

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

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Volume 38 - Issue 11 - Thursday, December 19, 2002

Rose Thorn Staff

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THE THORN

Fall Grades... how did you fare?

Ted Chan
Staff Writer

The grades for the fall 2002-2003 school year have been released. The grades for the freshman seem to be higher than in previous years. Pete Gustafson, Vice President for Student Affairs and dean of students said that it was one of the highest freshman GPA's in a long time, if not the highest ever. The term and cumulative GPA was 3.20, whereas the GPA for 2001-2002 was 3.12 and for 2000-2001, it was 3.06.

The overall average for the fraternities and sororities seem to be increasing as well. It went from 2.86 for the Fall in 2000 to 3.02 in the Fall of 2002. At the same time, the students not in a social fraternity or sorority

stayed about the same or increased slightly. In general, the grades of independents was higher than the grades of Greeks. For the Fall quarter, the term average for all fraternities were 2.985 and the cumulative was 3.04. For all independents, the term average was 3.15 and the cumulative was 3.16.

The women's GPA compared to the men's GPA have been higher for the last two years in the fall term.

This term in 2001:

- Women 3.11, Men 3.04

For 2002:

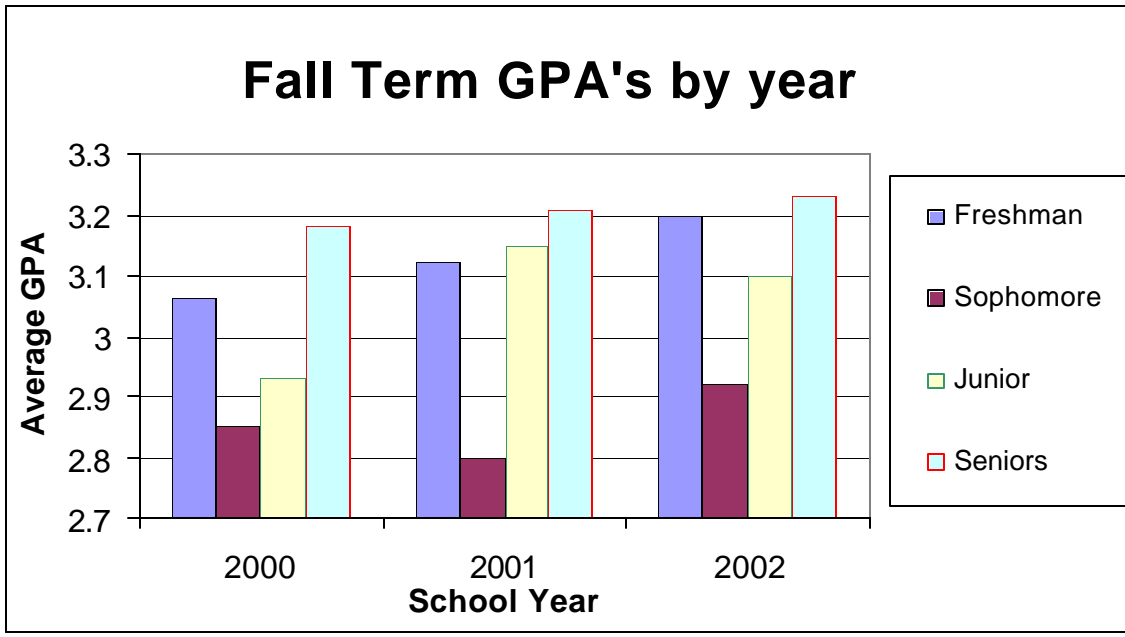
- Women 3.16, Men 3.10

The cumulative for 2001:

- Women 3.13, Men 3.10

For 2002:

- Women 3.17, Men 3.10



All statistical data taken by the office of Student Affairs from the Fall term of the 2001-2002 school year to Fall term of the 2002-2003 school year.

Rose students reach out to the community

Chris Scribner
Staff Writer

This winter local families in need are grateful of Rose-Hulman students' efforts to help provide gifts for this holiday season.

Rose-Hulman students participated in a Bikes for Tykes fundraiser program that has provided bikes to families in need for four years.

The program is organized by the exchange clubs of Vigo county, Sullivan county, and Spencer and Ellettsville.

"Without Rose-Hulman students, the program could not have grown to the size that it is," says Dale Long of External Affairs. Long has coordinated Rose-Hulman student participation in the bike building.

Over the past week RHIT students have been preparing the



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman
Rose-Hulman students help out with Bikes for Tykes.

bikes for delivery.

Last Wednesday from 3p.m. to 5:p.m. Rose students helped unload a shipment of bikes. Due to the generosity of the manufacturer, some bikes came assembled and

only required a small amount of work to fully prepare them for delivery.

On Saturday about 60 students woke up to unload and assemble bikes from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

After the bikes were unloaded and assembled, they were given a final inspection and were ready for delivery.

This Wednesday a shipment of about 150 bikes was prepped for delivery with the help of Rose-Hulman students.

Fraternities and sororities lent a hand. Students from Alpha Phi Omega, Fiji, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Nu, ATO, Triangle, Lambda Chi, and Pi Kappa Alpha were present.

The bikes will be delivered this week by members of the exchange clubs. 360 bikes will be distributed throughout Vigo county, 90 in Sullivan county, and 107 to Spencer and Ellettsville.

Long described one delivery in which Rose-Hulman students participated: "One grandmother was crying because the kids now have two things under the tree. If they

have a tree."

All the families receiving bikes were selected by the Salvation Army. Those receiving bikes range in age from 1 to 18.

Each bike is to be accompanied by a helmet as well. This is the second year the program has provided helmets.

The Exchange Clubs are local service organizations. One-hundred members of the Terre Haute area are members. Of the many community service programs it organizes, the Bikes for Tykes program is the largest.

Each year more bikes are provided for those in need. This year, \$18,000 was raised for bikes.

Two years ago the Exchange Club received a fund raising award for Bikes for Tykes. The exchange program originated in Terre Haute, and is aiming to spread throughout Indiana and then across the nation.

Students Give Up A Meal To Help Local Abused and Neglected Children

More than 400 Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology students gave up an on-campus meal this past fall to support a local volunteer agency that speaks for the best interests of abused and neglected children in the courts, and helps provide children with a safe, permanent, nurturing home.

The Residence Hall Association made a \$697 donation to the Vigo County chapter of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. The donation came from the quarterly Give Up A Meal (GUAM) program, involving students that have meal plans through ARAMARK food service.

"We're always looking to help the

unsung heroes of the community that really need financial support," said sophomore Wesley Armstrong, RHA's service chair.

CASA provides a judge with carefully researched background of the child to help the court make a sound decision about that child's future. The CASA volunteer must determine if it is in a child's best interest to stay with his or her parents or guardians, be placed in foster care, be placed with other relatives, or be freed for permanent adoption.

There were 1,911 CASA volunteers in Indiana in 2001, representing 14,322 children.

Research suggests that children who have been assigned CASA

volunteers tend to spend less time in court and less time within the foster care system than those who do not have CASA representation. Judges have observed that CASA children also have better chances of finding permanent homes than non-CASA children.

Rose-Hulman's donation comes at a crucial time for the local CASA agency, according to Executive Director Bettie McCargo. The money will be used to provide services for abused or neglected children in the court system.

Vigo County's CASA chapter is seeking volunteers and financial sponsors. Interested persons can contact McCargo at 231-5658.



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Wesley Armstrong, RHA's service chair, presents a \$697 donation to representatives from the Vigo County chapter of the CASA program.

ENTERTAINMENT The good and the bad of "Two Towers" Pages 4 & 5	OPINIONS Christmas cheer from Florida Page 6	SPORTS Women's basketball tops CalTech Page 7	FLIPSIDE We forgot to tell Steve we're printing early... Page 8	WEATHER WATCH THURSDAY Rain / Hi 53 - Lo 34 FRIDAY Partly Cloudy / Hi 43 - Lo 28 Information courtesy The Weather Channel
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

				19	20	21
					Holiday break begins after last class	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Christmas Eve	Christmas Day			



Happy Holidays from the Rose Thorn

We wish you a healthy, happy, and relaxing holiday season.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fraternities - Sororities
Clubs - Student Groups**
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A student, looking to earn some Christmas spending money, on

Saturday or over break. Please call 8384.

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Available mid-December. Nice upstairs studio apartment with air conditioning. Includes kitchen, bath with shower, large room. Price includes electricity,

heat, water, and sewage. \$345 per month located on the corner of 5th Street and Crawford. Call Sharpflats for details 877-1146.

POLICIES

Classified advertisements are open to the public for \$3.00 for the first 30 words and 15 cents for each

additional word. Bold faced words are available for 15 cents per word. Payments must be made in advance.

Members of the Rose-Hulman community may have a 30 word classified advertisement for free. Each additional word costs 15 cents. Payments must be made in advance.

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"Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information."

The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays
first through ninth week each quarter

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Cartoonist **Open**

The Rose Thorn welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 300 words in length.

E-mail is the preferred method of communication. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, clarity, and length.

All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact phone number to confirm the letter before publication.

ALL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON WEDNESDAY BEFORE PUBLICATION

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

SUBMISSIONS

Events may be published in *Events* by any organization or individual. Information on club meetings, lectures, speeches, and athletic events, including announcements of times and locations may be submitted to *Campus Calendar*, in care of Dale Long, associate director of communications, at Box 14 or extension 8418. More detailed articles containing plans, agendas, and specific information should be submitted to the *Rose Thorn*.

All submissions must be made by Wednesday at 5 p.m. in order to be published in the *Rose Thorn* on Friday.

A Call to Recycling

Nicole Hartkemeyer
Staff Writer

The Recycling Program at Rose began about four years ago. Students Against Waste (S.A.W.) was largely responsible for encouraging Facilities Operators on campus to initiate recycling on campus. Since then, our monthly averages for pounds of recyclables have reached staggering heights. On average each

month we deposit 1500 lbs. of cardboard, 1000 lbs. of mixed colored paper, 350 lbs. of newsprint, 100 lbs. of plastics, 80 lbs. of aluminum, and 80 lbs. of glass. All of these items get sent to the recycling center housed at I.S.U. By not recycling, these items would likely end up in a landfill.

Rose-Hulman recycles year-round on all areas of the campus, including supplementary buildings such as Rose-Hulman Ven-

tures, and leased properties. All participating offices are furnished with divided cardboard boxes marked accordingly for their recyclables, and there are strategically placed labeled recycling containers throughout campus. There are also large bins can be found in Moench, the SRC, outside Logan Library and the Soils lab, Rose-Hulman Ventures, and leased properties.

The availability of locations to

place recyclable goods makes it easy on students and faculty to use them, but not everyone takes advantage of this availability. Elaine Lee-Price of the Facilities Department commented on this, "Recycling is an option on campus. No one is forced to recycle. I don't know why people chose not to recycle; we make it so easy for everyone." Faculty are even encouraged to bring in their recyclables from home and place

them already bagged in any of the several boxes and bins.

The custodial staff works very hard to ensure recycling is as easy as possible for everyone on campus. The Grounds department also is responsible for making sure the recyclables get to I.S.U.'s recycling center. With such availability and ease, students and faculty are asked to think twice when throwing a recyclable away.

Winter Formal Dinner and Dance January 11th



*Dinner from 6 - 7 p.m.
Dance from 7-11 p.m.

*Dinner will end promptly at 7,
so make sure if you want dinner,
you are there from 6-7.

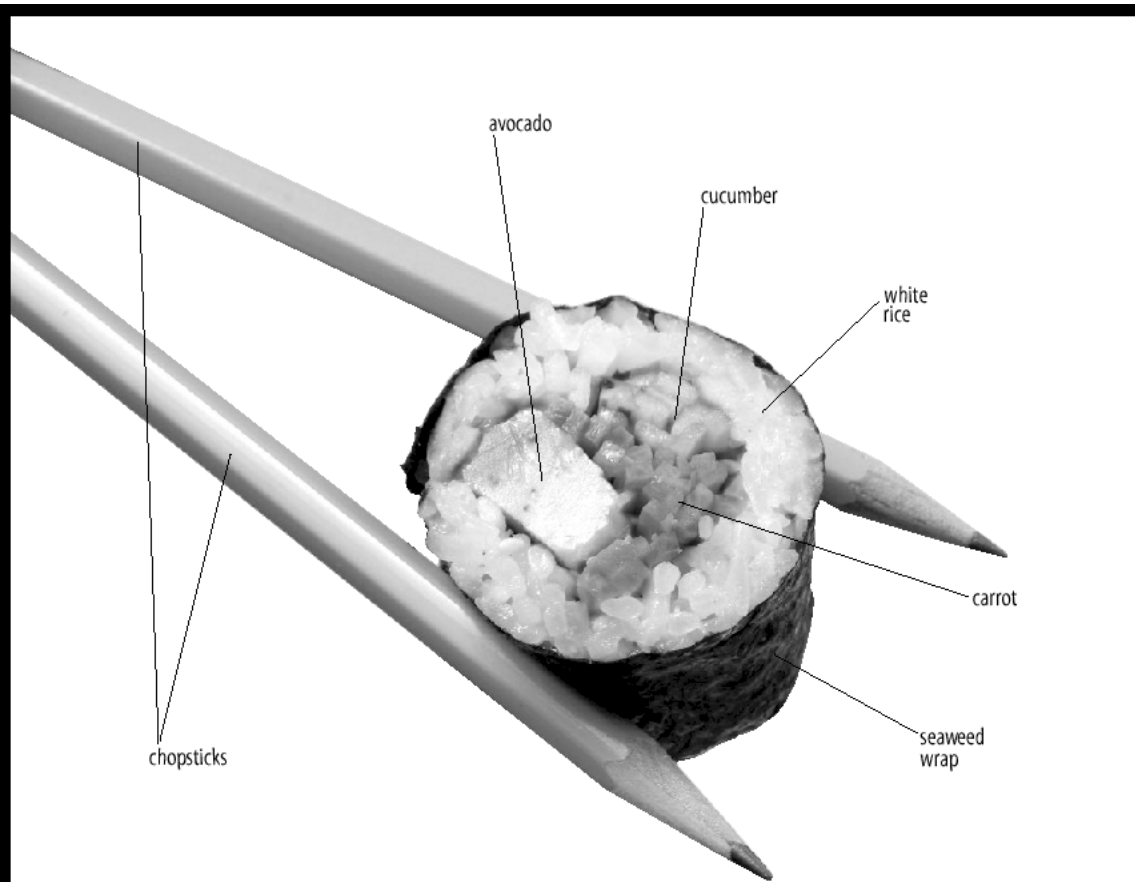
Tickets for DINNER will be on sale in the Commons on:

Wednesday, Dec. 18 - Friday, Dec. 20
Monday, Jan. 6 & Tuesday, Jan. 7

Tickets are only required
for eating dinner.

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Weekend Box Office Summary

Title	Weekend	Total Gross
1 Maid in Manhattan	19.0m	19.0m
2 Star Trek: Nemesis	18.7m	18.7m
3 Drumline	13.0m	13.0m
4 Die Another Day	7.5m	131.0m
5 The Hot Chick	7.4m	7.4m

This Week's Releases:

Gangs of New York

Two Weeks Notice

Antwone Fisher

Three minds on "The Two Towers"

Rachel Lukens
John Howard
Luke Stark

*The Lord of the Rings:
The Two Towers*



Directed by: Peter Jackson

Starring: Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Viggo Mortensen, Christopher Lee, Orlando Bloom, Cate Blanchett, Liv Tyler, Sean Astin

Luke: The way the movie opened was spectacular. The balrog bouncing off the sides of the chasm and Gandalf grabbing his sword and destroying the balrog was downright sweet.

Rachel: I didn't like how the previews let you know Gandalf was alive.

John: For people who didn't read the book, this was bad.

R: The scenery was great, I want to live in New Zealand. All the characters looked just as I thought from read-

ing the books.

L: They did really do well with the costumes.

R: Incredible care was taken with everything like the costumes, but the plot was way out there. The first movie was very true to the book, and this one wasn't as much so.

L: In the first one, you could almost see the text from the book, and this time characters didn't follow as precisely what Tolkien wrote.

J: It seemed like almost two completely different directors between this and the last.

L: Faramir's character was wrong. Simple as that. There's no logical connection from making him a jack-ass when Tolkien represented him as a noble, smart, kingly person.

R: I see how a lot of the changes they made were needed in translation to screen but I don't see how Faramir's change made it any easier to implement the movie.

L: I understand why the love story with Arwen and the argument with Elrond was shown because you don't want a movie with just guys swinging their swords around.

J: It was incredible showing the two sides of Gollum - good and evil. I think that was probably the best con-



"Lookin' at me?" Aragorn (Viggo Mortensen) leads the now broken fellowship closer to Mordor in "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." You'll see this. We can't stop you.

version between the book and the movie.

R: You could see the battle between good and evil going on in him. He wasn't completely corrupted by the ring, but he was still pretty heavily influenced by it.

L: They did a wonderful job with the cinematography on Gollum, showing the two sides of him.

J: The battle scenes were really well put together.

R: Scary.

J: The massive number of orcs was inspiring and frightening.

L: The battle scenes were terrific. I would have preferred seeing more sword work, but what we got was great.

R: Legolas was hot.

L: Legolas riding his shield down the stairs shooting arrows was hilarious.

R: The friendly banter between Gimli and Legolas helped lighten the dark mood of the movie.

L: I feel sorry for people who didn't see the extended version or read the book because they have no idea why Gimli went between a harsh gruff dwarf to a humorous elf-friend.

J: Elf-friend sounds dorky.

L: Dammit!

R: You are a big dork, Luke.

L: Elf-friend is the correct Tolkien word usage! Elven was used differently this time. Legolas and Aragorn spoke to each other in Elven in casual tones. In the first one, all Elven was spoken only under formal settings.

R: They also use it as a secret language when they want to carry on a private conversation in public.

L: Overall, the movie was pretty good. I'll give it 3 stars just because what they did with Faramir's character was wrong.

J: Overall, I'm going to refrain from passing judgement on it until I see it a second time, knowing that it's not just like the book so I can view it with an open mind.

R: I give it 3 and a half stars because they worked hard on the smallest detail and although there were small changes to the book there are always going to be some changes going from one media to another and you should always expect that.

Minority Report

Available on Fox 2-disc special edition DVD

Online: \$15 - \$20

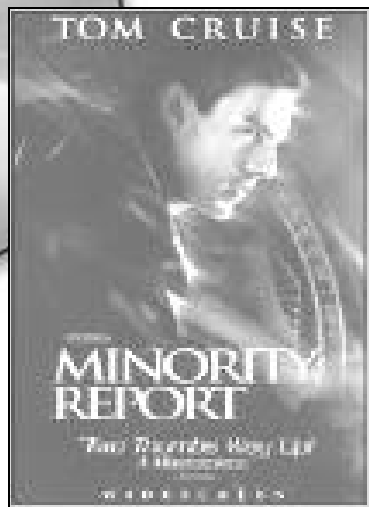
Director: Stephen Spielberg

Starring: Tom Cruise, Max Von Sydow, Samantha Morton, and Colin Farel

Supplements: DTS, Dolby Digital 5.1, featurettes, trailers, interviews with Cruise and Spielberg

What's good: One of the best thrillers of the year, nifty menus, some good info in the extras, interviews with Spielberg and Cruise.

What's bad: Like many studio DVDs, too much promotion on the disk 2 and not enough informative features. Introduction menus take way too long.



Bob Schulein
Entertainment Editor

Spielberg + Cruise + summer = mild success? Sure, "Minority Report" was well received by critics and faired decently well at the box-office, it was not the revolution many people were expecting. This led to a lot of jaded viewers, judging the movie without seeing it and dubbing the movie as over-hyped. While "Minority Report" is indeed over-hyped, as the self-promotion packed extras on this DVD attest to, the movie is well worth the two and a half hour sit.

Tom Cruise stars in this near-future thriller as John Anderton, chief of the Precrime Unit in charge of stopping murders before they occur. The system has been so successful that there hasn't been a murder in

Washington D.C. for the last six years. When the system points the finger at Anderton, he has 36 short hours to discover what is going on. It's not easy for Anderton, because all his former colleagues want him put away for good.

While the movie mainly focuses on action and suspense, there are moments of humor that work very well and actually enhance the movie. Peter "We f*** you up, Lebowski" Stormare is fantastically funny as the doctor that replaces Anderton's eyes midway through the movie. The mole on his assistant's face brought a bit more subtle humor than a recent Austin Powers joke.

The documentaries on this disc are better than most seen on studio discs, but there still is an air of self-promotion in them. One of these docs, entitled "The Story" gives some background information about Philip K. Dick, the late author of the original short story. It's nice to finally see Dick get recognition for the tremendous impact he had on the film world, though a documentary dedicated solely to him would be appreciated.

Overall, this is a great action/thriller, maybe Spielberg's best in that categorie since "Raiders of the Lost Ark." Spielberg junkies (like me!) will eat up the interview footage while being minorly annoyed by the extras. Keep the first disk, and run through the other once - that's all it's worth.

DVD of the week

The Thorn's weekly guide to contemporary and classic films worthy of your precious time

The last of the next generation

Jacob P. Silvia
Staff Writer

Star Trek: Nemesis



Starring the cast of "Star Trek: Next Generation"

"Star Trek: The Next Generation" was a show that influenced most of our lives in some way or another. I know, for instance, that I used to watch the show with my family during the latter seasons. It provided drama, comedy, and, of course, science fiction. It gave us memorable characters, clever plot twists, and even heart-wrenching season finales ending with the dreaded phrase: "to be continued," making us wait until the new fall season to bring closure upon any issues left unresolved.

Last Friday, Paramount Pictures introduced us to the final installment of this second iteration of the Star Trek universe.

The movie goes as such: In the Romulan Neutral Zone, things are going awry with a small band of people from the planet Remus. Of course, Starfleet decides to send their very own Captain Piccard to investigate. He goes only to discover that the head of this uprising is none other than himself, in the

form of a clone. Needless to say, Piccard's evil clone is bent on the destruction of life on Earth, the main headquarters of Starfleet.

I thought this movie did an excellent job closing the Next Generation franchise (though a guest appearance of Q would have been nice), and even managed to toy with the emotions of even the smallest of Star Trek fans, bringing forth a bittersweet ending (you'll have to see it for yourself). Statistically speaking, though, this movie had to be one of the "good" Star Trek movies. See, there is a law of Star Trek movies that goes: If the number of the Star Trek movie is odd, then that Star Trek movie will suck; if the number of the Star Trek movie is even, then that Star Trek movie will not suck (though the Gilbert & Sullivan did make Star Trek: Insurrection [the one before Nemesis] quite enjoyable).

This movie is not for everyone, and would bode better with a Star Trek fan—one who gets all the inside jokes, thanks to several years of devotion to a television show. Personally, I stopped following the franchise after Next Generation came to an end. Who knows what will come next? Deep Space Nine, Voyager, Enterprise? It's up to Paramount to milk this cash cow to its final frontier.

Album of the week

Drew Wright
Staff Writer

The Jazz June

Better Off Without Air

Initial Records

"The Jazz June have crafted a first-rate emo album."

Well, it was bound to happen sometime. We almost made it through 2002 without having to mention one of the most debated and incorrectly used words in all of music in recent years, but a great effort from The Jazz June has made it necessary for "emo" to make its first appearance in the pages of the Thorn.

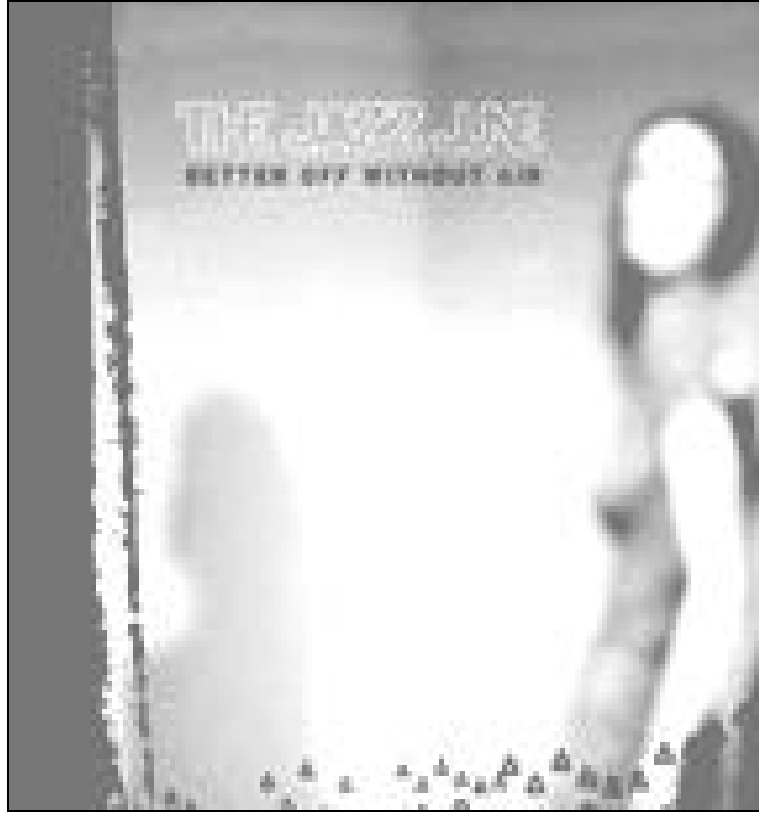
I almost even hesitate to use that word as a descriptor, since the exact meaning has been argued for almost a decade and a half by indie kids, record store clerks, and anyone else with way too much free time on his hands, myself included. This has especially become problematic in recent years, with

the sudden ascension into the pop stratosphere of a style of music and dress that has been called emo by the media, though this sentiment has faced serious opposition by all the purists out there.

With all of the arguments about what is or is not emo thrown aside, I will say that The Jazz June have crafted a first-rate emo album, somewhere between the polished, catchy ditties of current divas Dashboard Confessional, Bright Eyes, and Jimmy Eat World, and the raw, late-Eighties/early-Nineties sounds of Embrace, Rites of Spring, and, well, Jimmy Eat World.

Getting their first proper introduction to the music world in 1997 with a track on Deep Elm Records' 'A Million Miles Away' compilation, the second installment in the essential, genre-defining 'Emo Diaries' series, The Jazz June quickly made a name for themselves by outshining several other popular contemporaries on the album.

They were quickly picked up by Louisville's Initial Records and released two well received



albums before recording 'Better Off Without Air', by far their most mature and thought out album to date.

Prior to listening to the record myself, the only reviews I happened to come across only

described it as "weird" and unlike anything the band had ever done. Needless to say, it quickly found its way into the stereo when it made its way to my desk. From the bouncy bass lines and high, crisp guitar

licks of the opening track, the music immediately grabbed my attention and did not relinquish it until the slow, restrained groove of the instrumental closer.

The roughly forty five minutes in between are filled with an eclectic variety of carefully calculated guitar work, off beat drumming, jazzy (hence the name) bass lines, and down-played keyboards. The vocals, too, run the gamut from a sweet, melodious croon to harsh, throaty yells that immediately bring to mind comparisons to the former aforementioned Rites of Spring ex-singer/current Fugazi back-up yelper Guy Picciotto.

Despite the great vocals, some of my favorite moments on the album occur on the frequent instrumental tracks when the keyboards are given a more expansive role, giving the music a delightfully spacey feel that contrasts nicely with the rest of the album.

As always, stay tuned to the Thorn for more updates about the latest and greatest music. Until then, good listening!

There's ink, and then there's INK

The INK Staff
Guest Writers

Are you a master wordsmith, sketch-pad protégé, shutterbug, Renaissance wannabe, CG wizard, or just have a unique creative side? If so, then INK, the new campus fine arts journal, is the place for your work to be published!

INK is the new and improved version of The Quarterly, the literary journal that served Rose well until recent years. We are counting on you to help bring back the magazine to campus.

Rose may be the #1 tech school in the nation, but there is more to life than mechanics and mathematics, something else out there besides symbols and systems.

Professor Rebecca Dyer, Editor and Faculty Advisor for INK, notes that, "Our mission is to encourage creative expression and to provide a forum for writers and artists within the Rose-Hulman community. We hope to include a diverse array of works by students, staff, and faculty from all departments in the Institute."

If that's not enough for you, then here are four good reasons for members from each class to submit creative work to INK:

Freshmen: What better way is there to get your name known

around campus than to have it published?

Sophomores: Admit it; you do need to take your mind off of Sophomore Curriculum once in a while

Juniors: Because being published always looks good on a résumé...

Seniors: "Wow, I sure do have a lot of time this year!"

Still not convinced? Just think about all the time you'll have over Winter Break and all the creativity the holidays can spark.

Typed documents and scanned images can be submitted electronically to ink@rose-hulman.edu, and visual art can be hand-delivered to Rebecca Dyer (CM 81), Victor Rivas (CM 90), or to the Humanities and Social Sciences Department Office. (Original visual art submissions will be returned.) Works can also be published anonymously.

Since the journal has a limited amount of space, students are encouraged to submit their work soon; the deadline for all submissions is March 10th. Staff positions are also available for anyone interested.

So whether you use paint, rhyme, film, pen, verse, or mouse, it all comes down to same thing in the end... INK!



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Don't tell me Santa won't give you anything this break...
Do something constructive after all those long hours spent immersed in that hot new game... write a review! Don't be intimidated, all opinions are welcome. Send reviews to schulert@rose-hulman.edu

A dose of Christmas cheer from the opinions editor



"I'm the opinions editor and you're not."

Brandon Hathaway needs to calm down

Even though it's Christmas time, I think we need to discuss a real problem on campus. There are people in some of my classes (I won't say which ones, in case I'm talking about you) who think that they have such a relationship with the professor that they can carry on conversations with him or her during class time. Everybody has some of these people in at least one of his or her classes--a friend of mine has one in four. If you can't figure out who it is, it might be you. Just like in the movie "Rounders," if you can't spot the sucker after a half hour into the game, you're it, bucko.

Anyway, the problem at hand

has multiple parts. Firstly, it is terribly annoying. Despite this time of Christmas cheer, winter quarter is rough on people and so most don't have patience for this sort of thing. Myself included. It's terribly distracting when you're thinking about the statute of limitations on manslaughter rather than solving the matrices in class.

Which leads to the second part of the problem. Distractions in an already unkind schedule of classes are unwelcome, unless it's a hot chick, of course. These distractions are doubly unpleasant when a classmate makes, with a baffling amount of confidence, a comment which I can only imagine sounds witty in his or her head, but out loud is reminiscent of a Carrot Top commercial.

My basic advice is, for the classroom atmosphere, unless you have a doctorate or are asking someone with one a question, keep your comments to your

neighbor; he's close enough to hit you if you're not funny. The rest of us aren't paying ungodly sums of money to come to class to listen to you. If we did want to talk to you, we could find out where you live and hang out with you. Not bloody likely.

Similarly, if you're going to point out an error a professor made on the board, try to make sure it will be of benefit to the class as a whole rather than a disruption. I'm pretty sure most folks can figure it out if the professor forgets to cross the "t" in "tan." This isn't high school anymore, and we know everyone here is pretty smart. Well, for the most part, anyway.

It is disrespectful to the profes-

Sys makes us all want to curl into the fetal position and cry for Mommy, it doesn't quite cut it.

On a somewhat unrelated note, I don't care how much sleep you got last night. Or how much time you spent on the Systems homework. Neither does anyone else. All the folks in the sophomore curriculum are in the same boat, the upperclassmen have been there, and the freshmen will get their turn. So in the meantime, quit your whining. At least in public, anyway.

Merry Christmas, though. In a day or two, just about everyone will be back home and get to forget about the assignments that are wilder than Professor Herniter's vests. Some



of you will get to experience the traditional White Christmas and do whatever it is you snow-people do. I usually wear shorts on Christmas morning in Florida, so I hear that I'm missing out on a critical aspect of Christmas. (Jimmy Buffett sings a song called "Christmas in the Caribbean," that paints the picture pretty well. Except for the Caribbean part.)

So I'll make a deal with you: if you make an opinionated snowman, I'll build a man out of sand on the beach that skips over the middle pages of the newspaper and just reads the Flipside.

MechSys makes us all want to curl into the fetal position and cry for Mommy.

or to act like that in class. They did, after all, work pretty hard to get those two letters in front of their names. Even though Mech-

Support Bush's plan for the long run

By Dave Bellis
The Diamondback
(U. Maryland)
12/16/2002

(U-WIRE) COLLEGE PARK, Md. - As we rest from classes during winter break, keep in mind it is wildfire season in the world. You see, College Park may be quiet for a month, but unfortunately, the world will not. In Iraq, Iran, North Korea and elsewhere, tension is mounting as the United States leads a war on terrorism. The state of the world is like a dry, dense forest vulnerable to a rapidly spreading blaze. Any small flame could ignite a wildfire, fueled by gusting winds and radical beliefs.

President Bush approved a plan Wednesday that will make it easier for certain dense forests, where wildfires are common, to be thinned out by loggers in order to reduce the possibility of wildfires. The philosophy of his plan: Sacrifice a small percentage of woodland for the sake of preserving entire forests.

This philosophy is very much like the Bush administration's policy on the war on terrorism. It has decided to take risks in rooting out terrorists. It is risking alienating the Arab world and inducing resentment within Europe and Asia toward the United States. Even more frightening is the risk that confronting terrorists will prompt other terrorists to strike America.

Sometimes a calculated risk is necessary to prevent risk.

Bush's plan to encourage forest thinning will destroy some amount of a valuable natural resource. But it will reduce the possibility of widespread wildfires, so it is justified. Similarly, confronting terrorism will involve costs in the form of lives. But it will also reduce the threat of another devastating terrorist attack.

If I were to discuss every reason why the war on terrorism requires confronting Iraq, I could write enough words to fill this entire newspaper. You, if you disagreed, could probably write as many words to oppose my argument. The space allotted doesn't allow for a detailed discussion, so instead I focus on the philosophy -- not the specifics -- of the war on terrorism.

The philosophy is this: Take lesser risks now to reduce great-

Take lesser risks now to reduce greater risks later.

er risk later. This reasoning can be seen clearly in Bush's wildfire plan, which I only mention for the sake of metaphor. (Please don't be confused, I'm not suggesting we begin thinning the forests in Iraq to fight terrorism.) Iraq poses a great threat to the safety of America. It has developed chemical and biological weapons and is working on nuclear weapons. Saddam Hussein has for the past decade ignored legitimate U.N. resolutions that authorize weapons inspections.

With inspectors back inside Iraq, Hussein refuses to fully disclose information about his

arsenal, despite United Nations demands to do so. He attempted to assassinate former President Bush after invading Kuwait in an imperialistic attempt to conquer a sovereign nation. Don't even pretend to believe Iraqis love their dictator, who cuts off the tongues of unruly citizens and executes close advisers if they become too powerful. Hussein has identified the United States as his No. 1 enemy, and with a lack of free press, he has been able to brainwash Iraqis into believing we are responsible for their despair.

Recently the United States obtained reports that al-Qaeda-linked militants operating in Iraq have acquired chemical weapons. Iraq's threat, like a thick forest, could erupt into widespread disaster if gone unchecked. Environmentalists will undoubtedly say Bush's plan to thin the forests will destroy natural resources and unfairly help large timber companies. But critics fail to see

Bush's plan actually works in favor of their goal of protecting the environment. Liberals have similarly said the White House's stern stance toward Iraq will only expose Americans to greater threats because we are provoking Hussein. But they, too, fail to see that Bush's strategy in the war on terrorism will further their goal of keeping Americans safe. They'd prefer to appease a proven dictator and cross our fingers.

Sometimes to prevent a wildfire, the forest needs to be thinned out a bit.

Holiday break a time to lax, relax

By Dennis Hinkamp
The Utah Statesman
(Utah State U.)
12/18/2002

(U-WIRE) LOGAN, Utah - I actually heard an economist on the news say, "Consumers have money. They are just not spending it" and that is holding back the economic recovery.

Thank you Mr. Compassion.

Yep, we are just sitting on piles of money so big we need both cheeks just to hold it all down. And, since economists have been saying this for the last five years it carries about as much weight as 30-day weather predictions. In uncertain times people act uncertainly.

In a season when everyone is feeling a little beaten up and scared this might be the right time to go back to the first George Bush's mantra of "a kinder, gentler nation" since this spending-our-way-out-of-debt thing isn't working out so well. If we're going to ride this thing out, let's do it in style and with a little less self-righteousness.

I don't know if my generation invented it, but we certainly perfected the notion of slack. Well, it is time to reach into your inner slacker, slouch and act slovenly for a while. It's going to be a long ride so you might as well make the best of it by making it comfortable for everyone.

The next time you feel like running over someone in the crosswalk, don't; the next time you can't find a parking space nearby, park on the edge and walk; let freedom ring, but turn off your cell phone; skip -- not any particular thing -- just skip with your feet; slouch on the couch, talk

with your mouth full, write-in vote for yourself, steam up the windows of your car with someone you love.

Eat cake and ice cream and wear funny hats more often, build things with Twinkies, flatter yourself, tell your mirror to stop lying; give a piggy-back ride to a kid so long as he isn't too piggy, forgive someone, bite the hand that feeds you, but only if it is your own hand; serve marshmallows for dinner, talk to more animals in that funny talking-to-animals voice; run amok, blather incoherently, burn some bridges, give a rat's butt, shuffle along, have an Einstein hair day.

Make cow sounds in the grocery store, eat cheesecake for breakfast and pancakes for dinner; fly off the handle, roll down a hill, crack your knuckles, thumb your nose, pick a rose, curl somebody's toes, don't wear panty hose, wrinkle your clothes, run for cover, call your mother, shop at home, give a dog a bone, nick knock paddy whack, come strolling home.

Give to a charity, find some hilarity, pray for clarity, speak sincerely, put a partridge in your pear tree; write someone a poem, buy a garden gnome, throw away your comb, bake someone a scone, unplug the phone, forgive somebody's loan, be Roman when in Rome; believe in Santa Claus, don't hate your boss, mourn a loss, don't forget to floss, be a rolling stone and gather no moss, stand up sit down, but don't fight-fight; fly a kite at night, protect each other's rights, find a solution, don't add to pollution, jump for joy, buy a kid a toy, take a walk around the block, put some Jell-O in your socks.

Write opinions for the Thorn.
hathawbh@rose-hulman.edu

Second-half rally lifts Robert Morris-Springfield over Rose-Hulman



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Senior Jon Query

Robert Morris-Springfield rallied from an 11-point, second-half deficit to earn a 74-71 victory over Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in men's college basketball action on Sunday afternoon.

The Eagles trailed 49-38 early in the second half, but methodically rallied to take the lead at 72-71 with 33 seconds on a basket by Kevin Golston. After a steal by Maurice Jones on the next possession, Robert Morris-Springfield provided the final margin of victory on a dunk by Justin Tiller with 0.5 seconds left.

Rose-Hulman attempted a desperation full-court pass that was deflected on the final possession to secure the Eagles victory.

Senior Jon Query (Petersburg/Pike Central) led the Engineers with 15 points, while sophomore Philip Griffith (Mooreland/Blue River Valley) and sophomore Jason Ludwig (Effingham, Ill./St. Anthony) added 11 points each. The Engineers shot 55% from the field in the first half but were held to 10-33 shooting in the sec-

ond half (31%), while Robert Morris-Springfield shot 59% in the second stanza.

Maurice Jones led the victors with 18 points, while Tyke Bohanan and Travaras Reed contributed 14 points each. Off the bench, freshman Kareem Lee (Indianapolis/Warren Central) scored a career-high eight points, while sophomore Evan Ballinger (Upland/Eastbrook) and freshman Brian Bibb (Hoopeston, Ill.) scored five points each. Bibb added six rebounds, one assist and one steal in 12 minutes of action.

Rose-Hulman earned a six-point lead at 63-57 on a jumper by Griffith with 6:15 left, before Robert Morris-Springfield answered with a 9-3 spurt to close within 63-61 at the 5:32 mark. The Engineers then earned a five-point advantage at 68-63 with 3:44 remaining on a jumper by Griffith, then the Eagles made a final charge.

Field goals by Justin Tiller and Maurice Jones brought Robert Morris-Springfield within 71-69 at the 1:46 mark. A free throw by

Kevin Golston brought the deficit to 71-70 with 1:05 remaining and, after another defensive stop, the Eagles took the lead at 72-71 on a 10-foot jumper by Golston.

"We were able to get open shots in the second half, but then we panicked. We got a little bit of a lead and forced them to change defenses, but we were couldn't get rebounds or key stops. I'm frustrated because we're doing some things that we shouldn't be doing, but we'll keep plugging away," said Rose-Hulman head coach Jim Shaw.

Robert Morris-Springfield jumped out to a 4-0 lead, before a pair of free throws by sophomore Griffith and a three-pointer by freshman Munchie Muskeyvalley (Rock Island, Ill.) gave the Engineers a 9-6 edge with 16:29 left in the opening half.

The Eagles regained the advantage at 19-15 on a three-pointer by Maurice Jones and a field goal by Matt Wiseman at the 11:51 mark. Rose-Hulman responded with a 9-2 run to earn an 24-21 advantage on a three-pointer by Ballinger and a jump-

er by freshman Brennan Dunville (Sebree, Ky./Webster County).

Rose-Hulman pushed the lead to 28-23 on a four-point possession by Query. A technical foul was called against Tiller to start the possession, with Query swishing both free throws. He capped the trip with a 15-foot jumper to push the Engineer lead to five.

The run propelled Query's offense, as the senior scored 12 points in the last eight minutes of the first half. His three-pointers pushed Rose-Hulman's advantage to 37-29 with 3:42 left in the opening half and 45-33 with 1:22 left.

A 19-foot jumper by Reed at the buzzer of the first half brought Robert Morris-Springfield within 47-38 at the break.

The Engineers pushed the lead to 11 points at 49-38 on a jumper by Ludwig before a 12-0 run gave Robert Morris-Springfield a 50-49 lead with 11:12 left.

Robert Morris-Springfield improved to 5-7 on the season, while Rose-Hulman dropped to 1-6.

Rose-Hulman tops CalTech in women's basketball battle of engineering elite

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology set a school record by allowing just 20 points to earn an 80-20 victory over CalTech in a women's basketball matchup of two of the nation's top engineering colleges on Monday evening at Hulbert Arena.

Freshman Katie Hamstra (Indianapolis/Park Tudor) led Rose-Hulman with 15 points and added eight rebounds and four assists. Freshman Anna Hall (Martinsville) tallied 14 points and eight rebounds for the Engineers.

Rose-Hulman's double-figure scoring was rounded out by freshman Catherine Beal (West Terre Haute/West Vigo) with 12 points and 12 rebounds, while sophomore Elaine Mindrup (Evansville/Mater Dei) tallied 12 points. "Our bench really did a nice job by coming strong and helping turn the game around.

Katie showed this with 15 points, and Catherine did a nice job with her 12 rebounds. This was a game for them to shine and they did it. I'm very proud of their efforts and the way that they played," said Jody Prete.

The Engineers also tied a school record with 23 steals and grabbed 67 rebounds, the second-highest single-game total in school history.

"This is one of the better teams that we have played from top to bottom. Rose-Hulman is fundamentally sound, hit the boards well and they're a well-coached team. They were definitely the better team, and I appreciate the way that coach (Prete) played the game. They could have run up the score on us but they didn't, and that made it bearable for us," said CalTech head coach Marcia Foster.

Sophomore Ada Yu led

CalTech with 10 points, while freshman Shelby Montague recorded eight rebounds and six rebounds. Other key contributors for Rose-Hulman included freshman Karyn Kost (Avon) with nine points; sophomore Emily Dieter (Spencer/Owen Valley) with career-high totals of four points, four rebounds and six steals; and sophomore Carrie Wiley (Vevay/Switzerland County) with two points and a career-high eight assists.

The game featured a matchup of Rose-Hulman, ranked as the nation's top engineering school with a master's as its highest degree by U.S. News & World Report, and CalTech, ranked as the best value and No. 4 overall undergraduate program containing doctoral students by U.S. News.

Rose-Hulman improved to 3-7 on the season, while CalTech dropped to 1-4.



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Freshman Katie Hamstra

2002-03 Women's basketball standings

Team	SCAC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Millsaps	0	0	6	1
Hendrix	0	0	5	1
DePauw	0	0	6	2
Trinity	0	0	5	2
Centre	0	0	4	2
Southwestern	0	0	4	3
Oglethorpe	0	0	3	3
Rhodes	0	0	3	3
Rose-Hulman	0	0	3	7
U. South	0	0	1	5

2002-03 Men's basketball standings


Team	SCAC		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Millsaps	0	0	6	2
Centre	0	0	3	2
Trinity	0	0	4	3
Rhodes	0	0	5	4
DePauw	0	0	3	3
Southwestern	0	0	3	3
Oglethorpe	0	0	3	4
Hendrix	0	0	2	4
U. South	0	0	1	4
Rose-Hulman	0	0	1	6

FLIP SIDE

Top Ten Reasons to be an Econ

- 10.) That Mech Sys test probably raped you...
- 9.) So did the DE test.
- 8.) Hummers are fun!!!
- 7.) Supply vs. Demand, how hard could it be?
- 6.) <Insert standard Hertz or Ron comment>
- 5.) Chicks dig marginal revenue curves...
- 4.) Guaranteed free Wednesdays.
- 3.) Mmmmmmmmm, Guns and Butter, baby.
- 2.) Four other people can't be wrong.
- 1.) You getta play with other people's money.



 A black box to remind you to send stuff to: flipside@rose-hulman.edu Prof. Quotes, pictures, funny stuff, seriously we'll take concrete injected into our blood stream, come on we nEEd you.

A Message from the Temporary Flipside Staff

Well, we've spent the last several hours fretting over how to do a flipside when we're used to writing for the inside of the paper. Or as we call it: The Dry and Dull pages. We've tried to use the normal flipside format, but we don't get all the inside jokes. Can you explain them to us? Oh, and we lost all the prof. quotes...if you hear them send them our way at flipside@rose-hulman.edu. We actually figured out how to make a black box; it's always nice to learn new things. We tried to get Sammy an ice cream machine for his office, but the ARA wasn't too keen on us rolling it out the door. Oh, well better luck next year. Well, we're going back to the inside of the paper...I guess this is goodbye until we forget to tell Steve again...



-The Kinda Evil Barons of Humor

Dr. Smack replies

Dear Professor Smack,
There's this girl in my Logical Circuits and Analytical Structure Systems Design Orientation class who I think is really cute. I'd like to go talk to her, but I can't remember the last time I talked to a girl who wasn't my mom. I only have 7 weeks to go and I'm afraid I'll run out of time. Can you help me?
-Mama's Boy

self confidence. Come on man, nobody likes a whiner! Just go and talk to her already! Don't be a wuss! Hope that helps.

Dear Prof. Smack, I spend all of my time in engineering classes and doing homework, but all I think about are bunnies. When do we dump the circuits and talk about the bunnies?

-Cony dude

Dear Cony dude, Don't fret my furry rodent

loving friend, for your bunny fun time will come soon in Dr. Graves' DE2 class. Have fun.



Dr. Smack

Dear Dr. Smack, I have three tests tomorrow. I haven't studied because my Economics curriculum is so vigorous that I have no time. This DE test is really freaking

me out. I'm scared, doctor, really scared. Can you help?

-Money Man

Dear Money Man, Ah... economics, the fine science. Don't be so worried, Money Man, cause everything will be all right. Just relax, and go to sleep. That's what most engineering majors do anyway.

Dear Smack, PhD,

There's a girl in my 3rd hour class that I kinda have a thing for. The trouble is, she sits all the way on the other side of the room. I'd like to talk to her, but, I'm not sure I want to walk all that way. Is there any way I could get her attention with-

out having to actually do any real work? Do you have any advice?
-Industrious Worker

Dear Industrious, Surprising as it may sound, there is hope for you. All you have to do is ball up your notes in class, preferably the one she is also in, and throw them at her. Immediately stand up and approach her. Your willingness to show the whole class your feelings will make you a shoe in for sure. Get crumpling!

LARPing a problem?

My mother told me once, she said: "Son, I don't mind if you spend your time playing Advanced Dungeons & Dragons, but for the love of all that is holy, please do NOT run around like an inebriated psychopath, and pretend that you actually ARE the character you role-play."

Surely, I thought she was making some assumption

that somewhere in the world people actually did this sort of inanity. Surely, I thought that what she feared most of her son becoming would never happen, due to the fact that no human being would have enough self loathing to publicly humiliate himself by pretending to actually be a Chaotic-evil half kobold, half lizard man necromancer bard.

However, I have recently discovered (thanks to flyers posted along campus) that people actually DO have this much self-loathing. I decided to do some research on the topic. After glancing at several collections of rules for assorted LARP (as they're called-live action role-playing) games, a single rule rings true for all of them: "You are not

REALLY a Vampire, please do not ACTUALLY bite people."

"But," one might ask me, "What about you? Haven't you ever wanted to play-act someone whom you are not?" Oh, I have, and I did. I remember it distinctly. We didn't call it LARP, though, we called it "Recess;" it came shortly after lunch. It was in first, and possibly

second grade. Now, I'm not hating on LARPer's, I'm just saying that when people without girlfriends get together and force one of their party to be a female elf just so they can hit on "her" are the same people that point at you and laugh, you should reassess your ability to make quasi-competent decisions.

This Week in the News

To strive toward creating the no-sleep soldier, DARPA has funded a multi-tiered program that tinkers with a soldier's brain using magnetic resonance..the hope is to stump the body's need for sleep...Perhaps they should try CRT radiation and Mountain Dew.

This Week in History

Project SCORE, the world's first experimental communications satellite, was launched on this day in 1958. SCORE circled the earth for thirteen days before its batteries ran down. Sounds just like the last time you tried to score...crashing and burning.

Um, space we had to fill

Here's the deal: We printed on Thursday instead of Friday, and we forgot to remind Steve, so we're sitting here writing whatever happens to come to our minds. Unfortunately, we're not any funnier than Steve.