

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

Winter 1-7-2005

Volume 40 - Issue 13 - Friday, January 7, 2005

Rose Thorn Staff

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, library@rose-hulman.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn>

Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 40 - Issue 13 - Friday, January 7, 2005" (2005). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 233.
<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/233>

THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS ROSE-HULMAN REPOSITORY IS TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE STUDY, SCHOLARSHIP, OR RESEARCH AND MAY NOT BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. SOME CONTENT IN THE MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY MAY BE PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT. ANYONE HAVING ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL SHOULD NOT REPRODUCE OR DISTRIBUTE BY ANY MEANS COPIES OF ANY OF THE MATERIAL OR USE THE MATERIAL FOR DIRECT OR INDIRECT COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGE WITHOUT DETERMINING THAT SUCH ACT OR ACTS WILL NOT INFRINGE THE COPYRIGHT RIGHTS OF ANY PERSON OR ENTITY. ANY REPRODUCTION OR DISTRIBUTION OF ANY MATERIAL POSTED ON THIS REPOSITORY IS AT THE SOLE RISK OF THE PARTY THAT DOES SO.

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspaper at Rose-Hulman Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Rose Thorn Archive by an authorized administrator of Rose-Hulman Scholar. For more information, please contact ligget@rose-hulman.edu.

News Briefs

Student team to study with Swedish University

Four computer science and software engineering students (Paul Gagnon, Brant Gurganus, Ross Miller, and Brandi Soggs) joined colleagues from Sweden to examine an online medical training system that could someday be used by doctors in both countries.

Through use of the Internet, international conference calls, and a trip to Sweden, Rose-Hulman's team collaborated with students and faculty from the Department of Information Technology at Sweden's Uppsala University to examine the benefits of an online educational tool that would help hospital personnel with patient interaction.

Rose-Hulman's role in the project involved collecting requirements and information from American hospital personnel regarding how hospitals are structured and possible solutions to patient interaction problems. The team's suggestions disclosed how the online system, developed in Sweden, could be improved for use in the United States.

Rose-Hulman News

Massive black hole sets records

Scientists are currently recording data on what is the most massive black hole observed by modern astronomers.

The black hole has consumed a mass approximately 300 times more massive than our sun, which caused an emission that alerted the orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory, operated by NASA.

The black hole is drawing in material from a volume of over 600 times the volume of the entire Milky Way galaxy. The displaced mass is equivalent to about a trillion suns.

Observations on the black hole could help scientists discover why stars do not consistently form at a rate predicted by theory.

By Lissa Avery

Friday
Mostly Cloudy 40 Hi / 32 Lo
Saturday
AM Showers 45 Hi / 35 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

When "C" is no longer average

Bridget Mayer
Staff Writer

With the end of the last quarter came final grades, and with those final grades came a school-wide grade point average of 3.15. Not bad at all, considering that only a decade ago, that average was 2.86. Recently in the academic world, numerous reports have announced that the letter grades awarded to students are shifting upwards—that a "C" is no longer average. In 2003, a professor at Duke University commented that C's made up less than ten percent of all grades; D's and F's combined accounted for less than two percent of grades at the university.

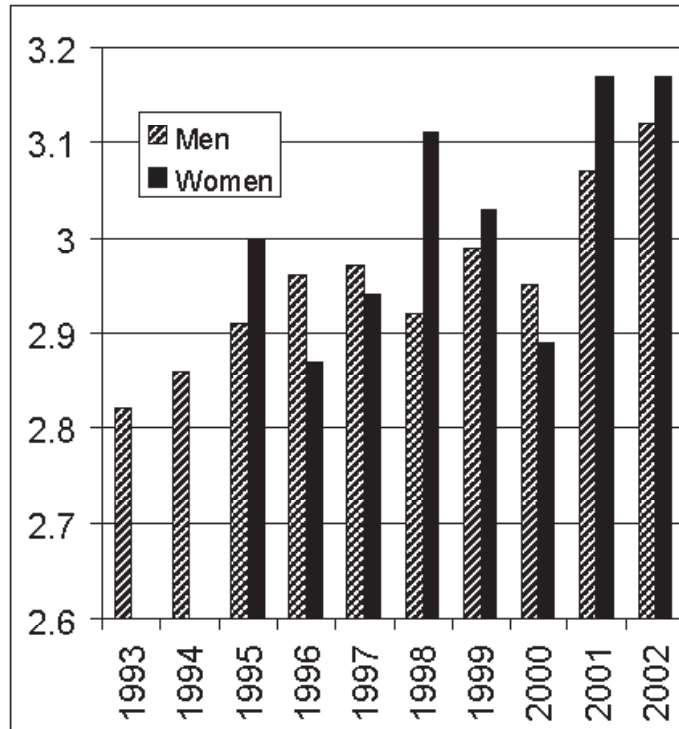
The trend does not exclude private schools—in fact, studies have shown that private colleges have an average GPA 0.3 higher than public schools. One large study from 2003 found that the grade point averages have been increasing by roughly 0.15 per decade. Beginning in the 1960's, grade inflation increased quickly, tapered in the mid-1970's to mid-1980's, and then began to rise quickly. One explanation for the initial jump during the 1960's is that sympathetic professors gave better grades to students who were avoiding the Vietnam War

draft by attending college.

Others argue that affirmative action has played a role in increasing GPA's. However, the lag in inflation in the 1970's and 1980's occurred at the same time that minorities began attending colleges in significant numbers, effectively ending the affirmative action claim. The most popular explanation for grade inflation arises from the consumer-based attitude that permeates society—students paying hefty tuition bills for their education expect to receive good grades in exchange for their money.

Institutions all over the country have experienced this trend over the last thirty years: in 1969, the nationwide grade point average was 2.60. Seven years later, that average jumped to 2.93; in 1993, it was 3.07.

Technical schools seem to be experiencing the same trends, albeit on a smaller scale. Georgia Institute of Technology has witnessed an increase in GPA of 0.4 over the past three decades; Harvey Mudd College in California has seen increases of 0.12. Nearby institutions like Purdue University have been relatively immune to inflation—their increase amounts to 0.03 over thirty years. Although the trend is



Stephen Pierce / Webmaster
Changes in Rose-Hulman's average GPA for women and men from 1993 to 2002.

alarming, professors and administration have offered several reasons to justify this increase.

"Grade inflation started when student evaluations became popular... untenured professors feel that they need good evaluations," commented Heinz Luegenbiehl,

Professor of Philosophy and Technology Studies. Untenured professors concerns over student evaluations have become a problem at many schools as they adopt the evaluations as a measure of professor performance.

Continued on Page 3...

2015: First response

Angela Smiley
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman 2015 initiative, announced before break by Rose President Jack Midgley, has now been running for slightly under a month. This dialogue, which he said is inspired in part by similar efforts underway at other great institutions, has received a fairly warm welcome on campus; it has given rise to thirty-five private online responses, as well as letters and e-mails.

In addition to these always-open channels of communication, the administration has begun to schedule discussion sessions in conjunction with the initiative: Midgley will go before the SGA next week (Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.) in a Senate meeting open to all interested parties, and has plans to meet with the Young Alumni Association and the Alumni Advisory Board within the next month.

According to David Piker, Executive Director of External Affairs and one of the administrators most heavily involved in the 2015 project, the open discussion forum is the part of the initiative currently garnering the most response. Thirty to forty posts have been made on the forum thus far, with contributors in many positions; alumni, faculty, staff, parents, and current and prospective students have all offered their opinions on Rose's future and how it should pursue its institutional goals. "I was very pleased with the cross-section of the community," stated Piker, who is part of the team reading and

reviewing responses.

The topic which has drawn the most response thus far is "future students" - how should Rose select future admittees, and how should we encourage

The lack of financial aid is a hinderance to many quality students that can't afford to attend Rose.

— Matt Millington

future admittees to select Rose? Answers to this question vary widely.

Chad Zarse, senior in Applied Biology and Biochemistry, offered a passionate argument for an increase in research opportunities available to undergraduates. "In order to 'be the best,'" he asserted in a December 15 post, "we must continue excellence in education, but also acknowledge the fact that research challenges a student to apply his/her knowledge in

a meaningful way."

But not all the focus was academic, or even discipline-related. "I think that we should let more cute girls in," quipped one individual identifying himself as a student, before going on to suggest that the administration should consider making more efforts to get students involved with campus activities.

Matt Millington, a 1999 Rose graduate, voiced concern about financial aid. "While all make valid points as to the type of students that RHIT should be recruiting, the lack of significant financial aid is a hindrance to many, many quality students that simply can't afford to attend Rose," he wrote. "I was very encouraged when I heard President Midgley call our financial aid situation a crisis earlier in the year. I hope that a sincere effort is made to improve the situation for future classes."

Continued on Page 3...

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
The Wabash River rises to flood levels. Page 3	Orphans, orphans, orphans. Pages 4 & 5	Social security, let's change it up. Page 6	Men's and women's basketball gear up for upcoming conference. Page 7	$\frac{\delta v}{\delta a}$ Page 8

Upcoming events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					January 7	8
					* Deadline For Rose-Hulman Outstanding Teacher Award Nominations * Women's Basketball, Millsaps College, Arena, SRC, 6 p.m. * Men's Basketball, Millsaps College, Arena, SRC, 8 p.m.	* Swimming, Millikin University, Pool, SRC, 1 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
* Study Abroad Program: Australia, GM Room, 5-7 p.m.			* Recyclable Engineering Contest, Lobby, Hulman Union, 5-6:30 p.m.	* HSS Presentation, "Napping in Class and Other Methods That Make You Smart," Brigitte Steger, GM Room, 4:30 p.m.		* Society of Women Engineers' Girl Scout Day, Kahn Rooms, 10 a.m. to Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	* Registration For Spring Quarter * Admissions' Visitation Day Program, Hatfield Hall Theater, 1-4 p.m.	* Registration For Spring Quarter * Engineers In Concert Auditions, Hatfield Hall Theater, 4:30-6 p.m.	* Humanities & Social Sciences' Spontaneous Art Contest, Art in an Hour, O-169, 4:30 p.m. * Winter Funfest, Throughout Hulman Union, 7-11 p.m.	* Registration For Spring Quarter	* Registration For Spring Quarter * Final Date To Drop Winter Quarter Class Without Penalty	* Fine Arts Series, A Night of A Cappella (Featuring The University of Illinois' Xtension Chords & Indiana University's Ladies First), Hatfield Hall Theater, 7:30 p.m.

KLEPTZ'S
RESTAURANT

Tired of Studying?
Treat yourself to a Steak Dinner!

(CORNER OF MAIN ST.
& U.S. 40 - SEELYVILLE)
(812) 877-2314



Sharp Flats

Now renting for 2005-2006 school year!

East | **On 6th St.**

1 bdrms & studios | 1-9 Bedroom Houses for rent for the 2004-2005 school year.

6710 Wabash | On or near S. 6th St.
Visit our new Trails End Deli! | Call for details.

Call 877-1146

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

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

Classifieds

Apartments and houses

Available January, 1-4 Bedroom Apts & Houses. Starting at \$335/month. ROI Apts. 232-2466.

Algebra 2 Tutor

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

Female Algebra 2 Tutor

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

Worship

Worship with music, prayer, and reflection in the White Chapel Sunday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. Led by United Campus Ministries, 321 N. 7th Street, Terre Haute, IN 47807. Campus Minister: Jack Diel, Jack.A.Diel@rose-hulman.edu.

The Rose Thorn

The Rose Thorn
CM 5037
RHIT
5500 Wabash Ave.
Terre Haute, IN 47803
E-mail: thorn@rose-hulman.edu

Phone: (812)877-8255
Fax: (812)877-8166
Web Address:
www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn

Co-Editors-in-Chief:
Luke Stark
Bob Schulein

News Editor:
Lissa Avery

Opinions Editor:
John Kropf

Entertainment Editor:
Jacob P. Silvia

Sports Editor:
Josh Annin

Flipside:
Gregory Weir

Webmaster:
Stephen Pierce

Ad Manager:
Odessa Goedert

Staff Writers:
Bridget Mayer
Robert Herbig
Andrew Twarek
Alexander J. Clerc
Aaron Meles
Angela Smiley
Philip Woods
Ely Spears

Photographers:
Matt Durham
Carmen DuVall
Andrea Brown

Copyeditors:
Bill Waite
Abby Rehorn

Advisor:
Dr. Richard House

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.

Grade inflation, from Page 1

He also noted that when universities give out more A's and B's than other grades, it becomes harder to distinguish the very good students from the outstanding students. Making this distinction between students is not as important now as it will be when students apply to graduate school or for a job—in some cases, recruiters simply ignore high academic marks altogether. "All our students are smart—they could all get good grades" at a state school, Luegenbiehl said. "But it is because they are all smart that it is very important to maintain high standards. Students will work harder if professors discriminate in grades—the students do like to be challenged."

Art Western, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs, offered a different explanation for the increase seen at Rose-Hulman. "Much of the change came about in the years following the decision to go coed...the women's GPAs are in general slightly higher than men's, so naturally the all student aver-

age does go up." He added that Rose-Hulman has been able to attract better male students because "previously some excellent male students would not come to an all-male college." These circumstances set Rose's grade point average increase apart from the increases at other colleges.

Western noted, "Rose-Hulman professors knock themselves out trying to improve their courses...they study literature on student learning and better teaching methods." He also cited students' above-average performance on nationally normed exams such as the Fundamentals of Engineering exam (FE). This evidence leads him to believe the increase in grades is a real and accurate reflection of the intellectual achievements of Rose-Hulman students. Western also cited evidence of grade deflation—one professor who attended Rose commented to him that the lab reports he wrote while in school would have received lower grades today than they did during his time as a student.



Stephen Pierce / Webmaster

The recent rainfall has caused Lost Creek (the creek that flows through campus) to rise. According to the Tribune Star, the Wabash River was at 17.1 feet on Tuesday afternoon, which is three feet above flood level. Roads across the Valley have been closed on account of the flood.

The influx of rain has caused leaks to spring up across campus. In an all-campus e-mail, Joe Kastigar, Manager of Construction Services, advised people to continue to report leaks as they occur for the safety of people and equipment.

2015, from Page 1

Students also expressed a desire to see word of Rose's educational success spread further outside its immediate region. "You would think a school with a reputation as good as Rose's would be well known throughout the U.S. Who doesn't know what MIT stands for?" commented one student, in a post titled 'Rose? Never heard of it'. "More should be done to promote the reputation of Rose for the benefit of alumni and the institute... Rose would attract the best students from all over the country, not just the Midwest,

and potential employers would recognize the name of Rose."

Perhaps surprisingly, the boards have provided a way for some future students to learn more about the school. Recently, a conversation about whether the current four-division humanities breakdown should continue prompted a high school senior to inquire about the system, which many students do not become familiar with until arriving at Rose.

"I think the forums are cool; they let you bounce ideas off each other," said Brant Gurganus, a sophomore Computer Science

major and active poster who first encountered the forum link on Rose's main web page. "I'd like to see more people get involved... I really feel that it takes the voices of many people to sculpt the discussion."

Michael Wollowski, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering and another forum contributor, felt that the initiative had given him the chance to express ideas he cared about a great deal as a faculty member. "I'm interested in these things in general; my contributions have been [on] things

that I've been thinking about for a while." Wollowski, who teaches a course in web-based information systems, also added that he planned to encourage his class to consider how the web might be used to further Rose's mission and hoped that they might submit the results of their discussion to Rose 2015.

The initiative will last until the end of the academic year, so those wishing to contribute have substantial time in which to do so. Many of those interviewed said that they planned to offer their own opinions but had not

yet done so. "I'm really excited about it," remarked Mario Simoni, "but I'm holding off... to get my thoughts in order."

The administration has not yet announced plans for official feedback on the opinions which are being received, but Midgley stated that he and others working on Rose 2015 will be updating the community through on- and off-campus meetings as well as statements posted to the website. For now, the forum offers a snapshot of many of the opinions and much of the advice offered up so far.

Rose student illustrates textbooks

Rose-Hulman News

Megan Whitaker's ability to artistically illustrate the many stages in the lifecycle of a mushroom or the bones of the human skull is helping schoolchildren throughout the world learn about science.

Nearly 500 detailed illustrations created by the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology junior biomedical engineering student have appeared in 10 textbooks on such topics as "Exploring Creation With General Science" and "The Human Body: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" for the growing home education community and international internet-based schools. Approximately 130,000 copies of these textbooks are currently in circulation in all 50 states and 13 foreign countries through Apologia Educational Ministries of Anderson, Ind.

Whitaker spends her summers and approximately three hours each weekend completing illustrations on a digital art pad for textbook creator/author Jay L. Wile's textbooks. There are between 50 to 150 illustrations in each textbook, which each average more than 500 pages. She is paid monthly for completed assignments.

"Megan is talented. If you give her drawings that suit her strengths, she produces truly professional-quality illustrations," states Wile, a former college professor.

In recent years, Whitaker has used insight from her Rose-Hulman courses to enhance her current illustrations. She took classes in physiology, engineering systems design, mathematical statistics and technical communications this fall. She is hoping to utilize her biomedical and engineering skills to become a hospital operating room liaison, assisting doctors in patient medical care.

However, the former Anderson Highland High School scholar would like to incorporate her illustrating talents into her medical career. She and Wile are currently working on textbooks on marine biology and general high school biology. Each textbook takes approximately a year to complete.

"I've almost had a career already and I'm only 20 years old. This has been a big part of my youth," Whitaker says. "I could have a career in illustrating, but my true calling is in the medical field. Hopefully, I can continue to do both."



THEOLOGY ON TAP

7pm - Mogger's Upper Room

Theology on Tap, a nationally recognized program for young adults (21 and over), is a way for young adults to get together to discuss the Catholic faith in a relaxed atmosphere. These gatherings mix great speakers, good food, lively conversation and theology in a laid-back social setting.

The Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center now introduces four Theology on Tap evenings to the Terre Haute area. These evenings are FREE, no RSVP is required and dress is always casual.

Come as you are to Mogger's Brewery Restaurant and Pub around 6:30 and the guest speaker will begin around 7ish.

M. Mogger's is located at 908 Poplar Street in Terre Haute

For more information, please contact Sue Butwin at the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center 812-232-8400

Date	Topic	Speaker
Tues 1/11	"Top Five Misconceptions about the Church"	Br. Bob Baxter OFM Conv.
Tues 1/18	"Women in the Church: Why Do We Stay?"	Ms. Paulette Davis
Tues 1/25	"Making Faith Real"	Fr. Bob Robeson
Tues 2/1	"Does Prayer Work?"	Fr. Russ Zint

The Phantom of the Opera is here

Out This Week

In Theaters

White Noise
Directed by Geoffrey Sax
Starring Michael Keaton

On DVD

Troy
Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind:
2 Disc Collector's Edition

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle:
Even More Inane Unrated Edition

"Millenium" Season 2

"CSI: Miami" Season 2

(Who really watches that show?)

Box Office Tops

1. *Meet the Fockers*
2. *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*
3. *The Aviator*
4. *Fat Albert*
5. *Ocean's Twelve*

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

Andrew Lloyd Webber and Joel Schumacher have teamed up to make quite an interesting film. That film is a movie rendition of the great *The Phantom of the Opera*. Now, before I saw this, I had never, ever seen the stage version. I had never read the Gaston Leroux book. I had never seen any of the other 16 screen adaptations of this tale.

The only experience I had with *Phantom* prior to my viewing of this fine film was the original studio recording of the musical. I had only listened to it casually, able to recognize the music if I happened to hear it. So, I went into the movie knowing only this: There is an operahouse, and within that operahouse, a phantom.

Now that I am educated, I know one more thing: this movie is wonderful.

The story is about an operahouse in France that comes under new management. The new owners are introduced to the concept of the Phantom (Gerard Butler), but pooh-pooh his existence. An accident leaves the resident diva, Carlotta (Minnie Driver), irritated, and upon her leaving, the protagonist of the film, one

Christine Daae (Emma Rossum), is given the opportunity to sing lead in the upcoming opera.

The operagoers love her so, and wish to see her more often. The Phantom wishes so as well. However, the managers do not quite see things the same way, and would wish to have Carlotta back. Every time the Phantom doesn't get what he wants, something bad happens.

This is best brought to face (haha) when Christine meets her childhood lover, Raoul (Patrick Wilson), and a bizarre love triangle unfolds, eventually leading an amazing scene in the Phantom's lair near the end of the film. The Phantom does not want any other man having Christine's admiration, thus he wallows in his own self-pity and kills a few people.

He's what they call "the jealous type."

The movie is pretty good, and from what I hear, gave more plot to the story, showing points that could not be conveyed onstage. Though, with the added "we can put the audience anywhere" element, be ready for camera angles you never saw on the stage, complete with cuts and fades. My favorite aspect of the cinematography involved using a grainy, turn-of-the-century (the 20th century, not the 21st)

film style for the "present" and the crisp, clear footage for the rest of the movie, taking place in the past, or quite possibly flashbacks.

Since I have not seen the stage musical, I am no expert as to how the film compares, but I do know this: I enjoyed the film, though it is somewhat slow at points (I saw it twice within the span of two days). Seeing it a third time the following day may have killed me, but not because the movie is horrible, just because there's so much in the movie: song, dance, color, and every other possible stimulus that a movie can give. It is a beautiful film, but sometimes too much so.

If you're a die hard fan of *Phantom*, you may very well enjoy this show. If you're bored



Gerard Butler, singer for several bands, is of the few non-professionally trained singers in *Phantom*. imdb.com

easily, or have the attention span of a fruit fly, I would recommend you avoid this film. Go see *White Noise* instead. Ooh, scary, the dead talk to me through my crappy reception!

Lemony Snicket's depressingly good

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

At first, I was hesitant about seeing *Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events*, partially due to the fact that it was billed as a "Family" movie. Now, I'm not one who hates family movies, it's just that I would rather spend my time watching a movie more concerned with a decent plot, deep characters and good dialogue versus a movie that has funny people in it, and makes children laugh.

I finally opted to see it, not expecting much else than a *Harry Potter*-esque storyline and style with the acting talents of Jim Carrey. However, I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw, not having to watch something trite and shallow.

A Series of Unfortunate Events, directed by Brad Silberling, based on the books by Daniel Handler (AKA Lemony Snicket) focuses on three children whose parents have died (orphans), and are left in the care of a horrible Count Olaf (Carrey). He specializes in theatrical acting as well as greed, for the Baudelaire orphans have a sizable fortune upon the eighteenth birthday of the eldest, Violet (Emily Browning).

Each child has a unique trait about them which prepares them for their harsh, parentless world. Violet is an inventor, Klaus (Liam Aiken) is a

reader, and Sunny (Kara & Shelby Hoffman) likes to bite things.

Things go poorly for the Baudelaire orphans as Olaf uses them as his own personal cleaning service, yet is perpetually disappointed with their work. They manage to be freed of him to spend time with relatives they never knew they had before (Meryl Streep and Billy Connolly). No matter where they go, however, the nefarious Count Olaf pursues them, making for humorous situations.

At first, I was shocked by the darkness of the movie. I was shocked further later when I discovered that the children's books upon which the movie was based are far darker than the movie. The movie itself is based on the first three books in the series. I hear that they are easy reads.

I soon got over my shock and

came to enjoy the movie. It was depressing, but it still managed to be funny at times, causing me to laugh with the characters as they remained optimistic at their situation, when any normal, sane person would be sulking and crying in the corner.

Maybe they were crazy, those orphans. I myself am crazy . . . about the movie. If you have not seen it yet, and are interested in seeing the movie that has remained in the top ten charts since it came out mid December, I suggest you see *A Series of Unfortunate Events*. Who knows, maybe they'll turn the rest of the books into movies. Will this be the next big fad? Is Potter losing out to Baudelaire? We'll find out soon once Rowling releases her next book. Until then, I might as well enjoy both tales of orphans having a blast despite the horrible machinations of evil.



The Baudelaire orphans (Aiken, Hoffman, Browning) look for the house of their Aunt Josephine (Streep). imdb.com

Chinup Chinup delivers quality indie rock

Mike Jones
Staff Writer

Although Chicago's Chinup Chinup released their debut album "We Should Never Have Lived Like We Were Skycrapers" in October, I didn't hear the album until recently. Having seen the band live in August, I decided to take another listen to the band after discovering their album had been released. After hearing the music for a second time, I'm pleased with the result.

The band uses a variety of elements to create their own sound. The busy drum tracks provide most of the energy on the album, and aid in setting the band apart from other indie acts. The guitars and keyboard tightly intertwine, offering a sound similar to one of the year's most successful indie bands, Broken Social Scene. The vocals are hushed and modest—sometimes even too much so, and the backups add needed depth to the lead vocals.

The album opens with the relatively brief "Why is My Sleeping Bag a Ghetto Muppet?" A quiet opening, it serves to make way for arguably the best song and title track of the album. The second track progresses from the reserved nature of the band, presenting a side I hope to hear more of in the future. Showcasing a more lively sound, it con-

nects lyrically in a way the rest of the album doesn't. The next two tracks, "Falcons and Vulcans" and "Virginia, Don't Drown" follow more in the modest spirit of the opening. From this point, however, the album stumbles a bit. In "Collide the Tide", the layers of vocals are actually somewhat trying. On "Get Me off This Island", the guitar pedal work crowds the bright aspects of the song and seems unnecessary. The middle of the album would be almost a complete loss if not for the excellent "The Architect Has a Gun" The album does redeem itself at the end with "All My Hammocks are Dying", a choppy banjo melody with the strong vocals from the beginning of the album.

Most of the songs on this debut are pleasantly infectious. Although the album does have a few mediocre tracks, the album as a whole is still strong. You might be thinking that you're just not really into in-

die, which is exactly the way I feel. On the other hand, there are a few bands that stand out, and Chinup Chinup accomplishes that by having depth while steering clear of the staunch indie sound. If you don't like indie, still try and get a listen to Chinup Chinup.

Any questions about the band or the album, go to chinupchinup.com or email me at jonesma@rose-hulman.edu.



Napoleon Dynamite is the sweetest DVD EVER

Jacob P. Silvia
Entertainment Editor

Napoleon Dynamite is the sweetest movie ever to come out on DVD. Though I saw it like infinity times in theaters, I just had to watch this awesome movie when the DVD was released.

The film focuses on the less than glamorous life of one Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder), high school student. At the beginning of the film, he has no friends, no ambition, or any sweet skills. He is the poster child of the whipping boy. Jocks bully him because they can. Preppy "pretty" people make fun of him because they can. Everyone else bosses him around because they can.

He lives with his grandmother (Sandy Martin) and older brother, Kip (Aaron Ruell), the latter of whom spends all his days "chatting online with babes" and "training to become a pit fighter." Napoleon spends his time con-

templating the fantasy world, in which magical creatures, barbarians and ninjas all live together in perfect harmony, doing the sweet things that they do. His fantasy world is never really shown on screen in any other way than his less than wonderful drawings. He is perpetually detached from reality, but is forced to remain living there.

Things take a turn for the worse when Grandma has an ATV accident, and the boys are left in the care of Uncle Rico (Jon Gries), who normally lives out of his van somewhere in the valley. He adds further abuse to Napoleon's life by being unwilling to understand Napoleon's hyperbolic speech patterns. Rico attempts to make men out of the boys, though his methods involve babying them as would Grandma, but just the same complaining about the fact that he is babying them. Just the same he ruins everyone's lives and eats all their steaks.

Napoleon eventually befriends two other underdogs: Pedro and Deb (Ehren Ramirez and Tina Majorino respectively). Together they work on a campaign to get Pedro elected as class president. His opponent is the hyper-popular Summer Wheatley (Haylie Duff), who is an all American girl with has charisma galore.

My description of the movie probably doesn't do it justice, as I tend to read too deeply into things. While *Napoleon Dynamite* did entertain me, it depressed me just as well. I started thinking about the main character's goals and ambitions, the reality of his situation, having non-existent parents, living with Grandma, constantly belittled. Wow. That's sad. But then I realize: that's not the point. The point is, Napoleon is a boy whom everyone who has ever been bullied can relate to. In fact, he probably makes *you* look good. The movie is supposed to be light and funny about a

boy who has literally nothing to prove.

I was amazed at the filmmaker's abilities. Granted, it's a simplistic film, but think about it: it's a simplistic film. It has no amazing special effects or choreography (that's a lie.. there's an awesome dance scene near the end. It rivals John Travolta, Billy Blanks and the guy from Darren's Dance Groove having a Battle Royale slash dance-off). It is less than exciting when compared to blockbuster special effects sensations, like *xXx* or any other movie featuring Vin Diesel screaming in his deep nasally way while something explodes, but still, it's entertaining.

This I did not expect from MTV. I expected chase scenes, drugs, promiscuity. This movie had none of that. I used to look at MTV with fear and trepidation. I saw that they owned most high school teenagers. They could say "wear these pants," and the kid-

dies would say "how low?"

Now they release a movie that appeals to both their normal empty-headed audience as well as the indie film crowd? This is scary beyond all reason as I realize I like, if not love, a film that the culturally impaired love as well. I tried to buy it on DVD when I went home for break and every store was sold out from day one.

This is depressing, though I should see it as enlightening. Maybe Jared Hess, the director, will make a deep, meaningful film that MTV will release, and then MTV's staple crowd will be the pretentious moviegoing crowd. I better start getting used to the feeling of a personalized basketball jersey and some bling, the machine that is MTV will require it of me.

All that aside, go rent or buy (notice I didn't say download, you dirty pirates) *Napoleon Dynamite*. But be warned: you'll either love it or hate it.

Garden State DVD

Bob Schulein
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Garden State tells the story of Andrew Largeman (aka "Large," played by *Scrubs* star Zach Braff), a struggling Hollywood actor who returns to New Jersey for his mother's funeral. Large's psychiatrist father (Ian Holm) blames him for the accident that crippled his mother. As a result, Large was sent away to boarding school and placed on a plethora of sedative drugs. These drugs leave him emotionless, as evident by his barren, all-white apartment.

When Large meets Sam (a bubbly Natalie Portman) in a chance encounter in a waiting room, his life is changed forever. Her charm breaks through Large's shell and he reopens to the world. The two travel with Large's childhood buddy Mark (a hilariously scrubby Peter Starsgaard) amongst a series of interesting characters to recover a surprise present for Large. The journey's end is not important; what matters is how Large discovers meaning in life.

Large's transformation to a fully living human is a moving experience that I connected to more than any other movie I've seen (and I've seen a lot). The amount of personal connection I had with *Garden State* made the film my favorite of 2004, with the second place film far behind. Everyone I've talked to has enjoyed the film - the themes of losing home, dealing with numbing drugs, and finding salvation with another human are issues very common to people my age.

Most of *Garden State's* power can be attributed to Braff, who proves himself as a triple threat by writing, directing, and starring. He also handpicked each of the indie songs that serve as the movie's fitting soundtrack. It's impressive to note that this is Braff's directorial debut. In the special features, Braff says much of this movie comes from his own life experiences. I hope Braff can continue to make delightful films such as this. Maybe his career can resemble the one of Francois Truffaut, whose directorial debut

was the autobiographical classic, *The 400 Blows*.

The rest of the film's charm comes from quirky humor and inspired acting. Many of the images have become iconic - Large wearing a patterned shirt that fades into the background wall; Sam tap dancing for Large in front of a fire place; the list goes on... Portman blends warmth and humor with a beautiful smile to convincingly save Large. Starsgaard is goofy as Large's stoner friend, yet has great insight into humanity.

As great as the film is, there are a few faults. Most annoyingly, the second half of the film meanders away from Large's development to see more quirky characters. While these scenes are hilarious in their own right, the film as a whole would have benefited from some changes. The film also ends too abruptly. It definitely would have helped to have more scenes between Large and his father.

The special features on this DVD match the film's quality. Braff and Portman contribute an insightful commentary track that is one part film school, one part playful banter. Portman gives us the revelation that Method Man, who plays a bell-hop in a small part, was afraid his line about "titties" would offend her. She laughs about not being so innocent. Geeks take note...

Braff contributes another commentary track, this time with the production crew. You can tell they had a great time working together on this film and their enthusiasm makes this much more interesting a listen than most commentary tracks. There are 16 deleted scenes with commentary by Braff, the best being an extended conversation between Large and his father about his mother. Rounding out the special features is a 30 minute "making-of" documentary and a soundtrack preview.

If you are around my age or want to understand someone my age, *Garden State* is a good place to look. I absolutely adore this movie and heartily recommend it to anyone looking for a heart-warming soul-searcher.



Have you not had pizza
all year?

Try some delicious Papa
John's pizza for a
change of pace.

**Extra Large
One-Topping**

ONLY **9⁹⁹**
Campus Only

Limited Delivery Area - Coupon Required
ORIGINAL OR THIN CRUST WHERE
AVAILABLE Expires: 5/28/04. Not valid
with any other offer. Valid only at participat-
ing locations. Customer pays all applicable
sales tax. Additional toppings extra.

1234 WABASH AVE.

Store Hours...
Mon-Wed: 9am - 1am
Thurs-Sat: 9am - 2am
Sunday: 12pm - 12am

232-PAPA

**One Large
One-Topping**

ONLY **7⁹⁹**
Campus Only

Limited Delivery Area - Coupon Required
ORIGINAL OR THIN CRUST WHERE
AVAILABLE Expires: 5/28/04. Not valid
with any other offer. Valid only at participat-
ing locations. Customer pays all applicable
sales tax. Additional toppings extra.

The future of Social Security



At least
I have
opinions

John Kropf
Opinions Editor

Perhaps because of the Tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia recently or because he is now a lame duck, President Bush is beginning to spread the news that he is going to reform Social Security. Unlike so many other Americans, I think it's a wonderful idea, and far too long in coming.

Social Security was an invention of the New Deal, proposed by Franklin D. Roosevelt to protect the Aged from living a life of extreme poverty after they retired, all paid for with payroll taxes. The government told everyone that the system was inaugurated to hold some of their tax money deducted from each paycheck while they were working, which would be paid back to them after retirement. Because the government wanted to start right away and pay benefits to those who had never paid into the system, the taxes paid by the working population became a transfer payment, going straight to the people who were on the government's payroll. At the time, it worked

well because there were around 30 workers for every retiree. That number soon dropped to 15 then 10 and so on. By 1980, there were only about 3.2 workers for each retiree. The system as it is built today relies on the idea that there will always be more workers than retirees, so the payroll taxes can be relatively low while the benefits are relatively high.

When the baby-boomers start to retire, however, we'll reach a point where we can no longer afford to dismiss social security reform, because one of two things will happen. The Social Security trust fund can last a few years after the number of retirees is greater than the number of workers. So we could do nothing until the money runs out, then tax the working population heavily to support the retirees. If that doesn't sound like a good idea, we could instead start taxing heavily now, to put more money in the Social Security trust fund, thereby keeping it propped up for a bit longer. Eventually, though, it will run out of money, and we'll have to be taxed even more heavily, in order to support the retirees.

Maybe I'm the only one, but I would prefer a system that didn't involve taxing me heavily in the future. So, what to do? George Bush has a plan to reform social security that I believe will actually work,

and save the taxpayers money in the long run. Bush's plan is to reduce the payroll taxes on everyone now, and allow them to invest that excess money. Several other countries have already implemented programs involving private social security funds with a good deal of success. Chile, who sees growth rates of about 10% a year proves that the 2% or less Social Security provides is far less than we could be earning. Great Britain has also moved to a privatized system, taking the burden of old age pensions off the taxpayers.

The opponents of this plan will be quick to point out that Social Security was implemented to protect workers from the sharp edges of the market. They say that Social Security is designed to provide a set amount of benefits, while a private system wouldn't be equitable, because some people would retire while the market was doing well, while others would retire when the market was doing poorly. These people do not really understand investment strategy. People investing for their retirement invest in growth securities that are risky early in their lives. As they get closer to retirement, it's prudent for them to begin to pull their money out of risky stocks and bonds, and put it into stable ones, ensuring that their money will be available



A British Road Sign

www.ospolitics.org

when it is needed. Investment strategies like this don't see people losing everything in the market before they retire.

The opponents of social security reform fail to realize that something must change in the current system if it is to be there for people who will retire sometime in the distant fu-

ture. It's ironic that the people who are the biggest believers in what social security does are doing the least to help it survive for the future, while the people who never liked it to begin with are doing the most to help it along. People have to realize that nothing can go unchanged forever.

DeLay-ing ethics

Travis Willse
Oregon Daily Emerald
(U. Oregon)

The 109th Congress convened for the first time Tuesday, but the usual partisan horseplay was already ahead of schedule -- and this time for the better: Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, asked fellow House Republicans at a Monday night meeting for a reversal of an (ethically dubious) rule passed late last year that strips an 11-year-old party ethics rule from the books, permitting indicted congressmen to continue holding chamber leadership positions.

Why were legislators so interested in rewriting guidelines at the end of a session? Well, DeLay is presently under investigation in Travis County, Texas, for illegal use of some \$2.5 million in corporate money to help Republicans win state legislative races in 2002; a grand jury has already indicted three of his associates in the case.

(Don't think that this was a push for a legislative supermajority: Republicans have a tougher hand in Texan state politics than their seven-election streak of red state-ness suggests. That year marked the first time the GOP held a majority in the Texas State House of Representatives since Reconstruction.)

Anyway, with the old language intact, an indictment of DeLay would force the major-

ity leader to step down from his post. Under the Republicans' new but rescinded rule -- unsympathetically nicknamed the DeLay Rule -- an indictment would instead trigger a review by a party steering committee to determine whether the charges warrant removal. The change, which would have stripped much accountability from the authority of the increasingly ideologically centralized congressional Republican leadership, drew fire. "We have gone from DeLay being judged by his peers to DeLay being judged by his buddies," lamented Fred Wertheimer, president of the Washington watchdog group Democracy 21.

Rank-and-file Republicans naturally (and moreover reasonably) obliged DeLay's request, happy to avoid a deserved imbroglio over unjustifiably tweaking the rules.

Count Rep. Zach Wamp, R-Tenn. -- who with some other Republicans opposed the original rule change -- was among the relieved: He told CNN, "It takes a big man to do what he did, and a smart politician. This allows us to stick together."

Behind this rule shuffling sits a plainer but more sinister story: House leaders nearly unraveled important ethical codes, trading down relative moral clarity for political potency. Conflicts between ethical and political aspirations are neither new nor surprising. But, of course, that's why

guidelines like those threatened in recent months exist in the first place: to illuminate and respond to those conflicts in accordance with the public interest.

DeLay takes a dim view of the potential indictment: "This has been a dragged out 500-day investigation, and you do the political math," he told CBS News. "This is no different than other kinds of partisan attacks that have been leveled against me that are dropped after elections."

DeLay's historical appeal is shaky: The House ethics committee rebuked him three times in October and November, once for offering to trade an endorsement of a lawmaker's son in exchange for a vote in favor of Medicare legislation.

All that aside, the threat of baseless attacks designed to destabilize a party's leadership is a poor excuse to drop ethics rules: It's exactly the grand jury's place to filter the slings and arrows, determine which are legitimate and which are partisan nonsense. Dropping the rules in question would short-circuit the process, putting the decision in the hands of a possibly unduly sympathetic steering committee.

This incident, however well-ended, should leave a public wary of future changes to congressional guidelines. If the above is any example, legislators rarely roll back ethics rules to improve the ethical character of politics.

Law applies to war detainees

Staff Editorial
The Lantern (Ohio State U.)

An article in The Washington Post Sunday reported that the Bush administration is planning to imprison some suspected terrorists for life, even suspects whom the government lacks enough evidence to charge in courts. Plans are in place to build a more permanent housing unit for those prisoners unlikely to go to trial but who will not be released.

This follows right along with the government's decision to treat those captured in during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as enemy combatants and not prisoners of war. This decision has been criticized by many human rights organizations as a violation of detained combatants' rights under the Geneva Conventions, the international rules for war.

This plan is a slap in the face to one of the U.S. Constitution's basic ideas, an concept that should be applied to both American and international citizens: Habeas corpus, or the right to have a court hearing to determine whether or not a person is being held lawfully. Article I, Section 9, Clause 2 of the Constitution says that this right can only be suspended "in cases of rebellion or invasion."

The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are hardly cases where the United States have been invaded or rebelled against. This

is especially egregious because the government has admitted some of the lifetime detainees lack evidence for convictions. Under any other normal court of law, they would be released, but under this plan they will be held indefinitely, a blatant violation of habeas corpus.

What the United States should do once it has managed to stabilize the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq is deport any enemy combatants they are unable to obtain convictions for back to those countries, and make sure they deal with the enemy combatants properly. According to The Washington Post a similar idea has been suggested: The United States would build prisons in the prisoners' home countries and house them there. Those countries would be responsible for managing the prisons but would be monitored by the U.S. for human rights violations. While this plan isn't a cure for violating habeas corpus, it comes closer to the spirit of that law than indefinitely holding them at Guantanamo Bay.

While the enemy combatants held at Guantanamo Bay and other military prisons are some of the most dangerous people in the world, they have rights too, both in international and U.S. law. Denying them their rights by holding them indefinitely in violation of habeas corpus just further confirms the idea in terrorist minds that we are as evil and corrupt as we think they are.



Last week's sports scores

Men's Basketball (7-5, 1-0 SCAC)	
Dec. 15 Rose-Hulman vs. Wilmington	58 69
Dec. 18 Rose-Hulman vs. Earlham	77 52
Dec. 19 Rose-Hulman vs. Robert-Morris	71 52
Jan. 3 Rose-Hulman vs. Thomas More	78 42
Women's Basketball (7-5, 0-1 SCAC)	
Dec. 17 Rose-Hulman vs. Calumet	66 40
Dec. 19 Rose-Hulman vs. Marian College	48 57

Teams in bold denote winners.

Men's and women's basketball prepare for upcoming conference season

Andrew Twarek
Staff Writer

Men's Basketball
Conference season is the heart of basketball action: games every Friday and Sunday, alternating between home and away weekends, playing some of the toughest teams in the nation, and all leading up to the SCAC Tourney. The early part of the season helped the teams work on their game and teamwork, but conference games are more than just a W or an L. They count. Why are they so important? Bragging rights, for one. More importantly, the conference tournament is seeded according to conference records. The winner of the tourney gets an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament. The men's squad has been there three times under head coach Jim Shaw, most recently in 1999. Last year they finished second in the conference with an 11-3 record. Again this year, the Engineers have a good shot at taking the title. The competition is stiff—Trinity was ranked as highly as 16th in the country and defeated the sixth-ranked team last week. Centre stands atop the

Women's Basketball
This time last year, the women's team was 4-7. They went on to finish 11-15 and 7-8 in the conference for their best season ever. They have improved even more this year, and stand 7-5 (0-1 SCAC). The Engineers have defeated five foes for the first time ever, including some long-standing rivalries. Hanover, Anderson, and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods had all recorded more than 10 victories over Rose-Hulman in games back to the inaugural 1995 season, but they were finally overcome in 2004. The Engineers claimed the Clabber Girl Trophy for the first time in a roller-coaster game that featured Rebekah Forsyth and Jill Floyd with 20+ points each and Suzy Carlson with 17. That doesn't mean things will be easy in the SCAC season, however. Trinity and DePauw are ranked 9th and 11th in the nation this week, and Sewanee (10-1, 2-0) joins them with double-digit wins on the season. In fact, only two of the 10 teams are under .500 so far. This conference-opening weekend with Millsaps (4-3, 1-0) and Oglethorpe (5-5, 0-1) will ensure exciting matchups both days. They earned double-digit wins over both schools last year. Friday's event starts at 6 p.m., and the Sunday matchup is at 3 p.m.

SCAC leader board with a 10-2 (2-0 SCAC) record, but their conference wins were against Hendrix (4-7) and Rhodes (2-8).

The Rose-Hulman men had a rocky non-conference season, holding only a 4-5 mark until their last three games. Now 7-5 (1-0), they defeated Earlham, Robert Morris-Springfield, and Thomas More by a combined 80 points since Winter Break. Despitetheir .583 record, Coach Shaw and his team are ready to turn things up in the SCAC. "The conference regular season and the tournament at the end of the year are what we play for. We put an emphasis on winning every game, but our focus and passion is obviously at its height in conference play. That was probably illustrated best by how well we played at Depauw right in the middle of a stretch of poor non-conference play," he said. That game was an exciting 69-60 victory in Greencastle, that Rose-Hulman led for the entire 40 minutes. This weekend is the first of six conference doubleheaders. The Engineers should get a good start in the SCAC, opening against Millsaps (1-7, 1-0) tonight at 8 p.m. They take on Oglethorpe (5-3, 0-

"The conference regular season and the tournament at the end of the year are what we play for." - Coach Shaw

Upcoming athletic events

Men's Basketball Friday, January 7 Rose-Hulman vs. Millsaps 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 9 Rose-Hulman vs. Oglethorpe 1 p.m.
Women's Basketball Friday, January 7 Rose-Hulman vs. Millsaps 6 p.m.
Sunday, January 9 Rose-Hulman vs. Oglethorpe 3 p.m.
Swimming Saturday, January 8 Rose-Hulman vs. Millikin 1 p.m.
Wrestling Friday, January 14 Rose-Hulman at N. Central Invitational 3 p.m.
Games in bold denote home games

Jake Vieck earns all-american honors from D3football.com

Rose-Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior defensive lineman Jake Vieck (Vincennes/ Lincoln) earned All-American honors from D3football.com, in results released today. Vieck earned third-team All-American honors after a season that also featured all-region and Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year recognition. Vieck becomes the 33rd student-athlete in any sport to earn All-American honors at Rose-Hulman. He also becomes the 11th Engineer football player and the first defensive lineman in school history to capture All-American honors. Defensive back Justin Blomenberg was the most recent football honoree, earning a pair of All-Ameri-

can awards following the 1998 season. Vieck, a senior defensive tackle, led the conference in sacks (10) and tackles-for-loss (18) while ranking in the national NCAA Division III top 30 in both categories. He finished second on the squad with 68 tackles and also recorded two blocked kicks, two forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries this season. The two-time all-conference honoree finished his career ranked second in school history in career sacks (21) and recorded 246 tackles and 55 tackles-for-loss in his career. The electrical engineering major also tallied six forced fumbles, five blocked kicks and a pair of fumble recoveries in his four years as a starter. Rose-Hulman finished 4-6 this fall for its second-best season since 1995.

Rose-Hulman releases 2005 football schedule

Rose-Hulman News

The 2005 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology football schedule features a repeat of last season's campaign with the games sites reversed for third-year head coach Ted Karras. The Engineers finished 4-6 overall last season for its second best season since 1995. Senior noseguard Jake Vieck (Vincennes/Lincoln) earned All-American and SCAC Defensive Player of the Year recognition, while sophomore cornerback Brett Bueltel (Huntingburg/ Southridge) earned all-region honors and senior safety Neil Harrison (Tucson, Ariz./Catalina Foothills) claimed Academic All-American honors to highlight the individual accomplishments. Rose-Hulman opens the 2005 season with its "Battle of the Borders" matchup with a trip to Earlham College on Sept. 3. The two schools will face-off for the fifth consecutive year, with the Engineers holding a 4-0 lead in the season opening series. The Engineer home schedule opens with the annual Hall of Fame Game on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m., when Rose-Hulman hosts Mount St. Joseph in non-conference play. The Lions finished 10-1 in 2004, including a perfect regular season record. Rose-Hulman completes the non-conference schedule with a trip to Concordia University (Ill.) on Sept. 17 and the "Rose-Hulman Day" home matchup against Oberlin on Sept. 24. SCAC play begins on Oct. 1 with the Homecoming game against 12-time defending league champion Trinity University. The Engineers then hit the road for two lengthy conference road trips, heading to Rhodes in Memphis on Oct. 8, and Millsaps in Jackson, Miss., on Oct. 15. Rose-Hulman returns home for a pair of conference games on Oct. 22 and Nov. 5. The homestand opens with a Community Day contest against Sewanee, before the Engineers host archrival DePauw University on Nov. 5. The season concludes with a trip to Centre College on Nov. 12. Rose-Hulman returns 17 starters and all the specialists from last year's squad. The offense features the return of quarterbacks Aaron Gerhardtstein (Fort Wayne/Northrop) and Cameron Hummel (Dunkirk/Jay County), honorable mention all-conference tailback Charlie Key (Harrison, Ohio) and four starting offensive lineman, including all-conference standout Pat Ludwig (Valparaiso). Defensively, all-conference linebacker Austin Hastings (Santa Ana, Calif./Foothill) and honorable mention selection Steve Hawkins (Casey/Casey-Westfield) join Bueltel to lead the returnees.

Blubberize Today!

Alexander J. Clerc

So I was at the car dealer bringing my beloved Buick LeSabre (really, that's what I drive) in for a check-up. The mega-awesome-mobile (really, that's what I call it) was making some rather disconcerting airy, wheezing sounds, and I was worried it was pneumonia... Anyways, the crux of this amusing anecdote came when the mechanic asked me if I would like to have my car "winterized" to face harsh winter conditions.

Harsh winter conditions... that sounded dangerous. I decided that I had to get my priorities straight. Before I worry about preparing my car for the icy onslaught, I need to worry about protecting myself. I didn't want to freeze to death walking to the Worx to get some tasty cheese sticks! I needed to winterize my body.

I would need insulation from frigid gusts of wind. I would need better traction, larger, snowshoe-like feet, and padding in case of a slippery fall. I would need to have large stores of sustenance for when I get stranded in a snow bank or decide to hibernate.

I realized that all these improvements could be achieved with only one addition to my almost perfect body – 200 pounds of blubber. Blubber is one of the world's best insulators and stored energy sources. It offers pillow-soft protection and gives you better traction (via the extra weight). Whales have been utilizing blubber for eons and, aside from harpoons, nothing can kill them. I decided to blubberize my body immediately by tripling my weight, and so far I am quite pleased with my progress. If I die of anything this winter, it won't be of cold or falling down.

If anyone is interested in my Blubberizing program (patent pending), see me today and I'll hook you up with everything you need to get your body blubberized (200 pounds of chocolate Easter bunnies I got from a dumpster... I mean... the warehouse and a harpoon-proof vest).

Wacky Prof Quotes

- "The sheer force of coolness is brought to you by the 1970s Gremlin."
--Prof. Livesay, on the sheer force of coolness
- "We're gonna run a pole through about three-quarters of the ME faculty."
--Prof. Eccles, comparing professors to barns
- "You can take it all off!"
--Prof. Kubota, on verbs and their uses
- "It's your yummy protector."
--Prof. Minster, on hamburger buns
- "BOING!!!"
--Prof. McInerne, on elastic interphotonic collision
- "We give the rum to the pirate so he doesn't stab us in the face."
--Prof. Livesay, on motivations in ConApps
- "I'm not going to get a lot out of Dr. Yoder if I sue him. I might get 6 of his children."
--Prof. Grigg, on litigation
- "Don't get me wrong, I like hippies... for a variety of reasons."
--Prof. Minster, on his unique tastes
- "It doesn't have to be a love fest, you just have to talk."
--Prof. Moloney, on interpersonal relationships
- "I don't want New Jersey flavored bread."
--Prof. Voltmer, on foodstuffs
- "So those elephants you sometimes see... they're not the results of something you did to yourself."
--Prof. McInerne, on quantum uncertainty
- "Infinity is about 3. Most of the time, infinity is 1."
--Prof. Thomas, on civil engineering

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

Top Ten New Year's Resolutions

10. Lose 10 pounds, then gain it back
9. Order glasses from LensCrafters minutes before setting the clocks ahead in the spring, then sue them for not having them done in an hour
8. Silence the voices in your head
7. Go to class
6. The same thing we do every year... try to take over the world
5. Silence the voices outside your head
4. Give up STDs
3. Disprove chemistry, physics
2. Find out who this Hertz guy is
1. Give up New Year's Resolutions

Herbig's Pun of the Week

Podiatry is its own religion; it's sole therapy.

This Day In History

In 1999, the Clinton impeachment trial begins. Pol Pot was overthrown too, but I decided in favor of a sucky fellatio joke.

In Addition

In 2015, Rose-Hulman graduates will have patents on hoverconversion technology, Mr. Profusion, and flux capacitors.

