

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

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Student Newspaper

Winter 12-17-2009

Volume 45 - Issue 11 - Thursday, December 17, 2009

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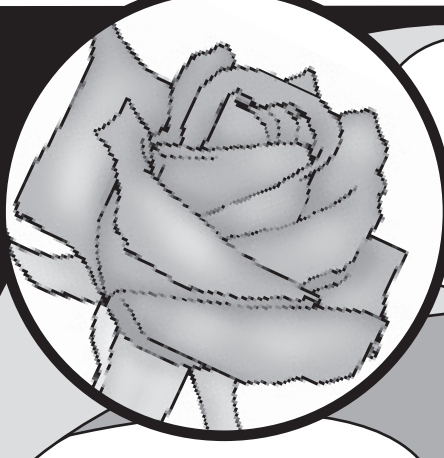
Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 45 - Issue 11 - Thursday, December 17, 2009" (2009). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 113.

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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2009 ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/ VOLUME 45, ISSUE 11

News Briefs By Alex Mullans

Copenhagen in chaos

The Copenhagen Conference (once hailed as the new Kyoto) has run into serious problems as various groups, pursuing their own agendas, have created a chasm between rich and poor nations. The main points of contention are numbers: emissions cuts by, and funding from, rich nations are not at the levels desired by poorer nations. National leaders are scheduled to arrive Thursday, but some have questioned as to whether they will attend at all if their interests are not represented beforehand at the conference. One thing is certain: people are interested. 46,000 people registered to view the deliberations, which will occur in a building that can only hold 15,000.

Norwegians see Russian missile failure

The streak of bright light seen from some Norwegian towns near the White Sea was not a UFO; rather, it was the failure of the thirteenth test of the Russian submarine-based Bulava-30 missile. The Bulava-30 is one of the Kremlin's expensive projects aimed at reinvigorating its naval arsenal: some experts speculate that the Bulava can carry up to 10 warheads to a target 5,000 miles away. So far, however, it has proved largely unreliable and very expensive. Originally scheduled for action in 2006, the completion date has been continuously pushed back due to failure. An analyst from the Institute of Military and Political Analysis claims that "billions of dollars have been flushed down the drain."

Boeing 787 takes off at last

Boeing has finally completed its first successful test flight of its flagship 787 jet. The 787, a midsize jet that can carry around 300 passengers over both short and long distances, has been hailed as Boeing's ticket to the future of air travel. It is notable because it is said to be more efficient than previous Boeing products, and is the first plane to use composites in most of its construction. However, numerous delays in production have caused some to question whether the plane would ever become a reality. Tuesday's test flight alleviated some of those concerns, but many analysts concur that several years of testing still stand between the 787 and commercial carriers. There have already been 865 firm orders placed for the 787.

Building a better holiday

Tim Ekl
Photo Editor

Most Rose-Hulman students haven't ridden a bicycle with training wheels in years, but they sure know how to put one together.

Over 250 students convened Saturday, December 12 to assemble bicycles for needy children throughout Indiana. The event, now in its tenth year, began at 8:00 a.m. in the Facilities Operations building and concluded at 3:00 p.m. with the distribution of bicycles to charity organizations and individuals.

Rose-Hulman students were an essential part of the program.

"We couldn't do it without the Rose-Hulman students. They play a big role in this," Dale Long, Director of News Services, said. "It's really become a big community service project for Rose-Hulman. We get the Greek community, residence hall staff, faculty and staff get involved, too."

The process itself is, after ten years, very streamlined. More than 450 bikes were trucked in as kits, which Rose-Hulman students assemble in groups of four. Groups tend to specialize in one size of bike, ranging from tiny 12-inch bikes with train-



Dale Long/Rose-Hulman

Rose-Hulman students participate in the tenth annual Bikes for Tykes charity event. The event, sponsored by the Terre Haute Exchange Club, resulted in the assembly of more than 450 bikes with the help of students, faculty, and staff.

ing wheels to larger 26-inch models.

"It really resembles Santa's workshop," Long said. "We give them the tools, we give them the kits, and then they go to work. They're pretty much putting a bike together every eight to ten minutes."

After assembling the bikes, members of the cycling and Human-Powered Vehicle teams inspect them for structural integrity and inflate the tires. Facilities opens its doors to charities that have

requested the bicycles at 12:00 p.m.

The event has grown significantly in the past several years. The first year of Bikes for Tykes, held in 2000, took place on an Air Guard base at a local airport; the event didn't move to 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.

Although the campus provides food and drinks to the

student volunteers, all the money donated to the event goes directly toward the purchase of bikes and safety helmets. Even the food is donated by local companies.

Bikes for Tykes is sponsored by the Terre Haute Exchange Club. The Exchange Club 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.

Students share experiences abroad

Homa Hariri
Guest Writer

The Study Abroad Symposium was held on Thursday, December 10. The programs ranged from the more traditional or frequent choices, such as Germany, to the newer, more unconventional destinations such as Hungary.

The advisors of the programs talked about the requirements of each one and how to apply, although several professors who weren't the heads of various programs discussed individual countries to encourage students to consider going to those countries as well as the ones that had more widely known programs. Also present were students who also discussed their individual experiences with various study

abroad programs.

The symposium then ended up being a question and answer session. Brochures and articles were passed out at the meeting for those who wanted more information. To apply, several forms are required, and the appropriate visas need to be obtained. Other issues range from cost of the program to the ability of a student to obtain course credit while abroad.

According to Karen DeGrange, Director of International Students and the study abroad programs, it is occasionally cheaper for some students to study abroad their junior year because of the lower cost of living and tuition in certain countries, and some students receive stipends.

According to one professor, there have been cases

where students are able to avoid spending an extra year in school because they can

obtain course credit for certain major-specific junior level courses at some schools affiliated with study abroad programs (such as a program affiliated with the University of Manchester in England). Generally such course approval is harder

to obtain for students going abroad in newer programs with technical schools with

which the professors and department heads are not as familiar.

Overall, according to DeGrange, many Rose students decide to study

abroad "because they believe this is one of the few times in their lives they'll have the chance, and they've decided, 'I'm going to go for it.'"

[Many students study abroad] because they believe this is one of the few times they'll have the chance.

-Karen DeGrange

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Ninjas... there are three on this page.

Rose-doku

By Andrew Klusman

Instructions:

Convert each word from its keypad numbers.

53787

626437

6635

69774



372654623673

84733 54647

4653

62848489

**Have a safe, fun, and enjoyable
Holiday Vacation!**

Find the answers to all Rose Thorn puzzles at:

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

Movie Quote of the Week

By Andrew Klusman

Instructions:

Solve the puzzle by deciphering the following quote and figure out from which movie the quote is. Each letter represents a different letter in the alphabet.

Hint (Solution = Crypto):

A = I B = D C = P

IZXW KIE, "FLE, TIUI, FLE, FBC IDBMY I

-----, "-----, -----, -----, -----

TWYYTL KBULYFWZR, EBM GZBC, NBJ YFL

-----, -----, -----, -----

LNNBJY, EBM GZBC." IZX FL KIEK, "BF,

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----

MF, YFLJL CBZ'Y DL IZE UBZLE, DMY

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----

CFLZ EBM XLW, BZ EBMJ XLIYFDLX, EBM

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----

CWTT JLPLWHL YBYIT PBZKPWBMKZLKK." KB

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----

W RBY YFIY RBWZ' NBJ UL, CFWPF WK ZWPL.

-----, -----, -----, -----, -----

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The Rose Thorn

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**The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays
first through ninth week each quarter.**

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All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the *Rose Thorn* Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).

The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.

All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).

The views expressed in the *Rose Thorn* are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the *Rose Thorn* staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Former resident assistant Woodward gets Jess Lucas Alumni Leadership Award

Rose-Hulman News

Dean Woodward, intellectual property legal counsel for Raleigh, N.C. based RTI International, has received the Jess R. Lucas Alumni Leadership Award, which recognizes a former member of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's residence hall staff for having a distinguished post-graduate career.

Woodward, a 1989 chemical engineering graduate, joined RTI International in 2001 as its first in-house patent attorney, after passing the patent bar examination in 2000. In addition to IP protection, Dean also supports the licensing and commercialization of technology.

RTI is a multi-disciplinary research institute with more than 2,800 employees providing research and technical expertise to commercial and governmental clients in more than 40 countries.

During his eight years at RTI, Woodward has assisted in the creation and independent capitalization of two companies based on RTI technology, Nextreme Thermal Solutions and Sixis, Inc.

Woodward served as Sophomore Advisor (SA) for Rose-Hulman's Speed residence hall in 1986-87 and Resident Assistant

(RA) for Speed Hall in 1987-88 and Baur-Sames-Bogart residence hall in 1988-89.

"As a member of the residence life staff, I gained confidence in building rapport with others, even those with whom I might not always agree, yet being able to hold them accountable to a common set of standards," Woodward said. "...It was both demanding and rewarding, and those skills are among the most valuable I've ever experienced.

"Being an SA and RA helped me achieve a level of maturity that has served me well in my career. Like many people, I have had some career setbacks, but I have been able to overcome them in large part by having that maturity and a strong network of colleagues and mentors. I think being an SA and an RA helped me to naturally build those networking skills," he said.

Woodward lives in the Raleigh area with his wife, Vanessa, another chemical engineer, and they raise two sets of twins, eight-year-olds Julianne and Dylan, and three-year-olds Kelsey and Connor.

Lucas served as Rose-Hulman's vice president of student affairs and dean of students from 1976 to 2000.

Branam to remain Rose president

Alex Mullans

Sports Editor

Matt Branam, former interim president, has been elected permanent president of Rose-Hulman by the Board of Trustees on December 4, 2009. The Presidential Search Committee worked for several months to find possible candidates for the position, but it eventually became clear that Branam was the right choice. Board of Trustees Chairman William Fenoglio notes that, "Early in that process, the

Trustees became convinced that it was in the institution's best interest to ask [Branam] to become our permanent president."

Many on campus seem to share Fenoglio's feelings on the matter. The Dean of Faculty, Art Western, was "delighted to hear the news." The recurring theme in most discussions concerning Branam is that he "gets" the Rose family. In his time as interim president, Branam has developed a sense of trust among many students by promoting transparency and reversing

some decisions made before his time. Surely, his tendency to walk up to a student and say, "Hi, I'm Matt!" can't have hurt either.

Aside from his friendly nature, Branam brings to the position a great deal of knowledge and experience. Before coming to Rose-Hulman, Branam served as the first CEO of the American Red Cross; his tenure there marked a period of great growth for that institution. Branam is also a Class of 1979 Rose-Hulman alumnus and Terre Haute native.

Special 'cookie tree' brings holidays home for Rose-Hulman students

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology students don't have to wait until returning home to find something special under the Christmas tree this holiday season. Fresh-baked gingerbread cookies, tea cakes, scones, brownies and other assorted treats can be found under a 9-foot tree in a busy hallway in the center of campus.

The special treats are all due to the generosity and kindness of switchboard operator Mary Greer, who enjoys the smiles and thankful comments from her desk near the tree in the lobby of Hadley Hall.

"The students' giggles and laughter gives me great joy," says Greer, who started the special holiday tradition seven years ago. "Most of the students are from far away and they don't have a chance to get some homemade treats, like their mother or other relatives would make for them. If it makes them feel like home, then I'm happy, because we're trying to make Rose-Hulman feel just like home."

Students have given the tree

such affectionate names as the Cookie Tree, the Giving Tree and the Tree of Treats.

If it's a favorite holiday treat, it can usually be found under or on the tree. Popular items include the gingerbread cookies and candy canes, which join ornaments and lights in adorning the tree; chocolate chip and cinnamon apple spiced scones and peppermint coated cookies. There is also a variety of other cookies, bags filled with homemade party mix and popcorn balls.

Most students don't know that Greer is the person behind the sweet gifts and decorating the tree with lights, ornaments and bows. But they appreciate the simple act of kindness.

Rebecca Bowermaster, a junior from Wood River, Ill., adds: "There's nothing that brightens my day and warms me inside and out like a delicious sugar cookie from the cutest, nicest lady I know."

"The treats around the tree make Rose-Hulman feel more like home," states senior Kendra Albers, from Knoxville, Tenn. "One of my favorite things about Christ-

mas has always been home-baked goodies, even though my mom and grandma are not at school to give me these treats. Mary leaves them under the tree to brighten the day."

Greer bakes new items for the tree each weeknight, after preparing the cookie dough since July, and adds more than 300 handmade items to the tree before starting her work shift each morning. Students pick up the special presents in between classes and while studying in a nearby study lounge. The supply is nearly empty by the end of the day.

"At first, freshmen don't know what to think when they see the cookies under tree. They don't know if they are for real or free for the taking. They just walk on by, admiring the treats. They then see other students taking the cookies and will come back and pick up one," said Greer, a 10-year Rose-Hulman employee who is the mother of four children and has eight grandchildren. "Whatever it takes to get students through the day, I want to be part of it. I just want to make the students happy. Really, I think I'm the biggest kid on campus."



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Showing some holiday spirit



Tim Ekl/ Rose Thorn
Matt Vargo/ Rose Thorn

Rose-Hulman students get into the holiday spirit in the three weeks between the beginning of winter quarter and fall break. Examples of this spirit include the mitten tree in the Union, shown above, and the tree-lighting ceremony for the decorated tree in front of Hadley, shown at left.

Second round of fighting the terrorists! "Modern Warfare 2"

Luke Woolley
Guest Writer

On November 7th, 2007, Activision released the first of its "Call of Duty" series, which stepped off the stage of World War II combat and focused on modern warfare (hence the name "Modern Warfare," also known as "Call of Duty 4").

The first-person shooter, set in Russia and the Middle East, was quickly hailed as one of the greatest of its kind, with more than 13 million copies sold to date. Two years later, Activision released the sequel, "Modern Warfare 2."

One of the most intriguing things to me about the "Modern Warfare 2" (MW2) campaign is the sheer amount of variety and detail. From fighting terrorists in Afghanistan to defending our own country from Russian invasion, MW2 presents an exciting story with intense missions.

On the downside, some of the story line was muddled and disorienting.

At times I felt like I was just along for the ride rather than being focused on military precision and efficiency. One mission involving an undercover assault on a Russian airport I found particularly disturbing. The campaign is far from the customary infantry experience seen in previous Call of Duty games and at times approaches comic book or James Bond-type action.

There are also some awesome

new weapons in the campaign and multiplayer aspects of MW2, a few of which are still in development. One of my personal favorites is a semi-automatic sniper rifle with thermal vision. This is extremely effective when enemies attempt stealth by using smoke grenades to hide their movements—the scope allows me to see them clearly and



<http://www.dontloseyourdayjob.com>

Wait, are you telling me that I can not only use two shotguns at once, but two P-90s? Seriously? I feel like any game that allows that to pass the idea board should be awarded a medal for audacity.

take them down from my secure position. Hummer-mounted machine guns, gun-mounted grenade launchers, heartbeat indicators, and other customizations add to the fun of MW2's game play.

Now to what I consider to be the deal-breaker of this sweet shooter: while the online multiplayer provides players with more profile customization and performance rewards than the first "Modern Warfare," I find it awfully limiting. Unlike the previous installment, you cannot create your own server or even

select which server you wish to join. There are, therefore, no private mods, rules, or auto-kicks, so the multiplayer is similar to console games where newbies and the occasional hacker can ruin a good time. I find this a bit of a slap in the face to administrators and clan members who invested a lot of time into community/structure for "Modern

Warfare's" online play. Oh, and even some controls are missing (I can't lean!). On the other hand, there is a unique Special Ops mode that engages players in short, specific co-op missions that I find very immersive.

In conclusion, the MW2 campaign is action-packed, extremely fun, and graphically amazing, but a bit unrealistic. The online play is intense, varied, and rewarding, but much too restricted for a game of its caliber. You should have done better, Activision, but you've still created a fun game with sweet environments and powerful action!

Reviewer rating: 3.0 elephants



The new and improved Renaissance Assassin

Garry Berry
Guest Writer

If you're like me, you've said you wanted to kill someone; we've all had that urge to put a knife in someone's back either figuratively or literally. Well, instead of actually doing the deed and having to deal with the lawsuit, red tape, and the constant looking over my shoulder, I turn to my trusty Playstation. I was feeling especially bloodthirsty over break, so I played "Assassin's Creed 2." Now, having played "Assassin's Creed," I can safely say that Ubisoft has listened to its fans and read the notes in their complaint box. Issues such as repetitive gameplay, uneven pacing, uninteresting characters, boring combat, and faulty AI have all been addressed. It's as though Ubisoft said, "Everyone! The ideas these fanboys are talking about actually make sense. It's not just a bunch of swears and lolcats." So with more missions, more mission types, a better story, more ways to kill, more ways to blend in and hide, and money to buy art, weapons, and armor, "Assassin's Creed 2" is a definite buy.

The story continues to follow Desmond, the lead character from the last game that used the Animus to relive the life of his ancestors. Now he is using the Animus to view life through the eyes of Ezio, his assassin ancestor during the Italian Renaissance. Instead of being a cocky killer in a hood, the player sees why Ezio becomes an assassin.

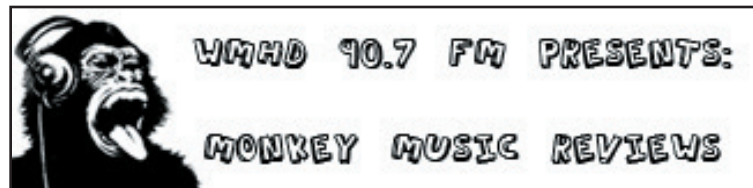


<http://www.brekground.com>

Two blades for the price of one equals twice the killings and double the fun. Seriously, the first time you take down two guys at once: priceless.

Also, Ezio can team up with others; he runs the rooftops with thieves, uses whores to distract guards, and—if you have some money—kill with mercenaries. Along with the new weapons (including a hidden gun), new combat moves, and the ability to swim and go grand theft gondola in Venice, Ezio will come across a villa which he can spruce up and make money every time he comes back. Now for which version to buy, Xbox 360 or Playstation 3, it's a toss-up. The Xbox version has, hands down, better graphics, but with the PSP game, "Assassin's Creed: Bloodlines," the player can unlock weapons, get armor, and get more money. Either way, it's a great addition to your gaming library.

Reviewer rating: 4.5 elephants



Birds of Tokyo "Universes"

Max Verkamp
Monkey Writer

Finding good new music is like panning for gold: you sift through a lot of dross, but occasionally you find that nugget of gold. For me, Birds of Tokyo was one such nugget from the Land Down Under. Because it is pop/punk with an emo sound and dark lyrics, you would most likely write Birds of Tokyo off because of an overcrowding in the genre. However, this Aussie band's music to be a breath of fresh air in the sameness of pop music today.

"Universes" is the band's sophomore effort, though it is their first album to reach the States. Their music is solid with some very catchy riffs and lyrics, but like most pop music, is not technically difficult. However, I find it to be a little more interesting than most bands. The band's vocalist, Ian Kenny, has a very strong voice. The lyrics, and Ian's presentation thereof, are the reason I find this band worthy of notice.

This album in particular has a



<http://www.amazon.com>

few single-worthy tracks and only one song that I would call weak, which is really just an introduction. "Broken Bones," "Head in My Hands," and "An Ode to Death" are my three favorite songs on the album, and you can get a picture of the album's tone from their titles. If you like well-written pop with emotional lyrics, I suggest you pick up "Universes."

Reviewer rating: 4.0 elephants



NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK		
<p>Music:</p> <p>Animal Collective <i>Fall Be Kind</i></p> <p>Alicia Keys <i>The Element of Freedom</i></p> <p>Phil Vassar <i>Traveling Circus</i></p> <p>Mary J. Blige <i>Stronger</i></p> <p>Mudvayne <i>Mudvayne</i></p> <p>Eminem <i>Relapse: Refill</i></p>	<p>Movies:</p> <p>Avatar</p> <p>Did You Hear About the Morgans?</p> <p>Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakuel</p> <p>Nine</p> <p>DVD:</p> <p>The Hangover</p> <p>Inglourious Basterds</p> <p>Taking Woodstock</p>	<p>Games:</p> <p>EverQuest Underfoot (PC)</p> <p>Final Fantasy Crystal: The Crystal Bearers (Wii)</p> <p>Retro Shoot (iPhone)</p> <p>Guitar Hero: Van Halen (PS2, Xbox 360, PS3)</p> <p>Supreme Ruler 2020 Global Crisis (PC)</p>

Living with freshmen

Alek Yoder

Guest Writer

Ed. Note: Alek Yoder is part of a group of sophomores living in Deming.

Let me begin by saying that moving back to Rose was strange. Perhaps I was feeling the first tinges of sophomore cynicism—the lack of novelty and enthusiasm I had for the campus and student life. The summer had been spent traveling, filling sunny days with idle hours, and burning each night like dawn would never come. Understandably, I was in no mood to return to school.

Since my roommates and I had found ourselves once again within the halls of Deming (a suite in Percopo snatched from us by some cruel fate), we were made to endure the mirror to our indifference: the freshmen. They had moved up in the world, out of the banal system of high school into the cliché Wild West that is college. But to us they were still children. They retired before

midnight and complained about first year courses. They were everything we were told we were the year previous—naïve, overly energetic, ignorant.

The stages of their development could be guessed. As the weeks went on, they came to realize that time was their own, that they were neither corralled nor policed, and that there were many rewarding pursuits within arm's reach. The specifics were not the same for all, but every young man changed visibly the first quarter.

It was this change that has so interested me. Although seemingly obvious, it had not occurred to me outright how different I was compared to the kid who walked in at Orientation. Staying up later, partying, or procrastinating were only symptoms of the infection that had beset these new students. For many, these were the first encounters with such a high level of freedom, or a lifestyle based almost solely on male interaction. Testing the waters (although sometimes a nuisance to upperclassmen) was the logical step.

This is not to say that this

change was without outside influence. Fraternities vied for their attention, video game consoles lit up screens long into the night, and the college stereotype made them adventurous to a sometimes absurd degree. The worldlier of them pulled the shier ones from their shells and, in doing so, became bolder themselves. Lastly, veterans like



Rose-Hulman Image Archive

Deming, the oldest dorm on campus, is filled with Rose men of all ages. Its testosterone-streaked walls have a unique smell that declares the obvious lack of female company.

me were there intermittently for advice, which usually rang “do it later.” The slope was so slick that I grudgingly respect those who have retained some virtue.

Watching these changes gave ample fuel for reflection. Had these not been the sweetest weeks for me? Had I not been less accepting, less social or willing to try before them? Maybe it was then that I had grown, made peace with who I was to be out-

side of my parents' home. And now, a year later, having put into greater focus my crude, imperfect form, I am no doubt more content. It is that small transcendence that I hope will be granted to all the young men who live in our dorm hives, and it is that realization that is my reason for loving life in Deming. I would trade my cramped locale for no Percopo suite.

Last-minute gift ideas from the staff

Whether it's for a distant relative or a Secret Santa you forgot about, here is a gift guide from the staff. Just don't get upset with us if something doesn't go over well.

The last time someone got me a last-minute gift, it was a fetish kit.

—Tim Ekl, Photo Editor

Scavenge for stuff in your room that you can re-gift. Preferably something you got in a previous Secret Santa. Or, if they are in a sorority, find something with their mascot on it.

—Christine Price, Opinions Editor

Gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Classy gifts never go out of style.

—Clint Thompson, Copy Editor

Frozen Latkes. Then you can enjoy your Hannukah goodness all year.

—Ben Collins, Entertainment Editor

Concert tickets. Costs a little more, but if you know the person well enough, it'll be a last minute gift they truly enjoy.

—Scott Gallmeier, Co-Editor in Chief

Make food. Especially if the gift is for a man.

—Noel Spurgeon, News Editor

A funnel. Because pouring things is fun.

—Alex Mullans, Sports Editor

Bubble wrap, because it is the most wonderful, useful gift ever.

—James Zhou, Flipside Editor

I've been told often enough by my sister that I have no fashion sense so I just go the easy route and get her a gift card from the same store she got my birthday gift card from.

—Melissa Schwenk, Living Editor

Nothing says “I have no idea what your interests are” like a gift certificate.

—Carly Baehr, Copy Editor

How to: be productive over holiday break

Melissa Schwenk

Living Editor

Last year, I didn't do anything over break. I visited a few friends from high school and spent my days with my senile grandmother, who likes to tell me the same story all the time, but at the end of break, I was still behind on homework and not at all ready to come back to school at all. Here are a few ways you can come back from break feeling not only refreshed and relaxed, but also accomplished.

First, get your homework done early. I know it is against every fiber of every Rose student's being to start homework before the day it is due, but this way, you won't have it hanging over your head during the break. If you do it at the beginning of break, you won't have to worry about anything until you get back to school. Additionally, if you have time, try to finish ahead on your reading. It's much easier to read a section every day over break than to attempt to get through twenty sections on January 3. If at all possible, try to get done with all other school, sport, or Greek life-related tasks that you can. This will help make the transition to school easier.

After you get your homework

done, start preparing for the Career Fair. Begin researching companies and updating your résumé. With the Career Fair on January 27, it will be hard to find time to prepare after break. Look at the companies you want to talk to, write personalized objective statements for your resume, and get your 30-second sales pitch ready.

The sooner you start preparing, the more likely you are to get a job. Once you get back to campus, you can have the staff at Career Services look it over.

Lastly, don't forget to spend time with your family and friends over break. As tempting as it might be to play Call of Duty, Halo, or WoW all day, every day, use this precious time to see your grandparents or friends from home. They'll be happy to see you, even if you can spend only a few hours together. You can always play video games with them or even wait until you get back to school to play. I promise, you won't die of withdrawal.

A productive break can be just as refreshing as one where you don't do anything. In the end, though, a productive break will be far more rewarding, giving you more free time when you get back to school. No one wants to have post-break regrets that don't involve New Year's Eve. Have a great break, and be safe!

It's against every fiber of every Rose student's being to start homework before the day it is

Happy Holidays from the Library Staff

Holiday Hours

Dec. 21-23, 2009 ☞ 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Closed

Dec. 24, 2009 ☞ Jan. 3, 2010



The
Price
is
Right

Christine Price

Opinions Editor

'Tis the season to be jolly, and nothing brings more jolliness and merriment than giving! Whether it's figuring out the perfect gift for a friend or loved one, participating in the world's largest Secret Santa (it was organized by reddit.com; I gave two and got two. It was quite excellent!), giving time and/or money to those less fortunate than yourself, helping charitable organizations, or doing any other number of things that increase holiday cheer, it is indeed a good time for thinking about others.

Some methods of giving are easier than others, but ease should not be the only factor you consider when deciding what to do with your precious Christmas money. Before giving to an organization, you should consider things like how much money they spend on advertising and internal management. Another important thing to consider is

Support the troops— not the Salvation Army

their values.

Despite the readily available buckets outside of many stores, I no longer give to the Salvation Army, for ethical reasons.

In 2004, the Salvation Army was receiving \$70k a year in city funding. When the city was considering enacting legislation that would require all firms that do business with the city of New York to provide health benefits to the partners of gay staffers, the Salvation Army threatened to pull its soup kitchens and other charitable organizations out of NYC entirely. The Salvation Army is a private organization; they have the right to serve where they want, and to decide who gets their aide. But just because they have the right to be bigoted does not mean I am obligated to support their bigotry.

The Salvation Army website has a list of position statements. While some of their sentiments are admirable ("We believe that... we are called to exercise a clear priority for the least among us."), I cannot support the majority of their positions. They "oppose pornography in all of its

forms," is against euthanasia "regardless of age or disability," and level of physical pain. They do "not consider same-sex orientation blameworthy," but believe homosexual activity is sinful; gays must either choose a life of celibacy, or of hypocrisy, because "marriage is the only proper context for sexual intimacy." I realize that a number of readers are saying, "woo, sounds good to me! Let me find my wallet..."

And that's cool. Those just aren't positions that I personally could support.

This season, I'm giving to things that don't contradict my beliefs. I originally had a list of the things I'm contributing to, but that seemed a bit boastful. So instead, I'll just say that two of my favorite winter charities in Terre Haute are the Tribune Star "Christmas Basket Fund," which provides food for Terre Haute families in need, and the "Mitten Tree," which is an event organized by the Hulman Union, and which provides warm winter accessories for local children. Add to this the fun task of acquiring gifts for friends and family, and you've got yourself a very merry winter-holiday-of-choice.

"I no longer give to the Salvation Army, for ethical reasons."

So many sex scandals

Marcel Oliveiras

Indiana Statesman

David Letterman, who recently admitted to having affairs with several staffers on his show, is not the first public figure to be plagued by a so-called sex scandal.

When reading about his situation, I was reminded of how much attention these "scandals" get, especially when it comes to politicians.

The first figure that comes to mind when one puts "politician" and "sex scandal" in the same sentence is Bill Clinton.

This country will never forget the war Republicans waged to impeach Clinton over his affair.

Whenever it comes up in conversation, I always make the point that Clinton's personal conduct had no impact on his performance as president.

After all, he did leave office with a popular approval rate of 66 percent, the highest of any president in history.

As a varsity Democrat, one would expect me to come out in defense of Clinton.

However, I do apply the distinction between personal and professional conduct across party lines. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker who led the Republican ranks against Clinton in his sex scandal, ironically admitted soon after the impeachment battle that he was soon to get divorced from his second wife to marry the woman with whom he was then having an affair.

As hypocritical as that may have been, I still think he was good at what he did and should not have had to resign over his personal life.

Other Republicans, however,

have shown no credibility to judge Clinton.

There was Sen. David Vitter, who was caught using a prostitution service in D.C.

Then there was the hysterical arrest of Sen. Larry Craig, who tried to engage in sexual relations with a male police officer in a public bathroom of the Minneapolis - St. Paul International Airport.

Next was Sen. John Ensign from Nevada, who had an affair with a staffer and tried to bribe her family into staying silent with \$96,000 worth of tax-exempt campaign gifts.

Finally, there was my favorite one, South Carolina Governor Mark Sanford, who stole a government security vehicle to drive to the airport so he could take off from work for a week (without telling anyone) to go visit his mistress in Argentina, with all travel expenses billed to the people of South Carolina.

These recent sex scandals involving Republicans all have something in common: they actually reflect how these politicians perform at their jobs.

Vitter solicited prostitution, Craig engaged in lewd public conduct, Ensign violated campaign finance laws, and Mark Sanford, well... goes without saying.

Therefore, the public ought



One of these things is not like the other... no, wait, they are all actually the same. Cheaters. Boo.

to judge them as professionals based, at least in these instances, on their personal conduct.

Meanwhile, politicians like Clinton and John Edwards (whose career was ruined over an affair, no illegalities involved) have kept their "inappropriate" conduct dully separated from their public roles.

I have always been a fan of David Letterman. His recent admittance to affairs with staffers has left my opinion of him unchanged.

The fact is that public figures' personal lives have nothing to do with their ability to do their jobs.

Like Clinton, Letterman remains the competent professional he has always been, regardless of what (or who) he does in his own time.

SERIOUSLY. *Mark Minster*

It's been suggested to me that I spend at least one week not talking about the Bible.

Fine.

So here goes. I look up from my desk, and it's snowing. That's nice. Tiger Woods's stock has plummeted, while Matt Branam's stock is through the roof. (I called my broker and said, "Sell Nike! Buy Branam! Buy!" I don't have a broker.) More troops are going to Afghanistan, and I don't know how to feel about that. Afghanistan was never Iraq, and it's not Vietnam. But it's long, and I think I'm persuaded by those who say more ground forces will enable a swifter disentanglement. But I'd as soon see soldiers come home. But I'd as soon see radical militants stopped. In the Senate, a health care bill is being curried by some hands and saddled by others. (Can you load up a horse with pork barrels?) And in Copenhagen, a climate conference

is taking place in the aftermath of the so-called "Climate gate" email scandal, which revealed some data to have been exaggerated and mishandled by a few angry, unprofessional, ideologically motivated scientists.

Because we love a good scandal, a number of people might see those emails as proof positive that global warming is a scam perpetrated by the same few angry, unprofessional, ideologically motivated scientists. And that's unfortunate, because it's incontrovertible that the overall climate is warming (despite the bully pulpit errors of last year's convocation speaker). It's incontrovertible that the decade that's now ending is the warmest on record, that the 90s were warmer than the 80s, and that concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide are increasing. It's possible, as an academic exercise, to speculate about how much of this climate change results from human population increase and increased energy use, but it's indisputable that the answer is at least "a lot." There are more of us, we have more devices, our homes are bigger, and we drive more.

The argument that climate scientists are motivated by big government or research dollars or anti-Americanism or misanthropy makes little sense. The angry unprofessional ones seem

to have been motivated by Cassandra-like frustration and pessimism, but not by dollar signs or hammers and sickles. The motives of those who don't see why global climate change matters are much more apparent. They're explicitly stated, and

"It's incontrovertible that the overall climate is warming."

"It's incontrovertible that the decade that's now ending is the warmest on record."

range from hatred of regulation to deep fiscal investment in business-as-usual. Yes, there are ideologues on both sides of the issue. But that doesn't change the facts at hand, which reveal real risks to numerous species already threatened by human expansion, including ourselves. The probabilities of threat, the potential dangers—those are all debatable. That there is potential danger is simply not controvertible. Even the oil and energy companies agree.

So what happens in Copenhagen matters a great deal, and a lot of the responsibility falls in the lap of two countries: China

and the United States. China has recently passed the U.S. as the largest emitter

of greenhouse gases from energy consumption, though not because our own emissions have declined—our per capita emissions are still about four times China's. Both countries are baby-stepping, and we should take pictures of these steps, so that we can look back someday when we're all taking full, loping strides toward real change, and beam with pride.

I'm trying to be optimistic about Copenhagen, even though Kyoto was toothless, and there are hundreds of things that can go wrong. I am pleased to hear that the EPA now acknowledges that increased greenhouse gas concentrations constitute an endangerment to public health and to future generations. In this acknowledgment, they're following a mandate given by the U.S. Supreme Court. It's taken about ten years for this endangerment finding, but if anything gives me hope about the fight against global warming, it's this ruling. It remains to be seen what Obama and China will do, and whether Congress will be ready for a protracted debate in 2010 after spending almost all of 2009 on health care.

Next week, I promise, I won't talk about politics or the Bible. I'm going to be a kinder, gentler columnist this term.

Have opinions?

**Send them to
opinions**

@rose-hulman.edu

Basketball trumps Transylvania

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology placed five players in double figures to earn a 79-72 double overtime victory over defending Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference champion Transylvania University on Saturday.

Freshman Austin Weatherford (Cicero/ Hamilton Heights) led the Engineers with a career-high 21 points on 7-9 from the field and 7-7 from the free throw line. Sophomore Spencer Harlan (Terre Haute/South) added 15 second-half points and nine rebounds.

Other Engineers in double figures included sophomore Blake Knotts (Louisville, Ky./

Christian) with 14 points and five rebounds; freshman Jon Gerken (Defiance, Ohio/Tinora) with career-highs of 13 points and nine rebounds; and senior Jeff McCartney (Wooster, Ohio/Triway) with 10 points and nine rebounds.

Transylvania also placed four players in double figures in the tight battle. Barrett Meyer had a team-high 15 points, followed by Matthew Parton with 13, Chris Owens with 11 and Tim Tierney with 10.

The matchup featured 12 ties and 17 lead changes, with tied scores at halftime, the end of regulation and after the first overtime. Rose-Hulman relied on a 43-35 rebounding advantage and hit a season-high 26

free throws at an 81.3% clip.

Transylvania gained a nine-point lead at 52-43 with 6:02 left, before the Rose-Hulman defense held the Pioneers without a point for over four minutes. Two layups by Harlan, a conventional three-point play by Gerken and two free throws from Harlan forced a 52-52 tie with 4:20 left.

Another basket by Harlan gave Rose-Hulman a 54-52 lead, before Parton buried a three-pointer at the 1:34 mark to put Transylvania ahead again at 55-54.

Knotts gave Rose-Hulman the lead with two free throws at the 30-second mark, and Weatherford hit two more free throws with 16 seconds left to make

the score 58-55. A three-pointer by Parton with 8.8 seconds remaining knotted the score, and a miss in the lane by Knotts forced the first overtime.

Rose-Hulman gained a three-point lead at 62-59 but another three-pointer by Parton tied the score at 62-62. The teams exchanged free throws to force a 63-63 tie, before McCartney buried a key three-pointer with 42 seconds left to give Rose-Hulman a three-point lead.

Tierney answered with another three-pointer with 28 seconds left to force a 66-66 tie. Rose-Hulman held for the last shot, but a Weatherford three-pointer fell short and the teams headed for the second overtime.

In the second extra session, Rose-Hulman gained a 74-71 lead on two free throws by Knotts and two more by McCartney. After one free throw by Meyer closed Transylvania within 74-72, Gerken scored in the paint to give the Engineers a four-point edge.

The Rose-Hulman defense held the Pioneers without a field goal for the last 3:56 of overtime and offensively, the Engineers hit three late free throws for the final margin of victory.

Rose-Hulman improved to 4-5 on the season and 1-2 in HCAC play, while Transylvania dropped to 5-4 overall and 3-1 in league games. The Engineers travel to Fontbonne University on Tuesday.

Weatherford: Player of the Week

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology freshman Austin Weatherford (Cicero/Hamilton Heights) has earned Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Player of the Week honors for his efforts in two contests last week.

Weatherford averaged 15.5 points and 4.5 rebounds per game as Rose-Hulman defeated defending HCAC champion Transylvania and fell to Wabash College in two contests last week.

Weatherford poured in a ca-

reer-high 21 points on 7-9 from the field and 7-7 from the free throw line in 39 minutes off the bench in the 79-72 victory over Transylvania. He also reached double figures with 10 points at Wabash.

For the week, Weatherford shot 61% from the field and 89% from the free throw line as the Fightin' Engineers improved to 4-5 on the season and 1-2 in conference play.

Rose-Hulman returns to action with a non-conference matchup at Fontbonne University on Tuesday night.

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology junior Scott Eaton (Fishers/Hamilton Southeastern) captured third-team honors on the d3football.com all-North Region Team, in results released today by the website.

Eaton ranked second in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference with 112 tackles and led the Rose-Hulman defense with 10 tackles-for-loss this season. He also finished second on

the team with four sacks.

The mechanical engineering major has earned first-team all-NCAC honors for two straight seasons and has also led the Fightin' Engineer defense in tackles for the last two years.

Eaton has amassed career totals of 209 tackles and 15 tackles-for-loss as a two-year starter and three-year letter winner for the team. His efforts included four consecutive games with 15 or more tackles, highlighted by a 17-tackle performance against

Hanover and 14 solo hits against Defiance.

Eaton becomes the fourth all-region selection by d3football.com in the last two years and is part of a program that has compiled four straight winning seasons and the first streak of four consecutive six-or-more victory seasons in school history.

Rose-Hulman finished 6-4 last season and compiled a 4-3 record in HCAC play. The Engineers open the 2010 season at DePauw University on Sept. 11.



Rose-Hulman News

Weatherford was named HCAC player of the week after his stellar performance on the Rose basketball team.

Twice is better than once

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior Rhys Evans (Lake Bluff, Ill./Lake Forest) became the first men's soccer player in school history to earn all-region honors twice in his career, following an announcement by NCAA Division III head coaches on Friday.

Evans was named second-team all-Great Lakes Region by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He also captured second-team honors in 2008.

Evans, twice named Most Valuable Player of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, completed his career ranked fifth in school history

with 29 goals and 66 points.

The mechanical engineering major scored eight goals for the HCAC regular season champions this fall after scoring 10 for a team that qualified for the NCAA Division III Tournament in 2008.

Evans and the Fightin' Engineers have compiled a 15-0-1 regular season record in HCAC play over the past two years with back-to-back regular season conference titles. His efforts helped the team finished 53-21-7 over the last four years.

Evans became the 10th Rose-Hulman men's soccer all-region honoree in program history. The Engineers finished 12-6-1 overall this season and 8-0 in HCAC regular season play.

Eaton named All-Region

Engineer Scoreboard

Men's Basketball 4-6 (1-2 HCAC)

December 12

Transylvania University 72
vs. **Rose-Hulman** 79

December 15

Rose-Hulman 50
at **Fontbonne University** 75

Women's Basketball 1-8 (1-2 HCAC)

December 12

Transylvania University 39
vs. **Rose-Hulman** 43

December 15

Rose-Hulman 58
at **Marian University** 66

Second half spurt leads Marian past Rose-Hulman

Rose-Hulman News

Marian University ran off a 20-4 spurt to open the second half and held off a Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology rally to capture a 66-58 women's basketball victory on Tuesday night.

Sophomore Alisa Dickerson (Elizabethtown, Ky.) set a career high offensively with 24 points to lead the Rose-Hulman offense. Dickerson finished 8-13 from the field and 7-8 from the line in the effort.

Junior Donna Marsh (Mobile, Ala./Baker) also reached double figures with 15 points for the Engineers, highlighted by a 11-16 performance on the free throw line.

Junior Nicole Klass (Evansville/ North) contributed eight points to the offensive attack, and freshman Erin Davey (St. Charles, Mo./Incarnate Word) added seven points for Rose-Hulman.

Megan Egenolf led the Marian offense with 14 points and Kristin Houck also reached double figures with 12 in the balanced effort.

Rose-Hulman trailed 18-10 early in the first half but scored nine straight points to take a 19-18 lead. Klass opened the rally with a three-pointer, junior Rebecca Bowermaster (Wood River, Ill./Roxana) hit two free throws, Dickerson scored on a jumper and Davey hit two free

throws to give the Engineers the lead.

After Marian's second half spurt, the Knights again earned a 57-41 lead with 7:07 remaining. A three-pointer by Davey, four points from Marsh and another score by Dickerson brought Rose-Hulman within 59-50 at the 4:14 mark.

Two free throws by Dickerson brought Rose-Hulman within seven points at 61-54, but Marian hit its own foul shots in the last minute to move to 7-5 on the season.

Rose-Hulman stands 1-8 overall entering its holiday break. The Engineers return to action on Dec. 28 and 29 at the Otterbein Holiday Tournament.

If you're reading this, you like sports!

Write for the Thorn!

thorn@rose-hulman.edu

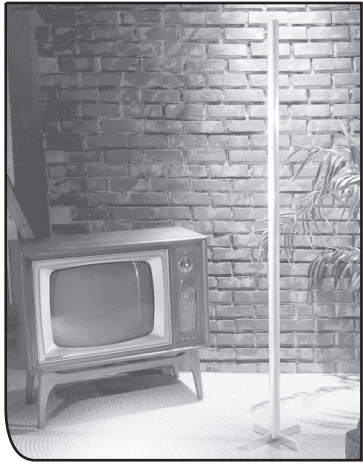
Now with enough moral fiber to last you through the holidays!

Letter from the editor My airing of grievances

James Zhou

Rabble rabble rabble

Recently, I decided to start celebrating Festivus. As an engineer, Festivus is a more sensible choice of celebration than an astronomical phenomenon or what meaning an arbitrary belief system has assigned to that astronomical phenomenon. Why have a pathetic tree made from natural or synthetic polymers when you can have a high tensile strength aluminum pole instead? Why exchange shoddy gift cards when it would be more efficient to simply keep the cash and use it to purchase items you actually want? Why prepare a large and complicated holiday dinner when you can ingest a nutrient tablet in 3.14E-2 percent of the time required to cook it? Anyway, one of Festivus's more endearing traditions is the annual airing of grievances, and boy, do I have a lot of grievances. Here are some of them, in no particular order:



www.festivus.com

Behold, the Festivus Pole. Thou shalt not decorate the Festivus Pole, or thou mayest be challenged to a feat of strength.

- To: The weather — Stop being an ass. That is all.
- To: God groupies — God has yet to interfere with my actions, but you guys seem to take it upon yourselves to annoy me. Go away.
- To: Stray cat I've been feeding — Return your food bowl. It is not magical and will not refill with food if I cannot find it.
- To: Lobsters — You're not fooling me anymore, you are just an ocean-going cockroach with a good public relations firm.
- To: Static — Why must you infest all my favorite winter clothing? To the electric chair with you!
- To: Smelly people — Look (or rather, smell), it should be self evident why I am angry at you and what I want you to do.
- To: Smelly people who are also not very intelligent — Find someone to read this to you. Ready? There's shiny gold coin at the bottom of the old quarry east of Terre Haute. Go get it before the magic leprechaun steals it.
- To: President Obama — Great job! *(Tone: sarcastic)*
- To: Rhinovirus — It's been fun. *(Tone: sarcastic)* Now get out. *(Tone: serious)*
- To: What's her name — It's been fun. *(Tone: serious)* Now get out. *(Tone: also serious)*
- To: Internet — You have conspired with Laptop to waste what little remains of my free time, but I love you anyway. You can stay.

Melissa Schwenk

Also a bad influence on your children

10. 8x10 framed picture of yourself — headshot style.
9. 6 pack of your favorite beverage — with one missing.
8. Socks — mismatched.
7. Box O' Rocks.
6. Premade Build-A-Bear. It shows that you care but not enough to do it yourself.
5. What they gave you last year. Insist that it is new.
4. For friends whom you don't want to procreate: a one year subscription to WoW (Best birth control ever!)
3. Last night's leftovers — not wrapped.
2. Fraternity letters — for the wrong fraternity.
1. 8x10 framed picture of yourself — nudist style.



Horrible rumor of the week

One of the students on campus is actually a column of infants in an overcoat. This group of individuals can be identified by their inability to move in a straight line, sudden height loss when presented with a stressful situation, and vocal support of the political rights of toddlers to equal access to cookies and chocolate cake.

Wacky prof quotes

- "I'm expecting a grandchild. They'll never name him beam 3, though."
— Dr. Fine, with a fine family of finites.
- "... has far more mojo. I wouldn't touch it."
— Dr. House, out mojo'ed.
- "I love to hear you moan."
— Dr. Sauer, after giving the class a really hard testing.
- "Classes are fascist! You should use prototypes!"
— Dr. Clifton, a typical prototype crusader.
- "If you think water is a slut, just look at hydrogen!"
— Dr. Brandt. There's a party in everybody!
- "I'm from the South, damn it, and it's stomp!"
— Dr. Graves. He is talking about stamps. We think he is against the United States Postal Service.

Rose professors are known for saying wacky things, so write them down and send them in to flipside@rose-hulman.edu

!!! Icy Ninja Death Star !!! That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes!®

James Zhou

No, but I play one on TV



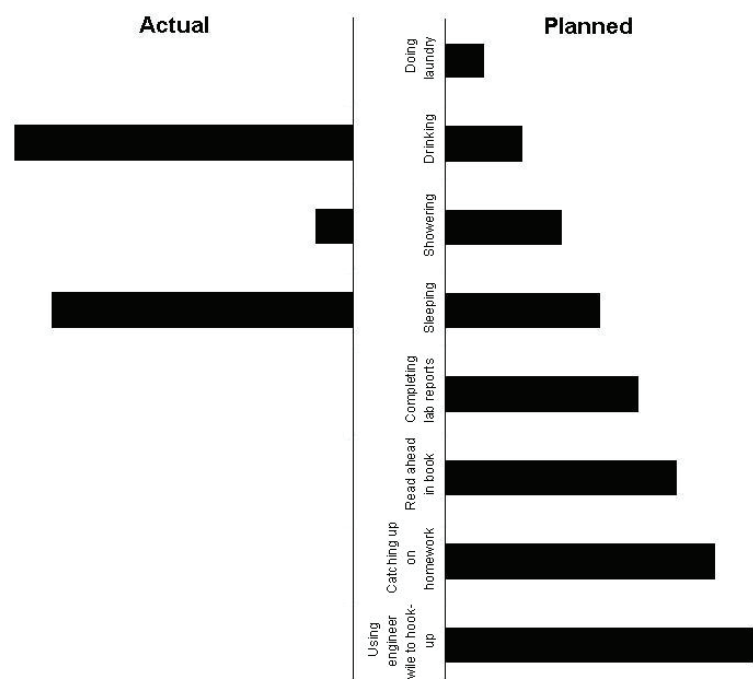
forum.rpg.net

1. Cut out authentic Japanese Icy Ninja Death Star That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes from this paper!
2. Dip authentic Japanese Icy Ninja Death Star That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes into water!
3. Put authentic Japanese Icy Ninja Death Star That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes into the freezer!
4. Entertain yourself by reading the Flipside for thirty minutes to an hour.
5. Take authentic Japanese Icy Ninja Death Star That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes from the freezer!
6. Do *not* throw authentic Japanese Icy Ninja Death Star That Brings Icy Ninja Death To Your Foes at your enemies with great vengeance and alacrity!

Stuff you are doing



over the break



www.crazy-frankenstein.com



Carly Baehr - Protecting computers from innocent puppis since 2009