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Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

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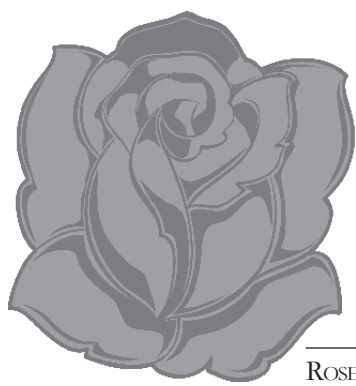
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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2012 • VOLUME 48 • ISSUE 12

saturday
sunny
38°/27°

sunday
partly cloudy
42°/28°

monday
cloudy
40°/30°



The Hobbit was much hyped, but did it deliver?
Page 4



New Year's resolutions are hard to keep. Get help now!
Page 5

?#@*&%!

Is swearing the message Rose should be sending to prospective students?
Page 6



The Engineers inch toward the Top 25 with their 8th straight win.
Page 7

Rose embraces the holiday spirit



Mitten Tree

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

In its ninth year of service, the “Mitten Tree” returned to the Union lobby earlier this month. Mittens, scarves, hats, and other assorted winter gear filled out the tree as the holidays approached. All donations will benefit children of Franklin Elementary in Terre Haute.

This year, the campus community has banded together more than ever to help keep children warm this season.

“The tree is fuller this year than I have ever seen it,” Dean for Student Services Donna Gustafson told us.

Though the drive ends today, lingering donations are always welcome; Gustafson said she personally would make sure any and all contributions made their way to the school even after this week.



Bikes for Tykes

Santa’s elves came in the form of over 300 hard-working students and faculty members who gathered in the Facilities Operations Center last Saturday to assemble 420 bicycles and tricycles for the annual Bikes for Tykes project.

The event, which has been supported by Rose-Hulman students for 14 years, is organized by the Exchange Club of Terre Haute, with all contributions benefitting area children this holiday season.

Long before the student engineers get involved, the Exchange Club collects donations across area banks and radio stations to purchase the kits which arrive at the impromptu Santa’s workshop each year.



Cookie Tree

A holiday staple of Hadley Hall returned again this season. Upperclassmen, faculty, and staff had been eyeing the tree which had been placed for a few days, and on Monday, the familiar sight of cookies, treats, and snacks surrounded the appropriately named “Cookie Tree.”

Morning switchboard operator Mary Greer continued her nine-year tradition of spreading the holiday spirit by preparing and individually bagging the assortment of treats available to students, faculty, and staff passing by during the day.

Though work begins months in advance to prepare enough for all of campus, Greer says the pleasure of watching the reactions and enjoyment of those who stop by to pick something out makes it all worth it.

Photos courtesy of Rose-Hulman News

Lakeside’s “green” report card

NEW HALL MEETS HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Ranjana Chandramouli • staff writer

Following a year of construction, Lakeside Hall opened this year on campus as Rose’s first LEED Silver-certified building. After four months in use, Lakeside Hall contributes greatly to the sustainable environment Rose-Hulman is cultivating.

Lakeside’s performance can be seen through an interactive board in the Hulman Memorial Union, which allows students to visually graph the energy usage in various residence halls and buildings around campus. Since its opening August 20, total energy usage in Lakeside has accounted for approximately 6.71 percent of the 220,002 kilowatt-hours used throughout the nine residence halls and the Union.

In the same time period, energy usage per person residing in Lakeside

Hall has averaged to 62.5 kWh per person. While both buildings house approximately 240 people, Lakeside’s per capita energy usage is less than half that of the Apartments East/West complex at 138 kWh/person. While a building like Lakeside will indubitably “increase overall energy consumption,” says Jake Campbell, Manager of Environmental Health and Safety, “the benefit...of Lakeside Hall is that [the] impact is minimal compared to older technologies.”

Lakeside Hall’s purpose, however, is not just to provide more sustainable practices on campus. As the late President Branam noted at the hall’s groundbreaking in August 2011, the residence hall was built to “address the demand to have more students living on campus.” However, Rose-Hulman turned the necessity into an opportunity to “reflect [their] true

commitment to sustainability...[by] constructing a LEED-Silver residence hall,” Campbell said.

Green practices were incorporated to both design and construction to meet the standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) regulations. Ninety percent of the building was designed to have access to exterior views and natural lighting and white thermoplastic roofs allow for more natural temperature control. Eighty-five percent of the building materials came from within 250 miles of campus, according to Campbell. Individual thermostats, light sensors, more efficient boilers, and recyclable flooring materials are just a few of the other “energy-efficient features” that were integrated into Lakeside Hall’s construction.


In addition to these physical fea-

tures, students were asked to sign a pledge to be more “green” in their living habits, and an on-line monitoring system was created to make students more conscious of their energy usage campus-wide. Lakeside Hall, which houses approximately the same number of people as the Apartments Residence Hall (240) and Percopo (217), demonstrated the ability of sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices to “lessen the impact” of a new, necessary building on campus, as Campbell said.

Compared to 32,292 and 28,082 kWh consumed by the Apartments Residence Hall and Percopo Hall, respectively, Lakeside, at similar occupancy, has consumed 14,757 kWh in the past four months.

Continued on page 3

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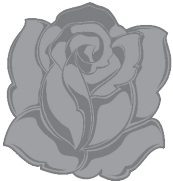


THE ROSE THORN

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ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the first through ninth Fridays of each academic quarter.

WEEKLY MEETINGS OCCUR at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Wednesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submissions may be made by email to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Hulman Memorial Union room 249. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.

THE RIGHTS to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to include submissions in the online edition at thorn.rose-hulman.edu, to edit submissions insofar as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no longer than 600 words in length and must contain the writer’s (electronic) signature.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the Staff View, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

All aboard the Railroad Engineers Club

Jason Latimer • copy editor

The latest club to join the Rose-Hulman campus is the Railroad Engineers Club, headed by Emeritus Professor Jim McKinney of the Civil Engineering Department and junior civil engineer Gregory Frech, who is president of the new club. The club hopes to further railway education for students at Rose and open up possible career paths in the field. The club is part of a larger national organization, the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA). It was at one of the meetings for AREMA that sparked the idea to create a local chapter at Rose.

“Really this whole thing came to a head when Dr. McKinney of the Civil Department suggested bringing students to the 2012 AREMA conference in Chicago,” Frech said. “He’s a member of a project called Nurail

that’s a cooperative effort between a number of engineering institutions to bring more railroad education into engineering curriculums.”

AREMA was formed in 1997 through the merger of four industry-related associations that each started in the 19th century. The group publishes recommended practices for building and maintaining railroads in both the U.S. and Canada.

“I believe a club such as ours is important (on campus) because it fills a gap left by curriculums not covering it, while focusing on something more specific than a group such as ASCE or ASME could,” Frech said, who has been interested in railroads since a young age. He started volunteering at the Illinois Railway Museum at around 12 years old.

The two other students who were heavily involved with forming the local AREMA chapter were jun-

ior mechanical engineer Sam Beck and sophomore civil engineer Zach Ehlers, who are currently vice president and secretary/treasurer of the club, respectively. They, together with Frech, started arranging this group with Dr. McKinney during the spring of last year and formed the club over the summer. The group, which is hoping to become a trip-oriented organization, is kicking into full gear and already has plans to give students direct hands-on experience.

“We hope to provide a group where anyone from experienced railroad-

ers to someone with no idea about anything to do with railroads can come and learn about them as well

as provide professional opportunities such as site visits and guiding job applications,” Frech said. “We are currently planning a site tour of the Indiana Railroad in January, and hope to have a few other field trips over the course of the next two quarters.”

Frech said that anyone who is “interested in railroads in the slightest” is welcome to come to the club’s monthly meeting, and dues for next year are waived for anyone who joins. Anyone with questions about the club is asked to email Frech or Dr. McKinney.

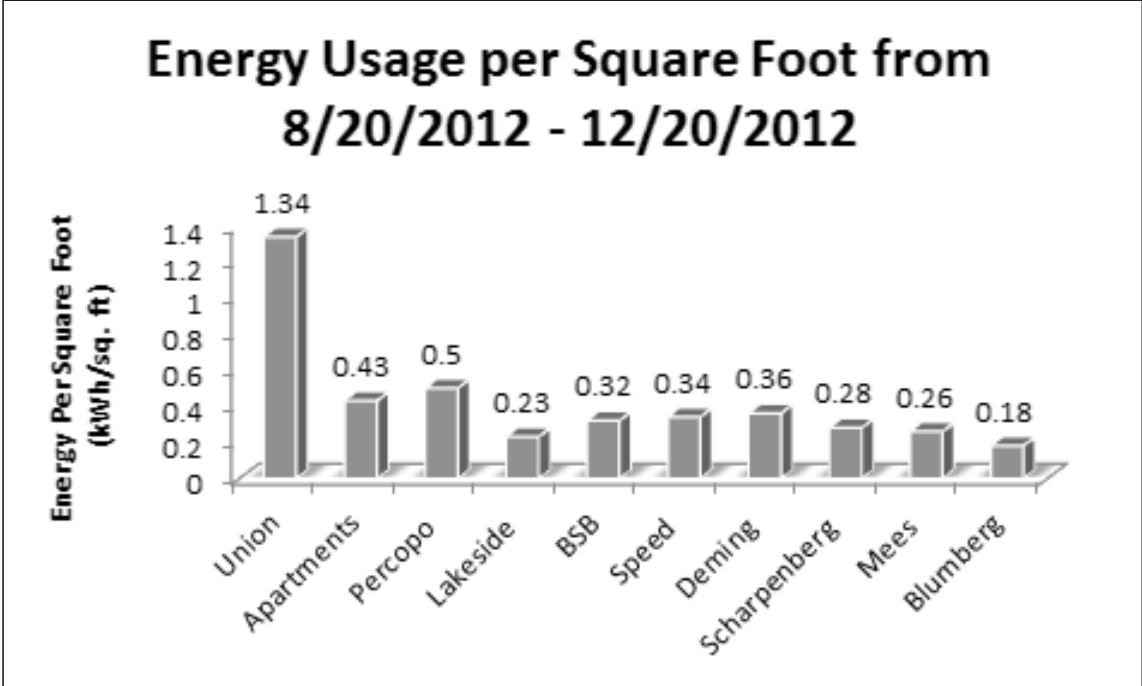
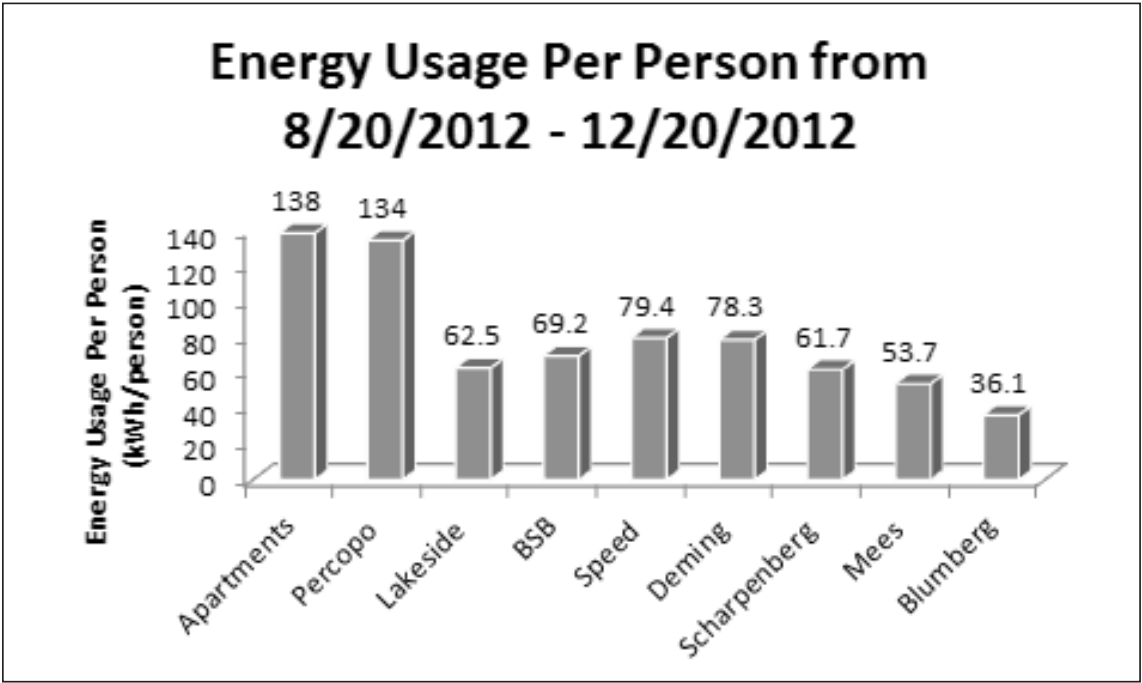
Lakeside, from page 1

In terms of per capita energy usage since August 20 of this year, Lakeside consumes more than only the three triplet buildings, Mees, Scharpenberg and Blumberg Halls.

Perhaps most staggering is the fact that for a 75,000 square foot building, Lakeside only consumes 0.23 kWh per square foot. Only Blumberg, at 0.18 kWh/sq. ft, consumes less. Again, their usage is less than half of those buildings with comparable oc-

cupancy and size: Percopo uses 0.50 kWh/sq. ft and the Apartments 0.43 kWh/sq. ft.

With Lakeside Hall proving that sustainable practices can show a noticeable effect on energy consumption, Rose-Hulman moves onto other sustainable practices. Campbell remarks that they “[use the technologies] in Lakeside Hall as [the] campus standard” as the remodel and replace equipment to use more efficient technology.



Lakeside has outperformed similarly-sized Percopo and the Apartments and has only performed worse than the smallest residence halls, the Triplets.
Data adapted from buildingdashboard.net/rose-hulman

News Briefs

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

House to vote on Boehner’s backup plan

On the edge of the fiscal cliff, House Republican leaders moved toward a vote on Speaker John Boehner’s plan in hopes of averting fiscal crisis. The main facet of what has been dubbed Boehner’s “Plan B” is canceling tax increases for all but the wealthiest class of Americans in January. The plan came about as a way to potentially force through a measure to pressure Democrats in the Senate to avoid the effects of large tax increases and major spending cuts that are set to take effect at the beginning of the year. Though talks between Boehner and President Obama have driven to offers from each side which differ very little numerically, Senate Democrats have threatened that “Plan B” will not go through. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, the Senate majority leader, said he would not even bring the plan to the Senate floor even if it passes through the House. The Senate does have the option of amending the plan and sending it back to the House for another vote; otherwise, each side would be back to the drawing boards with just over a week left in 2012. Politicians on both sides of the issue said there will be no rest until at least a temporary fix has been approved. Representative Eric Cantor avowed no House members would be returning home for the holidays until both sides agree on a solution.

South Korea elects first female president

Park Geun-hye of the Grand National Party (recently renamed the Saenuri Party) was elected the first female president of South Korea on Wednesday, garnering 52 percent of the national vote. Moon Jae-in of the Democratic United Party received the other 48 percent, according to the nation’s National Election Commission. President Park will take over the office in February, promising to “take care of our people one-by-one.” South Korea, a strategic Western ally and the fourth-largest Asian economy, has struggled recently with income inequality and employment prospects for the youth of the country, along with continued struggles with neighbor North Korea. Both candidates’ plans were moderate, addressing the income divide and global relations. Park, who served four consecutive parliamentary terms from 1998 to 2012, is the daughter of former South Korean president Park Chung-hee, who led the nation from 1961 to 1979.

President Obama named “Person of the Year”

Time Magazine announced on Wednesday’s edition of NBC’s “Today” show that President Obama had been chosen as its annual “Person of the Year” for the second time. His first honor came in 2008 after being elected president over opponent John McCain. Time’s White House correspondent Michael Scherer said the deciding factor was “the Obama effect,” describing how his influence was quantified in terms of “wars stopped and started; industries saved, restructured, or reregulated; tax cuts extended; ...” among other factors. The runner-up for 2012 is 17 year-old Malala Yousafzai, the teen Pakistani who became famous for her work in advocating education for girls and was targeted by the Taliban in an assassination attempt in October. Others on Time’s final list of contenders were Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi and Bill and Hillary Clinton.

GOING WHERE HOBBITS HAVE ALREADY GONE BEFORE

An expected success to an already successful movie franchise

Marcus Willerscheidt
editor-in-chief

One question entranced audiences last weekend: what has Peter Jackson done? As you might have guessed, or probably just know, “The Hobbit” was released last weekend. This movie greeted acclaim and skepticism in a manner unseen since “The Phantom Menace.” So the world asks again, was this movie worth the hullaballoo, or was it simply another money grubbing attempt to set up a lucrative trilogy that reminds movie goers of the golden years?

It was worth it. There. It’s been said. Although a world-building movie that resembled the second “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “The Hobbit” glowed with adventure and well-punctuated action.

Furthermore, this movie did an excellent job of adhering to the book. Bilbo, the reluctant hero, joins a band of displaced dwarves as a burglar, and a combination of hilarity and personal growth ensue. The quest for the Lonely Mountain is on, and Thorin son of Thrain son of Thror is the leader of this ragtag vanguard. So, it is hardly a spoiler to tell you that the movie ends with the Lonely Mountain in sight and a whole other mov-



ie’s worth of action to go.

In regards to theatric elements, this movie closely resembled that of its Lord of the Rings counterparts. It showcased all the flowing landscapes and ornate garments that would fit a fantasy world. In more ways than one, this movie hearkens to “Titanic.” But like all otherworldly epics, one can never seem to shake the reality of being in a

movie theater. The acting was pretty good, but it was not the crowning achievement of the movie. However, Sir Ian McKellen’s proved an important piece for the movie. His ample screen time added a good deal of acting skill and eminence to the movie.

Most of all, the soundtrack made the movie. The “Misty Mountain” theme that played throughout “The Hobbit”

added depth and impression to battle scenes that would otherwise all have blended into the wallpaper. This piece alone puts “The Hobbit” on par with the rest of “The Lord of the Rings.”

So while many may not see this movie out of spite and others will see it simply because it’s now a part of “Lord of the Rings;” it is well worth the viewing. It makes one

imdb.com

wonder who on the Rose-Hulman campus DIDN’T go see it last weekend?

It stands on its own, and it stands apart.

Rating: 3.5/5 elephants



A NEW TRILOGY BRINGS NEW JOYS TO "HALO"

“Halo 4” keeps the series alive in ways both familiar and new

Derek Robinson • staff writer

The “Halo” series has always been a fan favorite, and Bungie set the bar high for sequels with each new installment. Between riveting campaign and intensely fun multiplayer, each game has been a refreshing slice of something new while still maintaining excellence and great mythos. Aside from “Halo 3: ODST,” every game has been a hit with both players and critics, and the announcement that 343i had taken up the mantle had many fans eagerly awaiting the next appearance of the Master Chief. Many weren’t so sure that a brand new developer, and a Microsoft subsidiary to boot, could bring back the glory that Bungie led us all to expect from the series. Doubts aside, “Halo 4” was one of the best-selling games of the year.

“Halo 4” does indeed bring us a return to Master Chief, and the campaign does not disappoint. It is a little short: my roommate got through normal in about six hours, and even legendary only took me about fifteen hours

to experience. Even still, it’s a glorious addition to the series’ plot. The story is riveting, including great dramatic elements and introducing new enemies and weapons. The introduction of the Prometheans and their weapons adds a little spice to what had been up until this point largely the same gameplay from game to game. Vehicle combat is fun as always, and the addition of a new UNSC vehicle and the ability to fly a Pelican gave fans something we’d long been waiting for. From start to finish, the campaign will keep you hooked, even though legendary might leave you swearing at the game for a good portion of time. No matter what difficulty you play, the finale is just as epic and rewarding as Master Chief’s tale always has been, and is more than worth a playthrough or two.

Of course, since “Halo 3” released, a large portion of players have been addicted to the multiplayer. Even before the popularity of Xbox LIVE, players were setting up LAN parties to compete in “Halo: Combat Evolved,”

and it’s been steadily growing ever since. “Halo 3” saw the massive growth of LIVE and a few new weapons, as well as a smidgen of armor customization. “Halo: Reach” introduced armor abilities and yet more armor customization to give fans a feeling of progression. With “Halo 4,” 343i attempted to take yet another step forward. Fans will be glad to know that the Battle Rifle has returned, and true sprinting is back, as opposed to the armor ability in “Reach.” Armor abilities were modified largely according to players’ requests, and the addition of Tactical Packages, Support Upgrades, and specialization classes bring an almost “Call of Duty”-esque feel to the loadout customization process. The multiplayer feels largely the same as it always has, albeit with a little personalization based on one’s preferred playstyle. A few new game modes bring even

more flavor to an already rich experience.

Unfortunately, 343i is still a new (and learning) developer, and the game has had its share of issues. A few weeks ago saw a massive bug within the multiplayer servers which left an estimated 300,000 players unable to connect for unapparent reasons, and I myself was affected by the issues. Even after the apparent fix (and possibly a result thereof), many bugs exist within the multiplayer system. Occasionally, kills are not recorded on the scoreboard, the kill awarding system has led to some betrayals counting towards the enemy score, and the betrayal booting system is a little questionable. A much more widespread

problem is the matchmaking system itself. Often, a poorly chosen host causes all of the players in a match to suffer from heavy lag, and host removal can postpone a game for minutes at a time while the system chooses a new one. Team balancing occurs as soon as voting starts for a map, and it’s not uncommon for most of a team to exit a lobby before the chosen teams are visible and leave one side massively disadvantaged or not even present.

All in all, “Halo 4” has turned out to be a great game. 343i made a huge gambit when they assumed the role of continuing the series, and in many ways they succeeded. Perhaps it was inexperience or pressure to meet a deadline, but something caused the game to feel a little short of finished. Even under the pressure of such issues, it’s such an entertaining experience.

Rating: 4/5 Elephants



The campaign does not disappoint

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS STARTED OUT RIGHT

Cody Roberts • guest writer

For the many of us out there creating another New Year’s resolution, hiding in the shadows and always trailing behind is the word “broken.” Annually, people attempt to change their lives for the better but to no avail. It doesn’t

ing from you, the new president. Or, that this will be the year you’ll actually volunteer at that hospital or that soup kitchen on a regular basis instead of just succumbing to the perpetual cycle of blood drives where you can proudly proclaim yourself as a participant.

”
Trailing behind is the word “broken.”

matter what the resolution is per say but more importantly that you actually start it, which is how I often fail.
Sure, you can tell yourself that this will be the year you’ll actually get involved with other human beings—that those emails filling your inbox with weekly club meetings will turn out to be com-

nation. So here are some tips to ensure that can at least start off on the right foot. Say you want to volunteer or join a club, email the organizer or president before the end of the year.
That way, you shift the responsibility from you needing to remember into that person needing to remember to re-

spond to you. You don’t even have to recall that you sent the email; the other end will send you a nice reminder with something in your inbox once you return to campus. You’ll be able to wake up after a long string of parties, forgetting where you are, and even forgetting who you are because that reply message will set you straight in the world.
This process doesn’t only work for clubs and volunteering either, you can transform yourself from the person lacking a summer internship this year to the person with a first-rate job in the next year. All you have to do to start is leave a sincere message for your favorite professor, asking for a letter of recommendation, and then head off to your next party.
Actually, it’s preferable to do this earlier because a message of this kind will induce hair pulling from the professor and possibly rapid aging, but your goal will have been achieved.
If you also decide to call someone, this will work to

your advantage too. Odds are that the company is closed for the holidays or the contact is vacationing in a nicer place than Terre Haute.
So you’ll probably end up talking to yourself for the automated messaging service rather than confronting another human being. This will even be more effective than emailing, since ignoring someone trying to call you is much more difficult than pressing the delete button in your outlook account.



Although this may be the fate of a New Year’s resolutions list, it could never hurt to have a good start... at least until Epiphany.
www.pithlessthoughts.blogspot.com

But once this first contact has been made, at least you’ll be on the long and treacherous path of keeping your resolution. And even if your resolution eventually is broken, trying and failing will always be better than lacking the initiative to start.

Some fun facts on the holiday

Casey Langdale • staff writer

- Last New Year’s Eve over 117 people were injured on New Year’s Eve due to fireworks, and at least 11 of these lost fingers.
- 12.5 percent of college age students admit to having broken up with someone on New Year’s Eve.
- 40 percent of college age students have woken up with an unknown injury.
- 75 percent of parties have 20 or fewer people.
- In 2009 2,760 vehicles were stolen on New Year’s Day.
- 45 percent of people make New Year’s resolutions.
- Of those over 25 percent are abandoned by January.
- Losing weight is the number one New Year’s Resolution.
- Last minute, online hotel booking spikes to over fifty percent greater after the New Year.

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EMAIL THORN-LIVING@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU WITH FUN THEME IDEAS YOU’D LIKE TO READ AFTER THE WINTER BREAK!

Make fun out of family New Year’s Eve

Casey Langdale • staff writer

While students are back at home over break, it is not hard to imagine parents being over possessive and hoarding their children to themselves so they can get their fill of attention and time with their children. If this is the case, you may be stuck inside on New Year’s Eve and have to find some other way to pass the time while everyone else is out setting off fireworks or other similar activities.
The best option would be that your entire family watches a movie together, preferably a comedy that can vary based on the ages of everyone in the room, that way even if siblings are in the house they can enjoy it as well. Monty Python and the Holy Grail would be my suggestion, since it is a movie which becomes funnier every time you watch it. It barely matters if anyone has seen it before.
Of course there is the off chance that someone else in the

family has called dibs on the television so that they can watch the ball drop or some other way of expressing that it is a new year. Unfortunately, when this happens the only advice I have is to pick a really good board game and stick with it all night long.
If you are looking for something to just take up the entire night in one go and then be done with it the best options are Risk and Monopoly. After all, who has heard of a short game of those two? On the other hand if you would like to make a couple of jokes, try a couple rounds of Apples to Apples. That game is perfect for anyone who has even a remotely sarcastic family because the worst possible card will be

played at the best possible time.
If by some chance neither of these works out well, then my personal opinion is to embrace the spirit of the season. This is the one opportunity you will have to wear the sweater that grandma almost certainly gave you at Christmas and to get your point across.
Wearing that sweater, start off pouring cups of eggnog and seasoning them with nutmeg and cinnamon. After you finish this, feel free to play whatever holiday music your mother plays most frequently (the

louder you set it originally the more it will impress your parents) and demand that they drink the eggnog and tell you all the silly things they did in their childhood.
Don’t worry this will not actually work, since nine out of ten parents are more terrified of having this conversation with their children than the children are of having it with them. This will, however, scare your parents so badly that they will start looking for something else to do and thus can lead back into one of the ideas suggested above, since entertaining you will have become the priority.
If it is done properly, a New Year’s Eve spent with family can be one of the most enjoyable ways to have spent the night. Sure, it may not be as entertaining as being with friends, but it is far more relaxing knowing that you either still or are just starting to get along with your parents. If you have to stay at home on New Year’s Eve don’t worry, just go with it and have fun.

”
Don’t worry, this won’t work...

100 Words
Silly signatures

Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief

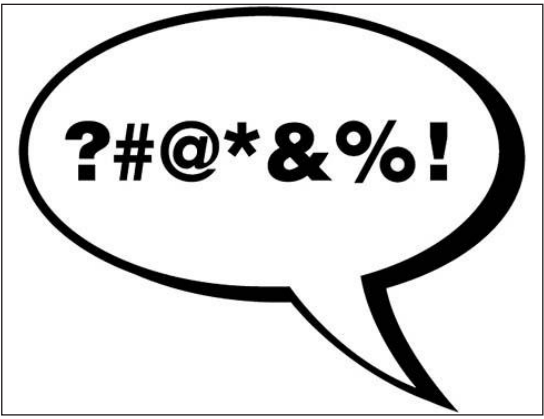
A student email signature is not a résumé. It's not a place to list every club you have a tangential affiliation with, to list every method of communication the world has ever invented, or to include a sanctimonious quote. Most of this information is in the Address Book or on your Facebook. There may come a day in your career where this information will be helpful; even then, you don't need to include it with every reply. So, save the pixels: drop the signature, or at least only use it on new messages. For replies, just your name will suffice.

Say what you mean, mean what you say

Robert Mayhew • guest writer

I had the opportunity to give a campus tour recently. As I crossed the quad mid-tour with a group of three families, a Rose student yelled an obscenity across the lawn to his friend. A real whopper. As I led the tour on down the hill to the SRC, I smiled weakly at the prospective student next to me and mumbled my apologies. Even as the words came out of my mouth, I pondered if this was simply reality on my college campus and therefore an acceptable occurrence on the tour, or if I was justified in feeling embar-

rassed. By the time we reached the SRC, I'd decided that although college was indeed a time of new freedoms, this sort of behavior was unnecessarily rude and was therefore inappropriate.



What kind of community are we if it's expected to hear vulgarities across campus?
openbooktoronto.com

Now, I realize that most members of the Rose community aren't guilty of shouting expletives across campus to their pals. However, I was reminded that what we say is often the only bar by which our character (and what we represent) is measured. This was especially true in the context of the tour I was giving, but its reality stretches well past the confines of our campus. Stay classy, Rose-Hulman.

The other side of the desk: Homage to the Garden State



Corey Taylor • faculty writer

I haven't lived in New Jersey since August 2001, but to this day when asked where I'm from, I answer with New Jersey. For ten years, my family and I lived in a shore town called Barnegat, about ten miles from the Atlantic Ocean. Although it's been over eleven years since I had a New Jersey mailing address, it's accurate to call myself a native. I lived there twice—in Barnegat and in New Brunswick. Growing up, we moved often as a result of my father's promotions, living in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey again by the time I was twelve. I went to college in Pennsylvania and then to graduate school in Delaware, residing in Newark for six years—my second stint in that city. And now, here I am, in Indiana since July 2007.

say, "Hi, I'm from New Jersey." I have to confess, though, that I don't necessarily miss living in the Garden State. During my senior year of high school, I turned down generous scholarship offers from in-state colleges and universities to which I didn't even apply, because I had decided that my college years weren't going to unfold in New Jersey. At college, I always looked forward to visiting my family and friends at home. But as most people who attend a residential college in another state can attest, each visit home can involve a renegotiation with and a redefinition of "home." I was just as happy to return to my dorm as I was to visit my parents' house. In Delaware, I was less than two hours away from my brother and our friends. I visited New Jersey whenever my schedule, workload, and finances allowed. I usually had fun, but the

Delaware Memorial Bridge I felt less like a local and more like a tourist—a dirty word to many New Jerseyans. Since moving to Terre Haute I've visited New Jersey four times. Occasionally, I wonder if I can still claim it as my home state. That was, until Hurricane Sandy slammed ashore near Atlantic City, NJ on the evening of October 29. Hurricane / Superstorm / "Post-Tropical Nor'easter" Sandy claimed 109 human lives, crushed communities in New Jersey and New York, and caused an estimated \$50 billion in damage. An unprecedented hellbroth amplified by climate change, Sandy redrew the New Jersey shore above and below the Atlantic's surface. It captured the country's attention during the tail end of a bitter presidential election season and catapulted the state to the forefront of the American media narrative.

secure their home in Neptune, NJ. Chris never cuts short family time, so I could tell he was concerned. Meanwhile, I was glued to the Weather Channel and to Facebook; I liked a page called Jersey Shore Hurricane News, which updated frequently. As familiar place names appeared—Beach Haven, Ship Bottom, Toms River, Brick, Man-

those without any. Information went out for where to find gasoline, to buy generators, to volunteer time or money or goods. People took photos of lost objects—sports trophies, wedding photo albums, plaques honoring relatives—and ended up getting several of them returned to their owners.

Is this the New Jersey often portrayed in popular culture? No, because that New Jersey is not real: Those housewives and fist-pumping idiots are products and caricatures. How actual New Jerseyans responded to Sandy proves as much.

Thankfully, no one I know or love was killed or hurt by Hurricane Sandy. My family's and friends' property and possessions were undamaged. Chris and Lindsey lost power for eight days, but they got off lightly. It could have been otherwise. Chris and Lindsey are getting married in Asbury Park, a few blocks from the beach, in September 2013. I'm looking forward to the occasion for several reasons, one of which is the chance to be among family and friends in what I'll always consider my home state.

coupled with news and photos of destruction, I felt more sad than I expected

As Sandy was barreling toward New Jersey, my family had gathered in New York to celebrate my maternal grandmother's 90th birthday. My brother and his fiancée, Lindsey, had only been in town for one day before they left to

disconnected feeling that surfaced when I was an undergraduate intensified. Whenever I approached the

90th birthday. My brother and his fiancée, Lindsey, had only been in town for one day before they left to

Why join the Rose Thorn?
You don't know it yet, but you want to crack jokes. You want to draw comics. You want to know all of the latest events. You want to stand up for something. You want to give advice. You want to write. Also, you want free pizza.

Thorn Meetings
Starting Winter Quarter
Free pizza
Wednesdays @ 5:15PM
Olin 257
Free pizza

MOVIN' ON UP

Engineers inch up rankings after eighth straight win

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

Rose-Hulman received just under a dozen votes in the first week of voting for the D3hoops.com Top 25, but little by little the Engineers have proven they



Senior Nate Gissentanner added five points in Saturday's win over Hanover, including this break-away dunk to help pump up the crowd.

Rose-Hulman Athletics

deserve a spot among the top-ranked teams in the nation. A trio of wins last week helped propel Rose-Hulman to the 27th spot in the rankings, just outside the Top 25

by 21 points.

After topping non-conference foes Millikin University 67 – 43 last Wednesday, the Engineers returned to HCAC matchups with a key early-season game against Hanover College. The Panthers finished last season second in conference and look to make another deep run this season, returning most of their starting lineup.

Despite being held to just two points in the first 12 minutes of play, the Engineers rallied back to within nine at halftime, trailing Hanover 22 – 31. Holding their opponents to an average of 47 points a game, Rose-Hulman was not accustomed to the high scoring shootout and looked to play their No. 1-ranked defense in the second half.

But the Engineers could not fend off the offensive prowess of Hanover's Tim

Bass and Ryan Nowicki who combined for 31 points. If defense wouldn't work, senior Austin Weatherford had to step up and hit some big shots. Four three-pointers helped bring the second half to its sixth tie with just under five minutes remaining.

Hanover capitalized on three consecutive steals to go up by six points in the next two minutes, but senior Jon Gerken chimed in with a clutch three-point shot to cut the deficit in half. A steal by Gerken on the following play set up Julian Strickland for a quick jumper to bring the Engineers within one point.

On the subsequent play, an errant inbound pass by the Panthers put the ball in Rose-Hulman possession with 16 seconds remaining. A pair of close calls nearly gave the ball back to Hanover, but the Engineers held on while the clock wound down to four seconds.

Needing a quick bucket off the inbound, senior Nate Gissentanner lobbed the ball to none other than Jon Gerken who went up between three defenders to lay the ball in the bucket. 62 – 61, Rose-Hulman's lead.

With just a second on the clock, the Panthers had to



In his 18th year as head coach at Rose-Hulman, Jim Shaw has led the team to an impressive 10 - 1 start.

Rose-Hulman Athletics

try a desperation heave for a quick turnaround shot, but Strickland intercepted the pass to end the game.

Weatherford led the offense with 16 points and four assists, in Strickland provided consistency with 12 points and seven assists. Freshman Jimmy Miller made his mark on the game, coming off the bench for 10 points in 12 minutes of play.

Conference play resumes next month, but the Engineers proved their strong defense can win games with a pre-holiday break matchup against in-state foe DePauw University.

The Engineers held the Tigers to just 39 percent from the field and sank five buckets from beyond the arc to end the year on a high with

a 52 – 39 win.

Strickland led all scorers with 20 points, six rebounds, and five assists, and Weatherford chipped in with 13 points, five rebounds, and four assists. Gissentanner provided depth off the bench with five points, a pair of rebounds, and a couple of steals in 11 minutes of play.

Rose-Hulman improved to 10 – 1 off the win, remaining tied with College of Mount St. Joseph at 4 – 0 in HCAC play. The Engineers remain the No. 1 defense in the nation across all divisions, limiting opponents to 47.2 points on average.

The Engineers will resume conference play with a home game against Earlham College, who currently sits at 0 – 4 in the conference.

Athlete of

the week

Jon Gerken

Eric Abegglen • guest writer

After beating rival Hanover in a nail biting finish this past Saturday and defeating DePauw on Monday, the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team currently stands 10-1 for the first time since the 1990-91 season. Rose-Hulman held its sixth opponent to under 45 points in a game this season in the victory over DePauw.

In Saturday's close contest against Hanover, senior Jon Gerken scored the game winning shot with 0.7 seconds left in the game. He also contributed nine points and seven rebounds that game. Gerken is averaging 7.8 points a game and cur-

rently leads the team with 79 total rebounds on the year.

For his consistent performance, game in and game out, senior civil engineering major Jon Gerken has been awarded Athlete of the Week. He courteously answered a few questions for *The Rose Thorn*.

Rose Thorn: What was going through your mind in the final seconds of the game against Hanover?

Jon Gerken: As soon as coach called the play, the only thing going through my mind was coming through for the team.

RT: What is your favorite thing about basketball?

JG: The best part about

basketball for me is the comradery you have with teammates on and off the court.

RT: What is your most memorable experience as a member of the Rose-Hulman basketball team?

JG: The time the team spent together in France two summers ago and then our come from behind victory in last year's conference championship game really stand out as experiences I will never forget.

RT: What are your individual hopes/goals for the season?

JG: Making a run into the NCAA tournament would be the perfect cap to my career here at Rose.

2012 Sports Recap

Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor

Over the span of a year, long-lasting memories form and unforgettable events transpire which become ingrained in the proverbial history books of our mind. The world of sports is just one medium in which these treasurable moments arise. To help commemorate the various significant Rose-Hulman sporting events that occurred in 2012, here are just some of the highlights.

Baseball: Captured the HCAC Regular Season title and finished the season with a 27 - 12 record

Football: Won their final three games to finish the season at 5 - 5

Soccer - Men's : Went undefeated in HCAC play (8 - 0 - 1) to secure a share of the conference title for the third time in the last five years

Soccer - Women's: Completed the season with a 9 - 7 - 3 overall record, their best finish since 2008

Tennis - Men's: Advanced to the HCAC Tournament Semifinals, recorded their 15th consecutive winning season

Tennis - Women's: Finished No. 2 in the HCAC regular season standings and won their way to an appearance in the HCAC Tournament title match

Volleyball: Eclipsed the 20-win mark for the second straight season en route to an HCAC semifinal appearance

Wacky
prof
quotes

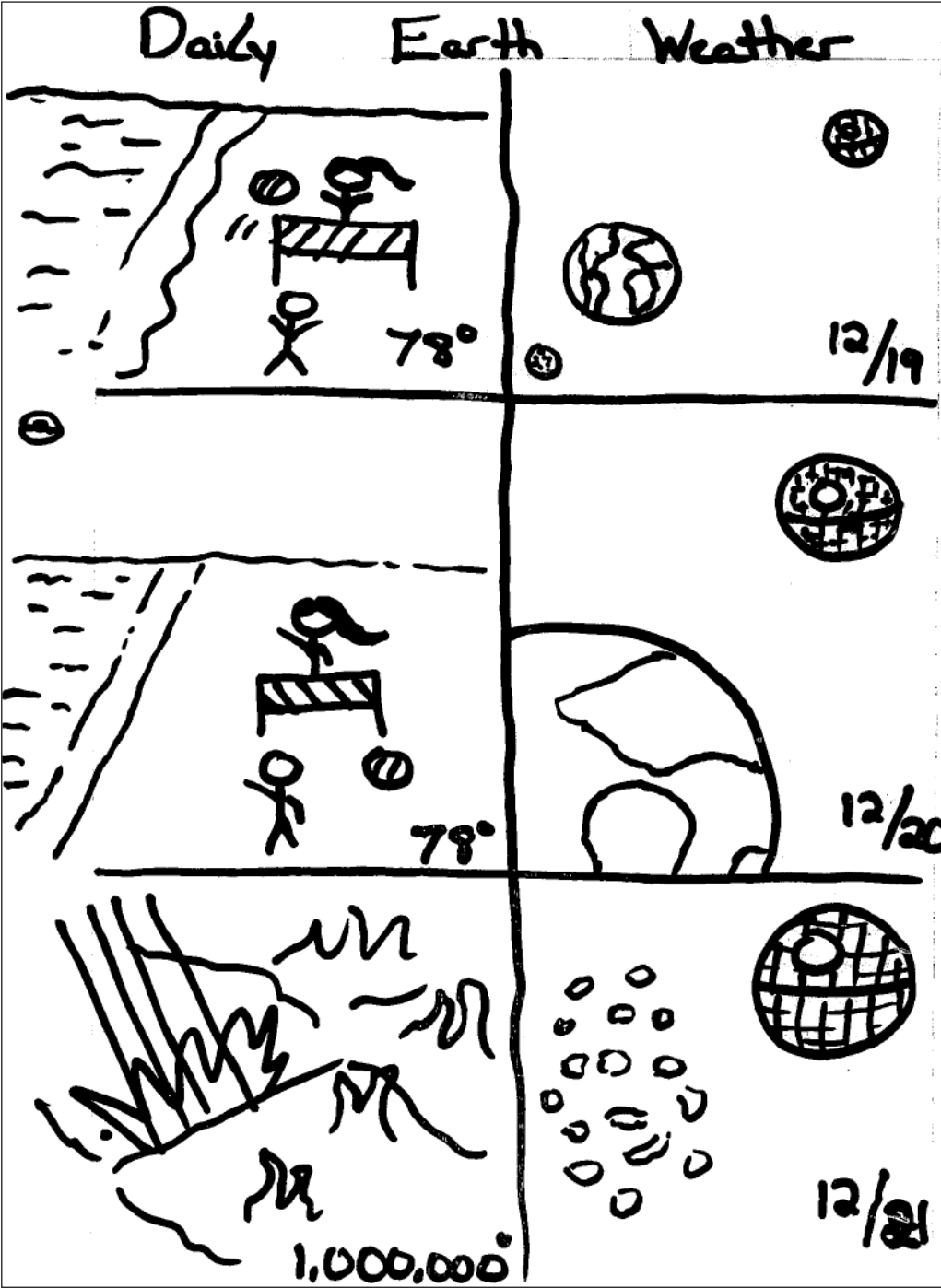
“What if today I went crazy?”
 –Dr. Wheeler. This is an excellent question! Even better, though, what if all of your students went crazy..at once? That’d be crazy.

“Everything boils down to rectangles.”
 –Dr. Simoni. I knew it! We totally could’ve quit school after the fifth grade. By then we knew rectangles and numbers.

“So 3/7 minus 6/7, what the heck is that? Oh. I can do math...”
 –Dr. Eicholz. What’s math? Oh, that? We just use Maple for that!

“What’s a little volume change amongst friends?”
 –Dr. Mayhew. Can’t tell if engineering joke, or, making fun of my weight o_o.

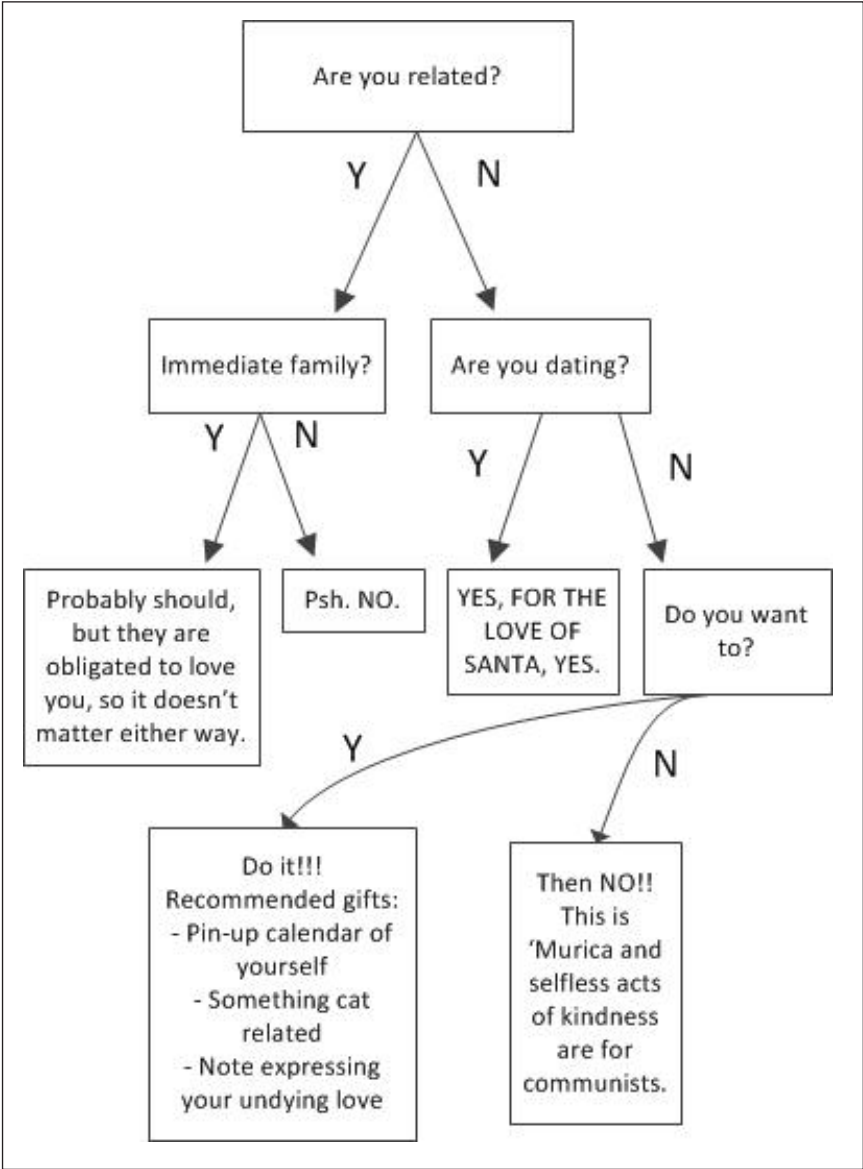
Rose professors say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu for a chance to win a 25\$ Visa gift card!



Blonde Hethen • Thor’s twice removed cousin

Should I buy them a present?
Follow these steps to find out!

Brawn Brosky & Jess Screams • Extraordinarily average duo



Has the world ended?
Our experts say yes!

Baumbata LaFringe • staff wielder

According to expert sources including Wikipedia, 4chan, and Paul (the last surviving Mayan), the unthinkable has happened—the world has ended. When reached for comment about this turn of events, the responses of most students echoed that of Samuel Stevens, who was quoted saying, “Can this wait? I’m a little busy wrapping up here.”

In a recent survey linked through a double-posted SharePoint message, 95 percent* of respondents admitted that they had not looked outside in the last 24 hours, and only 65 percent had actually been outside in the last week. This, according to lead scientist Dr. Schroding, hints at a possible solution to the world-ending dilemma.

“In uhrlie experiments, I found zat vile my kitten vas inside a box vis a Cesium atom, ze probability vave func-

tion necessitates zat ze cat must be both alive and dead at ze same time. I refer to ze results as my ‘cat-in-ze-box’ seorem.**”

Dr. Schrodinger continued, saying that much like with his “cat-in-ze-box” experiment**, the world will not actually collapse into an end-state until it has been observed. He further advised that, “Ze key to continual existence is to be unavare ov your surroundings.” Furthermore, it seems the observation of the world by others has no effect on your world unless you observe them doing so.

Dr. Schrodin is calling his new theory the First Law of Relative Wave Collapse with Applications to Humans in Boxes, which since its first formulation this morning, has already been published by Schrodin in many esteemed scientific journals (including The Onion and World Weekly News), in hopes that it can garner him a Nobel Prize be-

fore the committee actually gets a good look at the state of the world.

According to the theory, Rose-Hulman’s campus has largely not been affected by the world-end due to large amounts of last-minute planning and packing in preparation for Winter Break, which has prevented many students and faculty alike from looking too closely at the world outside.

While traveling over break, top scientists have recommended that you watch the road, but only close enough to avoid hitting oncoming traffic, and preferably while blaring Christmas music (singing along is optional)***.

It is hoped that by maintaining this balance of observation and ignorance, you will avoid seeing whatever it is that caused the world to end in the first place. Unfortunately, we are still unsure of the cause, as everyone who has attempted to study it has promptly ceased to exist. We therefore further

recommend that you stop contemplating the matter. In fact, stop reading this article altogether. Stop it. Stop it right MEOW!

*These results come from 10 actual responses to the survey. This was an unfortunately and unexpectedly low turnout given that the message was posted once with a wall of text, and a second time with proper formatting.

**The Flipside would like to point out that this experiment, while fascinating, is not considered humane treatment of the animal, and Dr. Schrodin is currently facing criminal charges.

***The Flipside takes no responsibility for any fines and/or jail time as a result of operating a motor-vehicle in such a manner.

This is the Flipside disclaimer. Any unattributed content has been written by Sean Gorsky. The Flipside often uses pseudonyms for added hilarity. This weeks writers are Travis Baumbaugh (Baumbata LaFringe), Jessica Reames (Jess Screams), and Ethan Hixon (Blonde Hethen), and Brawn Brosky (Sean Gorsky: 6'0", dirty blond hair, and piercing blue eyes, in case you were wondering). If you'd like to help put content on this page we'd love to get your jokes, ideas, and satire, and put them up on the page with a smashing pseudonym! If you're interested, email thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu