Throughout history there have been momentous occasions when it’s clear that a paradigm shift – a revolutionary change in the way the world is viewed – has occurred. We stand now on the precipice of one such shifts. This PLB marks the official end of the previous Dictator Editor’s reign of this upstanding journal. Of course, I am talking about John David Creswell – otherwise know as JDC, Dr. Hot Pants, and “that blonde meditation dude.” Dr. Dresswell (as I call him) was the third full-time editor of the PLB, following in the literally tiny and massive footsteps of Lori Holt and Erik Thiessen. After two and bit years with the reins, JDC feels that it’s time to hand the PLB off to others so that they too can inform, elevate, and ridicule the department and its members. That, and he actually wants to devote some time to research. He will, of course, be missed, and I’m sure that everyone would like to join with me to thank him for his semi-tireless effort over the last few years. Here, in this brief editorial, I would like to point to some of the highlights of his reign…….
It’s a New Dawn....

1) The introduction of grad talk time. Our students are now publishing on a monthly basis!
2) The establishment of more articles on male genitalia (don’t believe me? See this issue’s aforementioned grad talk time)
3) More pictures, less text. Who wants to read all of those annoying words. A picture tells a thousand words, apparently, so recent PLBs (and this one) have at least 20,000 words in them.
4) More squirrels. Under JDC, the squirrel count per issue has increased from 1.3 to 3.4 (p<.0025).
5) More pictures and articles about speed skating. Well, not speed skating per se. More like one speed skater in particular. That guy from Dancing with the Tarts. What’s-his-name. Apolo Bon Jovi?
6) The change from publishing the PLB from once-a-month to, well, pretty much whenever Dr. Dresswell felt like it. Remember the days when the new PLB coincided with the first day of the month? How dull was that? So damn predictable. Under JD’s leadership, the PLB kept you guessing as to when it would appear. Kind of like Ken’s wallet.
7) A much more laid back, contemplative vibe around the PLB offices. In days of yore, Lori or Erik would bark orders to the PLB staff and contributors. Many was the time I heard phrases like “I need that article yesterday!”, “You call this journalism?”, and “Where are those pictures of Spiderman you promised me Parker?” In the last few years, however, the atmosphere has changed significantly with JDC asking his staff to “Get it to me when you can”, telling them, “No rush, I’m being in the moment right now”, and “Can I really wear salmon colored shirts?”.
8) Many amusing but arguably unnecessary cheap shots aimed at faculty who are from, just for example, England. Surely our collaboration in WWII still stands for something?
9) Improved understanding of faculty senate meetings. You didn’t think you want to know more about them – and you probably still don’t.
10) The ongoing survival of the PLB. Most of you don’t realize it because you don’t contribute – you know who you are – but putting this thing together each month takes an inordinate amount of work. Without JDavid’s dedication and fearless leadership, it’s quite possible and probable that the PLB would have slowly receded into the sunset in the same way as his golden hairline.

So, we say “goodbye and thank you” to Dr. John David Creswell as Editor of the PLB. All joking aside, I think that he did a sterling job. He deserves a massive thumbs up, a pat on the back, and a bear hug from a faculty member’s husband. How can he ever be replaced? Quite easily actually. For the next few months, pairs of faculty will team up to edit each month of the PLB. This month it’s Lori and me. Next month, Anna and Brooke (yes, you read that right). After that? Well, I’ll keep you guessing but expect some unusual and unexpected names on future PLB articles. Names like Raymond Luxury Yacht. Or Laurie Heller.

Remember, it’s a new dawn, it’s a new day, it’s a new PLB. And we feel fine.

David Homunculus Rakison

Psycho? Logical? Bulletin
ROMANCE FOR MDS

Wait ‘til you see what the urologists have planned for Valentine’s Day

University of Pittsburgh Oncology Interest Group (ONCIG) Speed Dating Event

Tuesday, November 8, 2011
5:00 – 7:00 pm
Hillman Cancer Center Atrium

Dinner Reception, Introductions and Presentations, and Speed Dating Event

Directors: Michael T. Lotze, MD, Markus Mapara, MD and Steffi Oesterreich, PhD
ONCIG Leaders: Amy An (MSII) and Erica Nakajima (MSII)

For more information, contact:
Megan Seipold
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
seipoldm@upmc.edu
A quick quiz about where you need to be on December 1st at 4.30.

1. What Psychology event occurs every year in early December?
2. What is the most fun you can have with your colleagues while eating and drinking?
3. What is Charles Kemp’s favorite muppet?
4. What has multiple rounds of questions about cats, dogs, and giraffes?
5. What kind of whisky does Mike Scheier drink?
6. What has a surprise new host?

What are the answers?

The dreaded return of the 5th Annual Pub Quiz at the Psychology holiday party. And Miss Piggy and Lagavulin. Come and have fun, beverages, food, and answer some questions with your co-workers and friends to win delicious prizes.

Where, when, why? Singleton room, December 1st, 4.30. Because it’s bloody good fun.
The changing face of your film favorites (a.k.a. the return of Lists et. al)

By your movie correspondent, David Horatio Rakison

Along time ago, in a galaxy relatively close to this one, I wrote a column about our department’s favorite movies for the monthly rag that is now called the PLB. People said it was tour de force. Ahead of its time. The best thing I ever published. The only thing I ever published. Well, now that I need to be promoted to Full Professor, it seems like the perfect time to regurgitate this old idea, make it fresh and fun, and publish it again. Sheldon Cohen’s been doing it for years; why shouldn’t I?

I was originally inspired to generate a Psychology Top 10 movie list by the film bible Time Out. As you're probably aware, Time Out is a weekly magazine - in London at least - that reviews all manner of things including films (which it does quite vividly, concisely, and astutely). Every year, Time Out publishes a fairly tome-like volume that includes the reviews for pretty much any movie that you can think of. Occasionally, they also publish lists of top movies, as judged by Actors, Directors, Writers, Key grips (you don’t even want to ask), and, separately, readers. The top 10 list from 2003 (or so) from the Directors and Writers, as well as from the readers, is below. As you can see, both lists include an impressive array of groundbreaking flicks. You have probably seen 6 or 7 of each list – and probably even more of the Reader’s list - but you're probably wondering about La Regle Du Jeu (Renoir at his finest) and Touch of Evil (with a seminal 2 minute+ opening shot in my personal Welles favorite). If you haven’t seen these films, it’s not too late to start. I spent one wonderful summer in the 90s working my way through Time Out’s Top 100 films. I just wished I had stopped when I reached “From Justin to Kelly”.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Out Readers List</th>
<th>Time Out: Actors, Directors, Producers, Critics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Godfather I &amp; II (1971/74)</td>
<td>1. Citizen Kane (1941)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Casablanca (1942)</td>
<td>2. Godfather I &amp; II (1971/74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Citizen Kane (1941)</td>
<td>3. La Regle Du Jeu (1939)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Taxi Driver (1975)</td>
<td>8. Touch of Evil (1958)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. It’s a Wonderful Life (1946)</td>
<td>10. L’Atalante (1933)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Back in 2005 or so, I asked our department members to send me their top five movies (in any order or equally ranked) so that I could create our own top 10. The response was overwhelming. Well, when I say overwhelming I mean I had to harass people in the restroom to get them to send me anything. In the end, about 45 people sent me emails or scrawled handwritten notes with their votes - an impressive number when you think that only 7 people actually read the PLB. As I wrote back then “In total, 79 different films received votes, and the choices were as varied in quality, style, and content as last year’s colloquium speakers.” Of course, the lists didn’t suffer a horrendous mishap on the way. The list that I created - back in the time before iPhones and "teaching goals" on class syllabi - is below. As you can see, I included about 20 films and they overlapped more with the Time Out readers than with the Writers, Critics, and Best Boys (yes, that’s really a job on a film set).

As I pointed out then, our top 10 list had relatively little in common with the Actors et al. list. Why? Well, for one, our list was created mostly by American whereas the Time Out Actor’s list was mostly generated from votes from Brits. And as they say in England, the US and UK are two nations divided by the Atlantic Ocean. The Actors et al. list, for example, included 5 movies made totally outside of the US film industry, whereas the Psychology department’s list doesn’t have a single film in the top 10 that was made with non-US financial backing (the Red
Violin was a joint venture between many countries). Note also that in contrast to the Writer et al. list, both the Time Out readers and our list were constituted of films that are popular but not necessarily classics. Don’t get me wrong, I love The Big Chill, American Beauty, and Ordinary People; but they are not considered classics of American cinema in the same way as the Godfather, Casablanca, or Howard the Duck.

At this point you’re probably wondering something along the lines of “why is he telling me all of this stuff about movie lists?” (that, or “is it lunchtime yet?”). Well, the reason is this. I think that it’s high time that we generated a new Psychology department movie list. Why? Well, for one thing as a developmental psychologist I am considering this something of a longitudinal study. How have things changed between now and 2005? Are there more recent movies that will make the list (Glitter comes to mind)? Are there movies that will drop off the list? For another thing, it could be fun! Well, maybe not fun but at least interesting. Well, ok, not so much interesting as something to keep you busy while you’re waiting at the dentist or sitting in a faculty meeting.

A third reason, that some of you may find more compelling, is that this year’s Departmental party pub quiz will have a movie round based solely on the responses that I receive. In other words, your top 10 or top 20 will be used to generate the questions for the round. For example, imagine that Battlefield Earth makes it to number 5 on the list – you laugh, but it’s a certainty that Erik Thiessen is going to include in his favorite. Well, one question of the pub quiz might be something along the lines of “Which movie at number 5 on the list won a record number of Razzie Awards and is based on the true story of how John Travolta realized he is a thetan.” To be honest, it probably wouldn’t be written exactly like that, but you get the idea. So, if you want a leg up in the ever competitive non-denominational Psychology department pub quiz, then this is your chance.

Here’s how it will work (and this part is shamelessly lifted from my original article). Send me (via email to psycho.logical.bull@gmail.com) your top 3 movies. You can rank them (in which case the movies will score 3, 2, and 1 respectively) or place them in no particular order (in which case they will each score 2). I will compile the top 10 list and it will be presented both in issue of the Psycho? Logical? Bulletin that comes out in January as well as during the holiday party. You can include any movie you want – though anything with Ron Jeremy will be immediately rejected - and it’s up to you whether make the list from your “favorite” movies or the ones you think are the “best”. Please encourage others to send me their favorites too because the more votes I receive the more representative the list will be (note than I will accept votes from relatives, friends, and that guy you met at a party last Saturday night). As with last time, if you can be bothered then also send me the name of your favorite director, actor, and actress. Time Out did that too, but I didn’t want to prime you by showing their results. I’ll publish that list in a forthcoming PLB and perhaps use the answers in the quiz too.

Happy List Making. Again.

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**Psychology Department’s Top Movies**

1. The Godfather (1 & 2)
2. Casablanca
3. The Big Chill
   - Fight Club
   - American Beauty
4. Schindler’s List
5. Pulp Fiction
6. The Shawshank Redemption
7. The Red Violin
8. Star Wars
   - Annie Hall
9. Ordinary People
   - The Empire Strikes Back
10. Vertigo
11. One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
12. Animal House
   - Chariots of Fire
   - The Magnificent Ambersons
   - Seven Samurai
13. Amadeus
   - Touch of Evil
   - Grease

---

Erik Thiessen knows that he can’t live without Battlefield Earth. And Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan. Personally, I prefer the one with the whales.
Department Head: The 2013 race is on!
From your political correspondent, David Henry Rakison

It may seem as if Mike Scheier has only just begun his second term as department head but the political machinations have already begun as the race heats up for his replacement. I’m hearing whispers in the corridors of the Psychology department—though perhaps that’s because I need to start taking my medication again—that suggest that there are a number of front runners for the job. Who are these slightly deranged people? What is their agenda? And how do I get hold of their ATM numbers? These are just a few of the questions I’ve been asking myself for the past 7 minutes. Now, in an exclusive for the PLB, I can report the names of the movers and shakers in the upcoming battle for power.

**Marlene Behrmann**
Strength: Extremely nice
Weakness: Extremely nice
Strongest supporters: David and Tux Plaut and the populations of Canada, South Africa, and the US
Campaign Catchphrase: Lean on Marlene or Only Behrmann can spur them
Odd: Not really. Quite normal.

**Lori Holt**
Strength: NIH hand her money just for writing a birthday card
Weakness: Not quite as nice as Marlene
Strongest supporters: Anyone who appreciates Italian leather
Campaign Catchphrase: You won’t be sorry with Lori or Nothing can Holt progress

**Sheldon Cohen**
Strength: A stress free, fully functional immune system
Weakness: Needs to work on his chipping and putting
Strongest supporters: Lori and Marlene because if he wins, they won’t.
Campaign Catchphrase: Psychology can get going with Cohen or Trouble is seldom with Sheldon
Odd: Rank outsider. At least 150-1.

**Erik Thiessen**
Strength: Um. Not clear really. Being the underdog?
Weakness: Lack of a gall bladder makes him susceptible to fatty food at Schatz
Strongest supporters: Beavers, Kittens.
Campaign Catchphrase: You can grease em with Thiessen or Don’t be hysteric: Here’s Erik!
Odd: Definitely. No question.

Outside candidates: Well, you get the idea

Disclaimer: This column was sponsored by the “Campaign to elect Sheldon Cohen”. All views presented herein are solely attributable to Dr. Cohen’s campaign manager (name withheld) and are not the overarching view of the PLB editorial staff. Any complaints should be sent directly to Sheldon Cohen, Psychology, 335D Baker Hall. He and his lawyers are awaiting your call. He may also buy you a free lunch to keep you quiet—but don’t count on it.
Have you seen this Pikachu? He is wanted in connection with attempts to be in pictures with Sith Lords.
Graduate students Sung-joo Lim, Akiko Mizuno and Sarah Schipul Swift took their show on the road last month.

They were selected to attend the 6th Annual National Graduate Student Research Conference at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

Their trip included presenting their dissertation research at a poster session and hob-knobbing with NIH Intramural investigators.

Where’s Creswell? Can you spot JDavid from his Brady Bunch-like family pic?

This sign is situated outside of Margaret Morrison. The PLB has inserted the appropriate word to make it more accurate. University officials refused to blame themselves about the constant flooding at the Children’s School, claiming instead that “water” was at fault. Poor, defenseless, water.
Where’s Waldo? Can you spot the Psychologist?
(hint: he really hates squirrels)

**Ex PLB Editor Creswell Attacks Tom Cruise and John Travolta**

An Arbroath man is suing the Church of Scientology -- a US-based religious organization which lists major Hollywood movie stars among its followers -- for up to £50,000.

David Creswell has lodged a writ at the High Court in London seeking damages from the Church of Scientology Religious Education College Inc. and the Dianetics and Scientology Mission of Bournemouth Ltd.

The writ states that Mr. Creswell is seeking damages against the two bodies to recover money he claims he paid under "undue influence."

Mr. Creswell is suing the two organizations for a number of sums of money including interest and has lodged an alternative claim against the two for damages limited to £50,000.

In the writ, he is seeking to recover a payment of £7350 which Mr. Creswell claims was made to the Church of Scientology Religious Education College under "under influence and/or in reliance upon deceits or misrepresentations."
What goes on in the mind of a modeler? We brought three of them together at PAL to find out. As you can see, Charles is clearly worried about the safety of his juice and is keeping an eye on it. Why? Because Plaut is coveting the golden nectar like a geek covets Sheldon Cooper’s comic collection. Ken Koedinger, meanwhile, is checking his emails – there is no better time to do so than when you’re on a panel at PAL.

Lindsay, Ran, and Eva show the faculty that no PAL presentation is complete without a Greeble impersonation. Next up: Greebles the Movie: They grovel but they won’t stay down.
Just a few months ago, the PLB broke the story that the department’s colloquium series is, in fact, cursed. The source of the curse remains unclear, as the department has not approved the PLB’s budget requests for the funds to dispatch an elite team of investigative reporters to determine what kind of curse (Gypsy curse, Native American burial ground curse, Bambino-related curse, Ken Kotovsky swearing curse) is at the root of the problem. But while the cause of the curse remains uncertain, its horrific results are all too clear.

A terrible fate has befallen each of the department’s recent colloquium speakers. The most recent casualty is Dr. Janet Werker, who suffered a concussion on the flight to Pittsburgh. This concussion may be the most serious incident in the colloquium curse series, and it suggests a troubling conclusion: the curse is growing more intense. Combing through departmental records has largely supported this conclusion (see Figure 1).

While it is too late to save most of our colloquium speakers, it’s not too late for Vladimir Sloutsky. Based on the rate of increase in the terribleness of curse-related outcomes, we have been able to make a series of educated guesses about the most probable dangers Dr. Sloutsky will face as he prepares to deliver next week’s talk. In no particular order, here are the four calamities our simulations indicate Dr. Sloutsky is most likely to endure.

1. Assigned to middle seat on flight to Pittsburgh, squeezed between two unpleasantly large men.
2. Slight intestinal discomfort resulting from too many pierogies.
3. Unseasonably cold weather.
4. Eaten by wolves right in the middle of talk.

Based on these projections, the PLB has urged Dr. Sloutsky to drive to Pittsburgh, bundled warmly in winter clothing, eat a salad, and bring a graduate student/stunt double to stand next to him during his talk, possibly wearing some form of meat-based clothing.

Footnotes
1. Also, the department has not approved the PLB’s request for an elite team of homing pigeons to allow us to communicate with our far-flung reporting staff, or an elite team of quarters to dispatch into the new soda machine, or an elite team of hairless male... well, the point is, some paperwork has probably gotten misplaced in the main office.
2. And still delivered her talk. We hear that members of the Penguins front office are beginning to regret drafting Sidney Crosby over Janet Werker, who has proven to be nearly impossible to knock out.
3. In theory, both useful and delicious. In practice, my experiments with bacon suits have been unsatisfactory, never failing to leave me covered in grease burns, uncomfortably full, and mostly nude by the end of breakfast.
**Benefits & Open Enrollment**

Some news and changes for 2012:

- Most CMU HR benefits staff are relatively new hires. Lori Bell is your best bet for complicated questions. [loribell@cmu.edu](mailto:loribell@cmu.edu)
- Open Enrollment is only 2 weeks this year, so don’t wait to think about it.
- Dental/vision moves from every-other-year to an annual election.
- Highmark-UPMC impact on CMU benefits isn’t known yet, and likely won’t be by the end of Open Enrollment. About 750 faculty/staff enrolled in Highmark are affected. HR says there are no plans at this time to extend/re-open enrollment if significant changes occur. For now, assume that the agreement will be over in 2012: Physician contracts end 6/30/12. Talk to your MD about coverage after that. Facilities (hospital) contracts end 12/31/12.
- If you want to keep your current options, you don’t have to log in… BUT if you have a benefits-healthcare spending (FSA) account, you MUST log in to specify your 2012 dollar amount. The max annual amount you can put into an FSA is $5k. OTC meds are no longer covered except by prescription.
- Pricing & design of medical and drug plans, including drug copays, will be about the same next year, except for Health America HMO, Highmark Comprehensive, and VBA Option 1, whose premiums will all rise ~10%. Dental plan premiums will also rise, the amount is TBA.
- Vision plan details: Davis Vision: 1-year warranty on their brand of frames. VBA: 1-year scratch protection; VBA also offers hearing aid discounts.
- Dependents ages 18-26 are newly eligible for dental, vision, and life insurance, regardless of student status.
- In response to questions, maternity leave is treated the same as short-term disability with respect to having to take PTO time, etc. And fathers can take FMLA unpaid leave, if they are the primary baby caregiver.
- CMU is looking into a bicycle commuter tax credit like Chatham and other schools have. The substantial downside—considering the Steel City’s five months’ worth of winter weather—is that tax-related terms of the credit could require staff who opt for it to forfeit their bus pass entirely.

**Food Drive**

Please consider sharing the (attached) Food Drive and Cans Across the Cut flyers with your staff and students. Guest Speaker Ivy Ero from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank gave her annual presentation to kick off the Staff Council Food Drive. Unfortunately, the recession has driven demand higher, while bulk donations like dented cans from Giant Eagle and other suppliers have dropped due to more efficient operations. The Food Bank has strengthened ties with K-12 schools, Heinz Field, and large employers to make it easier for both donors and recipients. The Food Drive always needs volunteers and, having helped with Cans Across the Cut, I can attest that it’s often fun to do. Contact Katie Labrou (email below) if you’d like to join us.

**Parking**

Guest Speaker Michelle Porter of CMU Parking Services reports that overcrowding issues in Morewood Lot have abated for the most part. Shuttles are being parked elsewhere, freeing up more spaces. When Morewood Lot is appropriated by Tepper and other new buildings in a few years, it will be replaced by as-yet-unbuilt (and more expensive) garage parking. At her Q&A, I asked whether CMU had looked into adopting park & ride shuttles to offsite surface lots, like those successfully used by Pitt & UPMC. Michelle replied that there are no current plans to do so. All lots & garages are currently 100% sold except some reserve space in the main garage for visitors. For those who park for
free in Schenley Park, be aware that the city apparently considers the park to close at sunset and will be more aggressive about ticketing and towing cars from those areas, now that the sun goes down earlier in the fall. Also: If you appreciate being able to use the Morewood Lot after hours at no cost (gates are left up after 4pm) for work, evening classes or cultural events, or if you would like to do so in the future, please consider sending an email to Michelle Porter (mporter@andrew) to say so: CMU may be considering closing the gate in the evenings, if not enough people express their support. There is a perception that mostly Pitt students use this lot after hours, and it is important for CMU campus members to show that we appreciate this option and don’t want to lose it, whether to attend class, work late hours, go to the gym, or attend cultural or volunteer events on or near campus.

Other News
A reminder was shared with us: CMU staff are eligible to participate in CMU intramural sports.

Save the Date
(Staff Council-related & other events of interest to staff)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENCORE PRESENTATION: Benefits Open Forum</td>
<td>Tues. Nov. 1, noon-1</td>
<td>UC McConomy Auditorium</td>
<td>Note: There will be microphones this time. John Lanyon, jlanyon@andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Drive: Dropoff barrels scheduled to be placed in campus buildings</td>
<td>Oct. 31-Nov. 11</td>
<td>Buildings on campus</td>
<td>Carole Panno or Katie Lambrou cp1g@andrew; lambrou@andrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benefits: Open Enrollment</td>
<td>Oct. 31-Nov. 14</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cmu.edu/hr/benefits/OE">http://www.cmu.edu/hr/benefits/OE</a> See postcard in your mailbox &amp; your email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefits: Benefits &amp; Fitness Fair</td>
<td>Wed. Nov. 2 11am-4pm</td>
<td>UC Rangos</td>
<td>John Lanyon, jlanyon@andrew</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Drive: Cans Across the Cut</td>
<td>Wed. Nov. 9 9am-4:30pm</td>
<td>The Cut, starts near the clock</td>
<td>To volunteer: Katie Lambrou, lambrou@andrew Faculty, staff, students all welcome. This is truly a FUN event to help with. Shifts are only 30 mins, for any time you choose. Feel free to contact Katie to volunteer for other Food Drive events, if you’re not able to help w/ Cans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President Cohon Open Forum</td>
<td>TBA, in late November</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>Email your question for Dr. Cohon to <a href="mailto:staff-council@andrew.cmu.edu">staff-council@andrew.cmu.edu</a></td>
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Discounts, Offers
Remember that SC-related discounts and many events are always listed on our website (URL is in the footer, below).
GRAD STUDENT CONFUSED BY NEW ENGLAND ROAD SIGNS, HARVARD HOPES DIM

This is the second installment of our series “You don’t have to be smart to be a grad student”. Names have been changed to protect advisor reputation.

While attending a state school in the capital of New York State, Susie Grad student was often fascinated by the road signs as she drove back and forth to school on the New York State Thruway. Of particular interest was the Masspike, or Mass Turnpike, signs she often saw. Unfortunately, her travels always called for a left turn exit for Albany, and she never got to take the Masspike exit. That is until a Christmas trip to Boston her sophomore year.

Susie was very excited to be finally taking that right hand turn for the Mass Turnpike. Though as the car approached the toll booths and Susie looked around, she became sorely disappointed. “Well,” she sighed, “this turnpike is not that big. You would think that it would be a lot larger with a name like mass turnpike.”

Susie later went on to become a grad student at one of the top universities in the country.

GRAD STUDENT TIPS (FROM “SURVIVING YOUR STUPID, STUPID DECISION TO GO TO GRAD SCHOOL” BY ADAM RUBEN)

- At graduation, do not write “HI, MOM,” on the top of your mortarboard in masking tape. Your parents don’t care about you anymore.
- Personal hygiene is optional

REFERENCES TO MALE GENITALIA DECREASE WITH EXIT OF EDITOR CREWSWELL

The Grad Talk Times is relieved to report that this issue of the PLB, edited by David Rakison and Lori Holt, features a huge reduction in references to male genitalia. Since taking over PLB editorial duties from Erik Thiesen, issues edited by David Creswell showed a significant increase in unnecessary jokes regarding male private parts (See Figure 1). Some articles made a large portion of readers uncomfortable, and many wondered whether Creswell was scrapping the bottom of the middle-school barrel for his humoral inspiration. Despite the reduction in stress ball references, the maturity level of the PLB is not expected to increase with the arrival of Rakison and Holt.
On a recent student field trip to the wilderness for mindfulness training, Professor David Creswell was caught unawares when the school bus broke down. As he started walking back to the nearest town for help, an alien spacecraft appeared before him, and informing him that he was to be given the power to save the world. After handing him a black case, the aliens disappeared.

Back home in Regent Square, Creswell opened the case to find a red suit and a cape, along with an instruction manual. Of course he lost the instruction manual, and hilarity ensued as he tried to figure out what the red suit and cape did.

Finally, after an initial reluctance to embrace the red unitard, Creswell discovered he could fly, had super strength, good hair, invisibility and psychometry (which, surprisingly, is not the ability to theoretically define and refine psychological measurements).

Since taking on the suit, Creswell has worked with FBI agent Robert Culp and attorney Connie Sellecca in thwarting not only a KGB mole, but also a Loch Ness type creature lurking in the Monongahela.

In a surprising turn of events, it was found that the red suit and cape also gave Creswell the power of precognition, and it was later discovered that it was not aliens who delivered him the black case, but was in fact Daryl Bem.

The Grad Talk Times Staff
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Ridiculously Good Looking Grad Student: Crista Crittenden
Childa Popmore’s Publicist: Crista Crittenden
Assistant to Ms. Crittenden: Crista Crittenden
Meet Childa Popmore

You may pass her everyday, but do you really know Childa Popmore? Recently the grad talk editors sat down with Childa to find out a little bit more about her.

Childa recently moved to Pittsburgh and Baker Hall after a messy divorce. “My ex was a total Diet Coke-head” she admits. “I wanted to get away and start somewhere new”. She admits it was hard at first, especially during the summer. “At first I was lonely, and I wondered if I made the right decision. Some days I just felt so empty inside. I mean it was like everyone was taking everything I had inside, and nothing was getting replenished”. But as the school year began, she began to feel more at home, and life seemed fuller. She decided to get out there and date again, and after joining Facebook, she met Javier McVendy. “Javier works for the University of Pittsburgh, over at Sterling Plaza. We just have so much in common. He also offers something special, something a lot of the others don’t have. Mainly ice cold Rip It and Redbull.”

If you want to know more about Childa, check her out on Facebook, and make sure to say hello the next time you walk by.

Ridiculously Good Looking Grad Students Attend Another Ridiculously Good Looking Grad Student’s Wedding

Congrats Colleen and Jeremy!