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WORKING OUT A TOUGH VISIT BACK HOME

As you all know we are adjusting back to the college life after our much needed winter break. I was chomping at the bit for a break from econ classes and dorm showers but nothing could prepare me for what awaited me back home. Over the first semester I was gone my mom had turned my room into a gym. Now this was a really tough adjustment for me because I have never worked out a day in my life. A gym! Do you know how hard it is to live in a gym? All my clothes had to be hung on weight machines. All my meals were enjoyed on cold iron discs. I was left to sleep on a treadmill which is not as comfortable as you'd imagine. Always waking up on the floor. Worst of all my family wasn't even home! The only people keeping me company were the shirtless men listening to Joe Rogan and the Planet Fitness employees who say mean things like "Sir you can't stay here." and "If you're not gone by tomorrow we'll involve law enforcement." Distant relatives, am I right? Unfortunately they were not joking and I soon found myself on the run from said law enforcement. Luckily all those hours on those elliptical machines paid off, I was like the rabbit from the tortoise and the hare except I actually won that race! After evading those mall cops I found myself dashing out of my house only to find myself in a planet fitness parking lot. Wouldn't you know it? I gave maps the wrong address! So I fixed my typo (only off by three numbers) and sped home from Utah to Ohio to make it home just in time to see my worried family for Christmas eve. Unfortunately, my family moved away without telling me. Guess that's how the cookie crumbles, luckily I knew a pretty nice LA fitness not too far away.

-Carter Seipel, Writer

MISSED CONNECTION: YOU SNEEZED LAST YEAR

First semester last year, we were in Goldman's Classical Mythology class. We sat in the front row, and you were to my right. It was uneventful. That is, until you sneezed. It happened about halfway into the semester. All was quiet as Goldman lectured. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw you lean back in traditional pre-sneeze fashion. But this wasn't any old sneeze. No, this was the weirdest sneeze I've ever heard in my life. It was so strangled, like you were trying to fight it back. It was through a mask, and everyone knows mask-sneezing is like being waterboarded and strangled by a shower curtain at the same time, but this sneeze was like if you put an alien cough through a noise distorting megaphone and then autotuned it.

No one said bless you.

The cherry on top, though? You apologized. You didn't say excuse me, and you certainly didn't stay silent, you apologized. After you sneezed, you paused, and you mumbled an apology. I know this was over a year ago at this point. Honestly, you might have even graduated at this point. And I know you're hoping everyone forgot your weird sneeze and has moved on. Probably everyone has; except for me. It brings a genuine smile to my face every time I think about it.

So, thank you for sneezing weird. Thank you for apologizing for sneezing weird. Thank you for sitting in silence the rest of class. Thank you for being you. May your life travel down a long and fulfilling road, and may all your future sneezes be perfectly normal.

- Lena Hanrahan, Writer

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Hello
my name is

Joe