

## 4 Hacks to get an extension

WP  
*Pro-crastinator*

It's that time of year again. You got nothing done over Thanksgiving Break, and if you're one of those California "people" that go home for the holiday, then you've also managed to get enough exposure to above-40-degree weather to reverse whatever progress you have made building up a cold tolerance. Great. On top of this, you're starting to feel a disturbing sense that all your final projects are due in the same week. Nauseatingly, you're also starting to realize that all your final exams are during the week after. Crazy how that happens. It is normal to feel overwhelmed, especially when professors don't seem to be aware of all this. Fortunately, there are several strategies that you can use to persuade them to give you a few extra days.

1) Explain your situation to your professor. If you can see them in person during office hours, do that. Say that you have been very busy this semester and that their class was lowest on your priority list, so naturally you did not waste your time thinking about their dumb project. Professors will appreciate your honesty, apologize for their stupid class interfering with your other

classes, and give you a few more days.

2) Refuse to complete the project as a form of nonviolent protest against the rat race nature of capitalism. (Chicks dig this.)

3) Get hit by a car. Thankfully, Andrew Carnegie had the foresight to consider this option when choosing a location for the school. Pittsburgh offers several choice options, all within walking distance of campus or easily accessible through the PRT. Center/Baum/Negley is a classic and stylish choice, conveniently close to the Aldi and a small bridge that you can use as a backup for option 1. For a more hip statement, consider Forward/Murray/Pocusset with its 5-way intersection and a gas station parking lot placed at a reasonably unreasonable angle to the rest of the roads.

4) Drop out. You can just lie about your education on LinkedIn. Round up to the nearest degree. They don't check.

Good luck! Communication is an important part of life, and asking for an extension is great practice for dealing with uncomfortable situations by making others even more uncomfortable.

## Homework Trouble

Violet R. Blu  
*Conveniently Inconvenienced*

Dear Professor Choset,

I hope you are having a wonderful day so far. I wanted to inform you of some extenuating circumstances that may delay the submission of my Introduction to Robotics final. You see, Professor Choset, I built the spiffiest little robot anyone's ever seen. It walked and talked and did everything a robot should. I was jumping for joy, excited to show you and the other students of 16-311 my technological marvel. But what happened, Professor Choset, was that another mechanical creature ran up to my project and tore it asunder! I looked at the little fiend's collar and discovered it was none other than the Boston Dynamics dog. In a moment of deep anguish, I wiped my tears with my blueprints. As such, I will not be able to rebuild my project.

I hope, Professor Choset, that this small blemish does not affect my otherwise stellar performance in your class. Have an amazing rest of your week!

Sincerely,  
Violet R. Blu

(P.S. I have yet to receive a response to my previous email. I would once again like to request that my 69.4 be rounded to a 70.)

## Christmas tips for children of divorce

Inverse Parental Alienator  
*It takes a village*

Are you a child of divorce who struggles on holidays? Having two separate Christmas parties can be disappointing and painful, especially for those of you whose parents tolerate each other's presence enough to come together on your birthday. Well, I have the solution for you! Just follow these simple steps to maximize your holiday experience:

Wait for your parents to start dating again. This process may take some years, but make sure to encourage them every step of the way. Say things like "Of course I don't have a problem with you dating a woman twenty years younger than you!" If your parents are struggling to get back into the dating game, consider making them a Hinge profile to attract potential partners you will be able to get along with.

Build a good relationship with your parents' respective partners. Bond with them by making fun of the parts of your parents they find annoying. Find topics your parents aren't interested in but their partners are, and read up

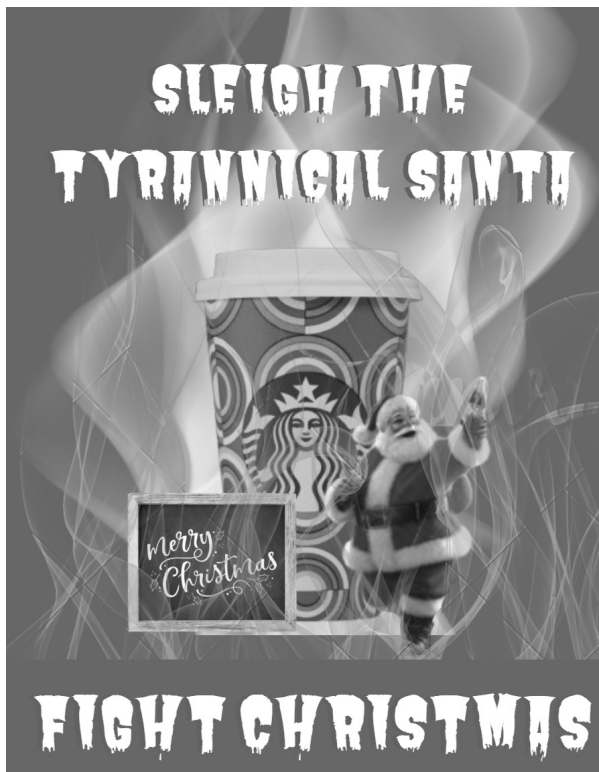
on them to endear yourself to your parent's partner without your parent's interference.

Break up your parents and their respective partners. Tell your father's girlfriend she deserves better than a cynical, self-centered man-child. Ruin your mother's sex life by starting the coffee grinder outside her room every time you hear moaning.

Profit. Now you have a total of four parental figures, each of whom feels sorry for causing so much upheaval in your home life. Reassure each of them that you want to spend time with them during the holidays. On each parental figure's Christmas, regift them your least favorite present from the previous Christmas. Delight in the quadrupled number of gifts you receive (because, of course, none of them will coordinate with each other to buy gifts for you). If you're lucky, there should be enough enmity between some of them that you can get at least one extra birthday.

Repeat.

Disclaimer: This strategy may also result in quadrupled travel time, quadrupled guilt-tripping, and/or quadrupled scheduling conflicts.



# Innovative research on inducing of maximal misery

**Dr. Evil**

*PhD Economics, Slippery Rock University*

With final exams fast approaching, overall misery levels on campus are rising steadily. While CMU is one of the top schools in the nation in overall misery production per student, several changes can be implemented to greatly increase this ratio.

Misery is defined as the aggregate sum of various negative emotions such as stress, sadness, pain, jealousy, and others I don't really care to list. Examining the misery report from last finals season, CMU generated a large portion of its misery output from stress, which has one of the highest known misery conversion ratios. Stress achieves this by decaying into several strong negative emotions over time, with a single misery particle decaying into three depression particles and an imposter syndrome particle, with other trace emotions such as psychosis and rage occasionally being emitted as well.

While CMU is very effective at stress production during finals, there are several flaws in this system. Some classes are curved or otherwise grade-adjusted, which has been found to slightly decrease stress and thus overall misery levels. An obvious solution would be to remove grade adjustments across all courses, but recent studies have shown a more effective method. By stating that the class will be curved at the beginning of the year, and allotting a certain number of dropped assignments, students are lulled into a very low stress state. By applying a strong enough shock to the system around finals, stress levels are observed to sharply rise to a level much higher than what is normally possible. This effect is correlated with the strength of the shock, so for the given example a good idea would be to announce a week or two before finals that no assignments will be dropped and no curve will be applied. In addition, by not applying this shock to a small percentage of courses, misery loss via the shared burden effect can be minimized, with the benefit of also increasing envy production.

Weather is known to affect overall misery rate, with pleasant weather corresponding to upwards of a 30% loss in misery production, while sufficiently poor weather can double production under ideal conditions. This is one of the reasons why CMU's fall production is so high, as Pittsburgh's weather in early December is typically grey, cold, windy, and wet. Unfortunately, finals week weather is not always in this state. By seeding the clouds or using magic, CMU could alter the weather to ensure that the entire week will be bitterly cold and drizzly. This could also have applications for spring semester manipulation, although this remains unproven.

The best proven method, however, is announcing a 4% tuition raise the week before finals.



Join  
Readme!

# A College Student's Guide to saving money

**Lord Duke His Majesty Higglebottoms**  
*Frugal*

As I wrap up my first semester of college, I have begun to reflect on all of the new experiences and people I have met. One of these is "poor people". College has exposed me to a breadth of new experiences and I have realized some people are in the unfortunate position of being "broke". Because of this, I have compiled my top money saving tips.

I hope that this can help some unfortunate people, especially my roommate who I caught re-wearing outfits.

## Phones are rechargeable

I used to buy a new cellular phone every time mine died. This was costing me thousands of dollars every month. Then my genius roommate showed me that you can "recharge" phones and use them again and again. My current streak is 10 days on this phone.

## Consider cooking on your own

I used to have my private chef cook all 3 meals for me 7 days a week. However, I then discovered "cooking". This is a very hard thing to do, so I consider this an advanced money saving technique. However, I have now progressed to using the "microwave" to heat up extra food from dinner, I find that

adding caviar to "leftovers" makes them palatable. Because of this, I no longer need my chef to make my breakfast on the weekends.

## Use toilet paper

I used to wipe my ass with twenty dollar bills. However, my roommate just introduced me to this magical thing called toilet paper. It's way softer than dollar bills, and I think it's cheaper. I would highly recommend.

## Sell your holiday gifts

Parents can be quite forgetful. My dad has gifted me three horses in the past year because he keeps forgetting he already got me one. Plus I very clearly told him I want a unicorn. One way to generate "passive income" is to sell off these extra gifts. It can be hard to find a buyer for luxury race horses, but my roommate told me about this website called "ebay" so I might try there.

## Renegotiate your butler's salary

While your butler may have agreed to work for \$300,000, \$30,000 looks basically the same so there's no way they would notice. Plus they very generously get to live in my father's mansion so they should be grateful for the opportunity.

# Carnegie cracks down on Crystal Math

**Warren J. Caulfield**  
*Not a cop*

Crime cried for help in the quiet halls of Wean last night as an avalanche of crooked Material Science Engineers poured out of room 7500, breaking past red and blue barricades. A report submitted by a Mr. Benjamin Amstutz, a sophomore in MSE, detailed an organized plot to do crystal math during Structure of Materials. Mr. Amstutz, who lives in Fairfax 274 and leaves his door unlocked between 4 and 10 PM, wishes to remain anonymous, and so henceforth will be referred to as "Greg."

Though Greg contacted us by mistake, after a little interrogation he confessed his fears of being forced to do crystal math. CMUPD's top criminologist, a delightful guy with an English accent, made it very clear that, "Crystal math is a killer." Greg said he had done crystal math before but was aspiring to quit as soon as the semester was done.

While CMUPD is generally against drug rehabilitation, this provided them with the opportunity to bust more perps, which is universally regarded as a badass move.

Police cars were hauled up the Wean freight elevators to block the main doors and a sniper was positioned on the Hammerschlag roof to catch any dirty math-heads leaving out of the side exit. Armed police disguised as students came in from a hole drilled through 4 feet of certified Wean concrete to provide a discrete entrance. Upon entering, students found partaking in crystal math were quickly apprehended by canisters of tear gas. Those addicts never saw it coming.

One shackled miscreant reportedly cried out, "I was only following what the paper told me to do!" We have reason to suspect that this "paper" our druggie friend was referring to is a code word for LSD used in these underground drug rings. Naturally, CMUPD took appropriate action and emptied a round of gunfire into the no-good drug-smuggling student. "We haven't had this much excitement since the last steam tunnel bust!" one officer reports. "I'm just so glad we got to put this tuition increase to use," said another officer, who proceeded to fire a semi-automatic rifle into the lecture hall ceiling. God bless our country, amen.