

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Spring 4-22-2005

### Volume 40 - Issue 24 - Friday, April 22, 2005

Rose Thorn Staff

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## News Briefs

by Angela Smiley

### Muslim-Americans Sue Government

Five Muslim-Americans have filed suit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for alleged racial profiling.

The plaintiffs, along with others, were detained upon attempting to cross the Canadian-American border while returning from a 2004 conference entitled "Reviving the Islamic Spirit." The plaintiffs are seeking the destruction of personal information gathered during the detention and an injunction against similar future actions.

### NASA Adjusts Shuttle Safety Standards

Internal documents leaked to the New York Times today show that NASA is revising their standards governing what constitutes "acceptable risk" to a shuttle and its crew in flight.

Critics claim that the original standards, put in place by the board which investigated the destruction of the shuttle Columbia, were too difficult for NASA to meet in time to launch Discovery in late May or early June as planned.

### AMD Announces New Dual-Core Processor

On April 21, Advanced Micro Devices announced production of a new line of processors which incorporate two separate chips in a single piece of silicon. AMD's dual-core chip, the Opteron, will be available in a server version this summer and in a workstation version by the end of the year. The Opteron line would go head-to-head with Intel's Pentium Extreme Edition, which is currently available in a workstation model and is set to debut in a server version sometime next year.

Friday  
Storms 72 Hi / 37 Lo  
Saturday  
Showers 47 Hi / 28 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

## Diversity week opens eyes

Angela Smiley  
Assistant News Editor

Last week, the Rose-Hulman Diversity Council, the Terre Haute Human Rights Day committee, the Humanities and Social Sciences Department, and half a dozen student-led organizations participated in Diversity Week, a set of events intended to offer Rose students a glimpse of the multicultural world in which they will one day live and work.

The week began with a presentation by Tim Solso, CEO of multinational Cummins, Inc., which filled the Myers Presentation Room to capacity. Solso's talk, titled "How to Survive in the Global Workforce," stressed the importance of being capable of connecting with and respecting those from backgrounds other than one's own. It touched on differences such as race and gender, and was jointly sponsored by the Diversity Council, the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) and the Society of Women Engineers.

On Wednesday, some students gave up speech for the day in conjunction with the National Day of Silence. This event, brought to cam-



Andrea Brown / Layout Manager

Three Rose students participate in the national Day of Silence on Wednesday, April 13.

pus by Rose-Hulman Unity, is meant as an expression of support for individuals who experience discrimination and harassment because of their sexual orientation. Participants were silent from the time they awoke in the morning until 5 p.m., when they gathered to celebrate a symbolic "breaking of the silence."

Much of the week's program featured works of cin-

ematic art from other cultures. Wednesday, the HSS Department's Elsie Pawley Fund sponsored the showing of four Iranian films, including a drama titled 'Kandahar' which portrayed the hardships endured by women and children in Afghanistan under Taliban rule, and a comedy set in Tehran titled 'Children of Heaven.' Friday, the International Student Association sponsored

a combination of Chinese food and film which drew both international and domestic attendees. And Sunday, the Jewish Culture Club held a showing of Fiddler on the Roof, the film version of a classic musical following the lives of a Jewish family (and village) in the years leading up to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia.

Continued on Page 3...

## Seniors to the fore: Mechanical Engineering

Alex Clerc  
News Editor

This year there are 30 ME design groups tackling projects from as large as a 7-passenger space wagon to as small as a 1-inch-long igniter. The broad range of real-world problems the students are solving are provided by outside clients from near and far, even as far as Kanazawa, Japan.

J. Darrell Gibson, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, described the project as an important introduction to design in the real world of engineering: "What we try to do is give our students team experience and real problems that come from industry." The group can also do a "service learning" project by solving engineering problems for the community. The students then have winter and spring term to come up with a creative solution.



Alex Clerc / News Editor

A ME senior project group worked on restoring the Bollinger Space Wagon for on-campus use.

Gibson also stressed that these are design projects. "Design is a response to a particular problem... it is much more open-ended than analysis or research and development."

The project involves a great deal of communication with the outside client. Most companies will pay for the groups to travel to the company to

discuss the problem face-to-face. Many companies also cover testing, manufacturing, or prototyping expenses. Rose-Hulman, however, does not charge the companies for the work the students do.

"This frees the students from doing things the company's way... the groups can direct themselves and think of cre-

ative solutions," Gibson said.

One such group that found a creative solution to a challenging problem includes Chester Clark, David Kaiser, David Radue, and David Schwarz. Clark's group chose a service learning project with a local doctor. Their goal was to somehow alleviate painful, debilitating pressure sores experienced by wheelchair users. Their final solution was a new kind of chair, a chair that allows the user to "sit" on their knees and stomach give their back a rest.

The group was very excited about the design aspect of the project and found that their secret to success was in brainstorming ideas as a team and communicating effectively. The more difficult part, they agreed, was getting specifications and parts from medical companies.

Continued on Page 3...

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
2015 Forum Round II	Red Dwarf assassinates his green onion.	Up next: daft rubbish.	Softball 1st in division. Will kidnap SCAC.	"This is not an internet chat board. This is a newspaper."
Page 3	Page 4 & 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

## Classifieds

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### Spring Picnic

Come to our Spring Picnic to celebrate the end of the school year on Saturday, April 30, 12:00 noon. Meet at United Campus Ministries, 321 7th St., to travel to the picnic site. Let us know you are coming by Friday at noon by calling 232-0187, or by e-mailing us at Jack.A.Diel@rose-hulman.edu. Everyone is welcome!

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

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

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

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

## Diversity, continued from Page 1

The week also allowed students to share their own culture at the NSBE Talent Show, held Saturday night in Hatfield Hall. The show featured performances by two dance troupes, a variety of musicians (performing everything from opera to thrash to soul), poets and even a juggler. Not all performers were Rose locals - some students came from other area schools, and the evening's Master of Ceremonies (initially introduced as "the hostess with the mostest") was visiting from ISU. The show was one of the best-attended events of Diversity Week, with well over three hundred tickets sold and enthusiastic audience participation in the judging phase of the program.

According to Sara Page Podolsky, a student organizer for the event, planning for Diversity Week has been in progress since Winter Quarter. "I knew it had happened last year, and I thought it was important to get started on it early this year," she remarked, adding that the preparation time had been essential to scheduling and promoting the week's events.

While formal Diversity Week events have concluded for this year, Project SafeZone, one of the participating groups, continues to maintain an informational table in the Commons, and the student clubs involved with the events will hold meetings throughout the academic year.

## 2015 forum inspires discussions

**Bridget Mayer**  
Staff Writer

The second round of questions from Rose-Hulman's "2015: A Conversation About Our Future" was presented to students Thursday evening as part of the administration's efforts to gain insights about the direction the institute should move. The discussion forum, held by SGA President Stefani Vande Lune, drew a mix of residence hall staff members and prominent students, many of whom shared opinions based on their personal experience at Rose-Hulman. Although Jack Midgley, the school's president and initiator of the 2015 Conversation forums, was not in attendance, several members of the SGA and David Piker, Vice President for Public Relations, were present and taking notes.

Introductory questions revolved around the technology and academic needs of students in the year 2015. Several students commented that school work should move more towards industry; suggestions included having students design their own laboratory exercises and incorporating more industry experience into senior design projects. Questions regarding Rose-Hulman's focus on the well-rounded engineer were met with comments about the diversity and relevance of humanities classes offered; one student said, "I think we need a broader variety of languages; my middle school offered more than three languages."

"Unrealistically, I think we need to move Rose-Hulman out of Terre Haute," offered another student after Vande Lune asked about improvements that could be made to the school. While most comments centered on experiences students had already had, many commented on opportunities they would like to see available for future students. The notion of a Rose-Hulman closed-circuit television station for informing the campus of events was quite popular, as were ideas for making the Root Quadrangle a more comfortable gathering place, and publicizing the clubs and extracurricular activities that often have trouble with self-promotion.

Classes were also a hot topic at

the forum. One student noted, "We have an introduction to college life class; I think we need some sort of complementary leaving college class to teach us about things like how to do taxes."

The topic which drew the most attention was Rose-Hulman's traditions, one of which is the Homecoming Bonfire. Built each year by students in different classes, the Bonfire has been restricted over the past few years. Senior mechanical engineer Jacob Klug proposed a tradition he would like to see started: "I'd like to see an event called Fire and Ice; it would start the first week of winter quarter, and students would just decorate all of campus with lights. Then, the week before winter break, we'd have a fireworks show over the football field."

Other ideas for new traditions included an annual engineering competition between students and faculty, teaching freshmen the school song, and a Rose-Hulman spirit day. One student facetiously added that he would like to see a student versus faculty wrestling match; Klug proposed getting a Rose-Hulman student on the television show Jeopardy as a means of promoting the institute.

Freshman computer engineering major Travis Tomsu said, "I'd like to see a Get-to-Know-the-Administration Day, where freshman can meet the people who run the school and learn where certain offices are. Also, it'd be cool to get to know the professors in your department right at the beginning". All in attendance agreed that the freshman experience is important. "Students need to take ownership and need to feel like they're a part of the school—the Residence Hall staff and the Greek community work hard at this, and we need to keep that up. Rose-Hulman is a community of do-ers," said Klug.

Although this was the last discussion forum that will be offered this year, there is still time for interested students and community members to get involved in the 2015 Conversation, via fax, voicemail, email, and postal mail service. More information can be found on the Rose-Hulman website.

## Seniors, continued from Page 1

David Kaiser commented that this could be a timely process because "unfortunately, the real world has different priorities than we do."

Another group that included Adnan Ayub, Benjamin Leonard, Brian Page, and Josiah Yoder took on an engineering problem from across the world. This group's outside client came from Rose-Hulman's sister university in Kanazawa, Japan - the goal was to design a better bus stop for the congested city sidewalks in Japan. The group found that bus



Alex Clerc / News Editor  
J.D. Mendez holds his finished igniters in the MEMS lab.

stops in Japan were radically different from those of America. Many are difficult for the disabled or the elderly to use, and bus passengers are in constant danger of being struck by speeding bicyclists as they board and exit the busses.

Wayne L. Sanders, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, assisted the group by traveling to Kanazawa and photographing and filming Japanese bus stops. The group produced many creative designs and Sanders presented them in Kanazawa last February. International exposure, said Sanders, is critical to engineers. "I think every engineer should have experience in foreign culture... you may not go to India, but your job might."

Serena Oaks, Andy Shold, and

J.D. Mendez worked with the company Odysian Technology, which had a problem with the reliability of igniters in missile guidance systems. Mendez, a physics major, used his prior experience in the MEMS lab to fabricate a bridge wire on the unfinished igniters the company provided them with. The team will collect data on as many kinds of bridge wires as possible to find the most reliable design.

One of the more exciting parts of their project, said Mendez, was the high explosives their company provided them with for testing the igniters.

Colin Faucett, Jason Kneiven, Steven Soots, and Kathy Wyrzykowski worked on a project with Rolls-Royce to reduce the wear on steel parts. Their project, called "Steel Tribology Design", involved designing a way to test coatings that protect from wear. Wyrzykowski enjoyed the chance to finally use the skills she had learned for designing. She also commented that "an engineering project is not simply 'pure engineering' work. It also involves writing memos, papers, and communication with your client."

For those of you looking for a sweet ride, Jared Holcomb, Ryan Kopp, Robert Memering, and Austin Templin are restoring a

Bollinger Automotive "Space Mobile" on behalf of the Rose Development Office. They are currently looking for a student group on campus that has a use for the Space Mobile.

Another service learning project was done by Emily Dieter, Amy Hudak, Kim Smith, and Michelle Witt. They worked with a family with a three-year-old daughter who has Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia, a lung disease caused by premature birth. Their goal was to design an inexpensive way to improve her quality of life. "We were all attracted to this project because we thought it would be the most rewarding." After much consideration, the team decided to purchase an oximeter and design a portable carrying case.

The goal of Andrew Dragon, Andrew Getchell, Doug Landis, and Steve Shambaugh's project was to protect big rig starter motors from over-cranking (if the driver cranks on the key for too long, the motor gets too hot and fails). Getchell really enjoyed working with their outside client, Remy, which hails from Getchell's hometown. Remy, said Getchell, was very open to the group's ideas and helped.

But working with starter motors wasn't just about the design process to Getchell; he saw the bigger picture. "It is awesome because I know that pretty much every big rig that is barrelin' down the road has one of these starter motors in it, and that means that I am part of all those big rigs... I think that is sweet!"

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# Raveonettes still jingling

## Out This Week

### In Theatres

*A Lot Like Love*  
Directed by Nigel Cole  
Starring Ashton Kutcher  
Rated PG-13

*King's Ransom*  
Directed by Jeff Byrd  
Starring Anthony Anderson  
Rated PG-13

*Kung Fu Hustle*  
Directed by Stephen Chow  
Starring Wah Yuen  
Rated R

*The Intrepeter*  
Directed by Sydney Pollack  
Starring Nicole Kidman  
Rated PG-13

*The Game of Their Lives*  
Directed by David Anspaugh  
Starring Wes Bentley  
Rated PG  
Limited Release

### On DVD

*Birth*

*Malevolence*

"That 70's Show"  
2nd Season

### Box Office Tops

1. The Amityville Horror
2. Sahara
3. Fever Pitch

**Michael Jones**  
Entertainment Editor

I've been a supporter of The Raveonettes since I first heard their previous album *Chain Gang of Love* in 2003. I have also been known to enjoy listening to their EP, *Whip it On*, from time to time. Both albums were somewhat strange in that they insisted on taking musical massive influence from the 50's and 60's and adding huge amounts of distortion to them. Also strange was that both albums were recorded exclusively in one key: *Whip it On* in B minor, and *Chain Gang of Love* in glorious B major. Both albums consisted mostly of short-lived, power chord tunes combined with impeccably-played boy/girl harmonies from the only two permanent members, Sune Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo.

I was surprised when I first got a listen to their newest release *Pretty In Black*. The first track, "The Heavens," is nearly four minutes long, doesn't have any of the band's notorious noise or distortion, and is *acoustic*. OK, maybe it's not all that shocking. It's not as if The Raveonettes could continue recording songs that shamelessly ripped off late 50's and early 60's rock. So what's the obvious choice? For The Raveonettes, it was shamelessly ripping off early 50's rock instead. But they actually manage to pull off this move (somehow) by sticking with their Jesus and Mary Chain influences, and keeping

things about as simple as possible.

*Pretty In Black* is certainly still inspired by mid century American pop. The boy/girl harmonies are still everywhere, as well as the slick lyrical style. However, the fuzzy distortion has been traded in for a slew of echoing effects. The lead guitar tracks are much twangier, and the power chords are much less prevalent than before. The album is also much lengthier, checking in at 44 minutes (15 longer than *Chain Gang of Love*; a whopping 25 minutes longer than the eight-song *Whip it On*.)

The first single from *Pretty in Black* is the slick "Love in a Trashcan." Power chords once again dominate the rhythm, but a twanging lead guitar takes the center stage for this immediately fun tune. It's also the most similar to the bands work from the past. In "Seductress of Bums" the drums reverberate like a Joy Division song, and most of the vocals are surprisingly done solo. "Twilight" brilliantly combines elements from the band's previous releases with their new direction. The warped guitar noise returns, but is merely used as a backdrop to a more resonating lead guitar.

The 50's influence is taken too far at times, though. "Here Comes Mary" sounds so much like the Everly Brothers' "All I Have to do is Dream" that I laughed out loud upon hearing it. Even more overboard is that a cover of The Angels' "My Boyfriend's Back"



Photo from theraveonettes.com

The Raveonettes attempt to put on their cool faces

appears on *Pretty in Black*. I've never been a fan of covers being on LPs, and to cover such a recognizable song just seems silly to me. Also, the album is too long for its own good. Since most of the songs sound very similar to each other, it seems unnecessary for the album to be a 13 song, 44-minute long album. The short length of The Raveonettes past recordings are more appropriate for their style.

Overall, though, the album is still enjoyable to listen to. The most important part of The Raveonettes has always been the slick, pleasurable throwbacks to mid-century pop music, and

there is definitely no disappointment in that respect. The boy/girl harmonies, which are so essential in defining their sound, still appear in nearly every song and are just as good as ever. Even though they are an image-intensive band, their image is at least supported by the sound of their music. They make you want to wear black leather with chains jingling from it. And despite such a large emphasis on image, somehow The Raveonettes still attract me as a listener, despite the lack of originality in their music. I don't know. I guess it just has something to do with the whole "writing good songs" thing.

## "Assassins" becomes an obsession

**Michael Jones**  
Entertainment Editor

This week, students all over campus have been particularly suspicious of everyone around them (even their friends). They've spent the week looking over their shoulders, sneaking around the halls, and finding alternate paths to class in an attempt to slip under the radar of their peers. Some of them have even been skipping classes just so nobody knows their location. So what's with all the paranoia? These students actually have a good excuse for acting this way. They're participating in the campus-wide, RHA-sponsored "Assassins" game.

In the game, students must seek out an assigned person who they must "assassinate" without being killed themselves. The interesting part is that if you're a participant, you only know who you have been assigned to hunt down. Your opponent has no idea that you have been sent to find him and you have no idea who's trying to find you. It could be some-

one you've never met. It could be your roommate.

The rules of the game are simple enough. The way to "assassinate" your marked player is to simply touch him on the shoulder and say, "RHA assassin" (also, the use of harmless nerf weapons is permissible).

When you sign up in advance, you must give yourself a "kill code". If another player successfully kills you, you must give them your code. Then that player must go to the game website and enter your code to have you removed from the game. You must also pass your marked player to them, so that they can now hunt your opponent down. The game continues until only one player is left standing.

This year's game is special because it is the first Assassins game on campus in four

years. There have been attempts over the last few years, each resulting in some sort of complication that ended the plans.

This year the event was sponsored and organized by the RHA, and students have responded very well to the game. Players have been getting very creative in their attempts to lure their opponents near them, and in their attempts to hide their

This guy came up and asked me if I was Zach, and I said 'nope.'

—Zach Lytle

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# Hostage captivating, action-packed

Jacob Silvia

Entertainment Editor Emeritus

At times, I feel that Bruce Willis is typecast as a somewhat badass police officer. Granted, it is my opinion that typecasting is a very, very bad thing. At times it means that we are not watching a character being played by an "actor" but an "actor" being himself, only going by a different name. This is evident with movies like *I, Robot*, in which the script was *rewritten* to suit Mr. Smith's acting talent.

With Willis, it's not as bad. It seems that even though he has his staple attributes, including the steely blue-eyed stare, he adds a unique flavor of life to each character. Most recently, he's played a police officer on two different occasions: the awesome well-made *Sin City* and *Hostage*.

I had doubts about *Hostage* at first. I had heard no press about it. It just came and fell by the wayside, awaiting the distributor to take the film reels back to the distribution warehouse. In the end, though, I was surprised.

*Hostage* is a film about Jeff Talley (Willis), a former hostage

negotiator with a bad history. He has become chief in a small, quiet town. Everything is going well, with the exception of his relationship with his wife and daughter. These problems he pushes aside as he does his job: protecting and serving.

Meet the Smith family, an excessively rich family living in a palatial estate in the middle of nowhere. Walter Smith (Kevin Pollak) tries to be a good father to his children, especially with the absence of his wife. However, he's a successful businessman, and must make a compromise between work and family, spreading himself too thin in both directions. Tommy (Jimmy Bennett) expresses his lack of quality time with Dad by building a secret fort throughout the house, using the AC system as an elaborate series of tunnels. Jennifer (Michelle Horn) is a typical rebellious teenage girl: drugs, parties, boys, et cetera.

Meet the Kelly gang: Dennis, Kevin, and Mars Krupcheck. Dennis, the older brother, gangs up with Mars, a creepy guy who looks like the illegitimate love child of Robert Rodriguez and

Quentin Tarantino. They drag the younger brother Kevin along for the ride. When seeing the Smith family in their nice SUV, sitting pretty in the easy chair of life, they get mad. They follow the family at some distance in a beat-up red pickup truck.

One thing leads to another and the Kellys hold the Smiths hostage. Talley must negotiate for their safety.

But that's too easy. Talley makes some headway, and then passes the torch off, heading home to see his wife after a busy day of work.

A group of masked men apprehend Talley and demand that he continue the negotiations, enabling them to get inside the house and get a DVD.

No, they're not a video rental place. They are an army of McGuffins who need the DVD because it has some important information on it. Their ace-in-the-hole? How 'bout kidnapping Talley's wife and daughter, threatening to kill them? That works, surprisingly.

The movie was action-packed, with gunshots, violence and some edge-of-your-seat moments. I thought that it played out sort

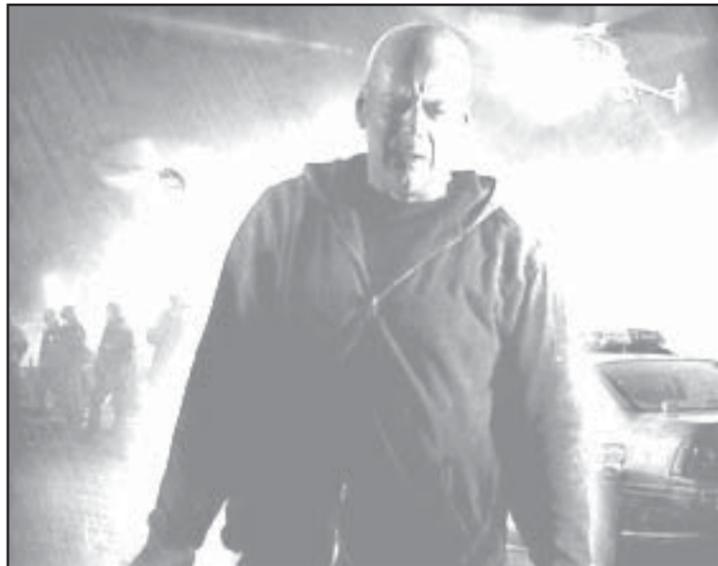


photo from imdb.com

Willis stars in a role that is becoming common for him: a cop.

of like a video game: a kid crawling through ducts like he's Solid Snake (*Metal Gear* series), people who can take a few bullets without going into shock, and other video-game clichés. Checking the creds of the director, one Florent Emilio Siri, I discovered this: he directed video games.

Namely, *Splinter Cell: Pandora Tomorrow* and *Splinter Cell: Chaos Theory*. Both are espionage-type games, emphasizing stealth.

Though this film came out a while ago, it's still not too late to see it. It's a great little film that doesn't require too much thought. At the very least, *Hostage* will captivate you.

## A felis sapien?

Jacob Silvia

Entertainment Editor Emeritus

If you've seen the movie *Alien*, you would know that "in space, no one can hear you scream." Apparently that maxim is not true for laughter, thanks to the comedic genius behind "Red Dwarf."

Series V and VI (to be a stickler, yes, "series" and not "seasons"), aired on the telly in 1992 and 1993, are the latest episodes of "Red Dwarf" to be released on DVD. Here, we further chronicle the lives of Lister, Rimmer, Cat and Kryten.

For those who have no idea what "Red Dwarf" is, here's what you've missed: Lister (Craig Charles), the lowest-ranked human aboard the space mining vessel Red Dwarf is found in violation of quarantine code for having brought a cat on board. Instead of turning over his cat to be dissected and checked for deadly diseases, he opts to be put out of commission for the duration of the journey, forfeiting pay and facing discipline when returning to Earth. He enters a cryostasis pod, which makes him a non-event in the space-time continuum, essentially freezing him in time.

When he comes to, nobody is aboard the ship, and he is surrounded by powdery piles. The ship's computer "Holly" (then played by Norman Lovett, replaced by Hattie Hayridge for a few seasons, then replaced by Lovett again) informs him that the entire ship's crew is dead and that Lister has been in cryostasis for three million years. As a matter of providing companionship, Holly activates a hologram version of the person with which Lister shared the most words: his loathsome bunkmate, Rimmer (Chris Barrie), and *not* his good friend Petersen, or even his love-interest Kochanski. He gets Rimmer: Arnold Judas Rimmer, SSC (Silver Swimming Certificate). Rimmer, being higher-ranked than Lister, assumes command and refuses to let Holly shut him off. Lister is stuck with him now.

They are alerted to another life form aboard the ship. Investigating, they discover Cat (Danny

John-Jules), a *Felis sapien*, a creature evolved from Lister's cat who acts exactly as a cat would were he a human. After integrating him into their makeshift crew, the gang discovers a mechanoid named Kryten (Robert Llewellyn) whose charge is a group of skeletons formerly belonging to his living crew. They relieve him of his duties and bring him aboard Red Dwarf. He makes himself useful as the ship's butler, maid, and every other servile role imaginable.

In Series V and VI, the crew faces all manner of adversity: evil robots from the future, a ship of holograms, GELFs ("Genetically Engineered Life Forms"), evil versions of themselves, and a shape-shifting Emo-Hawk (it eats emotions), just to name a few. Each series contains six episodes, and each episode features some problem that the crew must solve. Usually, they do so in a hilarious manner.

I thought Series VI was particularly interesting. Firstly, because it does not take place aboard Red Dwarf at all, but instead, aboard one of the Starbug vessels. Red Dwarf is missing, as is Holly. They pursue it relentlessly while battling the evils of space. As well, I find it interesting because the last episode is a cliffhanger. The funny part is, from 1992, when Series VI first aired, the fans had to wait for the cliffhanger to be resolved in 1997, when Series VII aired.

"Red Dwarf" is smart and funny, poking fun at the Sci-Fi pop culture of the day. Since it's a BBC humor (or "humour") show, the jokes will most likely pass right over the heads of any Yanks trying to watch it, due to the cultural gap called the Atlantic Ocean. Also, since it's a BBC show, it has a laugh track (live-audience, however), and that gets annoying.

Regardless, if *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, or any other sci-fi franchise is too serious for you, try "Red Dwarf" for a lighter side of the dark reaches of outer space. Besides, people might think you're cool for watching a foreign television show that's *not* anime.



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# A pointless way of moving around



At least  
I have  
opinions

**John Kropf**  
Opinions Editor

I missed a sure thing. I should have bought a Prius. Not to drive of course, but to re-sell. Today, people are paying several thousand dollars over the sticker price of a brand new Toyota Prius for a used model. Everyone else must know something I don't.

The Prius is a gasoline electric hybrid. Essentially it has two engines; an anemically small gasoline engine, which can power the car or power a generator to store electricity in a bunch of batteries and an electric motor that assists the gasoline engine when the driver needs extra acceleration. For city driving the electric motor can use the batteries to drive the car, allowing the gasoline engine to be off completely. The whole point of this intricate system is to save fuel. But they've gone wrong.

The car is supposed to be good for the environment because it doesn't use as much fuel as a normal car. But the way they achieve the predicted fuel mileage numbers in no way resembles reality. For example, the Environmental Protection Agency uses a 15 minute drive at a constant 45 miles per hour to measure highway fuel consumption. And to measure the amount of fuel consumed, they collect the emissions of the engine in a tank and analyze the quantity of exhaust, not the actual amount of

fuel consumed. This is an utterly daft way to measure fuel consumption, and the EPA knows it. That's why the numbers they put on the window stickers are only 80 % of what they actually find. That percentage has been steadily dropping since the tests were conceived. But they won't change the way they test cars, because it would render comparisons to vehicles made in the past useless. Since no one ever drives 45 on the highway, and most people frequently do double that, the reported EPA mileage numbers are hard to achieve.

In fact, Jeremy Clarkson, host of the BBC's well respected and award winning motoring program *Top Gear*, tested a Prius, and achieved only about two thirds of the predicted fuel consumption. But he also drove a Volkswagen Lupo diesel, which returned much better mileage than the Prius. And many of the next generation European diesels will do as well as the Prius in practice, without the overhead of the hybrid drive system. This parallels the experiences of many hybrid drivers, who suddenly discover that they must alter their driving style to get the mileage they thought they would get.

A better choice for the environmentally conscious driver is a diesel. In Europe, where low-sulfur diesel fuel is sold, diesels feature a smattering of emission control technology that reduces nitrogen oxides, and particulate matter to amazingly low levels. And because a diesel engine is a more efficient design than a gasoline engine, they go farther on each gallon of fuel. In fact, the Volkswagen Jetta TDI, which



<http://auto.sohu.com/>  
"A very expensive, very complex, not terribly green, slow, cheaply made, and pointless way of moving around" - Jeremy Clarkson, BBC's *Top Gear*.

features an older diesel engine design, has been near the top of the EPA's fuel mileage charts for years. The only thing stopping the United States from being able to buy these modern and clean diesels is our high sulfur diesel fuel. As another strike against the Prius' environmentally conscious image, the batteries that are used to store the electricity will eventually need to be replaced. That's amazingly expensive and horrible for the environment because the batteries contain a cocktail of poisonous heavy metals.

But the batteries aren't the only expensive parts of the Prius. Csaba Csere, Editor-in-Chief of *Car and Driver* magazine has done the math and computed that at today's gas prices, it would take around 10 years to save enough on fuel to offset the excess purchase price the Prius now com-

mands. And that doesn't take into account any repair costs, which are guaranteed to be more expensive than a normal car because no one will make aftermarket parts, and few people will know how to fix the hybrid system.

As a car, then, the Prius is awful. It's not fun to drive, and more effort is required to achieve the stellar fuel mileage numbers than most people are willing to put forth. And because of the batteries, the car probably isn't as good for the environment as everyone claims.

All the excitement over the Prius reminds me of the fervor attached to electric cars years ago. When they first appeared, environmentalists claimed that they were the best things since organic turnips. But they weren't. Once you factor in the efficiency of the typical coal power plant,

and the losses in transmission, an electric car is only about 30% efficient, meaning, it extracts about 30 % of the energy from the fossil fuel used to provide it motive force. The only difference was that the emissions were produced at a power plant instead of in the car. And electric cars didn't change the world. You can't buy one anymore. They failed, just as hybrids will. They're a fad.

For everyone who really wants to reduce their fuel consumption, there is something you can do. Change your driving style. Driving slowly, accelerating gently and braking gently, and reducing the amount of weight you carry around in your car will all help to reduce fuel consumption. Those things will save more fuel than the purchase of a hybrid will. So do yourself a favor, stay away from the Prius.

## Politicians unwelcome in world of sports

**Matt Wellens**  
*The North Wind*  
(Northern Michigan U.)

Politicians enjoy special perks that the average fan does not. They have little trouble obtaining tickets to cheer on their home team or alma mater, and they never turn down the chance to host a championship team at their estate. While some politicians exercise these privileges because they are legitimate sports fans, others use teams and athletes as a way to gain votes and promote themselves.

Shaking a few hands at the rink or throwing out the first pitch at the ballpark is harmless, but when politicians abuse their power and try to become more than just a fan, they have crossed the line. Any federal laws governing any aspect of professional sports tarnish the games. Sports leagues and federations should have the freedom to govern themselves.

The House Committee on Government Reform is trampling on this idea. They are currently in the midst of a crusade against

performance enhancing drugs in professional sports after the BALCO scandal and a book by controversial retired MLB slugger Jose Conesco. The committee held an 11-hour hearing on March 17 where they paraded parents who blamed MLB stars for their children's suicide after the youth took steroids. The committee then badgered players and executives for almost six hours, making sure everyone in the committee received ample airtime on ESPN.

Many representatives came out of the hearing calling for immediate action by congress. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., appeared on ABC's "This Week" and shared the same misguided views as the committee. He was quoted on the show by the Associated Press saying, "It seems to me that we ought to seriously consider ...a law that says all professional sports have a minimum level of performance-enhancing drug testing." Thankfully, our founding fathers established multiple branches of government in order to check themselves, and I don't mean into the boards. Presi-

dent George W. Bush called for a crackdown on steroids abuse in sports during his State of the Union address in 2004, but hasn't offered support for the congressional crusade.

The former owner of MLB's Texas Rangers does not believe that federal intervention is the way to go. In this instance, Congress should follow the lead of their commander in chief, a man who has been a member of both the sports and political worlds. Congress' crusaders aren't stopping at baseball however. Letters have recently been sent out to eight other sports organizations including the National Basketball Association, Major League Soccer, the National Football League and the locked-out National Hockey League. Executives from the NFL will go before congress on April 27 to examine the NFL's drug testing policy.

"Examining the effectiveness of the NFL's policy is a key part of understanding why 500,000 high school students today have tried steroids," Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., said in a press release on Tuesday.

I expect each and every parent of those 500,000 students to be summoned before congress sometime soon because the people who believe professional athletes are the sole cause of steroid use in youth are the same who believe Marilyn Manson is responsible for school shootings. The committee's crusade against steroids isn't the first time the government has attempted to over extend its power. In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court should have done its homework when it granted Casey Martin, who suffers from degenerative circulatory disorder, the right to use a golf cart in Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour events. The Court ruled that walking wasn't a fundamental part of the sport.

A PGA Tour event consists of three days of practice rounds, followed by four days of competitive rounds. This year at the Masters, Tiger Woods had to walk about 29 miles in seven days on his way to his fourth green jacket. And they say walking isn't a part of the game. In 1980, Jimmy Carter used the U.S. Olympic Team as a political tool. When the

Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, Carter pressured the U.S. Olympic Committee to boycott the summer games in Moscow with threats of revoking its tax exemption status and withholding their funding. Additionally, any U.S. Olympian who attempted to compete would lose his or her passport and visa, and be considered an expatriot. While politicians have good intentions when they dive into the sports world to save the day, all they are doing is harm. The harsh reality is that most politicians know nothing of the sports world.

When Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger, D-Md., a member of the committee who investigated baseball, said Jose Conesco might be the best thing that has happened to baseball, I lose respect for anything this committee finds. All Conesco did in these hearings was promote his book of fairy tales. Politicians have screwed up our country enough as it is. We need less government in our lives -- enough to protect and serve, not babysit. For once can't they just leave something alone.

**Have an opinion? Send a letter to the editor.  
E-mail [opinions@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:opinions@rose-hulman.edu)**

# Rose Sports Rundown

## Last week's sports scores

<b>Baseball (18-12, 10-4 SCAC)</b>	
April 17	
Rose-Hulman vs. Anderson	10 6
April 21	
Rose-Hulman vs. Southwestern	6 13
<b>Softball (16-12, 11-1 SCAC)</b>	
April 15	
Rose-Hulman vs. Depauw	Game 1: 0-7 Game 2: 6-5
April 19	
Rose-Hulman vs. St. Mary-of-the-Woods	Game 1: 2-6 Game 2: 4-2
<b>Men's Tennis (9-7)</b>	
April 17	
Rose-Hulman vs. Thomas More	6 0
April 17	
Rose-Hulman vs. Illinois Wesleyan	4 2
<b>Women's Tennis (10-7)</b>	
April 17	
Rose-Hulman vs. Thomas More	9 0

**Teams in bold denote winners**

## Women's tennis prepared for SCAC Tournament

Andrew Twarek  
Staff Writer

The 2005 Rose-Hulman women's tennis team is off to a great year with a 10-7 record, claiming more victories than the team has seen since 2000 and a .500 season for the first time in the history of the program. They Engineers are seeded No. 5 in this weekend's strong SCAC Tournament field, partly thanks their defeat of conference foe Centre earlier in the season.

After a 2-1 record in the fall, the Engineers opened 2005 on the road. They traveled to Florida during Quarter Break where they competed with NCAA Div. II and III schools. Since returning home, the team has racked up a 6-3 record, including 9-0 shutouts of three schools. Their most recent match was a shutout of Thomas More last Sunday.

"The girls are playing well. They've put so much effort and commitment into the season," said head coach Brenda Goble, who has led Rose-Hulman since 2000. "We have some really good leaders who are very disciplined on and off the court and in the classroom," she added.

Much of that leadership has come from the team's seniors. Krista Gonnerman and Sarah Rohrabough have both been with the squad for four years, and their leadership has been a great motivator this season. "The seniors are always reliable. Their work ethic is rubbing off on their teammates," said Coach Goble. They even make extra efforts to practice or work out during the day, "putting in double time," she added. Gonnerman has a solid 9-9 record at the No. 2 singles position this season and has a team-high 11 doubles victories.

The junior class also impresses Goble. "It will be very tough to lose



Andrew Twarek / Staff Writer  
Megan Lafferty (front) returns a volley as her #1 Doubles partner, Krista Gonnerman, waits at the baseline.

the seniors next year but we have two juniors to step into the role. Megan [Lafferty] and Rachel [Logan] are doing a great job as juniors, putting time in on the off-season," she pointed out. Lafferty owns the team's top singles record at 12-6 in the No. 1 singles slot this season.

Three freshmen fill out the squad. Kate Martin is making the biggest impact, with a 10-6 singles record and ties Gonnerman with 11 wins in doubles play. Mandy Grantz holds a respectable 7-7 singles and 5-5 doubles record, while Danielle Steinke picks up some playing time as well. "I think the freshmen are still learning how to balance Rose-Hulman and tennis. I hope they can learn a lot and take on leadership roles next year," Goble said.

The team is on the road this weekend at the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Tournament in North Little Rock, Arkan-

sas. Rose-Hulman was selected as the No. 5 team in the tournament after a successful season that included a 7-2 conference victory over Centre.

Fifth is not a small feat in the SCAC. Trinity University and Depauw University are the 5th and 6th best Div. III teams in the nation, respectively, and Rhodes College and Sewanee are both in the top 20 as well. The Engineers are paired with Sewanee in the first-round match today, with matches continuing through Sunday.

"Women's tennis is very strong in the SCAC, but we have an opportunity we've never had before. We're going in with a little more respect," said Goble, adding, "We'll find out how much we've improved."

Regardless of the outcome of the tournament, however, "success has been good for the girls," Goble pointed out. "It has been a lot of fun."

## Upcoming athletic events

**Baseball**  
April 22-April 24  
Rose-Hulman  
at SCAC Championships  
10 a.m.

**Tuesday, April 26**  
**Rose-Hulman vs. Hanover**  
6 p.m.

**Softball**  
April 22-April 24  
Rose-Hulman  
at SCAC Championships  
3 p.m.

**Tennis**  
April 22-April 24  
Rose-Hulman  
at SCAC Championships  
(Men's and Women's)

**Men's Golf**  
April 23-April 24  
Rose-Hulman  
at SCAC Championships

**Track**  
April 22- April 23  
Rose-Hulman  
at SCAC Championships

**Friday, April 29**  
**Rose-Hulman at Rose-Hulman Twilight Meet**  
6 p.m.

**Games in bold denote home games**

## Softball travels to SCAC Tournament with 11-1 record

Bill Waite  
Copy Editor

This weekend, the Rose-Hulman softball team will travel to Conway, Arkansas for the SCAC tournament. The team ended its SCAC season with an 11-1 conference record, earning first place in the eastern division.

As division champions, Rose-Hulman will go into the tournament with a first-round bye. They will play their first game today at 3 p.m against the winner of the first-round Depauw vs. Trinity game.

The team ended the SCAC season with a bang last weekend, going 3-1 in a compelling 4-game series against Depauw, in which every game went into extra innings. Senior Lauren Clark pitched two complete games in Thursday night's doubleheader, propelling Rose-Hulman to a 2-0 series lead.

Freshman Erin Locke led the Engineer attack with 2 runs and 4



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman  
Senior Janae Chaney tags a runner out at second. She is going to the SCAC Tournament with a batting average of .276.

RBI. Ashley Montgomery added 2 runs and 2 RBIs, including the game-winning RBI in game 2.

Clark also took the mound in

the first game of Friday night's doubleheader, pitching seven innings of shutout softball only to lose in extra innings. Katie Mag-

gard was the starting pitcher in game four, giving up just 3 runs in 12 innings. Once again, Locke sparked the Engineer offense, going 3 for 5 with 2 runs and an RBI. Janae Chaney added 3 runs and Clark capped the series with the game-winning RBI from the designated hitter slot.

Unfortunately, Rose-Hulman will have to go into the SCAC tournament without starting catcher Katie Yiznitsky. Yiznitsky injured her knee sliding into second base in the second game against Depauw.

"I took a longer stride than normal, and when I landed, my knee twisted and I heard a pop," said Yiznitsky. She missed the final two games of the series and will be out for the rest of the season. "It was very awkward sitting on the sidelines. I didn't really like it." Yiznitsky is scheduled to have surgery in June and will start catching again this winter.

The team could struggle without Yiznitsky; Rose-Hulman

has a 13-5 record with Yiznitsky behind the plate, while other catchers share a combined 3-7 record.

"Katie has extensive experience behind the plate," said head coach Brian Shearer. "She has very good receiving skills and a good arm." Rose-Hulman has gone 2-2 since Yiznitsky's injury, splitting the final two games against Depauw and splitting a doubleheader Tuesday against St. Mary of the Woods.

However, Shearer likes Rose-Hulman's chances. "It is disappointing not having her, but good teams overcome adversity like this. [Sophomore Nicole Sanders], normally our third baseman, will fill the catcher's position nicely for the remainder of the season."

The players share Shearer's optimism, and the team is eager to play. Freshman Katie Frey said, "I'm excited about the tournament, and I think we'll do really well despite our small roster."

## Wacky Prof Quotes

- "If I ever do that again, just shoot me."  
--Prof. Graves, giving out homework
- "Beer seems to be a theme for me."  
--Prof. Christ, who likes beer
- "It takes a sick mind to think of things like this. It's what I do in my office every day."  
--Prof. Herniter, who has a sick mind
- "I think the Flipside is about the coolest thing any school newspaper has ever done. Catching professors caught in the act of being a jackass is just great."  
--Prof. DeVasher, with great respect for her colleagues
- "I'm a little concerned about losing my membership to the Professors Torturing Students Club."  
--Prof. Azhar, torturing students
- "Find the probability of A-ness given B-ness."  
--Prof. Sherman, who is an O-ness to us all
- "Did anyone notice if I was awake at the end of class Tuesday?"  
--Prof. Grigg, who wasn't paying attention
- "I am available for birthday parties."  
--Prof. Herniter, who does bar mitzvahs too
- "...the system that allows you to filter out your professor's droning and still hear what your friend is saying."  
--Prof. Laflen, on advanced signal processing
- "That's what's called the forbidden region. XXXXX. They don't have X-rated movies anymore, do they? Or at least they don't show them in theaters like they used to. Not that I would know."  
--Prof. Hoover, who used to watch X-rated movies
- "Sometimes you feel like you're floating on air, but that's the drugs... and I've been there."  
--Prof. Sanders, who does drugs
- "We don't need to start anywhere! What are you, some sort of creationist?"  
--Prof. Bryan, who hates creationists

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

## Herbig's Pun of the Week

I always had trouble on my Physics tests because none of the terms rang a decibel.

## Top Ten Reasons We Have so Many Blood Drives

10. It's part of their evil plan to get us hooked on their "cookies" and "orange juice."
9. It serves as rehabilitation for people who like to stab others' veins.
8. For whatever reason, the interviewers get a kick out of asking us if we have ever taken money or drugs for sex.
7. In combination with the Valium in the ARA food, it is the best way to keep us slow and weak.
6. They need more blood to finish their monster made of exhumed body parts.
5. Rose is the only place where people are gutsy enough to hook themselves up to those machines that remove the useful parts from your blood and put the worthless stuff back in.
4. The blood represents one more way in which this place now owns our souls.
3. The devil doubled his order for "contract blood" in order to sign his pacts.
2. Hertz requires precious vitae to perpetuate his cursed existence.
1. The Red Cross continues its search via blood tests for he who will return balance to the force.

-Aaron Meles

## Das Thörn Alex Clerc

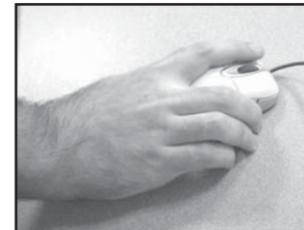
Times are changing fast, everyone, and it's tough to survive in the new global economy unless you have global skills. So every week, I'm bringing you a crash course in a foreign language and culture. This week, you'll learn everything you'll ever need to know about German\*. Here are some useful words and phrases important to German engineers:



Die Weissfarbende-komputermaschine



Trimmen Sie das Häir



Clicken Sie däs Möüse



Die leckere Gemüseüindkäseüindsoßëüindbrötëpizzaspeise



Das Boot

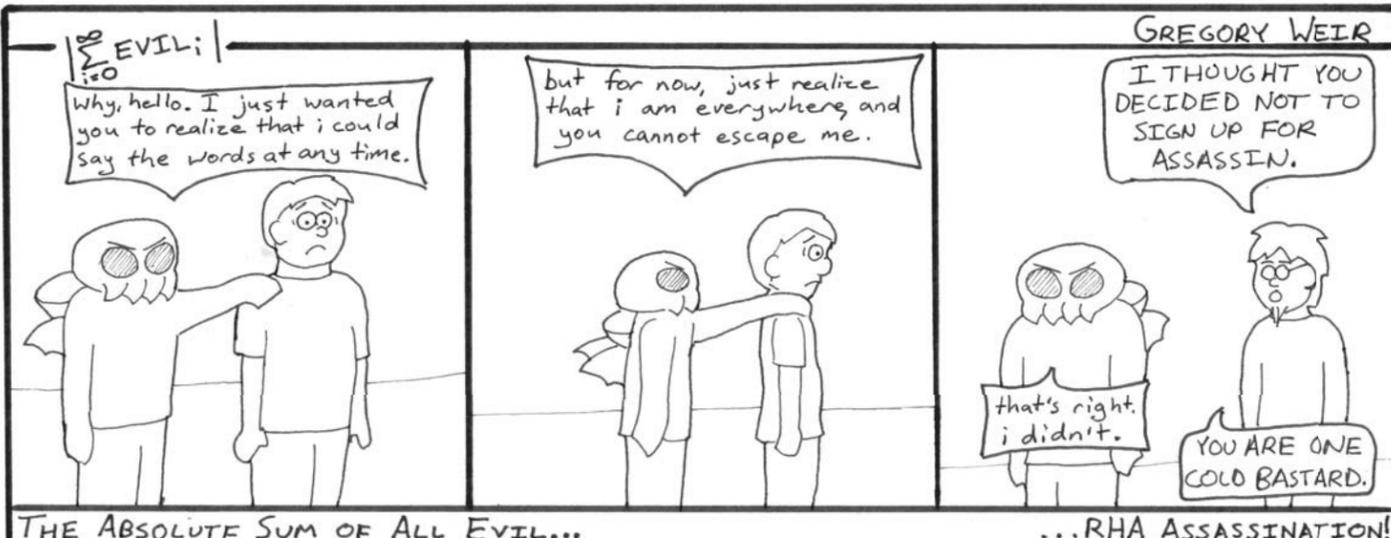
\*This lesson is not recommended by the Rose-Hulman German department. But what do they know?

## This Day In History

In 1970, the first Earth Day is celebrated in the United States. It proves far more lasting than October 4, 1968: "Ganymede Day."

## In Addition

They told me that I'd never amount to anything, but look at me now. Section editor, talk show host, and all around cool guy.



THE ABSOLUTE SUM OF ALL EVIL...

...RHA ASSASSINATION!