a while, but what better motivator for a post than a life-changing experience!

So MC and I have been talking about marriage and wedding stuff for a little while. We've been pretty candid about the whole process, so everything was *pretty* out in the open. We did some ring shopping about 4 months ago so I'd have a very good idea about what she liked and we had already started talking a little bit about wedding stuff. Anyhoo...

So MC and a few friends were having what I called a "girl party" (i.e. mani-pedi) on Saturday and we had a conversation similar to the following.

MC: So my nails are going to be all pretty...
Me: Uh huh.
MC: So my nails would look good in case there was something near my hands I might need to showcase *ahem*
Me: yeah yeah, I get it :-)
MC: And it only lasts about a week...
Me: haha ok ok, don't worry.

Then a little bit later...

MC: I'm not sure I like my hair as it is, do you think I should fix it up?
Me: It's always good to take pride in your appearance. (funny considering the source)

So she thought there was a chance it would happen that night, but wasn't positive. We were having a chill evening at home and she got on the phone with her sister for a long convo and at one point she looked over at me and I was lounged on the couch looking at my laptop and she thought "this is definitely not happening tonight" and continued talking to her sister. This was precisely what I was waiting for! :-)

After she got off the phone I called her into the office to chat. I had her sit down then pulled out a piece of paper...

As an aside, we had been talking a few weeks ago and I asked her if she had any thoughts about the way to actually pop the question. I said I assumed no JumboTron proposals, but figured I would pick her brain a little. She said I didn't have to write a sonnet or anything, but just have some nice words. So of course...

On my paper was the Shakespearean sonnet that I had written! Once she said I didn't need that, I thought it was perfect. :-) I took a little liberty with the iambic pentameter, but was otherwise pretty on point. So I read her the sonnet (during which she got very nervous and giggly) then asked her to be my bride. Fairly simple, but not everyone gets a sonnet! And luckily I think I did pretty darn good with the ring and she absolutely loved it. :-)

Afterwards we started spreading the news and ended up going out for some celebratory drinks with a few friends. I think we had sort of built up to it so much and been so candid about it, it is still sinking in a little for both of us. So MC and I are officially engaged! We are still kinda enjoying that fact and haven't decided on a date or location yet, but I'm sure the planning will start soon. Apparently these things take a lot of work ;-) I look forward to many many happy years with my favorite person in the whole wide world.

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corazon_leigh (2009-11-25 14:57:38)
Congrats! :)

mamafinch (2009-11-25 17:00:11)
Yippeee!!

supinternets (2009-11-25 18:57:24)
Grats to both of you!!!!

tattermask (2009-11-29 21:39:43)
That's awesome! Congratulations!! I highly recommend Elvis weddings in Las Vegas. :)

angelwings (2009-12-01 10:42:34)
I am so so happy for you!!

11.11.12 Yay turkey trot! (2009-11-26 09:37)

Where we all get medals!



11.11.13 A brisk morning in Bristol (2009-11-28 08:59)



11.12 December

11.12.1 Halloween post! (2009-12-03 18:44)

I know I know, this sounds a bit out of order, huh? I'm still working on MC on the whole blogging thing and with her busy schedule there tends to be a small lag between happenings and associated blog musings. Anyhoo, I never wrote anything about that weekend because I knew she was working on hers and it was quite snazzy enough. You can check it out [1]HERE!

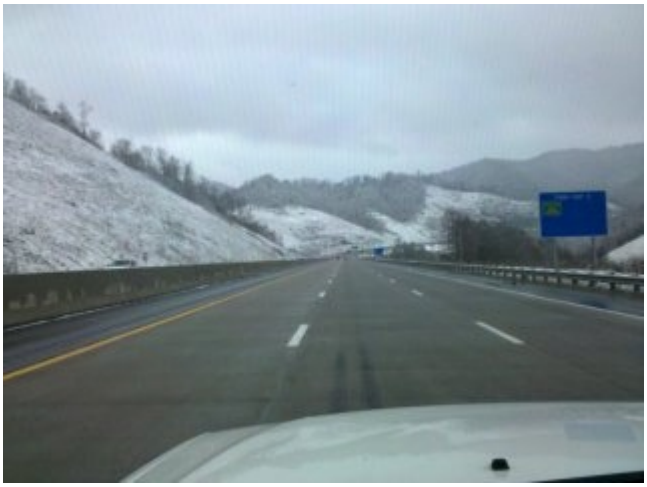
In addition, she made a little post about a part we went to and I figured I would share that as well.

[2]DISCO PARTY!

Other than that we've just been keeping busy trying to figure out wedding plans and with school and work. Maybe soon I will have more to say about everything. :-)

1. http://emcee77.livejournal.com/2818.html
2. http://emcee77.livejournal.com/3186.html

11.12.2 Not in FL anymore (2009-12-05 12:25)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hbtk5/

11.12.3 Time for some... (2009-12-05 19:18)

Out with the old...

[1] 

and in with the new!

[2] 

Soooooo excited about the Jetta! Pretty excited about my highway mpg going from 15 to 43 as well :-) I'm sure I'll miss the Disco, but I have plenty of space in the Jetta and the Disco has a very high likelihood to break and be very expensive to fix. This is the new Finchermobile!

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hchaa/
2. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hdd7c/

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supinternets (2009-12-07 15:03:05)
Swwwwwweet! Nice ride.

11.12.4 A little foggy heading out of Bristol (2009-12-06 11:04)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hehag/

11.12.5 Snow is falling over Park City (2009-12-12 15:11)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hf7s0/

11.12.6 The fam taking a break on the mountain (2009-12-17 18:13)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hg271/

11.12.7 My kind of bar... (2009-12-18 18:56)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hhk8a/

11.12.8 One last morning waking up to the slopes (2009-12-19 09:43)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hpbws/

11.12.9 Finally Updating! - Utah 2009 (2009-12-20 19:29)

I haven't taken the time to sit down and make an update in a while, though I have tried to keep it from getting too stagnant by at least posting the occasional picture (even if I can't get the tagging feature to work properly). I looked back through my blog to see what I was missing, and in actuality there hasn't really been that much to blog about anyway. I was wrapping up the semester and getting a lot of work done in the office while we [1]figured out our wedding venue and started working on wedding stuff. Since MC took care of the wedding venue post, I will just make this post about the family ski trip. This year it was Park City, UT!

Usually the Tallahassee Airport is pretty dull and not very busy. Our flight was leaving at like 6 in the

morning, so we figured the combination of those two things would mean we wouldn't have to deal with crowds too much and showing up 45 minutes before our flight would be plenty. Boy were we wrong! The lines were ridiculous and by the time we actually got to the counter the lady had to do an override because it was less than 30 minutes until our flight was supposed to take off. Not exactly a relaxing way to start the morning! While it was a little hectic, we (and MCs checked bag) actually made it to Atlanta ok. We met up with the rest of the fam and were on our way!

Park City hadn't had a lot of snow before we left to head out there, but the forecast looked promising. The first day it was snowy, but the amount of residual snow was unimpressive.

[2] 

We were very glad to be getting snow, but it definitely was a little sloppy for the first day of skiing, especially for MC (her 3rd time out!).

[3] 

By the second morning, I think we had gotten over 20 inches of snow. Definitely an improvement in the scenery!

[4] 

One of my favorite parts of going on family vacations, especially out west, is the beer! Dad and I love to sample all the local brews, and Park City had several BrewPubs, which typically means samplers!

[5] 

It also means you occasionally stumble upon some pretty cool decorations, like this snazzy christmas tree!

[6] 

After a day of skiing and some beer, rest usually came pretty easy! Luckily, after snowing the first few days (I think we got like 28" total), the weather cleared up so I got to have some nice lift rides with my fiancee...

[7] 

and some action shots of my sweetie in action!

[8] 

Usually, after a hard day on the mountain, we'd come home, relax for a bit, then head downtown to explore some shops before finding a place to refuel (dinner and beer!)

[9] 

Occasionally, we'd run into some risque bears...

[10] 

or some bears who just wanted the accompaniment of a beautiful lady...

[11] 

or just confusing signage about the accomplishments of the local transit system.

[12] 

One really great thing about being out west is that you are surrounded by beautiful scenery, whether it be from your bedroom window...

[13] 

or just looking out from the slopes.

[14][s320x240] [15][s320x240]

I was excited about some of the scenery shots this trip because I actually brought my nice D90. It was a little cumbersome to snowboard with some of the times, but mostly it wasn't too much of a hassle and I think that some of the pics I got during the trip were definitely worth it. I only wish I had been in better shape because I could really have gotten some awesome action shots! Fortunately I still got some ok ones (Photo credit to Lauren Fincher for the ones of me).

Ramping over the barrel [16] [s320x240] Throwing a grab next to the slider [17] [s320x240]
Actually hitting the slider [18] [s320x240] Backside Backslide [19] [s320x240]
Mom tearing it up [20] [s320x240] MC following suit in a very active manner [21] [s320x240]
Dad shredding [22] [s320x240] And Lauren on the harder stuff. [23] [s320x240]

We even got some videos while we were out on the slopes! My camera will do video, but it is a little cumbersome so Dad and I just used our phones whenever we wanted to capture something. Dad caught a nice one of me on a slider

And I got a good one of MC and Dad tearing down the slopes.

While Dad and I enjoyed the beer, the girls tended towards enjoying the food side of things a little more. You know, things like tiny little bowls of soup at the Margaritteria.

[24] 

Or edible treats you have to build yourself, like super snazzy gingerbread trains!

[25] 

All-in-all it was a pretty awesome trip. Good snow, good weather, good beer and good company. As pointed out by my mom, it was also the last ski trip where we aren't all Finchers! I can't wait for next year!

[26] 

As an additional note, speaking of all being Finchers, as we were filing through the craziness that was the Salt Lake City Airport, trying to get to the Medallion line, the guy looked at us and asked my dad "These all with you?" He replied yes, then he pointed at MC and said "Even this one?!" Haha, it was quite funny and my favorite brownie turned noticeably pink. Just had to share :-)

1. `http://emcee77.livejournal.com/3947.html`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hqg8d/`
3. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hrf3b/`

4. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hsrgz/
5. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000htex0/
6. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hw285/
7. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hxd85/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hy7bz/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000hzdr3/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k0h8s/
11. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k1kb9/
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k299g/
13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k3r2t/
14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k4d09/
15. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k51fs/
16. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k6swy/
17. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k7w2y/
18. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k8pq8/
19. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000k9gpg/
20. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000ka132/
21. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kbezw/
22. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kcq9k/
23. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kgkph/
24. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kd12b/
25. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000keyac/
26. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kf6eh/

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mamafinch (2009-12-21 13:15:49)
It WAS an aweseome trip! Great pics! We had a blast!

supinternets (2009-12-22 13:36:00)
Aw, your family is so damn adorable! Looks like good times. And the wedding stuff is so exciting!

fincher69 (2009-12-23 03:02:52)
Aww thanks! It's gonna be a busy year for sure!

11.12.10 Literary Colors (2009-12-23 22:09)

[1] 

[2]Literary Colors, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Testing out putting the Flickr pics I upload in my blog. I figure that it is hard enough to maintain a bunch of different accounts I can't expect people to really follow them. So I may try doing this every time I post a pic on Flickr so everything is more cohesive. Now if I could just find a good way to incorporate tweets/status updates I'd be set :-)

1. `http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4198655303/`
2. `http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4198655303/`
3. `http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/`

11.12.11 Sis tearing it up (2009-12-23 22:12)

[1] 

[2]Sis tearing it up, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Test Part 2

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4201737702/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4201737702/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

11.12.12 Holiday Wishes (2009-12-23 22:13)



[1]
[2]Holiday Wishes, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Test Part 5

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4207544401/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4207544401/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

11.12.13 Contemplate the Run (2009-12-23 22:13)



[1]
[2]Contemplate the Run, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Test Part 4

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4205715697/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4205715697/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

11.12.14 Snowboarder Sequence (2009-12-23 22:13)


[1]
[2]Snowboarder Sequence, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Test part 3

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4202269132/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4202269132/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

11.12.15 A little better than the Disco (2009-12-27 09:30)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000khbb0/

11.12.16 Dad's Action Shot (2009-12-28 09:48)

[1] 
[2]Dad's Action Shot, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Took a few action shots of the Fam and this was one of the best I got of Pops.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4221668371/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4221668371/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

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mamafinch (2009-12-30 02:06:40)
Cool!!! he looks great! :-)

11.12.17 Five O'Clock Somewhere (2009-12-29 14:18)

[1] 

[2]Five O'Clock Somewhere, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4226268396/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4226268396/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

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tattermask (2009-12-31 13:39:35)
You know, you really take some good pictures. mmmm...beer...

fincher69 (2009-12-31 14:53:49)
Thanks! Definitely can't complain about the subject matter ;-)

11.12.18 Let the Sun Shine Through (2009-12-31 09:55)



[1]
[2]Let the Sun Shine Through, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4227990905/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4227990905/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

11.12.19 Snowy Rooftops (2009-12-31 09:56)


[1]
[2]Snowy Rooftops, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4231383708/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4231383708/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

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supinternets (2009-12-31 16:40:06)
This is so pretty! It could totally be a Christmas card.

11.12.20 I am pretty comfortable working on computers... (2009-12-31 13:23)

but having my imac in this state makes me a little nervous.


[1]
Especially when I put it back together and am missing a screw, lol.

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kkdk2/

Chapter 12

2010

12.1 January

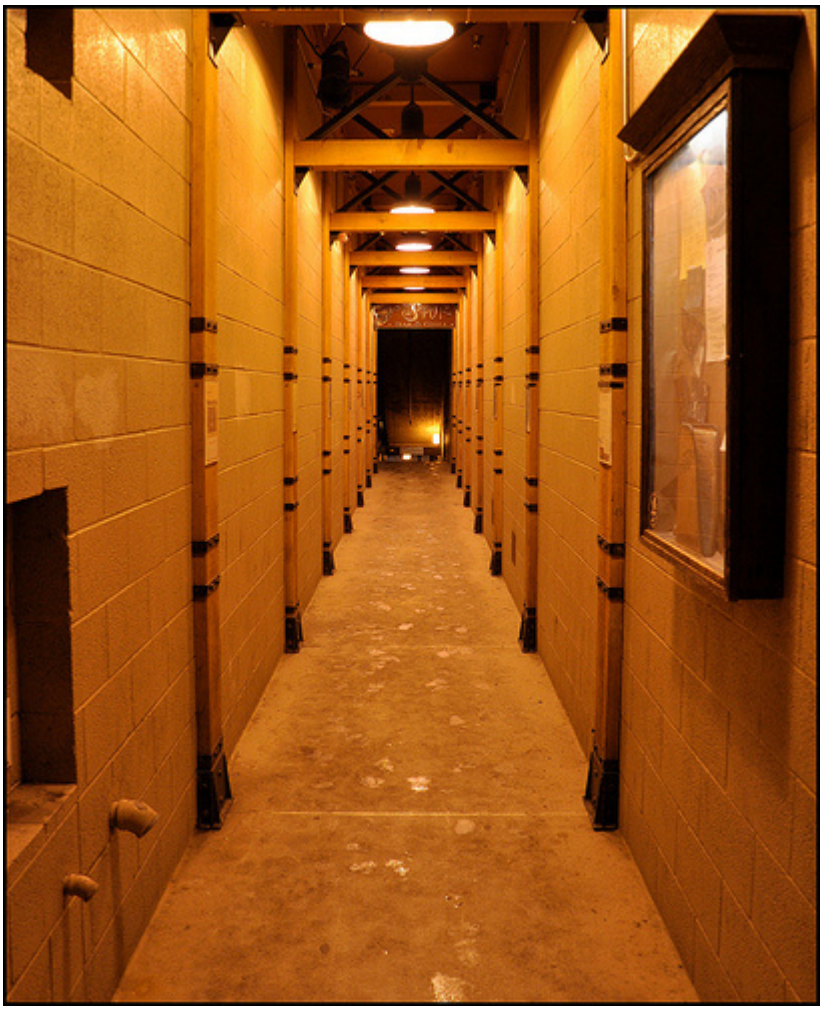
12.1.1 Sis Tearing It Up - Part 2 (2010-01-01 14:25)



[1]
[2]Sis Tearing It Up - Part 2, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

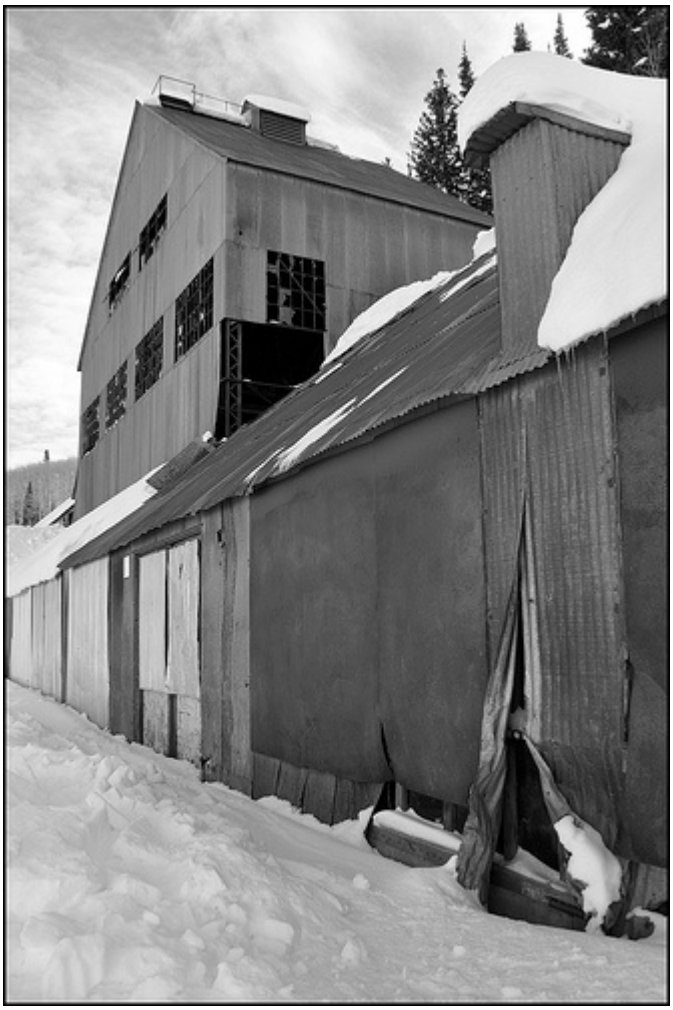
1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4233844929/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4233844929/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.2 Where the Path May Lead (2010-01-03 01:26)


[1]
[2]Where the Path May Lead, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4236742761/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4236742761/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.3 Old Silver Mine (2010-01-03 01:27)

[1] 

[2]Old Silver Mine, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4239213217/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4239213217/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.4 And a new year begins! (2010-01-03 19:49)

So it's been a couple days, but welcome to 2010! I don't really do resolutions (I figure if you want to change something, just do it. Why wait for a specific date?), but as I've gotten pretty out of shape as of late I plan on remedying that! I started getting back into my running with a little 1.5 miler yesterday and I'm going to start back with my lifting tomorrow. I did my Wii Fit weigh-in on the 1st and was at a bulky 185.7 lbs! That's pretty darn fat! But I have the utmost confidence that it will steadily decline soon :-) I would like to start training with biking and swimming as well as running and I decided to check out [1]Map My Fitness as a way to log everything. It is pretty easy to import data from the wrist-top Garmin that I have so as long as I am good about wearing it when I bike and run I should be good to go!

As you may have noticed, my blog has mostly been pictures as of late. I am actually looking into revamping my website and when I finally get it together I want to create a nice way to bring all the sites I update together (mostly tweets/status updates, Flickr pics, and blog posts). We'll see how it all comes

together! I still haven't decided if I want to keep using LiveJournal and import it, or just host my blog with my website. I have to do a little more research.

New years was pretty low key. A night of dinner and games with the Smalls. Certainly better than sitting at home watching Kathy Griffin and Anderson Cooper like last year. :-)

Well, I think that's about it. I just thought I would do a short little update so there would be some text on here has well. I'm sure there will be more to post about as wedding plans come together and the semester starts back up!

1. http://www.mapmyfitness.com/

12.1.5 Sis Tearing It Up - Part 3 (2010-01-04 00:51)



[1]
[2]Sis Tearing It Up - Part 3, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4243110033/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4243110033/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.6 Clear Utah Sky (2010-01-06 00:09)


[1]
[2]Clear Utah Sky, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

There's something I can't pinpoint about this picture that kinda intrigues me. I don't think it is necessarily "special" or outstanding, but I think I like the negative space. Even if there isn't much to it, I thought I would go ahead and post it.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4249535163/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4249535163/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.7 Sis Tearing It Up - Part 4 (2010-01-07 13:21)



[1]
[2]Sis Tearing It Up - Part 4, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4253872067/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4253872067/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.8 Mountain Panorama (2010-01-08 17:51)



[1]
[2]Mountain Panorama, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4257996312/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4257996312/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.9 Random quip (2010-01-14 14:10)

This happened weeks and weeks ago, but I don't think I ever actually mentioned it in my blog. MC and I were shopping at New Leaf (a local co-op similar to Whole Foods) when we were stopped by another shopper.

It has been so long that I can't remember the specifics, but he basically said he sees us there from time to time and that we seem to really love each other and go together quite well. He actually went on to talk about relationships in general and giving and taking love and compromise and such, but it was still pretty darn cool to have a random stranger affirm your relationship. :-) I've never had anything like that happen before, so I just thought I would share.

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mamafinch (2010-01-14 20:07:48)
That is so cool! and sweet and a good sign of a wonderful future!

12.1.10 Reading List / Challenge (2010-01-14 14:24)

So, recently, MC and I decided that we need to stop having the TV on as our default activity when we just want to relax and so we devised a few activities to do instead. One of the activities was to have "Language Night" where we both study language for at least an hour (She's working on Italian for the honeymoon and I'm working on Spanish). The other one was reading. We had a few books that we had sitting around that we had been wanting to read but never got around to it. So we also have a "Reading Night" where we spend at least one hour reading our current book (though just doing this has made us turn most nights into reading nights as well).

Once we started reading a bit more, we decided that we would try to find a "Must-read Books" list of some sort that would include a lot of classics that most people *should* read, but don't always get around to doing so. So we looked around and found many lists, some shoddy, some extremely long, until we finally found [1]one that we both liked. Now it has a little bit of a British skew since it was done by BBC, but I liked that it was basically an accumulation of reader responses, as opposed to one "expert" telling me what I should read.

We thought that such a large undertaking would benefit from documentation and it would be nice to have some milestones to celebrate along the way. So I created us a Google spreadsheet to keep track. I have all the fancy formulas to keep counts for each set of 20 books (read in any order), a total count, and rewarding automatic changes when milestones are reached. MC may think I'm a little obsessive, but I think it turned out pretty good :-) I also left room at the bottom for us to add our own books whenever we want to read something not on the list. (I am currently reading "The God Delusion" by Richard Dawkins and MC is reading "The Watchers" by Dean Koontz) These additional books have no effect on our 20 book milestones, but they are added to the total so we still "get credit." :-)

It will definitely be an interesting undertaking and, perhaps, I may start adding book reviews to my blog since I will have much more to contribute in that arena (though I hardly have the literary background to provide a very meaningful critique). AT the very least I can look back and read what I wrote since I am terrible about remembering anything haha. Wish us luck!

1. `http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread/top100.shtml`

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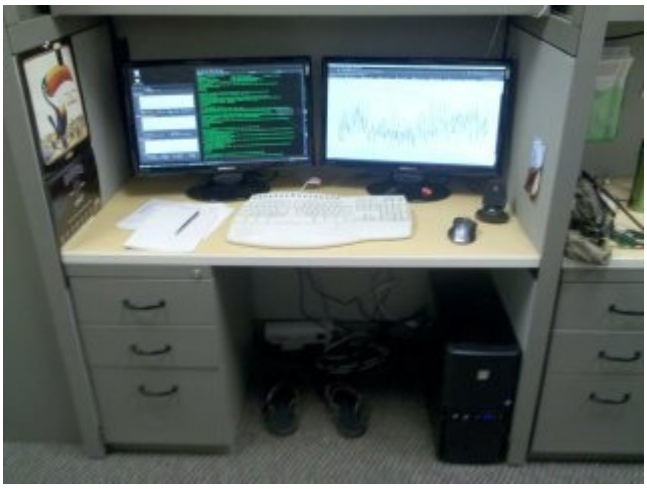
mamafinch (2010-01-15 00:12:20)
I am so impressed - what a fabulous idea!! Can I add books to the list? They may not be literary, but they'd be entertaining! from dad: great idea! good books... take you to wonderful new places on the map and in your mind.... have fun

12.1.11 Now THAT'S a snazzy workstation! (2010-01-15 12:14)

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kpxz5/

12.1.12 Book Review: The God Delusion by Richard Dawkins (2010-01-17 19:46)

This is technically the first book I've finished reading since we started our reading list, though it is not actually in the top 100. So while I've added it to our spreadsheet, I still have at least 100 books to go! I'm sure that these reviews will have some variety depending on how much I enjoyed the book and how busy I am with other things at the point when I finish them, but it is a new challenge so let's get things started!

As this is more of a scientific text and I began it before we decided we were going to do the reading list, I'm probably a little under prepared to write a proper review. I really wish I had been taking notes as I read, but I will just have to make do with what I can find quickly.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. While, at times, Dawkins can come across a bit arrogant and pushy, I greatly appreciated the degree to which this book was well researched. It is littered with quotes and citations and provided quite and exploration of religion. If you don't know (or can't gather from the title) Dawkins is one of the primary faces of atheism (or at least one of the most vocal) in current day. He evaluates various aspects of a religion from a scientific position and, in my opinion, he did a pretty good job of it. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in exploring religion further. While, as I mentioned earlier, he can be a bit pushy and arrogant at times, I don't see this as proper justification to ignore what he is saying. A car salesman may be pushy, but that doesn't mean that you won't learn anything about the car by listening to him.

As this book was well researched, I would feel improper having a review of the book that didn't share at least a few of the interesting quotes and tidbits that I found most intriguing / could readily find in the text.

One of the things I found very interesting was the exploration of the founding fathers. Many people in America consider this to be a Christian nation and to have been founded with those principles, when there is substantial proof that that is not only false, but many of the founding fathers were very likely atheists. Here is a quote from the book from a treaty between America and Tripoli that was drafted in 1796 under George Washington and signed by John Adams in 1797:"As the Government of the United States of America is not, in any sense, founded on the Christian religion; as it has in itself no character of enmity against the

laws, religion, or tranquility, of Musselmen; and as the said States never have entered into any war or act of hostility against any Mehomitan nation, it is declared by the parties that no pretext arising from religious opinions shall ever produce an interruption of the harmony existing between the two countries." Hard to imagine the any politician drafting something like that nowadays, huh?

Another quotation that Dawkins included was one that I have heard many times as almost a slight against Evolutionary Theory. From Darwin himself: "To suppose that the eye with all its inimitable contrivances for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration, could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree." That really does seem to give Creationists something to latch on to, doesn't it? But as Dawkins points out "Needless to say they never quote what follows. Darwin's fulsomely free confession turned out to be a rhetorical device. He was drawing his opponents towards him so that his punch, when it came, struck the harder. The punch, of course, was Darwin's effortless explanation of exactly how the eye evolved by gradual degrees." Things like that I enjoy because it provides a little elucidation to something that I had been slightly familiar with, but not all that knowledgeable about.

While I could find more interesting examples, I don't want to get carried away with quotations. Again, I highly recommend this book, regardless of your faith, especially for anyone interested in a scientific exploration of religion.

I'm hoping that I will hone my "craft" as these book reviews continue. Especially since some of the books on our list are tapping on 1500 pages, I believe it may be in my best interest to keep a little notepad with me as I read so I don't have to rely entirely on my memory (which most people know is sub-par haha). And so continues an immense literary journey!

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supinternets (2010-01-18 13:39:10)
I love this book. You are right, he can be a jerk. I think after decades of arguing his points to people, he has become bitter and lost his patience. But he still has a lot of really smart things to say. If you enjoyed this book, you should watch his documentary "The Root of all Evil". It further explores ideas in the book, and has a lot of great quotes from him and interviews. One thing I has always admired about Dawkins is his ability to perfectly articulate his thoughts and side of the argument. He is an amazing debater.

lfincher (2010-01-27 13:48:29)
are you reading mere christianity next?

fincher69 (2010-01-27 16:15:50)
I'm reading Catch 22 currently, but will probably read that next if MC is finished with it by the time I finish my book.

12.1.13 Derek's Red Bull Sequence (2010-01-19 11:27)



[1]
[2]Derek's Red Bull Sequence, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Still figuring out the sequence thing. Lighting here was terrible so the quality of the shot is definitely not the best, but I figured I would go ahead and post it. I also keep forgetting to manually set things like the white balance, so I get differences between the exposures that become obvious when I start stitching them together. Hopefully they'll start improving!

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4285110217/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4285110217/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.14 Derek's Red Bull Sequence - Strobe (2010-01-19 22:08)

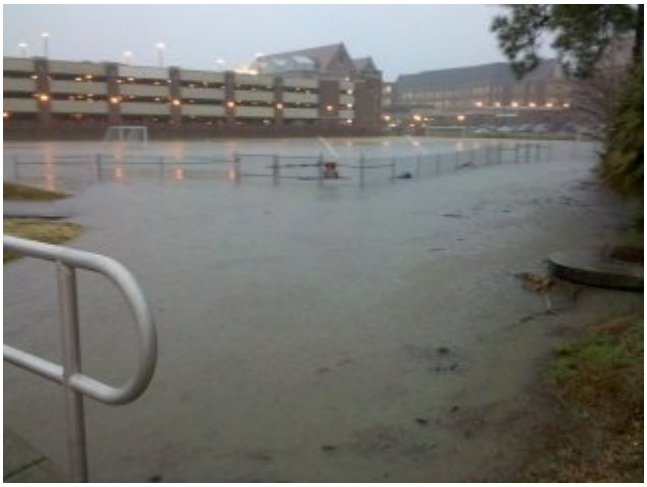

[1]
[2]Derek's Red Bull Sequence - Strobe, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Another from the photo shoot with Derek. This time I was trying to use a strobe and long exposure to make the sequence. Unfortunately being indoors didn't help and since I couldn't afford a super nice strobe, I think it didn't turn on and off fast enough to really stop his action. Still came away with some kinda cool shots though, especially for my first time trying this technique.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4289350550/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4289350550/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.1.15 Some sudden rain... (2010-01-21 10:33)

and it doesn't look like the practice soccer field will be used any time soon.

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kqcgq/

12.1.16 some nice Miami scenery. (2010-01-30 15:26)

Definitely not something I see every (or any) day in Tallahassee.

[1] 

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kr3dh/

12.2 February

12.2.1 Getting back into the groove of working out (2010-02-02 11:46)

I recently decided that I needed to really step it up and start getting back into my workout routine. Between some scheduling issues and injuries, 2009 ended on a pretty lazy and weight-gaining foot. I have been looking for a while for a good way to log my working out to keep track of things, and so far I've really been enjoying [1]Map My Fitness. It is really easy for me to import workouts from my gps or phone when I do outdoor activities, and it has way more fields than I could imagine needing when it comes to logging workouts. I think one of the things I like the most is the visual workout calendar. Here's my January.

[2] 

I really like that I not only have an easy visual of how I'm doing and some basic stats, but that the icons kinda match the type of activity. Having this has been a good motivator because I really don't like the idea of having little gaps where I don't have a workout icon! :-) I've still been mostly taking weekends off, which I like because I never know what my weekend schedules will look like. I'm going to try to step up my aerobic more in February so hopefully, by the end of the month, I'll have an even more jam-packed calendar! After the food fest that was this past weekend, I am definitely going to need it. :-)

1. `http://www.mapmyfitness.com/`
2. `http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kshk7/`

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mamafinch (2010-02-02 18:06:53)
that looks really cool!! I think Linda's website has the same sort of thing... probably not as customizable. Looking forward to a run outside next week!! :-)

12.2.2 Derek's Red Bull Sequence - Strobe 2 (2010-02-07 18:07)

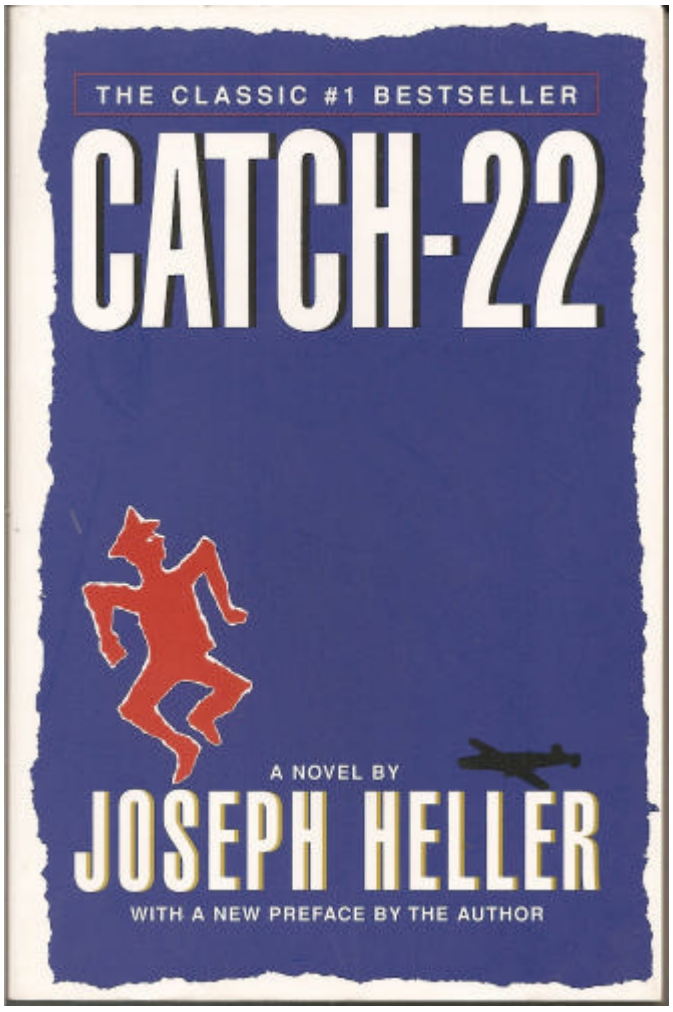


[1]
[2]Derek's Red Bull Sequence - Strobe 2, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Another from the shoot with Derek trying to get a sequence shot using a strobe. Obviously need a better strobe and environment, but it was still a fun exercise.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4338403119/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4338403119/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.2.3 Book Review - Catch-22 by Joseph Heller (2010-02-10 22:39)



I remember reading this book in high school and I remember enjoying it so I was looking forward to re-reading it (even if it is over 450 pages long). As I remembered it was a very entertaining book and was a pretty easy read. The constant infusion of satirical and ludicrously comical situations in an environment of war and death provided an ever-intriguing canvas on which to paint the story of Yossarian, the main character of the book.

To give a glimpse of the feel of the book, I figure I would include a (long) snippet of the book leading up to the first mention of the infamous Catch-22:

Doc Daneeka snickered once and was soon immersed in problems of his own, which included Chief White Halfoat, who had been challenging him all that morning to Indian wrestle, and Yossarian, who decided right then and there to go crazy.
"You're wasting your time," Doc Daneeka was forced to tell him.
"Can't you ground someone who's crazy?"
"Oh, sure. I have to. There's a rule saying that I have to ground anyone who's crazy."
"Then why can't you ground me? I'm crazy. Ask Clevinger."
"Clevinger? Where is Clevinger? You find me Clevinger and I'll ask him."
"Then ask any of the others. They'll tell you how crazy I am."
"They're crazy."
"Then why don't you ground them?"
"Why don't they ask me to ground them?"

”Because they’re crazy, that’s why.”
”Of course they’re crazy,” Doc Daneeka replied. ”I just told you they’re crazy, didn’t I? And you can’t let crazy people decide whether you’re crazy or not, can you?”
Yossarian looked at him soberly and tried another approach. ”Is Orr crazy?”
”He sure is,” Doc Daneeka said.
”Can you ground him?”
”I sure can, but first he has to ask me to. That’s part of the rule.”
”Then why doesn’t he ask you to?”
”Because he’s crazy,” Doc Daneeka said. ”He has to be crazy to keep flying combat missions after all the close calls he’s had. Sure, I can ground Orr. But first he has to ask me to.”
”That’s all he has to do to be grounded?”
”That’s all. Let him ask me.”
”And then you can ground him?” Yossarian asked.
”No. Then I can’t ground him.”
”You mean there’s a catch?”
”Sure there’s a catch,” Doc Daneeka replied. ”Catch-22. Anyone who wants to get out of combat duty isn’t really crazy.”

I hope that that is enough to give a glimpse of the style of the book. This still remains one of my favorite books (even outside the realm of school-required reading) and it was a pleasure to get to read it again. I highly recommend it and hope it was good enough that the momentum will carry through my next book, 1984. :-)

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emcee77 (2010-02-11 15:31:59)
oooo.. I like the book image on the left of your review. I may have to copy that. =P I’ve never read Catch-22 so I found the paragraph you quoted very helpful in getting a feel for the style of the book. =O) Good luck with 1984! Hopefully you will get ”1984-ed” everytime you crack it open so I can finish reading all the books first! muahahahahaha You know... the better reader (the one who finishes the list first) should probably be the one to stay at home with the kids ;O) just sayin...

supinternets (2010-02-12 18:55:50)
Love this book. Good choice.

12.2.4 (2010-02-14 15:22)

[1]Sender: Janice and Judy Sender: Janice and Judy

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kth92/

12.2.5 (2010-02-14 15:23)

[1]Sender: Judy and Bill Sender: Judy and Bill

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kxw49/

12.2.6 (2010-02-14 15:23)

[1]Sender: Lauren Sender: Lauren

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kyf9y/

12.2.7 (2010-02-14 15:23)

[1]Sender: Dad Sender: Dad

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kwrkd/

12.2.8 Oh what to do with all these online means of expression!? (2010-02-18 17:44)

So with the recent release of [1]Google Buzz, I've been thinking a lot about the outlets of expression I have and the best way to coordinate them. The main ones I try to maintain are [2]this (my blog), [3]Twitter, [4]Google Buzz, and [5]Flickr. I still haven't completely bought into twitter, but since I had already set up an account and it was a simple step to tie it to my Facebook status updates, I went ahead and set it up. So I mostly use it to update Facebook, but there are people who only see it on Twitter. Until my recent lapse, my blog is probably my primary outlet. I like the open forum as opposed to short messages, or the combination of notes, status updates, and photo galleries that I would have to use on Facebook to achieve the equivalent. That and it is public. Flickr gets imported to my blog, which ties them together. Buzz is new enough that I've been playing around with it, but it hasn't built enough popularity to use too much so I just tied it to Twitter as well, but there isn't a way (yet) to have it automatically import my blog posts.

So basically, right now, I update Twitter and that then automatically updates my Facebook status and my Buzz. I update my blog and it automatically imports into Facebook. I update Flickr and it is set up nicely to export to my blog (and thus Facebook), but it is still a manual process.

I have been thinking a lot about the best way to bring everything together, but am still at a loss for the best, and most cost effective, solution. (and yes, I know "stop being online so damn much" would solve these issues) Initially, I thought I would just redo my webpage and set it up nicely so that I it brings everything together in one spot. I can even set up RSS feeds so anyone can subscribe to updates if they are

so inclined. This brought me to where to host. I could do the usual and host it on my academic space, which is free (or pre-paid for in a sense), but I would have to be more careful about what I post and would have to migrate yet again when I finish at FSU. There are some free alternatives (like [6]Weebly), but they tend to have various limitations and restrictions. Then I thought of just paying for web hosting. It isn't terribly expensive, but considering I already pay for Flickr and Livejournal (and have a wedding coming up) it seemed a little excessive.

Currently, I'm thinking of using Weebly to set up my site for free (even if it is kinda restricted), keep my Livejournal account but downgrade it to a free one, and keep my Flickr and use it to host all my pictures (currently I only use it for my "nice" photography). Then I reduce my paid sites to one and can (in a semi-reasonable fashion) bring everything together. Right now the biggest issue with that is that I can't embed my blog posts and retain the displaying of pictures. I've read a couple ways to do it, but all involve server access.

Another possibility would be to reduce my paid sites to paying for web hosting and downgrade both Livejournal and Flickr and host everything there. If my internet connection was better (and preferably I had a dedicated server I could hook up) I could just host everything myself (still an option if I can acquire a comp).

Any ideas/suggestions/insights? I think one of the things that makes this harder is that I'm somewhat particular about how things are displayed. Is it easy to take my Buzz or Tweets and embed them in a website? Sure. Does it usually look cheap and crappy? You betcha. Give me some ideas! :-)

1. `http://www.google.com/buzz`
2. `http://fincher69.livejournal.com/`
3. `http://twitter.com/fincher69`
4. `http://www.google.com/profiles/JustinAFincher`
5. `http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/`
6. `http://www.weebly.com/`

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mamafinch (2010-02-19 00:19:27)
um.....good lord! That's a lot to follow! How about a wedding page? :-)

fincher69 (2010-02-20 15:55:29)
It's in the works :-)

12.2.9 Sister Visit! (2010-02-23 19:36)

This past (extended) weekend, Lauren came to visit partially because she hadn't been since we moved to our "new" apartment, and part because we need her foodie and wine-o advice on wedding stuff! I'm sure I'll forget some things, but hopefully it was recently enough that I can remember the important events on our schedule. I'm sure I'll forget/mix up some things, but I'm sure MC or Lauren will correct me :-)

She got in midday Saturday and I took her to [1]New Leaf, which is like our small, local version of a Whole Foods, for a post-travel snack. Then we met up with MC at [2]Mozaik for a wonderful lunch. After lunch we went over to [3]GoodWood to show Lauren the venue. There were a bunch of people getting ready for a wedding so we couldn't explore too much, but she still got the basic feel of the place. We regrouped at the apartment, then went to check out [4]Lucy and Leo's Cupcakery to check out selections for the wedding (we are going to do a multitude of cupcakes in lieu of a cake). They have certain selections on different days, and, unfortunately, they were out of one of the varieties that we wanted to try. Luckily, the owner was super

awesome and said she would put some of what we wanted to try to the side for us (after we told her we would be revisiting on Monday to try out another flavor or two). After a sampling of cupcakes, we headed to [5]Kool Beanz (pretty much MC and my favorite place in Tallahassee) for dinner. As usual, dinner was awesome and we had a lot of fun. Since we were in the area, we figured we'd explore the nearby area and headed to [6]The Wine Loft to check it out (it's new in town). Keith joined us and we enjoyed just hanging out, chatting, and having some good ol' wine and beer. We then headed back to the apartment to rest up for Sunday!

Sunday we got up bright and early and headed to [7]Another Broken Egg for a scrumptious (and beautiful) breakfast!



[8]

I had a smoothered croissant (covered in eggs, cheese, onions, and green peppers) and it was awesome!! MC loves this restaurant and I had never been so it was cool to try it out. After breakfast we hit the road to head to Jacksonville! Lauren had yet to meet Erin (our cousin) and Adam's kids, Daniel and Ben (our first cousins once removed) so we HAD to take a day trip since she was going to be so close. It was always nice seeing them (AND Judy and Bill (my aunt and uncle) AND Scott (Erin's brother who is usually MIA)) and we took lots of pictures! :-)

Tag was quite the popular (and serious) game! [9] [s320x240]
[10] [s320x240]
So much so that there were multiple discussions about rule violoations
[11] [s320x240] [12] [s320x240]
Ben with my favorite taunt: "Yoo-hoo!! Yoo-hoo!!" [13] [s320x240]
Someone is also an aspiring photographer! [14] [s320x240]
And basketball player... [15] [s320x240] And quite the checker player
(even being distracted by the checker thief) [16] [s320x240]
The cutest checker thief ever! [17] [s320x240] Looks like Lauren is in
trouble [18] [s320x240]
Would you let these little hooligans steal your car? [19] [s320x240]
Can't get away without a family portrait [20] [s320x240]

After hanging out in Jacksonville, we hit the road in just enough time to make it back to Tally for dinner. We decided to hit up [21]Essence of India (another one of our favorite restaurants) for dinner then took our

tired butts back to the apartment.

Monday MC had an appointment so she left for that and Lauren and I decided to go for a run. I took her over to Southwood (where MC and I like to run) for a nice relaxing run. Did I mention the thunderstorms? Nothing like some rain and lightning and thunder (don't worry Mom, the lightning wasn't close) to pep up a run! I ended up covering 3 miles and Lauren covered about 4 and we plopped our wet butts back in the car and headed back to the apartment to dry out / get ready for the rest of the day. Once MC got back, we headed back over to [22]Lucy and Leo's Cupcakery for some more cupcake tasting and she gave us a nice spread to sample.

[23] 

You can check out all the flavors on the website, but pretty much all of them were pretty darn good! Next, we decided to take Lauren back to [24]New Leaf so she could try the hot bar (something MC and I frequent) for lunch. After stuffing ourself with healthy stuff, we dropped MC off at work and Lauren and I headed to my office. Initially, Lauren was going to listen to the [25]CompuStat seminar, but, because Jonathan got held up in Jacksonville seeing his family off, it was reduced to a classroom activity. So she chilled with me while I ran that until Jonathan got back in town and took over. Then we picked up MC and headed back to the apartment. We regrouped then headed out to check out [26]The Wine Warehouse as a possible source of wine for the wedding. Unfortunately, they closed early for a wine class, but we got to talk to the guy briefly and he seemed as though he will be very helpful. With that now cancelled, we decided to head on to dinner. We are thinking of getting the rehearsal dinner catered by the restaurant at the DoubleTree so we thought we would try it out. The food was very good and we got to sample a pretty good variety of dishes. After dinner we stopped by Publix to grab ingredients so Lauren could make [27]Beer-Cheese Bread and then just relaxed in the apartment (and made the girls watch more Olympic Curling haha)

Today, MC had to work again so she headed out and Lauren and I went to [28]Bagel Bagel for breakfast then on a couple errands then back to the apartment. We cleaned up, watched and episode of CSI, then picked MC up for an extensive lunch buffet at [29]Bahn Thai, which Lynn got to join and meet and chat with my sister. After lunch we dropped MC back off at work then it was time to take the sis to the airport! It was a jam packed visit, but we had a lot of fun (hope she did too) and we loved having her here! Hopefully we'll be able to return the visit and make it up to Nashville for some fun and debauchery soon. :-)

1. http://www.newleafmarket.coop/
2. http://www.dinemozaik.com/
3. http://www.goodwoodmuseum.org/
4. http://www.lucyandleoscupcakery.com/
5. http://www.koolbeanz-cafe.com/
6. http://thewinelofttallahassee.com/main/

7. http://www.anotherbrokenegg.com/
8. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000kz4w2/
9. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p0w0a/
10. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p114x/
11. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p2qe4/
12. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p3x0f/
13. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p485a/
14. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p5d8b/
15. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p7fkh/
16. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p69g7/
17. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p8717/
18. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000p9aag/
19. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000pa5zc/
20. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000pb1kh/
21. http://www.essencerestaurant.org/
22. http://www.lucyandleoscupcakery.com/
23. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000pcqcp/
24. http://www.newleafmarket.coop/
25. http://sites.google.com/a/compgeom.com/compustat/Home
26. http://www.winewarehouses.com/
27. http://find.myrecipes.com/recipes/recipefinder.dyn?action=displayRecipe&recipe_id=1853977
28. http://www.bagelbagelcafe.com/
29. http://maps.google.com/maps/place?cid=5862049216657776883&q=bahn%2Bthai%2Btallahassee&gl=us

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(2010-02-24 00:50:56)
I am so hungry right now! :) -Lynn

mamafinch (2010-02-24 00:55:43)
Wow!! What a whirlwind weekend.... not too thrilled about the thunder and LIGHTNING, but glad you guys were ok. I hope you counted the distance before running in a thunderstorm! ;-)

fincher69 (2010-02-24 04:17:51)
We paid attention. It wasn't anywhere close ;-)

lfincher (2010-02-24 02:33:18)
i had SO much fun!! can't wait to come back, maybe i can even escape work for longer next time. :) and you're welcome to nashville anytime! love you guys! thanks for everything

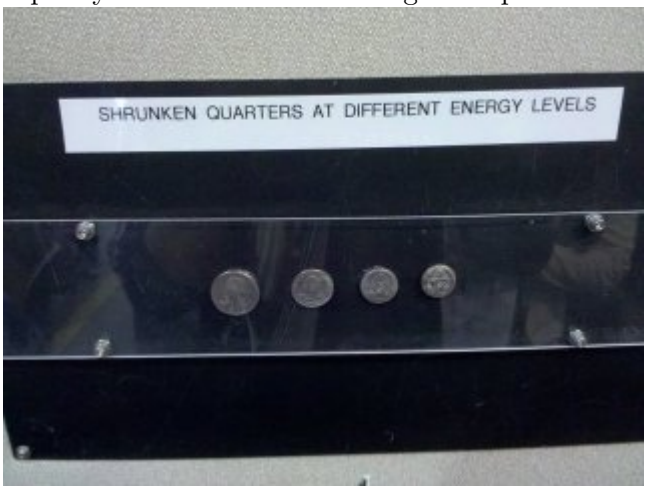
fincher69 (2010-02-24 04:18:21)
Glad you had fun! We need to go to a predators game next time we are in Nashvegas!

lfincher (2010-02-25 17:48:23)
absolutely!! maybe the new yazoo brewery will be open then too, and we can go there. :)

supinternets (2010-02-24 15:21:44)
I love the idea of a bunch of cupcakes instead of a cake. That is too cute. And Lucy and Leo is a fine choice. I work right down the street from them, and love to stop by when they have their vegan cupcakes. They are heavenly.

12.2.10 shrunken quarters! (2010-02-27 12:54)

Some pretty cool stuff from the Mag Lab open house



[1]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000pdd2f/

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supinternets (2010-03-01 15:50:33)
Corey, Jason, Mike and I were there this weekend!

12.3 March

12.3.1 Testing tags with a pic of an electric Porsche! (2010-03-03 18:56)

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[1]

1. http://pics.livejournal.com/fincher69/pic/000pex4c/

12.3.2 Flowers at the Black Stallion Winery (2010-03-11 01:20)

[1] 

[2]Flowers at the Black Stallion Winery, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4424368102/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4424368102/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

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corazon_leigh (2010-03-11 20:44:49)
Nice shot!

12.3.3 Super Mega Anniversary Post (aka Another Year of Oddities and Love) (2010-03-11 22:14)

I haven't been that great about updating my blog as of late, I know. I've actually been looking around and am mostly sure that I'm going to migrate my blog and stuff to my mac mini that I've set up as a web server. Everything should be smooth if I do it before I fill up the 1 gig I get on livejournal with a free account. Anyhoo, back to the subject at hand.

2 YEARS! (well a few days more than that now) That's how long me and my sweetie have been together. We cashed in some credit card points and found some good deals and were able to coordinate a long weekend trip to San Francisco to celebrate (do we celebrate in style or what?). It will probably be pretty picture intensive, so get ready for a super post about our trip! We tried to diligently record our foods, but admittedly slacked on our wine documentation, but hopefully my sister will forgive me. ;-)

Saturday

Because MC couldn't take too many days off work, we decided to leave saturday morning to head out to San Fran, but we still wanted to get there early enough to take advantage of the day. So here's a funny factoid.

Thursday night I went to bed a little after 2 AM. On Friday night, I set my alarm for 2 AM. Good times. :-) So we were out the door by 3 AM to head to Jacksonville (tickets are way more expensive out of Tally) to make sure we had plenty of time to make our early flight. Needless to say it was a helluva way to start the trip, but I think it was worth it even if it resulted in some sleepy travelers.

[1] 

All our flights went according to plan (a rarity nowadays with the airline industry) and got to San Francisco safely. Hopped in a cab and it was to our snazzy hotel we went!

[2] 

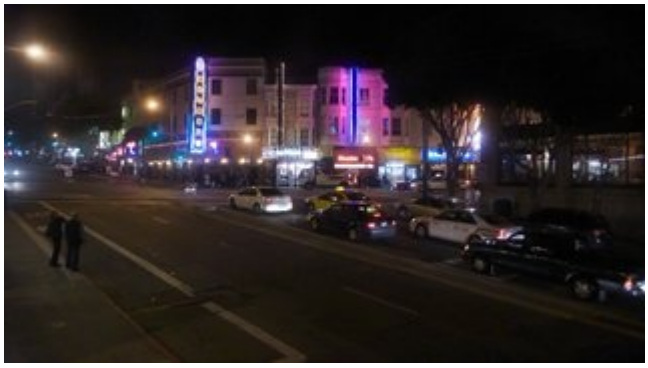
One of the first things on our agenda was some wedding dress related stuff, which just happened to take us down 6th street (i.e. the land of the homeless). We still made it unaccosted and since I, obviously, cannot really participate in such activities I found ways to entertain myself while MC did her thing.

[3] 

On a side note, I had heard of a site called Yelp that has many user reviews of restaurants and many other things. I had never really looked into it, but thought it sounded kinda interesting (and MC's friend Maria is a higher up for them and, thus, a very active user) so I had installed the app on my phone. I thought it might come in handy in San Fran so I actually created an account and tried it out. I must say it was frickin' awesome. Seeing a list of restaurants near us and all the user reviews lead us to some pretty snazzy places. The first of which was our first lunch at [4]Saffron 685. It was a little Mediterranean place that got good reviews so we thought we would try it out and boy was that the right decision to make!

[5] [s320x240] [6] [s320x240]

After lunch we meandered back to the hotel to actually get settled in a little bit and rest before dinner. Another service that I employed a lot this trip was the Google Maps app on my phone. Unfortunately, in the process of meeting Anna, Aaron, Wil, and Kristen for dinner, we discovered that looking at the elevation change when planning a walk through San Francisco could be a helpful thing. Turns out that the first 8 blocks of the walk to [7]Rogue (a type of satellite of the Oregon-based brewery, one of my favorites) was pretty heavily uphill. We eventually made it and enjoyed some good beers and good company. From there, we headed to [8]Vesuvio to partake in a few more adult beverages. It was down by a pretty active strip including, according to Wil, the first topless (then first bottomless) strip club in the good ol' U.S. of A.

[9] 

We enjoyed the odd coincidence that Wil and his lady friend happened to be visiting at the same time we were. I was beginning to think Kristen didn't really exist. ;-)

[10] [s320x240] [11] [s320x240]

It had been a long day (approaching the 24h mark), so we bid the group adieu after drinks and hit the sack hard.

Sunday

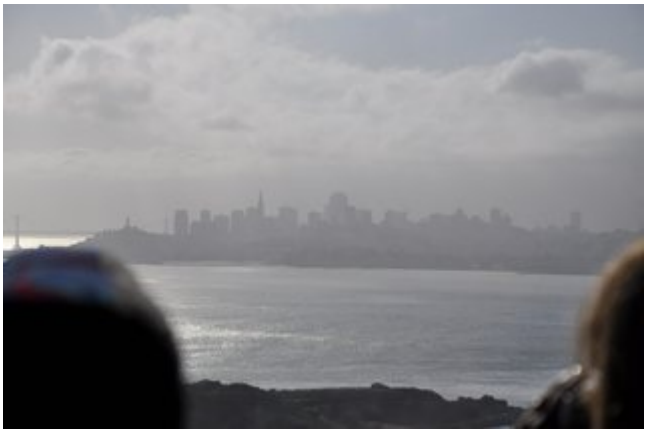
Our actual anniversary! We made it two whole years! (and hopefully many many more to come) To celebrate we decided to do a wine tour through Napa. It made for a kinda early morning (we'll sleep when we're dead, right?) but it was going to be a full and fun day of sampling some wines! While most of you know that I'm more of a beer guy, I was still interested in learning a little more and trying some new things. We wanted to get a little food in our tummies before we set off so we hit up the Yelp! machine and found [12]Daniel's Cafe.

[13] 

It was perfect and I had an amazing croissant to start off the day! We caught a taxi to the origin of our wine tour, hopped on, and began enjoying the views!

[14] 

Though they have a lot of fog, we still caught a nice skyline...

[15] 

and a good ol' San Franciscan tunnel.

[16] 

Seeing acres upon acres of vineyards was definitely impressive! Especially when you began to notice the variety and the guide described all the little nuances in how they were set up and how it affected the grapes and, thus, the resulting wines.

[17] 

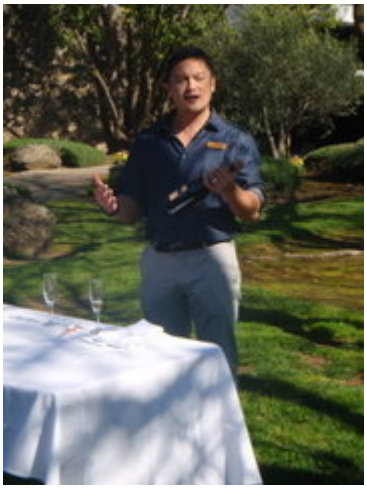
Interspersed amongst the vineyard lands were many wild mustard plants. If I remember correctly, they are nitrogen rich plants and helped keep the soil fertile.

[18] 

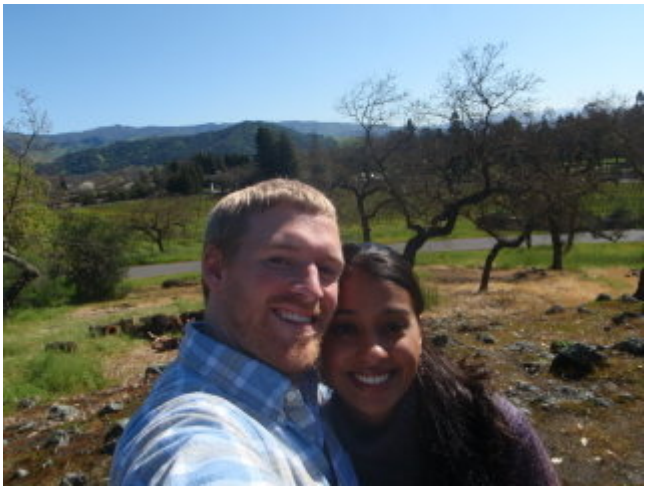
Our first stop was [19]Domaine Chandon where they produced many sparkling wines. It was the only place that we got a full tour of and it was quite the facility!

[20] 

We learned that the real difference between champagne and sparkling wine is just the region from whence it comes. If it doesn't come from the Champagne region in France, it really shouldn't be called a champagne. I also learned that Extra Dry is sweeter than Brut and we learned about the origin of the term Brut. Basically the British wanted a dryer sparkling wine than the French were giving them and, being the #1 consumer of French sparkling wine, the French thought they would try to appease them (much to their displeasure I'm sure). So in the process of creating sparkling wines, sugar is added for the second fermentation. For the British, the French excluded this sugar addition resulting in a much dryer sparkling wine. The term "brut" comes from the French for "unfinished," which is how they regarded this British favorite. Anyhoo, this turned out to be my favorite stop on the tour. Not just because I tend to like sparkling wines more than regular ones, but our tourguide was pretty entertaining as well!

[21] 

All of these areas were beautiful, and we continued to perfect the art of self-portraiture.

[22] 

On the way to the next winery, I had been noticing some interesting propeller type objects out in the vineyards. Luckily, our tour guide was on top of it and explained that they are set to start up at a certain temperature and humidity and basically circulate the air around the grapes when it starts getting chilly. This protects them by giving them an extra few degrees before frost settles on them, which can really affect the grapes (who knew grapes were so sensitive?).

[23] 

Our next stop was the [24]V. Sattui Winery. This was also our lunch stop (sorry no pics, we were hungry!). The food was super scrumptious, though nothing too fancy (except the wide selection of cheeses that had MC mesmerized).

[25] 

Our ”wine mistress” (as the tour guide called them) wasn't the friendliest, but it was still a fun tasting. MC had her first port (not a fan) and a syrah that (I believe) was her favorite wine of the trip. If only they had told us while we were there that to order it from them you must order a minimum of 6 bottles. Geesh! It was still a pretty cool property and good experience.

[26] 

On the way out we stopped to watch the Napa Valley Wine Train pass by...

[27] 

then it was off to the [28]Black Stallion Winery.

[29] 

It was built on some old horse stable grounds and had a pretty small output compared to the others we visited. Another interesting thing was that this winery seemed to talk more than the others about the various accolades and awards which they had recently received. This was especially interesting because this was by far and away our least favorite of the tour (and not just because we had already had a lot of wine. It got beat out easily by the fourth and final winery). Though unimpressive, it was still a very interesting experience. From there it was off the [30]Andretti Winery (yes, of Mario Andretti the super awesome race car driver).

[31] 

The wines there were pretty good and the guy who served us was entertaining, but I don't think there was anything that particularly caught our fancy (except another nice photo op).

[32] 

The Andretti Winery was our final winery and, honestly, MC and I were pretty happy to hop on that wine

tour bus!

[33] 

We were both a little wine'd out so I think it would have been hard for us to enjoy it had their been many more stops. The bus took us to the ferry stop so we got a little different scenery on the ride home. We saw the Golden Gate bridge (which we had driven over on at the beginning of the tour) through the fog and got a pretty good view of Alcatraz as well.

[34] 

Even though it was a long day, we were looking forward to a nice romantic anniversary dinner. After talking to the wine tour guide we decided to check out the [35]Hayes Street Grill. It was a little pricey, but the food was pretty darn good.

[36][s320x240] [37][s320x240]

It was a wonderful evening with my sweetie and a great ending to a great 2 year celebration.

Monday

This morning Yelp! steered us to the [38]Honey Honey Cafe & Crepery and it was SUPER good!

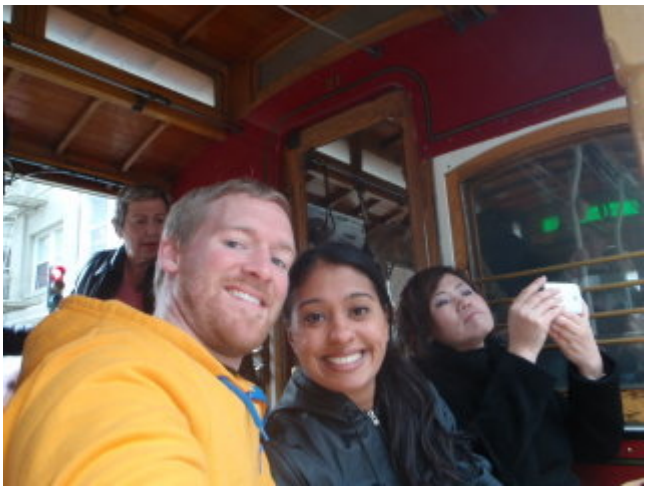
MC's

[39][s320x240]

Mine

[40] [s320x240]

By this point in the trip, we had logged many hilly miles around San Francisco and MC wanted to ride the cable car, so we moseyed to the nearest stop and hopped aboard!

[41] 

We took it all the way to the end of the line, just short of Fisherman's Wharf

[42] 

After checking out some of the local merchants, we decided to take a walk over towards Pier 39 to really get into something touristy. And boy were we not disappointed! We thought about checking out the aquarium, but 15 bucks a head was a little steep. We did get to visit a good friend of ours though!

[43] 

We checked out some of the various shops in the area, then decided to see if the sea lions were hanging out that day (it wasn't too cold, but with clouds and lots of wind it got cool in a hurry!) Sure enough, they were lounging about as always and even putting on a little performance for MC and me.

Since we had a coupon that we acquired after buying our souvenirs, we decided to check out the [44]Fog Harbor Fish House for lunch. We decided to keep it pretty simple and enjoyed a nice view of the waterfront while we dined. From there we walked over to the famous [45]Ghirardelli Square!

[46] 

We had an awesome ice cream spread that included some obligatory Ghirardelli chocolate and it was, of course, delectable.

[47] 

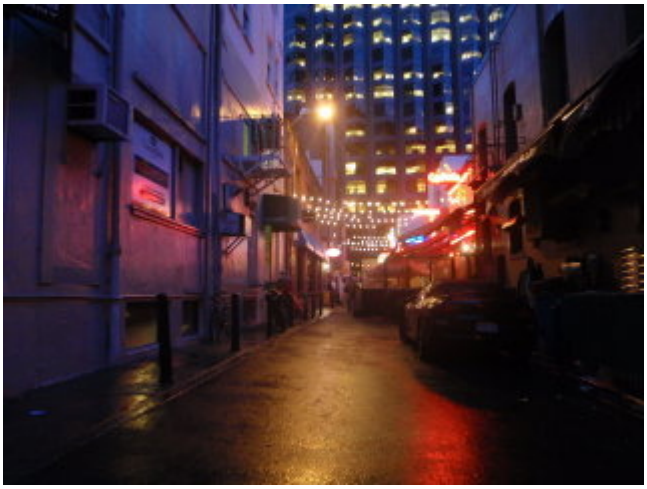
We then we decided we needed to burn some of those calories by hiking up some more hills! Did I mention that you can have a little fun with the panorama mode on many cameras?

[48] 

We made it to the top of the crazily curvy and crooked Lombard Street (second in crookedness only to Wall Street, according to our wine tour guide) and crooked it was!

[49] 

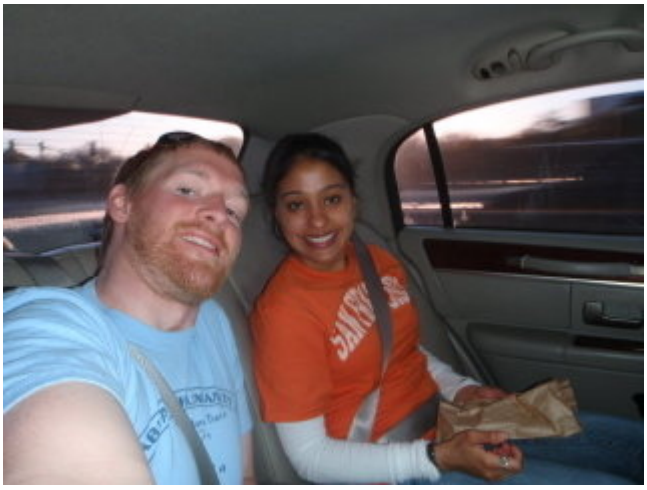
Luckily there was a cablecar stop nearby so we were able to catch that to get us the rest of the way back to the hotel. After a little regroup, we decided to hit some of the nearby shopping then rested a little before walking to the "French Quarter" (i.e. one street).

[50] 

There we were meeting back up with Anna, Aaron, Wil and Kristen for dinner at a fancy French restaurant, [51]Plouf. I had a ginger encrusted sablefish that was one of the most interesting dishes I have had in a long time (in a very good way). It wasn't just ginger, but similar to gingerbread that coated the fish resulting in a very interesting amalgam of flavors. Old man Wil was getting a little beat so we bid him and Kristen farewell and headed to a bar for a few more drinks with Aaron and Anna. We had a long travel day the next day so we wrapped things up and headed back to the Hilton for a final night of San Francisco rest.

Tuesday

Tuesday we got up, again sampled some croissant from the nearby [52]Daniel's Cafe, then hopped in our snazzy Lincoln (that we didn't know the hotel would have available for less than the cost of a cab) to head to the airport. Goodbye San Francisco!

[53] 

All-in-all it was an amazing trip and an amazing way to celebrate two years with an amazing girl. If only we had the money to have trips like this more often. Perhaps one day! ;-) Happy 2 years my love!

[54] 

Final shot courtesy of [55]Wilson Onstott

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28. http://www.blackstallionwinery.com/
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55. http://www.flickr.com/photos/wilonstott/

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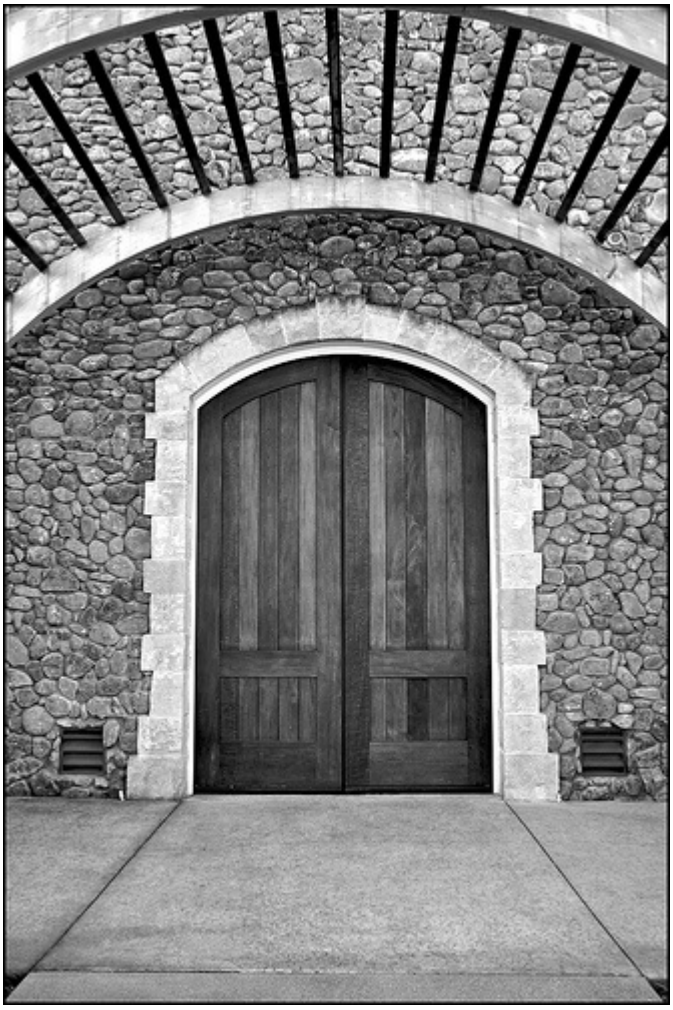
lfincher (2010-03-12 04:18:00)
wow that's awesome!! i want: all the wine, the chocolate crepe (i'm so proud you went a "crepery"), the ghiradelli ice ream, and the ginger sablefish! yumm!! sound like you guys had a busy and fun time. send me the name of your favorite sparkling again and i'll do a taste test in nashville! :)

emcee77 (2010-03-12 14:04:42)
Great mega blog post my love! It was a great trip and I look forward to many many many more days/trips/events with you as well. =O) Lauren - I sent you an email w/the info =O)

mamafinch (2010-03-12 20:55:40)
Wow wow wow!! What a trip!!! I'm so glad you had a good time and I'm soooo impressed that a beer guy like you spent an entire day on a wine tour. That's something not all men would do - your dad would, of course. ;-)

12.3.4 Door at the Black Stallion Winery (2010-03-12 09:42)



[1]
[2]Door at the Black Stallion Winery, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

I've always thought it would be cool to have a huge wooden door as the entrance to my house.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4427303172/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4427303172/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

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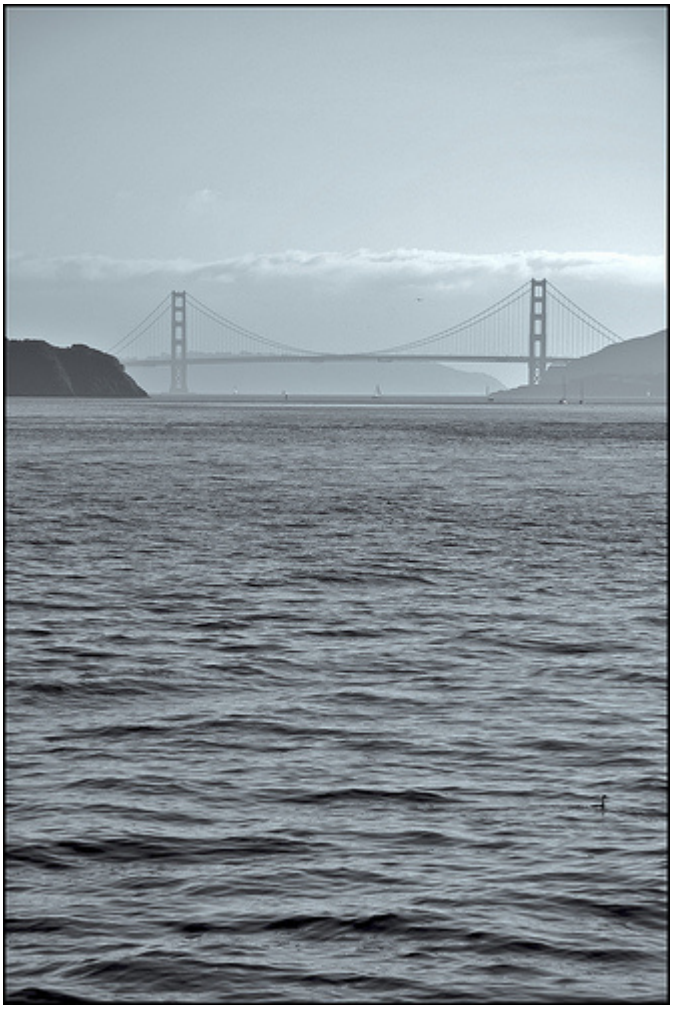
supinternets (2010-03-12 15:24:19)
What a beautiful photo!

fincher69 (2010-03-12 22:11:21)
Thanks!

12.3.5 A Foggy Golden Gate (2010-03-13 13:59)


[1]
[2]A Foggy Golden Gate, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

From the ferry ride at the end of our Napa Valley wine tour.

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2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4430073764/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.3.6 Pier 39 Panorama (2010-03-15 12:15)


[1]
[2]Pier 39 Panorama, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

The quality isn't that great when I do the "stitch in camera" panoramas (hey, that rhymed), but I still thought it was a cool pic.

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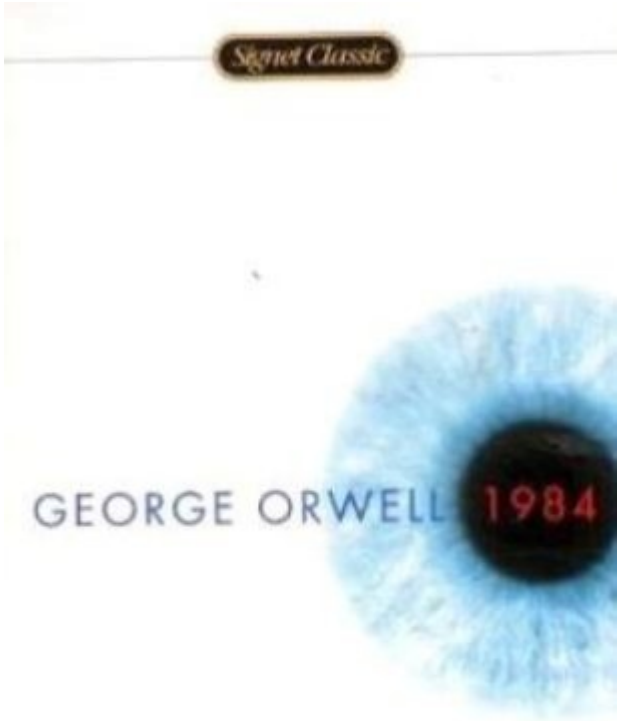
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4435011125/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.3.7 Book Review - 1984 by George Orwell (2010-03-16 23:15)



This is another book from our reading list that I had read back in the day, but in the spirit of our reading list challenge, decided to read again. I didn't remember being too fond of it and sure enough it was not the most exciting book I've ever read (read: I was extremely proud when I made it through more than 10 pages without falling asleep). It IS an interesting concept, especially in the time in which it was written. Essentially, it is a story of an extremely controlled and restrictive society following a main character that begins to doubts the principles set forth by Big Brother. It provided an insight that made people think about different aspects of society, but, in the end, this is one of those books for which I feel Cliffs Notes were invented. Like the two and a half hour movie that you leave thinking "they definitely could have told that story in an hour," 1984 takes a long time to make the social commentary that it strives for. While a "classic," there is a good chance that this is the final time I will read this book. (unless, of course, I have a bout of insomnia that needs remedying)

12.3.8 Ghirardelli Yumminess (2010-03-17 00:19)



[1]
[2]Ghirardelli Yumminess, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

I don't usually post many pics from my Olympus (except for panoramas), but this one was too scrumptious looking to pass up.

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2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4439361669/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.3.9 The bus tour overlooking San Francisco (2010-03-17 22:10)



[1]
[2]The bus tour overlooking San Francisco, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

Nothing too fancy, but I thought the lighting was kinda cool with the San Francisco backdrop.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4442376398/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4442376398/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.3.10 A Fine Sparkling Wine (2010-03-18 13:54)



[1]
[2]A Fine Sparkling Wine, originally uploaded by [3]fincher69.

From Domaine Chandon in Napa Valley. This was one of my favorite shots of the trip.

1. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4442994367/
2. http://www.flickr.com/photos/fincher69/4442994367/
3. http://www.flickr.com/people/fincher69/

12.3.11 The blog move is official! (2010-03-28 14:00)

I've been working on it the past few weeks, and it is official. I'm migrating from LJ. It's been a good run, but I wanted a little more freedom and also wanted to find a way to incorporate my blog into my website and start bringing several of the sites I use together in one place (including my running blog runfincherrun). You can check out the new blog at [1]http://www.justinandrewfincher.com/. I am actually hosting this site myself so I have tons of freedom (can install anything on the server, have as much storage as I like). It'll be a little while before I get everything completely organized the way I want it, but I think I have it together enough to make the official change. It'll have a normal RSS feed so if you look at this through Reader or anything.

Once I downgrade to a non-paid account, I think I have little enough stored on here that I won't lose anything, but I'm going to do an archive using LJBook to be sure. I will also be importing some categories of posts into my new blog, but don't think I'm going to deal with importing everything right off the bat. I'll probably cross post for a few weeks (but leave this post at the top) to give my 5 readers a chance to migrate links, but after that, it will be bye bye LJ! So long!

1. `http://www.justinandrewfincher.com/`



Gad's LJBook v0.5,
LaTeX 2_ε & GNU/Linux.
http://www.ljbook.com

Edited: March 18, 2010