

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Rose Thorn Staff

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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2008

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 8

Obama wins; McCain concedes

News Briefs

By Andrew Klusman

Russian missiles in the Baltic

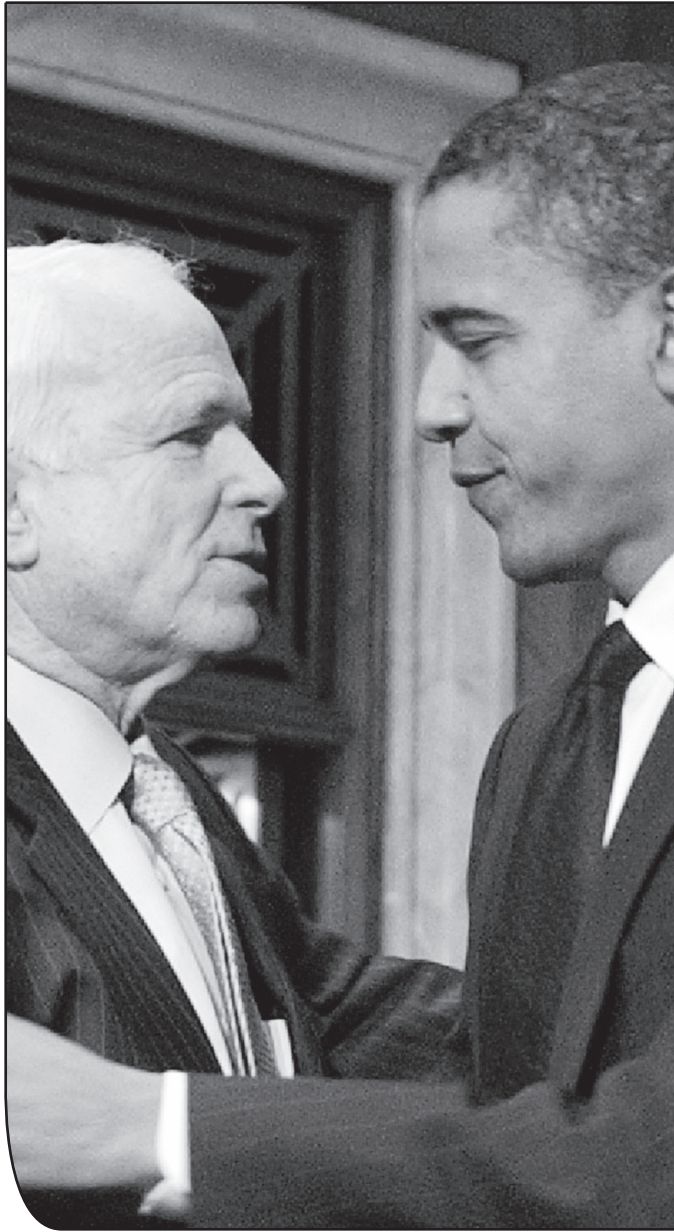
In Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's first state-of-the-nation address, he stated that Russia will deploy new short-range Iskander missiles in the Baltic region near Poland. President Medvedev stated that the missiles would neutralize the planned missile defense system the United States will deploy in Poland and the Czech Republic. These missiles are to be deployed in between two North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members, Lithuania and Poland. While the US considers the missile shield to be a defense from "rogue" nations, President Medvedev sees it as an aggressive threat to Russia. In his address to the country, he also stated that Russia would electronically jam the missile shield, and will consider using the Russian Navy to help neutralize the shield. The announcement came the day after Barack Obama won the US Presidential election.

China urges Obama to oppose Taiwanese independence

The Chinese government is urging President-elect Barack Obama to oppose independence for Taiwan. Amidst this urging, the Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou held a brief, yet historic, meeting with a senior Chinese envoy in Taipei, which drew thousands of protesters to the streets, protesters that object to closer economic and trade ties with China. The urging comes a month after the Bush Administration announced a plan to sell more than \$6 billion worth of weapons to Taiwan, and amid a five-day visit to Taiwan by Chen Yunlin, the most senior Communist Chinese official to visit the island since 1949, when Taiwan became self-ruled. The Chinese government views Taiwan as a breakaway province which should be reunited with the mainland, even if it requires force.

South Africa holds ivory auction

South Africa held the world's biggest legal sale of ivory in almost 20 years. The auction in the African country saw over 51 tons of elephant tusks sold to China and Japan, the only officially approved buyers for this sale. The government of South Africa has come under fire for this sale of ivory. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species will monitor the trade to make sure companies do not mix the legal shipments with illegally acquired ivory, and will not allow the two countries to export the ivory. The tusks were sold for \$142 per kilogram. The trade of ivory was banned in the late 1980s due to poaching and its destructive effect on the elephant populations.



The Independent Collegian

Senator John McCain and President-elect Barack Obama greet on Capitol Hill. Senator John McCain lost on Tuesday to Barack Obama in a hotly contested match for presidency.

Laptops at large: thieves strike campus

Clint Thompson

Guest Writer

Jack Handey, an American humorist, once said, "I can picture in my mind a world without war, a world without hate. And I can picture us attacking that world, because they'd never expect it." As students at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, we have been extraordinarily fortunate to live

in such a trusting community. Unfortunately, that trust has led us to be attacked again

On Monday, November 3, 2008, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Alex Mahlan returned to the Lambda Chi Alpha house to find his laptop missing. He asked some of his fraternity brothers if this was some kind of prank. They confirmed that it was not and mentioned that someone saw a suspicious per-

son leaving from the back

parking lot about ten minutes before he arrived. The man who was seen in the house was described at around 5'8" with short, dark hair and a blue flannel coat. The getaway driver was behind the wheel of a beat-up black SUV and had a scruffy, red beard. Fortunately, Public Safety was notified immediately, and they even notified

a nearby off-campus fraternity within half an hour.

Alex was not the only student to have issues with the thieves. Eric Fiedeldey, a freshman chemical engineering student, woke to see the then would-be thief attempting to take his laptop. Eric, after a short exchange with the thief, was able to deter

the man and recover his laptop, while scaring the thief off of campus.

If you see any outsiders matching this description or their SUV, please contact the Office of Public Safety. Paying attention will hopefully prevent this already infrequent problem from happening again anytime soon.

Scott Gallmeier
News Editor

Tuesday, November 2, 2008, marked a historic day for the United States, the election of the first African-American president of the United States. President-elect Barack Obama won Tuesday's election by a 6% popular vote advantage and a 186 electoral vote advantage over his Republican contender, John McCain. John McCain promptly delivered his concession speech at 11:15 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Barack Obama is set to be inaugurated January 20, 2009.

This election was part of a nationwide resurgence of the Democratic party, with the Senate Democrats gaining 7 seats and the House Democrats gaining 23 seats. The election was one of the most contentious in recent years with the primary race beginning nearly two years ago with a multitude of contenders for the nomination of both parties. The Republican

race was decided by March 11 of this year, closing after a short but hot race narrowing down to McCain and Huckabee. The Democratic race was a longer and equally heated race, ending with Clinton and Obama.

The presidential race following that had been one of great sway, going back and forth between McCain and Obama. The early race had begun to favor McCain, but as time went on, the polls began to sway, leaning more towards Obama nearly every day. As the race began to come to a close, the polls tightened again, ending on Monday with a nearly prophetic 6% popular vote lead. The final vote breakdown showed massive leads for Obama in various demographic groups as well. Obama was preferred by African-Americans with 95% of their vote, Latinos with 66% of their vote, women with 56% of their vote, first-time voters with 68% of their vote, and voters making less than \$100,000 annually with 55% of their vote.



Men's HCAC Final
Rose-Hulman vs. Pennsylvania
Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Jim Rendel Field

Picture by
Rose-Hulman
News

In this issue of the Rose Thorn...

NEWS

3

Gas goes ga-ga



Red Letter Year



OPINIONS

6

Marriage is love

ENTERTAINMENT

4



Athlete of the Week



SPORTS

5

Chuck Norris...

FLIPSIDE

8

By Melissa Brumbaugh

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Try to draw the picture in the grid. Each row and column contains the number of shaded squares.

An example Hanjie puzzle can be found to the right.

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From the Rose
Thorn Staff:
Good luck on exams!

By Melissa Brumbaugh

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

$$A = F \qquad B = L \qquad C = R$$

EFTO KHNYO, BFJOY CFBUI RFAU BSXK DJSA GEFKUO CVERFK

FKB OSEB AU OYFO HD H BHBK'O OFWU ESJFHKU SVO OYFO

YU'B AUEO AM LJFHK.

Find the answers to all Rose Thorn puzzles at:

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

CLASSIFIEDS

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We have wireless Internet, furnished units, lots of parking, and laundry facilities. Don't forget to check out the Trails End Cafe too! We are located at the first stoplight east of Rose-Hulman at 40 (Wabash Ave.) and Hunt Road. Check us out at sharpflats.com, or call us at (812) 877-1146. You'll love the convenient location, having your own bathroom, space and our great prices! Pet friendly!

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large kitchen with dishwasher and garbage disposal, large rec room, attached oversize 2 car garage.

All appliances provided including washer and dryer. Central A/C.
Mostly furnished. \$250 per month per student plus share of utilities.
Landlord pays water and sewer.

Space available for 2 students starting this Winter Quarter.
Campus ext-8317 or 240-4774.

The Rose 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
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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 do not necessarily represent the views of the *Rose Thorn* staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Pipeline creates woes, yet petrol prices plummet

Tim Ekl
Staff Writer

A section of the primary steam pipe for Speed, Deming, and BSB halls sprung a leak November 4, causing hot water outages in the affected dorms and requiring Facilities to open a hole in the road to repair the affected pipe.

Facilities workers took just over eight hours to repair the pipe, but patching up the road again took about two days, according to Wayne Spary, Vice President for Facilities Operations.

“[The pipe] had a pinhole in it. Obviously steam is under 85-plus pounds pressure, so it was coming out pretty quick,” Spary said.

The leak, according to Spary, was caused by corrosion due to a particular piece of the pipe coming into contact with moisture and corroding over an extended period of time. This was the first leak this section of the pipe had suffered.

“Every couple of years we have a steam leak somewhere. We re-

placed sections of the pipe before, but this is the first time [for this section],” Spary said.

Affected students first found out about the leak from an e-mail sent to BSB, Deming, and Speed halls by Erik Hayes, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. The e-mail said Facilities hoped hot water reserves lasted while the repair was taking place, but that there was a “reasonable chance” that students would find no hot water through the morning of November 5.

Following the e-mail, many students showered immediately to take advantage of the existing hot water reserves.

“I showered before [the pipe was shut down] that day,” Matt Carberry, a freshman in Speed Hall, said. “I had to take a cold shower the next day. It was cold, but seriously...it wasn’t that bad.”

As of press time, the pipe is completely repaired and hot water is available again in all three affected halls. Facilities laid the final layer of asphalt on the torn-up section of road this morning.

Scott Gallmeier
News Editor

Across the nation, gasoline prices have been plummeting in recent months, dropping from a national average of approximately \$4.10 in mid-summer to \$2.34 more recently. Oil prices have been falling just as fast, falling from record highs of around \$150 dollars per barrel in early September to the Thursday November 6 prices of \$57 dollars per barrel. The recent price drops have been attributed to various social and economic issues, including the presidential election to the recent economic recession.

These recent drops in gasoline prices, even being seventy cents below the national average one year ago, have been cause for great joy and great remorse amongst various individuals. Many individuals across the nation have seen

the recent drop in gasoline prices as a blow to research for alternative fuels. One such person, junior electrical engineering student Michael Fuson who feels that “The search for alternative fuels will be hindered with the recent drop in gas prices.” This opinion is wildly held, as the drive for alternative fuels has become more of a push amongst the American population. One particular survey from National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium in October 2008 showed that 93% of people surveyed thought that alternative fuels were of great importance.

The opposite of the alternative fuels argument is the argument that prices had leaped up too rapidly. One can easily see that over the course of about 6-8 months prices had risen approximately \$1.10, on average. This sudden spike in prices was seen,

by many as a jab at the American people, little more than price gouging and the oil industry taking advantage of United States’ dependence on oil. The recent turnaround of this issue has been a great relief to many around the country and around campus. One such person is junior biomedical engineering student Annie Bullock, who said “[the change in prices] will make driving home for break a lot more pleasant for a lot of people.” This effect will be seen not only by people around the Rose-Hulman campus where regular gasoline as of Thursday, November 6 was \$1.98, but in Great Bend, Oklahoma, where regular gasoline is less than \$1.82 per gallon and in consistently high Southern California where regular gasoline has reached the \$2.72 per gallon mark.



Andrew Carlson/Rose Thorn

As part of a national trend, fuel prices in and around Terre Haute have been sliding downwards. Shown above is the fuel price at the Shell Gas Station to the east of Rose-Hulman's campus.



Wind +  = Watts



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Ani DiFranco still has that something special

Ben Collins
Entertainment Editor

Ani DiFranco, like many singers of the folk genre, rarely see any distinguishable press converge. While this keeps the music pure, it also prevents any real exposure to their sound outside of live shows and several CD releases.

Ani, however, is a very prolific writer with over thirty albums released, eighteen of which are studio releases. In that same breath, she also has the experience of being a poet and that shows in her lyrical style, abandoning the basic rhyming scheme and meter for a more natural song writing.

“Red Letter Year” is pretty exemplary of this style and has decent guitar work from Ani which doesn’t let up from song to song.



In some cases it’s a very minimal effort in comparison to the backing band, which is fantastic, but she makes it a very unique addi-

tion to every song.

Listening to the album, however, can be a bit trying as the lyrics can become convoluted song to song. The music is unique but, it doesn’t flow very well and gives moments of drastic transition. Picking songs from the album and listening to them individually is a better plan to actually enjoy the music. There are four to five really good single quality songs, but the rest unfortunately fall into a category of bland.

For the mellow crowd with an open mind this should be a nice treat for the upcoming holiday.

Reviewer rating: 2.5 elephants

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Farewell Michael Crichton

Ben Collins
Entertainment Editor

This past Tuesday, author Michael Crichton died suddenly at the age of 66 due to complications with cancer. With his death comes the loss of one of the great fathers of modern popular fiction, both in print and on the screen.

I give pause to his death for several reasons. I weep for the loss of

a man who so clearly defined my childhood; I ponder who could possibly fill the shoes that he has left for young and old writers alike, and I mourn the loss of a creative mind in an already very cookie-cutter world of writing. But mainly, I remember what an influence Crichton has been to me through his writing. Crichton made the scientific and medical fields interesting and palpable to impressionable minds.

He made it possible for people

to produce dinosaurs, travel back in time, save lives every day in an emergency room, and generally make the impossible possible, all through seemingly lucid science. While not entirely realistic, it was entertaining, and it made kids like me see the world in a new light and in some ways it drove me to become an engineer.

Again, I feel the loss of Crichton, but it also helps me to embrace his impact on my life. He will be missed.

Life on the run from the police for all the wrong reasons

Annie Bullock
Guest Writer

The Mark follows the story of a young college graduate, Henry Parker, as he leaves his small town and gets his first job at a newspaper in New York. Once there, he finds himself entangled in a mob plot and becomes a fugitive for a crime he did not commit. He is blamed for killing a cop, stealing a valuable package and is a wanted man chased by cops, federal agents, mobsters, and assassins. Looking for a way out, he hitches a ride with a stranger who eventually saves his life and becomes his sole ally.

Jason Pinter’s debut novel is a very good mystery-thriller, somewhere between the Bourne Identity and the DaVinci Code.

His characters are easy to engage, expressive, and with emotions to which readers can relate. Henry reacts to the problems facing him as anyone would: he does not try to become a hero, he just wants to live and figure out how to get out of this mess. The details in the book provide the right level of description.

Dead bodies are described enough to get the point across that they died gruesomely, but not to the point where the reader is completely grossed out.

Also, another interesting tact that Pinter uses in this book is his use of backgrounds and how they reflect the mood. The reader can sense a bit of the immediate future through what the surroundings look like around his characters. As an example, towards the end of the book when

Henry has given away his hiding spot and the cops are screaming up with drawn guns and the assassin has Henry trapped at gun point, one of the cops stops, looks out, and realizes “...the river looked absolutely beautiful. Dark blue, the surface glittering like a million silver dollars were resting at the bottom” (page 333). How can anything bad happen after a line like that? But I won’t give away the ending, so I guess you’ll just go have to read the book!

This novel is highly entertaining, a good read that does not take much brain power and provides a nice rest from math and science. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes a not-too-gory thrill, a mystery with some surprising twists, and an unexpected ending.

The Helm brings heroism to the rest of us!

Eli Baca
Staff Writer

Mathew Burdy is a typical guy—works at a video store, rides around on a motorcycle, and enjoys time with his “lady love,” Jill. However, when dumped by said girlfriend and fired from said video store, Matt rides off on his trusty steed... well motorcycle, and ends up at a random garage sale to waste time before he has to go home. While browsing the sale he stumbles upon a helmet that talks to him about superpowers and heroes and how he’s the almighty chosen one to fight the forces of darkness. Who wouldn’t want that right?

The helmet, appropriately named The Helm, is the special accessory to the chosen “Valhalladrim,” and now belongs to Matt. However, the Helm isn’t too thrilled to find out that “the chosen one” isn’t Superman, but rather, a regular guy who lives with his mother and loves to eat pizza. The Helm manages to train Mathew, and even has him kill some people, but when Jill comes realizes what’s going on, she insists that Matt is crazy and should be committed.

Written by Jim Hardison, The Helm is an ironic spin to the “destiny” and “saving the world” genre that leaves readers laughing and craving more. The Matt-Helm love-hate relationship brings reality to the fantasy world by turning an over-weight nerd into a warrior who gets the girl, and by doing it with healthy dieting and exercise—and a bit of screaming, yelling, and criticism. Hardison captures both characters very well, showing how big the heart of a nerd really is. He also attempts to shed light on how stereotypical the hero genre is—The Helm doesn’t

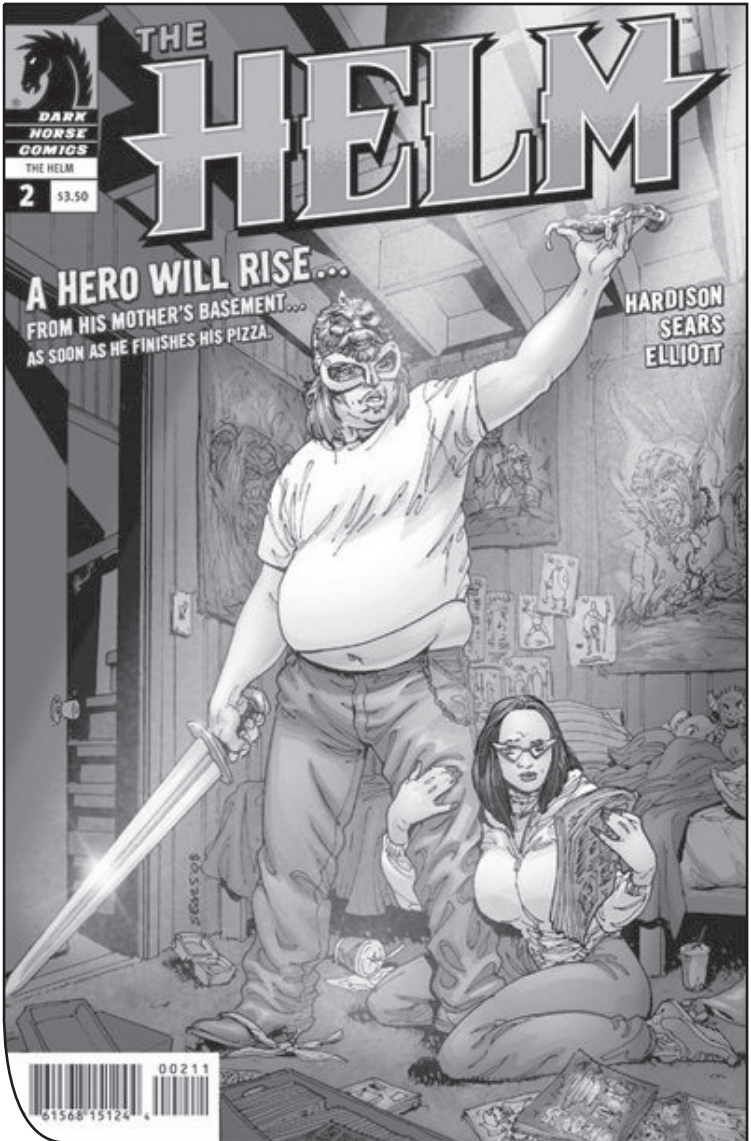
want a “cringing, effete, chubby piglet” as his wearer, but is stuck with him until dear Matt dies.

Bart Sears captures Mathew and The Helm very well with his pencils, giving a very realistic feel to the comic and bringing the reader right into the story. With the inks done by Randy Elliott, the Helm is vibrant and alive—making hobgoblins and necromancers seem like everyday commodities while still managing to leave Mathew looking geeky enough for the rest of us. The art stays tight and real, never becoming outlandish or leaving things to the imagination, but rather making sure that the reader knows exactly what is going on in the universe of Mathew Burdy.

The four-part miniseries from Dark Horse brings an unlikely hero to face evil and does so without going over the top, instead making the characters everyday people—people that you may see walking down the street or jogging to class to make the bell—and bringing a refreshing story into the hero mix. With massive story arcs happening in both DC Comics (Final Crisis) and Marvel (Secret Invasion), Dark Horse stays new and gives readers a nice step away from overlapping dramas—giving us Matt and the Helm, the most unlikely hero team to hit comics, but also gives us the question for the conclusion—is Matt really the Valhalladrim, Savior of the World, or is he just a comic book guy that’s spent too many hours playing WoW? Either way, look for the exciting conclusion to the Helm, hitting comic stores soon.

Reviewer rating: 4 elephants

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| NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Movies: | Video Games: | Music: |
| Zack and Miri Make a Porno | Gears of War 2 | Enya <i>And Winter Came</i> |
| Soul Men | Fallout 3 | T-Pain <i>Thr33 Ringz</i> |
| Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa | Command and Conquer: Red Alert 3 | |

A special look at what it really takes to be a superhero: a muffin top.



Melissa Rogers



Tim Boyer
Copy Editor

Despite only having six runners, Rose-Hulman's women's cross country squad was a top contender for the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference's (HCAC) cross country championship. Leading the effort was junior chemical engineering major Melissa Rogers. Last weekend, she not only finished in front of all of her teammates, but also in front of all the women in the HCAC as the best female cross country runner in the conference with a time of 23:32, 20 seconds in front of the second place finisher.

With her first place finish, Rogers becomes the first cross country conference champion in school history. Being only a junior, Rogers has another year for improvement and an opportunity to claim the top spot again next year.

Melissa Rogers took the time to answer some questions for the Thorn.

Rose Thorn: How long have you been running track and cross-country?

Melissa Rogers: I started running

in 8th grade. I went out for soccer in 7th grade and was the only girl. The boys were all better than me, except for the sprint drills when I beat them all. So I decided that I would stick to running.

RT: Last weekend, you finished first the women's HCAC cross-country meet. How does it feel to be the best in the conference?

MR: I was in shock for a while, but now it feels great. I had been nervous for a long time because the five girls that beat me last year all graduated.

RT: After finishing first this season and being only a junior this year, what is your plan to defend that spot next year?

MR: I plan on training really hard over the summer and eating better. I also want to run more hill workouts.

RT: You have steadily improved your time over the past couple years. What do you do to keep getting better and better?

MR: Coach Cole has made the workouts more difficult every year and my times keep improv-

ing. I started training with some of the men's team during my freshmen year and that has really helped me get faster too.

RT: Some people consider long distance running boring. What is it about cross country that appeals to you?

MR: For me, running is the best way to get rid of stress. I could be having a really bad day, but after practice I always feel better.

RT: What's the most meaningful award or recognition that you've received?

MR: My senior year in high school I received State Honorable Mention First Team in cross country.

RT: How has participating in a varsity sport had an effect on your experience at Rose?

MR: Cross country and track are two of my favorite parts of Rose. I have a network of friends and training partners.

RT: Do you have any plans on staying involved in long distance running after Rose?

MR: I plan on getting a dog that will run with me every day.

Bueltel named HCAC Player of the Month

Rose-Hulman News

Junior Calvin Bueltel has been named Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Month for October, in results released today by the league office.

To earn the award, Bueltel was selected as the top male athlete in any sport at any institution during the month of October by league sports information directors. Each college is permitted one nominee for the entire athletic department per month, and the nine nominees are placed on one ballot for voting.

Bueltel is the third Rose-Hulman male student-athlete and the fourth football player to claim the award in its three-year history.

In October, Bueltel rushed for 562 yards and nine touchdowns to help propel the Fightin' Engineer to a perfect 4-0 record. He rushed for more than 100 yards in each game, highlighted by a 167-yard performance at Hanover.

The two-time HCAC Player of the Week helped Rose-Hulman achieve its best start to a season in 21 years at 7-1. Bueltel averaged 140.5 rushing yards per game and 6.3 yards per carry in October.

Rose-Hulman stands 7-2 overall and 5-1 in conference play entering this week's regular season finale against Anderson University. The Engineers can still earn a share of the league title with a victory over Anderson and one loss by Franklin in its final two games.

Soccer vying for NCAA bid

Tim Boyer
Copy Editor

The Rose-Hulman men's soccer team is looking to earn a Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) tournament championship and an automatic bid the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament; both feats have yet to be accomplished in school history for men's soccer. In the past, Rose has come just shy, falling second to Transylvania University. Transylvania, against whom Rose is playing in the championship match tomorrow (Saturday) at 1pm at Jim Rendel Field, has captured the title and bid for the past four years and is looking for their fifth.

This time around, the Fightin' Engineers have a slight upper hand, going into the match having beaten the Pioneers 2-1 in overtime earlier this season and earned hosting rights for the championship game. The Engineers have posted victories over all the other teams in the conference except for Anderson University, who did not make the HCAC tournament.

Rose came out victorious this past Wednesday over Hanover 1-0 in the HCAC tournament semifinals after more than 109 minutes of play. Both teams battled though the 90 minutes of regulation play and another 19 minutes of overtime, with Rose out-shooting the Panthers 25-8, before sophomore

civil engineering major Corbin Clow was fouled in the penalty box with only 10 seconds to go in second overtime period. Sophomore mechanical engineering major Mitch Buffington put the ball in the net on the resulting penalty kick to give Rose the win. If Hanover had held off the Engineers for another 10 seconds, the winner would've been decided by a penalty kick shootout.

Currently, Rose stands at 13-4-3 on the season, just two wins shy of the school record 15 wins, set back in 2006. The 2006 season was the last and, to this point, only time Rose has been in a conference title game, where they fell in Lexington, Ky. to the Pioneers 3-0.

Earlier this season, Rose snapped Transylvania's 16 HCAC game win streak, which dated back to 2006, with the 2-1 overtime victory. In the tightly contested match, the Pioneers had scored first early in the 17th minute, but Rose answered shortly after in the 22nd minute. The game remained tied through the rest of regulation and another nine minutes of overtime before junior electrical engineering major Phil Meyer scored the winning goal.

The team that advances to the NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Tournament will play next week in the first round. The field of teams and host schools will be announced early Monday next week.

Engineer Scoreboard

| Football 7-2 (5-1) | Volleyball 18-15 (2-6) |
|--|---|
| <i>November 1</i> Rose-Hulman 7 at Franklin College 42 | <i>November 4</i> Mt. St. Joseph 3 at Rose-Hulman 1 |

| Women's Soccer 12-7 (5-3) | Men's Soccer 13-4-3 (7-0-1) |
|---|---|
| <i>November 1</i> Defiance College 1 at Rose-Hulman 2 | <i>November 1</i> Defiance College 0 at Rose-Hulman 5 |
| <i>November 4</i> Rose-Hulman 0 at Mt. St. Joseph 1 | <i>November 5</i> Hanover College 0 at Rose-Hulman 1 |

| Men's Cross Country |
|---|
| <i>November 1</i> HCAC Championships N. Manchester, IN 2nd of 9 |

| Women's Cross Country |
|---|
| <i>November 1</i> HCAC Championships N. Manchester, IN 4th of 9 |

| Swimming and Diving |
|--|
| <i>November 1</i> Rose-Hulman Double Duals Terre Haute, IN M-2nd W-2nd |

Opportunities in Intellectual Property

How can your science or engineering degree be put to work in the legal profession? Only lawyers with science and engineering undergraduate degrees are eligible to sit for the Patent Bar Exam.

5:30 p.m., Wednesday November 12
Music Room, Hulman Union
All students welcome.
Food and beverages provided.

Talk with intellectual property practitioners about their careers and how to join their ranks

Kevin Leffel
Director, Intellectual Property
Cook Group Inc.
BS, Mech. Engineering University of Toledo
MS, Mech. Engineering, University of Toledo
JD, University of Akron

Hongsun Yoon
Associate, Barnes & Thornburg LLP
BS, Biochemistry, Indiana University
JD, Indiana University--Bloomington

Also, speak with Dani Weatherford, Director of Recruitment and Admissions at Indiana Law, about law school admissions.

Sodding vortex

Christine Price

Opinions Editor

Sometimes, I wonder what the Physics Department of this school gets up to. I would ask them, but the answer would probably involve an unhealthy level of the word “quantum.” But the Physics Department is the only solution I can think of for a quite troubling problem. My room has become a vortex. A hungry, hungry vortex. So far it has eaten my black AOII shirt, my student ID (which cost \$10

to replace), my brown flip flops, and a book entitled *Please Don't Come Back from the Moon*. I thought it had eaten my probability folder too, but it turns out it just got left in the Thorn office. What are the odds of that? Ha. Ha. Ha.

Anyway. Perhaps it's because I know the speed of these objects (they are not moving), and I therefore cannot know their location? No, that is ridiculous. It's definitely become a vortex. Because I certainly couldn't have just lost all of these items.

Dorm rooms, as I understand it, take up a (very) finite amount of space, and I'm pretty sure I have observed all of that space, and I haven't seen any hint of a brown flip flop or the missing shirt. I highly doubt this has anything to do with being lost-prone. It's certainly not like that time last year when I lost my purse for a month, only to find it in a drawer I rarely used. So, Physics Department, do me a favor and stop messing around with the space-time continuum, and return my stuff, okay?

Marriage is love

Christine Price

Opinions Editor

I'm so bloody tired of people saying marriage is a sacred institution that has not changed since the dawn of time. Because you know what? It keeps changing. My father does not have to own a large herd of goats in order to convince some man I'm worth marrying. I don't have to worry about being bartered away to some slovenly baron in attempt to strengthen our family ties and prevent a petty war. If I do get married, and my husband dies, I now have the right to inherit his property. In America, men are allowed the privilege of only one wife—no “complete the set for extra social status!” rubbish. I don't have to have an arranged marriage that involves marrying now, falling in love later. I have the right to marry a person of any race (well, tech-



www.wedding53.com/2007/12/02

Mail-order brides: more legal than gay marriage!

nically, not in South Carolina). Two people of different religions can fall madly in love and marry each other, without the worry of religiously inspired “honor” killings. And if a marriage goes sour,

divorce is a viable option. And don't get me started on how wedding ceremonies have changed throughout the years. As we become more materialistically comfortable (and thus don't have to rely on a partner to help us take care of the farm and raise the kids so we don't die of starvation), we have the freedom to marry for love. Because that is what marriage has become synonymous for: Love. True, marriage comes with those important inheritance and hospital visitation rights and such. But in this age, it is seen as an official declaration of life-long love. “We are civilly unionized” just doesn't have the same ring as, “we are married!” If we, as a society, were to be honest and just, we would legalize gay marriage, and, perhaps, ban the short Las Vegas mistake marriages, the twenty year-olds marrying dying billionaire marriages, and loveless shotgun weddings.

On Obama's win

Sid Ullrich

Guest Writer

This past Tuesday shortly after 11:00 p.m. local time, the presidential election was called for Senator Barack Obama. By the time all votes had been tallied, the Electoral College count had risen to 364 votes for Sen. Obama compared to just 174 for Sen. McCain. A historic election by any means.

But to many Americans and many members of the Rose-Hulman family, this marked much more than just another election win. The dedicated supporters of Sen. Obama's campaign on campus shared a common vision of the future and a sincere concern for the outlook of their country.

For that reason, the members of Rose-Hulman Students For Barack Obama started a campus-wide campaign of great proportion. We began our work early this year as the primary season was just getting underway, and we have been working hard ever since.

It has been so much more than just the advancement of our candidate or the promotion of a set of political beliefs. We have spent the past year working to get our fellow students involved in the political process and get them excited about the positive effect they can have on their country.

Since Rose-Hulman Students For Barack Obama was started by the four of us (Jon Ogilvie, Sean

Feeney, John Heady, and me, Sid Ullrich) in early January we have had a major impact on our campus.



Courtesy of the Rose Democrats

Rose-Hulman: Our hope for our futures

- We registered more than 350 of our fellow students, both Democrats and Republicans, to vote
- We helped nearly 200 students request absentee ballots from 12 different states
- We provided transportation to the polls for almost 50 students on Election Day
- We got over 275 students, 11 faculty members, and 5 staff members involved with the local volunteer efforts
- We held watch parties, co-hosted with the College Republicans for all of the presidential debates

But, most importantly, we changed the world.

We helped elect a president who refuses to operate under the same old standards of Washington. He'll spend every day working for what is best for the American people, and will listen to the opinions of those around him, even if he doesn't agree with them.

With our economy in crisis, our nation at war, and our environment in turmoil, we couldn't risk four more years of the same policies that have failed again and again.

This election doesn't represent a victory just for the Democratic Party or the Obama Campaign, but a victory for the American people. When we bring our heroic men and women home from Iraq, we will bring home Republican men and women as well. When we fulfill our obligation to protect the health of children, we'll keep the children of the red states healthy too. When we reduce our impact on the environment, we'll make your air safer to breathe too. When we restore our economic strength and create good jobs in America, we will employ liberals and conservatives equally. And even though we view the conservative lifestyle as an unusual way of life, we'll still let Republicans marry each other.

Change has come to Washington.

Reflections from the other side of the desk

Lindsey VanSchoiack

Editor-in-Chief Emeritus

This year during Freshmen Move-In, I was walking around welcoming new students and their parents to campus, giving directions to those who were lost, trying to calm the nerves of parents dropping off their oldest/only/youngest child, and in general trying to be one of the many welcoming faces that were out and about that Friday. Ten years ago, during freshman Move-In, I was doing just that—moving in. My mother and I were assisted in shucking all the boxes I had shipped across country up to BSB3 by those ever helpful sophomore advisors, Greeks, and other Rosies.

Ten years ago, the night before the first day of school, I was woken up by a very, shall we say, “happy” roommate at three in the morning. At the time I was worried about being thousands of miles away from my boyfriend, excited about starting college, worried about getting lost or being late to class, and looking forward to hanging out with the new friends I had made during welcome week. This year, the night before the first day of class, I was putting the finishing touches on my third lecture, trying to remember when the class hours start and end, wondering how long it would take for my students to figure out that I was an alumn, and jealous of the fact that my roommate was already fast asleep while I was still trying to feel like I had enough done that I could get to bed.

Ten years ago on my first day, I was entering calculus 2 with Professor Carlson, second hour. This year, I was sitting in my office second hour printing out handouts for my Meatballs class that takes place fourth hour. I don't remember being nervous on my first day of classes back then. Of course, back then I didn't have much responsibility other than to go to class and do my best. Now I am a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering and responsible for teaching material, not just doing my best to learn it.

This year as I walked into my first class, I was a nervous wreck. I planted a mole by having one of our graduate students sit in on the class to let me know how my first lecture went. Sneaky, huh? I passed out handouts to my class asking them what a new professor at Rose-Hulman should know about the school, and also asking them what I should know about them individually. I stood at the front of the class and thought “Oh my goodness, they are so close!” I felt like my first row was almost on top of me even though I had a desk between them and me. My hands shook as I picked up a dry erase marker and wrote my name on the board; and then I took a deep breath, said a little prayer, turned around smiled at my graduate student mole, and launched into my first lecture.

I was, after all, at Rose. I knew

my topic, knew what I could expect of my students, and knew this year would be an adventure. It has been. In the last quarter I have learned that the professors look forward to the breaks just as much, if not more so, than the students. First Wok is still where you can find professors and students alike eating with the 10% Rose discount. I have been mistaken for a student (why thank you) several times, been up doing homework all night (I actually make the rubric for my grader for each assignment), and have gotten to see the excitement on my students' faces as interviews turn into plant trips and offers. I have discovered just how hard it is to write a problem that is challenging, but not impossible to solve during a one-hour exam.

I rejoice with my students when they do well, commiserate with them when things are not going well, and encourage them when they are working hard to learn what I am teaching. I reply to e-mails and Facebook comments in the evenings and on weekends while I am grading exams and laboratory reports. I run review sessions and try to deliver the topic in a fashion with just enough difference from the way I did it the first time so that the students who didn't get it then can get it this time.

A lot has changed in the ten years since I first came to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. We have three new buildings (Percopo Hall, Hatfield Hall, and The Apartments) that replaced outdoor volleyball and tennis courts, some

I planted a mole by having one of our graduate students sit in on the class to let me know how my first lecture went.

of the front lawn/Ultimate Frisbee field, and the old Triplet parking lot. We have a new sculpture in the front lawn, Alpha Omicron Pi has become

the third Greek option for women on campus, BSB3 has air conditioning, and the front entrance has changed (again). The old auditorium where musicals and plays were performed on shaky stages while audiences watched from folding chairs, and where I waited to line up for my commencement processional has turned into posh Computer Science offices and a student lounge area. Some things, however, are still the same. The bells still ring to start and end class, the bell tower still sounds everyday with some ditty to make you smile, the passing of weeks can still be told by the stress level apparent in the students' faces, and the campus still has an amazingly and diversely talented student body. The odds are still good, but some of the goods are still odd, and while I am overjoyed at the increased geographical and ethnic diversity that Rose has gained since I was here as a student, we still need to work on that.

As my 13th quarter at Rose draws to an end, I am honored to be allowed to be here on the other side of the desk this time. I am praying for my students, preparing for the classes I will be teaching this winter, and wondering what adventures I will have next.

Obama, Speech! Speech!

Hobey Tam
Staff Writer

Obama started his victory speech Tuesday night, “If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our Founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.” And as he and his supporters began celebrating, many began quoting the line from the movie “V for Vendetta,” “Remember, remember the Fifth of November.” Certainly, it was a date to remember.

Obama’s victory was sealed when Senator McCain conceded the presidential race around midnight of November 4, 2008 after Obama’s projected lead of 303 to 155. McCain assured his supporters, “My friends, we have, we have come to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly. A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him on ... being elected the next president of the country that we both love.”

There is no telling what lies in the future, whether conservative cynicism towards Obama will be confirmed through the destruction of America’s economy or whether Obama will accomplish his vision of “change.” One thing is certain; America is not going to be the same. With the election victory of not only a Democratic White House but also a Democratic Congress, the light of the Democratic Party is beginning to shine through the

toxic haze created by the previous domination of Republican policy. Although this does not automatically mean unhindered passage of Obama’s policies plan after plan, but there is a strong possibility of legislation with strong Democratic positions. To say the least, Obama envisions instilling positive change in America and returning it to glory. He continues to reinforce this with his common anaphora that emanates throughout his speeches, “Yes we can.”

As Barack Obama stated, “The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America,

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even in one term. But, America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there.

I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there. There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won’t agree with every decision or policy I make as president. And we know the government can’t solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And, above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this nation, the only way it’s been done in America for 221 years—block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.”

After addressing and thank-

ing all of his loved ones and campaign mates, Obama emphasized that this victory was merely the chance to instill change. A very generous bulk of his victory speech, four minutes and twelve seconds, was utilized to address the doubts his skeptics held.

Obama announced his candidacy to NBC’s Tim Russert on October 22, 2006, while sitting as the Democratic senator of Illinois. By the time the Secret Service started protecting Senator Obama in March 2007, the campaign to win the Democratic primaries was in full swing. After out-raising more campaign funds than Clinton at the end of the second quarter in June 2007, the primaries officially kicked off at the New Hampshire primaries. Slowly gaining momentum in the beginning, Obama finally overtook Clinton’s 100 super delegate vote lead in May 2008. After winning the Democratic nomination for presidential candidacy in August 2008, Obama went on to campaign hard against McCain. Appealing to the voter masses through his way with words, charisma, and presence, Obama won over the electorate in a heated, very polarized political war with Mc-



<http://www.britannica.com/>

The new president of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

Cain over the past few months. And now, November 4 marks a historic day in black history with the election of the first black president. Although some might say November 4 also marks the day in which America made a choice that adversely (or even immensely) affected itself.

At this time in our country’s history, we should remember the words of President-Elect Barack Obama, “This is our moment. This is our time, to put

our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth, that, out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope. And where we are met with cynicism and doubts and those who tell us that we can’t, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes We Can.”

Data/Points

Hey Freshmen! Over the summer we asked you to fill out the Student Information Questionnaire (SIQ). This information enables the faculty and staff to improve the Rose-Hulman student experience. In case you were wondering, here is a glimpse of what your peers thought (N=373).

If you thought writing would be the most difficult academic area,* you’re not alone.

50% felt the same.

45% of you intend to obtain a Master’s degree.



When estimating your “study” time this first year

68% plan to spend more than 10 hours/week.

*If you would like to improve your writing skills, the Learning Center is always available to you as a resource.

Learning Center Review Sessions

Are you ready for your final exams?
The Learning Center can help!

FALL 2008-09

| Night | Course | Room(s) |
|-------------------|--------|--|
| Wednesday, Nov 12 | | |
| | 6-8pm | PH111 – Physics I |
| | | O257, O231, O267 |
| | | CHEM251 – Organic Chemistry I |
| | | O167, O169 |
| | 8-10pm | ES201 - Conservation & Accounting Principles |
| Thursday, Nov 13 | | |
| | 6-8pm | MA111 – Calculus I |
| | | O257, O259 |
| | | CHEM105 – Engineering Chemistry I |
| | | O269 |
| | | MA112 – Calculus II |
| | | |
| | | ES203 – Electrical Systems |
| | | O157, O159 |
| | 8-10pm | MA113 – Calculus III |
| | | O157, O159 |
| | | MA221 – Differential Equations I |
| | | |
| | | MA222 – Differential Equations II |
| | | O167 |

How many times can we say "roundhouse" on this page?

CHUCK WINS!!!

Chuck at a glance



...in a landslide

Noel Spurgeon
Chuck's Secretary of Anti-Creeper Affairs

In a shocking turn of events, both the hopes of the McCain and Obama camps were crushed as dark horse candidate Chuck Norris captured the presidency in a landslide, winning 67% of the popular vote. Pundits, famous and armchair alike, were shocked by the news. "It was like a roundhouse kick to the face," said well-known conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh. "We never saw it coming. The votes started coming in, and we were shocked ... never in my lifetime did I expect something like this to happen."

Norris's victory marks a fitting end to an unconventional campaign. In a highly controversial move, he decided to run without the aid of a running mate or a political party. Norris is quoted as saying: "My tears can cure cancer. The last thing I need is a running mate bringing me down."

The Norris campaign itself was similarly bare-bones. Norris collected all of the required signatures himself, marking the most successful grass roots effort in history. In fact, Norris's campaign staff consisted of a single person, famous cinema star Samuel L. Jackson.

When asked about his involvement with the Norris campaign, Jackson replied: "Chuck really doesn't need me, but while he's dividing his time between campaigning and fighting terrorism, it makes it a little easier on him to have someone to put up posters. I'm just helping out an old friend."

Norris's campaign moves were controversial to say the least. Jackson continued: "Most people said we couldn't do it, that it was too risky. They forgot who they were dealing with; I didn't take on a plane full of CGI snakes in a very literally titled movie because I'm a pansy. The wallet's labeled for a reason. And Chuck needs no introduction."

Because his campaign lacked the pomp, circumstance, and gratuitous musical interludes of the other bids for the presidency; pundits theorize that it was his simple platform that captured the loyalty of voters. By disbanding the Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, and Defense, Norris vows to drastically lower taxes, with an extra exemption for anyone who can grow a convincingly manly beard. Norris himself will serve as a replacement for these departments. Furthermore, he vows to drastically lower health care prices by distributing vials of his sweat for public consumption. Proven to prevent or cure a wide array of diseases, Norris' perspiration will serve to cure the obesity and AIDS epidemic, adding 'humanitarian' to Norris' long list of job titles.

In a final departure from the norm, Norris will not make an inauguration speech when he assumes office next January. Instead, Norris will make an executive order to declare the day a national holiday, to be filled with manly pursuits and consumption of masculine beverages. Truly the people's president, Norris will bring change to the White House, one beer at a time.

Would you rather...

Hobey Tam
Chuck's Secretary of Beard Management



Would you rather have Barack Obama as President of the U.S.A?



Or have good old Chuck Norris?
Editor's Note: A campaign poster was used for Chuck Norris' picture, as anyone that takes a picture of Chuck that he doesn't like is instantly moved transatlantically via the Roundhouse Express.

immigration of anyone who might be able to fill a role in Walker, Texas Ranger 2.

Economy: Will find the invisible hand and beat money out of whoever it is attached to.

Climate: To reduce global warming, he will launch himself into the sun and physically force hydrogen nuclei from fusing.

Foreign Affairs: Promises to recognize any children that result from such affairs.

Chuck's Top Ten presidential platforms

Matt Melton
Chuck's Secretary of Being One Bad Man

- 10. Gun Control** – People can keep their guns. Guns don't kill people, Chuck kills people.
- 9. Economy** – Roundhouse kick it. If that doesn't work, roundhouse kick it again.
- 8. Education** – Much like the No Child Left Behind Act, Chuck leaves no man behind. Unlike the Act, Chuck actually follows through on his plans.
- 7. Immigration** – Chuck will stand on the Mexican–United States border. That will be enough.
- 6. BCS** – Chuck will roundhouse kick the Bowl Championship Series into a playoff system. The BCS is just plain un-American, and Chuck does not like un-American football.
- 5. Taxes** – Chuck roundhouse kicked the last man who handed him a tax form. He expects the same for everyone else.
- 4. Terrorism** – I think we all know how Chuck will handle this one. (Hints: Circular, home, rapid movement of the leg.)
- 3. Iraq, Iran, Al Qaeda, Taliban, Corruption, High Oil Prices, Lobbyists, Partisanship, Pork Barrel Spending, Sarah Palin** – See #4.
- 2. Healthcare** – Chuck's blood, sweat, or tears can cure anything. Unfortunately, he never cries or bleeds, and if you've seen him break a sweat you'll already dead. He'll try chopping onions next week.
- 1. Social Security** – Chuck Norris' beard is all the security you'll ever need.