

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Winter 12-10-2004

Volume 40 - Issue 11 - Friday, December 10, 2004

Rose Thorn Staff

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Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 40 - Issue 11 - Friday, December 10, 2004" (2004). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 231.

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News Briefs

Distinguished Pacific Rim engineer, alumnus to be featured at ASCE dinner

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology alumnus Alfred Yee will pass along some of his knowledge on innovative structural concepts and construction techniques to students and faculty while being the featured speaker at the winter banquet of the college's student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) on Thursday, Dec. 9. Yee will also speak to civil engineering classes during the day.

The ASCE's winter banquet recognizes this year's officers of the college's award-winning student chapter, honors other civil engineering students, and serves to kick off the chapter's campus fund-raising campaign for the Terre Haute Tribune-Star's Christmas Basket Fund.

Yee, a 1948 civil engineering graduate, has been highly recognized for his work in concrete technology and proven concepts for both land and sea structures.

Rose-Hulman News

Congress passes intelligence reform bill

The Senate voted 89-2 to pass the intelligence reform, which modernizes the nation's intelligence services.

Border patrols are to be increased and immigration officers are to be added to the current contingent.

A crucial change is the establishment of a director of national intelligence who has authority over the nation's 15 spy agencies.

The bill also calls for the creation of a civil liberties board to protect citizens' rights and privacy.

The bill is based heavily on the suggestions from the September 11 Commission on preventing future terrorist attacks, and seeks to reform a Cold War-designed intelligence structure that has had trouble performing adequately in face of the recent terrorist threat.

By Lissa Avery

Friday
Few showers 49 Hi / 39 Lo
Saturday
AM Rain/ Snow showers 42 Hi / 31 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

The discussion is privacy

Angela Smiley
Staff Writer

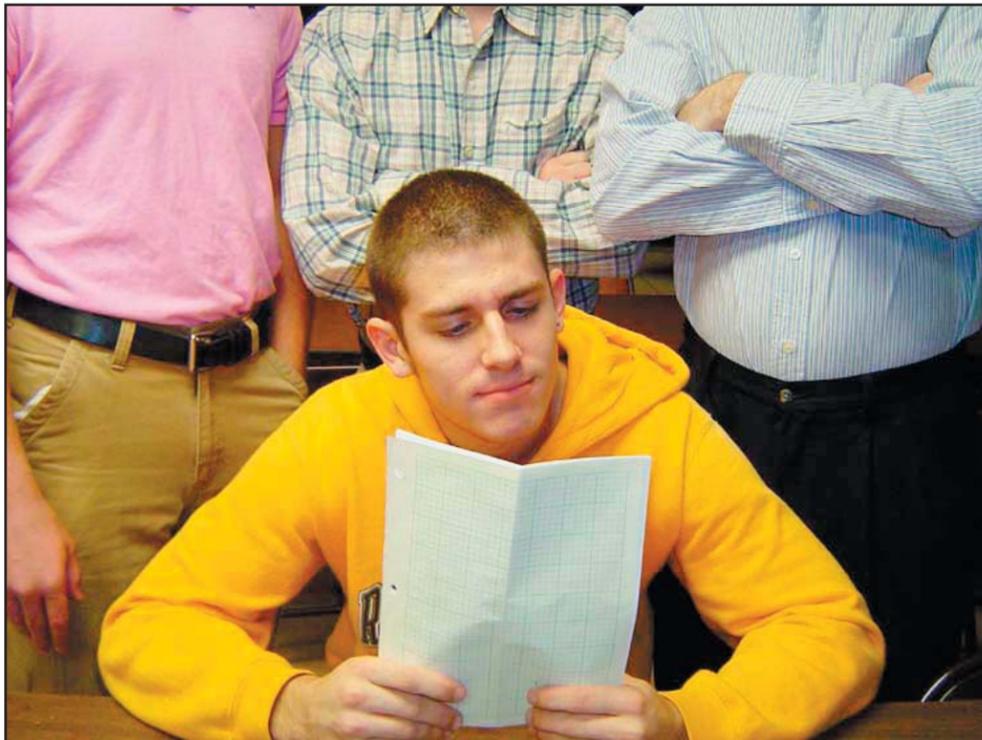
A transcript contains a record of all courses a student attempted, along with his or her grades in those courses. It also contains data on other means of fulfilling course requirements, including credit by examination (CBE) and AP or transfer credit. For years, these transcripts have been considered semi-private information at Rose-Hulman; however, in light of recent new technologies that make it feasible for all transcripts to be accessed electronically, the Office of the Dean has recently begun re-examining the issue of whether faculty members should have to be approved for access to student transcripts.

Currently, only a student's advisor and the head(s) of his department(s) have the ability to look at transcripts through BannerWeb. If another member of the faculty wishes to review a student's academic record, for whatever reason, he must provide a compelling case to the Registrar for the educational importance of his query. The Registrar will then give him a copy of the transcript in written form. If the Registrar considers the request inappropriate or the justification insufficient, he will deny it, and the student's transcript will remain off-limits to that person.

The administration has sought input from diverse sources in evaluating the merits of such a policy change. A poll of students was concluded Tuesday, and both students and faculty participated in an open forum on the issue Wednesday.

"I have heard strong opinions on both sides of the issue," commented Dean of Faculty Art Western, who will likely be the final arbiter of this choice. "Some argue that there are several times when it might be appropriate, while others feel that those are outweighed [by privacy concerns]."

Wednesday's forum, which attracted at least 40 participants (at least 20 faculty and staff) and lasted for over two hours, gave rise to heated discussion. Western opened by



Carmen DuVall / Rose Thorn

Many students feel that unrestricted access to transcripts too easily permits the possibility of abuse.

giving some background on the past and current management of transcripts, but after that he limited himself to the role of moderator, keeping track of those who wished to speak and ensuring that each had his or her chance.

Lawrence Merkle, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering, was quick to point out that other forms of student data might be useful to faculty as well. "The question is not just one of transcripts, it is one of academic information." He cited aggregate data and lists of potential award nominees as possibly useful to professors. Currently, aggregate statistics are compiled by IRPA, the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment, and must be requested formally by a professor.

Some other professors also felt that they would find the information useful. Donald Bagert, Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering, strongly advocated the change, citing circumstances such as struggling students and individuals who wished to drop or add a course during the hectic first week of a quarter.

Frederick Berry, Professor and Head of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, raised concerns about what a strong student reaction against transcript access might mean to advisors' and department heads' continued access. However, no one present at the forum expressed enthusiasm for removing or altering these privileges.

Most of those present were pleased by the administra-

tion's apparent willingness to consider student and faculty opinions, as well as the event's reception among these groups. "I'm delighted by the large group that's here," commented David Mutchler, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering. "It shows that students and faculty are very interested in these policies... I would like to see this, as with other issues that affect both students and faculty, have more open input." His last statement garnered enthusiastic applause from the assembled audience.

A number of faculty members expressed concern that the poll, having been sent out without much background information or advance notice, was not informative. "I think that you got out an answer that was desired rather than an answer that was accurate," asserted Bruce Ferguson, Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "The data that we collected was almost worthless." Western did not comment on whether he planned to conduct a second poll.

However, there was some evident basis for the negative overall response the poll showed.

Continued on Page 3...

I'm delighted by the large group that's here. I would like to see this, as with other issues that affect both students and faculty, have more input.

— David Mutchler

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
Privacy issues on other campuses.	The city is second to none.	Privacy to the fore.	Two Rose students honored for academics and athletics.	"What's the caption?!"
Page 3	Pages 4 & 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

Upcoming events

					Friday	Saturday
					December 10	11
					* Campus College Bowl Competition Championship Round	* Bikes For Tykes' Assembly Day/Delivery, Facilities Department Office
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	17	18
* Rose Family Christmas Party, Union * Santa Distributing Gift, Kahn Room, 4-6:30 p.m. * Dinner & Holiday Program, Main Dining Room, 5 p.m.	* Student Government Association's Fall Student Leaders Banquet * Retired Faculty/Staff Holiday Luncheon, Hatfield Hall Lobby, Noon	* Institute Meeting, E-104, 4:30 p.m. Announcement of "Rose-Hulman 2015: A Conversation About Our Future"	* Students' Christmas Gift Wrap Day, Kahn Room, Throughout Day	* Hulman Union Christmas Party * Poetry Reading, Eugene Gloria of DePauw University, Kahn Room	* Last day of classes.	* Start of Winter break
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Winter break						

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Algebra 2 Tutor

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The Rose Thorn is printed
 Fridays during the standard
 Rose-Hulman quarters.

The deadline for content submission to the Rose Thorn is 5 p.m. two days prior to distribution. All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the Thorn Office (Union room 249).

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: phone number, e-mail address, and the major and class of the author.

Friday, December 10, 2004

Transcript access, from Page 1

Some students questioned the apparently unequal treatment of students and faculty: "If we're going to do this [open up transcripts]," queried one, "shouldn't we students have access to employee records? Course evaluations?"

Additionally, some who are directly involved in the protection of student information expressed concerns about the consequences of such a change. "I think we would be naive to think that there would be no misuse," remarked Tim Prickel, the Registrar. "And frankly, in my relatively short time here I've seen some abuses."

Students who opposed the proposal were quick to point out that they did not harbor a general mistrust of faculty. "This is not about you personally," stated Lindsay Pethick, a freshman computer science major, addressing the faculty members present. "It is not an issue of your integrity. It is an issue of human nature. It's not you, it's everyone."

Some faculty seemed to echo this sentiment, stating that they did not wish to risk biasing

themselves towards or against their students either in their teaching or in their grading. Sudipa Mitra-Kirtley, Associate Professor of Physics and Optical Engineering, expressed concern about how knowledge of her students' past grades would interfere with her duties to teach all of them, and suggested that she ultimately "would feel disadvantaged" by the new proposed policy.

The order of the day seemed to be moderation. "I hope that we're not considering this as an all-or-nothing thing," commented Joshua Holden, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. He went on to express support for the idea of allowing students to control who could access their personal records individually. He was not alone; Don Richards (Professor of Mechanical Engineering) and David Mutchler quickly voiced agreement. Many students also approved of this idea. "All the examples of faculty access I've heard most directly impacted the individual," commented one. "It should be the individual's choice."

Military recruiters could be barred from campuses

Ilana Weinberg
U-WIRE (DC BUREAU)

A federal appeals court blocked the government from enforcing the Solomon Amendment last week, concluding that universities could bar military recruiters from campuses because of their anti-gay policies without the risk of losing federal money.

The 2 to 1 ruling in Philadelphia banned the amendment, which financially penalizes universities who don't allow military recruiters on campus. The law was initially passed by Congress in 1996, but has not been actively enforced until the Bush administration took power.

The court decision ruled that the Solomon Amendment violated the free speech rights of schools. While the amendment applies to all universities, law schools have been especially adamant in refusing to support an institution that discriminates against gays and lesbians.

The case was brought by a network of 25 law schools and 900 law professors. They argued that the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality violated their own principles of non-discrimination.

The court wrote that "the Solomon Amendment requires law schools to express a message that is incompatible with their educational objectives, and no compelling government interest has been shown to deny this freedom."

Law schools have long-standing policies of non-discrimination that withhold career placement services from dis-

criminatory employers. According to the court decision, virtually every law school now has a policy in place stating that "the Career Services facilities shall not be available to those employers who discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, handicap, age, or sexual orientation..."

In 2001, the Pentagon sent letters to over 20 law schools, threatening to cut off federal funding if they didn't allow military re-

cruiters on campus. The law schools began to cooperate, but filed complaints in the federal court seeking to overturn the law. This case was originally brought by New Jersey

law schools, and overturned the decision by a lower court. The decision was the first time an appeals court had blocked the government from enforcing a law.

While the decision was a landmark success for liberal universities, some dissenters feel that by refusing to allow the military on campus, this is closing off valuable opportunity to some students. While it allows the university to stand up for its equal opportunity beliefs, it also denies any student, including gays, to be a part of the armed services.

E.J. Dionne Jr., an opinion columnist for the Washington Post, wrote last week that "liberals especially should be worried about the growing divide between the armed forces and many parts of our society. They should acknowledge that if liberals stay out of the military, their chances of influencing the military culture are close to zero."

Students concerned about infringement of privacy rights

Michelle Kessell
U-WIRE (DC BUREAU)

A federal government proposal to create a new comprehensive database of college and university student enrollment records has some students concerned that it may infringe upon their privacy rights.

The Department of Education's proposal seeks to improve government oversight of students' enrollment rates, graduation rates and tuition. This is an effort to raise schools' accountability of federal funds.

If approved, the new program, proposed by the National Center for Education Statistics at the Department of Education, would track every movement of individual college and university students from matriculation to graduation.

Each student would have a computer file containing their name, address, birth date, gender, race and Social Security number. The record would also house information about field of study, credits, tuition paid, financial aid received and would follow the student if he or she transferred schools, or dropped out and later enrolled.

"I don't like the idea of having a file out there with all of my very personal information in it," said freshman Toby Clarke, 18, of Las Vegas, "You never know in an age like today with identity theft and

terrorism where your information may wind up. The government should find another way to hold schools accountable for using their funds and not punish our rights to privacy."

Officials expect Congress to consider the proposal early next year as part of its periodic reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. If approved, the government would have to

amend federal privacy laws which require a student's or parent's permission in releasing school records.

"The idea that students would enter a federal registry by

enrolling in college, and could be tracked for the rest of their lives, is frightening," Tony Pals, the public director of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities said in an email. "The existence of a central database containing massive amounts of data for each of the 16.5 million college students in the United States, including those who do not receive any federal financial aid, is chilling. The proposal begins to

take us down the slippery slope toward Big Brother oversight of college students, and of those same citizens beyond their college years."

Crystal Zahedi, a senior at Northeastern University who transferred from Syracuse University, says while she would not want her personal information out there, it is not an "option" in today's post September 11th society.

The idea that students would enter a federal registry by enrolling in college, and could be tracked for the rest of their lives, is frightening.

— Tony Pals, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

"It's nothing new, there are so many people out there tracking people's personal information," Zahedi says. "Privacy is no longer an option in today's age so if it would ben-

efit to have government files, they might as well do it."

Some students say that this rule should not apply to private institutions, which do not receive as much federal funding as public universities.

"I feel that since I pay a lot of money to go to a private school, it should be my choice to decide whether or not I want the government to have a file on me," said Carlo Fassinotti, a junior at the George Washington University.

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A dialogue on the Second City

Out This Week!

In Theatres:

Ocean's Twelve
Directed by Steven Soderbergh
Starring heart-throb
George Clooney
Rated PG-13

Blade: Trinity
Directed by David S. Goyer
Starring the ominous
Wesley Snipes
Rated R

On DVD

The Bourne Supremacy

Dodgeball

M:
Criterion Collection

King of Kings
Criterion Collection

"24" Season Three

Box Office Tops

National Treasure

Christmas With the Kranks

The Polar Express

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor
Bill Waite
Copy Editor

The following review is in a conversational format between Bill and Jacob:

B: I thought the Second City show had a few good skits, but most of the show was just filler with a bunch of obvious jokes.

J: I found the show to be rather funny. At times, I could not help but to laugh out loud. I enjoyed it as a whole.

B: I guess I enjoyed it too. Even though it wasn't that clever, they managed to make the filler funny by using a lot of dirty jokes and selling them with a lot of energy. They also did a good job of holding their best material to the end, so everyone would walk away happy.

J: Granted, some of their stuff was quite risqué, I found the audience was a bit more racy with their suggestions for the improvisational bits. There were some gems stashed throughout, I thought, like the montage of love songs throughout the ages. The parody of the 80's cross-dressing fad had me in stitches.

B: That's odd, because the montage of love songs was exact-

ly what I hated about the show. Instead of doing an actual parody of 80's cross-dressers, they just sang, "Now I'm going to go dress like a girl." Instead of doing an actual Nirvana parody, they just sang, "I love you so much I'm going to commit suicide, and my records will sell better after I die."

J: While it is true that actions speak louder than words, it is easier to sing a song with a witty remark than it is to act out said remark, poking fun at the performance of the parodied artists with their mode of dress and attitude, while making fun of the artists' lifestyles with their lyrics. I think a parody of Kurt Cobain killing himself finds more humor in the fact that its mere words versus showing him putting a shotgun down his throat.

B: I agree, a song with a WITTY remark would've been perfect, especially if it imitated the distinctive Nirvana sound. The problem was that none of the lyrics were witty, and the parodies were all half-baked crap. A cheap wig and a flannel shirt remind audiences of grunge rock, but with no music or lyrics behind it, the parody goes nowhere.

J: Granted, they did miss the mark in imitation with many of the song bits, but give them a break: they cannot possibly perfectly emulate every major musician within the past 50 years and thus depend on the mode of dress to get the joke all the way

across. Though I did enjoy this bit, the part that got me laughing the hardest were the sketches that lasted only a few moments: a woman emerging from an asylum to meet with doctors who are calmly coaxing her towards them, and when she is close, they both scream at her, sending her running off, scared and quite possibly psychologically scarred. These were quick, and funny, not dragging on, belaboring the punchline (which, I admit, they did do in other sketches).

B: I liked the short skits too. In my favorite, a man picks up a woman in a kilt and holds her in his arms. She puts her thumb in his mouth and he plays Amazing Grace, with her as the bagpipe. There were a number of great ideas out there, but the bulk of the time was spent hammering on tired stereotypes and stringing together a bunch of cheap jokes. When they did a skit about couples therapy, the wife would say one thing, and mean something else; when the man took her literally, the female marriage counselor was horrified. The skit was loaded with stereotypes - the cryptic language, the wife thinking she's too fat - and not a single original joke.

J: That's the problem with most jokes: they're based on tired, old stereotypes. One is left with a choice: laugh at it, or don't laugh at it. Granted, I knew the marriage counselor sketch was

laden with communicational stereotypes, but I managed to find it funny, realizing that it is very true. Stereotypes aside, it did end in a funny, yet unexpected way: a monologue about the gameshow channel implying that she wants to have another baby, when the two are clearly unrelated.

B: True, many great jokes are based on stereotypes - some true, some not. What makes them great is the details: a surprise twist, a funny actor, or just a clever way of saying the same old thing. The Second City skits didn't have any of those details; they told the most obvious jokes in the most obvious ways possible, and the majority of them just weren't funny. Even when they found a unique way to say something, such as with a quirky monologue about GSN, it was no surprise when the husband guessed, "You want another baby," and I didn't laugh.

J: Sketch comedy has been around too long to be considered unique anymore, just new ways of telling old jokes. Thus, they provided both sketch comedy and improvisational comedy. Though the audience had a one-track mind with its suggestions (I must have heard "porn" at least a dozen times), the troupe managed to improvise to the best of their abilities with what they were given. In the end, I found myself craving more.

CD REVIEW: Linkin Park, Jay-Z mix styles

Brandon Harig
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)
12/06/2004

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Jay-Z marked his retirement with the critically lauded "Black Album," but he may be the most active retiree this side of Florida. After re-collaborating with R. Kelly on a disappointing effort aptly titled "Unfinished Business," Jigga also advertised that a second joint project would be released. That album, "Collision Course," is a blend of some of Linkin Park and Jay-Z's most successful tracks into an odd concoction that somehow works.

The album begins with the screaming guitar rock of Linkin Park grating behind the hip-hop rhythms and melodic lyrics of Jay-Z's "Dirt Off Your Shoulder" and LP's "Lying From You." The track is a tight synthesis of both originals, and the result is energetic and original. Produced by Linkin Park's Mike Shinoda, the album hits its stride when the energy of electric rock meets Jay-Z's lyrics -- the predominant theme of the collaboration.

At times, the album comes across as merely Jay-Z's rhymes over a Linkin Park song. "Big Pimpin'/Papercut" is identical to the original "Big Pimpin'" with no variation of the original lyric or chorus, as Jigga reassures everyone that he's a "pimp in every sense of the word." This sort of exactness does not hinder Linkin Park, though, as every track stretches their lyrics onto a format well beyond what they were intended. Songs are sped up and slowed down, each forcing a different delivery from Linkin Park's Chester Benning-

ton and Mike Shinoda -- a challenge they are up for in each event. This includes Shinoda's singing attempt at singing the first verse of "99 Problems." Delivering Jay-Z's lyrics without the trademark Jigga slur, Shinoda manages to make the song his own all. At the same time, Jay displays mastery when he pushes himself, laying down an amazing lyrical delivery during "Jigga What/Faint" as the background delivers a double-time tempo for him to sing against.

Though "Collision Course" is a collaborative effort, it is obvious that Jay-Z is the focus. Linkin Park often fall into a background vocal to Jigga or jump in for the second half of the song, playing second fiddle to one of rap's living legends. This also seems to be the case on the accompanying DVD, which features an MTV performance with all of the tracks from the collaboration. Visually, Bennington and Shinoda seem to fade into the background while Jay-Z takes center stage.

With their seven-track release, Jay-Z and Linkin Park don't seem to take many chances, though it is an experiment all the same. While some songs like "Izzo/In the End" come off as almost boring, the up-tempo tracks from "Collision Course" more than make up for it. Though "Numb/Encore" has been the featured release from the album, there are numerous tracks from the record that can be lauded for their quality. With "Collision Course," Shinoda was able to make an experimental release that featured the best of Jay-Z with a rock accompaniment worthy of a post-retirement release.

Deck the halls with dreck or drollery, Fah lah lah lah lah, lah lah, lah lah

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

You might think that I am a horrible person, some combination of Scrooge and the Grinch, but I simply dislike Christmas movies of late. Sure, back in the good old days (circa 1983 at the latest), Christmas movies had a point. We experienced the life of a family during the trying season, or some mystical creature of Christmas mythology.

However, nowadays, it's become a gimmick. A stupid movie with Christmas thrown in as an afterthought in hopes of raising box office sales. The most recent failed attempt at this quasi-Christmas genre is the ever memorable flick *Surviving Christmas*. This gem came out to theaters back in October (before Halloween). Call me crazy, but are we not supposed to wait until at least Thanksgiving before smearing on the Christmas cheer? The film did make 11 mil-

lion dollars, but I assume that was strongly due to the fact that the film appealed to the teenage crowd, who would go to see the film for its sexual content, language and brief drug references. These recent films are nothing like *A Christmas Story* or *It's a Wonderful Life*.

On the other hand, there are films that would seem genuinely Christmas cheery, such as *Christmas with the Kranks* or *The Polar Express*. I did want to see *Christmas With the Kranks* after reading the John Grisham novel *Skipping Christmas*, but when I saw the goofy slapstick nature added to the film, I had second thoughts. *The Polar Express* seems a light twist on the *Yes Virginia* motif involving Tom Hanks and a mystical train (the movie's namesake). Yes, this one might be worthwhile, and may just win the Academy Award for best animated feature-length film (my vote goes for *The Incredibles*), but I think

that Christmas films have run their time. Maybe when we get a new Christmas paradigm, we can beat that dead horse, but it's been pretty much the same holiday with the same traditions for quite some time.

Maybe we need some other feature-length films regarding the other holidays observed in and around December. Regardless, have some happy holidays, whichever ones you observe.



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If you are interested in helping the campus keep hip with the latest and greatest hits (or misses), drop us a line at entertainment@rose-hulman.edu. As you may have noticed we have not had an on-staff music review for quite some time. Please consider helping us out by speaking up about the musical culture.

Thanks!

Magician, illusionist Eric Vaughn bringing thrilling show to Rose-Hulman on Saturday

Dale Long
Rose-Hulman News

Eric Vaughn doesn't mind being upstaged by a duck.

The young magician and illusionist firmly predicts that his family pet, Sebastian, an eight-year-old Pekin duck, will be the star of Saturday's show at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's Hatfield Hall Theater. The fast-paced and high-energy show, which starts at 7:30 p.m., is part of the college's fine arts series.

Tickets are \$8 for adults; \$5 for senior citizens, non-RHIT students and youths 10 years and younger; and free for all Rose-Hulman students, faculty and staff members. Persons can pick up tickets in the Hatfield Hall Ticket Office from 1-5 p.m. weekdays or reserve tickets by calling (812) 877-8544.

Wanting to be different than most magicians, Vaughn chose to use a duck (instead of a rabbit) as an animal prop for his show. The relationship has lasted throughout most of Vaughn's career as a professional magician.

"As with most family pets, Sebastian runs our household," Vaughn admits. "He is a great traveler. We let him spend time in the hotel bathtub so he can adequately primp for his time in the spotlight."

Vaughn's award-winning act features computer-controlled lighting and energetic music (which should be showcased in full splendor in the Hatfield Hall Theater); modern adaptations of standard illusions, first performed by Harry Houdini and Harry Blackstone, Sr.; a rope escape, by Vaughn's wife, Amanda; and several magical routines that require audience participation.

"An evening of fun is what the audience will experience," Vaughn promises. "I have developed my magic repertoire

to provide me the ability and material to perform in most venues and situations. To make a living in entertainment you have to be able to handle any situation.

"The biggest challenge with today's audience is their attention span. People are used to the fast moving 30-second TV clips. I keep my show moving to keep their interest. The primary focus of my magic is to take people away from their daily grind and stress of their lives . . . I do find that a lot of tricks that entertained and fooled audiences over 100 years ago still play extremely well today. A good magic trick performed in an entertaining way still works, even with today's younger audiences."

Vaughn became fascinated with magic at age 10 when a magician performed at a college in his hometown of McPherson, Kan. He began reading books about magic from the local library, and started performing routines for family, neighbors and school classes. After earning a bachelor's degree in music performance in college, Vaughn became a professional magician, performing in major shows (like Rose-Hulman's Fine Arts Series), company events and private parties throughout the Midwest. He also is a drummer for some of the top jazz, rhythm & blues and blues groups in the Kansas City area.

Vaughn didn't have to look far to find his assistant, Amanda. The couple met in college and has been married for 12 years. She puts her master's degree in business administration to good use by handling the business and marketing side of the company.

More information about Vaughn and his magic/illusions can be found on the Web at www.magicbyericvaughn.com.

Bob is more pretentious than you



The Guy
with the
movie
camera

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-Chief

I had the privilege to see the Ann Arbor Film Fest last week in Hatfield hall. The AAFF highlights some of the so-called best experimental film in the world. I really enjoyed these films but found many flaws that exist in the entire experimental film genre. This article will compare and contrast experimental and traditional narrative filmmaking techniques.

A narrative film is defined as any movie that tells a story. Movies can be short or long, bad or good, comedy or drama; just as long as they tell a story. Hell, some porn can be considered narrative filmmaking. Bad narrative films include *Battlefield Earth*, *Freddy Got Fingered*, and *From Justin to Kelly*. Good narrative films include *The Godfather*, *Airplane*, and *Aladdin*.

Experimental films explore film techniques, and focus on *how* a film is made instead of the story. Many experimental films explore techniques in editing, visuals, or sound. In its purest form, an

experimental film does nothing more than create a mood or bring new techniques to the screen.

What's interesting is that many experimental films try to tell a story, like the documentary *Pilots are Badass!* which was screened at AAFF. As an experimental film that also tells a story, the film must use very non-conventional techniques. *Pilots* followed a man's enlistment through eventual discharge from the US Air Force. The film never showed the main subject being interviewed and most of the images were random shots of AF stuff.

A narrative film that was considered "experimental" when it was initially released may lose its "experimental" soon. Sergei Eisenstein's 1925 antiwar classic *The Battleship Potemkin* contains a lot of montage editing - cutting between unrelated shots to create a mood - and was considered radical upon its initial release. This technique has been picked up by mainstream movies such as *The Godfather* and is now considered standard.

A narrative film can contain many experimental film elements. The P.T. Anderson film *Punch Drunk Love* (starring Adam Sandler) transitions between scenes by showing rotating psychedelic colors. These transitions have nothing to do with the story and are there to bring extra feeling to the story. *Love* contains more narrative elements than experimental, so it

can be classified as narrative.

Some people consider animation to be in category separate from narrative and experimental. I disagree and feel that animation can be either a narrative or experimental film. The same goes for documentary filmmaking. Some documentaries tell a straight forward story, such as *Trekkies*. Others, such as AAFF's *Thunder Perfect Mind* are abstract portraits, and can be classified as experimental.

Experimental films as a genre are usually too "difficult" for mainstream audiences. Because these films don't tell a straightforward story, many people are confused about what they should "get" from the film. In a society that is focused on making things easier and more formulaic, experimental films cannot usually find a widespread audience. As seen in *Potemkin*, many experimental techniques will find their ways into traditional films, so there is value for a normal audience to view them.

Traditional narrative films will always be my poison of choice, but I dig a wacky experimental film every once in awhile. Though I usually walk away frustrated by the lack of "meaning" in an experimental film, I also walk away with new ideas to tell my stories in a more interesting fashion. If you love film, you need to at least appreciate the explorative nature of experimental film.



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Campaign finance hurts free speech



At least
I have
opinions

John Kropf
Opinions Editor

The McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform is a disgrace to the United States. It saddens me to know that the United States Congress – an organization charged with supporting and upholding the constitution of the United States – has decided to limit the rights of the public in such a way.

The goal of McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform was to limit the amount of money spent on campaigns and limit the sources from which politicians could receive contributions. Soft money – donations from unions, corporations, and other wealthy groups or individuals to political parties, not individual candidates – was demonized as a major source of corruption in the political finance process. So the law banned parties from accepting so-called soft money contributions. McCain-Feingold also imposed restrictions on political advertising, such as when political advertisements could be run, what they could contain, and who was allowed to run them.

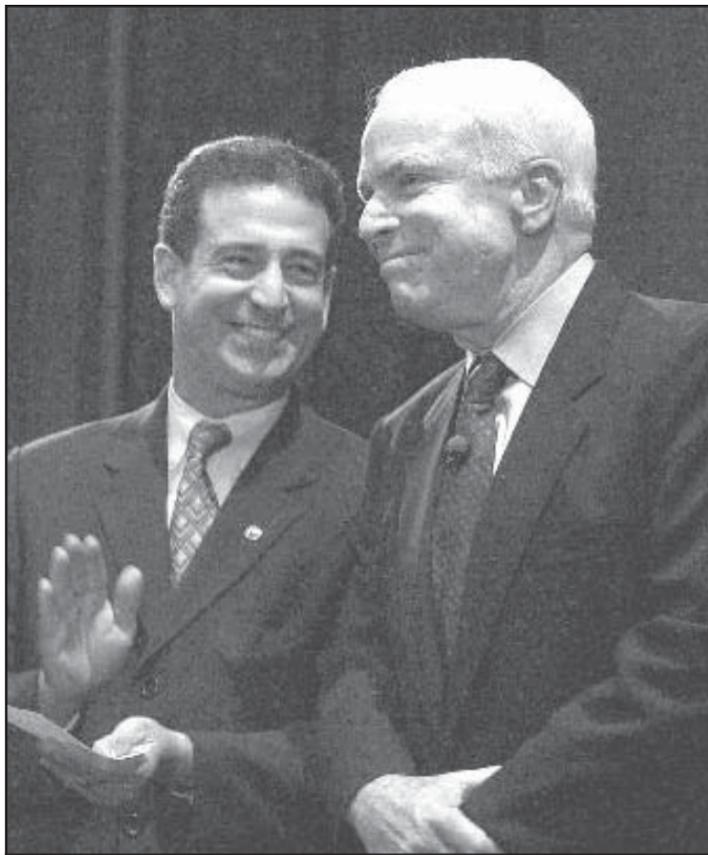
Critics of the law feared that it would cause major problems for the American political system. First, they thought the law would

starve political parties for cash, especially third parties that can use all the money they can get. Also, they feared that the space left in the political arena by underfunded parties would be filled by special interest groups that were unaccountable to the voters. Most importantly, critics feared that the new law would severely impact citizens' freedoms of speech when discussing politics.

Since the passage of the law, the political landscape has changed. In some ways, the law has proved critics to be a bit short-sighted. The big two parties have found other sources of revenue, though third parties are now having a harder time finding money to broadcast their messages. Unaccountable special interest groups such as MoveOn.org, or the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, raised hundreds of millions of dollars, which they used to supplement the messages of the parties they were campaigning for, instead of replacing them in the political advertising arena.

Critics of the law were vindicated, however, on the free speech issue. The law prohibited the mention of the name of a candidate in any ad run by corporations, labor-unions, or certain interest groups 60 days before an election. This basically means that a corporation or labor union wanting to run an ad about a candidate is not legally allowed to mention the name of the candidate if it will run within 60 days of the election. This provision is an infringement of every American's right to free speech.

Supporters of the law argue that



<http://graphics.jsonline.com>
U.S. Senators John McCain and Russ Feingold have been on a mission to limit the sources from which politicians can receive contributions.

the law doesn't prohibit independent groups from discussing candidates in public forums, as long as the discussion occurs 60 days or more prior to the election. While that is true, arguing in support of an unconstitutional idea, because it only infringes on constitutional rights some of the time does not change the fact that it still infringes on constitutional rights.

Even so, I believe that McCain-Feingold is either poorly conceived, or a calculated plan to keep challengers from replacing incumbents in office. Either way, the law is an impediment to the political process, and a violation of the right to free speech. The soft money ban takes money out of the hands of the third parties that need it most.

Letter to the editor

As one of those people who requested Wednesday's Open Forum on student information access, I appreciate those of you that attended. I was encouraged by the fact that by the end of the meeting, everyone has a better idea of the issues involved, and that the tension in the room seemed to have decreased somewhat.)

I would now like to put the information access issue aside and focus on trust. An opinion that I have formed due to this whole process is that the overall level of trust of one another at the Institute has been reduced due to the information access discussion.

However, I did see some hope during and after the meeting - hope that by the end of the meeting, on the whole the participants (myself included) now trust each other more than when the meeting started. I hope that those who attended the meeting can help spread the word and see if at the very least we can restore the level of trust at the Institute to where it was before all this started. To me, that's far more important than the information access issue.

Donald Bagert
Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering

Transcript survey commentary

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-chief

Like many of you, I was surprised to receive an e-mail last Tuesday requesting me to fill out a privacy poll pertaining to faculty access of academic transcripts. I was disconcerted because the issue of electronic access is a very large one and I was being asked to make a decision with little information. The next time the administration would like to include students in an important decision, it should give us more information before asking us to make a choice.

The survey was accessible via Banner Web between Tuesday, November 30 and Tuesday, December 07. An open forum on the matter was held on Wednesday to involve students in the discussion. It seems to me that this process was done backwards. Shouldn't we have been able to discuss the issue before voting? I sure would have liked to know about the issues before casting my vote.

And then came an all-student e-mail from CSSE professor David Mutchler on Tuesday, December 07. He said the open forum was not actually to discuss academic transcripts, but to discuss the extent to which students and faculty should have a say in issues involving electronic access. So wait a minute. Let me get this straight. The purpose of the forum was for students to petition our uninformed vote

should be counted?

Dr. Western, who sent out the original survey e-mail, clarified that the open forum held on Wednesday, December 8 was to help him make a decision. He will ultimately make the decision on whether to open transcripts to all faculty or not. He said on Wednesday that he hoped to be able to make a decision by Tuesday's Institute Meeting. I was glad to see such an active conversation on Wednesday but believe it would have been even better if the campus had more background information before voting.

I appreciate that students' time was considered and the survey was kept to one short question. For the next survey, if a document discussing an issue was attached to the survey request e-mail, we would be much more informed. Another idea is sending out an information e-mail before the survey e-mail is sent out.

The lesson to be learned here is that students need more information before being asked to voice their opinion. Democracy is a wonderful system when the voters have the knowledge necessary to make an informed choice. I applaud the administration for involving students and faculty in a big decision such as this and hope they continue to do so. Only next time, please let us know what we are really talking about before you ask for our opinion.

Letter to the editor

As an author and literary artist, I have come to cherish the value of complete control over the pieces I write. This combined with the publishing power of the internet have enabled me to express myself with my pen (or laptop as it were) with a freedom that can be described as an independent artists dream. I have also been able to get myself published in more formal mediums such as the Rose Thorn and Ink. Newspapers and similar regulated publishing mediums can provide a great deal of accessibility and credibility to a writer, with the small catch of leveraging the medium the ability to censor and edit a piece.

This system is not an inherently bad one. With editors who have a defined goal of serving their authors and readers, a paper can be an exciting venue where a writer can express himself with little fear of having their piece edited in a way they would deem inappropriate. After my experiences with this system [week of October 29, 2004] however, I question its integrity and ability to effectively serve myself and my readers.

The goal of any effective publishing medium should be to create an organized and self-sustaining venue for free speech, which is cultivated through an empowered read-

ership and authorship. This should be especially true of mediums that aim to provide a home for literary artists as well as an opinions forum. Giving editors too much power over what actually gets printed without proper checks and balances from the authors, results in a dictatorial media censored and semantically edited to suit the selfish needs of the editor.

Maybe at this point you are wondering why this particular writer is so fired up about creative control over his article. In all I spent over 8 hours crafting the article that was published in the Thorn last week ("DeMOCKracy"). From initial draft to final edit, it was quite a lengthy process; one in which I took a great deal of pride in doing with the result of a very mature piece for release to the public. The last thing as a dedicated author that I needed to mature my piece was someone taking the additional time I had spent editing and deem it not worthy to print.

At some point an editor has to say, "Ok, this is your piece..." and claim that they deem it printable or not suited for the medium. It is not the editor's job to make the final cut based on their opinion of what works better semantically, but rather to be an editing resource and mediator for encouraging or

denying an article to be printed. In this sense, I believe that if we are to achieve any acceptable level of free speech in the media, the power needs to be given to the artist's themselves. Moreover the medium needs to be edited by a force dedicated to being an incubator of free thought, and not act as a corporate parental unit. It boggles me that even in a small academic community we have an entity acting as a self-interested medium, instead of one that serves those of us who do our best to be an intelligent voice to others.

The piece I intended to print (take it or leave it) can be found at (<http://www.rosehulman.edu/~javellbj/media/docs/articles/DeMOCKracy.pdf>). On a similar note... if you are looking for a free and uncontrolled venue to publish your own artistic material, I have a section on my personal site (brandonjavella.com) called "Learning to Share." Go to my page and click on the share link. I plan to host artistic works done by people who would otherwise go completely unpublished. I aim to host and maintain that section as long as I can ... without any non-artist-approved editing, of course.

Brandon Javella
Class of 2006
Software Engineering

Rose Sports Rundown

Last week's sports scores

Men's Basketball (4-3, 1-0 SCAC)

Dec. 4

Rose-Hulman 55
vs. Hanover 67

Dec. 9

Rose-Hulman 69
vs. Depauw 60

Women's Basketball (5-3, 0-1 SCAC)

Dec. 7

Rose-Hulman 78
vs. St. Mary 65

Dec. 9

Rose-Hulman 53
vs. Depauw 81

Swimming

Dec. 3-4

Rose-Hulman
at Depauw Invitational
Men -- 5th of 10 teams
Women -- 6th of 9 teams

Teams in bold denote winners.

Jessica Gross and Neil Harrison Honored

Andrew Twarek
Staff Writer

Earning spots on the list of top student athletes in the nation is difficult to say the least. The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) have named Jessica Gross and Neil Harrison to an ESPN The Magazine Academic All-America College Division Second Team for their accomplishments in the fall sports season and their hard work in the classroom.

Gross is an electrical engineering major on the women's soccer team. She was one of two seniors on the 2004 squad, and has started in more matches than any player to wear a Rose-Hulman jersey. In fact, she did not miss a start in the 75 matches held over the last four years. Her career totals include three goals and eight assists for 14 points as a midfielder.

In the classroom, Gross maintains a 3.95 GPA. She is an officer of the campus Tau Beta Pi chapter and is a member of the Delta Delta Delta fraternity and Circle K service organization. Her experiences on the soccer field have helped her develop skills for the classroom and extracurricular activities as well.

"Athletics has taught me how hard work can get you where you want to go. Team leadership has shown me the power of leading by example," Gross said. Soccer is more than just a serious sport, though "I really enjoyed getting to work with girls so dedicated to soc-

cer who were also very fun to hang out with," she added.

Head coach Brad Hauter is proud of Gross' success. The Academic All-American award is based on campus involvement and academic success as much as it is athletic prowess. Hauter pointed out that "Jessica has led by example in the classroom and on the field. However, she has shown great leadership abilities in speaking up when she recognizes the need. This has led her to be selected as a leader with our team and also within the other organizations she is involved in."

Gross receives the honor with modesty, stating, "I think it is great that the award gives such recognition and honor to the student athletes who have worked so hard on and off the field."

Harrison is a football player and is a mechanical engineering major. He finished his senior year this season with 65 tackles, good for third on the team. Harrison added three interceptions, three pass deflections, and a pair of forced fumbles to his collection of statistics as a defensive back. In his three-year career, he totaled 166 tackles and five interceptions.

Away from the gridiron, Harrison holds a 3.90 GPA and is a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. He was on the basketball and baseball teams in high school, but found his place on the Engineer football squad.

"For a guy who did not play high

school football and for him to develop so fast says volumes about Neil's desire to excel and succeed at any endeavor he pursues," head coach Ted Karras said. He added, "Neil leads by example both on the field and in the classroom. He is a well-rounded individual—balancing community service (Bikes for Tykes, etc.), fraternity, football, and academics in outstanding fashion."

The award is meaningful to Harrison, but he, too, takes a more modest stance. He thinks that, "it is a nice award because student athletes devote countless hours to their sports and their studies, and I don't think people who haven't gone through that experience fully grasp how difficult it really is. So it's nice for me personally to get that recognition, but I feel that student athletes as a whole need to be given more credit as well."

Much credit has been given to Rose-Hulman student athletes through the years. The last two awards are part of a long history of Engineer success on the field and in the classroom. Sports Information Director Kevin Lanke summed things up "The tradition of the Academic All-America program began in 1978, and Rose-Hulman has earned 61 awards in the past 26 years. The remarkable statistic is that we have had at least one honoree for 19 consecutive years. That would be impossible without a campus filled with faculty and students who are at the very top of their fields."

Upcoming athletic events

Men's Basketball

Saturday, Dec. 11

Rose-Hulman vs. Anderson
7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 15

Rose-Hulman at Wilmington
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Saturday, Dec. 11

Rose-Hulman vs. Mount St. Joseph
2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17

Rose-Hulman vs. Calumet St. Joseph
7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19

Rose-Hulman vs. Marian College
2 p.m.

Games in bold denote home games

Rose-Hulman earns Clabber Girl Trophy for first time with win over St. Mary-of-the-Woods

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology rewrote its women's basketball history book with its first-ever win over crosstown rival St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, earning a 78-65 victory at the Sports and Recreation Center on Tuesday.

Sophomore Rebekah Forsyth (Farmersburg/ North Central) led the Engineers with a career-high 26 points and a season-best 16 rebounds. Freshman Jill Floyd (Bloomington, Ill./Olympia) added 21 points, including 19 in the second half.

With the victory, Rose-Hulman obtains the Clabber Girl Trophy for the first time. The trophy, courtesy of Terre Haute's Hulman and Company, has been presented annually to the winner of the crosstown women's basketball matchup since 1995.

The Engineers also continued their best start to a season in school history with a 5-2 record, and head coach Tony Hill earned a women's basketball school record 16th career coaching win at Rose-Hulman.

"We've weren't really aware that there was a trophy in this game, because we've never won it before. We've still got a long way to go. We've got another big game on Thursday (at DePauw) and



The Rose-Hulman women's basketball team had their first-ever win over St. Mary last Tuesday night at the Hulbert Arena.

we're going to have to be ready to go from the opening tip," said Hill.

Other key contributors for Rose-Hulman included sophomore Suzy Carlson (State College, Pa.) with a well-rounded line-score of 16 points, eight assists, seven rebounds, four steals and two blocked shots. Junior Karyn Kost (Avon) added eight points, six rebounds and three assists,

and buried a pair of key second-half three-pointers. Junior Anna Guy (Martinsville) added 10 rebounds and scored four points in the paint.

Junior Andrea Smith led St. Mary-of-the-Woods with 20 points, including five three-point field goals. Juniors Jamie Elpers and Darci Rector pitched in with 15 points each, with Rector adding nine rebounds, seven assists

and five steals. Freshman Kylee Wood rounded out the Pomeroy's in double figures with 11 points.

The game was a tale of two halves. Both teams struggled offensively for the first several minutes, with the Engineers leading 24-22 at halftime. St. Mary-of-the-Woods shot 30% from the field and held Rose-Hulman to just 21%, but the Engineers remained close by hitting 8-13 free

throws and outrebounding the Pomeroy's 29-21.

In the second half, the offenses took over. Rose-Hulman finished 59% from the field in the second stanza, 60% from three-point range (6-10) and hit 14-16 free-throw attempts. St. Mary-of-the-Woods, meanwhile, finished 44% from the field and buried six of its seven three-point attempts, highlighted by a 5-5 effort from Smith.

The Pomeroy's relied on a 14-3 frenzy of scoring over three minutes to take a 49-41 lead with 11:37 remaining on a pair of free throws by Wood. The advantage was short-lived, however, as Rose-Hulman rattled off 10 consecutive points to take a 51-49 lead at the 9:53 mark. Floyd buried a pair of three-pointers and a field goal in the paint, while Carlson added a layup.

Another three-pointer by Floyd snapped a 51-51 tie and put Rose-Hulman ahead for good with 9:06 remaining. The lead grew to nine points at 62-53, with two more Floyd trifectas and a four straight points from Forsyth making the impact. The Pomeroy's were able to close within six points on a pair of occasions, but Rose-Hulman buried nine consecutive free throws down the stretch to seal the victory.

FLIP SIDE



Godin's Herbig's Pun of the Week
I don't know what circuits are open; I'm not up on current events.

The Germ and I Alexander J. Clerc

Unfortunately, the plethora of pathogens I spoke of last week is still thriving inside of me. And like I said, when you're sick, it's your prerogative to do whatever the hell you want, and now I want to whine and moan about being sick. Enjoy.

I've tried everything to rid myself of this grievous malady. I tried drugs. I tried getting extra sleep. I tried asking the germs nicely to please move out (I even offered to help them move into my roommate). I tried listening to Celine Dion all day to drive the germs away. I tried drinking lots of fluids to drown the germs. I tried drinking absolutely no fluids to make the germs really dry. But nothing worked.

I was at the end of my wits. I couldn't discern a way to get the germs out; their ways were so mysterious to me. I had to find out what makes these germs tick. So to do just that, I invited a germ to sit down with me for an interview (ala Barbara Walters) so I could really get to know him. Here's some of our conversation:

Me: So what kind of germ are you?

Germ: I am a streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria. However, a more accurate answer is that I am a Sudafed-induced hallucination.

Me: Mr. Germ, how did you get inside me?

Germ: I was living on your electric nose-hair trimmer. I got on there when your roommate accidentally used it to floss.

Me: How do you keep evading my immune system?

Germ: Actually, your immune system and I are friends. We collaborate: he lets me live and I make you sick so you'll take more drugs. It's all part of a conspiracy your immune system created to feed its ravenous addiction to NyQuil.

Me: How's your love life? Any steamy secrets?

Germ: Germs reproduce through mitosis, you moron.

Me: I think I'm learning a lot...

Needless to say, I didn't learn anything.

Top Ten Reasons Professors Want Our Transcripts

10. They need them to figure out who won last quarter's pass/fail pool
 9. Because there are only so many times you can read this month's issue of "Structural and Multidisciplinary Optimization"
 8. Their scrapbooks
 7. There is nothing they like better than to hang out and talk about that awesome time they all gave you an "F"
 6. Other professors make fun of them over it
 5. Transcripts make really cool wallpaper
 4. It's necessary to protect America from the terrorists
 3. The transcripts are part of Hertz's crazed ransom demands
 2. They look a lot busier when Midgley rolls around if they have a mountain of transcripts on their desks
 1. Many professors still cling to the ancient belief that by owning a student's transcripts, you own their soul.
- Aaron Meles

Wacky Prof Quotes

"I told my fiance I was going to start class by yelling, 'Penis! Penis! Penis!'"

--Prof. Dee, on how to get started on reproduction

"I have to go on a fat man's lament on British bacon...I'll be back in a minute."

--Prof. Casey, longing for better bacon

"To be honest, I don't care if it's done right or well."

--Prof. Martensen, on the importance of correctness

"This is so important, I'm going to draw a leprechaun... with a pirate patch."

--Prof. Chambers, on teaching methods

"I'm not a felon, but boy, it was close."

--Prof. Smith, on brushes with the law

"Now, crying is okay, but I don't want to go down in the records as having made a student bleed during an exam!"

--Prof. Sutterer, after a student's stress-induced nosebleed

"If you're Amish, we'll go ahead and solve this with a picture."

--Prof. Chambers, respecting other cultures

"Why? Because PepsiCo is sponsoring CSSE333."

--Prof. Azhar, on Sodabases

"It's the kind of thing an academician thinks up and says, 'Ha ha, we're gonna screw the students today!'"

--Prof. Eccles, on difficult problems

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