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Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

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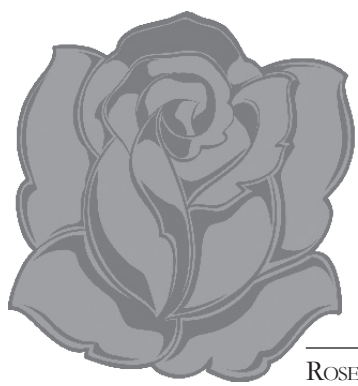
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THE ROSE THORN

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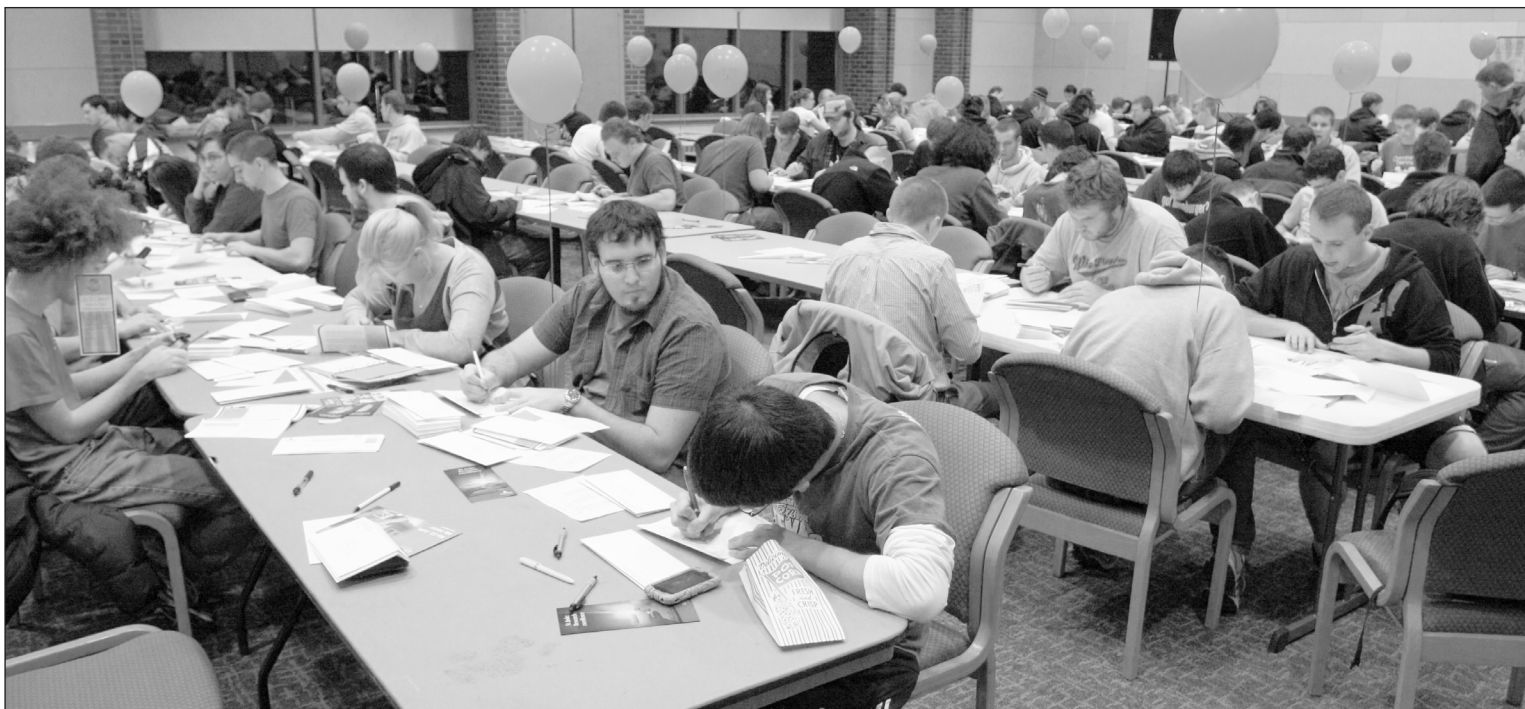
The write to save lives

Jason Latimer • staff writer

Students from fraternities, sororities, and residence halls packed the Union Tuesday night to participate in Up ‘til Dawn, a nationwide collegiate fundraising party and Rose-Hulman tradition aimed towards raising money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Hundreds of students joined in the bash and took part in the cause; each wrote letters to family members or friends asking them to give to the donation-funded hospital for kids struggling with cancer and other terminal diseases.

Graduate Assistant Darcie Thomas, who has organized the last two Up ‘til Dawn events, was confident that this year’s event was more enjoyable for students than the last. Even though it didn’t have inflatable bouncing attractions and cornhole as it did when it was held in the SRC, the bar-buque, music, and raffle went over very well, according to Thomas. Students won prizes like an external hard drive, an office chair, a Kindle Fire, and a Blu-ray player for participating in the raffle.

“I think it was a lot better, and the feedback that I’ve had has been really good. I think everybody really enjoyed having it in the Union,” Thomas



At Up ‘Til Dawn, and annual national fundraising event, students write personalized letters to people they know to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital

Robbie Mayhew • photography club

said.

She continued, “The atmosphere was a lot more fun in the Union as opposed to the SRC, where it’s so open that you can’t really tell that people are there because there’s so much space.”

In the past, Up ‘til Dawn was an event help solely for fraternities, but it opened up its doors in recent years to all of Rose. However, the strong fraternity spirit still shines

through. Sigma Nu took first place with every member sending at least five letters; Alpha Tau Omega came in second with 88 percent of members writing.

“Fraternities usually write the majority of the letters. They’re the ones that get their alumni base and get their family and friends out,” Thomas said.

In total, 367 students wrote 4,200 letters to family and friends. Tuesday night’s goal

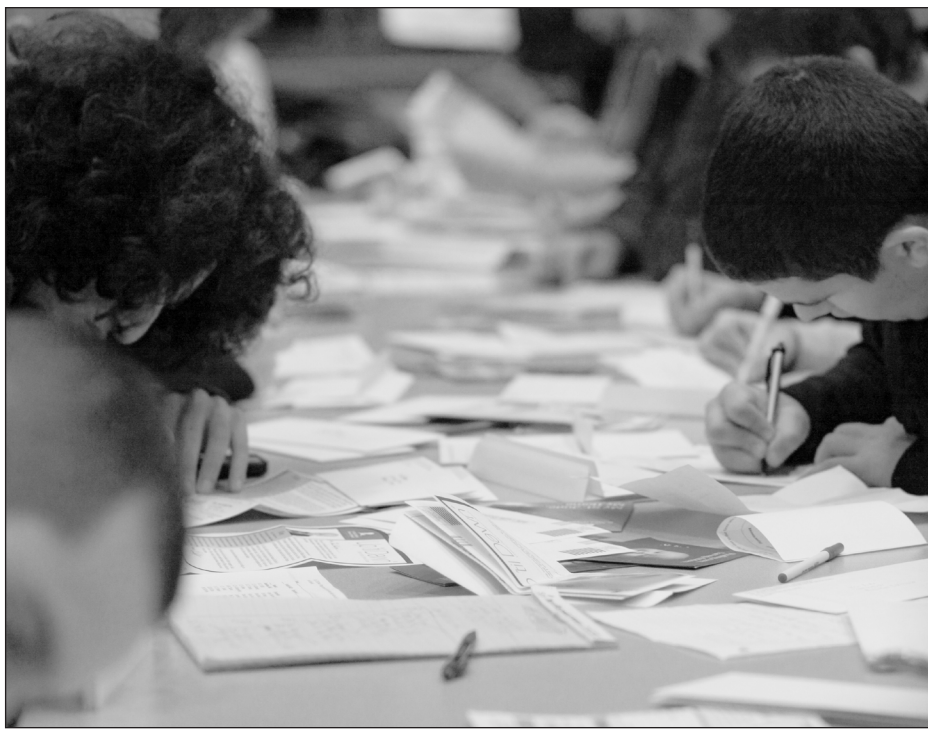
was to raise \$28,000, \$3,000 more than last year’s goal.

“We were a little bit down on our letter count this year and how many letters we actually wrote, but I’m still pretty optimistic that we’ll raise a lot of money for St. Jude,” Thomas said.

Rose has been the #1 college in the state for fundraising for Up ‘til Dawn for two years running, and that’s a title Thomas doesn’t plan to give up. Al-

though she won’t be running the event next year, she still hopes that students keep coming to help the cause and have a good time.

“Everybody knows someone who’d been affected by cancer, and if you just put yourself in the shoes of a parent that has a child with cancer, it really motivates you to go,” she said. “You know that you potentially helped pay for some child’s treatment.”



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		First Names					License Plates					Puzzles				
		Andrew	Ava	Carl	Kenzie	Tyler	MNU-665	SPR-413	SUV-332	TEO-812	UAJ-192	acrostics	cryptograms	drop quotes	logic puzzles	sudokus
Last Day Of Work	April 10															
	June 7															
	August 24															
	October 2															
	November 5															
Puzzles	acrostics															
	cryptograms															
	drop quotes															
	logic puzzles															
	sudokus															
License Plates	MNU-665															
	SPR-413															
	SUV-332															
	TEO-812															
	UAJ-192															

1. The person who specializes in cryptograms is Kenzie.

2. The driver with the TEO-812 license plate will leave after Tyler.

3. The 5 people were the person who specializes in cryptograms, the employee whose last day will be November 5, Carl, the driver with the SUV-332 license plate, and the person who specializes in sudokus.

4. Of Andrew and the driver with the MNU-665 license plate, one is leaving the company on August 24 and the other loves to solve drop quotes.

5. The person who specializes in cryptograms doesn't have the UAJ-192 license plate.

6. The driver with the MNU-665 license plate will leave before Tyler.

7. Either the driver with the SPR-413 license plate or the driver with the SUV-332 license plate is Andrew.

8. The driver with the UAJ-192 license plate will leave after the person who specializes in logic puzzles.

9. The employee whose last day will be August 24 has the SPR-413 license plate.

For hints, solutions and more puzzles, go to www.Printable-Puzzles.com!

Last Day Of Work	First Names	License Plates	Puzzles
April 10			
June 7			
August 24			
October 2			
November 5			

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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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Kurtis Zimmerman • *sports*

Noël Spurgeon • *flipside*

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Richard Thai • *copy*

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Kurtis Zimmerman • *web*

CM 5037, 5500 Wabash Ave.

Terre Haute, IN 47803-3999

Phone:(812) 877-8255

Fax: (812) 877-8166

thorn@rose-hulman.edu

<http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu>



Ranjana Chandramouli • *writer*

Andy Chen • *writer*

Katie Dial • *writer*

Matt Dierksmeier • *writer*

Jason Latimer • *writer*

Morgan Lopez • *writer*

Stephen Mayhew • *writer*

Peter Savkovich • *writer*

Claire Stark • *writer*

Bennie Waters • *writer*

Hobey Tam • *writer*

Richard House • *adviser*

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, cartoons, 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.

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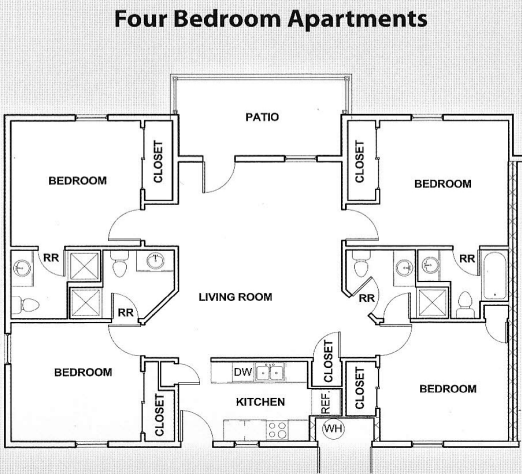
Material submitted for use in the print edition may also be included in the online edition located at <http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu>.

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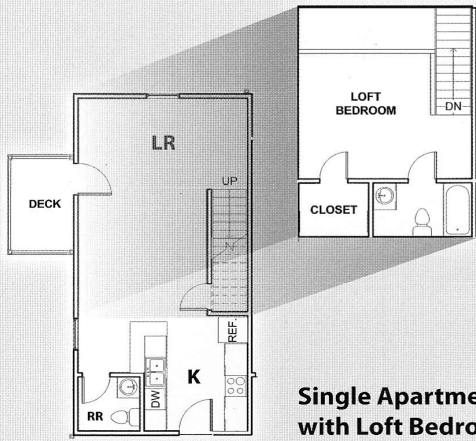
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Dark and violent, but beautiful

Alex Mullans
editor-in-chief

“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” – the English, Hollywood version – is rated R for a reason. Scenes with sadomasochistic imagery and scenes which depict rape about as graphically as softcore pornography made me fear for the innocence of any younger audience members.

The film watches disgraced journalist Mikael Blomkvist, played by Daniel Craig, as he searches for a 40-years-missing member of an economically-powerful family at the request of that family’s patriarch. In parallel, it profiles young computer hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara), who is reliant on the government for access to her estate after being declared mentally unstable. Director David Fincher weaves these two seemingly-independent storylines together beautifully for the first half of the film before pairing the two characters into the team

that saves them both.

Lisbeth’s story is particularly graphic; Bjurman, her case manager, trades access to her money for sexual favors. But, what begins as a trade turns into something rather less consensual. In this progression, there are three graphic scenes that define Lisbeth’s character. The theatre greeter warned us that some scenes would be graphic and uncomfortable: those words don’t even begin to describe the scenes in question. However, graphic as they may be, these scenes are completely necessary and well-shot. They are not the usual Hollywood “shock and awe,” overflowing in graphics and lacking in meaning; without them, I don’t think I would have empathized with Lisbeth nearly as much as I did.

The overarching storyline, investigated by Blomkvist, is less graphic, at least until the story’s secrets begin to unravel. But, it has all the makings of an excellent suspense story. I was on the

edge of my seat, but I wasn’t forced to suffer through long dull or uninteresting sections – surprising, when you consider that the movie is nearly 3 hours long. The plot also kept me guessing right up until the end, at which point a well-architected reveal scene sent chills down my spine.

Most critics who didn’t care for “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” seem to take more issue with the book on which it’s based; having not read the book, I found the storyline quite enthralling. I have no real issues with the film; I’d even pay to see it in theatres again. Its darker elements, though quite graphic, are an important contribution to the intensity and intrigue of its storyline.

Review rating: 4 elephants



“The Old Republic” adds another great chapter to Star Wars

Jason Latimer • staff writer

The word “epic” is thrown around a lot these days, but if there’s one video game truly worthy of the title, it’s “Star Wars: The Old Republic.” Bioware’s long-awaited massively multi-player online role-playing game launched December 20 to a crowd of well over one million subscribers. Bioware, who developed the legendary game “Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic” aimed to combine their market-leading talent for storytelling with the MMO genre, something they called a “story-driven MMO.” That not only meant good writing, but hundreds upon hundreds of hours of voice acting, music, and story for a game with eight distinct storylines spanning several planets. It took Bioware hundreds of millions of dollars, the better part of a decade, and a huge leap of faith from EA and its investors.

And they pulled it off. When I received early access to the game in December, I could not pry myself away from it. In fact, I probably spent more hours playing the game the last week before break than I spent sleeping. Although the “missions,” or quests, may get a bit old and repetitive, it’s the compelling story that strings them together that keeps players engulfed in the game. Well, technically there are eight compelling stories. Whether you want to be a Jedi Knight like Luke Skywalker, a Sith Lord like Darth Vader, or a smuggler like Han Solo, SW:TOR has the right storyline for you. And, when you finish one story, you can go right ahead and start another.

However, don’t think that you’ll be able to play this whole game. SW:TOR has more content than all of Bioware’s previous games combined. It’s an incredibly massive game that would take a player thousands of hours of gameplay to complete. The expansive and sprawling planets are truly a sight to behold. Bioware did an excellent job with the scenery, designing towering cities, lush wilderness, and perilous warzones with equal skill. Some of the scenes you see from coming over a hill are flat-out breathtaking. Although some of the missions might have been boring, I never grew tired of the gazing at

the backdrop of my galactic saga as I sped by wild animals, glittering skyscrapers, and enemy troops on my speeder bike.

The plot of SW:TOR takes place around 3,000 years about the films and 300 years after KOTOR. The Galactic Republic and the Sith Empire have entered a shaky peace agreement after the Empire attacked Republic planets. However, the peace has started to unravel, breeding new conflicts and leading to an all-out war. Players enter the story here, picking to play either on the Republic’s side or the Empire’s side. Then the fun begins.

SW:TOR is one of those games you have to play with the sound on. Otherwise, it may seem like just another MMO. The voice acting and music are the crucial elements that separate it from any other game in the genre. The musical score for the game is more beautifully composed than any other score I’ve heard in game before. Dramatic events and heroic missions are accompanied by booming percussion, the fluttering of flutes, and the triumphant blare of trumpets. The game brings back the beautiful melodies of the prequels and sequels, however it often teases the player with a few familiar notes only to surprise them with all-new symphonic arrangements. For as many dialogue recordings that Bioware had to make, the quality of the voice acting is awesome. It’s immersive and gives a face to the missions you have to run around and complete.

SW:TOR is a game for the ages, and certainly one I’ll be playing for a long time. Sure, I might get bored here or there, but it’s usually because I lose sight of the big picture that Bioware has masterfully crafted. The sights, the sounds and the story all add up to one of the most ambitious and successful video game titles of all time. Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go fight terrorists with my Imperial Agent in my shiny new starship.

Oh, and did I mention it was Star Wars?

Review rating: 4.5 elephants



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Dream Wall

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Monday, January 16
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Video and discussion facilitated by Dr. Caroline Carvill
4:30 pm in Olin 269
Pizza and beverages will be provided

Tuesday, January 17
MLK Jr. Student Leadership Dinner
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By invitation only

Friday, January 20
BT the comedian
8pm, Hulman Union , Kahn Room

These events are co-sponsored by the President’s Advisory Council on Diversity, the Diversity Collaborative and the Student Activities Board.

Indoor Barbeque

Eric Catlow • guest writer

With all the unseasonably warm days in January, it only seems appropriate to cook a good pulled pork barbecue. It’s the food that epitomizes summer dinners and warm weather. The liquid smoke adds that: authentic, summer, backyard fire smell, synonymous with great barbecue cooking without this Indiana winter weather throwing a curve ball your way. Once you finish cooking the pork and it’s ready to serve, the entree can be made into a sandwich or just by itself with great summer side dishes, such as coleslaw, baked potatoes, and baked beans. It’s a great January cook-in.

Pulled Barbeque Pork

Ingredients

- 1 Boston butt or pork shoulder roast
 - 1 large onion, quartered and sliced
 - salt and pepper to taste
- garlic powder
 - 1 cup barbecue sauce, your favorite or Enlisted ranks sauce (below)
 - a teaspoon or two of liquid smoke

Directions

1. Place pork roast in the crockpot.
 2. Add chopped onion, salt and pepper and a generous sprinkling of garlic powder.
 3. Cover and cook on low for about 9 to 11
- hours, or until very tender and shred-able.
 4. Drain all juices off and shred or chop pork.
 5. Add barbeque sauce and liquid smoke.
 6. Continue cooking on high for about 1 hour.

Enlisted Ranks Barbeque Sauce

Ingredients

- 1 can of your favorite soda (orange soda, red soda, any soda)
 - 2 Tbsp apple vinegar
 - 1/2 cup ketchup
 - 2 Tbsp hot sauce
- 2 tsp black pepper
 - 1/4 cup minced onion
 - 1/4 green mustard/wasabi
 - 1 Tbs steak sauce
 - 2 tsp minced garlic

Directions

1. Combine in sauce pan and bring to a rolling boil on high.
2. Reduce to low temp and partially cover until it reaches desired thickness.

Broken foot blues

Melissa Schwenk • living editor

About a week before break, I fell asleep on a friend’s couch. It’s a couch I’d slept on many times without incident but this time was different.

This time I woke up in the middle of the night and my foot was asleep. In my groggy state, I decided it was a good idea to still try to walk on it to the bathroom. Don’t try this. One step in, I put all my weight down on the top of my foot and fractured one of the bones.

Since that fateful night, I’ve been walking around in an air cast and realizing all the fun things I can’t partake in with the boot. Here are a few things I’ll miss most until my boot comes off.

First of all, I’m out for the season for intramural volleyball. I love playing intramurals and play on three teams each year. The reason I like intramurals is that I don’t consciously think about exercising while I’m there. I can motivate myself to go to intramurals easier that I can convince myself that the elliptical is fun. Plus, it’s a lot of fun to hang out with sorority sisters and friends playing sports.

The second thing I’ll miss for the next few weeks is swing dancing. I don’t go every week to swing club, but it’s tough not even hav-

ing that option. All my fellow members are learning new moves that I’ll have to catch up on once my foot is healed. Plus, I had to cancel a trip to Fountain Square in Indianapolis to dance because there was no sense paying the fee when I couldn’t dance.

Which brings me to the third thing I’ll miss most during the next few weeks: going out with friends. It’s not that I can’t go to parties because I’m wearing the boot. It’s that I don’t see the point in going to a party if I can’t dance or easily get around.

Why would I want to go to the Bally when it’s too loud to talk and too crowded to sit? I’d much rather plan a movie night or game night where I can sit and talk to people without having to explain to an infinite number of ISU students what happened to my foot.

I’m lucky I broke my left foot so that I can still drive myself to campus, not that people haven’t been nice and offered to pick me up in the morning. I’m also lucky that I can sleep and shower without wearing the boot.

The situation could really have been a lot worse and I’m thankful for everyone on campus who has helped me in some way or another. I have a new appreciation for all the people who have to wear the boots for long periods of time and hope as many of you can avoid them as possible.

Crochet tips for beginners

Jessica Reames • staff writer

Crochet is a technique of looping yarn around itself to form a fabric. For many projects, you only need two tools: a crochet hook and a blunt needle with a large eye. Both tools should be appropriately sized for the yarn you are using. Crochet can be used to make all sorts of things like hats, mittens, gloves, legwarmers, wrist-warmers, sweaters, blankets, shawls and wraps, scarves, socks, and more.

You can find all sorts of patterns online, with recommended patterns on the Thorn website.

Yarn comes in many different weights. Lace weight yarn is used for making delicate creations with a tiny steel hook. Superfine and fine yarn are mostly used for making socks, gloves, and mittens. Light weight yarn is in the midrange and can be used on most projects.

Medium or worsted weight yarn is extremely common and can be found almost anywhere yarn is sold. Bulky and super bulky yarns are quite large in diameter and make for very quick projects. Novelty yarns are usually bulky. The shell blanket that I’m currently working on uses a super bulky yarn that has the diameter of a #2 pencil, while a lace yarn can be finer than embroidery thread.

Acrylic yarns are widely available and by far the most affordable, but they are often rough. For items that will be touching skin, you will want a softer yarn. Some acrylic yarns are formulated to be softer to the touch with yarns for babies as some of the softest. Natural fibers are softer and feel nicer, but they cost a bit more.

The most important thing with any yarn craft is tension. Correct tension is difficult, and I still struggle with it at times despite over ten years of making crochet projects. Don’t get discouraged if you struggle with tension too.

Wrap the yarn loosely over your pinky and interlace it around your middle and pointer finger. I hold the work with my thumb and middle finger using the pointer finger to keep the tension just right, but many people use the middle finger to adjust tension. Work with it until you find something that works for you.

My foundation chains are still too tight to really work the first row into. I’ve started using a larger hook for the chain and the first row to combat the tightness.

The most commonly used hook in crochet is an I-9 (5.5mm). If you are going to start out with just one hook, I would suggest that one. You can make all kinds of things out of light (DK) and medium (worsted) weight yarns. More complicated stitches in the same size yarn will require a larger hook because the stiches bulk up. A simple stitch with a heavier yarn will also require a bigger hook. Hooks come in many sizes and steel hooks are numbered differently than standard hooks. Standard hooks come in aluminum, wood, and plastic.

In order to choose yarn and a hook, you first need to pick a project. Most yarn balls and skeins come with a pattern written on the back of the wrapper, but you won’t be able to read it if you don’t know any stitches. Learning stitches is pretty easy.

I have found “The Complete Photo Guide to Crochet” by Margaret Hubert to be indispensable. It has photos and step by step instructions of hundreds of different stitches including the basics. When I get stuck with the book, I search on YouTube for a video to help.

Ravelry.com is a wonderful resource full of patterns, ideas, and a forum for help if you need it. It is a free website and has many free patterns available. If you are completely new to crochet, you should pick a project labeled as easy or for beginners. I would suggest scarves, simple hats, and small blankets. Be careful with patterns from other countries because they sometimes call stitches by different names which can lead to different abbreviations and some mild confusion.

I started out by making lots of scarves. You don’t even need a pattern for a basic scarf. Just make a chain that is 8-10 inches wide and work any stitch of your choice into it until it is as long as you like. You will probably need more than one ball of yarn.

Joining new yarn is easy. In the last step of a stitch hold onto the new yarn and pull it through instead of the old yarn. Gently keep both yarns at tension until you are 4 or 5 stiches farther down. Loosely tie the two yarn ends together with a slip knot and weave them into the fabric once you are finished with the project.

I find crochet to be relaxing after doing homework and studying all the time. The repetition helps to calm my mind and I hope it helps some of you as well. Happy crafting!

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The other side of the desk

Driving with Zarathustra



Dr. Thomas Adams
faculty writer

This past holiday season my wife Dee and I drove nearly 3000 miles in order to see various family members. When we're on the road we often pass the time by playing a game called License Plates. In License Plates we try to better each other in coming up with what the three letters on a particular license plate "stand for." For example, a car with a license plate reading "ZFC 452" passes us and Dee says "Zoological Federation of Cincinnati." I retort with "Zarathustra's friendly cat," to which Dee replies, "No, Zarathustra's famous cheesecake." Obviously Dee has won with the cheesecake and we await a fresh license plate to start anew. The game continues like this until we spot a plate reading "BMF 688"

and I say the obvious sophomoric thing. Once License Plates has deteriorated into Licentious Plates there is no turning back and we must abandon the game.

From years of playing this game I have come to notice that license plates offer us many insights into the human condition. For example, you can tell that Indiana obviously has an identity crisis from its constantly changing license plates ("Wander Indiana," "Back Home Again," "Amber Waves of Grain," "Crossroads of America," and presently the funky torch and star thingy from the state flag). On the other hand, other states seem much more stable in their personalities, proudly keeping the same theme on their plates for as long as I can remember. South Dakota always has an image of Mount Rushmore, South Carolina its palmetto tree, and Arizona its characteristic saguaro cactus.

North Carolina and Ohio have also kept the same theme going for decades, but in their case it amounts to a cat fight over the development of the airplane. North Carolina displays "First in Flight" on their plates, commemorating to the Wright Brothers' historic flight in Kitty Hawk. To this Ohio answers with "Birthplace of Aviation." You can almost hear the plates going at it. "Nah nah, Ohio! The first flight ever was right here!" "Bite me, NC! Wilbur and Orville may have visited your little state, but they

were *born* here!"

The myriad of specialty plates—those plates that allow you to show pride in your school, profession, or some special cause—have really mucked up the state identity issue, however. As these plates' designs are so radically different than the standard issue, you have no idea what state a car hails from on first glance, lest you learn all twenty or so specialty plates from each state. That's roughly 1000 different plate designs. Though I welcome the generation of extra income such plates provide for various entities, I must wonder if anyone ever thought to ask the highway patrol how they felt about "I share the road with state university veterans who care about kids, the arts, and the environment" plates.

The old fashioned way of making your plate stand out, of course, is to personalize it, and Illinois is king of the personalized plate. For a mere additional \$15 anyone in Illinois can personalize their license plate, provided that they include both letters and numbers on the plate. (I have never understood the at-least-one-number/letter requirement, as putting no restrictions on letters vs. numbers gives a total possible number of license plates [up to seven digits/letters] of 13,566,814,752, while the at-least-one-number/letter restriction reduces this to a mere 5,202,621,060 different combinations. Just think, 13.6 billion pos-

sible license plate combinations! Everyone *on the planet* could pick their own unique Illinois license plate!) Illinois's policy has resulted its having the largest number of personalized plates of any state. In fact, if you want your plate to stand out in Illinois, you *don't* personalize it. The downside of Illinois' plates, however, is that they have made me realize how depressingly uncreative most people are: MIKEY 1, BIG TED 1, etc. Really? Come on, put a little effort into it! Are you a teacher? How about ED U K8. Dentist? NO 2TH DK. Anything beats a nickname followed by 1.

Besides the large number of personalized plates, Illinois stands out as unique in another way as well—the non-personalized plates still use the old system of five numbers with two letters dispersed among them at seemingly random places. Most states abandoned this system back in the 70s in favor of the much more intuitive three-letter/three-number system, without which the game of License Plates would hardly be possible. (Indiana did not adopt the three-letter/three-number system until a few years ago.) The three-letter/three-number system does indeed reduce the number of possible plates that can be issued within one state. From 67,600,000 to 17,576,000, to be exact. But personally I consider this a small price to pay for Zarathustra's famous cheesecake.

AMERICAN SOCIETY & THE WORLD: The Children

Viktor Goben
staff writer

How often, in the average sitcom, drama, political speech, or charity, do you hear the words "Think of the children?" Fairly often, yes?

That's because the "Think of the Children" byline has become the rhetoric of anyone, especially politicians, pushing unpopular agendas.

America has sacrificed much in the name of "the children". Gun "control", car seats, cabinet door locks, and wide-ranging censorship have filled the country in the name of protecting children.

Virtually every computer has digital locks in thousands of different locations to make sure that children don't "accidentally" get exposed to the world their parents and elders don't want them to see, whether out of sheer spite or because of some modern moral system. And why do these parents and elders do this? Because they're told to by the System. The System tells these parents and elders that these children aren't mature enough to handle that information and these children aren't prepared.

This self-same System is made up of doctors, lawyers, and politicians, virtually all of whom were raised without a lot of these same restrictions because their parents didn't feel the need to shelter their children from everything that might send their child into tears or cause them to ask a lot of "embarrassing" questions.

Let's not forget that these same parents and elders told the System that they wanted these restrictions, so that they didn't have to spend time knowing what their children were doing. So

instead of the parents and elders actually watching over children and making sure that what they do is appropriate by raising them with a decent set of values, they bury their children away behind layers upon layers of "security" and expect the child to figure out what kind of values are expected of them by learning within the confines of their restrictions.

And conveniently, the politicians pushed through bills like the "No Child Left Behind," hiding behind the rhetoric and then almost immediately begin slashing school budgets, expecting schools to deal with more and more students with less money—money which may be cut if the school isn't performing up to standards—despite the increases in students and the decline in quality of K-12 education.

This writer remembers riding in the front seat of a car with a steel frame, no airbags, and no car seat at the age of 5. By today's standards, this same writer would need to sit in the backseat at all times, sitting in a car seat that latched to the seat in at least 3 places, and having a door that had a special lock so that he couldn't open it from the inside.

Our grand and glorious society doesn't have the values it once did because of this "Think of the Children" rhetoric, because the children are sick of it, because they know a lie when they hear one like that.

This writer isn't saying take away all the restrictions and let children run free. This writer suggests that instead of restricting them so much, we should empower children to go further without those extra restrictions; our grand society just might change for the better.

Letters to the editor



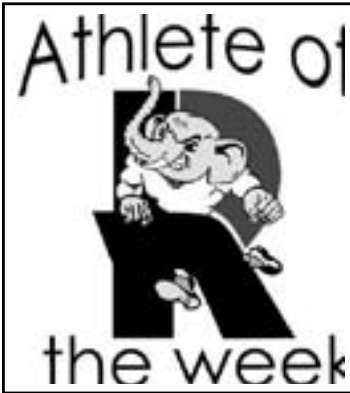
Dear Faculty, Students, and Staff of Rose-Hulman,

Our Benjamin Franklin Elementary students were delightfully surprised and thrilled to receive your warm and cozy hats, mittens, and scarves this winter season. Thank you for sharing your kind hearted generosity with us. Your thoughtful mission to gather these items on your Student Union Christmas Tree has brought such a needed resolve to the cold weather for so many of our children, some of whom are still wearing summer T-shirts to school. May the year ahead be filled with many blessings in your school community.

With much gratitude,

Linda A. Afdahl & Your friends at Benjamin Franklin Elementary

HAVE THOUGHTS?
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR?
SEND THEM TO
THE EDITOR TO
THORN-OPINIONS@
ROSE-HULMAN.EDU



Kelsey Ploof



Matt Dierksmeier • staff writer

Defeating Mount St. Joseph this past Saturday, the Rose-Hulman women’s basketball team rode a three-game winning streak into a heartbreaking 49 - 51 loss against Anderson Wednesday night. With all five starters recording double figures in scoring, Rose-Hulman posted their largest margin of victory in five seasons, defeating the Lions of Mount St. Joseph 71 - 40.

In Rose-Hulman’s past four contests, sophomore Kelsey Ploof has finished with a double-double in points and rebounds, and she has scored in double figures for five consecutive games. Ploof currently leads the team in field goal percentage.

For her consistent performance, sophomore mechanical engineering major Kelsey Ploof has been named Athlete of the Week. She courteously answered a few questions for *The Rose Thorn*.

Rose Thorn: How does it feel to have four consecutive games with a double-double, helping lead the team to victories?

Kelsey Ploof: It feels great. We have all been working really hard in practice, and it’s rewarding to see the results in the games. My points came very naturally in our offense, which we are executing well. The last three games have been total team efforts, and regardless of who is scoring our points, it just feels great to win.

Especially in our last game against Mt. St. Jo-

seph, the scoring was pretty evenly distributed, with big contributions from multiple players. I’m very excited about my personal performance, but much more concerned with the team’s success and the outcomes of the games.

RT: What aspects of your game have you been working on to become so consistent in scoring?

KP: Over the summer I put a lot of time into my free-throw form and improving my post moves. My main focus has been to be strong with the ball and finish plays inside.

RT: How have the dynamics of the team changed since last year?

KP: The team this year is so much fun to be around. We’re very young and still learning a lot about each other, but I love spending time with my teammates. Alisa Dickerson does a great job of leading on and off the court.

Especially after losing Donna Marsh last year, the team roles have shifted, and people have had to step up and fill their role. I think the rest of this year and the years to come will be a lot of fun because there is still so much potential we are only beginning to tap into.

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

KP: Qualifying for the conference tournament last year was very exciting. It is one of our main goals this year to get back to the tournament and make it as far as possible.

Men’s track & field ranked No. 23 nationally

Rose-Hulman Athletics

The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology men’s track and field team has been ranked No. 23 in the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association Division III preseason poll released today.

The men’s and women’s track and field teams open the 2011 season on Saturday at Illinois Wesleyan University. Rose-Hulman swept the 2011 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference men’s and women’s indoor championships last year, and the men’s squad won its fourth straight outdoor league title.

Four-time NCAA Division III hurdles All-American Sutton Coleman leads a strong returning men’s squad. Other top returnees include NCAA relay qualifiers Brent Austgen and Tyler Hannan, along with NCAA 55-meter dash national qualifier Jeremiah Edwards.

Returning individual conference champions include steeplechase champion Micah Aldrich and hammer throw champion Greg Larmore. 2011 HCAC Freshman of the Year Andrew Thompson returns in the middle-distance events.

On the women’s side, 2011 indoor and outdoor high jump national champion Liz Evans leads the returnees. Evans also won four conference titles last year and is a three-time NCAA Division III Great Lakes Region Field Athlete of the Year.

Rose-Hulman will open its home season with the Friday Night Invitational on Jan. 20 at the Sports and Recreation Center.



The men’s track and field team earned its fourth straight outdoor conference title last year.

Rose-Hulman News

Swimming & diving tops Franklin with twelve firsts

Kurtis Zimmerman • sports editor

Combining for 12 first place finishes in a dual meet against Franklin College last Friday night, the Fightin’ Engineers earned a 132 - 82 victory for the men’s team, and a 75 - 111 loss for the women’s team.

Leading the Engineers, juniors John Huster and Nicole Richardson picked up two victories each. Huster claimed wins in the 50-yard freestyle (22.23) and the 100-butterfly (53.05), and Richardson picked up firsts in one-meter (193.80) and three-meter (212.85) diving.

For his strong effort in the meet, Huster was named the College Conference of Illinois Men’s Swimmer of the Week. He currently holds the individual school record in the 100-backstroke and is part of two medley relay school records.

For the men’s squad, sophomores Andrew Podgorski and Logan Ryan picked up wins for the 100-breaststroke (1:01.56) and the 200-individual (2:06.91) medley, respectively. Junior Matt Ross rounded out the men’s effort with a first-place finish in the 100-backstroke (1:01.17).

Shannon Cunnien earned the top spot in the 100-freestyle (1:01.14) for the women’s squad and Rose-Hulman claimed all four relay events on the evening: the men’s and women’s 200-medley relay teams, and the men’s and women’s 200-freestyle relay teams.

Rose-Hulman returns to action this weekend at the Washington University Invitational. Competition will begin Friday night at 5 p.m. and continue Saturday morning at 11 a.m.

The competition at Washington University in St. Louis kicks off a month-long string of contests on the road, making the rounds at Franklin College, DePauw University, and IU-PUI before the CCIW Swimming & Diving Championships.

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Top “10” Ten

Engineering superstitions

Noël Spurgeon • horeshoe hoarder

10. If you break a monitor, you will suffer from the ‘blue touch.’ Any piece of equipment you touch will bluescreen whenever you’re doing something important until you pass the touch on.

9. If you spill something in the lab, you have to throw it over your shoulder, or you’ll have seven years of bad luck. Into the eyes of whoever is standing behind you. It should probably be noted that if you stand behind someone who spills something, you’ll have the rest of your life of blindness.

8. If you blow out all the Bunsen burners in the chemistry lab at once, your wish will come true. Especially if your wish is passing out.

7. A four-leaf clover will bring you one test’s worth of good luck. After, the clover will burst into flames. Secret clover farms: how people actually get 4.o’s.

6. If you walk under a ladder, the resulting remodeling will turn out to be deeply offensive to your taste in furniture and also terribly nonfunctional.

5. After you cram for a test, you should always cover your eyes and ears to keep the knowledge from leaking out until you need it. Unfortunately, since you can’t take a test with your eyes closed, the process becomes a mass flow problem involving smart.

4. If 13 Rose students dine together, the first to leave will be the first to fail a test.

3. Wishing someone ‘good luck’ before a presentation means that they will almost surely choke. Instead, manly chest bumps and elephant-like bellowing are recommended to stave off bad luck.

2. A black cat crossing your path means that the only thing to eat at the ARA next day will be tuna noodle casserole. If you’re one of the six people on earth that like tuna noodle casserole, disregard.

1. Finding a penny face up on the sidewalk means that more scholarship money will be coming your way. It also means that you’re one ninety-ninth of the way to a McChicken or a taco, and one bajillionth of the way to paying off your student loans.

ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman

Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today we salute you, Mr. Lucky Break. Actually, we don’t. Jerk. Go... have a good Friday or something.

ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman

Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today we salute you, Mr. Misfortune. No matter how hard you try, you never seem to catch a break. You’ve bought your weight in lucky rabbits’ feet and welded horseshoes to everything you own, but none of it seems to help. Your ability to lose your homework, trip over your own feet, get rear-ended in parking lots, and respawn in front of the caffeine-fueled 10 year old who literally has done nothing with their life except play Call of Duty and likes to make personal remarks about your mother and personal hygiene is unmatched. If there is a glass, you’ll spill it. If there’s a patch of black ice, you’ll slip on it. If there is a squirrel on the side of the road, it will decide to make friends with your car, and if it’s going to rain... it will do it in the seven seconds it takes for you to walk from your car to the building. So here’s to you, oh master of disaster: may you always remember that you are a finely tuned machine... built for bad luck.

Wacky prof quotes

“Go in the magic hole.”
— Dr. Hartner. Tea parties, white rabbits, homicidal lawn games... wait, what were *you* thinking?

“No one wants to recycle toilet paper.”
—Dr. Dee. But... but... but... it’s part of the sustainability initiative! Take one for the environment! Don’t you care about the planet?

“The first time--well, the second time, the first time I was half-asleep-- it was like a miracle!”
—Dr. Fine. Second impressions: like first impressions, except you’re actually paying attention this time.

“It’s not like he’s making a printer with lasers and sparkles and unicorns.”
— Dr. Livesay. I can see it now... ‘Printer error: out of magic. Please change rainbow cartridge.’ Better yet, ‘Unicorn Jam: Your printer is not rated for this many sparkles.’

Rose Profs say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Probability of something lucky happening by event

Event	Desired	Actual
Project Emergency	0.8	0.2
Extra quarter needed for Taco Bell	0.2	0.7
Super Smash Bros.	0.5	0.55
Throwing away a wad of paper	0.1	0.8
Test	0.9	0.1

This is the Flipside disclaimer, and there are words here. All content not otherwise signed is the spawn of Noël Spurgeon’s imagination, and has been legally recognized as such. So... snow. And cold. I have no idea where it’s been for the last, oh, month and a half, but it’s certainly making up for lost time, isn’t it? Does this mean Hautepocalypse part 2: The ice age cometh? I really hope that it doesn’t suffer from sequel syndrome. On the other hand, it could be a promising franchise... and an excuse to do video games instead of your homework.