

The Toilet Paper

on a roll since 2001

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Corrections

The theory recently proposed on these pages, whereby fossil fuels would be created by the mass extinction of the earth's animals, was apparently flawed. According to a helpful reader with no fewer than four names, coal and oil only result from rotting stuff in environments devoid of fungi or other natural decomposers (anaerobic, like the bottom of a marsh or bog). I would point out, in the theory's defense, that global warming may, in fact, produce such marshy environments in future, thus rendering more fossil fuels a possibility. It's very complicated, but all you need to know is keep on truckin'.

Also, some readers have expressed concern about an anti-Russia bias in the TP. I would like to apologize for any bad feelings that my Russia-bashing may have caused; it's really a great country. In contrast, I've been getting good feedback about Canada-bashing, so I guess there will be more of that in the future.



Van Pelt blues

From the editor:

Those of you who go to the library may have noticed me there, stationed valiantly at the information desk, trying to ignore you because I think you're going to ask annoying questions. In order to avoid this situation in future, I have listed the top 7 Van Pelt questions and answers below. Now you can come say hi and I'll stop pretending to be really absorbed in my email. I'm actually critiquing people's outfits.

1) Q: Where is the bathroom?

A: Wherever you want it to be.

2) Q: Where are the books?

A: What books? There are books here?
or (on a boring day)

A: Oh, we hide the books. You can't have them. Only grad students can look at the books. (argument ensues, in which they rant about the first amendment and I stare blankly and insist that they can't have books because they are probably illiterate anyway)

3) Q: Where do I find call number PS2567.3 R58 1997?

A: Ride the elevator to the third floor, make a right, proceed twenty-four paces, make a left, walk sixteen more paces. Third shelf from the bottom, fifth book in from the left, with the light green cover.

4) Q: Why can't I find this book?

A: Because someone else has checked it out.

Q: But I need this book NOW.

A: It's not here. Someone else has it.

Q: But I have a paper due tomorrow and I NEED THIS BOOK.

A: Wow. Maybe you should swallow some Vallium.

5) Q: Can I talk to your supervisor?

A: Sure.

Supervisor: What's the problem?

Patron: [insert stupid book-related problem, with possible threatening gestures]

Supervisor: And I give a damn...why?

(note: Van Pelt has a top-notch full-time staff, you should really chat with them sometime).

6) Q: When do you close?

A: NEVER

And the best question of all time, because soon this will be you:

7) Q: Hi. I just graduated from Penn last year. Can I still use the library?

A: (evil grin) Well, seeing as how you just paid Penn \$160,000 of your hard earned money, for which you are still painfully in debt, it would be basic human decency to let you read our books. There is just a small \$400 per semester fee.

(Patron shreds old Penncard in futile rage).

Cheers,

Alicia



"I won't say ours was a tough school, but we had our own corner. We used to write essays like: What I'm going to be if I grow up."
- Lenny Bruce

February 2007

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Friday, 2.16—Whether you love Al Gore or hate him, you must admit that this whole climate change thing is a pretty "hot" issue (ha ha). The problem is that whenever you turn something into a blockbuster movie, some facts are bound to get overlooked. See the movie, then get the whole story from a real expert. 6pm, 1938.
- Sunday, 2.18—Whether you love Skirkanich Hall or hate it (those green bricks...WHY?), there is a free meal in it for you if you come and learn about the building's architectural significance. 11am, Wu and Chen Auditorium, Levine Hall.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
11	12	13	14	15	16 An Inconvenient Truth 6pm 1938	17
18 Brunch at Skirkanich 11am	19	20	21	22	23	24

Chickens *are* funny, aren't they?

Shoutout to Harold Dibble. You'll appreciate this if you've taken ANTH 122, which is probably me and two other people.

Q. What Glows In The Dark And Goes Cluck?
A. Chicken Kiev.

Q. Why Does A Chicken Coup Have Two Doors?
A. If It Had Four, It Would Be A Sedan.

Q. Is It Okay To Eat Fried Chicken With Your Fingers?
A. No, The Fingers Should Be Eaten Separately.

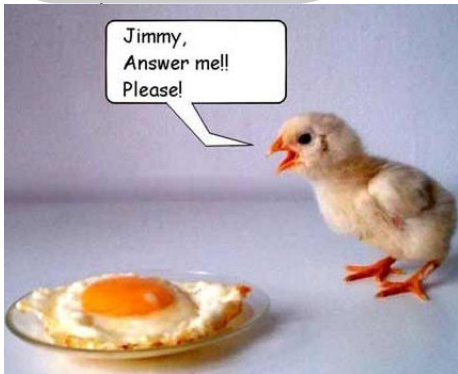
Q. What Do You Get When You Cross A Chicken And A Pit Bull?
A. Just The Pit Bull.

In my day, we didn't ask why the chicken crossed the road. Someone told us that the chicken had crossed the road, and that was good enough for us.

see also: www.subservientchicken.com

Valentine's Day fallout

As every good Jew knows, the best days of the year are the day after Christmas, the day after Easter, and the day after Valentine's day. Why? Everything is on sale, especially chocolate. My family used to exchange Valentine's gifts on a one-day delay, because hell, it's not like we know when Saint Valentine died, and we got 75% off. If you're really good in the self-discipline department, hold out until March for the 90% off motherlode.



Save the planet, kill the blind?

File this in the "you can't win" drawer: The Toyota Prius and other fuel-efficient hybrid cars are so quiet that, apparently, blind people can't hear them coming. The National Federation for the Blind has requested that car companies attach a "noise generating device" to the axles or equip blind people with radar sensors so that they can identify mauring Priuses. Outraged Prius owners insist that blind people need not fear the silent hybrid menace, because hybrid drivers are unable to commit an immoral act (nor can they tell a lie. Further tests will demonstrate that they love kittens).



How perfect would this have been four months ago?

On February 14, an American Airlines jet made an emergency landing in Honolulu because of a loose squirrel running around the plane. The pilot was concerned that it might chew through the wiring. The comic timing was a little off; this would have tied in so well with a certain ill-fated Samuel L. Jackson vehicle. And maybe then they wouldn't have shot the squirrel.

