

E·X·C·U·S·E·S

This is Excuses 3, which was published from September 2001 through February 2002. It was originally distributed via e-mail, and this was a clumsy system at best. A few pages are cut off at the bottom because since I started doing it as a non-print publication, fitting it on a page was no longer a priority. The only parts of any of these that are cut off are the "DO NOT REPLY" notification, which appears on every page and is exactly the same on each.

You can see the thing evolve slightly, with the addition of new components which I wound up maintaining over the years. Also please bear in mind that these were written under the following circumstances:

1. I was 16 years old and in high school at the time.
2. I was (and still am) a fairly introverted individual, and was (and still am) sort of weird, esoteric, and my brain exists in its own little world at times. Historically I have had difficulties when it doesn't occur to me that the remainder of the world is not operating within the bounds of my own reality. It's not a clinical condition, it's just how I am and always will be.
3. I had been set up with this girl Kathy who was a friend of a friend from the Purdue GERI summer program. She lived in Hammond, IN at the time, and I lived in Elyria, OH. The only redeeming factor of this was the fact that these two cities are both on I-80, and I am grateful to my parents and hers for making a host of trips over the years to cart us back and forth to see each other. It didn't work out in the end, but I think having a relationship kept me sane for a while, and is what caused me to work a little harder in school: she was getting straight A-s while I was busy middling along with B-minuses. The year after I met her I started getting almost straight A-s myself.

A few editions may need some special explanation:

6. This was the first use of Embarrassing ways you could die, which was slightly morbid but I liked it and so did everyone else.
8. I changed the color of the bars at the top that separate the title area from the major content. This was a minor and insignificant change, but I was coding some amount of HTML at the time, which I have always been mediocre at best at.
15. This edition somehow got partially lost along the way. There is an outside possibility that someone might have it in an e-mail box, but given that it was 8 years ago, I'm not counting on that.
16. Irony of the Week began here, and persisted through Excuses Four.
21. There would have been a 21, but it was only half finished. I think I recycled the phantom Edition 21 into the next volume of Excuses, so it has been omitted. I wound up stopping because I just didn't have the time to do it anymore. What always happens is I would shoot for a target and invariably fall short due to unanticipated factors. This and my inability to keep consistent count of editions became a bit of a running joke throughout the series.

Please enjoy this compilation of my creative mind, as it saw the world in 2001. Oh, and I only used Comic Sans MS on this to be consistent with the remaining content. It was 2001, everyone was doing it.

-T.J.

E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Here goes nothing, again. Hey, hey, do that E-mail thing! The main form of delivery of excuses will be via E-mail. I screwed up last week, so this is last weeks. You will get this week's as soon as you subscribe. (Details below)

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It made my computer crash." Eerily enough, this seriously happened to me.
2. "A wild flamingo ate it." Oh yeah, that's believable...
3. "I couldn't get my answer precise enough. 120 decimals of π was insufficient." Geometry, anyone?
4. "It got lost in a flurry of sheet music." No, I obviously can't play the piano.
5. "It got mailed to Hammond?"
6. "I dropped it in the piano." Who knows?
7. "I was bringing someone back to life." If you can do that, you'll never have to do homework again.
8. "I tried to upload it so I could download it at school. It's probably still working if it hasn't disconnected yet."
9. "A marine elephant was sitting on my book."
10. "We're all going to die in the end anyway."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I accidentally stepped into an alternate dimension, and soon I was abducted by some aliens from space who kinda looked like Jamie Farr..."

My duckie friend mysteriously vanished. How disconcerting.

2. "I was abducted by my computer." Image available upon request.
3. "My locker was superglued shut."
4. "I got sent home for dress code violations." (pff!) At MY school? Yaright.
5. "There was an idiot pep rally, why do you THINK I didn't show up?"
6. "I accidentally drank some Elyria water. I won't be back for a while."
7. "A piano fell on me." This could happen.
8. "A jello balloon fell on my house." This could happen to anyone but me.
9. "I hereby declare that today is saturday."
10. "I was out causing global unrest and economic chaos."

"My only problem with football is that someone's got to 'win'."

-T.J. Zmina

Since there was an error in sending last weeks excuses, this is last weeks excuses. You will not receive another edition of Excuses unless you subscribe. To do so, send a blank E-mail message to excuses@cantplaypiano.com with the subject line "subscribe". By not acting on this, you will receive no further editions of excuses. If you wish to stop receiving excuses at a later time, send a blank E-mail message to that address with the subject line "unsubscribe".

Edition 1 of (with any luck) 30.
[I promise to get the numbers right this year.]

Week of 9/17/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Hey, I made it! Another edition! Whoo-hoo!

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "My bookbag spontaneously combusted."
2. "My textbook collapsed into a supermassive black hole." With textbooks as big as they are these days...
3. "I wrote it on invisible paper with invisible ink."
4. "I coded it into assembly language."
5. "I did it in binary."
6. "I did it in hex codes."
7. "My dog ate the disk my homework was on." A 21st century twist, eh?
8. "I accidentally used it to clean up a hydrochloric acid spill."
9. "Madness I tell you, MADNESS!!!"
10. "I was excited, yet drowsy at the same time." erk?

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I awoke this morning to find my car on the roof."
2. "I was up all night trying to figure out how to get accent marks on the computer."
3. "My house was robbed last night and the only thing they took was my alarm clock."
4. "I got hit by a piano truck." Ok, whatever.
5. "I sat on my rolling ruler." That was a disaster!
6. "My nose swelled up like a balloon."
7. "I'm sneezing like mad, did you really want me here?"
8. "I got a nasty paper cut, and to make a long story short it got infected and I died."
9. "My left index finger is bleeding from the inside." As in, it's not bleeding, but it is. I'll have to show you.
10. "Only 28 more editions to go." Woot woot! (Doggone it, Kristyn...)

"How can medicine cause excitability and drowsiness?"

-Kathy

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Edition 2 of (hopefully) 30.

Week of 9/24/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

This is going to start a revolution.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "Oh, it's *not* Christmas? Sorry about that."
2. "We broke the disk." No Kathy, I didn't say YOU broke the disk.
3. "I forgot my computer password." Please enter 121 decimals of π to continue.
4. "Oh. Crap." Well, it IS a possible response.
5. "I made the startling discovery that $a+b$ does NOT equal c ."
6. "I was."
7. "I broke my arm trying to play football with a vending machine... I was trying to get my quarter back." Ooh, look at how I can't deal with this headset for one more second.
8. "Some guy in a space suit toting an oversized hair drier jumped through a hole in space-time and snatched it." Wow, that was cheesy.
9. "I did it in base 8. It's just like base 10 really, if you're missing two fingers." (Thanks, Tom.)
10. "It morphed into a frog."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "You mean a jumbo jet didn't crash into my school? dang." Sorry about that. I'm writing this about 3 weeks in advance.
2. "I had to hurt the dog." No, I will not hurt the dog.
3. "I was busy founding 'slackers anomomous'."
4. "I was busy founding the 'lets all just sit in a chair club'."
5. "I was busy converting excuses from RTF format to HTML format." OMG, WTD? LOL :)
6. "I was writing cheesy excuses."
7. "I had to recapture a 2 liter of RC. It's not yours now, nor was it ever."
8. "I was doing my homework." This one is a classic, it goes back to the second grade.
9. "I dropped a beaker full of acid in my lap." Not something I would ever want to experience.
10. "I set the kitchen on fire making breakfast." Also not something I would ever want to experience.

"I will not hurt the dog. I will not hurt the dog. I will not hurt the dog... Argh... "
-Kathy

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Edition 3 of (possibly) 30.

Week of 10/1/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Look at how I am continuing to work on excuses. Just because I care. Do I have 10 subscribers yet? Tell your friends!

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "On the bus."
2. "Somewhere in Washington, enshrined in some little folder, is a study in black-and-white of my homework."
3. "In Vancouver."
4. "A rabid weasel ate it."
5. "It froze."
6. "Baked in a cake."
7. "Buried in the back yard."
8. "Hmmm, it must be in my other pants..."
9. "It ran away and hid."
10. "It melted." I've been doing this for too long.

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I got toilet papered." Read that again, I...
2. "I tripped on a banana peel."
3. "I was attacked by a giant man-eating ball."
4. "My watch is still on central time."
5. "I fell into a giant man-eating pile of leaves." It's not quite that time of year yet, is it?
6. "There was a nuclear waste spill on my street."
7. "I was wondering what the odds against me ever being able to play piano are." Infinity to one.
8. "I was shot in the posterior." That sounds painful.
9. "My hair refused to cooperate this morning."
10. "I had a large quantity of coffee spilled on me by virtue of a projectile foul ball headed in my general direction." That one was priceless, Scooz.

"I am not, nor have I ever been, nor have I ever desired to **BE** Victor Frankenstein."

-T.J.

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Edition 4 of (maybe) 30.

Week of 10/8/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Hey, I'm still doing this. Something must have gone right. I'm making a small change for next week, we'll see how it goes.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I needed a shovel because I couldn't dig it."
2. "It involved knowing what π^2 was, and I was so happy, I couldn't finish it."
3. "Oh come on, homecoming was this weekend! You thought I was gonna do homework?" I have no idea when your homecoming is/was, and I have no idea when Elyria's homecoming is/was, nor do I give a flying meatball.
4. "The maid stole it."
5. "You just blew \$40 on a fake folder of excuses. (dang!)"
6. "Oh, it's not homework, it's practice!" Excuse me whilst I go barf. Ugh. That was painful. I'm going to go wash my hands now.
7. "It was stolen by a herd of rabid Seattle Mariners fans."
8. "Someone turned off the bathroom fan and the computer died."
9. "Is this thing on?"
10. "..."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was abducted by Ewoks and they took me to Endor." That should keep the little squirts happy...
2. "I was hit in the face by a football and fell in the street."
3. "I got a job in the military. I'm sort of an Army liaison to the office of naval contemplation." (Note to Dave: you're the only one that's complaining. Call it 'recycled humour')
4. "A murphy bed fell on me."
5. "I was on holiday, you KNEW that."
6. "We were robbed by the maid."
7. "I was stuck in traffic for two hours. Elyria high school was having a bomb threat drill." Technically called an "Extended Evacuation".
8. "Ever have a piano fall on you?"
9. "It's not fun."
10. "I'm just guessing because it's never happened to me either."

"If anyone is going to get close enough to me to hug me, they are also getting close enough for me to sneeze on them."
-T.J. Zmina

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Edition 5 of (whimper) 30.

Week of 10/15/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

The reason we're out so flippin' late this week is because the guy who sends this out every week is having some, err... technical difficulties. I have to send it out on my own. (grumble, grumble)

I'm gonna try this, it's a minor difference in the standard excuses format. If you love it, super, if you hate it, that's fine too. If you feel strongly about it one way or the other, E-mail me. Reader response will determine the future of this new section. Hey, tell your friends about us! Have them subscribe too, suck them into this downward vortex we call "Excuses"

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "In Afghanistan."
2. "Is it chocolate coated and shaped like a doughnut?"
3. "Ich bin ein Berliner."
4. "It was shoved into my nose during a fight with my brother." (or sister)
5. "My book was eaten by a like-like." I've been playing Zelda WAY too much.
6. "My book got flushed down the toilet."
7. "My book was eaten by some spirit freaks."
8. "I wrote it with invisible ink on invisible paper."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was in shock that notepad caused a Blue Screen of Death." I'm not lying to you when I say that.
2. "A large pad of paper fell on me."
3. "I was sent to Afghanistan to fight and bleed and kill and die for liberty..."
4. "AOL 7.0 was out and I couldn't wait to download it!!!" Oh trust me, you can wait.
5. "Someone superglued my feet to the ceiling."
6. "No, *YOUR* watch is wrong."
7. "I was hit in the head with a golf ball." Almost, but not quite.
8. "I discovered the wonder that is Sparknotes(.com!)."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. Being run over by a Zamboni machine.
2. To fall in the toilet.
3. Complications from a papercut.
4. Waiting to get on AOL. (Oooh, *That's* harsh.)
5. To slip and fall on a poster which was to serve as an example of what you were going to do to the other team. (I can expound on that if you'd like. Lemme know.)

I discovered numerous spelling errors in last week's edition. Those responsible for checking my spelling have been sacked.

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Edition 6 of (isn't this ambitious) 30.

Week of 10/22/2001, but way late

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

From what I hear, last week's excuses was really really late. Not my fault. Blame it on the guy who sends these things out. He managed to crash windows XP, though this is not the cause of Excuses being late. His computer network fried. I may have to send these out on my own for a while. This means that there is no guarantee that they'll make it out on time, or that they'll make it out at all for that matter. I do know that my title banner won't exist for a while, and I have to creatively make do without. Ouch.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It burst into flames when I sneezed on it."
2. "It did not contribute to my overall happiness."
3. "It made my calculator burst into flames."
4. "Have you ever seen a flaming penguin?" I'll see if I can drum up the picture for you.
Okay, enough with the pyrotude.
5. "Someone lined the birdcage with it."
6. "It was confiscated by the Taliban."
7. "I spilled pop on it, then hung it on the clothesline to dry. When I went to get it, it was gone."
8. "I have a solar powered calculator and it was cloudy."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I dropped a giant ice cube on my foot."
2. "The wall started making funny noises."
3. "Takin' the SAT."
4. "Netmeeting refused to cooperate."
5. "I had to send out 'Excuses' on my own." That's painful. I'm not sure if it ever got out last week.
6. "I had to beat my computer into submission, it was making unnatural noises."
7. "I had to beat up Craig." Wow, *NOBODY'S* going to understand that one.
8. "I suffered long hours over an activity series."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. To have a piano fall on you.
2. Reinstalling Windows.
3. As a member of the Taliban.
4. Falling into a chicken vat at the Tyson factory. (They tell me that this actually happened)
5. Methane inhalation. (As a result of eating too many beans.)

"What computer users call 'bugs', Microsoft calls 'features'."

-T.J. Zmina, though I think I had heard it someplace long ago.

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Edition 7 of (holy cow) 30.

Week of 10/29/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

If you got excuses last week, good. If you didn't, E-mail me and I'll try to send it to you myself. Sending things to multiple people never seems to work for me. And to think, I have one edition in storage ready to go. (Of course, it's Sunday, so that doesn't mean anything.) If for whatever reason you don't receive excuses by Wednesday of the week, send me an E-mail and I'll see to it that those responsible are sacked.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It's probably on my keychain somewhere."
2. "In Tibet."
3. "It was stolen by a herd of freshmen."
4. "Are you sure you want it? I don't know, might have Anthrax..."
5. "I was up until 3 in the morning building a time machine to go back so that I could do my homework."
6. "I absent-mindedly stuck it in a giant ATM machine."
7. "I was too busy writing reasons why I don't like dances."
8. "I left my bookbag in the driveway." Now *THAT* one's a classic.

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was building a computer."
2. "I'm not really late, there was a time change, remember?"
3. "My shaver snagged my mustache."
4. "Does everybody know what time it is? TOOL TIME! Na-na-na-na-na-naaaa-na!"
5. "I had the problem of extracting my neighbor's shoe..." That's painful. I'm not sure if it ever got out last week. (Note: this is the same justification that was there from last week, and so I just stuck with it. "Why not?" I said to myself.)
6. "I fell down 108 flights of stairs." That would HURT!
7. "I got lost." That one is a classic too.
8. "I left my computer password behind." Yes, that could be important.

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. To be trampled by a herd of freshmen.
2. To get hit in the head by something that "just fell right outtada sky!"
3. Shaking your groove thing.
4. Complications from an injury sustained while doing the Y.M.C.A.
5. From someone shining a laser beam in your eye. (Kids, don't try this at home.)

"Oh, yeah? Watch me."

-probably everyone in the universe at some point

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Edition 8 of (my word) 30.

Week of 11/5/2001

Happy Birthday this week, Kristyn

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Tell your friends about us. Have them subscribe. Really. Granted they won't be your friends for long, but hey, you can't say you ever kept anything from them.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I'm on a strict diet of laziness and lethargy."
2. "I spilled acid/base/salt solution/water all over it." Titrations, I always spill at least 10 gallons of stuff all over the place.
3. "The homework, as well as this school, is inadequate and smelly."
4. "My book collapsed under it's own weight."
5. "Have you ever been to Kazakhstan?"
6. "I can't give you my homework, I wrote the equation for turning lead into gold in the margin."
7. "Inside my computer for safekeeping."
8. "In Belarus."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was eating stale crackers."
 2. "I was up all night building buzzers for academic challenge." Our buzzers suck.
 3. "My SMTP server kicked me out."
 4. "I woke up late, then tried to build a time machine so that I could go back in time and not be late."
 5. "I broke my thumb trying to open a window."
 6. "I was up all night wired on surge."
- I just lost a little piece of metal that fits over a gizmo on this random computer card. That's not good.
7. "I forgot my lines." That's always fun.
 8. "I was makin' tea."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. Due to a miscommunication.
2. To have an asbestos ceiling tile fall on your head.
3. To have a window fall on you.
4. To get hit by a penny dropped from the top of the Sears tower.
5. Shock from something that most normal people would consider, well, normal.

"Life is complex: it has real and imaginary components."

-No idea.

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Edition 9 of (if my computer doesn't blow up) 30.

Week of 11/12/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Two statements to make this week: 1. I fixed something electronic. (Not to mention ancient) and 2. I was the only person in the room at academic challenge last week (aside from my physics teacher/team advisor) who knew what $11\pi/6$ radians is in degrees. (It's 330° in case you cared.)

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I forgot which week of excuses I was on."
2. "My notebook turned to stone."
3. "Winamp died."
4. "I HATE people like that."
5. "Super-de-didilley-duper."
6. "In a 'Bugles' bag."
7. "La-dee-freakin'-dah."
8. "I lost my mind."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was setting fire to my modem."
2. "I found a radio station."
3. "I was searching for my mind. I was told it was lost."
4. "I was searching for the fountain of youth."
5. "I found a long lost edition of excuses which I don't think ever made it out last year."
6. "I O.D.ed on 'Bugles'."
7. "I was looking through old editions of excuses."
8. "I was caught in the middle of a "time warp weekend"."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. Electrocuted by precambrian electronics.
2. A toxic cookie.
3. A heart attack because issue 29 passed/didn't pass
4. Listening to "Ice Ice baby". That COULD be deadly.
5. Being hit in the head with a "pizza by the foot" box. Anyone else remember that?

"The heart of Rock and Roll is still beating..." -Huey Lewis

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Edition 10 of (as I skirt another deadline) 30.

Week of 11/19/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

So I have to write another edition of excuses. I guess it could be worse. I need powerpoint. Not for excuses though. How would I use powerpoint for excuses?

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It fell into the fourth dimension."
2. "I wrote it with a uranium pencil and it radioactively decayed."
3. "PRN1 is on fire!"
4. "I burst out in song."
5. "Thisisanimportantquestiontomepleaseanswer..."
6. "I was too busy trying to figure out how much force Erin must push a 25 kg crate of corned beef to make it move if the coefficient of friction is 0.5." The answer is something on the order of 122.5 N.
7. "I was planning, scheming, whatever you want to call it."
8. "I was trying to figure out why things can't just *work*."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I climbing my amateur radio tower and conked myself in the head with a bucket of tools while I was climbing down." Dang you, Atwood.
2. "Super." Dang you, Secaur.
3. "I was in Hammond, IN." What was I doing there? I hear you cry, well, I haven't been there. Yet anyway.
4. "I went for a jog in the 3° weather this morning." Fahrenheit, celsius, or kelvin, it makes no difference.
5. "I was listening to way cool music." Barenaked Ladies, best band EVER!
6. "I am now dead from nickel carbonyl inhalation."
7. "I was doin' the time warp (again)."
8. "Why can't I ever get more than a week ahead on excuses?"

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. From embarrassment.
2. From jogging.
3. To be hit by a meteorite.
4. Enjoying the humour of the situation.
5. While calculating the amount of force it would require to launch a potato from here to Hammond, IN.

"...But then I think about the time when we broke up before the prom and you told everyone that I was gay, okay..."
-LFO, "Every Other Time"

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Edition 11 of (no comment) 30.

Week of 11/26/2001

Happy birthday, Kathy.

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

I was ahead for a while there. I was 13 days ahead last tuesday. That means that I could have gone 13 days without writing any excuses. I prefer not to skirt deadlines by such a small amount, so I try to have at least one edition in reserve at all times. Now you know my secret business plan. Don't tell the neighbors or they'll all want one.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I defenestrated it." Look it up.
2. "In Fargo, North Dakota."
3. "In my dog's stomach."
4. "I put my homework inside a Klein bottle last night and when I went to get it this morning, it wasn't there."
5. "I wrote it in a secret code."
6. "I panicked and ate it."
7. "Elsewhere."
8. "I absent-mindedly stuck it in a giant vending machine."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "Writing a dance song." tee hee hee...
2. "I was involved in an incident involving superglue and a dance."
3. "I was hiding in my file cabinet."
4. "In the middle of the Sahara desert."
5. "I was contemplating the difference between a week and a year."
6. "I was contemplating the geographical difference between here and Hammond."
7. "I was contemplating the time difference between January and July."
8. "I was kicking my dog for eating my homework."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. At a dance.
2. For one of those flimsy vertical staircases to collapse on you.
3. Radiation from nuclear batteries.
4. Top embarrassing way to die: asking someone to dance. That's also an embarrassing reason to lose one's lunch, to faint, and a multitude of other things, but I'm thinking that it would be something that may cause my death, probably by a violent means, I.E.: explosion
5. From being poked.

"I said that? When did I say tha... oh. That's right, I did, didn't I? OW, MY ANKLE!!!!"

-T.J., on July 6 and/or 12, 2002

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Edition 12 of (yeah, yeah) 30.

Week of 12/3/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

I'm still writing excuses. Imagine that.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I left my mind in my locker."
2. "Inside this tennis ball."
3. "I baked it into a pie."
4. "I used it to calculate the declination angle of the sun."
5. "In China."
6. "I got a 1600 on my SAT, why should I need to do homework?"
7. "On Mars."
8. "My mouse exploded."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "Wait a minute, I can't compile that!!!"
 2. "What is time, really?"
 3. "You mean Y2K is over with?"
 4. "I was blowing up my computer."
 5. "I thought you fired me..."
- It's cold in here. Just thought I'd pass that along.
6. "Pulling out my 56K modem and smashing it to little tiny bits."
- Great, winamp just died on me and won't come back. Super. Does this day get any better?
7. "I was learning to dance."
 8. "I was writing crummy excuses." (Did I use this one already? Sorry about that.)

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section)

1. Exploding into a gooey mess after one tried to hold your hand.
2. Tripping over a desk.
3. Inhaling an insect.
4. Getting the snot zapped out of you from putting up Christmas lights.
5. To be shot by your own platoon for one army joke too many.

"So anyway..."

-J. Secaur

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Edition 13 of (don't wanna hear about it) 30.

Week of 12/10/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Is it midterm time yet?

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I actively ignored it." How do you actively ignore something?
2. "I was eating cheese whiz."
3. "Ammo."
4. "It made my calculator explode."
5. "Printer error." Oh yeah and PRN1 is on fire!
6. "I was doing my dumb-as-balls English project that I'm going to be doing for the rest of the year."
7. "Orbiting Saturn." Kepler's third law, anyone?
8. "Remembering that I used to be a ninth grader." (Notice how I didn't say Freshman.)

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I ran home to get my homework."
2. "I had to wait for my dog to finish eating my homework."
3. "I was hiding behind my portfolio."
4. "I had four tests yesterday, that's enough to wear anyone out."
5. "I was mailing myself from Hammond back home."
6. "My flight was diverted to Tokyo."
7. "Studying Kepler's laws." Dang that Kepler guy.
8. "I was studying for my 4 tests on tuesday." (Okay, so that was last week.)

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. Getting knocked out by an enormous _____. (Fill in the blank with whatever the heck you want. We'll play "match game" with this.)
2. To be backed over by a garbage truck.
3. To electrocute yourself by peeing on a streetlamp post. (Few people are stupid enough to do that.)
4. From taking tests.
5. Contemplating the gramineosity of a situation.

"Let's do the time warp again!"

-Rocky Horror picture show

By the way, don't be alarmed when you don't get excuses for the next two weeks. I'm taking time off for the holidays, but since my cousin thinks that this should be a monthly publication, he won't get another edition until the middle of next month. (hint, hint)

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Edition 14 of (that's right) 30.

Week of 12/17/2001

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Happy new year yo. I'm late, deal with it.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I taped it precisely 6'4" above the floor to compliment my homework that was taped 5'6" above the floor." Only one person in the known universe will have any idea what I'm talking about, but the rest of you can enjoy this on it's own merits.
2. "It wasn't even a very good piece of parchment, see? Fell right apart."
3. "Does anyone know what ATA stands for?!" Just a thought.
4. "I shot my optical mouse, how the mouse got optical, I'll never know."
5. "I threw it at the TV during the Rose Bowl."
6. "..."
7. "..."
8. "..."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was sending E-mail to my long lost friends."
2. "I was wondering why things work all of a sudden."
3. "Coming back from Hammond, IN. How I got there, I'll never know."
4. "I had to go shopping."
5. "Where do *YOU* think I was?"
6. "I punched a locker really hard and am in excruciating pain."
7. "I had a prior social commitment."
8. "..."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. Electrocution by a power outlet that you installed yourself.
2. To be mobbed by rabid Cleveland Browns fans after the game was ended on screwed up call, blah blah blah, they can't actually do that, yada yada...
3. To be hit in the head by a matzoh ball.
4. To drop the AP physics *C* midterm exam on your foot and die from complications. (If previous AP Phys. *C* tests are any indication, the midterm is gonna take a large forest to photocopy.)
5. By drinking liquified tennis balls.

"Dude, you liquified tennis balls."

-Rob Wilco, "Get Fuzzy" (greatest comic strip EVER!!!!)

La la la la.

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Edition 15 of (you better believe it!) 30.

Week of 1/7/2002

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

I got more memory for my computer. Hopefully it won't crash as often now, and the system on the whole will be more efficient. (Note: it's acting like a moron now, but not as a result of the memory.) Oh yeah, and don't be surprised if there's no excuses next week, this coming weekend is going to be chaos in T.J.ville.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It was so boring, I fell asleep doing it."
2. "I was really quite tired."
3. "It's underneath a car tire somewhere."
4. "My computer exploded."
5. "I need orange juice and I need it now!!!"
6. "I gave it to Agnes." Or was that "I got it from Agnes"?
7. "My Dad's Arthur Andersen accountant shredded my homework."
8. "It was not economically feasible to do homework."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "My computer refused to stop loading, so I kicked it."
2. "My eyeball fell out."
3. "How does one justify being caught in a bear trap?"
4. "What, the fact that my car was on the roof is not a good excuse to be late?"
5. "The 4-wheel drive, oversized tires with KrudGripper tread and Locking differential on the Bushwhacker didn't work."
6. "I got stuck in the snow going out to buy a shovel."
7. "I knew I never should have installed that pet door."
8. "I was moving heavy objects."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. Electrocutted by your hard drive.
2. Overexuberance over the fact that your evil communist Spanish teacher (We'll call her CSN) is leaving next semester.
3. Choking on a chocolate chip that wasn't in the no chocolate chip chocolate chip cookie.
4. Trying to land an airplane using "Excel".
5. For a smokestack to fall on your head. (Watch out EHS, you could be next!)

"I am thoroughly disappointed that the no chocolate chip chocolate chip cookie turned out as a yucky pile of cookie crap."
-Kathy

Did I get it right this time?

Irony of the Week:

You know it's time to pitch out the breakfast cereal when saturated in milk, it sounds like you're chewing fresh lettuce.

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Edition 16 of (craziness!) 30.

Week of 1/21/2002

If you know anyone who might enjoy excuses, ship their email address to me. Thanks!

E·X·C·U·S·E·S

I've been letting myself get behind on excuses. That's a bad thing.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I was in Hammond, IN all weekend." (True)
2. "I was playing Snood."
3. "I felt like someone was jabbing me in the stomach with a fork."
4. "I ran out of paper and tried to do it on a tissue."
5. "I ran out of tissues and tried to do it on toilet paper."
6. "I ran out of toilet paper and had to use a banana leaf."
7. "Ahh... no more banana leaves."
8. "I'm not sure that Issac Newton could have done this..."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I wasn't eating well."
 2. "I got my foot caught in a sewer grate."
 3. "I had a large headache from being exposed (no pun intended) to so many camera flashes."
 4. "I was busy telling someone that she's not short."
 5. "A transfer of nervousness was in order."
- You know, these used to fit on a page, I doubt they do any more.
6. "Oh, so it's 3:00, nice."
 7. "My watch is no longer an hour off, I couldn't figure out what time it was."
 8. "Am I seeing things?"

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. Running into a pillar and having it fall on you. (almost did that)
2. To get hit in the head by a low hanging <fill in object>.
3. As President of the United States.
4. From getting a static shock on your face.
5. Arsenic deficiency.

"It's gonna be fine."

-Hillary, Kristyn, Annie, Kathy, Janelle, etc...

"Why didn't I take more pictures?"

-T.J.

Irony of the Week:

When the new Spanish teacher is listing a set of verbs which change a certain form to U*E, and the letter which fills in the * on her examples were C, S, and N, in that order.

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Edition 17 of (a rather round) 30.

Week of 1/28/2002

If you know anyone who might enjoy excuses, ship their email address to me. Thanks!

E·X·C·U·S·E·S

My school's winter formal is this coming weekend. They chose not to tell us about it until the beginning of last week. Why do you care? Well, odds are you don't.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "Probably in that hole in the wall over there."
2. "Hammond, IN."
3. "I'm guessing it's still in my scanner." That's where everything else is.
4. "It's in a mayonnaise jar which has been hermetically sealed and sitting on Funk and Wagnall's porch since noon today." I think I used that already.
5. "Dang required classes."
6. "It must be in a coffee cup, that's where everything else is." How did it get in a coffee cup?
7. "Inside my computer."
8. "It was cleverly disguised as garbage."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "I was learning shellsript."
2. "Releasing and renewing my cable connection manually."
3. "I was trying to get my Excuses header to work."
4. "Retyping old Excuses editions."
5. "I accidentally looked directly into the overhead."
6. "Realizing that I can almost type without looking at the keyboard."
7. "My name is Ted, I am a journalist from the United States."
8. "I was trying to get my insert key to work right." Dang keyboard...

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. In a cave.
2. To have a traffic light fall on your head.
3. Having a spring pop out of a physics cart you were trying to push it into and having it go through your eye and ultimately your brain.
4. Installing Windows XP.
5. Stretching.

"Some time I'm gonna eat the whole fortune cookie, fortune and all."

-T.J.

Irony of the Week:

Winter formal here happens to coincide with plans already made by the girl I would have gone with.

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Edition 18 of (though there will probably be more) 30.

Week of 2/4/2002

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Trying to get ahead on Excuses for once. I'll probably fail at that task, but I can always say I tried.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "It succumbed to the fudge factor." Oh wait, we're not supposed to know about that.
2. "Inside this water bottle here."
3. "I'll look for it when I'm done curing cancer."
4. "It became a part of my failed experiment to integrate a chicken and take the derivative of water."
5. "I determined it's specific heat."
6. "It's in a secret hiding place. Well, no, I can't tell you, it's a secret."
7. "If I told you, I would have to kill you."
8. "I blame the federal government."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "Creating XeF₄ Crystals."
2. "I got tired of writing excuses."
3. "I was trying to buy my domain name."
4. "I was trying to find a cable modem."
5. "My car broke down so I beat the crap out of it with a baseball bat I conveniently happened to have in the trunk."
6. "Hacking NATO's computers. Did you know that I can guess their password in two tries."
7. "Re-writing the entire network protocol of our corporation in six keystrokes."
8. "I thought that was the kind of thing that only happens in bad movies..."

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. For a lamp to fall on your head.
2. To be struck by lightning in the middle of a forest.
3. Injuries sustained due to a screen door.
4. Trying to prove Fermat's last theorem.
5. Boredom.

"At a dance one night I vowed to dance with no one taller than I. I bet I danced with every ten year-old boy there."

-Erma Bombeck, *The grass is always greener over the septic tank*

Irony of the Week:

Winter formal is going on as I write this, and I actually care.

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Edition 19 of (such talent) 30.

Week of 2/11/2002

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E·X·C·U·S·E·S

Edition twenty, yay. I just didn't feel like writing excuses last week.

Modern answers to the age old question "Where is your homework?"

1. "I wrote it in Swahili."
Now obviously I've written that one before. I don't know that for an absolute fact, but I know that I must have.
2. "I wrote it in the standard galactic alphabet."
3. "I blame the Governor."
4. "In a snowbank off of the highway."
5. "Well, can you write me a pass to go out to my truck?"
6. "I was writing flippin' note cards for English class."
7. "I blame Congressman Brown."
8. "I blame State Senator Armbruster."

Modern answers to the age old question "Why are you late?" or "Why weren't you here?"

1. "Deleting old e-mail." (For me, that would take a long time...)
2. "Law of Conservation of late people."
3. "FREEBIRD!!"
4. "wheeeeeeee-yoo!"
5. "Law of Conservation of Secaurisms." (What?)
6. "Writing a short story." I tried that once. I really did.
7. "But really, what is time? Time is a magazine. Now ask me about "Life"."
8. "It was a yucky pile of cookie crap." (I don't know)

Embarrassing ways you could die (AKA: The new section, though it's not new any more, it's newer than the other sections.)

1. "Breaking it down."
2. Napthalene poisoning.
3. Lead Deficiency. (Yes, how original is the T.J.? Don't answer that.)
4. Electrocutation from dropping a hair dryer into the bathtub.
By the way, messing with electricity is about the stupidest thing you can do. I'm not going to sugar coat it, it's just stupid.
5. From zapping yourself with a Van de Graff generator.

Hilarious quote of the century (I laughed for a good long time, though unless you have an idea why it was so funny to me, then you probably will only laugh at it for a few seconds, enjoying it on it's own merits.)

"I feel like a boy going to his first dance and his mom's got to do his tie for him."

-Jen Watring

Irony of the Week:

Jen Watring was wearing a white shirt and a tie today. (Jen is a girl.)

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Edition 20 of (such cheese) 30.

Week of 2/25/2002

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