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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Apple introduces new iMacs

Apple Computer announced on Wednesday new iMac computers featuring chips from Intel's Core 2 Duo 64-bit processor family. The new computers ship with a host of features, including a built-in webcam, the iLife creative suite, Front Row multimedia entertainment software, and an 8x slot-loading DVD/CD writer/reader. The new machines mark Apple's first use of Intel's newest processor. The Core 2 Duo, the first in a line of microchips based on a brand-new architecture, was launched on July 27 and put Intel back on top, knocking off rival Advanced Micro Devices (AMD). Apple's newest computer is currently shipping. More information on the iMac can be found at www.apple.com.

Phone telepathy a reality

Have you experienced the phenomena of thinking of a friend or relative and having that individual contact you shortly thereafter? A scientist from Trinity University in Cambridge, England claims he has proof that this coincidence may not be as coincidental as common sense would suggest. Individuals who participated in the experiment were able to correctly guess who was calling them 45% of the time. "The hit rate was 45 percent, well above the 25 percent you would have expected," said Rupert Sheldrake, the researcher who headed the study, "the odds against this being a chance effect are 1,000 billion to one."

Bush acknowledges secret prisons

President Bush acknowledged in a speech on Wednesday that the CIA maintained secret prisons outside of the United States where prisoners captured in the war on terrorism were held. According to the President, the terrorists from these secret prisons have provided information necessary to stop new attacks around the world. The President said that this information "has saved innocent lives." Wednesday also marked the Pentagon's introduction of new regulations concerning prisoner treatment in detention facilities. Fourteen of detainees who are "high-level" in the CIA prisons are to be transferred to Pentagon control at Guantanamo Bay where they will stand trial by military tribunal. Torture was not allowed in the CIA prisons. "They [the detainees] are in our custody so they cannot murder our people," said the President.

“I’m here for the students” Jakubowski answers questions and concerns at open forum

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

At 5pm yesterday, Rose-Hulman's 13th President, Gerald Jakubowski, participated in a question and answer session hosted by the SGA in Hatfield Hall for students. Sixty-six students attended the conference to hear what our new president had to say about the future of Rose-Hulman. SGA President Riley Buttry began the conference by introducing the president: Jakubowski came from the largest university in the country, Arizona State University. There, he served as provost and dean of their polytechnic institute. "I'm here for the students, all the faculty and staff are here for the students," he stressed. "It's all for the students....I want you to feel very comfortable coming to the President's office just to chat."

As for making changes around Rose, the president wants to get to know the Rose-Hulman culture before instituting any changes. Jakubowski indicated that he wanted to meet 100% of the faculty and staff. He also indicated that he especially wanted to meet the students and get to know our goals at Rose. When asked about faculty who aren't as friendly, "If a faculty member is not providing that 'warm fuzzy feeling' and they do not have tenure, I will make sure they don't get tenure here. If they do have tenure, we will work with them to try to do a better job." Jakubowski has already gotten involved – for starters, he has attended tailgating events and hallympics. One event that really impressed him was last Saturday's football game. "I was just very proud, very, very proud to be associated with Rose-Hulman," exclaimed Jakubowski. "The Pep

Band sounded terrific. The cheerleaders were fantastic, and the football team just really looked fantastic." A large part of what impressed the president was school spirit. "[I saw] more school spirit than all my time at ASU, and I think that's a credit to each of you." "One of the nice things about being the [new] president is you don't know a lot of things, but I brought Tammy [Shaffer, his executive assistant], and if Tammy doesn't know, we'll ask Pete." At that time, the president opened the floor to questions. One freshman from Scharpenberg asked, "What are a few of your ideas for changes in the school?" Jakubowski reiterated that he wanted to get to know Rose first. However, he indicated the general approach he intends to try: "We have a fantastic institution," explained Jakubowski.

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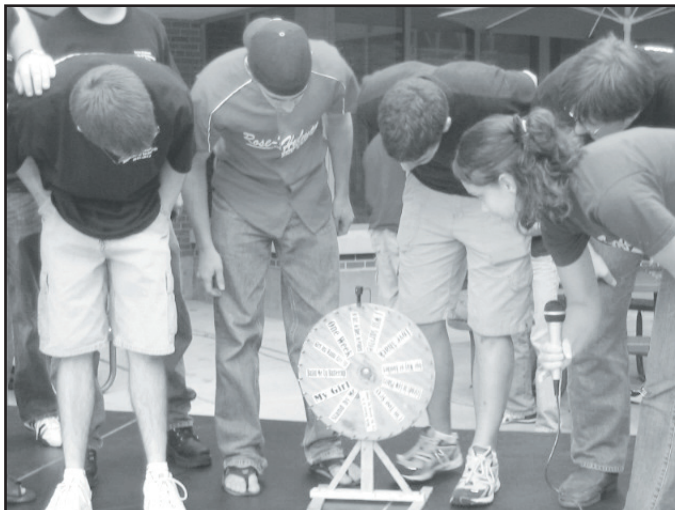
Christina Davis / Rose Thorn
Dr. Jakubowski addresses student questions at the open forum Thursday.

A Hallympics for the Ages



Christina Davis and Albert Mui / Rose Thorn

Students from all corners of campus turned out for the annual Hallympics competition. After more than half-a-dozen competitions, Speed emerged victorious.



Final Standings

- 1 - Speed
- 2 - Apartments
- 3 - Scharpenberg
- 4 - Deming
- 5 - Blumberg / Skinner
- 6 - Percopo
- 7 - BSB
- 8 - Mees

News

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Fall sports preview

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Flipside

"I'm already crunk about this year."

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Friday	Saturday
<p>September 8</p> <p>*Hallympics, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</p> <p>*Volleyball, Rose Invitational, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena</p>	<p>9</p> <p>*Blues at the Crossroads, All day, Wabash & 7th St.</p> <p>*Volleyball, Rose Invitational, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena</p> <p>*Women's/Men's soccer games, 12:00 p.m./2:00 p.m., Jim Rendel field</p> <p>*Football game, 6:00 p.m., Cook Stadium</p>
<p>15</p> <p>*Career Services' Senior Seminar, 3:30 p.m., PA Room</p> <p>*CSSE: Tori Bowman of Rockwell Collins, 4:20 p.m., O167</p>	<p>16</p> <p>*Women's/Men's soccer games, 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., Jim Rendel field</p> <p>*IM Golf scramble tournament</p> <p>*Football game, 1:30 p.m., Cook Stadium</p>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
10	11	12	13	14
*Panhellenic ice cream social, 12:00 p.m., Jim Rendel field *Women's and Men's soccer games, 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., Jim Rendel field *Indianapolis Colts' Opening Night, 8:00 p.m., Chauncey's	*Homecoming Queen candidate applications Available *Quarterback Club Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Chauncey's *Career Services' Senior Seminar, 4:30 p.m., PA Room	*IM Tennis registration deadline *Career Services' Senior Seminar, 4:30 p.m., PA Room *Graduate school workshop, 5:30 p.m., Kahn rooms *Panhellenic information meeting, 7:00 p.m., M137	*IM Golf scramble registration deadline *Game room foosball tournament registration, Chauncey's *Career Services' Senior Seminar, 4:30 p.m., PA Room	*Game room foosball tournament registration, Chauncey's *Career Services' Senior Seminar, 4:30 p.m., PA Room

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*“Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed
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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. TWO 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.

Jakubowski, from Page 1

"I want to challenge the faculty and the staff to look at other institutions and see what's really going on," and how that could be used at Rose. Some schools he mentioned included Harvey Mudd (who tied Rose-Hulman for its #1 U.S. News ranking), Wooster Polytechnic, Kettering, Bradley, Lehigh, and Lafayette. Jakubowski indicated that many of those schools are instituting business and management-oriented curriculums, but said that it was just one thing to consider.

Senior mechanical engineering major Andrew Johnson asked about the size of the institute. "Do you think Rose has a good number [of students]? Or do you think it should grow to another size, like 2500 students?" Jakubowski felt that the one-on-one attention given to students was a big reason to remain a smaller size. "That's what makes Rose-Hulman special. That's what sets us apart from other institutions. We don't want students to turn into a number."

When asked about plans for Crapo and other buildings, Jakubowski proposed the possibility of putting in a new building that could house the ABBE and math departments as well as new chem and bio labs. Student project groups and research could take the space in Crapo.

Paul Meyer, a senior mechanical engineering major, commented that "New buildings are expensive, as well as tuition here. How are you going to control that?" The president pointed out briefly that as part of the Association of Independent Technical Universities, Rose-Hulman's tuition is in the bottom third. That being said, "We have to try to hold tuition costs down. We have to increase the endowment, increase the scholarships and financial aid."

Diversity was brought up and discussed by a few students. "What can we do to increase diversity on campus, and how important do you think it is?" asked graduate student Whitney Cotton.

The president mentioned that just this day, he had been working on diversity at Rose. "Diversity is very important in my mind," explained Jakubowski. "We're going to do something about it; we're not just going to pay lip service to it. There's a whole litany of things we're going to do."

Jakubowski indicated that diversity is not just race, but that there were eight categories of diversity he was concerned with. This list includes cultural background, gender, socio-economic

background, and diversity in geographical background, not just racial. "First of all, we need to make sure we have an affirmative action program in place," said Jakubowski, indicating that one was put in place this past summer. The current policy focuses on ensuring that search committees actively search out and engage potential candidates and that in addition to posting positions in technical magazines, minority technical magazines would also get an ad. "We'll also work on programs promoting diversity on campus to promote tolerance and acceptance." Jakubowski then went on to emphasize the acceptance aspect being an important next step to tolerance.

"I'm concerned about the weight of affirmative action in admissions," expressed one student, checking to see if Rose would adopt an admission system that would allow for lower standards for students of color. "The answer is no," Jakubowski said. "We will not lower our standards for students of color. There are plenty of qualified students of color out there, we just have to reach them."

Senior Emma Hegwood commented that "our institution needs a little bit more culture. Do you have any ideas for doing that?" she asked. The president confabulated that "Education from between the covers of a book is a small fraction of a college education. You have to develop yourself ... morally and socially."

"How do you see Rose-Hulman's role in the community now, and how it could be in the future?" inquired Senior electrical engineering major Robb Lauer. "We have to be seen as a positive force, as a contributing force," responded Jakubowski. "I've heard some of the things Rose-Hulman students do in Terre Haute, and I think that's a wonderful thing. We need to be visible in the community."

Junior software engineering major Zach Blankenbaker mentioned that in the recent past, some programs in development were cut without "due consideration." Specifically, he asked about the Masters of Software Engineering. "We're going to have a deep dialogue about Masters programs," replied Jakubowski. "I think it's possible to start Masters programs in certain areas without losing the nurturing character of Rose-Hulman," he explained.

As for plans to teach? – Not this year; he wants to get out and meet alumni, but hopefully, he'll have the opportunity next year.

Steve Irwin killed by stingray

Albert Mui
Staff Writer

Earlier this week, while shooting a documentary in the Great Barrier Reef, Steve Irwin, the world-renowned naturalist famous for wrestling crocodiles and the word "crikey," was struck in the chest by a stingray barb and was unable to recover. He was 44 years young.

Known worldwide as 'The Crocodile Hunter', Irwin was famous for his fearless antics in the presence of wild, exotic, and sometimes dangerous animals. Irwin received exceptional acclaim for his work in establishing the Australia Zoo, which he single-handedly transformed from a small reptile park into one of the major wildlife centers in Australia.

He was also famous for his many in-depth crocodile documentaries. Irwin's wildlife television series, "The Crocodile Hunter", was wildly successful and was broadcast to more than 200 million people in over 122 countries.

Irwin used his worldwide recognition to illuminate his efforts as a conservationist and as a symbol of Australia as a whole. The 'Croc Hunter' was heavily involved in the promotion of environmentalism and the protection of endangered species, and he even went so far as to purchase land tracts in Australia, Vanuatu, Fiji, and the United States in order to set them aside as pseudo 'national parks'. He was also an adamant voice against illegal animal poaching and land clearing that resulted in habitat loss.

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Point-counterpoint: *Snakes on a Plane*

Snakes is on point



Bill Waite
Entertainment
Editor

"I've had it with these MF snakes on this MF plane! Everybody strap in!" Special Agent Neville Flynn (Samuel L. Jackson) shot a hole in the plane's window, creating a high-altitude vacuum that threatened to pull the passengers from the plane. Debris flew at the window with enough force to tear a hole that expanded from the original bullet hole to a six-foot-wide chasm in the plane's wall. After about 90 seconds, the vacuum pulled the last snake from the plane and flight simulation enthusiast Troy McDaniel (Kenan Thompson) was able to lower the plane to an altitude with breathable air.

That scene was the ultimate topper to a hilariously bad movie. Nobody will deny that *Snakes on a Plane* is stupid, but we all knew that before it came out. I went in expecting a funny bad movie, and I

got more than I could've hoped. *Snakes on a Plane* was the perfect combination of intentional and accidental humor, and director David R. Ellis (*Final Destination 2*) wasn't afraid to blur the line between comedy and incompetence.

Most bad movies are funny in parts, but they rarely stay entertaining the whole time. Between the plot holes and the dei ex machinis, there is always a "buildup" scene with nothing to laugh at simply because nothing is happening. *SoaP*'s writers avoided that problem by including a petty, melodramatic argument in every scene. And when there was a quiet moment, Ellis built the suspense with a snake's eye view of the next victim.

Snakes on a Plane also featured some of Ellis' trademark creative death scenes. But instead of *Final Destination*'s cool, elaborate deaths, *SoaP* was loaded with juvenile joke deaths. One woman, while having sex in a lava-

tory, was killed by a snake bite to the nipple; a man in another lavatory was bitten on the groin. Ellis knew exactly what *Snakes on a Plane* needed, and these scenes were a perfect fit.

Though Ellis seemed to know that *SoaP* would be a bad movie, he wisely kept his actors in the dark. Many of the characters in *Snakes on a Plane* were written as caricatures, from the snobby rich guy to the megastar rapper with OCD. A self-conscious actor could easily go over the top with a bad Will Ferrell impersonation, but Ellis ensured that the actors played their characters sincerely. Even the seasoned Jackson did his best to make his contrived one-liners sound heroic.

Snakes on a Plane was stupid, but because of Ellis' efforts, watching it was far more rewarding than just laughing at someone else's incompetence. I would recommend *Snakes on a Plane* to anyone who can enjoy a good bad movie.

SoaP doesn't wash



Lissa Avery
Editor-in-
Chief

There were snakes. And they were on an airplane. Aside from that, there weren't many redeeming qualities to the movie.

The writing and acting were awful. The forcefully-inserted racial joke between Samuel L. Jackson and the flight attendant fell flat enough that I had trouble recognizing it as a joke at first. Julianna Margulies and Nathan Phillips were about the only actors who could deliver a line at all.

The height of the horribly-delivered lines was the one line – *the only line* – that Jackson had to get right. You know, that line that was the reason everyone wanted to see the movie?

That was perhaps the worst delivery of the movie. In the middle of nothing, dramatic music is cued and Jackson states it. He doesn't even *proclaim* it or

declare it. He just says it.

On top of that disappointment, the movie was shocking and gross just to be shocking and gross. There was nudity and sex and genitalia violence with no purpose aside from making people cringe (or laugh, sadly enough). The spewing foam as a result of snake bites was a bit over the top, too. It was like they didn't think they could get the R rating safely without it or the sex.

More painful than the snake-bites-man's-crotch scene are the stereotypes in the movie. Pick a stereotype about a culture or ethnicity, and it's there. *Then* the movie tries to be clever by making people look like stereotypes, then switching it up excitedly by showing that they aren't, in

fact, stereotypes. So... we have a stereotypical rapper character that has obsessive-compulsive disorder. See, they broke the stereotype. Who knew that rappers and thugs could have disorders, too?

And Jackson himself... The man made me sad. His age showed. He moved

like an old man with a bad back trying desperately to look sprightly. His presence in the film came



across as another one of his attempts to do something "cool", like *Formula 51*. And I usually like Jackson.

There were cool moments in the movie – like the taser – but that's all they were: moments. As a whole, *Snakes* was unentertaining and wantonly gross.

New Super Mario Bros.

Ryan Schultz
News Editor

The original Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) heralded a new direction for the videogame industry. And, without question, *the* game for the venerable NES was *Super Mario Bros.* The original was revolutionary; it gave the gaming world its Mickey Mouse and simultaneously changed the course of platform development.

So I suppose it's fitting that Nintendo DS, the most revolutionary hand-held console on the market, has what amounts to a remix of the original *Super Mario Bros.* Yes, those of you who were hoping for something truly revolutionary in *New Super Mario Bros.*, (*NSMB*) will be disappointed. However, if all you really wanted was a nostalgic platformer, you will love this game.

NSMB starts just as the original did, with Princess Peach being kidnapped by Bowser (in this game, Bowser Jr. is the main bad-guy...his dad is his backup). It is your job as the fearless, heroic, and ever-so-cute Italian plumber Mario to save your love from the clutches of Bowser Jr..

At your disposal is Mario's trademark jumping ability as well as the standard mushroom, fireflower, and invincibility. *NSMB* also includes power-ups and moves from more recent Mario games, like wall-jumping, triple jumping, ground pound, a gigantic mushroom, and a turtle-shell powerup.

Graphically, the game is trademark Mario. Ever since the original *Super Mario Bros.*, the Mario world has been typified by bright primary colors, and this game has them in spades. The game uses

the DS's capability for real-time 3D graphics by having all major characters rendered in 3D, while most background elements and platforms are 2D. This is an interesting effect, and, at first look, is startlingly cool.

The gameplay, while predictable, is excellent. Each level consists of Mario jumping from platform to platform, crawling through tubes, and swimming through water to get from start to finish. And while that sounds repetitive, there are enough goodies to collect, enough enemies to bash, and enough creative elements that things never get too monotonous, though some of the levels are perhaps a bit too short.

Of all of the first-rate aspects of the game, the sound is one area where things are not quite as polished. Even with a good set of speakers, the sound still had those "I'm playing this on a hand-held" artifacts. The new soundtrack is good, if a bit inconsistent. For the above-ground levels, the game designers wrote new music, but the below-ground music and all sound effects are straight from the original. If anything, this makes the above-ground music seem out of place. Honestly, I would have preferred the original music all the way through the game.

In addition to the extensive single-player mission, *NSMB* is also playable by two people via the DS's built-in wifi. The two-player battles are fun enough, but get old after a few minutes. The game also includes more than 20 more-fun-than-I-expected minigames which utilize the DS's stylus and can be played solo or competitively.

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Summer music rundown

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor Emeritus

Before I jump into all of the new records coming out this fall, I'd like to take a look at some of the albums from this past summer. Two of these are from elder statesmen of music, while the last is from a small band in comparison.



Thom Yorke
The Eraser

Being a huge Radiohead fan like many people, I was not alone in my excitement when it was announced that Thom Yorke was releasing his own album. However, it seemed odd for an artist of Yorke's fame to announce his debut only two months before its release date. Was he afraid of creating too much hype for a work that he was completely aware was not up to Radiohead par?

After hearing *The Eraser*, I think the answer is more than likely yes. I enjoyed listening to it for a few weeks, but the hard truth is that it's impossible to listen to a Thom Yorke album without drawing comparisons to Radiohead's catalogue. And frankly, *The Eraser* sounds more like "The Glooming" than "Paranoid Android", in both genre and quality. It's filled with various electronic loops, beeps, and synthesizer work. This all makes for a pretty monotonous album, and not many of the songs stick longer than a few listens.

While not brilliant, *The Eraser* does reach great heights a few times, like "Cymbal Rush" and the title track. "Atoms for Peace" is the best song, and could stand firm next to any of Radiohead's work. Luckily for listeners, Thom actually uses his vocal talent for *The Eraser*, which really does help. I'd recommend the album, but with the disclaimer that you'd better be a huge Yorke fan.



Sonic Youth
Rather Ripped

Sonic Youth have released over 20 records. They've been together since 1981. When I think of bands at that age, horrible memories of the New York Dolls reunion or U2's last album come to mind. However, Sonic Youth possess a

relentless ability to continue releasing good records, and *Rather Ripped* is no exception to the trend.

Don't expect *Daydream Nation*, though, in any shape or form. *Rather Ripped* will not blow you away (or turn you off, depending on your taste) like that classic album. It's more likely to make you tap your feet and bob your head. These are great pop-rock songs. Almost every track follows a typical verse/chorus pattern, and there's very little noise involved.

But perhaps I'm exaggerating the gap between Sonic Youth's other work and *Rather Ripped*. Thurston Moore sounds just as stoic as ever, and Kim Gordon still can't sing. They're still avoiding the big budget sound. None of these songs sound fit for radio play, and *Rather Ripped* fits easily into the Sonic Youth catalogue while still having its own identity.



Murder by Death
In Bocca Al Lupo

I have to admit that I have a bias for this band. Their last album *Who Will Survive and What Will be Left of Them?* is one of my all-time favorites. If you ever see a guy walking around with a Murder by Death shirt on, it's probably me. So obviously I was as excited about *In Bocca Al Lupo*'s release as I've ever been for a record. The lead single "Brother" only added to my anticipation, as it's one of the best tracks recorded this year. A rockabilly beat keeps the song exciting as Adam Turla tells the fictitious tale of his selfish brother - "I know there's better brothers, but you're the only one that's mine."

As it turns out, all of *In Bocca Al Lupo* is about shady people committing wrongs against the innocent. In "Dynamite Mine" a man commits murder, only to have the mine collapse on him as he's burying the body. Talk about swift retribution. *The Fall of the House of Usher* inspired "Shiola", the story of a man who grieves over the loss of his family.

While the story arc from *Who Will Survive* is still present, the unabashed rocking out is not. Only once on *In Bocca Al Lupo*, during the forceful "Sometimes the Line Walks You", does the band really let loose. This lack of aggression is what ultimately makes *In Bocca Al Lupo* inferior to Murder by Death's previous record. Even so, it's an inspired album from an inspiring band, and contains some of the most emotionally effective songs I've heard for some time.

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New Orleans: wet or dry?



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

New Orleans: the birthplace of jazz, the home of Cajun food, and the what should be the future location of the Lake Pontchartrain Marina and Yacht Club's A through F docks. On the one year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina's devastating impact on the Gulf Coast, we find New Orleans less than halfway rebuilt, still below sea level (though dry, at least), and costing the nation several billion dollars more than it rightfully should.

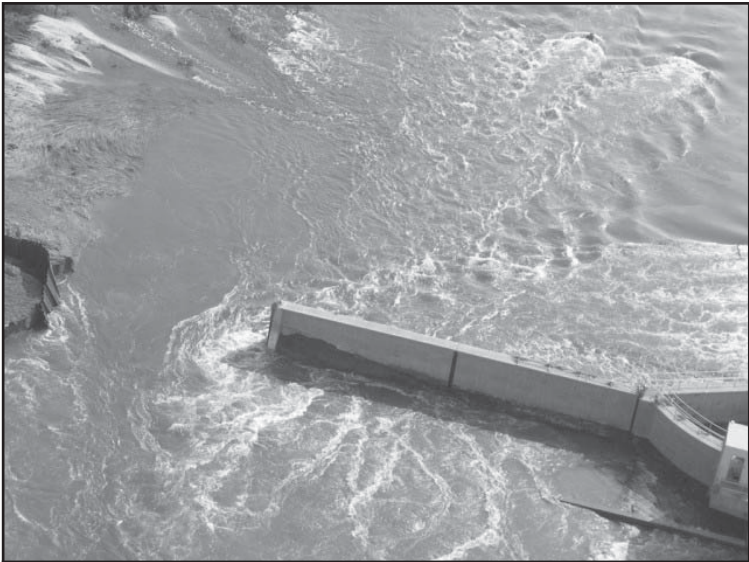
Do not misconstrue my point. Hurricane Katrina was a terrible disaster and one of the most tragic events with regards to loss of life and property to happen on American soil in recent history. However, the state it left the infrastructure of New

Orleans in did not warrant the decision to pump the city dry and attempt to rebuild the ruined city.

First of all, New Orleans should be under water to begin with. Most of the city is below sea level, and the city itself is surrounded by water: Lake Pontchartrain in the north, the Mississippi River to the south, and Lake Borgne to the east. The only thing holding these three teeming bodies of water at bay are a system of dikes, levees, and pumps that keep the city from flooding, much like pushing a bowl right side up into the bathtub so that the water just meets the bowl's edge while keeping the inside dry.

Seeing as how the only thing keeping New Orleans from becoming Lake New Orleans was a system of man-made structures, a catastrophic flood was inevitable, be it from a natural disaster or simple human negligence. Despite the current efforts to rebuild the system, failure will happen again, taking life and property with it.

Even if the citizens of New Orleans refuse to accept the fallibility of the manmade structures



http://bbsnews.net/bbsn_photos/hurricane_katrina
A broken levee in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

surrounding them, they must acknowledge, like everyone living on the east coast and the Gulf of Mexico, that it's not a question of if a hurricane will hit their homes, but when.

Led by Mayor Ray Nagin, New Orleans continues to cry out for federal aid to rebuild their homes and places of business. This entire concept is preposter-

ous: why should taxpayers across the entire nation be responsible for replacing the homes of people who decided to live in an area that was undoubtedly going to get hit by hurricanes every year? This winter, if I park my car underneath a large sheet of ice hanging off my roof and the car gets crushed when the ice falls off, will the federal govern-

ment pay for it? I don't think so. The government should not bail out negligent people who let bad things happen to them.

The price tag of saving the city this time around has already been too high, with costs for the total Gulf Coast reconstruction approaching and projected to surpass that of the 1994 Northridge earthquake in California, the most expensive disaster in U.S. history before Katrina, which cost nearly \$7 billion.

And this is just the first iteration.

Every taxpayer will be shouldering the cost of the reconstruction every time this level of devastation happens, and seeing as we are seemingly in the middle of a trend in which hurricanes are increasing in quantity and ferocity each year, another decimation of the city may come sooner than you think. Each time a new hurricane threatens the area, New Orleans will be at risk for another catastrophic flood, regardless of how well they think they are prepared. How many billions of dollars and human lives will New Orleans destroy before we realize that it's a lost cause?

Letter to the Editor

As a professor of Physics and director of the Oakley Observatory, I am very surprised by the emotional, negative response that many students have expressed to me regarding Pluto being demoted from planetary status. This issue is purely scientific in nature and should be treated logically, not emotionally.

First, defining and categorizing natural objects is a useful scientific activity. It helps scientists to understand phenomena and to communicate with each other. The IAU is the appropriate organization to define what is meant, scientifically, by a planet. The IAU definition is based on purely logical criteria involving gravitational interactions. First, a planet must be massive enough that its own gravity determines its shape (nearly spherical). Second, a planet cannot be gravitationally bound to any object, other than the Sun. This excludes natural satellites of planets such as our own moon or the large moons of Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune. Finally, a planet must be by far the most massive object at its distance from the Sun so that it gravitationally controls the region of space around it. This means that planets have either gravitationally attracted or expelled other large objects with similar orbits.

Pluto fails to meet this last criteria. Pluto is simply not massive enough to gravitationally control its region of space as the eight defined planets do. If you look up the mass of Pluto you will see just how different Pluto is from the defined planets. Pluto's mass is less than 1/25 th the mass of the smallest planet, Mercury. In fact, Pluto's mass is less than the mass of seven of the moons of planets including our own moon.

In addition, Pluto's orbit is actually gravitationally controlled by Neptune. Pluto orbits the Sun twice for every three orbits of Neptune. This complicated motion keeps Pluto from ever coming too close to Neptune. This fact is never mentioned by the Pluto supporters.

So how could such a small object have been called a planet in the first place? In 1930, Pluto's discoverer, Clyde Tombaugh, was searching for a planet based on calculations that predicted a planet beyond Neptune.

When he found a moving object in approximately the right place, he naturally assumed he had found the predicted planet. He was also mislead about the size of Pluto. He had no way of precisely determining the mass of the object he saw but he could estimate its mass based on how bright it appeared. We now know that Pluto is brighter than its mass would indicate because it is actually two objects: Pluto and its moon Charon.

Tombaugh could not resolve the two separate objects. There is historical precedence for demoting an object from planetary status. In 1801, Giuseppe Piazzi discovered Ceres. Ceres is in an orbit between

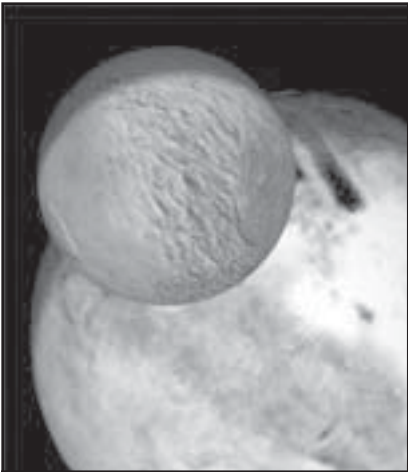
Mars and Jupiter where a planet had been predicted to exist.

This prediction, based on something known as the Titius-Bode rule, had even less scientific merit than the calculations predicting a planet beyond Neptune, but when the discovery of Ceres was announced it was immediately hailed as the missing planet. Ceres was demoted from planetary status when other objects of similar size were soon discovered in similar orbits. No one had time to form emotional attachments to Ceres as a planet.

And that is really the crux of the emotional argument for continuing to call Pluto a planet. It was nearly 70 years between the discovering of Pluto and the beginning of the discovery of other objects with similar size and similar orbits. But just because we have gotten used to having nine planets, and have formed a fondness for Pluto, that is no reason for ignoring the basic science which the IAU has correctly addressed.

Demoting Pluto from planetary status in no way diminishes Clyde Tombaugh's accomplishment. It took 70 years and the development of much more powerful telescopes and more sensitive detectors for astronomers to duplicate his feat. Astronomers, who have sat at a telescope for hours on end while guiding an exposure, know and appreciate better than anyone what a remarkable man Clyde Tombaugh was. His work will not be forgotten by science.

Richard Ditteon
Professor of Physics and Optical Engineering



space.cweb.nl/planet_news.html
In a recent definition released by the International Astronomical Union, Pluto, seen here with its moon Charon, is no longer considered a planet.

The meat you eat

Tiffany Parrott
Staff Writer

Approximately twenty-seven billion animals are slaughtered to feed the United States each year. These animals don't live happily on old McDonald's farm; they never feel soil under their feet, breath fresh air, and rarely see daylight. Because American farming corporations are mostly concerned with profit, they cram animals into the smallest space possible, give the most meager servings of tampered food and little water. Hormones and antibiotics are given to animals so they can grow large quickly and live in conditions that would normally extinguish the animals. For example, chickens' and turkeys' hearts grow so large from the hormones that their chests often become top-heavy and cause them to become crippled.

After being grown for mere months, farm animals such as pigs, sheep, cows, and chickens are sent to the slaughterhouse. They suffer inevitable cruel deaths of electric shock or sliced throats. Then, pigs, turkeys, and chickens are tied upside-down at the feet and dropped into scalding water to remove hair or feathers. Many

of them are remain completely conscious throughout this whole endeavor, because the electricity from the shock is set to a minimum in order to reduce the farmer's financial expenses.

While there is animal cruelty protection for cats and dogs, there is little for farming animals. It is known that pigs and chickens are



www.pbase.com/paul_teixeira
Huge chicken farms like this house chickens so closely together that they can hardly turn around.

of equal or greater intelligence than our beloved pets, yet they receive nowhere near the love.

Awareness of animal cruelty is

the main factor behind 5.7 million American's choice to become a vegetarian (U.S. Census 2000). And in addition to personal or moral satisfaction, vegetarians enjoy healthier hearts and longer lives than their fellow omnivores. Humans, dogs, cats, pigs, cows, sheep, and the rest of the animal kingdom can all distinguish between pleasure and pain; when they suffer, they scream too.

For non-veggies, there are other options to help reduce animal cruelty. Whole foods markets sell organic meat, eggs from free-range chickens, and organic milk. The meats sold at these stores are not saturated with harmful hormones, but come from animals who are grown naturally and not abused.

Ask the staff... about Pluto's reclassification

"At least we have a definition of a planet."
-Ryan Schultz, News Editor

"I don't see what the big deal is. It's not like Pluto isn't there anymore."
-Mike Jones, Entertainment Editor Emeritus

"Here's an alternative mnemonic:
My Very Energetic Mother Just Said Uh-oh... No Pluto!"
-Mike Ferguson, Sports Editor

Have an opinion but afraid
of commitment?

Write a letter to the editor!
opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Fall Sports at a Glance

Bob Prescott
Staff Writer

The 2006-07 Athletic Year quickly became a year of new. A new conference as Rose joins the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference, a new football coach as Offensive Coordinator Steve Englehart is promoted to head football coach, making him the second youngest head football coach in the NCAA, and a new women's basketball and golf coach as Jon Prevo is promoted to Head Women's Basketball and Golf coach.

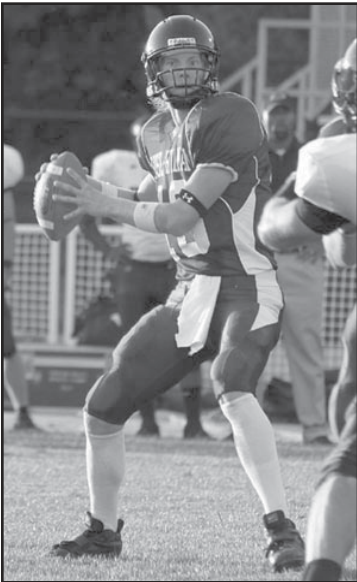
Football

In football, Rose-Hulman returns a few key starters including senior quarterback Cameron Hummel, a four year starter who ranks fifth on Rose's career list for passing yards (3,446) and completions (305), junior receiver Ryan Robinson who will lead a young receiving corps, and a strong offensive line led by four-year starter Tim Hachfeld.

On the defensive side of the ball, sophomore Paul Spreen makes the switch from linebacker to defensive end after earning first-team all-league honors last year, and senior Adam Helmerich enters his third year as a starter on the defensive line. Senior linebacker Tim Wilson, who earned team Defensive Player of the Year honors in 2005, lead a powerful group of linebackers featuring three year starter junior Steve Hawkins and junior Austin Hastings, while senior Mike Alto will lead the defensive backs this season.

Rose-Hulman football led off the season with a 24-17 win over Earlham College last Saturday evening.

Freshman quarterback Derek Eitel received the start over an injured Hummel and led a balanced offensive attack with the Engineers totaling at 130 rushing yards and 134 passing yards. The Engineers begin the season at 1-0 and host Mount St. Joseph on Saturday at 6 p.m. at Cook Stadium.



Rose Hulman News
Derek Eitel finished 13-23 for 134 yards, including a 40-yard pass.

Men's Soccer

In men's soccer, junior goalkeeper Trey Buck, after setting

school records with a 1.17 goals against average, 11 victories, 72 saves and .774 save average last season, leads a slew of 10 returning starters from a team that won a school record 12 games last season. Senior Yaw Aning, a three-time all-league honoree, leads the defensive effort with a host of four-year starters including seniors Chris Banner, Eric Hoiland, and Ray Throop. Seniors Erik Babcock and Billy Whitehouse round out the defensive/midfield attack.

The dynamic duo of senior David McIlwaine and junior Matt Trowbridge combined for 46 points and 19 goals last season to lead the historic Rose-Hulman offense. Sophomore Trevor Miller returns to the Engineer lineup after a solid freshman effort with four goals and five assists in 16 games.

Rose-Hulman began the season 1-0-1 with a 2-1 victory over Blackburn College and a 1-1 tie against Greenville College in the first annual Rose-Hulman Invitational last weekend. The Engineers begin a packed week as they square off against Wabash College at the IM Fields at 7 p.m. on Wednesday and Earlham College at Jim Rendel Field at 2 p.m. on Saturday, and Wittenburg College at Jim Rendel Field at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Women's Soccer

The 2006 women's soccer team enters this season with expectations to compete for the conference championship. The

Engineers were selected third in the HCAC pre-season coaches poll, only to defending conference tournament champion Mount St. Joseph and defending regular season champion Transylvania, who also won the 2004 league title.

Junior goalkeeper Rachel Miller returns to the net for the Engineers after recording 1.21 goals against average with 65 saves and a .802 save percentage last year. Senior

Kathleen Stynes returns to the Engineers after spending the 2005-06 academic year in Ger-

many as an exchange student.

Junior Jenn Gordon returns after a record setting 2005 season with 14 assists setting the Rose-Hulman single-season record. Other key starters include: senior four-year starter Ashley Bernal, junior three-year starter Meagan Gallagher, junior Meggy McGaffigan, and sophomore Morgan Coan.

Juniors Julie Roebel and Sarah Graber lead the offensive side of the ball after finishing with 13 goals each in 2005. After battling injuries last season, sophomore Jen Lyman has returned to full health and will be a big part of the Engineer offense this season.

Rose-Hulman began the season with a 4-0 victory over Greenville College and a 3-1 win over Blackburn College this last weekend in the Rose-Hulman Invitational. Sophomore transfer from Northwestern University Liz Ridgway led the Engineer offense with four goals and an assist, and looks to be a key part of the Engineer offense this season.

The Engineers rose to 2-0 and return to action this weekend against Earlham College on Saturday and Wittenburg College on Sunday, both games at noon at Jim Rendel Field.

Volleyball

The Rose volleyball team brings a young team to the new conference with three juniors, four sophomores and six freshmen, with not a single senior.

Sophomore Brandi Sturgill returns to the lineup after recording 1,173 assists, 319 digs and 64 service aces in her freshman campaign. Sophomore Sarah Messmer joins Sturgill after having a solid freshman year with 358 kills, 211 digs and 66 blocks.

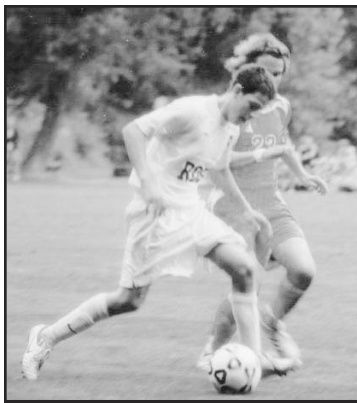
Juniors Amanda Fellows and Katie Tharp will control the right side of the Engineer attack. "Amanda and Katie are extremely versatile and give us a number of options on the attack," said Engineer coach Brenda Goble.

The Engineers dropped to 0-4 after losses in the Illinois College Tournament this last weekend. Rose returns to action this weekend in the Rose-Hulman Invitational in the Sports and

Recreation Center beginning with Earlham College at 6 p.m. and Wilmington College at 8 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday, the Engineers battle Centre College at 10 a.m. and Principia College at noon.

Men's Cross Country

The men's cross country team returns a few key runners led by senior Charles Williams who won all-region honors last season, and ended the year with a 25:54 eight-kilometer time at the NCAA meet. He is joined by junior Matt Repking, who placed third in the 2006 opening meet at Franklin College where Rose-Hulman finished second this last weekend.



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
A Rose soccer player charges down the field.

Women's Cross Country

The women's cross country team returns all-conference honoree junior Rachel Krasich who set a school record 19:30 five-kilometer time last weekend in the Franklin Invitational earning the individual title and helping propel her team to Rose-Hulman's first women's cross country meet win since 2003 and only second of all time. She is joined by senior Mandy Hecker, who placed second in the meet with a time of 20:02 and landing third on the Rose all-time list.

The men's and women's cross country teams return to action in the Indiana Intercollegiate Meet next Friday the 15th, at the Bird-Gibson course, here in Terre Haute at 2 p.m.

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

Sanchez Tosses Gem

Rookie Anibal Sanchez of the Florida Marlins threw a no-hitter in the Marlins' 2-0 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks. Sanchez threw 103 pitches and struck out six batters on his way to his seventh victory of the year.

Wie struggles in Masters

Sixteen-year-old golf phenom Michelle Wie struggled in her debut at the European Masters, shooting a 7-over-par 78. Wie ended up twelve shots over the leader but did beat one of her playing partners at the end of the first round.

Notre Dame comes back in victory

Notre Dame beat the Georgia Tech last Saturday by a score of 14-10. Despite Georgia Tech's burst of first-half offense, the Irish scored a touchdown late in the second quarter and again in the third to put them on top. Georgia Tech plays Samford this Saturday while Notre Dame lines up against Penn State.

Mulder to have surgery

St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Mark Mulder will undergo arthroscopic surgery next week in order to repair his damaged rotator cuff. Mulder missed two months earlier this season due to injuries in his rotator cuff. Mulder is 6-7 with a 7.14 ERA for the Cardinals this year.

Rays break 14 game skid

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays broke out of a fourteen-game losing streak with their win over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night. The Devil Rays took the game by a score of 4-2. The Devil Rays starts a series with Oakland and Minnesota starts a weekend series with Detroit today.

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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

This Day in History

In 1966, *Star Trek* premieres, preventing the impending takeover of Earth by the evil Vulcan empire. When their attack forces landed, they were met with gentle scorn instead of desperate fear.

In Addition

I would respectfully request that you stop undermining my every act. It becomes annoying when I attempt even the simplest tasks and you are there, under my feet, constantly plotting to make me fail.



Hurray for school spirit!

James Zhou
Staff Writer

The reason I came to Rose-Hulman was for its legendary school spirit. Ah, yes; Rose's great fraternities, easy-going professors, and friendly students are all fueled by a healthy dose of the rose and white.

My old school suffered greatly from a lack of a school spirit. All the students walked dejectedly from class, drowning themselves in SATs rather than the much preferred spirit. In fact, by my senior year I was so frantic for a shot of school spirit, I scoured the school records in an attempt to distill a source for that rich flavor I so desperately desire.

To my dismay, I discovered that not only did the administration do nothing to encourage school spirit; they outright banned its

existence on campus! Outrageous! How did they expect us to socialize like normal human beings without the existence of spirit? Needless to say, my graduating class were empty shells of human beings. Except for me, of course; I am great.

Well, we at the great Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology have something to celebrate, for even our own president has

Friendly students are all fueled by a healthy dose of the rose and white.

declared his love of school spirit, and that same spirit permeates through out our campus. No longer will we have to hide our spirit from the authorities. Heck, they will even express boundless quantities of spirit to us! Of course as you all know, men's rush begins this week. I fully expect to enjoy the vibrant displays of school spirit through out the dorms.

So heads up and chug down that school spirit!

Top ten ways to love your grader

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

10. Staple creatively! Put pages upside down, bottom-side up, and even at different angles to each other. Even better: be free-form and use no staple at all!
9. Copy down the answers, and only the answers. Your grader won't have to sift through all your work to find how you got to them.
8. Graders love the environment! Do your part by writing as small as possible. If you have mastered the art of writing a book's worth on a grain of rice, do this with your homework for extra credit.
7. Absolutely never highlight or box your answers. This disrupts the natural flow of the paper.
6. If you forget part of a problem, don't worry. Feel free to put it in any random spot, even on the back of the third page, when no other pages have stuff on the back.
5. If you turn in your paper late, your grader will understand if you tell him you asked Hertz to turn it in, but (circle one):
a) he lost it b) he forgot it c) his pet gerbils ate it.
4. Number your problems in something other than Arabic numerals. Especially exotic are Japanese, Greek, and Egyptian hieroglyphics.
3. Do all your calculations in base π .
2. Booby-trap your paper. Graders will feel like Indiana Jones as they avoid traps such as staples sticking through the top, Icy Hot, tarantulas, and even silver nitrate, if you can find a way.
1. Decorate your paper to let your grader know what you snacked on recently. Pizza grease, part of your 1024 oz Mountain Dew, and bubble gum all make an assignment look more loved.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"Let's get rid of Matt Boutell!"
-- Prof. Boutell, having an identity crisis

"They keep telling us this ethics crap is really important."
-- Prof. House, getting his priorities straight

"Has anybody ever written 'Hautian' in 1337?"
-- Prof. Clifton, being multilingual

"No, we don't have zeros in Germany."
-- Prof. Wollowski, on the perils of German math

"If you sit down an memorize these things, I'll hit you."
-- Prof. Mellor, using violence to teach

"And you guys are engineering students, so you guys can get away with murder!"
-- Prof. Mech, who's obviously never gone up against a really good DA

"It is a massless rod. That's right, a non-Catholic rod."
-- Prof. Stienstra, on religious engineering

"This is not a good time for Spain - if you're playing Risk, they lose the entire continent of South America, which is what, three extra armies per turn?"
-- Prof. Minster, who's got a lot of little cannon pieces

"I used to hate Maple, but now I just dislike it."
-- Prof. McMurdy, coming around

"It's God the machinist... probably union."
-- Prof. Minster, on the ultimate closed shop

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Good news: gas pumps not taking over

Philip Becker
Staff Writer

The other day, I was setting a new high score in the "wait until the last second to fill up on gas" game, and I was going to go inside. So I lifted the hose from the pump and patiently waited for the intercom to announce that my pump was ready for fill-up.

That announcement never came... because the pump spoke to me.

It said, "Cash or credit," which took me aback. Not because I had never been asked the question before, but *the pump was speaking to me*. That's a novelty reserved only for Disneyland and the future! I wasn't ready for machines to conquer this planet I call home and subdue me!

So I said that only thing that made sense: "What?"

The pump replied, "Will you be paying with cash or credit?" This, despite relieving my fears, still baffled me, as I'd never seen an intercom built into the pump before.

So I again said what made sense: "I will be paying with credit."

When I get inside, a lady in the back leaned down from her ladder to say, "She's just doing her

job; you don't have to be rude!"

I could have explained to her my fear of mechanical take-over, or I could have said I was taken aback by the intercom. I choose to just pretend like it wasn't me, since I'm pretty sure I didn't do anything wrong.

In retrospect, I think that just painted me as 10 times the jerk I was. My friend (who was there through whole fiasco) told me, "So you were the jerk they said was being rude on the intercom..."

And all I wanted to do was save a few cents on gas.



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
Training in elementary planar dynamics proves invaluable for today's college soccer teams.

Inside the Rose Thorn

James Zhou
Staff Writer

Ventures acquires new ultra-high-power tank

Galen Duren refuses to comment on the status of his joint project.
Page 9

War breaks out in the Middle East

Our foreign correspondent reports: "I have noticed nothing different" over the roar of AK's.
Page 47

What the hell is an interrobang?

English professors puzzlerized and frightened scared.
Page F

Formula for happiness discovered!

$C_{17}H_{19}NO_3$ is all you'll ever need.
Page 21

Chemical engineers found to suffer chemical imbalances

Our interviewee screamed "I can't solve my problem!" before breaking down and demanding a hug.
Page 404

Rose-Hulman students disappear into Woods

Woods-dwellers deny any knowledge, return to on-going discussion about the artistic merits of bone arrangement as related to the late works of unknown French philosopher.
Page IIX

Are you funny? Are you at least clever?
Are you entertaining, even in a sad way?
Contribute to the Flipside! Email flipside@rose-hulman.edu.