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# Inside & Out

With The Plain Dealer

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**Joanna Connors**

### DOMESTIC BLISS

## A card up my sleeve for college tuition

Saturday, November 05, 2005

Last week, I promised to report on the American Classic College Tour of 2005. But first, to get us in the mood for talking about college, here's an actual press release we received at Domestic Bliss HQ last week. Let me assure you, this release is, truly, swear-on-the-Velveteen Rabbit, real.



JOANNA CONNORS

College Student Wins FREE Tuition in Online Poker Tournament. Carnegie Mellon Student Awarded One Semester Tuition From AbsolutePoker.com (Kansas City) - Jeremy Olisar, a 21-year-old Carnegie Mellon University student, has won Absolute Poker's free "Win Your Tuition" tournament. Competing for the first time in a college-specific online poker tournament, Jeremy Olisar, from Naperville, Ill. . . . topped all college poker participants from around the world and from more than 300 colleges who were vying for the grand prize of tuition paid for one semester. To compete in the online tournament, which ended in mid-October, students only needed proof of enrollment for fall 2005 semester, to be in good standing with their school, and access to a computer.

Awesome. All this time I've been playing Super Lotto and making the occasional stop at the plasma center to pay the tuition.

But I LIKE this online poker thing. Especially when they restrict it to college students, most of whom are sitting around the frat house after a rousing game of beer pong, debating which major is the easiest. So, congratulations, dude.

How much did Jeremy win? Let's see. By my rough calculations, in winning one semester's tuition to a private ▼ From Our Advertiser

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school, Jeremy cleared approximately \$865,765. Give or take a grand. (Figure does not include money for textbooks or beer pong supplies.)

Of course, the participants from the other colleges lost approximately \$5,976,345. (They left out the part about having access to your parents' credit card numbers.) A quick survey of the players also found that, because they were at their computers playing poker for 67 hours straight, 97 percent of them also tanked on their midterms, big time, and will have to repeat those classes if they don't pull their grades up to a D. (By the way? The colleges don't give those repeat classes away free, either.)

**Cash-in on  
all that equity**

OK! Are we in the mood for that college tour, or what?

My first observation from the American Classic 2005 is that looking at schools with a daughter is much more informative than going with a son. For one thing, you see her once in a while.

Sons tend to do these tours as if they're under a restraining order, and must maintain a distance of 4,000 yards from you at all times. On this tour, I actually saw one kid beaming infrared gamma rays at his mother, willing her to STOP ASKING QUESTIONS. OR TALKING. TO ANYONE.

Daughters, on the other hand, communicate quite a bit on these tours. It starts before you even leave.

**CONTINUED** 1 | 2 Next

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