

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Institute Inklings

Student Newspaper

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Fall 11-5-1970

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Institute Inklings Staff

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# INSTITUTE INKLINGS

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 7

ROSE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

NOVEMBER 5, 1970



Monceau (George Mells) explains the finer points of his experiences with the Nazis to Bayard (Bob Steele) and the waiter (James Morris), while Tracy Walkup listens in as the boy in the Rose Drama Club's production of "Incident at Vichy." Performance will be in the auditorium during convocation November 10th. Admission is free.

## THE MIND GARDEN

On Friday, November 6, "The Mind Garden," the new coffeehouse in the Snack Bar of the Union, more or less officially opens. On this Friday, Rick Daurer, a Rose student, will be performing with two shows, one at 9:00 p.m. and the second at 10:00 p.m. or 10:15 p.m. Admission is free.

On Monday, November 9, "The Mind Garden" brings to Rose the first in a series of professional performers from the Coffehouse Circuit. His name is John Bassette. He will be performing two shows each night, at 9:00 and 10:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, November 9 through 12 and thr.

shows each night, at 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14. Admission for each night is one dollar, or \$2.50 for a ticket good for admission for all six nights. This admission charge will include free peanuts.

Mr. Bassette comes to Rose with some very impressive credentials. He appeared with Sammy Davis, Jr., in the London company production of "Golden Boy." He performed at the Newport Folk Festival, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the New York Folk Festival, the Cambridge, England Folk (Continued on Page Four)

## Tommyknockers

by Bill Strahle

AD: A "hare and hound" rallye will be held November 17 by the RPI Racing Association. Bring a woodsie and have some fun at the post-rallye party. Be sure and run the course though it's the only way to get to the Happy Hour. (This has been a public spirited announcement brought to you by the UnHemi to the Spring Nationals Committee.)

ITEM: Three frat men (they claimed) absconded with one-half keg of beer from the Fuel Seminar last Friday. They forgot that two of the members present didn't drink—and their

little antic did not go unnoticed. It would probably be a good idea to square things with Ed, Fellas.

ITEM: Speaking to which—how did Ed's right front wheel come to rest in the passenger's seat of his car? Did the accident happen before or after the Fuel Seminar?

LOST: One 36 in. x 15 in. x 18 in. Army footlocker with two padlocks. If found, please contact the Supply Sgt. in our ROTC department, it's his!

ITEM: What was Professor B. doing to that poor old drunk (Continued on Page Four)

## INSTITUTE INKLINGS STAFF

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ADVISOR	Mr. Kent Harris.

All letters to the editor will be printed as received. There will be no editing or censorship. All letters must be typewritten, and must be signed. The name will be withheld by request. Please try to make letters brief and to the point. Letters must be in Box 605 before 3 P.M. on Mondays to be in that week's issue.

—Editor

## Letter To The Editor

### A Word of Thanks:

Employed as a slop jockey in the SAGA dishroom, I am trying to raise funds to support my plans to transfer to another school next quarter. In this position I have taken many excellent recipes as well as a few engineering feats through the magic window, and I am writing this to thank all those who have helped to make my job so interesting and rewarding. A special word of thanks is in order for those Frosh who presented me with the splendidly prepared urine sample. I shall cherish this wonderful event among my fondest memories of Rose.

—JD

### PORTRAIT OF A DESIGN ENGINEER

What contrasts the design engineer from other engineers? What are the attributes of an engineer that makes him a good

design engineer? Raudsepp also surveyed the attributes of the creative design engineer. Here is what the typical design engineer looks like:

#### Personality:

Very self-confident; willing to take calculated risks; open-minded to experience; highly tolerant of criticism; distrusts routine; dislikes regimentation, has strong initiative; uninhibited in communication of his ideas; is a constructive nonconformist; imaginative.

#### Intellectually:

Strong background in fundamentals, with broad interests; very curious and observant; highly creative; persistent and patient in pursuit of a solution; looks for alternatives and ambiguities; very flexible; tolerant of ideas and innovations; has strong interests in mechanical scientific, artistic and literary areas.

To sum up: In contrast to other engineers, he takes the creative non-conventional approach; is willing to take risks; is not afraid of failure; is idea-oriented and creative; and has a much broader intellectual scope.

## DEFERMENTS

If anyone is interested in the medical standards for 1-Y and IV-F deferments, they can send 24 cents and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Midwest Committee for Draft Counseling, 711 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill. 60605.

## 65th National Convo Of Tau Beta Pi Assn.

The 65th national convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association was held at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, October 8-10, 1970. Headquarters for the meeting was Ohio State's new convention facility, the Center for Tomorrow.

Tau Beta Pi is the national engineering honor society, now having 137 collegiate chapters, 44 chartered alumnus chapters and an initiated membership of over 158,000. Students in the field of engineering are elected to membership by the collegiate chapters from the top 20 per cent, scholastically, of their classes on the basis of character. Graduate engineers may be elected on the basis of their eminent achievements in the engineering profession.

Arrangements for the 1970 convention were made by a committee of student members and faculty advisors of the Ohio Gamma chapter at the Ohio State University, under the leadership of chairman James N. Stambolis, graduate student at Ohio State. Members of the Columbus Alumnus Chapter of Tau Beta Pi and other area alumni were also instrumental in convention preparations.

The collegiate chapters were represented by delegates and alternates from 130 of America's leading engineering schools. Also in attendance were the Association's national officers, faculty members from a number of institutions and representatives of several Tau Beta Pi alumnus groups. Rose was represented by President Tom Dehne and the alternate was Steve Goble. Tom is a senior Math major and Steve is a senior Math-Physics major.

The convention program consisted of business meetings, an awards dinner, the host chapter's initiation banquet, and informal discussion seminars. Dr. Gordon B. Carson, vice president for business and finance and treasurer of the Ohio State University addressed the convention at the awards dinner. The major speaker at the initiation banquet was Mr. Richard J. Anderson, assistant to the vice president of Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus.

Three new collegiate chapters of Tau Beta Pi were granted by the convention to General Motors Institute, Rochester Institute of Technology, and the University of Tulsa. They will be formally installed this winter as the Association's

135th, 136th and 137th chapters.

Announcement of the recipients of Tau Beta Pi's Outstanding Chapter Awards for 1969-70 were made at the awards dinner by the President of Tau Beta Pi, Mr. H. Roy Chope. These awards are given annually to those chapters which best serve the Association's goals of recognizing distinguished scholarship and exemplary character and of fostering a spirit of liberal culture in engineering colleges. The top award went to Florida Alpha at the University of Florida. An honorable mention was given to Maryland Beta at the University of Maryland. Special awards for noteworthy accomplishment in particular areas of Tau Beta Pi's activities went to South Carolina Alpha at Clemson University and to Massachusetts Zeta at the University of Massachusetts.

The 1970-74 Executive Council, or board of directors, was formally inaugurated at the Columbus meeting. In Tau Beta Pi's pattern, all members of the Council must reside in the same geographic area, and the new group is located in East Tennessee. Its members are: President George P. Palo, retired from the Tennessee Valley Authority as manager of engineering design and construction; Vice President Mancil W. Milligan, professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at the University of Tennessee; and Councillors Samuel R. Sappire, manager of the Atomic Energy Commission's Oak Ridge Operations; Thomas J. Rentenbach, president of the Rentenbach Engineering Company; and James T. Price, a civil engineer with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Tau Beta Pi's retiring Executive Council was located in Columbus, Ohio. It consisted of: President H. Roy Chope, executive vice president of Industrial Nucleonics Corporation; Vice President John L. Jones, assistant vice president of the Ohio Bell Telephone Company; and Councillors Albert B. Bishop, professor of industrial engineering at the Ohio State University; David C. Minton, Jr., director of sponsor relations for Battelle Memorial Institute; and Ralph S. Paffenbarger, professor emeritus of engineering graphics at the Ohio State University.

National headquarters of the  
(Continued on Page Three)

# THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDSSEL MURPHY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BEHAVIOR OF INANIMATE OBJECTS (MURPHY'S LAWS)

## INTRODUCTION

It has long been the consideration of the author that the contributions of Edsel Murphy specifically his general and special laws delineating the behavior of inanimate objects, have not been fully appreciated. It is deemed that this is, in large part, due to the inherent simplicity of the law itself.

It is the intent of the author to show, by references drawn from the literature, that the law of Murphy has produced numerous corollaries. It is hoped that by noting these examples, the reader may obtain a greater appreciation of Edsel Murphy, his law, and its ramifications in engineering and science.

As is well known to those versed in the state-of-the-art, Murphy's Law states that "If anything can go wrong, it will." Or, to state it in more exact mathematical form:

where XT is the mathematical symbol for hardly ever.

Some authorities have held that Murphy's Law was first expounded by H. Cohen when he stated that "If anything can go wrong, it will—during the demonstration." However, Cohen has made it clear that the broader scope of Murphy's general law obviously takes precedence.

To show the all-pervasive nature of Murphy's work, the author offers a small sample of the application of the law of electronics engineering.

## GENERAL ENGINEERING

II.1 A patent application will be preceded by one week by a similar application made by an independent worker.

II.2 The more innocuous a de-

sign change appears, the further its influence will extend.

II.3 All warranty and guarantee clauses become void upon payment of invoice.

II.4 The necessity of making a major design change increases as the fabrication of the system approaches completion.

II.5 Firmness of delivery dates is inversely proportional to the tightness of the schedule.

II.6 Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight.

II.7 An important Instruction Manual or Operating Manual will have been discarded by the Receiving Department.

II.8. Suggestions made by the Value Analysis group will increase costs and reduce capabilities.

II.9. Original drawings will be mangled by the copying machine.

II.10. Mother Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.

## MATHEMATICS

III.1. In any given miscalculation, the fault will never be placed if more than one person is involved.

III.2. Any error that can creep in, will. It will be in the direction that will do the most damage to the calculation.

III.3. All constants are variables.

III.4. In any given computation, the figure that is most obviously correct will be the source of error.

III.5. A decimal will always be misplaced.

III.6. In a complex calculation, one factor from the numerator will always move into the denominator.

## PROTOTYPING AND PRODUCTION

IV.1. Any wire cut to length will be too short.

IV.2. Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty of assembly.

IV.3. Identical units tested under identical conditions will not be identical in the field.

IV.4. The availability of a component is inversely proportional to the need for that component.

IV.5. If a project requires n components, there will be n-1 units in stock.

IV.6. If a particular resistance is needed, that value will

not be available. Further, it cannot be developed with any available series or parallel combination.

IV.7. A dropped tool will land where it can do the most damage. (Also known as the law of selective gravitation.)

IV.8. A device selected at random from a group having 99 per cent reliability, will be a member of the 1 per cent group.

IV.9. When one connects a 3-phase line, the phase sequence will be wrong.

IV.10. A motor will rotate in the wrong direction.

IV.11. The probability of a dimension being omitted from a plan or drawing is directly proportional to its importance.

IV.12. Interchangeable parts won't.

IV.13. Probability of failure of a component, assembly, subsystem or system is inversely proportional to ease of repair or replacement.

IV.14. If a prototype functions perfectly, subsequent production units will malfunction.

IV.15. Components that must not and cannot be assembled improperly will be.

IV.16. A dc meter will be used on an overly sensitive range and will be wired in backwards.

IV.17. The most delicate component will drop.

IV.18. Graphic recorders will deposit more ink on humans

than on paper.

IV.19. If a circuit cannot fail, it will.

IV.20. A fail-safe circuit will destroy others.

IV.21. An instantaneous power-supply crowbar circuit will operate too late.

IV.22. A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

IV.23. A self-starting oscillator won't.

IV.24. A crystal oscillator will oscillate at the wrong frequency—if it oscillates.

IV.25. A pnp transistor will be an npn.

IV.26. A zero-temperature-coefficient capacitor used in a critical circuit will have a TC of minus 750 ppm/ degrees C.

IV.27. A failure will not appear till a unit has passed Final Inspection.

More of Murphy's Laws will appear from time to time in Inklings.

## 65th NATIONAL CONVO

(Continued from Page Two)

Tau Beta Pi Association is located on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Robert H. Nagel, secretary-treasurer, and Ralph E. Warmack, assistant secretary-treasurer, are based there. Other national officers of the Association are: Director of Fellowships Paul H. Robbins; Alumni Representative John M. Kane of Louisville, Kentucky; Master of Rituals Herbert F. McGaffey of Whittier, California; and Chapter Coordinator James R. Young of Palo Alto, California.

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# IM FOOTBALL NEARS END

Intramural football is drawing to a close as division champions in each league had been determined in games thru Nov. 2. The Major playoff tilt had SN and LXA matched with each taking unblemished 6-0 IM slates into the contest. Meanwhile, the Minors will send ATO, 5-0, against SN, 4-0, with the winner earning the right to battle Deming-Mees No. 1, 5-0, for the title.

One oddity which stands out during the season concerns Speed's Major squad. Of their six contests, three ended in ties and were decided by which team advanced the ball furthest on four downs. Each tie proved to be a loss for Speed Hall, though, as TRIANGLE and TX each won 6-6 battles and Off Campus captured a 13-13 struggle.

Other Major scores include: TX 19, OC 0; SN 9, Speed 0; SN 6, TX 0; TRIANGLE 14, Off Campus 6; SN 19, Off Campus 0; SN 26, TRIANGLE 0; LXA 6, ATO 0; BSB 31, FIJI 0; ATO 18, BSB 6; ATO 18, FIJI 0; LXA 25, BSB 0; LXA 24, ATO 6; BSB 8; FIJI 0; and LXA won by forfeit from FIJI.

Standings for games thru Monday, November 2, include:

MAJOR A	
SN .....	6-0
TX .....	3-1
TRIANGLE .....	2-2
SPEED .....	1-5
Off Campus .....	1-5
MAJOR B	
LXA .....	6-0
ATO .....	4-2
BSB .....	2-4
FIJI .....	0-6
MINOR A	
ATO .....	5-0
TRIANGLE .....	4-1
Speed 1 .....	2-3
Blum-Sch I .....	2-3
Dem-Mees 3 .....	0-5
MINOR B	
Dem Mees 1 .....	5-0
Speed 2 .....	3-2
LXA .....	3-3
MINOR C	
SN .....	4-0
Dem Mees 2 .....	3-2
BSB .....	2-2
Off Campus .....	1-4

## THE MIND GARDEN

(Continued from Page One)

Festival and at Carnegie Hall with Pete Seeger.

The best words to describe John Bassette are those of El-

len Saunder, music critic for *Billboard*, *Sing Out*, *Cheetah*, *Eye* and *Hit Parader*:

"John Bassette is an artist of strength, sensitivity and above all, integrity. With an enlightened awareness of what is relevant to the mainstream of American Pop, Bassette turns about, chooses his material and projects his style to best express what he alone has to say. The result is a performance which moves, touches and entertains an audience—any audience—for Bassette is a confident and accomplished musician, a warm, truly compassionate and very, very human singer."

All I can add to this is—come, I'm sure you will be delighted with him.

—MARK MURNAN  
Student Activities Board

## ROTARY AWARDS

Three activities of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, which may be of interest to Rose students, are as follows:

"1. Graduate Fellowships. Fellows receive funds for a year of graduate study abroad where they gain insights and contacts into the life and culture in their host countries.

"2. Undergraduate Scholarships. This program provides a year of university-level study abroad for young men and women who have completed at least two years of university-level work but have not yet attained a bachelor's degree or equivalent.

"3. Technical Training. The awards provide artisans and technicians, both men and women, age 21 through 35 with up to one year of training in another country.

"Graduate Fellowships, Undergraduate Scholarships and Technical Training awards cover the cost of round-trip transportation between the awardee's home and place of study, his educational and living costs during the study period, a limited amount for educational travel and, in certain instances, the cost of intensive language training in the study country prior to the academic year."

For additional information, see Dr. Sapp in the Civil Engineering Department.

Rose Polytechnic Institute was the first college in the nation to offer a B.S. degree in chemical engineering.

## WHAT IS SAGA TO ME?

Many people have voiced unfavorable comments lately concerning SAGA Food Service. We realize that whenever a service (with a limited budget) is provided for many, some are bound to criticize its quality. However, when a kind word is rarely uttered in regard to the food service, it should be brought to the attention of those associated.

The food service lacks in quality of food and efficiency of service. On some days two bites of a meal nauseates the stomach. One student claimed that he watched the "purple eggs" which were on display for three days last week find their end in the jello. Most of the time the food is admittedly worthy of eating; but, it is seldom that one leaves the cafeteria smacking his lips.

The long lines are a common gripe among SAGA food eaters. Cannot both lines be open when crowds of people come to eat? It would seem that after seven weeks of service this year the SAGA people would know at what times the majority of people will eat and, accordingly, would prepare the needed quantity of food and would have the necessary personnel available. However, on many occasions this year the primary and secondary lines have been extremely long with limited personnel working. No one likes to wait 20 minutes in the primary line, let alone wait another five minutes just to receive seconds. Also, it should be noted that athletes who sweat through practice each night would appreciate a good, well-balanced meal awaiting them. But instead they usually find scraps and left-overs when the SAGA people know by now that they come to dinner around 6:15 to 6:30 every night.

And yet on days when everything appears to be going smoothly, the cooks act insulted when a person asks specifically for a certain piece of steak. Perhaps the person does not like the piece with much fat on it. After all, he pays for the food and service, and he at least expects to get a partial decision in what he eats. Again, we realize that some students are impolite and therefore do not deserve the cooperation of the cooks, it certainly would be nice if the cooks were understanding with the innocent.

While we are aware that many editorials have been writ-

ten last year concerning SAGA food, but, we want them to rest assured that they are always in the thoughts of students.

—DCT  
—RWH

## TOMMYKNOCKERS

(Continued from Page One)

he found on the Penn Central tracks last Friday night?

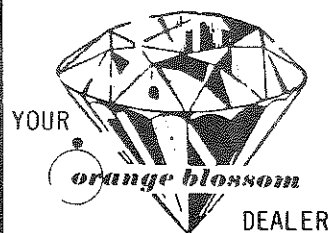
Why was M.D. playing the poor old drunk?

ITEM: I've heard that next quarter even more classes will be taught using the IPI method of instruction. Pretty progressive approach, I'd say.

ITEM: Word leaked through that the ROTC department furnished beer to a Monday class in the hopes of signing 'em up. A word of advice for those underclassmen—watch out for the "press gangs," they usually follow the beer.


Aluminum was used in making pottery in Iraq more than 7,000 years ago.

The geological term batholith means a rock form at great depth.



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