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Holiday Issue

the Rose Thorn

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Chess club enters Canadian tourney

by Chris Wernimont

Two Rose chess teams will participate in the 1984 Pan-Am intercollegiate chess tournament over Christmas break. It is the most prestigious college chess event in North America. Colleges from around the country and of all sizes will be represented there.

The site of the tournament changes every year. This year it is being held in Kitchener, Canada, which is about 100 miles northeast of Detroit. It is an eight-round, five-day (Dec. 26 thru Dec. 30), Swiss competition, which means that all teams play all eight rounds regardless of their win/loss record.

Each team consists of four players with the best player (called the first board) playing the best player of the opposing team. The second best player (second board) plays the second best player of the opposing team and so on. Rose chess team

members include Andy Bolda, Andy Carter, Jack Duncan, Greg Sharp, Young Shin, Dave Trepanier, Chris Wernimont and Andy Wurtz. The board order has yet to be decided.

Rose chess teams have always done well in the past. In the early '70s Rose-Hulman dominated the small college division, even winning first place in 1974. In the later '70s and early '80s they continued to show strongly. Some of previous Rose chess teams' conquests include M.I.T., Rensselaer, UCLA and Purdue.

In the Swiss competition held at Rose last week, first place in the overall competition went to Paul Gragor, with Rose freshman Jack Duncan taking the second position. Henry Hunt won the competition in the "B" category, and Robert McKercher took the "C" category. The "D/unrated" competition went to Rose junior Andy Wurtz.



Junior Andy Bolda, left, and freshman Andy Carter contemplate their next moves at the recent chess tournament held at Rose.

Nick Jokay photo

Briefs ...

COMPUTER

Over Thanksgiving break the Waters Computing Center improved the PDP 11/70 and VAX 11/780 systems. The WCC staff installed patch panels that enabled every room in Crapo, Moench, Hadley and Olin Halls to be linked to both computer systems.

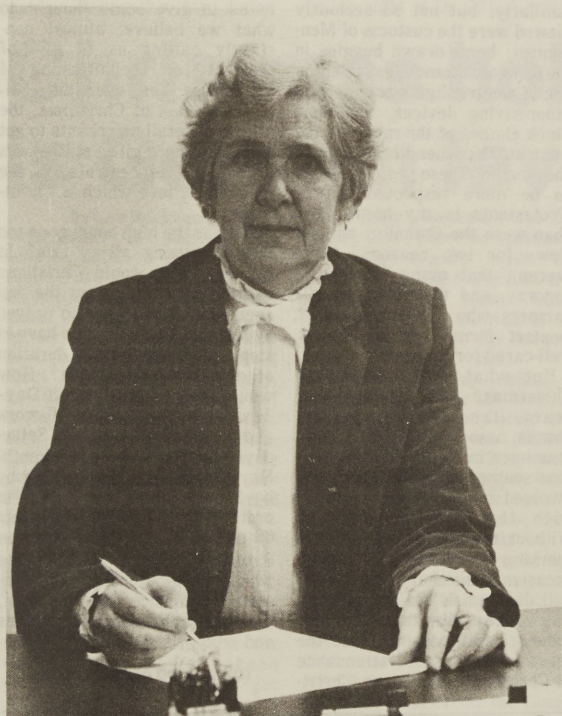
RADIO CLUB

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the Rose Tech Radio Club held a

meeting to discuss plans for this year's Parents' Day.

Other topics included the purchase of a printer for the club's Commodore 64 computer, additional test equipment for the shack, construction of several small two-meter receivers for use in future foxhunts, and the filing of application forms for an upcoming license examination in January. Several members plan to upgrade or test for new licenses.

Leusing retires after 37 years



Margaret Leusing

Nick Jokay photo

Margaret Leusing, a 37-year employee of Rose-Hulman, will retire effective Dec. 31.

She was originally employed as a secretary in the registrar's office. "I've seen a lot of people come and go," she said. After 16 years, she became cashier of the student bank.

"Working here has been very nice," she said. She has enjoyed meeting the many students who have attended Rose, and has been to a large

portion of the 42 commencement ceremonies held since she started. "Originally, they (Rose) held commencement every three months. That's a lot of students," she explained. "I haven't been to all of them, but I've been to most."

All of Margaret's friends and co-workers wish her the best in the future.

As yet, the business office has no definite plans concerning the cashier's position.

Job prospects for engineers are looking good

by Bill Bradford and the College Press Service

Job prospects for this year's college grads look great, the national association of campus placement officers says.

In its annual survey of Fortune 500 companies, the College Placement Council found the firms plan to hire eight percent more new grads than they did last year.

Sixty-five percent of the companies anticipate more economic growth in 1985.

Even the current economic slowdown won't dampen spirits, CPC spokeswoman Judith Kayser claims.

"1985 will be a better year to be coming out of college than 1984," she affirms. "We're expecting the expansion to continue. We think the slowdown is healthy and the economy will begin to accelerate again at the beginning of 1985."

While 1984's spring campus recruitment showed healthy gains over 1983, the worst recruitment season in 25 years, career and placement advisors are delighted with the predicted hiring upswing.

"It's good news," Victor Lindquist, Northwestern University's director of placement, exclaims. "It's almost like a return to the days of old. Like five years ago, anyway."

Lindquist, author of the annual Endicott report, another survey of graduates' employment opportunities, notes Northwestern's recruitment calendar is booked far into spring, 1985.

"Companies heavily into

recruiting are showing up with more recruiters," he adds.

"Recruitment is definitely up," agrees Gerry Taneuf, the University of Nebraska's career placement director. "It's not so much in the number of companies, but in the number of positions being offered."

The best opportunities exist in computer science, accounting, and electrical and mechanical engineering, where hiring should increase seven percent, the CPC survey shows.

Science, math and other business and technical categories should increase as well, the survey says.

"Engineering and technology were hit last by the downturn, but were the first to recover," Kayser explains.

Rose-Hulman's Placement Director, Bill Sisson, agrees that the economic upswing has generated some new leaders in the job market.

"The electrical engineers, mechanical engineers and computer science majors are at the top right now," said Sisson. "The automotive industry and the electrical machinery and equipment industries are responsible for the strong hiring of these disciplines, although they haven't done it single-handedly."

Sisson is not as optimistic as some, however. "It's still not a seller's market, even for the top electrical engineers."

Lindquist warns that there are clouds in the hopeful economic outlook. "Optimism about next year is cautious, not unbridled."

he stresses. "Many major firms are doing little recruitment. Instead, they're trying to protect their old staffs and are expressing some concern about the second half of 1985."

Lindquist notes the large federal debt discourages most experts from predicting what will happen to money markets or, ultimately, employment.

Students remain cautious, too, Drew's Paul says.

"They've seen their older brothers and sisters going through hard times in the past few years," she says. "So they're better preparing themselves to look for jobs."

"According to Sisson, 'It's no surprise that strong GPA's are more important than ever. Along with that a student should be involved in extracurriculars. Companies are more and more looking for students on the upswing, with rising GPA's and who have demonstrated leadership abilities.'"

"The biggest challenge faced by the Placement Office is keeping corporations, government agencies, and graduate schools apprised of the credibility of our student body here at Rose," said Sisson. "Companies have to be aware of the curriculum here. A 2.4 or 2.6 grade point at Rose might compare to something higher elsewhere. Students are expected to read up on companies they interview with. Likewise, companies should familiarize themselves with Rose-Hulman and their curriculum."

Drama Club News

Auditions for the Rose Drama Club production of

"The Invention" will be Jan. 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. All interested persons are encouraged to audition. More information

may be obtained by contacting Richard Payonk.

The Drama Club has also announced the cast for "Grand Openings", a musical revue and dinner theatre scheduled for Feb. 9. Cast

members are: Paul Barloon, Brian Decker, Sue Duranto, Ann Ehinger, Paul Everline, Mary LaRue, Mark Leonard, Jennifer McCardle, Steve Moak, Susan Morris, Lori Ruff, and Tommy Smith.

EDITORIAL

The holiday season is an appropriate time for Americans to be thankful for the high quality of life they enjoy.

We are fortunate to live in a free and prosperous nation, void, for the time being, of catastrophic events.

However, we Americans are so engrossed in Christmas shopping and other holiday "necessities" that we rarely transcend the commercialized Christmas attitude we face daily, to the true Christmas spirit — one of giving, sharing, love, thanksgiving and peace on earth.

The world is full of traumatic events. Terrorists have hijacked a Kuwaiti airplane and murdered innocent lives. Lethal gas has killed thousands of Indian lives and inflicted terrible physical and mental suffering upon tens of thousands.

While Africans are dying from hunger and Iranians and Iraqis are killing each other, Americans are "suffering" from fat bellies and combatting "hostile" shopping mobs.

Our isolated country has not permitted us to fully appreciate our outstanding living conditions. We are so wrapped up in our own petty problems that we too often ignore the rest of the world. It is unfortunate that our moral obliga-

tion for other peoples decreases as the distance from us increases.

I think this mentality is particularly evident with the Union Carbide disaster in India. Engineers, take note.

I believe it was this mentality for the world that was partially responsible for the gas disaster in India. The technical leaders, the people you and I will be some day, reduced safety precautions to cut production costs. Despite careful management otherwise, thousands lost their lives. Although the magnitude of this disaster is rare, it is inexcusable.

Cutting corners in foreign based plants to reduce costs is a very common American device. Tomorrow, you and I will be those leaders who decide which corners to cut. Please be aware of the potential dangers. The next disaster may be worldwide nuclear holocaust - it takes only one error.

So during the Christmas holiday, while we thoroughly enjoy our lives, bear in mind that we are fortunate to live in a wonderful nation, but that our lives are worth no more than any other lives.

Merry Christmas!

—GJL

No more Christmas (The Importance of Symbols)

by Steven Abbott

That's what the announcer said! The highest court in the land had just given their sweeping decision in support of the atheistic plaintiff's. This trio of goddess people had argued that they had a constitutional right to be free of the sign and sounds connected with the Christian celebration of Christmas. No more sound of carols on radio, no more *White Christmas* sung by Bing Crosby, no more of Dickens' *Christmas Carol* on TV. No more local choral groups and brass bands singing and playing in shopping malls festooned with lights, trees, garlands, and jovial Santa Clauses. No seasonal greeting cards to and from friends and loved ones. Store clerks can no longer finish a transaction with "Have a Merry Christmas!" No more decorations on city streets, public buildings, or even private buildings open to the public. No more tinkling sounds of the bells rung by volunteers for the Salvation Army kettles. No red and green, no candles (real or electric). On and on, the list of banned symbols seems endless.

How much this new edict not only mimics but exceeds the official policy of totalitarian states!

Somehow, I recalled the attitude of some Protestants toward Catholics when I was young. The criticism concerned the importance — indeed, apparent reverence — Catholics seemed to place on their symbols: rosaries, statues, priestly garb, nuns' habits, the strange processions with the relics encased sometimes in jeweled boxes, sprinkling "holy water" on everything from shrimp boats to the site for a new church.

This same sort of bigoted view extended to the reverence Jews held for their local synagogue's scrolls, the importance of the Bar Mitzvah, the prayer shawl, the skull-caps worn by the men. Similarly, but not so seriously viewed were the customs of Mennonites: horse-drawn buggies in the days of automobiles, avoiding use of electric lights and electric labor-saving devices, the basic black clothes of the men and the intricate lace head-coverings of the women. These people seemed to be more respected by the Protestants in my home town than were the Catholics and the Jews for two reasons: there weren't that many Mennonites anyway, and they were mainly farmers who had the cleanest, neatest farms and the finest, well-cared-for animals.

But what will become of Christmas? For all the past years, the decorations and sounds associated with Christmas were intrinsic to the Christmas season and were intimately involved in our becoming imbued with the *Christmas Spirit*. Without these outward symbols marking Christmas as a special occasion in the church year, what will distinguish Christmas from any other Sunday service. Indeed, is it possible that the reason for increased attendance at Christian churches on Christ-

mas and Easter is largely the effect of the symbols of those occasions (even those symbols which have been criticized as being the *commercialization* of Christmas and Easter).

How much we rely on symbols throughout our lives without even realizing what we are doing. What would be the *Fourth of July* without flags, banners, and even the fireworks display? Would brides still be brides if the custom of special wedding gowns and dress suits for the groom were ended — would weddings lose something of their mystique? What meaning do we give to customs such as birthday cakes, anniversary celebrations of all sorts, the special garb worn at commencement exercises, the rite and ceremonies for the dead, distinctive garb or badges of office in all fraternal organizations, and even the special symbols for our political parties? What about all of the corporate symbols, or *logos* which we encounter everywhere? Indeed, how would our lives be affected if the ban on Christmas symbolism were extended to everything. It seems to me that we would exist in an atmosphere and lifestyle exactly like that of the Chinese during their so-called *cultural revolution*, in which the symbols of the "party" replaced all other symbols. How empty life would be!

Perhaps, then, our symbols serve two principal roles: symbols help us identify ourselves with and from each other, and symbols provide to us the needed focal point to help us concentrate without distraction on whatever is the occasion or thought. The rosaries and statues of the Catholics serve as reminders of their faith; the dress and lifestyle of the Mennonites remind them of their commitment to simplicity and the avoidance of materialism; and the sights and sounds of Christmas are, to all Christians at least, reminders to us to give some thought to what we believe, almost constantly calling us to sort of meditate on the meaning of Christmas. Yes, even the *commercialization* of Christmas, the efforts of retail merchants to get us to buy more gifts, still serves to help us concentrate on the meaning of love which is Christmas.

But has the high court gone too far in banning all of this? In fairness, how would Christians like to listen throughout the day every day to the calls to prayer by Islamic believers, to have to stop everything for the duration of the prayer periods? How would the non-Seventh-Day-Adventists like to have all work and business be banned on Saturdays? Is it possible that Seventh-Day-Adventists are anguished by having to violate their beliefs in order to keep their job when their employer needs their work on Saturday? What about those whose religion insists on complete abstinence from alcohol, tobacco, and other consumables and who are, like all of us, sur-

(continued on next page)

Movie Review

2010, good but not great

After a fall season of second-rate films, it was a relief to see *2010*, a science-fiction special effects lovers dream, that was good, but not spectacular.

2010 features Roy Scheider as Dr. Heywood Floyd, the person responsible for the failed mission of *2001*. The mission in that film was for a crew aboard a spaceship to travel to Jupiter to observe a giant monolith discovered there. The mission failed when the HAL 9000, the ship's talking, thinking, almost alive computer, seemingly malfunctioned and began killing the crew members. *2001* left many unanswered questions which *2010* partially explains. In *2010*, Dr. Floyd, along with two other Americans travel with a Russian crew, on a Russian spacecraft, to

examine both the giant monolith, and the remains of the spaceship from the failed mission which are still orbiting Jupiter.

In *2010*, many of the mysteries of *2001* are resolved but many more strange things occur, and there is obviously going to be a sequel in the near future.

2010's story was good. It was intense, dramatic, suspenseful, and never predictable. But the special effects weren't all that special. After *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, and other special effects giants, scenes of spaceships gently drifting through space do not inspire awe or amazement. And *2010* was full of shots that filled the screen with spaceships wandering through space, that served as a weak connection between scenes, and made someone looking for excitement

want to throw-up. The representation of Jupiter was good, but the rest of the planets and moons were so plastic that you could almost see the "Made in Hong Kong" stamp. And the biggest joke of all was the giant monolith itself, which made one wonder why anyone would wander out to Jupiter to see an overgrown shoe box.

Despite these technical underachievements, *2010* was a very entertaining film. The *2001* fans, HAL 9000 fans, and other nerdy types will love *2010*, but the rest of the public will probably say "ho-hum."

Starring — Roy Scheider, John Lithgow, Keir Dullea
Rated — PG
Shown at Honey Creek

—Joel Schneider

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In response to your recent letter from Mr. Bradley Snodgrass concerning the display of campus parking decals, I would like to offer the following comment.

Parking space and decal permits are supplied free of charge

here at Rose-Hulman in effort to minimize worry and cost for our valued community members. Other institutions currently charge a fee of \$10 to \$20 for the same one year permit renewable annually. Our parking permit is issued for the protection of our community members as a visible

aid that immediately identifies the vehicle it is displayed on as an affiliate of Rose-Hulman.

Permanent attachment is required to prevent perhaps a lost decal from turning up in wrong hands and being transferred from one vehicle to another. Removal of an old decal is required as there aren't that many different die cuts of decal shapes available for consideration. For example, I.S.U. currently has a student decal quite similar in shape to the one we issued last year and of the same color.

In reference to week-end enforcement it is proper to park in any lot other than a designated lot, however, general enforcement is in effect on fire lanes, alignment, reserved spaces and decal display.

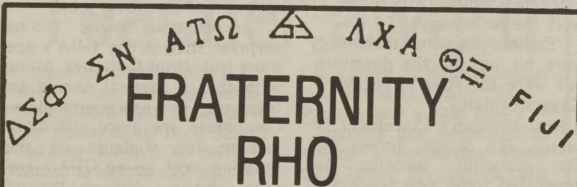
Our traffic rules and regulations were adopted with concern for our valued community members first and foremost, with the majority of those members doing an excellent job of complying not only to the regulations, but to whatever other temporary traffic request necessary to impose on them.

I do regret that Mr. Snodgrass has been so upset, and sincerely hope that this in some way will clarify some of the necessary evils of our rules and regulations.

Sincerely,
Gary Flora

Dear Editor:

The men of Lambda Chi Alpha were very upset to see their new Associate Members referred to as pledges in last week's "Fraternity Rho." While this was probably an honest mistake by the *Thorn*, we believe that it



by John Rumberg

The men of Lambda Chi Alpha would like to thank Pete Gustafson, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Miller, Fred Goetsch, Prof. Al Schmidt, and Dr. James Eifert for attending the Officer Installation Banquet held Sunday, Dec. 9, in the Hulman Union. Dr. Eifert, the faculty advisor, conducted the ceremony, and Prof. Schmidt was the speaker.

The men of Lambda Chi Alpha held their annual Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 16. The party was held for the underprivileged youth from Ryves Hall Youth Center from 1 to 4 p.m. The brothers and kids enjoyed an afternoon of Christmas caroling, opening presents and playing games.

The men of Phi Gamma Delta have recently activated two new members. Sophomores Andrew F. Jones and Douglas W. Morris were activated into the fraternity.

Triangle fraternity has recently activated sophomore Rob Naylor.

Alpha Tau Omega held an open pledging ceremony on Dec. 12. The ceremony was to induct the pledges into the fraternity. Dr. James Eifert, Ron Reeves, Pete Gustafson, Tom Miller, and Jim Schwartz all attended. The chapter also held a Christmas party for the residents of the Simeon retirement home. The brothers had lunch and gave presents to the residents.

Omitted from last week's column were the upperclass pledges for Delta Sigma Phi. Sophomores Bruce Cluskey, Matt Maher, Carl Regenauer, Bill Torline, and Anthony Wilt pledged Delta Sig.

Congratulations to Theta Xi. The men of Theta Xi had the highest cumulative grade point for last quarter. They were also above the all-men's average in cumulative GPA.

reflects a general misunderstanding of the differences between Lambda Chi Alpha's Associate Member program and a pledge program.

Pledge classes are highly organized into a rigid structure. Pledges meet almost exclusively as a pledge class. Pledges often do not enjoy the same privileges as active members, including status and a vote at chapter meetings.

Lambda Chi Alpha gave up pledging in 1972 and began Associate Membership as its replacement. An Associate Member (A.M.) has all of the

rights and privileges of membership except for voting on those matters concerned with the ritual and initiation. The change in 1972 was a very important one for Lambda Chi Alpha because it shows that our A.M.'s are accepted as equals from the day that they join and do not have to go through a period of second-class membership.

Robert Wilkins
President

Dear Robert,

This was an honest mistake by the *Thorn*, as you suggested. We apologize.

Christmas in Slavic lands

by Mark A. Crampton

Christmas has always been recognized as a holiday in the United States but it takes on different meanings in other parts of the world. The word Christmas itself has its Christian meaning as "Christ's birthday" although many Americans refer to it as just a holiday. No matter what Christmas is considered, virtually all Americans celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25. The question of how Christmas is treated, or even if there is one, was asked of two Rose-Hulman professors who came from communist nations.

Dr. Vuk Fatic, an EE professor at Rose-Hulman, was born and raised in Yugoslavia before coming to the United States to further his education. He says that although the communist government does not officially recognize Christmas, Yugoslavians celebrate New Year's Eve with an estimated 50% participation. Bozic and Badnjak are celebrated according to one's religious background since the Christian church in Europe is split between the Catholic and Orthodox churches. The Catholics recognize Bozic, meaning "God's Day" or "Christ's Birthday" on Dec. 25 while the Orthodox celebrate Badnjak on the eve of Jan. 7.

People in the cities tend to celebrate Bozic and decorate evergreen trees "just as in the United States," according to Dr. Fatic, and villagers usually celebrate Badnjak. During Badnjak, a branch of a coniferous tree with some of its dry leaves still intact is burned in a fireplace and nuts are hidden in straw spread throughout the house for the children to find. It is a custom for those who acknowledge Badnjak to go to church on Jan. 7.

Yugoslavia's New Year's Eve celebration is more similar to Christmas in the United States since it is declared an official holiday. New Year's trees are decorated and presents are exchanged during this day, giving

businesses their biggest sales of the year. Dr. Fatic says that commercialization of the New Year's holiday is increasing as "fewer and fewer people are observing the religious holiday." The favorite dish served on New Year's Eve is roasted suckling pigs. Dr. Fatic thinks that this holiday is "just a nice custom" and "one of the best times of the year."

The USSR is like Yugoslavia in that the government does not officially recognize Christmas. Rose-Hulman professor Mrs. Galina Blum, who lived in Russia for the first 22 years of her life, claims that only a few Russians, many of whom are elderly, celebrate an Orthodox Christmas on Jan. 7 by attending special church services. Religion is barely tolerated in Russia with the official Russian language having no word of religious meaning, so a Russian word for Christmas is not recognized.

The Russians, however, have a New Year's Eve celebration whose gaiety at least matches that of Christmas in the U.S.A. Schools, factories and work in general halts from Dec. 31 to Jan. 10 for this holiday. New Year's celebration is rich with tradition and enjoyed by practically all Russians. The government of Russia even holds its own party, attended by the privileged Russians.

The symbols of the New Year's Eve include Diedmorrow, translated as Grandfather Freeze, and a yolka, which is a pine tree that is also referred to at this time of celebration. People must wait in long lines in freezing temperatures to get a yolka but almost everyone gets one according to Blum. The yolkas are not always full, healthy trees but are "beautiful" when decorated at contests held to see who has the best-looking yolka. The yolkas, of which none are artificial, are kept standing the entire holiday.

It is claimed that Diedmorrow puts presents under yolkas on the night of Dec. 31. A typical

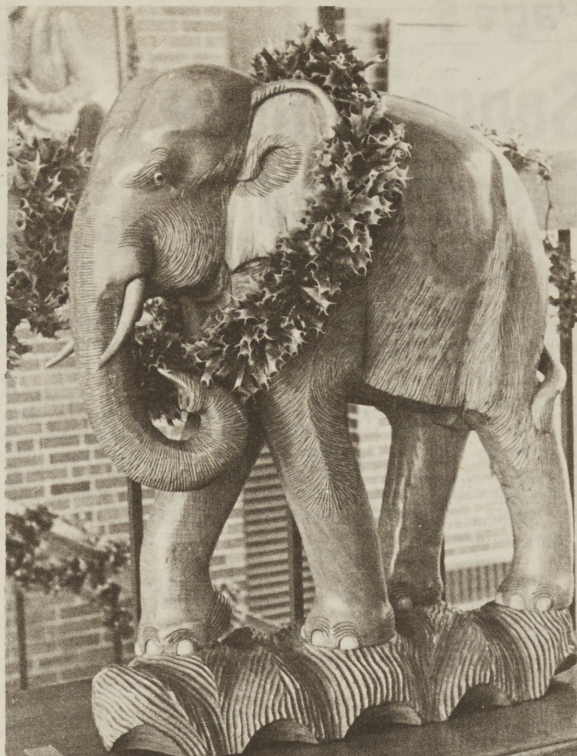
gift for children is a bundle of food including citrus fruits such as mandarins, oranges, and apples as well as candies. Apples are a popular gift as they do not grow well in Russia, but chocolate candies are the favorites. Russian children wear non-ghoul costumes with the most popular being rabbits and snowflakes.

Russian adults join in the celebration with large formal dances which are "very popular" on New Year's Eve, according to Blum. Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" is often played while vodka is eminent. Visiting is done frequently and professional performances are often seen. Yolka is "one of the best holidays in Russia" of which "everyone enjoys" according to Blum.

Poland is unusual among communist nations as its general population celebrates Christmas as a historic biblical event. The Polish government officially recognizes Christmas as a holiday since 99% of the Poles are religious, including party members, according to Blum who lived in Poland for 14 years. Christmas in Poland is held according to the old Catholic tradition with Christmas Day declared to be Dec. 25.

It is a tradition for the Poles not to eat on Dec. 24 until supper time, although some "cheat" and snack some. Supper begins when the first star of the night is seen to appear with one extra place set so that any unexpected and perhaps unknown visitor can be welcomed. Supper traditionally includes a beef soup with Polish dumplings, herring, ham, and various types of fish served in gelatin. Vodka and cognac are heavily consumed during supper and throughout the holiday. Cakes, coffee cakes in particular, and other sweets are served for dessert. Mrs. Blum says that fish and herring were imported into Poland even during their time of crisis.

As in the U.S.A., a Santa Claus



Even the Union elephant turns festive during the holiday season.

Nick Jokay photo

is rumored to leave gifts at homes on Christmas Eve. Caroling is commonly done on Dec. 24, 25 and 26 with most people attending church services on Dec. 25.

Doll-house-sized models, called Shopka's, are made depicting the scene of Jesus' birth. These scenes show Jesus with his

mother Mary and the three kings among other people and/or animals after his birth in a manger. There are big contests to see which Shopka is the best. Free puppet shows in churches describing the biblical events of Jesus' birth are "very popular" among the Poles. Christmas is indeed a "happy holiday" in Poland, according to Blum.

Christmas holiday is German favorite

by Lee Beckham

Christmas is one of the favorite holidays in Germany. There are many traditions associated with Christmas; some varying from region to region and others common throughout Germany. To find out about Christmas in Germany, the Thorn took advantage of having some genuine Germans here at Rose-Hulman: Prof. Hannelore Lehr and graduate students Martin Diener, Claus Fischer, Martin Hummel and Ingrid Kraiser.

The main celebration for the family takes place on Christmas Eve. It begins with the decoration of the Christmas tree in the living room. Small children are not allowed in the room until later in the evening, being warned that "the Christkind (Christ child) is coming to decorate the tree and bring presents." Only after they hear a bell are the children allowed to come in. The tree is decorated with candles, or white lights, and ornaments such as straw stars, glass balls, nuts, apples, cookies, and bells.

After the children are let into the room, Christmas songs are sung, often with family member playing instruments for accompaniment. Some families also read special Christmas poems and usually read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. Then, much to the children's delight, the presents are taken from under the tree and distributed. Presents usually aren't so numerous as here in the U.S., but are nicer and more special.

The traditional meal for Christmas Eve is fish, often carp, but this isn't always followed in some areas. The rest of the evening is spent at home quietly and peacefully, perhaps watching Christmas programs on television or playing family games. Most families also attend a church service on Christmas Eve, often midnight mass for Catholic families.

Christmas is celebrated for two days in Germany. The first, Dec. 25, is also spent at home with the family. The principal feature is perhaps the Christmas dinner, often the noon meal. The Christmas dinner tradition for generations in Germany has been goose and red cabbage. Duck, turkey, and rabbit are also served. Dumplings made from bread or potatoes are also common. Traditional dessert is stollen, a type of fruitcake. The second day of Christmas (26th) is spent visiting relatives and close friends.

Pastries, cookies, cakes and sweets of all sorts are plentiful throughout the Christmas season. Lebkuchen, which is similar to gingerbread, is popular at Christmas. In Swabia where the graduate students are from, springerle are a favorite. These are light, hard, square cookies that have a slight taste of licorice and usually have a design on the top.

Companies and factories do not operate between Christmas and New Year's Day in Germany. This makes it especially easy for families to take vacations during this time. A favorite spot is, of course, the Alps for skiing.

Germany's many traditions help to make Christmas a special family time.

English Christmas is long holiday

by Jason Hanson

Christmas in England is a festive occasion full of tradition and customs which are not quite the same as those in the United States. Having no other holidays during the winter, the British make merry and spread good will from Christmas Eve through the New Year. Many businesses close for the entire week. Christmas is important for its religious significance rather than its being a commercial event. A popular observance of the holiday is an Anglican mass at midnight on Christmas Eve.

The Christmas season is signaled by the appearance of Christmas carolers in towns and villages. "All English neighborhoods would have people carol singing and collecting money for charity as they did it," according to Physics professor Dr. Michael McNerney, the son of very British parents. Small groups of children sometimes venture out piping Christmas tunes with the hope of receiving sweets or cookies for their efforts.

In keeping with tradition and ancient beliefs, holly and mistletoe are used generously in the decoration of the house. A kiss received under the mistletoe was thought to typify a pledge of good will. Some families attend a traditional Christmas pantomime during the holiday season. It is put on ostensibly for children, but everyone participates by cheering the hero, booing the villain, and sometimes even pelting him with rotten fruit!

Christmas Day is marked by the Queen's speech in which she wishes a "Happy Christmas" from the royal family to the nation, and, of course, by

Christmas supper. Although goose is the traditional meal, many have turkey or pork, with stuffing. Other favorites are brussels sprouts, baked potatoes, and chipolata sausages (thin sausages wrapped in bacon). Everyone's favorite, though, is Christmas pudding.

Christmas puddings are traditionally made a year in advance and contain currants, raisins, candied fruits and fruit peels, apples, almonds, carrots, beef suet, flour, bread crumbs, sugars and spices. Topped with a flavorful brandy butter, it is often a meal in itself. Sometimes small silver threepenny pieces are put into the pudding. Electrical Engineering professor Dr. Barry Farbrother, a native of Great Britain, discloses that "finding a silver threepenny piece in your Christmas pudding was a sign of luck for the forthcoming year."

Following Christmas Day is Boxing Day. It is also a traditional part of the Christmas season. The name "Boxing Day" is said to come from the Victorian tradition of giving gift boxes to tradespeople with whom you dealt. As custom dictates, it is a day of light sport and relaxation. Mock fox hunts in which the hunt parties assemble on the village green "master and hounds" to recreate a hunt are popular as is spending a quiet day at home "recovering" from the previous day's activities.

Although our Christmas seems spectacular with brightly colored ribbons and lights and lots of gifts, Christmas in England embodies more of what Christmas is really about: celebration, tradition, and spreading good cheer.

No Christmas

(continued from page 2)

rounded by advertising for the use of those same banned products? Whose rights get precedence?

If it is valid that atheists should not have to hear or view signs of religions, then in fairness, is it not valid to argue that adherents of one religion have the same right not to be surrounded by sounds and symbols of another religion? And if these collective rights were enacted, would we not be in the same position as the Chinese a decade ago? It seems this is the very basis of insisting on pluralism in our society, for everyone loses so very much if everyone were granted complete freedom from enduring any differing views or cultures from their own. That would eliminate freedom for everyone!

Page 5

Songs of Rose
Discovered

by Chauncey Claus

During a recent expedition to the Logan Library, Page 5 investigative reporters have uncovered another rare and valuable volume of Rose memorabilia. Much of this ancient book was missing, having been rotting on the shelf for so many centuries, but some of the text is still legible.

It seems that the book was one of songs, the title being, "Chauncey Carols." The songs entitled, "Away in the Chem Lab," "Oh, Deming Tree," "Classroom Bells, Classroom Bells," and "Chauncey Rose is Coming to Town" are incomplete. But The Rose Thorn has graciously consented to printing these others from the text which we are proud to present to the readers now in their entirety:

Joy to the World

Joy to the world
Vacation's come!
Let students migrate home.
While Cal and Sam,
Schmidt, Vuk, and Moore
Have lots of time to grade,
Have lots of time to grade,
Have lots, have lots of time to grade.

O Little Town of
Terre Haute

O little town of Terre Haute
How dull we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and constant
sleep
The silent smells float by.
And in thy dark streets lieth
The everlasting sight
Of potholes still you need to fill,
And choos choos in the night.

Sam Hite the Chem E

(not unlike Frosty the Snowman)
Sam Hite the Chem E
Was a jolly, happy soul
With a million pipes and a big red
nose

And two slits made out of coal.
Sam Hite the Chem E
Was a swell Old Boy they say.
He had lots of dough, but the
students know

Why he came to class each day.
There must have been some
magic in

That old whiskbroom they found,
For when they placed it on his
head

He began to trudge around.
Oh, Sam Hite the Chem E
Was alive as he could be.
And the students say he could
sleep all day

Just the same as you and me.
Sam Hite the Chem E
Knew the finals came next day.
So he said let's run and we'll have
some fun

Now before you're flunked away.
Down through the campus
With a slide rule in his hand,
Running here and there, all
around the square

Saying, "I'll flunk you if I can."
He lead them down the streets of
town,

Right to the nearest still.
And he only paused a moment
when

He heard a whistle trill.
Oh, Sam Hite the Chem E
Had to hurry on his way.
But he waved his beer saying,
"Don't you cheer,
I'll be back again Monday."

The Twelve Days
of Classes

On the first day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
A pop quiz and some D.E.

On the second day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the third day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the fourth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Four German verbs,

Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the fifth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the sixth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the seventh day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the eighth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Eight Schmidt lectures,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the ninth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Nine Hulbert speeches,
Eight Schmidt lectures,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the tenth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Ten Parshall papers,
Nine Hulbert speeches,
Eight Schmidt lectures,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the eleventh day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Eleven Bailey problems,
Ten Parshall papers,
Nine Hulbert speeches,
Eight Schmidt lectures,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

On the twelfth day of classes my
Chauncey gave to me,
Twelve Voltmer circuits,
Eleven Bailey problems,
Ten Parshall papers,
Nine Hulbert speeches,
Eight Schmidt lectures,
Seven Oexmann programs,
Six Pickett essays,
Five Dyer plays,
Four German verbs,
Three Hite tests,
Two Kyker labs,
And a pop quiz and some D.E.

Thorn Sports

Grote repeats as All-American

For the second consecutive year, Rose-Hulman linebacker Jack Grote has been named to the College Division Academic All-America squad by the College Sports information Directors of America.



Jack Grote, Academic All-American.

Engineers to
open CAC play

by Steve Zeglin

The Engineers will be at Earlham College today to play their first conference game of the season. The Engineers are currently 3-3 and won three of their last four games with wins over MacMurray, Principia, and Kalamazoo. Earlham is currently 2-2 and is a first time member of the College Athletic Conference. Rose has a 10-24 lifetime record versus Earlham.

Rose also will be trying for their first victory on the road this season. They are currently 0-2 away from home. Rose will look for good shooting from leading scorers Marc Ruhling and David Plantz to extend their winning streak.

Just this fall, Grote was named Rose-Hulman's Most Valuable Player. He led the 1984 Engineer defense in total tackles with 110, and he was a co-captain of the team.

Other Grote football accomplishments include being named to the all-College Athletic Conference team for the past three seasons, serving as co-captain in 1983, leading the defense in tackles during 1983, and winning the team's

leadership award in 1982.

This year's Rose-Hulman defense was ranked 17th nationally in rushing defense among NCAA Division III schools. The squad gave up an average of only 82.2 yards a game on the ground.

Grote's selection marks the sixth season since 1978 that Rose-Hulman has been represented on the Academic All-America team.

Taylor takes tourney

by Bert Stone

The Rose-Hulman basketball team held its annual Christmas Invitational Tournament last weekend. The teams participating in this year's tourney included Franklin College, Kalamazoo College, defending champion Taylor and host Rose-Hulman.

The first game of the tournament featured Taylor and Franklin. Taylor walked into the finals with an easy victory over Franklin.

Rose then opened their tournament play against Kalamazoo. Rose got out to their quickest start this year and led Kalamazoo by as many as 17 points. Going into the locker rooms, the Engineers had an 11 point lead. However, the start of the second half was cold for the Rose basketball team. This, and turnovers gradually whittled down and eventually destroyed the Engineers' lead. After changing to the press, Rose forced some Kalamazoo turnovers which turned into points. David Plantz, one of five Rose Engineer players scoring in double figures, had 16 points in the second half and 22 points for the game. Rose finally won 84-77.

After the consolation game between Kalamazoo and Franklin, Rose faced Taylor in the final game, just like last

year.

Taylor took the opening tip and pulled away hitting seven of their first nine shots from the field. At the half, Taylor had a seven point lead. Rose matched buckets with Taylor during the first seven minutes of the second half at which time Taylor went into a stall game. Taylor then stopped their stall with nine minutes left to play and a sloppy game followed with Taylor winning 60-47.

Members of the All-Tourney team included David Plantz and Brad Keiss of Rose-Hulman.



David Urbanek fights his way inside.

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