

The

# CENTAUR

GSSE 2008



Btw, has anyone figured out the 'phantom hand' yet?



*The theme of GSSE '08*

## Diaries of a Gov. School Juno

By Gretchen Honeywood

Governor's School is a time for learning, expanding new horizons, meeting new people—and getting pregnant?! No way! But for one sorry student in the biology class, that is exactly what happened...well, sort of.

It all started about two weeks into the program. A dashing fellow named Nathan treated the lovely Elizabeth to dinner. It was a romantic time for the budding couple. Later, hormones raging, the two snuck off to a secluded spot and...well, let's just say they were late for check-in.

Just kidding.

Still, when Nathan returned to his room, his fellow biology scholar Neel was gullible enough to believe the fabricated story. It was then that Nathan, Elizabeth, and their friends Madelyn Crawford, Matt Olive, and Caitlin Miller set out to convince Neel that Elizabeth was really pregnant. They set up an elaborate scheme involving many clandestine notes and text messages. Any outside spectator would have fallen for it, and several nearly did (luckily, they were let in on the secret).

"I'd like to thank the academy..."

Madelyn gets the Oscar for this one. She rose beautifully to the occasion, passing a note that went something like this: "I don't know why you asked, Nathan, but just in case you were serious, I looked it up...'Pulling out' doesn't work about 30% of the time. The girl can still get pregnant."

During class, this note was passed along to Nathan and Neel while Elizabeth shot terrified looks around the room to Matt.

Even the biology teacher, Dr. Guffey, played along! He dropped subtle remarks about teen pregnancy and genetic disorders while looking pointedly at a mortified Elizabeth.

It was beautiful. Neel was convinced. When finally told that nothing had actually happened and Elizabeth was in no danger of having a Nathan Jr., everyone in on the prank had to run as fast as they could to escape his swinging backpack.

Good times @ Gov. School.

## Engineering

By Randall

What can you do with a sheet of poster board? Make a presentation, decorate walls, make campaign posters, or if you're in the Governor's school for engineering, you could make a chair. This is only one of the exciting challenges faced by the engineering students at GSSE 2008. In addition to constructing collapsible chairs that could support three Dr. Kovacs, bow-ties and all, they have toiled away to create arm-like catapults and memorize massive amounts of human anatomy. How is anatomy relevant to engineering? No one really knows....

The biggest uproar of this compressed semester fell around the Engineering Physiology course. Since the engineering students were known to be highly intelligent coming into the program, all were struck by confusion as their grades in the anatomy course plummeted. Apparently engineering students don't know the human body all that well.

Many students enriched their learning experience by multitasking. While becoming computer literate with html, Microsoft Excel, and Matlab, students kept in touch with the world outside through Facebook. This has kept the students sane, but alas, driven the teacher and TA off the wall.

Through their complex projects, both digital and material; memorization; and numerous lectures, the engineering students have toiled greatly. Throughout it all, however, they have learned many great lessons such as teamwork, computer programming, how to hide a Facebook window, and of course how to dump all of the work on some unfortunate schlup.

## Physics... What Goes On In That Class?

By Jane Doe

In a world where girls are supposedly "smarter than guys," what is the probability of having a physics class with twenty-five guys and only three girls? The answer? Who cares—this is physics, not statistics!

Our up and coming physicists mostly operate on computers with ten official labs. It's

got labs, so it must be fun, right? And it is, at least, "Until you have to write the report." Then the latter wins. Unfortunately for the young physics students, lab reports aren't the end of their suffering. They also face "really impossible teeeests" and some crazy extra credit problems.

Filled with initiative, the young governor's school students embrace this awesome, fun, and intense class, despite the hard work. This class may not be for the weak at heart, but for those who like to get to class early to tackle last night's homework or squeeze in a little extra studying, physics can be, in the words of Emily Finan, an "Adventure into the unknown... bum, bum, bum."

## Chemistry: It's All Good In the Hood!

By Day and Ray



Ah, organic chemistry. Who wouldn't enjoy spending three hours each day learning about foods, their chemical components, and how they are altered when cooked? This class gratifies both the future

arsonists and those who enjoy cooking, and allows students to release inner frustrations by breaking glass beakers and test tubes on a regular basis.

Unfortunately, it may turn more than one student slightly anorexic. Having been edified on which substances are bad for the human body, many now look compulsively at the labels on packaged food products to see if they are edible, as well as to visualize what they would look like if burned. For in chemistry, a large portion of the class period is spent lighting various foodstuffs afire and extracting the fat from under the hood. Of the most notable events thus far, a major discovery has been that Avocado fat is green, and Diane Perry won the Most Interesting Thing to Happen award (she grew bacteria on her Reese's Peanut Butter Cup fat). The students also burned Cheetoh's, baked cookies as a science experiment, and partially hydrogenated yogurt fat, which

turned the normally savory breakfast into a slow-moving black sludge.

Overall, the class has been very satisfying, and has given all but Allie Benson a useful lesson in gestimation. In addition, each student has witnessed a feat to rival the invention of Post-it notes: the creation of soap from Oreo fat.

## **Biology: What Theological Fun!**

By Purple

With a trip to the zoo, the Pregnancy Scare, and discussions on how humans are ruining the world, the Biology class takes the title for Most Interesting. Each session kicks off with laughter over some political cartoon or dry joke from everyone's favorite Dr. Guffey, whose beard rivals that of Dr. Kovac's. Then everyone learns a lesson in relaxation, as the students catch up on lost sleep during another wonderful lecture. Notes proclaiming "FTW!" and "WTF!" are commonplace, and even Dr. Guffey joins in on the fun, interpreting the latter as, "What Theological Fun!" But when not even laughter can prop open eyelids any longer, the TA Graham zips out the most invigorating thing of all: seven of the forty-odd questions that the students submitted. The discussion questions range from evolution to the ethics of abortion to stem cell research; these topics are always tied in to the assigned reading from the night prior. Discussion time begins, and as the students ponder these intellectually deep questions they often become frustrated by their inability to propose achievable solutions to the questions. Still, if there is one 'fact' that Dr. Guffey and Graham have drilled into their heads, it's that the Earth is *not* screwed, so long as the government can find a way to place more regulations upon our daily lives.

And you thought burning Cheetoh's was fun.

## **TERRORIST ALERT!**

By Loch Lomond

UT Police issued warning of a strange young lady—about 21 or 22—with brown curly hair and a short stature. Following an encounter with this

terrorist one shaken student accounts, "I was simply eating a nice, steamy plate of mac 'n cheese and 'the face' appeared right in front of me!" Snorting noises allegedly followed, along with odd hand gestures. Unfortunately, the terrorist has not been captured. She has also been reported sitting in trees, waiting to pounce on the unsuspecting GSSE student. Others have been victimized while watching relaxing games of Ultimate Frisbee. According to key witnesses, the beast rushes in on its victim from the side and then sits in its lap, cutting off circulation and piercing through legs with her butt bone. On the weekends she is seen less frequently because she purportedly has a boyfriend named Mohl. Many petrified students, however, suspect she is riding around in a Mexican van terrorizing the good citizens of Knoxville.

So how can one avoid the abuses of the tree-climbing terrorist? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Do not eat a banana around her. She will start making monkey noises. Sometimes she resorts to stroking an arm or a face—depending on which will freak the victim out more.
2. When travelling down a hall, do not walk beside her. She will ram any unfortunate being into the concrete block walls. Expect no mercy.
3. Do not play horse pool with her. Casualties must be expected. Bruises will cover the prey's body.

I, Loch Lomond, and the UT Police Department, would personally like to wish you all safety in this time of distress. Remember to use absolute caution when passing trees and leaving your dorm room.

(If you are interested in group counseling to recover from your encounter with "the face", call 1-800-438-4357)

## Puntastic

By Wallflower

You've all heard them, the so-bad-they-hurt, so funny-you-forgot-to-laugh, and just plain confusing NERD JOKES. Here are some of the pure nuggets of geekness that have been heard around the UTK campus this month:

- I'm spontaneous, my  $\Delta G$  is negative.
- We need to stop trying to teach American football to Europeans. The last time the Germans tried a blitz, they invaded Poland.
- Ring around a neutron  
A pocket full of protons  
A fission, a fusion  
We all fall down.
- I wish I was a DNA helicase so I could unzip your genes.
- Two atoms are walking down the street. One suddenly stops and says, "Oh no, I've lost an electron."  
"Are you sure?"  
"I'm positive!"
- There are 10 types of people in the world, people who understand binary and those who don't.
- Two Asians walk into a bar.  
A week later, they own it.
- I wish I was your derivative so I could lay tangent to your curves.
- You're like a nonpolar covalent bond. Get it? You're not attractive.
- Logic is the systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence.
- Some people say the glass is half full. Others say it is half empty. Engineers say you made too much glass.

- There is a bear in Alaska and one in Yosemite. They fall in the water. Which one dissolves first?  
The one in Alaska, because it's polar!
- I wish my homework was asexual so it would do itself.
- Girlfriends come and go, but epics are soulbound.
- I'm not an asymptote; you *can* touch this.
- "Hey if anyone needs help with calc trig, ask me."  
"What's  $45\sin 900$ ?"  
"255."

## Words of Wisdom

By Purple and Mel Justo

So there you are—sitting/violently rocking in your awkward dorm room chair—thinking about what to write in your article for the prestigious, the magnificent and the one group none of the RAs can ever remember: the GSSE newsletter. Can you picture it? Well, actually, I doubt you can. I happen to be one of the 5 or so members of the Centaur—and, no, that's not the weird bone thing you pass by in the library to get to Starbucks. There, I've got it—I'm going to write down what I've overheard in the halls... and the UC... and the library... and any other place within the GSSE... cage. And come on; I'm sure all of us have eavesdropped. Here, it's practically impossible. Your friends decided to speed walk, you lost sight of them, there's a large group of *I-would-sit-by-you-but-my-other-friends-are-here-so-bye!* people blocking the rest of the sidewalk and you have ten more minutes of trekking to do before getting to your next class; what do you do? Listen in, of course! Sure, it's embarrassing that you have to listen into conversations rather than joining in, but hey—if your skills are honed, no one will ever be able to tell! So lean forward, and laugh a little! This is what I've overheard in the halls.

- “When I turn gay, I’ll go for him. He has piercing blue eyes and abs you could eat off of.” ~Mark Hoffman about Dr. Kovac.
- “If you’re going to stab someone don’t just play around with it. Just go on and stab ‘em!” ~Dylan Meggs on the use of plastic utensils as weapons.
- “What’s pedophilia? A minor inconvenience.” ~Tim Weatherall on sex ethics.
- “It’s more like a hobby of mine. It helps pay the bills, and I don’t see the big problem people have with it. I mean, I could save someone’s life, you know?” Bret Vudoker on Vampirism.
- “It’s my uterus; I can breed if I want to!” ~Dr. Guffey lecturing on population control.
- “It’s like having a false antecedent. Believing it’s true gets us into trouble in the world. Let’s hope that it changes.” Dr. Pynes on why he was supposedly spotted at a crack house.
- “ASSEMBLE!” ~Dylan Meggs; every day.
- “I just got really excited. Pablo totally pwned at Unreal Tournament and I think he winked at me!” ~Many ladies at the school.
- “Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs, Boobs (Breasts), and Boobs.” ~Everyone?
- “Well, the Earth is just a big crybaby. We warm it up a few degrees and it has a fit! Why else would we have hurricanes?” ~Al Gore on global climate change.
- “Anything Chris Hayes says.” ~Everyone, on the nerdiest joke they’ve heard.
- “My God! You’re all zombies! Oh wait, the lack of sleep can account for that. I’m sorry, but it is a requirement to pass.” ~Dr. Bruce after assigning four billion questions for the exam.
- “Would it be better if I said, ‘I like women!’?” ~Riane Young, when Alex refused to say it first.
- “Cry your hardest now; it opens the lungs, washes the countenance, exercises the eyes and softens the temper. So cry

away.” ~James Humble (the Bumble) speaking Oliver Twist lines to Chelsea Oliver. Puntastic!

- “Why would I do that? I mean the class is too easy for you to fail at it. Now OMEGA and the other Schrodinger equation terms...” ~The physics teacher.
- “The best angle is the TRY-angle.” ~Desiree, on saving the planet.
- “What kind of BS are we gonna lay on them next?” ~Dr. Guffey on the plotting of scientists against the government.
- “Yes, that makes me very angry!” ~Graham (the Bio TA) as he ‘chuckles’ over the extinction of golden frogs.
- “Stay in hell so that you have a better chance of getting out.” ~Dr. Pynes, on Aunt Ruth’s chances in logic-less hell.



#### *The Centaur 2008 News Team:*

*Editor: Ray*

*Editor: Randall*

*Editor: Curriaan*

*Writer: Randall*

*Writer: Purple*

*Writer: Loch Lomond*

*Writer: Jane Doe*

*Writer: Wallflower*

*Writer: Gretchen Honeywood*

*Writer: Day and Ray*

*Writer: Mel Justo*

*Photographer: Resurrection Fern*

*Comics: Curriaan*