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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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News Briefs

By Kyle Kamischke

US population hits 300 million

As of Tuesday, the United States passed the 300 million mark for people living in the country. The estimate was made assuming that America was gaining one person every 11 seconds. The estimates also took into account the fact that the country gains a migrant every 31 seconds.

Passing this mark now puts the USA in the same group as China and India with populations over 300 million. The United States passed the 100 million mark in 1915, but didn't reach the 200 million mark until 1967. It will be another 37 years before the 400 million mark is passed.

Element 118 discovered again?

In 2002, a team of scientists allegedly discovered the 118th element of the periodic table but later retracted their claim. Now a new team of scientists is announcing that they have discovered the fabled element.

They did it by bombarding heavy atoms onto a radioactive target and searched for distinctive types of radioactive decay to indicate the presence of element 118. To be specific, they bombarded californium and calcium ions together to form an element with 118 protons and 143 neutrons. The discovery will not be made official until other groups are able to reproduce their findings.

Firefox 2.0 almost ready

On Monday night, the third release candidate for Firefox 2.0 was released. It will most likely be the last test edition of the browser before its official release later this year.

There are several new features in this version compared to previous versions. Most notable are the anti-phishing alerts which warn a user if they are visiting a website that may be attempting to steal private information and passwords. There is also the ability to restore your session if the browser crashes.

The release candidate is coming around the same time as Microsoft's IE 7 browser is nearing completion and scheduled for release by the end of this month.

Weather

Friday
Sunny 87 Hi / 61 Lo
Saturday
Sunny 87 Hi / 61 Lo
Sunday
Mostly Sunny 88 Hi / 64 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com
Weather for Phoenix, Arizona

Career Fair biggest ever

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, October 18, 2006, hundreds of Rose-Hulman students filled the SRC with the intentions of landing an internship, co-op, or full time job at the first of three Career Fairs, which is put on by Career Services with the help of student volunteers. Approximately 160 companies have signed up to attend the career fair, and the SRC was full of booths manned by 440 recruiters.

Some of the companies attending this career fair were: Bemis Company, Caterpillar, Cummins, Delphi, Eli Lilly, Frito Lay, Lexmark International, Lockheed Martin, Marathon Petroleum, Microsoft, Rockwell Collins and Texas Instruments.

When asked how he felt about the career fair, junior computer engineering major David Berdy mentioned that "it's really big and awesome this year. I like how there are almost no lines." Recruiters were constantly talking with students and even some of the larger companies had many recruiters talking with multiple students at a time.

Many of the companies have attended previous Career Fairs, and a

lot of Rose-Hulman alumni were there to recruit for their company. Process Engineer Mike Martin, who works for ProTrans International, came to his first Career Fair as a recruiter. "It's kinda nice being on the other side of the table. It's really relaxing."

Tom, a recruiter from Lutron Electronics Company mentioned that the career fair is a lot more impressive than the larger universities that he has been to. "[I'm] impressed by the amount of effort put into this...well organized, more attendance." The recruiters were busy the following day, interviewing prospective interns, co-ops and full-time positions.

Junior mechanical engineer Jim Hammer was impressed with the career fair. "The recruiters seemed more interested in me now because of more work experience and being a junior. I was disappointed that Ford or Daimler Chrysler did not return." When asked about any improvements, Hammer mentioned that the organization of the companies should be improved. "[I think they should] make the booths alphabetical to help find certain companies, it's difficult to find all them with this unclear map."



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Rose-Hulman students try to acquire that ever-so-evasive interview at Wednesday's Career Fair.

Brotherhood without boundaries

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

What does a group of friends do when they get together and decide that they would all like to be in a fraternity or similar organization together, but can't afford it or find they have little in common with existing groups? Both men and women in this year's senior class organized groups of their own. Women organized an all-out women's fraternity, now known as Alpha Omicron Pi. The men, however, decided that they didn't want this level of organization, and instead opted to form a brotherhood. They called this brotherhood 'Brotherhood,' which in Greek is Adelphia.

"The majority of the seniors in Adelphia were all from Scharplenberg and we didn't pledge a fraternity, and we weren't going to let that stop us from having fun," explained senior mechanical engineer Alex Voltaire, who was with the founding group when it began in Fall 2004. According to Voltaire, the group had been friends

for nearly two years at that point, so they gave it a name.

"It's just a group of friends that are closer than most groups of friends," explained Tom Werne, a senior electrical engineer. "What all don't they do together?"

According to junior electrical engineer Sam Hawkins, Adelphia tries "to be everything that a group of friends would want to be," which includes things such as supporting each other through homework help and rides, to fun things such as partying. Adelphia also has a library of text books that members can borrow from.

"We do operate similar to a social fraternity, however we strive to maintain the minimum amount of organization possible to have a house and still have parties, but without getting a status any more than a group of friends," commented co-founder Ben Braun, who is a senior electrical engineer. "We try to stay just below that fine line" between being a fraternity and being friends. Adelphia is not a part of IFC and is not sub-



Samuel Hawkins / Adelphia

The members of the Adelphia brotherhood celebrate at this year's bonfire. The group was formed in the fall of 2004 by a group of friends who found the rules of IRC too limiting.

ject to any rules of that sort, especially when it comes to rush and bid deadlines. There are no chapter meetings, no dues, and the parties don't have admissions lists.

"I guess the best way to describe it would be debauchery to the nth degree," laughed Werne. "Adelphia is commitment free," explained Braun.

There are no requirements for being in Adelphia. "We

don't really decide when someone becomes a member of Adelphia, it's when they have been around us enough and become comfortable enough with us," enumerated Braun. "I'd say the only requirement for Adelphia would be you have to be able to let go and just not care," Werne expressed.

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Flipside

"I'll make you dot-com."

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Upcoming
community events

					Friday	Saturday
					October 20	21
					*Career Services Job Interviews, all day	**Live Bands At The Terminal", 10:00 a.m., The Terminal (800 Wabash Ave)
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	27	28
22	23	24	25	26	*Career Services Job Interviews, all day	*Women's and Men's Soccer, vs. Hanover College, 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m., Jim Rendel Field *Football, Anderson University, 1:30 p.m., Cook Stadium
	*Quarterback Club Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Chauncey's *BCM's Conversational English for International Students, 4:00 p.m., BCM House **"The Rise and Fall of the Avant-Garde in Soviet Art and Architecture," 4:30 p.m., E-104	*Volleyball, vs. Anderson University, 7:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena *Explore Engineering Meeting, Robotics Challenge, 7:00 p.m., M-137 *Catholic Music Practice, 7:00 p.m., White Chapel *BCM's Tuesday Night Together, 7:00 p.m., BCM House	*Career Services Job Interviews, all day *Chemistry Seminar, Stephen Christopher Jacobson of Indiana University, 11:45 a.m., G-315 *Study Abroad Fair, 3:00 p.m., Kahn Rooms *Evening of Creative Drawing, 6:00 p.m., O-257	*Career Services Job Interviews, all day *Intramural Cross Country Meet, 4:30 p.m., Front Entrance, SRC *Volleyball, vs. DePauw University, 7:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena		

\$6.50/hr

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

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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.

Hawaiian officials tally damage

Tracy Chan & Ting-Chen Wen
Ka Leo O Hawaii (U. Hawaii)

Major General Robert Lee, local civic leaders and members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency held a press conference yesterday at 3:30 p.m. in the state Civil Defense headquarters to discuss the extent of the damage caused by Sunday's earthquake. Michael Karl, appointed by President Bush yesterday to be the FEMA federal coordinating officer, was one of the speakers, as were State Director of Transportation Rod Haraga, tourism liaison Marsha Wienert, and Sandra Kunimoto, the Chair of the Board of Agriculture. According to Lee, 29 homes had been seriously damaged and were made unlivable, 1130 were partially damaged, and 14 had only minor structural damages, which added up to a total of 1173 affected houses. Most of them were on the Big Island. Lee said that the Big Island, which took the most damage, remains the main fo-

Twenty-nine homes had been seriously damaged and were made unlivable.

cus of a joint federal and local emergency assistance effort. Karl commented that the loss of public structures and damages caused to public property by the blackout will be funded by the federal government, but damages sustained by individuals and businesses will not. Haraga said that currently the damage to highways is about \$20 million. What might be surprising to some is that news of the earthquake traveled fast, but did not really affect island tourism. According to Wienert, there were no abnormalities in cancelled reservations by tourists, even though her department sent out an international news release about the earthquake by mid-afternoon on Sunday. She said there were only 100 cancellations statewide on Monday. However, she mentioned rental cars being damaged by landslides on Maui and many cancelled flights that left both local travelers and tourists stranded for hours. The lack of communication and the backed

up flights left many angry. Haraga said airlines were not informed of the loss of electricity because the airports did not have enough power to function fully. This resulted in airplanes not being checked properly before takeoff, and necessitating other manual procedures which would normally take much less time. In answer to why the Emergency Broadcast System wasn't used, Lee replied, "We didn't want to cause confusion." He also said that if people didn't have power, they would not have gotten the message anyway. Lee said that the governor had declared a state of emergency so soon in order to get permission to inspect for damages, and to allow National Guard troops to help recovery and take advantage of what aid FEMA could offer. Lee admitted, though, that there had been a definite breakdown in communication. "We agree that many areas of communication can be improved," said Lee. "With modern technology... we can communicate to the public through the media, or directly to the public, whatever it takes to get to the word out. That is the bottom line."

Breast cancer doesn't only affect women

Allison Bray
Stater (Kent State U.)

When most people think of breast cancer, they probably think of women, pink shirts and Race for the Cure. They may not realize, however, that although it is rare, men are also susceptible to breast cancer. According to the American Cancer Society Web site, an estimated 212,930 people were diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. Men accounted for 1,690 of those cases. Out of an estimated 40,870 breast cancer deaths last year, 460 were men. In spite of the rarity of breast cancer in males, they should be aware that it is a possibility, said Judy Mink, director of radiology at Robinson Memorial Hospital in Ravenna, Ohio. "They should be doing breast exams like women, but that's probably not going to happen," Mink said. Ray Leone, chief university physician of Kent State University Health Services, said men need to know their bodies and get checked out if anything seems out of the ordinary. "If you notice lumps or bumps anywhere, they should be observed," he said. "Know what's normal for you." Older men, those with a history of breast cancer in their family and those who have a high

estrogen level can be at a higher risk for the cancer, Mink said. "If there's a significant history of breast cancer, they need to keep an eye out," Leone said. Mink said breast cancer tends to be more advanced when it is diagnosed in men because men do not report it as soon as they should. "They just need to be aware it's a possibility and notify their health care provider immediately if they notice a lump," she said. "If they don't report it, then their chances of getting treated successfully are going to be less." Breast cancer in men and women is similar. "The symptoms are essentially the same," Leone said. "If it's breast cancer, it's breast cancer." However, breast cancer typically occurs around the nipple in men, and may be easier to find in men because they have less breast tissue, he said. Similarly, a lump may be harder to find in a man who has a lot of fatty tissue. Treatment is also the same for men and women; however, in men there is "not as much plastic surgery and repair," Leone said. As is the case with most illnesses, early detection is the best bet for successful treatment. Taking care of one's overall health is also helpful in avoiding cancer, Leone said. "Keep your immune system in tip-top shape," he said. "Everyone should keep an eye on their general health."

Adelphia, from Page 1

Currently, Adelphia has no female members. Braun stated that "We do say that we're co-ed, but I think that there's something a lot less pleasing to a female about living in a house with fourteen other guys as opposed to another guy." Voltaire pointed out that "we have female supporters" and also that "There are girls that want the sweater, shirts." Adelphia is making a few waves around campus, though they are not officially recognized by Rose-Hulman. "One thing they can't do is represent themselves as a Rose-recognized organization," said Dean of Student Affairs Pete Gustafson. Associate Dean of Student Affairs Tom Miller shared some concerns that had been brought to him by members of IFC. "There have been undertones about this group as a result of this group sponsoring programs or socials during rush activities, which IFC sees as interference." Miller indicated that the difference between Adelphia holding activities and other organizations is that they are perceived as trying to be a pseudo-social fraternity. "They want to be kind of recognized, but at the same time they don't want the policies and procedures."



"One thing they can't do is represent themselves as a Rose-recognized organization."

— Pete Gustafson

Adelphia recently asked to participate in Brush Up for Homecoming, which is an event sponsored by the social Greek organizations. "I think that's wonderful," said Miller, but told them no. "I don't personally like to do that," said Miller, indicating that IFC was opposed to it being a non-Greek organization. Fraternities whose primary purpose is not social have been allowed to participate in the past. At Homecoming this year, Adelphia sponsored Erin O'Connor as a Homecoming Queen candidate and made a banner. O'Connor was voted Homecoming Queen. Some members of greek organizations raised objections that Adelphia was able to participate. "Any students can do that," said Miller about the nominations and banner contest. "I appreciate their involvement." Blue Key will be evaluating what the specific definition of what groups will be welcome to participate. This year Speed 1 submitted a banner and last year Blumberg Hall sponsored last year's Homecoming Queen, Danna Sheridan. "If they truly wish to be a student organization, they should go before the Student Affairs Committee of the Institute and ask for recognition," said Gustafson.



The Middle East

Why so Much Importance and Violence?

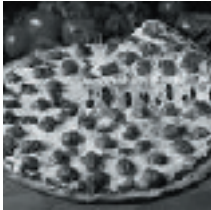
Dr. Mohameden Ould-Mey

Associate Professor of Geography, Indiana State University

Join us! Pizza and brownies will be served!

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Tuesday, October 31
GM Room
4:30-6:00 PM

Out in Theaters

Flags of Our Fathers
Starring Ryan Phillippe
Directed by Clint Eastwood
Rated R

The Prestige
Starring Christian Bale
Directed by Christopher Nolan
Rated PG-13

Marie Antoinette
Starring Kirsten Dunst
Directed by Sofia Coppola
Rated PG-13

Flicka
Starring Allison Lohman
Directed by Michael Mayer
Rated PG

Out on DVD

The Breakup

Over the Hedge

“Charmed”
6th season

“CSI:NY”
2nd season

Box Office Tops

1. *The Grudge 2*
\$20.8M
2. *The Departed*
\$19.0M
3. *Man of the Year*
\$12.3M
4. *Open Season*
\$11.1M
5. *Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning*
\$7.49M
6. *The Marine*
\$7.14M
7. *The Guardian*
\$5.87M
8. *Employee of the Month*
\$5.27M
9. *One Night with the King*
\$4.11M
10. *Jackass Number Two*
\$3.33M

Black Dahlia film butchers novel

Rachel Howser
Staff Writer

The True Story

Elizabeth Short was an aspirant actress who fled to California. On January 15, 1947, she was found murdered. She had been beaten severely with massive head trauma, and her body was covered with cigarette burns. Her killer had also severed her body, removing her internal organs. The killer cut her face from the corners of her mouth to her ear lobes, permanently giving her a grisly smile. The murderer then posed the two parts of her naked body next to an intersection.

Elizabeth Short was only 22 at the time of her murder. The press dubbed her “The Black Dahlia” because of her jet black hair and her fascination with black clothing. The Black Dahlia Murder inspired the largest manhunt in Los Angeles history. However, despite nearly a thousand police officers and unprecedented allocations of money, the murderer was never caught. Many rumors have circulated about the beautiful black-clad figure over the last half a century, but very few of them can be authenticated.

The Author

James Ellroy’s mother was murdered in a similar way to the Black Dahlia when he was ten years old. A few months later his father gave him a book entitled The Badge in which there was an article about the Black Dahlia. In his mind he began to combine the two women and in 1987 wrote a fictional novel, *The Black Dahlia*, which combined the lives of the two women.

The Novel

James Ellroy’s novel, *The Black Dahlia*, is primarily about two LAPD officers who become obsessed with the Black Dahlia Murder. The novel is narrated by Dwight “Bucky” Bleichert. Both Bleichert and fellow cop Lee Blanchard are former boxers.



A splendid performance from Josh Hartnett did not redeem *The Black Dahlia*, which was difficult to understand without having read James Ellroy’s novel *The Black Dahlia*, on which the movie was based.

Bleichert is promoted to a Warrants Officer after boxing with Blanchard, becoming Blanchard’s partner. Bleichert begins spending a lot of time with Blanchard and falls in love with a woman Blanchard is living with, Kay Lake.

A few months after Bleichert’s promotion, Bleichert and Blanchard become involved in the Black Dahlia murder case. Blanchard makes finding the killer a personal vendetta. His sister had been kidnapped and probably murdered when he was 15, and he associates the murder of this young woman with his sister. Blanchard becomes obsessed with the case and disappears. Bleichert takes up Blanchard’s obsession in his absence and eventually finds that Blanchard has been murdered. Bleichert marries Kay, but his obsession with the Dahlia puts a serious strain on their relationship.

The characters’ emotions were raw and their actions illogical, yet, at the same time, completely believable.

The novel was written in an extremely straightforward manner. Ellroy did not feel the need to sugarcoat anything. The characters’ emotions were raw and their actions illogical, yet, at the same time, completely believable.

Nearly all of the characters in the book come to life with Ellroy’s intense characterization. All of them have faults. For example, the novel’s hero Bleichert has many skeletons in his closet. Before he was hired, it was found out that his father was a Nazi sympathizer. To “buy” his way into the LAPD he turned some of his Japanese friends over to the American government to be put into internment camps. He also cheated on his wife and covered up killing a man.

The novel also paints a radically different picture of what today we consider heroes. It depicts both the United States servicemen and LAPD in a negative light. The

officers of the LAPD enjoy police brutality, and the servicemen are beating people up and frequenting whore houses.

The Movie

In September, a movie based on Ellroy’s novel was released on the big screen. The movie stars Josh Hartnett, Aaron Eckhart, Scarlett Johansson, Hilary Swank, and Mia Kirshner, and was directed by Brian De Palma. After seeing hours of unedited film Ellroy praised the film as brilliantly depicting the story. After seeing the final version, he claimed it was incomprehensible.

I agree with Ellroy. The film simply did not make sense to anyone who had not read the book. Facts relating events in the movie were cut from the final version, and it was simply too quickly paced. My boyfriend accompanied me to the movie. Not more than five minutes passed without him asking me what was happening.

The movie did stay fairly true to the novel until the end, but the end was completely different. The actors and actresses gave splendid performances; however, the movie as a whole was disappointing.

Diddy drops beats on Press Play

John Malich
The Independent Collegian
(U. of Toledo)

“You know my name,” he says at the end of “Testimonial,” his first track off his new album “Press Play.”

Sure, we are going to know his name if he holds a press conference every time he shortens it by a few letters and right now it stands at Diddy, and it has been five years since his last album.

This is an album full of guest performers like fellow labelmate Young Joc to Nas to leading ladies like Brandy, Keri Hilson and Mary J. Blige, who add to the tracks.

It is an 80-minute album, so there is room to spare, but more Diddy would have been preferred — especially since the last half-hour of the album is the heart of the album.

“After Love” begins the 30 minutes of sweet emotion and is the highlight of this album.

Alongside newcomer Keri Hil-

son singing the chorus, Diddy weaves his words in and out of remorse and heartache that, by the end of the track, has the listener feeling for Sean Combs, not Diddy.

The next track is “Thought You Said,” which shows Diddy’s repertoire includes making jumping dance tracks.

His best samples are shown here, but are also present in “Come to Me,” which appears earlier in the album.

This track proves that this is not a typical rap album, but that is to be expected because Diddy is now classified as “Mainstream Rap” and “Pop-Rap.”

That alone might prove a poignant statement in the future if any East Coast/West Coast battle will start.

I’m not the one to say Diddy will back down from anyone, but if the West Coast tries to start something where nothing is, they will be fruitless.

To reassure Diddy is still on top



“I’m having it my way on this album,” said Sean “Puffy” “Diddy” Combs in a press conference for his tour’s sponsor, Burger King.

in New York City is the narrative song “Everything I Love.” This song has the perfect feeling to fit a music video.

I can just imagine Diddy walking through NYC meeting up with every last big name and every last bum in the city, greeting them and moving along.

Diddy may be draped in mink coats now, but this track brings back the feeling of his pre-fame where he was another man riding the subways to get to a destination.

Plus, one street legend is featured on the track, Nas, and another underground legend is

present in Cee-Lo, who has made it big this year with his other moniker, Gnarls Barkley.

This track nearly sums up the entire record. Diddy, an entrepreneur phenomenon, can bring in any artist he wants while still having enough time left over for his own verses, which are especially present in the last 30 minutes and are more sentimental than other rappers will rhyme about.

But Diddy has been that way since Notorious B.I.G. passed away and he created the song, “Can’t Nobody Hold Me Down.”

Hopefully, it doesn’t take him another five years to put out another album.

Critic’s Conclusion: Diddy may be doing himself a favor and playing it smart by substituting so many guest singers on his album, considering his raps fit best with the vocals of a woman.

I would like more of his own lines, but tracks that can be put on repeat overshadow that.

Tap into GameTap

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

October 17 was the first birthday of GameTap, Turner Broadcasting System's subscription video game service. Just last week, I signed up for the service, and decided to write an evaluation of the service after a year of existence. Despite a few problems, I have to say I'm enjoying it.

GameTap offers about 700 older games, including games for Windows, DOS, and Sega consoles. I was impressed to see relatively recent games like *Far Cry* on the list, and my particular gaming tastes were excited by more obscure adventure games like *The Last Express*. Call me a Philistine, though, because I'm unimpressed by the countless ancient arcade and Atari 2600 games. Maybe Burger Time was fun once, but those days are happily long gone. Additionally, there are a lot of real dogs in the mix; *Mall Tycoon* left me depressed, and I'm not even going to get near *Extreme Paintbrawl 4*.

From the technical side, the service isn't bad. The games download and run more or less smoothly, although the oversized front end has crashed on me repeatedly. If your bandwidth limits can handle the download of Game X's gigabytes of content, you don't have to worry about installation or setup; the

game just runs. You do have to go through GameTap to run it, though. There's no way to play games without wading through the noisy and colorful GameTap "experience."

Speaking of noise, I am not thirteen years old. However, GameTap thinks I am. Packaged with the games is the mostly-useless and usually juvenile GameTap TV. I don't know who these prepubescent bands are, or care that they play video games, but they're enthusiastic about it all the same. Most of the content feels like advertisements for the service I'm already paying for. How can I take a show seriously when it speaks glowingly of *Prince of Persia 3D*? The only shows I've seen worth watching are old *Sam & Max* cartoons, the anime *Mez-zo*, and maybe the original animation *Computer Lab*.

The fact that it's targeted at youngsters, though, means that GameTap is perfect for one thing: families. In addition to basics, like auto-censoring of swear words in chat, the service also has an extensive content rating system and secondary accounts (with separate logon information) that can be restricted to certain age categories. Add to that an extensive catalog of educational and family games, and you've got a perfect service for a group of youngsters who aren't ready for the big-kid games.



Gregory Weir/ Rose Thorn

The GameTap front end has surprisingly steep system requirements, which it puts to use with dramatic visuals and wooshing sound effects. It's good eye candy, but doesn't actually add anything useful.

The most promising thing about GameTap is its newly released "GameTap Originals" label. For now, "Originals" seems to mean "games other people cancelled," but when it means I get a really promising series of new *Sam & Max* games and animations, as well as the relaunch of *Uru Live* in December, I can't really complain. I'm really looking forward to *Uru Live*.

GameTap is available for a flat monthly fee of \$9.95, with dis-

counts if multiple months are purchased at once. Until October 22, GameTap is offering a special yearly rate of \$60 (\$4.95 a month). Once you pay the subscription fee (in whatever form), you can play any of the games at no additional cost, and you can create several secondary accounts. Up to two accounts under the same subscription can play at once. If you end your subscription, you lose access to all of the games, and there are reports of AOL-style

difficulties when users have tried to cancel.

Despite all the problems, I'm going to stay subscribed after my free trial period. I'd recommend signing up for a trial and seeing for yourself if it's worth it. Personally, though, 5-10 new (old) games a week with a back catalog of hundreds is worth \$60 to me. That's the price of a next-generation console game, and it's worth it despite the problems.

DEFCON goes nuclear

Andrew Sheivachman
Daily Northwestern
(Northwestern U.)

Mutually assured destruction has never been this much fun. In Introversion Software's new PC game *DEFCON*, you play as a general hidden in a deep bunker with only one goal: Achieving victory in an ultimate nuclear showdown with foreign powers. Whichever nation kills the most enemy citizens wins, leading to some of the most accessible and chaotic game play in any strategy game to date.

With the entire world represented on screen in a neon hue evocative of the movie *Tron*, you must deploy your troops and position your infrastructure in order to have the best success of surviving the impending nuclear holocaust. While you set up, a doomsday clock is slowly ticking down; if your forces aren't completely deployed by the time *DEFCON 3* occurs, for instance, the apocalypse will just have to do without them.

The most interesting dynamic present in *DEFCON* is managing the tenuous relationship between maintaining an offensive presence and ensuring the defense of your territory. Nuclear silos can be assigned to defend your territory from airborne incursion or attack enemy cities. As soon as you launch a nuclear missile, though, that site's location is revealed to your enemies and will most likely soon be destroyed. An early assault on your enemies will often leave you without any defense, mak-

ing you easy prey for a craftier nation.

Airbases and fleets further complicate strategic concerns, adding another layer of depth to what could have been a fairly traditional game play experience. Fighters will intercept and engage enemy forces, while bombers are meant expressly for launching strikes against distant territories. The naval arena is an apocalyptic game of rock-paper-scissors; battleships trump carriers, carriers best subs, and subs destroy cities. This all might sound complicated, but it is really quite intuitive and fun once you work through the game's excellent tutorial.

DEFCON is meant to be played online against up to 16 other opponents, in order to up the ante of unpredictability and add depth to the game play. Any given game session, usually lasting around an hour, can become incredibly maddening if the plots of your opponents are all directed against your single paltry nation; expect to watch innumerable warheads arc towards your homeland from every direction.

But, just as easily, you could park cloaked subs just off the coast of your enemy's territory. Or order a wave of bombers to attack their unprotected cities. Or keep all your forces in defense mode and shoot down all approaching missiles. For each challenge thrown at you there is a sneaky counterattack at your disposal, if you are clever enough to exploit it. The brilliance of *DEFCON* lies in this strategic eschatology: although everyone dies, you can still win.

I want to be an alien!

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Julie Czerneda's first book, *A Thousand Words for Stranger* isn't new; it was published in 1998. The sequels, *Ties of Power* and *To Trade the Stars* aren't new either.

Those books, though, and especially the first, changed my perceptions of what makes good alien- and world-creation. Czerneda creates a rich and detailed universe without the tendency to focus too much on humans, and without deifying aliens because, well, aliens must be cooler than humans.

On top of this well-crafted, complex universe and its component societies are the main characters are the trilogy. Generally equally well-created, we are introduced to Jason Morgan and Sira, our protagonists, one human, one Clan, a species that looks human, but with immense telepathic abilities.

This isn't another Troi and Riker, though. Don't expect passionate romance and for mind-reading to solve the characters' conflicts.

Czerneda seems to work from the stance that aliens aren't cool because they have "special powers", but because they are, in fact, *people*, with warts and moles and hangups, just like humans. She also challenges the morality assumptions made when faced

read.

The series won't appeal much to "hard" science fiction fans, as Czerneda leaves aside the physics and technical descriptions in favor of more characterization. If you're tired of reading about telepaths – even those with a weird,

"otherworldly" basis for their power – this series definitely isn't for you, since a lot of the books' plots do revolve around Clan society.

As is true for many series with me, I liked the first book more than I liked subsequent books. There was something clear and perfect about *A Thousand Words* that was made a lot messier in the sequels. The focus on Clan politics, the romance-not-romance, the

possibly too-long second book: these are things that may turn away some readers from the second and third books.

Overall, the series is a refreshing change from cardboard-cut-out characters in hard sci-fi and too-sappy barely-veiled erotica sci-fi. Definitely pick up *A Thousand Words*; if you fall in love with Sira and Jason, pick up the next two.



members.fortunecity.com/tirpetz

Julia Czerneda takes a more human approach to alien characters in her novels, focusing on characters' personalities and societies.

with an alien that looks human, which I appreciated.

The series isn't without its flaws, but I'm hard-pressed to find them, even after reading the series several times. There are a few grammatical errors in the books – missing periods, extra or missing commas – but that's not unusual these days. The plot that ties up the second book goes on rather too long, but still a good

Taking the offensive this November



Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Here's your new opinion

After reading what seemed to be the billionth claim about how the Republicans are doing a terrible job at running the government and that there is going to be a major shift in power after the elections this November, I finally started to get aggravated. I'm no fan of Republicans, and there are few things I have been less pleased with than that party's platform and its current strategy of running the country. However, one of these few things that do please me less is the way the Democrats run elections.

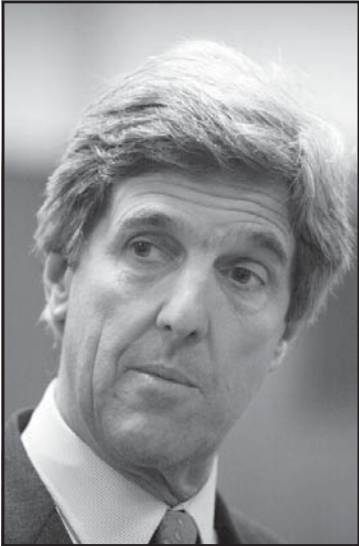
Let's start by examining the 2004 Presidential election. It was an election that was ripe for the

Democrat's taking: George Bush was becoming unpopular after starting the Iraq War, the economy wasn't in great shape, and very little was happening on the domestic reform front.

With an incumbent in such a compromised position, all the Democrats had to do to claim the victory was produce a decent candidate: not legendary, not even great. Just good.

So they pooled the resources of their entire political party to find a fitting candidate to be America's next President. Who did they come up with? Senator John Kerry, a man about as charismatic as a lawn gnome and whose only positive attribute was that he wasn't George Bush. If fact, I distinctly remember that every person I talked to who voted for Kerry gave me the exact same reason: "Well, uhh, at least he's not Bush. Bush is stupid."

I realize that the intelligence level of George W. Bush is definitely a contestable topic, but the point I'm getting at is this: You can't expect to get elected to



<http://media.mnginteractive.com/>
John Kerry: the man whose election strategy is being reused by the Democrats in 2006.

office solely on the grounds that you're not somebody else.

When you use that strategy, all those precious swing voters that we hear about every election will usually decide that they would rather elect a President who has

some direction to his actions (albeit a direction that some don't like) over a potential President who doesn't seem to have his mind made up on anything at all, except that he disagrees with the incumbent on some issues.

And now we return to the present day, where the Democratic Party seems to be getting ready for the upcoming election using the same strategy that worked so horribly for them last time. Opinions writers all over the country are heralding the Democrats as being shoo-ins because of the apparent failure of the Republicans currently in power.

The Democratic candidates seem to be firmly adopting the philosophy that since their opponents are doing a good job of getting themselves voted out of office, they needn't bother trying to get voted in. And to be honest, if the roles were reversed, I'm pretty sure that the Republicans would be doing the same thing.

This seems to be the new universally-used but never-stated strategy for elections in our coun-

try: vote for me because I'm not nearly as bad as the other guy. I know I can't speak for the entire American public, but I know I would much prefer a candidate that took the offensive. I want to elect someone who steps forward and says, "I want to run the government because I'm better than you."

I know I can't solve all the problems facing the nation, so why would I want a President or Congressman who was "just like you and me"? Good government officials should be smarter, more capable, and better leaders than the average Joe, because we expect them to find solutions that most people can't come up with.

That's exactly what the Democrats are failing to do again this election year. Instead of rising to the opportunity that the Republicans have presented them by fielding some good candidates, they have decided to passively let Congressional seats come to them. Unfortunately for them, I think they will be disappointed with the results.

A glimpse of things to come

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

This past Homecoming weekend I came back to Rose from my year-long co-op. It felt odd. I am still a student, but I felt like a returning alumnus. I left work on Friday three hours early so that I could get to campus in time for the wonderful pep rally, fireworks and the magnificent bonfire (except the part where it toppled over, rather than falling straight down). I was very grateful for being able to participate in these as a pseudo-alumnus. The bonfire was spectacular and most definitely "surprising" as Erik Hayes put in the Thorn recently.

I brought a sleeping bag and a change of clothes with the

that overwhelmed me earlier that day.

I returned to Rose, parked in one of the lots, climbed into the back seat and set up my sleeping bag. As I fell asleep, I came to enjoy the wonderful silence that encroaches with the darkness of the night. I can't tell you how much fun it was just to sleep "outside" for one night.

The most surprising feeling of the weekend was waking up the next morning, Sunday. I casually met a friend at the VQ Apartments for lunch before heading back "home" to Kentucky. The serenity of knowing that I had no homework, no test or even a small quiz the next day to deal with gave me a quick glimpse of what it must be like to graduate from

Rose; however, this weekend also made me long to return to Rose. Although I sincerely enjoy my co-op, I had not thought of how great it is to be involved with such a

wonderful community that is the Rose-Hulman campus.

As some of you are only just starting your educational career at Rose and still finding your footing; others are nearly finishing the long and arduous journey of mountains of homework, plethoras of tests and quizzes and piles of projects. Remember that this is only the beginning of a wonderful life. Don't forget to take an afternoon or even a night off here and there to walk around campus, enjoy the scenery and slow down, live in the moment. Life goes by ever so quickly and we never really know where the events of our future will lead us. To my second home, my dear ol' Rose, good luck this year!

email: opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Congress' sneaky nature

Andrew Klusman
Staff Writer

On October 2, Congress passed a piece of legislation called "The Security and Accountability For Every Port Act," also known as "The SAFE Port Act." What is surprising about this is that a bill that helps prevent terrorists from sneaking nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons into the United States through our ports concerns online poker players. That's right, Congress decided it would be nice to go ahead and attach a completely unrelated bill onto the Ports bill.

This bill prevents banks and credit card companies from making payments to online gambling sites, which effectively shuts down online poker. While I applaud Congress for actually doing legitimate work in national security, I must say this: Congress is out of line by attaching this poker bill to it, and they should move to repeal the poker law as soon as possible.

Now, why would Congress attach this bill onto the Ports bill?

If you are unfamiliar with election-year politics, especially one so focused on terrorism and safety, politicians are wary to vote against a nice-sounding bill name. Take, for example, a Congressman who presents a bill that is titled "The Pro-Family Bill," which is legitimately pro-family, and then goes on to attach another bill that enacts a law that forces divorce for a married couple if they so much as drove to work in different cars. What would happen? It would probably be passed. Why? Well, what sane Congressperson would dare vote against "The Pro-Family Bill?"

Why would Congress want to prohibit online poker? Of their arguments given, one is that it often is easy for minors to gamble, because often one only needs a credit card to create an account. Another argument is that people can easily lose thousands of dollars online, and that as a result, Big Government must step in and protect these people from themselves.

Another reason for this ban may be due to — surprise, surprise! —

taxes. For those that do not know, online gambling is a \$12 billion industry, and hence would be a large source of taxes for the government. And, because when it comes to taxes, the government is like a crack addict — once it gets a hit of any tax, regardless of how small or temporary, it always needs more. It will go to the ends of the Earth to collect on this money. However, the government should *not* end an entire industry due to its inability to collect taxes on winnings.

There is one reason this bill was passed and subsequently enacted as law, and that is because of election year politics. As such, self-serving Congressmen and Congresswomen should not abuse the ability to tack on bills to other bills. Furthermore, they should not abuse that ability, especially when important bills such as the Ports bill are on the voting block. This only serves to further the idea that Congress is wed to special interests and themselves, and are not willing to put each bill up for a vote on its own merit. If that had been done, then you surely could still bet on your online poker game.



Andrew Carlson / Rose Thorn
The Rose Homecoming crowd.

thought of "camping out" on campus in my station wagon, but spent my first night at a friend's house, which was a welcome treat. I woke up and helped two of the girls make pancakes and sausages as a simple breakfast for us and the others who hadn't woken up yet. I headed over to the SRC to cheer the volleyball team to victory (3-2) and rooted for the football team while catching up with some old friends, both students and recent alumni, in the pep band. After the game, I walked around and met up with more friends and simply enjoyed the company. We headed over to "Recycled Percussion" which was great. Getting hungry, I stopped at "Sushi Umi" and enjoyed a "Happy" sushi combination plate before hitting a party with the same enjoyment and satisfaction

Letter to the Editor

Last week as I was walking through the Union I was excited to see a new edition of the Thorn available despite the short school week. However, my excitement soon turned into puzzlement as I opened the pages to reveal an article entitled "Recycled Garbage." As I read the article in full, I was shocked to see such hateful words and painful comparisons regarding the show.

Similar to Mr. Schultz, author of "Recycled Garbage," I also attended the Recycled Percussion show. When I arrived and watched the seats of Hatfield Hall fill up, I soon realized that students didn't pick up their ticket to the sold-out show simply because it was free. They actually showed up and were excited to see the show. Then, as the show began and the audience stood, I was amazed by two things. First, the audience remained standing for the entire show and screams of excite-

ment could be heard throughout. Furthermore, the sound of the music was loud enough that I could feel the vibrations from the bass. Then I thought, this is the closest thing to a real "Pop Culture" concert ever sponsored on campus. I've never experienced these occurrences at previous Rose-Hulman events. At the conclusion of the show, the packed auditorium soon turned into a crowded lobby as students waited in line to purchase merchandise, talk to the performers, and get autographs.

The experiences I had during the show led me to believe that it was a successful event and students loved the show. However, I do realize that no matter what the show or event is, no audience will be 100% pleased at its conclusion. Yet, I still define a show's success based on the overall reaction of the entire audience. This must not be the case for the writers of the

Thorn. Time and time again, I have been disappointed to see negative articles about campus events regardless of the event's outcome.

There are students, faulty, and staff on this campus who work extremely hard to provide such a diverse and entertaining schedule of events. All I ask is that the writers of the Thorn give an accurate reflection of these events. There are portions of the Thorn available for personal opinions; however, the main articles are not such a place. The Thorn staff is composed of campus leaders just like the several other students who work hard to provide great things for the Rose-Hulman campus. We should all be supporting each other's efforts to make this campus as involved and exciting as possible.

Jenn Cringoli
Biomedical Engineering
Class of 2007

Bringing the wood



From
the
sidelines

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

Do you know what it takes to get the job done? Just what the title says. You've got to bring your best and in a manner of speaking, you've got to lay the wood. If you get the chance to talk to Brandon Couch before we leave Saturday morning, ask him for the specifics.

You've got bring your best to beat good teams. The defense always brings it and last week the offense got it done and stepped up to play at the defense's level. There weren't many daunting plays but winning close games is about making big plays and when it came time to do so, we executed.

Offensively, we scored from 51 and 60 yards out with a pass to Sophomore Nate Richter and the game clinching run from 60 by freshman Calvin Bueltel. Heading into the game, Coach Englehart stressed the ground game; in past games we have struggled with opening holes for tailbacks to run through. Bluffton was not prepared for a hungry and determined offensive line.

Defensively, we were strong, just as we have been in past games this year. The defense hasn't allowed teams to feel

comfortable at any time, even when our opponents are at their home field. Against the Beavers, the defense would bend at times, but would not break down in the face of adversity. A number of times, Bluffton threatened to score and the defense shut them down. This is never an easy task, but when you're asked to do this over four downs, it's tough.

Special teams are always X-factors when games get close. The Beavers missed two point-after-touchdowns because their kicker suffered a devastating injury during the opening kickoff. It goes to show that every play deserves respect because it could be your last. Furthermore, it's special teams that give a team an edge; for us last Saturday, they gave us our first touchdown.

To win a game, it takes everyone on a team to pull for victory; everyone has to be in the game and everyone has to want to win in the same way. It's hard to be better than others who want it just as bad, but that's why football is a sport for gladiators. I've been saying it week in and week out; your support is a big part of why we will ourselves to win. For those of you who can make it, you would be doing us a tremendous favor by supporting us at Franklin College on Saturday. It's a little bit of a drive, but I think that if everyone in our little Rose community pulls it together for a victory, we can have one of the most meaningful wins of this season.

Football rolls past Bluffton

Rose Hulman News

The Rose football team scored one touchdown rushing, one passing and one on special teams to earn a 21-12 victory over Bluffton University in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference football action on Saturday.

Freshman Derek Eitel led the Engineer offense with 13 completions in 27 attempts for 218 yards and one touchdown through the air. Senior Ryan Robinson led Rose-Hulman with three receptions.

Key catches were made by sophomore Nate Richter with a 51-yard touchdown, sophomore Tim Schrock on a 36-yard screen pass and junior Thomas Reives with a 31-yard reception.

The ground attack also gained 183 yards as part of a 401-yard team effort. Freshman Calvin Bueltel led the Engineers with 66 rushing yards on four carries, while sophomore Bryan Wong added 44 yards on 13 carries. Schrock added 34 rushing yards, with Eitel contributing 25.

"This is a huge win for our football team. After losing the last two weeks, it was important that we came on the road and played well. We traveled everyone that could dress, because this game was that important. Everyone made a contribution today," said Rose-Hulman head coach Steve Englehart.

Bluffton quarterback Jared Owens finished 15-32 through the air for 183 yards and one interception and led the Beavers with 80 yards rushing on 19 carries.

Defensively, sophomore Paul Spreen led the effort with two sacks and two pass breakups. Senior Drew Lopshire added an interception, while senior Mike Alto with a team-high 10 tackles.

Rose-Hulman jumped out to a 7-0 lead with a key special teams

play late in the first quarter. Bluffton was forced to punt from its own 40-yard line, and Engineer senior Adam Helmerich blocked the punt by Kyle Coleman to the 25-yard line, when freshman Kyle Stevens sprinted to the endzone for seven points.

Bluffton closed within 7-6 midway through the second quarter, when Owens sprinted 55 yards for a touchdown with 9:25 left in the opening half. The extra point attempt was missed as Rose-Hulman maintained a one-point lead.

The Engineers had an opportunity to extend the lead on its final possession of the first half. Rose-Hulman marched 42 yards



Rose Hulman News
Derek Eitel threw for 199 yards and a touchdown in the victory.

in 11 plays to the Bluffton one-yard line, but the Beaver defense tackled Eitel just in front of the pylon with 24 seconds left in the half to force a turnover on downs.

Rose-Hulman increased the lead to 14-6 on its first drive of the second half. Eitel connected with Richter on a

51-yard touchdown strike to give the Engineers an eight-point lead with 11:34 left in the quarter.

Bluffton closed within 14-12 on a 13-play, 73-yard drive that ended on a 27-yard pass from Owens to Drew Lovelace at the 9:59 mark of the fourth quarter. Helmerich intercepted a two-point conversion pass as the Engineers maintained its 14-12 edge.

Rose-Hulman added another touchdown just one minute later to take a 21-12 lead. Bueltel scampered 60 yards down the left sideline for his first career touchdown on the longest run of his college career.

Rose-Hulman improved to 4-3 on the season and 1-3 in HCAC play, while Bluffton dropped to 2-4 overall and 1-2 in league contests. The Engineers travel to Franklin College this Saturday at 1:30 for another league matchup.

Women's tennis places 2nd

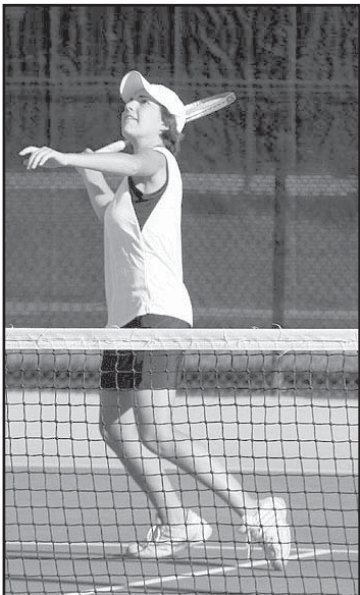
Rose Hulman News

The women's tennis team topped Hanover College 5-4 in the HCAC Semifinals before dropping a 5-2 decision to Manchester College in the HCAC Championship match on Saturday afternoon.

Rose-Hulman ended the year with an 11-5 finish, the best record in school history, and second in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference in its inaugural season in the league.

In the Semifinals, Hanover held the lead after the doubles matches 2-1. But Rose-Hulman tied it up at 4 a piece with sophomore Katy Zawadski down 5-1 in the third set and later faced three match points before rallying to earn a 7-5 win and a 5-4 team victory to advance to the Championship match.

In the Championship match, Rose-Hulman scored wins by freshmen Sam Danesis and Julie Hopkins in doubles 8-2 and Danesis 6-2, 6-2 in singles before falling 5-2, for a second place conference final.



Rose Hulman News
Sam Danesis was involved in both wins in the championship game against Manchester.

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

Tigers sweep Athletics

The Detroit Tigers swept the Oakland Athletics in the American League Championship Series. The Tigers won the AL pennant with stellar pitching backed up by a potent offense which outscored the A's in the series 22-9. The Tigers have been

perfect in the 2006 postseason since their game one loss to the New York Yankees in the ALDS, relying on young starters Justin Verlander, Nate Robertson, and Jeremy Bonderman along with the seasoned veteran Kenny Rogers.

Men's soccer tops DePauw in soggy bout

Rose Hulman News

The men's soccer team battled through a steady downpour to defeat DePauw University for the second time in team history, earning a 2-1 victory on Monday night.

David McIlwaine scored the game winner with 1:21 remaining for his 27th career goal. McIlwaine moved into third place on the all-time Engineer goals list with the tally.

Phil Meyer opened the play with a half-field pass to Trowbridge, who then crossed the ball to McIlwaine for the game winning score.

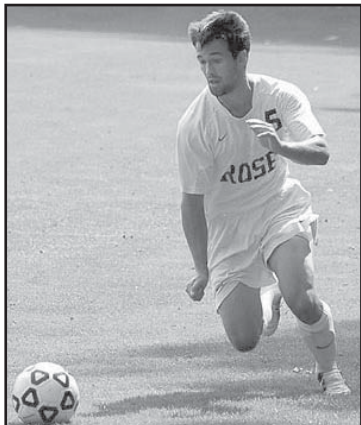
Trowbridge started the scoring with his sixth goal of the season at the 56:09 mark to give Rose a 1-0 lead. McIlwaine and Ray Throop were credited with the assists.

DePauw tied the score at 1-1 at the 58:37 mark, when Adam Davis scored on a pass from Scott Noel. The Tigers outshot the Engineers 18-7 in the match, with goalkeeper Isaac Heyveld record-

ing six saves to earn the victory.

The win marked Rose-Hulman's second victory over DePauw in 28 attempts, dating to the series opener in 1980, with the last win coming in 1999.

Rose-Hulman improved to 11-3-1 on the season, while DePauw dropped to 8-5. The Engineers travel to Bluffton University on Saturday in HCAC action.



Rose Hulman News
Matt Trowbridge assisted the game-winning goal.

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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

Volume 42, Issue 7

We always get the top high score.

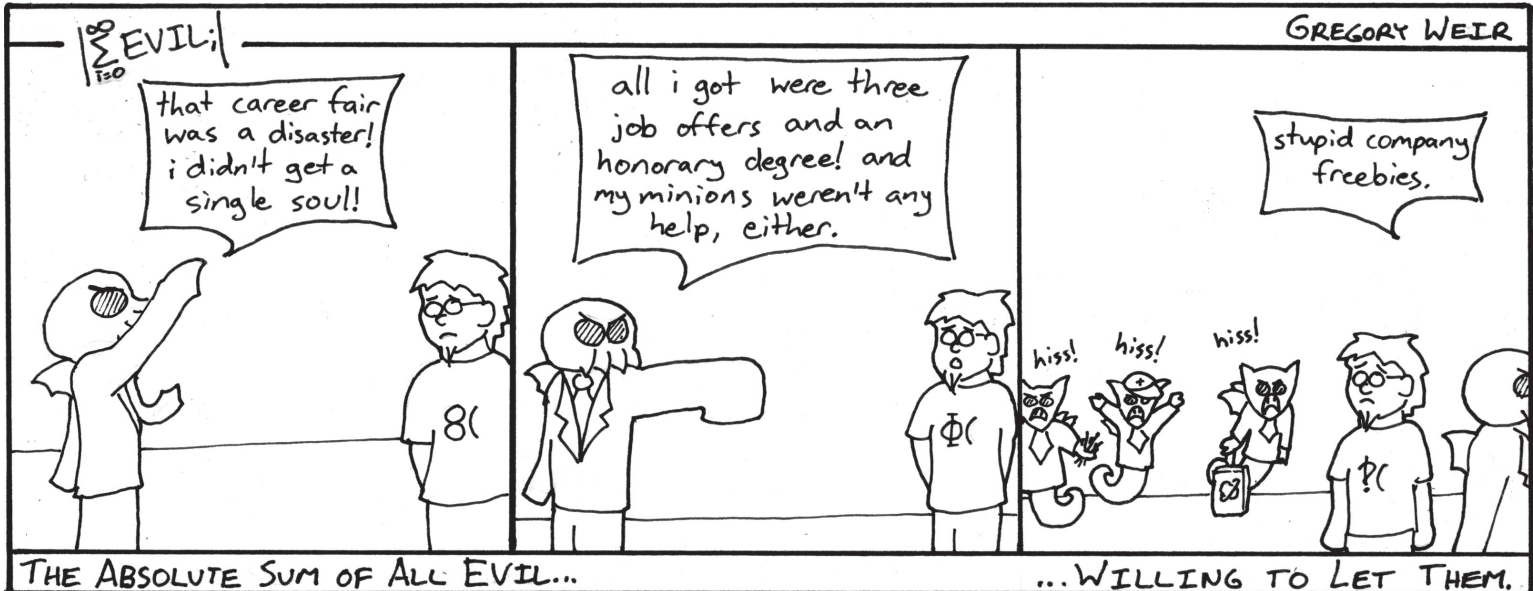
Thursday, October 20, 2006

This Day in History

Bela Lugosi is born on this day in 1882. The Hungarian actor is most famous for his role as Dracula in the eponymous 1931 film. Strangely enough, Lugosi was himself not a vampire, but a wendigo.

In Addition

What's that thing called... you know, that thing I was talking about when we were driving by the 7-11? What... what were we talking about then? Hey, Ryan, what was I talking about last Tuesday night?



U.N. passes “Silent Treatment” doctrine

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

In an unprecedented move, the United Nations passed its first “Silent Treatment” edict on Tuesday, ordering that all participating countries refuse to “speak, write, or otherwise communicate” with the nation of North Korea. “This act includes, but is not limited to, good natured gossip, chain letters, and get-well cards as well,” added U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The act was presented to the U.N. Security Council in response to North Korea's announcement that it had completed a successful nuclear weapons test.



Gregory Weir
and Open Clip Art Library
The U.N.'s new “Silent Treatment” program logo.

“We realized that your average, run-of-the-mill sanctions wouldn't work in this kind of a situation,” stated John Bolton, the United States' representative to the U.N. “A lot was considered: time-outs, spankings, time locked in an old refrigerator, but the only punishment fitting for a country that acts out this badly is the good old-fashioned silent treatment.”

After the act was passed in the Security Council, the word of its passage was whispered amongst all of the member nations during first recess. North Korea's initial reaction was aloof, declaring late Tuesday: “I don't care if you're all ignoring me. I'll just go on having

fun blowing up bombs and starving my citizens by myself!”

By Thursday, however, the nation was beginning to show strain: screaming, waving, and pointing in other nation's faces in an attempt to jar a reaction. In a last-ditch effort, the country sent through the DMZ and toward the South Korean capital of Seoul.

However, South Korea remained motionless and went about its business, despite whispers from its neighbors that they “wouldn't blame them if they stopped the treatment just this once.”

In a statement released early this morning, the U.N. Security Council said that if the silent treatment didn't work, they would be willing to resort to more extreme measures, such as possibly paying a bully to beat up the country to teach it a lesson.

Wacky Prof Quotes

“I'd really hate to have to beat somebody to death with my tablet pen.”

-- Prof. House, expressing regret

“Everybody feels dumber after the course is over.”

-- Prof. Fisher, doing his job

“Well, you didn't fall asleep this time, but your feet smell.”

-- Prof. Brophy, berating a student

“This diagram is retarded. I'm sorry; bad choice of words. It is inefficient.”

-- Prof. Doering, berating a student's diagram

“Child abuse is gone. We've accomplished a lot this quarter.”

-- Prof. House, saving the world from itself

“I don't remember any of that grade school stuff. I was wasted at the time.”

-- Prof. Bryan, elementary school stoner

“You can consult an oracle. Whatever works.”

-- Prof. Galinaitis, on solving differential equations

“That's just like me. Tearing down a swing-set so I can build a stoplight.”

-- Prof. Clifton, ruining children's playgrounds

“The spectrum police will show up at your house and do bad things to you.”

-- Prof. Throne, special agent for the Spectrum Bureau
Send your prof quotes or other humor material to flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Inside the Rose Thorn

James Zhou
Staff Writer

Alcohol Awareness Week

Students' awareness of alcohol increased dramatically after the weeklong kegger.

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Sanitation Engineering offers new courses

SE101 “Picking Up After Yourself” proves to be an unpopular elective.

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Sleepiness is up in recent student polls

Still losing to fear of failing.

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Surefire writer's block cures

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

“Spin clockwise 17 times—and count carefully—before your true soulmate in life startles you.”

I've tried this and other “cures” for writer's block. One consisted of two scoops of whey protein powder—unflavored, if you can—a cup of 2% milk, ½ cup melted butter, and six tbsp. of guacamole. The guacamole must contain lemon or lime juice, but no hot sauce. Drink quickly—don't let the butter solidify—and hurry back to your computer for at least 12 hours of writing bliss.

You know what? Those cures *work*.

Don't look at me like that. I promise. Try it.

Top ten Career Fair mistakes

Matthew Melton
Staff Writer

10. You started an interview with “Hi! I'll take *your* job!”
9. You wore Hertz's pink pinstripe suit, hat, cane, and matching Avanti tie.
8. “Microsoft? I hack your stuff all the time!”
7. You don't work on St. Patrick's Day, right?
6. Résumé? I don't need no stinkin' resumé!
5. You signed your resumé “Master Darius, 77th Level Wizard”
4. You got a job working for New Enron
3. “T.O. just got a \$5 million dollar signing bonus, and I expect nothing less.”
2. You told the rep, “I know the pens are free, but are *you*?”
1. “\$34,000? That's a great starting salary! Where do I sign?”

ARA joins Facebook, causes tasty dilemmas

Philip Becker
Staff Writer

While checking my Facebook News Feed, I noticed that a friend of mine had become friends with “Rose-Hulman ARA.” The ARA having a Facebook profile is possibly the greatest thing since sliced bread. That is to say, sliced bread that didn't come from the ARA.

So I'm checking out their profile. All the stuff you'd expect: their residence is “The Hulman Union,” their hometown is “Terre Haute,” and their political views are “other.” There were

also some exciting things. Apparently they are interested in both men and women for “whatever they can get.” Their photo is the wacky girl from the website stuffing her face with a burger.

“But what does it all mean?” I ask myself. It means the News Feed will be super amazing! Every time the ARA updates their status, I'll know. “The ARA wants to be sure everyone knows that that nuts could be in the peanut cookies.”

“The ARA is upset that someone dropped a napkin into the silverware bin.” “The ARA is feeling sad today, because there are students

to deal with on Buffalo Chicken Night.”

When the ARA posts their note, “MeMoriEs!” and tags me in it, I can totally leave memories for them to reminisce about. “Once I ordered an omelet on the weekend, and it was undercooked and egg just ran everywhere! Some of it even splashed into my lap!” It'll also be fun to read all the other memories people left as well!

It means that it'll actually be convenient to leave comments on their wall. When I want to leave one of the usual “This food tasted... less foody than normal” comments, I won't have to double back to the other side of the ARA. I can just zone out while my teachers are talking and write on



Gregory Weir / Rose Thorn

“Favorite music: Foo Fighters, Limp Bizkit, Red Hot Chili Peppers.”

their Facebook.

But in the end, I hesitated before I clicked, “Add to Friends.” What would everyone think if I actually associated with the ARA? I'd be totally blackballed! Nobody

would want me in their groups for projects and all the people I know and care about would drop me from their friends list! And if that number ever drops, I may just have to cry. Cry very manly tears.