

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

---

The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

---

Winter 2-4-2019

### Volume 54, Issue 16 - Monday, February 4, 2019

Rose Thorn Staff

*Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*, [library@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:library@rose-hulman.edu)

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

---

#### Recommended Citation

Rose Thorn Staff, "Volume 54, Issue 16 - Monday, February 4, 2019" (2019). *The Rose Thorn Archive*. 1202.

<https://scholar.rose-hulman.edu/rosethorn/1202>

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

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

## The Second Biggest Shutdown of This Year

### A Snow Day for Rose-Hulman

Dara Nafiu

World News Editor

At 4:55 p.m. last Tuesday, Rose-Hulman president Robert A. Coons released a statement announcing that campus would be closed the following day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Ominous forecasts of unusually low temperatures and wind chill associated with a polar vortex had thrown the internet into a frenzy.

The cold wave was expected to strike most of the Midwestern and Eastern states, with temperatures dropping as low as 56°F (48°C) below zero. Meteorologists and Facebook moms alike urged anyone who had to face the elements on Wednesday to do so with the appropriate layering and facial protection.

High schools and community colleges were quick to cancel classes, but many colleges, especially those with a primarily on-campus student body like Rose, were hesitant to follow suit.

On that Tuesday morning, Rose-Hulman students decided to take matters into their own hands by signing and dispersing a Change.org petition to cancel classes on Wednesday.

The petition, created by Conner Jurs, expressed concern for the "brutal weather conditions" that "75% of the country" would be experiencing in less than 24 hours. Jurs also cited the Wind Chill Warning released by the National Weather Service within 15 minutes for exposed skin. The petition was rapidly shared across a variety of social media plat-

form, from floor group chats to the Rose-Hulman parent's Facebook

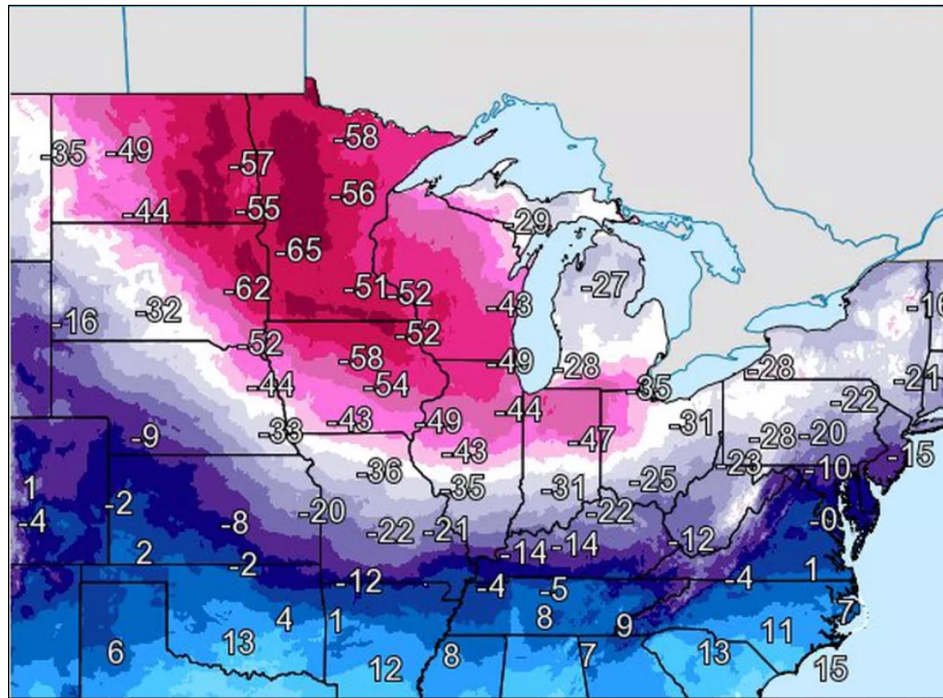
group, and eventually achieved 661 signatures.

Still, even as the student body waited with bated breath for the insufferable ATP attachment scan, few actually expected the administration to listen. Dean and Student Affairs VP Erik Hayes stated that Rose had only cancelled classes due to weather conditions once during his college career, in 1993, and it was much colder.

The water pipes in the Union burst, causing extensive flooding and flooring damage throughout the building. Students spent the time much like we did, messing around in the residence halls, sleeping, or testing out the frozen lake. For a school that does not accommodate Labor Day or Martin Luther King Jr. Day, closing the campus is a big deal.

Though student sentiment was predominantly in favor of Rob Coon's decision, a few students were concerned about the schedule disruptions the cancellation could cause.

One student expressed frustration at missing an exam for which he had crammed extensively, while another noted that Wednesday labs could be pushed back into finals week. Whether or not you agree with the campus closing, Wednesday no doubt provided a brief but refreshing diversion from the normal routine.

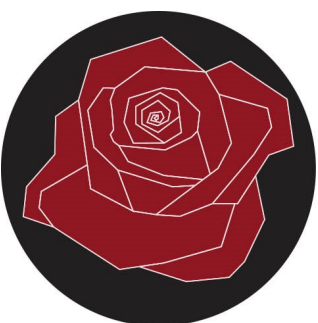


The "Polar Vortex" plunged the northern Midwest and parts of the Northeast into some of the coldest temperatures ever recorded.

Photo courtesy of National Weather Service

vice, explaining that hypothermia and symptoms of frostbite can set in

forms, from floor group chats to the Rose-Hulman parent's Facebook



- Page 4: Brain on Fire
- Page 5: Keep up with Lifestyle
- Page 6: Exercise. Keep it up.
- Page 7: Sports!

The Rose Thorn  
Meet Tuesdays  
0259 5:15pm

## Rose Drama Club Presents

### First Date: A Musical Comedy

Jared Gibson

News Editor

Last Thursday marked beginning of Rose Drama Club's Winter Quarter Play. This year, for three nights and one afternoon, Hatfield Hall opened its doors to the public for a showing of the musical comedy *First Date*.

In its short history before making it to the stage of Hatfield Hall auditorium, *First Date* has enjoyed a premiere in Seattle during 2012, a summer slot on Broadway during the summer of 2013, and productions in several other countries such as Japan, Argentina, and Australia.

Based on a book written by Austin Winsberg, this production features two New Yorkers, Casey (played by Marliisa Sebring) and Aaron (played by Ryan Roetker) who have been set up on a blind date, at a small restaurant/bar where the chief waiter/bartender (played by Tucker Osman) is plagued by his own longing for a meaningful and romantic connection.

There are two other couples in the restaurant as well as a live band whose purpose in the play is to bring to life the inner thoughts and emotions of Casey and Aaron through singing, acting, and dancing.

We are introduced to the main characters with absolutely no background information, and must deduce what we can about their person by witnessing their interactions with each other and their inner processes.

After an opening performance by the two couples and the waiter, we are introduced to Aaron when he walks into the restaurant. He and the bartender hold a brief but humorous discussion, and Aaron finds a seat near the bar just in time for Casey's entrance.

She consults with the waiter who informs her that her date is sitting near the bar, and the story takes off.

We witness scenes of banter (some of them painful) between the two which are often followed--or even

interrupted--by musical numbers or dialogue where everyone freezes except one of the principal characters and a friend or family member.

In these interruptions, the audience is privy to the inner workings of Aaron and Casey whose emotions and thought processes are displayed in imaginary interactions with real people.

For instance, when Aaron--who comes from a Jewish family--discovers that Casey is not Jewish, time freezes and he imagines that his grandmother (played by Katarina Chan) returns from the dead to scold him.

The other two couples contribute to the play by performing a minor costume change and playing the part of the friend or family member utilized to display the main character's train of thought.

For example, Katarina Chan and Cam Hudspeth play the role of the center stage couple who talk quietly during the play so as to not draw attention to themselves but at the same time provide a believable setting for the restaurant.

Katarina Chan also plays the roles of Casey's sister and Aaron's grandmother while Cam Hudspeth acts as Casey's ex-boyfriend and Aaron's brother.

The storyline takes place in one night and almost every scene is played out in the restaurant. Throughout the evening, we watch how Aaron and Casey's relationship develops as they navigate the rough waters surrounding the typical first date: Is it too soon to mention past relationships? Was it acceptable to goole them beforehand? Are their personality types compatible? If this becomes serious, how will family members react? Who pays the bill?

Overall, the roles were well-executed. Marliisa Sebring did an excellent job in bringing Casey to life as a confident "serial-dater," who typically chooses bad boys with great bodies rather than the good boys with

great financial stability. Ryan Roetker executed his role as the awkward and over-responsible Aaron maybe a little too well at times, providing cringe-worthy moments to the audience with the delivery of lines including the words "totes," and "brewski."

Tucker Osman's role as the bartender included a delightful little scene where the bartender exhibits his singing and dancing skills while the other two couples comically filled in supporting roles such as Casey's flamboyant, gay best friend, Casey and Aaron's future son (played by Trey Kline), Google's search engine, and Aaron's ex-fiancee, Alison, who's as stunning as she is heartless (played by Emily Dougherty).

Another positive aspect of this production of *First Date* was the liberties taken by the producers. One such liberty was the addition of four dancers whose costumes and choreography provided additional hilarity to scenes of introspection (Marissa Dimperio, Angelique Hatch, Emily Rusnak, and Mackenzie Lewis).

For instance, Aaron imagines all sorts of terrible possibilities if he and Casey stick together, including a confrontation with Casey's father who he imagines as a devout Catholic priest supported by dancing nuns (Angelique Hatch and Emily Rusnak). The live band, too, not only provided a realistic component to the restaurant but also produced the music for each of the songs.

These fresh twists on the original manuscript indicate an admirable resourcefulness on the part of the producers whose efforts to compensate for the restrictions no doubt inflicted upon them by a school without a readily-available body of theater majors resulted in a comedic production involving students with all kinds of talents and passions.

On the other hand, some scenes flirted with stereotypes which threatened to reduce the play to a lump of bland clichés and uninteresting characters.

For instance, in one exchange with her sister about her "biological clock," Casey hardens her resolve to keep the date alive while in another exchange, Aaron's brother spouts something about salads being for "pussies" and boasting about the sheer quantity of "ass he gets" in a pristine example of toxic masculinity.

Together, these scenes threatened to embrace the doctrine that guys only date girls for sex while girls only date guys so they can have children, reducing Casey to a woman whose only desire is to one day have children and Aaron to a man whose thoughts are fixated on that which salads were designed for.

Luckily, the play is redeemed from these risky episodes in the use of other stereotypes to provoke meaningful questions from its viewers.

Rather than embracing the stereotypes, the characters use them in their thoughts as a way to wrestle with tough questions that any human being must face when searching for a healthy relationship. For instance, Casey compares Aaron to her badass ex-boyfriends, those stereotypical hot guys whose exteriors look so enticing that no one cares if their interiors are like that of a cinder block glazed with a fresh coating of apathy.

Whether it's sexual pleasure or access to mind-altering drugs, they offer some sort of instant gratification which she's not sure that Aaron can provide. The audience is invited to think along with Casey: What do you value most in a relationship? Sexual pleasure and physical attraction? Religious beliefs? Money? The ability to challenge one another on an intellectual level?

In conclusion, the Rose Drama Club succeeded in putting on an enjoyable and thought-provoking musical. Its production involved a wide variety of people whose efforts to entertain the Rose community resulted in 3 nights and 1 afternoon of laughter.



Advertise  
Your  
Business  
Here

The Rose Thorn  
Advertising



Small Coupon Insert	(3 x 4)	\$45
1/8th Page	(6 x 4)	\$65
Small 1/4th Page	(4 x 8)	\$85
Large 1/4th Page	(6 x 8)	\$130
1/2 Page	(10 x 10)	\$220
Full Page	(10 x 21)	\$450

**5% Percent Discount per ad purchased\***

Contact William Kemp—Business Manager

Phone: (502) 724-5388

Email: [Thorn-Biz@Rose-Hulman.edu](mailto:Thorn-Biz@Rose-Hulman.edu)

Limit 5 advertisements, maximum discount 20 percent

## Upcoming Events

### Academics

- Feb 4 - BIC Intro to Welding
- Feb 5 - BIC Shop Practices - Bench, Lathe, & Mill
- Feb 6 - Chem Research Talk w/Derek Steele
- Feb 6 - BIC Welding 1
- Feb 7 - BIC Shop Safety

### Sports

- Feb 6 - HERD: Basketball v. Franklin
- Feb 8 - EWB Wallyball Tourament
- Feb 9 - Track v. DePauw
- Feb 9 - Regional Mathcounts
- Feb 9 - Basketball v. Earlham

### Other

- Feb 5 - San Francisco Happy Hour
- Feb 5 - Harry Potter Tricia
- Feb 6 - Exchange Gathering
- Feb 8 - RISE Club Trivia Night

Source: My Rose Hulman

**Riddle of the Week:** Black I am and much admired, men seek me until they're tired. When they find me, they break my head, and take from me my resting bed. What am I?

Come to our C-Think info session on **Thursday at 7:30 in M103** for the answer! For more info contact: [hendritc@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:hendritc@rose-hulman.edu)

**Last Weeks Answer: Cheese**

## Off Campus Living for Rose Hulman Students

Studio 1, 2, & 3 bedroom  
apartments for rent

3 bed, 2 bath Condo on  
lake for rent

**Give Nikki Gibson**

**A Call Today!**

**(812) 234-4884**

**(812) 249-6699**

# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 5500 Wabash Ave, CM 5037, Terre Haute, IN 47803-3920 • [Thorn@Rose-Hulman.edu](mailto:Thorn@Rose-Hulman.edu)

## Our Mission Statement:

We are Rose-Hulman's independent student newspaper. We keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.

Evelyne Maquelin • *Editor-in-Chief*

William Kemp • *Business Manager*

Jared Gibson • *News Editor*

Dara Nafiu • *News Editor*

Dalal Bima • *Entertainment Editor*

Seun Ladipo • *Lifestyle Editor*

Thaddeus Hughes • *Opinions Editor*

Hailey Hoover • *Sports Editor*

Emma Oswood • *Flipside Editor*

Derek Hufferd • *Staff Writer*

Mason Diebold • *Staff Writer*

Joseph Lee • *Staff Writer*

Andrew Henderson • *Staff Writer*

Thomas Hall • *Staff Writer*

Morgan McDonald • *Staff Writer*

Timothy Wynia • *Staff Writer*

Lauren Wiseman • *Staff Writer*

Colin Beach • *Staff Writer*

Aidan Moulder • *Staff Writer*

Caleigh Kintner • *Staff Writer*

Jonathan Kawauchi • *Staff Writer*

Dr. Thomas Adams • *Faculty Advisor*

ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the second through ninth Mondays of each academic quarter

WEEKLY MEETINGS occur at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Tuesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submission may be made by email to [thorn@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn@rose-hulman.edu) or in person to Percopo room 031. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday.

THE RIGHTS to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to edit submissions in so far as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and with the exception of the Staff View do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.

The pen is mightier than the sword, join us. Tuesdays at 5:15 in O259.



## Glass

A review of the more realistic superheroes of Glass

William Kemp  
Business Manager

*Glass* is the latest M. Night Shyamalan masterpiece that ties together two of his other works: *Unbreakable* and *Split*. Similar to that of the Marvel and DC Cinematic Universe, M. Night Shyamalan seemed to have created a universe of his own. Still being based on comic books, this origin story is far from the fantasy world Marvel and DC have painted. Shyamalan's superheroes are more down to earth and in a blood curdling way, somewhat realistic.

The film focuses on three characters and how together they create a superhero origin story of their own. David Dunn, a simple security guard with the help of a horrific train crash turned into a man of superhuman strength and given the power to see into another person's life via touch. Kevin Wendell Crumb, a man with multiple personalities, one of which is so strong he can survive a shot gun blast to the chest and scale completely smooth walls. Lastly, Elijah Prince, an absolute genius with brittle bone disease but nonetheless, a mastermind behind many devious schemes, including the horrific train crash in *Unbreakable*.

Since the last movie, *Split*, David Dunn has been on the hunt for "The Beast" as he continued to hunt down the impure. Eventually being caught and turned into an asylum, along with KWC and Mr. Glass, a psychiatrist tries to explain all of



A clip from the movie

Image Courtesy of IMDb.com

their extraordinary gifts away. The reason why this movie is so chilling is because of how easy Shyamalan made it seem like these fictional characters could be someone who rode with you on the bus to work, served you coffee, or just some random face at the mall. The way each scene is laid out is also very intriguing, al-

most as if every shot had some crucial aspect in it that seemed to tie everything together. Weather it was a pile of red clay the color of the halls, the angle at which the camera was held, the point of view throughout the entire movie was calculated and deliberate, something you don't see in a lot of movies.

If you've seen the first two parts of the trilogy, *Glass*, is definitely a must see. Unfortunately, for those who haven't seen the other two films, it may be near impossible to understand what/why things happen. Like many dedicated fans, there is always hoping for a sequel, however when asked about it Shyamalan said, "There's no good answer to it. I mean, look, I have two new ideas for movies, so I want to write those. *Glass* is the only movie I've ever done that's related to another movie I've ever done. So, it's not a habit of mine. I like making up new things, and trying new colors, so that's probably the best answer. Where my sweet spot is, is thinking of a new kind of story each time and trying to make it as best I can, and seeing if it connects with the audience at that time." (CinemaBlend.com)

Personally, I think this means that if the audience really liked the direction this new universe is headed, there will be related films in the future. However, at the very least this trilogy has made an impact with the cinematic world and will most likely be referenced in future movies.



## Brain on Fire

Susannah Cahalan's Month of Madness



Susannah Cahalan and Dr. Najjar, who saved her life.

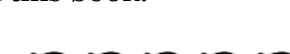
Image Courtesy of BoredomTherapy.com

cessive amount of alcohol. Nevertheless, even when she tried to change her lifestyle the symptoms resumed stubbornly until she started to have frequent seizures that required her to be hospitalized. With the help of an extremely worried family and state, but she kept receiving "All your tests seem normal" and that this might be "a developing case of schizophrenia". Susannah's parents found it hard to believe that their daughter was developing schizophrenia, especially when she continued to

provide them with an explanation.

*Brain on Fire* is a journalistic approach to explaining what was going on with Susannah. She has gathered journals that her parents kept when she was sick, videos of when she was hospitalized, and doctor reports to attempt putting together a full story on what happened and how she reached recovery. Although the disease that Susannah was diagnosed with impaired many aspects of her physical body and personality, she was able to piece together parts of herself that were lost due to the disease with the help of her family and friends. To me, this was a terrifying story to read, especially reading how Susannah has lost the ability to do simple tasks like reading and writing or walking. However, Susannah did an extraordinary job in engaging the reader with her experience, it felt more like a personal journal than a medical condition being reported.

The book is now made into a movie with Netflix, but I found the movie to have little to no details on the case as much as the book did, so it felt pretty scattered and discontinuous. Overall, Susannah Cahalan did a wonderful job in sharing her story and I absolutely recommend this book.



"[Brain on Fire] felt more like a personal journal than a medical condition being reported."

the doctor's office for answers was a dead-end when she was told that this is probably because she has been working too hard and maybe drinking an ex-

boyfriend, Susannah was able to tour the New York City psychiatrist and neurologists to find an explanation to what was happening to her deteriorating

have an excessive amount of seizures that are usually not in schizophrenic patients, so they insisted on seeing other neurologists in the country that could





## Music Corner: 21 Savage

Seun Ladipo  
**Lifestyle Editor**

Popular rapper 21 Savage born Sha Yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph has been gaining popularity in the late 2010's, becoming one of the most popular and successful rappers in the world. With his most recent projects Issa Album, and I am > I was, 21 has truly sky rocketed himself into stardom.

Having said this he has not always been the successful artist that he is today.

On his 21st birthday one of his friends was shot and killed and he decided to name himself after the

event. Soon after then he released his first single, "picky" and mixtape "The Slaughter Tape"

He gained massive popularity in Atlanta for both his dark and "soulless" style of rapping.

In 2017 XXL magazine named him to their ever popular freshman class of rappers. The XXL Freshman Class for those not aware is a list of upcoming people in the world of hip hop. This list is a huge honor as artists such as Chance the Rapper, Goldlink, Kevin Gates, and Anderson Paak have all been previous members.

After this release he kept pedaling his discography with the his EP Sav-



The visage of the savage himself

Photos Courtesy of [complex.com](https://www.complex.com)



The cover of 21's latest album

Photos Courtesy of [spotify](https://www.spotify.com)

age mode that peaked on the Billboard at number 23.

His single X went platinum and marked 21's first record to achieve this hallowed status.

Since then his success has become history and he has everywhere from featuring in fallow artist Post-Malones song "Rockstar" which became the first track he had a hand in to top the Billboard Hot 100.

21 has really given himself a brand surrounded by a past of darkness and misery as he rarely shows any positive emotions in his media. He doesn't try to impress people with his mind blowing lyrics rather he is to the point in his music expressing his "savagery" through every verse.

He really prides himself in his reality with his past riddled with murder and drug dealing. At the same time he has also made a new amends

to appeal to a new audience by taking the time to invest in property and spend his money on things that could help him establish capital. His latest album really takes a look at his past and shows how much he has grown since in the past years.

As of February 3rd there are allegations talking about 21 Savages arrest as he has rumored to be an illegal immigrant from the United Kingdom. As of this date he is in the custody of the United States Immigration and Customs enforcement.

In all if you haven't given 21 a listen and you are a fan of rap music you should definitely give him a try. His realism is a breath of fresh air in an era of hip hop that has been dominated by mumble rapping and Soundcloud heroes.

## Chaliapin Steak Don

*The bowl club lives another day*

### Ingredients

Courtesy of the Food Wars Anime

- Beef Sirloin (Supermarket discount)
- Onion
- Garlic (mix with onion)
- Pepper
- Salt
- Potato Starch
- Rice (Donburi Bowl)
- Pickled Plum
- Red Wine
- Soy Sauce
- Butter

### Directions

1. \*optional\* Put on headband. (Only the best chefs wear them.)
2. Chop the onions finely.
3. Remove the tendons from the beef and beat it with a meat tenderizer until as flat as possible.
4. Cover meat on both sides with the chopped onion and leave for 30 minutes or more. Remove the onion and add salt and pepper.
5. Cook the steak to your preference (most would prefer medium-rare). Remove from heat and melt 1 tablespoon of butter in a frying pan and fry the onion used for the beef until it changes color. Adjust



A timeless treat that has existed for centuries.

Photos Courtesy of [Food Wars](https://www.foodwars.com)

the flavor with salt and pepper, then move the onion to the steak.

6. Melt the remaining butter in the frying pan and fry the sides of the meat before taking it out.

7. Add red wine to the frying pan used for the beef to deglaze it. Boil down the wine while scraping off the meat juice.

8. Add soy sauce and mix with everything. Adjust seasonings to personal preferences.

9. Thicken with dissolved potato starch.

10. Put rice mixed with Umeboshi paste (pickled plum) in the donburi bowl. Place the beef on top and add plenty of sauce. Top with the finely chopped, cooked onions.



## Stretch Those Brain Muscles

William Kemp  
Business Manager

There are hundreds of articles online and even more college and life skills professors that will tell you, "Working out is good for your brain!" What nobody ever seems to talk about after that is how does one even fathom entering the weight room, it's a scene taken straight out of a nightmare I had last night. Ontop of that I definitely don't want to end up hurting myself because I don't know how to use the weights, let alone the machines. I'm glad to say for the sake of both research and this article, I've overcome my fear of being humiliated in

the weight room and have actually pushed myself to become more physically fit.

It all started just a few weeks ago, right around mid-terms. One of my house mates who is basically a pro at working out invited me to join him one night and he showed more the ropes, literally. One of the very first things we did was use the ropes as part of a warmup. The warmup alone got my heart pumping like I was on the most exhilarating roller coaster ride of my life, I felt alive. We continued thought the main sets and at the end of the day, I decided I wanted more. Working out, especially here at Rose, is

not somewhere where there are 1000 eyes on you, or everyone gives you judgmental looks. All of the horror stories of some jacked Chad dude making fun of a scrawny wimp were thrown out the window.

This is the part I didn't expect. I knew going to the gym would probably help my muscle mass. I knew going to the gym would probably make me feel healthier. I had no idea that my midterm test grades would be so high. There are probably multiple factors that can account towards this, but I actually credit a lot of my success towards working out. Out of all the possible variables I could've

changed, getting fit was one of the only major ones to have changed.

Plus out of 5th grade science, the scientific method says I should only change one variable and see what happens. Apparently all of the people who did actual research on this subject were very right, working out really does help your brain. I definitely recommend everyone to get at least 15 minutes of hard physical activity 5 times a week. Not only will it help you feel better but you may find the same results I have with academics. One things for sure, I'm looking forward to finals now with my newfound routine.

# PRO?

It's your opinion.  
Share it!

# CON?

Email Us:

[thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu)

## The Award for Worst Awards Goes To...

Jonathan Kawauchi  
Staff Writer

I can't recall a specific moment when I first learned about the Oscars. As soon as I knew what movies were I think I already knew about they get awards of little golden people on a pedestal. I can only imagine then, that I must have subconsciously absorbed their importance through the shows and movies of my childhood copying or parodying the entire premise of the prestigious award show known the Academy Awards a.k.a the Oscars, but I think learning it at such a young age meant it took me awhile to question its relevance.

I never really thought about how the Oscars worked and why I should care until a few years ago. Thankfully, Wikipedia exists and apparently other people have been thinking about it as well, particularly about who votes. The simple rundown of how the Oscars nominations go is that a members of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), largely composed of veteran Hollywood actors and insiders, are asked to vote for which movie deserves to win a certain category. The actual membership of AMPAS is kept generally anonymous, but the Los Angeles Times published a study back in 2012 that covers 88% of the active voters, reporting that 94% were Caucasian, 77% were male, and 54% were found to be over the age of 60 with 33% of voting members are former nominees (14%) and winners (19%). So right off the bat it's clear that there are some dominating demographics, but that's not an inherent problem, more just a symptom of an inherent problem with the institution given its age and adherence to tradition (hint hint).

For the longest time, the Oscars have snubbed deserving movies like The Dark Knight because of their non-traditional contexts and premises since they don't match their brand, instead opting for 'Oscar-bait' movies like The Butler or 12 Years a Slave that are often well made on every level but are otherwise very safe in terms of themes.

This old desire to maintain a certain brand can be nice for awhile but ultimately results in a lose of relevancy for the Oscars as the cultural landscape changes with time. So what should the Oscars celebrate then? Well technical awards like best soundtrack and costume design really should not be as complicated or nuanced, but the big award of Best Picture should really be reserved for a certain type of film. Something the Oscars don't seem to understand is that there's a wide spectrum of movies, and some of them are technically amazing while others are popular because they relate to the zeitgeist of that year, that while not necessarily the tightest film experience, are bold and capture a general desire or culture that is subconsciously on everyone's mind, and the best pictures are those that master both.

This is something that the Oscars are noticing the impact of, but have trouble identifying and addressing. They've been on damage control for years now, expanding the Best Picture category from 5 films to up to 10 films, promising to diversify their academy membership, adding a category for 'achievement in popular film' (what exactly that means, no one knows) and cutting down the televised event from four hours to three. I'd say these all tie into the bigger issue, that being the fact that the Oscars are no longer a prestigious celebration of the best the visual medium has to offer, but rather a business model profiting off viewers and promoting movies in an odd symbiotic relationship that largely leaves the consumer out of the equations. The Oscars are desperate to maintain relevance since that ties into the show's bottom line as well as the actual worth of their awards. It's common practice for a film to premiere before Oscar season to gain traction and hype in order to win an award, then make a full country-wide theatrical release in order to profit off the publicity. There's nothing inherently wrong with that strategy, especially for smaller films that would have difficulty getting

picked up and advertised otherwise, but it is a problem when the awards begin to service the films rather than the other way around. Now in order to attract more viewers, they put in movies simply due to their commercial success rather than their technical and artistic merit, exemplified by their new category. But I think this only really builds upon the issues rather than fixes it. No one wants to see their film win a token consolation prize. Fans of The Dark Knight wouldn't have been happy with anything less than Best Picture, because it deserved to win (or at least nominated for) Best Picture. The fact that they need to even add a category like that shows that the academy still doesn't understand. There aren't just art films and entertainment films. There's a wide spectrum and there have been plenty of examples of films pushing the boundaries of the medium, excelling creatively and questioning social norms while still being amazingly fun movies. This lack of understanding results in the often mediocre selection in some categories, most notably Best Animated Feature, with many academy voters ad-

mitting that they've simply never seen most of the films. This implies, given the most common demographics of academy voters, that it's simply the most well advertised movies or the ones their children had happened to see.

After all that, I still don't think that's the biggest question that should be asked about the Oscars. The biggest question is simple: Why should I care? The average movie goer probably wouldn't be interested in half the movies given awards. Why should I or anyone listen to 8,000 strangers in Hollywood? The Oscars are already in a declining situation and so far are continuing to fade into obscurity. In the digital age with detailed, individual reviews available with a single google, what merit is a popularity contest from Hollywood executives. Until there's a radical restructuring or a new award created with modern tastes for the sake of celebrating film as an entertaining art form, I'd say it's better to just go check out any literally any movie review website for your next recommendation.



Image via AP



## RHIT Track & Field

Hailey Hoover  
Sports Editor

For The Rose Track and Field Team, school records were made at the events at Illinois Wesleyan. Noah Thomas managed to gain the second-best time in school history for the 60-meter dash. The time was 6.99 seconds. Aaron Lannoy recorded the third-best time for the 800-meters. Lauren London came home with two new records. The first was in the long jump. This mark ranks in the top 10 for the NCAA Division III. The second was in the 60-meter hurdles. The next event will be held Saturday in Greencastle.

Photo by Rose-Hulman Athletics



## RHIT Swimming & Diving

Hailey Hoover  
Sports Editor

The Rose Swimming and Diving Teams took away wins in 26 events at Hanover College. For the women, they were able to win with a score of 159-89. Winners for the women include Elisa Weber in the 50-butterfly, and 100-butterfly, Parker Brady in the 50-brackstoke and 100-backstroke, and Lauren Blake in the 100-freestyle and 200-freestyle. The men also picked up a win with the score of 134-68. Their winners included Brendan King in the 200-freestyle and the 500-freestyle, and Dutch Kipp in the 200-IM and 100-backstroke. The Engineers will continue on to the HCAC Championships.

Photo by Rose-Hulman Athletics



## RHIT SPORTS BOX SCORES

### RHIT Men's Basketball

Hailey Hoover  
Sports Editor

The Engineers were able to pull out a win against Bluffton. They had three players on the team score double points in the game. The team's record now currently stands at 14-7 and 10-4 in the HCAC.

Bluffton		Rose-Hulman
20	Rebounds	35
12	Assists	17
11	Turnovers	18
16	Pts Off Turnovers	15

Basketball	1	2	Final
Bluffton	28	21	49
Rose-Hulman	34	36	70

### Standout Performers

Charlie Aimone  
John Czarncki

### RHIT Women's Basketball

Hailey Hoover  
Sports Editor

Much like their male counterparts the Women's basketball team lost to Transylvania. Ally Bromenschenkel was the highest scorer on the team with 21 points. The team's record now stands at 13-6 and 10-2 in conference.

Bluffton		Rose-Hulman
31	Rebounds	46
9	Assists	10
16	Turnovers	19
10	Pts off Turnovers	9

Basketball	1	2	3	4	Final
Bluffton	14	12	0	11	37
RHIT	8	12	6	19	45

### Standout Performers

Hannah Woody  
Taylor Graham

## RHIT SPORTS SCHEDULES

### Track & Field

### Swimming & Diving

### Basketball

Jan 12: @ RHIT  
Jan 19: @ RHIT  
Jan 26: @ RHIT  
Feb 3: @ Bloomington, Ill  
Feb 10: @ Greencastle, Ind  
Feb 17: @ Anderson, Ind  
March 3: @ Ada, Ohio  
March 10: @ Birmingham, Ala  
March 17: @ William Welch Complex  
March 24: @ St. Louis, Mo  
March 30: @ Springfield, Ohio  
April 7: @ Greencastle, Ind  
April 14: @ Greencastle, Ind  
April 20: @ William Welch Complex  
April 27 & 28: @ William Welch Complex  
May 4: @ Bloomington, Ind  
May 11: @ Berea, Ohio  
May 24—26: @ La Crosse, Wis

Dec 1&2: @ University Of Kentucky  
Jan 11: @ RHIT  
Jan 12: @ Bloomington, Ill  
Jan 18: @ Valparaiso, Ind  
Jan 19: @ Grand Rapids, Mich  
Jan 25: @ Franklin Community Middle School  
Feb 2: @ RHIT  
Feb 14-16: @ Vigo County Aquatic Center

**Men**  
Dec 5: Mt. St. Joseph  
Dec 8: Transylvania  
Dec 13: Boyce  
Dec 15: Manchester  
Dec 22: Millikin  
Jan 2: Hanover  
Jan 5: Earlham  
Jan 9: Franklin  
Jan 12: Bluffton  
Jan 16: Anderson  
Jan 19: Defiance  
Jan 23: Mt. St. Joseph  
Jan 26: Transylvania  
Jan 30: Hanover  
Feb 2: Bluffton  
Feb 6: Franklin  
Feb 9: Earlham  
Feb 13: Anderson  
Feb 16: Manchester

**Women**  
Dec 1: Defiance  
Dec 5: Mt. St. Joseph  
Dec 8: Transylvania  
Dec 15: Manchester  
Dec 18: Chicago  
Jan 2: Hanover  
Jan 5: Earlham  
Jan 9: Franklin  
Jan 12: Bluffton  
Jan 16: Anderson  
Jan 19: Defiance  
Jan 23: Mt. St. Joseph  
Jan 26: Transylvania  
Jan 30: Hanover  
Feb 2: Bluffton  
Feb 6: Franklin  
Feb 9: Earlham  
Feb 13: Anderson  
Feb 16: Manchester



## National 7 Day Forecast

<b>National Homemade Soup Day</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>World Nutella Day</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>National Lame Duck Day</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>National Periodic Table Day</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>National Iowa Day</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>National Bagel Day</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>National Umbrella Day</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>National Create a Vacuum Day - Either a cleaner or a lack of anything, your choice</b>		<b>National Weatherperson's Day</b>		<b>National Frozen Yogurt Day - Should be 57 °F. Maybe warm enough for frozen yogurt?</b>		<b>National Fettucine Alfredo Day</b>		<b>National Kite Flying Day</b>		<b>National Pizza Day - "It's pizza time!"</b>		<b>National Cream Cheese Brownie Day</b>	
<b>National Thank a Mail Carrier Day</b>								<b>National Boy Scouts Day</b>		<b>National Toothache Day</b>		<b>National Umbrella Day - It's probably going to be snowing, so not sure an umbrella will help there</b>	



### Decent Chick of the Week

Robert Coons is a certified public accountant in North Carolina.

### Scintillating Question of the Week

What's your favorite flavor of frozen yogurt?

Did you have a fun response to this question that you want other people to know about? Go ahead and tell them yourself! If you have any ideas for questions of the week, send them to [thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu)

### Top 10

Things People Did With the Snow Day

1. Ate white bread and milk
2. Stormed the grocery store
3. Not their labs
4. Partook in the first annual Purge
5. Used Speed Lake to overclock their laptops
6. Giant shuffleboard on the lake
7. Stood outside to spite everybody - "Take that Bobby!"
8. Forgot and went to lab anyway
9. Suntanned
10. Frolicked through the empty academic buildings
11. Reenacted Ice Road Truckers
12. Started a bunch of fires to stay warm
13. Literally froze to death - *Thankfully, there were no casualties*
14. Took a dive into Scum Pond
15. Bobsled around the Mussallem Union driveway
16. Took a warm bath
17. Bought a Frappuccino from disgruntled Beanie's employees

### WACKY PROF QUOTES

"You can stare at my bald spot for a few seconds."  
-Dr. Bremmer

Did your prof say something hilarious or just great out of context? Did you hear something amusing on your jaunt about the fine halls of this institution? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to [thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu) or fill out this nifty google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt1>

### Inside the One Party of Robert Coons

Лорен Уайзман

The following is an excerpt from a letter submitted to The Rose Thorn. This letter has been described as "one-part fan letter, one-part manifesto" for "the one party of Robert Coons." The letter contained many propaganda images, one of which is included for reference.

"[...] Students are now in possession of a ten-minute passing period. Students were relieved and able to relieve themselves with such a luxurious amount of time. These extra minutes are being seen as a gift, and a promise of even brighter things to come.

In nearly a decade, Rose-Hulman students have plowed onward without ceasing. Only burst water pipes were enough to loosen the chains of labor. However, this year became a historic one. The working classes--the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes, to be exact--were freed from the tyranny of grueling work for a single, glowing day. This day shall forever be known as Robert's Day.

Robert Coons is not only a leader of change and a pioneer towards the new, he is a guardian of cherished tradition. The administration of James Conwell--the era of Safety Jim--has been dismantled. Students are at last free to say "There is safe ice!" It was decided students would be allowed onto the ice of Speed Lake, frozen on the first Robert's Day. [...]"

Rose-Hulman is in a state of revolution. Students are ready to stand behind the leadership of Robert Coons.

The letter was signed "The One Party of Robert Coons". Below the signature was written Да здравствует Роберт Коунс, which was just "long live Robert Coons" put into Google Translate. The letter claims this "One Party" meets, but in secret so as not to draw attention: "Follow the gaze of Herman and see the future."

The One Party of Robert Coons declined an interview.



Above: Robert Coons pictured with a statue holding the Flame of the Millennium

Right: Robert Coons propaganda image distributed by the One Party of Robert Coons

