

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Rose Thorn Staff

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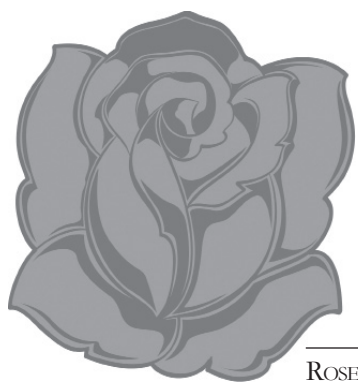
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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 • VOLUME 47 • ISSUE 0

## You are now a Fightin' Engineer

### *President Matt Branam welcomes the class of 2015*

**Matt Branam** • institute president

Congratulations, and welcome to one of the most respected teams of engineers, scientists, and mathematicians on the face of the Earth. We are the Fightin' Engineers of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology – and now, so are you!

We take a lot of pride at Rose-Hulman in being one of the best undergraduate schools in the world. There are a few critical factors that made us number one for the last dozen years that I want to share with you.

First, we start with a great freshman class. That's you. Then, we work very hard to help this group become the number one graduating class. Other schools improve their graduating class using the "sink or swim" philosophy. In fact the average graduation rate for engineering schools in the US is 50%. Rose-Hulman, on the other hand, has one of the highest graduation rates at 80%.

We are the Fightin' Engineers and we fight for each other. Our professors keep extended office hours and fight to help you learn, understand, remember, apply, and experience the subject matter fully.

Our students fight for each other by engaging in study groups. Sophomore year, which is considered the most academically difficult time to be a student here, you will live in special dorms with tutors to help you get through it successfully. Like any great team, we don't win unless everyone performs at their best.

I hope you are excited to be here. I hope you are ready. You are about to be tried and tested in ways that you never thought possible. You are about to struggle longer and work harder than you ever thought practical. But don't worry, you are not alone. You are in good company. You are up for it. And your teammates have your back! Look around: the strangers you see now are about to become your friends for life.

I was a freshman

here myself, back in 1975. I can tell you that a lot of things have changed at Rose-Hulman since then, but some very important things have not. The professors here still make decisions based on the answer to one question: What's best for our students?

Your professors come to Rose-Hulman with outstanding academic credentials, but they don't become Rose professors unless they prove themselves to be outstanding teachers in the classroom. Rose is the best undergraduate engineering school

because great teaching is our faculty's number one priority; not research, publishing, or how much grant money they can attract to the Institute.

Lean on them. Learn from them. They are going to teach you what you need to know.

Your professors have dedicated their lives to making certain that you succeed in their classroom and in your life. Keep in mind that they want to make you stronger, smarter, more curious, and more innovative. They want you to become one of the strongest, most in-demand graduates in

America.

They do not try to make life easier on you. You have to do that yourself by keeping up with your assignments and managing your time wisely. This is the big time. If you fall behind at Rose-Hulman, you are pretty much toast, because much of what you need to know in engineering, math, and science is cumulative. You cannot solve the next problem unless you know how to solve the previous problem.

There are more people who work at Rose-Hulman who do not teach in our classrooms than those who do. We call ourselves "staff." We have been mailing you things and answering your questions, getting you into your rooms and helping you find your way to food. We help you manage your financial aid, clean your room, fix your computer, and avoid parking tickets. We keep the campus safe, fix your lunch, and help you manage life. Get to know us, and you'll have friends for life.

Keep in mind that we are culturally and globally aware, and we want you to be too. We are concerned that you learn ethical judgment and that you learn to weigh your alternatives before you act. You will have lots of opportunities to serve your community, your team and your friends. Get involved! Check out the clubs, the sports, the arts and the life at Rose-Hulman. Stop watching, get in the game!

Remember, when you are struggling to maintain your confidence, to just keep FIGHTIN'. You are among the best and the brightest, or you wouldn't have been admitted to Rose. We know you can do this, even when you think that you can't. You are surrounded by friends who are here to help you, to pick you up when you are knocked down, pat you on the back, and send you back into the ring. You will get the hang of it. You will be a champion. Strive to be the best that you can be at the best school of its kind, and your life will be filled with amazing victories.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Welcome to Terre Haute!

At first sight, it's no Chicago. But dig a little deeper, and you'll be surprised by what you'll find.



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#### Want to expand your horizons?



Rose has a study abroad program that just might be right for you.

Also: Cowboys and Aliens, reviewed.



PAGE 3

#### The insider's guide



Now that you've read the official welcome letter... get the real deal on the back page.

PAGE 4



# We call them “Hautians”

Hobey Tam • staff writer

You’re a long way away from the skyless streets of New York. The rich cuisine of the Bay Area, San Francisco. The party people of Miami on Ocean Drive. The heaven that is La Jolla, San Diego. The night life of Las Vegas and L.A. The ridiculous accent, and equally ridiculous seafood, of New Orleans. The incredible venue in Dallas.

But that’s not even the tip of the iceberg. Days away from Revolucion Drive, Tiajuana. Removed from the clubs, bars, and soccer hooligans of the UK. The lights of Seoul, Korea. The kaleidoscope that is Tokyo, Japan. The melting pot of culture that is Hong Kong. The bustling hub of Singapore where they speak an altered version of English called “Singlish.” You are removed from that world, the real world. Instead, you have chosen to reside in what many call “Terre Haute,” the dwelling place of “Hautians,” for the next four years of your life. You will ask “why, why did I choose this desolate place to call home?” Did I just ruin my life and doom

myself to 4 years of boredom while others party in all those other cities? If you haven’t had these thoughts, you’re already off to a good start. Having traveled to all of the aforementioned places and seen some of the best scenes

in our world, I’m here to tell you that I am still here and that these feelings are perfectly normal. You made the right choice. So, calm down. Parents, your 50 large has not gone to waste.

It is quite unnerving if you are not a Midwest native. You find yourself asking “where are all the buildings?” or “why is there so much corn?” “Why are these people so weird?” or “how can they be this bad at driving?” These questions will often be accompanied by resentful feelings and you will start to close off and become pessimistic and antagonistic towards Terre Haute.

This is the textbook reaction to being pulled from one culture and plugged into another. Dr. Schumacher would call it “culture shock” and it is perfectly normal. Everyone goes through it — even me. The first time you lay eyes, ears, nose, touch, and taste to another

community or culture, it will most likely be different from your own. Obviously Terre Haute does not rate very highly when considering cosmetics.

“Hautians” speak with a Midwest accent — very accentuated vowels and hard consonants that are often difficult for international students or even native English speakers to decipher. Roadhouses and Steakhouses are in great abun-

dance, along with fast food; however, “exotic” dining experiences are very limited when considering the aforementioned cities. These cons are frequently cited among Rose students and alumni.

But, everyone resists change and exaggerates these cons. It is human nature to stick to what you know, and you don’t know Terre Haute yet. So these negative feelings are perfectly natural. Your next task is to get to know Terre Haute. The first step is to be open, social, and integrating. Take advantage of the open door policy and SA/RA system here at Rose Hulman. These systems aren’t like any other in the world and are strictly unique to Rose (Parents, this is where your 50k goes). No one else has, under one university, a system where there is such a high ratio of professors to students, an open door policy, no TAs teaching classes, and a Sophomore Advisor system. No big name universities have professors that you can call at home. None of these prestigious institutions offer high caliber, hands on classroom time with an actual professor. The community of Terre Haute adopts (or perhaps we adopted) the same mentality — good ol’ Midwestern hospitality. That is what makes this place special, the people. If it’s one thing I’ve learned throughout my extensive traveling, it is the people that make life bearable,



Terre Haute may have its quirks, but that shouldn’t stop you from exploring all the city has to offer.

959thevalley.com

just wouldn’t be the same. For Rose to continue its streak of excellence, its students must learn a lesson in humility and become more humble people. Ask any upperclassman or alumnus. The first lesson in being humble is to realize that it is not the success at the end of the journey that leads to you becoming a better person, but the journey itself. Rose ex-

pands your boundaries to surpass all the other competitors from other institutions. To accomplish this, it must first find your limits before pushing

them farther than you thought possible. The city of Terre Haute plays a critical role in this development.

If it’s one lesson learned from this long rant on Rose culture, it is this. Do not be so quick to judge the people of Terre Haute and Rose Hulman, because you are also in Terre Haute. You are a member of both these societies and cultures. We call them “Hautians” and you are one of them for the next 4 years.

Take advantage of the open door policy and SA/RA system here at Rose.



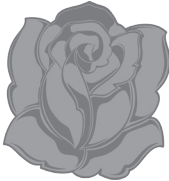
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## THE ROSE THORN

“Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.”

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Marcus Willerscheidt • *entertainment*  
Melissa Schwenk • *living*  
Emily Asman • *opinions*  
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The Rose Thorn is a weekly publication produced by the members of the community of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend weekly meetings, held at 5:15pm on Wednesdays in Olin Hall. We also welcome and encourage all community members to submit articles, photographs, car-

toons, and letters to the editor for publication. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length, and the deadline for content submission is 5:00 p.m. two days prior to publication. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The editors reserve the right to

accept content changes submitted after deadline. All submissions must contain the writer’s signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information. The editors reserve the right to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print. All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the office of The Rose Thorn in Hulman Memorial Union room 249.

Material submitted for use in the print edition may also be included in the online edition located at <http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu>. The views expressed in The Rose Thorn are those of their respective authors and, with the exception of the weekly Staff View published in the Opinions section, do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.



# Studying abroad provides a unique experience

Melissa Schwenk • living editor

As I write this, I'm sitting on a 777, coming home from Germany. Not from a vacation or internship there, but from a year spent studying Chemical Engineering in Magdeburg. It's hard to believe that my time in Germany is already over; who knew eleven months could go by so fast?

As freshmen, you have plenty of choices to make. If you haven't done so already, you need to pick a major. Recruitment and Rush are coming up, so you'll need to decide whether to participate, and then later, which organization to join. One thing you might not be thinking about, though, is whether you want to learn a foreign language.

Rose doesn't have a large selection when it comes to foreign languages but that doesn't mean that the ones we have aren't great. Japanese, Spanish, and German are all good choices for engineers, especially in this job market. Having that language skill might make the difference between getting your dream job and settling for another. If several Rose-Hulman students are applying for the same job, speaking a foreign language might be the only thing that distinguishes you from the rest.

If you have even the slightest inkling that you might want to study abroad, take a language course this quarter and stop by the international office. Since we are such a small school, introduction language courses are only offered

in the fall; that means you might miss your chance to study abroad if you wait until sophomore year. The international office will be able to provide you with all the information you desire about which countries you can visit and for how long. They can also tell you about any language requirements your choice might have, such as the two years of German required for an exchange year in Germany.

If you have any questions about studying abroad in Germany, feel free to send me an email. I'll answer as best as I can. You can also ask your RAs and SAs if they know of anyone who has studied abroad. Chances are hearing about someone's experience will make you want to have your own. If you are seriously interested in a study abroad program, venture to the Student Affairs website for a comprehensive checklist for continuing studies in a foreign country.

Best of luck with your studies at Rose and don't forget to have fun along the way!



Studying abroad isn't all about classes; hiking seems to be required as well.  
Melissa Schwenk / The Rose Thorn

Having that language skill might make the difference between getting your dream job and settling for another.

# Cowboys & Aliens is just inches from greatness

Marcus Willerscheidt  
entertainment editor

*Spoiler alert: if you haven't seen the movie... you might not want to continue on until you have.*

*Cowboys & Aliens* is an old story with a new take; those who would complain about this movie should learn to expand their horizons. While the mix of genres does seem like a recipe for disaster, it actually makes for a creative new storyline. However, this is not to say that the two genres were meant to go together or are easily mixed. After all, for a western, quite a few liberties were taken; when regarded as a sci-fi film, these liberties are expected. Regardless, the film uses an excellent device to bring the two ideas together. If not for the unoriginal characters, I believe this movie could have been one of the top movies at the box of-

fice this year. The device that is key to bringing the film together is an interesting take on a historic feature of the Wild West: gold. It seems so simple, yet it has never been used before. The one thing that drives storylines in Westerns can easily be used to draw aliens there too, as they could use this resource for fuel. So, now the question presents itself: What would happen if aliens showed up in the old west? While the movie starts in a traditional abandoned town with a single rich rancher (Harrison Ford) calling the shots, it quickly

adds the mysterious outlaw Jake Lonergan (Daniel Craig) and an even more enigmatic woman (Olivia Wilde). Lonergan quickly earns himself a reputation in town when he takes on the foolish son of the rich rancher Dolarhyde. The sher-



iff arrests them both for their disorderly conduct and is ready to send them off to the marshal when terror strikes. Dolarhyde rides into town to spring his son, but he is cut short by aliens attacking and kidnapping people. Lonergan gains his

freedom by using a strange, bracelet ray gun; the next day, the town forms a posse to track down the alien whose ship Lonergan shot down. When several characters are killed and the trail seems cold, a 'Deus ex machina' saves the day and pushes the story onward.

*Cowboys & Aliens* plays on the Wild West to create a unique twist on a familiar story. The movie falls short in its attempts to add mysteries to characters that it doesn't have time to explain; it also tries to lengthen the stories of already stereotypical characters. It does however, mix the genres very well, and it has plenty of action to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

*Cowboys & Aliens* finished well at the end of July, slightly better than expected, topping concurrent releases like *The Smurfs*. However, the success is probably attributable more to the star power of Ford, Craig, and Wilde, rather than a stunning plot.

This movie certainly won't win any Oscars, but it definitely deserves the status of must-see.

Reviewer rating: 4 elephants



Above, right: Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford star as a pair of cowboys who stand in the way of attacking aliens.  
cowboysandalienmovie.com





# Rose-Hulman, the insider’s guide

## What you actually need to know about this place

Noël Spurgeon • the real deal

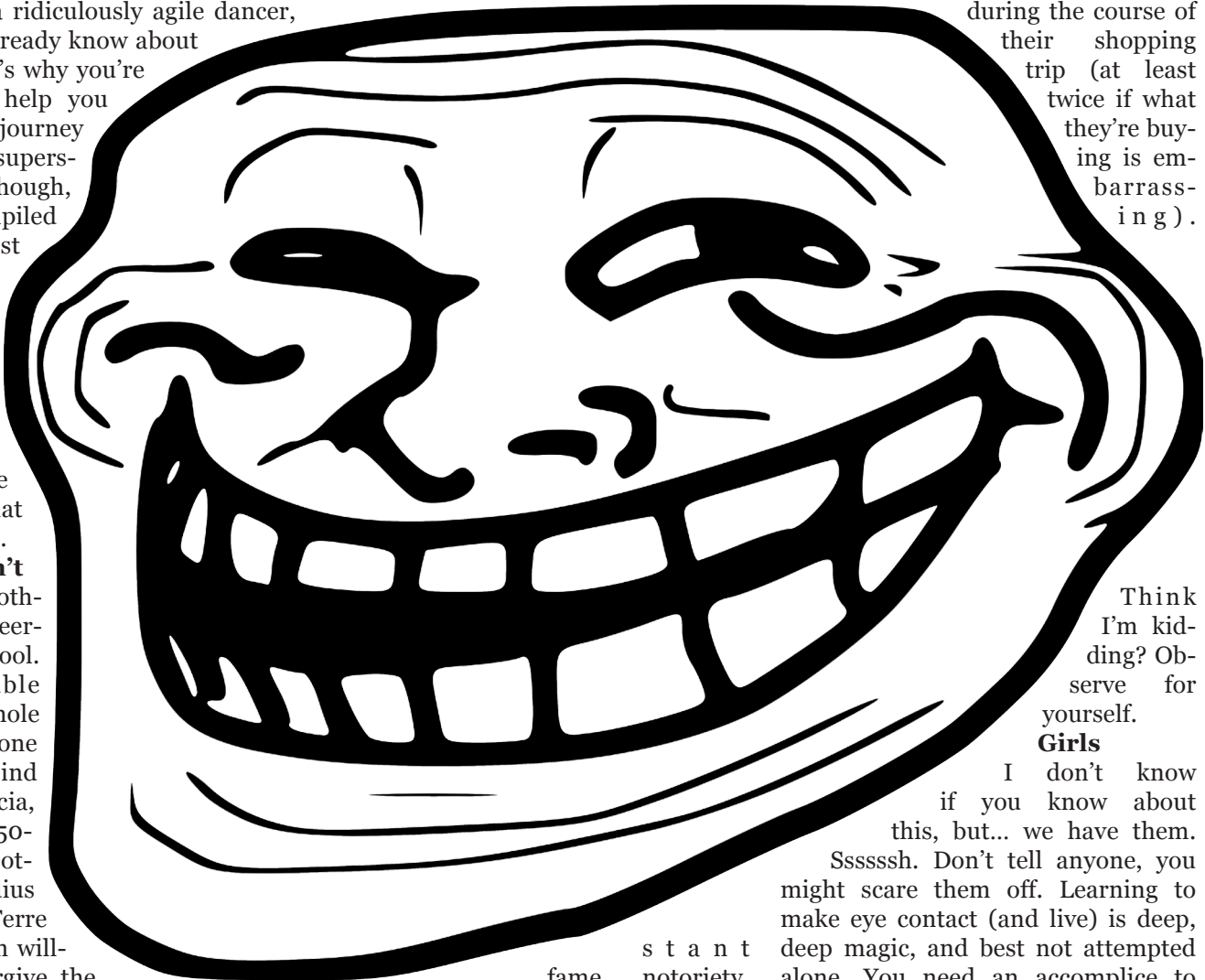
Congrats, and welcome to Rose-Hulman! This is the part where I talk about how Rose is awesome and it will make you successful, good-looking, and a ridiculously agile dancer, but you already know about that. That’s why you’re here. To help you in your journey toward supers-tardom, though, I’ve compiled a little list of things that you need to know about Rose-Hulman (and some things that you don’t).

**Purdon’t**  
That \*other\* engineering school. Responsible for the hole in the ozone layer, Mind of Mencia, and the 50-mile Chipotle-free radius around Terre Haute. I’m willing to forgive the first two, but having to live without burritos the size of my head? That’s just inhumane.

**The Flipside**  
This page. The best page. The only

(editor’s note: first) page of the Thorn you will read. Send me your wacky prof quotes, your pictures, your comics yearning to circulate freely. And then I will put them on this page, and you will achieve eternal victory and win in-

necessary flows. If you need it at four o’ clock in the morning, they probably have it. In addition, Wal-Mart must have at least two Rose people in it at all times, and those two people must encounter each other at least once during the course of their shopping trip (at least twice if what they’re buying is embarrassing).



Think I’m kidding? Observe for yourself.

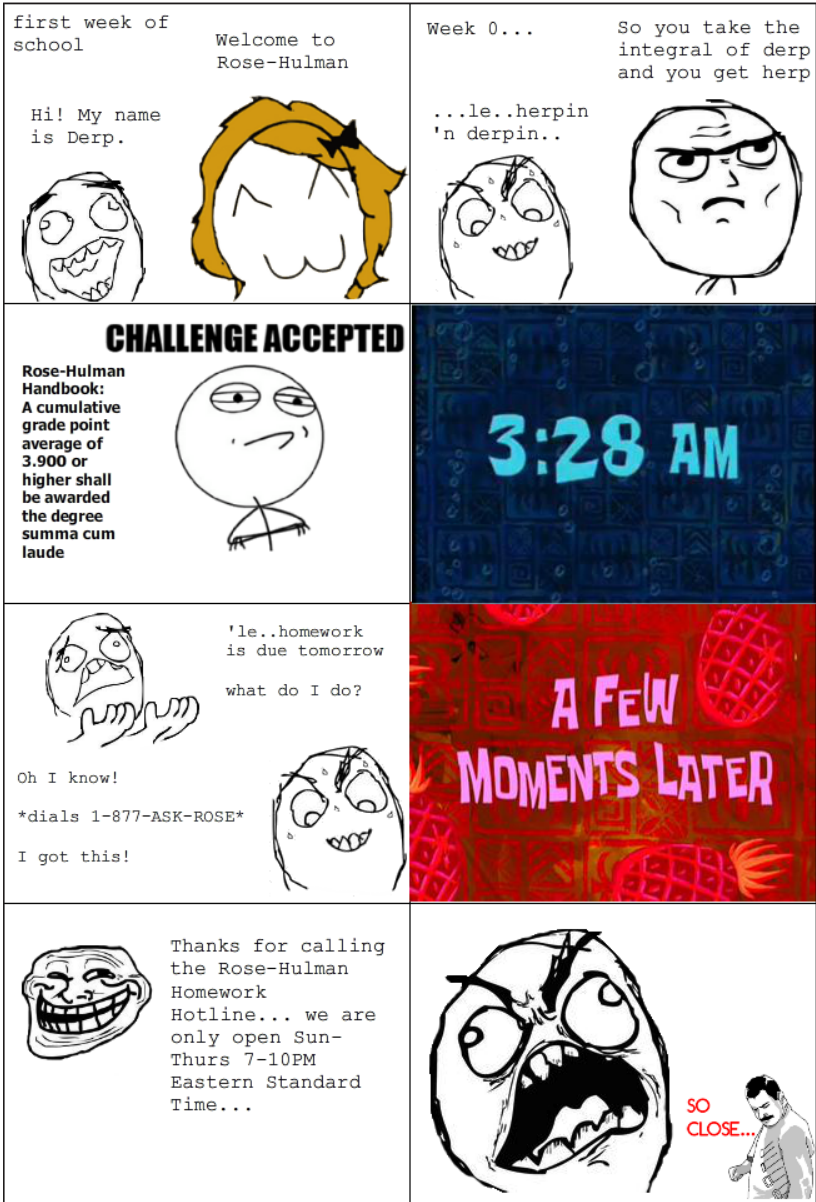
**Girls**  
I don’t know if you know about this, but... we have them.

Ssssssh. Don’t tell anyone, you might scare them off. Learning to make eye contact (and live) is deep, deep magic, and best not attempted alone. You need an accomplice to throw chocolate and distract them if you become mesmerized by their powers.

**Homework**  
Sometimes, you will hate it, and the feeling will be mutual. Don’t worry, though, it builds character. Why, when I was your age, I was walking uphill, into the wind, through golf-ball-sized hail, and drinking gravel because there was no water. And you know what? I LIKED IT.

stant fame, notoriety, and the admiration of millions of screaming fanboys/fangirls. That’s how this works, right? Right guys?

**Guys?**  
**Wal-mart**



Andy Chen • procrastinator extraordinaire

### Wacky prof quotes

See this empty space? You can fill it! Email us the crazy things you hear in class and you might just become the next Wacky Prof Quoter. Seriously.

thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Sleep  
404 ERROR: FILE NOT FOUND

Right, then. I think I’ve covered all the important things. Four years from now, you’ll graduate, ready to embrace your hot tub full of \$20 bills and tractor-trailer full of suimsuit models. But don’t forget the place that made you great. In fact, you should send me one of those Andrew Jacksons. It may make your hottub a little lower, but it’ll buy me ramen for WEEKS! Hey, wait, come baaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa...

Less than three you all,  
Noël

< 3

## Top “10” Ten

### Rose rites of passage

Noël Spurgeon • rite writer

10. Play an intramural: You don’t have to be the next Usain Bolt, or even the least bit athletic (My favorite position in Frisbee is ‘lawn ornament.’ You should see my pink plastic flamingo move.) It’s about fun. And the sweet mugs that you get if you win.
9. Picking up someone else’s backpack: Because they haven’t had time to build ‘character’ (read: duct tape and that stain from the exploded highlighter), they all look the same. It’s okay. Just track down that poor Targus’s rightful owner before we get inundated with all-campus emails.
8. Pulling a nerd run to get to class on time: Pull up your suspenders, hoist that backpack high, and charge forward to victory (aka. first hour Physics).
7. Post-midnight Taco Bell Run: The Taco Bell Run (or TBR, as it is affectionately called) is a time where all engineers go to forage for their sustenance after dark, taking advantage of the little-known fact that foods’ nutritional value doubles from 1-3 a.m. Even so, the Cheesy Gordita Crunch is about as healthy as a stick of lard, but... details, details.
6. 4-line LAN party: Pick your poison: DOTA, LOL, HON, Starcraft... as long as you have the cords, comrades, and caffeine, you’re good to go.
5. Pull an all-nighter: Some nights, the N64 gods cannot be denied... you NEED to do a speed run of Banjo-Kazooie. Oh, and homework. You need to do that too.
4. Witness a naked lap: Preferably not intentionally.
3. Guard the bonfire: Holmes versus Moriarty, Aristotle versus mashy spike plate, and freshmen versus sophomores. There are some rivals that are just made for each other.
2. Get kicked off BSB3: Considerably more difficult if you’re of the female persuasion, but if you creep hard enough, young padawans, anything is possible.
1. Participate in a laking: preferably on the giving end rather than the receiving end. Points, however, are rewarded for both distance and evasion time.