

Byrd's Eye View

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Sum•mer n. The period between Winter and Fall semesters dreaded by engineering students.

Like many engineers, I feared the arrival of summer. For those who enjoy school (i.e. me), summer is a chaotic, non-academic annoyance we'd rather fast-forward. "No more teachers, no more books..." Hold-up! I like books! (and the occasional teacher). But my protests fell on deaf ears – summer came anyway.

First there's the problem of a job. Many undergraduate engineers (UGEs) can understand my plight: I've learned more than what's required to push a lawn mower, but not quite enough to design missiles. So I ended up pushing lawn mowers and wishing I was designing missiles – which meant, for me, anyway, that I didn't do a particularly good job on the lawns (apologies to those affected).

I counted my blessings; after all, I had a good job and didn't have to force pest control or satellite TV on elderly widows in California, (although if the thousands of full-page ads run by the Daily Universe are correct, I could have netted \$95K in just two easy weeks). Right. Sign me up.

Speaking of the Daily Universe, during the summer it's not so daily, or even every-other-daily. In fact, it's replaced by a rarely appearing paper simply entitled, the "Universe" and is written entirely by the Orem School of Boring Writers. Jaw-dropping journalism

covered such scintillating news as "Popcorn Matters for Theaters", the wildy popular "Floating Duck Contest", and the suspenseful "Saving Energy Saves Money" investigative report.

But at least the newspaper stuck around, which is more than we can say for the Smith Family Living Center, which in the wake of it's demolition left the campus as a gigantic obstacle course. To make matters more convenient for undergraduates, parts of student parking were annexed for faculty vehicles. Those spaces, of course, remained vacant all summer long, except for the occasional student owned vehicle, parking ticket fluttering in the breeze.

However, I digress... let me catch you up on the latest engineering news:

- Early this summer, CAEDM passwords were compromised by a embittered, former system administrator. You'll need to change yours – the password, not your system administrator. The hack was facilitated largely because the passwords were (and are?)

apparently stored as plain-text for obscure security reasons.

- Fourth Floor lab computers

were upgraded to faster, flat-screen

models, making it easier for engineers' wives to check email, and chat using AOL's Instant Messenger.

- Irregular power outages plunged the Clyde Building into a dark, sultry dungeon, testing whether, under duress, engineers would really leave (none did). Fortunately, electricity was rerouted to the vending machines, preventing the otherwise inevitable insurrection.

- The lobby got new carpet exactly resembling the previous carpet.

- Contrary to rumor, the awkwardly fitting Department of BYU Studies was not kicked out of our building, at least not yet.

- The ugly Third Floor daguerreotypes of bridges have finally been replaced by photographs taken in our lifetimes. No, I'm sorry, that's a lie.

- Finally, several hundred additional surveillance cameras were added to the CAEDM lab, bringing the total to nearly one thousand. ("CAEDM: The Real World Uncensored Live" is now airing 24/7 on TCI-CableVision™ channel 36).

Now you are all up to speed on all of the summer changes.

Fortunately, it's Fall Semester, playtime for those who relish school and who may, once again, dodge embarrassing sports and physical games with the excuse, "I've got some studying to do."

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