

Doom and Destruction? That's a Bad Thing?



A Shaman ponders the meaning of Destruction

Summer 2008. An apparition appears in the morning fog on the campus of Spokane Falls Community College. The campus shaman is summoned and he says this apparition with a bird-like shape is an omen of doom and destruction.

Summer 2008. The fog clears and the apparition turns out to be a turkey. Yes, it is a wild turkey. The shaman is again summoned and he says it is an omen of what we all should be drinking for the next, oh, half-decade.

Summer 2008. We put all our investments into big, strong blue chip companies like General Motors.

The YEAR in REVIEW!!

I want to thank the pigs, the turkeys, the hos, the lawyers, the rednecks – it was a very good year.

Sept 2008: Fall quarter begins just after the biggest investment bank collapse since the invention of money. (Historical note: The first money was dung which was used as an exchange medium instead of the barter system. This, in retrospect, may not seem like such a good idea, but on the other hand, what fool is going to exchange his i-pod for a quarter of Math 99?)

Sept: Faculty and staff at SFCC return to find a big hole where a couple of buildings used to be.

Sept: The buildings, no one can remember why they were there, were replaced in part by Sn w'-ey'-mn, the greenest building ever constructed. Instead of recycling the light fixtures, glass, brick and other sundries in the forgotten buildings, the demolition company crushed it all and took it to the "waste to energy" plant where it was all burned. Can you spell GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS? Let's see, the brown technology from the demolished buildings combined with the green technology from the new one results in a yellow color, the same color as . . . hey. What happened to the toilets in the old buildings?

Sept The bad news is that the economic collapse could ruin us all. The good news is that Wall Street Brokers are not leaping out of windows from tall buildings. We need experts to help get us out of this mess.

Sept The Worst Financial Crisis in History (history being, according to students, what we can remember) eats giant corporations: AIG is swallowed in one gulp. The crisis tears Fannie May's liver out and eats it whole (Grey Poupon?). Morgan Stanley becomes an hor d'oeuvre in preparation for the main course: Countrywide Mortgage which, it turns out, is owned by several million investors in Europe and Asia.

Sept It's as if a money eating virus has been unloosed worldwide.

Sept What's in your wallet? OH GOOD GOD-IT'S FULL OF BUGS!

Sept On second thought, about those Wall Street Brokers. "Jump. Yes, we said JUMMMPPP!"

Sept Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson is assigned to lead the fight to save us all from the worst financial collapse since a different free market guru guided us into a Depression.

Sept Up until now, most of you could plan on retiring, oh, three years after you die. Now you'll have to wait until fifteen years after you die.

Sept Better get that air conditioning working.

Sept Finally, maybe someone will pay attention in Econ 101. Or is it 102? Let's see, supply and demand. Or is it demand and supply?

Sept Rumor circulates that the financial collapse may end up in the layoff of tenured faculty. It may mean that we have to fire staff.

Sept Administrators meet and form the "What the F* Can WE Do? Committee." We will herein refer to this as the F* committee.

Sept First proposal from the F* committee. Hire a new dean.

Sept The secret rationale behind the dean hiring proposal is this: we don't have very many deans and very soon angry employees who are not deans will take up weapons such as sharp pens and staplers and attack deans who have to deliver bad news. So the more deans the better. Think of them as a shield for the higher administrators.

Sept The F* committee votes to buy the deans staple proof vests and designate a frontline sacrificial dean.

Sept the Wenger: "Why ME?"

Sept Mobs always go after the guys with the shaved heads. Something about the reflecting sunlight angers mobs. And you're from California. We nominate you as the designated campus martyr. All in favor? The ayes have it. We take that blood curdling scream as an "Aye."

Sept Way to be a stand up dean, dude.

Sept Good news! Enrollment ALWAYS increases during an economic downturn. We expect the highest enrollment since the Great Crash of '86. And '91. And '81. And '83. And '72.

Sept A secret F* committee report envisions a campus packed with students all being taught by, um, wait. If we RIF everyone because of budget cuts and lay off all the staff because the state has cut all funding, who will teach the students?

Sept The OUTCOMES advocates to the rescue! Since we have been doing student focused LEARNING, the students can all form groups and give each other reports, hence we need no faculty! They can teach themselves!

Sept Secret F* Committee memo: In the event ALL faculty are RIFed (avoid grinning like a fool if you say this in public), here's the proposed new grading structure students have come up with to evaluate themselves: "Really, really cool." "Like, I like liked it." "Oh that'll definitely pass." "Bitchin'" "I think spelling and math are over-rated."

Sept A resolution is passed by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: "Blackboard sucks."

Sept Follow-up memo: "You heard us. It sucks!"

Sept Suddenly it is revealed that everyone hates Blackboard.

October In spite of the economic crash, no one is starving. In fact, food leftover from the previous year is still lurking in staff room refrigerators district wide.

Oct Someone cleans out a refrigerator at district headquarters. In addition to rancid potato salad fumes, a tub of old macaroni and cheese produces a fungi that can talk.

Oct The macaroni and cheese fungi whisper these words to a passing administrator: "Screw the staff. Screw the staff. Screw the staff."

Oct Secret F* committee meeting minutes: "Y'know, if we make staff people take a day off each week, we can reduce the budget AND hire more administrators!"

Oct Where did this stupid idea come from?

Oct I think it was God. Either that or macaroni and cheese can talk.

Oct If you look carefully, you can see the image of the Virgin Mary in that potato salad. She was green, wasn't she?

Oct Political science classes marvel at the diversity in this year's presidential campaign. The oldest man in the history of politics won the nomination. AND he chose a Saturday Night Live performer to be his vice-president.

Oct Gotcha. No fool would pick a Saturday Night Live performer for his vice-presidential candidate. No, he picked a first term governor who thinks her state is at war with Russia. And her daughter is pregnant, unmarried and just might get engaged to the village idiot. And this is from the family values candidate. Now THAT'S diversity.

Oct The Washington State Economic Forecaster throws a handful of chicken bones on the ground and sprinkles them with the ashes of the state budget. Announcement: Only six more weeks until Spring! And, by the way, we're screwed.

Oct Economic forecaster is informed that winter comes between now and spring.

Oct But it will be just like spring-the mildest winter since the last global warming. Want any other useful predictions?

Oct Resolution from the state board: WHEREAS Blackboard sucks and the people who own it are evil, devil worshipping slime, we authorize all state community college employees to curse Blackboard and the horse it rode in on.

Oct So to speak. The horse is, uh, just a figure of speech. But curse it anyway.

Nov The CCS talking macaroni and cheese is spewing rancid fumes so badly that it is moved to SCC. An SCC administrator passes by the break room and hears a voice whispering: “Screw the adjuncts, screw the adjuncts, screw the adjuncts.”

Nov The SCC F* committee meets and proposes to lay off all the adjuncts. All in favor of hiring a new dean, say “Aye”. But we don’t need a new dean. Still, look at all the money we saved by screwing the adjuncts. The “Ayes” have it.

Nov History is made when Barrack Obama is elected President of the United States. Who ever thought a college professor could be elected President in our lifetime?

Nov IT Help Desk Newsletter Item: Fecal material, known in the trade as floating poop particles, was found on public computer keyboards at the University of Washington.

Warning: Floating Poop Particles are on most public keyboards. No wonder this place smells like . . . stale coffee.

Nov IT Help Desk Newsletter Addendum: We said we ran the Floating Poop Particles article to raise awareness, but we really just wanted to gross you out.

Nov Note that the fecal material on keyboards is not the only Poop Particles floating around UW.

Nov The state board announces that it is finally, finally dumping Blackboard. Take that you evil bastards.

Nov Oh, by the way, now that all of you have finally learned how to use Blackboard, that cursed platform, we are switching to an entirely new platform that is neither intuitive nor much like anything you’ve used before. It’s as if you were born again and not in a good way. It would be like learning how to eat all over again. Please do not spit up on your keyboard.

Nov In the ongoing image battle between SCC (the occupational programs college) and SFCC (the liberal arts college), someone points out that SCC brings in speakers like Scott Simon from NPR and SFCC brings in Frankie the Fart Comic.

Nov Image control announcement from SFCC: In order to appreciate the truly sophisticated academic and intellectual operation of the frontal lobe of the human brain, one must be reminded that the scatological self-deprecation evolving from sphincter oriented gaseous emission titillation . . . hey, did we hear the word “tit”? HOO HOO HAA HOOOO!!!

Nov In an effort to explore higher brain function, next year SFCC has on its schedule not only Frankie the Fart Comic but Penelope the Poop Comic.

Nov Major CCS crisis: The F* committee discovers that the CCS happy face emoticon is no longer functional. The replacement emoticon was caught flipping the bird.

Nov F* Committee morale level announcement. Money saved from the fine sacrifices made by the staff and adjuncts are being used to hire a new Vice-President of Morale. His first act-establish the morale alert levels:

- Alert level Blood Red: Dangerously murderous morale.
- Alert level Blood Orange: Severely disastrous morale.
- Alert level Dried Blood Burnt Sienna: Things were really, really bad but might be getting better.
- Alert level Brown: Disgustingly obnoxious morale – clean off those keyboards, will ya?
- Alert level Gray: Kinda sucky morale. A little bleach in those undergarments would not hurt.

- Alert level Daciqiri Green: Cluelessly okay morale.
- Alert level Gin Fiz Blue: Self-deceptively fine morale.
- Alert level Prozac Pink: Drug induced happy face morale.

Nov The CCS happy face emoticon is found in a storeroom, blind drunk, singing hobo songs.

Nov The F* committee sends the happy face emoticon to rehab after it moons the newly appointed Vice-President of Morale.

Nov In response to the financial crisis, SFCC shuffles departments AGAIN! Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences has evicted CAML and Journalism sneaked (note that it's not snuck) out of the English department and is now linked with a mystery division. Philosophy is sold to Humanities for thirty pieces of silver. Um, make that a couple of bread rolls and the chance to revise its CALOs.

Nov Brad Bleck. Mmmmmm CALOOOOs.

Nov In the division shifts at SFCC, Economics is moved into the Social Sciences division, but the Business Department makes a deal. Social Sciences can't have Economics unless it takes Accounting. Accounting is a Social Science?

Nov Well, what are the social implications of getting audited and sent to jail. We should ask the people at AIG.

Nov Business Dept: Yay, Yay. We finally got rid of Accounting! It's okay to cheat on our taxes!

Nov Business Dept: Wait. If we don't have Accounting and we don't have Econ, then, what exactly is in the business department?

Nov An SFCC student who got a zero in a class in 1987 but claims she withdrew from the class is told to go see the instructor about it – the one who taught the class in 1987. It was a radio broadcast class and the radio program was demolished and sent to the Waste to Energy plant in 1996.

Nov Instructor: “1987?? Really?? I taught here then? I thought I was still in the Army. Yes, yes. We had just landed on Iwo Jima . . . “

Nov Student to Carlos who sent her to see the ancient instructor: “This guy has lost his mind.” Carlos: “No, no. He's grading English Composition papers. It's a thing called ‘portfolio’. They're all like that.”

December: A search committee is formed to find the missing adjuncts at SCC, but the committee can't be funded, so it disbands. Morale level: brown, with a slight fuchsia tint to it.

Dec The Vice-President of Morale sends out this announcement: “Cheap places to retire to: North Dakota, especially Minot. Advantage: you'll probably commit suicide after living there a year because, yes, you are in Minot, North Dakota, but you are unlikely to use up your retirement investment. What a bargain.

Dec Retire today because we can't afford you any longer. Morale Alert Level: Choke To Death Purple.

Dec District employees are asked to submit ideas for cutting the budget.

Dec Really? You want our ideas? Now, think about this for a minute. We have 2.5 colleges in the district. Each college has a president and at least two vice-presidents. The IEL has a half president and at least two half vice presidents. The district has a chancellor, a vice-chancellor, several vice-presidents. And you want OUR suggestions? Any of you people ever been to Minot, North Dakota? It's nice this time of year.

Dec Budget tip number one: turn off the heat. Oh, right. I can tell by the fact that I have to use an ice pick on my keyboard that you already did that. Never m-m-m-minnndd.

Dec PIUs will no longer exist. And the question is, why get rid of something that has worked so poorly for so many years?

Dec Remember when a person got PIUs for taking a quit smoking class and she didn't quit smoking?

Dec Remember the guy who got PIUs for building a porch on his house?

Dec Remember when a certain liberal arts faculty member earned PIUs for submitting the paperwork on PIUs?

Dec The new system works like this. Sign up for the CCS patented online training program. You are guaranteed, GUARANTEED, to learn absolutely nothing connected with your field of study! This is TRAINING! It is not education. It's not even learning. A chimp could do it.

Dec Chimp Anti-Insult Association: Please run a correction on that last item. Even chimps have standards.

Dec Recently elected state legislators beg for a recount hoping they WON'T have to go to Olympia next month.

Dec Training programs to replace PIUs are announced:

- Cerebral-Rectal Insertion Practices of the Modern Human Services Practitioner.
- The Declining Brain Cell Density of the Indigeous Higher Ed Association Negotiator .
- Innate Passivity of the 21st Century Community College Faculty Primate.
- A Study of the Decline of College-Level Instruction from Education to Learning to Training (Human to Chimp to Rat).

Dec The Rat Defense Board lodges a complaint. Please. We have standards.

Dec Damn you. Are we the only ones left?

Dec Short term weather forecast: sunny, a bit damp, but spring is on the way.

Dec The biggest snowstorm in history hits Spokane. Local Television Weather Report: "We are up to our ASSES in snow! Heeellllppppp!!!"

Dec Hey. You can't say "ass" on a family newscast.

Dec Okay, how's this? "We are up to our BLEEEPPP in snow!"

Dec Hope your bleep doesn't break off.

Dec Forecast: Only six weeks until Spring.

Dec Financial forecast:

Oooooohhhhhhhooooohhhhhhhooooohhhhhhhooooohhhhhhhnooooo,

Dec In Washington D.C., investment banker turned Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson will soon be replaced by investment banker turned Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner. Change. We want change.

Dec You do? Oh okay. Give me a dollar and here's your four pennies and a used bus token. Oh, hold it. We're keeping the bus token. It might actually buy something.

Jan A special unit of the State Police are sent out to drag legislators to Olympia. Theme for the year: It's a no win-no win situation. Unofficial theme: We're screwed. We're all screwed.

Jan Hey, maybe the rainy day fund will save us. Let's see, we put just over one million dollars into the rainy day fund and the deficit is now, um 5.3 billion?

Jan Econ 101 analogy (are they allowed to use analogies? Call the English Dept. Police): It's just like if you were 5.3 billion dollars in the hole and only have one million dollars in a savings account.

Jan You Econ people are not good with analogies, are you?

Jan Econ Dept: Oh yeah? Just watch this. Let's say you needed 5.3 billion rocks to pay a debt, but only saved one million rocks. Now THAT'S an analogy!

Jan Human Services Announcement: You too can earn what used to be PIUs by watching a video on CCS Safety and Security Practices.

Jan A student's parent calls SFCC to let them know that the student is off his meds, has acquired some very sharp knives and has hinted that he would like to perhaps kill someone in authority in a classroom. Safety and Security question: What should campus security do? A. Notify the instructor that a wacko student might stab said instructor. B. Spread a rumor that a wacko student might stab said instructor so that said instructor MIGHT hear the rumor. C. Have a meeting to determine if we should accept calls from parents. D. Check with administration to see if elimination of faculty by wacko students just might be a good budgeting option.

Jan Security picks answer B. But D is looking better every day.

Jan CCS decides to dump the evil and despised Blackboard (official designation: those sonofabitches) and go with the enlightened and wonderfully unfathomable (is that a word?) Angel.

Jan Just the sound of it makes you think of, um, Angels.

Jan What do Angels have to do with distance learning platforms? Isn't that faintly blasphemous?

Jan Blaspheme this you @\$%*& Blackboard.

Jan My, my we are bitter.

Jan Olympia: will the state declare a state of financial emergency so system wide RIFs can begin? We would know except that legislators have escaped into the Olympia wilderness where they are trying to survive on cheap beer and peanuts. The hunt is on to bring them back to work.

Jan Budget saving tip #122: Hire that guy who was stealing cars at SFCC and split the resale costs. Note: Avoid G.M. and Chrysler vehicles. Resale value stinks.

Jan Governor Gregoire issues an order to dissolve unnecessary boards and commissions:

WHEREAS certain executive orders and boards and commissions have been rendered ineffective due to the fact that no one, and we mean NO ONE, has any clue what these boards and commissions do, so we are invoking the "internal expiration" provision.

WHEREAS we are advising members of these boards and commissions to RUN for it you incompetent bastards!

WHEREAS we will be releasing the dogs to track you down and place the human version of a wheel lock on your mouth so you cannot ever again call a meeting.

Jan WHEREAS this also applies to obsolete executive orders.

Jan Define obsolete.

Jan The ones that cost money.

Jan WACTC, the state community college presidents' committee, moves and seconds that WACTC *strongly recommends* commissions and councils to hold meetings via technology as often as possible and, oh yeah, should have technology available.

Jan So meeting via "technology" means you are not obsolete?

Jan No comment.

Jan So define technology.

Jan Um, anything that uses those doohickey things in order to, um, you know, interface.

Jan Isn't a car technology?

January Hmm. We'll have to look into that.

Jan WACTC memo: If a face to face meeting is held, it shall be done on a college campus.

Jan What if a "college campus" is in, say, Honolulu? Does that count?

Jan Sure, if you use an approved doohickey to interface.

Jan Clarification: Is the "Mustang Ranch College for Enterprising Young Ladies" in Reno, Nevada a college campus?

Jan If you can ascertain that they are using approved technology in order to interface, then yes.

Jan You gotta love this budget crisis.

Jan A student sends a request to Heather McKenzie, Director of Student Funded Programs, to reserve a display case in the SUB for the purpose of putting up anti-abortion posters. Cue music from Jaws. Dah Duh Dah Duh. Or is that Homer Simpson humming to himself?

Jan Question: Did Heather McKenzie actually say, as later quoted: "(The State of Washington) is pro-choice that state funds cannot be used for a non pro-choice event."

Jan "A non-pro-choice event" seems to cover a broad swath of events. My my.

Jan Dah Duh. Dah Duh. Does the right wing smell blood in the water?

Jan The student later alleges she was threatened with expulsion if she put up the posters.

Jan The great thing about higher education is what Milton might have called "The vast marketplace of ideas." Except the ones we don't like.

Jan The Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) awards 33 grants under the program formerly known as the "Washington Higher Education Improving Teacher Quality Program" which was renamed the "Washington Higher Education Improving Teacher's Ability To Endure Endless Meetings and Conferences About Abstract Concepts That Don't Work Program."

Jan HECB: Since more than 1600 educators have been served, we are trying to come up with a 1600 word title. This is called the No Word Left Behind Act.

Jan Proposal: find a word to replace "educator" since "educator" focuses not on the "learner" but rather focuses on the person who is in the room when a learner is learning but is not, in fact, a learner. Could be some big grant money here.

February CCS facilities received today the glass medallion from the U.S. Green Building Council that signifies that the sn-w'ey'-mn building has earned the coveted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold level of certification.

Feb And for destroying buildings 14 and 3 and crushing and smashing all the recyclable contents therein and hauling it to the Waste to Energy plant (hereinafter called the "dump"), CCS will receive the dung medallion from the U.S. "What the F*?" council that signifies that the recyclable materials which could have been sold, donated or reused on

campus fell into a bureaucratic black hole which certifies that aforementioned recyclables would be crushed and burned.

Feb Special added achievement notation – a lot of this stuff produces toxic fumes when burned. How cool is that?

Feb True story: A few years ago, when Coach Humbabe tried to abscond with some turf that was being removed so it could be taken to the dump, a certified college official threatened disciplinary action.

Feb Budget saving tip #231: Can we sell the medallion? I mean, it is made of glass.

Feb And it is coveted.

Feb Jason Nix, upon hearing that Gregory Roberts and Heather McKenzie would not allow a student to display an anti-abortion poster, warned that we could, and we quote, “get our asses sued off.”

Feb Is that a new wellness program? How to lose those big lumps hanging off the end of our collective body!

Feb Getting asses sued off preventative advice: Throughout this great nation of ours are dozens and dozens and dozens of right wing organizations and law firms just waiting for some clueless college to make a stupid blunder so they can sue the college’s “ass” off.

Feb For those of you who are now searching SFCC looking for its “ass,” keep in mind that this was a metaphor.

Feb Except that several people did find the college’s ass. Be damned.

Feb No. We will not reveal in what building or office that ass was found, mostly in the interest of continued gamesmanship. In other words, see if you can find your own ass.

Feb Yes, you may use both hands.

Feb Look quickly, however, because soon it will be sued off. The Alliance Defense Fund of Rich Redneck, Arizona is working with a Lawyer named Jefferson Smith in defense of the student who was allegedly barred from posting her poster.

Feb Math Dept announcement: Starting in Winter 2010, SFCC is offering Math 98 which will replace Math 99. Everything that is covered in Math 91, 92, 99 will be covered in Math 93, 94, 98. However, we will be covering right angle trig, circles, basic statistics and sequences, but especially, we will be explaining that the numbers 93, 94 and 98 are better than the numbers 91, 92 and 99.

Feb Math Dept: We will be offering Math 91, 92 and 99 in the Mathematics Learning Center (lab).

Feb Numerologists have long held that the numbers 91, 92 and 99 are “Satan’s Lesser Digits.” 91, 92 and 99 form the combination to Satan’s gym lock.

Feb True, the number 666 was always thought to be Satan’s favorite, but biblical anthropologists have determined that the numbers 666 were a misinterpretation. The number that we always thought was 666 is actually 711228 – The account number for those who own General Motors stock. Who knew?

March The Governor Visits SCC Tuesday March 17.

March SFCC gets Gary the Groin Comic.

March The governor conducts a Jobs Roundtable discussion focusing on employment and economic development in Eastern Washington. The first 500 to bring your pink slips will get free admission.

March A member of the board of trustees is shocked, on her trip to Seattle, to see an article in the Seattle Times listing her as a defendant in a lawsuit against CCS. Jefferson

Smith, the Alliance Defense Fund and a student is, and we quote, “suing the ass off this district.” Well, it’s kind of a quote.

March It should be made clear because most people don’t read very carefully that the Alliance Defense Fund has absolutely nothing to do with the Alliance Club.

March More specifically, Jefferson Smith, et al, are suing the five board members, chancellor Gary Livingston, SFCC prez Mark Palek, Dean of Student Life Gregory Roberts and Director of Student Funded Programs, Heather McKenzie.

March We have a Dean of Student Life?

March Ring, Ring (or whatever noise a telephone makes these days). *Student:* What? Hello? *Dean* Good morning! Have you brushed your teeth yet? *Student:* But it’s six a.m. *Dean* Time to get up and at ‘em. *Student* Who ARE you?

March *Dean:* I am the dean of your life.

March Groooooaaannnnnn.

March The registration fee for the spring classified staff training is \$35. Topic: Why the people who are giving up one day a week in pay are asked to pay for their own training!

March The macaroni and cheese speaketh: “Our new motto: Screw the little people.”

March Budget tip # 1272: charge faculty for changing the PIU requirements.

March The great copyright policy controversy breaks out. If only part of a video is shown in a classroom, will a representative of the National Organization To Squeeze Small Change Out of The Terminally Broke file a claim for compensation?

March To answer that question, Rod Larse is assigned to govern copyright policy. Perhaps even make copyright policy.

March New Copyright Policy: “You morons are too stupid to understand copyright issues so don’t show videos, copy stuff from books, or sing songs in your classes.”

March Copyright trivia: Disney got the U.S. government to extend copyright deadlines so that Mickey Mouse won’t fall into the public domain.

March Damn. We could have made Mickey Mouse the campus mascot. Oh, uh, sorry Sasquatch thingy.

March Mascot Central, CCS: The Sasquatch, our official MASCOT, does have a name, but it is copyrighted, so you can’t use it unless you pay us four cents.

March We are warned to begin switching over to the Angel platform because we have divested ourselves of the evil and dark Blackboard in order to move to a higher, nobler plain of incomprehensible features.

Th-th-this is m-m-my copyright lawyer. I’m go-go-going to sue your a-a-a-a buttocks off!



April We discover that Sodexho, the place that serves that weird stuff that vaguely resembles food, is no longer called Sodexho (So-dex-HO). It's now called, this is true, Sodexo.

April Yes, they took the ho out of Sodexho.

April So if you're looking for a ho, then you're in the wrong place if you've gone to Sodexo.

April Did Gregory Roberts have anything to do with taking the ho out of Sodexho? As the Dean of Student Life, he has to watch out for any stray hos wandering around campus.

April Payroll says new income tax withholding tables are in effect. Not only are we screwed, but now we have to do math.

April But whatever you do, avoid the numbers 91, 92 and 99.

April Oh yes. Payroll advises employees to check with their tax advisers about changes affecting current withholding.

April What if Payroll is our tax adviser?

April Hahahahaha . . . oh, that's a good one. . . what? Payroll really is your tax adviser? Boy, you are screwed.

April For more information, see Internal Revenue Service Publication (no kidding) 919. Notice it has a 91 in the number? That's because last year it was publication 666. Then someone discovered that was not Satan's zip code. I mean Satan, the IRS. Who are you gonna trust?

April The math department, that's who. (This public service message compliments of the Math department – visit us in rooms 91, 92 and 99).

April Ah . . . Ah . . . Ah . . . AH CHOO! Hold it. Make that Ah . . . Ah . . . Ah . . . AH-CH . . . OINK!!!

April The Swine Flu sweeps out of Mexico and attacks the U.S. This is so bad that Human Services is passing on Swine Flu alerts.

April And of course, the important question is whether or not we will be able to get PIUs for coming down with Swine Flu. Hey, it is research. Of a kind.

April Israel protests (this is true) the fact that this disease is called Swine Flu. Hey, we were going to name it Pork Flu, but thought that might disturb ham sandwich aficionados.

April Egypt slaughters 300,000 pigs either in an act of blind, irrational fear or because they don't like pigs anyway and were just looking for an excuse.

April The pig lobby agrees with Israel that this ought to be called Mexican flu.

April Mexico: Don't blame us. We like pigs. Just some time sample our Que Swine a dilla.

April Economic collapse, the coldest winter in almost a year and now this? A pandemic. Oh, what have we done to offend the gods?

April Math Department: We told you to ban the numbers 91, 92 and 99 from this campus!!

April Pig lobby: What are you humans griping about? 300,000 dead pigs in Egypt? Now that's a pigdemic. Er, pandemic.

April By the way, why are there 300,000 pigs in a Muslim country where they are forbidden to eat pork?

April Hey, what good is a rule without the temptation to go with it?

April Notice Sodexo, er, Sodex no ho, no longer sells hot dogs? Is that because there's a ho in hot?

April On behalf of the college and student leadership: RUN! THE SWINE FLU IS COMING!

April By the way, no documented cases of swine flu have been noted in Spokane County.

April College and student leadership (who exactly is this anyway?): The Spokane Regional Health Paranoiacs recommend the following: **Avoid close contact, especially with pigs** (this is also a lifestyle guideline), **Stay home if you are sick and have been in close contact with a pig. Cover the mouth and nose of any nearby pig. Wash your hands, hoofs and snout often. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, mouth, snout or curly tail. Practice other good health habits (such as decontaminating your mud before you wallow in it).**

April The CCS Swine Flu Committee considers banning pigs from campus but decide such a ban would be discriminatory.

April Wait. Are pigs a protected class?

April Certainly not in Egypt.

April Communicate: Any creature you can eat is not in a protected class.

April CCS college and student leadership (CCSCASL): Get a flu shot.

April Note that current flu shots will not protect anyone from Swine Flu.

April CCSCASL: Yes, but we figure the pain of getting a needle stuck in your butt will provide the really sharp, painful placebo effect.

April Joe Biden says he won't let his family on an airplane for fear of contracting swine flu and that one cough can send swine spores throughout the aircraft.

April SFCC: Can we get Joe Biden as a speaker? I bet he has some really good swine spore jokes.

April But is he as funny as Bucky the Butt Comic?

April The Pig Lobby: It is not SWINE flu. It is H1N1 Flu! So stop killing pigs. Let my people go. Er, let my piggies go.

April Note the similarity of H1N1 to H1 91. HI 91! Remember! One of the evil math department numbers!

April Math department: We were right! Yes! Yes! Yes!

April Is there an award for being irrationally, paranoically, panically prescient?

April Math department: We get an AWARD? Yes! Yes! Yes!

April We will call it the Oink award.

April What is the Egyptian Word for Oink?

April 91, 92 and 99.

April Weird science spam (actual message): Refurbished Spectrum Analyzers allow you to extend your budget and stimulate your economy while saving you up to 80 %.

April Only the science people would use "budget" and "economy" for body part euphemisms. Oh wait, I forgot about the business department.

April Business Department: Those are NOT euphemisms, damn you. Please, here, touch my budget.

April Oh, so you think the budget crisis was . . .

April Just when we were afraid we would run out of vice-presidents because of the budget crisis, SCC hires a new VICE PRESIDENT FOR LEARNING!!

April SCC: We needed one of those really badly and with the \$35 we were charging staff people for training, well, it was serendipitous.

April True memo from district services: We regularly hear from front line staff that they have been misled into placing an order for products that they don't want.

April That would explain the giant vats of mink oil that were delivered to the IEL last week.

April Does mink oil really repel Swine flu?

April Pig Lobby: That's H1N1 you swine! Oh, wait. I mean, uh . . . where's the rescind button?

April Faculty vote in a magnanimous gesture to give up one day of pay.

April Faculty? We did WHAT? We thought we were giving up one day of someone else's pay – administrators to be specific. Next time I'm going to read that ballot.

May Brace yourselves. You, we realize, are in shock over the economic crash. Our hours have been cut. The Worst Winter in Almost a Year has ruined our roses. We are getting our asses sued off by right wing wackos. But the worst is about to fall upon us. Darkness will descend over the land. It couldn't be worse if swarms of locusts filled our classrooms and offices and ate all our PIUs. Yes. Evil, we are now convinced, rules the earth.

May Blackboard buys Angel.

May You mean we have slogged through the torturous job of figuring out how to use Angel; we've either attended Angel classes or have worked diligently to avoid attending Angel classes. And now we find out Angel is going to be owned by Satan and his minions?

May Signs that the illegal drug business is another victim of the economic downturn: Warning. Books are being stolen out of faculty offices at EWU. Thieves are apparently reselling the books. Lock your door.

May Notice that thieves ignore faculty wallets and purses and go right for the valuable stuff. Books.

May Budget Crisis Solution #1236: Dear Matawa Bugendi of Logos, Nigeria: Good news. The U.S. FBI has certified that this is a legitimate message. I am a deposed community college chancellor in the U.S. of A. I am confident that you are a Christian person who is deserving of my trust. I am living in exile in a place called Spokane, a terrible place full of evil people and swine flu. Excuse me. H1N1 flu. But I have access to 40 million naira (which are Nigerian dollars, correct?) but I need your help to retrieve these funds . . .

May FYI: 40 million naira is worth about the price of the soon to be demolished photo building at SFCC.

May Uh oh. We put up \$500,000 as a lure to Mr. Matawa Bugendi.

May From Mr. Matawa Bugendi, Logos: Thank you so much. I used your U.S. dollars to buy me a villa and 22 concubines. Sorry we couldn't get access to all those naira, but visit me sometime when you come to my country. Say hello to Barrack Obama for me.

June Hey. How much is a Nigerian concubine anyway? Maybe we could hire them instead of adjuncts.

June SFCC attempts to enhance its image with a genuinely high class commencement speaker: Frederick the Flatulence Flaunter.

June Look, nine, count them, NINE syllables! We call it Non-iambic Nine-ameter.

June The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges declare a system wide financial emergency.

June Carla Sinclair-Naccarato, CCS AHE president, announces that the declaration of a financial emergency only means that CCS will announce a big financial owie, not a full blown emergency. In order for it to be a full blown emergency, we would be asked to give up two days after the staff and adjuncts are, um, sold off to a Nigerian who sent us a letter promising lots of money. Take heart. PIUs are now worth 22 naira each.

An administrator passes the break room and a voice whispers out

To him: The voice is singing to him from a bowl of

Macaroni and Cheese.

“We could use a raise. Have you checked the rainy day fund?”

And It Came to Pass.