

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Student Newspaper

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### Volume 44 - Issue 13 - Friday, January 16, 2009

Rose Thorn Staff

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# THE ROSE THORN

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Terre Haute, Indiana

Friday, January 16, 2009

rose-hulman.edu/thorn/

Volume 44, Issue 13

## News Briefs

By Andrew Klusman

### Actor Ricardo Montalban dead at 88

Ricardo Montalban died Wednesday at his home in Los Angeles. Montalban was a prominent Hispanic actor in post-war Hollywood, but became even more popular as he took the role of Mr. Roarke in "Fantasy Island." He also starred in "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," where he played the role of Khan Noonien Singh. He was a long-time fighter for the rights of Latinos in Hollywood, and for nearly 20 years he served as the president of Nosotros, an organization he founded to help advance Hispanics in the entertainment industry. He is survived by two daughters, two sons, and six grandchildren.

### Hugo Chavez reopens oil bidding to Western companies

Feeling the constraint of low oil prices, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is courting Western oil companies to return to operations in Venezuela. Until the recent oil price decline, Chavez had nationalized oil fields and raided the offices of oil companies with the tax authorities. Now Venezuela is soliciting bids from companies like Chevron and Royal Dutch/Shell, with promises of access to some of the largest petroleum reserves in the world. Part of the reason for Chavez's new openness to Western firms is ventures with oil companies from Iran, China, and Belarus have failed to halt Venezuela's declining oil output. Venezuela has grown increasingly reliable on oil export revenue in the past few years, mainly due to the nationalization of economic areas like agriculture and steel manufacturing, which has been the catalyst for capital flight. In 1998, when Chavez was first elected, oil comprised 69 percent of export revenue, and in 2008 it was 93 percent.

### German nerds offered dating class

Information technology engineers at Potsdam University are being offered a class that will teach them how to write flirty text messages and emails, impress people at parties, and cope with rejection. Students will also learn about body language, public speaking, presentation skills, and how to manage stress. 440 students have enrolled in the master's degree course. The course starts next Monday, and is part of a "social skills" section of the IT course, which is designed to help ease entry into the workforce. Potsdam University is located south of Berlin, the German capital.

## Winter weather strikes with force

Tim Ekl

Staff Writer

The lowest temperature on record in Terre Haute is minus 24 F, recorded in 1977. Today, with windchill, the temperature will reach minus 25 F.

That won't be enough to set any new records; official extreme lows are recorded without windchill, so today's temperature will go down in the books as having a low of minus 7 F. But to students, it's too cold for comfort either way.

"It's been difficult to

breathe at times because it's too cold," Anthony Sylvain, freshman computer science student, said. "It's especially now making me wish that I had packed more warm clothes."

The cold was enough to trigger warning emails and cautionary words from Gary Flora, Director of Public Safety. The emails advised Rose students about the dangers of driving in cold weather.

"Always think about your own safety," Flora said. "Carry a nice warm blanket. Everyone should also carry a

flashlight. Think about having traffic flares."

However, the cold wasn't enough to keep students out of a Student Affairs-provided hot tub on the Union Patio Thursday. The hot tub, part of the Winter Fun Fest event organized by the Student Affairs Office, was left covered and empty through the morning and early afternoon, but saw moderate use through the evening.

"[The hot tub] was fun," Nick Reed, freshman electrical engineering student, said. "It was a hot tub, it was free of use, why not capitalize on

that? Made your hair freeze too, that was pretty fun."

While some students used the hot tub regardless, the cold was an unexpected coincidence in the Fun Fest's planning.

"When we scheduled the Fun Fest back in July, we didn't anticipate that it would be on what may be the coldest day of the year," Carey Treager Huber, Assistant Dean of Student Services, said. "We had no idea it would be this cold."

The cold snap is due to pass soon, though, with high temperatures for next week reaching into the mid-30s.

### Winter weather tips

[Editor's Note: Gary Flora, Director of the Office of Public Safety has the following advice to offer to stay safe in the hazardous winter weather.]

- Drive on a full tank of gas as often as possible. This serves multiple purposes. It helps to prevent the freezing of gas lines and also allows for a person to run their car if stopped along the side of the road.
- Use gasoline additives designed to prevent gasoline line disruptions.
- Carry a snow shovel in the trunk. This will allow a person to dig themselves out of a snow drift. This can also be used to spread sand around the tires for a vehicle to provide traction.
- Engage in defensive driving techniques. This is more important in the winter months as ice and snow can often increase the odds of fatal and near fatal accidents.
- Drive slower, up to 10-15 miles per hour below the speed limit, helping to prevent slipping and loss of control.
- Give the driver ahead of you extra space. The typical "2-second" rule doesn't apply for winter months; ice and snow cause sliding that cause for longer stopping distances.

Following this advice can help all enjoy more of their winter and snow filled months to come. This advice not only applies for multiple inches of snow, but for as little as a dusting, all can impair driving conditions.



Tim Ekl / Rose Thorn

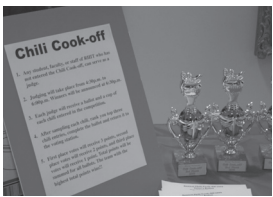
(Top) Rose-Hulman students walk to class on January 15, 2009, the coldest day of the 2008-2009 school year, while other students (bottom) lounge in a hot tub outside of the Hulman Memorial Union on the same day, in subzero temperatures and minus 20 F windchills.

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# Crypto-Quote of the Week

By Melissa Brumbaugh

Dancing Queen

Organized group of people

Statement of promise

Think or meditate

Extremely small bit of element

Male escort

Flying mammal

Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad

Use the clues to fill out the puzzle, where each box represents a letter.

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

$$A = Q \quad B = K \quad C = D$$

UAOL Q OGYWZAB YZ OAEQV

JFBGO LJF PFMXDXWF EY MYIW,

XW LJF PYOL MFBXEJLZAB IQT.

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  
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**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

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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.



# Winter Fun Fest draws warm crowd on cold day

**Lindsey Saxton**

*Advertising Manager*

The eight straight weeks of classes can be cold and tedious. To boost morale and warm people up, the Student Activities Office put on a chili cook-off. Those that love to cook had a fun time making a winter favorite. Bryan Ruiz, senior civil engineering student, said, "It's the Winter Fun Fest and I want[ed] to see what's up." Those that like to eat could come and judge the culinary creations. "It's good stuff," added Adam Kirchner, sophomore civil engineering student.

The participants in the competition arrived at the Union to begin preparation at 4:00p.m. on Thursday, January 15. This year, eight teams competed including: Um... the Best Chili EVER, The Musical Fruit, Inferno Chili, 6 Alarm Green Chili, Chilly Willy, Rootin'-Tootin' BBQ Chili, My Mommy's Best Chili, and Mexican Chili. Though the chili had to be cooked ahead of time, the participants were given half an hour to set up and prepare for the judges to sample their concoctions. Though they were given few guidelines as to the actual

cooking of the chili, the "Chili must be prepared from an original recipe (e.g. old family recipe, your own special recipe)." Special ingredients ranged from green pepper to Peri-Peri, an African chili. As Olivia Goulding said, "I just thought it'd be fun."

Next, the judges, any student or employee of Rose-Hulman, were given a sample cup of each chili and a ballot. Judging took place from 4:30 to 6:00p.m.. Ruiz said that one of the reasons he voted was that "A lot of people put time and effort into their chili." Finally, at 6:30p.m., the results, first through third place, were announced. The Rootin' Tootin' BBQ Chili made by some of the ARA employees won. As described by the chefs, the chili had "corn for the rootin' and beans for the tootin'."

A good time for all involved, the chili cook-off was a great way to warm up while eating delicious free food. As Teresa Weimann, the graduate student in charge of the event said, "With the weather freezing cold, the chili cook-off couldn't come at a better time. I mean frigid weather and warm chili—I don't know what could be better."



Tim Ekl/Rose Thorn

*Clockwise from Top: Winter Fun Fest attendees sample various chilis in the lobby of the Hulman Memorial Union. Winter Fun Fest even brought recent alumni, Allison Aigner Class of 2006, to compete in the annual chili cook-off. The wonderful trophies given away as prizes to the winners of the chili cook-off.*

## Bee decline continues, frustrates researchers

**Somer Wiggins**

*Daily Collegian*

It's been two years since Dennis vanEngelsdorp began searching for the reason why bees nationwide are dying—and after two years of 60-hour weeks, he's frustrated to say he still doesn't have an answer.

Penn State researchers are leading the investigation into why bee populations are declining around the United States, but have yet to come to a definitive conclusion, according to an article published October in Research|Penn State, an annual magazine.

"One frustrating thing is we don't have a clear-cut answer yet," said vanEngelsdorp, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture state apiarist, or beekeeper.

Over the past two years, beekeepers have lost two-thirds of the bee population nationwide, said Maryann Frazier, senior extension associate in the department of entomology. Frazier said reports of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD)—where adult bees abandon their colonies—first surfaced in November 2006, although researchers believe losses have been experiencing since 2004.

Frazier is part of a team within the department of entomology investigating the bee epidemic. The team and other researchers have received more than \$250,000 throughout the past two years from Häagen-Dazs to work on pollinator decline, Frazier said.

Why are bees leaving? At Penn State, researchers are trying to find the answer, focusing on disease, viruses and pesticides

as possible causes, Frazier said. But they're still unsure of the primary cause, according to the article.

It's not for the lack of trying. Since the first reports, researchers have been putting in long hours to solve the mystery. VanEngelsdorp is part of a team responsible for collecting samples from the bees and has been putting in 40- to 60-hour workweeks.

"For the last two years, the longest stretch I've been in Pennsylvania is two weeks," vanEngelsdorp said. "I've been on vacation having to do work."

However, the amount of time researchers spend on finding a solution pales in comparison to the amount of time the beekeepers put in to maintaining healthy hives in the midst of this crisis, vanEngelsdorp said.

Honeybees generate more than \$14 billion of economic revenue every year through their pollination of more than 100 fruits and vegetables in the United States, according to the Research|Penn State article. Some are now worried that this resource is in danger and beekeepers will continue to lose their source of income.

"Beekeepers could go bankrupt," vanEngelsdorp said.

It's not the first time beekeepers have seen their stocks decrease. Since 1987, before the discovery of CCD, the parasite varroa mite has threatened the survival of many colonies by weakening bees' immune systems. However, CCD presents a greater threat to bees nationwide than any danger before, wiping out hives at an unprecedented scale, according to the article.

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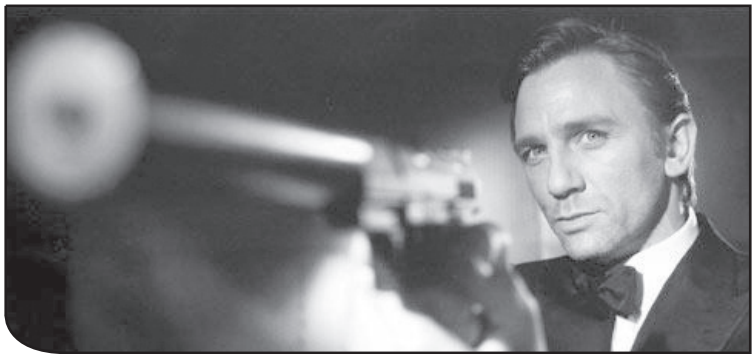
Winner of the  
2008 Pulitzer  
Prize in Fiction

Clint Thompson  
Staff Writer

The new James Bond movie, “Quantum of Solace,” has had wildly varying reviews. Many of these have been critical of the fact that our new James Bond does not appear to be anything like the old film franchise, so audiences who expect Bond to be the retro super-hero for adults are not satisfied by the Bond who is trying to get vengeance for his lost love. To be fair, I must ask the readers to put aside their familiarity with the old films for just a moment and consider this film as something entirely independent because, quite frankly, that’s what it is.

The movie begins with James driving away from armed pursuers in a black Aston Martin with a member of a terrorist organization in his trunk. He takes his hostage to M for interrogation, but the villain manages to escape with the help of a defector in MI6. So, Bond attempts to chase down the defector. MI6 ends up tracing money from the defector’s house to a man by the name of Dominic Greene. James finds Dominic in the Bahamas with a girl named Camille in his service, but when Dominic betrays her and wants to have her killed, James rescues Camille and they venture out to find a way to discover and thwart Mr. Greene’s nefarious plot.

The storyline is pretty standard



www.worldofbond.com

Daniel Craig, the latest blonde Bond, was initially a point of conflict for many fans of the Bond genre. However, with his first two films, the story and everything else has become the bane of hardcore fandom.

fare for a political intrigue and spy movie, but the place where “Quantum of Solace” really shines is in the characters: James and Camille are motivated by revenge, and they have to find a way to heal as they attempt to save a nation from war. Daniel Craig, the actor who plays Mr. Bond, does a good job of playing the angry and sometimes arrogant spy, but he doesn’t get to use his full range of talents in the movie. As a result, James is a flatter character than he needs to be but the problem isn’t with his acting, it’s the script. Olga Kurylenko, who plays Camille, plays a very convincing part because of her voice and body language. Facial expressions were not her strong point for most of the movie, but this flaw is relatively minor and fits her rather insecure character well. All in all, the actors did an admirable job in

the places where the writing was a little weak.

The biggest problem with Quantum was the choreography, in my opinion. There is a boat chase scene which is a little difficult to follow, and an opera fight scene which is impossible to completely understand because the camera switches between two or three places so rapidly.

I think they were trying to draw a connection with what was going on in the performance and the fight, but it would have been better to slow it down just a little so that you could actually see either of them. Fortunately (or unfortunately), there were not many fight scenes in the movie, so those two were the most glaring problem.

For those who were disappointed in the new Bond movies because they were nothing like the originals, I can understand and sympathize. However, the movies themselves are not bad. By and large, the new movies are both well-written and well acted, and while they replace moustache-twirling villains with a well-thought organization of social elites, they do capture a more human side of Bond while sticking a little closer to the original books. Furthermore, the writers managed to place the events in a modern environment.

The movies are still strong, and stand superbly on their own; though I will gladly let the readers fight over whether or not “Casino Royale” was better than “Quantum of Solace.”



www.entertainmentwallpaper.com

While “Quantum of Solace” was a “Bond film,” there was little left for fans to associate with the Bond genre. Instead of the recognizable Bond we have known, we’ve been given a more true and gritty spy film.

Reviewer rating: 4.5 elephants



Annie Bullock  
Staff Writer

Author Junot Diaz crafts a story that depicts a family’s struggles through several generations, lifting themselves from abject poverty in Santo Domingo to the streets of New Jersey. The namesake of this book, Oscar Wao, is a stereotypical nerd character.

He is a true comic book fan, a consummate video gamer, overweight, out-of-fashion, and familiar enough that the reader can easily identify with him. However, this story isn’t just about Oscar as most of this book is dedicated to the ‘curse’ that follows his family and the women in his life: his mother, sister, and grandmother. As Oscar’s life is played out through childhood and past college, we see glimpses of other people’s lives that impact, and are impacted by, him.

His mother is a hard, overworked, tired woman who once was the prima belladonna of her village in the Dominican Republic. She rebels against her mother and falls in love with a criminal, who takes off and leaves her. Eventually she immigrates to America (New Jersey) where she raises her two children. Oscar’s sister is determined to lift herself from the poverty that plagues their family: she is an over-achiever who is involved with civil rights.

The book is told from an impersonal tone of voice until about half-way through, when you find out that the narrator is actually Oscar’s college roommate, who is the complete opposite of him in every way. All of these characters play important roles in shaping Oscar’s life: the high points, the low ones, his attempted suicides,

and the brief glorious triumph.

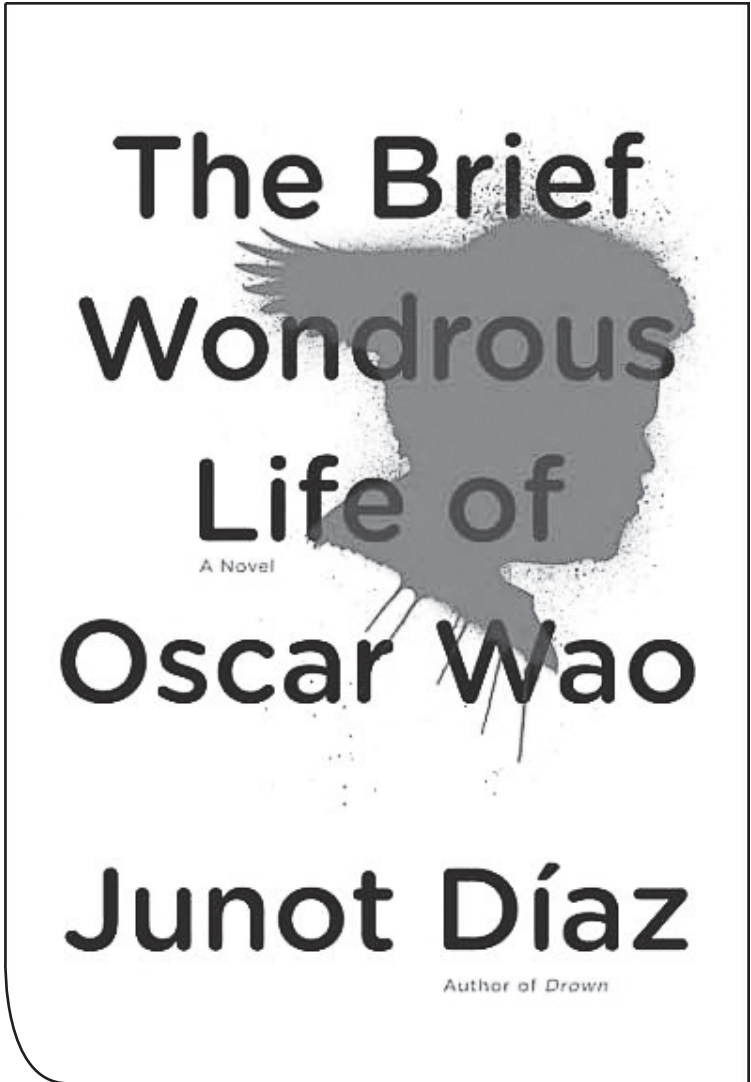
“The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao” is an interesting read. I would not suggest this book if you’re not familiar with Spanish, since entire paragraphs are written in the language. You should also expect to have to learn a lot of history, given that large portions in the earlier part of the book have half-page footnotes that explain Dominican history in size five font.

The history is written in such a way that it is actually very interesting, but it takes a while to get through, especially when you have to remember a bunch of men’s names that did something, somehow, at sometime. Junot Diaz is amazing with his prose; his writing is vivid, brilliant, and alive. He makes the slovenly poverty of Santo Domingo come to life with hope, despair, love, and anger.

If you’re looking for a light read, this is not a book that you should pick up. There are a lot of undercurrents dealing with immigration, poverty, civil rights, family dynamics, depression, and a lot of issues that I’m sure even I missed.

Junot Diaz conveys a whole new world with which most people here are probably completely unfamiliar. Although I would highly recommend this book, I feel that it is a book that is worthy of many readings and discussions. This book deserves all the credit with which it has been lauded, and I sincerely believe that it deserved the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction that it was awarded.

Reviewer rating: 3.0 elephants



www.amazon.com

NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK		
<b>Music:</b> Umphrey’s McGee <i>Mantis</i>  Animal Collective <i>Merriweather</i> <i>Post Pavillion</i>  Bon Iver <i>Blood Bank</i>	<b>Movies:</b> My Bloody Valentine 3D  Paul Blart: Mall Cop  Notorious	<b>Games:</b> Star Ocean: Second Evolution  Skate 2  Big Bang Mini  King of Fighters ‘98



# The ladies man

Elliot Simon

Guest Writer

Dear Ladies Man,  
I'd like to make dinner for my girlfriend, but I can't cook. I even burn instant ramen, help!  
-Lost in the Kitchen  
Dear Lost,  
Typically, I would advise going out to eat and worrying about cooking later, but living in Terre Haute, I feel your pain. Just to make things a little easier, here are a few tips on dinner preparation:  
To begin with, you're going to need to figure out what you're making. No, Easy Mac is not a good choice; you're going to have to think a little bigger. A very simple yet versatile dish to prepare is chicken, any way you like it.  
A good place to start looking for recipes once you have your main dish is the Food Network. While I'm sure many of you have seen that interesting TV channel where they prep amazing stuff all day, for those that have not, they're experts, and most of the recipes (if not all) are online!  
Don't forget to have something besides the main dish, veggies

(no, cookies are not a vegetable), rice, pasta, anything of the sort.  
Finally, don't forget drinks, whatever manner they may be. They should go well with the food, and if you're not sure, invite your buddies over to try it out ahead of time and ask them what they think. Also, while I'm sure Mountain Dew really puts you in the mood for...whatever you do, it does not qualify as a suitable beverage under these circumstances.  
Though there ends the list of dinner suggestions, I have a few more that don't really fall under food prep that I think will make life easier; namely, atmosphere. And no, I'm not referring to the gases surrounding the Earth making it livable, I'm talking about the setting in which you will want to eat. Depending on the quality of your dinner, you may want to have something a bit more special than a seat on the floor and whatever's on TV in the background planned. While I'm sure the latest episode of "The Simpsons" was great, that does not qualify as 'special.' For less special, something such as "How I Met Your Mothe'r might be suitable, but if you're going all-

out, drop the TV entirely and point yourself in the direction of music. Pick something that can play quietly in the background without being distracting, it should be low

enough that you can talk over it, so when you and she start debating about whether it is more important to have a RAID 5 setup in your computer or the latest i7, the

music will not detract from the conversation. Good luck with the cooking, and if Terre Haute Fire Department gets called, I promise I won't tell them who it was.



<http://klamathag.com/>

Are you lost in the kitchen? Elliot provides some tips on preparation to help smooth over a dinner for two.

## A long walk

Mitchell Ishmael  
Guest Writer

Though it would take ten days and five hours of continuous walking at a fast pace from Rose to Princeton University, I've thought about making this walk. Over Christmas break I did something I told myself I'd never do: fall for a girl who is really far away. Now I have a problem that is as old as time, should I try to have a long distance relationship? If she was someone else then it might be an easier decision, unfortunately she is everything that I want in a girl. She is smart, athletic, funny, caring, enthusiastic, and Indian (okay that is a joke, I like all girls equally). This is the kind of girl that I want to have a serious and meaningful relationship with, but with seven hundred and forty-one

miles between us I'm hesitant.  
So what are the cases for and against this relationship?  
I want this relationship because, simply put, she is awesome. She will challenge my boundaries, make me a better person, and be there when I need someone to talk to. She lives in my hometown too so that would make breaks a little more fun. In all seriousness though, I already think about her all the time and half my dreams are about hanging out all summer. When I think about it this way dating seems like the obvious option.  
But it isn't. Let me say, if you are in a long distance relationship right now I applaud you; go ahead and give yourself a pat on the back because what you are doing is tough. You don't get to see each other for weeks; holding the

relationship together with phone calls, e-mails, texts, and maybe the occasional video chat. But none of these come close to replacing its human counterpart; thus sticking you in a state of perpetual longing, a constant daydream that carries you from day to day until you see each other. I don't know if I want to do that.  
She and I have talked about our situation a little bit, and we have decided that friendship is probably the best route. That sucks, though! It's like I haven't had enough for dinner; I'm not satisfied at all, and my gut is empty. It seems that no matter what choice I make I am not going to be satisfied. I do go to an engineering school, so that is any reflection of how my brain works and my rational side is going to win out over my dreamer/romantic side.

## How to: make a long distance relationship work

Melissa Schwenk  
Staff Writer

Given the current ratio of male to female students, some guys may give up hope of having a relationship. "All the girls are taken!" you might think as you play World of Warcraft for hours on end. While this is not true, there is another alternative to being single at Rose: Long distance relationships.  
This may seem like an awful option to some people, almost as bad as being single. However, with a little effort, you can make a long distance relationship work and often you will find them even more fulfilling than seeing your significant other every day. Don't turn down a girl from home because you worry about the distance. With a little bit of work, both of you can be very happy.  
When you are in a long distance relationship, the most important thing to do is make her feel important. Even if you only have a few seconds, send her a text just to say hi. Also, since a large amount of us are

on our computers most of the day anyways, a quick Facebook message or e-mail also helps to show that you care.  
In terms of seeing each other, distance really does play a factor. If she is within a few hours, try to see her at least once a month. If she is willing to drive to see you, be honest about the amount of time you can spend with her. If you are in a fraternity, she probably knows that you might have a Brothers-Only Event. If that is the case, suggest the next weekend. If she can only come then, let her know that all your free time is for her, even if it's only an hour at midnight for dinner before you go to bed. She's probably happy for whatever time she can spend with you.  
If she is too far away for either of you to drive often, make plans for breaks. If you have long weekends that don't line up, don't fret. Spend yours at her school and hers at yours. When it's time to head back to your hometown, plan dates and time to hang out. While it is good to spend time with each others' families, make sure to

plan alone time as well.  
Another important thing about long distance relationships is calling. While it is good to call to say good night, don't call too late, as she might want to go to sleep early. She might appreciate a call in the afternoon more than at midnight, so talk about when the best time to call is.  
The last and most important thing about long distance relationships is to make her feel special. If she doesn't feel like she is the only girl you want, she'll be unhappy. Avoid this by doing special things for her. Send her a random card, or link to a website, just because it made you think of her. Text her when you hear a song on the radio that made you miss her.  
While these may all seem simple to you and may seem like they won't help keep your relationship healthy, ask any girl and she'll agree with these points. Take it from someone who just ended a long distance relationship. These simple things will keep her so happy, she'll want to make you happy too.

## A girl's guide for guys

Lindsey Saxton  
Advertising Manager

If you're like me, you're excited when 8 p.m. rolls around and you get to head down to the SRC for intramural (IMs). If not, you may get dragged down there by your Resident Assistant or Sophomore Advisor. Either way, you're down there for one of two reasons, to win or to just have fun playing. I'm not saying that you can't do both, but one is always more important than the other. Now, while IMs are about friendly competition, there are some people that take them

### Do

- Play well. She may be watching.
- Talk to her. Getting to know her better is a good thing.

- Play aggressively. It shows you go after what you want.
- Wear shorts.

- Wear a shirt.

- Congratulate her when she plays well. It shows you're playing attention.
- Talk to her about the game later.
- Engage in light, flirty trash talk. It shows you might be interested in her.
- Play the game. That's why you're there, after all.
- Wear athletic gear. Remember to always be prepared.

- Play well against a team of girls. It shows you're not sexist.
- Realize that they may score on you. Girls can play sports too.

- Make eye contact from time to time.
- Pay attention to how she looks.

- Encourage your team.

- Work hard.

- Have fun. That's why you're there.
- Laugh and flirt. She likes it. Even if she's not into you, it's fun for her.

a bit too seriously. I play for a couple of all girl teams. And, I've noticed that certain people play very differently when faced by all women then when playing men or a mixed team.  
Yes, IMs are a good way to show off your mad sport skills, but it's not the time to be arrogant or overly competitive. While a guy's attitude during IMs may not make a relationship, certain reactions and habits could break it. There are do's and don'ts about actions, reactions, clothing, and playing. Some of these may seem ridiculous, but I have seen all of them happen.

### Don't

- Show off. It's arrogant and unattractive.
- Distract her. Though conversation is good, she's down there to play.
- Spike the ball in her face. That's a good way to get slapped.
- Wear short shorts (ie.: running shorts).
- Wear a wife beater or go shirtless.
- Smack her on the butt. Also a good way to get smacked.

- Boast about how your team crushed hers.
- Be a douchebag. If you're rude and too competitive, she'll know you're a jerk.
- Get too into the game and completely ignore her.
- Wear sweat bands. Not only does it make you seem arrogant, but you look stupid.
- Completely crush them. Not a good way to impress them.
- Be the male team that gets beat by girls (ie.: Don't be Speed 2 and get crushed by Mees 4).
- Stare. You will be labeled a creeper.
- Tell her you like the sports bra she's wearing.
- Call the ball a burrito. No one gets what you mean.
- Sweat through your clothes. It's gross.
- Have too much fun. Sweaty PDA in the SRC is gross.
- Publicly tell her you like her. No one likes being publically rejected.





## The Price is Right

**Christine Price**

*Opinions Editor*

You are not an iguana.

Sure, you may claim to be one. Since you were little, you and your family would go outside every Sunday, and sun yourselves on rocks. You have four limbs, and all of those limbs have little appendages that come off of them. You eat strange things like crickets. You have innards on the inside, and non-innards on the outside. You don't like to blink.

## You are not an iguana

But, while you are aware of the exact definition of an iguana, you claim that just because you lack scales and a tail, and have a four chambered heart, doesn't mean you still can't be an iguana. Being an iguana is all about believing you are one.

Now, let's try it with something else. Perhaps religion? Let's pick one with pretty defined rules that most people are familiar with.

You are not a Catholic.

Sure, you may claim to be one. Since you were little, you and your family would go out every Sunday, and attend church. You own a crucifix, and it isn't a pansy Protestant one, it has a suffering Jesus on it. You eat bread and wine in small quantities on Sunday. You believe the Ten Commandments should be followed, and believe in the sacrament of

baptism. You don't like condoms. But, while you are aware of Catholic dogma, you claim that just because you don't believe in the infallibility of the Pope, don't think the Saints are all that special, don't think the Eucharist turns into the literal body of Jesus, and don't think confession is necessary because faith alone is enough. Being a Catholic is all about believing you are one.

There are a ton of denominations out there. You are in college. Feel free to explore and find the one that agrees with your beliefs. The Church has schism so many times, it's hard to believe that any sect has more than three members. If you want to remain Christian, feel free to look up the Anabaptists, the Calvinists, the Methodists, or go old school with the Amish. To call yourself



<http://groups.myspace.com/RaptorJesusFollowers1>

*Raptor Jesus. Because I couldn't find a picture of an iguana in a pope hat.*

one thing, when you don't actually prescribe to those beliefs, is to both mangle the definition, and to ignore the rich history behind the

formation of that particular sect.

Or, if you don't want to deal with all of that bother, you could always try atheism. It's quite nice.

## Canada's backbone

**Matthew Bryant**

*Staff Writer*

Of the 47 members of the United Nations Human Rights Council (U.N.), Canada was the only one to oppose a motion condemning the Israeli military offensive in Gaza. While 13 nations abstained, thirty-three countries voted for the strongly worded motion, which called for an investigation into "grave" human rights violations by Israeli forces.

Putting aside everything else, it is appalling that the actions taken by the Israeli soldiers have received more attention than those taken by the Hamas militants. Everyone is quick to point out the invasion and alleged killing of civilians, yet none leave any blame for the actual culprits of "grave" human rights violations.

Israel has made every attempt to prevent the loss of innocent lives. Prior to the invasion, Israel made cell-phone calls in Arabic to thousands of Gazans urging them to leave homes where militants might have stashed weapons. Before its military operations escalated, Israel dropped leaflets on the Gaza strip warning residents of the escalation, all in efforts to prevent civilian casualties. Israel has also started a YouTube channel to reveal everything that it finds in Gaza.

Essentially, Israel is putting its troops at greater risk in order to

appease a world audience that is hellbent on preventing Israel from succeeding. How about the other side?

“Israel is putting its troops at greater risk, in order to appease a world audience that is hellbent on preventing Israel from succeeding.”

Hamas has fired over 6,000 rockets into Israel in the past three years, notable for the fact that two of the three years the

parties were under a "cease-fire." Hamas continues to place anti-aircraft cannons in mosques, rocket launchers in schools, booby-traps in zoos, and weapons ammunitions in underground caves below civilian homes. There have even been claims that Israel has "overstepped" by attacking "defensive tunnels."

What is a defensive tunnel?

The Canadian representative on the U.N. Human Rights Council said the language of the motion against Israel was "unnecessary, unhelpful and inflammatory." He went on to claim the text failed to "clearly recognize" that Hamas attacks on Israel triggered the crisis. Don't count on the rest of the Council to listen to him though.

The United States, often considered Israel's greatest ally, is not a member of the body. This

is likely due to the United States being one of four countries who voted against its very existence. It was created to replace the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, but has been just as ineffective as its predecessor.

Imagine if Mexico began firing 6,000 missiles into the United States over the next three years, with the sole goal of causing as many casualties as possible. The U.S. response would assuredly be swift and extensive. Is Israel not afforded the same protection?

Unfortunately, misunderstood history has placed Israel in the position it faces today. Paul Heinbecker, former Canadian ambassador to the U.N. stated, "It's not a middle of the road position. It is a frankly supportive position of Israel." If only there were more nations with a backbone like Canada.

## The dual nature of Madison

**Jim Sedoff**

*Co-Editor in Chief*

With the unfortunate series of events (the loss of, now, 5 fellow students) that have unraveled the beginning of a new year, I found myself in contemplation this break, questioning how well do I know my own friends. Having been close to two of the five, I still came up short when trying to describe my relationship with them as being anything beyond just an acquaintance. As I look back on my life in high school and my previous years here at Rose, it occurred to me that it may just be the way I socialize, but I still found it an interesting study.

While I get along very well with my current roommate—we have been roommates for two years (in an odd way, sort of three) and neighbors for one—there are always odd quirks that both of us display from time to time that seem to surprise the other. Now granted, married couples do find little things that they never knew about each other as their marriage goes on, but at this point in our relationship as roommates, I'd imagine that only small things should be surprising, and not the larger behavioral traits.

In any case, I am reminded of a co-worker (we'll call him "Dave") to whose house I was invited to stay at over a break from Rose. Having worked with him for over a year while on co-op, I thought I knew him quite well. We talked for hours and we debated and discussed many topics, although obviously in a professional setting and the topics were ones in which we both found interesting. Upon visiting Dave, I found he was, as "Shrek" put it, multi-layered like an onion. He was incredibly detailed and his family was very open—like the kind of open that includes leaving the bathroom door open when using the toilet or taking a shower. He was meticulous to the point of exhibiting signs of ADHD. None of these even bubbled into my head as a consideration when I was working with him, although

the more I stayed with him for that break, the more the puzzle seemed to fit together.

And so, I became more puzzled



<http://content.mahalo.com>

*They may appear cute and cuddly. But how can you be sure that your friends are not secretly plotting to kill you?*

about my previous acquaintances I have made. How many people do I know? How many do I really know? While I am unsure if he is actually ADHD, or just exhibiting several of the traits associated with it, that's irrelevant to me. So I began considering how little I knew about the two (that I personally knew) that died in 2008 and

how much I could have known about them. How much more I could learn about my girlfriend, my roommate, and even my fellow classmates.

When I came to Rose, I had the odd expectation of the "Animal House" and "Van Wilder" stereotypes. You know, parties every weekend, knowing anybody that qualified as the opposite sex, having that friend that is seemingly always sleeping in class probably due to a heavy night of partying, etc. Granted, I knew I was enrolling at Rose, and I had been warned that it was not like that, but rather, more homework than social parties; as a guy, I would probably eventually know every girl here; and the friend

was more likely sleeping because he pulled another all-nighter, not drinking. Thus, in some ways I felt that Rose had failed me in the "traditional" sense—although that may be more of a "modern" sense, since education, becoming adults, being proper, etc. should probably fall into the category of "traditional," which Rose does teach

us. So with as much as I had come to expect certain things from my school, I knew I had met others most likely through similar expectations. Hang with the guys who check out several books from the library and read them in their free-time because they probably know their stuff; or maybe, they are just trying to avoid doing homework, or can't fully grasp what's being taught in class. Or, as my roommate and I will recount, to prevent brain pops.

So before you classify the oddball in class that is still just wearing a t-shirt and athletic shorts to class everyday despite the frigid temperatures, just think, he might actually have a plethora of layers that extend even further than his shorts! Although, as Baz Luhrmann so aptly put it, "my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience."

**Have opinions?**

**Send them to**  
**[opinions@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:opinions@rose-hulman.edu)**





# Katie Trella



**Tim Boyer**  
*Copy Editor*

It may be cold outside but the Rose-Hulman Swimming Team is staying hot in the pool this season. Keeping them hot is sophomore biomedical engineering major Katie Trella. Trella took top honors last weekend against the 18th ranked DePauw in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:27.02 and was a member of the winning 200-yard medley relay squad that opened the meet. For this honor, she was honored along with senior mechanical engineering major Steven Vande Lune as the two swimmers of the week for the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW), the conference that the squad belongs to for swimming and diving.

This year, she has the team's top time in the 200, 500, 1000 and 1650 freestyle. In addition, she is the school record holder in the 1,650 freestyle with a time of 18:27 and has the all-time second best time in the 1,000 freestyle at 11:23. Recently, Katie Trella took some time to answer some questions for The Rose Thorn.

**Rose Thorn: How long have you been swimming?**

*Katie Trella:* I have been swimming competitively since I was 10, starting out on my local YMCA's swim team and then swimming all four years at my high school.

**RT: You've managed to stay on the Dean's List most of the time you've been here along with being involved in numerous activities. What has it been like to balance the homework load, being apart of a varsity sport and being in other activities?**

*KT:* It is definitely a challenge to balance all my activities: school,

work, and a varsity sport, but I have learned time management skills throughout the years, especially because I was this busy during high school. I have seen that being involved in many activities actually helps because I am more focused since I have less time to get things done. I also feel that being in activities makes things easier because I have tons of friends that I can enjoy my time with and who can help me during those truly stressful times!

**RT: You swim a variety of events from the shorter 200 freestyle to the longer 1,650 freestyle. Do you prefer one over the other?**

*KT:* It is definitely nice to get a mix between the 200 free, 500 free, and 1650 free, but these are still considered "distance" events even though the 200 is more mid-distance. Those three events are going to be my conference lineup events since you can swim three individuals, so it is nice to get a mix of them throughout the season to prepare myself.

Personally, I like the 1650 (the mile) and the longer events in general because you have such a sense of accomplishment when you get done. Also, I feel it is easier to race during the longer events, such as the mile which lasts approximately 20 minutes, because you can get a feel for your competition instead of in a race that is over in 25 seconds, such as the 50 free.

**RT: You and Steven Vande Lune are the first two Rose-Hulman swimmers in two years to be named swimmers of the week by the CCIW. Do you feel that Rose-Hulman's swimming program is raising the bar for success?**

*KT:* I definitely feel that we have come a long way the past few years. I don't think the confer-

ence expected much out of such a small team, especially the men coming in third at conference last year and the women coming in fifth out of seven with only eight girls swimming. Having Coach Crawford as a new head coach has definitely given us a new perspective on swimming and what we can accomplish. I am definitely looking forward to conference this year and what we can do in terms of time drops as well as what place we get.

**RT: Do you have any hobbies outside of swimming?**

*KT:* My main hobbies outside of swimming are playing saxophone in the jazz band and water polo during the off-season. Both of these things are not as serious as a varsity sport so they are a nice release for my free time.

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

*KT:* The most meaningful award that I have gotten was placing third at conference last year in the mile and breaking the school record. I will always remember that race, and how I felt after I finished and got third. Two seniors got first and second so it felt good to be the youngest swimmer in the event in the top three!

**RT: Do you think swimming is something you'll stick with after college?**

*KT:* I would definitely like to stick with swimming after college, but as more of a lifetime activity. Hopefully I will be able to join a masters team in my area and continue swimming to stay in shape and for fun. I definitely think it is a worthwhile activity because of all the lasting relationships you make as well as the release it brings you from everyday life.

# Men's basketball earns key HCAC road win at Hanover

**Rose-Hulman News**

The men's basketball team placed three players in double figures and rallied from a five-point halftime deficit to top Hanover College 67-61 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball action on Wednesday night.

Senior Lorenzo Rice led the balanced offensive performance with 12 points. Sophomore Daniel Lowers contributed 11 points, eight rebounds and six assists, with freshman Blake Knotts also reaching double figures with 11 points.

Rose-Hulman overcame a 34% shooting effort from the field by burying seven of 14 three-point attempts and burying 16 of 18 free throws tries in the second half to thwart the Hanover rally.

Jake Inman led the Panthers with 15 points. Mitchell Meyer added 14 points and nine rebounds, with Taylor Dial coming off the bench for 11 points for Hanover.

The Panthers jumped out to a 32-27 halftime lead after earning as much as a nine-point advantage in the opening 20 minutes. Rose-Hulman relied on two three-point shots by Rice and two free throws by junior Jeff McCartney to earn a 38-34 lead with 14:14 left.

Hanover rallied to tie the score at 38-38, but a strong Rose-Hulman defensive effort held the Panthers without a point for five minutes as the Fightin' Engineers built a 47-38 edge. Freshman Jason Haslag buried a three-pointer to put the lead at a game-high 10 points at 52-42 with 4:43 left.

Hanover was able to close with in three points in the final minute, but Rose-Hulman calmly hit six of seven free throws in the final 45 seconds to secure their second victory of the league season.

Freshman Terrae Hall contributed to the effort with nine points and four blocked shots. McCartney and Haslag scored seven points each, and junior Michael Crane pitched in with six points in his first college start.

Rose-Hulman improved to 6-9 on the season and 2-5 in league play, with Hanover falling to 4-11 and 1-6 in conference games. The Engineers host in-state rival Manchester College tomorrow in another key matchup as the Engineers battle to reach one of the top six slots in the league standings that are awarded a bid to the conference tournament.

## Engineer Scoreboard

**Men's Basketball  
6-9 (2-5)**

*January 10*  
Rose-Hulman 55  
at Transylvania U. 67

*January 14*  
**Rose-Hulman 67**  
at Hanover College 61

**Women's Basketball  
4-9 (2-5)**

*January 10*  
Rose-Hulman 59  
at Transylvania U. 73

*January 14*  
**Hanover College 58**  
at Rose-Hulman 55

### Swimming and Diving

*January 9*  
DePauw University  
Terre Haute, IN

M-2nd W-2nd

# Swim teams not strong enough for nationally ranked DePauw

**Rose-Hulman News**

The men's and women's swim teams fell to nationally ranked DePauw University, but both squads had strong showings in the pool.

The men's team tallied 108 points, but fell just 20 points shy of the rival Tigers who ended the night with a team score of 128.

Senior Steven Vande Lune led the way for the Engineers, taking top honors in both the 1000-yard freestyle (10:26.82) and the 500-yard freestyle (5:00.23).

Vande Lune was also a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay consisting of senior Ben Butz and freshmen Andrew Jordan and Andrew McCurry who posted a winning time of 1:32.62.

Freshman Ben Sollman added another victory for Rose-Hulman, capturing the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 57.12.

Other top finishers for the Engineer men included juniors Brian Yount who placed second in the 200-yard freestyle (1:52.21) and third in the 100-yard backstroke (57.85) and Landry Carbo with a second place showing in the 100-yard butterfly (55.83), along with freshman Greg Laudick who placed third in the 500-yard freestyle (5:23.79).

The Engineer divers had a strong showing in both events with sophomore Michael Gerdov sweeping both the one-meter and three-meter events posting scores of 264.40 and 256.10.

Senior Matthew Melton captured second place in the three-meter with a score of 191.90 and third place in the one-meter with a tally of 201.90. Junior Mark Parzych completed the Rose-Hulman sweep in the one-meter event

by posting a second place score of 229.20.

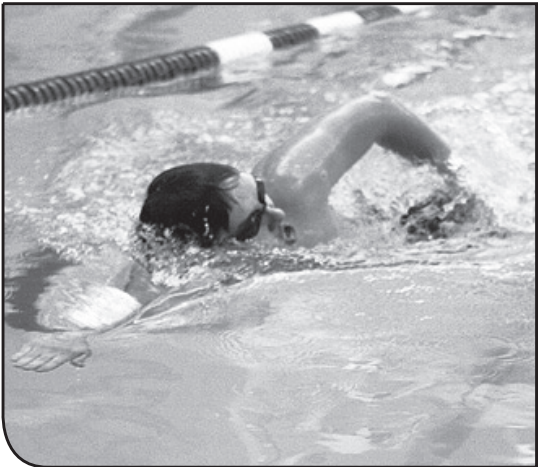
The women fell to DePauw 147-61, but captured the top spot in three events to go with six other top-three performances.

Sophomore Katie Trella paced the Rose-Hulman women with two event victories and a second place finish. Trella took top honors in the 500-yard freestyle in 5:27.02, was a member of the winning 200-yard medley relay squad that opened the meet with a win in 2:04.82, and earned second place in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 2:05.65.

Freshman Jessica Spore earned the other event with for the Engineers, posting a winning time of 27.28 in the 50-yard freestyle.

Junior Stephanie Hance contributed to the Rose-Hulman effort with a second place finish in the 100-yard backstroke (1:07.88) and was a member of the winning 200-yard medley relay squad, while fellow junior Deb Aleksa earned a pair of third place finishes in the 500-yard freestyle (5:41.74) and 200-yard IM (2:28.00) and sophomore Rachelle Cobb took third place in the 50-yard freestyle (27.68).

The Engineer swim teams will return to the pool tomorrow at 1 p.m. when they host Monmouth College in a dual meet.



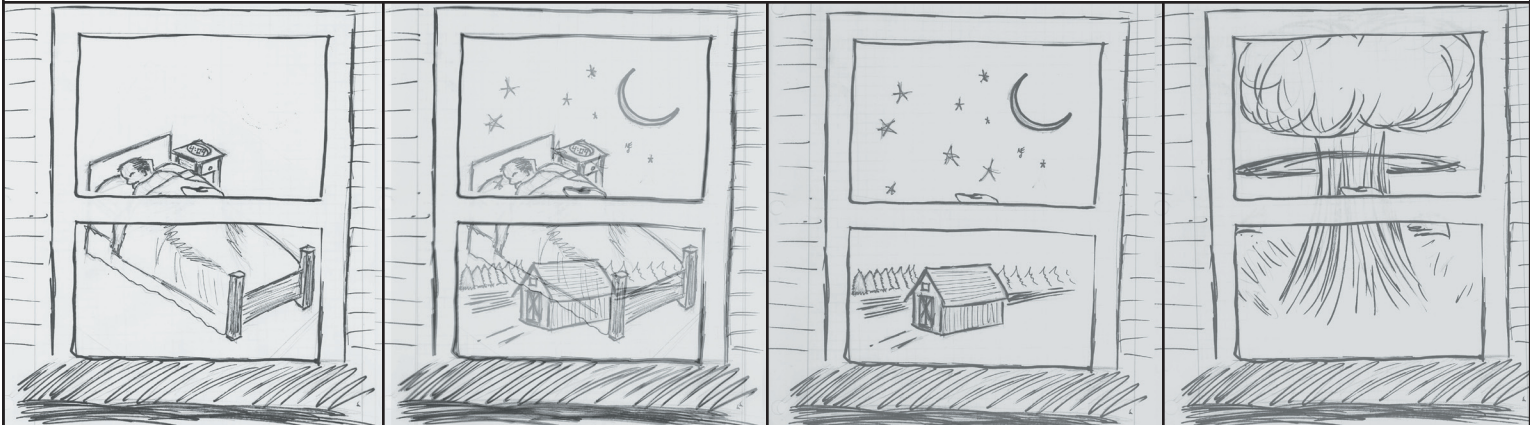
Rose-Hulman News

*Steven Vande Lune paced this Engineers with a pair of individual victories and a relay win.*



Now with pictures for the literally illiterate...and Purdue students

Bunny...At 4:09 am... ...vs. Farmer



The Farmer learned that Bunny had googled fertilizer.

Nick Easter - Who Has Now Lost All Rights to Google.com

## Only at Rose

### On the stackability of stacks

JP Vekamp

*This May Explain the Allure of "Jenga"*

Only at Rose might such a topic such as the stackability of stacks be breached and only at Rose might one take such a topic seriously. But, one may ask, what does that even mean? What form of stacks are being discussed? Might we be discussing stacks in the physical sense, such as a stack of blocks (or a stack of 2-dimensional bacon perchance)? Or perhaps stacks as data structures in the computer science sense? Or even the stacks present in newer versions of OS X? Or even, pray tell, the team of professional rare coin collectors (there is such a thing) at stacks.com?

But seriously, or at least as serious as one can be when discussing the finer merits of stackability, what exactly makes a stack stacky? In the first sense, of stacking physical objects, perhaps the answer is obvious. We merely wish to determine how many objects may be stacked without displacing said objects or said stack. But no, what if instead we wish to determine how compactly we might stack the objects, per the Knapsack Problem (if you can show that problem is deterministically solvable in polynomial time, I'll buy you dinner)? So perhaps, this is not as easy a question as first proposed...

Now consider the case of the data structure stack. No matter how much you push and pop, can you ever get to a single number to determine just how stacky a stack is? Once again, one might leap directly to the assumption that size is the key issue. But then the question arises: is it the size of the stack, or how you use it? Maybe then, the key issue to measure is just how versatile the stack in question is? After all, a stack that's only useful for one thing is not much of a stack at all!

But then, perhaps we have not understood the original question at all! What if, instead of procuring a number to measure just how stacky a stack might be, what if we instead were tasked with finding how many stacks might be stacked, one upon the other? First, one might jump directly to the question, "but isn't that the same thing as stacking objects?" Well, is it? Are stacks just simple physical objects or is there more to stacks than meets the eye? After all, in a traditional computer science stack, one might only peek at the top, who knows what secrets lie beneath?

Overall, we may appear to be no closer to an answer than when we first started; however, let us not despair. For we are no nearer to a question either, thus rendering the answer apparently irrelevant!

## Top "10" Ten

### Things you'll only understand if you're at Rose

Matt Melton

*Honorable Mention on This List: Me*

10. Civils, ha. CS's, ha ha. Econ, ha ha ha. EP's...what? Why?

9. Why reading the school newspaper upside down is a completely legitimate, nay, a highly encouraged act of enlightenment, and how this line is a shameless plug for pointing that out.

8. Best graphics ever in a PC game: Nethack.

7. Exactly what "the odds are good, but the goods are odd" means, and why 4 to 1 is a sad, sad ratio. Unless you're a double X, of course. Well, maybe...

6. The fun of sophomore year, involving Meatballs, MOMS, ADES, Discos...

5. Woodsies be crazy man.

4. Everything you need to know about being a Civil! 1. Water flows downhill. 2. Water + dirt = mud. 3. When concrete bends, it breaks. 4. You can't push a rope.

3. Naked Lady Riding a Fish. Oh yeah, she's single...

2. Streaking through BSB 3 will result in retaliation equivalent only to the wrath of Chuck Norris.

1. Laking would currently be considered a federal offense.

## The Flipside is going retro!

### Chick of the Week returns!

James Zhou

*Didn't Know Rose-Hulman Was Interested in Ornithology*

This is a young *Sula nebouxii*, more commonly known as the Blue-footed Booby. These magnificent specimens can usually be found sunning themselves on tropical and subtropical islands of the Pacific, although unusually large groups may be found in California. Once fully matured, pairs can be found frolicking in the shallow waters of popular beaches, so be on the lookout whenever you get the chance to visit those coasts.

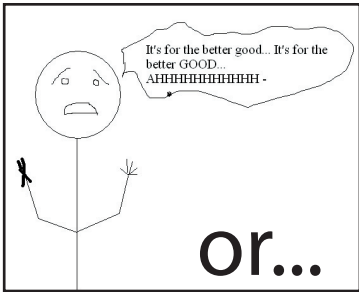


## Would you rather?

Hobey Tam

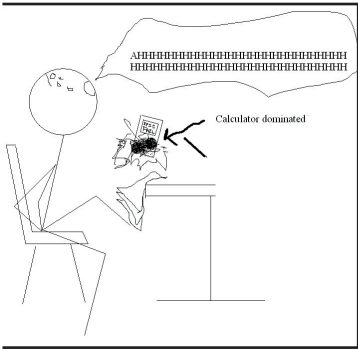
*And We Mean Rusty Pliers!*

Would you rather remove a fingernail of your choice with a rusty pair of pliers for a one hundred percent perfect score on your M Sys / Meatballs / PLC Test...



or...

Take and receive the domination that is the test?



### Wacky prof quotes

"He made THAT?! You don't make that unless you're high on something."  
— Dr. Casey, who does not advocate building things while high.

"One of the best Christmas presents my kids ever gave me was an air compressor." — Dr. Thomas. Ironically, my mother was not as happy about hers...

"There's lots of crazy stuff if you search for dykes in Holland." — Dr. Kukral, who should probably turn the Safe Search option on.

"This is not going to help you do a damn thing in your life." — Dr. Minster. Finally, someone said it!

"Oh, it's early, I'm going to have to BS for awhile." — Dr. Herniter, who BS's Mondays as well.

"Your answer was right in the limit of different being the same." — Dr. Moorehead. Can I get a Q.E.D. for that?

"Not you, you're going to sit on a PC all day and talk to no one." — Dr. Sexton, discussing the perks of being a CS major.

"Sometimes you just got to riot." — Dr. Casey. After surviving sophomore year, I agree one hundred percent. How does Thursday at 9 p.m. sound?

"Who needs TV, just build a triple pendulum." — Dr. Holder, whom I would agree with, soon as someone makes a triple pendulum with ESPN.

"It's way easier to grade hard problems...WRONG!" — Dr. Chambers. No more homework for that class...

"There is nothing hotter than little children." — Dr. Stienstra. For the record, this could be put into perfect context. However, that's not my job.

