

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Winter 1-12-2007

### Volume 42 - Issue 14 - Friday, January 12, 2007

Rose Thorn Staff

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## News Briefs

By Kyle Kamischke

### Apple unveils 'iPhone'

On Tuesday, Apple CEO Steve Jobs introduced their latest and most heavily anticipated product, the iPhone. The phone features many unique ideas including a large touch screen for dialing phone numbers as well as surfing the Internet. The phone also features a hard drive for listening to music and a 2-megapixel digital camera. When the phone was unveiled, Apple's stock prices rose over \$7.00 while other mobile wireless device manufacturers saw their prices drop. The phone is set to go on sale in June 2007 and retail for \$499-\$599 (the price includes a 2-year contract with Cingular Wireless). Apple hopes to sell over 10 million phones in 2008.

### \$100 laptop to go on sale in 2008

The people behind the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative plan to put their \$100 laptop on sale to the general public in 2008. The only catch is that the laptop will cost \$200. The extra money generated will be used to send a laptop to poor children outside of the United States. Countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Libya have already signed up for the laptop program. The OLPC initiative is in talks with eBay on how to distribute the laptops cheaply to minimize the overall cost to consumers. The laptops currently feature video and instant messaging capabilities to enable children to communicate with each other. They also are focused solely on working in an educational environment. OLPC plans on distributing their laptops to as many children as possible in areas with Internet access.

### NSA helped Microsoft secure Vista

According to a story published Tuesday, it was revealed that the National Security Agency (NSA) helped Microsoft develop its next-generation operation system so that it would conform to the U.S. Department of Defense requirements. The NSA has helped Microsoft in the past with its Windows XP and Windows 2000 operating systems. The intention of the agency was to create a program that was compatible with government software as soon as it was released rather than trying to make it compatible later. The involvement of the NSA is raising some red flags for some people. There are thoughts that the agency might be interested in creating back-door access points built right into the operating system although NSA spokesman, Ken White, says otherwise.

## Releasing the MacGyver in all of us

Fred Webber  
Staff Writer

Wednesday at 5 p.m., Rose students and area middle school students gathered in the Kahn room to express their artistic creativity using duct tape.

Mariah Walton, a junior chemical engineer/chemistry major, and Melissa Walker, a junior mechanical engineer, were working on re-creating the painting 'Scream' with the twist that the person would be a sculpture. "I've never used duct tape for art before," mused Walton.

Students were able to choose from black, grey, white, red, blue, yellow, and green duct tape as well as poster board to create their work. "This isn't that thick, hard to tear stuff," commented Art Curator Steve Letsinger. The tape was vinyl duct tape, which tears more easily and is less sticky than conventional duct tape.

Younger members of the community came by as well. Luke Peoples, 11, and Jacob Dispennett, 13, were building a sky scraper scene, with New York City in mind. "It is fun to do this," said Dispennett. Peoples thought it would be pretty easy, but "It's harder than I thought it would be."

"When I saw the e-mail for the duct tape art contest be-

fore break I thought 'hey, that sounds interesting,'" said Rebecca Waltz, a senior chemical engineer, who was building an umbrella. "When we showed up in the Kahn room, we didn't remember the rules of the contest, so we just started building. It was fun to do something artsy and to see the creativity of the other contenders," she commented afterwards. Waltz was sharing a table with Noah Desch, a senior electrical engineer, who was making a soda can, and Andrea Leichtman and Adam Georgas, a senior computer engineer, who was making a Boeing 747, to scale.

Caroline Carvill, head of the HSS Department, was disappointed with the turnout. "We're working on finding the optimal time," she said, noting that it was important to fit the timing in the students' interest. "We've done writing and art and photography and had good turnouts...Our goal is to create one creative expression event a quarter because creativity is a very large part of engineering and science and we have very creative students." Carvill would like to find events that students enjoy at a time that is good for them to help them develop this creativity.

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Dale Long / Rose-Hulman News

The Duct Tape Art Contest, held Wednesday in the Kahn Rooms of the Hulman Union, was filled with local middle school and Rose students. The winners of the competition (top) were Melissa Walker (left) and Mariah Walton (right). The second place team (lower left) featured Ben Barrett (left) and Kimiko Parker (right). The third place team (lower right) featured Jonathan Fone (left) and Jeff Onsrud (right).

## Wintery festivities spice up Rose

Tiffany Parrott  
Staff Writer

The smell of peppers, beans, and burger was powerful in the Union Lobby on Tuesday as Rose-Hulman's annual chili cook-off fired up as part of this year's Winter Fun Fest. Eleven different teams competed in their culinary skills for a prize of two hundred dollars. Participants and judges consisted of students, faculty, and staff. Samples were given out readily, with the more popular soups being cleaned out within about an hour. Mathew Fouts, Rose student, comments on a crowd favorite, "I would choose Voltmer as the winner; it's like my grandma's chili."

Dave Voltmer, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Emeritus, the oldest contestant, says that "white lightning" was a recipe that was derived from Nashville, Tennessee. "It has beef, corn, smoked barbeque chicken,

white northern beans, green peppers and jalapenos. You have to have the jalapenos," Voltmer states, as students returned for second and even third samples. Voltmer ended up in third place in the chili cook-off, with reserve recognition to Jarod Markley's "Red Rose Chili". First place went to the "Iron Chefs," Aramark employees Ryan Rogers, Pat Kelley, and Mandy English, for the dish "Quick Fire Chili." The "Iron Chefs" will donate their two hundred dollar prize to the GUAM fundraiser, which will aid the Vigo County Sheriff's Donation Fund.

The chili cook-off was not the only event provided by the Student Activities Board; there was an assortment of crafts, an ice cream treat station, warm cookies and hot cocoa, and bingo. The "snow storms", RHIT's form of a blizzard, attracted a line of about thirty students prior to opening.

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Andrew Carlson / Rose Thorn

Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Emeritus David Voltmer serves a mean bowl of chili (above) and students enjoy a bingo game (below) at this year's Winter Fun Fest.

### News

A reflection on diversity, and more news briefs!

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### Entertainment

Sennheiser HD 595 review, *Star Trek, Cross, Elysium for the Brave*

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### Opinions

Signing up for humanities, raising minimum wage

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### Sports

Scores! Women's basketball team is doing schweet!

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### Flipside

"Now we need a synonym for 'Happy Spot.'"

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# Upcoming community events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Class Registration for Spring Quarter</li> <li>•Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art &amp; Poetry Display, Lobby, Hulman Union</li> <li>• Film Presentation &amp; Discussion, "Eyes on the Prize," 4:30-6 p.m., O-267</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Class Registration</li> <li>•Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Art &amp; Poetry Display, Lobby, Union</li> <li>•Breakfast (Speech by Katherine Utley), 7:30 a.m., Kahn Rooms</li> <li>•Speaker, "Whispering Black," Molly Secours, 5:00 p.m., Kahn Rooms</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Class Registration</li> <li>•Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art &amp; Poetry Display</li> <li>•Student Leaders Luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Kahn Rooms</li> <li>•Hot Mix Asphalt Quality Assurance/Quality Control Mini Course, 9:00 a.m., Olin Hall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Class Registration</li> <li>•Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Events:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Art &amp; Poetry Display</li> <li>•Hot Mix Asphalt Quality Assurance/Quality Control Mini Course, 9:00 a.m., Olin Hall</li> <li>•Learning Center's Winter Warm Up, All day, Lower Level, Logan Library</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Registration Deadline for IM Chess Tournament</li> <li>•Wellness Program's Yoga Sessions, 12:05 p.m., Hulman Union</li> <li>•Student Activity, Comedian Tim Young, 8 p.m., Kahn Rooms</li> <li>•One-Act Plays, 8 p.m., Hatfield Hall Theater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Society of Women Engineers Girl Scout Day, 8:30 a.m., Kahn Rooms</li> <li>•Rose-Hulman Double Dual, 12:00 p.m., Fieldhouse</li> <li>•IM Charity Sno-Ball Softball Tournament, 12:00 p.m., IM Fields</li> </ul>
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Final Date to Drop Course Without Penalty</li> <li>•Class Registration</li> <li>•Wellness Program's Yoga Sessions, 12:05 p.m., Hulman Union</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Men's &amp; Women's Track, 12:00 p.m., Fieldhouse</li> <li>•Women's Basketball, vs. Hanover College, 1:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena</li> <li>•Men's Basketball, vs. Hanover College, 3:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena</li> <li>•Encore Engineers Concert, 7:30 p.m., Hatfield Hall</li> </ul>

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Email resume to [thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn@rose-hulman.edu)

## Classifieds

### House for sale

House for sale. 1359 Buckeye Street. \$45,900. 2 BDR, 1 Bath, hardwood floors, basement, partially fenced in backyard. Call 812-699-0610 for more details.

### Sharp Flats, LLC

Now renting for 2007-2008 school year. Convenient and affordable housing. Some availability now. Sharp Flats East is just a short walk from Rose with efficiencies, studios, and one bedroom units and short-term leases. Our downtown properties are located on or near 6th St., and feature 1-9 bedroom units. Check us out at [www.sharpflats.com](http://www.sharpflats.com). (812) 877-1146. [sharpflats@excite.com](mailto:sharpflats@excite.com).

### Trail's End Cafe 40

Menu features homeade cooking, desserts, and daily specials. Close to campus. Dine in, carry out, or call ahead and we will have your order ready. 6710 E. Wabash Ave. 877-4002.

### Tutor Needed

North student needs pre-calculus tutor. 243-0230 or 243-3911.

### Large house for rent

Very nice, large house for rent to Rose students 10-15 minutes from campus. 2 bedrooms plus full bath upstairs. 2 bedrooms plus full bath downstairs. Large kitchen, DR, LR with fireplace. Large rec room, attached 2 car garage. Washer and dryer. \$250/ student plus utilities. Landlord pays water and sewer. Ext 8317 or 240-4774

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

The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays  
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The Rose Thorn welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

All content should be submitted to [thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto: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.

# Diversity as a motivator

Ryan Schultz  
News Editor

Difference is an engine for creating things to happen," said Robert W. Pease, President of Shell Trading (US) Company and alumni of Rose-Hulman. On Monday at 4:30 p.m., Pease spoke to a full house of students, faculty, administration, and community members, in the Myers presentation room about "Working in Global Markets: the value of difference." The talk was sponsored by the Diversity Council.

Pease received his technical training from Rose-Hulman and graduated in 1980 with a degree in chemical engineering. He then hired on with Texaco as a process engineer, working with eliminating inefficiencies in a refinery to optimize the unit's performance. In 1989, he became a crude oil trader with the company. Pease continued to learn about business while changing jobs between technical and non-technical fields. He moved into management in the latter part of his career and has since enjoyed the cultural challenges working in joint ventures. The rapidly changing scenery in the oil business has given Pease work with Texaco, Star Enterprise, Equilon, Motiva, and his current position with Shell Trading.

Pease began his talk by sharing a story of his first international business trip. Through the sharing of his experiences, he illustrated that "[there is] incredible diversity in the...global community." The purpose of Pease's talk was to emphasize the importance of communicating, understanding, and relating to individuals from around the world in this time of global economy, and the problems and difficulties that difference can create for a global business.

Pease compared diversity to an iceberg, saying that the visible traits of difference were only a small part of all of the factors that make an individual or country unique, in Pease's words, there are a "tremendous number of factors below the waterline." These elements are at the core of understanding how



Albert Mui/ Rose Thorn  
Robert W. Pease, President of Shell Trading (US) Company, spoke to students on Monday about the value understanding diversity and cultural differences in the business world.

to best work with other cultures.

As a global company expands, Pease explained, it will (generally) need to hire a workforce in its new branch. However, while hiring a new workforce is a necessity, a native workforce probably will not respond in the same manner to certain situations as the original office. Pease listed major aspects of a culture that make them unique, including how the demographic responded to uncertainty (risk) and how that culture handled interactions, both professional and personal. He explained that by understanding these differences, interactions with certain offices around the world could be tailored to better communication and business relationships.

Throughout the talk, Pease emphasized a few main points, most notably that an understanding of difference and an ability to interact intelligently and take those differences into account, is essential in a global marketplace. Pease especially emphasized that corporate cultural differences can be divisive, and working through those differences, even when dealing with individuals from the same demographic, can be difficult, but is certainly essential.

After a brief intermission, Pease concluded the talk by proposing various real-world scenarios to the audience and asking for feedback. When finished with the audience participation segment, he opened the floor for questions, many of which pertained to his career with Shell. Pease concluded by encouraging the growth of the diversity of the institute and reminding students that, "in almost any path you choose, you can learn a great deal from those around you."

# Relay for Life coming up

Vigo Country Relay for Life

Vigo Colleges Relay For Life will kick off the second annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Vigo Colleges on January 31, 2007 at Indiana State University's Hulman Memorial Student Union DeDe II at 7:00 p.m. Students are invited to attend to learn more about Relay For Life.

Relay For Life is the Society's signature event, dedicated to

increasing awareness and raising funds to fight cancer. Teams of family, friends and co-workers camp out for 24 hours, taking turns walking the track. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times, a reminder that cancer never sleeps.

The event includes entertainment and fun activities, an inspiring Victory Lap by survivors and a poignant Luminaria Ceremony at dusk that remembers those that have faced cancer.

# Becoming a part of history

Donna Gustafson  
Rose-Hulman

The Inauguration Planning Committee is now accepting design prototypes for the presidential medallion. When a college president is inaugurated he/she is presented with a presidential medallion. The medallion is typically worn by the president

at graduation ceremonies. The medallion will be cast as a bas relief 4 inches in diameter. Submit a sketch with full detail at life size or larger, indicating scale to CM 6 or the Union Office by January 31.

The front of the medallion will be the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology seal. The back will be the winner's design. A prize in the amount of \$125 is being offered.

# Winter, from Page 1

The Kahn room was also filled with students, as well as younger children, who used their creativity to construct coasters, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings. There was a large variety of materials available.

Also in the Kahn room, a bingo

game was hosted with a chance to win a plethora of prizes. A long table filled with stuffed animals, t-shirts, double bubble gum, and tortilla chip bags were just some of the items that were won. Overall, the Winter Fun Fest drew about one hundred students.

# Duct tape, from Page 1

"If students have ideas for creative projects we could sponsor, we'd love to hear from them."

The event was sponsored by the Humanities and Social Sciences department, the Elsie Pawley fund, and 3M. The HSS department sponsors other events that students find interesting. "The HSS department has brought me to two operas and a ballet," said Waltz.

Christina Davis/ Rose Thorn

Mariah Walton works on her group's competition-winning rendition of Edvard Munch's *Scream*.



## Diversity Matters

# Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

### at ROSE-HULMAN

**Event 1**  
**Art and Poetry Competition**  
**Submission Dates:**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2007**  
**Display Dates:**  
**Monday, January 15-18, 2007**  
**Hulman Union Lobby**

**Event 2**  
**Film Viewing and Discussion of**  
**"Eyes on the Prize"**  
**Monday, January 15, 2007**  
**4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.**  
**Olin Hall 267**  
*Pizza and Brownies will be served!*

**Event 3**  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**Breakfast**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2007**  
**7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m.**  
**Hulman Union, Kahn Room**

**Event 4**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Molly Secours presents**  
**"Whispering Black"**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2007**  
**5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**  
**Hulman Union, Kahn Room**  
*Subway Sandwiches will be served!*

**Event 5**  
**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**Student Leaders' Luncheon**  
**(Invitation Only)**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2007**  
**11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**  
**Hulman Union, Kahn Room**

Sponsored by  
the President's Office and  
the Diversity Council



## Patterson returns to classic thriller in "Cross"

Ryan Schultz  
News Editor

"Cross" the eighth book in the Alex Cross series by award-winning author James Patterson, was recently released. The novel continues the series that began with "Along Came a Spider" and "Kiss the Girls," both of which have become motion pictures. It features Alex Cross as the main character. While Alex is a devoted family man and an excellent pianist, he is also an FBI agent and one of the most sought after homicide detectives in the United States.

In "Cross," Alex retires from the FBI and returns to the private psychology practice he left years earlier. Soon after his retirement, he is asked to consult on a case involving a serial rapist who frightens his victims with terrifying pictures of what will happen to them if they talk to the police. The police desperately need the victims to give details about the predator if he is ever to be stopped. The case eventually triggers a connection to Alex's wife's death. Alex's wife, Maria, was gunned down by a drive by shooting years before, leaving Alex to raise his two young children alone. Alex has never been able to solve the homicide. This could allow justice to be served at long last.

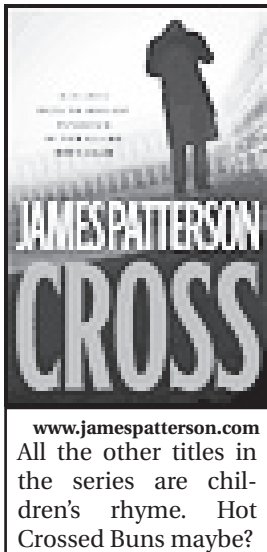
"Cross" was refreshing in that it did not include too much detail about Alex's ill-fated love life. The personal relationship drama in the rest of the series is a little excessive. After Maria's death, Alex

became involved with a secret service agent, Jezzie Flannigan. It turned out that Jezzie planned the kidnapping that Alex was trying to solve. She was eventually

executed by lethal injection. After Jezzie, Alex becomes involved with Christine Johnson, the principal at his children's elementary school. Christine was kidnapped by a serial killer Alex was tracking down. Over a year later she is found in Jamaica with a baby: Alex's baby. Next, Alex becomes involved with an FBI agent who is murdered. After that, he becomes

involved with an inspector across the country. This also does not work out, and Christine decides she wants her baby back. At the end of the seventh book, Alex becomes involved with his neighborhood doctor. Despite the fact that she is stabbed nearly to death and then moves to a different state in "Cross," the personal drama in this book is low compared to the others. I believe that it is important to show Alex's personal side as well as his professional life, but Patterson bogged his previous few novels down with too much personal relationship drama.

Without as many personal problems, the plot of "Cross" was able to get down to the classic thriller Patterson writes so well. The story pulled me in and did not let me go. I sat down and read the nearly 400 pages in one afternoon. The novel is jam-packed with action.



## Quidditch taking off on college campuses

Rebecca Kaplan  
Daily Pennsylvanian (U. Penn)

A group of students gather in an open field, at either end of which stand three hula-hoops painted gold and attached to 2x4s.

They are holding brooms between their legs, and one team wears capes with black-and-white spots.

One person is dressed in yellow with a lumpy sock hanging out of his shorts – he's ready to run.

The sport? Quidditch.

That's right – at Middlebury College, students have formed a Quidditch team, modeling themselves after those described in J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" fantasy series.

Middlebury sophomore Alex Benepe, the current Quidditch organizer, started the mock team while anticipating the release of the movie "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" in fall 2005.

"Anyone who's tried it loves it," Benepe said. "People have forgotten how much fun it is to go outside and just throw a ball around."

But unlike Rowling's magical characters, Middlebury students are forced to compensate for their lack of supernatural powers

when playing the sport.

Students run with brooms between their legs instead of flying on them, and Middlebury sophomore Rainey Johnson serves as a human replacement for the snitch, which, in the book, is a tiny gold ball with wings.

But more violent aspects – from broken arms to attempts to knock others off of their brooms – of Quidditch depicted in Harry Potter are more easily replicated.

"There aren't any rules about fouling, so kids usually do whatever it takes to get the ball," Benepe said, and Middlebury freshman Greta VanDeventer described once getting a "floater" while playing the game when she was accidentally stabbed in the eye with someone's thumb.

But despite the game's wild success at Middlebury, the University of Pennsylvania has been less receptive to the game.

Penn engineering sophomore Nancy Tseng and her friends at home came up with a game relatively similar to Benepe's, also before the release of the fourth movie.

Tseng said she tried to start a team at Penn last year, with little success.

"It was basically me during

freshman year asking people randomly if they wanted to start Quidditch teams," she said.

And Middlebury junior Susan Weber said Penn would be a "laughingstock" if its students decided to start a Quidditch team of their own.

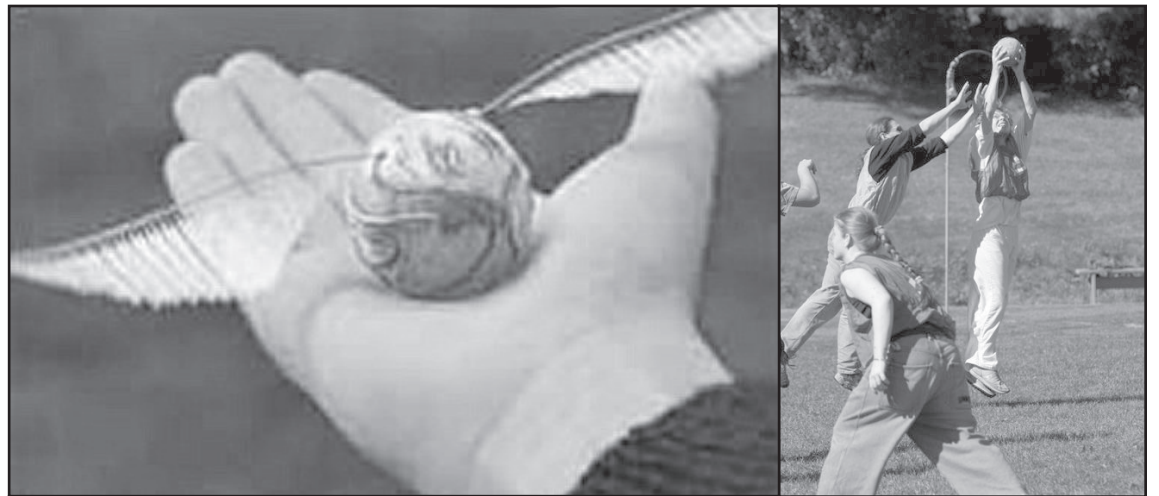
She added that, even though she said she is a huge fan of "Harry Potter," she would never join such a team, which she called "very childish, negative and embarrassing."

Nevertheless, Middlebury is plowing ahead with somewhat ambitious plans for the future of their team and the game, including extending an invitation to Rowling to attend their spring world cup event, which usually draws about 50 spectators.

Bucknell University and Vassar College expect to start playing Quidditch in the spring using Middlebury's rules, listed on the Facebook.com group "Intercollegiate Quidditch Association."

Many other schools interested in starting Quidditch teams of their own have joined this group, and Benepe said he hopes to start an intercollegiate league.

Warner Bros., the official rights holders of Harry Potter games, declined to comment.



One of the biggest challenges in interpreting the game was coming up with a way to model the flying snitch (left) on a perfectly mundane playing field (right) like these Marlboro College students have.

## "These are the voyages of the starship Enterprise"

Lissa Avery  
Editor-in-Chief

I'm a long time "Star Trek" fan, but I've honestly never been able to stand the original series much. I love the characters, I love the boundaries that were pushed, and I used to love Gene Roddenberry's vision of the future. I even liked a lot of the actors; Leonard Nimoy's photography is great, and DeForest Kelley made a great grumpy admiral in his "Star Trek: The Next Generation" appearance.

But the acting. Oh, god, the acting.

Give me "Next Generation," "Deep Space 9," or "Voyager" any day over a prattling William Shatner as James T. Kirk, or a walking Scottish stereotype. (Not that "Star Trek" has ever been able to escape stereotyping or blatant speciesism.)

But recently, as I was randomly clicking around the Internet, I found myself watching the most charming Original Series portrayal that I've ever seen. Kirk, for instance, was an aggressive hotshot, but not immediately off-putting due to acting.

The original production by Paramount ran from 1966 to 1969, only covering the first three years of mission. The project "Star Trek: New Voyages" is a fan-based series of Internet-released episodes chronicling the U.S.S. Enterprise crew's fourth and fifth years of

her mission under Kirk.

"New Voyages," accessible on the Internet at <http://www.startreknewvoyages.com/>, is funded largely by Executive Producer/Creator James Cawley, who works in real life as an Elvis impersonator. Obviously, he plays Kirk on the show. All of the "big nine" are represented – Captain Kirk, Commander Spock, Dr. McCoy, Hikaru Sulu, Nyota Uhura, Pavel Chekov, and Montgomery "Scotty" Scott. There are currently three full 50-minute episodes (including a pilot) and a short "vignette," with a fourth episode in post-production and due out in March.

There are several amazing things about this series. First, it's very charming. Maybe I'm a woman of too late a generation, but when I saw Shatner playing Kirk, I just didn't find him as boyishly charming as he was evidently supposed to be. I was plagued by the memory of an unhealthy-looking Shatner in the movie "Generations" or in Priceline commercials.

Cawley brings back that charisma in Kirk, making it easy to separate Shatner from that role; the same is true for Chekov and Sulu. Many of the other characters haven't had very strong presences yet, so it remains to be seen how their roles will be portrayed, really.

The second awesome thing about the series is the produc-

tion quality. While there is usually a single scene that is strangely fuzzy and blurred in each episode, overall the camera work and special effects are nothing to sneer at. The mix of new technology with hobbyist time constraints yields something more solid than the original series while, again, maintaining the charm... not to mention the fact that the sets are very impressive.

Thirdly, this series has some big name connections that help make the series cool while showing some Trekkie love. The second "official" episode (discounting the pilot) guest-stars Walter Koenig, the actor who originally played Pavel Chekov. The third episode (which is still in production), will guest star George Takei as an older Hikaru Sulu. J.G. Hertzler, who played General Martok in several "Deep Space 9" episodes, will be playing Harry Mudd in the fourth episode. The series has writers of varying degrees of fame, including D.C. Fontana and Howard Weinstein.

All of the episodes are available as (free) downloads on the "Star Trek: New Voyages" website. If you're a Trekkie, at the very least try out the pilot or the first episode. It's less campy than the original series.

Just, uh, don't tell your roommate that you're watching "Star Trek" fan films. That just can't go well.



This is the DVD cover for "Come What May," the pilot episode of "Star Trek: New Voyages"

## Azam Ali makes her own elysium

Lissa Avery  
Editor-in-Chief

I have a thing for vocal talent. An amazing or (pleasantly) unique singing voice can draw me into an artist's web even if their musical backing is weak.

I especially have a weakness for ethereal voices. I listened to Dido's album "No Angel" for months without break, unable to get enough of her voice. When I heard "In This Divide" from Azam Ali on a podcast over the summer, I couldn't take it off of repeat.

Right now I'm stuck on Azam Ali's summer 2006 release "Elysium for the Brave," which contains some of the most beautiful singing my ears have been graced with hearing.

One of the most fascinating things about Ali is that she often doesn't actually sing lyrics – she

just vocalizes, letting her voice, the tone, and the music carry the meaning. When there are lyrics on "Elysium for the Brave," they tend to be in English, unlike her first album. This is her second solo album; she typically does soundtrack work or works with Greg Ellis in their duo Vas.

What's unique and captivating about this album is that Ali treats her voice as an instrument. The vocals aren't separate from the percussion and rhythm, like in many popular styles of music; while the focus of most songs is on her voice, it's more like Peter White's guitar music – the focus is on his guitar playing, because, well, he's a guitar player. Ali is a vocalist. That said, there's plenty of good music accompanying her voice, including Trey Gunn and Pat Mastelotto of King Crimson.

Despite my huge crush on the al-

bum, it has a few flaws. "The Tryst," the sixth song on the album, honestly bores me. It may yet grow on me, but for now, I don't care for it. "Abode" is another that just doesn't get it for me. One of the best songs on the album, "Spring Arrives," is also one of the most lyrically simplistic and repetitive. I love it anyway, but I suspect it may be one of the first songs I get tired of.

An unfortunate side effect of Ali's airy voice is that when she sings sadder songs, it feels as though she's wallowing in it a bit. A few of the songs delve into minor keys for a little too long.

Overall, though, Azam Ali is an artist I'm pleased to have found and want to share; I'm eagerly waiting to see what limits she'll push in her next work. "Elysium for the Brave" is definitely worth a listen if you have a hankering for vocal-focused world music.



Azam Ali shows her own bravery in producing this groundbreaking album. **Six Degrees Records**

## Sennheiser HD 595 – the orchestra on your head

Ryan Schultz  
News Editor

Depending on who you talk to, the Sennheiser HD 595 headphones are either (a) the best headphones on the planet, (b) a benchmark headphone that is just a bit too smooth, or (c) they have no idea who Sennheiser is. Having picked up a pair before Winter Break, I decided to see how they stack up against a discerning ear.

### The cans

The Sennheiser ("Senn" for short) HD 595 headphones have been on the market for a couple of years and incorporate Senn's proprietary E.A.R. (Ergonomic Acoustic Refinement) technology which focuses the sound directly into each ear for a more pristine and direct presentation.

Structurally, the 595 has a swooping, *Art Nouveau* design that is unique; not retro, and not exactly modern either. The open earcups (meaning, the speakers are not sealed inside the cups) are enormous and on the inside are covered in soft padded velvet. Included in the box is a 1/4" to 1/8" adapter and a stand that clamps onto a shelf.

From a technical standpoint, the headphones have a manageable impedance of 50 ohms, and a frequency response of 12 – 38500 Hz with nearly flat response across the entire range. They have a maximum Sound Pressure Level of 112 dB, which can (and will) do damage to your hearing.

### How do they sound?

How do these so-called "audiophile headphones" stack up? Let me put it this way; you have to hear them for yourself. The presentation, soundstage, and quality of the sound are amazing; irrefutably the best sound I have ever heard from any speakers. Period. IMAX is duller, multiplexes are sad, and even the best home theater pales compared to the Senns.

I A-to-B'ed the headphones on a variety of songs and movies, sweeping as many genres as I could take in; hip hop, R&B, rock, jazz, classical, electronica, dance, and techno for music, and on the movies side, *The Bourne Identity* series, *The Incredibles*, and *Battlestar Galactica*, and on the gaming side, *Call of Duty 2*. While no speaker set is perfectly tuned for every single genre, this set comes pretty dang close.

### Presentation

Sennheiser headphones are tuned to a characteristic "Senn sound," which is best described via analogy. Imagine that you're paying attention to a particularly engaging professor, he's gesturing and hooting and hollering and wild. While you enjoy the class and get all of the material, it's kind of force-fed through his sheer exuberance. Now, imagine that you're watching another professor, this one more subdued, yet obviously brilliant; the kind that engages you simply through being that cool. He lectures on the material as a matter-of-fact, succinct, concise, and just as engaging as the first guy, but in a very different way. He presents the same amount of information in a way that, to you, seems more competent and less in-your-face.

The 595s are the second professor. Both the Senns and a more impact-oriented pair of phones play the same music, but the Senns have a much more competent sound. Like a truly immaculate orchestral performance, the Senns present the sound in the most professional of manners and through its perfection it is distanced and directed, haunting and warm, abstract and concrete, desolate and lush. These cans produce a true wall of sound; a pair of speakers where an equalizer of any sort kills the balance and is worthless in the strongest possible meaning of the word.

### Soundstage

Those of you who do a lot of listening via speakers that you attach to your head (even the so-called "surround sound headphones") know that a lot of the sound seems to be coming from inside your skull.

Not with these.

Due to their open design, the Senns avoid the closed-tube resonance that is so commonplace among closed-ear cans and have a soundstage that is comparable to an excellent 3.1 system. Sound seems to come from three distinct locations; the right, the left, and center, with a sub thumping away when necessary.

At first, this is a disorienting effect, even dizzying at times. But, upon acclimation, it leads to a new level of auditory detail.

### Quality

The fidelity of the sound produced by these phones is unbelievable. I could hear everything, and I mean *everything*. On The Doobie Brothers' song *China Grove*, I could hear the finger-fret noise on the electric guitar (this is common on acoustic recordings, but exceedingly rare on electric). On orchestral scores, picking out instrumentalists by hearing each one take a breath was exceedingly easy.

Of all the areas, the 595s are a rare star-



tingly realistic when projecting vocals. When listening to *Monty Python's Spamalot*, I felt like I was back at The Shubert, listening to Sara Ramirez wonder why she hadn't had a song since the first act. No kidding. That good.

The spatial separation of the drivers in these headphones creates a truly immersive cinematic experience. Watching *The Bourne Supremacy* was a completely engrossing experience, so much so that I (nearly) forgot to finish a project due the next day.

For gaming, just as in all other areas, the 595s create a detailed soundstage with the characteristically detailed sound to boot. However, this is the one area where Senn's trademark laid-back sound is a touch inappropriate; a little more "oomph" would be great.

### Troubles in paradise

These headphones, while excellent and deserving of their benchmark status are not without their own quirks. First, at Rose in particular, it is nearly impossible to find a place for the headphone holder; either you clamp it to your desk shelf or the side of your desk or on a cabinet or on your roommate; any way you cut it, it's a bit of a hassle.

As is common with all Senns, these headphones require an extensive "burn-in" period before coming into their own. I don't know why the headphones need this treatment (which involves letting them play music at slightly louder than listening level for 10+ hours), but I am a believer in the burn-in process. After more than 100 hours of listening, I'm sure that they sound better now than when I first opened the box.

As an open-ear headphone, not only can others outside of your head hear the sound, but you can hear your environment as well. Perhaps this doesn't bother you, but again, if

you're looking for the most immaculate sound possible, this environmental leakage into your listening space will prove to be a problem.

Also, like any high-end purchase, you can't just buy the headphones; there are some hidden costs involved. (Well, you could, but then you'd only be releasing about 60-75% of their full potential.) The problem is this; your iPod and computer both have potent little amps built in, but not strong enough to drive 50 ohms easily. Your music will become muted, muddied, and will clog quickly (and you'll be wondering why you dropped \$300 on cans that sound worse than those ubiquitous white earbuds all the kiddies are wearing). You will need a dedicated headphone amplifier to unleash these babies.

Speaking of audio fidelity, there's no point in having a pair of high-end headphones if you're still plugging into that worthless 1/8" jack on the side of your computer. To get the purest signal, you'll also need an external digital-to-analog converter to avoid digital noise (or a magnetically shielded soundcard).

### Conclusion

The reason, pure and simple, that you buy these headphones, is for the fidelity of the sound. The detail, richness, and pristine quality of the sound the 595s produce can only be described as auditory nirvana.

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# A humanities registration conundrum



Here's  
your new  
opinion

**Aaron Meles**  
Opinions Editor

It's time again to register for classes, and once again I am faced with the depressing task of choosing a humanities class to take next quarter. I say that this is depressing, not because I dread the thought of being required to learn about arts, literature, or culture. Nor do I dread the thought of having to write papers or read novels or articles. Quite to the contrary, my humanities classes are often the ones I look forward to the most on a day-to-day basis.

Then why is choosing one for

next quarter such a nightmare? It's a combination of things all working in conjunction that do it, but I think I've managed to narrow the sources of this to three causes: graduation requirements, course classification, and scheduling limitations.

To graduate from Rose, all majors require a student to complete two courses in Global Studies (GL), Self and Society (SL), Values and Contemporary Issues (VA), and Rhetoric and Expression (RH). While the methodology behind how some courses are placed into these categories is somewhat cryptic (next quarter, Archaeology & Prehistory, VA399, was listed last winter as SL385), these categories work well for students studying to get a minor while still satisfying graduation requirements, as courses necessary for their minor (such as those in literature or geography) can be spread across all four categories.

enough, but what if the student (let's say, me) has already taken two SL classes, neither of which was SL151? The student (I) would not be able to take any of the eight economics classes offered next quarter without first taking one more class than necessary, which would not contribute in any way to graduation requirements (except maybe as a free elective). That's nearly 20 percent of the courses offered by the Humanities and Social Sciences Department next quarter which a hypothetical student (I) is (am) automatically ineligible to take.

As always, scheduling conflicts can occur, further narrowing course choices. Inevitably, there will be two classes that sound ridiculously awesome scheduled at the same time, forcing students to choose between the two. The blame for these, however, rests with no one. We all chose to attend a small school, as part of that decision is having a smaller faculty, and therefore, less frequent course offerings.

Another problem that I always seem to run into is that so few of the available classes catch my interest. With the exception of my affinity for political science, I'm mainly a literature person, and enjoy classes about these topics the most. Fortunately, the current course classification system allows every category to contain literature classes. However, the majority of these happen to fall into the SL group, a category that I've already maxed out. And, as it happens, there are no political science classes offered next quarter, because our one political sci-

Covers fiction and film produced in the British Isles during the last half of the 20th and the beginning of the 21st century, including works by both canonical and non-canonical authors. Includes readings about a number of pressing issues in contemporary Britain, and focuses on literary responses to race and class concerns.

## VA 336 Ethics in Human Communication 4R-0L-4C

Examines the interconnection between ethics and rhetoric by studying such topics as (1) persuasion versus propaganda, (2) manipulation and distortion through language, (3) manifestations of prejudice (racism and sexism), (4) language of intimidation and oppression, (5) dehumanizing communication, (6) political and commercial doublespeak, and (7) the content and effectiveness of professional codes for ethical communication.

## VA 337 Twentieth-Century American Novel 4R-0L-4C

Examines the American novel with representatives of the major 20th century literary periods: realism, modernism, postmodernism. Examines the themes and issues addressed in different decades and

Aaron Meles / Rose Thorn

This class hasn't been offered in seven years.

Any class with these numbers in the middle have only one professor, meaning that when that professor takes a sabbatical, these classes can't be offered.

Aaron Meles / Rose Thorn

Two-letter prefix.	Center Digit
Philosophy and Religion	0
Foreign Language	1
History	2
Languages and Literature	3
Art and Music	4
Economics	5
Political Science	6
Psychology	7
Anthropology	8
Geography	9
Special Topics	9

Thematic Categories

How ever, this system has its short-falls. For instance, to take any economics class in any category, the prerequisite is SL151, Principles of Economics. Now, this seems harmless

ence professor is on sabbatical. Why do we allow something as standard as a sabbatical to eliminate a whole series of courses?

There are a lot of interesting courses listed on the HSS department's website, however, it seems like only a few of them are offered frequently. I think courses like Ethics in Human Communication, Philosophy of Religion, and American Arms and Strategy in the 20th Century could be very interesting and popular classes if only they were offered on a more regular basis.

I guess when it comes down to it, none of these individual factors is to blame for my frustration during class registration. Rather, it is the simultaneous alignment of all of them that plagues me. I don't think that the current system of categorizing courses is a

bad one; in fact, I think the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. However, I would like to see more of the courses listed on the website offered more often and class schedules and prerequisites set so that students pursuing any particular discipline can have a good sample of classes to choose from.

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## Do not raise the minimum wage

**Andrew Klusman**  
Staff Writer

On January 10, 2007, Democrats in the House of Representatives proposed to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour, and this plan would be put into effect over the next two years. One major reason they are pushing this raise of the minimum wage is to boost people out of poverty. This plan is a terrible idea for America's workers, and will only lead to negative consequences.

While looking at the Democrats' plan, look at the facts. They claim that this will support women and minorities. Looking at statistics (which come from The Heritage Foundation, which

calculated the numbers from the Bureau of Labor Statistics), the majority of persons working at minimum wage are young people, usually in school, in the age range of 16 to 24 years old. Workers under the age of 25 are normally not the sole provider for their households, and have not finished schooling. Additionally, the average family income is \$64,000 per year with 65 percent having incomes over twice the poverty line (which stands at approximately \$20,000 for a 4-person household).

Looking at the older workers, that is, workers over the age 25, the numbers are much more interesting. The average family income for the age group over 25 is \$33,600, a number above the

poverty line. Fifty-six percent of those over 25 work part-time jobs, and 43 percent of the over-25 workers are married. Moreover, the proportion of single parents working full time for minimum wage compared to the workforce is lower than all hourly workers (6.1% as opposed to 6.3%). Hiking the minimum wage will simply not boost single-parent households out of poverty, and will only affect the smaller number of single-parent households.

Furthermore, looking not at percentages but "real" numbers, one can see that only a small percentage of workers earn the federal minimum wage. In 2005, for example, only 1.9 million Americans reported earning \$5.15 or less per hour. Using another way to calculate earnings, a way that included tips, only 1.3 million Americans earned minimum wage or less per hour, which amounts to only 1.1 percent of the total working population.

The differences in cost-of-living across the country also make a federal minimum wage hard to set. \$5.15 cannot support a person living in New York, but it is likely supports workers in a more rural area. Also, one must factor in that a low-paying job is an entry to the job market for many people. Practically no one wants to stay at minimum wage for his or her entire life; but one needs experience and marketable skills to get a higher paying job.

The wage at which an employee is paid should not be dictated by 536 people in Washington, DC. Rather, it should be decided between an employer and his or her potential employee. The

## Ask the staff...

### about raising the minimum wage

"This sounds like a bad idea. The majority of minimum wage workers are high school students and the government doesn't need to help little Timmy buy more 50 Cent albums. This is also bad for small business. I worked at a Lazer Tag place (which are nearly all mom and pop joints) at \$6.25 per hour. The owner even told me he'd be in bad shape if the minimum wage went up."

-Philip Becker, Staff Writer

"Sounds good to me. Could be good for low-income families that need the extra money."

-Andrea Brown, Layout Manager

"Most of the people on minimum wage buy products from stores which pay minimum wage. When these stores raise prices to compensate, it will be the lower class which is hurt the most."

-Andrew Carlson, Photographer

"While employees may make more money, small business owners in low income communities will not be able to afford to pay as many workers, which will eliminate jobs. I think people should consider this possible negative effect before making any decisions."

-Rachel Howser, Staff Writer

"\$5.15 an hour. 40 hour week. \$206 a week at 10% income tax, which leaves \$185 a week. \$30 a week for food. \$100 a week for rent. \$20 a week for utilities. \$11 a week for a bus pass. That leaves \$24 a week for clothes, emergencies, and medical."

-Gregory Weir, Humor Editor

free-market is almost always sure to pay the correct wage for a certain task, and will adjust to meet the proper equilibrium. If an employer wants to pay his employees \$1.09, it is very likely that the employer will be hard pressed to find someone willing to work for \$1.09. Contrary to what some Congressional members think, the "common man" is perfectly able to decide how much he or she realistically ought to be paid.

It is true that 23 percent of minimum wage earners of age over 25 are living in poverty, and that is a travesty. However, rich, mainly white, liberals in Congress that earn a six-figure salary should not try to soothe their consciences by forcing a minimum wage hike on small businesses. Rather, they should aim at solving the true root problems of poverty: lack of education, and bad family structure.

## 1000 Words

by Erin Hudson



## Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

### Gators chomp Buckeyes

The University of Florida Gators beat the Ohio State University Buckeyes in a rout on Monday night by a final score of 41-14 in the BCS Championship game. The Buckeyes were the favorite to win by one touchdown and they started off well, returning the opening kickoff for a touchdown. The Gators responded with a touchdown on their opening drive and never looked back. The final AP top 25 poll ranks Florida as number one followed by Ohio State, LSU, USC, and Boise State rounds out the top five.

### Indiana pounds Purdue

The University of Indiana Hoosiers trampled the Purdue University Boilermakers in Big Ten action on Wednesday night. The Hoosiers put up 85 points in the contest, led by freshman Joey Shaw who had 19. The Boilermakers ended up with 58 points on the night. These two teams meet up again in West Lafayette on February 14.

### Gwynn and Ripken newest Hall of Famers

The Baseball Writers' Association of America voted Tony Gwynn and Cal Ripken Jr. to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame on Tuesday. Ripken, who spent 21 years with the Baltimore Orioles received 98.53% of the votes cast, the third highest percentage in the history of the Hall of Fame. Gwynn, who played for the San Diego Padres for 20 years received 97.61% of the votes cast, which places him seventh on that prestigious list.

### Coughlin remains in charge

Despite coming off a 8-9 season with the New York Giants, head coach Tom Coughlin will keep his job for the 2007-2008 season. This comes as a surprise as many critics believed that Coughlin would be fired after the season but he was given a one year extension to turn the Giants into a legitimate contender in the playoffs next year.

## Engineer Scoreboard

Men's Basketball 5-10 (1-6)	Women's Basketball 14-1 (7-0)
<i>January 10</i>	<i>January 10</i>
Mt. St. Joseph 77	Rose-Hulman 68
at Rose-Hulman 61	at Mt. St. Joseph 44
<i>January 6</i>	<i>January 6</i>
Rose-Hulman 66	Transylvania 61
at Transylvania 82	at Rose-Hulman 75
<i>January 3</i>	<i>January 3</i>
Rose-Hulman 39	Rose-Hulman 54
at Defiance 60	at Defiance 51
<i>December 30</i>	<i>December 29</i>
Rose-Hulman 49	Rose-Hulman 63
at Robert Morris 67	at Webster 46

### Wrestling

*January 6*  
Knox College Duals Result: 1-3 Dual Mark

## Men fall to Mt. St. Joe's

Rose Hulman News

The men's basketball team placed three players in double figures, but Mount St. Joseph shot 52% from the field to earn a 77-61 men's basketball victory on Wednesday night.

Tony Blomer led the victorious Lions with 23 points. Senior Brian Bibb led the Engineers with 16 points and nine rebounds.

Junior Ross Uthoff added a career-high 14 points in his first college start.

Sophomore Lorenzo Rice rounded out the double figure scorers for Rose-Hulman with a season-high 13 points. Junior Phil Sundling added seven rebounds and four assists, along with two points.

Mount St. Joseph jumped out to a 14-point halftime lead based on 53% shooting from the field. The Engineers relied on a conventional three-point play by Bibb to tie the score at 12-12, before the Lions went on a 14-2 run to take a 12-point lead that they

would not relinquish.

Mount St. Joseph improved to 8-6 on the season and 5-2 in conference play, while Rose-Hulman dropped to 5-10 overall and 1-6 in league contests. The Engineers host Manchester in another HCAC matchup tomorrow at 3 p.m.



Rose Hulman News

Ross Uthoff scored 14 points for the Engineers.

# Winning streak reaches 11

Rose Hulman News

The women's basketball team extended its school record winning streak to 11 games with a 68-44 victory over Mount St. Joseph in women's basketball action on Wednesday.

The Engineers improved to 14-1 on the season and remain atop the HCAC standings at 7-0 with the win. Rose-Hulman also established a new single-season school record with its 14th victory, with 10 games remaining in the regular season.

Sophomore Liz Ridgway led three Engineers in double figures with a career-high 18 points. Senior Suzy Carlson added 17 points and was a perfect 6-6 from the field, while junior Katie Tharp added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Other key contributors for the Engineers included senior

Rebekah Forsyth and junior Jill Floyd with six points each. Junior Brittany Moline added five points, eight rebounds, three assists and two blocks in a well-rounded effort.

Rose-Hulman led 26-22 after a defensive minded first half that featured 48% shooting from the field for the Engineers. In the second half, Rose-Hulman held the Lions to just 21% shooting to lower their overall effort to 29%.

The second half run continued with two free throws by Floyd, a layup by Tharp, three points from Ridgway and a pair of Carlson free throws to make the score 43-29 at the 11:57 mark.

Rose-Hulman will attempt to complete a perfect first round of HCAC play with tomorrow's matchup at preseason league champion selection Manchester College.



Rose Hulman News

Suzy Carlson finished a perfect 6-6 from the floor with 17 points.



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NATO TELEGRAPH CODESHEET  
OCTOBER 1964  
CUT OUT AND KEEP SAFE

KASDN.....MORE TOAST PLEASE  
NMEWD.....DO YOU LIKE MY JACKET  
EWRFO.....THANK YOU FOR THE TEA COZY  
SDFNF.....NO I AM NOT YOUR FATHER  
URJKL.....COMMUNISM IS NOT GROOVY  
LWQAC.....I DONT THINK THAT GESTURE IS APPROPRIATE  
BVIOL.....SORT OF BUT NOT QUITE  
PZMYS.....SWIMMINGLY THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN  
QPLTR.....DONT PUT IT ON YOUR EXPENSE REPORT  
IQUDG.....EMERGENCY SITUATION CALL HERTZ  
QWBYS.....THIS IS MY BOMB SHELTER GET YOUR OWN  
KLUNW.....IM NOT SURE BUT ID RATHER NOT CHECK  
PANTS.....SO WHATS YOUR SIGN BABY  
OBHFS.....DINKA DINKA PLOCKYTA OATS FLETCHER BOOL  
AAAAA.....MY RANDOM CODE GENERATOR IS BROKEN  
OIQWN.....CAN I COME BACK IN YET  
YUOMA.....THAT WILL BE TWENTY TWO BUCKS FIFTY

\*\*\*TOP SECRET\*\*\*  
\*\*\*KEEP AWAY FROM REDS AND HOBOS\*\*\*

## Video Store Ninja

Philip Becker  
Staff Writer

A friend of mine happened to have some free movie rentals, so we went to the video store to rent a movie. It was a day when we needed something brainless yet high-octane. A film that required little thinking, but much yelling, "Oh *schnaps!* That hurt!" A film that wouldn't make us change our ideas on life, but one that would reinforce our desire to not get kicked in the face.

We're too classy for old movies, so we began our journey around the outer wall of new releases. Between the walls of available big movies, there's always little obscure movies. The backs of those boxes always make a good read:

"*Jakeem has been in prison for the last eight years, convicted for a crime he didn't commit... but things have changed since he left the neighborhood. Revenge takes a backseat in his priorities as he realizes the streets have been taken over by bloodsucking fiends!* BOYZ N' THE HOOD meets DAWN OF THE DEAD in this entertaining, terrifying vampire tale." -"Vampiyaz: Brothers in Blood."

But we ended up looking at some crazy French action movies to rent. The ones that weren't about surrendering were about revolting, so we picked one of them up.

This whole time, however, there was a little man following us. He wore a thick coat and leaned heavily on his cane and wore a hat that cast a shadow over his Mr. Miyagi face. As we began to walk down the final wall of new releases, I heard the man say, "Hey." I looked back as he reached out to the shelf and picked up a movie. He pointed the cover at me, which read "Kill Zone," and said, "Get this one." I looked quizzically at him for a moment so he said again, "Rent this." Then without another word he put the film back on the shelf and melted back into the aisles of the movie rental store.

I looked back at my friends and whispered, "Guys... We gotta get this movie..." I went over and looked at it. It had quotes from various names I didn't recognize about how it was the most amazing kung fu film ever. However, despite all my begging and pleading, my friends wouldn't rent "Kill Zone."

The French film wasn't bad until it got bogged down with all that "Liberty, Fraternity, Equality" garbage. I only wish I had listened to the video store ninja. After seeing the film he would have contacted me and trained me in the ways of the video store ninja. Then I could finally live my dream of saving the world from French action movies.

## Bush's new Iraq plan to include mech suits

Aaron Meles  
Opinions Editor

Wednesday, President Bush announced his new plan for Iraq, which included deploying 20,000 more troops, setting benchmarks for the new Iraqi government in order to maintain U.S. support, and issuing mech suits to every soldier above the rank of corporal.

"We feel like mech suits are the right choice for the modern military," stated Secretary of Defense Robert Gates at a press conference Thursday morning. "We in the administration have come to the agreement that the reason we haven't been succeeding in Iraq is because we've been moving from house to house, slowly flushing the insurgents out one foyer at a time."

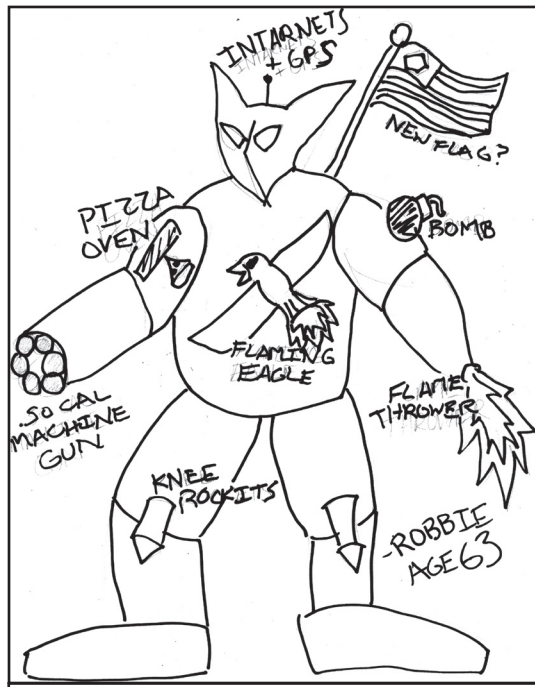
"With mech suits," Gates continued, "we'll be able to crash right through buildings, allowing our troops to clear out enemies at nearly ten times the speed, while at the same time, destroying places of residence that insurgents would have possibly been able to use as cover from air strikes and as bases of operation."

According to a DOD press release, each mech suit will be equipped with a .50 caliber chain gun on one arm and either a Stinger missile launcher or flamethrower on the other. Suits

on the use of flamethrowers in war, Gates replied that the devices would only be used for "intersect barbecue purposes only."

"Specially assigned suits will have the ability to 'transform' into various pieces of equipment useful around the battlefield," detailed Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England at Thursday's press conference. "For instance, we've got a whole company of men that can turn into Humvees at a moments notice, as well as some who can become howitzers or syringes full of morphine. Heck, we've even got a few that can turn into a box full of battlefield meals-ready-to-eat."

Preliminary testing on the suits seems to have yielded great successes so far. After being knocked backwards by a rocket propelled grenade and stepping on an improvised explosive device (IED), one "mechasoldier" reportedly responded "IED? What IED?" He then followed up in his electronic mechavoice by saying "God bless America and its greatest leader, George W. Bush!" before turning and sprinting headfirst into a three story building.



Bluke Starlein / All-Mighty-Duder  
The Pentagon's initial plans for the mecha, tentatively named "Flaming Eagle Mark IV." It is the first iteration of this design.

belonging to officers above the rank of captain will also have a SAM missile battery attached to the back of the suit. When questioned about the worldwide ban

### Wacky Prof Quotes

"I was wondering if I should put you two in a group together so you could bleed together."

-- Prof. Kaczmarczyk, the bloodthirsty professor

"To summarize this lecture, I don't care if you remember any of this crap or not."

-- Prof. Rostamkolai, being realistic

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

### I, vocalist in training

Lissa Avery  
Editor-in-Chief

Aaah-AAAH-aaah! Saaah-ah! A-a-a-angst! AAAAH! Laa-ah!

### Top ten things to do now that you're back

Matthew Melton  
Staff Writer

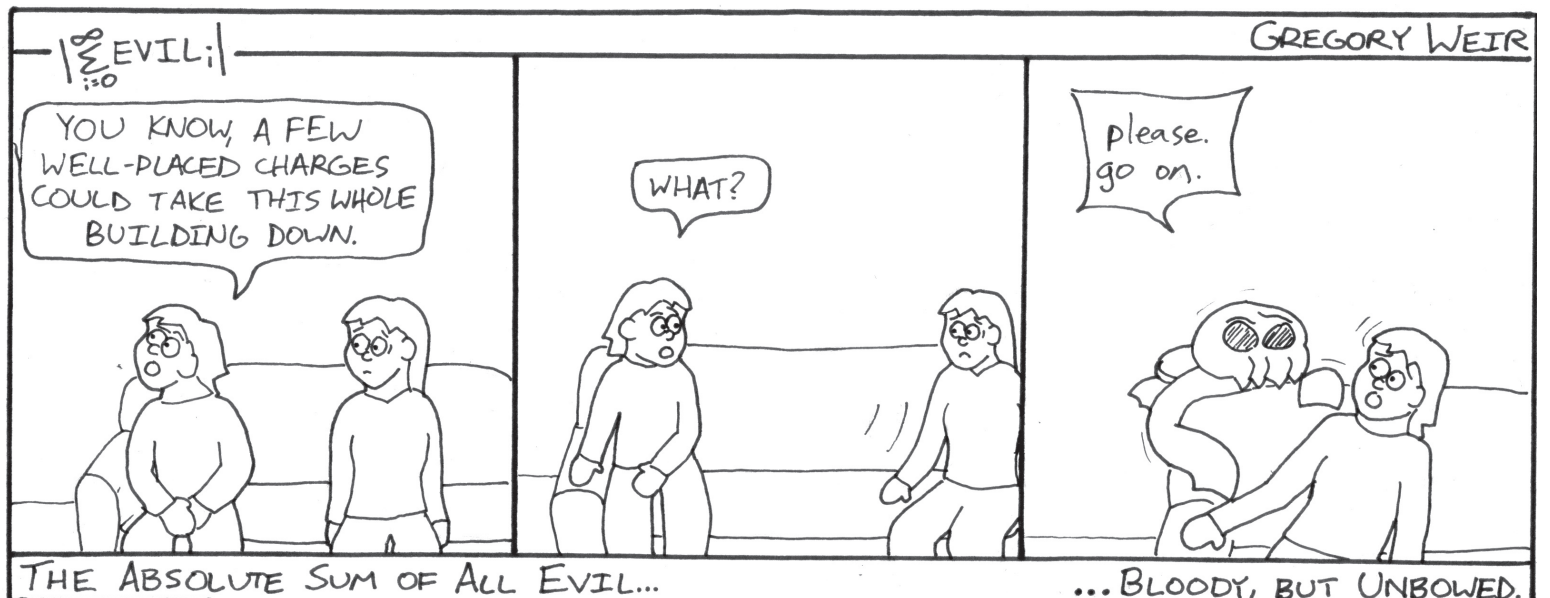
10. Disregard all New Year's resolutions. CS's, ha-ha! Kazakhstanimation! MEMS? Aaahh!!! That's three.
9. Start it off with a bang doing three all-nighters in a row: one doing homework, one studying for a test, and the most essential one playing some random video game with the floor.
8. Since you spent most of breaking getting ahead on homework, it's time to get behind on it. I give it two days.
7. Start a new IV of Mountain Dew.
6. Decide to either throw out the milk you left in your unplugged fridge all break long or save it in the name of Science.
5. "Guitar Hero III!" "World of Warcraft!" "Halo 2!" How nice it is to be a freshman.
4. Hope that it snows sometime soon so the roaming bands of snowball throwers can once again rule the streets with an iron fist.
3. Consider the magnifimazement of writing a Top Ten... in binary.
2. Test out your awesome new PC from Christmas by calculating the last digit of  $\pi$ , then asking Chuck Norris if it's correct. (How have I not made a Chuck Norris joke until now?) (There's a very good reason. Now go sit in the corner! -Ed.)
1. Say goodbye to your best friend Free Time and re-unite with that ██████████ Homework.

### This Day in History

Jack London is born in 1876 to wolves. He spends nine years running with the pack, tearing deer apart with his teeth, before finding a tattered copy of Ouida's *Signa* and deciding to become an author.

### In Addition

Occasionally, I do something that makes me think, "Wow, now I'm officially a geek." Then I have to stop and remind myself that it's been official since I got yelled at for reading in class in first grade.



THE ABSOLUTE SUM OF ALL EVIL...

...BLOODY, BUT UNBOWED.