

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

---

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

---

Spring 3-11-2011

### Volume 46 - Issue 18 - Friday, March 11, 2011

Rose Thorn Staff

*Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*, [library@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:library@rose-hulman.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn>

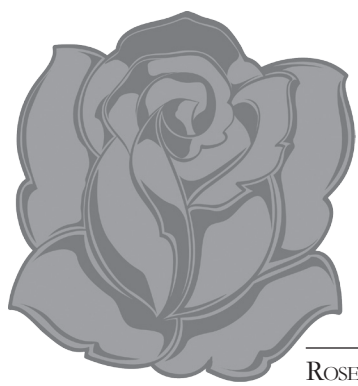
---

#### Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 46 - Issue 18 - Friday, March 11, 2011" (2011). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 93.  
<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/93>

THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS ROSE-HULMAN REPOSITORY IS TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH AND MAY NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. SOME CONTENT IN THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT. ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT REPRODUCE OR DISTRIBUTE BY ANY MEANS COPIES OF ANY OF THE MATERIAL OR USE THE MATERIAL FOR DIRECT OR INDIRECT COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE WITHOUT DETERMINING THAT SUCH ACT OR ACTS WILL NOT INFRINGE THE COPYRIGHT RIGHTS OF ANY PERSON OR ENTITY. ANY REPRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY IS AT THE SOLE RISK OF THE PARTY THAT DOES SO.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspaper at Rose-Hulman Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Rose Thorn Archive by an authorized administrator of Rose-Hulman Scholar. For more information, please contact [ligget@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:ligget@rose-hulman.edu).



## Admitted freshmen come with higher test scores, better academics

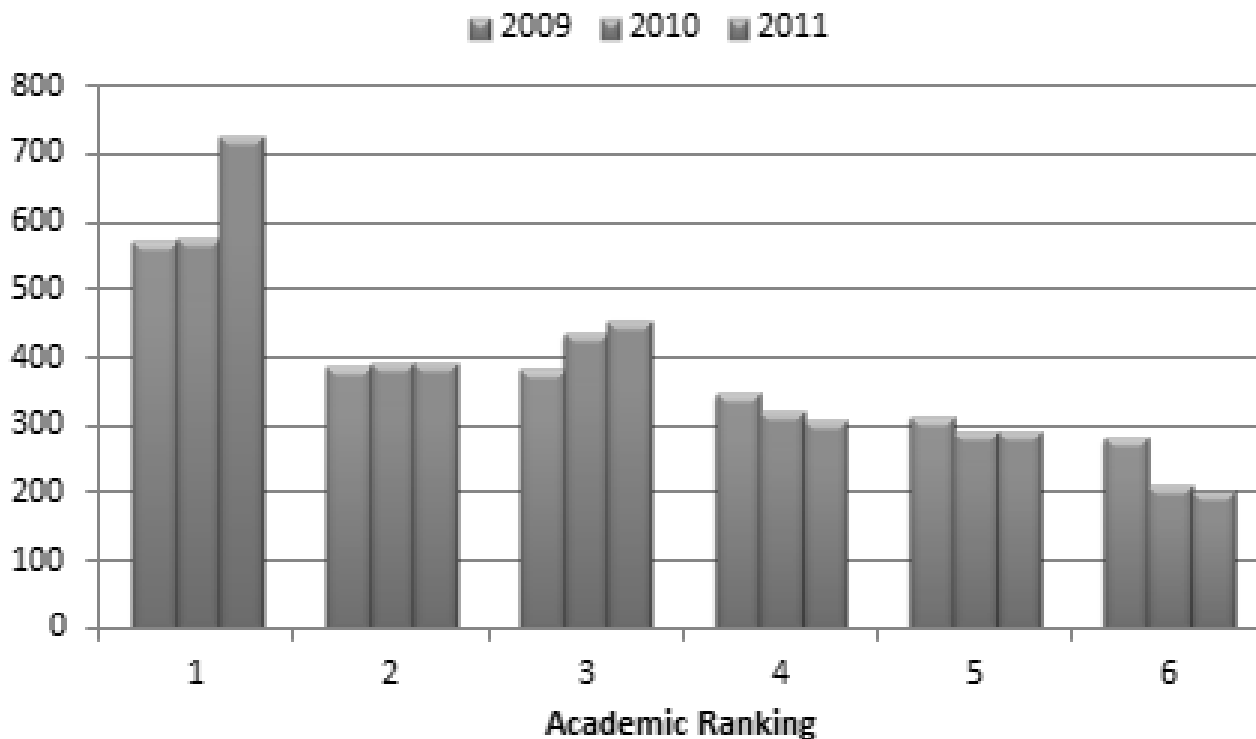
Alex Mullans • editor-in-chief

Rose students have always been talented, and the class of 2015 looks to continue the upward trend. James Goecker, Vice President of Enrollment Management, talked with faculty members Tuesday to share details of the next Rose freshman class. Each of three statistics used to track the academic standing of admitted students over time – SAT/ACT scores and high school grade point averages and class ranks – has increased in this year’s admitted applicants. Goecker noted in his presentation that as students continue to be admitted, these numbers may fluctuate.

While the gains seen in these individual metrics is impressive, looking at them alone doesn’t show the true scope of improvement made in next year’s freshman applicants. The Admissions Office ranks all admitted students on a scale from 1 to 6 in terms of academic desirability. The scale takes into account other factors such as advanced (e.g. Advanced Placement) courses and extracurricular involvement. The number of “1” ranked students increased more than 100 students, and the lowest-ranking “6” students decreased by almost the same factor.

These encouraging numbers, com-

Academic Ranking Distribution 2009 - 2011



A slide from Vice President of Enrollment Management James Goecker’s presentation shows the increased academic quality of this year’s applicants. (Columns from left to right: 2009, 2010, 2011.)

James Goecker • Rose-Hulman Enrollment Management

Admitted Student Averages	2009	2010	2011
SAT/ACT	1347	1344	1356
HS GPA	3.92	3.93	3.97
HS Rank	91%	91.50%	91.90%

This year’s numbers are an increase over the Classes of 2013 and 2014.

James Goecker • Rose-Hulman Enrollment Management

bined with the newly implemented wait list, are expected to continue to increase the quality of incoming Rose students. What makes the numbers even more impressive is the fact that this year’s number of applicants is at a record high — as of January 24th, the Admissions Office had received more than 4,000 ap-

plications, an all-time high for the institute.

In addition to improving academically, the applicants for the Class of 2015 are on the path to creating one of the most diverse classes ever. This year has seen a 23 percent increase in applications from women, a figure which puts Rose at the top of the national female enrollment average at U.S. engineering institutions.

Diversity has also increased in terms of the number of applications from students outside the United States. International applications have increased by 38 percent this year, on top of a 35 percent increase for the Class of 2014.

When asked about this increase, Goecker said, “Rose-Hulman is now recognized as a top-tier academic institution throughout the world.”



## The other side of the desk

The Rose Thorn introduces a new regular column: *The other side of the desk* on Page 6 this week. The column will feature Drs. Thom Adams, Sudipa Kirtley, and Corey Taylor. Check out Dr. Adams’ views on the purse in his premiere column.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Hall Pass a welcome entry in the Hanger style of all-out comedy



PAGE 4: ENTERTAINMENT

The ability to protest freely, even for controversial speech, is something to be thankful for



PAGE 5: LIVING

Did Wisconsin lawmakers make the right decision when it comes to union collective bargaining rights?

point • counterpoint

PAGE 6: OPINIONS

Basketball finishes its seasons, only to be replaced by softball, baseball, and other spring sports. Check out the break recap!

PAGE 7: SPORTS

Switching majors? See the Flipside’s chart for expected performance in your new major of choice!



PAGE 8: FLIPSIDE

# Clueless Crossword

### How to Solve a Clueless Crossword:

Think of a Clueless Crossword as a mix between a regular crossword puzzle and a cryptogram. Unlike many crossword puzzles, this grid is filled only with common, everyday English-language words - no abbreviations or other special "crossword" spellings are allowed. Each square in the grid is numbered 1 through 26, and each number corresponds to one (and only one) letter in the alphabet. Your goal is to completely fill in the crossword grid by gradually uncovering the letter that belongs to each number. We've given you three "giveaway" combinations - fill those into the solution grid and into any corresponding boxes in the crossword grid to get started. It helps to cross out each letter in alphabet as you use it in the grid, since no letter can be used more than once. Note that not all letters of the alphabet may be used in any given puzzle. If a number isn't used in the puzzle, it is greyed out in the solution grid. Good luck!

25	18	24		21	17	23		19	17	21		23	12	7
1	9	7		1	25	24		21	23	4		18	25	25
1	5	5		17	7	23		7	22	7		16	19	8
8	1	6		10		23	12	1			9	1	21	7
				23	18	24	7	24		24	18	17		
				12	7	6	21		7	9	23	4	6	7
9	1	15	7	25		19	21	7	21			6	1	9
7	16	23		7	1	9		14	10	1		10	19	7
14	7	24			23	6	7	21		12	10	1	21	6
	24	7		21	6	16	1	22		16	18	21	7	
				10	23	21		7	26	26	7	24		
21	6	7	7	17			21	25	22		7	24	18	6
14	1	20		17	1	17		1	14	25		23	4	7
23	6	7		7	14	7		9	23	22		6	7	23
22	7	21		24	7	9		24	22	7		23	21	20

### Solution Grid:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	N/A	N/A				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			N/A		N/A	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26		

### Giveaways:

- #17 = P
- #4 = C
- #6 = T

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
V	W	X	Y	Z		



GET A SNEAK PEEK ON  
EACH WEEK’S ISSUE BE-  
FORE IT’S EVEN BEEN  
PRINTED!  
FOLLOW  
THE ROSE THORN  
ON TWITTER:  
[HTTP://TWITTER.COM/  
TheRoseThorn](http://twitter.com/TheRoseThorn)  
AND DON’T FORGET,  
BACK ISSUES ARE ACCES-  
SIBLE ONLINE AT  
[HTTP://THORN.  
ROSE-HULMAN.EDU](http://thorn.rose-hulman.edu)

			8	9	1			
						6	9	
	3			6	7		5	1
	8	5		7			1	6
	6					3		
2				3	8		4	9
		2	7					3
	1							
	4				2	8	7	

printable-puzzles.com

Copyright © Puzzle Baron March 10, 2011 - Go to [www.Printable-Puzzles.com](http://www.Printable-Puzzles.com) for Hints and Solutions!

## THE ROSE THORN

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

Alex Mullans • *editor-in-chief*

Tim Ekl • *emeritus*

Scott Gallmeier • *emeritus*

Sean Gorsky • *news*

Marcus Willerscheidt • *entertainment*

Colin DeClue • *emeritus*

Melissa Schwenk • *living*

Emily Asman • *opinions*

Carly Baehr • *emeritus*

Kurtis Zimmerman • *sports*

Tim Boyer • *emeritus*

Noël Spurgeon • *flipside*

James Weinle • *copy*

Tim Ekl • *photo*

CM 5037, 5500 Wabash Ave.

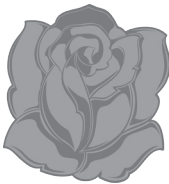
Terre Haute, IN 47803-3999

Phone:(812) 877-8255

Fax: (812) 877-8166

thorn@rose-hulman.edu

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



Andrew Klusman • *business*

Kurtis Zimmerman • *web*

Richard House • *adviser*

Eli Baca • *writer*

Mitchell Ishmael • *writer*

John Lawrence • *writer*

Stephen Mayhew • *writer*

Matt Melton • *writer*

Bennie Waters • *writer*

Hobey Tam • *writer*

Rose Brewer • *puzzles*

Matt Vargo • *photographer*

Carly Baehr • *cartoonist*

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](mailto: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.



# NEWS BRIEFS

By Alex Mullans

## National Public Radio CEO ousted over comment

The CEO of public broadcaster NPR, Vivian Schiller, stepped down this week after controversy over an undercover video showing an NPR fundraiser — hired by Schiller — making inappropriate comments about tea-party Republicans. The change is the third in the past year and has given conservatives critical of the broadcaster plenty of evidence for their image of NPR executives as elitist liberals. The news comes at a time when NPR faces a battle in the Republican-controlled Congress to maintain the \$90 bn it receives in indirect funding from the government. The NPR board of directors is currently assembling a search committee for a new CEO.

## Obama’s advisers give thumbs-down to no-fly zone

National security aides emerged from private talks Wednesday to advise the President that a no-fly zone over Libya would have a limited impact on the violence happening in that country. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization also weighed in, saying that military action requires a “demonstrable need,” a legal mandate, and “strong regional support.” A report is to be prepared by NATO by March 15th; it will cover the full range of options available to NATO member countries. However, the Secretary General of NATO Anders Fogh Rasmussen said, “I can’t imagine the international community and the United Nations standing idly by if Colonel Qaddafi continues attacking his people systematically.”

## Popular Spring Break cities found dangerous

The website Avvo.com, which profiles licensed doctors and lawyers throughout the US, released the results of a survey it conducted to rank the top 25 most dangerous spring break destinations by perceived risk of violent crime. Top on the list of cities are Orlando and Daytona Beach, Florida, as well as Las Vegas, Nevada. Other popular break cities like Galveston, Texas and New Orleans, Louisiana also made the list.

INTERESTED IN WHAT GOES ON IN THE WORLD?  
WRITE FOR NEWS! THORN-NEWS@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU.

PIZZA

PAPA JOHN'S

\$7.99

large pizza

1234 Wabash Avenue

### Store Hours

Monday - Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 1 a.m.  
Thursday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 2 a.m.  
Sunday: 12 p.m. - 12 a.m.

(812) 232-7272

WRITE FOR  
THE ROSE  
THORN!  
EMAIL  
THORN@ROSE-  
HULMAN.EDU.

### Advertisement

On behalf of the Department of Facilities Operations, we would like to thank the students from Triangle, ATO, Lambda Chi, as well as many of the Sophomore Advisors for their assistance with the winter storm on February 1st and 2nd. Their involvement with removing snow and ice and laying down ice melt was very much appreciated by our staff and the campus community. Once again, the Rose-Hulman student body and Greek organizations have stepped forward to support their campus in a time of need, which has been demonstrated many times before. Again, we would like to thank each and every one of you who endured the cold temperatures and inclement weather to support our efforts.

We would like to especially thank the following individuals who represented their organizations proudly:

TRIANGLE	ATO
Andrew Daw	Jacob Beaty
Michael Ehrstein	Adam Beaty
Brad Foulke	Jacob Carr
Karl Frisk	Jordan Grawe
Spencer Johnson	John Rigitano
Andy Menke	Geof Schau
Nick Mohr	Mark Vitale
Eric Myers	Alex Woodhams
Andrew Nicoson	Kristen Latta (helped ATO)
Franklin Totten	
Clint Vatterrodt	SOPHOMORE ADVISORS
Kreigh Williams	Clay Condol
	Ben Deschaine
LAMBDA CHI	Emily Eckstein
Seth Bowen	Robert Gilbert
Will Bro	Ezekiel Hoehn
Jeremy Bultema	James Jacobs
Zach Dunbar	Ashley Kohls
Erik Hoeg	Carl Marcin
Tim Lane	Christopher Pete
Alec Manke	Mike Petro
Eric McClure	Christina Powell
Darius Samz	Jake Sheard
Anthony Seibert	Nick Wanstrath

### Advertisement

#### Sharp Flats East

Sharp Flats East featuring efficiencies, studios and one bedroom units. Some furnished units available and our efficiencies and studios include all utilities. Check us out on the web at [www.sharpflats.com](http://www.sharpflats.com) or call the office at (812) 877-1146 for a showing. We are located at the first light east of RHIT next to Rollie’s Pizza. You may also like our places downtown Terre Haute on or close to South Sixth St.

## Branam visits Ind. Governor



Making A Point: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology President Matt Branam took advantage of a recent visit to the Indiana Statehouse to visit Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, who nearly a year ago was the first recipient of the college’s Excellence in Innovation Award.  
Tony Campbell • Indiana State University



# Suburban men escape midlife responsibility

Hobey Tam • staff writer

The Hangover is a pivotal movie in our generation. It introduced a new level of off color comedy – comedy in which no subject is too taboo to mock, insult, or exploit at the expense of others. These movies are limitless in their context and range from satiric mocking to blatant insinuations of society and cultures. The myriad of movies The Hangover inspired are politically incorrect, socially degrading, and stop nothing short of offending every individual under the sun in some obscene way. Many of the events portrayed in the movies are outright illegal. Yet, we as a population cannot stop laughing. Even as jabbing pains set into our ribs, we can't stop laughing! Hall Pass is no exception as the laughs continue through the credits.

Hall Pass is based on the premise of two middle aged men dealing with the age old midlife crisis – the feeling of being trapped in a generic existence. What happens when “The Big Man on

Campus” spends 15-20 years in the suburbs: job, wife, children, and beer without exercise? He feels trapped – trapped in that he didn't envision himself during his “American Pie” years that he would be utterly stuck in a rut of mind numbing daily routine with nothing to show but a beer gut. They face that unrelenting feeling of “what if?” What if they didn't get married? What if they just ran away? No job, no wife, no children, they would have a life without responsibility... just pure, beautiful freedom. They could party all day and have all the women they wanted in whatever sick way they wanted. Or so they thought. Rick (Owen Wilson – Wedding Crashers) and Fred (Jason Sudeikis – Saturday Night Live) portray the lives of past-their-prime men, examining the dynamics of marriage and what happens after we pass that big 4-0 hill all the while playing off each other's inherent talent to tell new jokes that have the audience in tears from laughter.

It is somewhat of a predict-



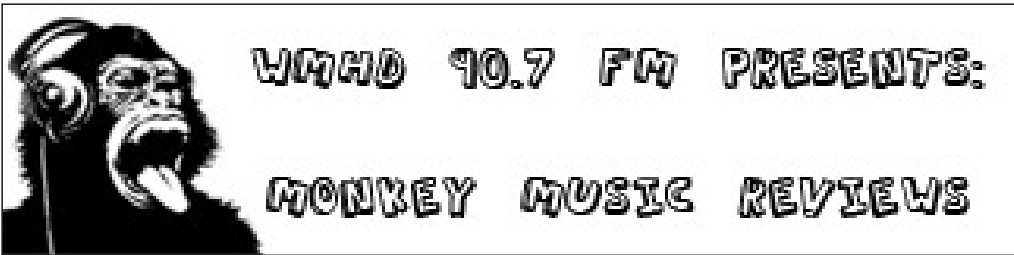
able movie in the general scheme of things. Obviously there is a moral to be learned in the end; however, it is Hangover-esque in its storyline. Hence, you know where the plot is headed but never could you fathom the sequence of events to get there. Coupled with Owen Wilson playing oppo-

site Jason Sudeikis, this makes a great comedy with never before thought of material – nothing is too taboo to make fun of. Great for a date, good choice for a week-end picture with some friends. If you enjoy pictures such as The Hangover, Due Date, or Get Him to the Greek, Hall Pass should be

roochster.com

at the top of your list of movies to see. The laughs start before the first frame and don't end after the last.

Review rating: 3.5 elephants



Xander Huff • staff writer

Something major happened to the Cold War Kids in the year between their previous release, the Behave Yourself EP, and their third album Mine Is Yours, and it was not something good. The process had already begun with their second album, Loyalty to Loyalty, with a very transparent attempt at an identifiably bluesy sound, but here it's just a shock how much slicker the band sounds compared to the raw intensity of their debut. It truly

sounds here like they've seen the success of Kings of Leon and said “ok, we can do that.” Unfortunately, no, they can't. Aside from the lead vocalist's occasional interesting lyric, almost every song sounds coated in a goop solely intended to make it go down easier. While certain songs such as “Cold Toes on the Cold Floor” and “Royal Blue” conjure some of their Mine Is Yours roots, it's a far cry from their gloriously raw debut. In Mine Is Yours, Cold War Kids has managed to create the most consumerist, designed-

to-be-ignored trash I've heard in a long time, and it's downright disappointing. This isn't to say the album can't be appreciated somewhat; the album is certainly polished and mature. It's just that those words have never come close to describing this band before now.

Check out: “Louder Than Ever”  
Review rating: 1.5 elephants



## Too much action too fast?

Eli Baca • staff writer

After Blackest Night comes BRIGHTEST DAY! Yeah...right. Twelve people, good and bad, were brought back to life by the White Lanterns, and basically Life itself, only to be killed off once they've completed their

“missions.” The bi-monthly series is up to issue 20 and while the first volume was downright confusing, this second/third part continuing into the Aquawar has been decent enough.

DC Comic's latest go to crossover writer, Geoff Johns, continues his epic storytelling and gets better with each issue as he learns to not jump around every freaking page. He's steadily staying with each of the characters and really getting into their life issues—like Hawkman's and Hawkgirl's death-curse, or that Mera has lied to Aquaman since she met him. Johns' strength lies in his plot twists because—holy guacamole—they are sweet. Side bar, Black Manta slicing off Aquaman's hand was seriously a slap in the face. I mean, really? Again with the hand? Hasn't he lost enough hands??

The list of people working on Brightest Day is gigantic—larger than most—but since the comic is bi-monthly, more people are

needed to keep the comic on time. Two writers, Johns and Peter J. Tomasi, keep up with the writing duties while Ivan Reis and Joe Prado take up artistry duty.

Reis and Prado have done a pretty good job capturing all of the characters well enough. Sometimes the distinctiveness isn't there 100% but with the quick pages and many action scenes, the art has been good enough to keep the story going. Some of the giant two-page spreads have been amazing, but it's really the details of the features that keep the characters alive. They've almost tried making these super heroes more human than ever, limiting the huge muscle features for more distinct, subtle lines of emotion—which is great for the emotional tales taking place.

Brightest Day is the follow up to the downright legendary Blackest Night tale, and while it's not an all out battle for the Earth, the story is still pulling at those heart strings as it did when zombies

<b>Movies:</b> Battle: Los Angeles	Stronger <i>Sara Evans</i>
Jane Eyre	Happy Thoughts <i>Daniel Tosh</i>
Red Riding Hood	<b>Games:</b> Dragon Age II (360, PS3)
Mars Needs Moms	Assassins Creed: Brotherhood - The Da Vinci Disappearance (360)
Certified Copy	Pokemon Black Ver- sion & White Version (DS)
Black Death	
Kill the Irishman	
<b>Music:</b> Goodbye Lullaby <i>Avril Lavigne</i>	

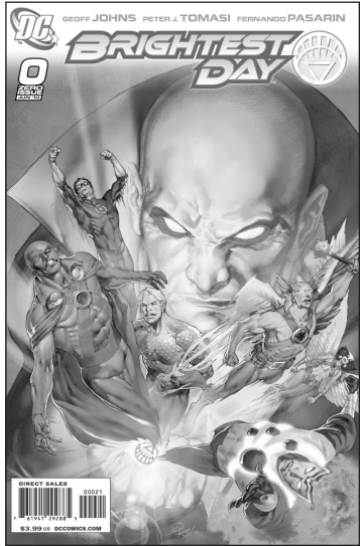
roamed the galaxy. The resurrected characters are all dealing with their own problems—past, present, immortal, and psychic—and each page is significant to the overall tale.

The only problem, as with most crossover comic events, is the sheer amount of information the writers throw at the audience—and at their characters. A couple times during Brightest Day, the characters have gotten some crazy information, like Mera being sent to kill Aquaman, and they just acknowledge and move on quickly. The writers almost can't afford to take their time and create the story with those emotional moments, instead choosing to quickly reveal and move on to the next giant piece of info, like Firestorm being a Universe destroyer. It's no big deal because

the Martian Manhunter isn't the only green martian alive. Yeah, huge bombs get dropped all the time. But whatever, this is the Brightest Day.

All in all, DC fans should continue to get a kick out of this series while waiting for Flashpoint or the Green Lantern War. It's got some funny lines but it's mostly about the characters getting the most out of life—usually with their significant other. Brightest Day is a great series following Blackest Night, the twists are right, Batman was first a Black Lantern and then a White Lantern, so really? This series is doing just fine.

Review rating: 4 elephants





# Thanks for the unalienable right to protest

Melissa Schwenk • living editor

A few weeks ago it was pointed out to me that I am seriously lacking in knowledge about countries east of Germany and south of Italy. I had no way to dispute this fact; I honestly have no idea where Europe ends and Asia begins or what exactly constitutes the Middle East besides Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. I saw this as a call to learn more about the world around me, prompting me to change my homepage to CNN from the two German news sites that I breezed by on my way to Facebook.

This change came just in time to start reading about the unrest in North Africa, something I wouldn't have known anything about had I not decided to be more globally aware. Here's a quick quiz: what two African countries recently ousted their government in favor of something more democratic? If you said Tunisia and Egypt, you are correct.

Now, what country is still working to oust their dictator who has been in power for the past forty-two years? Here's a hint, its name rhymes with tibia. That's right, Libya. Now, what country has supported the Tunisian and Egyptian peoples' demonstrations that resulted in the ousting of those governments, but suppresses all protests against its own? The answer is Iran, whose protests have not gotten nearly as much press time,

probably because they are put down almost before they start.

The media coverage of the Libyan demonstrations by CNN has been extensive during the past week or so, even though the articles are littered with disclaimers saying that CNN cannot confirm every report coming out of the country. Still, the main message of the articles is that protestors are not safe in Libya. Pro-Gadhafi's troops are accused of attacking protestors, all while Gadhafi asserts that all of his people love him and must be under the influence of drugs or Al-Qaeda to demonstrate against his regime.

Seeing all the reports on violence against protestors makes me thankful to be a citizen of a country that allows all kinds of protests, all because of our First Amendment rights. Sure, there are times when what the protestors are saying isn't what we want to hear, such as when the Westboro Baptist Church protests at military funerals.

My heart goes out to the families who are distressed by the members of that church as they mourn for their lost loved ones, but as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court wrote after the Church won its appeal, "As a nation we have chosen... to protect even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle debate."

Germany seems to best understand the right to free speech, most likely due to its checkered,

Nazi past. There are organized peaceful protests throughout the country everyday on a variety of topics, including anti-Nazi rallies more than half a century since the end of World War II.

Frequent peaceful protests seem to be a sign of a well-respected, well-functioning government; only a government that truly believed in its legitimacy would allow even political dissent to be the topic of demonstrations. Regimes like Gadhafi's, which must use force to keep its citizens under control, have numbered days before the citizens and the international community say enough is enough and oust it from power.

Protests can also show the health of a nation. Demonstrations that are tolerated and even protected, such as those in Germany, show that the government is willing to listen to the people. Conversely, peaceful demonstrations that are stifled or put down using deadly force, such as those in Iran and Libya, are a symptom of a weak government that lacks a legitimate mandate to rule or whose legitimacy is weakening in the modern world.

Americans often take their right to free speech for granted, but if the successful protests in Tunisia and Egypt and the suppressed protests in Libya and Iran can teach us anything, it's to be thankful that our government protects that basic right. Happy protesting.



A woman amidst protestors exercises her ability to protest against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the ruler of Libya.  
www.flickr.com

ARE YOU ALIVE? THEN YOU  
CAN WRITE FOR US!

E-MAIL US.

THORN-LIVING

@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU

**KRANNERT**  
SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

**I AM ROB FINTERZ**

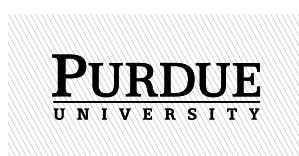
**KRANNERT SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT  
MBA, 2011**

I AM A BUSINESSMAKER. I AM ARMED WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CHEMISTRY—AND SOON AN MBA FROM KRANNERT. I FORGE IRON-CLAD SOLUTIONS FOR NEW VENTURES AS FAR AWAY AS CHINA. KNOWLEDGE FUELS MY PURSUITS. COMPETITION DEFINES MY FUTURE. I AM A BOILERMAKER. AND I AM WHAT MOVES THE WORLD FORWARD.

Learn about the Krannert School of Management MBA program at [www.krannert.purdue.edu/rh](http://www.krannert.purdue.edu/rh) or 877-mba-kran

**Apply Now!** Scholarship opportunities available.

EA/EQU



## Observance of Lent

Andrew Klusman  
business manager

Catholics worldwide (in addition to some Protestant denominations) have begun the observance of the penitential liturgical season of Lent — a time of fasting, almsgiving, and penance before the pinnacle of the Church's liturgical year, Easter Sunday.

Oftentimes in secular media we see the arrival of Lent primarily through the abundance of fish fries and McDonald's and their advertising of the Filet-O-Fish or the McFish or with the arrival of "So, what are you giving up for Lent?"

As a cradle Catholic, I've been through 23 years worth of Lent and each year they have grown in solemnity, care, and observance. So, for those of you interested in learning how to deepen a potential relationship with God over the next 40-odd days, read on.

First, look beyond the task of "giving something up." Yes, the Church asks that the faithful abstain from meat on Fridays and fast (taking one large meal and two smaller meals) on certain days, but we can (and should) do more. We should also look not to "give up" something, but rather add something to our daily routine. Be it an informal private prayer or something like the Liturgy of the Hours (if Catholic; if you're Anglican check out the Anglican Breviary), which is the second public

prayer of the Church. If you're not Catholic, read the Psalms, because that is, essentially, what the Hours are.

Second, see how you can contribute to some greater cause. Be it a church, a charity, or your favorite children's support fund, try to give at least some form of donation to a good cause (as is often heard in a Catholic parish — time, talent, or treasure).

Third, if you've fallen away from whatever religious body you may have been raised in and have been interested in perhaps maybe returning, look into it! In this age of information and technology, being ignorant (in the innocent sense of the word) is really no excuse for lack of doing anything. A quick Google (or Bing, for you Bing fans) search can yield a plethora of information of your desired religious body. Shooting an e-mail off to the local priest or minister would also be good. They won't bite. They'll probably be glad to hear of your interest in returning.

Finally, don't lose sight of the reason for Lent. It's not an imposed time of feeling sorry and sad for yourself. It's a time of imitation and preparation of Jesus and for His Passion and Resurrection. Try to make it a healthy and worthy one. And remember, when Easter comes, it's truly a reason to rejoice and celebrate.



# point ● counterpoint

## Should government employees keep their collective bargaining rights?

Carly Baehr • opinions editor

For weeks, all eyes have been on Wisconsin as protesters flocked to the capitol to protest Governor Scott Walker's attempt to kill public employee unions. The Democratic minority have fled to Illinois to prevent a vote, and are now facing threats of fines and possible arrest. (By the way, the Democrats deserve props for blocking the vote, not condemnation for "abandoning

their jobs;" they are doing their jobs by trying to protect their voters' interests in the only way possible.) In a nutshell, Walker, in an effort to close a \$137 million state budget gap, wants to cut public employees' wages and benefits—and also drastically restrict the rights of public employee unions to collectively bargain for wages, benefits and working conditions.

"We have to balance the budget" has been the conservative rallying cry, but the attacks on union rights are not really related to the alleged budget "crisis"—in fact, the cuts to public employee benefits aren't related to the budget in any substantive way either. A keen observer will note that before drumming up the artificial concern for a balanced budget, Walker passed corporate tax cuts to the tune of . . . about \$137 million. Convenient.

The unions already made the wage and benefit concessions that were asked of them last month, closing the supposed budget shortfall, but the Republicans in the state Senate want more. Stripped of its façade of economic responsibility, Walker's plan is just an excuse to do some union-busting. Walker's proposal would strip public employee unions of the right to collectively bargain about anything other than wages, and wage increases would be capped at the level of inflation. Unions wouldn't be able to collect dues or bargain for benefits, working conditions, vacation time, overtime pay, classroom sizes in public schools, or anything else.

Unions serve an important function for

working Americans: they exist to protect workers' rights and give a voice to people who wouldn't be heard otherwise. Let's face it: the relationship between employer and employee is not an equal one, and unions help to correct that by bringing the strength of numbers to face up against the strength of authority, power, and money. In today's America, money matters, and sometimes it takes a union—a large group of people organizing and pooling their re-

sources—to counteract that influence.

By neutering the unions the Wisconsin GOP strikes a blow against workers everywhere. What if private unions are next? Killing unions starts to fall dangerously close to the "right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the

government for a redress of grievances" promised in the First Amendment—and for public workers, their employer and their government are one and the same.

A lot of numbers have been thrown around in the news that suggest that public employees earn significantly more than their private counterparts. But controlling for the education and experience of state employees, there is no statistically significant difference between the two groups in terms of wages. It's true that government employees earn slightly more in benefits, but, again, the unions have already made the required budget concessions on that front. So with those numbers it doesn't appear that the public employee unions are disproportionately powerful compared to other unions; if the public unions' power is obliterated, how can the workers protect their interests in the future?

Unions were created for a reason, and it is not reasonable to assume that workers will have perfect working conditions forever and that there will be no call for unions in the future. The protesters are fighting for our teachers, firefighters, public defense attorneys, police, sanitation workers, and many others—and they deserve better from the government they serve.

Andrew Roth • guest writer

With the newest development coming out of Wisconsin, things have ventured into uncharted territory. That being said, it is hard to be surprised at the course they have taken. The Wisconsin state Constitution requires that the Senate hold a quorum for any bill that spends money. The Democrats used this to their advantage by fleeing the state, preventing the Republicans from passing the bill which would have removed some of the public sector unions' collective bargaining rights. The bill would have also made union members pay into their own pensions at a rate of 6.2% as well as double their contributions to their health insurance. All told, the measures would amount to roughly an 8% pay cut and would save the Wisconsin legislature approximately \$37.5 million this fiscal year, leaving them with a \$99.5 million shortfall.

All told, I have a hard time seeing any problem with any of this. In the private sector, employees work for their employer in exchange for money. If the employer is abusing this relationship, they can unionize to demand better pay. Here is where things start to go awry. If the employees unionize, then either nothing has changed, or they now control the company in its entirety. If they go on strike and the employer hires other workers to take their place, then they really haven't accomplished anything. The only way for the union to have any bargaining power as a group is if they can destroy the company when they don't get what they want (for example, by striking and costing the employer money until he gives in). However, power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Once a union can take the

company hostage, they often do and do it often. In the private sector, this inevitably leads to severe increases in the company's pricing, which reduces competitiveness. This in turn reduces profits, which makes the higher, fixed wages even more painful to bear. If this vicious cycle continues long enough, the company will eventually run out of money and go out of business, leaving the union employees on the street. This fact tempers the unions in the private sector somewhat (not all that well, mind you—after all, look at the salary of the average UAW worker—but it does slow them down a little). But in the public sector, the boss is the government and therefore, ultimately, the taxpayer. With such a large pool of people to

take money from, the danger of overreaching union wages and benefits becomes obscured. Public sector union members are, on average, better paid, have more job security, better insurance, and more vacation and sick days than pri-

rate sector employees. Any attempt to rein in the massive cost of the public sector unions is seen as unacceptable.

The Wisconsin legislature put themselves into this position by overspending. Now they have to rein it in by cutting back on some of the money they doled out. But there are many options. They can cut the union pay, cut entitlement programs, or they can cut public services. There would be just as much outcry if they tried to reduce state unemployment benefits or laid off road workers, but crying about it doesn't change the fact that the money is not there, and that by giving the unions an 8% pay cut, they can eliminate more than one third of the over-extension of their constituents' tax dollars.

### No: With public unions, the danger of overreaching union wages becomes obscured.



## The other side of the desk

Dr. Thomas Adams • faculty writer

I carry a purse. I see no need to use euphemisms such as men's handbag, European carry-all, or man-

purse, as all of them sound much more insulting to me than just plain purse. (Isn't man-purse a bit redundant anyway?) "How could this happen?" you ask. "How could a heapin' hunk o' manhood like Dr. Thom end up carrying a purse for God's sake?"

The origins of my purse-carrying actually go back to a summer in my late teens, a summer in which I found myself unemployed. I was bummed that I had no source of income, but relatively happy that I could goof off and wear whatever I liked. And what I liked was typically a pair of running shorts, an old T-shirt, and a pair of sneakers. It was the perfect outfit for living in the suffocating heat and humidity of Savannah, Ga. Perfect except that there weren't any pockets, that is. What was I to do with my keys and my

wallet? (An empty wallet, of course, but it was the epitome of cool, being made of colored nylon fabric and having the requisite Velcro latch.)

For a short time my solution was to wear Kangaroo® sneakers, shoes that had little zippered pockets built right in. But alas the pockets were only large enough to hold a single key and a couple of dollar bills. Not that I had any dollar bills to put in them mind you, but there simply wasn't enough space for potential money. Besides, where was I to put the cool nylon wallet? I therefore found a small soft sided bag in my closet that was part of a matching luggage set. Most likely designed to carry toiletries, I repurposed it for keys and empty nylon wallets. Ah, the liberation!

A short time after, owing to my rather severe myopia, I began wearing contacts. As any contact-wearer knows, however, contacts have a number of nasty habits, including sucking all the moisture from your eyes, plucking dust particles the size of small boulders from the surrounding air and hurling them into your skull, and/or simply abandoning ship and jumping right out of your head altogether. The savvy contact-wearer therefore has a backup pair of glasses

handy. As a purse-carrier, I had an instant place to put them.

For a spell in my early twenties I switched to a fanny pack. I quickly decided I didn't like it, though, what with having to fumble around my crotch to retrieve items. Weren't fanny packs for fence sitters anyway? Make up your mind! Carry a purse or don't!

I feel sorry for those men who won't take the plunge. A wallet with ten zillion credit cards in it; house, car and work keys; smart phone; an iPod; pen; flash drive; a pair of sunglasses; \$1.61 in change; and a stick of Chapstick—all that floating around in your pockets? Really? Why? It has been shown, by the way, that a major cause of lower back pain in men is sitting with a tilted pelvis due to an overstuffed wallet residing in just one pants pocket. Go ahead and play through the pain. Mine is in my purse.

Berate me if you like, I don't care. (You are probably are too cool to dance too, I bet.) I can bench press a Buick, you know. But that's no more relevant to my masculinity than carrying a purse is. And next time you find yourself with a beer and no bottle opener, I will neglect to tell you that I have one on my pocket knife—right here in my purse.



## Quarter break sports recap

While the majority of campus took a break last week, several of our sports teams were travelling across the state and country to compete. The basketball teams wrapped up their seasons, while the baseball and softball teams are just getting started and will continue playing this quarter.

### Men's basketball

The Fightin' Engineers clinched a spot in the men's Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament which took place two weeks ago, and they faced off against Transylvania University in the first round of play. While they maintained their best record since the 2003 – 2004 season, the men's basketball team suffered a 54 – 49 loss to the Pioneers which sent them home with a 16 – 10 overall record.

For their successful season, two Engineers were awarded honors by the HCAC; civil engineering students Julian Strickland, a freshman, and Austin Weatherford, a sophomore, were named Freshman of the Year and second-team all-league in coaches' ballot results. Additionally, departing senior civil engineer Steve Ricks was honored with a spot on the all-conference Sportsmanship Team for the winter season.

### Women's basketball

The Lady Engineers also earned a spot in the HCAC women's tournament, and unfortunately also suffered a loss, finishing the night with a 71 – 50 end to their season as Transylvania University advanced in the tournament. Despite the loss, the women's basketball team was very successful on the season, improving by six games from last year to a 10 – 15 record and locking up their places in the records.

Senior biomedical engineering student Donna Marsh has left her mark on women's basketball at Rose-Hulman with career totals of 1,067 points, 896 rebounds, and 295 blocked shots, and junior mechanical engineering major Alisa Dickerson is also ranked in several career records. Dickerson and Marsh were each named to the all-conference women's basketball team for their stunning season, and freshman computer engineering student Heather Finnell was named to the all-freshman team.

### Baseball

Rose-Hulman's baseball team has been predicted to finish fifth in the HCAC in the preseason poll of league coaches which was released earlier this year. The team returns several starters from last year's team which made its third consecutive trip to the NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament.

The team kicked off the season with its annual trip to Florida over quarter break to compete against seven schools in nine games and finished the trip with a winning record. Sweeping both Wartburg College and Rochester Institute of Technology, the Engineers returned with a 5 – 4 record for the season. Rose-Hulman will return to Terre Haute with their home opener against Alma College on Sunday, March 13, at noon.

### Softball

The preseason polls pegged the Lady Engineers as seventh-place finishers in the HCAC tournament, with Transylvania University and Bluffton University leading the conference. The softball team also headed down to Florida over break for eight games against seven teams and returned with a 2 – 6 record.

The Lady Engineers will travel to Centre College Saturday, March 12 for a double header beginning at 2 p.m., and they return on Saturday, March 19 for their home opener against Bluffton University at 1 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Rose-Hulman News

## Four Engineers to compete in NCAA Nationals

**Kurtis Zimmerman**  
sports editor

After a strong season of indoor track and field competitions, four Rose-Hulman athletes will get a chance to compete in the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championships. Results released earlier this week named the following qualified students—each currently holding school records—who will compete this weekend.

Senior mechanical engineering major Derek Bischak earned the No. 12 spot in the mile run after running a season-best time of 4:13.84 and besting previous school record-holder Mike O'Brien's time by nearly five seconds. Junior mechanical engineering and civil engineering student Jeremiah Edwards

earned the No. 5 spot nationally in the 55-meter dash with the school record time of 6.39 seconds.

Junior mechanical engineering student Sutton Coleman qualified seventh in the 55-meter high hurdles. Coleman broke a 33-year-old school record earlier this season and has earned All-American honors at the 2009 Outdoor Nationals in the past. Rounding out the list is sophomore math major Liz Evans with the top high jump performance in the nation. Evans earned two runners-up honors last season and is the first female Fightin' Engineer to earn multiple All-American honors at Rose-Hulman.

Preliminary round competitions will take place on Friday, followed by the championship round on Saturday.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

By Kurtis Zimmerman

### ISU, Butler claim NCAA tournament berths

For the first time in a decade Indiana State earned an NCAA tournament bid after knocking off top-ranked Missouri State in the Missouri Valley Conference championship game. The team has won five consecutive games under first-year head coach Greg Lansing, who told the press that "it's about the best feeling in the world." Senior Jake Kelly hit two clinching free throws to secure the 60 – 56 win and send ISU to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2001 when they were eliminated in the first round of play. The last time the Sycamores made significant progress in the NCAA tournament was in 1979 when they were runner-up to Michigan State.

The Bulldogs from Butler University also claimed a spot in the NCAA tournament by beating Milwaukee on Tuesday night to secure the Horizon League championship. The 59 – 44 win means that Butler can avoid "life on the bubble" and is guaranteed a spot in the NCAA tournament which begins next week. Prior to last year, when they finished runner-up, the Bulldogs had not advanced past the Sweet Sixteen in modern era tournament play.

### NFL labor talks continue

After an extension of one week was applied to the collective bargaining agreement for the National Football League's players' union, one day remains before the current deal expires. Topics brought to the floor include how to split up \$9 billion in annual revenue, health care, and whether the regular season should be extended to 18 games from 16 or not. Currently, of the \$9 billion in revenue, \$1 billion is set aside for stadium costs and running the NFL.com website. League owners want to use another \$1 billion for "league costs," but players want more audited financial statements to verify their loss in the deal, while the league's representatives claim that ample documentation has been shared.

In a Bloomberg National Poll conducted last week, "by a ratio of more than 2-to-1", Americans are siding with NFL players. By not accepting revisions to the agreement, owners could shut down the league and cause the first work stoppage in 24 years, a result that fans and taxpayers – who finance stadiums which would essentially be left empty – are against on the majority.



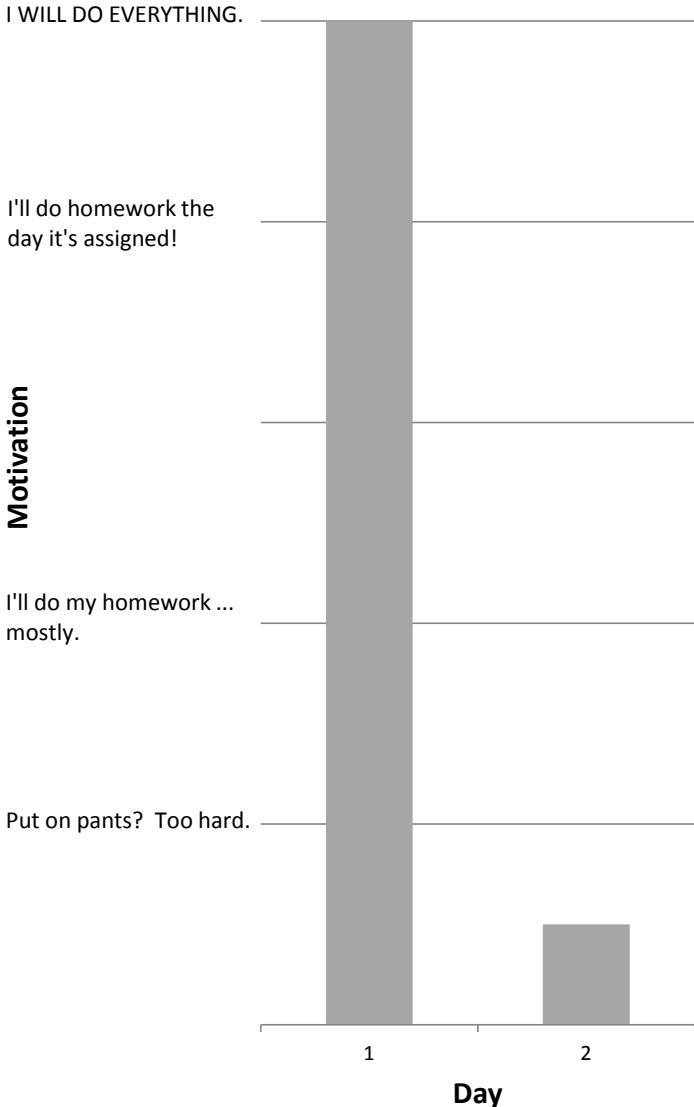
# Top “10” Ten

Things you could get away with as a politician (that you can’t now)

Matt Melton • My Grades are Too Darn Low Party

10. Continuously make a budget with billions of dollars in losses. Scientifically speaking, that’s in gigadollars (not to be confused with jiggadollars).
9. Not getting paid enough? Change the law to increase your salary. *[Ed. note: I’d be giving myself a one bajillion dollar scholarship... wouldn’t you?]*
8. Hiring employees based completely off their looks. Fortunately, we’re not allowed to choose lab partners this way... apparently, goggle-wearing sexiness isn’t high on the academic partner priority list.
7. Walk out of the classroom so you don’t have to take a test (although you’ll have to drive to Illinois for it to work properly... or they’ll send Public Safety.)
6. Get a special house and security just because of the job.
5. Chartered jet? Take it from the slush fund. Your slush fund doesn’t even cover day-old doughnuts.
4. Talk about problems for four years without actually getting them done... and still keep your job for another four. It’s like giving someone an A just for writing out the problem statement and drawing a nice picture.
3. Felonies.
2. Hire interns (for FREE) to do your crappy work for you. In most civilized cultures, we call that indentured servitude.
1. Receiving payments to alter your work? Senators call it ‘lobbying,’ engineers call it bribery. Oh, and it’s kind of illegal for us.

The first two days of the quarter



## Wacky prof quotes

“If our program was easy, then everyone would have a degree in EE and there would be no bartenders.”  
— Dr. Grigg. So *\*that’s\* where the drink-making robot comes from...*

“If you’re wearing a cape, you can’t be attacked from behind.”  
—Dr. Brandt. *It’s good to know I’m not just wearing one to look like Batman.*

“So, really, you could stick your cigarette in a vat of gasoline and nothing would happen.”  
—Dr. Henthorn. *Note: testing this statement is not recommended.*

“We’re gonna have to meet Wednesday. Think of it as a...coupon. Free education.”  
— Dr. Mr. Holder. *If the coupon covered my tuition, I’d be strangely okay with that. Sort of.*

Rose Profs say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at [thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

		This Is What Your G.P.A. Would Be If You Switched To This Major														
This is Your Major		AB	BE	CHE	B-Chem	Chem	CE	CS	SE	ECE	EMGT	MA	ME	Physics	OE	EP
	AB	B	D	F	F	F	D	F	F	F	A	F	F	F	F	F
	BE	B	B	F	F	F	C	F	F	D	A	D	B	D	D	D
	CHE	D	D	B	B	A	B	F	F	F	B	D	F	F	F	F
	BioChem	B	B	D	B	C	B	F	F	F	A	D	F	F	F	F
	Chem	D	D	D	C	B	B	F	F	F	B	D	F	F	F	F
	CE	D	D	F	F	F	B	F	F	F	A	F	F	F	F	F
	CS	F	F	F	F	F	F	B	A	C	F	C	F	F	F	F
	SE	F	F	F	F	F	F	C	B	D	D	C	F	F	F	F
	ECE	D	D	D	D	D	B	C	C	B	C	B	A	D	C	C
	EMGT	F	F	F	F	F	D	F	F	F	A	F	F	F	F	F
	MA	F	F	D	D	D	C	C	C	D	F	B	F	C	F	D
	ME	D	A	D	D	D	A	D	D	C	B	F	B	D	D	C
	Physics	D	D	C	C	C	A	F	F	D	D	B	A	B	C	A
	OE	D	D	F	F	F	C	F	F	C	D	D	D	C	B	D
	EP	D	D	D	D	D	A	D	D	D	D	C	B	C	C	B

Matt Melton • Recovered civil



## ROSE MEN OF GENIUS

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

Today, we salute you, Mr. Seasonally Inappropriate Sandal Wearer. Despite the frigid air and torrential downpours, you’ve decided to break out the Birkenstocks, because it’s almost spring, dangit. Those of us less dedicated protect our precious phalanges with socks, brazenly throwing fashion sense to the wind in favor of foot protection. But the true warriors among us go without: toes exposed in a testament to all that is man. You warm yourself with the fires of sheer will, the same powers that made a trashcan combust in chem lab when you made the mistake of staring off into space for too long. As our eyes meet across the quad, hats pulled down low and hands inside our pockets, we avert our eyes with the knowledge that we will never possess such unadulterated testosterone (although we still possess all our extremities). So here’s to you, oh Sultan of the Sandals... because thanks to you, whining about the weather makes us look like pansies.

## CHICK OF THE WEEK:



BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY