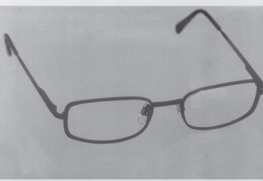


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# How to extract all possible life out of your holiday downtime



PAUL KNOECHEL

**“Try going nocturnal for a while. It makes it easy to avoid the people you don't like, and you can enjoy a myriad of infomercials with the unemployable and angry loners of the world. Besides, nothing memorable happens during the day, and vitamin D is just a crutch for people not bad ass enough to deal with rickets.”**

It's almost here: just past the ridge of term papers and through the nightmarish tunnel of exams is the sweet pasture of academic freedom. That's right, winter break is coming, and with it, a full three weeks of no school, no assignments, no professors, and no cafeteria food rotting your body from the inside out. So you're going to need to celebrate and make the most of this opportunity provided for you. And as a service to you all, I'm going to humbly suggest things for you to do to ensure that this break isn't wasted.

First, watch TV and play video games until your eyeballs begin to bleed. You're a camel that just made its way through the desert to an oasis, and before venturing back into the shimmering sand, you must fill your hump with the allegorical water. People will say that you're escaping reality, that you're not doing anything meaningful with your life, and that you're developing bedsores; and then there will be the people that don't approve of this choice. Stay strong and enjoy.

Try going nocturnal for a while. It makes it easy to avoid the people you don't like, and you can enjoy a myriad of infomercials with the unemployable and angry loners of the world. Besides, nothing memorable happens

during the day, and vitamin D is just a crutch for people not bad ass enough to deal with rickets.

Flirt shamelessly with alcoholism. See how far you can take it before you start crossing that fine line into addiction. Always challenge yourself by flirting with that boundry like it's a cute girl with a crazy dad. If someone tells you only alcoholics have a beer within half an hour of waking up, have an Irish coffee. When told that alcoholics drink alone, keep Jesus in your heart, and you'll never be alone. The point is, you don't have anything to study for, so find out where exactly the line is for you so you can avoid it come winter semester. And if someone blathers on about how you're ruining your body, you can quote my favorite 31st-century robot: "bodies are for hookers and fat people." Amen.

Offend some old people. It's getting to the point that university students are forgetting how to act young. There's more than enough time once you graduate to be a professional who's dead on the inside. Until then, grasp on to some immaturity while it's not just sad. And there's no better way to feel young than by offending uppity senior citizens. Nothing makes you feel on top of the world



like streaking through an old folks' home while using curse words to advertise the fact that you're having unprotected, premarital, homosexual sex.

See how long you can go without caffeine. After finals, it's always enjoyable to see how dependent you are on that next cup of joe. Hats off to anyone who breaks my record of five whole hours (I almost got a full night's sleep that time).

And of course, you have to get laid. What's the point of having all this time off if all you do with it is jack it? There's plenty of time for that next semester. Chat up someone all flushed on post-test euphoria, and try a line that would normally have you fishing out your balls from your abdomen. They'll just be riding a wave, and all you have to do is distinguish yourself enough from the crowd to hop on.

Finally, do some good deeds. The advantage is two-fold: for starters, you don't feel bad about hanging out for days at a time in your underpants because you can reference your actions as a good Samaritan; and two, because it's the right fucking thing to do, dummy. Now go donate some blood, and buy your mom a nice Christmas present.

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