

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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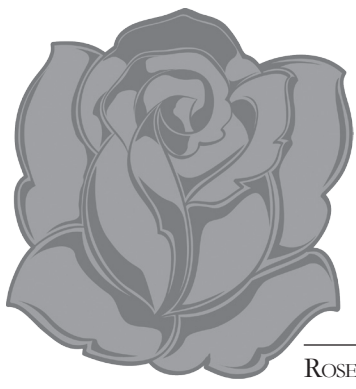
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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • TERRE HAUTE, IN • [HTTP://THORN.ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu) • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010 • VOLUME 46 • ISSUE 11

## Engineering for charity



Above, a group of Rose-Hulman students assemble a bicycle Saturday as part of the Bikes for Tykes charity program; below, students unload bikes to be built. This year, hundreds of students gathered to build bicycles for needy children throughout Indiana, marking the eleventh year the program has existed at Rose-Hulman.

Tim Ekl • editor-in-chief



Tim Ekl • editor in chief

Rose-Hulman students put their engineering skills to good use by helping to assemble bicycles Saturday as part of the Bikes for Tykes charity program.

Hundreds of students gathered at Facilities to put together bikes to be distributed to needy children throughout Indiana. The Bikes for Tykes program first came to Rose-Hulman in 2000, and has grown steadily ever since.

The process of building a bike is made as efficient as possible – students are broken down into small teams, then given a box of parts for one specific model of bicycle. A team can generally assemble one bike every ten minutes.

The bicycles themselves are designed to meet any need – some teams built smaller bicycles with training wheels, while others dealt

with larger models intended for older children. Bicycles are checked on the spot after being built, then distributed directly to charities that have made requests.

Saturday's large-scale operation looked quite different than Bikes for Tykes first did back in 2000. The first year Rose-Hulman participated, the build took place on an Air Guard base at a local airport; the event didn't move on-campus until its fourth year. Earlier events also saw far less involvement – in 2000, only about 50 students showed up to assemble approximately 250 bicycles.

Bikes for Tykes is sponsored by the Terre Haute Exchange Club. Exchange is a national volunteer organization with over 800 chapters nationwide. The Terre Haute chapter focuses on helping the disadvantaged and improving communities in the Wabash Valley area.

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# Acrostic

printable-puzzles.com

1 H	2 E	3 B	4 D	5 D		6 A	7 F		8 I	9 C	10 C		11 I	12 H	13 H		14 D	15 E	16 C	17 H	18 G	
19 C	20 D		21 A	22 H	23 C	24 D	25 F		26 C	27 A	28 I	29 C	30 D	31 B	32 A		33 G	34 I	35 D		36 B	37 H
38 A	39 A		40 E	41 A		42 G	43 B	44 A	45 A		46 H	47 H	48 G	49 B		50 F	51 D		52 H	53 F	54 H	55 E
56 D		57 E	58 F		59 C	60 F	61 H		62 F	63 G	64 D	65 A		66 I	67 D	68 I	69 H					

**A** 38 44 32 41 39 21 65 45 6 27  
Loss of sensation

**F** 58 53 62 60 50 25 7  
Countries

**B** 36 43 49 3 31  
One who accepts an offer

**G** 48 63 18 33 42  
Early musical group formed by Eric Clapton

**C** 23 19 16 10 59 26 9 29  
Amount that can be held in one's mouth

**H** 69 47 54 1 37 52 22 46 12 13 17 61  
Quality of being steady in allegiance

**D** 14 56 24 30 51 20 67 64 4 5 35  
Drove

**I** 68 28 66 8 11 34  
Western European capital

**E** 2 15 57 55 40  
Poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere

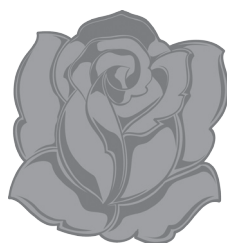
## THE ROSE THORN

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

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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.

# Santa visits underprivileged youth through Lambda Chi Alpha

Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief

Fraternities at Rose-Hulman are different; that's what they say in admissions, and events like Lambda Chi Alpha's Holiday Party for Ryves Hall Youths put actions behind those words. The event, which Rose's own Theta Kappa chapter puts on each year, brings 30 underprivileged youth from the Ryves Youth Center to the chapter house for a holiday

party, complete with gifts delivered directly by Santa. In addition, the brothers provide lunch for all the partygoers and spend time helping the kids construct their gifts.

This year, 30 brothers and ten associate members, along with a number of women from the Tri-Delta sorority, helped make the party a great success.

This event is nothing new to Lambda Chi brothers; in fact,

none of the current fraternity brothers can remember a year where the party wasn't held.

"We feel as a chapter that helping these kids have a good Christmas instead of helping another charity proves us with direct contact with the service we are providing," said Dale Pedzinski, event organizer.

"For example, in other charities, they prefer money because they have enough volunteers

to run the programs they have established but they are lacking funding. If we were to raise money for Ryves Hall instead of providing a Christmas party we would not see the direct benefit our service provides."

The Ryves Hall Center is part of the Catholic charities overseen by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. Located at the corner of 14th and Locust Streets in Terre Haute, the center serves at-risk youth.



Above, a group of Lambda Chi Alpha members deliver LEGO toys to a child from the Ryves Youth Center; below, a child shows off his new toy. Lambda Chis host children every year for a Christmas party, where they provide toys, a meal, and a visit from Santa.

Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief



## Open mic night attracts local talent

Ranjana Chandramouli  
guest writer

While the Logan Library is usually filled with students talking and rustling papers into the late hours of the night, this past Friday, December 10th, was a change of pace.

WMHD, the radio station on campus, transformed the first floor of the Logan Library into a coffee-house style atmosphere from 7:00 until 9:00 on Friday night for an 'Open Mic

Night'. Meant to provide a laid-back and casual atmosphere for Rose-Hulman students to come a relax and express their artistic talents, Brittany Young, a senior biomedical engineering student who was instrumental in setting up the event, wanted to provide "people a chance to come out and warm up for the winter."

While also set-up for a host of different genres of karaoke and poetry readings, the night began with singing and guitar ac-

companiment from some of the Rose-Hulman student body, such as Mitchell Mayberry, a freshman mechanical engineering student, who sang an original song as well as a cover of Bryan Adam's song "Straight from the Heart."

This event was complete with coffee and cookies provided by Aramark, a nice complement to the cold weather. Young says she would "love to do more of these events for the campus" in the future to bring out more of

the Rose community to enjoy the music and artistic creations of our fellow students.

James Bratsos, a freshman civil engineering major, sang two of his original songs, including "Song of the Summer," which he wrote himself over this past summer break, which combined percussion, guitar and vocals. He finished with another original song, an Ode to Isaac Newton — which, fittingly, is the only song he has written since coming to Rose.

## NEWS BRIEFS

By Alex Mullans

### Gawker suffers data breach

The company, which owns popular technology blogs like Gizmodo and Lifehacker as well as social blog Gawker, lost the email accounts and passwords of more than 1.3 million users to hackers who compromised the company's servers over the weekend. Users of Gawker services were emailed Monday and informed of the problem. Privacy advocates have used the breach, which was accompanied by similar losses by McDonalds, Walgreens, and DeviantART, to call for stronger US government punishment for companies that compromise user data. Nick Denton, founder of Gawker Media, said in the comments of Gawker that "I do want to tell you how sorry we are."

### Berlusconi survives no-confidence vote

The Italian Parliament reconfirmed its confidence in Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi by its slimmest margin ever, with a vote of no-confidence losing 311-314. The vote caused riots in the streets of Rome, with protestors setting cars alight and smashing store windows. In addition, fighting broke out in the Parliament when a representative expected to vote for the measure suddenly switched to favor keeping the Prime Minister. Berlusconi was accused of vote-buying in the past week as his supporters led frantic negotiation; Italian authorities have begun investigating the charges. The current government's term is supposed to extend until 2013, but some analysts speculate that more challenges may come in time.

### Internet usage rivals TV viewing for first time

A new Forrester study of more than 30,000 consumers found that for the first time, Americans spend as many hours on the Internet as they do watching television. Internet usage has increased 121% in the past five years, while television viewership has remained roughly the same. The study also found that 60% of online users surveyed get online to shop. Around one-third of users regularly visited social networking sites, and two-thirds of Generation Y individuals surveyed reported updating a social networking profile at least once a month. With respect to Internet access, the survey speculated that 82% of households will be connected by 2015.

# “Too Much Happiness” delivers gruesome tales

Kurtis Zimmerman • webmaster

Murder, burglary, seduction. What more could you want from a set of short stories? Alice Munro, internationally recognized for her talents in the short story genre, is still cranking out fiction with her latest release entitled *Too Much Happiness*. Presenting a collection of ten stories centering around the lives of ten different people, mainly women, Munro delivers ten tales, each gruesome in their own right.

Like most full-length novels, the stories mostly hinge on unexpected conflicts that tend to be the turning point of each main character's life. In “Dimensions,” the opening story, Doree must deal each day with the loss of her three young children and how she may move on past the pain of losing the life she once had. Nita faces a similar conflict in “Free Radicals,” but the real surprise comes

when she reveals her coping mechanism that actually serves as the resolution to her life's problems.

The book's most impressive story is perhaps so engaging because it is mainly a work of nonfiction. Following the last few years of the life of Sophia Kovalevsky, regarded as one of Russia's most famous women mathematicians and novelists, the story for which the novel is named, “Too Much Happiness,” tries to tie up the themes presented in the fictional stories. Kovalevsky, famous as the first woman appointed to professorship in Northern Europe, studied under Karl Weierstrass and is still famous today for her expansion of Augustin Cauchy's theorem on partial differential equations. But the story focuses less on her life's work than on the story of her last few years of life up until her unexpected – at least, she

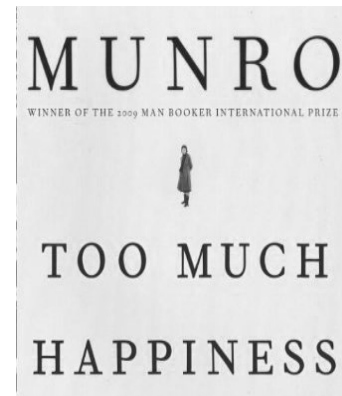
didn't expect it – death. A story rich in cultural and historical imagery, the last story turned out to be my favorite.

But I must admit, I think part of the reason for liking the last story so much was that it signaled the end of the collection. Perhaps I was deceived by the title, *Too Much Happiness*, into thinking that the stories would be rich in life's pleasures and resolved conflict, but the truth is that most of the stories lacked a resolution at all. It seemed that a lot of the stories ended unnaturally and left me wondering what happened next, and not in the classic cliffhanger sense. Instead it seemed like Munro penned several tales with no beginning or end, more like a snapshot of a life. And for some readers more familiar with the short story genre, this may be desired.

But I found that the three

stories that I really enjoyed had some sort of ending, or a revelation that ties the rest of the story together. My two favorites, “Wood” and “Child's Play,” ended with the main character's realization. In “Wood,” Roy (the only male character who was the true lead of a story) comes to terms with his wife's condition near the end of the story and realizes that questioning it will never change it. And in “Child's Play,” two childhood friends are separated physically but never emotionally distant from an incident from their youth that seems to scar them both.

But while I enjoyed a few of these stories, I found myself a bit put off by the style of writing Munro employs which, after looking into the style of short stories, is usually how the genre works. Starting from the middle and working outward, in a sense, the stories progress



<http://www.bookapex.com>

toward some ending point while revealing earlier details. But I find myself wanting a resolution, some reassurance about the character's future. For lovers of short stories, this book certainly hits the mark stylistically, but for me many of the tales leave much to be desired.

Review rating: 2.5 elephants



# “Fable 3” is fun, with a bit of tedium mixed in

Bennie Waters • staff writer

Game developer Peter Molyneux has made a reputation for himself by making grandiose promises about what his games are going to contain. He is infamous for overpromising and under-delivering with each of his most recent games. This is especially true of his *Fable* series of RPGs. He has even gone so far as to say that “Fable will

set the standard for which all RPG's are compared.” So far each game in the series has been incredibly over-hyped, leading to decent games that would probably be better-received if their quality had not been built up so much by marketing. *Fable 3* falls in this category.

The story of *Fable 3* is a continuation of the previous release. You play as the son of the previous game's protagonist, who became king at the end of *Fable 2*, and died sometime in-between games. You, the prince, spend the bulk of the game gathering supporters and trying to build an army for a revolution against

your brother, the tyrant heir to your father's throne. As your legion grows, you gain access to stronger abilities and more freedoms in the kingdom, such as the ability to buy businesses and real estate. While it was cool that you can unlock new abilities in this way, it often ended up feeling restricting, because you can only level up so much before you have to advance the story to unlock more possible abilities. If you want to spend a lot of time doing side-quests, or, in my case, being a real estate mogul, your progress gets frequently halted.

Along those same lines, the story has an awkward pacing to it. Throughout the game, it is built up that once you defeat your brother, you will become king and assumingly win the game. However, once you get to that point, the story presents

itself in such a way that will make you think the game is only halfway over, which would have been amazing if that were the case. Unfortunately though, you only get a couple hours of completely-linear gameplay as king before you are forced into the game's final confrontation.

Despite the flaws caused by the game's story, *Fable 3* isn't a bad game by any stretch of the imagination. The game's setting, the fictional land of Albion, has a hilariously British sense of humor, filled with hilariously British characters and not-too-subtle cultural references. It's easy to get swept away by simply interacting with the people of Albion. Similarly, the steampunk-inspired design of the world is charmingly gorgeous.

The combat in *Fable 3*, like in any RPG, is one of the core

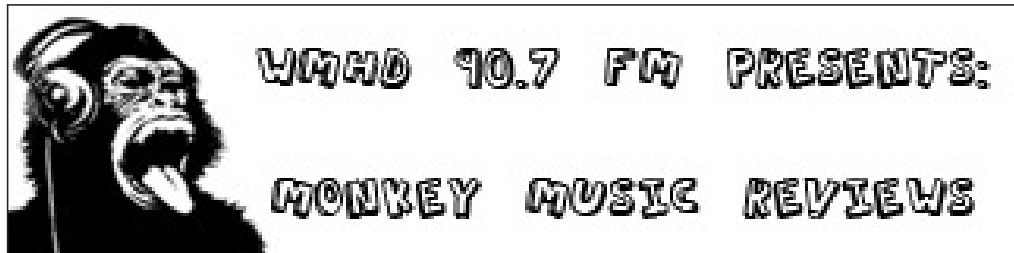
features of the gameplay, and has changed little since the last game. Each of the types of attacks (melee, ranged, or magic) is bound to a button, and you just mash them in whatever order you desire to get through fights. This gets old and repetitive, because even as you level up and your attacks get stronger, you still end up doing the same thing in every fight.

So is *Fable 3* worth getting? Yes, but wait until the price goes down. I happened to get it in a Black Friday sale for half price. If I hadn't, I'd probably be more disappointed with how short this game is. In any case though, I recommend ignoring the hype and giving it a chance, if you don't mind a little tedium mixed in with your fun.

Review rating: 3 elephants



<http://www.gamerant.com>



Kayte Johnston • monkey writer

Since the 2009 release of their debut, “Sigh No More,” Mumford & Sons has resided comfortably in the U.K. Albums Chart for 62 weeks. The album entered the chart at #11 on October 11, 2009 peaking at #3 on October 10, 2010, an entire year after first charting. This somewhat unexpected folk-rock group from London has managed to blend a banjo and English accents in a way that not only sounds natural, but intriguingly like a genre we have all naively been missing. Perfectly balanced arrangements of smooth banjo drones, fluid strings, and

passionately layered vocals bare the musical talent unexpected from a group of young twenty-somethings. It does not take long for the vast depth of each song to open up into massive waves of sound driven by the intense desperation and, at times, guilt and bitterness that have inspired them. Fervor and ambition invite listeners to get swept up in the momentum of the musical lines, penetrated by the unstoppable rolls of the banjo and throbbing rhythm. Mumford & Sons is doing for folk music what Kings of Leon's *Only By the Night* did for rock: exposing instrumental mastery, brilliant songwriting, and pure, raw power



<http://lowlightsvolume.com>

in gigantic songs capable of shattering expectations and reviving music and emotion for numb listeners.

Suggested Tracks: “Sigh No More,” “The Cave,” “Little Lion Man,” “White Blank Page,” “Timshel”

Review rating: 5 elephants



## Movies:

Tron: Legacy

How Do You Know

Yogi Bear

## Music:

Michael Jackson  
*Michael*

R. Kelly  
*Love Letter*

Ciara  
*Basic Instinct*

Ryan Adams  
*III/IV*

## Games:

Super Mario All-Stars  
(Wii)

Sniper Elite  
(Wii)

Under Siege  
(PS3)

Quake Arena Arcade  
(Xbox Live Arcade)

# Come pick me up, I've landed

Mitchell Ishmael  
staff writer

I've been beating myself up a lot lately. I can't decide if what I did was just innocent fun that resulted in an accident or if I was just being dumb or careless. A little over a week ago, after the four inch snowfall we had, I went sledding with a few friends out on the hill in front of Rose. There were some pretty awesome ramps, a few made from packed piles of snow but one really sweet one made from a white plastic table stuck into the side of the hill.

My friends and I took turns going down the hills and ramps on our sleds, and like any group of self-respecting young men, our daring increased as time went on. Going faster down the hills, jumping higher of the ramps, doing the hills with more people on more sleds at one time. Eventually I went off the table ramp carrying as much speed as I could muster, with the intention of landing the jump. About halfway through my jump I did the worst thing you can do in any type of physical activity: I hesitated. I couldn't tell if I was going to land or if I needed to bail. So rather than taking either option I half bailed and landed back onto my shins, bending my knees way farther than they should have been bent.

My right knee has had problems since freshman year. Since then I've torn my meniscus twice, had surgery twice, gone through therapy in the training room twice, and sat out a year of soccer. Though it all sucked, especially the

long periods of inactivity and the helpless feeling, I've come to peace with it. The injuries came through soccer, and I had soccer to work back towards. And both times I believed the injuries were freak accidents and I wouldn't have to worry about them again. But with my meniscus rearing its ugly head, I just don't know if I'll have the resolve to be able to go through with it all over again.

After the consequences of my sledding fall, I've been kicking myself over and over thinking, "Why was I dumb enough to go sledding and jumping off ramps when I know I have an injury prone knee?" The "what ifs" keep popping up in my mind, and I wonder why I wasn't just a little bit smarter about what I was doing and the risk I was taking. Months of activity lost all for a silly jump!

When I think about it more, though, I can't help but feel that, sometimes, it just happens. I get so much joy out of doing physical activity that I'm not going to cut it out from my life just because my knee is prone to injury. The enjoyment I get out of being active is worth the risk; no matter what I do, there is a chance I'll get hurt, but that chance isn't worth a life of reservation.

With that being said, I realize that being smart with your activities and preserving your body and health is very important to a fulfilling life. I guess what I'm getting at is I'm trying to maintain the balance between having fun and being stupid, and I haven't been able to decide if sled jumping crosses that line.

# Putting break to good use

Kurtis Zimmerman • webmaster

'Tis the season to be jolly, for Winter Break is swiftly approaching! Whatever your religious beliefs and holiday plans, everyone here at Rose can appreciate the two-week hiatus at least as a rest from academic life and deadlines, for the most part. Surely most of us will have an assignment or two to knock out before returning to class in January, but spending your last few days on campus wisely can allow you to truly put any break to good use.

So you have a couple professors that decided that your stocking was best stuffed with reading assignments or proofs? Perhaps some of your assignments due after break may be too lengthy or require some careful thought to complete, but if you have a few small tasks you can cross off your list before leaving Terre Haute you'll make your break work load even lighter. Whether you plan to jet out of town in the next couple days or later this weekend, spending your last few nights on campus being productive allows you to spend more time over break avoiding Rose-related responsibilities.

Now that you have freed up some space on your calendar for the next couple weeks, make sure you put it to good use! You'll most likely have some family plans for the holidays and may even spend some time traveling for family functions, but here are some ideas for that leftover time that you have to spend however you'd like.

First of all, be sure to make the rounds back home and reconnect with anyone you aren't able to see too often anymore. Making plans with old friends is a great way to relax and enjoy your time, and though quarter break wasn't too long ago, with the holiday weekend you may not have had a lot of extra time to get together with

all your friends. A sledding adventure, a shopping trip to pick up last-minute gifts, or a night at the movies. All are great ways to avoid responsibility and just enjoy your time over break.

I know you have some homework to complete, probably a couple chapters to read from some academic text or required reading. So make sure to get that done before you come back, though truly that Sunday night before classes start again is a great buffer for knocking out last minute tasks. But while you're at home and have some freedom to spend your free time (an idea many of us are not too used to) how you'd like. Pick up a couple books to read for pleasure, or pick up the old paintbrush again. Whatever your choice of hobby, relax and unwind with your favorite activity.

I've stressed avoiding responsibility a lot so far, but the truth is that taking a little bit of time here and there throughout break to organize your life a little bit can be both relaxing now and later. Over the past few weeks I've been pretty bad about keeping my notes and assignments organized in such a way that I can use them effectively in the future, so I plan to take a couple hours here and there over break to make sure I'm ready to go when I come back in January. Also, if you're anything like me, you're constantly searching for people who would love to pay your college tuition, so that two-week period is also a good time for browsing the internet for scholarship ideas and applications.

Lastly, be sure to get plenty of sleep! Though we all know we should, a lot of us simply fail to sleep adequately during the academic year, but break is – for the most part – a stress-free time to sit back and relax. And as all the upperclassmen will confirm, you'll need that extra sleep to power through the rest of winter quarter when you return.

WRITE TO THE LIVING PAGE ABOUT WHAT YOU DID OVER THE BREAK!  
THORN-LIVING@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# A-Z List: What to do over break!

Andrew Klusman • business manager

**A – Alcohol** – How better to ring in the New Year, Jesus's birth, and the break from classes? Do it responsibly, though!

**B – Book** – Catch up on some reading that you've been neglecting (non-schoolwork!) over the break. Good time to read some classics or something new!

**C – Caroling** – You're never too old to go out, freeze your butt off, and bring Christmas cheer to folks.

**D – Drive** – Do it safely, please. No one wants to come back being sad. That's our professors' jobs.

**E – Eat** – Eat a lot. Tasty Christmas cookies, warm food, yum.

**F – Feud** – Don't do it. End them for the new year.

**G – Girlfriend/boyfriend/significant other** – Show your apprecia-

tion for them.

**H – Healthy** – Be it! You only get one body, so make sure it's well-kept. You take care of your laptop, don't you? So, take care of your body!

**I – Ice** – Is dangerous on the roads, but good in your glass.

**J – Jazz** – Makes for good background music when throwing your wild and crazy parties.

**K – Kleenex** – You'll probably need some if you're going north.

**L – Laugh** – If you can't laugh during the holiday season, you have a problem. If you can, be merry!

**M – Muppets** – Watch The Muppets Christmas Carol. You literally have no soul if you do not love this movie. Seriously. It's got songs, Michael Caine, and Gonzo and Rizzo as the narrators. Go ahead, watch it. You'll love it. If not, write a letter

to the editor.

**N – Nostalgia** – For when you're looking back on years gone by. Or, when you're cleaning your closet at home. Or watching timeless Christmas classics.

**O – Open presents**. Who doesn't love getting stuff for God's Child being born? Yay religion! (Note: If non-Christian, go buy stuff after Christmas, it's all cheaper! Yay!)

**P – Presents** – Give a gift to someone you care for, or someone less fortunate. This is pretty obvious, unless your last name is Scrooge.

**Q – Quest** – Now is the time to game game game.

**R – Resolve** – Resolve to make 2011 better than 2010. Why not? You're only getting closer to death! Hahaha.

**S – Sleep** – We all go to Rose. We know why.

**T – Toast** – Either the speech or the bread, toast someone you care for, enjoy, or love this year.

**U – Underwear** – Wear it. Baby, it's cold outside.

**V – Vacation** – You're going to be on it. Enjoy it, because you'll be back in the Haute for 8 straight weeks. Yeah.

**W – Write a letter to the editor for the Rose Thorn**. There's going to be something you'll be upset about over break, so vent with a keyboard. Just don't use all caps.

**X – Xylophone** – Play it with your younger family members, siblings or cousins. No one will judge.

**Y – Yacht** – Buy me one. You can knock out P and Y in one! And, if you're really giving, A as well.

**Z – Zeal** – Have it for something this year. Go ahead, and pick anew.

## STAFF VIEW: Public opinion needs to be con- sidered in military operations

It's not often you see people mourn the death of a drug kingpin. But that's exactly what happened a few days ago in Michoacan, Mexico, after cartel head Nazario Moreno González was killed in a shootout with authorities.

González's death came about as a part of Mexican authorities' crackdown on drug trafficking, and was hailed in official circles as a victory in the war on the cartels. But the key mistake authorities made was to ignore public sentiment when going after González.

In local neighborhoods, González—who imparted a religious tint to his cartel's operations, going so far as to write his own book of evangelical sayings—enjoyed a large amount of support from local families and companies. He made it his cartel's business to give loans to struggling farmers, and handed out Bibles to children in poorer areas.

So when González was killed and the local government tried to organize a "peace march," civilians brought signs and chanted slogans in support of the slain leader and his cartel. One sign even went so far as to say "Long live La Familia Michoacana"—not the best outcome for a government hoping to rally people against drug-trafficking organizations.

The lesson to be taken away from the killing is simple: never ignore the influence the public can have

CONCURRING: 7

DISSENTING: 2

ABSTENTIONS: 3

on a military operation. It's a short step from marching in support of a drug kingpin to hindering authorities going after that same leader, and any plans against the cartel will need to take the level of public support into account.

The lesson isn't specific to Mexico, either. American operations call this sort of feeling "conditions on the ground," and decisions on the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have been famously dependent on Washington's interpretation of those conditions. Especially in an environment where the military presence doesn't enjoy large-scale popular support, it becomes incredibly important to pay attention to public opinion and potential issues that can arise.

This isn't to say that Mexican authorities should stop prosecuting drug traffickers, or that America should give up in Afghanistan, if public opinion is against them—far from it. A lot of historically "good" decisions were unpopular at the time. The trick is to find people who are able to handle these kinds of campaigns and the negative public reaction at the same time, and put them in places where they can make a difference.

## Lame duck ses- sion has lived up to its name

Carly Baehr • opinions editor

The "lame duck" session of Congress, the time between the November elections and the swearing-in of new Congress members in January, is often a time for the former majority party to push through as much legislation as possible before they become the minority. At the very least, at least one or two things is generally accomplished during such sessions.

Republican Senators in the 111th Congress, however, have been doing their best to ensure that nothing whatsoever is passed before the end of the year. Citing the importance of extending the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy, Republicans refused a vote on any other legislation until the tax cuts have passed. The White House this week negotiated a deal in which the tax cuts were extended and the estate tax rate was lowered in exchange for the extension of unemployment benefits and a 2% cut in payroll taxes. The compromise passed the Senate and is awaiting passage in the House, but Republicans still aren't happy, threatening that if the House makes any changes to the bill they'll continue to hold their collective breath until they get what they want.

Refusing to discuss anything else in the Senate until the tax cuts were extended sent the clear message that the tax cuts were the most important thing that Congress could be voting on right now. So what exactly was so much further down the list of priorities that keeping a 4% marginal tax decrease had to come first?

Besides the extension of unemployment benefits and the potential repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell—which Re-

publicans would have voted against anyway—Republicans delayed debate on START (Strategic Arms Reductions Treaty), which would limit the number of nuclear weapons in both the U.S. and Russia. Some lawmakers warn that not passing the treaty soon could discourage the Russians from passing their side of the treaty. Yet even after the passage of Obama's compromise proposal, some senators are threatening to further delay debate on the treaty by reading it aloud—a process that would take 12 hours.

Worst of all, though, is the refusal by Republicans to vote on a measure that would grant health care benefits to 9/11 first responders, many of whom are sick and dying after being exposed to the dust in the air while trying to rescue people from the wreckage of the World Trade Center collapse. Is extending tax cuts to the wealthy really more important than extending health care to the heroes of the 9/11 attacks? A considerable majority of senators support the bill, so why couldn't Republicans just let it pass?

It seems that the GOP is still fully committed to being the "Party of No." Despite a clear majority in the Senate, Democrats have accomplished very little during their time as the majority party largely because Republicans have been trying so hard to keep anything from happening in the government, preferring to demonize Democrats and derail all legislation unless they got everything they wanted, despite constant attempts at bipartisanship and compromise from across the aisle. Let's hope that for the 112th Congress, tax cuts for the wealthy are not the only thing that can be discussed.

## Give out of charity, not out of obligation

Brandon Shavers • guest writer

Just about this time of the year, charity, goodwill, and whether or not to extend the Bush tax cuts are on everyone's minds. So cheerily, I'd like to take this opportunity to talk to you about property rights. Though the issue has recently come up in one of my classes, it was a heavily stimulating debate with another student that motivated me to write this. The discussion centered on the question, in short: if one person has plenty of food such that he will not miss it if some goes missing, but another is starving and near death, is it within the right of a third party to take food from the one who has without his consent and give to the one who has not?

Personally, I believe in a system of rights that is based on self-objectivism. That basically means that if I felt like I had been wronged by someone having stolen from me, then it must follow that other people have the right to not be stolen from by me. But regardless of how I might define rights, it is well understood that there are two distinct varieties: positive rights and negative rights. A positive right would be essentially a claim one has to something that is not already in his or her possession. A negative right is to something that one already rightfully owns such that it cannot be taken away. No positive right can ever be inher-

ent, meaning neither you nor I could ever have a right to something we don't already have unless we have made an equally valuable payment for it with something we do rightfully own, or the rightful owner willingly confers ownership of his property. I basically just described an exchange of negative rights or willful concession thereof, so I'm just going to go out on a limb and say that positive rights don't exist. Santa does it 'cause he wants to.

That said, my opinion on the proposed question might be obvious to you. I would say, no, the third party cannot take from one in order to give to another, regardless of the circumstances. A chance to explain? The only natural or inherent rights are negative: the right to your life, to your body and to your productive faculties or natural abilities to do work. Following, if you provide the sweat of your brow, the toil of your hands and the skill of your mind to earn money, it is your money—exclusively—and whatever you buy with it is rightfully yours. If you decide that it is right for you to give your money or other rightfully acquired possessions to someone who needs them more, then certainly, it is your right to give. If a friend or loved one needs a kidney transplant and is a match to you, it is your right and privilege, and yours alone, to decide to help. Both acts of giving would be considered benevolent and even heroic

because you, the decider, has willingly conceded to another something to which you alone have a negative right. If the one who received help had a positive right to it, your actions would not have been good or praiseworthy, but rather, heartless duty. If need created a positive right and if positive rights were allowed to govern situations, it would be perfectly acceptable for a homeless person to steal your wallet; there'd be nothing wrong with someone sedating you and surgically removing an organ needed for transplant.

It is perfectly obvious to any rational human being that those situations should not exist. It is not cool for anyone to steal your wallet; it just isn't right to wake up in a bathtub full of ice with surgical stitches in your side. It absolutely does not matter how much somebody else needs something from you, it's your rightful property and only you can decide if they should have it. On that logic, perhaps now we can agree that even if Sally really, really, really needs \$5.00, and Jake has \$500, it would still be wrong for Tom to steal \$5.00 from Jake and give it to Sally. On pure utilitarian grounds, it makes sense, but we live in a world where rights mean something, both morally and legally. That is why there's a difference between duty and benevolence, and between a paycheck and a charitable donation. Feel good about giving this holiday season—it's your right!

# Lady Engineers fall to Terre Haute team

## SPORTS BRIEFS

By Kurtis Zimmerman



Sophomore biomedical engineering major Erin Davey blows past a St. Mary's player on her way to a shot.

Rose-Hulman News

Kurtis Zimmerman • staff writer

Rose-Hulman's women's basketball team picked up two losses this past week, battling against Transylvania in Kentucky and St. Mary-of-the-Woods here in Hulbert Arena. Two close games added two more losses to the Lady Engineers' record.

Last weekend the Lady Engineers picked up a loss at Transylvania University in a close game that ended 51 – 54 in the home team's favor. Junior mechanical engineering student Alisa Dickerson and sophomore applied biology major Lauren Meadows each reached double figures, scoring 13 points and 12 points, respectively. But a strong defensive effort from the Lady Pioneers held the Engineers while putting three players in the double figures. Transylvania improved to 5 – 3 overall and 2 – 2 in HCAC play, while Rose-Hulman dropped to 3 – 4 on the game and 2 – 2 in conference matchups.

This past Tuesday the Engineers battled for the Clabber Girl Trophy, facing the St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Pomeroy in Hulbert Arena to an excited crowd of cheering fans. In what turned out to be the closest game in the history of the Clabber Girl series, the Lady Engineers had two players with points in the double digits. Meadows and Dickerson both put up 15 points, and senior biomedical engineering student Donna Marsh had 12 points. Sophomore biomedical engineering major Erin Davey contributed an impressive four points and six rebounds, and freshman computer engineering student Heather Finnell rounded out the effort with three points, five rebounds, and four assists.

Despite their best efforts – and outscoring the Pomeroy in the second half – the Lady Engineers could not bounce back quickly enough to bring home the trophy. On a last-second steal, St. Mary-of-the-Woods clinched the 56 – 54, improving their record in the Clabber Girl series to 13 – 5. The Pomeroy improved to 6 – 2 on the season, but Rose-Hulman fell to 3 – 5. The Engineers will take on Marian University in Hulbert Arena this Saturday.

## Big Ten unveils new division

The Big Ten conference, as of next year, will include 12 teams total, split among the Leaders and Legends divisions. Illinois, Indiana, Ohio State, Penn State, Purdue, and Wisconsin will make up the Leaders, while the Legends category will be comprised of Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Northwestern. The first Big Ten conference championship next season will showcase a matchup of two teams, one from each division. At the same time, the new official logo of the Big Ten was unveiled, a block lettering of "Big Ten" with the numerals representing the "10" original members featured in the word "Big." Commissioner Jim Delany told the press that including the new total number of teams was never considered, and that retaining the original name of the conference was always the plan. The last of the additions includes 18 football awards paying homage to legendary players and coaches, all to be presented starting with the 2011 season.

## Heat earn ninth straight win

The Miami Heat rolled past the New Orleans Hornets Monday night, clinching their ninth straight win by double digits with a 96 – 84 victory. One win shy of the record, the Heat sit behind the Houston Rockets, New Jersey Nets, and the Washington Capitals (of the 1946 – 47 season) who each hold the record of 10 consecutive wins by double digits. Dwayne Wade led the Heat's offensive attack with 32 points, followed by teammates Chris Bosh and LeBron James with 23 points and 20 points, respectively. The Heat are clearly on a roll, mainly due to their consistency, claims Hornets coach Monty Williams. "They do the same thing every night," he said, "and nobody can stop them." Interestingly enough, LeBron James also helped lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a nine-game winning streak of double digits just two seasons ago, and Wednesday night he and his teammates will attempt to continue the streak.

## Favre ends starting streak

Starting 297 consecutive games over 19 seasons, Brett Favre has held the record for longest individual streak since 1999. Though still over five years out from surpassing the record, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning now holds the longest streak with 205 games. Despite knowledge of Favre's damaged throwing shoulder and numbness in his hands, fans remained hopeful that the Vikings quarterback could push through one more injury to take the field. But the pain was just too much for the 41-year-old veteran, and Tarvaris Jackson led the offense instead. Favre even had extra time to rest up after the game was delayed from Sunday due to the roof collapse of the Metrodome which pushed the game to Monday night at Ford Field. However, Favre came out of the locker room just over a half-hour before the game kicked off, in a T-shirt and warm-up pants and wished Jackson and several other teammates luck while receiving cheers from the crowd. It has not yet been announced if Favre would be returning later in the season for the Vikings.

## ENGINEER SCOREBOARD

### Men's Basketball 6 - 1 (3 - 0 HCAC)

Dec 11		
Transylvania Univ.	66	
Rose-Hulman	63	
Dec 14		
Fontbonne Univ.	49	
Rose-Hulman	64	

### Women's Basketball 3 - 3 (2 - 1 HCAC)

Dec 11		
Transylvania Univ.	54	
Rose-Hulman	51	
Dec 14		
St. Mary-of-the-Woods	56	
Rose-Hulman	54	



Rose-Hulman News

# Winning streak ends despite blowout game

Kurtis Zimmerman • staff writer

The men's basketball team was split on the week, picking up a loss at Transylvania University and a win here at home against Fontbonne University. Coming close to a last-minute win against Transylvania, the Engineers ended their winning streak, but they picked up another victory this past Tuesday in a blowout game against the Fontbonne Griffins.

Keeping Saturday's game at Transylvania University interesting, the men's basketball team rallied back from a 16-point deficit with just minutes remaining before falling to the Pioneers 66 – 63. Three Engineers scored in the double digits in an effort to push their winning streak to seven consecutive games, but it simply wasn't enough. Sophomore electrical engineering student Nate Gissentanner put up 16 points and eight rebounds, followed closely behind by two civil engineering majors. Sophomore Austin Weatherford contributed 14 points, eight rebounds, and five as-

sists, and freshman Julian Strickland scored 11 points with seven rebounds. But the loss brought the winning streak to a close, dropping the Engineers to a still impressive 6 – 2 on the season and 3 – 1 in league games.

The Engineers hosted Fontbonne University this past Tuesday, and with three players in double figures, the men were hard to stop. Strickland led the offense with 14 points, and sophomore civil engineering major Brent Balsbaugh followed closely behind with 11 points and eight rebounds. Gissentanner rounded out the offensive effort with 10 points and 11 rebounds. At one point late in the second half the Engineers held a 22-point lead that could never be completely demolished by the Griffins, and the men finished the game out 64 – 49 to improve to 7 – 2 on the season. The men will host Robert Morris College on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Hulbert Arena.

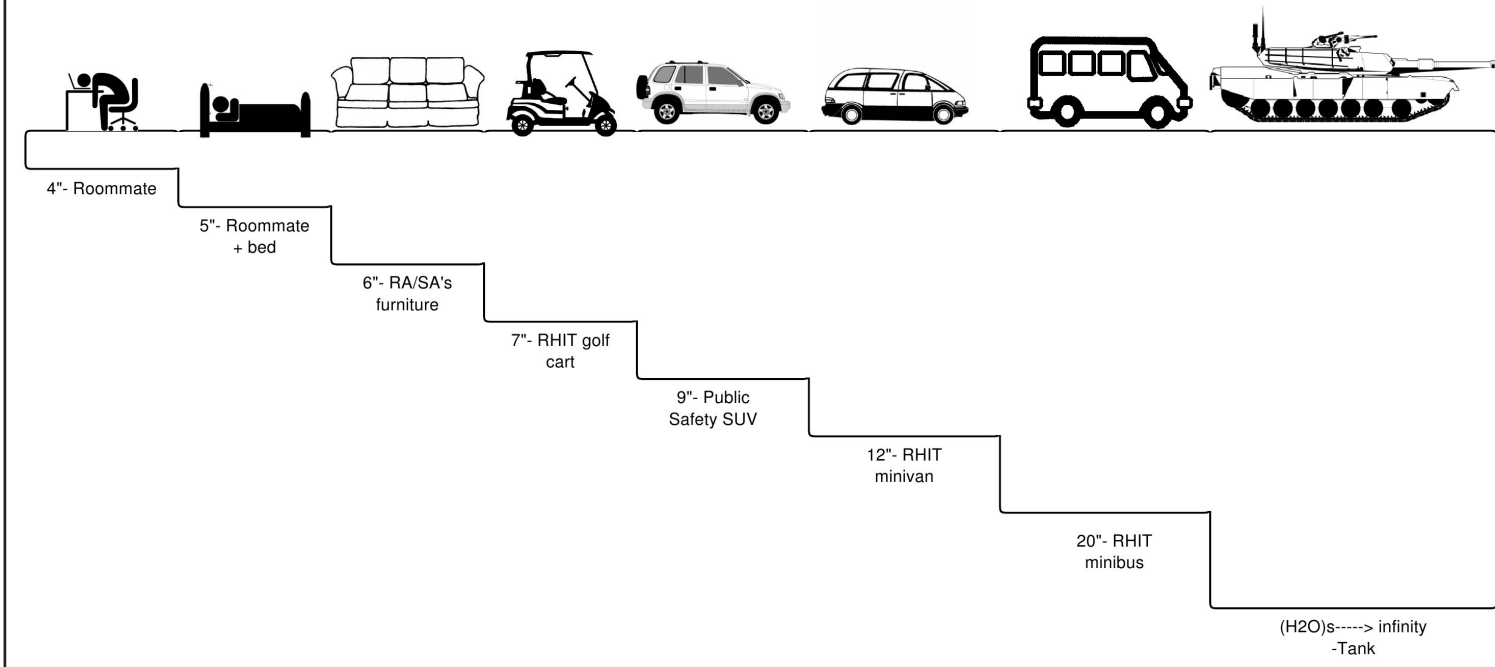


Sophomore electrical engineering major Nate Gissentanner enters the fray to snag a rebound.

Rose-Hulman News



# RHIT Prankster's Guide to Ice Thickness



Matt Melton and Noël Spurgeon • Prankster pros

## Wacky prof quotes

“If you lose a political race nowadays they put you out to pasture. Like thoroughbreds.”  
— Dr. Livesay. Give them some credit... at least they don't turn you into glue any more.

“That sounds excessively excessive, if I can redundantly repeat myself.”  
— Dr. Mayhew, so good he even designs redundancy into his sentences.

“Well, that one has a blue thing running TO it, which means... nothing to me.”  
— Dr. Mr. Holder, thankfully not a bomb technician.

“I am Scott McClellan and I would like to talk to you about life insurance.”  
— Dr. McClellan. Please please please PLEASE don't tell me that that's a prerequisite for taking this class.

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

## 'Twas the Night

**Noël Spurgeon**  
Procrastinating Poet

'Twas the night before deadline, and in my apartment, I was having a rough time in the sleep department; My writer's block gnawed at the edge of my brain, Chewing and chomping till I went insane; My roommates were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of hard drives danced in their heads; But I in my slippers and bathrobe and cap, Was camped out on the couch, attempting to nap, When out on the porch there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my seat to see what was the matter. Something was moving, deep in the shrubs, Someone that halted my watching of Scrubs. The lights up above lit the lot all around And quickly revealed the source of the sound, For what to my wondering eyes should appear, But my two EIC's, their faces severe, They each grasped an issue, and waved it about, And when they saw me, they started to shout.

More rapid than eagles came their reprimands, I shivered and shrunk before their demands; “Noël, are you finished? Did you remember to write? Come on, get a move on! We print this tonight! Why are you sleeping? How could you forget? You've still got a chance, the night's not over yet!” I stood on the ledge, my face frozen in shock, I forgot how to breathe, let alone how to talk; My heart turned to ice, and I thought I might cry, My worst fears had come true, I'd become that guy. I threw myself down, and begged for their mercy, But they brushed me off, and just told me to hurry. I booted up my computer, and stretched out my wrists, My head starting to fill with charts, graphs, and lists. I brewed some coffee and chugged it with haste, It was nearly three thirty, there was no time to waste! My EIC's reappeared to breathe down my back, To keep me on focus, to keep me on track. My fingers they flew, it was a race with the sun! I couldn't stop, couldn't

pause, couldn't rest until done! But it was not so simple, my wireless failed, Seconds before the page was emailed. I reached for the cord and plugged it into the wall, But the problem was Avenue, it did nothing at all; I let out a yell and raised my fist in the air, All my hard work was gone, how could it be so unfair? “But wait!” cried Ekl, “Don't give up just now!” “We can get this to print, and I know just how!” A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He pulled out his thumb drive and put it in quick, Moved all the files, and pulled it out with a click, “Now to get this to presses!” he yelled as he ran Down the stairs, out the door, and hopped into his van; He was tailed by Mullans, who hopped right on in, And they drove out of sight with a screech and a spin. I heard my roommates' alarms as they started to wake, And thought to myself: “I can't wait until break.”

**Share the spirit of Christmas and give us something for a change. E-mail your graphs, charts, and other nonsense to thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu**

## Top “10” Ten

*Gifts to give at Festivus*

Matt Melton • Graduate gift-giver

1. Automatic Laundry Sorter – Build a working one of these, and your mother will never need another gift from you.
2. Fix Someone's PC – Because it's cheap, easy, everyone needs it, and you know how to do it.
3. The phone number for Homework Hotline – All your relatives under the age of 17 now love you twice as much.
4. An RHIT Hoodie – Just because you aren't an engineer doesn't mean you can't look like one.
5. Pocket Protector – Well... Just because you aren't an engineer, doesn't mean you don't want to look like one...
6. Spinning Drink Insta-chiller – A little bit of applied Thermo knowledge and your father will be buying beers for all the guys – and it won't matter that they're warm.
7. Modded Nerf Gun – You know that all you need to do is remove the air restrictors out of Nerf guns and they shoot two to three times as far. All your little cousins need to know is that you're awesome.
8. I <3 U Virus – Make a program on your girlfriend's computer that reminds her of amazing she is every day. For extra points, make it network accessible so you can trigger it multiple times whenever you make her angry.
9. The “Solve” Function on Graphing Calculators – Congratulations, you just made Algebra I, Algebra II, and half of Pre-Calculus really, REALLY easy.
10. A Girlfriend – Hey, we're not magicians...



## ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

Celebrating the unsung heroes of Rose-Hulman Noël Spurgeon • humor editor

Today we salute you, Mr. Last-Minute Christmas Shopper. So engrossed in your studies that you hardly noticed the approach of this most blessed and commercialized holiday, ignorance has given way to panic as you suddenly realize that it is December 24 and you have no presents. Now you sprint frantically through Walmart, hoping beyond hope to find something in the graveyard of empty holiday displays, already picked clean by people who can remember what day it is. You trek around the city, hoping that your eleventh-hour searching will yield something, anything that you can slap a bow on, but it is to no avail. Do you return home bearing fruitcake, shoe polish, and gym socks, but mocked by even the woman who gave birth to you? Do you admit defeat, and face your family empty-handed? Nay sir, nay. You were he for whom Hallmark and gift card kiosks were invented, the fluffy, mind-numbingly cute penguin-printed cards lightening the weight of your transgression. It's adorable anyway. So here's to you, oh giver of the gift cards... because there's no better way to say “I love and care about you” than \$10 to Subway.

This is the Flipside disclaimer, where I do the responsible thing and refuse to accept responsibility. All unattributed content was written by Noël Spurgeon, who likes gingerbread, sugar, peanut butter, chocolate chip, and snickerdoodle cookies, if you were keeping track. Happy Christmas you guys! It's almost break! Are the exams this week really necessary? We appreciate our time off without you beating on us before we leave. The exams are quite unnecessary. This week's Office Quote: “If you want to hit people in the woods with sticks, call