

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Spring 3-21-2003

### Volume 38 - Issue 19 - Friday, March 21, 2003

Rose Thorn Staff

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# THE THORN

## Overview: IRAQ

*"We are now acting because the risks of inaction would be far greater. In one year, or five years, the power of Iraq to inflict harm on all free nations would be multiplied many times over." - President Bush*



**"Better to attack now than to wait until there is more of a threat."  
- Jonathan Knez**

### Iraq Statistics

**Population:** 24,001,816 (July 2002 est.)

**Size:** 437,072 sq km; slightly more than twice the size of Idaho

**Bordering countries:** Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Turkey

**Economy:** Oil sector 95% of foreign exchange earnings

**Export Partners:** US 46.2%, Italy 12.2%, France 9.6%, Spain 8.6% (2000)

**Import Partners:** France 22.5%, Australia 22%, China 5.8%, Russia 5.8% (2000)

**Inflation Rate (consumer prices):** 60%

**Literacy:** total population: 58%, male: 70.7%, female: 45% (1995 est.)

**President:** Saddam Hussein (since 16 July 1979)

**"Just because Saddam is an evil person doesn't mean that we should punish his people."  
-Todd Grotenhuis**



*"Should enemies strike our country, they would be attempting to shift our attention with panic and weaken our morale with fear. In this, they would fail." - President Bush*



**"I was against starting the war, but now that we've started it we need to finish it."  
- Veronica Ramieri**

*More coverage on Iraq next week; including how the war is affecting Rose*

## Undergraduates gather for mathematics conference

**Nicole Hartkemeyer**  
News Editor

Students from across the country will be gathering this weekend for the 20th Annual Undergraduate Mathematics Conference at Rose-Hulman. The conference, organized by Rose-Hulman mathematics professors Stephan Carlson and Tom Langley, will give undergraduate students an opportunity to share presentations of the mathematics research they have completed.

The conference is held at Rose because the mathematics department is dedicated to give undergraduate students a chance to do research in a field they usually only get to undertake in graduate school.

"Our faculty has been involved in both regional and national mathematical organizations and, partially through that involvement, has recognized the need for mathematics students to gather together to share ideas," stated Stephen Carlson. "Our conference, now in its twentieth year, is one of just a few that offer students such an opportunity in the

region."

Other contributors to the organization of the conference include mathematics department secretary, Terri Moscan, the math department work-study students, and the Rose-Hulman chapter of the Pi Mu Epsilon Honorary Mathematics Fraternity members. The success of this year's conference will most definitely be attributed to their help.

The event is scheduled to begin Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. with registration on the first floor of Hadley Hall. The students attending the conference had to pay a registration fee of \$10 if they were not giving a talk, and had no charge if they were giving a speech on their research. Faculty attending the conference had a \$50 fee. At noon today they will be having a buffet lunch in the Kahn room, followed by an introduction to the conference at 1:30 p.m.

The first presentation will be conducted by Professor DeWitt Sumners, distinguished professor of mathematics at Florida State

University. Sumners talk is titled, "Calculating the Secrets of Life: Mathematics in Biology and Medicine." The conclusion of this speech will kick off two hours of student presented papers including University of Evansville student J.B. Brown's "Simulation of Communicable Diseases," University of Illinois at Chicago student David Maduram's "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of International Cigarette Smuggling Using



Dr. Aparna Higgins

Computationally-Intensive Mathematical Models," and Valparaiso University student Tyrel Fisher's "Three-Minute Dating and Social Mixers."

The day continues with group photos at 4:30 p.m. (pictures will be available online on the conference webpage), dinner in the Kahn room, and the presentation of "Demonic Graphs and Undergraduate Research" by the second invited speaker, Professor Aparna Higgins of the University of Dayton. Concluding Friday's schedule are two parties, one for the students and one for the faculty attending the conference.

*Continued on Page 3*



Dr. DeWitt Sumners

## Grade inflation at Rose-Hulman

**Nicholas McKinney**  
Staff Writer

In a recent article to the Washington Post, Stuart Rojstaczer, a professor at Duke University, asserts that he no longer gives the grade of 'C' in his classes. "[E]ven when classes aren't very good," Rojstaczer writes, "I just drop down slightly, to grades that range from A-minus to B-minus."

Rojstaczer continues that grade inflation is a growing trend across colleges nationwide, in particular among private colleges and universities. After several years of research, analyzing almost 40 years worth of data from twenty-nine institutions, he concludes that GPA's are rising at an average of 0.16 points per decade, with a more rapid growth in the past twenty years.

There are several arguments as to why a university or professor might inflate grades. The simplest is that the university might simply want to keep up its numbers with

other universities. For many colleges, tuitions are increasing rapidly, many times above the rate of inflation. To keep attracting students, a university must show results, and grades are still a good way to quantify the value of tuition dollars and, therefore, attract students to their campus.

Another reason to inflate grades is to help along the track to tenure.

### As the average grade approaches 'A,' how does one quantify the performance of a student?

Rose-Hulman, for example, uses student evaluations of a particular course as one method of quantifying a professor's performance, and a more lenient grading system might encourage students to give more favorable evaluations.

A third reason to give higher grades might simply be to avoid the hassle of arguing what grades should be. One professor at Rose-Hulman pointed out that if a professor has to justify the grade (s)he may give students, after a while, it

seems futile to fight it. This would especially be a problem at schools where the tuition is significantly higher than at public schools and both parents and students alike expect better results for their money.

Of course, the reasons to inflate grades do not fully justify the problems that may arise. At the global level, the trend among major uni-

versities to inflate grades harms other schools. Even though a lesser-known school may have a more reputable curriculum and balanced grading scale, it will begin to

suffer because their grades appear lower. As the "average" grade approaches 'A,' a grade reserved for "excellent" performance on the traditional scale, how does one quantify the performance of an individual student, or, as may be the case for a company hiring new graduates, how does one make a direct comparison between one student and another?

*Continued on Page 3*

### ENTERTAINMENT

The Thorn staff picks the Oscar winners.

### OPINIONS

Troops, travel, and tolerance.

### SPORTS

Women's Division III Championships run-down.

### FLIPSIDE

Your tools for toolism!

### WEATHER WATCH

FRIDAY

Light Rain/ Hi 56- Lo 33

SATURDAY

Partly Cloudy/ Hi 54- Lo 36



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

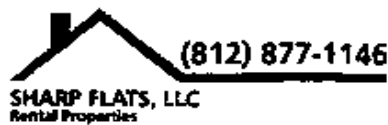
					21	22
					Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Math Conference	Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Math Conference
					NCAA Div III Women's B-Ball Championships	NCAA Div III Women's B-Ball Championships
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
20th Annual Rose-Hulman Undergraduate Math Conference		Arthea Franklin & Elton John's Birthday	Leonard Nimoy's Birthday		Drama Club's Musical: "Damn Yankees", Hatfield Hall 8 p.m.	<b>MOM'S DAY!</b>  Drama Club's Musical: "Damn Yankees", Hatfield Hall 8 p.m.



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# The Rose Thorn

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

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

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.



# On campus housing shortage

**Ted Chan**  
Staff Writer

It seems that there will be a bit of an on-campus housing shortage for the upcoming academic school year. This is because more students are interested in living on campus than there is space available. At least that is how it seems from the intent to live on campus cards that were submitted a few months ago.

The residence halls have a residence capacity of 881, and a max capacity of 898 students. The projected number of freshmen for next year is 450 students, and the number of upperclassmen who have shown interest in living on-campus is 560 to 565 (based on completed intent to live on campus forms). Thus about 112 students may need to find off campus housing, depending on the amount who actually commit to living on campus.

Priority for on campus housing is

given as follows: first freshmen, second sophomores...fifth transfer students. At this point it seems that all the freshmen, sophomores, and juniors next year will have on campus housing. Some of the seniors and transfer students may need to begin looking into finding an apartment.

Last week there were two meetings to discuss housing. A total of 294 students requested to live in the New Residence Hall, but the residence hall only has capacity for 200 students excluding rooms for Resident Assistants (RA's), faculty and staff, leaving 94 without their first choice of housing. There will be a lottery for the students who said that they were interested in living in new residence hall to see if they received a room in the new residence hall. Some students will still be able to get housing on campus, but not necessarily at the New Residence Hall.

Also, not all the current juniors

who will become seniors next year will be able to have on campus housing according to the current numbers. There will be a lottery for the people on the waiting list. Right now there are 39 groups of people on waiting lists for a room for next year, with the numbers wavering and fluctuating. Students on the waiting list are encouraged to investigate apartments in case they are not able to receive on campus housing. There were some students who did not include any roommates that they desired to live with, some of these people may be matched up or given information about other students who are investigating living off campus as well.

This is the first time that seniors who want to live on campus have been turned away. Back in 1996 RA's had roommates, but it was decided that this did not help promote the floor atmosphere and community as if they had singles to allow students to stop by and chat.

It is due to a few factors, such as Rose having more students applying due to more national recognition. The second reason is that more students want to live on campus because of the programs, resources, and facilities such as the SRC, the game room in the Union, and the food services provided by Aramark.

Tom Miller said, "This has been a challenge, but it's a nice challenge for Rose to have." People want to live on campus at Rose. Many other schools are having trouble keeping students on campus and are even offering discounts or some kind of promotion to keep students living on campus. Miller attributes this to the great community that Rose promotes with it's students, activities, and events.

There are some parents who are upset, and Miller and Eric Hayes have tried to please as many people as possible and come up with the best solution to the current chal-

lenge. They have tried to accommodate as many as they can.

The projected new upper class hall for juniors and seniors is to be completed in about a year and a half and said to be able to house 230 juniors and seniors in apartment style housing. After this residence hall is constructed, there will be more options and flexibility for the upperclassmen and transfer students.

A key date to remember is May 5 when applications to live on campus will be handed out. These applications will be due back by May 7 along with a deposit. On May 9 freshman housing forms will be sent out to all the high school seniors and they will be due back by June 2. Thus after June 2 the number of students for on campus housing should be pretty firm. However, this is pretty late for some students, especially if they need to look for housing for next year.

## Grade inflation continued from page 1:

At the local level, if grades continue to move upwards, how does a professor motivate his students to devote time to the coursework? If a student knows that (s)he can do less work to achieve the highest grade, what incentive can the professor offer the student to perform? Of course, not every student is driven by grades, and many have an internal motivation to learn. This, however, is not a motivation shared by every student, and, as Rojstaczer acknowledged, the level of psychological skills needed to motivate students becomes more taxing on the professors.

So the major question is this: does Rose-Hulman have a problem with inflated grades? The average GPA has risen .15 points in the past 8 years, consistent with Rojstaczer's average inflation trend. But just because there is this increase in grades, does this mean that Rose-Hulman is guilty of grade inflation?

There is no simple answer to this problem. There are three reasons which might explain the increase in GPAs. The Institute could be attracting better students or better faculty, or a combination of the two. But also possible is that the university could be inflating the grades, either by becoming more lax in its grading policy or by making the curriculum less difficult and, therefore, increasing the grades a student might get.

While the quality of a professor's

performance could be difficult to measure, the quality of the student could be quantified by their admission scores. Examining standardized test scores for incoming Rose-Hulman freshmen, while there has been a slight increase in recent years in median SAT verbal scores, there has been an increase in the spread between the top and bottom scores in all of the standardized tests. Ultimately, the quality of the students, at least on paper, has remained fairly constant.

Because grading has an arbitrary aspect to it (partial credit, essay questions, etc.), it is nearly impossible to judge whether a professor is grading more laxly than (s)he once was. However, a former Rose-Hulman professor, in a letter to the Thorn, discussed student evaluations. "There seemed to be considerable evidence that easy and/or popular faculty members got better evaluations." The professor recalled a professor who "awarded only grades of A+, A, and A-" at a time before Rose-Hulman awarded half-points. "Thus all of the grades for the entire class were 'A', suggesting that all were equal which was far from the case."

To test the ease of the curriculum, it may be useful to look at the retention rates. Over the same period as the grade increase, freshmen retention has increased on average about 4%.

So while there is no conclusive evidence to support the claim that

Rose-Hulman been party to grade inflation, the rapid increase in grades is not reflected in by an increase in the quality of the freshmen classes. The added recognition of a national ranking may have given motivation to professors to increase the quality of work, but they may subconsciously be trying to help keep Rose-Hulman at that number one position.

## Grade Reports Put Seniors on Top

**Nicholas McKinney**  
Staff Writer

The senior class eeks out 1/100th of a point over the juniors to claim the prize as highest GPA on campus with a term GPA of 3.21. The freshmen class takes third place with a term GPA of 3.10, but maintains the lead in cumulative GPAs. The sophomores, battered by the infamous "sophomore curriculum," reached

only a 2.90 term GPA.

In the fraternity battle, Chi Omega takes top honors with a term GPA of 3.14. They are followed by Pi Kappa Alpha, Triangle, Delta Sigma Phi and Lambda Chi, and Phi Gamma Delta, with term GPAs of 3.12, 3.08, 3.07, and 3.06 respectively.

In the battle of the sexes, Rose-Hulman women bested the men last term with a GPA of 3.16, .07 higher than their male counterparts.

## Math conference

### continued from page 1:

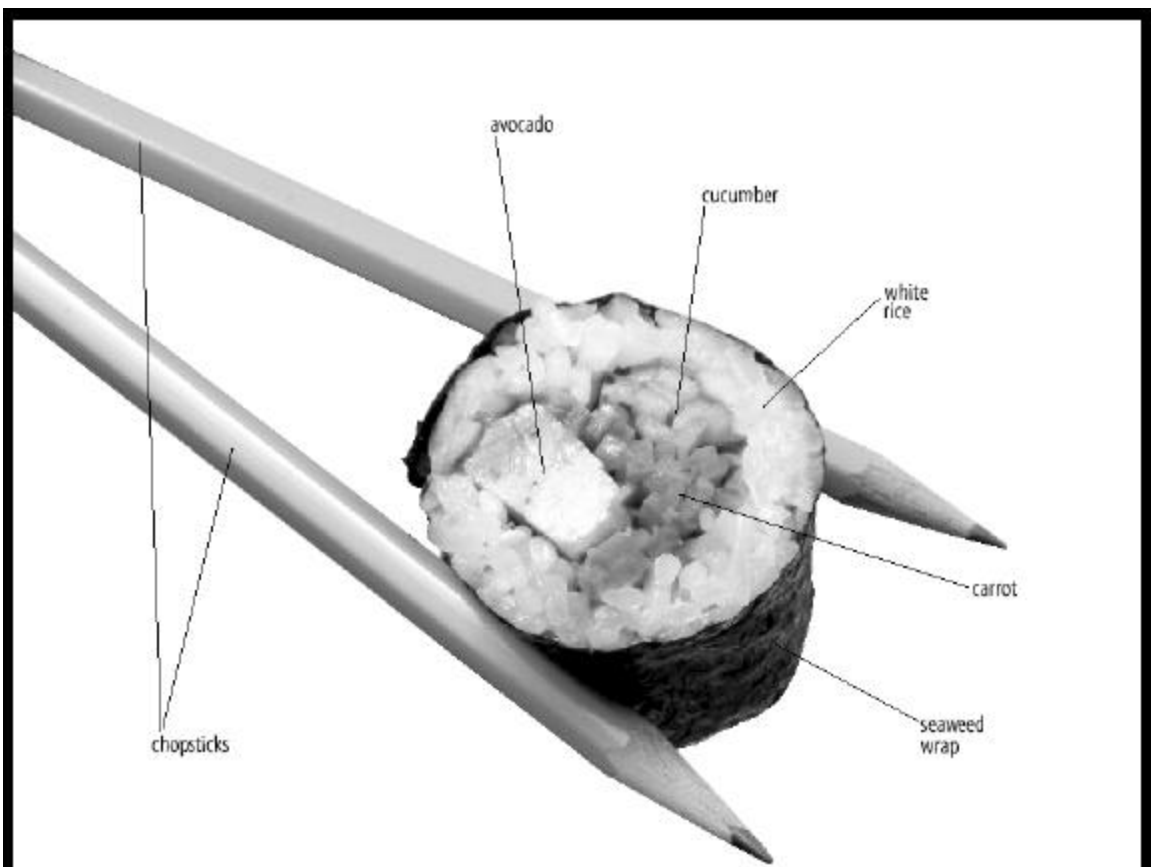
Saturday's events begin breakfast and a book display in the commons at 8:30 a.m. and presentations start again with another talk by Professor DeWitt Sumners titled, "DNA Topology." Contributed student papers will then continue with topics such as Northern Kentucky University student Ben Harwood's "Quasi [p,q]-groups," and Rose-Hulman student Kellan Wampler's "War: the Vicious Cycle."

The conference will conclude with a lunch/closing ceremony that includes a program where student presenters are awarded with books and other items. This year (and for the past few years) MapleSoft, the MAPLE computer algebra com-

pany, has provided a t-shirt for each conference participant. The books are provided by publishing companies, consisting this year of Addison-Wesley, McGraw-Hill, John Wiley & Sons, and Prentice-Hall.

The conference has been well anticipated in the Department of Mathematics at Rose-Hulman. Carlson commented, "The invited speakers this year have some particularly interesting topics. I am especially excited about De Witt Sumners' work on application of topology to molecular biology."

There are plans to continue the conference next year and the tentative dates are March 19 and 20, 2004.



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**Weekend Box Office Summary**





Title	Weekend	Total Gross
1 Bringing Down the House	22.0m	61.2m
2 Agent Cody Banks	14.0m	14.0m
3 The Hunted	13.4m	13.4m
4 Tears of the Sun	8.7m	30.7m
5 Chicago	7.1m	124.4m

**This Week's Releases:**

**Dreamcatcher**  
**View from the Top**  
**Boat Trip**

**Thorn's guide to the Oscars**

Sunday evening marks the 75th anniversary of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Academy Awards show. Though the glitz will be toned down because of the war, the competition remains as fierce as

	 <b>Drew Wright</b> Staff Writer	 <b>Nicole Hartkemeyer</b> News Editor	 <b>Bob Schulein</b> Co-Editor-in-Chief	 <b>Josh Annin</b> Sports Editor
<p><b>Award Predictions</b></p>	<p>Best picture: "Gangs of New York." One word: Leo. Julianne Moore proved she can act with all of her clothes on, and will win. "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" will with for original screenplay because it's big fat Greek fun.</p>	<p>Jack Nicholson for best actor, Nicole Kidman for best actress, and "Chicago" for best picture. That's what some guy on "Entertainment Tonight" said, anyway. Apparently he's never wrong.</p>	<p>Best Picture is going to "Gangs of New York." The Academy will finally give Scorsese respect for directing, and Nicole Kidman will ride off similar sentiments to win best actress. Nicolas Cage will be overlooked and Daniel Day-Lewis will win best actor.</p>	<p>"Gangs of New York" will win best picture because Scorsese is a great director and professional badass. Speaking of badasses, Jack Nicholson will win best actor for "About Schmidt." "Two Towers" will win for visual effects.</p>
<p><b>Personal Choices</b></p>	<p>Edward Norton should have been nominated for "25th Hour." I think "Talk to Her" should win for writing because somehow they incorporated a 20-foot synthetic vagina into the story, which is really hard to do.</p>	<p>I think "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" should win something because it hit Hollywood where it hurts. It's the first time an independant film has made that much money. I think that will inspire better movies in the future.</p>	<p>"Adaptation" should definitely win for adapted screenplay. The academy really dropped the ball and overlooked this gem. "Road to Perdition" was one of the best-shot movies I've seen in a long time.</p>	<p>"Two Towers" had great special effects and blew "Spider-Man" and "Clones" out of the water. I also want "Two Towers" to win for best sound because I felt like I was right in the battle.</p>
<p><b>Problems with the Academy</b></p>	<p>It always seems to be based on a few critics reviews. It only takes one Ebert to like it and then everyone will see it no matter how bad it is. I respect the SAG's much more because it's the artists voting on the artists as opposed to failed artists voting!</p>	<p>Half the time the Academy picks movies as winners because they don't understand them. Take "Magnolia" for instance. It was written by a crazy guy who was stuck in a cabin because of a snake. That movie seemed like it had deeper meaning, but it didn't.</p>	<p>I'm really sick of the glitz involved with the proceedings. I know I'm in the minority, but I'm glad there will be no red-carpet pre-show. Take that Joan Rivers! All the glamor really bothers me. If the show were more about the movies than the people, it would still have my</p>	<p>Their votes don't really follow America's viewpoints on the movies. The Academy is really biased towards movies they think are good. We should have more peoples' choice awards and those awards should mean more.</p>

**Study break DVD of the week**

The Rose Thorn's weekly guide to classic and modern films worthy of your precious time.

**Super Troopers**

Fox Home Video  
On-line: \$15-\$20  
2001  
Directed by Jay Chandrasekhar  
Written by and starring Broken Lizard comedy troupe.  
103 minutes.  
Special Features: 5.1 Dolby Digital Sound, trailers, making-of featurette, deleted scenes, alternate ending, extended scenes, hilarious commentary.



**Bob Schulein**  
**Josh Annin**

We first thought this movie would be terrible, based on the previews. It looked like a stupid movie taking advantage of the timely popularity of low-budget comedies. Once we sat down to watch it though, our impressions totally changed. "Super

Troopers" is a hilarious movie akin to the "Police Academy" genre.  
The comedy troupe Broken Lizard wrote and starred in this tale of eccentric highway patrolmen who are on the verge of losing their jobs to the corrupt city police. The head of the police is played by the principal of the boarding school in "Malcolm in the Middle," Daniel von Bargen.  
The movie is filled with hilarious antics performed by the patrolmen as they try to make their daily routine more interesting. During their routine, they accidentally discover people who are smuggling drugs across the boarder into Canada.  
The humor of the movie is definitely different than what you would normally get from a comedy in this day-and-age. Some of the humor is because it is such a low budget film. A lot of it is just because Broken Lizard has a unique look on the world. This is evident when a couple of the troopers try to say "meow"

as many times as possible to a pulled-over driver.  
There are very few moments in the film that did not invoke laughing. From the syrup-chugging to the getting wasted, these troopers really know what comedy is.  
The commentary included is also very funny and insiteful. It's great to hear the guys talk about how they did some of the stunts. At one point they reveal that they actually drank the syrup used in the syrup drinking contest.  
The other features on the disc are pretty standard. The soundtrack is a solid mix. Since this was such a low budget movie, there isn't great separation in the rear chanel, but that doesn't detract from the fun. The lame trailers are also included.  
This is definitely a movie to have some fun with. Gather a bunch of friends around the TV when you have a couple hours to



spare. It's definitely more fun to watch with people, because you and your friends won't stop quoting "Super Troopers" for a long time to come.  
Hopefully, Broken Lizard will use the success of "Super Troopers" to make more movies in the future. If this movie is any indication, they have a funny future ahead of them.

## Albums of the week

### Drew Wright Staff Writer

In honor of the overwhelming amount of music that has been hitting the college airwaves lately, instead of focusing on merely one or two albums, this week we will look at several new records worth your hard earned time and money.

### Deerhoof - Apple O - Kill Rock Stars

What do you get when you cross spastic, crunchy guitars from a veteran noise band with a hyperactive, diminutive Japanese frontwoman? As the latest album from Deerhoof proves, you get one gem of an album that finally puts the "rock" back in art-rock. Plus, they are rumored to have one of the best live shows in the business.

### The Chris Danforths - Outside of Outer Space - SA Records

Once again, thanks go out to the small collective of record labels in Bloomington responsible for distributing great experimental music. The new album from Chris Danforth and friends is a refreshing, though heavily textured look at the story of a young man coming of age and his interactions with the environment surrounding his childhood home.

Expect plenty of playfully jarring twists and turns along the way.

### Fiction Plane - Everything Will Never Be OK - MCA Records

Rarely does relatively simple guitar pop come off as sounding so great. The debut album from new comers Fiction Plane is a wonderful example of how superior writing and recognition of one's limits can make an ordinary album extraordinary. For the standout track, look no further than the tongue in cheek elitist criticism in Hate, with its great sing-along chorus of "We're cool, we're different. We hate things. We hate people!"

### Vaux - There Must Be Some Way to Stop Them - Volcom

Though it is getting hard to tell many of the post-hardcore/garage bands apart lately, these boys from Colorado (who are my personal favorite rock band) have succeeded in creating an excellent first album under their new moniker and with their label. An all out, edge of your seat attack from the start, the album is a perfect companion to their intense live shows, which usually feature elaborate light shows and on-stage antics.

### Emperor - Scattered Ashes: Decade of Imperial Wrath - Candlelight

This post-humorous collection of greatest hits and rarities from one of the most recognizable black metal bands in the world is a must-have for any fan of extreme music. Be sure to check out the remix of Sworn by fellow black metal band Ulver, as well as their take on a Mayhem classic.

### DJ Krush - The Message at the Depth - Red Ink

The reigning king of Japanese trip-hop returns with his latest masterpiece, "The Message at the Depth". Krush is notorious for convincing the best artists in the field to be a part of his albums, and this time around the likes of Opus, Anticon, Sly & Robbie, and the recently broken up Anti-Pop Consortium grace the record with their signature touches.

### Beans - Tomorrow Right Now - Warp Records

Speaking of Anti-Pop Consortium, one third of the legendary group has already released a solo album after the group's untimely demise. What you'll find on Beans' first effort is the same sort of unabashed experimental hip-hop that made Anti-Pop innovators in the genre.

## Death of horror films closes in with "Willard"

By Jon Schnaars  
The Chronicle (Duke U.)  
03/20/2003

(U-WIRE) DURHAM, N.C. - Thirty years after "The Exorcist," the horror film industry is faced with a new and troubling dilemma: We're not afraid anymore.

Sure, there are the random phobias; there'll always be a couple people who are afraid of heights or those who can't deal with spiders. But the fact remains: A movie will never again wreak havoc on the scale of "Jaws" or even "Silence of the Lambs." As Michael Moore showed us in "Bowling for Columbine," we live in a society of fear -- so much so that even horror movies fail to freak us out anymore.

"Willard" is an interesting example. The recent release starring Crispin Glover is a remake of a relatively popular horror classic from 1971, and in the differences between the two editions, it is clear that our jaded culture is pushing the limits of what a film can do to get under our skin. The plots of the two films are nearly identical: Man befriends rats, man uses rats to do his dastardly deeds, then rats turn on him. In the details, however, one can begin to see how far we've sunk.

The title characters from each share very little in common. While "Willard" 1971 is something like a friendlier Norman Bates in a Beach Boy's body, "Willard" 2003 is a mix of Ted Kaczynski and Dr. Frankenstein with a little dash of Christopher Walken. The house in which Willard resides changes from a suburban dream to a Victorian nightmare in the time between the two

films. Even the rats themselves have gotten bigger, more vicious and more deadly. Their ringleader, the mysterious rat Ben, looks relatively similar to the other rats in the 1971 version, while in 2003 he could probably kill a small horse.

In all aspects of the film, "Willard" seems to have been pushed to the extremes. No longer do the rats themselves induce fear, as was the main focus of the '71 version. In 2003 we need a crazier Willard, meaner rats and a nastier antagonist in the boss Martin, to even make it past the script readers. Admittedly, the direction is cleaner, the plot more economical and the special effects more spectacular, yet "Willard" 2003 comes up short of even raising a goose pimple. In the disappearance of the subtle aspects of horror, it seems that something else has been disappearing as well: that sublime, intangible feeling that makes you want to scream and continue watching at the same time.

Sadly, it may be too late. The days when creaking doors and fluttering curtains sent a shiver up our spines are gone. Recently, "The Blair Witch Project" and even "The Ring" sent tremors of panic through movie-going audiences, but with live feeds from cities being bombed out of existence and grisly murders leading off every nightly news broadcast, with our own safety in constant question in the face of terrorism or even at the hands of some sketchy street crawler, how does Hollywood even have a prayer?

Here's one person who hopes the days of an innocent scare at the theater aren't gone forever.

## WMHD Top 30 Chart 03/17/03

#	Artist	Recording
1	Idlewild	The Remote Part
2	The Chris Danforths	Outside Of Outer Space
3	Seville	Take Me Home
4	Erlend Oye	Unrest
5	Joan of Arc	So Much Staying Alive And Lovelessness
6	Deerhoof	Apple O
7	Massive Attack	100th Window
8	Postal Service	Give Up
9	The Forms	Icarus
10	The Go-Betweens	Bright Yellow Bright Orange
11	Fiction Plane	Everything Will Never Be OK
12	Stratford 4	Love And Distortion
13	Folk Implosion	The New Folk Implosion
14	Atom and His Package	Attention! Blah Blah Blah
15	Nada Surf	Let Go
16	Miracle of '86	Every Famous Last Word
17	DJ Krush	The Message At The Depth
18	Phish	Round Room
19	Cave In	Antenna
20	The Ataris	So Long, Astoria
21	Mountaineers	Mountaineers
22	Copeland	Beneath Medicine Tree
23	Zwan	Mary Star Of The Sea
24	Stephen Malkmus	Pig Lib
25	Cursive	The Ugly Organ
26	Woven Hand	Woven Hand
27	Damien Jurado	Where Shall You Take Me?
28	Cat Power	You Are Free
29	The Delgados	Hate
30	Rocket Summer	Calendar Days



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## Off We Go From the Halls of Montezuma, Anchors Aweigh, and the Caissons Go Rolling Along



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

**Brandon Hathaway  
isn't going to joke this week**

I have a hypothetical for you: imagine you are given a contract to work on a new engine for a few years. You'll be taking a bit of a pay cut, you'll have to work unpleasant hours, and it is dangerous work. The company behind this, though, is vital to the national economy and the technology developed while

working on this project will provide safer conditions for cars, airplanes, boats, power plants—nearly every aspect of daily life will benefit in some way.

Clearly this would be an important job to have filled, whether you decide to take the contract or not. But if you did decide to take this job, you would expect people to give you respect and some gratitude because it requires sacrifice, pay losses, time away from family, while being dangerous and helping others. You would indeed deserve that respect. Certainly you would not expect protests to the applications of your work.

This is an analogy to the men and women in the United States Armed Forces. They have left

their normal lives to be deployed halfway across the world into harm's way because, most simply put, that's their job. The President of the United States, who was elected by the people of the country these servicemen defend, decided this is what they need to do for the good of all Americans.

All of the members of our armed forces are volunteers, so every American defending our interests knew with what they were getting involved. Unlike Vietnam, which also did not have the backing of the entire public, everybody in the fray wants to participate in the common defense.

Regardless of how you feel about the conflict itself, people should limit their vocalizations

concerning the legitimacy of invasion, since, at this juncture, it is a bit of a moot point. That engine is already firing.

When there are soldiers on the field, airmen in the sky, and sailors and marines at sea in hostile territory, solidarity at home for the war effort will greatly increase the likelihood of a sure and swift victory.

Not that the Iraqi military really stands a chance.

That's not really the point, though. These servicemen are courageous people doing things that others would not, simply



because it needed to be done. They are serving every citizen of the United States. I do not think there are many callings that are nobler.

## Esteemed and influential members of the Rose-Hulman community:

Diversity = Tolerance, Acceptance, and Celebration of Variety

While I attended Rose-Hulman, diversity was something that I rarely thought about. I simply believed that on a campus as reputable as this, a fundamental respect and acceptance for all would be a core value for Rose-Hulman's students and faculty. Only after hearing of recent events involving the Student Government Association did I start to believe otherwise.

During my senior year, I had the opportunity to join a brand-new club at Rose-Hulman: Unity. This club's primary goal was to help further the diversity that already existed on campus. It also aimed to provide a place free of prejudice and hate where people could be themselves and discuss topics regarding tolerance of different religions, creeds, nationalities, and sexualities. In addition to a regular weekly meeting, Unity also occasionally hosts a movie night or sets up a display booth to inform non-members about issues of awareness and tolerance. Unity also held an electronic music event, entitled Prismatic, together with the campus radio station, WMHD, to raise awareness of the club's existence and its goal to grow diversity. It is with great success in these activities that Unity has sought to advance from probationary club status to full club status pending approval by the Student Government Association.

Unity's pursuit of full club status began on January 14, 2003. During their first meeting with the SGA, Unity made its case. During the course of the discussion, mixed responses and opinions were given. Unity was called 'controversial,' compared to the Ku Klux Klan, and deemed 'exclusionary' before it was ultimately decided that Unity was a religious organization. Under SGA Constitution Article 4, Section 3, Clause D, religious organizations (among other groups listed therein) are ineligible for club status. A subsequent vote resulted in Unity losing their bid for club status by one vote.

Unity appeared before SGA for a second time, contesting the claim that they were a religious organization. SGA approved a second vote, though a clause concerning the 90-day probationary period was brought up just before the vote was held. In the interpretation, the 90 days expired over the summer and

so Unity was ineligible to bid for club status at that time. Instead, they were granted a second 90-day probationary period that did not stretch beyond the end of Spring Quarter. Because of this, no vote was held and Unity still did not have full club status. It has been said that this last-minute interjection was underhanded and therefore, intended to further delay Unity's admittance as a club.

Unity appealed to the judicial committee of SGA about the interpretation of the probationary period clause. That committee ruled unanimously that the clause was misinterpreted and therefore, Unity could appear for consideration again.

Unity returned to SGA once again in an effort to gain full club status for the third and final time. During the discussion, the point was brought up that if one does not agree with a club in general, it is his/her duty to vote against said club regardless of what his/her constituents say. It was also mentioned that Unity was merely a lifestyle, not an actual club of activities. In the subsequent vote, Unity lost once again by three votes.

Now, coincidentally enough, a new amendment to the SGA Constitution is being proposed. It will be a modification of, or addition to, the clause mentioned above (Article 4, Section 3, Clause D). It essentially states that even more groups will now be ineligible for SGA club status. These include clubs based on race, creed, political affiliation, sexual orientation, and several other categories deemed as 'exclusionary.' This amendment is a crippling setback for the growth of diversity.

In hearing of these events, it became clear to me that Unity is being discriminated against. This leads me to believe that this club has been judged not by its merits, but rather by personal opinions. These opinions are based on an assumed trait that any member of this club may or may not possess. This is ignorance and this is discrimination.

In response to comments made at said SGA meetings:

I can not understand why Unity would be compared with the Ku Klux Klan. They are dearly opposite in nature. Unity strives to unite everyone and promote tolerance, while the KKK strives to divide and promote hate.

Unity was deemed a religious or-

ganization because it was thought of as exclusionary. This club is actually the most inclusive club that exists at Rose-Hulman. Unity admits all new members, as its goal is to unite everyone. It could be argued that someone could not join Unity due to their religious beliefs, creed, etc. That, however, is not the fault of Unity, and they should never take blame for that. Unity would gladly accept any person. It is only a person's religion that keeps them from joining, not any decision made by Unity. The same thing can be said for the gun club or any other club. Some people's religious or personal beliefs prohibit them from joining this club, but it still exists and it should exist and be funded.

In regards to having a 'personal duty' to vote against a club that one does not agree with, I disagree. A bid for full club status should not be based upon personal opinion, but on whether the club meets requirements set forth by the SGA Constitution.

As far as Unity being a lifestyle, that's half-correct. Unity certainly promotes a lifestyle of tolerance and unity. To aid this, the club holds meetings and events to help people understand the need for this outlook on life.

Unity has the potential to bring a new understanding of diversity to the campus, which is something this campus is in dire need of. In order to foster a tolerant attitude, Unity must continue to grow. Not only does Unity just need to exist, but it needs to exist as a fully recognized and funded club. Promoting diversity requires fun and educational events in order to reach the entire Rose-Hulman community. Activities such as taking trips to sponsored events, bringing someone in to speak, providing educational brochures, or holding a student-moderated forum on current issues cannot be provided for by Unity alone. Planned events of this caliber and magnitude require time and money. Will Rose-Hulman not give it to them? Unity is full of fresh, new, and exciting opportunities, and it is sad to see that so many do not agree.

At this point, the only immediate news is the looming amendment. If this amendment is approved, Rose-Hulman will no longer be able to fund the very clubs that it needs to grow its diversity. This would be a real detriment as these clubs can not completely fund themselves. As these clubs run out of their own

funds, activities and events will become sparse, membership will decrease, and ultimately the Rose-Hulman community will not have any exposure to the diversity that that particular club brought to the campus. It has been said by many, as well as displayed in survey results, that Rose's biggest problem is the lack of diversity. Therefore, the passing of this amendment is something that just can not happen. If Rose-Hulman wishes to see more diversity, then Rose-Hulman must not allow an amendment like this to pass.

Thank you for taking the time to

read this letter. I only hope that it has reached the appropriate people at the right time, as this is an important matter that needs resolution. I certainly hope that Rose-Hulman can continue to make me proud of its many accomplishments, past, present, and future.

Sincerely,

Adam Wayne Porter  
Bachelor of Science  
Class of 2002  
Rose-Hulman Institute  
of Technology

## The Man and Mexico

The Man has struck again. In case you haven't heard, GL325 - Past and Present Mexico and its corresponding travels to Mexico has been canceled. This is the same class that was offered last spring. The students enrolled in the class were sent an e-mail the Friday of ninth week saying they could fix the hole in their schedules with Dr. Caroline Carvill and nothing more - no apology - no explanation. This information came not in the fall when the class was approved by the Humanities Department, but months later, two weeks before the full balance for the trip was due.

I asked Dr. Carvill and Dr. Art Western to explain to me why the trip had been unexpectedly canceled despite its approval by the Humanities department. Though he did apologize, Dr. Western only would tell me that he had reviewed the information and decided that the trip was not in the best interest of the Institute. Dr. Carvill concurred. The fact that they will not reveal any other details can only lead me to believe they have no other motive than politics. Again, students suffer in the name of politics.

I'm not happy about the canceling of the class, but I could accept the fact (or at least have more basis to argue my point) had some reasonable explanation been given. Yet, all I have is "it's not in the best interest of the Institute." I have tried very hard to come up with any reason why the class would harm the Institute, but so far I have not succeeded. Dr. de la Cova has taken three Rose-Hulman approved trips to Mexico with students, and to my knowledge there

have never been any problems. In addition, Dr. de la Cova paid his own expenses for two of the three trips. In my opinion, this shows his dedication to the education of the students and to Rose-Hulman. After talking to people who have been on the trip, I really feel that the class was a great way to get first-hand experience about Mexican culture.

This article was not written to argue the worth of the class to the Humanities curriculum - that was already decided last year when it was approved and reaffirmed this year when the class was again approved. I simply want to ask why in hopes that future students will not suffer the same disappointment.

Yes, I was signed up to be in the class and now I will not get to take it. That obviously upsets me, but I have talked with several other students NOT enrolled in the class who are also upset about the sudden and unjustified cancellation of the trip. The ability for students to take a class with hands-on experience is rare. The class was another of the great things about Rose, an excellent selling point to prospective students. Unreasonable and unjustified cancellation of classes, however, is not.

What it comes down to is that I feel the students deserve the courtesy of a real explanation. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. I will not accept anything less. I demand an answer.

Danielle Cooper  
Class of 2003

## NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship press conference report

NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Championship Press Conference Report

Four teams that are searching for their first women's basketball national championship arrived in Terre Haute for the 2003 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championship to be held at Rose-Hulman beginning Friday.

The University of Rochester will make its first trip to the championship round after a 71-60 victory over Messiah in Rochester on Saturday night. The Yellowjackets were the runner-up in the University Athletic Association this season, finishing second in the league regular season behind champion Washington University.

"I think we really took advantage of the standard set by Washington University. It was quite impressive when we saw what Trinity did to them. We're just not used to seeing Wash-U handled that way. We're going to have our hands full for sure," said Rochester head coach Jim Scheible.

Scheible has led Rochester to

the championship round after enduring a 6-19 season three years ago in his first year at the school.

"We're only as good as the last player on our team. When we win big games it's because we have a lot of people scoring in the box score," said Scheible.

Trinity University (Texas) defeated Washington University 76-57 on Saturday night to advance to its first-ever championship round in women's basketball. Trinity stands at 26-5 overall and earned a Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference championship.

"We're happy to be here. We feel that if we play well we have as good a chance as any of the teams here. And I think any of the coaches here will feel that way. We just put it together one game at a time and if you're able to do that, great things can happen," said Trinity head coach Becky Geyer.

Trinity claimed its first-ever victory in NCAA Division III Tournament play two weeks ago and defeated Hardin-Simmons and Washington University last weekend.

"Other teams think they're the underdog, but we really are. No one expected us to be here. We're just going to stick to our strengths and see what comes of it," said Geyer.

Rochester and Trinity will play in the first semifinal contest at 6 p.m. on Friday at Hulbert Arena.

Eastern Connecticut State completed a four-game journey to the championship with a 58-47 win over Bowdoin College.

"We play a player-to-player defense. I feel that our defense is really what got us here. I also think a strength of ours is that even though we have a dominant player (Allison Coleman), we have a surrounding cast of players who step up," said Eastern Connecticut State head coach Denise Bierly.

The Warriors, which lost in the semifinals of the Little East Conference Tournament, will make its third trip to the championship round but have never reached the national title game. They have been on the road for three consecutive weekends to qualify for the championship round.

"I think that every team wants to come into it thinking that they have some sort of advantage, and we do, we've had a tough road. Our kids understand how to play and focus on the road. We always played with a nothing to lose attitude, and I think that's what got us here," said Bierly.

Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the top-ranked Division III team in the nation, improved to 30-1 on the season with a 74-56 home victory over previously undefeated Hope College. Wisconsin-Eau Claire, the champion of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, will also appear in championship round play for the third time and is in search of its first national championship.

"Last year we were shooting for everyone else and trying to gain that respect. I think that we feel much better being on the other side. We've had that experience all year, and with South Dakota State, the game was just a great game for us. We played well against an excellent group of division II athletes," said head coach

Tonja Englund.

Eau Claire also had a four-game road to the championship round but enjoyed the luxury of four contests on its home court. The Blugolds have been the perennial favorite to reach Terre Haute throughout their games.

"We're ok with (being ranked No. 1), and we have a great deal of respect for the teams that are here. We've had great competition within our conference, and I think that has readied us as well," said Englund.

Tickets for the 2003 NCAA Division III Women's Basketball National Championship, to be held this Friday and Saturday night at Rose-Hulman, are still available.

Tickets, priced at \$10 per two-game session or \$20 for an all-session pass, will be available at the door beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday. A total of 1,800 tickets were originally available for the championship, with half of the seating reserved for the four participating teams.

## Meet the teams

<p><b>Trinity University</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> San Antonio, TX</p> <p><b>Conference:</b> Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC)</p> <p><b>Mascot:</b> Tiger</p> <p><b>Overall Statings:</b> 26-5</p> <p><b>Head Coach:</b> Becky Geyer</p>  <p>www.trinity.edu</p>	<p><b>Eastern Connecticut State University</b></p>  <p><b>Location:</b> Willimantic, CT</p> <p><b>Conference:</b> Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)</p> <p><b>Mascot:</b> Warrior</p> <p><b>Overall Statings:</b> 27-4</p> <p><b>Head Coach:</b> Denise Bierly</p>	<p><b>University of Rochester</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Rochester, NY</p> <p><b>Conference:</b> Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC)</p> <p><b>Mascot:</b> Yellowjacket</p> <p><b>Overall Statings:</b> 24-4</p> <p><b>Head Coach:</b> Jim Scheible</p>  <p>www.rochester.edu</p>	<p><b>University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire</b></p>  <p><b>Location:</b> Eau Claire, WI</p> <p><b>Conference:</b> Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC)</p> <p><b>Mascot:</b> Blugold</p> <p><b>Overall Statings:</b> 31-1</p> <p><b>Head Coach:</b> Tonja Englund</p>
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<p><b>NCAA Championship Schedule</b></p>
<p><b>Friday, March 21</b> Rochester vs. Trinity, 6 pm</p> <p>Eastern Connecticut State vs. Wisconsin-Eau Claire, 8 pm</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 22</b> 3rd Place, 5 pm</p> <p>Championship, 8 pm</p>

## Did somebody say LeBron?

**Trevor Claffey**  
Staff Writer



Having lived in Northeast Ohio all of my life, I have had the opportunity to follow area sports all along. So, when I was still finishing up high school, I heard about this phenomenal basketball player, LeBron James, and how he dominated the high school scene and led his team to two Ohio state titles and wins against a lot of in-and-out-of-state powers. He had gone to workouts and made friends with guys like Jordan, Kobe, and Antoine Walker. These pros developed a high opinion of him, noticed how the current high school senior held his own playing against them, and thought he was amazing for his age.

Mr. James' publicity has grown even more over the past two years as a high school junior and senior. I still read about him on the internet, saw him play in person, and met him when I was home. A lot of peo-

ple, however, agree that his innocence ended and his real trouble began about a year ago when he appeared on a Sports Illustrated cover titled "The Chosen One."

He had already been branded with titles like "King James;" many people felt it was sacrilegious given that he went to a Catholic school, St. Vincent-St. Mary in Akron, Ohio, and that he and his "Fighting Irish" had become too big for a high school team.

There was a belief that the "SI Jinx" held true as the Irish lost to an out-of-state team shortly after the magazine came out, and later in the state title game. People had issue with how the school traveled around the country to play national powers, earn money from attendance, and exhibit James, who is considered the probable #1 pick in this year's NBA draft straight out of high school. They felt that this team needed to play more local opponents like a traditional basketball team.

This school year, it seemed like LeBron became a global phenomenon. I couldn't turn on a TV or open a newspaper without seeing something on him, regardless of whether

I was here, at home, or on vacation in Arizona. Most people knew who he was, as opposed to how only a few Ohioans did before.

With all that knowledge came publicity...which grew ugly, fast. The offseason began with a dark foreboding for James, as he had to end an All-Ohio wide receiver career for St. V's football team after having his arm hurt by an opponent playing summer pickup ball in Chicago.

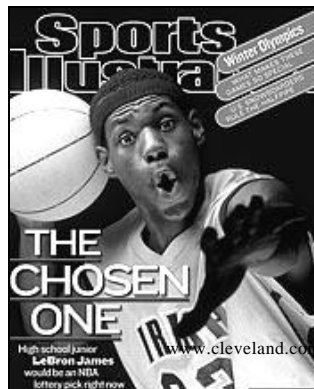
A few St. V basketball games were televised on ESPN, one of the first times such an event had occurred for a high school game, but later the school tried to tone things down by refusing to continue doing so. This was because James nearly became ineligible twice. First, he received a flashy Hummer H2 as a gift, but was able to prove that it was merely a family 18th birthday present rather than an award for athletics.

Then, he was officially ruled ineligible for receiving two "throw-back jerseys" of old basketball

players worth \$800, greater than the limit of \$100 per gift for athletic accomplishments according to Ohio's rules. He was able to say that the jerseys were a family gift unrelated to his athletic achievements to get a restraining order from a court of law, which reduced the suspension to two games and made the school forfeit one, but there is still a chance the order could be overturned in court after this week's State Tournament and the Irish

be stripped of any awards they got during the time he played this year in the tournament.

I'm really happy that such a great player and team (they are considered the top high school player and team nationally in newspapers) are from near my home and that I've had a chance to see and meet them, but there's been such a big mess from all the bad things that hap-



pened.

This real-life version of the movie "He Got Game" raises a ton of questions, such as what makes a player an amateur, how to deal with an athlete receiving gifts, and whether high schools take basketball or any sport too seriously. It's also brought into light a lot of bigger themes, like money, social class, and the whole "do star athletes get special treatment" debate.

He almost certainly will go straight to the pros and not to college, not just because he's that good, but also because his eligibility has been at risk so many times to make him a liability for a college team as much as an asset. I feel bad that he's had a tough time growing up, and wish him the best, but am glad my school has not had to deal with the publicity he has brought to St. V.

Things will definitely be different after this weekend. This Saturday, he'll finish his last state tournament, in which his team is heavily favored, and he will soon go on to a few high school all-star games, then to the pros, which will further test whether he can handle publicity.



# FLIP SIDE

## Top Ten Ways to Heckle the Math Geeks

- 10 Hey, look! Your directed graphs came untied!
- 9 Speaking of statistics, your odds are 10!:1 of being rejected by the girls.
- 8 Whoa! Who took the last piece of pi?!
- 7 Your mom is so dumb she can't even solve a second order non-homogeneous differential equation!
- 6 MAPLE BLOWS!!!
- 5 Saying "set" but not meaning it.
- 4 There is no finite sub cover which contains your mom, hence your mom is not compact.
- 3 I haven't seen this much hand-waving since I went to the symphony!
- 2 You're stupid, the answer is 42.
- 1 How's that job market going?

## Wacky Prof Quotes

"You guys pay for my salary, so come take advantage of me in my office!"  
 --Prof. Rivas, on private 'assistance'

"Whenever I want to get on the Oreo cookie website, I use the same password as when I try to get on HotYoungMen.com"  
 --Dr. Andy Kinley, cracking a joke at the password protected "cream filling" area of the Oreo website

"I'm going through these slides at the speed of light! Don't even try to take notes, we are covering the whole course today!"  
 --Prof. David Mutchler, during day 2 of class

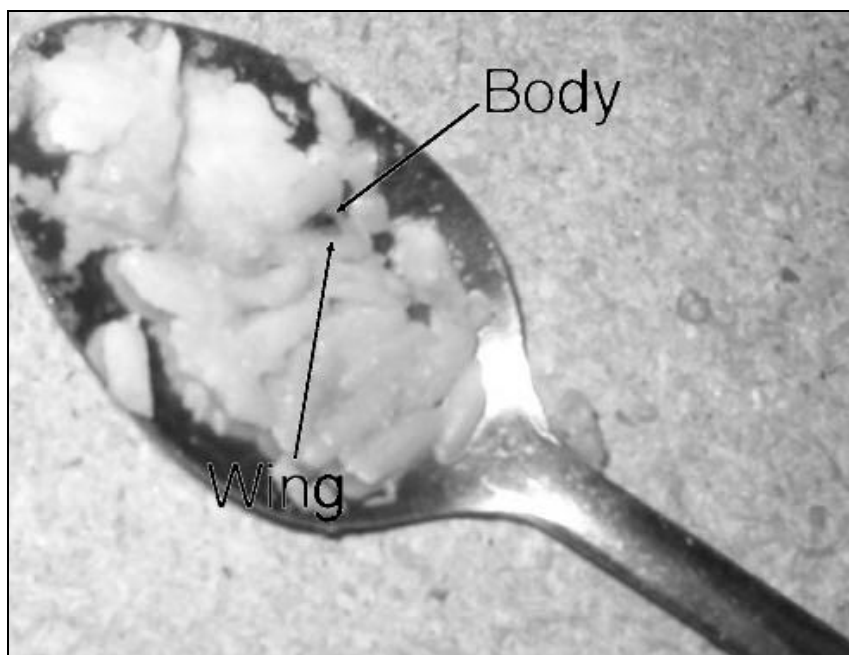
"I'm thinking of suing God, too, for making trees. But I don't think God has money, so I'm hoping to just take over heaven."  
 --Dr. Stienstra, on material failure, and personal injury caused by standing on a shelf...

"Poke it again. Keep poking until it works."  
 --Prof. Casey, on a defective projector, showing even our hummer profs know the secrets of engineering

"So what's the big hint? Cleavage, cleavage, go cleavage!"  
 --Dr. McLean, on identifying rocks (we think)

Send your Prof Quotes to:  
[flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

## Not exactly humor, not exactly news



Here's a shot of what the photographer claims to be gnats in his rice, the source being left-open bottles of soy sauce in a certain very nearby eating establishment.

## Doomed



### This Week in the News

Pretty quiet news week really, nothing to report. Carry on.

### This Week in History

399 B.C.  
 Condemned for undermining tradition and corrupting the youth, Socrates willingly drinks the poison hemlock used in Greek executions, resisting the efforts of his friends to save his life.

### This Week in the Game Industry

Shadowbane, the very definition of infinitely postponed vaporware goes live next Tuesday. The amount of buzz is nonexistent, apparently everyone quit caring 2 years ago.