

The Plagman Daily

March 2008 Edition

Parking fees only
increase by 186%, B5

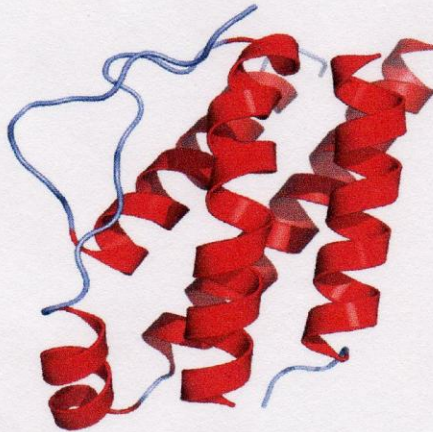
Someone from HR
returns a phone call, E7

75 cents

Former Employee's Presence Pushes Brilliant Researcher over Retirement Fence

Although he had been contemplating the possibility for several years, when Dr. Aftab A. Ansari, better known as A³ amongst his fellow researchers, made the decision to retire, it took his entire department completely by surprise.

"We all thought we had more time," said lab tech Nick Plagman, "I mean, am I ready to take over his job? Maybe, maybe not; but if I have to



Invented by Ansari in 1993, IL-2 has been vital in the war against HIV, and it has cool spiral thingys.

get started sooner than expected, so be it. It's called being a team player."

"I still get to do inventory, right?"

While it may have been news to his staff, Dr. Kevin Bacon, a Rheumatologist and old friend of Ansari's, saw the retirement coming.

"I was glancing over the roster of new residents," said Bacon, "and the instant I saw a certain name I knew it wouldn't be much longer before I'd be hearing about Tab's retirement party."

The resident responsible, an Ashwin Nasfar, could not be reached for comment. But given what has transpired since his arrival at Emory's School of Medicine, one can only

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Stories Inside

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Post-Doc Missing, Emory task force meets to plan creation of a task force to discuss planning a search, page 4

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Employee Fired Over culturally insensitive remarks, page 12

Handwriting Implicated as Cause of Monkey Fatalities

The Yerkes Primate Center, home to thousands of monkeys with varying degrees of cuteness and lethality, was fined \$142,000 by the *Institute for Animal Care and Forms in Triplicate* for gross negligence that led to the death of ten Rhesus macaques that weren't scheduled to be put down for another two weeks.

Immediately after the animals' deaths, funerals, and memorial service, which PETA president Alan Alda rated as, "quite unsatisfactory," an investigatory task force was assembled to determine the

cause of the fatalities; the team, comprised of Emory HR personnel, told reporters they would get back to them with their findings by the end of the following

"Is it a 'g' or is it a '9'?!
I don't know! Ahhhh!!"

week. Eight months later, they had found the source of the problem. After three months of daily phone calls and e-mails, the HR task force released the results of their investigation.

During a routine transfusion of lymphocytes, the handwriting on the bags containing the cells was

inconsistent with the names of the monkeys scheduled to undergo the transfusions. Fearing the ramifications of not doing their jobs, Yerkes personnel put the scheduled

monkeys back in their cages, and tracked down the monkeys that

corresponded to the identifications they interpreted from the bags.

"3's looked like 5's, u's looked like a's, B's looked like the number 13, 'd' was apparently the letters 'cl'; at one point I swear I saw one of those

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Emory Cracks Down on Cultural Diversity

Mardi Gras highlights ongoing problem

For most people in the US, February 5th of 2008 was merely a reminder that a classic American holiday was just three months away, give or take a day or two depending on where Cinco de Mayo falls on the calendar in a given year. But to loyal New Orleanians, it's just another reason to celebrate and watch tourists take off their tops.

However, as wonderful as the idea of yet another holiday seems, especially in such close proximity to the other, less significant ones preceding it, the day known as Mardi Gras can cause havoc in the workplace.

"I just came in like any other day," recounts Emory employee Ken Rogers, "and here comes this lady from New Orleans with a giant cake, which I find out is for 'Fat Tuesday.' Why would she offer me, before anyone else,

some cake from a holiday with 'Fat' in the name; what is she trying to say??"

Upon further investigation, Emory officials discovered that the employee in question, one Susan Stephenson, has displayed this type of erratic behavior on several occasions in the past.

"Last year alone she took months off from work to celebrate a birthday or birth, or something like that," explains Dr. Pavel Bostik, Susan's boss, "then there was that Thursday in November, and that week she needed at Christmas, and that time she needed four days off to celebrate cause the Saints won a game..."

But some of her friends at work may know more about what's really going on. "That whole thing with the birthday February of last year," says co-worker Dawn Little, "she

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Diversity Leads to Office Turmoil

When individuals spend as much time with one another as co-workers do, disagreements in the workplace are inevitable. And while sometimes they can be harmless, or even beneficial in a way, from time to time, disputes between employees can threaten to tear apart the fabric of an entire organization.

"I remember when I first started working here," recounts veteran Lab Tech and two-time All Star, Nick Plagman, "my boss said I probably wouldn't get my own computer, which was fine; I'd remembered seeing several computers around the various labs so I didn't think it'd be a problem. But now I know why I don't get paid to think."

At the time, Plagman had no idea that the four labs that comprise the Ansari umbrella were so 'integrated.' "When I agreed to take this job, I didn't think to ask about the diversity. Live and learn, right?"

Although compatibility would have been an issue either way, previously formed bias and personal prejudice provided simply too many impediments for the two entities to co-exist peacefully.

"Nick's always had a problem with them," said Ann Mayne, "every time he steps foot into my office, I can see the disgust in his eyes. He'd better get used to it, though, cause they're

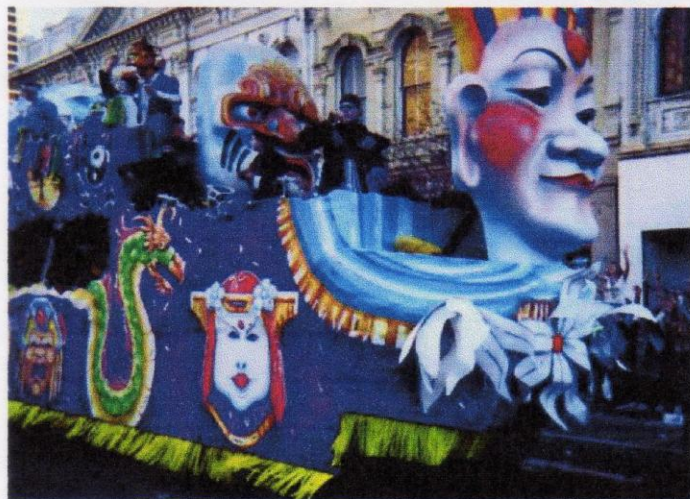
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Three Easy Steps to Improving Health

As 2007 came to a close, many Americans hoping to improve their quality of life turned to the power of false hope provided by the always motivational New Year's Resolution. And towards what did the majority of these intentions focus? Health. Now, in response to the concerns of its students and staff, Emory University is pleased to present you with three easy steps towards being healthy, and just two months after New Years.

This year, instead of squandering your naive optimism on implausible and idealistic aspirations along the lines of silly New Year's Resolutions that were doomed to failure by January 8th, learn how easy it is to lead a much healthier lifestyle, just like the people in the magazines whose pictures were barely digitally-altered. Never before have these secrets been revealed to the unapprised public, so pay attention, because once you

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As a result of poor planning, this year's Mardi Gras festivities in New Orleans had to wait until the conclusion of this gay-pride parade.

Unusual Behavior from Post-doc Spooks Boss

Emory police no help since after 5pm

When Dr. Francois Villinger of Emory University returned to his office at 5:15pm on a Thursday evening in February, nothing could have prepared him for what he would find, or more accurately, what he would not find.

"I had a question about the PD-1 Fc DA635 CD-45RA 49ER IL-21 project," recounts Villinger, "but Ken [Rogers] wasn't in the lab. I checked the post-doc room and he wasn't there, either."

Villinger searched throughout the building for another 3 minutes before alerting campus security. "We got the call at around 5:20," said Emory Police

Officer Vincent Jackson, "we wrote a couple of parking tickets, then made a few phone calls. Fortunately it was one of the easier missing-persons cases cause it was called in 10 minutes before we were going to clock-out and head home."

According to the police report, employee Ken Rogers had left the lab at 5pm that day, having arrived extra early that



Rogers' desk, empty as usual, cause he has another one.

morning. "I didn't have Nick asking me the same question he asked me the day before every five minutes, so I got done a little earlier than expected," said Rogers, "and everything had to be left to incubate overnight, so I went home. It was weird, there were all these cars on the road, and they were only moving like ten feet at a time, I didn't understand it."

Although relieved that nothing bad had happened to his most valuable employee, Villinger was not without concern. "You think you know someone," he commented, "you count on someone

to be there, and out of nowhere he decides to only work 13 hours that day?? That's not what you expect from your MVE. I think that trophy we got him must've gone to his head."

"I know me and Ken don't work in the same lab," added Dawn Little, whose lab is located down the hall, "but I always thought he was a very diligent and punctual employee. I know he's always there when I come in each morning at 11:30."

Fortunately for Rogers, Villinger was willing to let this one slide. "This type of behavior simply cannot be tolerated, but he seems to know what he's doing most of the time."

Retirement Shocks Staff, Continued from Page 1

imagine what Ashwin could have done to get on the bad side of Dr. Ansari, a man well-known for being kind-hearted and very easy to get along with, and making amazing cheesecakes.

"He didn't do anything to me," explained Ansari, "I just thought he was so darn good at, um, you know... that thing, and... probably something else- that maybe he'd be better suited in a different profession. You know, one that didn't have anything to do with his being involved with the health of other people, that's all."

According to sources, Ashwin was an employee under the Ansari umbrella in Emory's pathology depart-

ment. Given how he performed when asked to do simple tasks, his level of common sense, and his inability to write humorous satirical articles referencing co-workers and superiors, Dr. Ansari made a tough choice, ultimately deciding not to give Ashwin a recommendation for medical school.

The admissions committee at Emory, bewildered that an applicant would choose not to have a man of Dr. Ansari's status and reputation as one of his references, was determined to find out how this could have happened.

"They called and I told them," recounts Ansari, "if he got accepted into

Emory's med school then I would retire."

Despite Ansari's stance, because of diversity requirements Ashwin was not accepted into the Emory School of Medicine.

"We knew that Tab wanted to retire," explained Will Ferrell, the School of Medicine's Dean of Admissions, "but we'd already accepted so many Asians that we were obligated by law to have at least one white guy in the class. Sadly it was Ashwin's spot that we had to give away."

"Med school, residency- it makes no difference," continued Ansari, "if that kid's at this university, my work here is

done."

Although Emory will truly miss such a remarkable individual, not quite everyone is disappointed to see Dr. Ansari go.

"I mean, yeah, he's a great guy and everything, but his personal profile page had so many publications on it that our servers couldn't handle it; they couldn't even boot up without crashing," explained Chris Katahan of Emory's IT department, "we ended up dumping a bunch of worthless info that no one cares about to create more space, but at one point or another the epidemiologists are going to notice what we did with their profile pages."

President of Gambia Cures AIDS

Healing powers of muddy water overlooked by western researchers

Since last year, the president of Gambia, a nation in Africa that unfortunately shares a lot in common with every other African country, has been treating his citizens with what he claims to be the cure for AIDS. President Yahya Jammeh announced his discovery in front of a group of foreign diplomats, explaining that the cure had been revealed to him in a dream, right after he made out with Scarlett Johansen as they rode a canoe made out of gold down a river of chocolate.

The cure, which Yoyo refuses to make available to anyone outside of his "country," is a muddy brown mixture of seven herbs and spices, and comes on the Chargrilled Bacon sandwich for \$3.99. Although they claim it works, the Gambian government would not allow the concoction to be tested, and kept it safely guarded in their Capitol's hut. "The Americans would love to get their hands on my cure," said president Yoohoo, "but just because they've given our country billions of dollars in aid doesn't mean they are worthy of my miracle cream, which can also be used to treat athlete's foot."

Yoshi's potion has created an angry sentiment among health officials who fear that his claim will do nothing more than provide false hope to the 20,000 known HIV sufferers, the 1.8 million who are

unaware they are infected, and the 240,000 who will be infected within the next week. Health organizations are also concerned that faith in the "cure" could cause patients to stop taking their anti-retroviral medications. "Western medicine may have their 'research' and 'results' and 'proof' that their western pills fight HIV," explained president Yoko, who never travels without his white robes and copy of the quran, "but the difference is: my cure works. There, I have explained everything, now go away and let me cure AIDS in peace."

There have been multiple testimonies from citizens who claim Yamaha's cure is the real deal, only some of which were made at gunpoint. The U.N. emissary to Gambia, Fadza Gwaradzimba, had a different point of view, which is why she was immediately kicked out of the country. "The U.N. system encourages all patients currently receiving anti-retroviral treatment to continue to comply with their recommended treatment regimens," she said, "while the efficacy of the new treatment is being assessed." The Gambian president later assured his people that she was being kicked out because she knew the cure worked and tried to steal it; fortunately, according to Yahtzee, she mistakenly stole a jar of murky water that looked like the cure, thus the

people were safe. The reality was that on February 9th (2007), the UN envoy had said that patients should continue to receive their normal treatment while the so-called cure was "assessed by an international team of experts." Unbeknownst to her at the time, experts are not

allowed to enter Gambia.

President Jammeh, who is 41 and the oldest living citizen in Gambia, is a former army colonel. His only previous medical training, other than his high school diploma, is his claim that his family has a history of healing others via traditional African medicine, which, unlike western medicines, does not require millions of dollars for research and clinical trials, nor does it allow its progress to be impeded by "science" or PETA.

Patient Ousman Sow, a man who has been HIV-positive since 1996 and been on anti-retrovirals for the past four years, spoke with a CNN reporter about the new cure. "I am cured at this moment," said Sow, who has gained 30 pounds since beginning the treatment four weeks ago. "Ever since I first started taking this cure, I've been feeling so good that every day I go to the new McDonalds that just opened up. This weight I've gained



Jammeh, who likes to enjoy the occasional afternoon cup of hot AIDS cure, has to be careful not to drink it too close to bedtime if he wants to sleep that night.

is truly a testament to the healing powers of our president's cure."

The Gambian government claims to have scientific evidence proving the legitimacy of the cure, but they have thus far refused to provide it. They also claim to have proof they know what science is, although the World Health Organization remains extremely skeptical of that assertion. "Why do you need our evidence, are you calling us liars?" Asked president Yahoo, "we have the proof, we just don't feel like showing you. I got my GED, I demand some respect. When penicillin was invented did the guy just go around handing it out? No, of course not, he kept it, and that's why I still have syphilis."

Despite their confidence, for some unknown reason the Gambian government remains elusive towards any effort to gather additional information.

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Handwriting Fatalities,

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Russian o's that has the line through it," said Yerkes Animal Technician Shandra Williams, "and none of us were prepared for those '9's that looked like g's."

Unfortunately for the monkeys, it wouldn't be until the gruesome aftermath that the error was discovered. "We do what we're told," explained Williams, "if a bag says 'RUn3,' then the only monkey getting whatever it is they put in those bags is going to be RUn3. If we find out later that the transfusion was for RVh5, we follow standard operating procedure and find someone else to blame."

The aforementioned task force was also responsible for determining the scapegoat, or as it is referred to in the University's training manual: the single individual who made the only mistake by working outside of the University's guidelines and is entirely and



Villinger did what he had to, cause if it could, a Macaque would eat you, your family, and your pet goldfish...

solely at fault.

The culprit in this case was Dr. Francois Villinger of the pathology department. Although well-known as exceptionally brilliant and a darn nice guy with an amazing sense of humor, particularly with regard to satirical journalism, it seems that Villinger has been aware of his handwriting problem for quite some time.

"It's actually why he had to flee to the U.S. back in '89," explained Dr. Aftab Ansari, Villinger's boss, "the man speaks like 30

languages fluently, but I can assure you that not in any of them are 9's written like the letter 'g,' and in Europe that just freaked people out."

Astonishingly, many of Villinger's co-workers were aware that he had this problem. "We tried an intervention back in '99," recounts Supervisor Ann Mayne,

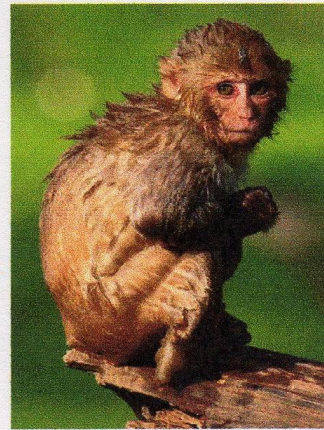
"and it seemed to

have an effect. Problem was, he was writing a grant at the time, so he wasn't labeling anything for at least the next month, and by then he'd forgotten all about trying to change his ways."

As a result of the Yerkes mishap, Villinger has been ordered by the University to undergo handwriting rehabilitation, in addition to taking

handwriting sensitivity training in order to learn how his handwriting has been harmful to others. Upon completion of his rehab, there will then be a six-month probationary period during which Dr. Villinger can be called in at any time to test his 9's, as well as to provide a urine sample to ensure he hasn't taken any handwriting-debilitating substances.

"The University is behind Dr. Villinger in his efforts to get his handwriting clean," commented Chris Farley, Emory's Director of Employee Relations and Parking Fee Increases, "he's a great researcher and he does a lot for this



...just as soon as it was done being such a cutie!

University, but we simply can't afford anymore nine/g mix-ups. That \$142,000 fine cost us nearly 0.000002% of the profit we made from parking fees last month."

Students Protest Anti-War Protests

Emory security was on high-alert last Wednesday when an anti-war demonstration outside of Cox Hall was interrupted by an anti-anti-war protest. Initially, the anti-war protestors felt invaded, demanding that the anti-anti-war protestors either "re-locate, re-schedule, or re-shutup." The anti-anti-war protestors, however, insisted that they were well within their rights to

protest, and had no qualms about disrupting the anti-war protest.

"They knew we were protesting outside of Cox that afternoon, and they purposely showed up when we were there," said Emory junior Alicia Smith, "all of us are appalled that Emory would allow such a display of anti-American sentiment right here in the middle of campus. It's like they don't understand the Constitution

at all!"

On the occasional Wednesday since the war in Iraq became unpopular, if they're not too busy popping their collars, Emory students have congregated outside of Cox Hall to display their discontent, so that those capable of putting a stop to the conflict overseas will know they mean business. Their main strategy: using a megaphone to read the

names of the soldiers who have recently been killed during the war.

"You know how when someone cuts you off on the road you honk and flash the bird," explains Emory sophomore Kevin Jones, "but if someone passes you on the sidewalk you don't get mad? That's because you don't relate to the person in the car because

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Emory Researchers Reduce Traffic by Re-Timing Surrounding Stoplights

Marks First Practical Change in the University's History

In one of the most monumental achievements in global health since Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Recount*, researchers at Atlanta's Emory University have recently discovered a connection between traffic congestion and air pollution. The breakthrough occurred during the fourth year of a five-year grant worth \$26 million, giving the school just enough time and funding to begin working on implementing changes that could restore hope amongst the gathering of smokers outside of Emory Hospital.

The first step was to study traffic patterns during peak commute hours, or as its known to normal people, "rush hour." Once the data

had been compiled and run through a computer paid for by grant money, Emory worked with the county in which the school resides to "re-time" 33 different traffic lights.

"The move simply made the most sense," explains the head of the Anatomic Physiology department's DOT division, "we had to optimize the timers on the lights to allow the most steady flow of traffic; it was either that or put up giant signs that said 'when the light turns green, step on the skinnier pedal,' but changing timers is cheaper. That, and we couldn't find enough people to translate the sign into the 47 different languages at Emory."

According to a free magazine distributed across the Emory campus, the change resulted in a 31%*

indicated by: *).

But as logical and straightforward as this solution appears, it took

"Green lights always be telling me what I gots to do, rushing me and whatnot..." -*Southern Driver*

reduction in average travel time, 55%* reduction in starts and stops, and a 22% reduction in middle-finger distribution. Furthermore, for their community alone they estimate a savings of 327,000* traffic hours and 196,000* gallons of gasoline each year. In a related story, Mobil and local radio stations have filed lawsuits against the DOT for reneging on their stoplight-timer contract (numbers not made-up are

some of the best minds in the south (minus Billy Ray and Bobby Joe who were in the semi-finals of Jackson County's hot dog-eating competition) months as they sifted through potential alternatives. Sadly, each one always seemed to either have too many drawbacks, or would have its discussion interrupted by *American Idol*.

Initially, it was feared that adjusting stoplight

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Traveller Ignores Physician, Carries Highly Contagious Virus onto International Flight

American Thomas Collins, 36, was arrested in Paris earlier this week while attempting to pass through airport security with the intention of catching a flight to Venice, despite being warned by his physician that the virus he was carrying was highly contagious.

Jean-Baptiste Depardieu, the head of security at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, France, explained the incident. "The American completely ignored the

infection his doctor had told him about and attempted to fly to Venice with his fiancé to get married, as if everything was normal."

But the situation was anything but normal. According to officials in France, it was, in fact, abnormal. Collins, who claimed he hadn't recently visited Alabama, Canada, or any other third-world country known for contagious and debilitating diseases, was diagnosed as infected with one of 200 different forms of rhinovi-

rus. Rhinoviruses, named after the animal from which it was originally transmitted to humans, the antelope, is a highly contagious, (+)ssRNA virus from the family Picornaviridae, that among the uneducated is often referred to as the common cold.

Said Depardieu, "Collins made no attempt to quarantine himself from other people, selfishly risking the health and well-being of everyone he came into contact with. But then again, who can blame him, I

mean, did you see the picture of his fiancé? I'd give her my virus, if you know what I mean! Wait, that didn't make sense, can you leave that part out?"

Passengers from the flight are being tracked down and quarantined, as is anyone who they might have come into contact with after the flight.

"Hotel employees, cab drivers, waiters, prostitutes, bellboys, co-workers; anyone and everyone who was within

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Overweight Man Sues State over Seatbelt Fine

Donald Edwards, 32, is suing the state of Ohio for issuing him a ticket for failure to wear his seatbelt. Aside from his belief that Americans should have the right to decide whether or not they wish to survive a car accident, Edwards has another problem when it comes to seatbelts: they don't fit him.

"Since my first year in college, I haven't been able to buckle seatbelts around me," he said. Edwards, who is 6'0" and according to NASA scientists weighs approximately 515 pounds, has yet to find a seatbelt that will fit

his dimensions.

"The seatbelt law is not only analogous to Big Brother trying to control our lives, but it's extremely insensitive to the needs, and feelings, of the 2-3% of Americans who suffer from obesity," Edwards said in a statement.

Given the frightening statistic that 63% of people killed in accidents were not wearing their seatbelt, seatbelt laws have been adopted in nearly every state in America. It is estimated the 5,800 lives are saved each year by seatbelts.

Several groups have

come to the defense of Edwards, whose ticket could cost him nearly \$60 if found guilty by a grand jury. Included among them are the National Organization of Obese People, known more commonly as NOOP, and the Libertarian Organization for Social Equality and Rights, or LOSER.

"The problem with laws in this country," said a LOSER spokesman, "is that they are geared towards the masses. As you can see, Edwards is a rather large mass on his own, and to group him in with 300 million other Americans is

outrageous. Instead, look at the facts: seatbelts are meant to restrain drivers and passengers in the event of an accident, but is there really any way that a man of Edwards' size is going anywhere? I could've sworn this was America and not a communist dictatorship."

The same backlash occurred when helmet laws were introduced in the 90s; riders felt that the government had no right to try and control what they did with and upon what roads they wished to display their

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'Lifetime Achievement Award' Presented

Emory University and its subsidiaries take great pride in rewarding those who display outstanding dedication and reliability. Typically this is done by reducing their cost of parking from \$600 per year to \$585. But in special cases, such as the one this past January, instead of a small discount, a Lifetime Achievement Award is given in honor of the sacrifices made by that particular individual, and to save the school \$15.

Since the award was created in 1998, only two people had ever received such an honor. In 1999, custodial worker John Edwards received one for having the men's room at the Yerkes Primate Center ready before the after-lunch rush every day for twelve straight years. In 2002,

Shaqira Jones in Human Resources was given the award when she retired after averaging an 11.4 week processing time for payroll errors, shattering the previous record of 15.9 weeks. Her return of a voicemail after just 53 days is also an HR record.

But whereas the previous two winners had achieved their award over the course of an entire career, the latest recipient, one Nicholas Plagman, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his accomplishments during his first year of employment.

"I nominated Nick because what he was able to do given the situation he was put in had to be the greatest display of patience and perseverance I've ever seen," said Ann Mayne, "he did more inventing in

one year than any of the other four men in that lab have done in their entire careers combined, which, mind you, adds up to like, nine times Nick's age."

Although grateful for the award, Plagman was a bit flabbergasted by it. "All I did was organize some tubes," he told reporters, "and to be honest my motives were mostly selfish- I knew at some point I was going to need to find some samples that were made when I was four years old, and when that time came I wanted to be able to find them."

Dr. Francois Villinger, Plagman's boss who claims to be French despite not having a stereotypically thick French accent, said initially he was against the whole idea of having an inventory,

"searching through 30 to 40 boxes for something that I may have thrown out ten years ago is how I like to look for things," explained Villinger, "it's a great way to find things you didn't know you had."

Unfortunately for the other employees in the lab, the knowledge of what's contained in the inventory has led to an onslaught of new projects being assigned. Ironically, as the only one not trained to work on any of them, Plagman has been unaffected and thus has the time available to continue inventorying, leading to even more projects.

"Honors and awards are great," says Plagman, "and I appreciate it and everything, but at the end of the day it hasn't helped me pick up chicks, so... whatever..."

Following Lawsuit, Escalators to Replace Stairs

Ever since an 81-year-old woman won \$2.3-million from McDonalds for being too old to handle a cup of coffee, organizations across the country have stepped up their dedication to the safety and well-being of every individual- competent or otherwise.

Yet somehow, despite being progressive enough to have the lowest percentage of white undergraduate students in the world, Emory University's failure to keep pace with the times was brought to the forefront after a 32-year-old male

employee tripped on a step in the Peavine parking deck, slightly skinning his knee. The employee, Dale Murphy, has filed a lawsuit for \$32 million, seeking \$1 million for every mildly painful step he had to take during the excruciating 16 seconds after he tripped.

"We just got a little behind in our safety updates," commented Director of Cultural Harmony and Lawsuit Prevention, Dale Earnhardt, "two years ago we told them we'd have it done by the end of the week; what part of that didn't they

understand? It's like they don't realize that our time is better spent organizing different ethnic 'Awareness' months."

In response, the Health and Safety Office has ordered that all of the staircases at Emory be replaced with escalators. Moreover, walking up the escalators will be strictly prohibited so as to ensure tripping accidents are a thing of the past. Employees guilty of walking up the escalators will be given a warning upon their first infraction; successive infractions will result in

being forced to sit through a Health and Safety Office training session.

"We feel that this is the only way to reduce the number of tripping accidents on our campus," said Morgan Fairchild, Executive Director of the Health and Safety Office, "tripping is the number one cause of knee bumps throughout the US, and Emory has always considered itself a pioneer in progressive thinking and strategy. At the time we will not be prohibiting people from walking, but that may be in the foreseeable future."

Mardi Gras/Culture Clash, Continued from Page 2

had to have been getting a gastric bypass- how else do you explain her losing that much weight in a few months?! I should ask her where she had it done. Last night I got on the scale and I was nearly in triple-digits."

Despite lacking in diversity, Emory University is known for taking pride in its openness to other cultures, just so long as that culture is kept within the privacy of one's home.

"We encourage culture," Vice President of Foreigner's Affairs, Anne Coulter, told reporters, "just like we encourage smoking: in designated areas, 25-feet away from any buildings, and at your own risk."

"Students who attend Emory University, as well as its employees," stated Emory Director of Cultural

Relations, Colin Farrell, "want to be able to come to school or work without having some cultural event or tradition shoved in their face. It's difficult to learn or do your job when you're worried that wearing a hat indoors on some special day is going to offend someone. Well, that's a bad example because hats aren't allowed on campus, but that's beside the point."

Stephenson's display of her own culture nearly crossed that line. "When we questioned her about it," says Emory Criminal Judge Ron Burgundy, "she said it was a 'holiday cake' and pleaded the 5th. Wait, can she even do that?"

Many Emory administrators fear that this may be the beginning of a new trend, but the students don't seem too concerned. "The

students that go here don't do stuff just cause everyone else is doing it," claimed a student with his collar popped, hat on sideways, and pants hanging a

foot off of his waist, "but check it, P. Diddy says we gotta 'Vote or Die' so I gotta go before they close."

"Campuses and universities in general simply aren't a place for displays of culture; they're for learning," clarifies Emory's Assistant Director of Diversity Recruiting, Clay Aiken, "if someone wants to experience different cultures they can take a drive down Buford Highway."

Although the legality of this practice has been in question for a number of



It's no wonder why so many people are bothered by Mardi Gras...

years, loopholes have permitted Emory University to get away with pretty much whatever they want. Said Emory CFO Michael Scott, "a couple months ago we jacked up the price on the sodas in the vending machines by 10 cents and nobody said a thing! That money's going straight towards raising parking fees again in 2009, because according to the *Committee for Strategy and Planning's* strategic initiative plan, that's what is in the best interest of the Emory community."

Diversity Causes Office Turmoil, Continued from Page 2

here to stay.”

“Maybe if they’d add a second mouse button they wouldn’t be so bad,” concedes Plagman, “but as long as I have to hold a button on the keyboard to make a right-click, I’m going to continue to be close-minded about those stupid things.”

The PC-Mac war, eerily reminiscent of the Indian-Harley motorcycle wars of the 1950s, has the country divided more than ever before in its entire history.

“The IT people like them cause they supposedly don’t get viruses,” says Plagman, “but that’s because they already suck so much that they don’t need a virus to make them suck, because they already suck. A lot. There’s a lot of sucking going on with

Macs.”

In Plagman’s defense, experts at Microsoft headquarters agree that sooner or later, Macs will be susceptible to viruses. In fact, they believe that Macs will become even more susceptible.

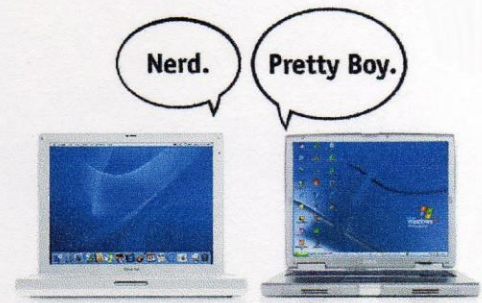
“Look at it this way,” explains Microsoft’s Executive Director of Development, Armand Assante, “Macs are like the Aztecs. Everything seems great for centuries, there’s no fence guarding the Mexican-US border, the drug kingpins are under control; nothing could possibly go wrong, right? Well, eventually some 38-year old conquistadors who are living in their parents’ basements get bored and decide to spread some virus all over a bunch of blankets and give it to the Macs. All

the sudden, BAM! No more Macs. I’ve seen it a hundred times...”

“It’s just not right having those things all over the place,” vents Plagman, “really, what’s

the deal with having to move my flash drive over to the ‘trash bin’ to eject it?! And don’t even get me started about that white cross thingy it has instead of a pointer for the mouse in Excel- that’s just plain wrong.”

As for the University, Plagman’s behavior has not gone unnoticed. “Discrimination of any kind is usually grounds for dismissal,” said Emory President Alexander Hamilton, “but from what I hear, the kid’s just too damn good at inventory. Besides, Macs don’t have a special-interest group yet, so no



Can’t we all just get along? No, cause Macs suck.

one’s really demanded that he be terminated. Al Sharpton hasn’t even said anything about it.”

Plagman would, however, be put on Mac-probation, in addition to the probation he’s already under for spending too much time in Cox Hall at lunch staring at undergraduate girls.

Added Plagman’s father, “we’re very disappointed to hear about our son’s behavior. But personally, in a way I’m sort of relieved- at least he hates Macs and stares at girls and not the other way around.”

Obese Americans versus Seatbelts, Continued from Page 7

cerebral cortices and underlying neural tissues. Famous comedian Jerry Seinfeld was disturbed by the very idea of having a helmet law, believing that it’s ridiculous that the government is passing laws to save the lives of people whose brains are functioning so poorly that they aren’t even trying to save themselves.

“It’s not about what makes sense, or what’s logical,” said LOSER director Kevin Dillwood from his parent’s basement, “it’s about our rights as Americans. You step on one right and justify it by saying you want to ‘save lives,’ but



John Clayton, an Indiana resident, gets measured to see if he’s eligible for an exemption to Indiana’s seatbelt laws.

then where do you draw the line? Before you know it, kids won’t be allowed to buy handguns just because one might hurt himself.”

Although the trampling of his rights is certainly a concern of Edwards, the real issue in his mind is the continual

insensitivity of America as a whole towards the overweight population. “I know that overweight Americans are a severe minority, but that doesn’t mean we don’t have feelings,” said

Edwards, “I’m no different from any other American who puts their pants on one leg at a time, with the help of a spotter and two volunteer firemen, and I just want people to understand that we’re different and we can’t be held to the same laws as skinny-folk.”

In the suit, Edwards is demanding that the ticket be revoked, his driving record be cleared, and as compensation for the emotional trauma he’s endured, that he be awarded a lifetime supply of Swiss Cake Rolls.

“People are going to learn, one way or another, that you can’t mess with the obese just because they might be overweight in the eyes of a few judgmental individuals,” said Edwards, “I just hope this most recent suit will be a huge step towards what we’re trying to achieve, cause I can’t make very many steps unless I get a breather in-between each one.”

Anti-War Protests Protested, Continued from Page 5

you don't know them. On the sidewalk, you can see the person- they're not just a silhouette. Well that's what we do with these names- we make the soldiers into people you pass on the sidewalk."

"We feel that using the names of the soldiers killed in action as anti-war propaganda would be how they'd want to be remembered," said senior Kathy Griffin.

"It's not like they joined the military on purpose," added sophomore Grady Jackson, "they didn't choose to get drafted and sent over to the midwest."

The anti-anti-war protestors, on the other hand, had quite a different opinion regarding the demonstration.

"What war? No we



Although this Emory student stood outside of Cox Hall for 3 hours, for some reason no one recalls noticing that she was holding a sign.

don't care about the war, we're just sick of people protesting," said junior Aaron Eckhart, "we got them to stop protesting about Islamic Awareness Month being the same

month as Black History Month, we can get them to stop protesting this, too."

"We would've protested sooner," added senior Martina Hingis, "but we thought they were reading the names in tribute to the soldiers who honorably gave their lives to their country."

The University, while respecting the students' rights to protest, fears the ramifications of the protests on two counts. "First off," commented Emory's Director of Protests Adam Sandler, "whenever you have two sides with opposing views, you have to be cognizant of the fact that a fight could break out, likely involving brass knuckles, a few cans of mace, quite possibly a can of silly string, and at least

one taser. At least, that's what happened last year when the women's rugby team reserved the practice field and the men's rugby team wouldn't leave. My primary concern, however, is that with the protests being entirely in English, much of the student body is going to feel discriminated against."

Currently, the University is in search of 126-translators to translate the names of the soldiers into each language represented by the Emory student body. "It could get pretty loud out there with 127 megaphones going at the same time," says Sandler, "but I'd rather deal with noise than inequality any day of the week. Unless it's during Desperate Housewives."

Young Tech Achieves Perfection, Bolsters Legacy

For years, the Villinger lab had been trying to find a way to determine their monkeys' viral loads without having to be extorted. "We've been shipping out the serum to get the viral loads for \$75 a pop," explains Dr. Francois Villinger of the Villinger lab at Emory University, "but then I brought in Nick, and for some reason I felt that it was time to take another whack at this project."

The result of that whack? A PCR efficiency of 98.6% and a correlation co-efficient of 1.000, both while detecting 5 copies of the target, a remarkable feat that no one ever imagined

could be achieved.

"It's been a long time since we've seen real-time PCR domination of this magnitude," reported ESPN analyst Chris Berman on

Sportscenter,

"this could go down in history as the second greatest RT-PCR run of

all-time behind Joe Montana's RT-PCR to Dwight Clarke in the 1981 NFC Championship game."

"I'd done 20 copies once, but I never imagined I'd be able to do 5. Those pansies at Bayer can't touch me now," said Plagman, "but let's be real, that 1.000

really could've been a 1.0001, or maybe a 0.9999 that was rounded up, so we don't know for certain that I was 100% perfect, I'm probably more like

"Perfection is a lifestyle- it's not something you do, it's something you are."

-Nick "Automatic" Plagman

99.999% perfect. So while it's a start, there's still room for improvement."

Drafted in the first round by the Indianapolis Colts in 2005, Nicholas Plagman was expected to make an immediate impact on the league, but sadly was plagued by injuries during

his first two seasons. "It was a rough start, sure," said Plagman, "but I don't know how to fail. Every time I try to fail, I'm unable to."

Having started the project in July of 2007, after 36 previous lab techs had already failed miserably, Plagman knew time wasn't on his side. "I saw on the schedule that the monkeys were going to start getting PMPA in December," recounts Plagman, "which I knew meant that they'd be getting it sometime in late January, possibly February, and so that's when I knew we'd really need to be able to get

Continued on page 14

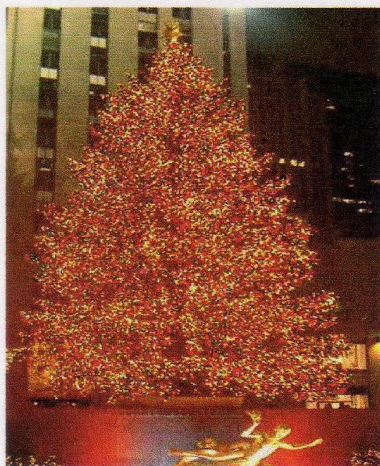
Administrator Fired for Cultural Insensitivity

Constitution no match for political correctness

For most people, the last week of December is a time for relaxing with one's family and enjoying the inch of snow that shuts down Atlanta for a few days once every decade. Sadly, however, for some, the holiday season is merely a reminder that the First Amendment's protection of free speech has exceptions.

As great as diversity can be for an organization, especially for a university that frowns upon having more than a dozen students from the same country in a given class, when individuals are ill-prepared to handle the hodge-podge of cultures the consequences can be disastrous. And for Emory Administrative Secretary, Christina Jenson, that is exactly what happened.

"Diversity comes with responsibility," says Emory University's President, Regis Philbin,



According to New Yorkers, "yeah it's a freakin' Christmas Tree ya moron, you got a problem widdat? Cause if you wanna take this outside we can take this outside..."

"the responsibility to be aware of everyone else's religious practices, beliefs, cultural mannerisms, preferences, and social behaviors- that's what America's all about. Christina Jenson forgot that."

Jenson, an employee of Emory University for 26 years, lost her job when her cultural bigotry got the best of her. "It was Friday, and Christmas was the following Tuesday," explained Jenson, "so everyone was saying their goodbyes, wishing 'happy holidays,' and as I walked out the door I wished one of my friends a 'Merry Christmas.'"

A statement released by the university that following Monday stated that "the school in no way condones Mrs. Jenson's behavior, and her cultural insensitivity is not representative of this organization.

Our official stance has always been that this is a 'holiday' break- the University is not liable for any religious holidays that happen to occur during said break. The proper countermeasures have been taken, and Jenson is no longer an employee of this institution."

Although every one of her co-workers celebrates Christmas, several of them felt offended for those who had not heard the comments. "I know I



Although it is not yet illegal to have a "Merry Christmas," Americans are strongly encouraged to instead have a "Happy Holiday."

celebrate Christmas, and so does everyone else here," said Sandra Dee, Jenson's secretary, "but you can't just go around saying racially insensitive things just because no one around is going to be offended by it- that's still very offensive. I personally felt offended by proxy."

Before learning of the ramifications, Jenson had apologized, claiming that she had directed her comment towards one particular person, and not as an employee, but as a friend. "That doesn't matter," said Kevin Eubanks of Emory's Bureau of Equality, "if you're in any way affiliated with this organization, when you're on campus, or off campus, you should know better than to even think the C-word."

According to her co-workers, this wasn't the first instance in which Jenson was less than sensitive. "There was that time she came back from Tijuana and she kept calling everyone there a 'Mexican,' like we were on Buford

highway or something," recalls Sarah Silverman, "and then of course there was that time she said she had to 'reneg' on a deal she'd made. I couldn't believe it, I was horrified. I guess we should've seen this coming."

After her termination, Jenson decided to stop holding in her true feelings, telling reporters, "you know what, that tree we put up isn't a "holiday" tree, it's a Christmas Tree! That's right! Same goes for the wreath, and the menorah, and the gingerbread house- they're all Christmas decorations and we all knew it, too!"

Preceding her public outburst, Emory administrators had actually been considering offering Jenson back her job, under the condition that she take holiday-sensitivity training, but "that was before she offended countless individuals with her C-word rant," said Eubanks, "when a person has that much hate inside them, simple sensitivity training isn't going to be enough."

AIDS Cure, Continued from Page 4

Yanni refused to speak to CNN, the government wouldn't release the mixture for testing, and medical reports would not be provided.

They were, however, happy to allow their Health Minister, Tamsim Mbowe, to defend the cure. Tamsim, which comes with either white or brown steamed rice and a side of Hoisin sauce, is a trained

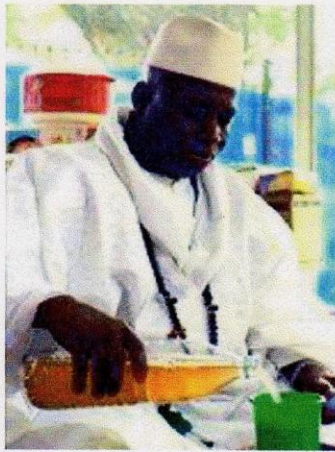
doctor with multiple degrees, some of which exceed even Yoda's GED. Said Tamsim to CNN, "I can swear, 100%, that the

herbal medication His Excellency, who is not holding my children hostage, is using is working. It has the potency to trait and cure.. oh wait,

sorry- that says 'treat and cure' patients infected with the HIV-virus."

When CNN asked Mr. Mbowe what he would say to all of his skeptics, Mbomb replied, "I will tell them, as a Western

medical trained doctor, who was so successful in the modernized world that I voluntarily chose to come back to the paradise that is



The cure is also available in Fanta Orange.

Gambia, I've seen His Excellency, who would never harm my children because he's such a wonderful man, coming up with herbal medications that are able to treat and cure patients with HIV-virus, which have been proven within all medical and laboratory parameters as set by the Gambian Medical and Laboratory Practices Act of 420 BC. The only thing His Excellency hasn't been able to do so far is treat Michael Vick's herpes. Only Allah has that ability, although there's only so much he can do..."

Health officials, and anyone smart enough to immediately dismiss this cure, are worried about the dangers of such claims within areas such as Gambia, where desperate citizens are willing to cling to anything resembling

hope. "For a country's leader to come up with such an outlandish conclusion is not only irresponsible," said Professor Jerry Coovadia of the University of Kwa Zulu Natal in South Africa, "but also very dangerous, and he should be reprimanded and stopped from proclaiming such nonsense." In president Yahahaha's defense, Coovadia's opinion may contain a certain bias considering the huge rivalry between Kwa Zulu Natal and South Africa's rowing teams.

Until Gambia and its administration choose to share their secret with the world, the rest of humanity will seemingly have to grin and bear it as they have in the past, and simply hope that some day they can partake in the good fortune that the African continent and its people have so long enjoyed.

Emory Re-times Stoplights, Continued from Page 6

timers to reduce traffic congestion would be viewed as an obstruction of rights protected by the Constitution. The thirteenth amendment, which also has something to do with slavery, clearly states that every American, legal or otherwise, has an inalienable right to sit in traffic and remain motionless at green lights. In the ensuing trial of Soccer Moms v. People who go the speed limit, the Supreme Court ruled by rock beats scissors that the original intention of that particular clause was to draw attention away from the amendment's mention of slavery, a word that even back then invited accusa-

tions of racism, which then had to be appeased with minority scholarships. Furthermore, they ruled that the authors of said amendment in no way could have anticipated the prevalence of horrible drivers two hundred years later, and thus any actions taken by the government to counteract the growing lack of driving ability is both constitutional and refreshing.

The ruling was a big step towards a less polluted America, but experts agree that there is still a long road ahead. "The idea that so many gallons of gasoline can be spared each year simply by adjusting

stoplight timers is somewhat uplifting," comments traffic researcher Kent Brockman, "even if it can never overcome the problem of oblivious drivers altogether. Like I always say, you can lead a soccer mom to a green light, but you can't make her go through it."

Because re-timing traffic lights is more cost-effective than teaching people to understand that green means "go," additional counties are expected to follow suit. The idea has even received national attention, including a personal endorsement from ex-Vice President Al Gore. Last week he was reported as saying, "when it comes to our environment, there

are three things we need to worry about: pollution from automobiles, and Manbearpig¹. And I'll tell you right now, only one of those problems is fixable."

Given that it took Emory University 27 years to study the traffic patterns of those 33 stoplights, and that there are 284 billion stoplights in America, it could be at least another month or two before anyone else is able to go forward in their respective community with this plan. But despite how long it will take for these impending changes, for now all we can do is sit back and wait until the person in front of us decides to go. ¹This is a reference from an episode of South Park.

Traveler Spreads Virus,

Continued from Page 6

the vicinity of a passenger from Collins' flight needs to come forward." Stated Jean-Luc Picard, executive director of the French Center for Disease Control. "But even that isn't going to be good enough. What makes the rhinovirus so brutal is its ability to live on fomite surfaces for hours. Doorknobs, condom wrappers, keys, doorknobs, table tops, computer keyboards, doorknobs; all could possess virus particles that could be transmitted to another individual. Sure, people could just not sneeze or cough into their hands and then touch things, like they do with my credit card in Cox Hall, or simply wash their hands often, but we

have to be realistic; once out, this virus is going to spread, fast."

Once a rhinovirus enters a cell, it sheds its coat and begins replication, a process as gruesome as it sounds. Within merely eight hours, the host cell dies and is then lysed (burst wide open, often without him first giving any warning), releasing the replicated viral particles, which will look for an opportunity to do the same thing once again. Just one millennium ago, an infection with a rhinovirus could incapacitate the strongest individual for days, sometimes as long as a week. Even today there remains no cure, and treatment options are severely limited.

In the meantime, French police are building a case to present formal charges on Collins for endangering others. "My wife wanted to get married in Venice; you ever try to go against what a woman wants for her wedding?" Collins explained, "facing a jail sentence is better than getting castrated, that much I know."

Back in the United States, public opinion regarding Collins' inconsiderate and selfish act has been very negative towards the Europe-loving American.

"Why he be traipsing around Europe anyway?" Asked Atlanta native Theresa Brown, "giving them all our good diseases and such, building up they immune systems. It ain't right, y'all."

Other Americans are simply embarrassed,

concerned that the positive image citizens of other countries have long had for Americans might be tarnished.

Even the White House felt the need to issue a statement. "This type of behavior is deplorable, is in no way condoned by my administration, and is not representative of Americans as a whole," said a spokesman for the White House, "America is a land of tolerance, not a land that breeds infected international tourists. The United States is praying, except for in schools, that this crisis can be quickly managed with zero complications. The whole of Europe has our sincerest apology, and I can only hope that they remember how we bailed them out in World War II when considering accepting our apology."

Tech Achieves Perfection,

Continued from Page 11

the viral loads on our own."

Over the second half of 2007, Plagman had to overcome countless obstacles, all the while continuing to optimize the assay, getting rejected from med schools, and milking company reps for thousands of dollars worth of free sample kits.

"Dawn gave me some great advice, she told me to approach the reps like I approach dating. I decided to make each rep think they were the only one I was in contact with and they gave me everything I wanted. In other words, I didn't take her advice, and it's a good thing, too- I don't know how calling them every

night and sending them e-mails every few hours during work would've helped..."

For the latter part of December, reliability became an issue that almost drove Plagman to the brink of frustration. "I make my share and several other peoples' shares of mistakes when I first start doing something, but once I figure it out I'm automatic. In fact, that was my nickname in high school, but don't look into it. So when something's not working right, it must be someone or something else's fault."

Plagman had initially blamed the machine he was using, but after discovering

that it had cost more than he makes in two years, and was several years older than himself and thus much more experienced, he thought twice about using that argument.

But that would soon all become history. On February 14, 2008, a day known throughout the modern world as the anniversary of the St. Valentine's Day massacre of 1929, Plagman would redeem his past months of failure.

"There's a reason I've never had a date on Valentine's Day," said Plagman, "but for once it didn't have anything to do with my personality. This

was my most important viral load assay ever, and I didn't want to be distracted by thinking about how to get to first base later that night. I just wanted my focus to be on making sure the assay was perfect so I could save the lab more money than I make in two months."

Isolated in the PCR sauna, and still unable to think about much else other than getting to first base, Plagman went to work on solidifying his place in RT-PCR history. "Yeah, it feels good to save a ton of money, but just like everything else I do, it hasn't helped me pick up chicks, so... whatever..."

CDC to Set Sights on Childhood Obesity

A lot of zooming out expected

In 2001, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ignored their current priorities of controlling and preventing disease to address a much more frightening and widespread issue: obesity in children between the ages of 9 and 13. Having realized that the 66% of American adults who are obese are a lost cause, the focus shifted towards the nearly 1/3 of American children who are either obese or in danger of becoming obese. "Fat kids make fat adults," explains a spokesperson for the CDC, "in a way we're just trying to be more like the tobacco industry and get 'em while they're young." Those falling under the age of 9 are encouraged to hold off on their first heart attack and/or stroke so that they can be around to join the initiative.

Initial investigations have been geared towards determining the cause of childhood obesity, or as it's known on the streets (i.e. the playground), "Being a Lardo." For years, the root of the problem was thought to be genetic, largely contributing to the reason for which the issue had been ignored. But as skinny people continue to pump out fatties, the government could no longer remain idle.

Even though the CDC never considered placing any blame on the parents, nationwide they were questioned as they left for the grocery store to buy

more chips and soda. Unfortunately, none had any idea why their child might be carrying a few extra pounds.

After covering their bases, the CDC's investigation ended up where they had wanted to start in the first place: the schools. Having already been blamed for teaching children about sex, teen pregnancies, not teaching children about sex, school shootings, and teenage girls meeting old guys off of MySpace, the schools were clearly the ones responsible for childhood lardism.



Although they do have a couple of theories, researchers continue to struggle to determine the cause of childhood obesity.

Immediately under the gun were the physical education teachers. Since most states had cut their PE program due to lawsuits regarding scraped knees and emotional trauma endured after being picked last in kickball, the ex-teachers were hard to find. But upon being questioned, they had very little to say in their own defense.

But finding a scape-

goat and ruining someone's career can only silence those who have nothing better to do than whine. In order to fight this monster that is 155-pound fourth graders, action needed to be taken, assuming it didn't interfere with an *Xbox Live Halo 3* tournament.

The most obvious and practical step was to remove the source of the flab: soda machines. Instead, the drink machines located next to vending machines stocked with potato chips and candy bars were only loaded with unsweetened teas, low-

the allegation that cigarette smoking may not be as healthy as once believed is now being researched.

Until more data can be collected and skewed in order to allocate additional funding, teachers across the country have been attending seminars in which they can learn to make a difference. The first point of emphasis was to not just get the children more involved in class, but to get them involved physically. This could include more trips to the chalkboard, sprinting to and from the bathroom, sprinting while in the bathroom, or even distributing push-ups for wrong answers or stupid questions. Teachers are, of course, encouraged to come up with their own ways to keep kids active. A third grade teacher in Wisconsin now threatens to call her students' parents at the first sign of bad behavior, "you should see the fear in their eyes," explains Mrs. Kowolski, "their hearts are going as fast as if they'd been on a treadmill for an hour. God I love my job."

In the meantime, parents are also encouraged to do their part at home, since teachers can only get so much done in eight hours a day for nine months. In a joint endeavor with the FDA, the CDC has started an initiative to distribute health pamphlets to parents, advising them on proper nutrition. Examples include limiting your child to four

calories sports drinks, flavored water, and diet sodas. Deprived of their primary source of high fructose corn syrup, children are expected to eventually mimic their parental counterparts and settle for diet sodas sweetened by compounds that have never been proven to produce cancer since those rats already had tumors. In a related story,

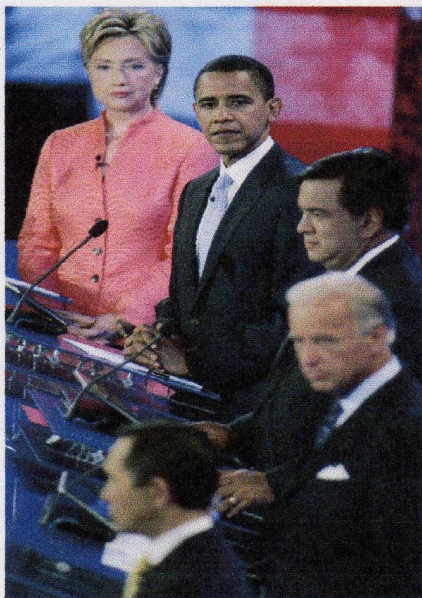
Presidential Nominees Anger Students

Believe the diverse candidate pool to be an obstacle to achieving diversity

Every four years, beginning with the presidential primaries, P. Diddy and his "Vote or Die" campaign ensure that voters fulfill their obligations as citizens to make uneducated decisions based on one or two issues concerning what's in their own best personal interest. This can be a time of great excitement, particularly in Georgia as the states' residents get a chance to influence who each party's candidate will be come the presidential candidate in November, when the Republicans in Georgia are scheduled to make their quadrennial landslide victory.

But like all things American, the Georgia primary elections in 2008 did not go without controversy. Although many people claimed disenfranchisement for reasons ranging from not being registered to vote to being told through a translator

that citizenship is a requirement, the controversy spreading throughout the campus of Emory University involved none of the aforementioned technicalities.



A chick, a black guy, a Jew, old white guys; this is exactly the diversity that outrages RAM.

ties.

"The group of candidates this year is more diverse than ever before," explained Emory sophomore Jennifer Lee, "how

America can stand this blatant racism is beyond me."

Lee, founder of the group RAM, Race is All that Matters, feels that

having candidates of several different races and religions is a slap in the face to those that went unrepresented.

"Muslims, African-Americans, men, women, white people, Mormons, POWs; they're all represented," continues Lee, "what about the Native Americans? What about the Asians? The Indians? The Chinese? The Dutch? The Handicapped? The illegal immigrants? I could go on and on. Do those people not get anyone to represent them?"

"We were all used to only having old white guys running for office," continued Lee, "and the occasional 'reverend' who

still believes it's 1957, but now that it's commonplace for other races to step in there, we all deserve our fifteen minutes. The Constitution says that 'all men are created equal'; well what I'm seeing is a few races being equal, and the rest being forced to vote for candidates outside of their race."

RAM is coming off their monumental victory in 2003, when the Detroit Lions were fined \$200,000 for hiring the highly sought-after Steve Mariucci without interviewing a minority candidate.

According to RAM, Equal Employment Opportunity practices should apply to all elections. "That's how we choose everything else," argues Lee, "the presidency should be no different. Is this a democracy or not? Well I'll tell you one thing, ain't no way I'm voting this year. Let's just see what they think about that!"

CDC Going After Childhood Obesity,

Continued from Page 15

donuts and six Mountain Dew's per day, and eliminating either the pre-breakfast, post-breakfast, pre-lunch, pre-dinner, or post-dinner bowls of ice cream. Furthermore, at least one meal per day should not be fast food, unless the fries are ordered without salt.

In addition, as a general guideline, children between the ages of 9 and 13 should weigh at least

five pounds less than their father. The rule drops to three pounds less if their father is a midget, and if he's too heavy to stand up under his own strength: six pounds less. "The first step towards losing weight is setting a goal," says Joe Kanoy, the pamphlet's designer, "or wait, is it to admit that you're fat? Okay, I think I got my AA and fat kids pamphlets mixed up.

Would you mind only quoting me on the 'setting a goal' thing I said earlier?" Unfortunately, in its sixth or whatever year, the CDC's program seems to be losing steam despite the fabrication of promising results. "Staying positive is half the battle," explains nutritionist/immunologist/lunch-lady Selma Bouvier, "except for those who can't afford liposuction, then it's the

only battle."

The future may not look too bright for childhood obesity right now, but that's probably because your child is blocking out the sun. Nevertheless, the CDC remains optimistic. "If the amount of taxes you'll be paying towards Medicare for the obese doesn't scare you," reads their pamphlet, "not being able to see your toes will."