

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Spring 3-26-2010

### Volume 45 - Issue 20 - Friday, March 26, 2010

Rose Thorn Staff

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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 20

## News Briefs

By Alex Mullans

### House passes health care

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 219-212 to pass the Senate version of the health care bill on Monday. Though the bill has been hailed as a legislative victory by Democrats, it failed to garner any Republican votes. President Obama was also forced into a last-minute order that strengthens provisions of the bill that prevent federal funds from being used for abortions. Obama is under fire from both sides for his decision, with NOW (what is NOW?) saying it is "incensed" that he appeased pro-life Democrats and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops claiming that the bill and order do not go far enough to prevent abortion. The other contentious point of the legislation – the public option – failed in the end, as the Senate version never included it in the first place.

### Google – 'CN' ya later

Google's China search engine, known to most as Google.cn, has officially closed shop, redirecting customers who try to access it to Google.com.hk, the (uncensored) Hong Kong-hosted version of the site. Google says that they will try to maintain as much of their other business in China as possible, but some analysts think that Google's move will simply push users to Baidu, a Chinese-based competitor based on Google's design that already holds 63% of the market (Google held 33% before Google.cn was closed). Google has acknowledged that it "is well aware that [China] could at any time block access to our services."

### 4G finally appears on the radar

At this week's CTIA conference, Sprint Nextel and Verizon Wireless are each planning to announce upgrades to their network that reflect the next-generation "4G" cellular networks that will replace current 3G infrastructure over time. Sprint will announce its first WiMax handset; Verizon will announce the LTE rollout it has been implementing over the past year. WiMax (a variant of the 802.11 Wi-Fi used in computers) is already in place in several US cities – its comparatively large transmission range is attractive to companies because it costs less when creating and extending networks. LTE is more akin to current cell phone standards like CDMA, making Verizon's upgrade from CDMA to LTE a "relatively short trip".

## Students celebrate Middle Eastern heritage

Tim Ekl

Co-Editor-in-Chief

As a group, students of Middle Eastern heritage are sometimes overlooked on campus. On Wednesday, the Diversity Council sponsored an awareness event to change that.

Featuring traditional Middle Eastern foods, a Farsi calligraphy demonstration, games, and live music played on an Iranian guitar, the event was a thorough overview of various Middle Eastern cultures and practices.

Students were surprised and pleased at the scope and quality of the event.

"My overall impression was that [the event] was very well done; in fact, I went with the expectation of something very small and probably not all that notable," Alex Wilson, senior software engineering and computer science major, said. "However, I was pleasantly surprised."

In addition to providing a

window into Middle Eastern culture, the event served as a lesson to the campus about values and conceptions of that region.

"The purpose, at least from my standpoint, was to show students a bit of a culture which is sadly very misunderstood by the American society of today," Wilson said. "It served to attack that misunderstanding and educate the students on the Middle East."

Many of the demonstrations were carried out by people with years of experience in their art – the Iranian guitar, called a tar, was played by Soheil Zolfonoon, and Hossein Hariri, chemical engineering professor, demonstrated his Farsi for students.

The Diversity Council, headed by humanities and social sciences professor Mark Minster, is also responsible for other events throughout the year, including Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Diversity Weekend.



Matt Vargo / Rose Thorn

Demonstrators serve food at the Middle Eastern Festival held in the Kahn Rooms Wednesday, March 24. The Middle Eastern Festival included Middle Eastern food, games, and music.

### BSB student suffers theft

Tim Ekl

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Burglars came on campus and stole credit and bank cards from three women living on the third floor of Baur-Sames-Bogart (BSB) Hall Wednesday night, according to Erik Hayes, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

Lisa Tarrh, member of the Terre Haute Police Department (THPD), confirmed there were "at least two" thefts on campus. A squad car was dispatched to investigate, and Public Safety officers were also on the scene.

At present, the THPD has no suspect information, and could not conclusively say how many burglars there were. Hayes released no further information about the robberies except to say that the stolen cards were canceled.

"Nothing threatens our community on this campus more than theft," Hayes said. "We're taking this very seriously. I can assure you that it

is far and away our number-one priority right now."

The exact time of the theft could not be determined, as two of the three thefts were not noticed until Thursday. At least one of the women lost her ID as well as a credit card.

In the wake of the theft, Hayes issued a precaution about the campus' open-door policy.

"As always, we tell people to shut their doors when they leave their rooms. That's a smart thing to do," Hayes said. "I know people view the open door policy as 'leave your door open all the time,' but our office encourages people to leave their doors open only when they're in their rooms."

The possibility that the burglars are Rose-Hulman students has not been discounted, according to Hayes. If that is the case, the students would be dismissed.

All three women declined to comment on the theft, and The Rose Thorn could not reach residence hall staff from BSB 3.

### Students search for keys to wellness

Kurtis Zimmerman

Staff Writer

The Kahn rooms were bustling with activity this past Thursday as the Wellness Fair paid its annual visit to the Hulman Memorial Union. Put together by the Rose-Hulman Wellness Committee and the Student Activities Office, several clubs and vendors from campus and the community stopped by to inform Rose-Hulman students of the importance of their personal health and wellness.

From 10 to 2 Thursday afternoon, interested students stopped by the event to collect complimentary gifts from toothbrushes to band-aids, and notepads, the traditional Rose student fodder. Whether drawn by the free gifts or sim-

ply to be informed, the Wellness Fair saw great attendance with students dropping by all afternoon to speak with organizations ranging from Rose-Hulman Intramurals, Planned Parenthood, health care representatives, and many more.

The Wellness Fair helped kick off the series of events planned by the Wellness Committee for this Spring. Included with a set of diverse fitness classes offered nearly daily at the Sports and Recreation Center are a Stress Management Program presented in April and a session on asthma and allergies offered in May. The Wellness Committee presents programs year-round to promote fitness and healthy choices among the students, faculty and staff across campus.

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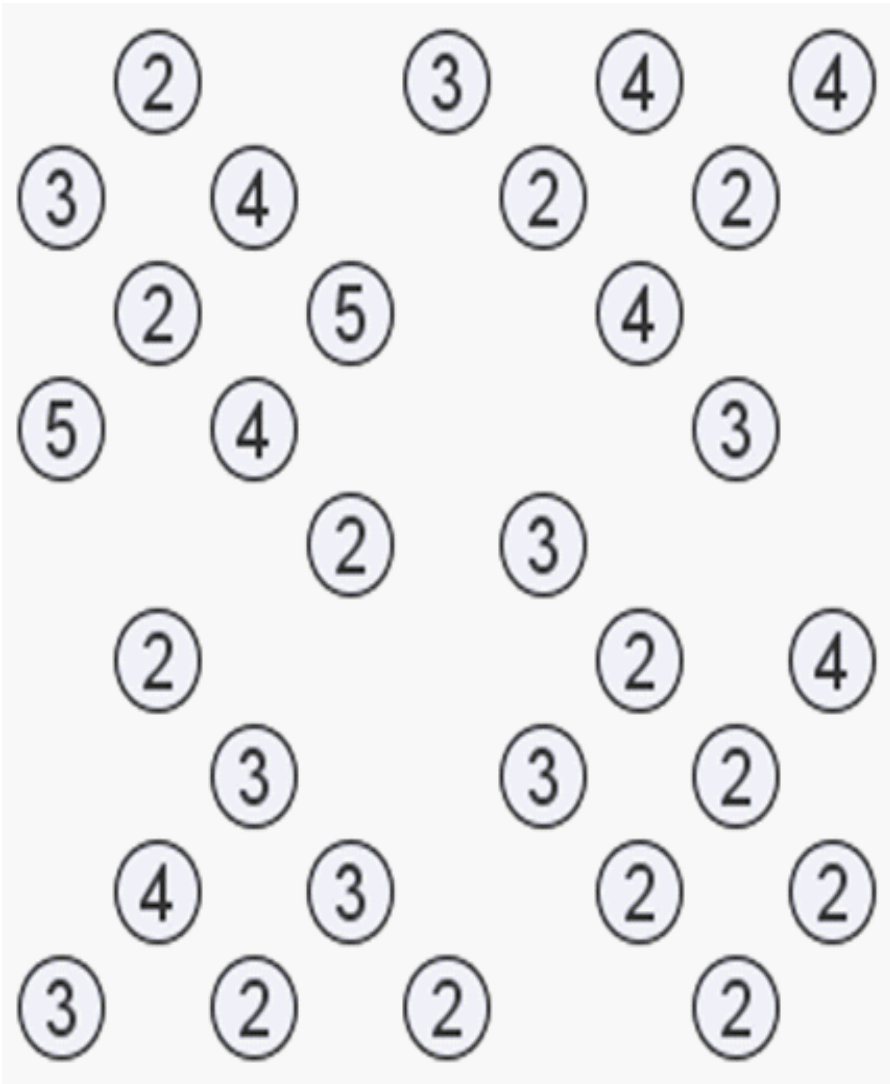
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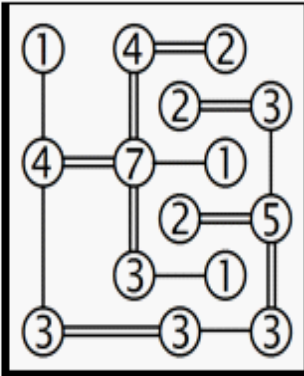
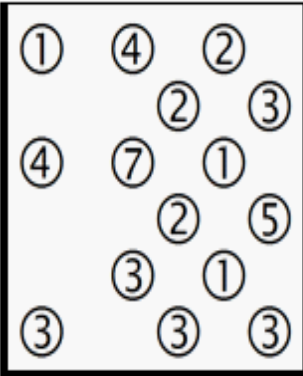


# Hashi

By Rose Brewer



The goal of Hashi is to connect all of the islands (or circles) to each other with bridges (lines). You can place a bridge to islands that are directly horizontal or vertical. No more than 2 bridges can connect a pair of islands. The number of bridges connected to each island must match the number on the island.



## Rose Riddles

By Rose Brewer

What's full of holes but still holds water?

What word looks the same upside down and backwards?

I am taken from a mine, and shut up in a wooden case, from which I am never released, and yet I am used by almost everybody. What am I?

I'm a word that's hardly there. Take away my start, and I'm an herbal flair. What am I?

Which is faster, hot or cold?

Find the answers to all Rose Thorn puzzles at:  
<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn>

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

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

The *Rose Thorn* welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. THREE DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

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, with the exception of the Opinions Page ‘Staff View’, do not necessarily represent the views of the *Rose Thorn* staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

# Health care reform: what's in the bill?

**Tim Ekl**

*Co-Editor-in-Chief*

By this point, most students have heard about the recently-passed health care reform. The bill, signed into law Tuesday by President Obama, covers nearly all aspects of the health care system and is around 2,000 pages in length. But what exactly does it mean for the average American?

## Existing insurance plans

One of the biggest concerns for many people is protecting their current insurance plan. The newly passed law doesn't require you to change insurance, nor is it a "government takeover" of your current plan.

Instead, the reform mandates almost every American will have insurance, in some form, by 2014. That same year is when other major provisions of the new law come into effect, and it's the year the reform becomes fully ac-

tive within American society. If you already have insurance, don't worry: you can keep your current plan indefinitely. Existing plans are even protected from changes for a certain period of time.

## The public option

A subject of much debate over the last few months, the final version of the bill did not include any public option or government-provided health care.

Instead, each state will establish a health care "exchange" where its residents can find suitable coverage at reasonable prices. Plans offered on the exchange would be provided by private health care companies, but would be subject to more stringent regulation.

## College students

Of particular note is a provision in the bill that allows people to remain on their parents' health care plan until they turn 26. For Rose-Hulman students, this can be a

boon: the Rose-Hulman health care plan is optional, allowing students to stay on their family plan for longer. For other colleges with mandatory health care, the benefit is somewhat diminished.

## Covering the cost

The reform itself is estimated to cost over \$900 billion to implement, according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO). However, the administration projects the reform won't add to the national debt.

Most of the cost of the reform would be covered by a "cadillac tax" on high-end plans - this tax can reach 40% on the most expensive plans. In addition, the reform counts on increased efficiency and decreased waste inside Medicare, saving up to \$100 billion over the next decade.

In addition, health care companies would offset some of the cost; taxes starting at \$2 billion will be levied against insurance companies, starting in 2011.

## Your 5-Day Forecast for Rose-Hulman

### Friday



**Sunny**  
**High: 46**  
**Low: 29**

### Saturday



**Mostly Sunny**  
**High: 57**  
**Low: 44**

### Sunday



**Rain Likely**  
**High: 54**  
**Low: 37**

### Monday



**Partly Sunny**  
**High: 50**  
**Low: 34**

### Tuesday



**Mostly Sunny**  
**High: 58**  
**Low: 41**



Advertisement

## Eyes on IFC



Here's what your Greek community has been up to:

**Pi Kappa Alpha** hosted a very successful Comedy Night Wednesday, March 10th in which all proceeds benefitted Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vigo County.

**Delta Sigma Phi** will be hosting their annual Basketball Marathon this Saturday, March 27th from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. All of the proceeds from the event will be going to The March of Dimes. If you wish to participate please contact Ryan Schulten at schultr1@

rose-hulman.edu.

**Lambda Chi Alpha** recently hosted their Founders Day Banquet and had a great turnout of Rose alumni.

**Alpha Tau Omega** just had their annual Pledge Dance Formal in St. Louis on March 13th. They also participated in a highway cleanup on March 21st and are hosting an Easter Egg hunt for local children at Deming Park that is scheduled for Sunday, March 28th.

**Triangle** just activated this years pledge class gaining

nineteen new members on the weekend of March 13th.

**Theta Xi** will be hosting Smoke for the Cure on Friday, April 23rd in which all proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

**Phi Gamma Delta** has been serving food at the Lighthouse Mission the past two Wednesdays and also recently attended Fiji State Day in which they received many awards including Best Recruitment Chapter and Second Best Indiana Fiji Chapter.

## Meet your Greeks

**Name:** Jonathan Rogers  
**Fraternity:** Alpha Tau Omega

**Year:** Senior

**Major:** Mechanical engineering with a concentration in aerospace.

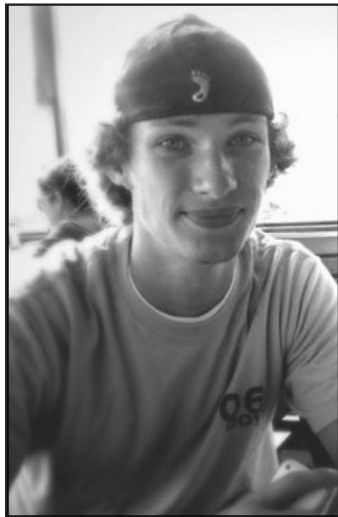
**Hometown:** Terre Haute, Indiana

**Future:** Will work for Solar Turbines in San Diego, California starting this summer

**Accomplishments while at Rose:** ATO President, ATO Rush Chair, Thomas Arkle Clark Award Nominee, Tau Beta Pi Member,

Blue Key National Honor Society Member, Greek of the Year 07-08, three years Track and Field Member, John D. White Scholarship Award Winner 07-08

**When asked "What was the biggest benefit you received from going Greek here at Rose-Hulman?":** "I have benefited from going Greek in a lot of ways, but if I had to pick one thing I would have to say leadership capabilities. Greek life here at Rose-Hulman has taught me how to be a true leader."



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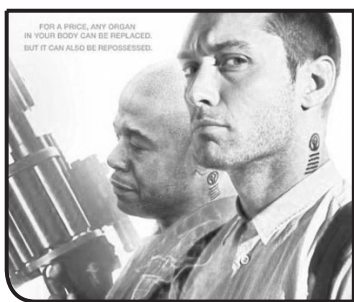
# The drought is almost over: summer movie preview

## Hobey Tam

Staff Writer

The movie scene has undoubtedly been lacking in the past couple of months with the last major rush of movies being around when "Twilight" and "Avatar" hit the big screen in late 2009. However, there is hope, as the summer blockbuster is almost upon us. Starting in April, you can expect a buffet of pictures to choose from. Thus, the Thorn has compiled a handy list of movies to look out for over Spring Break and the beginning of the summer.

## Action/Thriller



<http://www.filmofilia.com>

Repo Men – 3/19: Jude Law ("Road to Perdition"), Forest Whitaker ("The Last King of Scotland"). Not to be confused with the 1984 cult classic, this film takes the idea of repo men into the future, with organ repossession.



<http://retaliators.wordpress.com>

Iron Man 2 – 5/21: The sequel to the adaptation of the popular comic book hero Iron Man is almost here, and in it Robert Downey, Jr.

("Tropic Thunder") is joined by Don Cheadle ("Ocean's 11") and oscar-nominated Mickey Rourke ("The Wrestler").



<http://cdn.buzznet.com>

Prince of Persia: Sands of Time – 5/28: Jake Gyllenhaal ("Donnie Darko," "Brokeback Mountain") stars as the titular character in this video game adaptation. Video game adaptations may not provide for the best of films, this one isn't directed by Uwe Boll, so it can't be that bad, right?



<http://fighterxfashion.com>

The A-Team – 6/11: The early 80's television show "The A-Team" gets a fresh look from producers Ridley and Tony Scott. Liam Neeson ("Kinsey," "Taken") leads a cast that includes mixed martial artist Quinton "Rampage" Jackson in the role that made Mr. T who he is today.



<http://wikipedia.com>

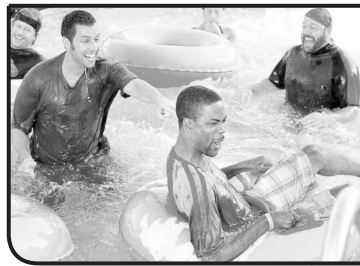
The Expendables – 8/13: Sylvester Stallone ("Rocky," "Rambo") brings together a lot of the current (and a few former) action stars in this tongue-in-cheek look at action movies. Unfortunately, you're going to have to wait until August for this one.

## Comedy/Drama



<http://www.ign.com>

Kick-Ass – 4/16: An adaptation of the comic book of the same name written by Mark Millar and John Romita, Jr., starring Nicolas Cage ("The Rock," "National Secret"), Chloë Moretz ("(500) Days of Summer"), and Christopher Mintz-Plasse ("Superbad," "Role Models"). The film is about real-life superheroes, some of whom kick ass, and some of whom who do not.



<http://www.filmofilia.com>

Grown Ups – 6/25: Adam Sandler's ("Billy Madison," "Happy Gilmore") production company Happy Madison brings together some of Sandler's old cohorts in Kevin James ("Paul Blart Mall Cop"), Chris Rock ("Dogma"), David Sade ("Saturday Night Live"), and Rob Schneider ("The Hot Chick") for a movie about grown-ups who don't fit the description.



<http://www.filmofilia.com>

Twilight Saga: Eclipse – 6/30: Kristen Stewart ("Adventureland"), Robert Pattinson ("Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire") and Taylor Lautner ("The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl in 3-D") return for the third film in the series. Chances are, if you cared about this, you already knew when it was coming out.



<http://www.showbizgalore.com>

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps – 8/24: A sequel to the critically praised "Wall Street," director Oliver Stone brings back Michael Douglas ("Traffic," "Wonder Boys") as Gordon Gekko. Will this film define the excess of the bankers of the 00's the way the first film defined the 80's?

## Horror



<http://mollyloretta.com>

A Nightmare on Elm Street – 4/30: Michael Bay attempts to reboot Wes Craven's franchise by remaking the 1984 movie. Jackie Earle Haley ("Shutter Island") plays the nightmare referenced in the title, Freddy Krueger.

## Family



<http://wildaboutmovies.com>

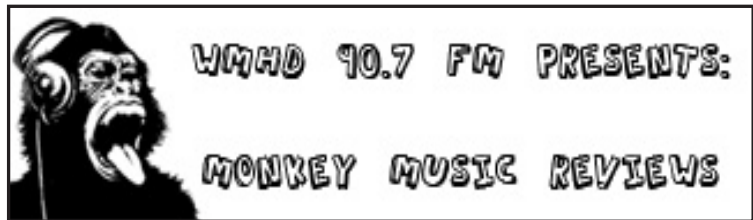
Shrek Forever After – 5/21: All the principal cast members return to reprise their roles, and Paul McCartney joins as Rumpelstiltskin for more light-hearted fare poking fun at fairy tales.



<http://www.kiss925.com>

Toy Story 3 – 6/18: Tom Hanks ("Castaway") and Tim Allen ("Galaxy Quest") return for a third film, after more than 10 years. This time, the toys are mistakenly donated to a day care, and must return home before Andy heads off to college. The film will probably delight youngsters, as Pixar films usually do, and should provide, at the very least, a sense of nostalgia to older viewers.

[Ed. Note: Colin DeChue, Entertainment Editor, also contributed to this article.]



## Spoon: "Transference"

## Xander Huff

Monkey Writer

Spoon's albums are consistently good, and their latest release is no exception. This time around, however, the album manages to be surprising in certain aspects. First of all, this is the first album the band has produced themselves, which is interesting considering how particular they have been about their sound over the years. Their lead single "Got Nuffin" hit months before the album's release and was a sign that the poppy nature of Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga was not going to continue. Instead, Spoon is back with a roughness that is rather refreshing. Many of the best tracks sound like promising demos (and some actually are). With this album, you can

expect bashing pianos and snarling vocals, which have always been present at Spoon's best. Even if this album doesn't contain their easiest-to-listen-to songs, they have the best aspects of the band, namely an intelligence backed by fiery hooks, and they deliver effortlessly. In particular, check out: "Got Nuffin," "Written in Reverse," and "Is Love Forever."

Reviewer rating: 4 elephants



<http://www.wordpress.com>

## "Tek Jansen" funny, but predictable

## Eli Baca

Staff Writer

Tek Jansen, the fictional character created by Stephen Colbert, was first mentioned on October 26, 2005 as part of a fictional novel. When the novel didn't get picked up, the Colbert team made some animated shorts telling the new adventures of Tek Jansen. Finally, on July 11, 2007, Oni Press published the first issue of "Stephen Colbert's Tek Jansen." There were four more issues added on to be collected as the Tek Jansen graphic novel in August, 2009. Since the debut, issue #1 was nominated for a Harvey Award.

The graphic novel collects the entire series, titled "Invasion of the Optiklons" as well as numerous "Case Files" representing side stories. The mini-series was written by John Layman ("Marvel Zombies") and Tom Peyer ("New Gods") while the case files were written by Jim Massey ("Maintenance"). Alongside the writers were Colbert and his staff, guiding both the writing and the art style of the comic. The writing of Tek Jansen is almost like "Stephen Colbert in space," but is toned down and more adventurous, while still keeping the Colbert charm. Tek Jansen is the typical space cowboy/ladies man who gets himself into trouble more times than not, but is bliss-

fully unaware of his zany debauchery. For those who watch the new FX show, "Archer," it's like that, only with Stephen Colbert and IN SPACE!

Drawing the stone-cold super-spy may have been a challenge, but two men were able to enter into the fray. Scott Chantler ("Annotated Northwest Passage") drew Jansen for the first issue while Robbi Rodriguez ("Maintenance") took the reins for the rest of the series. Chantler commented that he attempted to draw Jansen "as if he were the most confident man in the universe," and he succeeded. Chantler's Jansen is a muscle hero with lots of hair who easily flies into action. His comic feels 1960s-ish: heroic, dramatic, but still funny and appealing. The rest of the issues have a little bit different feel: Rodriguez draws Jansen as much more of a cartoon character with a large forehead than a super space hero. His art is much more animated whereas Chantler's style keeps the superhero aspect intact; it's no wonder why issue #1 was the only issue nominated.

The comic keeps the fun and excitement that fans are used to from The Colbert Report, as well as being completely serious most of the time. Jansen gets into some



<http://www.onipress.com>

fun situations, and the many peripheral characters provide their laughs at great times—especially Meangarr, the caged nemesis and prisoner of Jansen. The writing is decent, but isn't able to really shine. The cover art is done very well, and may be the best parts of some of the issues.

The comic is good and funny, and Colbert fans should enjoy it, but it doesn't go over the top enough and stays pretty predictable. The art is good enough to help out some of the slow writing, but the graphic novel isn't a standout among the comic book universe. It's a good indy comic that provides a little laugh for those getting sick of all the craziness of the major comic publishers.

Reviewer rating: 3 elephants





# On trolling

**Aleksander Yoder**  
*Guest Writer*

It's not unknown that some take pleasure at the expense of others. "Trolling," for those unfamiliar with the term, is the act of presenting inflammatory or false statements to a relevant group in the hope of eliciting a passionate (usually negative) response. As an activity, it sees wide use on internet forums, where large degrees of anonymity allow "trolls" to infiltrate and attack others without repercussion.

I have been known to troll, even in person. The ability of a mild politically or socially relevant statement to cause anger in my peers is often too great of a pull to pass up. My latest bait, "I can't wait to get my free health care!" has dredged up harsh opinions, shouting, and personal insults. Although it's difficult to explain the appeal to those who may have not practiced, disingenuously putting someone ill-

at-ease or enraging them (a true indication of success) gives the same slight sense of superiority as any prank would. Quite the ego trip.

Now for the interesting bit. To those who may have observed it at length, trolling has the tendency of acting firstly as a suppressant of speech, then as a liberator. The reason for the first stage is obvious: after being trolled, people become reticent to express any true views, essentially wiping out all meaningful conversation on troll-able topics. The fear of being pulled into fighting smoke and mirrors for the amusement of a troll silences those who can see through their attempts.

But, as the behavior spreads from the troll to his victims, a demographic tends to experience an observable paradigm shift in communication as such. In a situation where no statement can be rightly suspected of validity or honest intent, most go unanswered, un-debated

and uncensored regardless of content. Whether well-formulated or vulgar, statements are accepted at face value and a warped version of free speech is born. By no means does this promise an equal shift in conscience on the part of the participants—forums well known for "trolling" are often nothing but an undulating stream of (mostly male) consciousness, complete with all the primal subjects one would expect. But something can be gathered from such a perverse realm, a place where no misconception, logic error, or factual statement demands reprimand—pure expression.

Whether of consequence or not, the ultimate message may actually be one of tolerance—most of us need to chill out a bit. So express yourself with ease, but don't take criticism too hard—you could always just be trolling. Neutrality, however difficult, leads to strength. Trolling is a art.



[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

*Oh, wise Troll, please share your knowledge with us. A guest writer discusses the pros of trolling on the Internet and in everyday conversation.*

## What we're doing over break

Spending a week in Miami with my brothers in a beach house celebrating our time away from Rose.

-Scott Gallmeier, News Editor

A serious attempt at potty training. (No, not for me.)

-Richard House, Faculty Adviser

Trolling ChatRoulette.

-Andrew Klusman, Sports Editor

I'm going to Michigan, where it's colder than Indiana.

-Tim Ekl, Co-Editor-in-Chief

I'm going to spend as much time taking naps in the sunshine as possible. If I don't come back, I've mastered photosynthesis and ascended to tree form.

-Noël Spurgeon, Flipside Editor

I'll be doing productive activities... by which I mean I'll be sleeping a lot.

-James Zhou, Flipside Editor Emeritus

Going to Boston. Leaving Indiana on the brink of Spring to go freeze my butt off in New England. Beach? What beach? We're going to a Boston Bruins game. Bring on the ice!

-Eli Baca, Staff Writer

Bumming off as many other people's families as possible.

-Melissa Schwenk, Living Editor

For my break, I'm fulfilling a dream and going to San Francisco. I used to go there all the time when I was younger but since I've been at Rose, I've always been too burnt out or busy to plan and go. This year, I'm taking the plunge and going, bumming around the city with as little weight as possible and having fun.

-Benjamin Collins, Entertainment Editor Emeritus

## How to: Enjoy spring break on a budget

**Melissa Schwenk**  
*Living Editor*

I don't know about you, but I blew a ton of money over Quarter Break; I didn't realize how quickly cash flows out of your hands when on vacation. If you're like me, you're probably wondering what you can do over break that won't leave you with an overdrawn account. Here are some ideas to help you start planning your trip.

First, find some friends who are in the same boat as you. You don't want to spend all break mooching off your friends who want to do expensive things; at the same time, you don't want to be the Debbie Downer in the group who can't afford chosen activities, who won't let anyone do them without her, but who won't let anyone pay for her either.

Once you have your group, pool your resources to find places to stay. Pull out a map and mark where everyone is from or where everyone can get free or cheap accommodations. Keep in mind friends at other colleges. Often they don't mind if you visit for a weekend; just make sure not to keep them from their obligations.

If you don't want to stay with people, try discount hotel websites. While hostels aren't as prevalent in the United States as they are in Europe, staying in one can cut down on your costs. If you

Since you're traveling with friends, you'll want to make sure you can stay friends during the trip.

decide on a hotel instead, find out the limit on how many people can stay in a room. Fill the room to capacity and split the costs evenly.

Now that you have places to stay, look for local attractions. I'll probably drag my friends to the lake in the closest city to my house, as well as make them visit my high school. If there is really nothing to do nearby, use that location as a place to relax and regroup between adventures.

Now that lodging is taken care of, you have to worry about food. Don't waste money eating out for every meal. Pack a cooler with lunchmeat, bread, and condiments. If everyone chips in, you'll hardly have any food costs at all. You can use the money you save to splurge on a nice meal sometime during your trip.

Since you're traveling with friends, you'll want to make sure you can stay friends during the trip. Set up some ground rules

before setting out. If one of your friends is a lady killer, agree that no one brings anyone back to the hotel room. If you worry that one of your friends won't do their fair share of driving, set up a driving schedule. By presenting your expectations before you set out, you'll cut down on the chance of miscommunication.

Spring break is a time to relax and refresh yourself with friends before the sprint to the finish. You shouldn't stress yourself out by worrying about money. Sometimes the best vacations are the ones you take at home. Happy Vacationing.

## Reflections on college campus tours

**Mitchell Ishmael**  
*Staff Writer*

Last Friday, I gave a tour to a prospective Rose-Hulman student. The weather was really nice and the campus was abuzz with the numerous different families trying to determine if this school was the one for their child. It was a really neat experience, getting to be on the giving end of a college admissions tour. It reminded me of when I was worrying during spring semester of my senior year about what school I was going to choose.

Throughout the tour, I made pleasant conversation, but struggled in the back of my mind trying to remember what people said to me on admissions tours like this. Fortunately, the father was very inquisitive about Rose and gave me enough talking points so that there was never any real awkwardness in the tour.

I remembered that I always hated the canned admissions tours that I got from the schools I visited. So I made sure to be as honest as possible. I let them know that Crapo Hall was arguably the worst building on campus, and winter quarters at Rose are very tough. I told the son that, "if you can make it through winter quarter freshman year,

than you can make it through Rose-Hulman." On the flipside, though, I made sure to tell them that I was really happy here, and I honestly wouldn't wish to be anywhere else.

The son who I was touring around was a little shy and nervous. It was obvious that he didn't really know exactly what he wanted to do or where he was going to go. I'll be honest: I was the exact same way. I think that most of us were, and we tried to make the best decision that we could by taking tours and talking to students. But to be truthful, deciding where you want to go to school is nothing more than an educated guess. You don't really know if you are happy with your decision until you are in the thick of things. Until you have seen the worst of the worst and the best of the best of the school.

My brother is a college senior right now, going through all of those things that I went through three years ago. I remember the anxiety and the nervousness relatively well, so whenever he asks me for advice I try to keep it simple. I say, "Get the most information you can and then go with your gut decision. Try not to worry about it too much because everything will work itself out in the end."



# Have a wonderful life

Scott Gallmeier  
News Editor

"Have a good day!" I'm sure that we have all heard that a number of times throughout our lives; I know that I hear it in excess of 20 or 30 times a day. I always took it as it was, a simple parting wish meaning that someone wanted me to have a good day, or at least that was how I saw it until about two weeks ago. Two weeks ago, I had my outlook on parting wishes changed by a little old man in a big new way.

A little bit of back-story is needed here. I work as a bartender and therefore meet a large number of interesting and varied souls. One such soul was the gentlemen previously mentioned. I was working a wedding and helping him carry his drinks back to his table. Upon setting his drinks down, I wished him a good evening as I do with all of my customers, and he promptly told me no. I was shocked and confused—never has someone responded in such a way to what is considered an ordinary statement. This little seventyish old man promptly told me of an opinion of his that I now hold in high regard. He told me that to wish someone a good evening, day, week, or month was

**A wonderful life means that you have a near-infinite series of days, weeks, and months that are great.**



<http://www.scene-stealers.com/>

George Bailey (portrayed by James Stewart) hugs his family in Frank Capra's 1946 film *It's a Wonderful Life*.

great in concept, but that days, weeks, and months are all fleeting, and hoping happiness in

such a manner is little more than a tease. His correction to my statement was to have a wonderful life. A wonderful life means that you have a near-infinite series of days, weeks, and months that are great.

Now, while this one saying may seem minimal, it pointed out more greatly the hollowness of our statements. We, as a

people, tend to find many statements from others hollow and with the sincerest of statements you still find doubt in the sincerity of these words. I know that it is through reflex we most often wish another person a good day, but if we were able to break this reflex I feel we could more successfully draw ourselves together as humans. When people truly think about what they are saying every time they say "thank you," "have a good day," or "you're welcome," we can restore our faith in sincerity. I know that the day this gentleman wished me a wonderful life, I felt the sincerity in his voice. It is this sincerity that restores the love between people and it is this love that makes this world a better place—or at least gives it a try.

## The essence of the Gospel vs. secularism

Aaron Joss  
Guest Writer

In his recent editorial column, Dr. Minster, after a lengthy introduction curiously unrelated to a recent editorial by this writer, suddenly and boldly asserts that I have a "narrow definition of religion." Additionally, he claims I misrepresented his views on hate from a prior editorial. I find this interesting for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is that never once did I mention the word "religion" in my editorial, nor was it ever my intent to define "religion." And one need only re-read both prior editorials to see I made no misrepresentations.

What I *did* do in my editorial was explain the essence of the Gospel or "Good News" that brings peace and life to all who believe. That essence is the love of Jesus Christ and the redemption of mankind through his shed blood and resurrection. Anyone is welcome to accept the Gospel message. I am simply the messenger, sharing what God has made known in his Gospel. I am not the judge; God is.

Dr. Minster's most recent column, titled "Seriously," disappointingly failed to address the Gospel. Instead, he presented his apparent belief system of an all-inclusive reality that encompasses "literature, religion, and education" under the name of the "social arts." At the end of the day, this kind of ideology attempts to appease and please everyone. This is where Dr. Minster and I have several fundamental

disagreements. I believe in the Gospel, which does not neatly conform to or fit with the "broader society" he describes.

In the Gospel, God's call for human repentance is very personal and individual. All men need a personal Savior in order to be reconciled with God. In contrast, the views of Dr. Minster's self-described "hero" John Dewey are humanistic, where man supplants God with himself and has no need for a Savior. John Dewey did not believe in a supernatural God. He did believe that science had largely discredited Biblical Christianity. Honestly, I am glad that my "religion" was defined as narrow because Jesus himself declared, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

Certainly, the transformation within the individual that the Gospel brings is not the end. God has a specific plan for man. The call of a Christian is to go and love and serve and die to oneself. The purpose of the Christian life consists of bringing God honor and glory through serving and loving Him and others. In saying this,

one can see that there must be a balance between the importance of society and the individual. The sociological concept of pluralism contends that the individual is more important than institutions in society and that society is important because God created us as social beings. The perspective of pluralism ensures that we "can never be reduced to either a mere atomistic individual or a mere integer in some social whole." Pluralism reveals that both the individual and society are both held

accountable to God (2 Kings 17:23 and Acts 17:31). Christian sociology values both individuals and societies. As individuals, we are free to serve others

in love and to serve and love God. Ultimately, His Gospel allows us to love others as ourselves, because He first loved us. The essence of this Gospel is still unchanging.

The love of Jesus Christ is at the core and is the essence of the Gospel. Nothing more, nothing less.

[Editor's note: At this point The Rose Thorn would like to close debate on this issue in order to focus on student input on other subjects. If you have an issue you're passionate about, please send it to [thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu).]

**That essence is the love of Jesus Christ and the redemption of mankind through his shed blood and resurrection.**

## STAFF VIEW: God is not a statist

CONCURRING: 5

DISSENTING: 4

ABSTENTIONS: 2

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals released a decision Thursday, March 11th, in the case of *Newdow v. Rio Linda Union School District*. *Newdow*, as the primary attorney representing many parents of children in the school district, originally challenged the school district's policy on saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every morning. Each student can choose whether or not to stand and recite the pledge. However, the plaintiffs argued that various social pressures exist when other students recite a pledge with which a student (or the parents) may or may not fully agree. Specifically, the parents felt that the phrase "one nation under God" infringed on their rights. After hearing the case, the court released its 193 page decision primarily stating that "[t]he Pledge of Allegiance serves to unite our vast nation through the proud recitation of some of the ideals upon which our republic was founded and for which we continue to strive: one Nation under God." The school allowing the children to exercise their freedom of speech is noble. And the parents' plea is sound in reason. Nevertheless, an examination of the pledge's history shows that inserting the words "under God" is unconstitutional.

The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Christian socialist. The words "under God" were not added into the pledge until 1954. During the 1950s, the

main concern was the Red Scare. It was a time of national xenophobia and fear of communism. The form of communism that arose at the time forbade all religion and declared the people's duty to the state alone. The movement by groups like the Knights of Columbus (a Catholic service organization) to add "under God" was a clear reaction to the current times. They were trying to set the United States apart from the other nations. They felt it was necessary to define "our" belief in God so that we would never sway from our roots. Bellamy, a Christian, obviously did not feel the need to include "under God," ironically enough. Also ironic was the fact that activists use his pledge in a way that was contrary to his political alignment.

One might argue that the court's statement that the pledge contains "some of the ideals upon which our republic was founded" is indeed true. Also, the preamble of the Declaration of Independence does carry the idea of a "creator." However, the idea of a creator was not to imply the sovereignty of a deity, but to give a foundation to the funda-

mental rights of man. Moreover, it should be noted that the writers of the constitution also saw it necessary to inhibit the state's involvement in any religion.

The US Constitution's First Amendment reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." The intention of this statement has been debated, including in many court cases. If one were to read it literally, it plainly says that Congress cannot make a law recognizing the establishment of religion. But that is exactly what Congress did in 1954 after Representative Charles Oakman introduced the bill. Before a bill can become law, it must be passed by Congress. Therefore, it had to be voted on by the current members of Congress. By voting in the affirmative and passing the bill which inserted the descriptor name of the Christian deity, Congress in effect recognized the establishment of a religion.

A common argument against this rationale is that merely mentioning the name of a deity doesn't recognize an "estab-

lishment." What then did the writers of the constitution mean by "establishment of religion"? A religious establishment is difficult

**The words "under God" were not added until 1954...the main concern was the Red Scare.**

to define. A group of people can practice their traditions in accordance with their beliefs even without any legal recognition. An establishment in this sense is not merely based on an established church, but an established religion. This definition means that any established religion such as Christianity or Judaism should not be recognized by Congress through law—and that includes the common name of its deity. If the Abrahamic God can be recognized by law should we not also recognize Elohim, Yahweh, Allah, Shiva, Hermes, or Apollo?

Ultimately, the addition of "under God" into the Pledge of Allegiance may have been needed at the time to unify the nation in purpose. However, the purpose of the words is no longer relevant. The imminent threat of imperialistic communism no longer exists, and obviously the addition of the two words was unconstitutional. The policy to allow exercise of free speech in the schools is weak and is an oversimplified solution. It's time to take these seemingly "unifying" words—which have ironically caused so much divide—out of a state-issued prayer.

**Got opinions?**  
Send your rants and observations to  
[thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu)



# Rose-Hulman earns eight top finishes at Early Bird meet

## Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology combined for eight first-place finishes and two school records at the Early Bird Track and Field Invitational at the William Welch Complex on Saturday.

Freshman Liz Evans led Rose-Hulman's effort by automatically qualifying for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Baldwin-Wallace College in Cleveland this May.

Evans, the national runner-up at the Indoor Nationals at DePauw last weekend, cleared a school record 5' 8 1/2" to earn her automatic bid to the Outdoor Championships.

Freshman Tanya Colonna added a second school record to win the women's pole vault with a leap of 10' 0".

Other winners for the Engineer women included sophomore Aleksandra Kampa with a shot put mark of 35' 3 3/4"; and senior Katie Moorhead with a hammer throw of 123' 6".

On the men's side, sophomore Sutton Coleman and senior Travis Vanderberg led the Engineers with one individual and one relay victory. Coleman captured the 110-high hurdles in a time of 15.15 seconds, while Vanderberg won the javelin with a throw of 151' 0". Coleman also led off the 4-x-400 meter relay with a team including junior Paul Bouagnon, senior Michael Burris and Vanderberg for a win in a time of 3:28.45.

Junior Isaac Stockrahm won a three-way tie for top honors in the men's pole vault for the Engineers. He cleared 13' 5 1/4" with the fewest misses to top freshman Collin Crowson and freshman Andrew Siegle for the first position.

Other runner-up finishers for Rose-Hulman included freshman Travis Stallings in the long jump with a leap of 20' 3 1/2"; Coleman in the 200-meter dash in a time of 22.51 seconds; and junior Tyler Kreipke in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 15:35.07. Senior Rebecca Fehribach pitched in with a second place in the discus throw with a toss of 116' 10".

The second 4-x-400 meter relay team of freshman Josh Selig, freshman Brent Austgen, Siegle and junior Marcus Peck also came home second in 3:34.11. Selig would also add third-place finishes in the 100-meters (11.29) and 200-meters (22.75).

Third-place women's finishers included Moorhead in the discus throw (107' 6"); Fehribach in the women's javelin throw (91' 1"); senior Satomi Kaminaga in the women's triple jump (32' 7" 1/2). Junior Katherine Quigg contributed the third best 5,000-meter time in school history at 20:23.10.

On the men's side, other third place finishers included junior Derek Bischak in the 800-meter run (1:57.73); freshman Greg Larmore in the men's discus throw (133' 7"); senior Jared Stermole in the hammer throw (123' 7"); sophomore P.J. Schulthies in the javelin (145' 2"); sophomore Jaret May in the men's high jump (6' 0"); and junior Zach Pligge in the men's triple jump (37' 3 3/4").

Rose-Hulman returns to action at the Hanover Invitational next Saturday at 11:30 a.m.



Rose-Hulman News

Tanya Colonna skies over the bar as part of a school record-setting pole vault day.

## Sports Briefs

By Kurtis Zimmerman

### Sweet 16 set to become Elite 8

After a week wrought with upsets and unpredictability, the NCAA tournament has progressed over two rounds to reveal the Sweet 16. With major losses from frontrunners Kansas and Vanderbilt to underdogs University of Northern Iowa and Murray State, respectively, the NCAA tournament has become a pool of number-one seeds and a few double-digit ranked teams that could send an interesting set of teams to Indianapolis for the Final Four. The Elite 8 will be determined at the end of this week, and by the end of this weekend the top four teams in the tournament will be announced. In the women's basketball tournament, rankings seemed to dominate the winning spectrum, with only a minor upset from San Diego State who toppled West Virginia on their way to the top sixteen teams. The women will continue playing this weekend on the road to San Antonio.

### Unpopular NFL rule set to change

Throughout the years games have been lost in overtime simply due to the loss of possession at the coin toss. NFL owners brought change to gameplay this past week by allowing both teams to have possession in overtime if the loss would come down to a field goal. A vote is also expected to come about this May to extend the new rule to regular season games as well, a vote which for some NFL fans view as a major improvement to the fairness of play, especially postseason. Several rules were also passed to protect players' safety when a helmet is used to make contact and when the ball carrier loses his helmet during a play. One other notable rule set into place is intended to end any uncertainty over interference with the ball, allowing the replay judge to review the play at any point during the game if interference is suspected, not just during the last two minutes of either half. Before any rules are reviewed in May, the 2010 schedule will be released in April to anxious NFL followers.

### Nets' CEO shows his frustration

On their way to breaking the nearly forty year record of 73 losses in a season held by the Philadelphia 76ers, the New Jersey Nets booked another "L" Monday night against Miami. The Nets have already made headlines this season with their low audience numbers during games and of course, the impressive streak of losses, but this game brought one of the few interesting fans. Attention was drawn to fan Chris Lisi during the game as he was seen sporting a paper bag over his head, and the excitement only started there. Surely out of frustration, typically fan-friendly Nets' CEO Brett Yormark was caught on camera scolding the fan for expressing his opinion in such a negative way, pointing sternly before walking away at the sight of security personnel. Yormark has expressed no regret over the situation and says he will continue to stand up for the organization in the future.

Do you like watching sports?  
Do you like writing about sports?

E-mail  
**thorn-sports@rose-hulman.edu**

## Engineer Scoreboard

### Track and Field

March 20  
Rose-Hulman Eight first places  
at Early Bird Invitational

### Men's Golf

March 20-21  
Rose-Hulman 9th of 12  
at MSJ Invite

### Baseball 11-3 (0-0 HCAC)

March 21  
Rose-Hulman Game 1 — 9-8  
at Muskingum Game 2 — 5-6





### Men's Tennis 7-5 (4-2 HCAC)

March 21  
Rose-Hulman 4  
at Transylvania 5

### Softball 6-4 (2-0 HCAC)

March 20  
Rose-Hulman Game 1 — 7-8  
at Hanover Game 2 — 0-2



Flipside Briefs			
	For the fashion-forward gentleman, this low riding, decidedly... brief pair has an eagle on the waistband to show to everyone in the locker room that you paid far too much for a pair of underwear. <b>Rating:</b> ***		For the gentleman who likes to keep one foot in the supportive traditional and one on the full-coverage cutting edge, or one who's indecisive in underwear choices. We can't make up our mind. <b>Rating:</b> ****
	The timeless original... these classic y-fronts make a fantastic foundation to your frilly-shirted leisure suit, and take you back to a time where undergarment bliss was finding a pair with the green Power Ranger on it. <b>Rating:</b> ****		Let's put it this way... there's a reason that we're not showing a back view of these babies. We just couldn't do that to our loyal readers. The reason SafeSearch was invented, these start with fruit and end with furniture. <b>Rating:</b> No... just... no.

### Wacky prof quotes

“I wanted to do an extended example first. And for the example to make sense, I think you should watch this YouTube video.”  
— *Dr. Clifton, embracing modern media one Wikipedia article at a time.*

“Now, I pick on Chris, because I really like to pick on Chris...”  
— *Dr. Mason, proving that ‘because I want to’ is always a valid reason.*

“You didn’t want to see me integrate it anyway. Besides, you shouldn’t integrate in public.”  
— *Dr. Eccles, who also knows the importance of not masticating while you talk.*

“The best possible outcome is that [the elephant] goes on a bad trip, and then the researchers... um... yeah.”  
— *Dr. Brandt. Two questions: what was this study for, and where do I sign up?*

“So we’re going to stick with standard social conventions (in the RED states) for this example.”  
— *Dr. Clifton, because using the standard social conventions of San Francisco just gets confusing.*

“It’s unsanitary to run around without units.”  
— *Dr. Eccles, reminding us that naked numbers are about as popular as naked researchers.*

“Shortly after, they all die, and that’s very embarrassing.”  
— *Dr. Brandt, who should never be left alone with houseplants.*

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

### This day...

**1940:** Nancy Pelosi is born. Depending on your political affiliation, this is either a very good, or a very bad thing. Being too lazy to take sides, I’ve graciously provided this picture of her to do what you wish with. Republican? Throw darts at it or stick it to a voodoo doll, or add a moustache and angry eyebrows. Democrat? Add glitter halo and add it to your party shrine, or tape it to the inside of your planner, or use it to scare your more conservative friends at night. I love when the government does my work for me...



newsweek.com

### ...in history

## Overanalyzed: Realism in songwriting

**Noël Spurgeon**  
*Cutthroat commentator*

I’m a firm believer that art should imitate life. Not mine, necessarily, but it should at least come close to someone’s life somewhere at some time. If your life happens to be mirrored by performance art consisting of coating oneself in peanut butter and rolling around on the ground reciting pages from a technical report on types of crankshafts for thirty-six hours straight, so be it, but I’m really going to question what you do with your spare time. As long as I’m not forced to watch it, it’s all good.

However, I think that art has moved a little bit too far into the highly personal, peanut-butter coated variety, especially in the musical arena. I can only stand so many songs about how awesome Jay/Snoop/P. -Z/ Dogg/Diddy’s life is compared to mine, and how I will never match their rhymes/sexual appeal/accumulation of property, women, and/or stacks. So, as a service to my fellow man, I’ve decided to re-title some of today’s more popular tunes in a more realistic vein, so that we can all have something to relate to.

**You’re Probably Going to Get Rejected (You’re Beautiful):** Sing this song outside her window, and there’s a nine in ten chance the cops will show up... probably because she still doesn’t know who you are.

**I Can Shift The Mattress a Bit if I’ve Stretched and Warmed Up First (Bedrock):** I’m all for advertising your qualifications as potential mate material, but the last thing we need is a bunch of men demanding to be called Mr. Flintstone.

**I Somehow Ended Up at This Warehouse Party After I Got Lost on my Way to an Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting (Tik-Tok):** Also, Jack Daniels is not a substitute for toothpaste. Ever. And I have a feeling you don’t actually feel like P. Diddy. I know this. He tells me what it’s like to be him ALL THE TIME.

**I Keep Hoping That Tonight is Going to be Better Than Last Weekend Was (I Gotta Feeling):** But when your only party tools are half a case of Pabst Ice and a can of Pringles, things aren’t exactly looking good.

**Trapped in an Unhealthy Codependent Relationship (Bad Romance):** Calling it a ‘romance’ doesn’t actually make it any better.

## Top “10” Ten Failed course nicknames

**Matt Melton**  
*Hard to abbreviate*

- 10) EMGT 589 Manufacturing Systems – Man Sys
- 9) PH 322 Celestial Mechanics – Celest Me
- 8) CSSE 120 Intro to Computer Programming – ICP *[Ed. note- Just say it out loud...]*
- 7) MA 381 Intro to Probability with Applications to Stats – IP Stats *[Ed. note- Sounds painful...]*
- 6) ME 305 Intro to Aerospace Engineering – Intro to Air
- 5) ME 409 Air Conditioning – The Cool Class
- 4) ME 417 Advanced Materials Engineering – Advance ME *[Ed. note- No. Seriously. I need this to graduate.]*
- 3) PH 490 Asteroid Photometry – Roids *[Ed. note- Photometry-related frustration? Roid rage.]*
- 2) ME 470 Systems Engineering – SYS E
- 1) BE 390 Principles of Biomedical Engineering Design – Principles of BED *[Ed. note- Taught by the fine, fine woman known as... your mother. She’s really a very nice lady.]*

## Health bill passes, sick people drop dead from shock

**James Zhou**  
*BEEP BEEP BEEP  
beeeeeeeeeeeeeep...*

The United States now has the highest percentage of healthy individuals in relation to total population of all the countries in the world, after millions of its sick citizens died from shock upon hearing that the much-debated Health bill has become public law. In effect, the passage of the Health Act has made America the healthiest country in the world.

Nowhere was this phenomenon more noticeable than in the nation’s intensive care units, as patients with multiple organ failures and rapidly surmounting medical bills were fixated on their television screens showing President Obama signing the bill into law. “When he lifted his pen form paper, the [ICU] floor monitors went crazy. There was a comatose patient who suddenly woke up and started dancing. Of course, his major motor control centers weren’t func-

tioning that well and he danced through the window,” recounted a nurse, “It is great that everyone is healthy now that the Health Bill has passed. For the first time in twenty years, I can finally go take a vacation.”

In fact, many hospitals have started negotiations to be remodeled into hotels. “We already provide beds, televisions, food, and room service, and now that everyone is healthy following the passage of the health bill, we can switch completely over into the hospitality industry,” said a Methodist Hospital Group spokesman.

Other sectors of the economy have also seen remarkable changes following the passage of the Health Bill. Record amounts of triple bypass cheeseburgers, extra-tar cigarettes, and 97 proof wines have been sold. A man on the street, carrying



mensfitness.com

*On the bright side, if the public option passes, the average American male will look something like this.*

a case of Crazy Hobo boxed wine commented, “Now that the Health Bill has passed, I don’t have to worry about how expensive the medical care required to counteract the affects of my poor behavioral choices would be.” Strangely enough, the number of sick days taken by employees have held steady.