

#### ENTRY ONE

Date: 01/01/2010

Another day, another year goes by, like sand through my fingers. I come to the realization, hunched over my toilet bowl that I have few concrete recollections of last year.

In 2009 I completed my first year in college, I learned a lot -I crammed-, I met Madison, we dated for three months and split up...

Enough about the memories that have already been corrupted by the passing time, seemingly replaced with new ones. Today is a new day, today is a new year, today is the first day of the rest my life.

As I write, it is 3:00 PM, and I just got up, after spending a few hours wearing out the effects of the epic ingestion of alcohol from last night. I walked down to the park in an attempt to burn off any excess alcohol, only to turn back around nauseous and head throbbing under the bright winter sun.

I do not go back to the university until January 25th and I have to go back to work tomorrow. In my free time, I have decided that on top of reading books and completing my thesis I would work at Primatech Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:30 (8:30-1:00 on Saturday). Luckily, they gave us New Year's Day off so that we could overcome the shadows that lurk in the wake of a late night of heavy drinking.

I have decided that I shall keep a diary (which I doubt I will ever read) to help me make sense of time and keep track of my daily happenings in an effort to remind myself to look deeper into my life and differentiate one dull day from another.

#### ENTRY TWO

Date: 01/02/2010

Today, I've been sober for two days (one if you count drinking until 5:00 AM morning or night), yet I still feel as though I'm

getting repeatedly whacked on the head. I decided to suck it up and jog by my university and back, which I've calculated to be about three miles. I noticed a few lights on one of the top floors and that got me thinking: Why would anyone be at the university at 7:20 in the morning during the break?

On my way home, I turned over the evidence in my head and made a story for the solitary mad-scientist in the confines of Texas Tech. As he flips a switch, electricity crackles and the test subject dogs howl and the rats scratch at their cages. A limp canine body thumps against the ground. A couple days later, the first cross-genus human being awakens from anesthesia and finds that his tongue is hanging out of his mouth... (Muahahaha; dramatic piano).

I got to work on time (more or less). I worked half assedly (in the glorious world of selling paper, what else can you expect?) and home after a half-work day (for future reference, today is Saturday). I am trying to make each letter of my log take as long as possible, glancing every so often at my tower of books, looming from the corner.

#### ENTRY THREE

Date: 01/03/2010

I got up early and went to church. The building was packed and I ended up giving up my seat to a young woman that was standing close to me. I stood through the rest of the sermon then left as Father Thames was finishing.

The old church is the only one in the neighborhood, but there isn't usually trouble seating everyone. The chapel was probably full because everyone has decided to attend church as part of their new year's resolutions, I will try a larger church next week.

When I got home, I spent an hour running then I got home and pumped iron for about 20 minutes. I was about to go to McDonald's when Jessie called. She said the gang was heading out to the Olive Garden. Jessie and Aron got back together for the twentieth

time, and of course, we have to be happy for them. I don't understand how some people can be so blind.

\*Note to self: do not order sea fish in Odessa\*

#### ENTRY FOUR

Date: 01/04/2010

Yay It's Monday! (It's true, we do need a symbol to mark sarcasm)

In an effort to improve literature, I declare that "f" is to be known from now on as the "sarcasm".

Let's see, up late last night, Facebooking, up before dawn (Damn these short days), working for 9 hours, eating Ramen noodles, writing in my diary, go to sleep early.

In conclusion, Yay! It's Monday!f.

#### ENTRY FIVE

Date: 01/06/2010

I did nothing yesterday (same as the day before). Highlight of my day? Turkey Sub at Subway. Yay!f

#### ENTRY SIX

Date: 01/07/2010

Still nothing. I'll let you know when something, anything happens. Highlight of my day? Prospect of the weekend.

#### ENTRY SEVEN

Date: 01/08/2010

I went to see a movie today. Not that I like watching mindless junk, I went to see Twilight 2. I made fun of the actors to the dismay of the twilight junkies. The preteens all screamed when the Wolf-guy took off his shirt, but when the Stalker-Vampire took his off, there was silence, I said in a rather loud voice,

"Boy, that was disappointing", many people laughed, the devotees turned around and glared.

Today, I made my day. I need to keep myself out of my house to keep a hold of my sanity.

#### ENTRY EIGHT

Date: 01/10/2010

My parents and Michael stopped by this morning from Roswell. They brought potato salad and breaded chicken for the grill. I

barbecued the chicken and some German sausages.

They're still a bit upset that I'm not spending my vacations with them, but the have come at peace with the idea.

Colin came over, he said he came because he could smell the fried chicken and sausages from across the street even though I invited him over (my parents actually believed him!). After lunch, Colin, Michael and I walked to the park and shot some hoops while Mom cleaned up and Pop smocked on the front porch.

They said they'd come over every Sunday for lunch until my vacations are over (they usually come every 2 weeks). That's fine with me, but I don't know what Zax will say...

#### ENTRY NINE

Date: 01/11/2010

Home is clean and tidy. It's a weird feeling, it's like an alternate dimension or something! No, but really, it's refreshing. After work, I went to Subway then I sat in the window and read for the rest of the day. At sunset, I did some yard-work and watched the sky.

#### ENTRY TEN

Date: 01/13/2010

Zax came back today. He complained about his bedroom being the only dirty room in the house. I MMS'ed him a picture of the attic.

#### ENTRY ELEVEN

Date: 01/15/2010

A week ago I made Betty Crocker chocolate chip cookies. The box said it had over 300 chocolate chips in it. I counted 215. I sent them a letter "voicing my concerns"[;)]. Today I got an envelope in response with 35 chocolate chips, a short letter from the company excusing itself and \$5.95. That hour counting chocolate chips was so worth it.

#### ENTRY TWELVE

Date: 01/17/2010

Zax and I went to Marie's Drive-In Bar and met some dates from Uni. My date's name was Amy, I think that Zack met with a girl named Emilie. Amy is studying bioengineering of the university. This morning, Amy and I went to church, but Zack stayed in to keep Emilie in because she doesn't go to church. Later on, we went to Taco Tako and then I dropped her off at her home. By the time I got to my house, it was a 1:45 and my family was sitting in my living room with Zax and Emilie. It was awkward. Luckily, the family brought enough food for everyone.

#### ENTRY THIRTEEN

Date: 01/21/2010

Amy and I went out to Rock Bottom Cafe last night. I decided to bring her to lunch on Sunday. Tomorrow is my last day at work. I'd like to say I'll miss it, but the truth is the only thing that I'm getting out of this experience is the nearly \$2000 I'll be receiving tomorrow in my final paycheck.

#### ENTRY FOURTEEN

Date: 01/24/2010

We had a pleasant lunch today. My parents liked Amy and we were invited to cousin Ginny's wedding on next weekend (me and Amy, Zax is not deemed ready to go out in public by my family). Going back to university tomorrow will be a good relief.

#### ENTRY FIFTEEN

Date: 01/25/2010

Today at lunchtime, Amy and I were eating sandwiches in the shade of a birch tree when Madison stopped by to ask me for a book we were supposed to read for the vacations. It was kind of awkward.

#### ENTRY SIXTEEN

Date: 01/27/2010

I joined a new Facebook group today. It's called "I wonder what the first person who discovered milk was doing to the cow". What about cheese? Who decided to try hardened, stinky, rotten milk?

#### ENTRY SEVENTEEN

Date: 01/28/2010

I got woken up last night by an annoying cat that was meowing in a really deep voice. I wonder if it always meows like that or if its voice was just a little scratchy. I miss fluffy, I'll bet he would have shut that cat up.

#### ENTRY EIGHTEEN

Date: 01/29/2010

I found out in Mr. Miller's writing class that it is a Class-C misdemeanor to take part in homosexual acts in Texas. We spent the whole two-hour-period debating this. Inevitably, it became a hard-core-Christian vs. moderate-Christian/civil-rights-promoter debate. Chinee Foo for dinner!

ENTRY NINETEEN

Date: 01/30/2010

I applied for research in Dr. Altenberg's lab online today. I mentioned my grandfather who has Alzheimer's and how I have already researched brain disorders and how they work.

ENTRY TWENTY

Date: 01/31/2010

I went to the sand hills with Amy and we went bike-riding. It was really hard because in some areas the sand was really fine and if you don't go fast enough, the tires sink and you can fall off. We mostly tried to go on flat areas because it's too hard for Amy to go up the sand hills. We didn't stay for long though, because we had to be back at home by 2:30 (sweaty and wearing sport attire!).

ENTRY TWENTY-ONE

Date: 02/02/2010

I got an e-mail today from the research department. They said that they could use my help in Clinical research center to run experiments to help cure Huntington Disease. Although I was applying for the Alzheimer research, they ran out of space and put me on the Huntington team.

ENTRY TWENTY-TWO

Date: 02/03/2010

I cannot believe how backed up I am on my schoolwork. Just for tomorrow, I have two big exams and 1000 word essay to write (in all fairness, I did write about 300 words so far). At least I don't have to report to the lab until next week, when I guess I'll have put my schoolwork into order.

ENTRY TWENTY-THREE

Date: 03/02/2010

I aced my Organic Chemistry exam, but my Environmental Engineering Science test was so-so. I completed my English essay on Cloning - it was kind of hard to talk about cloning in a nonscientific way, keeping the moral point of view.

ENTRY TWENTY-FOUR

Date: 05/02/2010

I've been reading up on Huntington's Disease on Wikipedia and on medical forums (<http://www.hdac.org/phorum/list.php?5>). I couldn't get a real grasp for what it involved, mentions of "abnormal involuntary writhing" and "uncoordinated, jerky body movements", so I watched a youtube clip from CBS's Sunday Morning depicting Huntington's Disease and its psychological toll on people that have the illness, people that will develop it (it appears around the age of 40 and it's genetic) and the families of the afflicted. I also learned that 250,000 people have been diagnosed with Huntington's disease in America (about 0.1%).

ENTRY TWENTY-FIVE

Date: 06/02/2010

This is the first Sunday in a while that my parents haven't come for lunch, so Amy and I went to the movies and watched "From Paris With Love". We hadn't heard of it before, but it sounded sweet. How wrong we were! From Paris with Love was in fact an action movie about taking out some terrorist operations in Paris with John Travolta just generally being a badass.

ENTRY TWENTY-SIX

Date: 06/02/2010

I'm back at Uni and I got a pardon from Organic Chemistry in which I have been consistently been getting good grades, but I get to keep the credits since I'll be spending that time in the science lab on the Huntington project. I'll start the lab-work later today (tonight?). I'm really eager to get in there and work on actually contributing to the field of science!

ENTRY TWENTY-SEVEN

Date: 06(07)/02/2010

I got home at 11:15 tonight. As I write, it is 11:56 PM. I'll write slowly so as to have written throughout 2 days. At the lab today, I got briefed on Huntington's disease (although I didn't learn anything I didn't know from the Internet) and the equipment that was available for the research. I spent most of the day asking people here what had already been done and what the results were. I was given HUGE folders full of files encompassing the experiments conducted so far. I'm far too tired to even glimpse at them now and I honestly don't know when I'll find the time to work on them(lunchtime?), I guess I'll have to limit my work to the lab, but that seems like such a waste since working in a lab should be about scientific research, not the simple reading of files that have already been analyzed. I have a

feeling I'll have NO leisure time whatsoever for the next few weeks.

ENTRY TWENTY-EIGHT

Date: 11/02/2010

My cognitive functions seem to be diminished due to lack of sleep, but I am really happy to be fulfilling my dream of working for a major pharmaceutical company. I feel like I am one step closer to the rest of my life.

ENTRY TWENTY-NINE

Date: 13/02/2010

I slept for literally 14 hours last night. I sure hope the lab-work gets less demanding, I don't think I can keep this up much longer. I mean I didn't study for my Calculus exam yesterday and I think I may flunk the class, I haven't seen my girlfriend in a nearly week and I have even skipped a few lectures. I'm going to have to have a talk with Dr. Hutson on Monday about this. Until then, I'll study for my multiple exams and read more from the Huntington folders.

ENTRY THIRTY

Date: 14/02/2010

I have been studying the files and taking notes of my observations most of the day, I lost track of time until then the family came over. They seemed mildly worried about my well-being, noting the rings under my eyes, my piles of folders and the absence of Amy, who has come over every Sunday since we got together. I guess I probably should have also showered and changed before they got here...

ENTRY THIRTY-ONE

Date: 15/02/2010

My talk was fruitful, I guess, Dr. Hutson said that I didn't have to work any more in the lab than I would normally in the class that I was replacing with lab-work. He said that reading the files was not a requirement to working here, but he hinted towards a necessity to find out what flaws there were in the conclusions of my colleagues and how invaluable it was to get someone to come in and "ask the right questions". I'm kind of confused now: does he want me to go through the files or not? When does he want me to then? In any case, I'll consider he was talking about studying the files in the lab, if it's so "invaluable", that is.

ENTRY THIRTY-TWO

Date: 18/02/2010

I was getting out of Uni early today so I called Amy today to invite her to the movies. She was really pissed off at me because I forgot St. Valentine's Day and because I haven't called her in over a week. I promised her I'd make it up to her on Saturday. I need to think something up now.

ENTRY THIRTY-THREE

Date: 19/02/2010

I have checked out Texas parks and hotels and I couldn't find anything that truly attracted me, so I have decided to take Amy to Lake Buchanan, where my father took me to go camping when I was young.

ENTRY THIRTY-FOUR

Date: 21/02/2010

The trip was great, but still too long. I remember how when I was little, the trip was about a 8-9 hour drive, it was only 6 hours from Odessa, but that is still too long. We took stops in Iraan, Sonora and Mason. There's something about small towns that brings back a certain nostalgia, but I may have just been brainwashed by all those old Hollywood movies. When we got there, I set up a tent and we sat down on the edge of the lake just in time to eat cheese and crackers and sip wine as we watched the sunset. This morning, I drove to Buchanan Lake Village and bought some fresh catfish from local fishermen. I took it back to the campsite and cooked them on sanded sticks on an open fire.

ENTRY THIRTY-FIVE

Date: 22/02/2010

I had such a good time this weekend that I can't wipe this foolish grin off my face. Zax has been making fun of me all day. Don't worry, buddy, I'll get you one of these days. Come to think about it, I haven't pulled any pranks lately. I don't yet know what is coming, but you'll never see it coming, Z.

ENTRY THIRTY-SIX

Date: 24/02/2010

After surfing the Prank Institute website ([www.prank.org](http://www.prank.org)), I found a prank that wasn't too dangerous and would require little to no preparation. I know that Zax is a fast-food maniac, so I told him I was going to Mc Donald's and I asked him if he wanted to come with me. After we got there, I started giving a short speech about germs, with a few statistics, and how disgusting it was to be eating stuff with our hands. He fell for it and went to the bathroom to wash up. While he was gone, I took his straw and dunked it in Ketchup so it had nearly a whole packet in it, then I put it back into the cup. To make it worse, I poured hot sauce onto his sandwich so that he would take a large gulp of Ketchup. I will never forget this day, as it has been passed down into my

personal hall-of-fame. I wonder not if, but how Z's going to try to get back at me.

#### ENTRY THIRTY-SEVEN

Date: 26/02/2010

Zack hasn't launched his attack yet, but I think that Amy might be in on his prank, I mean, she's just acting weird around me lately.

#### ENTRY THIRTY-EIGHT

Date: 27/02/2010

Last night, while I was sleeping, Z and Amy came into my room (I've been locking my door lately, but it isn't that hard to pick, I guess) and poured a box baking powder on me, then they drenched me in vinegar. I woke up tingling, surprised and stinking really bad. I have to admit, as far as pranks go, the one that was performed on me was one of the funnier ones for the receiving end of the prank. BTW, thanks guys for not doing a painful prank.

#### ENTRY THIRTY-NINE

Date: 13/03/2010

I haven't written in my diary in awhile because I have been taking it pretty easy, I have been stumbling quite a bit lately ([www.stumbleupon.com](http://www.stumbleupon.com)) and honestly, the work load has kind of slowed down. Funny, isn't it, that you can do just as much or more stuff (other than work) when the work load is unbearable as when you have all the time in the world? I guess when you start to veg out on work, you lose interest in other stuff too. You know how it is, the work comes and goes and the exams come in waves... Notably, in the Huntington lab, on Wednesday, I got to experiment on fruit flies that I genetically altered to include

the Huntington gene in their genome. Although it would be cruel to make fun of humans that exhibit, as it is a sad, debilitating disease. But fruit flies? They grow up in 7 days, live for only 30 days! Is it wrong to make fun of afflicted insects dive-bombing and running into walls? I think not.

P.S.: I decided to let the prank go, simply because the prank that Z and Amy pulled was kind of fun, so no grudges.

#### ENTRY FOURTY

Date: 03/06/2010

It's been a long time since my last entry. Looking back, I think I started my diary because I was tired and lonely and bored and I needed something to do whilst I did nothing at Primatech. Reading back to my entries, that didn't work out very well because I didn't have anything to write about. It wasn't until I got back to college that I got some interesting stories, Zack helped too, I guess, but I think my relationship with Amy was a fun adventure too.

Amy and I aren't dating anymore because we looked at what we were doing and we realized that we were more like close friends than lovers and that we were just dating because we liked hanging out together, not because we had actually fallen in love with each other. That word was what set it off, "love". She was the one that brought it up and we acknowledged that we did in fact love each other, but we had never fallen in love. The love we had for each other was like that of a childhood friend or family. It was all for the better I guess, because I'm going to study at DeVry in Washington (no, not the capitol, the state where it snows 4-5 months per year and rains the rest).

My family is really bummed that I'm going so far away, but I caught a sense of relief that they didn't have to take that 3.5 hour drive from Roswell to Odessa every two weeks. I'm moving into my fourth year in University and I can't wait to get out of this desert and live amongst the evergreen forests.

P.S.: I got to use the sarcasm in an English report for which I included a description of its use. I got bonus points!