

Dave's Blarg!

2011-Oct-28

Today was pretty awesome! But I'll save the best for last ☺ We got a shipment of Styrofoam cups in at work today!! I know that in most places they'd usually head straight for the breakroom and that would be the end of the story, but we just can't do things the easy way over here ☺ What *we* do with cups, particularly ones that we get from grade school kids across the country, is send them down with our water



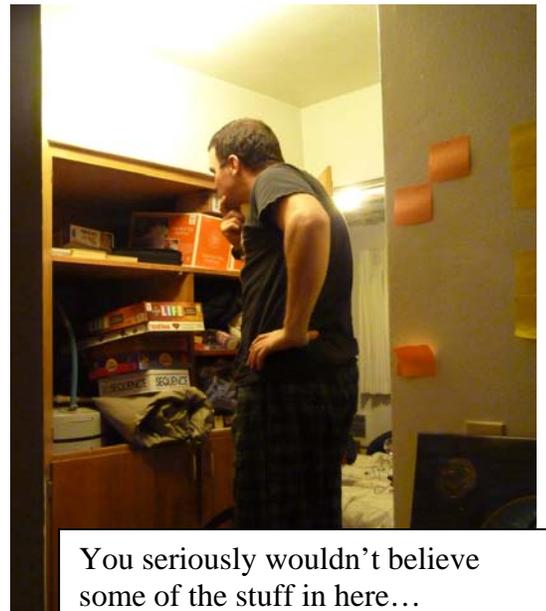
All these foam cups will give their foaminess in the name of science!



Lunch for everyone who can name the movie ☺ That's a foam mannequin head that will end up about the size of my fist.

sampler and squish all the air out of them! They come up all teeny like little Styrofoam shot glasses :D The trick is that if you color them all up first, all your art becomes all tiny and intricate. That reminds me!!! [starts digging around]

This right here is my gift shelf (yes, I have a shelf, no I don't want to be on hoarders). Pretty much all of you getting this letter-I've had a gift up here for you at some point. I can hear you all thinking "but what are you talking about, I don't remember getting anything", well you aren't crazy!!! I get things all year long to send out for Christmas, birthdays, etc. and then when the time comes I either feel like whatever it is it's too lame to send out, or (more likely for folks who know me) somehow don't get around to mailing It... (I know that's hard to picture) Tom, there's a book for you that I've had for six years on the second shelf down on the right, Grandma, I've had a knickknack for you in a box on the back of the shelf for two years. Jeff, I've got a book I meant to send you when you



You seriously wouldn't believe some of the stuff in here...



Some Post-Squish cups (Note Ramen)

and Debbie had your *first* kid at the back of the top shelf. I swear I'm going to mail it all this year.... Anyhow, this ends up being a bit of a long diversion, because after clearing through it for the last hour (Sorry for waking you up Matt!) It turns out that I've either mailed out or otherwise disposed of my Styrofoam shot glasses. At one point or another I've made pretty much everyone I know a foam cup, smooshed it, and then decided that it was kind of a lame gift and

not sent it. Tom & Morrie, I made each of you a colored up foam sample tray (we were out of cups that cruise) and then ended up thinking "how odd is this, they don't even know how big the tray was to start with [roundfile]". The questionable quality of my artwork contributed to lack-of-sending. Well that does it, everyone on this list is going to be getting a smooshed cup this Christmas, and I tell ya, if I don't find it in



My Rachel-y, what's she making a shot glass for?



place of pride when I next come to visit, I promise to be very very hurt! That's right clear out a spot next to your travel spoons (I don't think anyone on this list has one of those...hopefully), snowglobes, laser crystal of you and your sister, or the top spot on your teetery klepto stack of half read magazines (you know who you are ;) because there's an awesome crushed foam cup coming your way (dear, I hope that we do a water sample cast on the next cruise, otherwise

I'm not sure if supplying insulated shot glasses is the best idea ever, but we've never gotten any complaints....

everyone is going to be getting regular size cups with a



Some of these kids are mighty artsy ☺

note: "imagine this, but only smaller...". Anywho, the cups pictured above are going to be shipped to the Arctic Ice Breaker Healy (that we also provide tech support for) to be crushed a wee bit closer to the north pole than the old Wecoma normally travels (Come on global climate change!).



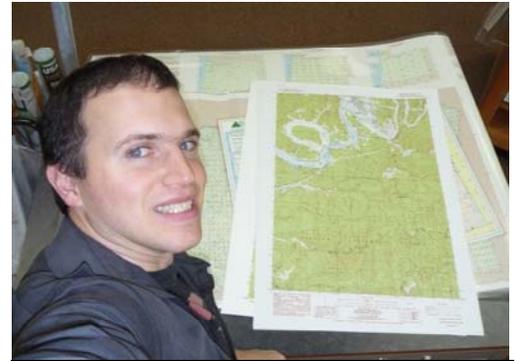
See how excited Colleen is to have lunch with me! (The check's in the mail Wall!)

I had a great lunch with my friend Lt. Colleen Wall (USN Reserve). She's gone from operating nuclear reactors to studying drifters, I really don't know what that's about :p (Just kidding, she's an oceanography grad student developing drifting sensors to monitor dissolved CO₂, Apparently "that's so hot right now" like Mugatu says.)

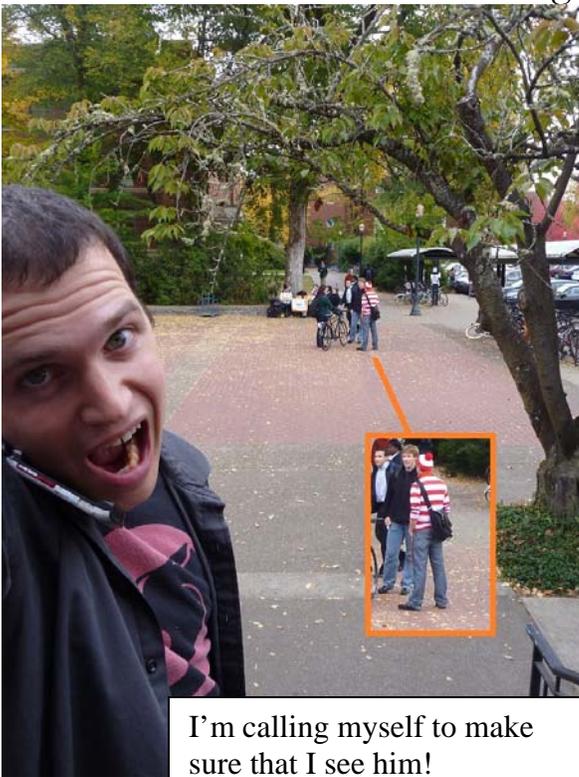
I stopped by the bookstore and got a few maps, and **Guess what else I found!!!** Boom! That's right!

Waldo!!!!!!!!!!!!1!!!!11!!!!

Done and Done! I'm goin' on break! :p



Sure you could get cheaper wallpaper, but why would you?



I'm calling myself to make sure that I see him!

After that I spent the afternoon doing some work for Kelly Benoit Bird, and oceanographer at OSU whom is well worth a google. I'm repackaging some electronics for her to go into an autonomous underwater vehicle.

On the left below is the electronics that I am repackaging, and on the right is a version of the vehicle that they will eventually go into.



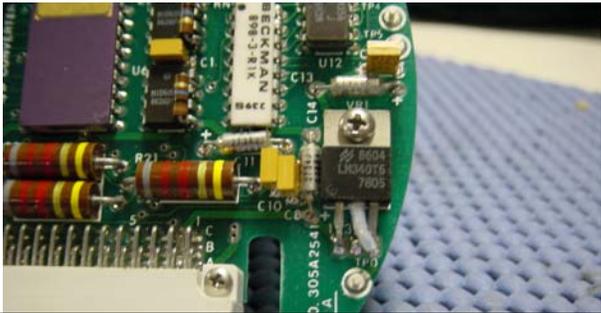
I'm trying to keep all the heavy Ones out of these electronics...



All that stuff on the bench goes on something like this...



“No, the board costs extra because we add so many extra parts, it’s a feature...”



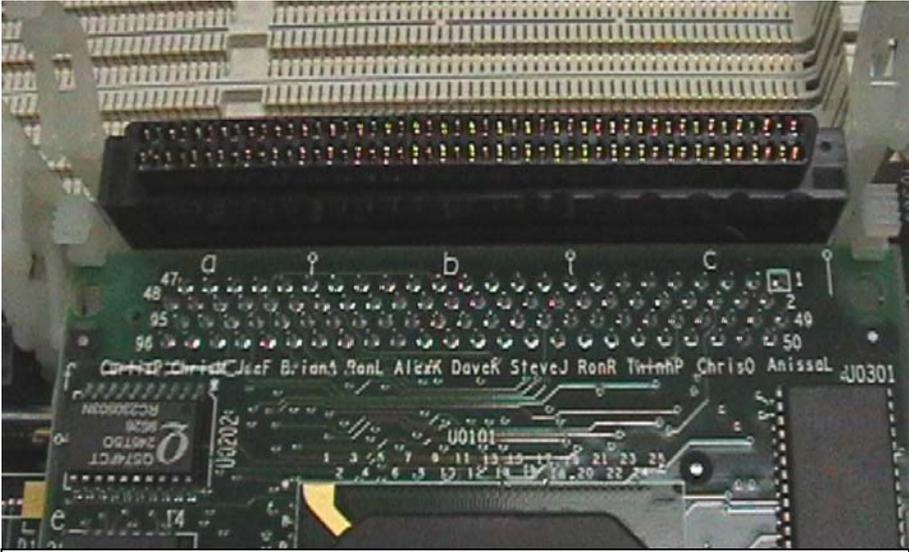
The three legged part in the center of this photo is *extremely* common, and the folks who designed this “tens of thousands of dollars” piece of equipment seem to have gotten the connections for it wrong in their initial design...



We waited an extra 6 months for this interface board to show up, and when it did it turned out that the extra time and money had gone into hacking traces and adding (apparently extremely expensive) teeny little wires...

Which reminds me! I keep a folder of funny things that I find in electronics, including these gems. Just today I found an extra cap installed on the back of a circuit board for a \$40k echosounder! For those of you who don’t know, this sort of thing happens when a circuit board gets tested and the engineer realizes that they’ve left something out. Rather than roundfile all the boards and order more (think ~\$1k * 100 boards at a crack), it makes more financial sense to hire a high schooler (or unpaid intern) to come in and add the part back on to the board in whatever fashion they can. The reason that this particular one

deserves mention is twofold, A – it cost enough that they could have made another board and not lost too much, and B – I found this on a unit with a serial number in the 400 range, and now-again-on a unit in the high 900’s. There are 4 of these boards per unit, that means that about 2000 of these boards have zipped by (and for this sort of product it probably isn’t produced in quite nearly those quantities) without the



If you look on the middle left you’ll see that **silkscreened onto the board** of this sun computer graphics card, Chris P and Chris L apparently didn’t fully pull their weight on the design team.

responsible party making the couple clickety-clicks of the mouse to fix the problem. The intern probably has little interns of his own by now :p I shouldn't pick, I've personally shipped equipment with bits like this on them, then again, I don't charge **remotely** what these folks charge....

ANY-how, my day gets better after that, despite parking a few feet farther from the door than I'm used to:



OMG! Long Walk!



Phew! I almost burned a calorie!

I managed to persevere (okay, so I got back in and moved the car closer :p)

Daryl (my boss) show us his mid-life crisis machine :D (I want to start my mid-life crisis early!!)



Yellow is the new Red!

And my friend Danielle and I trucked off to the OSU fall drag show! It was awesome!!!!!!1!!!eleven!!!!



Funniest MC's, I haven't seen a genuine trucker vest in a while ☺



From the Thriller set :D

One nifty thing was that the bathrooms were—very forward thinkingly-labeled “Gender Neutral” The only thing is, I’m not gender neutral, and I’d had a *lot* of soda by that point...



Nifty!

(It’s okay, someone explained it to me and things worked out :p)



Where do I go! Ahhhhhhh!

Interestingly enough, despite all the distractions:



Jessica, my old roommate! (sadly still taller than me even without the heels, I’m so little ☺)

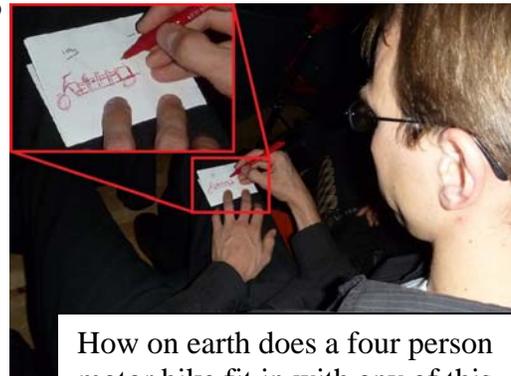


That’s right, Thundercats ☺



A Lion.....

My friend Eric (and this is for real in the middle of a set) still managed to concentrate on his 4-person motor bike design! :p



How on earth does a four person motor bike fit in with any of this...

And I do Mean Distractions...



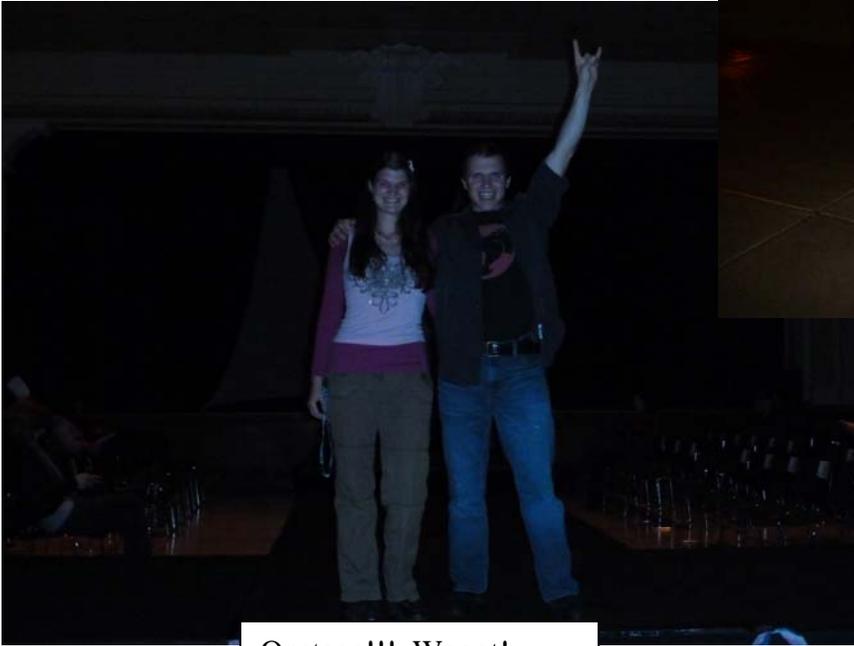
Yes.....

Eric! This Is God! Pay attention to the ladies, or you shall forever ride alone!! :p

Anywho, Danielle and I had a blast, we got to see an awesome show! And We almost made it home ok....



Jessica, Some Guy, Hai-Yue, and Kathy, These guys Rock!



Onstage!!! Woot!

(Secret survival tip, if Danielle tells you show knows a shortcut, bring a compass :p)



Cue scary jungle sounds.....

Until Tomorrow!