

# HILLPRESS

H I L L C R E S T H A L L - Y O U N E V E R K N O W W H A T Y O U ' R E G O N N A G E T

## New Report Finds Laughter Not Actually Best Medicine

In a stunning new report by the National Institutes of Health last week, leading scientists claim that despite the old adage about laughter being nature's healer there are in fact more potent remedies out there. Hillpress recently had the opportunity to sit down with scientist Mark Swieter, head scientist of the study.

**Hillpress:** Thank you for meeting with us Dr. Swieter. Could you please explain why you undertook this research?

**Mark Swieter:** We weren't entirely sure how the rumor got started, but the fact of the matter is there are now literally dozens of cures for illness that work far better than laughter.

**HP:** Could you provide us with some examples?

**MS:** Well, for starters in our most recent study of diabetic patients, we took 50 and allowed them to have a sufficient

amount of insulin to regulate their blood sugar. The other 50 patients were forced to laugh for 45 minutes every day instead of their regular insulin treatments. The results were, quite simply, shocking.

**HP:** This may be a bit of a surprise to all three of Hillpress's subscribers. Are there any other cases where laughter may not be the best medicine?

**MS:** Oh, sure. We found a much higher success rate when we treated bacterial infections with penicillin as opposed to with chuckles. Also, for people suffering from erectile dysfunction, we found that giving them Viagra worked much better than pointing and giggling at it, er, I mean them.

**HP:** Do you have any other advice for our readers?

**MS:** Well, while your mother may tell you that laughter is the best medicine, as a scientist I can definitively say that the best medicine is, in fact, an apple a day.



**RIGHT**



**WRONG**

Sam Abboud, pictured above, is shown giving a patient an injection of drugs, which is the right thing to do. Always.

Jeremy Henry, as an RA, may not dispense medical advice. This advice is on the recommendation of Dr. Swieter, who does actually work at NIH.

## Friction Speaks Out After Years of Neglect

As the spring semester comes into full swing, physicists and engineers alike are stocking up on pencils, calculators, and caffeine in preparation for another grueling fourteen weeks of projectile motion, fluid dynamics, and heat transfer. Many of these students have reached the pinnacle of their undergraduate studies, and are now working startlingly intricate problems with more variables than the Greek alphabet can account for.

Virginia Tech is identified as an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. All university faculty are expected to abide by these regulations. However, several recent probes into the Physics and Engineering departments have revealed the presence of brash discrimination. Friction, a vital concept central to understanding the basic laws of thermodynamics, is being completely ignored in many cases.

The problem began many years ago when several professors from the ME department began to ignore internal friction in complicated projectile problems. Within months, problems without friction dominated Physics 2305 exams. Perfectly parabolic flight paths

became the norm, and drag was all but forgotten.

Until recently, friction has been completely silenced in kinematics circles. Dr. Hendricks, distinguished professor from the ESM department and leader of the "Friction is Fiction" campaign, defends his anti-friction position. "I mean, these problems are a real pain if you consider all the frictional forces. Engineering students have enough trouble with my tests as it is."

Today, meaningful changes are finally being made after a friction boycott that caused scores of car accidents and breaches of basic Newtonian laws. There is still hope that this equal and opposite force can be restored.

*Some wonder whether there is an equal and opposite force to Tory Smith's complaining.*

**PROBLEM 1.57**

$v_0 = 12.5 \text{ m/s}$   
 $g = 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$

$\theta = 42^\circ$

Paul, standing at point P, throws a small child with the given initial conditions. Find the time of flight and the total displacement in the x-direction. Assume that the child was a real first and deserved to be thrown in the first place.

Neglect friction. That's right, ignore it. Pretend it's not even there.

## Go ahead. Ask me anything. (Except if it's important!).

Last week, I made a call to the Community, searching for questions. Having answered all of mine before the age of 6, I have decided to give back to a Hillcrest that so desperately needs guidance from a man like me. Approximately 6.5%<sup>2</sup> of the residents responded. I declare this, however, a gigantosauric<sup>3</sup> success, as I have recently been informed that the other 92.5% of you have been drafted by Career Services to dig up various patches of green grass around campus<sup>4</sup>. With no further ado<sup>5</sup>, and in rapid-fire fashion because I'm a rapid-fire man, THE ANSWERS:

*Anonymous Hillcrest<sup>6</sup>: Where have you been all my life?*

*Matt Allen: In your closet.*

*AH<sup>7</sup>: What is the best<sup>8</sup> work of literature<sup>9</sup> ever composed?*

*MA: Goosebumps #28: The Cuckoo Clock of Doom. Don't act like you didn't*

*read it.*

*AH<sup>10</sup>: Would you?*

*MA: With you? Absolutely.*

*AH: Could you?*

*MA: I'd have to warm up first<sup>11</sup>, but I'm pretty confident.*

*AH: In a car?*

*MA: Only if you mean the trunk.*

*AH: Do you like green eggs and ham?*

*MA: Stop whispering into the phone.*

*It's scary<sup>12</sup>.*

So, there you have it. A special thanks goes out to everyone who responded with such deep and meaningful questions. I even got a few that were so serious and personal I would have had trouble answering them in public<sup>13, 14</sup>. So, until next time – keep those questions coming! If you need advice on how to deal with a roommate who constantly slurps Sunkist and plays basketball<sup>15</sup> and does homework and is a freshman and talks so much

you just want to.....you know what I mean – just ask. Holler.

*Matt Allen never legitimately passed an English class in high school. He hired an illegal immigrant to do his work for him.*

<sup>1</sup> Instead, ask Gaurav. He knows.

<sup>2</sup> I really calculated that.

<sup>3</sup> An adverb carbon-dated to the middle to late Cretaceous Period

<sup>4</sup> I think I saw some on the Drillfield.

<sup>5</sup> Singular form of "adoes"

<sup>6</sup> carolmcw@vt.edu

<sup>7</sup> csyao@vt.edu

<sup>8</sup> Worst.

<sup>9</sup> Film.

<sup>10</sup> yabugide@vt.edu

<sup>11</sup> I stretch daily.

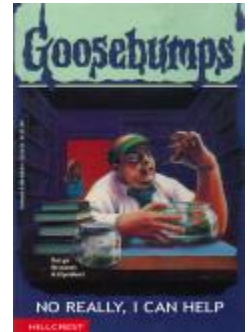
<sup>12</sup> but yes.

<sup>13</sup> Thanks,

Mld10@vt.edu

<sup>14</sup> Period.

<sup>15</sup> Terribly.



## Valentines Day: A Sensual Massage Fit for an Alligator

Ah, on these brisk February days where the wind makes it feel as though the snot is freezing to the inside of your sinuses and you can't feel your arms and your first midterms are coming up or actively going on and your stressed out because you may have to drop another class... it's such a good thing that we have such a wonderful holiday to take our minds off of the rat race. I mean, it's perfect: right in the middle of everything you get to go out and agonize over a gift that you don't want to spend money on that will most likely, in the end, get you in trouble if that special someone doesn't like it, and then the biggest joke is on you because romance is about spontaneity so therefore all of your work was simply for naught. I really truly and honestly can't help but feel that the holiday is seriously undervalued and figured that perhaps I could share some fun facts and rich history to brighten up the mood.

From forth the fatal loins of... some European country we lay our scene with the jailing of a poor priest named Valentine. On February 14, Valentine was beheaded for being a Christian as well as curing the jailer's daughter of blindness... because I guess he didn't like that. The US, perhaps loving blind people too much, adopted this holiday in 1442 as "Hug a Blind Person" day, but quickly found the target demographic to be outraged. In order to make our blind people happy, we gave

them red cards in the shape of hearts that they couldn't read, and boxes of chocolates from which we always tricked them into choosing the one with coconut in the middle. The name was changed in 1997 to Valentine's Day, per the request of Helen Keller. No one really knows why.

Did you know that over a billion cards are delivered, and over 50 million roses (not counting all other flowers) are given on Valentines day? After some quick and dirty approximations I've worked out that just on cards and flowers we've spent a total of \$5.6 billion. That sum of money could build 93,333 Habitat for Humanity homes in the



Brad Shapiro, while a well-known economic theorist, rarely receives credit for his role in the Hispanic Erotic Massage industry. Check out his book to learn some hot moves!

U.S., or go to sponsor 100,000 poverty-stricken children in Ethiopia until age eighteen.

It's not all bad though, your donation to Hallmark and Victoria's Secret goes to support the collapsing American economy. Supporting such economies has been mathematically shown by economic theorist Brad Shapiro to increase your chances of getting laid, and that's what this holiday is all about, right? So in pursuit of sexual conquest, here's to throwing away money, St. Valentine, and you know, all that other lovey-dovey stuff.

*John Hoffman is a self-proclaimed "Sexual Conquistador" ...without all the diseases and stuff.*

### Hillpress Staff

**Mint Chocolate** Brad Shapiro

**Hot Chocolate** Peter Kauffmann

**Chocolate Rain** Jeremy Henry

**David Chocolate** David Choquette

**Mockolate** Tory Smith

**Milk Chocolate** Kari Adkins

**Clear Chocolate** Erin Rubin

**Dark Chocolate** Kathleen Cooperstein

**White Chocolate** Mitch Daniels

**Mozartkugel** Will Satterwhite

**Chocolate Covered Peanut** Matt Allen

**Cherry Cordial** John Hoffman