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Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Rose Thorn Staff

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Explore Engineering hosts Robot Showdown



Courtesy of Rose-Hulman

Explorer Blake Taylor, a middle school student from Linton, Indiana, studying a MoonWalker II robot kit.

Chris Scribner
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman Explore Engineering program recently held an activity for area middle and high school students to construct robots and pit them in competition. Explorers spent the nights of December 3rd and December 10th constructing either a MoonWalker II or Sumo robot.

Explorers constructed the robots in the ECE circuit labs using resources in the equipment room when necessary.

The MoonWalker II robot features light and sound sensors. The robot is controlled through inputs to its light and sound sensors. The robot has four legs, two of which provide propulsion powered by a crank shaft. The MoonWalker II is more difficult to construct than the Sumo robot.

Primarily, sixth and seventh grade students built Sumo robots. The Sumo features a sturdy frame complete with a treaded tank-like wheel system. Infrared systems search for other Sumo robots in the area. Once a target has been acquired, the robots charge at

each other, at which point they turn around and repeat the process.

At the end of the second night, two Sumo robots and two MoonWalker II were completed. The MoonWalker II's raced while explorers clapped along side them, stimulating their audio sensors.

The two completed Sumo robots were pitted against each other in a ramming match.

The purpose of the Explore Engineering program is to excite area students about the possibilities a future in science and technology. Each department at Rose-Hulman has participated in some sort of activity for the program. Interested students gather bimonthly to participate in the fun and mentally stimulating activities. All of the students are local, but some are home-schooled. Often Rose-Hulman students are involved with the project meetings.

Upcoming Explore Engineering meetings in the month of January include a K'nex bridge building session and a Delta Dart Airplane Flying Contest.

Considering study abroad?

Nicole Hartkemeyer
Staff Writer

The International Programs Committee sponsored a study abroad symposium last Tuesday. The committee included professors in the foreign language fields, and director of the committee, Karen DeGrange. The group introduced possible study abroad options available to students that are interested in exploring the culture and possibly language of a foreign country.

DeGrange began the discussion by reviewing the kinds of questions interested students should ask when considering to study abroad. Many of the questions are common sense. Where do you want to go? What do you want to do? Do you want to go for the summer or during the school year? Other questions are a little trickier. Will the credits transfer? Will you graduate on time or be set back? Can you afford it? Planning is essential for a study abroad program.

Students were also encouraged to talk to a variety of people to assist in the decision making progress and answer any questions they might have. Interested students should talk to their professors, especially foreign language professors since most study abroad programs focus on and

require at least some college foreign language class. Another good idea is to talk to students that have taken advantage of study abroad programs in the past, as well as the international students attending Rose. Right now, students are attending from China, India, Mexico, Argentina, Singapore, etc.

Advisors and department heads are also valuable sources of information. They can discuss transfer credits, courses to take, and the best time to go. These things should be taken care of well before you apply for a program. Also, students should fill out necessary credit transfer information before beginning any program. To find out answers about financial aid and current scholarships, contact Melinda Middleton from the financial aid office to see how study abroad could affect any of these.

Finding a study abroad program was another important aspect of the symposium. Students are not limited to the programs offered through Rose-Hulman. Several students in the past have found programs online sponsored by other American universities, or even applied to foreign universities directly. Students interested in study abroad do not necessarily have to look into foreign language programs, several students

have done programs in England, Australia, and certain foreign language speaking country programs can be found where it is not required that you know how to speak the language. For example, some foreign universities offer classes in English, or certain internships can be found that do not require that you speak the native language.

Andreas Michel spoke about study abroad opportunities in Germany. Summer internships are available, including those where you do not need to be able to speak German. Specifically, there is an exchange between Rose-Hulman Ventures and the University of Stuttgart Fraunhofer, where their program last three to four months in the summer and does not require the ability to speak German. Also, several universities have undergraduate and graduate courses available in English.

For those students who are interested in the language, summer language study abroad programs are available as well as a junior-year abroad, which includes all junior-level courses and is available in Stuttgart or Magdeburg, Germany. All the credits from this program are accepted at Rose and cover the entire junior year.

Continued on page 3...

Lambda Chi Alpha holds Christmas Party for underprivileged kids

Andrew Morin
Guest Writer

Last Saturday, twenty two children from Ryves Hall Youth Center enjoyed candy, games, and presents as part of Lambda Chi Alpha's annual Christmas Party. The children, whose ages ranged from 5 to 12, smiled joyfully as they sat on Santa's lap and opened gifts handpicked just for them.

For the past thirty-plus years, the men of the Rose-Hulman chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha have been inviting underprivileged children from the Terre Haute area to celebrate the holiday season at their chapter house. This year, the party was held with the help of the Indiana State University chapter of Delta Gamma sorority. Members of both chapters purchased and wrapped gifts for the children, ranging from Barbie dolls to toy cars. The children arrived at the house on Saturday and immediately began playing with the students, laughing and screaming as they tackled the "big kids" in the leaves and



Courtesy of Lambda Chi Alpha

chased each other around the house. They also joined in on a game of musical chairs and enjoyed cookies, candy canes, and punch while telling jokes and stories with everyone.

As soon as the name Santa was mentioned, the children made a mad dash for the Christmas tree, where all of the presents sat waiting for them. Santa's helper had to restrain kids and make sure they waited their turn while Santa sat each child on his lap and handed them their present. After-

wards, the students watched as the children played happily with their new toys, confident that they had been able to give a bit of Christmas cheer to a group of children who otherwise might not have had the chance.

Ryves Hall is a no-cost daycare center located in Terre Haute that provides after school care to local children. Volunteers are needed all year round to help with programs, ranging from computer education to bicycle repair to hanging out with the kids.

<p>ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>True Romance a must see for Tarantino fans</p> <p>Pages 4 & 5</p>	<p>OPINIONS</p> <p>Has pop culture popped?</p> <p>Page 6</p>	<p>SPORTS</p> <p>Rose-Hulman women basketball victorious</p> <p>Page 7</p>	<p>FLIPSIDE</p> <p>Where did you say we were going today?</p> <p>Page 8</p>	<p>WEATHER WATCH</p> <p><i>FRIDAY</i></p> <p>Light Rain/ Hi 41- Lo 32</p> <p><i>SATURDAY</i></p> <p>Partly Cloudy / Hi 45 - Lo 32</p> <p><small>Information courtesy The Weather Channel</small></p>
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

					13	14
					College Bowl Competition	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		ARAMARK Student Christmas Dinner			Holiday break begins after last class	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day			

Attention!!

The Rose Thorn is in need of researchers, writers, photographers, or anyone willing to help with this weekly paper. If you are interested, join us in Olin 101 on Wednesdays at 5:10. We have free pizza for anyone who joins us.

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

The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays
first through ninth week each quarter

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The Rose Thorn welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 300 words in length.

E-mail is the preferred method of communication. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, clarity, and length.

All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact phone number to confirm the letter before publication.

ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON TUESDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

The views expressed in the Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.

SUBMISSIONS

Events may be published in *Events* by any organization or individual. Information on club meetings, lectures, speeches, and athletic events, including announcements of times and locations may be submitted to *Campus Calendar*, in care of Dale Long, associate director of communications, at Box 14 or extension 8418. More detailed articles containing plans, agendas, and specific information should be submitted to the *Rose Thorn*.

All submissions must be made by Wednesday at 5 p.m. in order to be published in the *Rose Thorn* on Friday.

...study abroad...
continued from page 1

Sayuri Kubota spoke about the opportunities for study abroad in Japan. There are two basic programs offered through Rose, the first is an intensive language study and the second a cultural study. The intensive language study is six weeks of learning Japanese communication, Japanese for science and technology, and language and society. This program includes 12 hours or transfer credit and it is required that you have at least one year of Japanese college courses. The cultural study trip is available spring quarter as the courses GL399 or JP399. The course includes class work and a short study trip during the first and

second weeks of June. Summer internships in Japan are also available, and some do not require any knowledge of the language.

John Gardner concluded with the study abroad programs offered for Spanish-Speaking countries. There are many programs offered through Rose-Hulman and ISU these can be viewed further by visiting the Spanish department's website. Programs are available for several countries including Spain, Mexico, Costa Rica, etc. Courses in engineering are available at several universities. For additional information on these programs, contact John Gardner or Victor Rivas in the Spanish department.

All of these tremendously challenging and wonderful programs

can let you have experiences that last a life time, and, yet, still get the credits that you need to graduate from Rose. However, you need to figure out where you want to go, what you want to study, can you afford it, and how long you want to be there keeping in mind things like money, the time the program permits, and if you want to go during the summer or during the school year.

Other things interested students should be looking into include questions on getting credit, and figuring out if you will graduate on time or be set back. A "Transfer of Credit" form, which is available in the registrar's office, needs to be filled out and signed by your department head and advisor.

National Study Shows Rose-Hulman a Leader at Challenging, Involving and Supporting Students

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology received higher average scores than peer institutions and national colleges and universities in a nationwide survey that evaluated how involved students are in five areas of student engagement in the educational process.

The National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) compared average scores turned in by 135,000 first-year and senior students at 613 four-year colleges and universities who evaluated five areas of their educational experience. The areas were level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment.

Rose-Hulman received a benchmark score determined by a response from first-year students that was higher in all five categories than national universities, general baccalaureate institutions and participating private engineering colleges

that are members of the Association of Independent Technological Universities (AITU).

Rose-Hulman's highest score from first-year students was 70.2 for supportive campus environment which was 10 points higher than the score earned by national universities and AITU members, and 7.3 points higher than general baccalaureate schools. This fall, Rose-Hulman recorded the best student retention in school history.

First-year students and seniors ranked Rose-Hulman higher than national universities, AITU member schools and general baccalaureate institutions in four of the five categories. In the only category Rose-Hulman did not lead, it was less than a half point behind the national, AITU and baccalaureate institutions in the scores seniors gave in the enriching educational experiences category.

"These national benchmark scores are another indication that Rose-Hulman is a leader in undergraduate education in engineering, math and science," said Rose-Hulman President Samuel Hulbert. "The scores show that Rose-Hulman students are being challenged, have a high degree of interaction with faculty and appreciate the supportive campus atmosphere that is provided.

"To earn a score that is substantially higher than the national benchmark in categories that measure the level that we challenge students academically is a credit to our outstanding faculty," he stated.

Sixty-three percent or 449 of all first-year and senior students at Rose-Hulman participated in a web-based version of the NSSE survey, according to the college's Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment.

Another key finding of the report is that nationwide women majoring

in science, engineering and math study more and interact more with faculty members than students in other majors.

Carol Geary Schneider, president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, said that "NSSE findings can help campuses explore the connections between their expectations for student achievement and what students actually experience."

This is the third year NSSE has been conducted. It does not rank institutions. The report is co-sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Pew Forum on Undergraduate Learning.

INSTITUTIONAL BENCHMARK REPORT - NSSE 2002			
SUPPORTIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT			
	First-Year Students	Seniors	
Rose-Hulman	70.2	65.0	
AITU	60.2	53.7	
National	60.7	57.7	
Baccalaureate-General	62.7	60.6	

STUDENT-FACULTY INTERACTIONS			
	First-Year Students	Seniors	
Rose-Hulman	40.4	47.1	
AITU	37.9	42.8	
National	36.2	43.5	
Baccalaureate-General	36.7	45.1	

ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE LEARNING			
	First-Year Students	Seniors	
Rose-Hulman	50.1	56.3	
AITU	44.2	50.0	
National	41.3	49.9	
Baccalaureate-General	42.8	51.7	

ENRICHING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES			
	First-Year Students	Seniors	
Rose-Hulman	56.3	47.9	
AITU	56.7	47.9	
National	56.3	48.0	
Baccalaureate-General	54.5	48.2	

LEVEL OF ACADEMIC CHALLENGE			
	First-Year Students	Seniors	
Rose-Hulman	59.7	61.9	
AITU	54.7	58.9	
National	53.4	57.0	
Baccalaureate-General	53.3	57.1	

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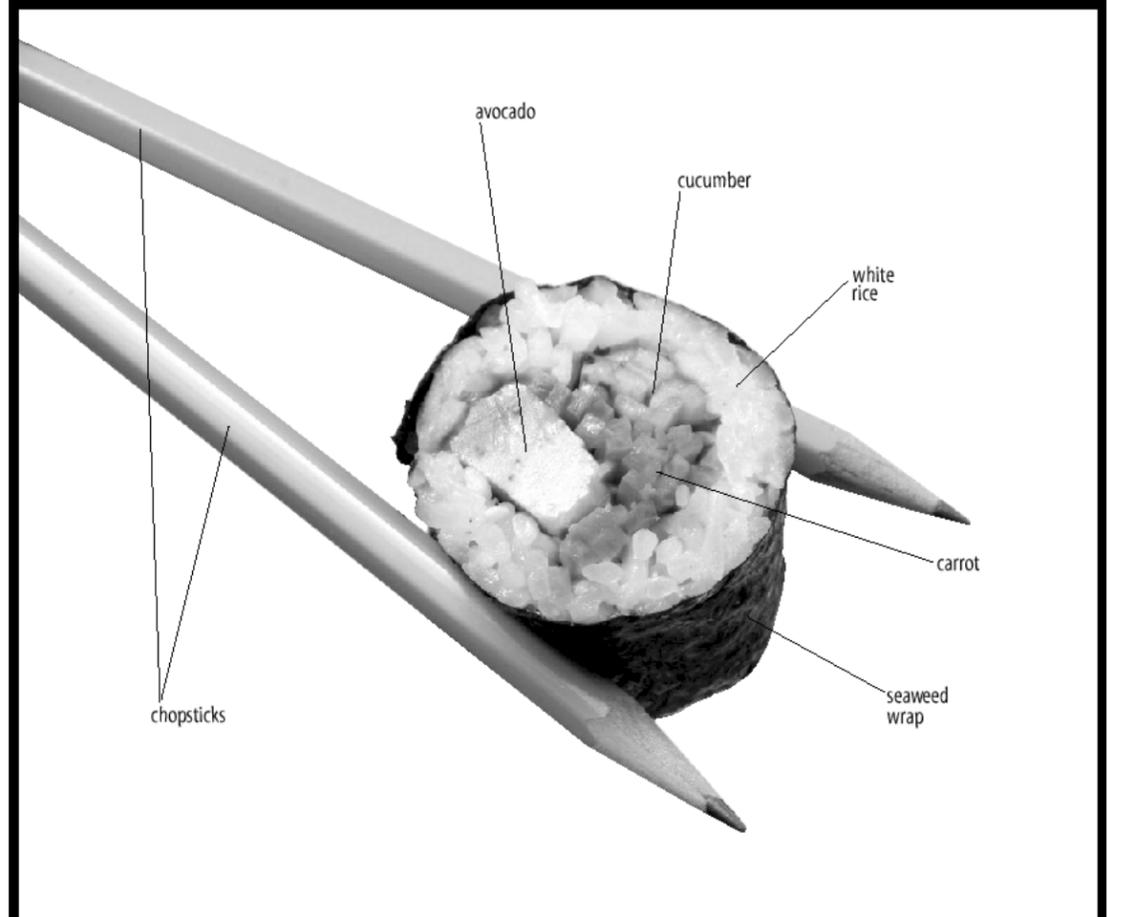
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Weekend Box Office Summary

Title	Weekend	Total Gross
1 Die Another Day	12.8m	120.0m
2 Analyze That	11.0m	11.0m
3 Harry Potter	10.0m	213.7m
4 Empire	6.2m	6.2m
5 Treasure Planet	5.5m	23.6m

This Week's Releases:

Star Trek: Nemesis

About Schmidt

The Hot Chick

BMW hires great talent

Bob Schulein
Entertainment Editor

BMWFilms.com presents
"The Hire"
A series of short films



Executive producers: Ridley Scott, Tony Scott, and David Fincher

Available to download or stream for free at:
<http://www.bmwfilms.com>

Bavarian Motor Works is known for a few select things like world-class sportscars, motorcycles, and now... films? Yes, it's true, BMW has been in the short film business for a little over two years now. While most of their films serve to be little more than showpieces for their

newest car, high production values and the finest Hollywood talent make the viewing experience a blast.

Clive Owen ("Gosford Park," "The Bourne Identity") stars in each of the short films as a driver assigned to do jobs ranging from driving Madonna to a concert to transporting a king's new heart across enemy territory. Owen fits the cool driver character perfectly - always remaining calm, always in control.

Owen's skill as the driver is matched by the talent behind the series. David Fincher ("Fight Club") is the executive producer of the series, and according to the BMWFilms website, was instrumental in getting the films started. Current talent on the production end is Academy award winning director Ridley



Clive Owen

Scott and his younger brother Tony.

Famous actors such as Don Cheadle and Gary Oldman star in many of the films. Other less famous actors also are featured in many of the films, and do a great job. Owen continually steals the show with his cool demeanor and piercing gaze, and is actually more enjoyable to watch than his more famous co-stars.

Besides Owen, the other stars of these films are the directors. Some of Hollywood's most elite have directed movies for the series, and most of them are exceptional. John Woo's film "Hostage" kicked off the second season earlier in the year and features his usual invigorating camera movements. Ang Lee's venture into the series is slightly less satisfying because of less



<http://www.bmwfilms.com>

The new Z4 graces the second season of BMW films. Mmm... Z4

exciting action and a story that doesn't live up to its potential. The late John Frankenheimer even made a film for the series (and it is reviewed below).

Some of the best films in the series are directed by relatively new talent. Joe Carnahan directed "Ticker," one of the most action packed in the series. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu di-

rected the most challenging and movie of the series, "Powder Keg," and it is also reviewed below. Guy Ritchie came up with a funny short with a self-parodying Madonna starring.

These films are definitely worth the price of admission. Hey, they are even worth paying for. Definitely go to BMW-Films.com and check these out!

Staff Picks



Bob Schulein (Entertainment Editor)
"Powder Keg" by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

Director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Powder Keg" short goes above and beyond the other BMW shorts to hit an emotional vein. Clive Owen, as the driver, is ordered to pick up an injured photojournalist who has just shot film of a massacre in Nuevo Colon and get him safely out of the country. The photographer regrets his life of shooting pictures and wishes he could have done more to help people.

The film achieves its emotional payoff at the end, when the photographer gets a Pulitzer for his work. The short is filmed with noticeable grain, giving it a gritty style that makes it seem like you are there. Of course, given that this is a BMW film, the car chase is amazing



Brandon Hathaway (Opinions Editor)
"Ambush" by John Frankenheimer

If there's one thing that John Frankenheimer knows how to do, it's a car chase. "Ambush" is almost exclusively a car chase between a van full of goons and driver Clive Owen with his passenger in a 740iL. It starts out as the beautiful Bemmer it is, but ends up just as you'd expect from a slick car chase.

This movie reminded me a little of "Ronin," which I also thoroughly enjoyed. The circumstances of the "Ambush" car chase was an espionage style hold up, and the film featured a humorous twist in its only plot point. I recommend "Ambush." BMW's got a good thing going with these films.

True Romance

Study Break DVD of the week

The Thorn's weekly guide to contemporary and classic films worthy of your precious time

Available on Warner Bros. 2-disc special edition DVD

Online: \$16 - \$24

Writer:
Quentin Tarantino

Director:
Tony Scott

Starring: Christian Slater, Patricia Arquette, Val Kilmer, Brad Pitt

Supplements: DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1, Commentaries galore, DVD-ROM features, Deleted Scenes, Alternate Ending, Features, Trailers, TV Spots, and Film Highlights. Wow.



Jacob P. Silvia
Staff Writer

If any of you enjoyed Quentin Tarantino's directorial debut, "Reservoir Dogs," you should appreciate "True Romance." In fact, "Reservoir Dogs" might have not been possible if it were not for "True Romance."

You see, Tarantino wrote "True

Romance" hoping to make it into a movie, eventually. Unfortunately, he needed money for the production of "Reservoir Dogs," so he sold the script for thirty thousand dollars. It was later made into a movie directed by Tony Scott, the brother of Ridley Scott.

The story goes as such: In Detroit, an Elvis-man, Clarence, played by Christian Slater, falls in love with a novice call-girl, Alabama (Patricia Arquette). The feeling is mutual and they immediately marry.

After discovering how shady a character Alabama's former pimp is (even by pimp standards), Clarence decides to get vengeance on his new bride's past. This he does with a handgun, all at the suggestion of his own personal, hallucinated Elvis, played by Val Kilmer.

He kills the pimp, then flees, taking some of Alabama's belongings with him. Unwarily, he snags a large allotment of cocaine contained inside the suitcase ironically bearing a DARE sticker on the side.

Having a fresh start in a life of crime, Clarence and Alabama drive off to Hollywood--the perfect place to push their recently-acquired nose candy. There they get in touch with people who wish to purchase. Back home, in the Motor City, Sicilian gangsters are angered with the recent doings of Clarence. They pursue him to California, and search for him, in hopes of repaying his act of drug-thievery with some well-placed bullets.

Meanwhile, the FBI receives wind of a particularly large drug sale. They make sure that this business transaction does not happen without some trouble. All of these opposing powers counterbalancing one another shouts of movie scripting genius, and a quasi-mastery of entertainment.

Quentin Tarantino is not the world's greatest actor, but he is a great writer, and an even better director. Though most of his movies are violent (both those he writes and those he directs), he manages to make all of the violence off-cam-

era. Unfortunately, Tony Scott does not have the same directorial ethos. This movie, written with the Tarantino violence, directed by someone other than Tarantino, portrays the violence on screen. This can get disturbing for the viewer if one is not accustomed to graphic violence (which one really should not be).

Though it does have its shortcomings (or what I saw as shortcomings), this movie is definitely worth watching at least once, if you're a fan of Tarantino's work. The story is definitely in line with Reservoir Dogs, Pulp Fiction, and Jackie Brown, and was actually intended as a precursor to Reservoir Dogs (which is a sort of precursor to Pulp Fiction, if you accept that Vince and Vic Vega are brothers). The all-star cast was well-chosen, and each actor/actress seems right for his or her role. It has just about everything to satisfy any person enjoying movies about people versus drug lords. An Elvis man should love this.

Album of the week

Drew Wright
Staff Writer

Oneida

Each One Teach One

Jagjaguwar Records

"A raucous experiment in controlled noise and mind expanding rock and roll"

One of the great things about "independent" music is that, for the most part, it exists without limits, removing the creative and content restrictions enforced by a majority of major labels these days. As a result, you get all manners of experimental music, running the gamut from the slightly off kilter to the downright bizarre. The latest offering from Brooklyn, NY's Oneida seems to veer more towards the latter.

With the success of their third album, 2001's "Anthem of the Moon," these fuzz rock visionaries firmly established themselves as a serious force in the underground music communi-

ty. Not afraid to throw caution to the wind or disturb listeners to achieve their vision, the music of Oneida comes across as an eerie mix of almost gleeful synth laden garage pop and a tripped out low end psychedelic grind guaranteed to get you moving.

On their latest effort, the double album, "Each One Teach One," the band explores more of the hazy landscape put forth in their previous releases. Originally only put out as a limited edition vinyl earlier this year, Bloomington, Indiana's Jagjaguwar label recently stepped in to distribute the opus as a two disk set.

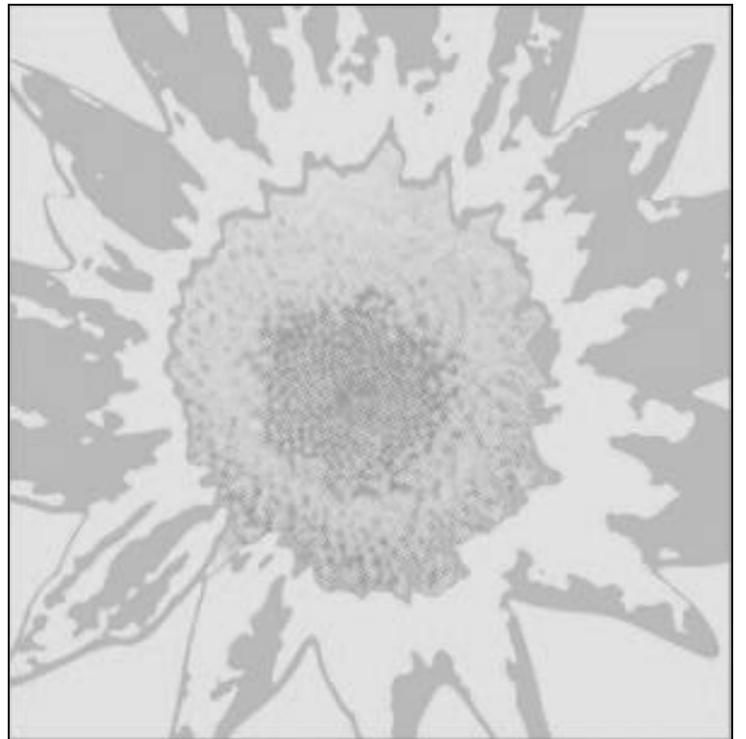
The first disk contains only two tracks, but still manages to stretch to nearly half an hour in length. While it is fairly clear that this first disk is to serve merely as an appetizer for the main course, the first track offers quite the tasty morsel, pummeling the listener with roughly fifteen minutes of tense, rhythmic riffing coupled with sporadic barks and wails. The only three bridges in the entire song, placed roughly five minutes apart, might cause a lesser band's composition to crash and burn, but the track somehow

manages to stay afloat, thanks to the subtle modifications in the background that keep you aware and at the edge of your seat.

The meat of the album itself (disc two) is a raucous experiment in controlled noise and mind expanding rock and roll. From the start, the boys from NYC work thick slabs of crunchy, static ridden guitars under expanding keyboards and muffled vocals. Even on the slower tracks, the music remains anxiously tense and bombastic; a credit to the songwriting skills of the quartet.

Perhaps the most intriguing part of the performance on the album is that, while all of this is accomplished, the band comes off as svelte as ever, conveying an image of willowy casualness as they work their magic. This aspect of their sound instantly brings to mind comparisons to Girls Against Boys, whose untouchable coolness all but defines their impeccable lounge-like groove.

A big thank you goes out to Jagjaguwar for bringing this release to compact disk format for those of us whose mom has permanently borrowed their record



player. This is an album that should definitely be checked out; it's a win-win situation as you get great music and the pleasure of helping out a local label.

Stay tuned to The Thorn for more music information and,

until then, good listening!!

If you liked this Oneida release, check out this other goody:

Owen - No Good for No One Now (yet another project from former American Football main man Mike Kinsella)

'Towers' makes journey from text to screen

By Andy Taylor-Fabe
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
12/11/2002

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - With the opening of Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" just a week away, many are starting to wonder how the film will differ from J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy classic. Last year's "The Fellowship of the Ring" was met with mostly positive criticism regarding its adaptation, a surprising reaction considering the almost biblical status of the books in the realm of fantasy literature.

Despite some omissions for length, "Fellowship" the film was faithful to the book. "Towers" does an equally fine job of bringing the magic of the book to the screen, despite the added challenge of having to overcome some decidedly cinematic aspects of the novel.

"The Two Towers" picks up exactly where "The Fellowship of the Ring" left off. Frodo, the ring bearer, and his trusty companion Sam continue their quest into Mordor to destroy the ring of power; Aragorn, Legolas and Gimli are in hot pursuit of a band of Orcs and Urukhai who captured Merry and Pippin during the final battle in "Fellowship." The traitorous wizard Saruman continues his plot to destroy the world of men and join forces with the dark lord Sauron. All over Middle Earth, the battle between good and evil rages on.

The biggest difference between Tolkien's novel and Jackson's film is the narrative structure. This sounds like a minor detail, but it profoundly affects the action and the pace of the story.

When Tolkien wrote "The Lord of the Rings," he wrote it as one would write a historical account of real events, with chapters listed by topic instead of strict chronology. The adventures of Frodo and Sam are dealt with separately from the

Battle of Helm's Deep, just as they would be in a history textbook. This structure actually makes sense, since Tolkien was a scholar at Oxford before he wrote the three-part fantasy story.

"The Two Towers" is divided into two parts: Since the Fellowship has been broken and its company scattered across Middle Earth, it becomes increasingly difficult to keep track of the various characters, who do not encounter each other often.

The two storylines are completely separated in the book, and since there is no overlap between the two groups in their adventures, they are basically two different stories. However, this format would not work in a movie. After all, no one wants to see the harrowing climax of the battle of Helm's Deep followed by the quiet and slow-paced beginning of Frodo's and Sam's interactions with Gollum.

Jackson and his team of screenwriters had to adapt the rigidly structured book to a cohesive and flowing film. Their solution was to splice the storylines together, moving back and forth from Rohan to Mordor with ease and smooth transitions.

As in the first film, characters are expanded, and some are diminished completely. In a further attempt to create more romantic tension (and add some female characters to a movie full of guys), Arwen is given more screen time in scenes that did not appear in the book.

The most important change that Jackson et al made, however, is the ending. Without giving anything away, they chose to end "The Two Towers" much in the same way they ended "Fellowship," with subdued but cautious hopefulness instead of cliff-hanging suspense and uncertainty, leaving the true ending of "Towers" for "The Return of the King," due in Dec. 2003.

I take it from your lack of response that you don't like music, games, or movies.

If you decide to change your opinion, e-mail schulert@rose-hulman.edu to review for the Thorn.

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Pop goes the weasel



"I'm the opinions editor and you're not."

Brandon Hathaway wants to hold your hand

It's interesting to see the various media that pop culture tends to elevate to the station of art. The fine arts are really timeless, in the sense that the material they cover will resonate through the ages and that the styles in which they are portrayed will probably be around for some time as well. For example, I am confident that people will be painting landscapes and still lifes pretty much until the end of time. I doubt, however, that we will see much resurgence in the variety show as a medium for expressing creativity.

For the latter half of the 20th century, variety shows were a critical vehicle for bringing comedy acts and musical acts to the public. Elvis and the Beatles were introduced to America and The Doors achieved superstardom as a result of appearances, or in the Doors' case, just one appearance, on the Ed Sullivan Show.

Saturday Night Live became a centerpiece of American Culture, spring-boarding talent, both musical and comedic, into world fame. Some of the music that has been generated as a result of exposure from appearing on these shows will endure forever. The Beatles' appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show on February 9th, 1964, appears in history books.

Other things are also on the forefront of pop culture icons these days. Video games are exerting incredible influence on people in today's generation, even to the point of being comparable to movies.

E-mail is affecting the way people speak and write. Does ne1 even know how to write a letter ne more? No? LOL! AOL developed a number of new concepts with its communications techniques, among them: the Instant Message and its answering machine counterpart, the away message.

For folks our age and younger, the away message has become a very serious medium of expression. By "serious," I obviously don't mean "serious," I mean something more along the lines of "not so much serious." A lot of people do pay attention to it, though, and frequently it is a good way to express witty comments, or in some cases, even

some high art; I have friends who post poetry in their away messages.

The away message is pretty pervasive at this point: there has been pop music recorded about it, there have been numerous commercials with reference to it, and somewhat limited references in television shows. It even seems to be replacing the telephone number as the key objective for a cute member of the opposite sex.

The mass media always takes a long while to incorporate technology into their jokes and conversations appropriately. Every joke I've ever heard on mainstream TV involving a computer has made no sense. I guess that's what happens when English majors write television shows with a science education from Star Trek.

These forces that propel qualities like the away message and the Pop Princess to the forefront of American culture are the very same that hold back the more important and productive aspects of society. Carrot Top gets on television and the players in Major League Baseball have the brazen leverage to strike while more sophisticated cultural acts never make it to public attention.

Modern popular music today has its roots in rock and roll,

which in turn came from the blues, a form of music that is uniquely American, and originally non-commercial. Reality television has sprung up where once creative television, like Sports

Night and Cheers once controlled the airwaves. Saturday Night Live has fallen from its bastion of brilliance.

There is still cultured music and writing out there, you just have to look for it. There are jazz masters who still play their trumpets; there are blues greats who still tear up the fret board. "Andy Richter Controls the Universe" is the freshest television show I've seen in years. I am not saying that things that the commercial aspects of art and media are necessarily bad just because they are commercial, mind you.

Likewise, some of this isn't necessarily good because it's not famous. Jazz is hard, and there



are many bad jazzmen. Just because classics are classics also does not mean you must like them, either. I personally don't like Charles Dickens, but I guess some other people do. Whatever.

I do think there's a limit to what you can take, though. I think we're about due for a cultural revolution before too long. The 90s had a small expansion with Nirvana, Guns and Roses, and Pearl Jam, among many others, after the creative quagmire of the 80s. So next time you hear the Gap commercial with John Lee Hooker's "Boom Boom" or Hank Williams' "Move it Over," check out the original. There's a reason why they're using 50 year old songs.

The last D.J.

By Fances Carr
Massachusetts
Daily Collegian
(U. Massachusetts-Amherst)
12/11/2002

"As we celebrate mediocrity All the boys upstairs wanna see How much you'll pay for what you used to get for free." -Tom Petty

These lyrics come from Tom Petty's recent release entitled "The Last DJ."

On Feb. 8, 1996, then-president Bill Clinton signed the Telecommunications Act into law. The law, combined with advances in technology and increased emphasis on ratings promoted by corporate greed, would change the face of radio broadcasting forever. It loosened restrictions of ownership in markets from four stations to eight and gross national ownership restrictions became limitless. Before, no one company could own more than forty stations nationwide.

In the six years since the bill slinked its way into law, 4,000 out of 10,000 commercial radio stations have changed hands. And as a result, many live, local DJs are being replaced by more cost efficient methods since all the "boys upstairs" care about is the bottom line.

One such way is broadcasting generic shows across the country

and passing them off as local shows, inserting traffic and weather for each respective city. If one DJ in San Diego can do the job of one thousand DJs nationwide, what are big business' incentives to keep them around, besides ... hmm ... I don't know ... perhaps, quality and the unique local flavor that prepackaged shows lack?

Another method of cutting costs is voice tracking. This process allows a DJ to prerecord their show in the studio and upload it onto computer, a great way to cut corners and save some green. The station is only paying talent for one hour instead of three or four of actual live airtime. Then during the show's slot, an underpaid board operator plays the voice tracks and the predetermined play lists, which feature songs chosen based upon research and top 40 lists.

Voice tracking boasts the elimination of surprises. But isn't a lot of the appeal of live radio those surprises? The pockets of dead air. The little mistakes and the DJ's apologetic explanations. It grants the listener the comfort of knowing that the DJ is a flawed human too. But wait, DJs aren't necessarily human anymore, so strike that.

The vast majority of radio stations nationwide have been bought out by mega corporations like Clear Channel, which currently owns more than 1,200 radio stations across all 50 states and Washington, D.C. Its website boasts that they reach more than 110 million listeners each week, 54 percent of all people ages 18-49 in the U.S. daily, and that advertisers spend almost 20 percent of their radio advertising dollars with them alone.

In essence, this company and others like it are growing exponentially because we are all lis-

"The boys upstairs just don't understand anymore."

tening, thus encouraging the homogenization of the airwaves. Soon the only choice on your radio dial will be the interchangeable mix stations that refuse to play anything but Pink, No Doubt and Creed. I don't know about anyone else, but if that's what the future of radio holds in store for me, I am going to take a sledgehammer to every radio in sight.

To an untrained ear their proposal sounds intriguing, even beneficial. "Clear Channel Radio's size allows it to leverage state-of-the-art technology and

large-market on air talent to deliver premium programming to smaller towns. Hugely popular shows can be broadcast all over the country giving listeners the programming and diversity they crave no matter where they are."

They go on to conclude, "Result: Greater value for both advertisers and listeners." Glenn Siegel, advisor at WMUA says, Result: "Good for business, bad for culture, music and radio."

Well, You can't turn him into a company man, And you can't turn him into a whore. And the boys upstairs just don't understand anymore. Well, the top brass don't like him talking so much, And he won't play what they say to play. And he don't wanna change what don't need to change. -Tom Petty

Living in the valley we are spoiled rotten, we have the choice of tuning into independent stations that feature real live community voices with a personal stake in the local issues, playing music freely based upon personal and listener predilection. But here's the big question: How many of you actually listen to said stations? How many of you can, without looking, recall the frequency of WMUA, (the radio voice of UMass, for those of you who don't know) off the top

of your head? FYI, 91.1 FM.

It is up to us, fellow conscientious college students. Tune in and support the underdogs who are desperately trying to stay afloat for your sake or suffer the generic mainstream consequences.

Today, our state's capital city only has three independent radio stations left! The only Boston stations that have been able to resist the temptation of selling out are WFNX 101.7 FM, which plays alternative rock, WCRB 102.5 FM, a classical music station, and WILD 1090 AM, an urban outlet.

If stations continue to give in, and listeners keep lapping up what is being spoon-fed to them, this will continue. The rich will get richer as jobs are cut and salaries are compressed. And ultimately, stations will become more and more disconnected from the public that they are supposed to be serving.

Siegel told me how sad it is when kids come to him and say they want to work in radio. He has to tell them, "You're about thirty years late, buddy."

There goes the last DJ Who plays what he wants to play And says what he wants to say, hey hey hey And there goes your freedom of choice, There goes the last human voice There goes the last DJ. -Tom Petty

Have an opinion? Sure, we all do. Write Opinions for the Thorn. E-mail hathawbh@rose-hulman.edu

Three-point, free-throw shooting lifts Rose-Hulman women over

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology buried 10 three-point field goals and finished 16-18 from the free-throw line to earn an 82-73 victory over Greenville College on Tuesday night.

Freshman Karyn Kost (Avon) led the Engineers with 22 points and buried five three-point field goals, while sophomore Carrie Wiley (Vevay/Switzerland County) added 20 points and four three-pointers.

Junior Kiley Wallace (Munster) added to the well-rounded attack with 19 points and a career-high eight assists. Wiley and Wallace all established career-highs for points in the victory.

Freshman Anna Hall (Martinsville) rounded out the double-figure scoring with 11 points, while senior Cari Hasselbring (Skokie, Ill./Niles North) contributed eight points, nine rebounds and four blocked shots.

Amy Brinkerhoff led Greenville with 21 points, while Julie Kaufmann (the daughter of 1973 Rose-Hulman alumnus Bob Kaufmann) added 15 points and a team-high six assists for the Panthers.

The Engineers shot 40% from the field and were outrebounded 18-12 in the first half but led 36-35 at the break due to five three-point field goals. The first-half

featured 11 lead changes, with Rose-Hulman closing the stanza on a 10-2 run.

In the second half, Rose-Hulman methodically built a 10-point lead at 71-61 with 3:24 remaining on a layup by Hall. Greenville closed within five points in the final minute on a layup by Julie Kauffmann, but the Engineers secured the victory by finishing 9-10 from the foul line in the final 59 seconds.

Rose-Hulman improved to 2-6 on the season, while Greenville dropped to 4-2. The Engineers return to action on Saturday at Earlham College at 1 p.m.



Sophomore Carrie Wiley

Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Earlham holds off Engineers, retains Mutchner Cup

Earlham College retained the John Mutchner Cup for the third consecutive year with a 73-63 victory over Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Wednesday evening.

Earlham shot 59% from the field in the second half to hold off a late charge by the Engineers and improve to 5-3 on the season.

The game featured the battle for the John Mutchner Cup, named for the standout Earlham student-athlete who later served as men's basketball coach for 25 years at Rose-Hulman. Mutchner was in attendance at Wednesday evening's game.

The evening also marked a return to campus for 1978 Rose-Hulman graduate Jeff Justus, the fifth-year head coach at Earlham College.

Rose-Hulman sophomore Philip Griffith (Mooreland/Blue River Valley) led the Engineers with 18

points and nine rebounds, while senior Jon Query (Petersburg/Pike Central) added 12 points and four assists. Freshman Munchie Muskeyvalley (Rock Island, Ill.) contributed five assists and six steals in 29 minutes with two points.

Freshman Markous Jewett led four Quakers in double figures with 21 points, with junior Sean O'Reilly just behind at 19 points.

Rose-Hulman jumped out to a 22-16 lead late in the first half on field goals by freshman Kareem Lee (Indianapolis/Warren Central) and Griffith. A three-pointer by Query pushed the Engineer advantage to 31-27 and a pair of free throws by freshman Brian Bibb (Hoopeston, Ill.) gave Rose-Hulman another four-point lead at 33-29.

Jewett closed the first half with a conventional three-point play to bring Earlham within 33-32 at the

break.

The Quakers opened the second half on an 17-8 run to take a 50-40 advantage with 13:08 remaining. Rose-Hulman battled to within four points at 61-57 on a pair of free throws and a three-pointer by senior Rashad Gold (Evansville/Harrison) and a layup by sophomore Jason Ludwig (Effingham, Ill./St. Anthony).

Earlham answered with five consecutive points to regain a 66-57 lead and secure the victory on a three-point play by freshman Brandon Miller and a layup by senior Nathan Stoops.

Rose-Hulman dropped to 1-5 on the season and returns to action on Sunday afternoon at Robert Morris College-Springfield. The tipoff occurs at 4 p.m. Indiana time (3 p.m. Illinois time) at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.



Senior Rashad Gold

Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Brad Hauter named men's soccer head coach; will retain women's head coaching duties

Brad Hauter has been named head men's soccer coach at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, effective immediately.

Hauter has coached the Rose-Hulman women's soccer program for the past two seasons and will retain his duties as head women's coach. He helped lead the women's team to a 13-6 record in 2002, including the first regional ranking in the history of women's athletics at the college. The Engineers also compiled the highest winning percentage in the eight-year history of women's athletics at Rose-Hulman.

Hauter, who has a record of 21-16 in two years as women's soccer coach, has also served as the men's assistant at Rose-Hulman for the last two seasons. Previously, he was the head men's soccer coach at Saint Mary's University (Minn.). He compiled the highest winning percentage in the 28-year history of the

school's program with a record of 57-41-6 in six seasons.

Hauter played professional soccer in the United States from 1988-1998 after enjoying a stellar career at DePauw University from 1983-87. The psychology major earned a United States Soccer Federation National Coaching License in 1995, and completed a course in media training at Edelman Public Relations in 1998.

Off the field, Hauter was the founder and director of "Off the Streets", a non-profit organization formed in Chicago to help the homeless. He authored a soccer coaching manual entitled The Invisible Game in 1994, and has directed camps at various levels for 10 years.

Prior to accepting the head position at Saint Mary's University, Hauter served as assistant soccer coach at Gustavus Adolphus, Judson and DePauw.

Rifle team results

Michael Ray
Rose-Hulman Rifle Coach

The Rose-Hulman rifle team came up short against the University of Akron, losing 6017-5950. Jason LaBella led the team in smallbore with 1124. Rose did better overall in air rifle and Jennifer Lowe led the team for the third time this season, tying her personal best of 379. Jarrod Sands and Bryan Shaw also shot personal bests of 369 and 377, respectively.

The team is off until Jan 18-19 when Morehead State University and Xavier University come to town to take on the Engineers.

Individual scores

	Smallbore	Air Rifle
Jason LaBella	1124	376
Jennifer Lowe	1108	379
Ross Miller	1114	367
Jarrod Sands	--	369
Bryan Shaw	1113	--

Upcoming athletic events

Friday, Dec. 13

•WR hosts December Duels, TBA

Saturday, Dec. 14

•WBB at Earlham College, 1 pm

•WR hosts December Duels, TBA

Sunday, Dec. 15

•MBB at Robert Morris College, 4 pm

Monday, Dec. 16

•WBB hosts California Institute of Technology, 7 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 18

•WBB hosts College of Mount St. Joseph, 6 pm

•MBB hosts Hanover College, 8 pm

(Games in bold denote home games)

Key

MBB = Men's Basketball
WBB = Women's Basketball
SWIM = Swim Team
WR = Wrestling

FLIP SIDE

Top Ten Ways to Get a Boyfriend

- 10 Be hotter.
- 9 Be Asian and frequent Speed 3.
- 8 Look for guys that hang out with Hertz...they've gotta be single.
- 7 Slip a roofie in your own drink.
- 6 Stop being so fat, Fatty.
- 5 Avoid Ron. Nobody likes Ron.
- 4 Grab your ankles a lot.
- 3 Try authority figures such as counselors.
- 2 IM **tj9582** if you want to be his girlfriend.
- 1 Send a photo and get in line. (flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

This week's Top Ten brought to you by Skinner guys with no girlfriends. And

It never fails... we print something sideways, and you waste your effort turning the thing to read it as if it's actually going to be funny or something. Hahahaha, sucker!!!

Have your profs said something wacky lately? Well, stay awake for a change and write it down! Send your Prof Quotes to: flipside@rose-hulman.edu Any other humor, comments, suggestions, complaints, or death threats are welcome as well.

Attention: We need humor writers (and b33r)!

We're still in need of comic strippers, satirists, ranters, or just plain ole people that think they're funny. If you're curious about helping out the Flipside, email us with questions at:

flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Of course, you will never be under any obligation to submit material, we just want enough people to tossing us occasional stuff, so we don't run out of ideas. The current Flipside staff is just a few guys that can only come up with so much material every week, and we need your

help! If you hate the Flipside because it's a bunch of recycled inside jokes with a stupid editor (all true), you're a perfect candidate to help us out!

If you're afraid all your insolent friends will make fun of you because you aren't funny, don't worry! You can write for the Flipside and remain completely anonymous to protect your ego and your academic standing.

Please, help us entertain and annoy the Rose-Hulman community.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"So, if I'm just sitting here, and I tweak myself, where does it go?"
--Dr. Graves, talking about direction fields in DE or something else mathematically kinky

"If you have insomnia, think about physics."
--Dr. Nahm, in Physics 2, on sleeping in class

"Just pretend like I'm talking."
--Dr. Berry

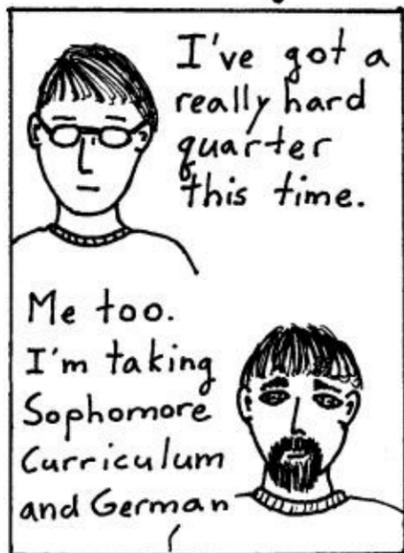
"Equals! I'll be damned, that makes it an equation!"
--Prof. Sherman, giving people yet more reasons to fear him

"I can throw you out [of class], but that would be a relief."
--Prof. Sherman, ...yes, yes it would

"It seems we do a lot of massaging around here, I remember I had a sexy teacher... boy was he sexy. He used to massage me and I'd be thinking, 'You really don't know what you are doing.'"
--Dr. Evans, on massaging math equations

"Find something that looks nice and stick it in there."
--Prof. Thomas

Doomed



This Week in the News

Bush approves an increase in the required fuel economy for SUV's by 1.5 mpg. Man, what a frikking hippy. Obviously, the automakers are bitching, while the Sierra Club considers it a 'minuscule' change.Save the ninjas.

This Week in History

c.a. 790 A.D. - Offa, king of Mercia, builds an entrenchment called Offa's Dyke. Honestly people, if we made this stuff up it couldn't be this good.

This Week in Your Email

Lots of crap, just like every week. What they need to do is make a website where we can check what stuff we do and don't want to receive, and it might just save us our sanity.