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Rose Thorn Staff

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News Briefs

By Lissa Avery

Residence hall holiday decoration contest

The first place winner of the residence hall holiday decoration contest was BSB 1. The second place winner was the Apartment West 1, and the third place winner was BSB 3.

Google wins suit against Geico

Wednesday, the judge ruling over the May lawsuit Geico filed against Google dismissed the case following Google's motion to do so.

The issue at hand was the use of a trademark – namely, “Geico” – in keyword-triggered ads sponsored by Google. According to Judge Leonie Brinkema, this is not a trademark infringement by law.

MPAA filing lawsuits against BitTorrent supporters

The Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), with United States and United Kingdom law enforcement agencies, are working to shut down websites that have BitTorrent links and files. The MPAA has filed over 100 civil suits against web masters that support BitTorrent, Direct Connect, and eDonkey servers.

U.S. missile defense system test failed

In a test of a fledgling missile system, an interceptor missile failed to launch appropriately from the Marshall Islands. The reason for the failure is unknown, but the development and testing of the system has undergone several setbacks due to poor weather or equipment failure.

The missile in question was due to launch sixteen minutes after the “enemy” missile launched, and to intercept the “enemy” warhead 100 miles over the earth.

Thursday
Partly Cloudy 43 Hi / 26 Lo
Friday
Partly Cloudy 35 Hi / 24 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

Midgley opens forums for community discussion of future

Angela Smiley
Staff Writer

Tuesday, December 14, John Midgley unveiled a new initiative aimed at engaging all sectors of the Rose community in a dialogue about its future. The initiative, titled “Rose-Hulman 2015: A Conversation About Our Future”, has been in planning since Fall Quarter, and will be the most ambitious step to date in Midgley's effort to spark campus dialogue.

Previously, Midgley has maintained an open-door policy, encouraging all students and faculty to visit and speak with him when motivated by an issue of special concern, but “Rose-Hulman 2015” marks the first systematic attempt to involve the campus on a mass scale.

“Rose-Hulman 2015” will focus on four major themes that hold special importance for Rose.

The first of these is the future of Rose-Hulman's academic programs: what are the critical elements of the Rose educational experience, and how will these evolve in the



<http://rose-hulman.edu/conversation/index.htm>

With “Rose-Hulman 2015”, Midgley hopes to foster a community-wide conversation about the direction that alumni, trustees, students, and faculty and staff members believe the campus should be moving towards in 2015.

next ten years?

Also to be considered is the future student body: who will the best students be in 2015, and what will we do to attract them?

In addition, campus life must develop to suit our goals: how can the campus provide an environment conducive to the academic excellence we wish to cultivate?

The fourth major theme for discussion is Rose-Hulman's global role: with whom will our institution interact, and in what way?

Discussion will take place through multiple forums - the administration has established a variety of communication channels especially for “Rose-Hulman 2015.” Written responses may be mailed to CM 14, faxed to 1-800-513-0096 or e-mailed to conversation@rose-hulman.edu; voice responses may left via voice-mail at 1-800-282-0598.

The more interactive aspects of the project will take place through electronic media; one of the centerpieces of the ini-

tiative is the online discussion forum that will perhaps most closely resemble the “conversation” of the initiative's name. Comments received in all these ways will be summarized on a regular basis, as well as in a final report to be made next May.

More information on the initiative, as well as automated feedback forms and the complete elaboration of the main themes, is available on the Institute website at <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/conversation/index.htm>.

Rose-Hulman sends College Bowl to regionals

Bridget Mayer
Staff Writer

Fifty Rose-Hulman students took breaks from their studies last week to be quizzed on topics they had not studied for—showing off their knowledge in the campus-level College Bowl competition. Beginning December 7 and ending with a championship round last Friday, December 10, the teams competed in a double-elimination tournament for the top spot. Students signed up for the competition through the Office of Student Affairs; the event was sponsored by Donna Gustafson and organized by Graduate Assistant Aaron Baldauff.

This year's winning team, the Blue Barracudas, included students Angela Smiley, Elizabeth White, Chris Ebsch, John Beety, and their alternate Aaron Dubin. These students will



Matt Durham / Staff Photographer

Christopher Ebsch, John Beety, and Elizabeth White, along with Angela Smiley and Aaron Dubin (not pictured) of the Blue Barracudas are slated to continue to the regional-level College Bowl competition in February.

advance to the Regional Competition in February at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; this event is held

as a round-robin tournament. Last year's team (of which Beety was a participant) won the Regional Competition

and advanced to the Nationals Competition.

Continued on Page 3...

News More on our College Bowl teams. Page 3	Entertainment Closer + Blade = -\$16 Pages 4 & 5	Opinions Why I didn't vote for Senator Kerry. Page 6	Sports Sports teams prepare for winter break. Page 7	Flipside All it takes is a monkey and a stool. Happy Holidays. Page 8
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Upcoming events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	December 17 * Last day of classes	18 * Start of Winter Break
Winter break						
26	27	28	29	30	31	January 1
Winter break						



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Female Algebra 2 Tutor

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Help.

Write, edit, or assist with page layout for the Thorn.

E-mail
thorn@rose-hulman.edu
for more information.

A favorite hangout for prostitutes in 17th century London was St. John's Park. Even though the gates were locked at 10 pm, 6,500 people had authorized keys (many unauthorized keys were also in circulation). At the time, London had about 50,000 prostitutes. Hmmm.. Parks in Terre Haute are 'closed' after dusk, I wonder what really goes on in there? This advertisement paid for by the Theta Xi Pledges.

The Rose Thorn

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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.



Matt Durham / Staff Photographer

Team Speed – composed of Tommy Roberts, Steve Schiavoni, Kyle Auble, and Zach Goff – was the runner-up in the Rose-Hulman College Bowl championship on Friday.

College Bowl, from Page 1

Rose-Hulman's team will be competing against teams from Purdue, Valparaiso, IU-Bloomington, and other Midwestern universities. In the event the winning team is unable to attend the competition in February, the runners-up, Team Speed, will attend in their place.

Teams are made of four members and one alternate, with no more than one graduate student on a team. Each round consists of two seven minute halves and a four minute break in between. A moderator asks a toss-up question to both teams, and the team with the correct answer is allowed

to answer the next question, a bonus question worth between twenty and thirty points. Toss-up questions are worth ten points. The team with the most points at the end of the meet advances to play the next team. Since the number of teams this year (ten) was small compared to years past, the event was organized in double elimination form so that each team played twice; previously it had been single elimination only. John Robson, librarian, and Professors Luegenbiehl and Carville of the Humanities Department served as moderators.

Although the questions had little to do with engineering

most participants were knowledgeable enough in the social sciences to give an answer.

"The questions are drawn from all subjects, but with an emphasis on the social sciences and humanities—too little science, math, and technology, unfortunately," said Robson, one of the mediators. "I am always pleased with how well read and broadly educated our students are. Someone on each team knows a bit of ancient history, Asian geography, or the president of Mexico, as examples," he continued, adding that the most challenging area for students is contemporary

literature and performing arts. One practice question, for example, asked which "NFL star and Rhoades scholar served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1962 to 1993. (Byron White);" another asked which bestselling hardcover children's book was written by little known author Janette Sebring Lowrey; the book, very popular among young children, is *The Pokey Little Puppy*. Those who participated commented on the excitement of the tournament: "We had a lot of pretty tight matches, and a few blow-outs as well," noted Baldauff.

Due to the broad range of question topics, most students do not prepare for College Bowl competitions; Baldauff commented, "Most teams don't do much to prepare for our campus tournament... I think that most of the teams that compete do it for fun and a bit of a diversion from homework and daily life here." He added that sample questions are available to students, and some teams requested them. For the Regional meet, however, some may flip through reference books or review the latest issues of news magazines.

College Bowl, "the varsity sport of the mind", is organized on a national level by the College Bowl Company. More information on the program can be found at the company's website, www.collegebowl.com.

Ulcers afflict everyone

Naseem Sowti

Central Florida Future (U. Central Florida)

Victor Yushchenko, Ukraine's opposition leader, was afflicted with something mysterious that had stumped all the doctors.

Among his many symptoms is terrible abdominal pain. A series of tests eventually revealed that his digestive tract is dotted with ulcers from top to bottom.

Yushchenko's ulcers probably have a source unlike any other, but ulcers are not uncommon.

A minuscule spiral-shaped bacterium, named *Helicobacter pylori*, *H. pylori* for short, is the one doing destructive work in the digestive system.

Although many become infected with *H. pylori*, not everyone develops ulcers and researchers aren't certain why.

"By age 20, half the people have antibodies to *H. pylori* in their system," Deichen said, but only a small portion of this group develops ulcers.

They usually occur in the inner lining of the stomach or the upper portion of the intestine. Scientists have adopted the term "peptic" ulcers for wounds occurring in such places.

Ulcer sufferers may experience stomach pain that is initially relieved by eating, but is worse afterward or gets worse just before meals.

Other symptoms are nausea with eating and pain that is localized in the top of the abdomen.

"Black, tarry stool is a sign of ulcer bleeding, and it's very recognizable," Deichen said.

Physicians can detect ulcers through several methods, including blood tests, breath tests, endoscopy, X-rays or MRIs, depending on the patient's status.

And the therapy is rather simple: "Antibiotics and acid suppressors are common treatments and within two weeks most people are cured," Deichen said.

Although previously people were told to avoid acidic foods, eat a bland diet and drink milk, today's research indicates that there is little indication that any particular diet is helpful for ulcer patients.

Some patients, however, are advised to avoid caffeinated beverages such as coffee, or spicy food, because those foods can upset their stomachs.

Heavy drinkers are also at a greater risk of ulceration and bleeding.

"Stress can aggravate the symptoms [of ulcers], but it's not the cause of ulceration," Deichen said.

Antibiotic treatments are helping eradicate ulcers and are greatly reducing the chances of its recurrence.

Internships at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center increase research opportunities for students

Rose-Hulman News

A partnership with one of the nation's leading pediatric research institutions is giving Rose-Hulman students majoring in applied biology, biomedical engineering and chemical engineering an opportunity to help develop genetically-engineered cells and conduct revolutionary stem cell research that could someday save the lives of thousands of infants each year.

The undergraduate summer research program at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center provides an environment in which students can develop research laboratory skills, alongside highly qualified researchers, while being involved in projects related to many aspects of genetic cellular engineering.

These educational experiences have been so rewarding -- for Rose-Hulman students and CCHMC researchers -- that the program has grown from three to eight interns in its first two years. And, the hospital hopes to continue the program next year.

"The experience thus far has been phenomenal," assessed Dr. David Williams, director of the medical center's Division of Experimental Hematology and Associate Chariman for Translational Research. "We continue to be impressed with the quality of Rose-Hulman students. They have excellent work ethic and intellect, demonstrating curiosity about all aspects of our research."

Brandi Williams, a senior applied biology student, spent this past summer helping to develop procedures that correct bone marrow cells. This could become a vital component in the gene



Rose-Hulman News

Unlocking Leukemia's Mysteries: Joshua Olah, a junior biomedical engineering student, assisted in research at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center that examined the role of a new mutation in genes during leukemia development.

therapy approach for restoring the immune system of children born with a severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), which can cause serious infections within the first months of life.

Meanwhile, junior biomedical engineering student Joshua Olah contributed to research that is examining the role of a new mutation in genes during leukemia development. And, junior chemical engineering major James Voll mas-

tered the principal of DNA cloning to produce small interference genes, which could play a key role in developing future treatments of blood diseases and cancer.

"You can study the course of discovery all your life and never truly appreciate the journey until you walk the path yourself," stated Stefani Vande Lune, a junior applied biology major. "I have read hundreds of pages in textbooks about discoveries and research

techniques, but this summer all of those readings came alive and were applicable for the first time... This research opportunity has inspired me to gear my last two years at Rose-Hulman toward research-oriented opportunities."

Anna Guy, a junior biomedical engineering student, returned for her second summer internship with researcher James Mulloy. She constructed viral vectors that will be used in projects to knock down the expression of a gene in human stem cell cultures.

Other students participating in the internship program were biomedical engineering graduate student Christopher Meyer (Chem. Eng., '04) and junior biomedical engineering student Stefanie Powers. Through CCHMC, junior applied biology major Derek Trobaugh participated in the Physician Scientist Training Program Summer Program last summer at the University of Cincinnati Medical School after spending 2003 in Dr. Williams' lab investigating the structural and functional interactions of two critical proteins. Senior chemical engineering student Crystal Landreth spent the summer of 2003 at the medical research center, which has over 200 clinical and post-doctoral fellows in its laboratories.

Each student presented an oral summary report on their project before division staff -- further enhancing the educational experience.

A brief review the students' internship experiences, including their presentations, are available on the Web: www.cincinnatichildrens.org/research/div/exp-hematology/education/rhit-intern.html.

Interested in redesigning and maintaining the Rose Thorn website?

Contact thorn@rose-hulman.edu for more information.

Out This Week

On the Big ol' Silver Screen

*Lemony Snicket's
A Series of Unfortunate Events*
Directed by Brad Silberling
Starring Jim Carrey
Rated PG

Spanglish
Directed by James L. Brooks
Starring Adam Sandler
Rated PG-13

Flight of the Phoenix
Directed by John Moore
Starring Dennis Quaid
Rated PG-13

A Very Long Engagement
Directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Starring Audrey Tautou
Rated R

On the Little ol' Screen at Home

*The Lord of the Rings:
The Return of the King*
Platinum Series

*The Princess Diaries 2:
Royal Engagement*

Top Gun
Collector's Edition

Mary Poppins
40th Anniversary Edition

Closer is far from good

Bill Waite
Copy Editor

Before I saw *Closer*, I didn't know quite what to expect. The trailer portrayed it as a romance, the MPAA ratings treated it as an erotic drama, and the Showplace 12 Theater billed it as an art film. It turned out to be none of the above; *Closer* is an implausible melodrama void of romance, passion, and artistic merit. Awkward pacing and rambling conversations make the 2-hour movie seem to drag on much longer.

Closer is an adaptation of Patrick Marber's play by the same name, about two couples who repeatedly cheat on each other, break up and get back together over the course of several years. It's not really about what they do, but what they say; none of the action happens on screen, and the movie is dominated by dialogue and character reactions. Marber even relies on dialogue to clumsily introduce key characters and plot points. When Dan (Jude Law) and Alice (Natalie Portman) first meet, we have to sit through ten minutes of small talk to learn their back stories. This dependence on dialogue is a necessary evil on stage, but in *Closer* it is

very disconcerting, with important information constantly popping up out of left field. When every other scene opens with, "I've fallen madly in love with you," or "I've been cheating on you for a year," it gets old fast.

These surprises seem designed to put viewers on an emotional roller coaster, but choppy pacing and absurd situations make it difficult to feel anything. When Dan pulls an obvious prank in an internet chat room – posing as "Anna," an insatiable big-breasted blonde – Larry (Clive Owen) doesn't suspect a thing. When Larry goes to meet "Anna," the real Anna (Julia Roberts) happens to be there. All we see is a chance meeting, but in the next scene, a little dialogue tells us that four months have passed, Anna and Larry have fallen in love, and they're about to get married. When Anna wants a divorce, Larry offers to sign the papers if she lets him treat her like a whore one last time. Anna goes along with it, but the sex is so good she decides that she doesn't want a divorce after all. With characters doing things no rational person would do, with no apparent motivation, it becomes impossible to identify with them



imdb.com

and impossible to feel for them.

Marber seems to take it for granted that viewers will be moved, and does nothing to develop characters or provide a background for their feelings. When Dan and Anna first meet, nothing seems to happen – they make small talk, give exposition, and toss around some obviously scripted "banter" – until they start kissing out of the blue. Even when they're kissing, there is no spark; Law and Roberts show that it's a passionate kiss by closing their eyes and breathing heavily, but they ignore each other. After they've spoken for half an hour and kissed once, Dan tells Anna, "I've fallen in

love with you. I have to see you again." Each character ends up saying "I love you" several times per scene, as a gimmick to show emotions the actors couldn't portray.

In short, *Closer* is nothing but two hours of conversation, and most of the time we don't believe what the characters are saying. The few things that do happen are laughably implausible, the characters are given intense feelings for no reason, and Roberts and Law phone in their performances. Nothing is authentic, and nothing seems to matter. In the end, the couples either break up or stay together, and you won't care which.

Stefani's solo album is all-around goodness

Brian Palmer

The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh)
12/15/2004

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH - It's rare that an album comes along that makes you feel good all over. From head to toe, just flat out feel good for a little less than an hour. Then you play it again, and it still gives you that same feeling. Two days later, that same album spins, and you're not even sick of it; you actually want more.

That's sort of what Gwen Stefani's debut solo effort does.

"Love. Angel. Music. Baby." is the type of album that brings out the inner roller-disco queen in all of us. The beats and lyrics make you want to strap on those old-school roller skates, pull up your knee highs, and glide across the rink all night long.

You know that inner queen who gets all giddy over sleepovers, ice cream and Cyndi Lauper. Stefani has a bit of Lauper flavor in one of the best tracks on the album, "Hollaback

Girl." With a stomp-clap-stomp-stomp-clap beat constantly moving the song forward, Stefani uses a call-and-response bridge where she sings: "Let me hear you say, the s--t is bananas, b-a-n-a-n-a-s. The s--t is bananas, b-a-n-a-n-a-s."

With help from some pretty hefty names like Eve, who sings on the Dr. Dre-produced "Rich Girl," the Neptunes, Johnny Vulture, Nellee Hooper of Four Non-Blondes fame and Andre 3000

from a little duo that goes by the name of OutKast, Stefani pulled out the big guns to make this album a hit.

There's a running theme of Japan and Harajuku girls. Stefani spent a bit of time in Japan before doing this album and fell in love with the trendy, schoolgirl style that the Harajuku girls possess. These girls run amuck in the video for the first single, "What You Waiting For?" and in the new video for "Rich Girl." Gwen even has four of them draped over her arm every public appearance she makes.

With the flaunting of the Harajuku girls and the skimpy outfits Gwen wears in her two videos, it seems as if the label is really aiming to increase record sales to a particular audience. But in reality,

the Harajuku girls were a major inspiration for Gwen because, for a long time before recording, she suffered writer's block and felt pressure from doing a solo record. There's even a song completely

devoted to these muses, aptly entitled "Harajuku Girls," where Stefani sings, "Harajuku Girls, you got the wicked style / I like the way that you are / I am your biggest fan."

With catchy beats and lyrics, and the eye-candy promotions that the label is pushing, it's impossible for this album to fail. It's easily one of the best albums of the year, but I, personally, can't wait for the next No Doubt release.



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Blade: Trinity bites

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

What do you get when you cross a the concept of a comic book, a sequel and poor writing? You get *Blade: Trinity*.

The movie, if you're not with your finger hovering over the pulse of society, is about a half-vampire named Blade (Wesley Snipes) whose mission is to destroy the rest of the vampires in the world (because they're bad). Apparently, in this universe, all vampires are associated with big businesses that sponsor shady world domination-related efforts.

There are several quips I have about this movie, however, that made it less than enjoyable. The first thing I noticed is that Vampires die if they get any sort of UV-radiation whatsoever, including Blade's modified high beams. Call me crazy, but knowing this, were I to hunt vampires, I would invest in a portable sun-lamp. No vampire would be safe from my mini-sun, and I would laugh over their smoking ashes as I got a quick tan.

The next problem I had was the fact that the only other thing that was demonstrated as killing vampires was silver. Granted, silver has been shown to be a vampire deterrent in other forms of vampire-related media, it seems

pretty silly to me that one would devote themselves primarily to silver objects to kill the vamps. This can get pretty expensive compared to a good old wooden stake through the heart.

The third problem I had was that vampires have reflections. I am aware that in some mythologies involving vampires, they can look at their moeey pseudo-gothic selves in the mirror as they contemplate spending the afternoon crying in a French sewer, but this I find to be lazy, especially for a blockbuster film like *Blade*. They do have powerful computers at their aid, and it would not be too difficult to show scenes in which they have no reflection.

The fourth problem: acting. It seemed the acting was sub par. Granted, Snipes portrayed Blade as a badass, often sounding like Samuel L. Jackson. However, the most of the actors were poorly portrayed, particularly Whistler (Kris Kristofferson), who sounded like he was either drunk or not really focusing on his lines. As well, the vampiress Danica Talos (Parker Posey) was not that great a performance. Posey, while a great actress in Christopher Guest mockumentaries as well as *Josie and the Pussycats*, did not do her best as Talos.

The movie was not horrible, but it wasn't great. It was a typi-



imdb.com

cal American action film, including witty repartee among the ass-kicking. The fight scenes and the bits of explosion-laden action interspersed between scenes of weak dialogue and

character-building made this movie make me not want to rip my eyes out, or at the very least, not demand that the movie's maker David S. Goyer be burned in effigy (at the very least). I fear

what he will end up doing with *Batman Begins* come next June. Hopefully, he made *Blade: Trinity* to sharpen himself for *Batman*, and it won't be as silly a flick.

"Twelve" surpasses "Eleven"

Tony Hernandez
Daily Egyptian
(Southern Illinois U.)
12/15/2004

(U-WIRE) CARBONDALE, Ill. - In 2001, fans who went to see the star-studded cast of "Ocean's Eleven" saw Danny Ocean

(George Clooney) and his crew of 10 thieves sneak and cajole their way into the impenetrable vaults of a Las Vegas casino and make off with \$160 million. The scheme to steal the money from the casino was so complex and elaborate that it made the CIA headquarters scene in "Mission Impossible" look like child's play.

However, the plot of "Ocean's Twelve" blows the first movie out of the water. Despite being reimbursed for the money stolen from the casinos, Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), the first movie's mob-like villain, remained vengeful and received anonymous information on the names and whereabouts of all involved in the casino heist. Benedict finds all 11 thieves and gives them two weeks to repay \$160 million -- plus interest for a total of \$200



million. The entire crew from the remake of the 1960s Rat Pack film return, including Tess Ocean (Julia Roberts), Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt) and Linus Caldwell (Matt Damon).

After the crew counts how much money they have spent and need to get, Ocean and right-hand

man Rusty go international, looking for gigs and recognizing that their crew is too hot to work in the United States. Their search leads to Rome and Paris with Isabel Lahiri (Catherine Zeta-Jones) hot on their trail. Lahiri, a Europol agent specializing in catching master thieves, also happens to be Ryan's ex-girlfriend.

The script for the movie was witty and filled with sassy dialogue. Moviegoers may feel a little overwhelmed, though, by the amount of confidence and cockiness that exudes from the movie, which includes a cameo from Bruce Willis.

Even the jazzy soundtrack fits well; director Steven Soderbergh put together a well-rounded film that should be entertaining for fans over the winter break.



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The radical middle



At least
I have
opinions

John Kropf
Opinions Editor

A few weeks ago, I ran across an article by "a very sad American" detailing the reasons why she hadn't voted for John Kerry. She called herself a "pragmatic, disillusioned, realistic and entirely ordinary member of the radical middle." She went on to define the so called radical middle as a position where I'm sure many people find themselves. Religious, but not fundamentalist. Straight, but tolerant. Mindful of Homeland Security, but protective of our civil liberties. In favor of helping the unfortunate, but not supporting them forever.

She wrote that she disagreed with many of the stances that the Bush administration took on high profile issues. She also wrote that she neither agreed nor disagreed with John Kerry on those same issues, because she couldn't tell where he stood. And in the end, when it came time to make her decision, she decided that she would rather vote for a candidate who she felt would do

what he said he would do, instead of one who would do what was convenient.

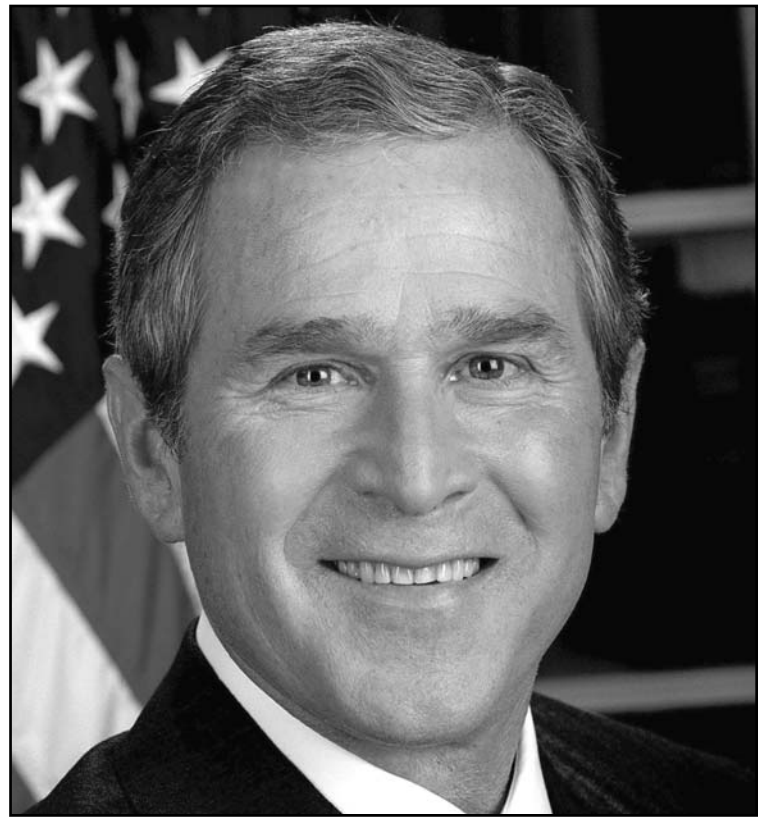
She highlighted the acrimony between Bush supporters and Bush haters that filled the campaign, saying that it made the Bush haters seem immature, vulgar and obnoxious. She also mentioned the fact that the incessant prattling about Kerry's military service and Bush's alleged lack of same insulted her intelligence. And finally, she discussed the uneasiness she felt when Kerry would demonize the rich for being rich.

After reading the article, I felt as if I could have written most of it and I finally understood what drove me to vote for George W. Bush, a man who I criticized as a short-sighted pretentious fundamentalist. I did it because I had no idea what John Kerry would do as President, and I didn't like that uncertainty. But in giving my vote to George Bush, I wanted him to pay more attention to the radical middle. I wanted him to back off on the religion. I wanted him to keep the government out of our social lives. But I'm afraid I knew that dream was over the moment Dick Cheney uttered the word "mandate"; meaning that the administration believes that the people had endorsed their plan for the country.

I don't think the Bush administration clearly understands why they won a second term. It wasn't because the American public believed in the Bush vision of America more than the Kerry one. It was because Bush had a vision of America and Kerry didn't. This means however, that many of the votes for George Bush, weren't for his policies, but were against uncertainty.

This poses an interesting problem for the new Bush administration. Will the governing be balanced more toward the middle than it has been up to now? It's an important question for republican strategists to ponder because a mandate that doesn't follow the will of the people is likely to be over in a hurry. And once it is, nothing like it is likely to appear any time soon.

If Bush's new cabinet selections are any guide, it does not appear that he has decided to appease the radical middle. Probably the most notable cabinet selection that shows this is Condoleezza Rice. While Colin Powell has been a relatively centrist Secretary of State – appealing to international organizations, and carrying a lot of clout with foreign entities – Rice shares more of the mindset of the administration. As a result, she'll probably get more support from the administration, but she most



President George W. Bush

www.usofficepristina.rpo.at

likely will not be received with as much welcome from the world community.

It would be naive of me to think that the Bush administration would make any changes in its governing strategy. After all, Cheney, Bush and the rest of the administration have stated that they believe they were given a mandate. But without paying attention to

the growing ranks of the radical middle, the mandate won't last for long. Because as soon as the democratic party realizes that a clearly defined centrist identity is one that will appeal to the radical middle, while not completely alienating their left leaning base, the republicans are going to be in trouble. And I'd have to say, it serves them right.

Letter to the editor

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is a community filled with caring students, faculty and staff members. This fact was reinforced last Saturday when more than 200 students assembled 433 bicycles and tricycles for the Exchange Clubs Bikes For Tykes community project.

A majority of the bicycles were assembled in less than 3 hours.

And, several students remained to help fix and repair bicycles so that they could be delivered this year.

The bicycles have been distributed to underprivileged youths in several communities in Indiana, including Terre Haute, West Terre Haute, Rockville, Brazil, Spencer and Ellettsville.

In each case, the bicycles brought a smile to the faces of the surprised youth, and hardy handshakes and hugs from gracious parents.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of the Rose-Hulman community.

This years Bicycle Assembly Volunteers included members of Rose-Hulman Greek organizations, the varsity football team, residence hall community and student organizations. The Facilities Operations Department provided heated workspace for the assembly process, air pumps and a kitchen area for serv-

ing lunch. Susan Reynolds, manager of grounds services, helped coordinate the workspace and Elaine Lee-Price, manager of custodial services, lent a helping hand and words of encouragement.

Football Coach Ted Karras and members of his coaching staff helped keep things moving at a steady pace.

Tom Miller, Erik Hayes, Donna Gustafson and Pete Gustafson of the Student Affairs Office supported the project by encouraging student organizations to lend a helping hand.

Finally, many employees made financial contributions to this project.

All of these efforts are greatly appreciated by The Exchange Clubs and the families receiving the bicycles.

It was extremely heartwarming to see the campus come together for this project that touched so many aspects of community. This project will make a difference for so many people.

On behalf of the Exchange Club of Terre Haute, I wanted to thank everyone for their support and salute their efforts on this project. You helped make my Christmas!

Dale H. Long
Associate Director of
Communications
Rose-Hulman Institute of
Technology

Feds: Leave those kids alone

Staff Editorial
The Spinnaker
(U. North Florida)

In our age of information, we are all reduced to our quantitative values and stored in databases for quick retrieval. We are bought, sold, stolen and spied upon via our numerical representations. Credit histories, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, Internet histories, genders, ages, grade point averages, employment and medical histories, library loans and criminal backgrounds all convert conveniently into ones and zeros. It is information, and it is what we have become. These virtual representations of ourselves are as real as flesh to our banks, our employers, our government and our schools.

In such an environment, one would hope that the powers that be would assist us in maintaining our privacy and guarding against the digital encroachment into our personal lives. But this is not always the case.

According to an article run in the Nov. 29 issue of The New York Times, the federal government has proposed the creation of a new database to track data

on all students enrolled in state-funded universities.

The database would require universities to provide the government with detailed information on all students enrolled. This is a rather drastic change from how student information has been handled until now.

Previously, schools have been required to provide information only for students receiving federal financial aid. They provide general enrollment, graduation and tuition information, but do not identify specific students in that data.

This new database would specifically include students' Social Security numbers and individual information.

The move to
create a national
student database
could place un-
fair pressure on
students to speed
through their edu-
cation.

The effort to create this database is motivated by a desire to track, on the federal level, the quality of our nation's public universities, according to proponents of the measure. They argue that it will allow them to better gauge how often students take more than the standard four years to earn their bachelor's degrees -- which makes one wonder if this is at all connected to the recent initiative to move to block tuition.

For those unfamiliar with the concept, block tuition would

charge students a flat tuition fee regardless of the number of hours in which they were enrolled. The idea is to encourage students to graduate more quickly, thereby saving the state money. But the system would penalize students who cannot take a full load of classes because of work or other non-academic obligations. Schools such as the University of North Florida that have a large number of nontraditional students with jobs and families to care for could be adversely affected.

The move to create a national student database could place unfair pressure on students to speed through their education. It runs the risk of turning our universities into degree mills rather than institutions of higher learning. It speaks of a disturbing trend to focus on our schools' financial bottom lines rather than the quality of education. It further reduces our lives into numbers to be examined on a spreadsheet by some dispassionate bureaucrat hundreds of miles away.

If the federal government wants to better track what's going on in our universities, there are less intrusive ways to do so. If television rating companies can accurately determine people's viewing habits using volunteer samples, why can't our own government?

The possible benefits of this database do not outweigh its threat to students' privacy and the integrity of our institutions of higher learning.

Have an opinion? Send a letter to the editor.

E-mail opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Rose Sports Rundown

Last week's scores

Men's Basketball (4-4, 1-0 SCAC)	
Dec. 9	
Rose-Hulman vs. Depauw	69 / 60
Dec. 11	
Rose-Hulman vs. Anderson	73 / 78
Women's Basketball (6-4, 0-1 SCAC)	
Dec. 7	
Rose-Hulman vs. St. Mary's-of-the-Woods	78 / 65
Dec. 9	
Rose-Hulman vs. Depauw	53 / 81
Dec. 11	
Rose-Hulman vs. Mt. St. Joseph	69 / 61
Dec. 14	
Rose-Hulman vs. Rob. Morris-Spr.	60 / 66

Teams in bold denote winners.

Sports Teams Roll into Winter Break

Andrew Twarek
Staff Writer

The winter season started well for the Engineer sports teams. The women's basketball team has rocketed to a 6-4 record, their best start ever. Men's basketball stands 4-4 this year, after competition with nationally ranked and scholarship schools.

Swimming and Diving has competed in two invitational and has hosted a pair of dual meets, scoring well in each. Finally, the wrestling squad opened the season with four dual meets at Olivet, Mich., and the Little State Championships in Crawfordsville.

As third week closes and Winter Recess nears, the basketball teams will receive a well-deserved break. The women's basketball squad hosts an invitational this weekend, and the men travel to the Mutchner Cup game at rival Earlham College on Saturday before taking two weeks off.

The wrestling and swimming teams, however, will be traveling south. The Wednesday and Thursday after Christmas, the wrestlers will be in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., competing in the Florida Citrus Tournament and the Florida Citrus Duals. Four dual matches follow a single-elimination tournament. The swimmers and divers will also be in Fort Lauderdale, but will be pursuing a training regimen at the International Swimming Hall of Fame Pool to prepare for a dual meet each weekend in January.

Byron Sanders, a three-year wrestler, leads the team with a combined 8-1 record in the 184-lb class. Five Engineers hold three wins this season, Raymond Ahaus, fellow junior Tom Aigner, and freshman Bil-

ly Whitehouse who have all recorded one pin.

The swimmers have set school records in the 200 butterfly this season. Senior Alison Hasbargen swam the event in 2:45.16 for a new record while freshman Jacob Sorensen lowered the men's mark to 2:02:18. On the diving board, senior Emily Timperman set new records three times in 2004, upping the high score to 252.35 in the 1-m diving event. Other swift Engineers include senior Jes Frank and sophomore Erin O'Connor, women with three individual first place finishes, and junior Eric Fenelon who has tallied four firsts and a pair of seconds this season.

When the Engineers return from break, it's Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference season for the basketball teams. Sophomore Rebekah Forsyth, the SCAC Newcomer of the Year last season, leads all Rose-Hulman players in scoring (16.0 ppg) and rebounding (9.5 rpg). Standout freshman Jill Floyd averages 14.9 points per game, and is 37-39 (.949) at the free-throw line. Sophomore Suzy Carlson has chipped in five assists per game, and scores 12.7

points on average.

For the men, seniors Munchie Muskeyvalley and Philip Griffith lead the team with 113 and 112 points, respectively, for averages of 14.1 and 14.0. Six-foot-seven Griffith is shooting .517 under the basket. Muskeyvalley, 6'-0", has hit 18 from behind the arc for 41%, adding 35 assists. Junior Kareem Lee has pulled down 64 boards (8.0 per game) to lead the squad, and is shooting .857 at the free-throw stripe.



Photo courtesy Rose-Hulman
Kareem Lee lays the ball in for two points.

Upcoming athletic events

Men's Basketball

Saturday, Dec. 18
Rose-Hulman
at Earlham
3 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18
Rose-Hulman
at Robert-Morris
8 p.m. ET

Monday, Jan. 3
Rose-Hulman
vs. **Thomas More**
7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball

Friday, Dec. 17
Rose-Hulman
vs. **Calumet St. Joseph**
7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19
Rose-Hulman
vs. **Marian College**
2 p.m.

Wrestling

Wednesday, Dec. 29-30
Rose-Hulman
at Florida Citrus Tourn.
TBA

Games in bold denote home games

(Drug) testing our heroes

Rob Wile
Columbia Daily Spectator
(Columbia U.)
12/10/2004

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK - It has recently been revealed that several high-profile baseball players, including Yankees' sluggers Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield, admitted to a grand jury that they knowingly took performance-enhancing steroids sometime after 2002, when steroids were first banned. Giants' behemoth Barry Bonds was also implicated, although he still professes ignorance, saying that he believed the substances given to him to be legal nutritional supplements.

Now, it may seem obvious that steroids have no place in our national pastime. Yet representatives of Major League Baseball's players' union have, until recently, refused to implement a tougher steroid-testing program, dismissing evidence of both an increase in the number of players using steroids as well as reports showing dangerous long-term side effects of frequent steroid use. Can

union reps count on Americans to continue to plunk down increasing amounts of money to watch their baseball idols each summer?

I wouldn't bet on it.

The union hasn't grasped that Americans won't stomach watching those that many of us regard as the only true heroes left in sports turn into cheaters. Any athlete proven guilty of cheating will now be tarnished in the eyes of fans: the fallout for the three principle offenders-Bonds, Giambi, and Sheffield-has already begun.

Americans turn to sports as an escape from the daily grind of life. Unlike life, in sports all is fair, everyone plays by the rules, and, win or lose, there's always a next time.

Americans also put their athletes on pedestals higher than those of any other public figures, holding them to super-human standards of honesty and integrity. Unlike politicians or CEOs, we believe, athletes can't easily get away with lying and cheating. Unlike celebrities, athletes are

not fake; they must have real talent to succeed, as opposed to some sort of superficial, unsubstantial quality. Athletes also have no biased, underlying agenda, as many Americans assume journalists and the media have.

Charles Barkley has famously opined that athletes should not be role models. And though I happen to agree with him, most Americans do regard athletes as role models-precisely because they play a game where everyone has to follow the same rules.

Besides denying relatively damning evidence showing the health hazards and pervasiveness of steroids, Don Fehr, head of the baseball players' union, has objected to stronger testing regimes on philosophical grounds. He argued that they would become a witch-hunt, violating players' rights to privacy.

The implication here is that everyone is already innocent, and that there is no problem. But if players have nothing to hide, why not just test them to prove that there is no problem? There is no conceivable reason why baseball should not take a tough stance on steroids.

Despite his car-salesman background, MLB Commissioner Bud Selig is not a dumb guy. This problem has been around since the early 1990s, and he has long been aware of it. So why has nothing been done about it? If you guessed basic human greed, you're pretty much right. More steroids means more

home runs, more entertaining baseball, more fans in the seats, and more ad revenue.

Despite the commissioner's and many players'-attempts to address the problem, they lack Fehr's political leverage. Juiced up athletes rake in millions of

Americans turn to sports as an escape from the daily grind of life.

dollars for baseball, and Fehr has always been able to point to this fact in every negotiation he has had with Commissioner Selig on the issue.

Players and owners finally reached an agreement Tuesday that could set the stage for both sides to agree on implementing a tougher steroid-testing program. And while this latest breakthrough looks somewhat promising, Gene Orza, the MLB players union's chief operating officer, said that the two sides were still in disagreement.

Should negotiations collapse, President George W. Bush, along with Senator John McCain, has warned that the federal government would step in and address the problem itself. It's possible this pressure will cause the union to cave. But given the public's historical distrust of federal meddling, this scenario would seem somewhat ironic.

Yet if this is what it takes, so be it. Americans will not accept cheaters in the only place we still assume everyone plays by the rules.

FLIP SIDE

A Brief History of Christmas

Alexander J. Clerc

Since the dawn of time, winter has been the crappiest season known to man (except in Australia. Lucky Australians...). To get by, mankind has always held some kind of joyful winter celebration, lest morale fall so low that we decide to move to Australia.

The history of Christmas dates back over 4000 years. Many of these traditions began with the Mesopotamian winter celebration of New Years. This 12-day festival called Zagmuk included feasting and parades and culminated joyfully with a sacrifice to the deity Marduk in the form of a public execution (in those dark days, executions were about as joyous as it ever got). The Persians and the Babylonians celebrated a similar festival called the Sacaea. Part of that celebration included the exchanging of places; the slaves would become the masters and the masters were to obey. A little holiday exchanging of places might lighten up the mood here, too (hint, hint, professors).

The holiday "Christmas" finally came to be around 400 AD. Nowadays it is widely speculated that the actual birth of Christ did not occur in the month of December (why would shepherds be shepherding in the winter?) and that the early Church planted Christmas to replace the Roman celebration of Saturnalia. But it probably went a little something like this:

Pope Julius I was relaxing on the throne of St. Peter watching the Ravens game and sipping a cold one when suddenly from the kitchen arose the cacophonous voice of his overbearing wife: "Julius, you need to take out the trash..."

Pope Julius declared it Christmas Day on the spot and got out of another trip to the freezing-cold garage. Pope Julius would later mandate that holy men be celibate "for their own good".

From there, Christmas developed from an amalgamation of pagan traditions that differed from place to place. To this day Christmas is celebrated differently throughout the world. Most of our Christmas customs originated in Germany. The Finns spend the day at the sauna. The Mexicans party with piñatas. The Australians have cook-outs. In parts of Eastern Europe, the Christmas tradition includes a 24-hour fast (that one doesn't sound as fun).

Whatever your way of celebrating the winter season, have a blast. Happy holidays!

Top Ten Worst Holiday Gifts

10. A travel bottle of Febreeze
9. The Lost Poetry of L. Ron Hubbard
8. Red and green striped tea cozy
7. Hertz popping out of a giant dreidel
6. An autographed photograph of Sollog
5. Another new "uncle"
4. 17 liters of warm wine cooler
3. Syphilis
2. The Complete Works of Shakespeare, in their original Klingon
1. Daikatana: Game of the Year Edition

Wacky Prof Quotes

"We have a great smelling marker today. You wanna pass this around?"

--Prof. Martensen, bonding with today's youth

"It's okay. None of my bosses can read."

--Prof. Martensen, on learning he would be in the Thorn

"They say 'You're ugly, you dress funny, and your mother wears combat boots.'"

--Prof. Morris, on supercritical fluids

"That discriminates against people who work in groups versus people who don't have a lot of...uh...colleagues...around."

--Prof. Hoover, to the "popularity challenged"

"So, you like punishment?"

--Prof. Grimaldi, learning how much of his class is CPEs

"There's no BAD architecture, only DIFFERENT architecture."

--Prof. Chidanandan, advocating tolerance

"Everything I know about Linux filesystems, I read out of the book."

--Prof. Merkle, showing his qualifications

"A good teacher, in my mind, is one who's not afraid to set his students on fire."

--Prof. Leader, on the Newspaper Incident

"God said if you put curves on lasers, you get a Gaussian beam."

--Prof. Bunch, on divine decree

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

Herbig's Pun of the Week

The newspaper that we get, the Indy*, is just a pointer to the real newspaper in Indianapolis.

This Day In History

In 1773, a group of colonists disguised as Mohawks tossed some tea into Boston harbor. This was apparently patriotic or something.

In Addition

Whoever is the owner of the yellow dump truck in the sandbox under the slide, you left your blinkers on.

