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Rose Thorn Staff

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News Briefs

Extra precautions may be needed on Mars

The presence of water on Mars brings to the fore the question of whether cross-contamination may occur during missions. If microorganisms exist on Mars, their environment may be wrecked by Earth organisms brought on shuttles; likewise, samples brought back from Mars may need to be carefully screened before being exposed.

While there are few Earth organisms that could survive in conditions like those on Mars where water exists – a highly acidic, salty, and very cold location – there is nothing to say that such an organism could not develop, which has scientists concerned.

By Lissa Avery

Rose-Hulman receives Lilly endowment grant to attract and retain faculty

Rose-Hulman will use a \$1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to recruit and retain young faculty by providing them with substantial funding to implement innovative projects to enhance undergraduate education at the college.

“These funds will enable Rose-Hulman to launch a Success Grant program whereby non-tenured faculty will be empowered to develop life-changing educational experiences for students,” stated President John Midgley.

The grant is provided through the Endowment’s Initiative to Recruit and Retain Intellectual Capital for Indiana Higher Education Institutions. The initiative encouraged Indiana colleges and universities to consider how they can attract or keep more of the brightest and most talented minds in Indiana. The grant amount offered to each college or university was based on the institution’s enrollment.

Rose-Hulman News

Friday
Mostly sunny 44 Hi / 31 Lo
Saturday
Sunny 47 Hi / 34 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

Subway lines draw a reaction

Bridget Mayer
Staff Writer

According to many students, one campus service that needs some revising is the Subway meal-exchange option. The restaurant, which opened this past fall in the apartment style residence hall, has been more popular than expected by both students and Rose-Hulman’s Dining Services. The problem arises from the restaurant’s popularity as a meal exchange option; the line for a sandwich has often been close to an hour-long wait — time most students cannot afford to waste.

Since meal exchange hours are limited, the Subway experiences an influx of customers every night from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, the designated hours for students to trade their meal in the cafeteria or Worx for a Subway meal. Although meal exchange hours in the Worx are from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Dining Services extended the hours for Subway — twice — as a way to alleviate the lengthy lines. Although this action has helped some, most students feel it is not enough.

“I usually get to Subway around 6:30 even though they



Students in line to receive service at Subway.

Lissa Avery / News Editor

don’t start meal exchange till 7. That’s the only way to be at the front of the line — it starts forming as I sit there,” says sophomore mechanical engineer Andrew Johnson.

Sophomore chemical engineer Anita Mathur agreed — “I understand that it is long, but it’s new, and people

always want to try something new. I feel bad for the employees for having to deal with it, but there’s not really room for more employees to work there.”

This sentiment was echoed by software engineer Kyle Beasley, whose activity in the Student Government Associa-

tion (SGA) and dealings with Mark Farner, head of dining services, have helped bring about the extended meal exchange hours. The SGA has held several meetings with Farner to hash out an appropriate course of action.

Continued on Page 3...

How has ANGEL fared?

Angela Smiley
Staff Writer

The start of this week marked the one-quarter anniversary of ANGEL’s arrival on campus. Most students have had at least one course which used ANGEL to some degree, and many faculty members who did not use ANGEL during the fall are experimenting with it now.

Support for these new users of ANGEL is primarily handled by student technicians under the auspices of the Digital Resource Center. These students answer interface queries and provide tutelage for faculty who feel they need direct assistance, and recently they have seen an increased number of contacts. Nancy Bauer, the head of the DRC, suggests that some faculty members who may not have had time to “learn ANGEL” over the summer are doing so now. “We’ve gotten three requests [for ANGEL help] this week,” she com-

mented; this number is up substantially from last quarter’s ten total ANGEL calls.

Almost the entire Rose community has heard about ANGEL by now, but it is still far from ubiquitous. Many professors decline to use ANGEL for various reasons: some don’t have the time to spend on learning the new system, while others already have their own course infrastructure in place and see no need to make the switch. Mark Inlow, an Assistant professor of Mathematics, is one person who falls into the latter category. “I didn’t have time during the summer to work on it,” he commented, “and even if I had, I think I prefer to avoid the bleeding edge. I’m basically pro-ANGEL, I just have held back on jumping on the bandwagon.” Inlow dis-

seminates course information through his websites, which contain syllabi and homework assignments and offer students the ability to give anonymous feedback on the course they are taking. His students have not generally shown a preference either for ANGEL or against.

Anneliese Watt, assistant professor of English, has used ANGEL in her courses and often found it helpful. “I’ve used it in Tech Comm both last quarter and this quarter. I think its main advantage is as a repository for course materials,” she remarked. She went on to suggest that it’s particularly useful in larger courses, where it allows multiple professors to share resources and documents between course sections. In smaller electives she still finds it handy, mainly

for its grade tracking features. She feels her students particularly appreciate the group facilitation features, but not the general e-mail — after discovering that the few messages posted through course mail were often left unread, she decided to disable the e-mail feature entirely.

Richard Ditteon, professor of Physics and Applied Optics, used ANGEL during the fall but is no longer doing so. “I did not find it useful last quarter,” he stated. He feels that ANGEL still has serious flaws; last quarter, he mentioned, he tried using it to distribute handouts and lab instructions but found that they often did not print correctly. He also found the user interface highly unwieldy. “It can do the same things, but it’s much harder to use than just a spreadsheet.”

Many professors and students feel that despite ANGEL’s flaws, it shows promise. Only time will tell whether it can earn its wings.

Many feel that despite ANGEL’s flaws, it shows promise.

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
More on the Subway situation.	Festivals, films, and funnies.	The new guy’s in town.	Basketball run-down.	“Mastichist?’ Doesn’t that mean you’re Chewish?”
Page 3	Pages 4 & 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

Upcoming events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 * Rose-Hulman Performing Group's Holiday Show, Hatfield Hall Theater, 2 p.m. Free and Open to the Public.	6 * 'Second City' Tickets Available for Terre Haute Community (\$10 Each), Hatfield Hall Ticket Office, 1-5 p.m.	7 * Computer Skills Workshop, Public Computer Lab, Logan Library, 9:30-11 a.m. * Winter Quarter Campus Blood Drive I	8 * Winter Quarter Campus Blood Drive I * Campus College Bowl Competition	9 * Computer Skills Workshop (Creating Macros in Excel), Public Computer Lab, Logan Library, 9:30-11 a.m.	December 3 * Last Day To Add Winter Quarter Class, Registrar's Office * Society of Women Engineers' Women Exploring Engineering Program	4 * William Lowell Putnam Math Competition, Crapo Hall, Throughout Day
12 * Rose Family Christmas Party, Hulman Union: * Santa Distributing Gifts (Children 10 & Under), Kahn Room, 4-6:30 p.m. * Dinner & Holiday Program, Vonderschmitt Dining Room, 5 p.m.	13 * Student Government Association's Fall Student Leaders Banquet * Retired Faculty/Staff Holiday Luncheon, Hatfield Hall Lobby, Noon	14 * Institute Meeting, E-104, 4:30 p.m. * Announcement of "Rose-Hulman 2015: A Conversation About Our Future" * Committee Reports: Academic Computing/ Rules & Discipline	15 * Students' Christmas Gift Wrap Day, Kahn Room, Throughout Day	16 * Hulman Union Christmas Party * Poetry Reading, Eugene Gloria of DePauw University, Kahn Room	10 * Campus College Bowl Competition Championship Round	11 * Bikes For Tykes' Assembly Day/Delivery, Facilities Department Office
					17	18

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Classifieds

Apartments and houses

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Worship

Worship with music, prayer, and reflection in White Chapel Sunday, December 12, 6:00 p.m. Led by United Campus Ministries, 321 N. 7th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807. Campus Minister: Jack Diel, Jack.A.Diel@rose-hulman.edu

Algebra 2 Tutor

Seeking Algebra 2 tutor for two high school students Wednesdays after 6 p.m. or on weekends. Contact Molly Reed at mjr@vigoschools.com or 217-826-8700 for more information.

Female Algebra 2 Tutor

Tutor needed for 11th grade Algebra 2 student. Female applicants preferred. Call Bruce at 812-872-2466.

1896 Rose Polytechnic Modulus

For sale. RARE! 1896 Rose Poly Modulus. Going on Ebay this weekend. Call 478-1344 to view.

The Thorn is looking for writers and editors.

If you enjoy writing or editing, come to a Thorn meeting, held Wednesdays in Olin 157 at 5:15 p.m.
Free pizza and drinks served.

The Rose Thorn

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Editors reserve the right to accept new content or content changes submitted after deadline. The Thorn reserves

the right to refuse publication of submissions that the editorial staff deem unsuitable.

Editors reserve the right to condense or edit submissions for clarity, space limitations, grammar and spelling mistakes, and factual errors. Letters to the Editor must be signed and include contact information.

Subway lines, from Page 1

"We serve about 140 people in a two and a half hour period, with most of those customers coming in the first 90 minutes... Subway's standard for service, from when a customer is first greeted to when they take care of payment is just over 2 minutes... during meal exchange we average quite a bit under that," said Farner.

We serve about 140 people in a two and a half hour period, with most of those customers coming in the first ninety minutes.

– Mark Farner, Head of Dining Services

Beasley has also noticed a decline in the numbers of people using the Worx as a meal exchange option. "I don't see as many people using it, because they decide to get Subway instead during meal exchange hours. The few times I have been to the Worx this year, there has been a very small line, if any line at all," he commented. Indeed, the Worx

is vacant most nights, as is the adjoining lounge, and Dining Services reports that it is serving only half the number of students it served last year.

Meal exchange hours at the Worx have remained the same as last year, but many students feel that dining at Subway is a better option. Several menu items are available at Subway for much less than the items offered at the Worx, which average around \$5.00; Subway's cheapest six inch sandwich is only \$1.99, making it a wiser choice for non-meal exchange dining.

Not only that, the new restaurant offers a generally healthier selection to students than the Worx, though some think it would benefit

from a wider variety of menu options.

Nick Slabaugh, a sophomore computer engineer, noted that "the Worx is overpriced and under-quality. They should not treat it as a money-making venture. And the food is insufficient for what I want to pay."

Although there have been problems with the new dining option, Subway retains a favorable opinion among the students who frequent it. "The employees seem to understand that we don't like to wait in line, and they are always friendly and helpful," commented sophomore Adam Reynolds. There have been no other complaints, with the exception of requests for more menu options. Said Beasley, "We have been told that there is a possibility of helping decide what chips are sold, etc. in the future, so that will help solve the problem of menu complaints."

The residents of the apartment hall have been less than pleased with the lines at Subway, especially because many have meal plans that incorporate meals at the restaurant

during meal exchange hours only. The frustration is less for some, as they have a shorter distance to walk than students that live in other residence halls.

As a solution, Farner offered a meal "trading" program with the hope that fewer apartment residents would visit the Subway during those busy hours. His program allows the residents to trade their meal plan's meal tickets for cash, specifically \$4 per meal. This money then goes on the student's declining balance, making it possible for him or her to spend it at the Subway during non-meal exchange hours. This also makes it possible for the

students to dine in the restaurant at lunch more often,

when meal exchange is not offered but declining balance is accepted. The system is being tested this quarter, and students may sell back any number of meals they choose at any time during the first two weeks of the quarter.

The SGA feels that Dining Services has proposed appropriate solutions and applied them in a timely manner.

As for other features of the apartments, business in the

The Worx is overpriced and under-quality. They should not treat it as a money-making venture.

– Nick Slabaugh, sophomore computer engineer

convenience store has seemed slow to many students. Beasley noted that "it hasn't looked to busy to me... I've never seen a crowd or a line." Farner is looking into opening the

store for a few hours on Saturdays to determine if there is a need for its services.

Three Elected to Board of Trustees

Rose-Hulman News

Three Rose-Hulman alumni have been elected to the college's Board of Trustees. New trustees are Tom Dinkel, president of Sycamore Engineering, Terre Haute, Ind.; Mike Hatfield, founder and chief strategy officer, Calix, Inc., Petaluma, Calif.; and Roger Ward, vice president, HNTB, Indianapolis, Ind.

Dinkel was elected after serving eight years as the alumni representative to the Board. Alumni elected Ward to replace Dinkel as one of two alumni representatives. Pat Cahill, president, Wabash Valley Asphalt, Terre Haute, also serves as a trustee representing alumni.

Dinkel is president of a company that offers engineering and construction services in the areas of mechanical, electrical, temperature control, sheet metal and telecommunications. He has received the Rose-Hulman Honor Alumnus Award which is the highest honor presented by the college's Alumni Association. In 1991, he served as president of the Alumni Association, and has been a member of the Alumni Association Advisory Board for eight years. Dinkel has also been a chairman for reunions, homecoming and senior orientation. He received a mechanical engineering degree from Rose-Hulman in 1972.

Hatfield is a successful en-

trepreneur and engineer, who is leading the growth of a second technology-based company he created in California. As founder of Calix, Inc., Hatfield provides leadership for a company that is a leading supplier of telecommunications solutions that simplify voice, data, and video service delivery for local exchange carriers of all sizes. Prior to creating Calix in Petaluma, Calif., Hatfield was co-founder and chief operating officer of Cerent Corp., an industry leader in high-speed optical transport.

A \$14 million gift to Rose-Hulman from Hatfield and his wife, Deborah, resulted in the creation of Hatfield Hall which opened in 2002. The facility includes a theatre, rehearsal rooms for student performing arts groups, an Alumni Center and administrative offices. Hatfield graduated from Rose-Hulman in 1984 and received a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering and mathematical economics.

Ward is vice president in the HNTB Indianapolis Water Services practice. He was president of the Alumni Association in 2000 and currently serves on the Department of Civil Engineering Advisory Board. Ward received the Honor Alumnus Award from the Alumni Association in 2002. He has also been a guest lecturer in environmental engineering at Rose-Hulman. Ward graduated in 1971 from Rose-Hulman earning a degree in biological engineering.

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National Treasure is almost capital

Out This Week

Theaters

Closer

Directed by Mike Nichols
Starring Natalie Portman
Rated R

I Am David

Directed by Paul Feig
Starring Ben Tibber
Rated PG

House of Flying Daggers

Directed by Yimou Zhang
Starring Takeshi Kaneshiro
Rated PG-13
Limited Release

On DVD

Spider-Man 2

Hero

Luther

It's All True

"Tru Calling" Season One

Box Office Tops

1. *National Treasure*
2. *The Incredibles*
3. *Christmas with the Kranks*

Steve Pierce
Webmaster

When I saw the trailer for *National Treasure*, I can honestly say I laughed. The plot looked horrible – I mean, a treasure map on the back of the Declaration of Independence? Come on. I about discarded it before I noticed Nicolas Cage was in it. I enjoyed most of his movies, so this one couldn't be *that* horrible.

The trailer hinted at a mystery/suspense/action story similar to Dan Brown's novels *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons*. It seems Walt Disney Pictures wanted to beat Columbia Pictures to the punch (*The Da Vinci Code*, directed by Ron Howard and starring Tom Hanks, is due to begin filming in May 2005). I enjoyed *The Da Vinci Code* for its suspenseful and captivating story, so I thought I would give *National Treasure* a try. I went into the theater expecting a mindless action flick with numerous plot holes and a sloppy mystery tacked on as an afterthought. The first 5 minutes of the movie definitely confirmed my expectations, but that doesn't mean it was a bad movie. I was entertained for the entire 131 minute show, despite the predictable plot and Bruckheimered action

sequences.

National Treasure is the story of Ben Gates (Cage) and his quest to find a war chest hidden by the founding fathers. This collection was a well-guarded secret of the Masons, the key to which was handed to one of Gates' distant relatives. The key, however, was a vague clue that stumped many, and the hunting of the treasure haunted the Gates family throughout history.

The movie opens with Gates making a large discovery with his team. After finding a message and decoding its meaning, Gates and his tech guy Riley Poole (Justin Bartha) are left stranded by Ian Howe (Sean Bean) and his gang of thugs, who are after the treasure merely for its monetary value. So begins a race between the two groups, complete with kidnappings, escapes, and high-stakes trickery.

While I enjoyed the movie as mindless entertainment, I wouldn't say it was suspenseful or a classic by any means. Cage wasn't exactly convincing during his moments of revelation; he jumped from thought to thought



too quickly, almost as if he knew the answer before he got the question. This was especially true in the beginning, when he discovered the next clue would be hidden in the Declaration of Independence. On the back. In invisible ink. I also had some issues with Bartha's character, who didn't seem to add much to the story, except maybe as a poorly scripted attempt at comedy relief. Most of the action was overdone, like when a 250-year old ship buried in the Antarctic ice exploded more violently than a potato in the microwave.

After accepting that this movie wasn't written or produced by the best and brightest in Hollywood, I was able to relax and be entertained by the movie. There were chases, some unpredictable twists, and a somewhat intriguing plot. Don't go into it with high expectations, but I thought it was worth the money (maybe not the \$8 at Kerasotes). I won't buy it when it comes out on DVD, but it was better than sitting around bored on Black Friday.

Steve's Next Crappy Trailer Review: *Flight of the Phoenix*

Alexander conquers all

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I sense a conspiracy theory in the critical reaction to *Alexander*, an extraordinary film from director Oliver Stone. As of this writing, the film has received only 15% positive reviews on Rottentomatoes.com. Maybe *Alexander* star and notorious lothario Colin Farrell snuck into the annual film critic daughter sleepover and this is the critical retribution. Though the movie is slightly uneven and stretches history, it is a deep and moving cinematic epic.

The real-life Alexander the Great conquered half of Europe and Asia by his 32nd birthday. His parents were King Phillip II and Olympias (played in the movie by Val Kilmer and

Angelina Jolie). After Phillip was killed, Alexander took over the throne of Macedonia. He set off to conquer the world and never looked back.

Alexander is powerfully portrayed by Colin Farrell. Farrell's onscreen charisma helps him control the role of a larger than life character. He has a great chemistry with both Jolie and Kilmer. Both parents try to control Alexander and Stone takes liberty in stating this broken family and high expectations drove Alexander to expand the Macedonian empire. While this may not be historically accurate, it makes for very powerful cinema.

Performances by all the supporting characters were as powerful as Farrell's. Jared Leto costars as Farrell's long

time friend and love interest. Leto's pretty-boy good looks serve him well here but there's also a lot of emotional acting involved. There are many other characters, enough to fill Alexander's army, that perform convincingly enough to keep the audience ensnared in the fourth century.

One of the film's flaws is in its use of Anthony Hopkins' Old Ptolemy character. Ptolemy tells Alexander's story to a group of scholars. While Stone intended this to further enhance the Alexander legend, it comes off as heavy-handed storytelling. There is not enough of Ptolemy's character in Alexander's time to warrant so much screen time for the older version of the character. Ptolemy only appears briefly as one of Alexander's generals.

Alexander's war campaign is brought vividly to life by Stone's experienced camera and editing techniques. There are enough wide shots to tell what is going on in battles but are also enough close ups to keep the battles gritty. The film definitely earns its R rating with these battles. Some of the elephants look a little fake, but otherwise the CG is excellent.

Don't listen to all the negative hype – *Alexander* is a grand film worthy of your time. Though some pacing flaws keep it short of perfection, the riveting story that's mostly true is brought vividly to life by a wonderful cast. Stick it to Roger Ebert and go love this movie despite his hating.



The Haute gets Second City

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

Remember that really good variety show? You know, the one that was funny. You know, the crazy Canadian one (no offense to sane Canadians)? That's right: SCTV.

Well, if you missed out on the joys that were SCTV, you have a chance to redeem yourself. On December 9, 2004, 8 PM, Second City will include our fine campus on their comedy tour.

Second City is a comedy group focusing primarily in sketch comedy. Though I personally have never seen a live Second City show, I have heard great reviews of their comedy prowess. As well, I was an avid fan of the television show, as well as the ever popular film based on an SCTV sketch: *Strange Brew*.

If your funny bone is itching for some attention, I strongly suggest you make a Mecca to Hatfield Hall on the ninth and watch the antics of Second City until you yourself are rolling on the floor, giddy with laughter.

There really is no reason not to go, I mean, if you are a Rose student, you can get in for free. Now is that not nice? However, you will have to pay if you're not a student, but the cost is not that much (eight dollars if I am not mistaken).

Fortunately, this will not interfere with your busy Friday schedule, be it one of drinking, seeing movies, or watching fan-dubbed animations originating from a particular country, since it falls nicely on Thursday, the day in which you all are not busy. I know, I've looked at all your schedules.

So, December 9, 2004, 8 PM, Hatfield Hall, come see Second City do what they do best,

and they'll probably do sketch comedy as well. All joking aside, Second City is sure to be a first rate comedy show.

The Second City®

Ann Arbor Film Festival visits Rose

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Rejoice film fans, Rose-Hulman has been lucky enough to host the Ann Arbor Film Fest for two days. This film festival highlights animated and experimental films from America and Canada. This is a special opportunity for Rose students to see types of films that can usually only be seen at large film festivals. Though I found many of the films to be downright stupid, many others displayed interesting techniques not seen in the multiplex.

Day one of the festival started with an interesting animated feature called Brand New Triathlon from British Columbia. Bowling, cricket, and tai chi are highlighted as the "hipper triathlon that's a veritable ironman's or ironwoman's dream." I really enjoyed this film as the quirky animation synchronized with a driving drum beat brought a giddy smile to my face.

Pilots are Badass wasn't as interesting as the title sounds. It's a 10-minute documentary about an air force pilot. I appreciated the fact that the main subject, Peter, was never shown being interviewed but found the film to go on far too long. It was difficult to hear a lot of the speaking as well, which made it very hard to follow.

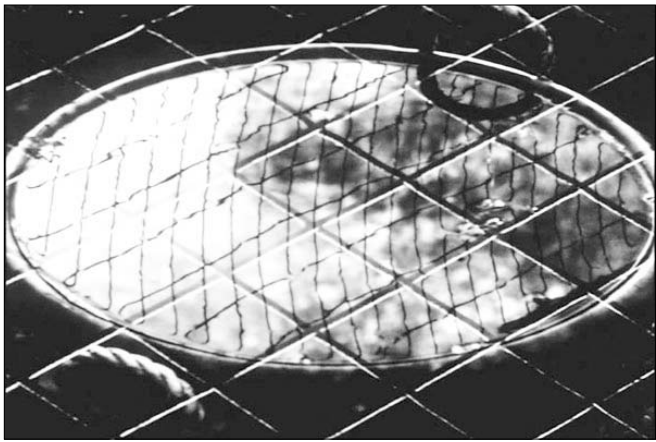
The next film called The Invisible Hand was an inventive animated short about big business corruption. Sound bites from Martha Stewart, and the Enron &

Tyco chief honchos appear over charcoal likenesses. I appreciated what this film was trying to do and loved the skillful drawings but found the film to be a bit too wandering and thought it could have been much shorter.

Not Too Much Remember is a collection of found footage from the 40's - 70's pieced together to form a narrative. Some footage of cars flipping over with the voice over, "what happens when we die?" created a creepy mood. I found the piece's 11 minute run

time to be too long (noticing a pattern here?).

The Arousing Adventures of Sailor Boy made me go, "What the %%%\$!?!?" The program describes the film as "a day in the life of a sailor boy as he searches for the hermaphrodite of his dreams" but I couldn't tell from the picture. The film had no sound track, which was initially



enthralling but became irritating. The funniest part was when text was written on the screen stating, "that was suppose to be a huge cock sorry" after a giant phallus was drawn on screen.

It's worth noting that half the audience walked out after Sailor Boy. The next film was a relief at only 3 minutes. In Transit shows a New York subway commute as an abstract collection of sounds and shapes. I've never ridden on the New York subway, and couldn't relate any images or sounds to my life's experience. Maybe if I were more cultured I could understand it...



of close-ups on horses. The rest of the piece showed visually stunning overlaps of different portions of a farm. I was truly moved by how the music flowed and the images progressed into more complex patterns. I am completely blown away because all image layering was done in-camera with no post-production.

Mountain State was an interesting look at 25 historical markers in West Virginia. Though historians will eat up the 19 minute run time for all

25 markers, I would have been perfectly happy with a fifth of that. I was impressed that all this information was delivered without explicitly stating, "Hey, this movie's about historical markers!"

Danzante is a fascinating look at the sacred "Dance of the Feathers" carried out by men in a remote Mexican village. There are many images of beauty and power in this film: a profile shot of a young boy next to a brick wall watching the rain fall and a man wearing an ornate headdress dancing in a corn field are just two. Though long at 14 minutes, this is an interesting documentary on a subject you're not likely to see any other place.

The final film was a humorous narrative called Buses, Trains, Cars, and Planes. This was the one

film in this group that told a conventional story that was easy to follow. It follows a man as he visits friends and family across the eastern United States. His transportation costs are tabulated as he travels, making for a funny subplot.

Overall, this was a wonderful experience even if I didn't enjoy every film. Another quibble I have is that due to 16mm projection issues in Hatfield, the video appears on only about

1/9 of the screen. Even with that, you definitely need to go to the second half of the festival, starting tonight at 7:30pm in Hatfield. Take this opportunity to see some film that's very different from Hollywood schlock.

Images:
Danzante (right)
The Invisible Hand (bottom left)
Pilots are Badass (middle left)
Stable (top left)



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The future of high-tech



At least
I have
opinions

John Kropf
Opinions Editor

Software patents are an underestimated and relatively unknown danger to the U.S. high tech industry. They obstruct innovation in the software industry and they expose an overloaded court system to more frivolous lawsuits brought by companies whose business models are based on acquiring patents, ferreting out potential violators and suing them. Software patents also expose the already overworked and overcrowded United States Patent and Trademark Office to undue strain with patent applications brought purely for the purpose of liability protection. Existing copyright law already protects software as intellectual property.

Patents are different from copyrights. Traditionally, copyrights protect expression, but not underlying ideas. Patents, however, protect useful processes, machines, and compositions of matter. Debate raged

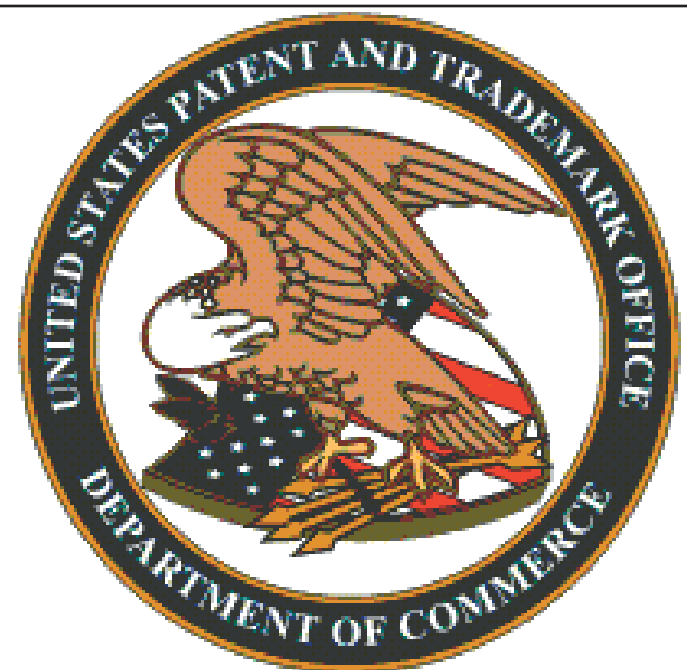
in the early years of computing about whether software was patentable or protected only under copyright. The software patent precedent we have today actually came from a Supreme Court decision (*Diamond v. Diehr* (1981)) in which a sharply divided supreme court held that a process for curing rubber, which involved a computer algorithm, was patentable. After this decision, the patent office became much less willing to take applicants to court. Not until about 1988 did corporate America begin to realize that software patents were a major obstacle to conducting business. In the first four months of 1989, around 200 software patents were granted.

Prior art is extremely hard to find in the field of software, because it is its own documentation. Mechanical systems must be supplied to the Patent Office with written documentation. Most software, however, is distributed under license agreements that hide the source code, and make reverse engineering a violation of the terms of use, which in essence conceals the invention and leaves a grey area with regard to prior art. Finding instances of prior art can require interviews with people who wrote software at universities years ago. This issue has caused many lawyers to

question the quality of many of the software patents issued by the Patent Office.

Because of these problems, software patents take longer to be approved than average. Since independent creation is also not applicable with regard to patents, every developer is charged with the knowledge of all patents. And since patent applications are usually confidential, there may be years of patent applications in the pipeline that developers wouldn't be allowed to know about. Modern software has become so complex that one application may infringe on any number of patents.

All of this has spawned companies with an interesting business model. Litigation. One need look no farther back than 2003, when the SCO group began suing various high profile Linux marketers and users because the copies of Linux they were using infringed on patents granted to Bell Labs when UNIX was a young operating system. If SCO can create as much of a problem as they have over a copyright issue, one can only imagine what software patent litigation is coming. The era of lawyers, not developers dictating software content and functionality, is here and is increasingly hostile toward innovation.



www.uspto.gov

The seal of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Software patents do more to hinder innovation that to help it. Patents issued on hyperlink text, one click buying, and other such simple processes stop the industry from standardizing on efficient and useful ideas, which hurts consumers. Software patents don't help to protect intellectual property, often times because there is nothing to protect. They do help further

the litigious nature of today's business climate, and make innovators ever more wary of sharing their innovations with the public. Software patents do exactly the opposite of what a patent is designed to do. They do not promote innovation, and they do not promote standardization. Software patents are ineffective at best and destructive at worst.

Letter to the editor

Republicans now have control of the Presidency, the House and the Senate. Tom Daschle lost his Senate seat in South Dakota which is the first time in fifty-two years that the Senate majority leader has been defeated in a bid for re-election. But as bad as it looks for Democrats, it is even worse for the gay community. Eleven new states voted to define marriage as between one man and one woman. Not only that, a majority of those states also banned civil unions and the necessity to acknowledge such unions or marriages from other states. This is somewhat of a blow to the movement for same-sex marriages in the United States.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that this country is not ready to allow same-sex marriages. I think this all boils down to one issue, and that issue is not a complete dislike for homosexuals in this country, it is completely an issue with word choice. A majority of the people in this country would have absolutely no problem with allowing the same rights that every married couple currently enjoys today in the United States also apply to same-sex couples. But, because the push has been for same-sex

marriage it is systematically and consistently getting struck down. People in this country are not prepared to change their idea of marriage. It is increasingly obvious that the majority opinion is that marriage has been, is, and will always be between a man and a woman. This is easy to see due to the margins by which the referendums to ban same-sex marriage were passed. With the exception of Oregon, most of the referendums were passed with at least sixty percent of the vote. Oregon was the closest of all, passing with only fifty-seven percent of the vote. So, it is easy to say that people are very set in their ways that marriage is between a man and a woman.

It would be interesting to see if these same people would vote in support of extending legal marital rights to same-sex couples. A USA Today poll from March showed that fifty-four percent of the people polled would support civil unions. This is much more support than there is for same-sex marriage in this country.

It appears if the gay community wants to be able to enjoy the same rights that heterosexual married couples enjoy to-

day, they need to start pursuing the civil union route more than their current push for same-sex marriage. I find it hard to believe that there is a large number of Americans that would deny same-sex couples the rights that they are pursuing. If you went up to the average American on the street and asked them whether they thought that someone who had been living with their partner for many years should be banned from seeing that person in the hospital when they were dying, I would be very surprised if they told you that person should be banned. Most people don't have a problem when the issues are broken down on that level. People do not want to see children getting separated from the parents that they have lived with a majority of their life, regardless if their parents are heterosexual or homosexual. No person would say that people should be denied rights to property of their deceased partner. These are just things that many Americans would not be against. People in this country just don't want to see the definition of marriage change. This is not to say that the definition cannot change. I am not saying whether it should or should not, I am just making an observation that many people believe that it should not be redefined.

The way I see it, the gay community should be allowed the same rights that heterosexuals currently enjoy when they enter into marriage. The only difference between the two relationships is the fact that

someone, somewhere in history decided that marriage should be between a man and a woman. Just because people might not agree with their lifestyle, why should they be treated any different than everyone else? Not that many years ago, people would have told you that people of different races should not be allowed to marry. This opinion is no different that the opinion that homosexuals should not be allowed to marry. Why is it right to discriminate against someone because they choose to love someone of their same sex and it is not okay to discriminate against someone who loves someone of a different race? Who gets to decide who it's alright to discriminate against?

I am not saying that people in this country should be in favor of homosexuality, but I am saying that just because you do not agree with someone's point of view, that does not give you the right to discriminate.

Hopefully people in this country will one day realize that just because someone does not share the same opinions as you, that does not mean that that person should have to live their life differently because of the choices they have made. But until that happens it's going to be a bad time to be different in this country.

Kyle Beasley
Software Engineering
Class of 2006

TheFaceBook owns you

Luke Stark
Co-Editor-in-Chief

TheFaceBook.com is the greatest new tool on the net since Google, and Rose-Hulman was recently added to the supported colleges and universities. Here's the idea: you create your profile, upload a picture, and start a network of friends who you can message and poke.

How many hours can you waste while tracking down your long lost friends or searching through all the weird people who inhabit Rose is an interesting way to not do homework. One of the most fun features is the "Poke" feature. You click a link and send your friend a Poke! It's utterly addictive and totally useless, but I love it. Have you been poked today?

The other cool feature is the ability to see your friends' friends. And your friends' friends' friends are there too. You can get carried away pretty quickly as you click through the network to see all the people who know people you know.

The only problem is that there is only one level of connections in the network. I mean do you really want to say that all the people you know are your friends? Acquaintance is acceptable, but friend seems a little too attaching for me. Especially when it's someone I don't speak to outside of class.

Either way you should hurry to sign up now on thefacebook.com because I'm almost all the way through the current Rose-Hulman members and I need more profiles to feed my addiction. I'll see you there!

Have an opinion? Send a letter to the editor.

E-mail opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Rose Sports Rundown

Last week's sports scores

Football (4-6, 1-5 SCAC) Nov. 13	
Rose-Hulman	16
vs. Centre	21
Men's Soccer (7-12, 2-7 SCAC) Nov. 6	
Rose-Hulman	0
vs. Depauw	3
Women's Soccer (11-7-1, 5-4 SCAC) Nov. 6	
Rose-Hulman	1
vs. Depauw	3
Swimming Nov. 6	
Rose-Hulman at Rose-Hulman Tri-Meet	
Men's -- 2nd Place	
Women's -- 2nd Place	
Men's Basketball (3-2, 0-0 SCAC) Nov. 27	
Rose-Hulman	72
vs. Blackburn	53
Nov. 30	
Rose-Hulman	56
vs. Franklin	52
Women's Basketball (3-1, 0-0 SCAC) Nov. 27	
Rose-Hulman	76
vs. Blackburn	65

Teams in bold denote winners.

Basketball teams gear up for tough non-conference competition

Andrew Twarek
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman men's basketball team returns five starters from last year's 19-8 team—and they also have 99% of its scoring and 98% of its rebounding back this season. Coming off the biggest single-season turnaround in the program's history, they have high goals. The Engineers were ranked 15th nationally by D-III News in the preseason poll and received votes in the d3hoops.com poll.

The Engineers will have a tough fight this Saturday night, however. Hanover College, riding last year's 26-2 season (and 27-2 in 2003), was picked fifth by D-III News and third in the d3hoops.com preseason rankings.

Rose-Hulman (3-2) had a tough start to their season. At the Tip-Off Tournament in Daytona Beach, a series of airplane delays left the team short on sleep and short on the basketball court by just five points. They were defeated by Elmhurst College by a 49-50 margin and lost 79-83 to Vorhees College.

Back in the Midwest, the Engineers turned things up a notch, defeating Fontbonne College by 14 points, Blackburn College by 19, and Franklin College by four points (though they held a double-digit lead through much of the second half).

The Engineers are led this season by junior Munchie Muskeyvalley, who has 68 points (averaging 13.6 per game), 11 steals, and 21 assists. Senior civil Philip Griffith has 65 points, 30 rebounds, and a team-high 8 blocks, while senior Jason Ludwig also averages double-digit scoring per game with 12.2 ppg (61 total) and has pulled in 24 boards.

Junior Kareem Lee tops the team in rebounds, grabbing a significant 7.2 each game for 36 on the season. Graduate student Mike Cusic rounds out the starting five, with 13 points, 13 rebounds, and the highest field goal percentage of the starters.

After playing five games on the

road, the squad hosts their opening matchup at home this weekend against Hanover. In the Sports and Rec. Center at 7:00 Saturday night—and with a crowd of Hulman Helions—this promises to be quite a matchup.

The Engineer women's basketball team has the 2004-05 season off to a great start. By many accounts, though, this would look like a rebuilding year for Rose-Hulman. The team has only three juniors and no seniors. They lost two starters who accounted for 30% of their scoring last year. That hasn't stopped them—and they plan to show that next Tuesday.

The cross-town rivalry with Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College is always a big game, but this year it's even bigger. December 7, at 7 p.m., the teams will face off at Rose-Hulman's home court and the Engineers look to earn their first victory in the 12 meetings between the schools.

The 3-1 Engineers could have been undefeated save the first eight minutes of the year. After finding themselves down 20-2, they battled back to a halftime tie but were narrowly defeated by Franklin College.

The Rose-Hulman squad bounced back with style. They soundly defeated Hanover, Anderson and Blackburn Colleges, and the team has outscored their four opponents by 50 points collectively after the



Munchie Muskeyvalley

Photo courtesy Rose-Hulman

first eight minutes this season.

Freshman Jill Floyd has paced the furious Engineer scoring. One hundred sixteen minutes into the season, she has averaged 17.3 points per game, hitting a remarkable 12-16 (75%) from three-point land, and a perfect 13-13 at the free-throw stripe. Last year's SCAC Newcomer of the Year, sophomore Rebekah Forsyth, has 50 points with team highs of 40 rebounds, 10 steals, and four shot blocks. Fellow sophomore Suzy Carlson has also hit for 50 points, but creates scoring drives as well with her 22 assists.

The women have shown they are ready for a historic season. The next step is defeating St. Mary-of-the-Woods Tuesday night.

Upcoming athletic events

Men's Basketball
Saturday, Dec. 4
Rose-Hulman vs. Hanover
7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9
Rose-Hulman at Depauw
8 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Tuesday, Dec. 7
Rose-Hulman vs. St. Mary-of-the-Woods
7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9
Rose-Hulman at Depauw
6 p.m.

Wrestling
Friday, Dec. 3
Rose-Hulman at Little State Championships
Noon

Saturday, Dec. 4
Rose-Hulman at Little State Championships
9 a.m.

Swimming
Friday, Dec. 3
Rose-Hulman at Depauw Invitational
TBA

Saturday, Dec. 4
Rose-Hulman at Depauw Invitational
TBA

Games in bold denote home games

Swimming and diving records fall in loss to Wabash, St. Mary's

Rose-Hulman News

The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology men's and women's swimming and diving teams captured 18 first-place finishes and set three school records despite falling to Wabash College and St. Mary's College on Saturday afternoon.

Freshman Adam Effinger (Plainfield) led the way with three first-place finishes, capturing top honors in the 50-yard freestyle (22.76 seconds), 100-yard freestyle (49.59) and 100-yard butterfly (54.30).

Senior Jes Frank (Crown Point) and sophomore Erin O'Connor (Louisville, Ky.) paced the wom-

en's squad with a pair of first-place finishes. Frank won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:02.41 and the 100-yard freestyle in 56.29 seconds, while O'Connor captured titles in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:11.76) and 100-yard butterfly (1:05.28). Junior Eric Fenelon (Chesterton) added first-place finishes in the one-meter (178.95 points) and three-meter (165.00 points) diving events.

Three school records also fell in the meet for Rose-Hulman. Senior Emily Timperman (Bloomington) topped her own school record with 189.25 points in one-meter diving, while freshman Jacob Sorensen (Enterprise, Ala.) captured the 200-yard butterfly

in a time of 2:02.18 to capture top honors. Senior Alison Hasbargen (Rhineland, Wis.) added the day's third school record with a time of 2:45.65 to place third in the 200-yard butterfly.

"Our teams are swimming very well early, and I am very happy to see our progress so far. This was a tough meet and our longest of the season. I am very proud to see each kid worked very hard and did their best," said head coach Michael Caruso.

Overall, Wabash captured the men's meet with a score of 164.5-133.5, while St. Mary's earned the women's victory 155-117.

Other first-place women's winners included freshman Anita

Isch (Buffalo, Minn.) with a time of 2:11.30 in the 200-yard freestyle; senior Jamie Myers (Bunker Hill) with a time of 2:26.03 in the 200-yard backstroke; and relay teams in the 200-yard medley (1:57.74) and the 200-freestyle (1:44.06).

For the men's squad, junior Aaron Knox (Lawton, Mich.) captured the 200-yard freestyle in a time of 1:54.50, while Zach Tatlock (Shelbyville) won the 100-yard backstroke in a time of 57.73 seconds. The 400-yard freestyle relay team also claimed a win in 3:22.47.

Rose-Hulman returns to action at the DePauw University Invitational on Dec. 3-4.



Photo courtesy Rose-Hulman

Alison Hasbargen

Wacky Prof Quotes

"I can't do a good impression of Dean Western. I have to be nice; he lives across the street from me, and he might run me down with his Lincoln."
--Prof. Livesay, on how to treat your neighbors

"That's a four-letter word at Rose."
--Prof. Graves, on sleep

"Everyone has to believe in something... I believe I'll have another cookie."
--Prof. Clark, on Moral Relativism

"Have you ever seen a movie called *Real Genius*? Well, we didn't build a giant laser, but we do keep kids locked in the basement."
--Prof. Bunch, not encouraging us to see the movie

"If I sit and tell you that I sat and stared at her forearm for hours on end in French class, you'd know I had it bad."
--Prof. Minster, telling stories from high school

"My intent is not to make you cry."
--Prof. Cornwell, on finals

"How much do you know about making whiskey?"
--Prof. Wollowski, just out of curiosity

"Trying to define energy is like trying to define love."
--Prof. Mueller, being poetic

"It's not me, it's the drugs."
--Prof. Anderson, high as a kite

"But you're such a convenient target."
--Prof. Minster, picking on a student

"God said, 'Let there be diffraction,' and there was diffraction."
--Prof. Bunch, on the lost chapters of Genesis

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

Herbig's Pun of the Week

The best part about taking the Electrical Systems class is that the information is always current.

What Did I Do, Germs?

Alexander J. Clerc

I don't get it; I used to be down with the germs. The germs and I used to be tight. I'd let them live under my finger nails and up my nose and in other bodily crevices. I would feed them with various secretions, keep them warm, and tell them jokes. Occasionally I'd kill them with soap. It was pretty chill.

But somewhere along the line, our relationship soured. Now these microscopic malefactors, probably frustrated by their inability to ride motorcycles or grow mustaches, are taking their aggravation out on me and my imbecilic immune system. (What the hell, immune system!? Your job is not hard! I have to solve differential equations! All you have to do is find the germs and eat them!)

My body, therefore, is currently in a state of bacterial siege, a crippling condition that grows worse by the minute. My head is reeling, I'm endangering the tissue population, and I have to sleep over 15 hours every day. My roommate and I haven't spoken since before break; every time he's around, I'm under the covers snoozing. He probably thinks I'm dead.

On the upside, health services gave me a humidifier today. It's revolutionizing the way I breathe.

Anyways, since I'm sick, it is my prerogative to do whatever the hell I want, and what I want is to go back to sleep. This probably will result in this column being of shorter-than-average length and, as usual, devoid of substance, but that's a risk I'm willing to take. If there are any germs reading this, I want to publicly apologize for whatever I did that pissed you guys off so much. I want to be friends again. Please move out of my sinuses, throat, and lungs and back into my armpits and fingernails so I can keep killing you with soap.

Top Ten Signs of a Bad Thanksgiving

10. The high point of the day was cousin Eddie quickly devouring, then regurgitating, an entire pecan pie.
9. While carving the turkey, you are dismayed to find a pistol, a long knife, and what appears to be a human heart.
8. Hertz showed up with the green bean casserole.
7. The main course consisted of grilled spam and that day's roadkill.
6. In her old age, granny forgot to remove the poisonous leaves from the rhubarb for her pie.
5. The turkeys choose your house to begin their campaign of vengeance.
4. At least three family members remembered to state their hope that "This will be as good coming out as it was going in."
3. Your little sister's seemingly innocent viewing of "Chicken Run" manages to guilt-trip the family into releasing your frozen turkey back into the wild.
2. A technical error during the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade dramatically disproves the existence of Santa Claus.
1. As part of their Guilt for Food campaign, the poor decided to starve outside your house this year.

--Aaron Meles

This Day in History

In 1967, the first human heart was transplanted. At first, it was a success, but he passed away 18 days later. You could say he died of a "case of double pneumonia."

In Addition

Is the thought of a unicorn a real thought?

As it turns out, yes, it is... at least when considered as evidence in a court of law.

