

## CH302 Random Musings March 8, 2007—an abbreviated Spring Break version

1. I would like to thank you for your hard work this first half of the semester. I have ratcheted up the difficulty of the course by really pushing through the material and as a whole you are doing incredibly well. Participation in help sessions and academic communities is solid, the number of students coming to me for help early when grades are bad is the best ever. I am just really pleased. What will the rewards be? Most important, you are getting to learn a lot of stuff about chemistry, which is all you should ever really ask about a course—did I get to learn a lot? Second, your hard work will pay off with good grades if you keep it up.

2. A bit of caution. Every CH302 course I teach has a second exam that goes way down from the first exam average. Some of it is that this acid/base stuff is really picky, some of it is spring break, but mostly it is the let down of thinking that having done well on the first test, you can study the same on the second exam and be fine. Trust me, you can't. And in many ways, the students who earned Cs on the first test are better positioned to get an A in this course than the students who earned As on the first test. Because they will remain vigilant.

3. 5. Extra Credit 1—how to earn an extra 1 % of your grade in this course.

- I want you to teach a science-hater something interesting about chemistry that you have learned in this class. The person you teach has to say to you, “gee, I had no idea chemistry was that interesting” when you have finished (you can make them say it even if they don't mean it.). You can choose what you teach but I would recommend that it be something of interest and utility from CH302: while you are on the beach tell someone why fish explode when you clean a fish tank or why they are dying from global warming (if you believe in global warming); while your car breaks down on the way to South Padre, explain why you shouldn't add pure antifreeze to your car; while you are serving up a delicious glass of ice water to your grandmother, explain how neutral water isn't always pH 7 and on and on. Choose anything from the course and have a fine conversation.

- Submit the assignment as simple text in an e-mail (no attachments)

- Use the specific text written below as the subject heading of the e-mail:  
**spring break extra credit—your uteid**

- Send it to [dalaude@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:dalaude@mail.utexas.edu).

- If you do not provide your UTEID you will not receive credit.

- Due Date: April 1 at 3 a.m.

5. Neal will write a worksheet 8 on complex equilibria. I don't know when it will be ready but it will be worked the week we get back from Spring Break.

6. The next topic is Electrochemistry and the day we get back I will teach you how to balance really complicated oxidation reduction reactions (often thought to be the hardest thing to do in general chemistry) a really simple way. You don't want to miss it.

## 7. Public Service announcements.

The African Students' Association Presents with a lot of events planned the week after the break. Here are the events through Wednesday: "Africa...My Africa Week" All proceeds will go to the "FEED THE CHILDREN" Program benefiting Children in Liberia and Angola.

Monday, March 19, 2007

ASA & BSA Forum

"Dating in Africa Vs. Dating in the U.S"

GSB 2.122 at 7pm

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Community Service

Alamo Recreational Center at 3.30pm

Meet at the Jester Smoothie Shop

Tuesday, March 20, 2007

"SPRING FLING " DATE AUCTION

UTC 2.112 at 7.30pm

AND

Movie Night and discussion "Blood Diamonds"

Jester Basement at 7pm

8. Spring Break. For the losers out there (you know who you are) who go home or to your grandmother's house for spring break, my favorite spring break story (remember this was pre-MTV and I didn't know you shouldn't visit your relatives) was when I went to Knoxville to see my cousins. While in a Krogers with my Aunt Ann and Cousin Martha it occurred to me that it would be fun to fill her shopping cart with as many boxes of green Jell-O as possible. So along with the rest of the groceries, I added about 100 boxes without her knowing. She is going through the check out line, and after having about half the Jell-O rung up, the cashier asks her what she is going to do with all that Jell-O, and she turns to me and says, "grow up." Later that night (though she was dying of an incurable illness), I got her to go out for ice cream, and as we were leaving the place about midnight, I got her to sing John Cougar Mellencamp lyrics "life goes on long after the thrill of living is gone" at the top of her lungs. You had to know my Aunt Ann--that was pretty special, it beat the heck out seeing how many people in bathing suits you can stuff in the trunk of a Toyota Scion.

9. Be safe.

10.. Poetry corner. Some spring break poetry.

## **Jack & Diane \***

by John "Cougar" Mellencamp

A little ditty 'bout Jack & Diane  
Two American kids growing up in the heart land  
Jack he's gonna be a football star  
Diane's debutante in the back seat of Jacky's car

Suckin' on chili dog outside the Tastee Freez  
Diane sittin' on Jacky's lap, got his hands between her  
knees  
Jack he says, "hey Diane, let's run off behind the shady  
trees  
Dribble off those bobby brooks, let me do what I  
please", saying

Oh yeah - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone, sayin'  
Oh yeah - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone, now walk on

Jack he sits back collects his thoughts for a moment  
Scratches his head and does his best James Dean  
"Well now then there, Diane, we ought to run off to the  
city"  
Diane says, "baby, you ain't missin' a thing", but Jack, he  
says

Oh yeah - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone  
Oh yeah, he says - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone

Oh let it rock, let it roll  
Let the bible belt come and save my soul  
Holdin' on to sixteen as long as you can  
Change is coming round real soon make us women and  
men

Oh yeah - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone  
Oh yeah, he says - life goes on  
Long after the thrill of livin' is gone

A little ditty 'bout Jack and Diane  
Two American kids doin' the best they can

\*from American Fool (1982)

## **Spring Break**

by Joe Del Tufo

Me and the writers  
The famous writers of bestsellers  
And block buster movies  
Are careening down a backroad  
drunk  
And listening to  
Snoop Doggy Dogg  
F.Scott Fitzgerald and  
William Carlos Williams  
Are sucking from liter bottles  
And belching out bad poetry

Some undergrad named Eileen  
Is driving around curves with her high beams on and  
I can't see the front of her eyes  
She fidgets in her seat like a victim  
William Carlos Williams is hanging out the  
Window screaming  
Sestinas and villanelles at the townies  
Who diligently tap out our license plate number  
In their pocket organizers  
It is spring break and the whole world  
Is lit by fireflies.

## **Spring Vacation**

by Cate

I sat at my desk.  
It is a big mess.  
I am waiting for  
The bell to go brrriinnngg!

Once I got home I  
Went to the indoor pool.  
It was so cool  
To be on spring break!

I went out of town.  
We rented a boat.  
To my friend I wrote.  
Mailed it today.

We went to the beach.  
A leach sucked my blood.  
In the car there became a flood.  
I fell in the lake and in a well.

When I got home  
I thought that spring vacation  
Was not so incredibly fun.

## **Ibant Obscuræ**

by Thomas Edward Brown

To-night I saw three maidens on the beach,  
Dark-robed descending to the sea,  
So slow, so silent of all speech,  
And visible to me  
Only by that strange drift-light, dim, forlorn,  
Of the sun's wreck and clashing surges born.

Each after other went,  
And they were gathered to his breast--  
It seemed to me a sacrament  
Of some stern creed unblest:  
As when to rocks, that cheerless girt the bay,  
They bound thy holy limbs, Andromeda