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News Briefs

By Angela Smiley

Katrina's damage still undetermined

The past week has seen an outpouring of public, private and international aid directed towards the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Federal government aid expenditures on the disaster now exceed \$62.3 billion.

However, authorities say it is still impossible to estimate the financial or human costs of the damage to the Gulf Coast region. In particular, much of New Orleans is covered in unsafe water, and thousands of residents of the Gulf Coast region may have been killed in the rampant flooding.

"There's some bad news still to come on that subject," commented General Russel Honore, commander of the relief effort. "This is a disaster of unknown proportions."

Even after the immediate impact of the disaster is absorbed, civil engineers say it may take years to restore the region's infrastructure — transportation systems across several states have been devastated, and the New Orleans reconstruction alone is expected to cost more than any other in United States history.

Rehnquist passes away

William Rehnquist, 16th Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, passed away on September 3 at the age of 80. Rehnquist had been battling thyroid cancer for almost a year.

Rehnquist served on the Supreme Court for 34 years. During this time he wrote the dissenting opinions in *Roe vs. Wade*, the 1973 decision which legalized abortion in all states, and *Texas vs. Johnson*, the 1989 decision which struck down laws prohibiting the burning of the American flag.

President George Bush has nominated John Roberts to fill the Chief Justice position. Roberts was previously nominated to fill the position of Justice O'Connor, who announced her planned resignation on July 1.

Friday
Isolated T-Storms 89 Hi / 63 Lo
Saturday
Sunny 88 Hi / 63 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

The future is Bright

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Alex Clerc
News Editor

On Tuesday, August 30th, 2005, the Thorn interviewed Bob Bright, the newly appointed CEO of Rose-Hulman to discuss his background, his reflections on last year, and his plans for this year. The full interview can be found on the Thorn website (<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn/>).

What do you consider your goals for this year?

My goal is to have a better year than last year, in every respect. Last year, the senior class met all expectations in whatever data you might want to look at. Which I think indicates the professional capabilities of the staff and faculty at Rose-Hulman. I think everyone did a job despite distractions. We kept a focus on our main core mission, and I think that we want to do exactly the same this year. Reduce the distractions. Make it fun for all the constituents.

What changes to Rose do you plan to implement this year?



Lissa Avery / Rose Thorn

Bob Bright will serve as the CEO of Rose-Hulman until the search committee can find a permanent president.

Number one, I think we want to stay focused on the 2015 concept. We need to continually examine our future and where we want to be and what's important. What are the issues 10 or 15 years from now that we need to be getting ready for now.

You are currently serving

as the CEO of Rose-Hulman. What is the difference—both officially and in terms of interpersonal dealings with Rose-Hulman students and staff—between this and Acting President or President?

In the old by-laws—which were passed in May and will become effective on the first of October—the Chairman of

the Board is the CEO. In the new by-laws, the president is the CEO. So it was already specified in the by-laws that I would function as CEO.

As far as the difference between being a CEO and acting president, at the present time, probably nothing.

Continued on Page 3...

Freshmen finding their fit

Bridget Mayer
Staff Writer

While most students would agree that going to college is an exciting experience, this year's freshman class will tell you it is also hard work, a lot of fun, and, for some, a good way to meet girls.

On August 26, over 450 new students moved into their halls; friends and family watched on as members of the residence hall staff, the Panhellenic community, and the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega helped unload cars and carry in boxes as a favor to the new residents. For many students, move-in day was their first contact with their new roommate.

"I brought fifteen pairs of shoes with me," freshman mechanical engineer Ryan Mendonca informed his roommate, Tim Kober.

"Yeah, that's weird," Kober joked back. Kober will be majoring in chemistry and phys-



Andrea Brown / Rose Thorn
Freshman Cameron Melton sports a wax glove at the freshman carnival.

ics.

After the parents' orientation activities ended on Saturday, the work began for the new students with multiple placement tests, a math diag-

nostics test, and a personality inventory. Mixed in with the exams, however, were several activities designed to get new students acquainted with their new home and with each other.

One such activity, the Outdoor Adventure, tested the students' teamwork and trust through trials such as wall-climbing, although some students took a different spin on it.

"I thought it was a great way to meet girls," one participant noted after finishing the activity.

Ryan Pepmeier, a sophomore advisor in Mees Hall, explained, "Outdoor Adventure was awesome—I think the kids really enjoyed it too. I don't think the dances went particularly well, but that happens every year. The DJ this year was very popular." Pepmeier was looking forward to watching the new students take pride in their hall in activities like Hal-

lympics and intramural sports. "I also can't wait to play pranks on the RAs."

While most new students moved onto campus in late August, many athletes and Fast Track Calculus participants have been on campus since July.

Alexis Levin, a freshman mechanical engineer who participated in Fast Track Calculus, moved into her room as soon as the program ended—about a week before orientation began. For her, classes come a little easier than they did over the summer.

"There's a lot less homework now that actual classes have started," she said. "My classes now are fun and challenging." Mendonca also moved in a week earlier than most students to begin practice with the cross country team. "Cross country is cool. We run a lot more than I did in high school."

Continued on Page 3...

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
Professors return from leaves and sabbaticals.	Sufjan Stevens will win.	Katrina, bike racks.	Get the play-by-play.	Dew me up.
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Upcoming events

					Friday	Saturday
					September 9	10
					*Hallympics Ends	*Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, SRC, 3 p.m. *Caterpillar Day, Near Cook Stadium, 3-6:30 p.m.
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	16	17
11	12	13	14	15		
	*Humanities and Social Sciences' Panel Discussion, "Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," GM Room, Moench Hall, 4:30 p.m. *Twister Tournament, Beind Speed Hall, 5:30-6:30 p.m.		*International Coffee Hour (Spanish Guitar Music), Kahn Room, Hulman Union, 5-7 p.m.	*Humanities & Social Sciences' Lecture, "Structuring a Government Constitutional Values and Constitutional Interpretation," Bradley Smith, E-104, Moench Hall, 4:30 p.m.		

Classifieds

Sharp Flats

Gorgeous, Spacious, Beautiful are only a few words to describe this lovely three bedroom apartment located at 904 S 6th St. Features also include sunny kitchen, off street parking, laundry facilities, two full baths, and lots of closets. \$335 per person (based on three people) includes heat, water, and sewer. Call Sharp Flats, LLC at 877-1146 to see this gem.

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Ever thought of being a reporter?

Interested in journalitic style writing?

Maybe page design?

If so, attend one of the Thorn's seminars this weekend.

Saturday, September 10:

**Writing and Editing
1:00 p.m.**

**Page Design
3:00 p.m.**

O157, Olin Hall

Both seminars will be approximately one hour in length.

Fresh pizza and drinks will be provided.

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

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The *Rose Thorn* welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.

THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the *Rose Thorn* Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).

The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.

All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).

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

Bright, from page 1

We're moving to Terre Haute until we can complete the search [for a new president].

How long will you be serving as CEO?

Until we complete the search and hire a new president.

Is it possible that will be before the end of the school year? Are the plans to transition the new president during the next summer?

We want to do it right. We'll take the amount of time it takes to do it right. We've set an internal target to have someone in place for the beginning of the next school year in July [the official start of the school year].

You became Chairman of the Board at the end of May. Can you give us a bit of background information as to how that happened (the circumstances involved)?

Basically, our previous Chairman, Clyde Willian, had a few health problems, so he resigned. I was asked to serve as Chair, and was elected to do so at the May Board meeting.

Why were you chosen over other Board members? Was it a matter of seniority?

No. There is no formal succession requirement in the by-laws. I had worked for the past two years on establishing new by-laws for the Board of Directors that were adopted at that May meeting. I had a lot of visibility with all of the functioning groups on the Board. That may have had something to do with it.

Can you tell us a bit about your background? You were a Rose graduate in chemical engineering. What kinds of positions did you hold after graduating from Rose in 1957?

After graduating from Rose, I went to work for 3M Company. I held all kinds of positions over my career with 3M. I began an engineer, and the final position was as a division vice president for an operating division of 3M.

When did you retire?
In 1994.

How long have you been serving on the Board of Trustees?
Since 1991.

Does being the Chairman of the Board take much of your time? What about serving as the CEO of Rose?

Rose is a full-time job, in whatever capacity is required. [laugh] I've focused all of my time and attention on Rose since May. I didn't go home after that election. I stayed on

campus. I've been trying to make sure that Rose is what we all know and want it to be. That takes time.

Let's talk about the situation that occurred with Dr. Midgley and former Chairman of the Board Clyde Willian last year.

As a Trustee member during much of the proceedings last year, can you give us your perspective on the sequence of events? Did it seem as though there wasn't a problem until near the end of the year? Did the protests of students and staff make it to the ears of the Board?

I was a member of the transition team. The transition team of the Board met with Dr. Midgley and his staff every Thursday from the first of October and discussed anything and everything. So yes, I was aware of the

Rose-Hulman situation.

The Board of Trustees communicates across the committees and with the transition team, so they were all aware of the situation as well.

I have a very strong opinion that we are where we are, and we need to move forward from where we are. Looking back will accomplish nothing, because we can't remake history.

What was Rose like when you were a student here?

It was a lot different. The total enrollment was slightly over 400, I think. The things I remember most were the close relationship between students and the faculty. There were always faculty members available to help. I think we still try to do that today. We think that's a hallmark—that family atmosphere.

Many things are the same. The size is different. The facilities were different. Deming existed as a dorm when I was a freshman. Still does today.

I told this story at the freshman talk: I came out to Rose from Indianapolis on my thumb. As a credit to the staff back then, we got an education, had a career, and it was a lot of fun and rewarding.

Here I sit. When I had my thumb in the air, I never had the wildest idea or dream that I would be sitting here.

Interestingly, I went up to Deming to see the old room, and the guy living there now came from the same high school that I went to. I thought that was kind of a small world. Maybe another solemn message about the family of Rose. It's important that we all recognize that everyone has a role to play. We should let them play that role, and respect the fact that they're doing it and doing it well, from my perspective.

Professors travel to California, Kyrgyzstan

Alex Clerc
News Editor

Every seven years, a professor may elect to take a year off from teaching, usually at half pay, to pursue his passions or seek out new experiences, usually in industry, research institutions, or other schools. This is the first part in a series of articles that will highlight the accomplishments of professors recently returning from their sabbatical experiences.

Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering Mark Anklam took his first sabbatical last year at the Reservoir Engineering Research Institute (RERI) in Palo Alto, CA. The RERI specializes in oil and gas research. Anklam's research dealt specifically with the problem of hydrates – solids similar to ice that form in natural gas pipes.

Hydrate formation is most common in deep sea gas pipes because of the low temperature, high pressure, and presence of water. In fact, hydrates are not just restricted to pipes – there is a vast amount of natural gas trapped in hydrate form on the ocean floor. "Understanding hydrates is the key to tapping into this energy," Anklam said.

Anklam had little previous experience in hydrates before his sabbatical. "It was great to do something different. Doing something in a new area pushes you to learn, and the enthusiasm you get from this rubs off on other students."

Another recent leave found a Rose professor teaching on the other side of the globe. In March of 2002, Professor of History William Pickett was granted a special leave to teach American history at the American University in Kyrgyzstan located in the capital city of Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

The Central Asian nation of Kyrgyzstan, formerly a part of the Soviet Union, is vastly different from America – the country is 90% mountains and is home to about 80 distinct tribes. It is bordered by China to the south-east, Tajikistan to the south-west, Uzbekistan to the west, and Ka-



William Pickett/ Rose-Hulman

William Pickett recently taught American history in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan at the American University in Kyrgyzstan.

zakhstan to the north. The major languages are Kyrgyz, Russian, and English and the most popular religion is Islam.

The American University of Kyrgyzstan was established in 1996 by the Kyrgyz people and was funded by the U.S. State department and the Soros foundation. Pickett had been hired through a program of the U.S. State Department to provide educators to this institution. Pickett helped establish the department of American History by advising faculty, providing material, and instructing a course on U.S. history since 1875.

Since speaking English is a requirement for admission into the Institute, Pickett could teach his classes in English. He said of his pupils, "The students are bright, curious, and lively. They have questions and a good percentage of them like to ask them. They desire to learn and to do well. They are full of youthful optimism and hope and a sense that they can make a good life."

He also noted differences be-

tween Kyrgyz and American students: "[The Kyrgyz] are natural 'collaborators.' They help each other prepare for class and do very well in organizing group presentations. They do less well in individual activities such as in-class essays and quizzes and tend not to consider it a disgrace to be caught seeking help from one another during a quiz."

During his stay, Pickett was hosted by a member of the Kyrgyz faculty and immersed in the rapidly changing Kyrgyz way of life. "I have taught Russian history for 30 years, but this was the first time I had ever been to Kyrgyzstan. It was fascinating to see the remnants of the old system of government and to see how the economy and education has changed."

This is the first part in a series of articles that will report the accomplishments of professors recently returning from sabbaticals and leaves. Coming next week: Steve Carlson's year in D.C. and Howard McClean's research in Tennessee.

Freshmen, from page 1

For some, moving away was difficult: "I do really miss home," commented one freshman moving into Mees Hall. "Not so much my house or my city, but the people from home," he said. For other new students, living on campus has been a great experience. Jonathan Kocher, a new student in the mechanical engineering department, noted that "living in a residence hall makes it a lot easier to meet people—if I had lived off campus, I know I wouldn't have met as many cool people."

Kocher transferred to Rose-Hulman from a college in his hometown of Olney, Illinois. "All the activities have helped out a lot too. We've even started coming up with our own," he said, in reference to his hall's themed Wednesday attire. Kocher noted that he has found the academics at Rose-Hulman more challenging than at his previous school. "You gotta be perfect with homework here—it makes it a little harder," he said.

Pepmeier, recalling his own experience with freshman ori-

entation the beginning of classes, offered some advice to new students: "I would suggest that

they get to know other people. It really helps students excel, especially at a school like Rose."



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Sufjan Stevens Invites you to: Come on! Feel the Illinois!

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

I had the fortunate experience of listening to Sufjan Stevens' Illinois for the first time, in its entirety, while actually driving through Illinois. And the moment "Jacksonville" began to play, I found myself driving right by Jacksonville, IL. Absolutely unintentional - and absolute proof that the gods want Sufjan Stevens to win! OK, perhaps I'm exaggerating, but it's at least proof that they like Illinois almost as much as I do.

First, a little background on the man behind this amazing album. While recording a collection of songs about his home state, 2003's Michigan, Sufjan began telling the media that he planned to record an album for all 50 states. Although most people—probably himself included—didn't take the idea seriously at first, word started getting around that he was recording a second states' album. This would eventually become Illinois.

The only category the album can be put in is folk, but even that's not very accurate. Stevens arranges very un-folk instruments into almost every song. These

range anywhere from the slightly strange (trumpet, a choir) to the completely absurd (oboe, Casio-tone MT-70). Stevens himself is credited with playing upwards of 20 (20!) different gadgets. The album consists of approximately equal parts relatively simple songs, soaring kitchen-sink arrangements, and short interludes. Total number of tracks: 22. Total time: 74 minutes.

Everything on Illinois is good, which makes the length even more impressive. Stevens often uses uncommon time signatures to his advantage, making his songs more interesting and increasing their shelf life. He also makes deft use of unconventional instruments and sounds throughout the album. The trumpet and oboe in "The Predatory Wasp of the Palisades is Out to Get Us!" are a compelling addition to the twittering choir vocals, and the zombie cheering section of "They are Night Zombies" is undeniably cool.

Given the excellence in musical arrangement, it's still Stevens' voice that raises the album to masterpiece status. His ability to craft intriguing tales is unmatched in today's music world. While his Paul Simon-esque vo-



http://www.mtv.com/news/yhif/sufjan_stevens/
Sufjan Stevens hits Illinois in the fifth album of his career and the second album in his "50 States Project".

calls bring the music back down to earth, his lyrics heighten the emotional appeal of Illinois. "Decatur" is simultaneously a celebration of the city, and a plea to the listener to applaud his or her stepmother ("Appreciate her! Go Decatur! Stand up and thank her!"). The centerpiece of the album, "Come on! Feel the Illinois!" first goes into details of the rise and fall of industry in Columbia, from Cream of Wheat to the Ferris wheel. The second part is the story of the narrator's visit from the ghost of poet Carl Sandburg, where he is asked to discuss death.

No other song on the album

reaches the feeling of "Casimer Pulaski Day". Stevens powerfully tells the story of a teenage boy's relationship with a cancer victim and his subsequent coping with a seemingly merciless God after her death ("He took my shoulders, and He shook my face. And He takes, and He takes, and He takes").

On the whole, Illinois is burdened by little, but a few songs feel slightly out of place. "The Seer's Tower" and "John Wayne Gacy, Jr." are both very good songs, but don't quite fit right in with the rest of the album. Some songs suffer a bit from length, most notably "The Man of Me-

topolis Steals Our Hearts". These small imperfections are easily forgiven, though.

Illinois has been getting nearly unanimous support from listeners, and for good reason. Even though it's long, it is surprisingly accessible and immediate. Even though it's folk, it constantly reaches much further than the conventional boundaries of the genre. Even though Stevens is ambitious, he manages to dodge the pretentious. I don't like to prematurely break out an "Album of the Year" statement, but I have a hard time believing that I'm going to enjoy anything else like I've enjoyed Illinois.

PSP action games enter gaming arena

Mark Bemenderfer
The Observer (U. Notre Dame)

Video game manufacturers typically release their bread and butter games at the same time as the initial release of the game system itself, hoping to rope in customers. In the months following a system's release, there is usually a major dropoff, with most of the subsequent games hardly worth shelling out any money. The Xbox followed this trend, as "Halo" was arguably the only game worth owning for at least a year following the system's release.

The PSP, Sony's powerful, pocket-sized gaming system, is no exception to this trend. Following the impressive launch titles, there has been a famine of new titles. The games released since the PSP's launch have been mediocre at best.

Over the summer, three action games were released for the PSP, hoping to buck the trend. They were all games that held promise, backed by reputable companies popular with gamers. However, of the three, only one is worth the \$40 price tag.

The first game released was "Dead to Rights: Reckoning." The "Dead to Rights" series is an established brandname, but it

hasn't been a positive brand as of late. The two previous games in the series have received lukewarm praise.

To be honest, the story is merely superficial. No character depth is ever introduced, nor does hero Jack Slate ever do more than go from point A to point B. A plot twist is introduced at the end, but it fails miserably to bear any real impact.

The plot should not be the draw for this game, however. The action is clearly the main draw here. On harder difficulty settings, "Dead to Rights" becomes a heavily skill-based shooting feast, with bullets and slow-motion diving serving up the main course.

But although the action can be entertaining at times, "Dead to Rights: Reckoning" fails to be a worthwhile purchase. On the normal difficulty setting, the game can easily be beat in under an hour.

The higher difficulties and unlockable cheats add some replay value, as does the four player multiplayer mode.

"Coded Arms," released within two weeks of "Dead to Rights," has the distinction of being the first and only true first-person shooter on the PSP. "Coded Arms" follows in the vein of "Doom,"



<http://www.topleftpixel.com/archives/>
The PSP has had few good games released for it since its launch.

another popular monster-based first-person shooter. But many problems plague this game and prevent it from rising above mediocrity.

The single player storyline is even more forgettable than "Dead to Rights," if that is possible. Valuable plot information is only revealed in the game manual.

There is too much missed potential in "Coded Arms." It could have been vastly improved by incorporating other characters, perhaps as recurring opponents. Levels, enemies and weapon designs are repetitive throughout the game. The single-player game's boss battles, which are massive and actually intimidating, are the only positive aspects to the game. It's a shame there are only three of them.

Control is also a hindrance in the game. Aiming can be tricky due to the lack of any auto-aim or target-lock features. This hindrance affects everyone over multiplayer equally, so it's not much of a disadvantage in multiplayer

mode. Multi-player mode is where the game shines, as it supports four-player game modes for an action experience on the go.

The last game released was also the most hyped of the trio. "Death Jr." was originally supposed to be a launch title for the system, but missed the original date as the developer wanting to fine-tune it more.

"Death Jr." definitely shows the love and care invested by its developers, as it is by far the best of the three games released and has the most robust gameplay. The story is filled with such weird and interesting characters as Pandora, Dead Guppy and Death's son, the game's

namesake. On a class field trip, Death Jr. accidentally releases an ancient evil from a box after Pandora finds herself unable to open the box herself.

The gameplay revolves around the player controlling Death Jr. as he attempts to save his friends and return the evil back to the box. Failure could mean losing his friends, getting into trouble at school or, most importantly, ticking off his dad. Honestly, who would want to tick off Death?

Controlling Death Jr. is a fun experience and surprisingly deep for a handheld platform game. His weapon of choice, the scythe, can be used in a variety of situations, be it sliding down lines or climbing up ledges. The scythe can even be used as a pogo stick.

The game's developers stated that they wanted to create an original, recognizable mascot, akin to Nintendo's Mario, but with a gun. Of course, since the famous plumber was already taken, they had to come up with a new mascot. Hence, as the player goes through the game, an increasing collection of guns is found, much to Death Jr.'s delight.

Two complaints hinder "Death Jr." and prevent it from being the outright game to own for the PSP. The camera can be a chore to control at times, and there's a disappointing lack of a multiplayer mode, something that could have really made this

game a must-own. But as it stands, "Death Jr." is still the current cream of the crop and bucks the trend of disappointing games released soon after a system's release. Hopefully other game developers will take notice and follow suit.

Interested in writing reviews of music, movies, or games (video or otherwise)?

E-mail entertainment@rose-hulman.edu

or stop by a Thorn meeting on Wednesdays at 5:15 p.m. in Olin 157.

Kanye struck gold

Lissa Avery
Editor-In-Chief

Kanye West has been making plenty of headlines recently with his criticisms of the government's handling of the Katrina disaster relief, but he also recently put out an album, *Late Registration*, that's been making waves with listeners and reviewers. Call this a late review, if you will.

I've always been one to appreciate West's flow. Some of it is his Chicagoan accent, but a good bit of it is the fact that he managed to use "Chicagoan," "Chicago ends," and "Chicago wind" to form a rhyme in three sequential lines in the Dilated Peoples' song "This Way." That was so definitely cheating it made me laugh out loud to hear it. I like rap that doesn't take itself too seriously but can still slip in the truth where appropriate.

With the immense pressure to make a second album better than his first, West cranked out a CD in August that managed to hold my attention more than *The College Dropout*. Featuring acts such as Jamie Foxx, Brandy,

Game, Cam'ron, and Nas, it's a top-notch variety of styles that come together masterfully.

The first song that really caught my ear on this CD was "Gold Digger". The Ray Charles-style background vocals (courtesy of Jamie Foxx) work well with the beats. West's lyrics are simply hilarious, if largely unprintable in this newspaper.

"Crack Music" chaffed lyrically initially, but then I listened to the last stanza... and it became so much better. Kanye used a metaphor (which I won't reveal) that simply blew me away. Awesomely done.

"Roses" is also an amazing song. West's song-writing has become a lot better since *The College Dropout*. West deals with the emotional rollercoaster of a sick relative, including how his newfound fame affected her hospital care. Songs like this make this CD the novelty that many claim West couldn't make again. Haters, sit down.

Brandy helps West keep this novelty going in "Bring Me Down." Although Brandy's vocals are a little over-processed,

the song is beautifully done, and West shows his ability to handle a variety of styles by dropping this R & B-style track in the middle of his CD.

"Addiction" isn't nearly as novel, but it's also simply amazing. West's jerky flow on this track matches the complex meter of the music, and the lyrics (background lyrics included) are rather funny. West does humor quite well.

"Diamonds" may in fact be the most tired song in existence at this point. Wait, no. Actually, that's the Ying Yang Twins' "Wait." My bad. "Diamonds" is still overplayed, although I liked it when it first came out.

West lost me on "We Major," although I love Nas in general. I just don't like the horns on this, even though West got it right on the earlier track "Touch the Sky."

I won't provide a blow-by-blow on all 21 tracks on the CD, but I will say that the album is definitely worth a listen to those that like Kanye's style (or want to give it a second try).

iTunes is selling it for \$10, so



http://rateyourmusic.com/album_images/o218218

Why did Kanye choose a teddy bear?

getting it probably won't empty your pocket. Besides, loan refund checks are due out within a week.

Quite frankly, the more I hear it, the more I love it, and I'll be keeping this one on repeat for quite a while.



<http://www.darkhorizons.com/2005/grimm>

Plot of 'Brothers Grimm' non-existent

Dan Wohl
The Daily Cardinal
(U. Wisconsin)

The slow march of style's final triumph over substance in the world of movies has been stomping along for a while now. If Terry Gilliam's *The Brothers Grimm* doesn't quite allow victory to be won, it is still one of the most shockingly superficial style bonanzas in this design-fixated era of Hollywood filmmaking.

It is a rare film -- one in which the absence of plot and character development is painfully evident. However, not much more could have been done in those departments.

The result is a film that dulls the mind into expecting no more than the boring drivel tossed at it, which is usually a bunch of elaborate sets with an occasional human figure plastered here or there.

Matt Damon and Heath Ledger play Will and Jake Grimm before their fairy-tale-telling days, galivanting across Europe conning townspeople by "defeating" curses, witches and demons. The film revolves around their being called upon to vanquish what turns out to be a real curse. There is no reason why this particular curse should be the real thing; nothing makes it seem more genuine or innately logical than all the others; it just happens to be real, and

that's that.

The setting of the cursed area is impressive, but the actors aren't assigned to do much more than place themselves between it and the camera.

If there's one revelation in *The Brothers Grimm* it is Ledger, who, despite being given very little to work with. He has segued quite nicely -- and rather unexpectedly -- from bland teenage heart-throb into an actor of fine range and ability.

Like many of Gilliam's other films, *The Brothers Grimm* features a dark stylistic motif. His vision of a Gothic, old Europe is fun to look at, and it certainly seems appropriate for a film about the Grimm Brothers, whose gruesome bedtime stories have been interesting psychologists and horrifying children for centuries. What *Grimm* does not have is a plot to match.

In reality, even the film's inspired perverseness is not worthy of an audience's interest at all. The plot is tedious and absurdly one-dimensional; the love interest, played perfunctorily by Lena Headley, adds nothing but awkwardness and supporting characters are nearly insufferable.

It is clear that Terry Gilliam has an artistic and creative mind. However, this film would make one think he is not qualified to do anything more than art direction.



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The leveling of New Orleans

John Ogilvie
Staff Writer

Katrina. The name that's been in nearly every news headline for the past week. Mother Nature has lashed out at humanity once again. Despite the fact that this is a natural disaster, there is still blame being passed around. We see FEMA blaming the residents of New Orleans for not evacuating quickly enough. We see the left blaming the war in Iraq for depleting the National Guard which, in situations like this, would normally step in.

What are the headlines we see? We see murders and rapes, robberies and break-ins; just a few nights ago, there were three rapes and six murders in the Superdome. There were people taking advantage of others, stepping on others who are in the same position that they are. How does this happen? The answer is simple: desperation. When everything is scarce, every necessity a rarity, everyone turns to their survival instincts. But if this were the case for everyone, why are there only six murders, and not six hun-



<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/9229964/>
Flood survivor Pierre Falgout took shelter from Katrina in a local bar. He received aid from Coast Guard rescue workers, but refused to evacuate, choosing instead to stay and keep an eye on his New Orleans neighborhood, shown here on Sept. 2.

dred?

It is because those who have not given in to their instincts have developed a sense of camaraderie. In my experiences working with the poor and homeless, they are often the ones who give the most. There will be little to eat, but they will make sure that everyone has at least something.

The hurricane has leveled New Orleans. I don't mean that there's nothing left standing: I mean socially, there are no upper and lower classes. There are no Democrats and Republicans. There are no ethnicities. There are just people. There are simply hungry, thirsty, desperate people.

"The eye of the storm made

everybody equal, black or white, rich or poor, big house or small house," said a black New Orleans native, Ben Burkett in an Associated Press article.

It's in times like these that we must all come together. Not simply the victims in New Orleans. All around the country, we must unite and do whatever we can to help those who need it most. Donate to the Red Cross. Whether it's time or money, or even blood, we must all give of ourselves to help the thousands of people who have been left homeless in the wake of Katrina.

In times like these, there are no party lines. FEMA can say what it wants; the left can do the same. It's up to all of us, no matter what side of these issues we stand on, to put down our party banners and unite as humanity. Set aside race divisions, income divisions, and political divisions, and pitch in to help.

"Don't make it seem like no

racial thing," said another black native, D.J. Kelly in the Associated Press article. "That's not the way I feel. We all is in this together."

We see bad news every day. All we need to do is turn on the television. The most appalling part of these news clips, to me, is what most people don't see: hundreds of people standing in the background, silent. People who sat back and watched these rapes

and murders

happen. We

can not—no,

we must not

become those

people. We

must do what

we can, however

we can, in order

to help those in

need.

We who are not

driven to desperation, we who

have places to go home to, must

give everything we can.

"We must always fear the wicked. But there is another kind of

evil that we must fear the most,

and that is the indifference of

good men." —The Boondock

Saints

We must do what
we can, however
we can, in order
to help those in
need.

The (lack of) bike racks on campus

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Two things changed for me this year: first, I'm living off campus in an apartment complex near campus. Second, gas prices are eating me alive, even though I drive a manual transmission Hyundai Elantra.

How is it going to cost me over \$30 to fill up my tank? Honestly.

Gas issues aside, I decided to start biking to campus. It's just a mile along Wabash Avenue, and I can even tackle a hill on Hunt Road if I'm feeling eXtreme (or too scared to handle the traffic on Wabash, either way).

On Monday morning, I get on campus and look around the Union for a bike rack, since my destination was the Thorn office. ...no luck, although I see a bike chained to the railing along the no-parking area of the top level of the Union. I also see bikes chained to lamp posts around the Union. I don't know if commuting via biking is up this year, or if I'm just new to noticing this, but this haphazard parking of bikes seems a little odd.

Walking around campus reveals that there is a single bike rack near the public (non-residence hall) buildings, and it is near the water tower. All other bike racks are in or near residence halls.

This makes a fair amount of sense. Rose isn't a commuter campus, and a lot of people seem to still drive to campus.

But... *one* bike rack? Behind Moench? Who really finds themselves *behind* Moench?

Something should probably be done to make things a little more biker-friendly around here.

I'm not advocating that we suddenly have bike racks galore, of course. We want to make sure we keep bike traffic off of the pedestrian sidewalks and pathways



Lissa Avery / Rose Thorn
This bike is periodically parked on a lamppost between the Speed and Faculty parking lots.

(like in the Root Quadrangle), but buildings like the Union, Olin, Logan Library, the bottom side of Moench (the area around the Crapo/Moench junction) are all areas I can imagine people legitimately wanting to park bikes.

Actually, just take a look around. People already *are* parking their bikes there. They're just doing it in a rather tacky manner.

When I emailed the Office of Public Safety about the issue, I was politely shunted to Facilities Operations, who has yet to respond to my inquiring email about getting more bike racks on campus.

I understand why there aren't

currently bike racks in public areas. I also understand that it's not really a pressing safety issue. It's just a matter of inconvenience for those of us that want to save a little money and get a little extra exercise.

What does it take to get a couple more bike racks in useful places? I shouldn't have to park my bike in the Thorn office, and no matter how old my bike is or how much I love Rose, I'm not just leaving my bike in some random place, unchained.

Rose isn't a commuter campus, but we have commuter parking lots. Can we have a couple of a bike racks, too?

TV's Katrina coverage impressive, but inconsistent

Aaron Kellogg
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

Congratulations to the men and women of American television news.

Throughout the disaster in and around New Orleans, both network and cable reporters provided Americans with the most complete combination of compelling stories and images from Hurricane Katrina's impact and aftermath. As with the days following the Sept. 11 attacks, the news media answered the public's demand for in-depth and intelligent reporting. So impressive was last week's coverage that NBC Nightly News sustained an additional 2.5 million viewers throughout the week -- a 30 percent jump in viewership in just a matter of days, according to The New York Times.

But let's not fool ourselves.

Just because the television news industry outperformed the most remote expectations for quality reporting during the Katrina disaster, their recent performance does not mean American television news will continue to provide such commendable coverage during news cycles of lesser importance. When the water recedes in New Orleans, the quality of television news coverage we've seen in recent days is sure to go with it.

Need I remind you about CNN's special report only a week before the Katrina disaster on people who are addicted to tanning salons? Or what about the Fox News report from June that said terrorists had the potential to poison food in school lunchrooms across the country? Without a doubt, the upcoming weeks will be just like the weeks following 9/11, when television news stations returned to broadcast-

ing the flimsy, tabloid-style stories that periodically overwhelm television airwaves when a major storm or terrorist attack is not ravaging a major American city.

With new angles on the New Orleans disaster becoming increasingly scarce, television news directors should use the downtime after this terrible news cycle to reflect on the success they've had with an event abounding with "hard news." Is this a sign that Americans are paying more attention to real news stories of incredible consequence?

Perhaps if news directors reflect on the recent ratings increase they will find Americans are not always craving the soft, entertainment and investigation-based stories they seem to report during times of national peace and stability.

I'm not saying tabloid news does not sell. Of course it does. The ratings boost Fox News experienced when they providing blanket coverage of Natalee Holloway's mysterious disappearance in Aruba this spring was confirmation that such stories are still in high demand. Yet before reverting to the tabloid-dominated news cycle that has defined American television news, it's time for the broadcast journalists to ask whether or not the entertainment-based news they routinely provide is in greater demand than the hard news that is often watered down.

If the ratings during the Katrina disaster are any indicator of viewer interest -- which they certainly are -- news directors should reexamine their content choices. Certainly the news community has again proven itself capable of covering heart-wrenching hard news with incredible confidence. Now it's time to see them make a routine of such incredible coverage.

We gotta jump 'em quick and finish

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

These words embodied the only objective of the Engineer football team. Coach Karras and his staff stressed the importance of having an explosive start to the game and finishing with execution and poise. Taking this to heart, the Engineers opened with a fierce offensive strategy ... ram it down the throat of the defense. On the opening drive, the Engineer offense drove 47 yards in 7 plays. On the flip, the defense added to cause with a three and out drive and a 44 yard punt return to set of Charlie Key's second rushing touchdown; Earlham then answered the call with a touchdown of their own. To counter, Key

went back to work with his third rushing touchdown on a 48 yard scamper. Earlham then answered with another touchdown. After an exchange of punts the first quarter ended with Rose up 21-13.

To open the second quarter, the engineer offense gave depth to the onslaught and drove 35 yards with Brian Phelps finishing the drive with a three yard touchdown run, his only one of the night. The defense then answered the offensive ping-pong match with an interception by Austin Hastings. Unfortunately, the Engineers' offense couldn't capitalize immediately, but defensive play lead to an Earlham punt and another key touchdown capped drive. The first half ended with more offense and defense

battles but no more points were scored, leaving Rose up 35-13.

"We have to finish the fight ... They won't give you the game," Karras emphasized at halftime - and thus the Dogfight began. Earlham started the half with the ball and drove down for a score. The Engineer offense answered with a scoring drive of their own capped by a three yard run by Cameron Hummel. These would be the last Engineer points of the quarter. Earlham would then capitalize on the Engineer breakdown and rally to close to within 20 points at the end of the third. Blocked points after touchdowns left the engineers up with 41 and the Quakers, with a two point conversion, with 21.

"It's our time ... the sword be-

longs to us ... we've go to go big O," these were the chants from the sidelines entering the fourth quarter. Due to some unfortunate breakdowns in the secondary and defensive pressure, Earlham was able to mount a comeback to leave the score tied with just under 7 minutes to go in the game and the Engineer offense with the ball. With the veteran backfield of Hummel, Key, and Phelps, the offense worked the clock in route to a game winning touchdown run by Key on a drive that took 5 minutes and 35 seconds. Special teams are always a difference maker, and last week's game was no exception. The Engineer kickoff team forced a fumble, allowing the offense to run out the clock in their beloved

Victory formation.

It has been said that the best defense is a good offense, and the battle of the borders is no different. Key defensive players included Hastings and Tim Wilson, with tough inside run defense, and Alex Dimoff, with punt returns and secondary play including a key interception in the end zone that halted the Earlham offense in the middle of the second quarter. Karras ended the night with praise to all of his players stating, "I'm proud of all of you tonight, you pulled together when the time was right and got the win." This weekend, the engineers face a tough Mount St. Joseph team out of Cincinnati.

Engineers endure tough start at Earlham

Rose Hulman News

The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology volleyball team dropped matches to Marian, Earlham, Wilmington and Taylor-Fort Wayne to open the 2005 volleyball season at the Earlham College Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

Marian topped the Engineers



Rose Hulman News

Amanda Fellows led the team with six kills in the season opener.

30-14, 30-22, 30-23 to open the campaign on Friday night. Sophomore Amanda Fellows (Beavercreek, Ohio) led the Engineers with six kills, while freshman Sarah Messmer (Cincinnati, Ohio/McNicholas) and sophomore Katie Tharp (Linton) had five kills each.

Earlham rallied from a two-game deficit to capture an 18-30, 26-30, 30-22, 30-21, 15-6 win over Rose-Hulman on Friday night. Tharp and sophomore Erin Rumley (Portage/Christian) paced the offense with eight kills each, while freshman Brandi Sturgill (Zionsville, N.C./Watauga) recorded 24 assists and 10 digs. Sophomore Ashly Trantham (Madison) led the Engineers with 16 digs, and Rumley contributed 14.

Wilmington captured a 30-15, 30-16, 30-19 win over the Engineers on Saturday morning. Messmer recorded four kills and four blocks, and Sturgill pitched in 12 assists to lead the effort.

Taylor-Fort Wayne topped Rose-Hulman 27-30, 30-23, 30-15, 30-15 in the seventh-place match on Saturday. Messmer recorded 13 kills with just one error and added three blocks, while Fellows had a team-best five blocks. Sophomore Jessica Young (Winchester) led the Engineers with 16 digs, while Sturgill had 24 assists.

The Engineers dropped to 0-4 on the season and host the Rose-Hulman Invitational beginning Friday at 5 p.m. at Hulbert Arena.

Trowbridge hat trick lifts Rose-Hulman past Wabash

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology sophomore Matt Trowbridge (Fort Collins, Colo./Poudre) recorded his first college hat trick to lead the Engineer men's soccer team past Wabash College 4-2 on Tuesday.

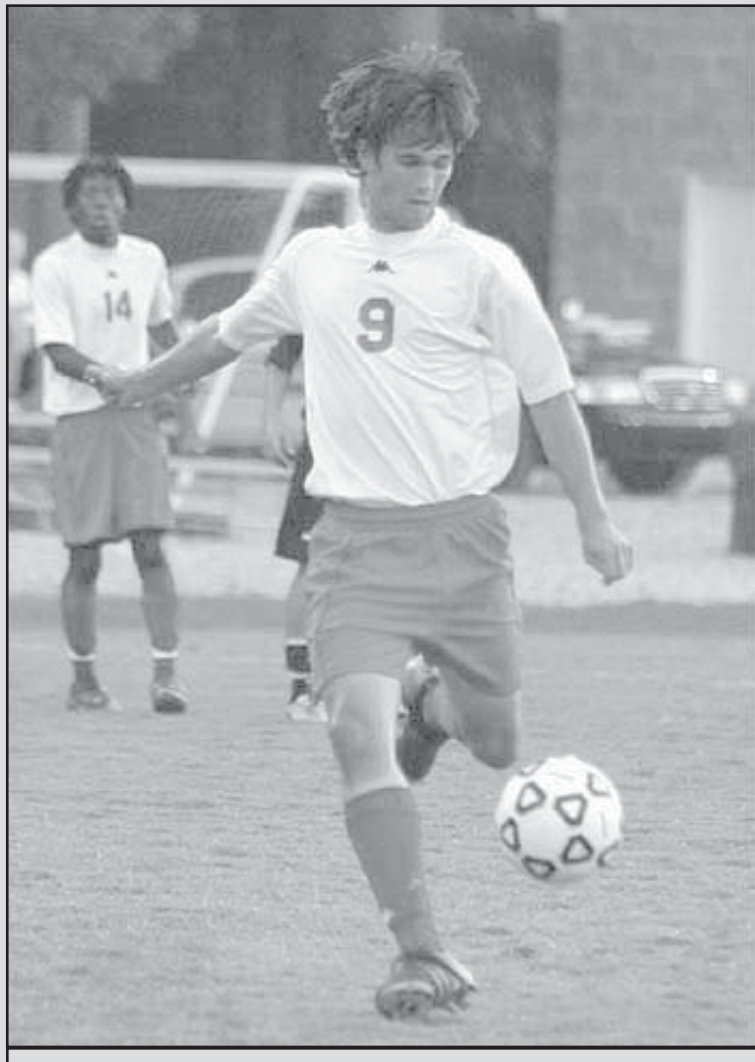
Trowbridge scored Rose-Hulman's first, third and fourth goals to tie for third place on the Engineer single-game scoring list. Trowbridge led Rose-Hulman with six goals and seven assists as a freshman.

Junior David McIlwaine (Indianapolis/Pike) tied a school record with three assists in the match. MacIlwaine assisted the final three Engineer goals, including a pair by Trowbridge. His pass to junior Isaac Nolan (Mason City, Iowa) provided Rose-Hulman's second goal to give the squad a 2-1 halftime advantage.

Sophomore Brian McIlwaine (Indianapolis/Pike) provided the assist on Trowbridge's first goal to give Rose-Hulman the lead at 1-0.

Sophomore Trey Buck (Austin, Texas/Ohio State) picked up the victory in goal, improving to 2-0-1.

Rose-Hulman stands 2-0-1 on the season and travels to Wittenberg on Saturday and Earlham on Sunday.



Rose Hulman News

The first career hat trick for Matt Trowbridge helped lead Rose-Hulman past Wabash.

Suzy Carlson earns Statistical National Championship for three-point accuracy; leads all NCAA men and women

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology sophomore Suzy Carlson (State College, Pa.) completed a historic season as the NCAA Division III Women's Basketball statistical national champion for three-point accuracy to earn the first women's statistical national championship in school history.

Carlson made 63 of her 113 three-point field goal attempts during the 2004-05 season, burying three-point field goals at a rate

of 55.8%. Her percentage ranks fourth in the history of NCAA Division III women's basketball and is the highest percentage recorded by any player since 1993.

In addition, Carlson has the highest three-point percentage of any NCAA Division I, II, or III men's or women's basketball player entering this week's action. Salim Stoudamire from the University of Arizona leads Division I men with a 53.4% accuracy rate, while Anne O'Neil from Iowa State leads Division I women at 51.9%.

Carlson completed an all-conference season by setting school records for assists (119), three-point field goals (63) and three-point percentage. As a team, Rose-Hulman finished the 2004-2005 season with the best record in school history at 13-13, a two-game improvement over last year's previous mark.

Rose-Hulman's most recent statistical national champion in an NCAA Division III team sport was football placekicker Todd Holthaus, who led the nation in field goals per game in 1992.

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The Herbig Memorial Riddle

The mother is 21 years older than the child.
6 years from now, the mother will be 5 times as old as the child.

Question: Where's the father?

Answer: Very nearby.

How I Wasted My Summer Vacation

Alex Clerc

What were your summer resolutions? Did you vow to get in shape (or, if you're a math major, invent new shapes)? Or perhaps you borrowed some textbooks and were going to teach yourself statistics or how to code in C. Or was your summer resolution to read books, learn a musical instrument, and live a more fulfilling life in general (i.e. kick your addictions to *Halo*, *Star Trek*, and anime porn)?

If you actually stuck it out and accomplished something positive this summer, way to go. The rest of us are really happy for you.* But for me, my firm dedication to my resolutions turned to gelatinous apathy as soon as I realized that I had three whole months to accomplish my goals. Needless to say, I didn't get around to them. Instead, I wasted my summer by:

- ❖ making up for all the sleeping I didn't do last spring.
- ❖ working (checking my e-mail every five minutes and reading my horoscope).
- ❖ designing these sweet custom bullets!
- ❖ causing gas prices to double (my bad, everyone).
- ❖ teaching myself C, then realizing that I have already known the letter C for several years and, in fact, use it to spell words on a daily basis.
- ❖ feeding my addiction to anime por—I mean, video games.

Now that I think about it, I had a pretty rockin' summer. From now on, we should all think of "wasting time" as simply a creative alternative to doing something constructive (aka "relaxing," "having fun," or the less popular "chillaxing"). Sure, chillaxing that much didn't lead me to any great accomplishments, but it sure was a great summer.

*no, we're not.

The Useful Advice of John Dullard

Hello, Rose-Hulmanites! I'm John Dullard, and I'm excited about being on the Thorn staff this year. Really, just absolutely excited. But I didn't really fit in anywhere, so they offered me a spot doing an advice column! I was blown away, because that seemed perfect for me! There's a situation, then advice is dished out. It seems like the perfect relationship. So here I go, with my first advice column!

So in my new classes this quarter, it strikes me that one of my teachers doesn't like me. I really can't put my finger on why, but the animosity is there. I can feel it just hanging in the air. I haven't even done anything. I do absolutely nothing in that class, in fact I sleep through most of it... and this professor just loathes me.

So I get it in my mind that I'm going to win back this teacher. It irks me on some fundamental level when people don't like me. I started with what I like to call "Operation Positive Attention." The way it works is that I get the teacher to notice me through participation. So from that day on, I raised my hand to answer every question. Sure, I don't know the answer a good 85% of the time, but that doesn't stop a person like me. I just picked the word "purple." That's the answer I offered up when I didn't know, which got embarrassing, since nobody else ever raised their hand.

That plan wasn't really working. So, being as brilliant as I am, I had a Plan B. I would make my professor cookies. Not just any cookies, but *chocolate chip* cookies. Who doesn't love chocolate chip cookies? And then, transitively, wouldn't love me? So I got them all baked up with a few cookie tricks I picked up during my time in the Amazon.

"The only thing better than cookies," I think to myself, "is being surprised with cookies!" So I drove out to my professor's home to give him these cookies. He wasn't there, so I used a rock and let myself in through the window. When he showed up, I jumped out and yelled, "Surprise! Don't hate me, I made you *chocolate chip* cookies!"

He said, "I don't want cookies."

So I said, "You'll eat them and you'll love me for it!" So after an epic struggle, I pinned my professor and began forcing cookies into his mouth. I gave him a big hug and left; mission accomplished. But the next day he didn't make it to class. Apparently my professor was deathly allergic to brazil nuts. He'll be back next week, though, so I'll have to try again.

So I need some advice. Where can I find a really good chocolate chip cookie recipe? You know, one that people aren't allergic to? Send your advice to flipside@rose-hulman.edu, subject: "Help for John!"

-Philip Becker

Wacky Prof Quotes

"Well, it wouldn't be a pop quiz if it was unannounced."
-- Prof. Herniter, who's confused

"If you like blaming things on dead white people, this is a good opportunity."
-- Prof. Padgett, on Benjamin Franklin's mistakes

"I guess your computers have to take the short yellow bus."
-- Prof. Ferguson, to juniors and seniors

"Been out in the woods lately? It's nature. It's calling you."
-- Prof. Williams, to a class with LCD tans

"It's all about the dangly bits."
-- Prof. Dee, who knows her stuff

"You never know when you'll be driving home and there will be a deranged rabbit you need to waste."
-- Prof. Gibson, on guns in cars

"He said 'touch the two wires,' so I did, and it knocked me over. And he laughed."
-- Prof. Padgett, telling a dramatic story

"That's the thing with probability. Some days you believe it, some days you don't... and then everyone thinks you're crazy..."
-- Prof. Evans, who we're assured is sane

"Me Tarzan. You Jane. This Dick."
-- Prof. Clark, on European characterizations of native peoples

"Whoever proposed this method must have been very smart and very lazy."
-- Prof. Mu, teaching the polarity dot method or something

"Thank God electrons can do that. If I had to go up and down in excitement that many times... I don't think I could do that."
-- Prof. Laxer, on phosphorescent love

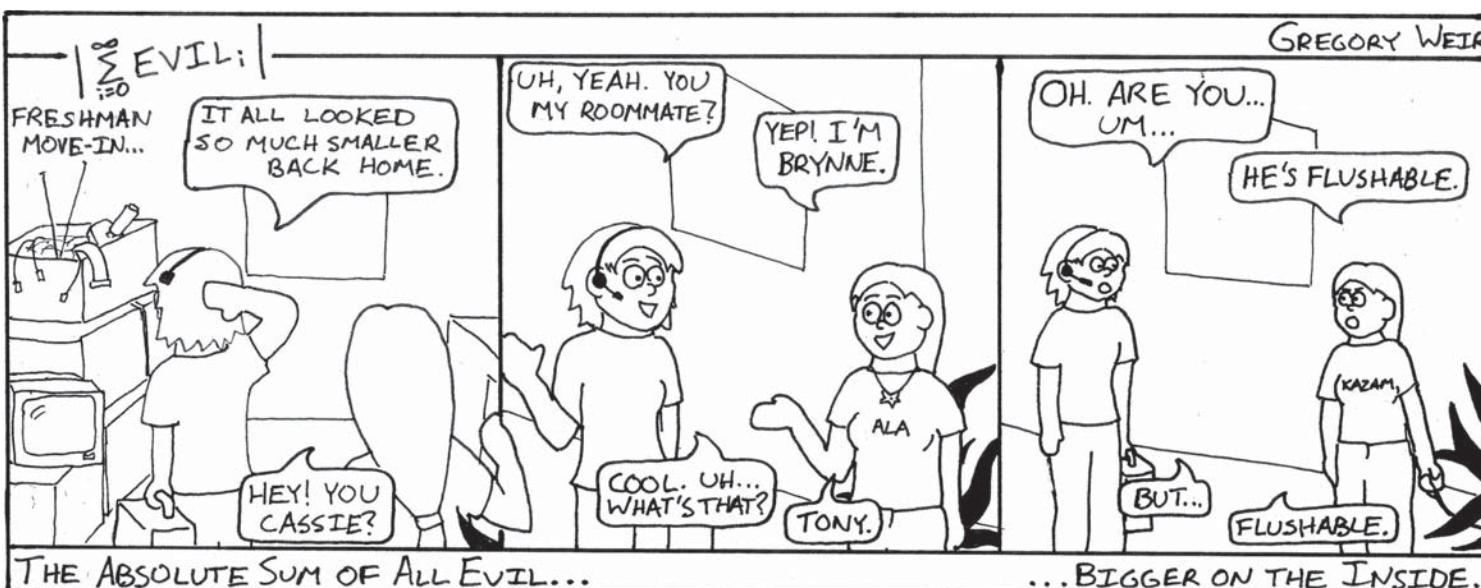
"Dr. Grimaldi just goes crazy about Fibonacci. You just mention it and he goes 'Woaah!' And his hair gets even curlier..."
-- Prof. Evans, on Grimaldi's unique joys

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

Top Ten Biggest Things to Happen to Rose This Summer

10. New sprinkling systems were installed in some dorms, halving the chances of huge fires, but quadrupling the chances of accidental flooding.
9. All faculty members had their consciousness transferred from their old bodies to fresh clones, allowing them to teach for another 50 years, but removing their ability to love.
8. More scum added to Speed Lake.
7. Another class of freshmen was accepted, ensuring that 400 more people on this campus will totally not understand Hertz references.
6. The chemistry department discovered an elixir to repel the newest conglomeration of stenches emitted from the Haute.
5. Colts returned for their training camp, despite Rose's friend's warnings of "They are just using you."
4. New Res renamed Percopo Hall, adding it to the list of stuff on campus named after Michael Percopo, including the Percopo Wing of the Student Union and the Percopo Freaky Statue of Naked Woman Riding Fish.
3. IM sports rules retrofitted to remove dangerous threats to personal safety, including brutal contact, game balls, and fun.
2. The entire campus was rotated 2.34 degrees to the left to improve the observatory's azimuth.
1. For thirty seconds, someone powerful considered putting windows into Crapo Hall.

-Aaron Meles



This Day in History

In 1943, Operation Slapstick, the British airborne invasion of Taranto, Italy, is launched. While the mission is plagued by strange mishaps involving propellers and neckties, it is ultimately successful, and the British 1st Airborne division captures the airfield at Foggia.

In Addition

The popular segment, "Helpful Tips for Your Dorm Laboratory," will not be run this week, due to a flourine spill. It will return next week with the highly-anticipated topic, "Ziploc: The Underutilized Retort."