

Waiter! There's a bug in my immune system!

by Nina Willis
Contributor

Illness is nothing new to the average college freshman. We live in a health conscious environment until the day we step out on our own. Granted we do have the basic sanitation skills down to keep ourselves alive and superficially clean, but are we really that careful?

I talked to several students in Beam Hall about severe illnesses they have suffered since we started school in late August. I tallied a whopping 25 cases of the average rhinovirus, also known as the sniffles or the common cold, in the entire building since school began.

The cases that interested me more, however, were the more serious illnesses where medical intervention was necessary.

I acquired four testimonies from Beam Hall freshmen about their illnesses. Dan Schreiman, a 19-year-old male freshman,

caught infectious mononucleosis. Everyone knows mononucleosis as the “kissing disease.” The only fun part about Mono is how you could get it. Mononucleosis is transmitted directly and indirectly through saliva. You could get this by kissing, sharing eating utensils, or sharing drinks. The symptoms of infectious mononucleosis as described by Dan are fever, sore throat, enlarged spleen, and fatigue. I asked Dan how he might have acquired this sickness and he had no idea where it could have originated.

I interviewed Dan while he resting and studying for class, he was obviously not well or ready to do anything physically demanding.

“It freaking sucks having mono, because I can’t do sports or anything,” he told me when I asked him how it feels to be this sick.

The estimated time for healing is six to eight weeks. Anna

Hudson, a 19-year-old female freshman, caught strep throat. Streptococcal pharyngitis affects the larynx, pharynx, and the tonsils, basically the entire throat. Anna noticed that she had chills, a fever, congestion, headaches, and was constant pain in her throat.

Her family had also had strep throat, so Anna knew what she was dealing with and who gave it to her. She was prescribed Amoxicillin, which is one of the best medications for Streptococcal.

With medication, enough bed rest and sleep Anna was ready to come back to school, but still tries to take it easy on her body which is still in recovery. Anna was also relaxing when I interviewed her. She said, “When you have strep throat, everything hurts.”

I was lucky enough to find two males in west Beam Hall who coincidentally suffered from the same sickness. Alex Blair and Joshua Thompson, neighbors on the first floor,

both had the stomach flu. Both suffered from explosive diarrhea, vomiting, and headaches. Josh decided to treat himself with good old fashioned mom’s advice. He rested, took medication when necessary, and just rode it out. Alex Blair, a football player, went to the doctor instead and was placed on a strict clear liquid diet for the next four days. He recovered in an amazing one day, just in time to practice football.

In all actuality, the stomach flu isn’t even related to influenza. It is more likely to be caused by a bad reaction to your daily diet than be bacterial. There are many bacteria however that can cause the stomach flu, officially gastroenteritis, such as E. coli, salmonella, and staphylococcus.

There is so much that we get by on in life, especially with health in the United States. We should learn to be careful, and wash our hands!

Rock band lets you rock out

by Rhea Frederick
Copy Editor

What could be newer and cooler than rocking out on Guitar Hero? Rock Band, the game that includes not only a guitarist and bass guitarist, but also a singer and drummer, came out over the holidays last month.

Unlike Guitar Hero, Rock Band allows you to actually create a 4-person band with a singer, guitarist, bassist and drummer. Gamers have the opportunity to play with a

Fender Stratocaster model guitar. The guitar can be played on either bass, or electric guitar and has two sets of fret buttons, enabling you to “finger tap” notes during solos!

The drum set is a collection of four pads and a bass drum pedal. Drum sticks are included. A microphone in which to sing along in a karaoke fashion is also included. The song lyrics scroll across the top of the screen, and the score is based on the vocalists’ pitch rather

than actually singing the right words.

If a player fails out, it is his/her band mates’ responsibility to bring him back by playing and scoring well during the song.

The more gigs you play, the more fans you gain, while the more gigs you abandon, the more fans you lose.

The game also allows you to do shows all across the world from Paris and London, to Sydney and Tokyo, imitating some of the greatest musicians of the 20th

and 21st centuries.

The Rock Band set list is one that includes rock music from the 1960s to present day, 2008. Some artists include Metallica, Iron Maiden, The Who, The Strokes, Fall Out Boy, and Red Hot Chili Peppers. You can make your own set lists, or pick a pre-made set list perfect for the city in which your band is touring.

Made for Xbox and Playstation, Rock Band can be found at Best Buy, Game Stop, and other game stores.