

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Excuses Four was published for 18 editions from September 2004 through February 2005. I was at Purdue at the time and increasing demands on my time led to its cancellation well short of the intended goal of 30 editions. By this point it had become clear that any promises I made with regard to the total number of editions of a particular run of Excuses was a pipe dream at best, and became a bit of an in-joke after the problem became so blatant. The redeeming factor is that by this point I finally had edition numbering down to a science; this had been a problem in the past. The biggest change for this volume was the fact that by the time Excuses Four came along I had easy access to web space through Purdue and simply hosted the thing there. No more e-mail lists to deal with which, while not a terrible idea for the time, turned out to be far more trouble than it was worth. This also serves to explain why this is on "legal sized paper." When publishing for a handout or flyer, you know you have one 8½" x 11" piece of paper to work with, and those boundaries are clear. When transferring it into a web-oriented format, the piece of paper concept goes out the window. I don't recall putting much thought into the issue at the time other than observing "Oh, this doesn't fit on a single sheet of paper anymore. Darn." I've even gotten so long-winded that this page is on legal-sized paper, I overran letter size by a few lines.

This was by far the most consistent volume of Excuses, although it might be more accurate to call it the least inconsistent. We already had Embarrassing Ways you can Die, and Quote of the Week was pretty well established, albeit perhaps a bit difficult to deal with. College dormitories are an extremely rich source of material for such an item, but getting something that can be taken with no context whatsoever tends to be a challenge. Irony of the week had been established, although it was a skewed view of an aspect of life through my own eyes, which we have proven in the past to not always jive with reality. The other item which carried over was the minor snide comment embedded within the edition number and the disclaimer. These two were generally tied to one of the other items on the page, and in practice was almost like steganography. While most people think that the "fine print" at the bottom is merely filler, fluff, and things that wouldn't hold up in a court of law (all of which are true!) I could sneakily embed a little extra in there and if you were keen to such things, you actually read the whole thing top to bottom lest you miss something extremely clever.

I also noticed I stopped referencing π for the most part, and I learned why the way I was working with it before was bad. I used to change the font to Symbol, which used to be the Windows font that contained Greek letters, type p, and then change the font back. This works ok on some computers and not others. I recently learned there's an escape sequence for it which is less messy and provides consistent results. Thanks to everyone who has helped and supported Excuses in all its forms, and I hope that one of these days it makes a triumphant return. It has been over 5 years since I did Excuses Four, and the single edition of Excuses V was done in August 2006, putting a 4 year gap since I last attempted to do Excuses. 12 years and 74 editions later I'm not convinced it's quite time to hang up the gloves quite yet, but we shall see what life throws my way. There are a myriad of ways in which 2010 allows one to do something extremely creative and unique, and it is unclear to me whether it is more a function of my skill set evolving so much over that span of time, the web has allowed for a greater ease of content hosting, or some combination thereof.

T.J. Zmina
July 7, 2010

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Hey hey! It's time for Excuses Four! In this season of Excuses, we'll be bringing back all the old favorite sections, as well as possibly adding a new one or two during the year. This is all of course pending I get some help from the outside. Here's to the first edition of what hopes to be the first full 30 edition run of Excuses... Be There!

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

1. "It was eaten by a badger... badger... badger badger... badger badger badger badger..."
2. "Set ablaze by the infamous Capano."
3. "It perished in flames."
4. "The three-hole punch ate it."
5. "Only in Kenya."
6. "Returned to Sender."
7. "In a ditch, covered in petrol, on fire."
8. "Transcribed to DECtape underneath the floor of the computer center at Bell Labs."

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

1. "I was set ablaze the infamous Capano." (For being late, I might add)
2. "Calculus shock, it's like sticker shock, only with calculus."
3. "Tried to climb in the window. Didn't work so well."
4. "I stapled my thumb to the desk at home."
5. "My Volkswagen wouldn't start."
6. "I was running from the pizza delivery boy that I dropped a water balloon on."
7. "The epic battle over supremacy of the three-hole punch needed to be resolved." The punch won.
8. "Refinancin' my Home Lawn with Senor Cardgage Mortgage. He helped me get a leg up on the pile."

Embarrassing ways you can die...

1. Drowning by three-gallon water balloon.
2. Trampling due to an attempt to change your schedule.
3. Stapler incident.
4. Electrostatics demo gone bad.
5. Papercut.

Irony of the week:

My roommate looks exactly like me. Tall skinny white guy with dark hair and a goatee.

"Pizza! <splash> ...Soup!"

-Matt Oney

Huzzah, Excuses Four is up, running, and on it's way to another successful run. One of these days I will have a real number as to how many excuses I have written, but I need my original copies of the pervious runs of Excuses before I can figure that out. I have done it before, but have since forgotten what the numbers were. Have a nice day...

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Edition 1 of (gonna get it this time) 30

Week of 9/6/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Excuses Four is off the ground. Not far off the ground, but it's off the ground. Only 29 editions to go. I apologize for the slowdown in archived editions recently. It occurred to me that I forgot the folder with all of the old editions previous to E3 at home. It will eventually show up, however the other issue with that is the fact that I have to retype all of them. E3 is on my hard drive. Excuses and Excuses 2000 aren't. That computer is long gone, and it's hard drive died before I would have been able to recover the originals anyhow. Edition 2 of Excuses 4 is On The Air!

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

1. "I used it to try to smash a fly." I personally use a tissue + book.
2. "Buried amongst fallen leaves and flashlight batteries."
3. "My keyboasrd astarted regiastering the firast tqwo columnas ast the asasme time."
4. "Stuck in the DVD player."
5. "I left it in my Volkswagen."
6. "Accidentally printed my 200 page Ph.D. dissertation over it. All 200 pages. On one sheet."
7. "Quebec."
8. "I left it on the tray return in the cafeteria."

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

1. "I was Squirrel Fishing."
2. "Busy setting dirt on fire."
3. "Some miscreant lifted my car onto the roof with aircraft cable."
4. "I was off being... well, French."
5. "Fell in a hole. Quite the hole it was, too."
6. "Sorry, I had to go make a call about a rocket that wouldn't BLASTOFF!"
7. "I was busy solving the Rubik's Cube."
8. "Well it all goes back to one day, back in '44... The Germans has us surrounded... " Continue this for four hours.

Embarrassing ways you can die...

1. Op-amp incident in ECE207 lab.
2. In line at the CopyMat.
3. While working on a Rubik's Cube.
4. Having a vending machine fall on you.
5. In UNIX.

Irony of the week:

My bi-weekly laundry schedule has been disrupted by the fact that I only have two pairs of shorts.

"Up the stairs, left at the troll, pull the third book, and ask the little man in the wizard hat for directions."

-Directions to EE270 at Purdue

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Edition 2 of (the randomly predetermined number) 30

Week of 9/13/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Yadda yadda yadda. I have no idea what that was for, but it felt good. I didn't think the South Park movie would actually be on Comedy Central in an uncut form. It's amazing. I also realized that because of labor day, I lose a late class instead of an early class. It borderline sucks.

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

1. "In a can."
2. "Stuck in the fan."
3. "It's on the LAN."
4. "In a cafeteria pan."
5. "In the box with the bran."
6. "Baked in a flan."
7. "I left it in the van."
8. "Mailed on accident to Sudan."

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

1. "My attempts to print lecture notes were not met with success."
2. "Sorry, I was out breakfast clubbing. <hic.>"
3. "Someone flipped my Volkswagen over."
4. "I got my arm caught in a newspaper box."
5. "There were some ceiling tiles I had to attend to with the duct tape."
6. "I became somewhat entrapped by the personal safety device strap in my motor vehicle."
7. "My seatbelt tried to eat me."
8. "Note that numbers 6 and 7 are equivalent statements."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. At a football game.
2. Cutting oneself on a pop can.
3. Lips catching fire from talking too fast.
4. Having a vending machine fall on you.
5. Having a ceiling tile fall on you.

Irony of the week:

I lost a late class day this semester. Not that my Tuesdays are that awful. Just the 7:30 aspect of it.

"I cleared that bomb out of there for you guys."

-Paul Marks

I kinda generally hurt all over at the moment. It really sucks. Too much boiling up.

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Edition 3 of (far too many) 30

Week of 9/20/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

It just occurred to me that the coupon I had to get a free 32 oz. fountain drink at any of the university residences mini-marts expired yesterday. Damn. On a funnier note, I put my roommate's chair on top of his desk. Let's see if he notices.

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

1. "It became an experimental resistor."
2. "Consolidated into this tiny box."
3. "Cleverly placed inside of the Rubik's Cube."
4. "Traded it in for a Volkswagen."
5. "Needed something to line the birdcage with."
6. "It vaporized."
7. "It disintegrated when I tried to do the integral."
8. "In a mayonnaise jar on Funk and Wagnall's porch."

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

1. "I was being bludgeoned by a calculator."
2. "Being on time all the time got boring."
3. "I was neither here nor there."
4. "Oh, it's really a funny story... and then I found five dollars..."
5. "My foot got stuck in a lab chair and I just gave up."
6. "Glowing over the achievement of mounting a dart board from a loft, sir."
7. "I was playing darts on the dart board that was mounted from the loft."
8. "My homework ate the bus."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Death by Silly String. This might just be the point at which it ceases to be silly.
2. Setting the multimeter for DC volts and plugging it into the mains. Oops.
3. Auto-production of methane gas to excess.
4. Failure to account for the wind direction when cutting down a tree.
5. Pushups at a football game.

Irony of the week:

We expended the sum total of a can of silly string last night on about 5 different people. Many of them just stood there and took it. We managed to get it all over the guy across the hall's door. He opened it and kinda poked his head out in an attempt to determine what all the commotion was about. It was definitely worth it though.

"You've just been savagely beaten by a book bag with a TI-86 calculator in it. You've just been 86-ed!"

-Matt Oney

On the plus side, it's the end of my first month here. On the down side, it's not going to get any easier. Oh well, that's how college goes I guess. I used to write much longer weekly rants not only at the top, but at the bottom too. Maybe I'm just getting old. Wait a second, what was I just doing? ...where do I live?

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Edition 4 of (gonna get it this time) 30

Week of 9/27/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Well, that was fun. I'm not honestly sure what was fun, but I figure there must have been something fun about it. Actually, I'm not even all together positive that it was even very much fun. It smells distinctly like nodal analysis, and nodal analysis sucks. I think I may be sacrificing quality... and quantity I suppose, in this upper rant. For example, this is being written on September 8. I figure it's better to stay ahead now rather than start dragging behind and get all screwed up in the middle. These early ones are easy to write. So are the late ones. It's just the 20-or-so in the middle that are a bear.

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

1. "I've hidden it in the drop ceiling."
2. "It's all in my head, I just need to telepathically transmit it to you..."
3. "Oteyway itzay inzay igpay-atinlay."
4. "It's a funny story... and then I found five dollars."
5. "Lost in print spool la-la land."
6. "Cleverly concealed inside of that overhead proJECTOR YOU'RE ABOUT TO TURN <click, foom.> on."
7. "In Asia."
"Oh really?"
"Yeah, do you want Tibet?"
8. "Compiled. What do you think this is, open-source?"

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

1. "I got caught in a bear trap."
2. "Ogrammingpay anzay igpay-atinlay anslatortray."
3. "I turned off my alarm clock at 4:00 in the morning."
4. "I blew my knee out playing frisbee."
5. "My car exploded."
6. "My TV exploded."
7. "I died."
8. "Do you have any idea how hard it is to drive through a cornfield?"

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. From eating a suspect casserole
2. Exploding cell phone
3. Being an Expos fan in the Wrigley Field bleachers
4. Exploding Rubik's Cube
5. Getting backed over by a Volkswagen

Irony of the week:

The irony of the week is actually being written almost a month in advance. That's pretty ironic. Maybe it should be renamed the irony of last month? I don't know, I'd have to take that up with management. Oh wait, I *am* management. Damn.

"What is that?"

"I dunno, but it looks edible."

-Exchange with Dustin Meyer at dinner one day

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Edition 5 of (a whopping) 30

Week of 10/4/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Six editions. Yay. Can you sense the excitement? I really should be putting more work towards my classes. Especially that pesky one... what's it called? Oh, right. ECE264. The one I was told I'd regret if I didn't take. My GPA is certainly regretting it. I've just noticed a colossal overuse of various forms of punctuation in this blurb. I used to have a name for this blurb, but I've since forgotten it.

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

1. "My Cat5e ate my optical mouse."
2. "Pasted up underneath the new ceiling tile."
3. "Somewhere between here and Beta Centauri."
4. "Underneath a stack of pudding cups about 4 feet high."
5. "Converted to CMYK."
6. "Inundated with dog hair."
7. "We ran out of toilet paper, sorry."
8. "DON'T SHOOT!!!"

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

1. "My watch got demagnetized. I can tell you what time it is at the north magnetic pole though."
2. "I dropped an ice cream cone in my gas tank."
3. "Someone duct taped my Volkswagen to the roof of my garage."
4. "I was making my own ink."
5. "I got my foot stuck in the base of a stool."
6. "Oh, I'm late? Well why did I bother?"
7. "I'm not late, YOU'RE just early."
8. "Look pal, I don't pay you to think." (No clue where that came from.)

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Falling in the deep fryer.
2. Putting a telephone wire into an Ethernet jack.
3. Chipmunk bite. Apparently they scale the screens here with great frequency (but small period.)
4. Squirt gun.
5. Overheating fan. This is actually somewhat less than amusing to me.

Irony of the week:

My pig-latin translator, yeah, it translates something alright. It translates an English file into a pile of crap.

"That has no semantic meaning... oh, haha, that's repetitively redundant. There I go again!"

-Vijay S. Pai

Oh, I suppose you'd like me to write one of these down here too. Yeah, sure. That's just what you'd like, isn't it? Well, you can't always get what you want. So nyah.

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Edition 6 of (I'm serious now) 30

Week of 10/11/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Another week, another Excuses. I'm excited, how about you? So ready to start Excuses? Shall we? Sure. On a side note, I'm out of Cherry Coke.

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

1. "In a faraday cage."
2. "It was eaten by a raving Cubs fan."
3. "My dog peed on my hard drive."
4. "Got sucked into the leaf blower."
5. "Got sucked into the vacuum cleaner."
6. "It was eaten by a rogue monkey."
7. "I was on the verge of a major scientific discovery: how to re-liquefy Jell-o."
8. "It de-molecularized into a soup-like thing."

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

1. "My ramen noodles weren't finished yet."
2. "My dog ate my car keys."
3. "My dog ate my Volkswagen."
4. "I was teaching poodles how to fly!"
5. "I was voting for Pat Buchanan."
6. "I got my tie caught in the paper shredder."
7. "My alarm clock exploded."
8. "I was in a fatal car accident. See you tomorrow."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Miscalculating the gain of your op-amp.
2. From a missed block.
3. Scalding by an Earhart shower.
4. Having a house fall on you.
5. Poodle Bite.

Irony of the week:

I haven't been hit in the head by anything since I bought that hard hat.

"My mattress just got up and walked off."

-Matt Oney

There's a little tag in my template that says "write this", it's my own personal reminder. Some day I will forget though, and you will see a little bracketed "write this" in place of this lower blurb. That will be a sad day indeed. I mean, I'm only ahead by a month or so. I wish I were a month ahead in my classes. That would be nice.

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Edition 7 of (awwww) 30

Week of 10/18/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Expansion of the Embarrassing Ways you could Die section looks to be forthcoming. I'm writing this gizmo up in hya' before I write the rest of this, so EWycD may just remain at it's current 5, or be expanded to 8, depending on how I'm feeling when I get there. The acronym EWycD might just be one of the worst ones I've seen in my entire life.

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

1. "I Thévenin transformed it into a voltage source and a resistor in series."
2. "Under the pile of missing left socks."
3. "Somewhere in the basement of some scientific building somewhere on a college campus."
4. "My paper got a virus."
5. "Buried under Giants Stadium."
6. "Behind a false wall in a house in Jersey."
7. "Under a big rock."
8. "Under glass."

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

1. "The 'Check Engine' light came on, so I pulled over and checked, and the engine wasn't there."
2. "I got a flat sneaker."
3. "I got my hand stuck in a vending machine."
4. "My Volkswagen's frame collapsed."
5. "My rear axle decided it wanted to be in two pieces instead of one."
6. "The TV said it was a snow day."
7. "My car stalled out at the top of a steep hill and rolled into the river."
8. "Ah gaht mah tahng stahck ehn ah pahp bahttle."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Having a two-ton sign fall on you
2. Jell-o inhalation
3. Finding the last remaining land mine from World War I
4. Dumping a boiling hot cup of ramen in your lap
5. Tripping over a wet floor sign.

Irony of the week:

My most recent programming project involved a function that "will be implemented in Service Pack 3."

"What? What? Do I smell? <sniff> Awwwww..."

-Dr. Zoidberg

Well, I'm glad that we managed to find Jimmy Hoffa. No luck on finding that homework though. I suppose we'll have to keep trying. Eight down, 22 to go. The reason I used to use 30 as my benchmark is because in high school, there were approximately 36 weeks of school in addition to about 4 weeks off during the year, so I had 40 weeks to produce 30 editions. Now that I'm in college, I have 32 weeks to produce 30 editions. Much less easy now, you see.

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Edition 8 of (express THAT as a percent) 30

Week of 10/25/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Oh boy. Nine. Yippee. Hey kids, where do you wanna go. That's right. To Excuses Four, edition 9.

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

1. "Propping up the low end of the sofa."
2. "My heart wasn't into it."
3. "It got reduced to an imaginary number."
4. "Service Pack 2 downloaded itself and overwrote my homework."
5. "I left it on SeaLab before it exploded."
6. "Duct taped to the spare tire of the recycling trailer."
7. "Hidden in the mystery hole in the wall."
8. "I wonder if *that's* what the new lump in the carpet is..."

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

1. "The bus ate my dog."
2. "Sorry, I got an Error(152), CPU Time exceeded."
3. "I'm never late."
4. "I hit a Chipmunk in my Volkswagen. The Chipmunk won."
5. "My door frame was filled with pop cans."
6. "Plan-Of-Study crashed." (POS will *never* crash, it was written in the late 70s)
7. "I absent-mindedly turned my alarm off at 6:40 this morning."
8. "In a bottle."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Collapsing mini-blind.
2. In a math lecture.
3. Hit by a rolled up newspaper.
4. Hit by a CityBus.
5. Hit by a railroad crossing gate. Not the train, the gate.

Irony of the week:

My wall is hot. I just looked out the window to see if the building was on fire. The fire alarm went off for about 20 seconds this morning.

"Then he blitzes up the middle for a sack."

-D. Meyer, in reference to math professor's diagram of the chain rule for partial derivatives

It's staying unseasonably warm in these early October days. You probably don't understand why the heck I'm talking about October when it's the middle of November. This is being written on October 9. I love being ahead.

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Edition 9 of (Are we there yet?) 30

Week of 11/1/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Edition 10, as the cat stares out the door and tries to figure out why in the bloody hell it's so bright in here. It's really not that bright, as it is an overcast day, but the cat's so short she has no idea. Decided on making a small modification to the lateness category, because it was probably about time. The inclusion of "Where have you been?" saves a lot of "I was..."-type statements. I wonder if there's any reason to do Excuses by PHP... probably not. Anyhow, have a tenth edition of Excuses Four.

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

1. "It had an incident involving one of those mosquito-repellant torches."
2. "It fell into the void behind the television set."
3. "Someone parked their Volkswagen on it."
4. "Dropped it in the fondue pot."
5. "Frostbite has set in, details at 11."
6. "Left it in my pants pocket prior to doing laundry."
(Try turning in a handful of lint and see if you can get an extension.)
7. "Somewhere between here and the edge of the universe, probably closer to here."
8. "I'll give you three guesses and the first three don't count."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "I believe I was dead at the time."
2. "I spent the morning trying to figure out Who Let the Dogs Out."
3. "I think the better question here is Where have you been?"
4. "I didn't do it! I swear!! It WASN'T ME!!!"
5. "I became entangled with my Rubik's Cube."
6. "The organizational nightmare that is the city street grid failed miserably."
7. "Something involving a Dr. Pepper can and a wooden spoon."
8. "My left knee exploded."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Plugging a European device into an American outlet. Yes, we *had* to be different, didn't we?
2. Forgetting where you left your car keys... in Siberia.
3. Allergies.
4. Rockin' in the U.S.A.
5. Poked by an umbrella.

Irony of the week:

The thermometer says it's 70 degrees. I think it's lying. ExTemp says it was 57 the last time my computer had an active internet connection. I think that's somewhat closer to the actual temperature.

"...enough for 10 average-sized 12x12 rooms."

-Jug of DIF wallpaper remover, note the "average-sized" part...

I started to write this before but have since forgotten what glorious idea I once had for it. I guess I'll have to finish it at a later time. Oh, right. Stay 'ere, and make sure 'e doesn't leave. Right, we leave and make sure... oh bloody'ell. It just occurred to me that people who have Linux are going to have small issues viewing Excuses because of the fact that I don't presume that Comic Sans MS is a standard Linux font. Oh well. Suffer.

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Edition 10 of (the first derivative of 30x) 30

Week of 11/8/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

My knees are troubling me these days. It's weird how sometimes I can run and run and run and not have a problem, and other times I go 6 feet and one of them decides to hurt. More time needs to be devoted to my studies, I'm well aware, however I am also well aware that I'd be going crazy if it weren't for the website and Excuses. Anyways, here's another edition of Excuses Four.

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

1. "The X keycap fell off my keyboard."
2. "East Timor."
3. "It has been XORed."
4. "Somewhere over the rainbow."
5. "Procrastination junction, has no function."
6. "I guarantee within 6-sigma that it is not here."
7. "I don't know, why don't you ask your mom?"
8. "Contained within the confines of a Karnaugh Map."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "Someone disassembled my Volkswagen and put it in my dorm room."
2. "I stole a street sweeper to drive here."
3. "My dog ate me."
4. "I'm not late until that clock says... your mom."
5. "I set the wrong AM/PM on my alarm."
6. "I set the right AM/PM on my alarm, but the wrong AM/PM for the time."
7. "I was hit by a sober driver. They'll get you every time."
8. "Behind enemy lines."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Shaving too frequently
2. Gatorade overdose
3. Head impact of golf ball at the miniature golf course
4. Hit by a Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade float
5. Getting run over by a street sweeper

Irony of the week:

Dustin has 197.25 ounces of canned fruit in his room. His can opener broke last Thursday.

"I'm so happy I could sh*t myself."

-N. Leone

I finally got my alarm clock to stop emanating that annoying electrical buzz. I'm really not sure how. Beating it up didn't work, not dod loosening/tightening the screws. I actually opened the thing up, said "Wow, that's a lot of components!!!" and proceeded to loosen the speaker screws a little. It hasn't buzzed since. I'm a bloody genius.

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Edition 11 of (elf) 30

Week of 11/15/2004

Happy Thanksgiving all, Excuses Four will resume on November 29.

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Been gone. You're lucky to get this edition, late as it may be. Moo-hoo-ha-ha-ha-haaaaa!

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

1. "The friction of my pencil on the paper caused it to burst into flames."
 2. "I put it in a Klein bottle, but a 4-dimensional dog got in and ate it."
- I apologize for that bad combination of two excuses that are bad enough on their own.
3. "It was intercepted in the end zone."
 4. "Under my pillow."
 5. "Stuffed in the DVD player."
 6. "Buried under a snowdrift."
 7. "I don't know. Ask my roommate. He probably lost it for me."
 8. "Underneath my mousepad."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "I got sacked by three 350-pound linemen."
2. "My lock got changed without me knowing it."
3. "Extinguishing burnt popcorn."
4. "When they say 'do not tip' on the refrigerator, I learned that they really mean it."
5. "Busy turning every light on in the city."
6. "Digging a sinkhole underneath your parking space."
7. "Digging a sinkhole underneath your office."
8. "Precariously hanging fragile Christmas ornaments from the ceiling, not over the carpet, but over hard objects."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Gagged with a brick
2. Doing pushups
3. Having your Volkswagen slide off an icy cliff
4. Rolling out of bed and breaking something upon hitting the floor.
5. Accidentally dropping your toxic waste collection.

Irony of the week:

This is being written at... 12:42 AM. It's Monday. This thing was supposed to be posted 42 minutes ago.

"Maybe you need to shave your pants."

-M. Oney

Yeah, suffer. I've been having computer issues lately. Yeah, definitely haven't missed having a roommate. I have two weeks to learn everything I don't know. No pressure, no pressure at all.

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Edition 12 of (Y.M.C.A.) 30

Week of 11/29/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

So, I've been busy. I'm still busy, but hey, it happens. I'm a couple of editions behind, but I'll still make 30. As long as I keep saying that, I can believe it's true. Anyway, have edition thirteen, a smashing edition with some lovely acting and... oh. Right. Excuses. Go.

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

1. "Behind the fridge."
2. "On the shelf between the margarita mix and bottle of Jack."
3. "Rolled up and stuffed into someone else's mailbox."
4. "Somewhere in space and time that is not here and now."
5. "Underneath my pillow... which is in Greece."
6. "Filed under 'I' for 'I don't like homework.'"
7. "It was stolen by a small man with little pointy green shoes and a funny hat."
8. "I converted it entirely to anti-matter, which then reacted with the converter and blew up."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "I just looked up where I was supposed to be only to find it was at 5:30... at 5:24."
2. "I got my hand caught in a Sun E450 server."
3. "I temporarily left the space-time continuum."
4. "He said I could leave!" <point to random person>
5. "Hiding in the corner."
6. "Doing some Brutal File Managing."
7. "Calculating the number of possibilities in MD5 hashing."
8. "Impeding international trade."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Getting hit by a box van when trying frantically to get to an exam on time.
2. Having a box that exceeds any realistic dimensions fall on you and blow you through the floor.
3. Attempting to determine the identity of the greasy spot on my wall only to find out it's highly toxic.
4. Dust inhalation from attempting to clean out from under the bed.
5. Being hacked to pieces by the Black Knight.

Irony of the week:

I always used to wonder why anyone would go to Taco Bell at 3:00 AM. Last Friday, I went to Taco Bell at 3:00 AM.

"I'm about to hop in my freaking car and buy [a cookie sheet]."

-K. Evans, 1:16 AM

Ahh, finals week. I hate finals. You know what else I hate? Studying. You know what else I hate? Calculus. You know what else I hate? Loud people. You know what else I hate? Things that ramble on and on for no apparent reason. You know what e... oh. Right then. Have a divine day, all.

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Edition 13 of (Stelllllllllllaaaaaa!!!) 30

Week of 12/13/2004

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Well, here's edition 14, just like I promised. Now I need to not think for three weeks. My brain is just so roasted, toasted, and burnt to a crisp right now that I don't know what to do. I must say, I miss the good ol' days. I didn't think I would ever say this, but dammit, I miss high school. Not the first two years, but my junior and senior years of high school were the best two years of my life. I don't know what I'm getting at, just a-ramblin' on. Now transitioning from a-ramblin' to a-movin'... a-movin' on to Edition 14 of Excuses Four.

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

1. "Between the bread."
2. "It met an unfortunate end in the fan."
3. "Being used as a dart board pattern."
4. "The pencil graphite turned to diamond overnight."
5. "Large men in gorilla costumes came and stole it."
6. "Lost in the shuffle."
7. "Burnt up by my laser pointer."
8. "My pen exploded. The amazing thing is that it's not an exploding pen."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "Dropping 16 ton weights on people."
2. "I was getting paid to be a tackling dummy."
3. "I was sacked by a tribe of huns."
4. "My watch decided there were 25 hours in a day."
5. "The Christmas tree burst into flames."
6. "A two-ton block of ice fell on my Volkswagen."
7. "The snow plow left a three-ton boulder of ice at the end of my driveway." (True story!)
8. "A football wedged itself between my tenth and eleventh rib."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Broken fibula caused by having a 16 ton weight fall on you.
2. Heart attack from finding out you passed classes that you probably had no business passing.
3. High voltage incident involving a 33 pF capacitor and an ethernet cable.
4. Choking on a poker chip.
5. Having a football wedged between your tenth and eleventh rib.

Irony of the week:

This is only like, a month late.

"Perhaps it's a belt sander."

-J. Geiger, on the people upstairs being really bad at vacuuming

Yeah. So this is late. I know. Here's the thing see: it's rather difficult for me to update my website when I can't connect to my network drives. You'll notice the daily update is almost two weeks old. Que ridiculoso.

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Edition 14 of (Oh ha ha ha.) 30

Week of 1/10/2005

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Halfway. Few weeks later than it's supposed to be, want to fight about it? I don't have to be up until 11 AM anyhow, so I can write this thing until 2:00 and still get 8+ hours of sleep.

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

1. "In the Navy."
2. "Swept under the rug."
3. "In one of these 24,694 cargo pockets."
4. "I thought that round can by the door was the turn-in box."
5. "Frozen to a flagpole."
6. "Somewhere between the north pole and the south pole."
7. "Jammed in my printer."
8. "The marginal cost outweighed the marginal benefit."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "I was trying to find my white socks to go with my black shoes."
2. "Up on a housetop"
3. "Stabbing people who have large speaker systems and abuse the privilege."
4. "Sittin' on the dock of the bay."
5. "Sweeping underneath my Volkswagen."
6. "Beyond the purple water-cooler."
7. "I slipped on a sheet of ice. You really should get that gutter fixed."
8. "I had to forcibly extract an apple from my Volkswagen's tailpipe."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Choking to death on fruit punch Powerade.
2. In the ECE202 help room, where the ratio of students to TAs is too large.
3. Death by chocolate. (May contain nuts)
4. Death by nuts. (May contain chocolate)
5. Death by Laplace transform (May contain duplicate poles)

Irony of the week:

The ECE202 help room is 1/4 the size, 1/2 as staffed, and 10 times as busy as the ECE201 help room.

"How did you get 6 gallons of Arby's Sauce out of a half ounce packet?"

-Mom, to dad.

Write this, write that. I tell myself to write this thing and what always ends up happening when I get down here? I always write some smart-ass remark and then give up because I'm tired of writing this thing. What's really amazing is the fact that for as far ahead as I tend to get with Excuses near the beginning of a run, I never manage to maintain that, and around edition 14 or 15, it gets pretty dicey as to whether I'll be able to continue or not. Being that this is the fourth incarnation of Excuses, it's a wonder that I have yet to actually finish any of them to the requisite 30 editions. Oh well, I must press on, lest I give up now. I've already exceeded the length of the first run, hopefully we make it all the way to the end this time.

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Edition 15 of (halfway home) 30

Week of 1/17/2005

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

Volkswagen is a funny word. Excuses Four, Edition 16, go.

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

1. "It exists only in the complex plane as a function of j and w ."
2. "It exists using a font that your computer is incapable of displaying."
3. "It exists in a mason jar somewhere in the basement."
4. "Floating away in a magic rutebaga."
5. "It is in... my pants."
6. "I uhh... hey, look over there! <scurry off>"
7. "Not in the continental U.S."
8. "I forgot to pay the subscription fee to my plagiarism service."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "Out in the boondocks."
2. "Hiding the evidence."
3. "I cannot do it, cap'n. I can giv'ya 25 miles per hour in a week."
4. "Aye, thar's rubbish in tha carburr-etter an'tha manifold drags'n the roondaboos!"
5. "Traffic. On the sidewalk."
6. "Dude, I got a Dell."
7. "In a box."
8. "In search of a rusty spork."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Rolling your Volkswagen down a hill.
2. Stabbing oneself with a writing implement.
3. Speaker system bursting into flames.
4. Sending half of your body through a trans-dimensional portal.
5. Being vaporized by a six-megawatt laser.

Irony of the week:

At some point this week it has been colder here than in Anchorage, AK, and Moscow, Novosibirsk, and Vladivostok, all in Russia.

"'ee's got rubbish in tha carburr-etter an'is exhaust is draggin' on the roondaboos."
-Me, pretending to be a Scottish mechanic, in reference to my roommate.

Roommate for sale, cheap! Stay tuned for Edition 17, just like always.

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Edition 16 of (it's too cold!!!) 30

Week of 1/24/2005

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

I love being late!! Whooooooo-hoooo!! Let's go lateness <cha cha cha-cha-cha>

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

1. "Under the sea."
2. "I needed it as a resistor for my blue LEDs."
3. "It burst into flames when I wired an integrated circuit straight from power to ground."
4. "My ferret ate it."
5. "Down dooby-doo down down."
6. "I needed it to curb a horrific nosebleed."
7. "Mistakenly stuffed into my GameCube fund."
8. "My book severely lacks a page 449."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "My Volkswagen was frozen to the street."
2. "I got my foot stuck between the legs of a chair."
3. "I had a mishap involving my foot and an air-nailer."
4. "Trying to electrocute myself with a capacitor."
5. "Trying to curb a horrific nosebleed."
6. "I had an incident involving a chain link fence, my pants, and a rottweiler."
7. "Had to put out a 74HC04 that was wired, well... improperly."
8. "My watch arbitrarily started running backwards."

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Too many pushups.
2. Shower temperatures varying as a function of $\sin(x) + 7q$, where q is a random number.
3. Getting an LED shard stuck in a vital organ.
4. Sneezing while you have a horrific nosebleed.
5. Trying to dunk a basketball and missing terribly.

Irony of the week:

Nick just broke into my room. With me sitting here. (And by "just" I mean 3 weeks ago.)

"I ran about 12 volts through an LED and it shattered."

-Mark, who had to buy a new breadboard for EE208 and 270 labs because he shattered an LED in his old one (obviously)

I, along with Nick, ordered 500 blue LEDs. I'm not terribly sure what either of us are going to do with 250 blue LEDs, but they look cool.

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Edition 17 of (zener diode) 30

Week of 2/14/2005

★ EXCUSES FOUR ★

I love being up to no good. The institution of movie night was the best idea ever. I wonder if I'll ever get ahead on Excuses again, seeing as how my free time is a negative value these days. Oh well. Here we go again.

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

1. "Locked in a steel file cabinet in the help room."
2. "Permission denied."
3. "In the microwave."
4. "Stuck to a Katamari." (Makes sense if you play Katamari Damacy)
5. "Eaten by a pelican."
6. "Burnt up when used as a resistor for a setup of 40 blue LEDs."
7. "My eraser went on a power trip."
8. "Burnt at the stake."

Modern answers to the age-old question "Why were you late?", "Why weren't you here?", or "Where have you been?"

1. "Littering."
2. "Setting the exams on fire."
3. "Walking at the speed of light."
4. "My Volkswagen threw a rod."
5. "My rod threw a Volkswagen."
6. "Dead in a gutter."
7. "Setting upstage lights to fall precisely when I press this button."
8. "Creating global havoc and multinational economic collapse... all before lunch!"

Embarrassing ways you can die

1. Having 36 Chicago Police cars fall on you.
2. Having a building explode and fall on you.
3. Having a propane tank explode adjacent to a phone booth you are presently in.
4. Having 400 members of local police, SWAT teams, and military all pointing weapons at you.
5. Going over a raised drawbridge at 110 MPH.

Irony of the week:

The temperature change over the last 48 hours has been about 40 degrees. Indiana: Mother Nature's nuclear weather testing ground.

"You can work in nanotechnology, but you'll make a very small contribution."

-Raymond A. DeCarlo

Is it March yet?

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Edition 18 of (boo-yah) 30

Week of 2/21/2005