



What I did during my second semester at school

I made it through this semester despite a season of calamity. In January, I bought a 1994 Geo Metro to replace my ailing Honda. This car broke down 5 times in 5 months. I've had 3 tow truck rides this year alone. I've become intimately familiar with various drivers. Roger has dubbed me the Patron Saint of Tow Truck Drivers, because I counsel each one I meet and pray for them. I actually enjoy tow truck rides: they don't ruin my day. One time my car died on the Mass Pike right after the toll booth. I got to cross under 13 lanes of traffic using the little spiral staircase that leads to the underground tunnel. It was narrow and lined with utility pipes and wires. I felt like I was in a military bunker! Tim B. and Joe Lib, two great friends, drove me to school on days that I did not have a car. Joe even drove me to work on Fridays, so it took 2 people to hold a minimum wage job!

As if that weren't enough, my financial hardship continued. After spending \$1100 buying and registering the Metro, I couldn't afford my 2 mortgages, my condo fees, or my RTN personal loan. So I defaulted. Before I got too far behind in payments, I desperately tried to sell my condo and preserve my good name. There was only one showing in a month where the price dropped from \$92.9K to \$79.9K. I bought the place in 2005 for \$111.5K. I called RTN and told them I couldn't make my payments but that I was trying to sell my home so I could resume payments afterwards. Because of this, they accelerated collection activity and had a lawyer sue me to put a lien on my house before I could sell it. I spent \$600 for a lawyer to unsuccessfully defend me (my Mom voluntarily refunded me the \$600). Because RTN put this lien on my house, and because they were such a pain about it, it became clear that I would not be able to sell my condo because I could never satisfy the lien at closing. So now I am forced to declare bankruptcy. I plan to file in about two weeks. There are two kinds of bankruptcy: Chapter 13, where unsecured debt is stripped (like my 2nd mortgage and the RTN loan) but I get to keep my home. My lawyer calculated that if I did this, I would still be \$500 short every month even after the bankruptcy. For that reason, it would

not go through. So I am going to declare Chapter 7, where I must go through a foreclosure and a bankruptcy but get my debt wiped totally clean. This means it will be incredibly difficult to rent an apartment for a few years. The lawyer suggested I rent an apartment before I declare bankruptcy so I have someplace to live. I'm working on that at the moment, and trying to find a friend to live with.

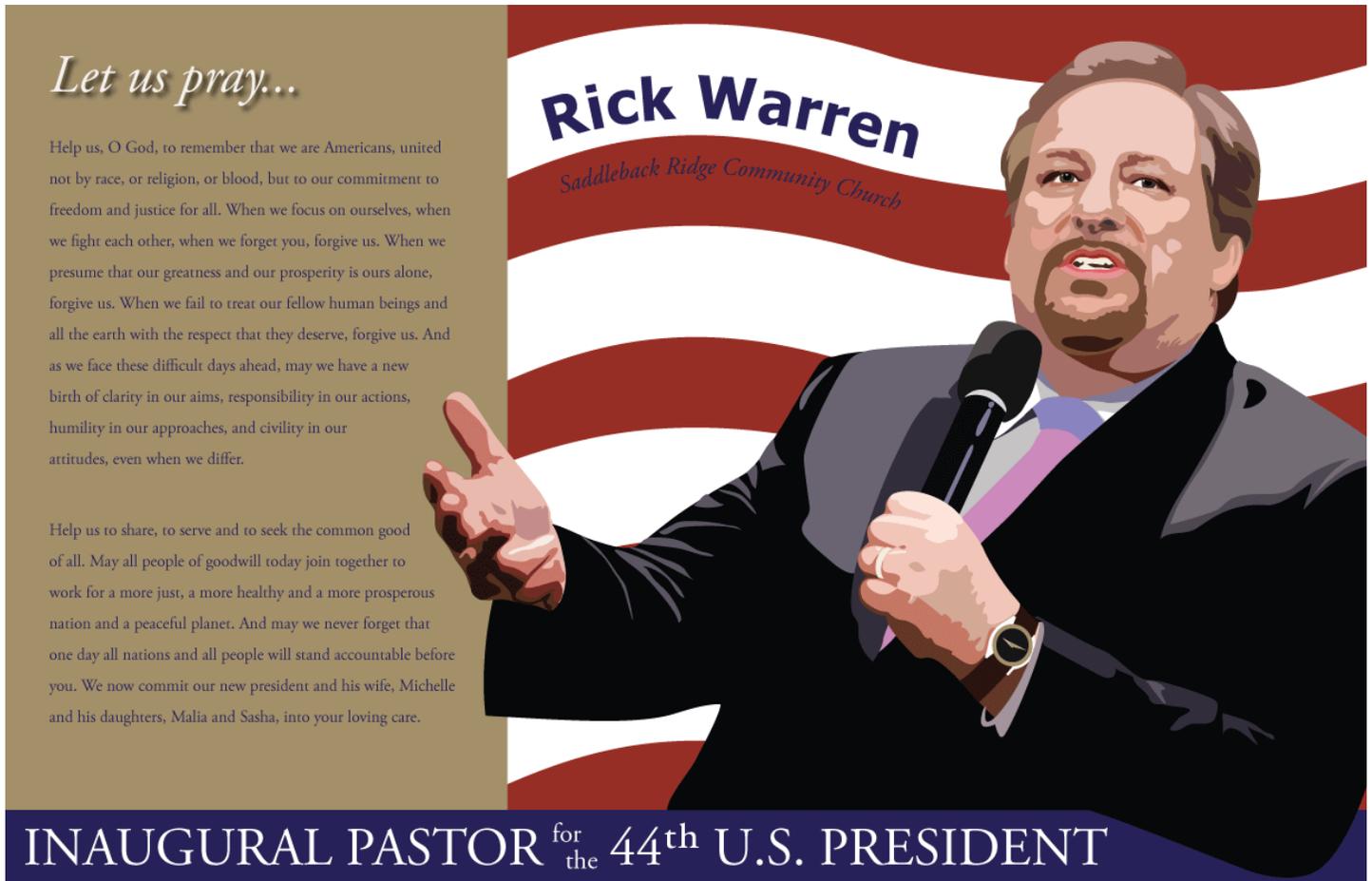
As if **that** weren't enough, I also went through 4 periods of depression that lasted 5 days or more, 1 period of hypomania, and near constant anxiety every day. I got harassing phonecalls from creditors, and plenty of letters from lawyers. I sincerely almost quit school on two occasions because I was having such a hard time with my adversary, who is satan.

But I did not quit: I made it through. God helped me persevere. Everytime some depression hit and I didn't think I'd get my work done, the teacher gave an extension. Just when I needed it, a burst of energy would appear and I'd get 20 hours of work done in just a few days. I completed one project 5 minutes before it was due for presentation. I'm getting straight A's. I am succeeding.

What's showcased here is the various projects I created this semester at Mt. Wachusett. I took three classes and held a part-time job. I worked in the Records Office, filing student records. I looked up my own record, expecting juicy secrets, but found none. The Records Office fed me lunch practically every day I worked. Jo-Anne would always give me pizza or other things. They celebrated my birthday twice! They had cake every other week for some reason or another. It was a really nice place to work. Even though the job was very simple, you wouldn't believe the anxiety I had at times doing it. It involved a lot of working alone, which left me way too much time to think about my anxieties. But in the end, they loved me there and would have asked me back but it wasn't in their budget to have a summer work study. So that was Job #28! And I present my artwork...

Etoonin' is brought to you by the many friends who love me and supported me through this semester.

CGD105 - Illustration



Illustrated Poster Project

Adobe Illustrator is one of the products within the Adobe Creative Suite. It is a tool used to make vector graphics that can be scaled to any size without any loss of fidelity. Illustrator is typically used to create solid color based artwork by overwriting a template photo. I took this class hoping it would help with my cartoons, and it may. The process of illustration is very time consuming and tedious. The end result is amazing though.

The directive for this project was to illustrate either an endangered animal or a prominent social or political figure. I chose Rick Warren because most students illustrate animals. I also chose him to introduce my faith to a class of very liberal Massachusetts students. Rick Warren, of Saddleback Church, gave the inaugural prayer for President Obama. A portion of that prayer is printed on my design. During my class presentation, I pointed out how Rick Warren was the author of The Purpose Driven Life, a book studied by millions of Christians. Rick Warren's Church started ministries of emotional healing, such as Celebrate Recovery, and the AIDS Initiative, to provide for people with AIDS in any country. This project was a phenomenal success. It took 20 hours.

CGD105 - Illustration



Website Interface Project

For this project, we designed a splash page for the front end of a tourist website. I chose Anchorage, Alaska, because I am going there for Summer Solstice. Joe Lib bought me a plane ticket with his frequent flyer miles. Thank you, Joe. I am going to visit my friend Biscuit and his wife Ginger. I've known Biscuit since college. I traveled with him out to Seattle, where I lived for two months in 1995. He stayed there, met his wife, and transferred to Anchorage for his job. They are Mormon. My cartoons, at least partially, inspired him to come to his faith. We're going to have some good times in Alaska. I'll be there two weeks. This project was intended to be a quick breeze before the semester ended. I started it 3 days before it was due. It took 17.25 hours.

CGD235 - Typography

Typography is technically the study of how to design with type. Our class focused on this to some degree, but mostly we learned the Adobe InDesign program, a page layout program. It is similar to Microsoft Word, but gives the user more control. InDesign is the standard in the publishing industry. I wanted to learn InDesign to craft my Etoonin' newsletters. We used InDesign to create layouts and interface with other Adobe products.

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Expressive Words Assignment

This assignment was the precursor to many projects. In this assignment, we were encouraged to use our basic understand of InDesign to manipulate letterforms and come up with whimsical interpretations of words.

CGD235 - Typography



Font-Based Logo Design Project

Tasked to design a logo using InDesign, I came up with this logo for a friend. It is shown here as it might appear on the side of a delivery truck. The clock / car / wrench image was the first thing I designed in Illustrator. It was my first commissioned logo. All the lettering was done using InDesign. This project probably took 8 hours.

Typography was my favorite class of the three. It was an online class, so I only met my instructor a few times. At the beginning of class, I designed an Etooin' completely using InDesign, and she was so thrilled that I was so far ahead of the class. It was my favorite class because the professor was so encouraging. As you know, I like a lot of encouragement as opposed to advice. Anyway, I continually asked all my professors for extensions due to my depressions. Meg told me at the end, "You always ask to turn your work in late but you are always way ahead of the other students in turning your work in."

CGD235 - Typography

	<p>Matthew Carter</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>Georgia</p> <p>Georgia</p>
<p>b, d, h, k, l, t <i>b, d, h, k, l, t</i> RT Whaeg o RT Whaeg o</p> <p>ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 123456789 abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 123456789</p>	<p>Transitional typeface by Matthew Carter</p> <p>The typeface Georgia is a serif, transitional font designed by Michael Carter at Microsoft. It was named after a test headline about alien heads found in Georgia. Released in September 1996, when the World Wide Web was gaining grounds, the purpose of this typeface was to expand the type families for use with MS Windows. At that time, most typefaces belonged to other foundries, which prevented their distribution with Microsoft's operating system. By creating their own fonts, Microsoft could monopolize the print and web world by distributing its fonts for free.</p> <p>Georgia was primarily designed for on screen display. Matthew Carter painstakingly crafted bitmaps for each of the font's alphabet letters, and then developed a vector outline to define them. Hinting, the process of tweaking how the character's outline translates into bitmaps on screen was accomplished by Tom Rickner. This font comes across very classy, being an upscale replacement to the overused Times New Roman. Even down to Spt (Georgia at Spt), the font is very elegant. It has charm and personality. Georgia has a true italic and bold, attractive compliments to the roman type style.</p> <p>Matthew Carter based Georgia's typographic features upon Richard Austin's 19th century cut of Scotch Roman. Georgia's roots can also be traced to Didot, a similar font produced by the Didot brothers from France, a 19th century effort. The influence of the Scotch model can be seen in the horizontal top serifs of the lowercase b, d, h, k, l and the flat of the lowercase t. Georgia has a larger x-height than Times New Roman, ascenders that rise above the cap height and non-aligning high degree of stress on the numerals. These features all lend to the individuality of this typeface.</p> <p>What's that you say? I've got Georgia on my mind</p>

Classic Typeface Project

At this point in my semester, things were getting a little frustrating. I couldn't seem to get the programs to act how I wanted and after struggling one afternoon trying to meet a deadline, I had a temper tantrum. I just couldn't seem to figure out how to get the black and white split on the lowercase "g". I threw stuff around my room and almost broke my picture window and then started aggressively cleaning as I cried and swore at God. Finally I went and did something else and when I came back, I was able to design this. I am very pleased with this because, as a cartoonist, I am very fascinated with black ink on a white page. Even the study of typography concerns itself with this, as in most cases books are printed with black letters on white pages. We were to choose a font family and design a poster using only that one font family. Georgia is a Microsoft font developed to replace Times New Roman but easily be read on a computer screen. This took about 8 hours.

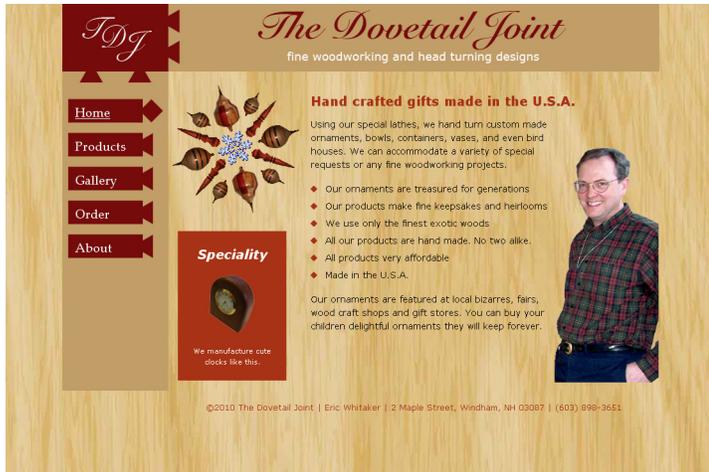
CGD235 - Typography



CD Booklet Project

This was the last project for Typography class. We had to redesign a music CD cover completely. I chose to make a CD cover for a fictitious techno band named *zédèk*, which will be the name of my techno band when I get around to making music. Zedek is the Hebrew word for Jupiter, so I had the thought to use images of Jupiter's surface on my CD Booklet. On the inside of the booklet I had a mock up of the artist giving thanks. I simply gave thanks to all those people in my life who helped me get through this semester. I listened to techno music exclusively while designing this. It took 12 hours to design.

CGD240 - Creative Web Design



The screenshot shows the homepage of 'The Dovetail Joint' website. The header features the logo 'TDJ' and the text 'The Dovetail Joint fine woodworking and head turning designs'. A navigation menu on the left includes 'Home', 'Products', 'Gallery', 'Order', and 'About'. The main content area is titled 'Hand crafted gifts made in the U.S.A.' and includes a list of bullet points: 'Our ornaments are treasured for generations', 'Our products make fine keepsakes and heirlooms', 'We use only the finest exotic woods', 'All our products are hand made. No two alike.', and 'Made in the U.S.A.'. A photo of Eric Whitaker is on the right. A 'Speciality' section shows a clock with the text 'We manufacture cute clocks like this.' The footer contains copyright information: '©2010 The Dovetail Joint | Eric Whitaker | 2 Maple Street, Windham, NH 03087 | (603) 898-3651'.



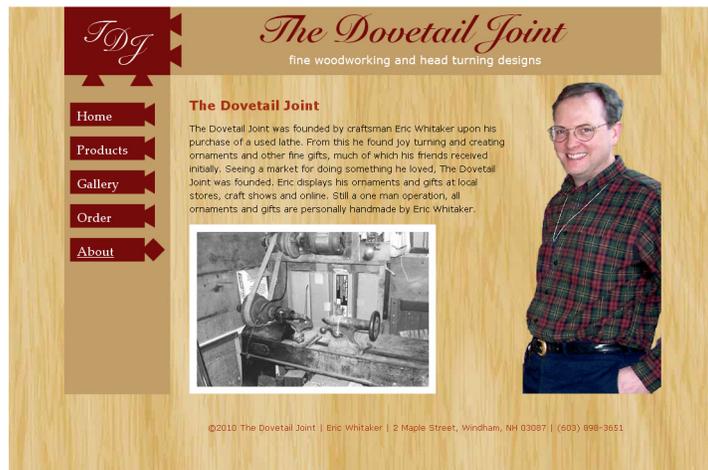
The screenshot shows the products page of 'The Dovetail Joint' website. The header is the same as the homepage. The navigation menu is on the left. The main content area is titled 'A wide selection of hand made gifts available...'. It features three product images: a clock, an ornament, and containers. Below each image is a caption: 'Clocks', 'Ornaments', and 'Containers'. A call to action reads 'If you see something missing, ask us: we can make it.' The footer contains copyright information: '©2010 The Dovetail Joint | Eric Whitaker | 2 Maple Street, Windham, NH 03087 | (603) 898-3651'.



The screenshot shows the gallery page of 'The Dovetail Joint' website. The header is the same as the homepage. The navigation menu is on the left. The main content area is titled 'Gallery - A sample of ornaments we manufacture'. It displays a grid of six different wooden ornaments. The footer contains copyright information: '©2010 The Dovetail Joint | Eric Whitaker | 2 Maple Street, Windham, NH 03087 | (603) 898-3651'.



The screenshot shows the order page of 'The Dovetail Joint' website. The header is the same as the homepage. The navigation menu is on the left. The main content area is titled 'To order, call Eric Whitaker (603) 898-3651'. It includes a paragraph: 'Most of our customers come through word of mouth, since much of the joy of owning a hand crafted ornament is knowing the craftsman who created it, Eric Whitaker. Please contact him at (603) 898-3651 to discuss what you'd like to order.' Below this is a 'Things to consider:' section with bullet points: 'What product you want', 'What colors of wood you'd like', and 'When would you like your order?'. A 'Together we will find the product that is right for you.' section follows, with a paragraph: 'We will be happy to quote you a price for whatever product or project you like. We are pleased to offer free, hand delivery to most of Southern New Hampshire and Northern Massachusetts. Otherwise, we ship products through UPS.' A 'Thank you for contacting us' message is at the bottom. A photo of a vase with flowers is on the right. The footer contains copyright information: '©2010 The Dovetail Joint | Eric Whitaker | 2 Maple Street, Windham, NH 03087 | (603) 898-3651'.

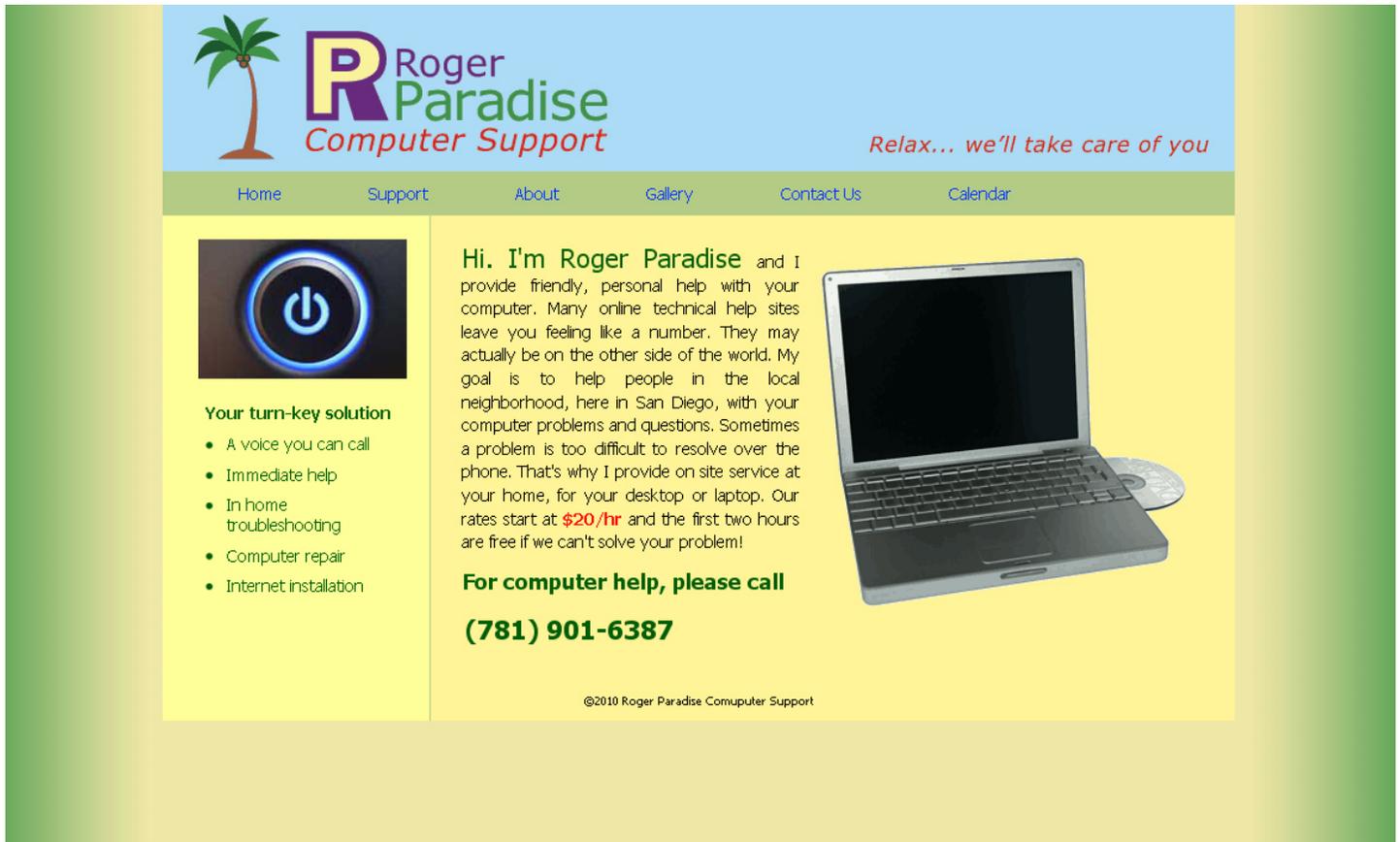


The screenshot shows the about page of 'The Dovetail Joint' website. The header is the same as the homepage. The navigation menu is on the left. The main content area is titled 'The Dovetail Joint' and includes a paragraph: 'The Dovetail Joint was founded by craftsman Eric Whitaker upon his purchase of a used lathe. From this he found joy turning and creating ornaments and other fine gifts, much of which his friends received initially. Seeing a market for doing something he loved, The Dovetail Joint was founded. Eric displays his ornaments and gifts at local stores, craft shows and online. Still a one man operation, all ornaments and gifts are personally handmade by Eric Whitaker.' A photo of Eric Whitaker is on the right, and a photo of his workshop is on the left. The footer contains copyright information: '©2010 The Dovetail Joint | Eric Whitaker | 2 Maple Street, Windham, NH 03087 | (603) 898-3651'.

Creative Project One

Entering into the semester, I was considering a dual Print / Web degree. After taking this class, I decided definitively against Web. I hate designing websites. It is infinitely frustrating. Nevertheless, I finished this website for a woodworker friend, Eric Whitaker. Eric was a great friend when I worked with him at Raytheon. He was my support network at that time. He listened to me whine about everything. He also let me borrow his truck, helped me move to my condo, and lugged a huge fridge out of my 3rd story apartment. I thought I'd repay him with a proper website for his craftsman hobby. This website took 20 long hours to design.

CGD240 - Creative Web Design



Creative Project Two

This last web project I finished one day before the last day of the semester. My teacher gave me a one week extension on it. I did this project for a friend who moved to San Diego. He is interested in starting his own computer support business for the residents around San Diego. He knows a lot about computers. So I designed this site for him to complete my final Creative Web project. This website showcases several things we've learned: contact forms, fireworks galleries and tables. Even though I hate web design, I seem to be pretty good at it. Roger was very pleased. This project took 3 days to complete and 12 hours total.

What makes me happy about what happened this spring so far

While all the motions going through this semester were difficult and painful, I will remember most that I was successful. What once were bad memories of hard times are now transformed through perseverance into positive memories and accomplishments. I learned not to quit, even when the devil forcefully told me to, and I learned that God always makes a way, no matter what. My emotions do not govern God's goodness nor His sovereignty. God is my help and my portion, forever. On days I didn't feel like doing anything, God put me to work on these projects. At times when I thought, "No way will I do it." God led me and I did. I praise His Name forever. I also thank my family who supported me. Particularly my Mother who supplied the cash to keep this cow going. My friends are an enormous support to me, including but not limited to Roger Paradise, Randy Smith, and Joe from the Library. May God bless you.

Good night!