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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Anna Nicole Smith dead

Anna Nicole Smith, the former Playboy Playmate and reality television star, died Thursday at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida at 2:10 p.m.

She was discovered, collapsed and unconscious, in her hotel room by her bodyguard and private nurse, who promptly alerted staff at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel. Smith's bodyguard performed CPR until rescue workers arrived.

"I can confirm that she is deceased. It is as shocking to me as to you guys," said Smith's attorney, Ronald Rale. "I don't know anything further. [Her husband] Howard [Stern], obviously, is speechless and grieving."

Smith was 39.

A head-butt, Wookie style

A street performer dressed as Chewbacca (the Wookie of Star Wars fame) has been accused for head-butting a tour guide outside of Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood, California. The guide, Brian Sapir, noticed that Chewie, 44-year-old Frederick Evan Young, seemed to be harassing and touching two Japanese tourists, in violation of a recently-intensified Hollywood law regarding street performers outside of Grauman's. After being corrected by Sapir, Young exploded, saying "Nobody tells this Wookie what to do."

Police Lt. Paul Vernon said, "The lesson here is you can have the force with you. You just can't use illegal force."

World's oldest newspaper now only online

January 1, 2007 marked the last print edition of *Post-och Inrikes Tidningar*, the world's oldest newspaper, which was founded by Queen Kristina of Sweden in 1645. Today, the newspaper can only be found online. The owners of the paper, the Swedish Academy (which gives the Nobel Prize in Literature) recently sold the publishing rights to the Swedish Companies Registration Office, a government agency which decided to take the paper online.

Hans Holm, the chief editor of the paper for 20 years, said "we think it's a cultural disaster." Despite no longer existing in print form, the World Association of Newspapers still holds that *Post-och Inrikes Tidningar* is the world's oldest still-published newspaper.

Rachel Howser
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman Student Government Association has been busy this week. SGA is celebrating Engineering Week by sponsoring five campus-wide events.

E-Week kicked off with an RHA/SGA co-sponsored Super Bowl Party. The party was held Sunday evening beginning at 5 p.m. in the student dining room. The game was projected on a 210 inch screen, over 60 authentic NFL prizes were given away, and food was available for the over 400 students in attendance. RHA On-Campus Chair, junior Chemical Engineer Karen Kirchman, stated, "The Super Bowl Bash was a huge success. We had a ton of fans, food, prizes, and good times!" Freshmen Mechanical Engineer Katie Moorhead added, "The worst part about the Super Bowl party was the fact that one team had to lose and that it was my team. I fully expect another party next year, but with the Bears winning the game."

Monday, SGA sponsored "Tailgating for Class." This event included SGA members grilling hamburgers and hotdogs in the quad. Senior Mechanical Engineer Elliot Goodman described the event: "SGA grilled about 200

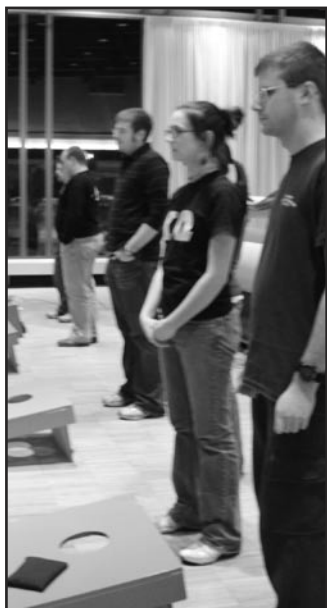
hamburgers and 100 hotdogs in about two and a half hours in the freezing cold of February to celebrate E-Week. Long lines formed past the tables while many huddled around the heat of the charcoal grills. Even though the ketchup and mustard had to be defrosted on the grills, everyone left with a smile on their face and a tasty lunch in their hands."

Senior Biomedical Engineer Erin O'Connor commented on Elliot's attire for the event, "I love how it can be four degrees outside, and Elliot stands there grilling in just a t-shirt! At least he admitted he was crazy."

Sophomore Mechanical Engineer Megan Greenwell also commented on her experience, "While Arden [Santos] and I were waiting for our hot dogs to heat up, we shivered by the grill. In the time it took to cook a hot dog, the bun and ketchup were completely frozen! It was a good mixture of hot and cold, delicious."

Tuesday's events included a cornhole tournament and an inflatable obstacle course, bungee run, and jousting. A total of 12 teams competed in the cornhole tournament, and the winning team consisted of senior Civil Engineer Adam Hacker and senior Chemical Engineer Paul Ceravolo.

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Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Engineering week festivities brought out the competitive nature that's been stewing in Rose students over the past 9 weeks. At the top, Samantha Dick runs in the beanbag bungee cord race. At left, two Rose women duke it out on the joust. At right, Rose students sling bean bags in the cornhole tournament.

College bowl team headed to regionals

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

Five Rose freshmen, comprising the Rose-Hulman College Bowl team, will be participating at the regional competition at Notre Dame on February 23 and 24. The team is comprised of captain Nick Kirkland, a Chemical Engineer, Benjamin Smith, a Software Engineer, Dean Straub, a Chemical Engineer, Casey Kretzer, a Physics major, and Katherine Kragh, a Chemical Engineer. This is the first team of all freshmen in recollection of affiliated staff.

College Bowl, which describes itself as "The Varsity Sport of the Mind," is a competition for college students. "We had ten teams sign up," said Graduate Assistant Ste-

fani Meyer, who coordinates the competition at Rose-Hulman on behalf of Student Affairs. "The competition was open to all Rose students and free to enter. Rose then picks-up the entry fee for the team that wins and moves on to regionals," she explained. Rose-Hulman is in a region with Indiana and most of Illinois.

Professor of Mathematics John Rickert participated when he was a student at Wisconsin and Michigan. "[Questions] cover a wide range of topics - science, literature, stuff in the news," said Rickert.

"It's not quite a level playing field," jested John Robson, Institute Librarian, is often involved with College Bowl at Rose. Since topics run the gamut, and since Rose has a limited area of specialty,

other schools don't see Rose as a challenge. For instance, other schools allow graduate students to continue on the team. "[Other teams] often have some Ph.D's... we don't have any Ph.D's in English Literature," commented Robson. Other schools take it much more seriously, he said, but Rose students generally just look at it as fun.

"College Bowl was started at Rose in 1979 at the suggestion of President Hulbert, who also funded the activity from his budget," explained Humanities and Social Sciences professor Heinz Luegenbiehl. "I volunteered to take on the task." When College Bowl first began at Rose, the school made its own equipment and used the same set of questions repeatedly due to limited funding,

indicated Luegenbiehl. "We actually had more teams participating than we do now," said Luegenbiehl, who noted that in the past Rose has not been very successful at Regional competitions. Over time, the Humanities and Social Sciences department passed it on. "Over the years more faculty have become involved and the whole program is now run much more professionally through student affairs."

"I think everyone had a great time this year," commented Meyer. "We even had a few teams bring members of their floor to the competition as a cheerleading squad. One of the floors decked themselves out in face-paint for a match on Friday."

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Flipside

"He doesn't do nothin'
but correct papers...he's
got to be the one."

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Upcoming community events

					Friday	Saturday
					February 9	10
					•ISU Music Showcase, Hulman Center, 7:30 p.m. •Alpha Omicron Pi's Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament & Raffle, Kahn Rooms, Hulman Union, 6-11 p.m.	•Performing Arts Series, Mojo & The Bayou Gypies, Hatfield Hall Theater, 8 p.m. •Women's & Men's Basketball, vs. Defiance College, Hulbert Arena, Sports and Recreation Center, 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	•Intramural Dodgeball Tournament, Field House Area, Sports and Recreation Center, 8-11 p.m.	•Performing Arts Series, Super Scientific Circus, Hatfield Hall Theater, 7 p.m.	•Computer Science & Computer Engineering's Senior Projects Expo, Lobby, Hulman Union, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. •Electrical Engineering & Computer Engineering's Winter Robotics Challenge, Kahn Rooms, Hulman Union, 5-6:30 p.m.	•Physics & Optical Engineering Presentation, "What Happened to Pluto?" •New Play Festival, ISU New Theatre, 7:30 p.m.	•Student Activities Board's Las Vegas Nite II, Sports and Recreation Center, 8 p.m. •New Play Festival, ISU New Theatre, 7:30 p.m.	•Men's & Women's Indoor Track, Final Meet, Sports and Recreation Center, Noon •Women's Basketball, vs. Manchester College, Hulbert Arena, Sports and Recreation Center, 3 p.m.

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

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All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the Rose Thorn Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).
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All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).
The views expressed in the Rose Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Rose Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Lake freezes over and students enjoy



Ryan Schultz and Chris Casillas / Rose Thorn

Once Facilities sent all campus the news that the ice had reached a safe thickness, students flocked to the freshly-frozen winter wonderland. At the top, students enjoy a slick game of soccer Monday evening. Above left, junior Mechanical Engineer Tim Cota and junior Mechanical Engineer Kyle Wilson play hockey on the ice rink dug out after Tuesday's four inches of snow. Above right, visible fractures were still visible Tuesday. Walking on ice can be tricky, as illustrated by the two Rose students below.



Bowl, from Page 1

Jeopardy contestants are often College Bowl alumni; Rickert has known around 10 personally. "College Bowl is a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate that their education is a broadly based one and that they are aware of things besides what they learn in the classroom," said Luegenbiehl.

The tournament is double elimination. Teams consist of five

players. Only four play at a time, and the fifth on the roster is a sub, who may enter at half time. Each half is seven minutes long. At the end of the fourteen minutes, the team with the most points wins. A toss up question is asked, and a player on either team can buzz in for a chance to answer. If a team answers correctly, they are given 10 points and the chance to answer a bonus question on an unre-

lated topic worth between 20 – 30 points. Teams only lose points on a wrong answer if they buzz in before the moderator, who presents the questions, is done reading.

Robson, Rickert, Leugenbiehl, and Clint Whitson, a Graduate Assistant in Student Affairs and Higher Education were the four readers this year. Students volunteered to judge answers, keep score, and watch time.

Rose celebrates “Blue Friday”

Tiffany Parrott
Staff Writer

Last Friday, Rose-Hulman celebrated the Indianapolis Colts' first Super Bowl appearance since moving to Indianapolis with Blue Friday. Royal blue was worn by many students, faculty, and staff to show support for the team, and large support signs were autographed by hundreds of the campus community.

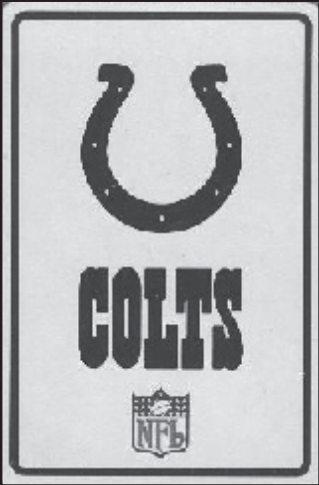
Gerald Jakubowski, President of Rose-Hulman, was the key motivator behind the sea of blue worn by the campus. "The mayor announced 'Colt's Week' and named Friday 'Blue Friday'. In support of the mayor and the Colts, we also wanted to contribute in Blue Friday here at Rose-Hulman," Jakubowski declared.

Jakubowski stated, "We are hoping to renegotiate the contract with the Colts so that they will return for more years." (They will return next year.)

Rose-Hulman is a key supporter of the Indianapolis Colts football team. Eight years ago, the campus began serving the Colts with facilities for athletic training. The Colts practice at Cook Stadium until a week before the beginning of first quarter.

With the anticipation for Sunday's Super Bowl game, nearly every student watched the game. The Colt's 29-17 win excited students: cheers, hoots, and waving banners could be seen and heard from anywhere on campus. Bill Gros, a freshman Chemical Engineer who attended the game in Miami, exclaimed that the game was "really awesome," even though he had favored his hometown's Chicago Bears.

Jakubowski also attended, commenting that the game was "quite extraordinary." He also added that, "Certainly with my first year here at Rose and having the opportunity to meet the president, coach, and players, I feel that Rose played an important role in helping the win."



<http://lib.store.yahoo.net/lib/segwaycollection/INDN-FLPlayingCards2.jpg>

Eweek, from Page 1

Hacker wrote, "I really enjoyed the opportunity to play in a cornhole tournament in the winter. Hopefully in the spring we can get a lot more teams out for another tournament, and scale up the prizes."

Senior Erin O'Connor stated, "My teammate for the cornhole tournament got sick and couldn't play, so I had to find a new partner last minute. Riley [Buttry] came to the rescue, and we were dubbed "the Shorties" before we ever had a chance to make up a name." She also commented, "The inflatables were so awesome. Simon Leavitt and I jousting, and I learned some jousting lessons the hard way. Turns out you shouldn't fight someone with arms twice as

long as yours. They'll wail on you, and you can't even reach them. I think my head still hurts."

Freshman Tim Boyer added, "The inflatables were really fun. I had a great time just releasing some stress. I almost wish we had a playground like it on campus."

SGA will also be holding events on Friday and Saturday. On Friday, donuts and hot chocolate will be available in the commons. On Saturday, SGA will be giving away Rally Rags for both the men's and women's basketball games and serving sno cones during the men's game. The women's game begins at 1 pm and the men's game begins at 3 pm.

Learning Center Review Sessions

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Wednesday, Feb. 14

6-8pm
MA221 O157
MA222 O167/169
8-10pm
ES202 O269
AB120 O267
CHE202 O167

6-8pm
PH111 O159
PH112 O257/259/267
CHEM252 O169
CHEM201 O167
8-10pm
MA112 O257/259
MA113 O267
ES204 O157/159

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Play festival kindles thespian talents

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Friday, February 2, at 8:00 p.m., members of the Drama Club, Rose alumni, and a Rose faculty member met to begin the Drama Club's second yearly scheduled all-nighter, the "24-Hour Play Festival."

Writers were given a prop and drew the name of their director out of a hat; the director then drew the names of their three to four actors out of another hat. In many cases, the groups met then and there to brainstorm ideas, but in some cases, roles were assigned after the scripts were written. Many of the groups had never worked this closely together before.

The writers then withdrew to begin writing a play to be finished by 8:00 a.m. the next morning. At that time, the play's scripts were handed over to the directors, who met with the actors to discuss the script and the performance.

"I'm not going to pretend that I wasn't stressed out or nervous," said Brittany LeClear, sophomore mathematics major who played Greta Harmon -- explainer of

things humorous -- in the play "There's Something Funny About Penelope Peterson", written by Professor Thomas Adams and wife Dee Adams.

"It can be a high-stress atmosphere," said Karen Kirchman, director of "Shotgun Acting" and junior chemical engineer, "but the drama kids keep the atmo-

author of the play "Congratulations, You've Won a Free Vacation Getaway!" said, "The story for my play was actually the result of thinking of a concept then developing a story around it. I wanted to paint a metaphorical and hyperbolic picture of one person's interaction with terrorism in the form of the G-Man."

Slabaugh wrote his script with his actors in mind, adding, "I was very pleased with how well I wrote for my actors - I really thought that my written parts fit their acting styles very well."

David Korff, junior computer science major, on the other hand, said, "The idea was definitely not one that I had considered before." His play, "Two Lanes, or Four?" featured a suite

of female roommates (acted by Kris Dobbins, Sarah Erhart, Jessica Rogers, and Amanda Gehring) plagued by problems that the seemingly paranoid/conspiracy theorist Erhart attributes to stalkers, hidden cameras, and the ARA serving hamster stew.

"It was a combination of several ideas that I tossed around with my director and actors in the half hour after we had been

assigned our prop," Korff added. His prop was perhaps one of the more odd of the plays: a corn-cob-like pillow that the roommates discover contains a hidden camera.

Some directors ran with the script as given, while others made some drastic changes.

Christian Gage, senior mechanical engineer and director of "Boy Meets Girl," said, "The original script, when I received it at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, was very short; somewhere in the vicinity of three minutes long." His group removed an ending song and extended the script to last about ten minutes, including completely changing the ending.

"Coming up with a play in a matter of 10 hours is not easy. Doing it in the middle of the night is even harder," Gage said.

Kirchman, on the other hand, made fewer changes. "As soon as I read the script, I could see how it would play out on stage," she said. "We made a few minor changes to the script during rehearsal to make the show more effective on stage."

Gage was unique in that he directed and acted in the same play. "Acting and directing together was not an easy task; there's usually a certain separation between actors and a director which allows for unbiased critiquing," he said, "which also allows for the director to see the show from the

outside. That, and it's tough to watch a play while attempting to memorize lines."

The actors' experiences were consistently positive. "I also must say, I was very impressed by the work of my group's writer, Robin Pruss," said Alex Joyce, the junior mechanical engineer who played Amy in Robin Pruss's "Trained." "I worked with a great group of people," she added, complimenting director Aaron Meles and co-actors Caleb LeNoir and Dave Schluneker.

Junior computer engineering LeNoir had the interesting role of playing 13-year old Cody in "Trained." "I wasn't really expecting that type of role because I don't really look like I'm thirteen

anymore," he said. "I think it is more about your mannerisms and how you carry yourself on stage than how you look."

Sheridan said, "The neat thing about these shows is that if you mess up, almost no one will be able to tell."

Caroline Ullom, the senior chemical engineer who played Kate in "Shotgun Acting," said, "I have never worked with any of them before but they made it such a great experience."

"The 24-hr Theater Festival is a whirlwind of crazy theater high-jinks!" commented Kirchman.

LeNoir said, "We enjoyed it. The audience seemed to enjoy it. What more can you ask for?"



Gregory Weir / Rose Thorn
From left to right: Jessica Rogers, Amanda Gehring, and Kris Dobbins play in David Korff's "Two Lanes, or Four?" in the 24 Hour Play Festival.

sphere light and fun."

"I love the fast pace of the 24 Hour shows," said Danna Sheridan, who played serial killer Julia Fazekas in Bill Nagel's "Boy Meets Girl." Sheridan is a senior biomedical engineer, while Nagel is an alumnus.

The process though which the writers developed their stories was as widely diverse as the authors themselves. Senior computer engineer Nick Slabaugh,

"Dwarf Fortress" convoluted, but might be for you

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

Dwarves like gold. This much is common knowledge. But dwarves also seem to like flood irrigation, simple metallurgy, and civil logistics, according to Bay 12 Games, creators of the free game "Slaves to Armok II: Dwarf Fortress." Also, dwarves look like little smiley faces.

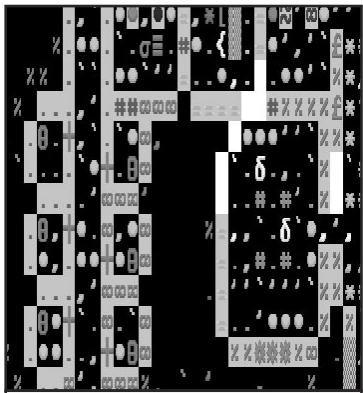
"Dwarf Fortress" is often described as a "Rogue-like," which implies that it is a complex, text-only RPG video game that delights in killing off its players in a hundred different ways. This game differs from many Rogue-likes in that it is not a roleplaying game, but a sort of strategic god-game in the "Dungeon Keeper" or "Evil Genius" vein. It's still, of course, fiendishly complex and devilishly difficult. But fun, kind of.

When you first start the game, you can either load a pre-existing world or generate one on the fly. The random world generation allows you to watch in dazed fascination as your computer spends twenty minutes simulating erosion, plant growth, and the rise and fall of civilizations to end up with a lush world rendered entirely in text characters.

You begin a game controlling a small band of dwarves with skills that you select and your choice of beginning supplies. You are presented with a rock face and must dig into it to create a fortress, eventually mining the rock

for valuable minerals and ores, as well as creating items for trade. You do all this while facing fearsome enemies and the constant threat of starvation.

Even feeding yourself is complicated in this game. Fields need to be watered, which means either letting the underground river flood to create mud or us-



Gregory Weir / Rose Thorn
"Dwarf Fortress" is a text-only computer game, although you can download graphics packs that enhance it somewhat.

ing channels to divert the water into a room, always risking the chance of flooding your entire fortress. Once you've done that, you need to assign the field to be planted, and certain plants will only grow at certain times of year. Of course, the field should be fertilized with potash. You get potash from processing ash. You get ash by burning wood at the wood furnace, which you get by designating trees to be cut down.

Then the crop can be eaten plain, prepared at a kitchen, milled into flour, or distilled into liquor at the distillery.

Confused yet? Imagine what it would be like figuring this out as you go along. Naturally, there's an entire wiki dedicated to explaining rules and strategy for this game, and it's still under development; there is still a long list of planned features on the website. For example, item Req26 reads, "Thrown tantrum objects don't hit other friendlies, but they should." This game's ridiculous.

"Dwarf Fortress" is a fun game, if you enjoy watching your characters slowly die of starvation while slaughtering their mules for food. A few times. This is the game for everyone who thought "Sim City" was too simple of a simulation and wished "Morrowind" had a realistic model of wrestling to the level of distinguishing the upper and lower arm. I had fun with it for a while, but I finally stopped when I got to burning wood in a wood furnace to make charcoal, then combining that with ore in a smelting furnace to get ingots, then processing those (with more charcoal) in a blacksmith's shop to make weapons, then decorating those weapons with gems mined from the rock and carved in a jeweler's workshop. If that convoluted description gave you a tingly feeling, then this is the game for you. As for me, I think I'll go back to the easy simplicity of "Civilization II."



Rose-Hulman News
The "Step Afrika!" company hyped up the crowd in Hatfield Hall on Saturday, February 3. The show featured South African gum boot dancing and stepping to Negro spirituals.

"Step Afrika!" dishes out beats, traditions

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

I went to see the "Step Afrika!" show with some degree of trepidation, unsure if I would be bombarded with a lot of Greek letter-wearing steppers concerned more with representing their fraternities than putting on a good show.

I couldn't have been happier to be wrong.

"Step Afrika!" was a highly amusing show that mixed education with entertainment. Starting with the history of stepping and the black Greek organization connection, they moved to stepping to spirituals as well as demonstrating the South African gum boot dance (which is similar to stepping, but was originally used as a method communicating in diamond mines).

The performers were charismatic and friendly, keeping the crowd excited throughout. They brought up 15 or so students to the stage, including several people I knew. Jakari Sherman,

a member of the "Step Afrika!" company, lined them all up and gave them a lesson in stepping. The students were good showmen themselves, hamming up the performance.

Once the crowd relaxed and got into the performance -- which seemed to take a little while -- the show seemed to come alive, featuring a hilarious call and response of "If you're ready and you know it, clap your hands..." that denigrated when we were asked to sing "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious" instead of clapping. I just about fell out of my seat laughing.

There were very few flaws with the show, and those barely impacted the coolness of the show. There seemed to be a few miscommunications with regards to lighting and when to begin and end the projected videos, but these were only slightly distracting.

Overall, the show was nothing short of amazing. I learned quite a bit about stepping and dancing while laughing until my tummy hurt.

Dance team hosts kids’ dance clinic

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the Rose-Hulman Dance Team hosted their annual Dance Clinic in the Multi-Purpose Room of the SRC. According to Jenn Cringoli, the senior biomedical engineer who primarily organized the event, the clinic has gone on for four to five years and was developed in order to involve the Dance Team with the community. The Dance Team sent out flyers to two local elementary schools, Lost Creek and Meadows, as well as to the faculty and staff to have their children participate.

The targeted age group for this even is children in first through fifth grade, or ages between five and ten years old. There were 29 children participating last year, and this year they had 23 children show up. There are usually around half of their participants from the previous year. There are also sibling couples that come to the clinic.

Parents dropped their children off around noon. The clinic was organized to run with a brief warm-up for the children, and then split up into groups, pairing two dance team members with five children, where they taught them one dance routine. Cringoli mentioned that they also include dance trivia to give them a break, as well as use familiar dances like the Macarena



The Dance Team performs their prepared dance with the children during the halftime show of the men's basketball game on Saturday.

and the Chicken Dance to help the program go along. After the clinic, the children were led into Hulbert Arena to watch the first half of the men's basketball game and they performed to "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts at halftime.

Cringoli said that the clinics

used to be hosted on Saturday, and when Rose-Hulman was in the SCAC conference, the games were on Sunday, so it was an interesting turnout when they performed on Sunday. This is the first year when they practice and perform on the same day. "I'm interested to see how it will turn

out this year. I think it's more practical this way," explained Cringoli when interviewed before the event.

Patrick Ferro, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering, brought his daughter to participate. "My daughter, Cecilia, is six and this is her second year doing

it. She really enjoys it, and she asked when she could do it again. My wife and I really enjoy watching it too."

The members of the dance team thought the program went very well. "I thought it was really successful and they all seemed to have a really good time. It was a positive experience," mentioned Jenn Cringoli. Sam Sheets, a junior biomedical engineer also was pleased with the event. "I thought that the dance clinic when very well. It was a lot of fun, and I think all the little girls had a good time. Being able to do a dance clinic is always a fun experience because you are able to teach something to children. This was my 3rd year doing the dance clinic and every year it is growing. It is always fun to see some of the girls show up from previous years to do the clinic because they are always so excited to dance."

Besides Cringoli and Sheets, the rest of the dance team is composed of freshman. Rachel Schaftlein, a freshman chemical engineer had positive thoughts on the event. "I thought the dance clinic went really well. All of the kids were pretty exhausted by the end of it though. Everyone had a good time and all of the kids participated." Brittaney Mauer, a freshman biomedical engineer, had similar feelings. "It was great! The girls were adorable and I was glad to give up a Saturday for such a fun time."

The cruelty of video game fans

Gregory Wier
Humor Editor

What is it about fans of video games that makes them so... well... fanatic? I'm a fan of a massively multiplayer online game, or MMO, that shall remain unnamed. I geek over every new addition, I speculate about the storyline behind the world, and I read the forums religiously.

But that's where things turn nasty. Every time something happens, whether it's a new addition to the game or a little information about the future, it takes about 17.4 seconds before someone's screaming about it on the forums like it's the end of the world.

Here's an example post. "[Developers], I must protest this despicable [recent event]. I can't tell you how deeply offensive this is. How utterly unacceptable this is. How abusive and inappropriate and irresponsible it is to [do what you did]." I've cut it off there to protect the innocent. Anyway, someone puts up a post like that, and someone else calls them names, and then there's that really annoying guy who thinks he's

being useful by pointing out the logical fallacies in other people's positions. Eventually, someone demands that someone else provide proof for their claims or retract their statements, and it's all over but the crying.

And this goes on every time anything happens. I don't think it's just my MMO. It's a ubiquitous phenomenon on the Internet. Maybe it's human nature, or the result of near-anonymity, but video game discussions all seem to turn into a bunch of first-graders calling each other "doody-heads" and flailing at each other with their own shoes.

So I have a simple request. We know you love the game, and we know you have strong feelings about it. But when something happens, take a few steps back, set down the Mountain Dew, and remind yourself: it's not just a game, but that's no reason to have an aneurysm on the web whenever something threatens to change. Try to look on the bright side of things. It's better for your blood pressure, even if it's bad for your post count.

I can't tell you
how deeply
offensive this is.
How utterly
unacceptable
this is.
—Forum User

Join us for



The Experiment Part III

Logan Library
will be open
24 hours
during 10th week!
Sunday, February 11 at
2:00 PM through Friday,
February 16 at 5:00PM

One last hurrah



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

This is the last issue of the Thorn in which I will be serving as opinions editor. Next quarter, I will begin my tour of duty as the editor-in-chief, and will no longer write for the opinions page. Therefore, as my last editorial and last real chance to vent, I've decided to try and get everything off my chest that has been burning away inside me for the past couple years. So without further ado, let's start the purge:

I hate the Indianapolis Star. Or should I say, the Indianapolis "Colts" Star. Nothing says "Podunk" like making a sports team your lead story at least once a week.

Do you remember all those people who kept saying "Bush is dumb" and "I'm smarter than Bush" back during the 2000 presidential election? They don't really say that anymore. Is he no longer stupid?

Has he gotten smarter while being President? Or are they just dumber?

If so many people hate a politician for being racist or corrupt or ineffective or whatever, why do they keep getting reelected?

Some people like countries like France and Germany because they opposed the Iraq War, are more focused on social programs, and support environmental protection. I'd rather be employed.

I think people who oppose oil drilling in Alaska, military action in the Middle East, and nuclear power shouldn't be able to buy gas for their cars or electricity for their homes.

How come classes with good professors use good textbooks and classes with bad professors use bad textbooks? Shouldn't we at least have one thing going for us in a class?

People who blame illegal immigrants for their unemployment are either unskilled or lazy. If they put as much effort into finding and holding a job as they did filling out their membership application for the Minutemen, they probably wouldn't have this problem.

If you compare the death tolls of September 11th and the "War on Terror," does one really justify the other?

No, I really don't care what the



http://www.jessfanzo.com/fire_hydrant_new_york.jpg

uncertainty in that measurement is.

In fifty years, I can't help but think that future students will look back on the current struggle for legalizing gay marriage like we look back on the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Everyone keeps saying that if we are so worried about Iran, then why aren't we worried about North Korea? I'll tell you why: it's because their military spending is currently 25% of the gross domestic product. That's not 25% of the government's revenues, that's 25% of every dollar made in the whole country. The last time a country tried that, it was the Cold

War, and the Soviet Union didn't need invading for the regime to collapse.

Is China communist? Yes. Does China abuse civil rights? Yes. Do we like shopping at Wal-Mart? Yes.

Crazy people should not be allowed to fly into space. Do you hear that, NASA?

If we are willing to spend so much money on building a wall with cameras and sensors along the Mexico border which won't work perfectly anyway, why don't we just spend all that money on making Mexico better so people want to stay there in the first place?

Even if all those people are wrong and global warming isn't really happening, will it really hurt that much to cut down on pollution?

One day, I hope that they will declassify exactly what Jack

Midgley did to tick everyone off so much.

If so many Senators hate the Iraq War so much, why don't they grow a backbone and do something about it? Cut funding or shut up and sit down.

If you disagree with something written on this page, write a letter to the editor. Don't tell me in person. There is a proper channel for your opinion on the newspaper, and spewing your knee-jerk reaction all over my face during class is not it. The person who wrote the article you don't like spent time thinking about it and articulating their argument on paper. At the very least, you can do the same.

On the other hand, if you like something about the paper, please don't hesitate to tell me. I'm usually so wrapped up in dealing with the people I mentioned before that most of the time I'm thoroughly convinced I can't do anything right.

Well, I guess that's all I've got... for now. Thanks to all the loyal readers I've had out there for the past two years. Farewell!

One day, I hope
that they will
declassify exactly
what Jack
Midgley did to
tick everyone off
so much.

Two weeks to make up your
mind! Send us your opinions!

email: [opinions@
rose-hulman.edu](mailto:opinions@rose-hulman.edu)

Bravo Indianapolis

Ryan Schultz
News Editor

Congratulations to the Indianapolis Colts for finally winning a well-deserved Super Bowl title. I have been a Colts fan for all of my 21 years and couldn't be happier with my team.

But this is not an article about the Colts, this is an article about the people of Indianapolis and their behavior following the game. Didn't see it? Well, let me tell you what you missed.

You missed seeing a throng of people gridlock Monument Circle because they were screaming and yelling with joy that their team won.

You missed seeing Colts banners and newspapers proclaiming "CHAMPS!" being waved proudly in the air.

You missed seeing bars and restaurants crowded with fans intoxicated (literally and figura-

tively) with the thrill of victory.

You missed seeing a capacity-crowd in the RCA Dome on Monday, there just to get a glimpse of their beloved team in a post-win team-centered pep-rally.

You missed a weekend of class-act sportsmanship, not only from the players, but from the entire city.

Here's what you *didn't* see.

- You *didn't* see cars flipped and burned by looting mobs.
- You *didn't* see violence among fans as they rioted and tore up downtown.
- You *didn't* see the SWAT team as they pulled up to quell the crowd.
- You *didn't* see flaming trails carved through the air by molotov cocktails.
- You *didn't* see the wonderful type of party thrown by the people of Detroit, Oakland, Philadelphia, or Chicago.



<http://www.theindychannel.com>

Indianapolis Colts fans celebrate at Monument Circle after the Colts victory over the Bears.

Why Rose rocks, part 2

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

Hopefully, none of this is an eye-opener for graduating seniors, but for underclassmen, if you didn't know this before, now you do. Here are more reasons why Rose rocks!

No matter what you want to do academically at Rose-Hulman, the faculty and staff are eager to help you. Not grudgingly, not hesitantly, not somewhat willingly. Eagerly. So, before I go on, how is this different from any other school?

I have a friend in Germany right now taking a course where there were several hundred students in a hall with a professor who is not terribly excited to be present. I considered registering for a course at Ohio State; the department representative I spoke with informed me that the professors had absolutely no obligation or even likelihood of helping a student with issues (it was a minor scheduling concern). In other schools, the only form of help is a teaching assistant, who is simply not as helpful as a professor.

One way in which they are so helpful is in class scheduling. If you are ever in a bind, schedule-wise, it's not a problem, just go ask. Granted, this shouldn't be a problem if you are on a standard schedule or have submitted a double major plan to the registrar, since the registrar goes out of their way to make sure there are as few conflicts of this type as possible.

But, if you do have a problem, faculty and staff are all too happy to help. Some of the things they have done are: overload the section, raise the cap (and then overload the section), move the

room so the cap can be raised, open up another section, change the hours a section is offered (my ADES course was moved at least four times prior to the start of the quarter and it never gave me a conflict), allow you to miss one hour a week to deal with a lab schedule, permit course substitutions, help you test out of a subject you're already very familiar with – the list goes on and on.

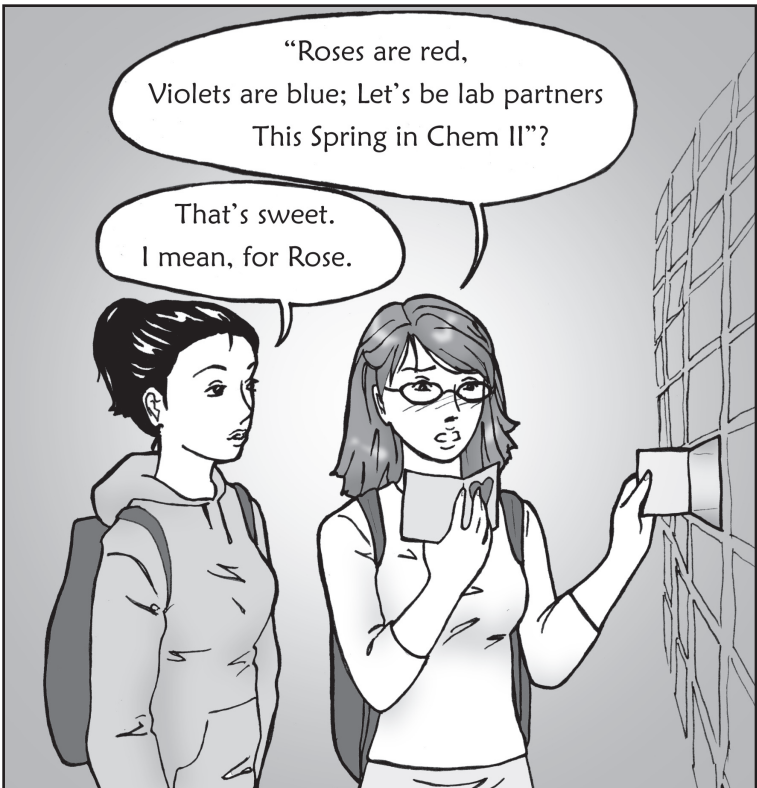
So, on to something other than simply scheduling: actual academic work.

Rose-Hulman professors (generally) enjoy helping students learn. That's why they're here.

At other schools, professors are required to do research and/or publish on a regular basis, but not here. Professors are willing to give you direction in research, help you with current coursework, or just help you with any material you're interested in even when they have never taught the class. Some will help with problems that are not strictly related to any class, such as checking a statement of purpose for graduate school applications. The moral of the story: go talk to your profs (and the registrar and secretaries and anyone else). They don't bite, so stop over!

1000 Words

by Erin Hudson





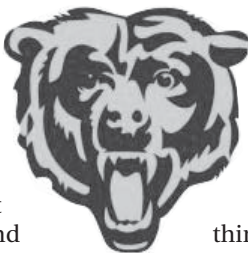
SUPER BOWL XLI REDUX



Bears bust bitterly

Adam Hacker
Guest Writer

Well, I was right, but only for about 14 seconds. Devin Hester, the University of Miami return specialist, made his mark on south Florida once again with the most exciting opening play in Super Bowl history. That return is all we Bears fans will want to remember from Super Bowl Sunday. The bottom line is that we were out-coached. Ron made many mistakes; that is not a typo Colts fans; I said Ron, not Rex. Sure Rex couldn't bring us back at the end of the game, but were you really expecting him to? Ron Rivera is the Chicago defensive coordinator, Ron Turner is the Chicago offensive coordinator,



and both left a lot to be desired. The only time the Bears defense slowed down the Colts offense is when they blitzed, but Ron Rivera figured he would abandon that practice after it had proven effective as he watched the Colts spread out the Bears defense and have their way with it. Ron Turner figured that second and one would be a great time to air it out, and that screen passes are not worth trying when we could not get any flow going on third downs. I am going to say to the Colts fans what I believe most Colts fans wouldn't have said to us...Congratulations, being a champion feels pretty good doesn't it?

Photos courtesy:
*http://i48.photobucket.com/albums/f201/mauricio_mlm/chicago_bears_logo_175.jpg
*http://hart0330.tripod.com/indianapolis_colts_logo_175.gif
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See photo credits
The highly coveted Vince Lombardi Trophy.

Colts confound competition

Brandon Couch
Guest Writer

As I said before, I have two words...Peyton Manning. It was nice, though, to see that the Bears still gave the Colts a bit of a scare, in the first quarter that is. Let's be completely honest, when the Colts needed a rally we had Manning. When the Bears needed a rally, they had...? Oh, that is right, a quarterback fumbling the ball and spending most of the second half on the ground. Let us not forget that both Rhodes and Addai, individually, out-rushed the Bears offense.



ing a run defense, huh? It is true that the Colts had a high number of turnovers (like the Bears), but did the Bears ever capitalize? As far as I am concerned, the final score gives the Bears way too much credit. On to the draft and next season, right? I am sure that the Bear fans out there are saying, "We will be back next year." They can talk all they want, but all the Colts are looking at is resigning Freeney and defending the title. It must have been sad to be a Bear's fan last Sunday.

So much for the Colts not hav-



	1	2	3	4	T
Colts:	6	10	6	7	29

Bears:	14	0	3	0	17

Broken records

Tim Boyer
Guest Writer

The Women's Basketball Team is now 20-3 this season and 12-2 in the HCAC as they enter their final 2 games of the regular season. Despite what happens tomorrow, they are in the HCAC tournament, vying for the tournament title in order to clinch an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Tournament. This is without doubt the best Women's Basketball Team in the history of the school. This season has been full of firsts. They have recorded 20 wins in a single season and haven't even made it to post-season yet. The most wins recorded before this season was 13. They have garnered national attention when they received votes in 2 national polls and will earn their highest conference finish in a season no matter how it turns out. Among the Rose women's basketball team are two outstanding contributors to the success of the team. First, there is Suzy Carlson, who scored her 1,000th point early in the season and takes 3rd in the record books with 1,263* points and counting. She is also currently ranked 2nd nationally with her 92.0% free throw accuracy and is a two-time NCAA Division III Statistical National Champion for shooting accuracy. She also holds the school record for 306* assists. Then there is the unparalleled ability of Rebekah Forsyth. She claims first place in the record books with an epic 1,736* career points helped by the fact that she broke her own single-game scoring record by putting up 38 points

against Marian. But it doesn't stop there. She also has the top spot in the rebounding column with 1,040*. While amazing, she in no way carries the weight of the team on her shoulders. Although other members of the team may not be breaking records left and right, they all still make tremendous contributions to the team, helping the team get as far as it has. I only wish there was enough space to talk about all of them. Despite the devastating loss to Transylvania University, the Women's team still has a strong chance of winning the rest of the regular season and thereby claiming home-court advantage for the HCAC Conference tournament which takes place February 23 and 24, the Friday and Saturday after final exams. (Mark your calendars if you're around!) Their last two games of the regular season are must-wins if they want the HCAC title. The first one is tomorrow versus Defiance at 1 p.m. after which SGA will be tailgating. But coincidentally the last and most important game of the season is next Saturday, February 17 at 3 p.m. when the women will take on Manchester, the team currently in first place. After losing to them earlier in the season, they are looking for revenge and to tie Manchester for the regular season title. They have worked extremely hard to get to this point in the season and the best thing you could do as a member of this campus and this community would be to show up on the seventeenth and loudly support your Fightin' Engineers.

*All statistics as of 2/7/07

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Superbowl leftovers recipe

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

- Ingredients:
- 5/6 cup sour cream
 - 2 tbsp dried out nacho cheese
 - 1 cup ground tortilla and potato chips, mixed
 - Ground beef that's been sitting out for a week (as much as you can get)
 - 1 Kool-Aid-dyed Honey Nut Cheerio from back of couch (preferably left by a small child)
 - 93 drops of beer from nearly-empty cans in the trash
 - 65 chewed-on pizza crusts

Bring 10 cups of water to a boil. Add ground beef, beer drops, and crusted nacho cheese. Stir until cheese softens. Add sour cream and stir until it dissolves.

Remove pot from heat, immediately adding ground chips. Do not stir! Top with the flavored Cheerio and serve immediately.

As a fun post-Superbowl game, compete to be the one who gets the Cheerio.

Serve with pizza crusts for dipping.

Serves two.

extra profit

Castera Demlok
Guest Writer

International company, based in Hong Kong is looking for few new partners.

Whether you're looking to supplement your income or replace it with a financially rewarding career, our company can help you achieve your goals.

Regardless of your background: customer service, marketing, administrative assistant, project manager, sales, accounting or engineering.

our company gives you the chance to work and earn excellent salary monthly.

There is no cold calling, no telemarketing, no door-to-door sales and no relying on friends and family. Don't be scammed by all types of jobs where companies are asking money to "help you"

OTHER

There are no upfront costs whatsoever. Online training will be provided during your first two weeks of work.

NEXT STEP

If you would like to proceed please send your request to flipside@rose-hulman.edu I look forward to your questions as well,
Best Regards,
Castera Demlok"

Wacky Prof Quotes

"While you write this down I will try to install this monster."
-- Prof. Radu, wrestling a projector

"So, if you know the coefficients, then you know y. Ah! I can't spell coefficients; I don't know why!"
-- Prof. Butske, punning

"Really. This is the sort of thing that gets number theorists excited."
-- Prof. Holden, on the superior efficiency of Euclid's algorithm

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



dlknNYC / flickr.com
The geoduck (said "gooey-duck"), a phallic gastropod.

Revealing my feelings through poetry

Philip Becker
Staff Writer

Ah, February. The Season of Love. When those who feel they are alone whine about their loneliness and those who have someone celebrate it openly.

This year, I may be the sucker you hope to watch on Fox.

The fun of the season is when those who love in secret reveal their desire. When they step out on a limb to see if that special someone will catch them. The unfolding drama is more entertaining than any reality TV.

This year, I may be the sucker you hope to watch on Fox. I have had these feelings of affection for so long, and never bothered to hide them. But now I must share them with the world. I can't go another February without letting my love know how I feel. This sonnet is for them.

You should always be in my hands
I love the way you taste on my lips
I want to take you in European lands
But you're quick to go to my hips

This love is too real to make sense
For you I don't hesitate on any price
Why do you demand this great expense?
Why is it my wallet you aim to entice?

The cost of school keeps us apart
After all these classes I must pass
I'll give you my engineer heart
Now until forever our love can last

For you I would freely die
I love you forever, Pizza-Pie

Stargazing in the papers

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Lately, I've been having trouble sleeping. My alarm might have something to do with it, but I think there is something deeper and more terrifying that has haunted my dreams as of late. I am afraid that one day, I will wake up and the Indianapolis Star will not have the Colts on the front page.

For the past three weeks, ever since they became conference champions, the Colts have, without exception, been on the front page above the fold in the Indy Star. That was a



source of great comfort for me, knowing that the loving stability of Peyton Manning's Adonis-like face was always there to reassure me.

Every night I would fall asleep, terrified that I might wake up and there would not be a half-page, full-color picture of the boys in white and blue on the front of the Star. But every morning, my fears were quelled by almost-life size pictures of the men that represented both the pinnacle of human achievement and the promise of a better tomorrow for all mankind.

The day after they won the Su-

per Bowl, the Star had a 40-page Colts feature section. Mmmm. More pages dedicated to the Colts than the Star usually devotes to its whole newspaper. I was in heaven.

Then, Wednesday hit, and my world came to a screeching halt. No Colts! They had just won the Super Bowl three days before; surely the Star hadn't forgotten our heroes already! Just because the season is over and there is literally no news to report on them doesn't mean we should forget them! It's blasphemous. Let's all rise up and tell the Star what we want: not the dry, boring, news that actually impacts the world. We want more Colts!

Let me leave you with this parting thought: on the first day, Peyton Manning created God. On the second day, he told God to finish the job while Peyton practiced his football.

Top ten Valentines activities sans-significant-other

Matthew Melton
Staff Writer

10. Play some Broomball on the ice.
9. Play "WOW" or "Halo 2." All day. All night. (Why is this such a recurring entry?)
8. Homework... boo...
7. Steal your roommate's candy.
6. Find another person without a significant other and hang out. You won't even have to bring her candy like those other suckers. (Yet...)
5. Spend your money on yourself!
4. Watch "Terminator 2" instead of "Sleepless in Seattle" (or vice versa).
3. Polar bear wrestling on Speed Lake! Finally, something the Bears can win!
2. Spend some time pondering why this is the (Insert number, don't lie) year in a row you've spent thinking of things to do on Valentines Day without a significant other...
1. Wait until the 15th and buy lots of chocolate cheaply...for yourself!

This Day in History

In 1971, Apollo 14 returns to Earth after helping humanity visit the moon for the third time in history. Or did it return from a sound stage in Hollywood? No, wait. That would be a dumb.

In Addition

So it's getting near the end of winter quarter. Thesis is nearing completion. Graduation's coming up. You know what that means? Boss fight. I wonder where Dr. Jakubowski's weak spot is?

