

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Spring 5-8-2009

Volume 44 - Issue 25 - Friday, May 8, 2009

Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

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Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 44 - Issue 25 - Friday, May 8, 2009" (2009). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 154.
<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/154>

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THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2009

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 25

News Briefs

By Andy Klusman

Dom DeLuise dead at 75

Actor Dom DeLuise died Monday night in a Los Angeles hospital. He was 75 years old. DeLuise was born in 1933 in Brooklyn to parents John and Vincenza DeLuise, and graduated from the Manhattan School of the Performing Arts. DeLuise made his film debut in "Fail-Safe" in 1964, but he is best known for his roles in "Blazing Saddles" and "The Cannonball Run," a movie in which he starred with Burt Reynolds. The actor also fought obesity for many years of his life due to a passion for food. DeLuise also wrote two successful cookbooks, "Eat This - It Will Make You Feel Better" and "Eat This Too! It'll Also Make You Feel Good." He is survived by his wife Carol, three sons, and three grandchildren.

Montana exempts guns from federal regulations

The state of Montana has approved a bill that makes guns, gun accessories, and ammunition made in the state and intended for use in the state exempt from federal regulations. This means no registration, background checks, or dealer licenses are required for the exempt guns. The legislative bill was signed by Governor Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat, and it cites the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as the basis for the exemption. Supporters of the bill claim the bill will force a constitutional showdown, because they claim federal firearms laws do not apply to guns intended solely for Montana, and the federal government only has the power to regulate commerce across state lines.

Stress test results for banks released

The Federal Reserve has released the findings from the "stress-tests" through which the Fed has put American banks. The results from these long-awaited results state that ten of the nineteen largest banks in the country need to raise around \$75 billion in capital to be able to survive any further economic deterioration. Government officials have said that a strong banking system is needed to ensure an economic rebound, and the report showed that while the banking system is not fully healed, progress has been made. Government officials have also said that none of the banks will be allowed to fail.

Lindsey Saxton

Advertising Manager

On May 3rd, over 250 Rose students gathered to uphold an honored Greek tradition, the Greek Games. All three sororities, Delta Delta Delta, Chi Omega, and Alpha Omicron Pi, and six of the eight fraternities, Delta Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega, Pi Kappa Alpha, Theta Xi, Lambda Chi Alpha, and Fiji, competed to be named the winners of the Greek Games.

There were multiple events in which the fraternities and sororities participated, including a food eating contest (where teams of three ate a half gallon of ice cream, a watermelon, and five hotdogs), a traditional Chariot Race, a pyramid building competition, a mystery competition, mystery throw, and tug of war.

Cody Barron, the Greek Activities Chairman, and the rest of the Greek Games committee, Jake Carr and Scott Minchuk, began planning in early March. Barron said, "Starting the planning early, picking a day and establishing the rules and guidelines, helped out a lot, and basically all that was left in the last two weeks was getting the shirts ordered, the food bought, and cooperation

from campus safety and facilities-- shutting down the roads and providing tables." Barron also said, "This year, we wanted to entice more people to come out and participate, so we made t-shirts to help advertise, and these t-shirts are also going to the teams that won." He deemed the games a great success because they had a greater turnout than years before.

Chi Omega was named the winner for the sororities, scoring 24 points, keeping their champion status. They won the pyramid, mystery throwing, the eating contest, the chariot race, and placed 2nd in the mystery competition. Morgan Williams, a freshman Chi Omega that participated in the pyramid and tug of war, said, "It was fun to hang out with sisters and show our Chi-O spirit."

Delta Delta Delta placed second, with 28 people competing in the various events. They won the mystery event and were part of the three way tie for tug of war. Sara Hardin said, "I thought Greek Games went really well for being planned in a week and 4 days. It was a lot of fun and a really awesome way to spend some quality time with sisters!"

Alpha Omicron Pi placed third, scoring 10 points across the various events. Freshman AOII Melissa Galey said,



Lindsey Saxton / Rose Thorn

Members of the fraternity Theta Xi showcase their innovative chariot design. The chariot race was one of many events featured at the Rose-Hulman Greek Games, whose winner this year was Delta Sigma Phi.

"It was a lot of fun and really showed what the Greek organizations are all about - teamwork and friendship."

In the fraternity division, Delta Sigma Phi won, scoring 17 points and displacing former champions Pi Kappa Alpha. Sophomore top of the Delta Sigma Phi pyramid Sam Wilson said, "I think it promotes pride in your fraternity and helps establish tradition," about the Greek Games. Pi Kappa Alpha took second, scoring 16 points,

winning the chariot race and the pyramid. Sophomore Zach Pligge said, "The games were a blast. Running the first and last legs of the chariot race was exhilarating, and I do not regret getting frostbite on my fingers from plowing through the half gallon of ice cream." Alpha Tau Omega came in third with 10 points after winning the eating competition. Also notable, said Cody Barron was the "inventive" chariot made by Theta Xi, a "two-manned shopping cart."

Rose celebrates Mom's Day

Tim Ekl

Photo Editor

Not content with merely partaking in the national Mother's Day festivities, Rose-Hulman recently hosted its very own maternally oriented holiday: Mom's Day.

The annual Mom's Day celebration took place last weekend, bringing hundreds of moms and other family members to campus for two days of activities. Over a dozen events took place over the course of the weekend for students and moms alike to enjoy, the most prevalent of which was this year's play, a staging of "The Wizard of Oz."

"Generally Mom's and Dad's Days are booked around play weekends," said Pete Gustafson, vice-president of stu-

dent affairs.

The play, which ran Friday through Sunday, drew over 350 reservations from moms, students, and families. Other big-ticket weekend activities included the Mom's Day Dinner, attended by 200, and the "Price is Right" game, which saw 300 visitors.

Aside from the big events, Mom's Day weekend featured several smaller educational sessions and other attractions,

such as free massages and an open house at the observatory.

"There are kind of some standard [activities] every year," Gustafson said. "We try to do something on a Friday night, then we try to have three or four education programs on Saturday."

The activities are mostly planned by the Parents' Association, a student group targeted at family outreach programs. Once the programs are decided

upon, both Gustafsons work together to create the weekend's schedule of events.

Mom's Day is the last of the four major events the Parents' Association is involved in. The first three - Dad's Day, homecoming, and orientation - all took place closer to the beginning of the academic year.

Of the four events, Mom's Day and Dad's Day are most closely paired. However, Rose-Hulman intends for the two to remain separate events.

Over the weekend, the Parents' Association also hosted about 70 parents at an open meeting to plan for future events. Parents expressed "very positive feedback" about the Mom's Day activities, according to Gustafson.

Generally Mom's and Dad's Days are booked around play weekends.

-Pete Gustafson

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Rose-Doku

By Melissa Brumbaugh

Instructions:

Use the letters: E P W A S H N O T to fill in the missing spaces. Be sure not to repeat any letter in each row, column, or 3x3 square.

W		E				A	
H		S		A		N	
	A		T		P		S
A	H					N	
				T	A		W S
	S	W	H				
		O	N		T		
			O	S	H		

Find the answers to all Rose Thorn puzzles at:

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

Crypto-Quote of the Week

By Melissa Brumbaugh

Instructions:

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

Hint (Solution = Crypto):

A = T B = H C = A

NZF IYDY MJTGCSGU ZG NZFD JZSOYJ, TGC NZF

-----'

IYDY XTGUSGU T AOZAP, TGC NZF QYOO, TGC NZF

-----',-----'

XSJ NZFD XYTC ZG JXY MSGP. TGC JXTJ'M

-----.

IXYG NZF ATVY FK ISJX JXY SCYT QZD

JXY QOFE ATKASJZD.

-----.

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

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

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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.

Cut Off Your Hands performs at Rose

Noel Spurgeon
News Editor

This past Tuesday, the Rose-Hulman campus radio station WMHD sponsored a concert by the New Zealand-based band Cut Off Your Hands on the Union patio. The concert featured the local legend Tim and the Amazing Chinstrap (Tim Hasler) as an opener. Fifty to sixty people attended the concert, not including those listening through open windows.

"Cut Off Your Hands has been huge on the college music scene for a while now," said WMHD's Kevin Hengehold. "They played at Laneway Festival, South By Southwest (SXSW), and the CMJ Music Marathon in 2008. WMHD was represented there [the CMJ Music Marathon], which is how we first became aware of the band."

Cut Off Your Hands toured the Midwest this past winter. Some of the WMHD staff, including Program Director Xander Huff, saw their Bloomington perfor-

mance. While in Bloomington, Huff started a conversation with the guitarist, and formed plans for a show. After a period of hammering out details, plans for a concert were finalized, which resulted in Tuesday's performance.

The concert was also the first in what WMHD hopes will be a series of concerts with more well-known acts.

"With our new budget passed, we'll be able to bring in better-known acts," said Hengehold. "We intend to incorporate student input into our decisions via a survey we'll have at our promo event in the commons on Friday. Students can look forward to bigger acts in the coming school year, and we'd love student input to help decide what those acts will be."

However, perhaps the most important feature of the concert was the listening party held during the concert. WHMD was contacted by Waxploitation Records, and asked to play their Causes 2 album. The album is a compilation of various artists working

together to spread word, raise awareness, and get others involved in the crisis in Darfur. Proceeds from album (which includes artists such as The Decemberists, My Morning Jacket, and Gnarl Barkley) go to three non-profit organizations working in Darfur. These organizations are Human Rights Watch, Oxfam America, and Doctors Without Borders.

The Causes 2 album was played both before the show and between acts. Oxfam America's Media and Music Coordinator worked with WMHD to provide stickers, buttons, and literature containing information about the crisis in Darfur, and what people can do to get involved. Attendees of the concert showed interest in the cause, taking pamphlets and other items.

"Both parties were really excited about what we were doing," said Brittany Young, WMHD Promotions Director. "I really enjoyed the experience and the excitement both groups put into making this happen."



Tim Ekl/ Rose Thorn

The New Zealand-based band Cut Off Your Hands performs on the Union patio at Rose-Hulman. The concert, sponsored by WMHD, featured a listening party for the Causes 2 album as well as local act Tim Hasler.

Rose-Hulman quarterly blood drive



Tim Ekl/ Rose Thorn

Rose-Hulman students participate in the quarterly blood drive, both by volunteering at the food table and donating (above). The blood drive occurs every quarter, and is organized by Indiana Blood Centers. In this quarter's blood drive, which lasted from May 5th to May 6th, Rose students donated a total of 233 pints of blood.

Good start for the summer "X-Men Origins: Wolverine"

Eli Baca
Staff Writer

Generating \$85.1 million over the weekend at the box office, "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" kicked off the summer movie season with a roar. The film is the fourth in the X-Men movie series, but was made as a prequel to the first three, and tells the story of how Logan came to be known as the Wolverine. The origin story runs 107 minutes and is sure to grab your attention with its mutant fight scenes and stunning special effects—as well as a very buff Hugh Jackman. Meow.

"Origins" opens with a quick look into how Logan and his brother, Victor Creed (aka Sabretooth), came to be part of William Stryker's elite mutant special-ops team. This initial team consists of David North /Agent Zero, Fred Dukes /The Blob, Chris Bradley /Bolt, John Wraith, and Wade Wilson/Deadpool. Logan ends up splitting from the group after he won't demolish a village, and eventually the group disbands, leaving Logan to cut down trees with his lady love Kayla Silverfox.

When Stryker finds Logan and informs him that Victor's gone rogue, the main event of the movie really starts. For X-Men geeks, other mutants in the movie include Remy LeBeau /Gambit, a young Scott Summers/Cyclops, and Emma Frost.

Directed by Gavin Hood ("Rendition") and written by David Benioff ("The Kite Runner," "Troy") and Skip Woods ("Hitman," "Swordfish"), "Origins" is packed with high intensity scenes and some romantic angst, but in the super-hero genre, the movie is really just a nice night out. There's a lot of information given throughout the movie, and while the many mutants introduced are really awesome, the audience gets about five minutes of time with each of them, and then continues on the "Origins" rollercoaster.

Hugh Jackman does a fantastic job, but audience members should expect that, since this is the fourth time he's played the character. The other actors also do a very good job with their characters, giving new faces to old comic names, but each of their stories has really just opened. Actually, an entirely new chapter in the X-Men universe is opened, but the movie strictly follows Wolverine, giving small glimpses into other parts of the X-Men scheme but not satisfyingly.

Hood jam-packed the movie with as many mutant bodies as he could find and told the story of Wolverine, but the movie wasn't



<http://www.x-menorigins.com/>

In his fourth reprise of Wolverine, Hugh Jackman returns to the gritty depths of the character reminiscent of the "X-Men." He is the protagonist among a plethora of fan favorites just playing a badass.

mind bogglingly fantastic; especially after "Iron Man" and "The Dark Knight" from last summer, it is sad to see but it did open up the franchise to new faces. The first three films focused on the X-Men team as it is now, so it was slightly refreshing to see faces from the other side, or even just Gambit and a young Emma Frost. True to Marvel movie history, they took the franchise of a beloved comic and made it a good, decent movie.; they kept to the basics of the comic history, but tried to make more out of the story by adding the crazy special effects.

The X-Men series has been getting worse with each movie, and Wolverine does nothing to help the cause except provide an hour and a half of mutants beating the crap out of each other, oh and people tragically dying. The actors make the movie much better than it is but the X-Men movie fran-

chise may be dwindling." X-Men Origins: Wolverine" is a good time at the box office, and a good start to the summer movie season, but doesn't really blow up many people's skirts.

Reviewer rating: 3.0 elephants



The songs of a man and his Maragret: "The Hazards of Love"

Ben Collins
Entertainment
Editor

The Decemberists have always been the one group that could do no wrong; "Picturesque" and "The Crane Wife" have been two of my most listened to albums, the latter being most likely my best remembered album of 2007. I'd been waiting expectantly for their new album through much of 2008, but with the steady release of good music at the end of last year, The Decemberists were the furthest thing from my mind.

However, upon hearing of their latest release, "The Hazards of Love," it did not take the slightest thought to clasp it firmly to my bosom in joy. I had heard nothing about the album since its release and hadn't heard about any singles, an oddity for their catchy folk lyrics. Having listened to it considerably since receiving it, I can understand why. This is the experimental craft of Colin Meloy into the foray of a larger, interconnected story within the songs of the album; it's ambitious and Meloy has called it his "folk opera." As exciting as that sounds, however, this has easily cinched my album of the year.

The story follows the life of a man who was saved by the queen of the taiga forest he resides in. To put the plot simply, he meets the love of his life while he is in the form of a fawn, which was bestowed upon him by the queen. The lady, Margaret, tends to him, but as night comes, he becomes a man and they make love on the forest floor. There's more to it after that, but it's a story better heard than explained. The lyrics of the story were whimsical and, admittedly, a little corny, but it's



<http://www.amazon.com>

The fifth studio album from the Oregon folk singers, it really is their most ambitious and probably their best yet.

classic Decemberists.

Story aside, I can say that after listening to the album for the first time, I've listened to the album in its entirety every time since. The music is well structured and flows fantastically from song to song; there are several reprises but they are done well and well placed between major songs. "Won't Want for Love" and "Queen's Rebuke," however, are my favorite songs of the album because of the guest female singers, Becky Stark and Shara Worden. While the ladies are more fluttery and more over the top than Colin, it works to give variety to the already well-balanced group.

While I can pick out songs that I like from the album, it's easier and more accurate to say the album as a single entity is the real star. Sitting there and revelling within the lush forest stage Colin has laid out, it's easy to see how marvelous this could be as a live opera. This is a true masterpiece of recent time.

Reviewer rating: 5.0 elephants



NEW RELEASES THIS WEEK

Music:

Cam'ron
Crime Pays

Crisis in Hollywood
Safe and Sound

The Datsuns
Headstunts

Meat Puppets
Sewn Together

George McConnell
Singles Only

Movies:

Star Trek

Next Day Air

Outrage

DVDs:

Taken

Underworld:
Rise of the Lycans

Care Bears: Fun Pack

Games:

Sacred 2:
Fallen Angel
(Xbox 360, PS3)

Help Wanted
(Wii)

Killing Floor
(PC)

Pirates vs. Ninjas
Dodgeball
(Wii)

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A Bicycle Adventure

Melissa Schwenk
Staff Writer

When my boyfriend, Andrew, invited me to the Little 500, I thought he was talking about a NASCAR qualifying race. Little did I know this was another opportunity for me to support a cause (one of my new favorite things). For those of you who don't know, the Little 500, or Little 5, is a bicycle race put on by different universities, usually to raise money for scholarships. At IU Bloomington, where we attended the race, there were women's and men's races, along with a running race called the Little 50. The entire school participates, with both independent teams and teams hosted by fraternities.

Since here at Rose we have to take advantage of every minute of the weekend, we stayed up late the night before, playing campus golf. When we woke up, we felt like death. Staying up late isn't a good idea. Once we got on the road we were able to enjoy a long scenic drive through middle of nowhere Indiana. Andrew didn't think it was as funny as I did when, as we flew down the hills, I threw my hands in the air like we were on a roller coaster. I guess I'll have to save my awesome driving abilities for when I'm driving by myself.

When we finally got to IU Bloomington, we realized we were way too early for the race and decided to take a look around campus. One of Andrew's friends from home goes to IU Bloomington and lives on campus, so we decided to visit his dorm. I have never felt more trapped in a building in my life. There was a lock on every door, every elevator. It was quite a change from Rose, where anyone can wander in and out of the dorms. I guess in the event of a Zombie Apocalypse all the

IU students would survive, but really, if the world was doomed to be populated by Hoosiers, I don't think I'd want to survive.

When we finally got back to the parking lot, we were forced to park towards the back. Luckily I have a small car and can fit it into most spaces, or we might not have found a spot. Parking is free, but not much else is. We made the mistake of not taking any water or sunscreen with us. By chance I happened to have some sunscreen in my glove compartment from three years ago, so we decided to take a chance on it working. Better placebo sunscreen than no sunscreen, we thought.

After we made our way into the stadium, paying the forty dollars for two tickets, we stopped by a food booth. Three dollars for a bottle of water may seem outrageous but when faced with the prospect of getting dehydrated, we were willing to pretty much pay any price. After getting scalped for two bottles of Dihydrogen monoxide, we made our way into the stands. We found a seat and waited for the race to start. One tip for those of you who, like me, don't enjoy standing for long periods of time: Don't sit behind the fraternities. We were behind ATO and Alpha Chi Omega and right next to Sigma Chi, all of whom stood the whole time, chanting and berating the other teams.

Since both of us were from Rose, we had no idea whom to cheer for. We both have different fraternity affiliations and didn't want to cheer for a Rose fraternity, but we also had no idea which fraternity had a chance. We decided to cheer for the champions from last year, the Cutters. They had Lance Armstrong yellow jerseys that



Melissa Schwenk / Rose Thorn

The winning team of the Little 500 in Bloomington on their victory lap.

were easily distinguished from the other teams.

Even before the race started, the guys in front of us were standing on the bleachers. The IU soccer stadium has nice seats that are butt-shaped, good for sitting but not for standing. Fortunately the excitement of the race kept my mind off my feet. All around us were students who were either still drunk from the night before or had gotten off to an early start. I need to emphasize that this event is only kid friendly if you are far away from the fraternity boys. What might have been playful banter at Rose was filled with profanity at the race. I wanted to earmuff the kid next to me and might have had I actually liked children.

The race was exciting, with the lead changing with every lap. The Cutters were always towards the front of the pack, even after a nasty ten-bike pile up which put them a lap behind. The cat and mouse game they played with the other teams, starting at the back of the large group only to be leading it at the next curve, kept everyone on their feet, yelling encouragement to their favorite team. In the end, they were victorious for the second year in a row, and for the tenth time since 1977. We stayed long enough to see the winners take a victory lap and then went back to the car.

Getting out of the parking lot was the worst experience I've ever had (yes, worse than the drunk people from my Tri-State

Adventure). It took us more than an hour to get out, since most of the exits were blocked. It took us almost as long to get out of a parking lot as it did to get home. On top of that, I started to feel where the back of my calves had burnt. Turns out, I should have put some of the old sunscreen there, since everywhere I'd put it had stayed nice and pale, a lovely contrast to the burn splotch on my shoulder between where I'd gotten the sunscreen and my shirt strap. Quite attractive, let me tell you.

For those of you already looking for activities for your next spring quarter, the Little 500 should be added to your list. It was worth every penny we spent on it, although next year we'll be taking our own water with us.

A girls' guide for guys

Lindsey Saxton

Advertising Manager

This week's article targets a certain set of people. There are some Rose students that avoid parties, and that's OK. For those that like to let their hair down and dance once in a while, there are some definite dos and don'ts for the average party. When I say average party, I mean the kind where there's mostly a bar, a dance floor, and a game room or two. Those are the best kind, because you can do whatever you're in the mood for, whether it be dancing or just hanging out. There are things that some guys do that label them as creepers to be avoided from the very beginning of the party.

Parties are meant to let you relax and have fun. So, enjoy yourself. Just make sure you don't end up on YouTube the next day. Puking the entire contents of your stomach onto the street is also a bad idea.

The Thorn does not condone, encourage, or admit to the presence of underage drinking.

Do	Don't
Ask a girl to dance. If they're standing on the dance floor, that's what they're for.	Hover around some random chick or just start dancing with her. Both are creepy.
Keep the dancing PG unless she initiates more.	Stick your hand underneath her clothing. You will get slapped.
Play her in a drinking game. Some girls are actually decent at them.	"Take it easy" on her or completely destroy her. Complain because she's not drinking. Play any games that involve her taking off her clothes.
Ask her for her number if you're at all interested. You never know, things might happen.	Make plans with a set date and time. There's quite a possibility that one of the two of you won't remember them in the morning.
Ask her if she wants to head back to your place if that's what you both seem to want to happen.	Expect something more to happen if the two of you dance together. Nine times out of ten, a dance is just a dance. Don't expect more to come of it unless she indicates she wants more to happen.

Ladies' Man

Elliot Simon

Staff Writer

Dear Ladies' Man,

I'm interested in a guy in one of my classes. We talk all the time, and he sits right next to me. I keep dropping a million hints for him to ask me out to the movies, but he never seems to get the message. What should I do?

Rose Girl

Dear Rose Girl,

While I'm sure this is a common problem at Rose (*cough* not really *cough*) I'd be happy to give you some advice. I'd like to mention that if he is indeed male and ignoring your advances, he most likely is gay, has a girlfriend, or is a CS. While there is nothing wrong with any of these, I would advise looking elsewhere for your movie-going pleasure. In case he is NOT in fact any of the above, then he is merely accidentally filtering out honest female interest ("Rose Goddess Syndrome" is a common cause of this "over-filtering" symptom).

Many Rose students become disillusioned with the prospects for earnest female interaction after suffering at the hands of numerous others who were aware of the power they wielded at a school full of nerdy guys. Common symptoms of "Rose Goddess Syndrome" include, but are not limited to: asking for unreasonable amounts of help from guys, while offering little in return—you can always find another guy to do your bidding; an un-warranted sense of self-confidence; and finally, appearing unapproachable to average men who do not pay you homage.

If you exhibit any of these traits, the guy you're interested in has probably just tuned your advances out. However, it is possible to regain his attention if you just keep at it. He will eventually come 'round. The best option at this point is persistence. Until he says no. At which point we can definitively say he is one of the aforementioned gentlemen and is not interested. But, as they say, there are plenty of fish in the sea...



The Price is Right

Christine Price

Opinions Editor

I'm torn about the Kindle.

One of my friends owns one, and in some respects, it's really, really cool. If you go on a trip, you don't have to leave your books behind to make room for souvenirs. It has really awesome screensavers, or whatever the images are called that are brought up for sleep mode. It's filled with snazzy technology. You look cool when you read it. It has access to Wikipedia.

But something inside of me still sees it as innately wrong. While reading a book is a solitary activity, reading in general can be very social. When you are on a bus with a Kindle, nobody knows what you are reading. If you are an adult reading a Redwall book this is a blessing; but if you are a student who would love to have a conversation with a stranger that happens to also be a Pratchett or Bryson fan, good luck.

Kindles also represent the digitalizing and de-personalization of our social interactions. With book 1.0, you can talk with friends about which books are good. You can loan them out, or hide them among your friends' possessions until they start reading your books in the hopes that it will get you to finally stop. You could write little notes in the margins, then sell the books to used book stores, and allow other people to ponder your brilliant commentary. With a Kindle, your book may never be tarnished, but it won't travel.

Paper or plastic?

It won't acquire multiple "Return To:" notes inside the cover. When picking books, you can get hundreds and thousands of reviews and recommendations, but those are from people you don't know, or an algorithm. True, you can still discuss books with your friends. But a friend can't let you borrow a Kindle book; if they really think you should read *The Secret Life of Lobsters*, you have to pay \$10 to get it for yourself. And because there is money on the line, there's a good chance that the anonymous horde will be consulted for their opinions. There are lots of books I have ended up loving, but I would only begin reading one of them because I could easily borrow it from a friend for free. With ebooks, this is no longer a (legal) option.

Real books with real covers not only encourage people to try new books and for those with similar book-taste to become acquainted, it may also encourage readers to be more scholarly. Few people want to be caught in public reading an harlequin novel, so they take Austen out in public instead.

While the argument that "it prevents people from reading what they actually want to read" may not be the best of pro-book arguments, it is a point nevertheless.

I would comment on the mandatory "send your PDF to Amazon and have them convert it for your Kindle," but with the new Kindle DX that is being released this summer, that is no longer mandatory. So that's a moot point.

But back to books. When you finish a book, there is a quiet sense of accomplishment. You started on page one. You have now finished all 867 pages. Each time you turned the page, the number of pages in your left hand grew, and the number pages in your right hand shrunk. Not so with a Kindle. When you get to the end, you can't close the book with a satisfying thud and place it on the bookshelf, or return it to the library ahead of schedule. No, with a Kindle you just... get to the bottom of the document.

Maybe I'm just bitter because I don't have a Kindle.

But for now, I'm happy with paper.



<http://portablecontent.wordpress.com/category/books/>

The Amazon Kindle, the recursive version, coming out in fall

In defense of torture

Hobey Tam

Staff Writer

Those who have experienced it say the sensation of drowning is one of the worst feelings that one can go through. Biologically speaking, your lungs are screaming and every nerve in your body is lighting up to take some sort of action to get your head out of the water. Eventually you start to slip into the limbo. The pain and stress become nominal - it's a sort of peace, a calm, as your heart flatlines. Your eyes glaze over as they capture your last fleeting moments of life and you cease to exist as your oxygen-deprived brain shuts down forever.

However, during an act of torture, you do not reach the calm. You are repeatedly stuck in and out of the water until climax in pain and panic, but you never reach the falling action of dying. You do not enjoy the luxury of death in water boarding. Is it humane? Strictly taken out of context, of course not. Why would it be justifiable to give one individual so much suffering over and over again?

Assuming peacetime conditions, such an act is despicable and represents the epitome of inhumanity. However, during times of war, incentives change. Interro-

gation techniques are completely justifiable because they are practiced with the intent to protect the American people and their interests. Torture, on the other hand, is an act of vengeance with only one party's interests in mind. The two should not be confused. The UN's definition (quoted in Ms. Baehr's article) is simply contrived legal lingo that bears negligible jurisdiction on United States soil. From an idealist point of view, Ms. Baehr's article merits validity. However, we as engineers know firsthand, the world is not ideal, perfect, or anything close. It is a world filled with chaos, unforeseen factors, and imperfections. From a realist standpoint, the interrogation techniques practiced by those who seek to protect American interests are completely justifiable and appropriate. Do not even try to argue against the validity of the information yielded from interrogation. It has been in use throughout humanity's history. Interrogation and espionage have flourished within the past century with modern techniques sprouting during the World Wars. Battles have been evaded and won from interrogation. Multiple terrorist threats have been countered and many lives saved. One cannot refute the effectiveness of modern interrogation.

As Carly Baehr makes a point to repeat, "[I repeat], it is always wrong to intentionally cause harm to another person." What about self-defense? If someone sought to harm me with a firearm and I disarm him and in doing so I kill him, does that make me just as bad as them - a murderer? What if he wasn't even intentionally trying to hurt me? What if I was trying to stop a hostage situation/robbery and I mutilated him for life? Does that make me a criminal that loves hacking off limbs of other individuals? The man could have not even wanted to hurt anyone and I took away everything he had. What if I was protecting my family from an intruder? What if the intruder only wanted our valuables - a trivial crime when compared to terrorism? What then if I put two bullets in his chest and one in his head? What if the only way to keep him as far away from my family as possible was to drown him in a toilet bowl using the seat as a battering ram to keep his head in the water?

You see the flawed logic of such a statement that is Ms. Baehr's thesis? Apply the aforementioned scenario to a macro scale. Intruders into America seeking to cause harm to our family, our future generations, our older genera-

SERIOUSLY. *Mark Minster*

Curious fact: the adjective "God-haunted" is used by, or about, a number of writers, despite their differences, from Flannery O'Connor and Isaac Bashevis Singer to John Updike. "Haunted by God" is the title of a biography of Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. It's a common concept, being god-haunted, because it gets at the feeling of being pursued by meaning, that there is more to earth than is dreamt of in our philosophy. From the German Romantics, C.S. Lewis borrowed the term *Sehnsucht*. Whatever you call it, I've got it. I

can't see something without wondering what it means, or why it means. Occupational hazard.

In the gospels, Jesus says some things that haunt me. "Go sell all you have and give it to the poor" is one. The "at hand" in Jesus' formulation "the realm of God is at hand" is another, though I'm quite sure it doesn't mean we're on the verge of some Left Behind apocalypse. So please don't drink the Kool-Aid. (Jim Jones. That was a while ago.)

Another saying I've been thinking about, haunted by, is this: "man was not made for the Sabbath, but the Sabbath was made for man." This one seems easily understood: we make the rules, rules don't make us. Still, it haunts me.

I've been thinking about this as I've been reading about coal.

Because that sentence isn't going to make much sense, let me back up.

I was teaching Literature and the Environment two years ago, and I asked students to measure their ecological footprints ("how many acres would we need if everyone lived like me?"). You factor in things like how much you drive, what you eat, how large your home is, etc. Then I asked them to speculate about what might happen to that footprint in five years. Almost all of them said, "It's going to go up."

Now that's probably true, but it's not what disconcerts me. There won't be people to clean your rooms (this still floors me, by the way; do we think you're toddlers?), and so you'll have to buy your own things, repair them; you won't live on a campus, more than likely; no meal plan. Your lives will more than likely cost the earth more than they do now.

But what disconcerts me, again, isn't that. Rather, it's the fine line

between saying, "logically, my footprint will probably increase" and saying "through no choice of my own, my footprint is going to increase, and ain't nothing nobody can do about it." And most students said something like that: "The die is cast. Case closed." And that's not just nonsense, it's haunting nonsense. You were not made for your way of life. You make your way of life.

“There is no good reason the most tech-savvy country in the world should still be using an eighteenth-century fuel.”

Choices are not made for you. Not really. You choose. That job is yours and yours alone: if you don't make your life choices, someone else will. Or, tragically, they will never be made at all.

This brings me back to coal. It's a

dirty, inefficient fuel, even when it's supposedly clean. There is no good reason the most tech-savvy country in the world should still be using an eighteenth-century fuel. "It's cheap!" people say, which is wrong. It's plentiful: that's true. But until you factor in the costs of what gets spewed and what gets stored, even with "clean coal," an oxymoron if ever there was; until you factor in the health costs, the subsidies, the costs of mining, the costs of arsenic and mercury and lead, the spills and the slurries; until you do that, you're not counting true costs. It's only cheap if you're doing first-grade math, if you're willing to bury your remainders where the poor people live. If Duke Energy had to pay for what it does to the Wabash and to our air, coal would not be nearly so "cheap."

Again, though, what disconcerts me most is the attitude that I catch myself with sometimes, and I hear it from others, others being "reasonable": "coal gasification may be an acceptable baby step until we find something more viable." Maybe. Maybe. But I'm not convinced. What troubles me is this one: "coal is going to be used because it is abundant and affordable, and there's nothing anyone can do about it." That's as backwards as saying that we exist for the fuel economy we have made. Backwards. We made our fuel economy. And if it's not working, we can change it.

And it's not working. There is more to earth than is dreamt of in our philosophy, more than the "overburden" coal companies find in the way of seams, an overburden that includes mountains, forests, rivers, animals, and humans, whole communities of the dispossessed. It's time we factored that into our accounting.

Have opinions? Send them to opinions@rose-hulman.edu

tions who have taught us, our own flesh and blood - how can you sit there and do nothing?

Ms. Baehr, perhaps you do not love your family enough to mortgage your life for theirs, but I would be willing to do that and more. The people who put themselves on the line every day to protect this country are mortgaging their lives for yours. You and

many of our generation do not know and thus do not appreciate what it takes to ensure your quality of life here in America - the great problem of our generation. A few of us have ventured out of America and have seen how bad it can get in third world countries where governments are not willing to protect the interests of their people.

Athlete of
the week



Andrew Pinkstaff



Tim Boyer
Sports Editor

It's hard for anyone to sit and watch friends play a game they love. Andrew Pinkstaff had to do that last season due to an injury he suffered early in the season, missing out on his junior year of baseball. The senior civil engineering major took the time to recover from the injury and returned this season for his last year at Rose. He had another scare early this season, but that injury only kept him from the first part of the season.

Pinkstaff is not your every-game starter but has seen his share of playing time. This past weekend, Pinkstaff made a big effort. The second baseman hit a single, a double and his first homerun as a Rose-Hulman baseball player, scoring twice himself and driving in three more.

His effort contributed to the 23-1 win over Defiance College in the third game of the three-game series, the last game of the regular season. Rose-Hulman is now in the midst of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament, vying for the automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Baseball Tournament.

Pinkstaff took some time to answer questions for The Rose Thorn.

Rose Thorn: How long have you been involved in baseball?
Andrew Pinkstaff: I've been playing baseball since I was five years old, and this is my fourth year of

baseball at Rose-Hulman. I've also coached 8 year old little league all-star teams for a couple summers.

RT: Last weekend you hit a single, a double and your first Rose-Hulman homerun. How did it feel to have such a breakout game?

AP: It felt great to play well in my last home game at Rose-Hulman, and the home run in my last home at bat was one of the most special baseball moments of my career. But, it felt even better to see the team have such a strong finish heading into the conference tournament. I think we had 10 hits or so in one inning on Sunday, and that requires a contribution from every guy in the lineup.

RT: Last year, you had to sit out for the season because of an injury you suffered from early in the season and you had another scare this year. How does it feel to be back in the dugout this year?

AP: I missed the game more than I can describe while I was injured, but I missed the camaraderie of our team even more. Rose-Hulman baseball is a special family, and any guy who has ever played for this program will tell you that.

RT: Last year, the baseball team received an at-large bid to the NCAA National Baseball Tournament. Do you think this year's team can top that effort?

AP: Absolutely. So many guys got a taste of success on last year's team, and we put countless hours in during the offseason to take our team's abilities to the next level. The first step to topping last year's effort is to win the conference tournament.

RT: Are there any obstacles this year's team would have to overcome to win the HCAC Tournament?

AP: For each game, we need to make the routine plays routinely, secure 27 outs, and keep all thrown balls off the ground. Every guy on the team has to pull on the same end of the rope. If we do that, we can't lose.

RT: Do you have any activities or hobbies outside of baseball?

AP: Right now, I'm trying to enjoy a little free time now that senior design is over. My biggest hobbies are hunting, fishing, and golfing. I also have a special girl in my life that takes up a bunch of my time.

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

AP: Hopefully the answer to that question is yet to come...

Pinkstaff added the following comment:

Thanks for the honor of being selected. There were other guys who had more hits and deserved it more, but it means a lot as a senior going out.

Engineer Scoreboard

Men's Tennis
13-8 (7-1)

May 2*—Indianapolis, Ind.	
Manchester College	0
vs. Rose-Hulman	9
May 3*—Indianapolis, Ind.	
Defiance College	4
vs. Rose-Hulman	5
May 3*—Indianapolis, Ind.	
Transylvania Univ.	5
vs. Rose-Hulman	1

Baseball
29-11 (13-6)

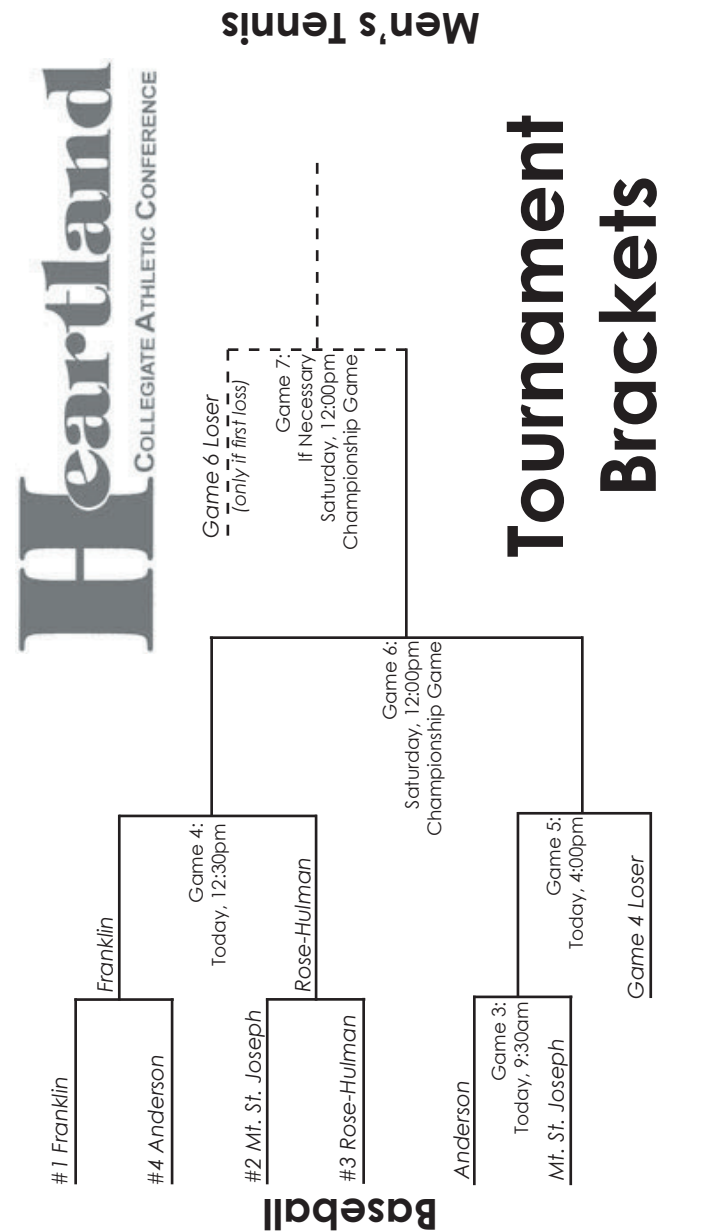
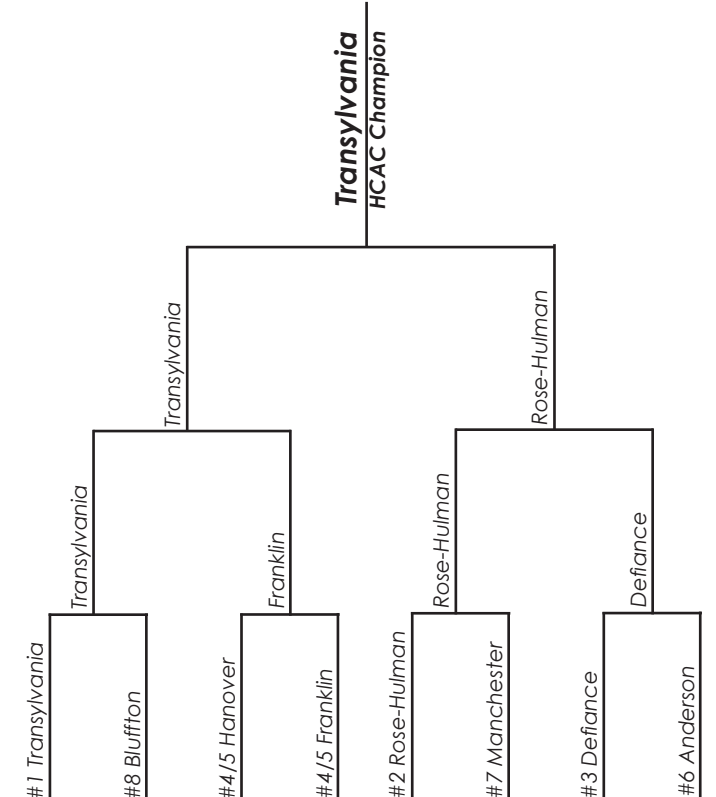
May 2	
Defiance College	1
at Rose-Hulman	11
May 2	
Defiance University	1
at Rose-Hulman	12
May 3	
Defiance College	1
at Rose-Hulman	23
May 7*—Franklin, Ind.	
Franklin College	5
vs. Rose-Hulman	15

Men's Golf

May 1 & 2

Heartland Championships
North Bend, Ohio

5th of 8



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The Bird's Guide to Bees

James Zhou

Jay walker

Chirp! Spring is here, flowers are blooming, female humans are wearing skirts, and the air is abuzz with those little packets of protein called bees. Yes, it is truly a great time for the recent fledging *Merops apiaster*. However, I should warn you that it is often difficult and dangerous to pursue bees. Contrary to their nomenclature, honeybees are not always sweet, in neither disposition nor taste. They are very aggressive and territorial; they are also rather emo about it and quite willing to commit suicide at the slightest provocation. Thus, you must be careful how you approach bees, especially those who are only concerned about pricking you.

First of all, carry protection. Bee stingers, while sharp and

containing a small dose of melittin, are not very good at deep penetrations. Thus, you can protect yourself with an extra fluffy layer of down feathers, or by wrapping some plastic sheets around yourself. Your appearance is also very important when pursuing bees. Bees are much less likely to react in a negative manner when exposed to the earthy tones, so when you are grooming your feathers, be sure to use a mixture of pulped plant leaves and dirt. However, spreading crushed flowers on yourself would not be a good idea, as that may cause many bees to envelop you in an orgy of nectar feeding, which would leave you messy and disoriented in the morning.

So, have fun during the remaining spring evenings and remember not to drink too much fermented fruit juice before flying.

Swine Flu Vaccine Found!

Matt Melton

Sick, but not from pigs

In their latest national teleconference, researchers at the Mayo Clinic made a stunning announcement, declaring they found a vaccine for the dangerous new Swine Flu:

Enroll at Rose-Hulman.

"Yes, it sounds crazy," says Dr. Siam Monzekee, head of epidemiology research at the clinic, "but it's simply the perfect storm of geographical isolation and a radical natural cure."

The flu, which has yet to spread to our secluded campus or local city, affects its victims by creating what is called a "cytokine storm." The storm is basically an over-reactance of the victim's immune system, causing it to harm itself instead of protect it. Rose-Hulman students appear to be relatively unaffected by these storms because their immune systems are already weaker than Purdue's Engineering Department.

"With all the drinking, late night studying, drinking, homework all-nighters, and, of course, drinking that most Rose-Hulman students do," states the school's physician, Dr. Bob, "the students simply have no immune system to turn against them. I'd be more worried about the normal flu affecting our students than this one. That or something like mono. Wait, not mono. There's no way that could spread on our campus."

As for why other viruses don't harm the students due to their weakened immune systems, we return to Dr. Monzekee.

"The only theory we have on that is once again the alcohol. By constantly maintaining a BAC above 0.1, the students create an environment within their body that the viruses simply cannot live in. Thus, it is now a fact that other colleges' students drink because they can, while Rose-Hulman students drink to survive."

A random student's response to this surprising piece of information: "Sweetz! We'll drunk to that tonite! [sic]"

The researchers at the Mayo Clinic have now begun searching for ways to apply this research to those already affected by the Swine Flu, albeit with little success.

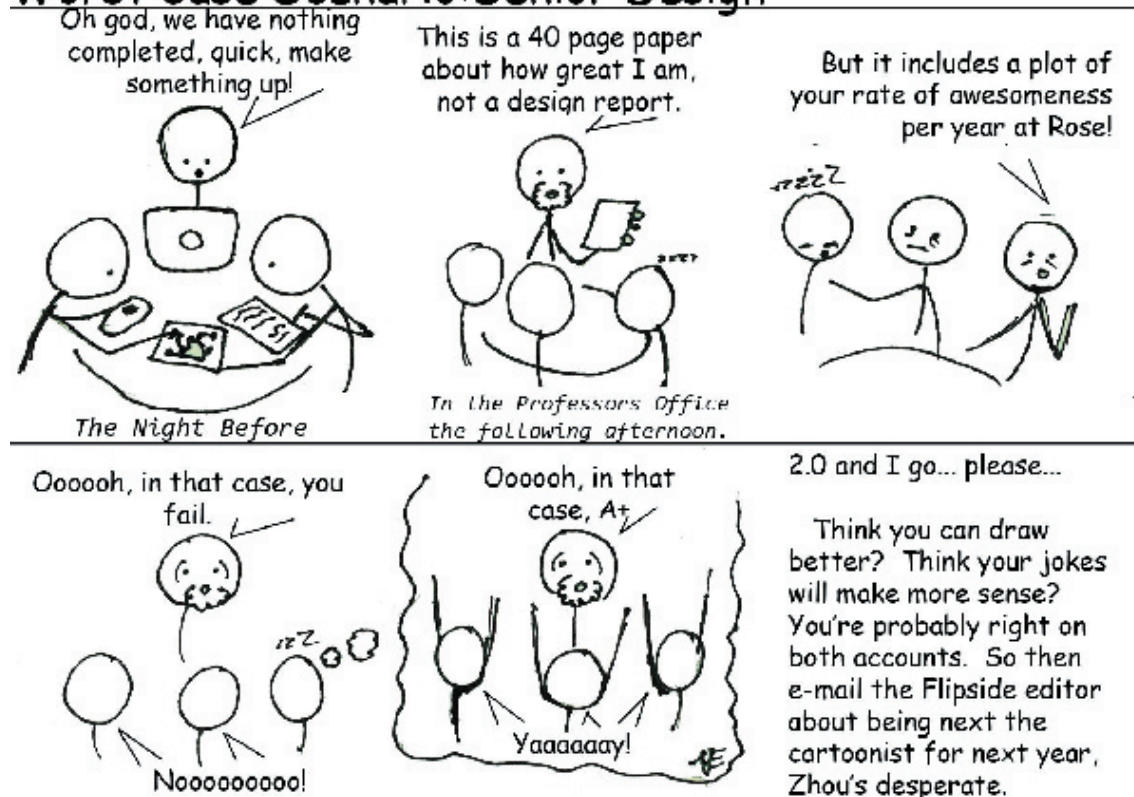
"Normal people simply can't function with so little sleep and so much alcohol," says one researcher. "It would take months, maybe even years, for someone to develop those tolerances. Plus, it's pretty damn expensive unless you like Natty Ice."

Researchers have given suggestions on how to begin developing these tolerances and thus a weakened immune system via what is being called "The Rose-Hulman Method." Here are some of the most effective activities:

- Drink more. For starters, turn 21 now.
- Move into your local frat house.
- Take any MA class that begins with a 5.
- Buy a Playstation 3, then maintain a 3.8 with it.
- Maintain a 3.8, period.
- Pick up a double major.
- Get a girlfriend who doesn't go to Rose and has the free time to talk to you.

These simple tips should start you on your way to destroying your immune system and thus surviving the swine flu pandemic. Until that happens, remember to always wash your hands, play more video games, and of course, bottoms up!

Worst Case Scenario: Senior Design



Nick Easter - Burnt Out Cartoonist.

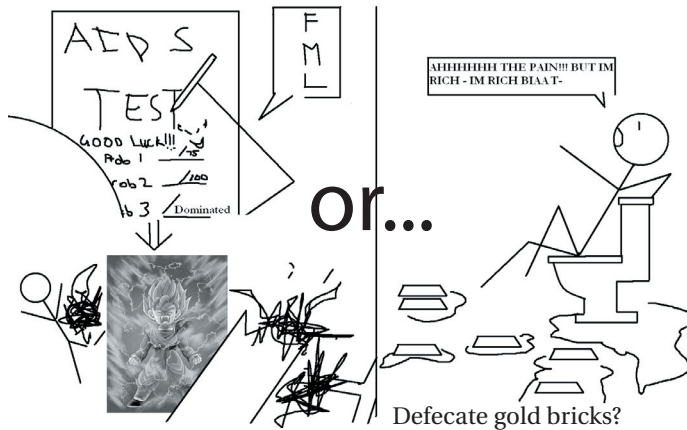
Would you rather?:

Heroes Edition

Hobey Tam

Colliding isotopes of golden humor

Would you rather be able to spontaneously create small explosions...



This day...

1930: Paramount Pictures is formed. The greatest movie of all time was made, but due to censorship, was never released to the general public. It was all downhill from there.

...in history

Top "10" Ten Top Ten Things Not to Say on Twitter

Matt Melton

Tweets without restraint

10. Why is my boyfriend a %@#^?
9. Honey, I'm breaking up with you... Ladies, I'm single!
8. Going to work for the %@#^ slave driver again... Screw the slave driver! Who wants to go to the beach?
7. Forgot my girlfriend's b'day. Where can I get flowers at 3 am?
6. Anyone know where my purple hummer is? I think I left it unlocked with my keys in it...
5. I'm sitting at the bar at Sonka's, 3rd stool from the left. What's the name of this hot girl I'm talking to?
4. Anyone wanna watch Pirates with me? (minus the Carribean?)
3. House Party at 6th&Cherry! Bring the beer!
2. Does this entry smell like chloroform to you?
 1. Anyone know the energy of an infinite well at its lowest energy level? The Modern Physics test ends in 5 minutes.

Wacky prof quotes

"In general, if the preacher comes and wants to take your son 'flower-picking'...not a good idea."
— Dr. Minster, who would be upset if you mistake him for a minister.

"A rational person would have said at some point 'Mason, you're not that smart.'"
— Dr. Mason, fishing for insults, ironically

"Gahyaghyaghyaghyaghy!"
— Dr. Artigue, who is trying to learn Klingon before the new Star Trek movie opens.

"What can ethanol do, other than make you regret a whole host of bad life decisions?"
— Dr. Mrs. DeVasher. Have the time of your life by temporarily lowering your inhibitions against doing stupid, yet fun, activities?

"Well done guys, you pounded that out, showed it no mercy."
— Dr. Moloney, overseeing a circular arrangement of students.

"It's grown about six inches. We should be able to see that."
— Dr. Stienstra, talking about the reaction of rods to hot environments.

"This falls under the category of 'Mother Nature is a bitch'"
— Dr. Thomas, who hit a deer, got pooped on by a bird, and swallowed a fly on the way to class.

"Water, you can take a bath in it, it's good stuff."
— Dr. Morris, unaware of the dangers of dihydrogen monoxide.

"Here is a bad example, it needs a time out."
— Dr. Holder, who adheres to the old fashioned methods of teaching.

"It means something. But in this case it means you're wrong."
— Dr. Thomas, teaching the Methodology of Jerks.

"Who's had economics? And passed?"
— Dr. Hanson, who had economics. And failed. That's why he thought it would be a good idea to be a professor.

"This paper is made from seedling trees --- it's veal!"
— Dr. Clifton, who likes small radial differences between their growth rings.

"True or False: Jack Daniels relies on Darcy's Law to develop its smooth taste."
— Dr. Houghtalen. Darcy has refused to divulge her law.