

# Word on the Hill

## How do you overcome senioritis?

By Darius Hopkins



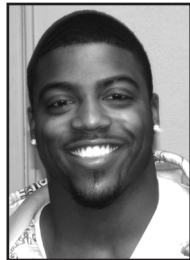
"I try getting things done on time."

**Phylcia Allen**  
marine biology senior



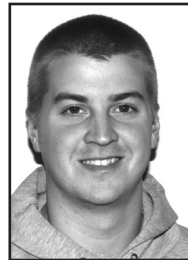
"I catch up on sleep."

**Clint Kissling**  
computer science senior



"That's a good question. I'll let you know when I find out."

**Brendt Winn**  
business administration senior



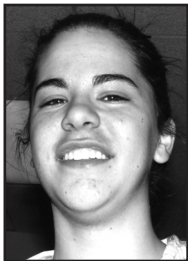
"I force myself to do my homework."

**Joey Kreft**  
computer science senior



"I don't. I give into it."

**Mattie Allison**  
psychology senior



"I look to the future to see where it gets me."

**Jamie Garrard**  
music senior



"I haven't figured that out yet."

**Dallas Leonard**  
business administration senior



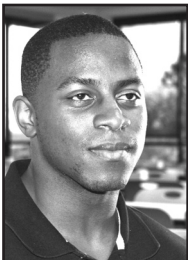
"I overcome it by thinking about my goals."

**Tim Moore**  
computer science senior



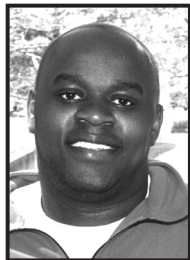
"I haven't done that yet."

**Kayla Tibbs**  
accounting senior



"I just keep my goals in mind."

**Charles Wells**  
sports management senior



"Diligence."

**Farai Kwaramba**  
chemistry senior



"I don't have time for senioritis."

**Shannon Varney**  
nursing senior

# Distractions are at every corner



**Inger Furholt**

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Let's face it, we have all fallen for a distraction or two.

I've sat down seven times in the past three days trying to figure out what to write about.

Every time I have started writing a sentence I've been distracted by some sort of game on the Internet.

Yes, even the fish in my aquarium have been able to drag my attention away

from things that I need to do, and fish in a bowl filled with nothing else than water isn't interesting at all.

Whether it's a game, an Internet page, a friend, a television show, or even amazingly enough fish, distractions seem to show up everywhere. It's not before you're in trouble for being late with something that you notice them as what they are.

Waiting a little longer with homework isn't the worst thing, because you can always work on it all through the night, right?

I tend to forget how fast time runs by. It takes someone to say, "Oh, it's getting late," for me to realize that I've been sitting on the same couch, in the same position for hours and accomplished

nothing. The best ways to avoid distractions would first be the simple word, no.

It's always hard when friends call you to ask if you want to join them for a movie, or go out to eat some-

where, or do something you know you don't have

time for. It may be better to turn off your phone, or leave it somewhere so it won't be a distraction.

Leaving the laptop alone is definitely a big issue for many college students. There are people to talk to, web to surf, things to read, movies, and of course computer games. I know I always get

distracted by the computer games, and I can't stop playing them at times.

The various friend spaces I have on the web don't help me out. Facebook, Myspace, and blogger all seem very tempting, and while I use these sites homework is stacking up.

Life has a way of throwing you off at the most inopportune times, and as we get closer to the end of the semester, it is hard to avoid distractions while studying, even though we need to get everything done.

Ehow.com has many suggestions for how to avoid distractions while studying.

For example, you can find out what time of the day you study the best, and then find a quiet place to study. If you

want to study in the dorms, find out what time it is the quietest.

Comfort is another important thing to have if wanting to concentrate, if you don't have that you're pretty much in trouble.

Most tend to lose focus and move around as they aren't comfortable in the chair they're sitting in, or in the room atmosphere.

Roommates can be a big distraction at times.

They might talk to you, and what they seem to do is more interesting than homework.

Moving out of your room for an hour or so, to get your concentration back, is never a bad idea. Creating quiet time, could also work for many, if it won't turn into giggle time,

because that also happens a lot.

Avoid studying in public areas, especially if you can't handle the surrounding noise. There are places on campus that are study rooms, where there's peace and quiet, and there shouldn't be a lot of distractions.

The best study for me, is the old fashion way. Write by hand.

There was a time before we had laptops, during those times, people actually wrote by hand. They didn't have computer games, websites, and chatting services to distract them.

Even though distractions are everywhere they can be avoided, and things can be done, if you set your mind to it.

# Facebook membership already costs big bucks

By Brian Nelson  
Copy editor

Students are upset to hear that Facebook wants to charge for user accounts. Yet many students are already paying \$18,600 a year to use the site. OMG! ru there? lol!

Tuition cost \$18,600 for the 2008-2009 academic year. In addition, students are paying for housing, food and books, as well as \$60 for laundry. With all these costs, one would expect that students would want to get

the most out of their education. During class, however, students open their laptops. They log onto Facebook or MSN Instant Messenger. While their instructors are attempting to prepare them for their future career, students are silently lol [laughing out loud].

Many students type faster than they write. This is why laptops are allowed in the classroom, as a tool. Instructors know that there are select students who log into cyberspace while in class.

Yet, there may be more than they think. Usually, when an instructor walks by someone's computer, their Facebook magically disappears and Microsoft appears, along

with a few notes.

It appears the student is taking notes, but chances are that the instructor is not fooled. They can judge who is paying attention to the class by eye contact. Students surfing the web are going to be less

likely to look up from their computer, while other students are actually interacting with their instructor.

Often, students who do not pay attention in class inquire their classmates about assignments the night before they are due. They are then forced to rush and are unable to ask their instructor any questions. After all, students can't let there instructors know that they are not paying attention in class. The instructor might actually question them as to why they are

attending college, and not a Facebook pep rally.

There are a few instructors who do not allow open laptops during the class session. This may be unfair to students who actually use their computers to take notes, but it is just for students who are constantly messaging during class. There is nothing more annoying than random giggles emerging from behind a computer screen. The giggles are disrespectful not only to the instructor, but to their peers as well.

So maybe someday an instructor will decide enough is enough, and walk around the room, closing all the laptops. Or maybe students will realize that they are paying \$18,600 for an education and will avoid any screens with a login bar. The latter would be preferred, especially for those students who use their computers as a tool.

Until then, cu later.  
Brian Nelson is a junior majoring in English. You may e-mail him at brian.nelson@sckans.edu.

# Idol winner releases new album

## • Kelly Clarkson returns with signature rock/pop sound

By Cameron Siefkes  
News and opinion editor

Seven years have passed since the confetti fell and the sparks flew on the first finale of American Idol. Now the first winner of the show is releasing her fourth album.

After the show, Kelly Clarkson launched her debut album entitled "Thankful" with the smash hit "Miss Independent."

In 2004 "Breakaway" was released with songs that rose to the top of the charts such as "Since U Been Gone," "Behind These Hazel Eyes," and "Because of You." Three years later "My December" became the lesser known of the three. It produced one hit entitled "Never Again."

On March 6 Clarkson hit the top of the charts with her newest album "All I Ever Wanted." It peaked at number one on the Billboard

Charts and has been in the top five for three weeks.

It seems that old habits never die for Clarkson. She sticks to the same ol' sound as she has had in the past. It's rock with a touch of pop.

All that aside, she seems to have reinvented the theme of this album. Audiences are used to hearing her sing about relationships going bad. This one feels a tad schizophrenic. One minute she loves her man, then she's begging him not to leave, then she's angry at him.

It seems the DJs at the radio stations are getting play happy with the first track on the CD, "My Life Would Suck Without You." The song actually set a record for making the biggest jump to number one on music charts.

When it first hit the airwaves I was obsessed with it. It was the type of song that I could rock out to in my car and not care if someone saw me. And while it is nice to hear Clarkson being positive about a relationship for once, I would have liked to enjoy the song longer than a few weeks.

One of the best tracks on the CD is "If I Can't Have You." It is reminiscent of one of my favorite songs, Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone."

"Cry" was also enjoyable. It is a ballad where Clarkson shows off her range and that powerful voice. Of course, it is about an ended relationship, but I really like the song.

"I Don't Hook Up" is the latest song from the album to be played on the radio. It is one of those songs that I love the instrumentals, but I wish the lyrics were different. She sings, "I can't cook, no, but

I can clean up the mess she left. Lay your head down and feel the beat as I kiss your forehead." What?

Some other tracks worth listening to include, "Whyawannabringmedown," "Impossible," and "Ready."

Overall, the album pretty good, but my life wouldn't suck without it.

Cameron Siefkes is a junior majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at cameron.siefkes@sckans.edu.

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## Correction

In last week's Collegian the story, "Message about stalking prompts concern" by Darius Hopkins incorrectly identified Krystal Tyree, athletic training junior, as Krystal Thomas.