

#1: First Heart A-Hack Victim

In January, an Arizona socialite will be charged with murder after it was uncovered she hired a former disgruntled employee of a leading medical device firm to hack into her cheating husband's pacemaker and deliver a lethal shock to his heart. Shares of the company's stock will plummet on the news and untold numbers of pacemaker-wearing philanders will be "shocked" into relearning that old adage: "Hell hath no furry like a woman scorned."

#2: A "Home-Colleged" Billionaire

Unlike Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, who at least attended a semester at Harvard before dropping out, the world's latest young billionaire genius will be a 19 year-old Greek-Canadian immigrant who has never set foot on a college campus. This teenager managed to educate herself entirely through free-online courses offered by Udacity, Coursera and EdX. In a related story, dozens more of the world's leading professors will announce plans to join the MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) movement.

#3: Giving Passwords the Finger

Tired of remembering countless number of passwords? Or, perhaps, you're just tired of typing the *same* password into countless different accounts. Well, 2013 is likely to offer some relief as a Silicon Valley start-up will unveil a sensor capable of reading your thumbprint via a small piece of silicon located under the glass of your mobile device. So, yes, you can finally give the finger to too many annoying passwords. Two thumbs up!

#4: Self-Driving Ms. Daisy

Taking advantage of the new 2012 California law authorizing the use of self-driving automobiles, a leading grocery retailer will announce a trial program to chauffeur elderly customers to a select number of stores in the San Francisco Bay area where patrons will be able to grocery shop, have prescriptions filled, as well as, visit the in-store health clinic. Initially, the brightly colored vehicles will have a company employee in the front passenger seat to appease first-time users but the expectation is that customers will soon warm to the chauffer-less chauffer service.

#5. The Everlasting "Gabstarter"

Not to be mistaken with Willie Wonka's fictional "Everlasting Gobstopper"—a candy that can never be finished—the "Everlasting Gabstarter" will be the first life-long textbook. Dedicated to the subject of neuroscience—a field estimated to be doubling in knowledge every two years—the textbook will be continuously updated through a collaborative process. How neuroscience students will replace the "beer money" they used to get at the end of the year by selling their used textbooks back to the campus bookstore remains unclear.