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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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News Briefs

By Kyle Kamischke

Microsoft caught Wiki-handed

Recently it was discovered that Microsoft wanted to pay a well known blogger, Rick Jelliffe, to edit articles on Wikipedia. He was specifically asked to correct articles that were incorrect on open-source document standards.

Originally, Microsoft tried flagging entries so that regular people would fix them. This did not work for the company, so they decided to have a third party make changes instead so that there was a better chance that they wouldn't be undone again.

No money amount was ever agreed on between Microsoft and Jelliffe. The only thing that was agreed on was that his work wouldn't be reviewed before it was added to Wikipedia.

In a blog posted Monday, Jelliffe described himself as a technical standards enthusiast.

The founder of Wikipedia released a statement saying that Microsoft should have instead written a document with their interpretation of the subject and posted a link to it on the Wikipedia website.

Anti-iTunes movement gains support in Europe

Consumer groups in Germany and France have joined a movement led by Norway to put pressure on Apple, Inc. to change iTunes so that it's compatible with digital music players made by rival companies. Norway, Denmark, and Sweden claimed that Apple was violating their copyright laws with the iTunes software in 2006. According to sources in Norway, they are giving Apple until September to make changes to their software before they will bring legal action against them.

China wishes to cleanse the Internet

The chief of the Chinese Communist Party has vowed to cleanse the Internet according to the country's state media.

Hu Jintao is making it well known that he wants to control the access of China's 137 million people who use the Internet. Jintao mentioned no use of censorship to accomplish his goals. The country's ruling party is specifically targeting people interested in "salacious pictures, bloodthirsty games and political scandal than Marxist lessons."

Last year, China's Internet population grew by about 26 million. The total number of Internet users is about 10 percent of the country's total population. Jintao wishes to make the Internet profitable while still keeping a hold of the reins.

Networkin' it up at the Career Fair

Jessica Rogers
Staff Writer

This year's Winter Career Fair had the highest recorded number of companies in attendance. On Wednesday January 24, representatives from 131 companies manned tables in the Sports and Recreation Center in hopes of recruiting Rose-Hulman students. However, as Assistant Director of Career Services and Employer Relations Charity Mouck stated, "Companies coming to Rose is only part of the success. Student participation is key."

According to Mouck, It's the student participation that draws companies to Rose Career Fairs. At the end of each fair, Mouck says she frequently hears companies commenting on how well prepared and well spoken the students at Rose consistently are. But what drives a company to send representatives to Terre Haute to seek out potential interns or full-time employees? For companies such as Texas Instruments, participation meant traveling from Dallas, Texas.

Matt Sunna, one of the company's employees commented that "Rose-Hulman produces awesome gradu-

ates" and that is a reason that they have decided to participate in the fair. This decision was also made due in large part to the influence of a Rose-Hulman graduate within the company.

The same reasons applied to Aprimo, a software development company. Part of their desire to come to Rose can be summed up in a single gesture. When asked why they came to Rose, Talent Recruiter MT Ray simply turned and pointed at her co-worker, Vice President of Software Engineering Tim Sublette. Sublette is a 1995 graduate of Rose-Hulman and an example to the company of the quality of engineer Rose-Hulman educates. The small Indiana company is very impressed with the way the Rose-Hulman curriculum matches up with what their company does. They also feel assured that any student from Rose will be well educated and prepared for jumping into a career.

What draws students to the career fair? For some, it's the ability to potentially achieve that first step toward a job – the interview. Others see it as a great networking opportunity and are more than excited to talk to every compa-



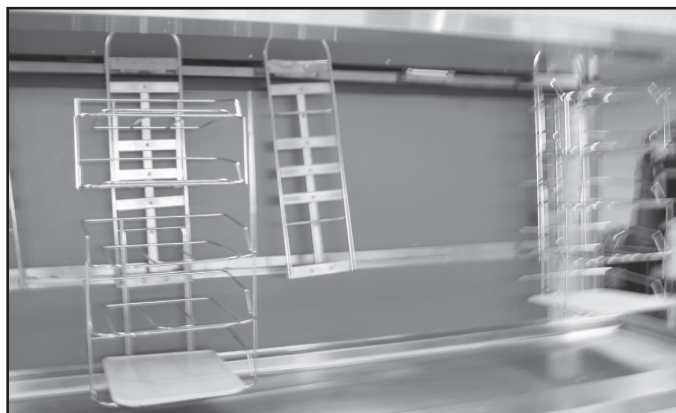
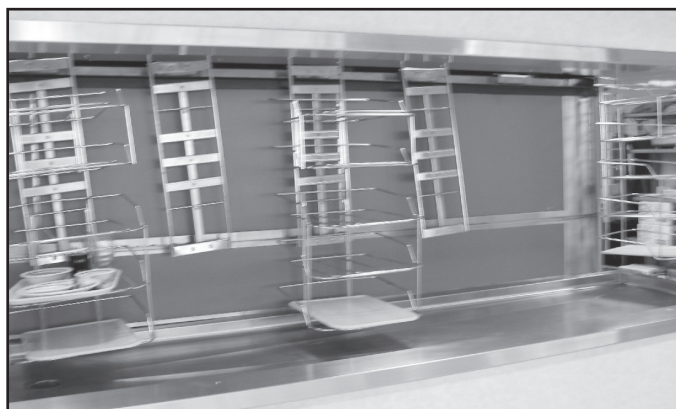
Andrew Carlson/ Rose Thorn
Students talk to recruiters at this year's Winter Career Fair. More than 130 companies attended the fair.

ny that will speak with them in order to make potential contacts. Sophomore chemical engineer Rachel McHenry also enjoys the free items companies hand out in order to get your attention. She was excited to discover that one of the items she received was a ratchet set, one of the most unusual things she has ever received.

Mouck pointed out that the career fairs are "One, if

not the biggest way students network with companies." Although she does not keep track of how many interviews are aquired as a direct result of the fair, she does keep records on graduating seniors and their job plans. One of the questions the seniors are asked is how they made contact with the company. A large number of the contacts are first made through on campus recruiting.

ARA tray returning troubles to end soon



Words by Fred Webber
Staff Writer

Photos by Joseph Barlan
Rose Thorn

Students eating at the ARA won't have to wait in line to put up used trays much longer. "We plan to have a new tray carousel installed over the quarter break," said Mark Farner, who indicated that the current one has outlived its service life.

News

Textbooks,
Doobies

Page 3

Entertainment

Engineers in Concert,
video game reviews

Pages 4-5

Opinions

Rose's new website,
Energy of the Future,
Presidential primaries

Page 6

Sports

Swimmers doing well,
Basketball,
Scores

Page 7

Flipside

"Eight Stitches..."

Page 8

Upcoming community events

					Friday	Saturday
					January 26	27
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Performing Arts Series, LUMA: Theatre of Light, 7:00 p.m., Hatfield Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student Activity, Ski Trip to Perfect North Slopes, 9:00 a.m. •Men's & Women's Indoor Track, Engineer Invitational, 12:00 p.m., SRC •Triangle's SADD Games (For Middle School Students), 2:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	February 1	2
28	29	30	31	February 1	2	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blue Key Faculty/Staff Dialogue, Faculty/Staff Dining Room, Hulman Union, 7 p.m. •Career Services' Information Session, "What is Co-Op?" Room 265, Hulman Union, 5:15 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Countdown to Commencement, "Etiquette Dinner," Hulman Union, 5-7 p.m – Reservations Required •Fusion Collegiate Event, Hulman Memorial Union, Indiana State University, 7-10 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Basketball, vs. Franklin College, Hulbert Arena, 7:30 p.m. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student Performing Arts Series, Step Afrika, Hatfield Hall Theater, 8 p.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Rifle, University of Kentucky, Rifle Range, Cook Stadium, 9 a.m. •Men's Basketball, vs. Transylvania University, Hulbert Arena, 3 p.m.

\$6.50/hr

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Email resume to thorn@rose-hulman.edu

Classifieds

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. Show your Rose ID and get 10% off. 6710 E. Wabash Ave. 877-4002.

House for rent

3 & 4-5 bd., spacious, quiet for study, **EXTRA NICE!** Call 232-6977 after 11 am. Please leave ph #.

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Three bedroom apartment

Large, furnished, three bedroom apartment available Summer or Fall quarter. Nine or twelve month lease. \$660 includes all utilities. Contact Dr. Ditteon (CL104, Box 171, ext. 8247 or 299-5182.

1-5 bedroom rentals

Now renting 1-5 bedrooms. Summer or Fall. \$310-\$550. Some utilities included. No pets. Gibson Apts. 234-4884.

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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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Indiana House textbook bill passes first test

Beka Mech
Indiana Daily Student (Indiana U.)

A House bill that could eliminate taxes on college textbooks passed through the state's Committee on Education with a unanimous vote of 12-0, said Indiana University Student Association Vice President Andrew Lauck.

The IUSA-supported bill also saw a change that added graduate textbooks to the tax exemption. The bill now moves on to the Ways and Means Committee, which will decide if the bill receives funding.

State Rep. Joe Micon, D-West Lafayette, wrote House Bill 1311, which would eliminate Indiana's sales tax on any textbook that is required for an undergraduate course at an accredited college or university in the state.

Students from IU, Ivy Tech Community College and Purdue University gave testimony at the hearing along with the president of the Indiana Retail Council, Grant Monahan.

Lauck said he talked to the committee about the rise in textbook costs and how the growing number of editions make it harder for students to buy used books. He testified that 15 other states have already implemented similar bills, that five others are looking into adopting such a bill,

and that students would benefit from the exemption. IUSA Chief of External Affairs Emma Cullen and former Chief of External Affairs Garret Scharton, who are both seniors, also attended the hearing.

Lauck said the costs of going to college are increasing at a faster rate than inflation, and the average student spends more than \$1,000 per year on textbooks, so the savings would be about \$60 annually.

Purdue student Jimmy Cox echoed the same sentiment, while Ivy Tech student Amanda Little gave a more personal testimony about the types of students attending Ivy Tech, Lauck said. Little reminded the committee that some Ivy Tech students are single mothers who put themselves through school or traditional students right out of high school whose parents can't afford the tuition at other schools. Lauck said Little told the committee while \$30 might not be a lot to some people, it makes a big difference for her classmates.

"I think it's important for (legislators and committees) to see us at every hearing," Lauck said. "It shows that it's important to us."

Lauck said IUSA is sending letters to every state representative this week to thank them for hearing and supporting the bill. Indiana students, parents or citizens

can help the cause by calling or writing a letter to their state representatives to tell them the bill is important them, he said.

The House bill is identical to Senate Bill 16 penned by Republican Sen. Brent Steele of Bedford. Lauck said two bills are circulating in an attempt to bypass any difficulty caused by the House and the Senate being controlled by different parties. Also, about six legislators have taken interest in the bill, and each of them has an opportunity to write his or her own version of the bill, he said.

The campaign hopes the Senate will want to give more attention to the bill as it becomes more popular and gets to the House, he said.

New Hampshire representatives introduce bill to legalize marijuana

Christine Paquin
The Dartmouth (Dartmouth)

Three New Hampshire representatives have proposed legislation that would legalize the use of marijuana in the "Live Free or Die" state. The legislators insist that the bill is in the state's interest due to the resources wasted in prosecution of what many consider a victimless crime.

Rep. Charles Weed, a Democrat from Keene, N.H., initiated the bill, which is co-sponsored by two Republicans, Rep. Paul Ingbretson of Pike, N.H., and Rep. Steve Vaillancourt of Manchester, N.H.

Vaillancourt noted that one major concern with the crimi-

nal status of marijuana is the cost of enforcing the law, a law whose violators, some argue, are essentially harmless.

"As a legislator, I never do anything for my own personal benefit," he said. "This has nothing to do with me — whether I use marijuana or not. I believe it is in society's interest to legalize marijuana because we waste a tremendous amount of time pursuing people who aren't doing anything except possibly hurting themselves."

When asked about a possible conflict between the federal legal precedents barring the use of marijuana even for medical purposes, he said that if passed, the bill would be making a statement to Washington.

Have a real answer to that question:

What do you do in your free time?

**ROSE THORN MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS
5:15 P.M. / O-157**

Advertisement

Presidential Candidates

Name: Emily Albert
Class: 2008
Major: Chemical Engineering / Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Hometown: Decatur, IL



What are your goals as an executive officer if elected?

- Set goals for the executive council, keep improving what we do
- Develop new events for students to participate in
- Provide more and different opportunities so that more students can get involved on campus
- Have fun and make the office even better!

Why do you feel you are qualified for the position? I've not only served as senator in SGA, but I've also been on the Finance Committee and on the executive council for a year. I am also involved in many other student organizations, so I think I represent the students!

What made you decide to run for the position you are seeking? I've been on exec and am aware of the position and its commitments. I think I can make it better!

What cool event do you think SGA should sponsor?

- More student events at Homecoming
- More tailgating events (class, different events, more sports)

Name: Rachel Howser
Class: 2008
Major: Civil Engineering
Hometown: Scottsburg, IN



What are your goals as an executive officer if elected?

My main goals include communicating with the student body to enhance each student's experience at Rose, and pushing the executive committee to maintain the current level of excellence while exploring new ideas and opportunities. I want there to be at least one SGA event that appeals to every student on campus.

Why do you feel you are qualified for the position? I have served three years on SGA and have held two executive offices. I have also held leadership positions in many other organizations. Over the past two years, I have worked closely with the past two presidents on a number of projects. I feel these experiences qualify me for the position of president.

What made you decide to run for the position you are seeking? I have enjoyed serving on SGA over the past three years and would like to "step up" my leadership role.

What cool event do you think SGA should sponsor?

- All Quarters—Hold a campus wide book sale where students can buy, sell, or trade textbooks
- Fall—Powder Puff Football/Cheerleading
- Winter—Campus-Wide 100 Mile Club (Members choose to run, bike, or swim 100 miles during winter quarter)
- Spring—Make last year's triathlon a yearly event



The Student Government Association of Rose-Hulman

Vice-Presidential Candidate

Name: Adler Edward
Class: 2009
Major: Chemistry/Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Hometown: Muncie, IN



What are your goals as an executive officer if elected?

I would like to see the Student Government Association continue to be the voice of and represent the students at Rose-Hulman. I would like to increase SGA's interaction and participation with the student body, as well as, provide opportunities for Rose students to grow and enjoy themselves.

Why do you feel you are qualified for the position? I feel that my position as a member of the resident life staff, and as a current SGA Exec Member qualify me for this position. I understand how to listen and work with individuals and I also know the procedures, rules, and policies of SGA through my work as an Exec officer.

What made you decide to run for the position you are seeking? I served on the executive committee for SGA this past term and really enjoyed the experience. It was a great learning experience, and I feel that as the vice-president of SGA, I could continue to learn and help the students and families of Rose.

What cool event do you think SGA should sponsor? I think it would be cool if SGA would sponsor an event each month on campus for the students. Not just tailgating for varsity sports, but events during the day to show continuous support for the student body. An example of an event would be a "snow day" where fake snow would be brought in and we would have a fun time making snowballs and snow men and everything you do on a snow day.

Upcoming Events

- January 30—Fusion
 - January 30—Final Elections for Student Government Association President and Vice-President Positions
 - January 30—SGA Meeting
 - February 5-9—Engineers Week
 - February 10—Tailgating for the Men's Basketball Team
- If you would like your club's events to be publicized here, contact: Rachel Howser at howser@rose-hulman.edu

The Wii Virtual Console

The Nintendo Wii offers an ever growing selection of rereleased games for its virtual console.

Gunstar Heroes

Chris Halvorson

"Gunstar Heroes" is an excellent example of an ideal release on the Virtual Console. It's a niche title that a lot of people missed the first time around. "Gunstar Heroes" is a solid multiplayer game and well worth the entry price of \$8. The game runs just as well on the new medium as it did on the original. Gameplay is just as intense as the original, and cooperative gameplay is still a lot of fun. The game itself is a bit short by modern standards, but difficulty settings extend its appeal. Now I just have to beat hard mode.

Bomberman '93

Sara Hegeman

I have never been a devotee of the Bomberman franchise. However, this little-known top-down continuation, originally for the Turbo-Grafx, has awakened a new love of the series. I welcome a game where I am 100% more dangerous to myself than the enemies are.

If you play long enough, you may start to become slightly frustrated with holding the Wiimote sideways and everything just not fitting right in your hands. This game is the reason that a friend of mine went out and bought the Wii Classic Controller. We often find ourselves pressing down and then committing suicide as we drift left instead. Although we both still complain about the d-pad's over-sensitivity, the game experience is much improved by using the classic controller.

Its obvious problems aside, this is still a gem of a game. The single-player is a lot of fun and can wile away many long afternoons of skipped classes. The multi-player is well worth getting five controllers hooked up for an all-out bomber war. At only 600 Wii Points (\$6), I call it a steal.

Ecco the Dolphin

Phillip Meiser

"Ecco the Dolphin" was always one of my favorite games, but I never owned a copy myself, so when I noticed it on the Wii Shop Channel I jumped at the chance to pick it up. The game is of course as pretty as ever, and doing dolphin flips along the surface is still fun even by today's intense gameplay standards.

Like the original game, it only offers you passwords to save your progress, but the Wii's ability to pause a game and shut down makes playing through much easier, as long as you don't forget and accidentally quit.

My biggest complaint is that the already twitchy controls suffer greatly from the tiny d-pad on the Wiimote. Even the retro gaming pad doesn't help much, I can't wait for some third party company to make a controller with an 8-way d-pad the size of a silver dollar like Sega used to have. The dolphin needs it.

"Reprieve" soothes the soul

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Ani DiFranco's 2005 release "Reprieve" is touted as more of DiFranco's beautiful blend of personal and political poetry and music. I have to say, I agree. Furthermore, I think this is an album that people new to DiFranco can appreciate far more than some of her previous releases, particularly "Carnegie Hall 4.6.02," which is a live album.

"Reprieve" opens with "Hypnotized," a quiet song of a meeting between two people drawn and held together by just enough pathos and just enough sweetness to hypnotize the other. The album continues with "Subconscious," which picks up the pace a little, but stays personal and doesn't become jangly or jarring. As the album continues, DiFranco mixes in some spoken poetry, but overall, many of the songs are smoothly hypnotic in rhythm.

The album flows very smoothly from song to song, and it's difficult at times to point out precise-

ly the track separations. I liked that — it gave the feeling of the album being a unified composition, rather than a set of individual songs.

DiFranco recorded this album surrounding the months of the Hurricane Katrina (in her New Orleans studio), and the moods and ideas in the songs and poetry definitely reflect the political climate of the day. That said, these songs feel a lot more subtle than some of her other political pieces; most of the songs feels *personal* rather than preachy, making it easy to connect with the album.

There's something beautifully sweet about this album. DiFranco comes across as a lot less hard in this album, employing more subtlety while still managing to convey her messages just as adequately. It's definitely a more approachable album than some of her previous works, although it's not so mild as to be commercialized for radio listening. There are no catchy hooks or easy answers with DiFranco.

Don't resist 'Resistance: Fall of Man'

Wayne Utterback
Daily Egyptian (Southern Illinois U.)

In the world of first-person-shooter games, innovation is key to success.

"Resistance: Fall of Man" is innovation at its best and it rises to the top class of first-person shooters simply because it strives for excellence while maintaining an overall fun and exciting experience. "Resistance" takes the genres of world war and alien shooters and melds them into a tightly knit non-stop thrill ride.

"Resistance" is a game that takes place in the early 1950s and at first appears to be just another world war clone. However, the moment players rise over the first hill and enter into battle, they will realize just how fresh and original the storyline is.

The date is 1951 and creatures called the Chimera have begun to take over the world and the United States is entering the battle to stop them. The battlefield is England, where gamers travel through cities demolished by the alien forces. Most of the areas are barely recognizable as the cities they once were.

Players assume the role of U.S. Army Ranger, Sgt. Nathan Hale,

who survives overwhelming obstacles while somehow contracting some of the Chimera's powers. He's a cool and collected soldier with only victory on his mind, and while he does not say much throughout the duration of the video game, he fits the role of the traditional hero perfectly.

Weaponry is of both human and Chimera origin. Each gun has two functions and some have rather unique features. For instance, the "Bullseye" is a Chimera gun that can fire a tracking shot that guides all bullets in the direction of the track. It's a unique way to give players that advantage over their enemies. Other alien weapons are more complicated in nature and have to be seen to be understood. Human weaponry is pretty standard with shotguns, automatic guns and sniper rifles.

The enemies are excellent as well. While the small stalker-type creatures are entirely too reminiscent of the head crabs from "Half-Life 2," they along with many other enemies provide unique and interesting challenges for players. As with most games with creatures from another world, they are grotesque and creepy in nature, but also deadly. "Resistance" continually introduces new opponents just to keep the game challenging. Humans infected by the Chimera look like zombies and when they latch onto you, you must shake the controller to throw them off.

Vehicles also provide different ways for players to battle the Chimera. Players can commandeer such machines as tanks and jeeps. In the co-operative mode, two players can get on a vehicle with one player driving and the other firing off the mounted gun.

Online is where the game truly thrives though. The impressive thing about the multiplayer experience is how many players can enter into combat. "Resistance: Fall of Man" supports up to forty players in battle and is

Engineers in Concert leaves us wanting more

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Saturday evening's Encore Engineers in Concert was very relaxing and amazingly entertaining. The variety of the acts by the students and faculty of Rose-Hulman were diverse and interesting; we were impressed at the range of abilities of our colleagues and classmates. The acts ranged from juggling, to dancing, to singing.

One of the performances of the evening that we both really enjoyed was the duet by professors Julia Williams and Tom Adams. They performed a version of Christopher Cross' "Sailing," and Adams did an excellent job at his guitar solo. Williams' vocals were exceptional and very relaxing.

Jenn Cringoli's dance solo performance was also very moving. She danced to "Broken" by Lindsey Hahn and her movements flowed with the lyrics and brought out feelings of remorse that en-

hanced the overall performance. The emotion on Cringoli's face and the ending position when she finished off the song was just amazing and was almost enough to bring the audience to tears.

Professor J.P. Mellor dazzled with his bagpipe performance — in a kilt! He offered a five-ish minute PowerPoint presentation on bagpipes — including their structure and origins — which was pretty cool, if odd. It lent a suddenly academic air to the event, although not overly so.

We were both trapped giggling rather helplessly by the Rose-Hulman Chorus's presentation of "Manly Men" and "The Argument." We, however, are major suckers for groups of people singing harmoniously. The humor was merely an added bonus.

Overall, the entire concert was very exceptional. We enjoyed listening to all the performances; some, for example the Rose-Hulman String Ensemble version of "Pirates of the Caribbean," were relaxing enough that you could fall into your own peaceful little world while listening.



ps3.ign.com
The shooting aliens genre has seen a lot of repetitive archetypes lately, but it's so pretty.

one of the most exciting parts of the games.

Visually, "Resistance" offers players one of the more stunning first-person shooters in recent time. It encompasses just a small taste of the power that the Playstation 3 has. Environments are always evolving and providing new challenges for players to go through. In the first chapter alone players go from combat in the streets to walking through the hallways of houses not knowing what lurks at every turn. Eventually, the journey leads to areas that have been taken over by Chimera and made to look like something out of a sci-fi flick.

Even on the easy setting, "Re-

sistance" is difficult. The Chimera always hit you consistently and can take you out in a matter of seconds. This is not the type of game where you can charge ahead with guns blazing. It takes strategic movement and careful thought to survive this game. It only makes for a more fun experience when you have to struggle to survive.

Many would argue that it isn't the best shooter to be released on a console, but it definitely has set the bar high when it comes to the next generation of video gaming. "Resistance: Fall of Man" ultimately succeeds as being a flagship launch title for Playstation 3.

LUMA shines the light on 'TechnoCircus' tonight

Rose-Hulman News

Using the dark as a canvas and light as the brush the LUMA's Theatre of Light paints a story of how light occurs to humanity, and when combined with hi-tech illuminated objects, is bringing to Rose-Hulman a "TechnoCircus" that provides an astonishing, one-of-a-kind show.

LUMA's latest show will be featured as part of Rose-Hulman's Performing Arts Series on Friday, January 26, at 7 p.m. in the college's Hatfield Hall Theater. The show is sold out!

Creator/artistic director and show emcee Michael Marlin insists that LUMA's Theatre of Light isn't your usual light show. Combining the latest lighting technologies, various physical performance disciplines and the colorful creations of famous kite designer/performer Marc Ricketts, LUMA plunges theatergoers into a world where three dimensional illuminated images paint a surreal world of light, color and motion. Fireworks, carnival rides and computer screen savers appear out of nowhere while phantom images of DNA stands, multiplying cells of light and human ghosts create luminous mysteries.

"There is no reference point for LUMA because there's no show like it playing," said Marlin, a former comic juggler who dropped his first name after forming

LUMA in 1999. "Most other shows, whether it's 'Stomp,' 'Blue Man Group' or whatever, it's all about the performers. That's not our intention. We want you to see the light."

Indeed, performers are totally hidden from the audience throughout the 90-minute show, wearing black suits made from a "top-secret" material. They maneuver brightly-lit props, execute rhythmic gymnastics and puppetry, and even use illusion to depict everything luminous, from creatures that lurk under the ocean to the aurora borealis, in a series of vignettes.

Each LUMA vignette is about two minutes long and is accompanied by an original score. The cast isn't unveiled until the end of the show, which performer George Schanz said always surprises the audience.

"There's a lot that happens with a small amount of people," Schanz said. "But with good planning and choreography, a small amount of people can accomplish a lot."

Schanz, who has a background in dance, said he didn't know what to expect when he joined LUMA a year and a half ago. He had to learn how to control the props and dance in the dark.

"The first time I saw what the show becomes I was like, 'Whoa, this is actually really cool,'" he

said. "It was just a whole new experience coming from being a stage dancer to a show like this, which was unlike anything I'd ever done."

That people make the light move on stage, rather than machines, Schanz said, is what sep-

arates LUMA from any other light show.

Further inspiration came a few years later while visiting a volcano on the island of Hawaii.

"I saw people staring at the lava like a deer in the headlights," said Marlin, who at the time was living in a self-built tree house on the island. "I thought of how plant leaves grow toward the sunlight and how all life is drawn to light. I thought the whole world would like to see a show about light."

In the 1990s, Marlin began incorporating light shows into his comic juggling act, which he performed throughout the world. The act eventually blossomed into LUMA in 1999. To date, the traveling exposition has performed in five continents and is currently exploring an off-Broadway and Las Vegas production.

Marlin urges people attending the Rose-Hulman show to bring flashlights, keychain lights and pen lights to the show — in hopes of maximizing the LUMA experience. The audience's lights will be combined with the performers in an illuminated free-for-all that will be fun and exciting.

LUMA's special Rose-Hulman show has been sponsored by the Indiana Arts Council/Arts Illians, Duke Energy, First Financial Corporation and Rose-Hulman's Department of Physics and Optical Engineering.



www.rose-hulman.edu/news
LUMA dazzles around black silhouettes.

arates LUMA from any other light show.

"I think it brings a slightly more personal aspect to the show," he said. "It's not just a computer shooting an image onto a stage. It brings peoples' emotions and feelings on to the stage as well."

The idea for LUMA was sparked on a camping trip Marlin took with a friend in the Arizona desert during the early 1980s. As his friend stared up at the splendor of the Milky Way, Marlin took a burning branch from the campfire and swung it across the night sky. Marlin said the moment made him aware of each person's

Johnny Cardinale hits high notes, low laughs

Ryan Schultz
News Editor

At 8:00 p.m. Friday night, Johnny Cardinale, the stand-up musician-comedian made his debut here at Rose-Hulman in the ARA... and what a mixed debut it was.

The advertisements posted around the Union proclaimed that Cardinale "has been compared to Adam Sandler." By whom exactly, and how he was compared, is what I would like to know.

As a stand-up comedian, Cardinale's act wasn't fresh. The jokes were run-of-the-mill generically humorous anecdotes about his journey to Rose that weren't unfamiliar ground to anyone in the audience (in fact, I've heard some students crack a couple that he used at lunch the other day). Kudos to the comedian for making his show fit the situation... too bad it fell flat (after all, bashing on The Haute is funny for only so long before the jokes just become sad truths).

Cardinale's delivery was silky-smooth however. Compared to other comedians that have come to Rose and seemed to make up their routine on the ride over, Cardinale would not have been out of place on Comedy Central or a larger stage in the Big Apple or the Laugh Factory in L.A. (where... coincidentally... he has performed). Truly, he seemed professional on the stage. Perhaps his rehearsed routine and clean jokes combined to seem artificial and lack that punch and sting that Rose students, in general, seem to respond best to. Oftentimes, during his stand-up routine, I felt like I was waiting for the punch line... which

never really came.

But then, Cardinale picked up his guitar, and the show did a 180. Suddenly, the "oh goodness, sigh, I'm going to have to sit through thirty more minutes of this," turned into "this guy's awesome!"

Cardinale's satirical use of songs and clean delivery, while detrimental to his vaguely Dane Cook-esque stand-up routine, was the perfect comedic combination for his musical routine. Cardinale seamlessly combined songs from many genres and eras, including a couple of fantastic parodies of John Cougar Mellencamp (where he smashed all of his songs together to prove that they are, in fact, one song) and James Blunt (and his nasal I'm-singing-words-but-good-luck-figuring-out-what-they-are style). The similarity between Cardinale and Sandler is their expert use of music as a satirical device, but the similarities end there. Sandler's pieces are characteristically off-color and border on offensive to just about everybody. Cardinale, with his uncanny ability for mimicking an artist's vocal style, is the better satirist, using the songs' very lyrics to point out how foolish some things really are while simultaneously keeping the show PG-13.

It's too bad Cardinale insisted on doing a stand-up routine. If he had another 15 minutes of solid musical content (and left the stand-up at the door), his act would seem much fresher, more original, and would have been more entertaining. After all, no show can live on an exceptionally strong second half alone.

Reality TV shows: Wash, rinse, repeat. And repeat...

Justin Thompson
The Post (Ohio U.)

Trends define television programming. Network executives embody "monkey see, monkey do" at a level unmatched anywhere. If ABC hit No. 1 with a show about schizophrenic acquirers that protect the environment with their unpredictable arithmetic genius, NBC would follow suit — maybe with one more big-name star.

Sounds patently ridiculous, but when CBS fills its Tuesday slot with "CSI: Topeka," you'll wish you had listened.

The newest great crusade of programming is the creation of reality-game show hybrids.

Easy to understand recipes are as follows: Game shows use bland hosts and quirky guests as pawns in the game bonanza; reality shows utilize games, awkward living arrangements and copious amounts of free alcohol to aggravate interpersonal drama.

For instance, "Road Rules" hosts contests in the hope that cast members will fight each other, while "The Price is Right" uses a stocky grandmother of four from Idaho as another obnoxious piece in Plinko.

Someone forgot to pass these rules to developers and now, strange half-breeds are taking over the airwaves, one confused viewer at a time. All share a basic premise: Sets resembling the Colosseum as designed by Ikea, sympathetic contestants, lighting technicians apparently fired from the Emerald City and, most importantly, washed-up come-

dians hosting the whole thing.

These programs are like an elephant graveyard for once-popular and now-annoying TV stars. Case in point: William Shatner is the insipid host of "Show Me the Money" and — without trying to offend dozens of J-CON members — he is an awful, awful actor. That's too far. He was an awful, awful actor. Now he is an equally unpleasant spokesman for Priceline, whose cheap-at-any-cost ideology is best embodied by their un-ironic hiring of a man famous for a slight speech impediment.

Aside from that weekly dose of Shat, there is the earth-shattering "1 vs. 100," which takes a motivated individual and pits them against 100 others — often B-list celebrities — in a contest of wits. The winner, realistically, is whoever escapes the barrage of cheesy one-liners from a sedated Bob Saget the quickest. The loser is certainly the reputation of the American education system.

And the piece-de-resistance of the terrible threesome is "Identity," where contestants use visual cues to try to guess the identities of twelve strangers. Is that blonde an Olympic gold medalist or a kidney donor? Does anyone care?

"Identity"'s star is Penn Jillette, the irritating half of the comedy-magic duo Penn and Teller. He has little skill at hosting a game show, which makes me wonder if the network couldn't afford the silent half.

These shows highlight a certain television wisdom: A mistake is worth making over and

New York chooses her own flavor of love

Donnie Branscum
Daily O'Collegian (Oklahoma State U.)

The supreme reality TV diva has found her own flavor and will soon become America's No. 1 guilty pleasure in 2007. That's right. After being rejected twice on "Flavor of Love," our favorite queen of controversy is back to pick a prince from the 20 men on her own show, titled "I Love New York."

Tiffany Pollard, also known as New York, will not be making this decision alone. To help guide her to the right man, she brought her equally-controversial mother, Sister Patterson, who claims, "even if I'm down to my last breath, I will find the right man this time around for my daughter."

Together, these women will test 20 men on everything, including their dating skills, physiques, and most importantly, their bank accounts.

On Oct. 15, 2006, approximately 7.5 million people watched Flavor Flav pick Deelishis over New York on the finale of "Flavor of Love 2," making it the highest-rated show in VH1 history.

With all the hype "I Love New York" has received, viewers might assume it will be as much of a flop as Flav's latest album.

Well, this is simply not the case. The show is actually fiercely entertaining.

New York is a star, and having her in charge makes the show so much better than anything Flavor Flav has done.

When the producers decided to create a spin-off, they were going to call it "The Flavorette," and feature season one contestant Hot-tie.

However, when New York returned for season two, the ratings shot through the roof.

The producers focused their attention on her, and in October, New York confirmed her show would air.

The show is definitely a hit, and no one can resist her charm.

"New York is a beautiful, spirited and sexy woman who deserves a man that will appreciate her — she is also one of the most outrageous reality personalities we have ever seen — this show should be a lot of fun," executive producers Mark Cronin and Cris Abrego said.

The truth is, the country is fascinated with New York, whether they will admit it or not.

Don't be surprised if New York sets her own VH1 record.

She began as a face in the sea of women from which Flav was to choose his lover and has risen to create a persona all her own.

Primary problems



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

With next year's Presidential election still a lengthy 21 months away, presidential candidates already seem to be popping out of the ground like zombies in a bad horror film. And what a diverse variety so far! Some of the early Democratic contenders include Hilary Clinton, Barack Obama, and Bill Richardson, all of whom belong to one minority or another. While such diversity is laud-

able, the Democratic Party must not make the mistake of relying solely on the fact that their candidates are not white males, but that they also have qualities that would make good Presidents.

In order to field a promising candidate for President, the candidate must have firm, obvious, and comprehensive solutions to the pressing issues of the time. Unfortunately, our electoral system is not set up to provide such a candidate. In fact, the chances of such a candidate even getting on the ballot in November is highly unlikely because of the inherent weaknesses in our system of primary elections.

The New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucus are the first of many Presidential primaries that sweep the nation every four years. Yet, despite candidates knowing that many more primaries are to

come, most candidates drop out after these first two. Why? Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) has pointed out that neither state is remotely typical of the country as a whole. I have to admit, the fact that these two small states, in effect, get to choose who runs for President still baffles me.

In one of his latest editorials, Michael Barone of *U.S. News and World Report* discussed a better primary system which involved four rounds of primaries, with each round involving larger and larger states. This would mean that the final outcome could not

be truly decided and no candidate obviously victorious until the very end, resulting in a someone chosen by the nation, not two states, as the result.

This plan was considered by the Republicans for a while before ultimately being rejected. And as Barone states, who could blame them? With the way recent elections have been decided by the outcomes in individual states, no candidate could afford to alienate New Hampshire or Iowa by removing them from their pedestal as the nation's Presidential candidate selectors.

With voter turnout at primaries dismally low, much lower than that of real elections, this means that candidate selection is in the hands of even fewer people. The kind of candidate they choose could have dramatic effects on the outcome of the election and policy decisions over the next four years. Even by choosing a weak candidate, they are deciding the outcome of the election in advance by removing any semblance of competition for the opposing party.

It's about time that the Republicans and Democrats realize that our current primary system has an obvious, glaring defect that has a huge bearing on the outcome of elections, and that it should be transformed to actually represent what it should: the opinion of the entire nation, not two of its states.

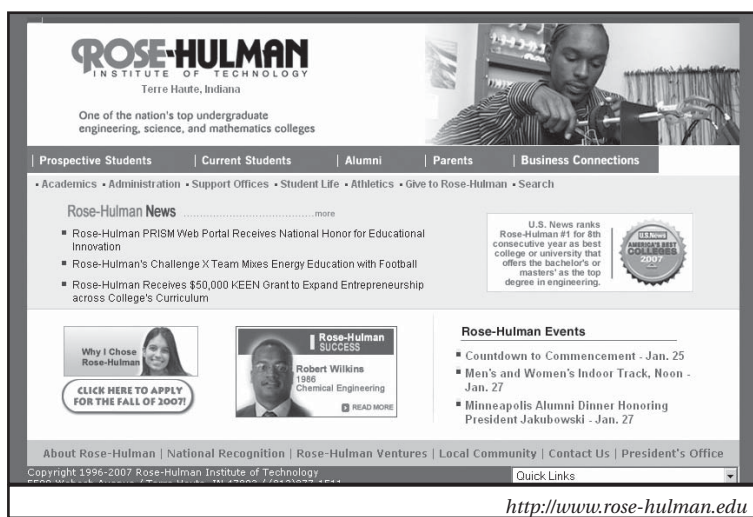
The lowdown on Rose's website

Ryan Schultz
News Editor

If you missed the all-campus email, I'll bet that you were a tidbit surprised when you opened your favorite browser Monday afternoon and Rose's homepage popped up (what? Rose's website isn't your homepage? What's wrong with you?). Rose's new look was developed, according to the all-campus email, "after much study and consultation with various campus constituencies including: current students, prospective students, the president's office, the president's executive cabinet, academic department heads, alumni, and various administrative departments." Now there's an exhaustive list of I've ever seen one.

And that's exactly what the new layout of Rose's new homepage reflects; too much input, not enough decision. I could go through every major design faux pas, but then this article would be about twenty pages long and our newspaper is only eight, so I'll keep it brief.

Don't get me wrong, I think the new layout has some redeeming features, especially in the more graphics-intensive pages. Sometimes the text of the old look got a bit heavy. I also appreciate many of the color choices. The Web 2.0-ish colors are a nice touch. As an added bonus, the photographs on the new webpage show a level of artistry unfamiliar on the Internet. Very nice. Overall usability is generally unaffected as one of the site's creators had an absolute stroke-of-genius by



leaving the quick links alone. I don't know about you, but I rely on those quick links like none other.

However, despite the good elements of the redesign, I can't help but feel that the site has regressed rather than evolved. Some of the elements, especially color selection, are reflective of the growing trends in the Web 2.0 design language. Even some of the layout elements also reflect Web 2.0, most notably in the rounded rectangles that now highlight everything. But that's it. Our new website speaks in a confused design language, more akin to a Web 1.0 page dancing in Web 2.0 clothing. Whereas the original site was strictly 1.0 in both design and content structure, the new design is kind-of Web 2.0 in design and strictly Web 1.0 in structure, making it a hybrid of two styles that should never be mixed.

Here are some fundamental questions that I have and simply don't have the answer to:

1) Why are there three navigation bars on the front page and why don't they stay constant as you navigate through the site?

2) Why are links in counter-intuitive or nonsensical locations (i.e., the "Business Connections" link in the top menu bar on the front page or the "Give to Rose-Hulman" link on a navigation bar that seems to be dedicated to internal Rose stuff)?

3) Why does the "President's Office" disappear when you navigate away from the main site? If it's important enough to be on the front page, why not place it on subsequent pages?

4) Why is the homepage floating in a sea of gray? Why not the white that is easier on the eye and serves as the background to so many other pages?

5) Why doesn't the webpage render properly in *all* browsers?

6) Why do the items under "Rose-Hulman Events" not link to anything? They look just like the links in the third navigation bar!

I don't mean to rag on the people who put this together. I can't imagine the amount of work involved in revamping an entire website. However, the majority of people I've talked to (more than a dozen and counting) like it less than the old one... not the greatest news for the fledgling site.

Here are my suggestions to whomever is in charge of making the new new website: either completely embrace Web 2.0, or disregard it as a fad and create a unique, coherent style... not the current hybrid we have between a struggling Web 2.0 page and a decent Web 1.0 page. (I suggest fully embracing Web 2.0, if the corporate world is any indication.) The new website needs to be redone... because the old one was working just fine and has been "fixed" by a broken replacement.

Energy of the future

Andrew Klusman
Staff Writer

President George W. Bush delivered his seventh State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday, January 23. In the address, he touched upon many domestic issues, but spent the majority of time addressing the war in Iraq, and putting forth his recently issued plan for transferring full power to the Iraqis. Notably, however, President Bush proposed different initiatives to address energy consumption and our dependence on oil. For the most part, the plan is acceptable; however there are a few adjustments President Bush should make to it.

To achieve the goal of dramatically reducing our dependence on foreign oil, he proposes that America must change how we generate electric power and to use clean coal technology, solar and wind energy, and nuclear power. He proposes to reduce gasoline usage by 20 percent by 2017, and to do this, the government



<http://www.coalleader.com>
The FutureGen power plant.

will promote the widespread use of renewable and alternative fuels. In addition to this, he wants to "reform and modernize fuel economy standards for cars the way we did for light trucks," which, according to his numbers, would "conserve up to eight and a half billion gallons of gasoline by 2017." Finally, he wants Congress to double the current capacity of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, from the present levels of 727 million barrels of crude oil, to 1.4 billion barrels.

President Bush puts forth a good plan, but it could go farther. Implementing the Corporate Average Fuel Economy standard revision is a touchy issue. Although it would fast track the implementation of high fuel economy standards, it also means the government would interfere in business and the market, something that should be minimized in most cases. Any discussion of the upward revisions must include the Big Three automakers (General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler), and perhaps Toyota and Honda.

Making cars more fuel efficient not only helps the consumer, but it also helps alleviate air pollution and would ease the pressure on gas prices.

Any energy plan the U.S. government proposes must include a wider usage of nuclear power. In the last few decades, safety has improved, and there is a less-likely chance for a Chernobyl or Three Mile Island incident occurring all over again, especially if training and safety guidelines are followed. In addition to that, nuclear power is a more environmentally friendly way of power generation when compared to most fossil fuels. Nuclear energy will never be the main source of power in America, but there is no reason it cannot provide a larger share of energy production than it currently does.

In addition to the expanded use of nuclear power, President Bush should heavily promote the use

of "clean coal" in power generation. According to the United States Department of Energy's calculations, if coal production and consumption were held constant, coal could be used for the next 200 years before the worldwide supply of recoverable coal is exhausted. The U.S. FutureGen power plant is a project by the U.S. government to build a "near-zero emissions," coal-fired power plant, and it will be financed by the Department of Energy and a group of coal mining and power generation companies. If such a power plant can be built with near-zero emissions, and use existing methods of coal extraction (as it is planned to do), then this should be at the forefront of any discussions concerning large-scale power generation in America.

While President Bush brings some decent proposals to the table, he does not go far enough in his promotion of technologies that we are at the brink of creating. FutureGen should be put on the fast track, and efforts should be undertaken to reduce oil consumption on a large scale in America. It will help the consumer's pocketbook, and it will help the environment.

1000 Words

by Erin Hudson



Hey, would you vote for Hillary Clinton in 2008?

No... I've created a model of corruption as a function of time in office. It seems to follow a $|csc(t)|$ relationship, and Hillary Clinton is approaching $n\pi$ years in office. Oh - and so is McCain.

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

Colts down Patriots

Rivals Indianapolis Colts and New England Patriots battled in the AFC championship game last Saturday. The Patriots came out strong, leading the Colts by a score of 21-3 at halftime but the Colts fought through the adversity to come away with the victory and advance to the Superbowl. The game came down to the final two minutes in the game, when Payton Manning's offense scored a touchdown to put the Colts on top for the win by a score of 38-34.

Saints overwhelmed by Bears

Despite being the underdogs in the NFC Championship game last Sunday, the Bears put on an offensive clinic, beating the Saints by a final score of 39-14. The Bears bombarded the Saints with four touchdowns and three field goals in the win. Saints quarterback Drew Brees had more yards in the air than Bears quarterback Rex Grossman, but it was to no avail as the Saints only had two touchdowns in the loss.

Engineer Scoreboard

Men's Basketball 8-11 (4-6) Women's Basketball 17-2 (9-1)

January 20

Hanover 56
at Rose-Hulman 61

January 20

Hanover 47
at Rose-Hulman 63

January 24

Anderson 59
at Rose-Hulman 71

January 24

Rose-Hulman 54
at Anderson 50

Swimming and Diving

January 24

Depauw
at Rose-Hulman

RHIT: Men - 2nd, Women- 2nd

Track and Field

January 20

Rose-Hulman Quad
Terre Haute, IN

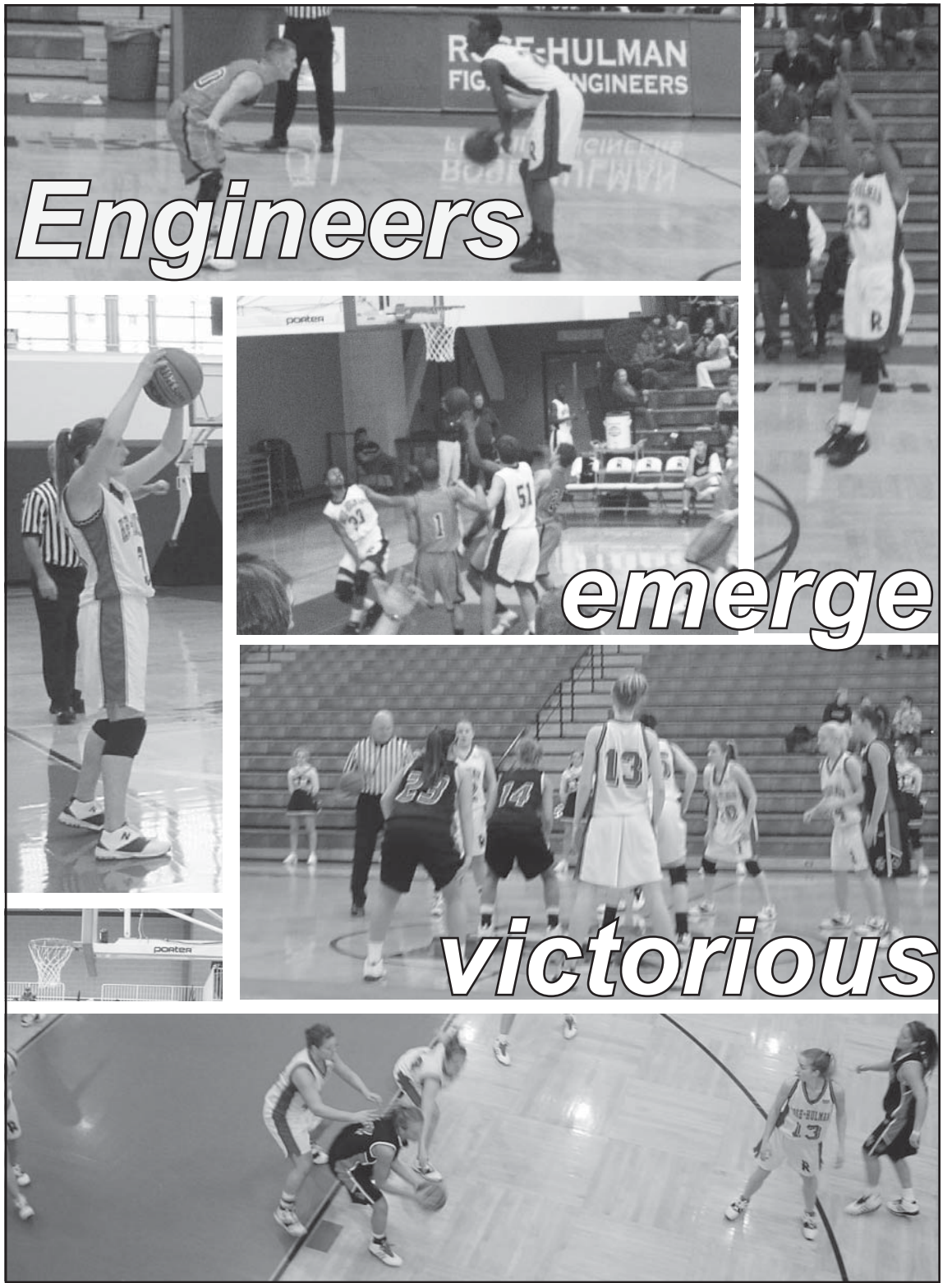
RHIT: 2nd of 5 teams

Wrestling

January 20

Spartan Classic
North Manchester, IN

RHIT: 9th of 22 teams



Chris Casillas and Mike Ferguson
Both men's and women's basketball teams won their games over Anderson and Hanover this past week.

Swimmers capture five firsts

Rose Hulman News

The swim team claimed five first place finishes in a dual match against nationally ranked DePauw University on Wednesday at the Sports and Recreation Center.

Three of the first place efforts came in the diving portion of the meet. Freshman Sam Danesis won the women's one-meter with 136.45 points, while freshman Mark Parzych had 202.70 points to win the men's one-meter.

In men's three-meter diving, sophomore Matt Melton earned first place with 193 points. On the swimming side, freshman Stephanie Hance won the 100-backstroke with a time of 1:05.94

and the 200-yard freestyle relay team of junior Amber Jackson, freshman Sarah Neffelt, junior Leslie Cottingham and freshman Jessica Neeb won in 2:10.75.

Rose-Hulman bolstered the team score with a number of second-place efforts. Runner-ups included sophomore Nick Lee in the 200-freestyle (1:48.97) and the 100-backstroke (56.09); freshman Deborah Aleksa in the 200-individual medley (2:28.32) and 500-freestyle (5:42.75); sophomore Steven Vande Lune in the 1,650-freestyle (18:18.85); junior Jacob Sorensen in the 200-individual medley (2:02.62); junior Adam Effinger in the 100-butterfly (52.69); senior Elaine Kratz in the 100-freestyle (1:00.90); and

relay teams in the 200-medley relay and 200-freestyle relay.

The swimmers return to action at the University of Evansville Tri-Meet, with Vincennes University, on Saturday at 2 p.m.



Rose Hulman News
Nick Lee placed second in the 100-backstroke and the 200-freestyle.

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Rose Hulman News
Wrestler Jesse Evans won the heavyweight title at Manchester.



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It's coming! Facial Hair February is coming!

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

connotations of countenance coiffures? Check these trendy dudes out:



www.worldbeardchampionships.com

Advantages: When properly waxed, this man's hooked beard can be used as a climbing aid, effectively acting as two additional hands while mountain climbing. Also can be used feelers when bobbing for apples.

Disadvantages: Not so popular with the ladies.

That's right. Facial Hair February is just around the corner: a glorious month when men (and some women) toss away their razors and let their beards grow wild and free as nature intended them to. (On second thought, women, you can keep shaving.) So while your man-mane may grow itchy, unkempt, and even get bits of food stuck in it (yeah, new rule: "no girls allowed"), just remember that you got to sleep in an extra couple minutes this morning because you didn't have to shave.

Don't believe in the capital



www.worldbeardchampionships.com

Advantages: Much like the sea urchin, this man has grown a beard that is threatening to behold and dangerous to touch. Each tuft of hair can contain as much as five ounces of venom, making this man's beard a powerful defensive weapon.

Disadvantage: Not so popular with ladies susceptible to the neurotoxin.



www.americaninventorspot.com

Advantages: On windy days, this beard can produce up to 500 watts of power. Additionally, any Dutch people he meets instantly trust him.

Disadvantages: It takes 800 watts of static electricity to keep the beard erect in this shape. Also, not so popular with the ladies.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"I think I'm going through menopause or something."
-- Prof. Mutchler, getting in touch with his feminine side

"Athletics is the lube of the business world."
-- Prof. Inlow, being icky

"Let me throw up some examples. Well, don't let me throw up."
-- Prof. Wheeler, with creative presentation methods

"I'm smiling like this because I'm nervous...and I want to kill all of you..."
-- Prof. Butske, getting it out

"Because that's how the space aliens built the pyramids."
-- Prof. Stienstra, speaking outside of his field

"A country's got to go. And that country is Mexico. They're dead to me."
-- Prof. Casey, giving Mexico notice

"How about overweight professors who are bald with beards?"
-- Prof. Bremmer, on how to spend your money

"That's sort of the unstated statement that's now being stated."
-- Prof. Kaczmarczyk, clearing things up

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

An exercise in proper breathing

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

This "being a senior" mess is no joke. I recall my senior friends of two years ago staying drunk and sleeping in throughout most of their last year here.

...where's mysleep?
I've been sitting around, anxiously chewing my nails to bloody nubs during the wait for grad school (etc.) rejection... I mean... acceptance.

I've found all sorts of ways to distract myself from frantically rechecking my application statuses. The worst has been cooking. Elaborate stir fries, multiple kitchen fires, cheesecakes, escaping cabbage, Indian dishes... the works. Don't forget the kitchen cleanup, either!

Then there's YouTube.com. Search for "The Indian Version of Thriller." I dare ya. Michael Jackson has nothing on this guy. Trust me, you can watch this one *countless* times before you get tired of that dancing.

Oh, and I can't forget the yoga. I haven't been making it to class lately, but my apartment's living room could be a shrine to yoga. There are incense ashes everywhere and my stereo's CD player won't eject my most recent yoga listening disc. There are even foot prints and small blood stains all over the walls from where I've tried to do some of the inverted poses and failed pretty miserably. That blood'll come up, right? Right?

Top ten Rose excuses for lateness

Matthew Melton
Staff Writer

10. I was buried, completely trapped, underneath my mountain of used Mountain Dew cans, and was finally rescued ten minutes ago.
9. It was Hertz! He said we'd play just one quick game, just one...
8. My roommate's robot dog ate my homework last night around 7, so I should have it for you in two more hours.
7. My, uh, "science experiment" kinda just went wrong and... I don't remember who you are. ...where am I?
6. I had to go to the hospital. I hurt my arm playing "Guitar Hero."
5. My laptop is broken, and... I... can no longer... function...
4. Chuck Norris says I can turn my project in tomorrow. Are you arguing with Chuck?
3. My flux capacitor broke this morning, so I'll turn in the homework five minutes ago when I fix it tonight.
2. Sorry I'm late; there was a woman in my room.
1. I decided to catch up on sleep from last week and went to bed immediately. That was 28 hours ago. I just woke up.

My girlfriend says I've been pretty clingy lately...

Philip Becker
Staff Writer

Something's been tingling in my pants lately.

Yes, it *is* what you think it is.

My winter coat is generating megawatts of static electricity, and it's accumulating in my pants. I spend all day feeling like I wore spandex jeans and experiencing that odd, airy feeling you get when all your leg hairs are perpendicular to your leg.

Not to mention I'm sure I look absolutely ridiculous walking bow-legged to reduce the amount of static forces going on. And I'm just clinging to any metal object I

can find to discharge on.

Those coat racks by the ARA are amazing for that purpose, although I have to get psyched up to touch the hangar because getting shocked sucks. And it's a *violent* shock. It's not a cartoon-level shock that could substitute for an x-ray, but it's a visible one. I have to shield my eyes with the other hand so I won't be blinded by it.

And the travesty of it all is that afterward, my pants are still polarized.

So then I started thinking: maybe it's a power I've been given for a reason. Maybe I have to choose to use my static pants for good and not evil. Or maybe I should just quit watching "Heroes."

A super hero? Please. Whether I used said "power" for good or evil, in the end it'd only be awkward. I'd have to wear a huge poofy coat all the time and when I saw someone I wanted to shock I'd have to spin my arms wildly to generate enough static to shock them. And if I wanted to really get 'em, I'd have to pull up my pant leg and try to touch them with my exposed calf. Batman would be embarrassed.

On another note, if any of you electrical engineers know a sweet technique for keeping static away, let me know. I'd be willing to stick an iron rod in my pants if that's what it takes.

This Day in History

On this day in 1962, the United States launches Ranger 3 toward the Moon. The guidance system and TV camera break, and it misses by 36,800 km. The Moon's diameter is only 3,475 km. Way to be.

In Addition

Coincidentally, the top ten about lateness was turned in late. Also, Mr. Becker's piece had an excess of electrons, and Mr. Meles's was written entirely on the elaborately trimmed beard of an octogenarian.

