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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Are our grades inflated?

Alex Clerc
News Editor

When the average GPA at Princeton University reached 3.50 on a 4 point scale, the school decided that it was giving too many As and capped As to 35% of students in a class. According to a study released by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, fewer than 20% of all college students receive grades below a B-. And so far this decade, about 90% of all Harvard graduates have graduated with honors.

Grade inflation has been recognized as a major problem in some of the best schools in the nation. Since the 1960s, the national average college GPA has grown more than half a point to over 3.1/4.0. Is grade inflation a problem at Rose-Hulman as well?

This fall, the average student GPA at Rose-Hul-

man was 3.15, over 0.33 points higher than it was in 1993 and just above a B average. As defined in the Academic Policies of Rose-Hulman, “‘B’ and ‘B+’ indicate very good performance, definitely above a satisfactory level...” while a C is given for “satisfactory performance”.

Patrick Brophy, Associate Professor of Psychology, said, “By definition, we have grade inflation because a ‘B’ is now average... [grades] have been so high that some employers have stopped looking at GPAs.”

Art Western, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, claimed that the slow rise in average GPA is not due to grade inflation: “This [rise in GPA] is a real indication of higher standards and better teaching methods.” Western added that in classes he teaches, it is always his goal to help

every student understand the material well enough to earn a good grade. “My dream has been to have a class of all As.”

According to Western, the timing of the rise in average GPA is the key to explaining it. Western stated, “This increase occurred over a decade in which we’ve made profound changes – we’ve gone coed and attracted students from a broader geography through our national reputation.” This, said Western, has led to an increase in the quality of students. This claim is supported by admissions statistics such as higher SAT scores and a noticeable increase in out-of-state students.

Pete Gustafson, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, agreed with Western, saying, “The quality of the student body has increased substantially since we went coed... I’ve been

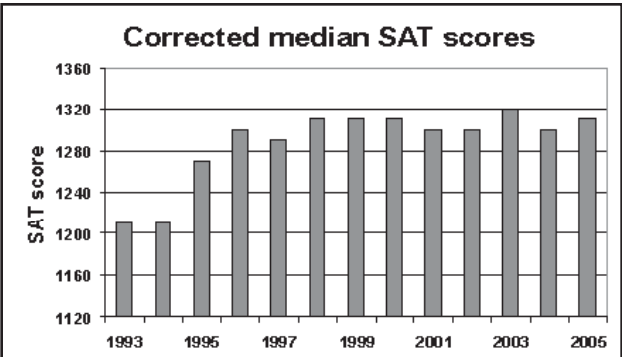
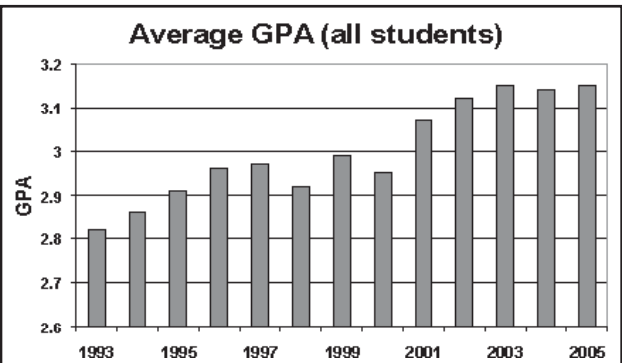
here 29 years, and I think the type of students we have here has improved substantially, and that is probably atypical of most schools.”

But some disagree with this theory: “I think the work ethic of the student has changed. More students need to be coddled and have their hand held than in the old days,” said Gary Sherman, Professor of Mathematics.

Brophy agreed: “In terms of work ethic, the quality of students here has not increased. SAT scores may be up, but there is a changing baseline for them and they are no measure of work ethic.”

Brophy explained the recent rise in grades another way: “I think the focus on student evaluations has caused GPA inflation.”

Continued on page 3...



Alex Clerc / Rose Thorn

A spike in SAT scores of incoming freshmen in 1995 (the first year women attended Rose) may indicate more qualified students. SAT scores in this graph were corrected for a re-centering in 1996.

Challenge X team strives for success

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

At the beginning of the 2004-2005 school year, Rose-Hulman began its participation in Challenge X. According to the Challenge X web site, Challenge X is a contest between 17 schools to transform a Chevy Equinox, a crossover sports utility vehicle, to minimize energy consumption, emissions, and greenhouse gases while maintaining or exceeding the vehicle's utility and performance. Rose-Hulman's Challenge X team is made up primarily of students from the Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering departments, though a few people in Computer Science and Chemistry or related majors also participate. The project also has two faculty advisors, ME professor Zach Chambers and ECE professor Mark Herniter.

Ben Hoff, a senior chemical engineer, joined the Challenge X team because of his interest in the automobile industry. “[I’ve] already worked two co-op rotations in industry and I wanted to keep up with the latest in the automotive field.”

Other students agree, adding



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Student Clint Hammes and GM Mentor Art McGrew work on a temporary motor.

that the experience is excellent. “The experience I am getting in advanced vehicle simulation and control algorithm development is unheard of for undergraduates,” said junior mechanical engineer and control systems integration team leader, Matthew DeVries.

Students and advisors are not alone in the project. Aside from the school, they are supported by around 30 sponsors, including but not limited to the Department of Energy, General Motors (GM), who donated the Chevy Equinox, and National Instruments. The sponsors provide parts, funding,

and even training for students in cities such as Boston, Houston, and Detroit.

Challenge X teams follow GM's Global Vehicle Development process. The first year was for research and simulation. This year is the initial build phase - by this summer, the car will be taken to Phoenix for a test run. The third year is when the vehicle is refined.

Part of the challenge of the project is to successfully convert the Equinox into a viable hybrid in the three-year time frame. “A hybrid runs on more than one source of energy,” explains Herniter. Teams select two or more of battery, electricity, hydrogen, solar power, hydraulics, and combustion power sources. For the combustion sources, teams are to use alternative fuels. Some fuels considered were the reformulated gas, E85, which is 85% ethanol and 15% gas, and B20, which is a mix of 20% bio-diesel and 80% diesel. “Our team is using electricity and bio-diesel combustion for power,” said Herniter.

From a mechanical standpoint, teams have three methods of driving the car. One is to put the hybrid in series – that is, have the combustion charge the electric-



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Neil Myers, Phillip Meiser (back), Trevor Acres, and Gareth Carlson work on the engine in the stripped-down Chevy Equinox.

ity – and drive the car from the battery. Another is to power the front from one source and power the rear from another.

According to Herniter, the type Rose has chosen to use is a split-power planetary gear set which is controlled by an electric supervisor controller. Through the use of computer simulation, a controlling scheme will be developed that will be exported to a chip to

be used in the real car.

Other issues include properly containing and controlling the power from the engines. The 336 volt battery and the presence of a high estimated 300 amp current means the vehicle has roughly 90 kW to manage.

What does the Challenge X program mean to Rose-Hulman?

Continued on page 3...

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
Snow storm wreaks havoc on roads.	Terre Haute symphony, Aeon Flux.	Keep your Jesus and pass the watered-down ketchup.	Women take the Clabber Girl Trophy.	“Open a channel.”
Page 3	Pages 4 & 5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

Classifieds

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Crossword Puzzle

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

1					2		3		4	
5	6			7						
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11						12		13		
	14					15				
16			17	18						
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22						23			24	
				25						

Clues

Across	Down
5 "Cute" packaging slang for a reduced amount, as in "fat" or in "cal"	1 This vampiric but charitable drive occurred on Tuesday and Wednesday
7 If you're a dog person, this sound won't be the cat's ____	2 A wetland phase between lake and forest
8 The blood drive won't make you donate this, but you can hear one in White Chapel on Friday afternoons.	3 Festival honoring African-American heritage from Dec 26 – Jan 1
10 Raven-fancying god who lent wisdom to the vikings	4 Pessimistic donkey
11 Superconductors' magnets, like witches, can ____ gravity	6 Just what the doctor ____ed
12 Bluish-purple, or a dye used for biological staining	7 Too ____ cooks in the kitchen, in so ____ words
14 Scaling factor for macroscopic energy values, measured in J/mol	9 These are usually given for Christmas
15 Could be not-so-dense or barely cooked	12 Hatfield puts on the Fine ____ Series, one of which will be Saturday, 7:30pm
17 "He's making a list, he's checking it twice"	13 Now in Iraq, it was one of the oldest southern cities of Mesopotamia
19 Popularized surprise acronym, to the chagrin of anti-blasphemy IMers	16 Abbr for Tolkien trilogy and exhibit in Indianapolis
22 You may quickly ____ if you are forced to change one ____ too many	18 Length by width, as in the lack of floor space in dorm rooms
24 In some sense, rules for the web that might be proprietary knowledge	20 Dale K, the hypnotist, used one as did the Pops Christmas Symphony
25 A place name coming from a navigator who was one of many not to discover it	21 Something that may be high around here and many work hard to increase
	23 Ironically, abbr for breaks with sleep and inactivity, but also for a day-and-night form of transportation

For last week's solution, visit the Humor section of the Thorn Website at <http://rose-hulman.edu/thorn>

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

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New profs settle in

Benjamin Mann
Staff Writer

In the same way Mother Nature blankets the ground with snow as the earlier layers fade away, Rose-Hulman must add new professors to the roster to keep the university in top running shape. This is the fifth in a series of articles dealing with new and visiting professors in the Rose community.

Ann Buchmann, Visiting Assistant Professor of Applied Biology and Biomedical Engineering, received her undergraduate education at St. Mary's University of Minnesota and her doctorate at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago.

Buchmann spent six years in Boston researching DNA repair activation, and now she is trying out Rose. "I really like the wonderful and supportive atmosphere." She enjoys teaching both to help students learn and to learn herself. "Everyone is smart and hard working," Buchmann says. "There is a willingness to help."

Renu Tripathi, Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics and Optical Engineering, started her education at India Institute of Technology, a school with a size similar to Rose's size. She received her doc-

torate at Northwestern Institute of Technology.

Tripathi spent two years as a postdoc teaching at Northwestern and has also taught for two years at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Rose-Hulman, however, is her first time teaching undergraduate students. "[Rose-Hulman] is a good college," she states and is excited to teach and excited to learn.

Virginia Naibo, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, received her education at Universidad Nacional del Litoral in Argentina. She then went on to teach three years as a postdoc at the University of Kansas.

Naibo's biggest interest is harmonic analysis and its application to partial differential equations. She describes them as "mathematical aspects of physics equations."

"I like the math department... I enjoy the students and the teaching". She also complimented the hard-working nature of students, saying, "I have to be more prepared and I must work harder to be ready for lecture."

Naibo also said the students and the other professors are always kind and helpful. "I am very comfortable here, and that makes my job easier."



Christina Davis / *Rose Thorn*

Sophomore Scott Ruskamp clears snow off his car during Thursday's snowfall. The snows caused several accidents in Terre Haute and reduced Interstate 70 to one-lane traffic.

*I love writing news
interviewing people, too
it is the greatest*

*O, my greatest joy
writing stories for the Thorn
It's good... all the day!*

*would you like to come?
writing stories is so fun!
it is so awesome*

*Always such a treat
write stories for the Thorn, please
you'll feel so sexy*

Challenge X, from Page 1

"Challenge X is beneficial to Rose for a number of reasons,"

explains Hoff. "What we are doing today at Challenge X is the same thing that's being done [by] GM, Ford, Toyota and just about everyone else right now. It's cutting edge." Rose-Hulman is one of only

two schools to have no graduate students or doctoral candidates

on its team, with the possible exception of Tulsa University, and

is the only competing school without a research focus. The project is being supported by two students working on their theses. Hoff asserted that "When we do really well, and we will, it shows that Rose really is one of the top schools in the country."



Ken Meyer / *Rose Thorn*

Challenge X students work on the electronic controls for the Chevy Equinox.



Christina Davis / *Rose Thorn*

Nurse Kelly Thomas helps junior civil engineering major Meghan Gollhofer donate a pint of blood. 259 pints of blood were collected at this winter's blood drive.

Grades, from Page 1

In theory, concern over backlash on student and institutional evaluations could be especially stressful for newer faculty members. "I think there may be more institutional or cultural pressure on untenured faculty members to give better grades," said Sherman. "As a cranky, old, tenured faculty member who's ready to retire, I don't have to be as concerned about evaluations as untenured professors do."

In response to the argument that untenured professors may give better grades to get better evaluations, Western said that the correlation between the grades and evaluations is small compared to how well the professor can teach. "Some of our professors who get the best evaluations are the toughest professors," said Western.

Charles Joenathan, Department Head of Physics and Optical Engineering, did not think that evaluations hold sway over faculties members' grading decisions: "I believe in the honesty and integrity of our faculty... Faculty members are very cautious about giving grades." Joenathan claimed that the standards have not been relaxed. "I have a standard scale and my exams are standard. The number of As I give in a class has always been about the same number."

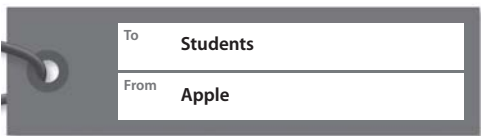
Other faculty members were less inclined to talk about the subject of inflating grades: "[Grade inflation] is not a student issue and it's not the Thorn's business," said Allen Broughton, Department Head of Mathematics.



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Directed by Stephen Gaghan

Rated R

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Starring Tilda Swinton

Directed by Andrew Adamson

Rated PG

Brokeback Mountain

Starring Jake Gyllenhaal

Directed by Ang Lee

Rated R

Limited Release

Out on DVD

Cinderella Man

The Dukes of Hazzard

“24” 4th Season

“Star Wars: Clone Wars” Vol. 2

“The West Wing” 5th Season

Box Office Tops

1. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

2. Aeon Flux

3. Walk the Line

4. Yours, Mine and Ours

5. Just Friends

Don’t run to see *Aeon Flux*

Jessica Rogers

StaffWriter

Sometimes being dragged to a movie on Friday night is the best way to relax after a hard week at Rose. Then there are other times when you feel like you wasted eight dollars that you would rather have spent at Taco Bell, instead of paying to take a nap in an uncomfortable theatre chair. *Aeon Flux* is definitely one of those times.

Based on an animated series created by Peter Chung, the film gives the appearance of being action packed with a great story line. It definitely does not live up to its full potential. Charlize Theron spends most of her time as Aeon in a skintight jumpsuit trying to overthrow the only government left on Earth. Even the guys in the theater said they saw too much of her.

The action really is nonexistent. There are a few good scenes with a lot of shooting and hand to hand combat, but even those scenes were watered down and dragged out. They were also not

nearly as detailed as they could be. More time is spent showing someone aiming to shoot a minor person than is used developing the major characters. Also, there actually isn’t nearly enough gore. I know I’m a girl and I’m not supposed to be complaining about that, but am I honestly supposed to believe that a person gets shot and just falls over without any sign of blood? I don’t think so.

Even the acting leaves something to be desired. One would think with Oscar winners Charlize Theron and Francis McDormand in the cast there would at least be good performances to carry the lagging story line. Unfortunately, the movie has the exact opposite effect, despite the talent of the performers. All the actors seem to have had reverse acting lessons. If even the characters appear to be bored with the story, how is a viewer expected to actually enjoy watching it?

Don’t get me wrong. I didn’t completely hate every second of my viewing experience. There



<http://movies.about.com/library/weekly/blaeonfluxpicsv.htm>
Theron and Marton Csokas star as Aeon Flux and Trevor Goodchild. Neither look anything like the original cartoon animation.

Movie: *Aeon Flux*

Starring: Charlize Theron

Rating: 3.0/10

Lord of the Rings exhibit rules over Indy

David Chen

StaffWriter

Must...not...get...wallet...out. Must...fight...urge...to...buy...Lord of the Rings souvenir in museum gift shop.

Phew, that was a close one. This was my train of thought the second I stepped into the gift shop at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, where it’s currently showcasing *Lord of the Rings: The Exhibition*. It has been running since early October and will end on January 3 when it all moves back to New Zealand.

This exhibit has been a blockbuster, like its movies, all over the world - in Boston, London, Sydney, Singapore, and now in Indianapolis. It has already attracted over 1 million people. This Saturday, I was able to visit this phenomenal exhibit on a trip sponsored by the HSS department.

In the museum lobby there stands an impressive scaled replica of the Pillars of Argonath, which are the two giant statues near the end of *The Fellowship of the Ring* movie. You know you’re in for a treat when passing through this. As for the exhibit itself, it will be Valhalla for you Gollum-lovers, Legolas-swoonies, Hobbit-wannabes, and other Lord of the Rings junkies, because it certainly was for me. There are more than 600 props and items actually used in filming, more than you can shake Sting at (which, by the way, costs \$100 for a replica at the shop.) Covering over 10,000 sq. ft., there is anything and everything.

Exhibit pieces range from most weapons used, armors actually worn, tons of prosthetics (you



<http://www.in.gov/ism/NewsGallery/photography.asp>
They have a cave troll...

know you want to try on the ears), and giant-scaled models of creatures. There is Aragorn’s sword Anduril, a very lifelike model of Boromir (right down to the flesh) in his funeral boat, a 13 ft. model of the Cave Troll, and more.

Aside from these, there are also many video screens that explain different parts of the making of *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, such as how the giant monsters are digitized, weapons training, and the role of Gollum. Not only are they educational, many of them are rather interesting. For example, do you know it takes 10 hours to put on Lurtz’s (Uruk-Hai) make-up? Also, do you know that the idea of the Ringwraiths came from the Four Horsemen of Apocalypse and their description from the Book of Revelation 9:17?

There were several interactive activities to indulge in as well. My favorite one was having your picture taken to be used to show how the Hobbits were made to look small compared to other

characters. If this isn’t enough for you aficionados, there is also the Ring Experience, a darkened room to simulate Mt. Doom with the Ring “floating” in the middle.

Back to my dilemma with souvenirs, it was hard not to get something, especially after embracing the exhibit. After a giant battle within myself that rivaled “my precious/giving to the dark side” temptation, I managed not to get the small replica of the sword wielded by the Ringwraiths.

A definite must see as fast as your Hobbit feet can carry you if you’re a Lord of the Rings fan. This exhibit ends at the beginning of the New Year, so be sure to make a trip over to Indianapolis before you miss out. Suffice it to say, it does no justice to hear what I have to say. You really have to go there yourself.

Note: I’d like to thank Dr. Meredith Zoetewey, her husband, and Dr. Caroline Carvill for making this trip wonderful and possible.

TH symphony offers Christmas spirit

Lissa Avery

Editor-in-Chief

“I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus”.

There were two major downsides to the concert, although it was enjoyable on the whole. First: the tenor, Neil Jones. The man had a wonderful, operatic singing voice. The problem was he sang only vibrato, including on songs such as “Holy Night”, which rendered it nearly unrecognizable. He also sang a lot of songs, whereas I attended more to hear the orchestra itself.

The second detriment to the show was the shortness of the pieces played. Many of the medleys seemed rushed. It felt as though the Chanukah Suite lasted all of five minutes, despite the fact that it was one of the highlights of the show. Likewise with the Christmas Memories section—I even missed a song because it was swallowed up in the rushed medley.

Generally speaking, however, the pieces were well arranged (to my untrained ear) and a good mix of classical and newer, more popular songs. In addition, the orchestra itself was very talented and full of excellent string instruments, which I’m a fan of.

I’d recommend the Terre Haute Symphony concerts for anyone wanting a good bit of classical, tasteful entertainment.

I thought many of the songs picked were wonderful, and the orchestra played them well.

Last Saturday evening I attended the Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra’s “Holiday Pops!” concert. David Bowden is the musical director and conductor for the Terre Haute Symphony, and the concert featured tenor Neil Jones.

The orchestra played a full selection of typical holiday music, including pieces from *The Nutcracker* and *Messiah* and a Chanukah Suite. There was even a sing-along section of the concert, confusingly named “Sing in Exultation” on the program.

I thought many of the songs picked were wonderful, and the orchestra played them well in spite of the acoustic limits imposed by the stage setup and wide range of instruments. They played non-standard pieces from *The Nutcracker*, which was pleasantly unusual; I enjoy the classic *Nutcracker* pieces, but hearing something different made the concert stand out.

The Chanukah Suite was also very well done, and included the classics “Dreydl” and “Rock of Ages”, as well as several pieces I hadn’t heard before.

The Christmas Memories portion of the concert included more popular tunes such as “Frosty the Snowman” and

Hypnotize sets S.O.A.D's reputation

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

System of A Down has always been a good mash of anger, chunky metal, and captivating vocals from Serj Tankian that come together for something different from other heavy bands. Like some other fans, I pretty much lost touch with them about the time they released *Steal This Album*, a collection of B-sides recorded during the *Toxicity* sessions.

This year brought rumors of a supposedly good System album my way. *Mesmerize* came out six months ago to generally good reviews and high sales. One warmly reviewed album still wasn't enough to convince me to give these guys another shot, but the second half of the recording sessions, *Hypnotize*, has seen similar success. I find that I also enjoy the album.

I thought this might be the case after hearing the single "Hypnotize". The song is less abrasive than most of the band's catalogue, more in the area of *Toxicity's* "Aerials", and sees S.O.A.D breaking into a Mars Volta-esque

breakdown. Added with Tankian's vocals and the undeniable catchiness of the melody, the breakdown completes the track.

Don't start to think that System has mellowed out completely though. Two seconds into *Hypnotize*, that idea will be subdued. "Attack" switches from calculated verses to rapid refrains like "Bounce", and also features an impressive shriek that brings back memories of 1998's self-titled debut. Most of the first half of *Hypnotize* is very aggressive, which is something System of a Down has always been good at. "Stealing Society" opens with a punk beat and metal guitar. Out of nowhere, the song switches oddly to Daron Malakian's vocals that actually sound a little like Jello Biafra. It's a noticeably humorous section, and the band completely nails it. "Dreaming" is probably the best song on *Hypnotize*, simply because it mixes

the aggressive and progressive tendencies of the band most effectively. Tankian and Malakian's vocals mesh better than usual when they harmonize ("Dreaming of screaming!")

The last half of *Hypnotize* suffers a little from the bands spiritual side. Aggression is replaced by meditation. "Vicinity of Obscenity" is just plain befuddling. It switches from Tankian repeating "banana" and "terra-cotta" into a weird funk chorus. "She's Like Heroin" is also slightly out in left field. I will give S.O.A.D some credit for writing two unexpected songs here, but both are a vast change from their past work.

The meditative switch is most noticeable on two tracks. "Holy Mountains", whose name gives away the switch, is long and sluggish. At over five minutes it significantly hurts the speedy pace. "Soldier Side" attempts to be too intellectual, and the lyrics fall ab-



<http://eur.i1.yimg.com/eur.yimg.com/i/eu/mu/s/400sy.jpg>
System of a Down are the only band to hit #1 with two albums in the same year - 2005's *Mesmerize* and *Hypnotize*.

Artist: System of a Down

Album: *Hypnotize*

Rating: 7.0/10



<http://www.beactive-wa.org/images/pdz2.jpg>
The visual style is noticeably different from that of *Halo*.

Perfect Dark no Halo, but still great

By Robby Douthitt
The Marquette Tribune
(Marquette U.)

With the recent release of Microsoft's latest console, the Xbox 360, and shooter *Halo 3* still months away, many are left wondering what will be the must have game for the 360 that the original *Halo* was for the first Xbox.

For months prior to the release of the console, many have given that task to Rare's newest shooter, *Perfect Dark Zero*. It's actually a prequel to the classic Nintendo 64 shooter *Perfect Dark*, which along with *Goldeneye* was considered by many as the best console shooter ever -- until *Halo* came along, of course. Stripping down all of the hype and comparisons to *Halo*, *PDZ*, though not revolutionary, is a great game. It puts the player in the shoes of heroine Joanna Dark and follows her story as she is recruited from average bounty hunter to the super spy. The single-player campaign feels very much like the original *Perfect Dark* and Rare's other shooter, *Goldeneye*. Basically if you liked these two games, you will like *PDZ*.

The graphics, which in early screenshots had been criticized as below par for the 360, ended up being truly amazing. It is by far one of the best-looking games on the 360, especially when ob-

serving its lighting effects and gun animations.

The campaign mode is meant to be played through with a friend co-operatively. While playing co-op, one player takes on the role of Joanna Dark while the other takes on the role of Jack Dark, Joanna's father. Each player will have different tasks in the same level which relate to each other. In one level for instance, the first player, from the rooftops of a futuristic city, must cover the other player with a sniper rifle while they are on the ground trying to achieve objectives. It's this kind of coordinated teamwork which really makes *PDZ's* co-operative modes one of the best in any game.

On top of the single and co-operative campaign modes, *PDZ* boasts a stunning online multiplayer mode. Up to 32 players can participate in a wealthy amount of combat modes via Xbox Live, which will keep any gamer entertained long after the campaign mode has been beaten.

PDZ is not the must-have game that will sell Xbox 360s the same way *Halo* sold Xbox; however, it is still a great game in its own right. If you want the next *Halo*, wait for *Halo 3*. If you want a good game in the same theme as the Nintendo 64 hit *Perfect Dark*, and you are fortunate enough to own an Xbox 360, then go pick up *Perfect Dark Zero*.



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Judge says no to Jesus



Here's your new opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Last week, a federal circuit court judge ruled that prayers recited in the Indiana House of Representatives must not refer to specific deities, such as Allah, Jesus, or Buddha. In addition, the judge decided that the invocations must be nonsectarian, and cannot be used to convert others to a particular faith or advance any faith over another.

The suit came as a response to several recent prayers in the legislature that were very offensive to non-Christians, the most notable of which declared: “We look forward to the day when all nations and all people of the earth will have the opportunity to hear and respond to messages of love of the Almighty God who has revealed Himself in the saving power of Jesus Christ.”

Response to this ruling has been quick and violent from both sides of the issue. While many non-Christians welcomed the decision as an obvious step toward equality, the opposition’s reaction was characterized by Speaker of the House Brian Bosma’s comment: “This is an intolerable decision I hope cannot stand.”

It is funny that the Speaker mentioned tolerance. It seems to me that tolerance is exactly what wasn’t being shown to these reli-

gious minorities nearly every time the legislature bowed their heads in prayer. In fact, the most vocal Christians seem to be the ones that find the most things “intolerable.”

This charge-filing Christian minority seems to think that since their religion is the declared faith of the majority of Americans, that it is okay to ignore the beliefs of those in the minority, especially in situations dealing with the government. They bring lawsuits to the highest courts they can elevate the cases to, trying to ensure that a copy of the Ten Commandments stays in a courthouse or that children will say “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. Their reasoning is always the same: that Christian values have been a driving force in our government since our country’s inception.

But what are these values? Some would say ensuring the well-being of one’s family. Others would declare caring for others less fortunate than yourself. Still others would claim that pursuing a life free of greed or material want is most important. All of these are excellent values for our leaders to possess and for our government to pursue. But are these values solely Christian values? No! They are the values of good people. One does not have to be a Christian to have a virtuous value system.

The lawsuit Christians believe that when they lose court cases like this, the values they believe in will no longer be the goals of our national and state leaders. What they fail to realize is that many people who have these values are not Christians, and some people who are Christian don’t have these values. Christianity and most other religions attempt to instill these virtues into their members, but

these morals are not inextricably linked to a religion.

So why do lawsuit Christians think that it is so important to open sessions of the legislature with prayers? Do they believe that those who hear the words offered up will exclusively receive God’s blessing during the day’s proceedings? In Matthew 6:5 of the New International Version of the Bible, Jesus states, “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.” Without much need for interpretation, this is saying that if you pray in public for the sake of others hearing you, then you are a hypocrite. It seems to me that the people who are up in arms over this court decision have forgotten this part of their own scripture.

Religion has no bearing on a person’s ability to be a good politician. Any religion or lack of religion is just as capable of turning out upright people. It is these folks that we need running our government, not a horde of zealots who will advance their religious ideals before those of the common good. And by the sounds of it, the ones that want to keep praying in public, who are raking the muck out there in the courts right now, are acting outside of the teachings of their scripture anyway. We should just accept this ruling as a way ensure that things are fair for everyone, and keep in mind what we want our government to be doing, not the religious reasons for why they are doing it.

Ask the staff... about prayers in the state legislature

I think that the courts are stepping outside of their bounds... The Constitution protects free exercise of religion, it’s not meant to stifle the practice of it... If the officials are a member of a religion, why can’t they draw upon what they consider truth in their decisions and actions?

-Philip Becker, Staff Writer

I don’t necessarily think no specific deities should be mentioned, but the religion of each member should be represented, and in a fair manner.

-Mike Jones, Entertainment Editor

If some guy starts randomly screaming blessings to Shiva, who cares? Close your ears and say your own silent prayer to your own deity and respectfully let the other guy say his piece. Your god isn’t going to smite you for being in the same room as another religion’s prayer.

-Benjamin Mann, Staff Writer

If you cannot make reference to specific deities in the Indiana State Legislature, and prayers are always directed toward a specific deity, why bother praying in the first place?

-Ryan Schultz, Staff Writer

Certainly in the public setting it seems inappropriate and overbearing to pray to a specific god, if and only if there are people present who might take offense. It seems plausible that a “prayer” could be made without divine presence, although maybe a little more challenging.

-Jim Sedoff, Staff Writer

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



Watered-down ketchup

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

I believe that the ARA gets a bum rap from a lot of students who have to eat there everyday. So the food is not as scrumptious as your Mom’s homemade goodies, but it is pretty good for having to feed so many hungry (and growing) bodies. Plus, the ARA is phenomenally consistent with the quality of the food on a regular basis.

Despite all of that, I still have a beef with the ARA. The food on the weekends is so far below the general quality of food during the week that it’s difficult for me to eat at times. Generally, I eat three meals a day, but I find myself purposely skipping the meals served at the ARA on Saturday and Sunday. I know what I’m going to get when I go to a meal during the week, but on the weekends, I find myself scraping around the serving area for something that looks marginally palatable.

Here’s what happened to me one weekend, and perhaps this is the reason I am so sensitive to the change in quality. I slept in one Saturday last quarter and so, by the time lunchtime rolled around, I had just woken up and was in the mood for some brunch. So, I went up to the omelet ordering station (which is usually staffed by the marvelous Lucie) expecting a decent omelet. I placed my normal order for one of the ham and cheddar cheese variety and walked away to grab a glass of orange juice and a glass of milk.

Fortunately I got back in time to see the teenage fry cook spray at least 50 cc of non-stick cooking spray smack dab into the center of my still frying omelet. You’ve got to be kidding me! I don’t even cook and I know that you’re not supposed to do that! I sat down, placed my fork on top of my beautiful PAMlet, pushed down, and literally squirted the stuff out of my meal and all over my tray. And no, if you’re wondering, it did not taste very good.

At every restaurant, there’s a fry or two that somehow comes out of the fryer limp. Why is it on the weekend that I seem to get a whole plate full? And watered-down ketchup, have I actually seen that? Yep, water had definitely been added to the ketchup... come on, that’s a trick they used during the Great Depression. Please tell me you’re not stretching your budget so far that that’s the best you can do. The general level of cleanliness on the weekends is much lower as well. And good luck getting milk if you arrive at the ARA toward the end of the serving period on a weekend... most of the time it’s empty, the rest of the time that temperature gauge on the front is solidly in the “danger zone.” And more often than not, I sure do hear some interesting (read: potentially inappropriate) sounds coming from the dish washing area.

I’m not completely oblivious. I understand that our help on the weekend doesn’t do this for a living... a lot of them are most likely

still in high school. I understand that the number of students who use the cafeteria on the weekends is drastically lower than the number that uses it during the week. And, I understand that the workers on the weekend probably don’t want to be there anymore than we do.

But see, there’s the catch... they’re being paid to provide a service. And, they’re being paid by me, and every other student at this Institute (\$1061 per quarter if you’re on the 18-a-week). Excuse me for wanting the same quality of service on the weekends as I do during the week.

It’s time that food service on the weekends approaches the high quality that it consistently achieves during the week. If you’ve ever gone to breakfast or lunch, then surely you notice Bill running around checking levels on all the drinks, syrup, ketchup, ice cream and everything else. Lucie’s got the breakfast-cooking thing down pat, and the regular staff at all of the other stations do a truly fantastic job. So why can’t the people on the weekends manage to do the same thing? I’m not complaining because the quality is only marginal...

I’m complaining because the quality is atrocious. The drop in quality from a weekday to the weekend is significant. The staff exhibit a general incompetence that I’m concerned could be unsafe for me, the consumer of the food that they prepare. I mean, if these people don’t even know how to move a burger patty from

the pan, to the grill, to the bun, do they know to wash their hands or keep from picking at themselves while wearing gloves? (Yes, I have seen someone do that, so it was more of a rhetorical question.)

Hey weekend ARA staff...time to step up. We are paying you to do your job, so even if you don’t want to be there, at least do it well.

Support whichever nonsectarian deity you and everyone else can believe in: opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Rose-Hulman beats St. Mary of the Woods

Bill Waite
Copy Editor

On Wednesday, the Rose-Hulman women's basketball team beat St. Mary-of-the-Woods 78-48 to win the Clabber Girl Trophy for the second straight year. Last year, the Rose women beat St. Mary-of-the-Woods 78-65 to win the Clabber Girl Trophy for the first time in the crosstown rivalry's 12-year history.

Junior Rebekah Forsyth is especially familiar with that history, as she watched her sister, Christina, play for Rose from 1998 to 2002. "Any time you get beat and beat and beat, you really want to win. And after we beat them last year, we wanted to beat them again," Forsyth said.

"They beat us 10 or 11 times in a row; now we want to win the next 10 or 11. We want to establish a streak of our own," said Engineer head coach Tony Hill.

Even players who had never faced St. Mary-of-the-Woods caught Clabber Girl Trophy fever. "I didn't really know much about the game, but everyone kept saying 'There's going to be a trophy, it'll be the biggest crowd of the year, they're going to bring their A game,'" said freshman Lindsey Reichle. "I got pumped because it was such a big deal in Terre Haute."

Forsyth had another reason to celebrate: Wednesday was also her birthday. "It's fun to look in the stands and see your friends holding up signs saying 'Happy Birthday.' And the girls

were like, 'It's your birthday! It's your birthday! We gotta win this one.'"

The Engineers got off to a great start defensively, not allowing a single field goal in the first 5 minutes and jumping to an 11-2 lead. The Engineer defense played well throughout the game, holding St. Mary-of-the-Woods to a 26.9 shooting percentage. Forsyth led the defense with 5 steals, tying her career high, and a blocked shot. Sophomore Candace Procter also tied a career high with 4 steals and added a blocked shot of her own.

"We had a hard weekend, so it's good for us to get back on track," said senior Anna Guy. The Engineers lost 2 conference games last weekend, giving them a record of 2-5, along with an 0-2 conference record, coming into Wednesday's game. Last year, the Engineers came into the Clabber Girl Trophy Game with a record of 4-2.

"Our record is nowhere near where we want it to be, but we've had a few close games that

could've gone the other way, and we're really improving on defense," said sophomore Jill Floyd.

Defense is one area where the Engineers have struggled early in the season. "We've been working on getting our defense together," said Hill. "It's good to play well on defense this game."



Rose Hulman News
Suzy Carlson led the victors with 19 points.

On offense, junior Suzy Carlson led a balanced attack with 19 points, with 5 others scoring 8 or more points. Forsyth contributed 16 points and 9 rebounds while Guy achieved season highs with 14 points and 10 rebounds.

Wednesday's game was the home opener for the Engineers, who played their first seven games on the road. Before the game, Rose-Hulman CEO Bob Bright presented Carlson with a plaque for the NCAA statistical national championship in 3-point percentage. Carlson made 55.8% of her 3-point shots last season — the highest of any Division I, II, or III men's or women's player.

Though their season got off to

a rough start, the Engineers think that Wednesday's game is a good sign. "Record-wise, we're not that good, but we're still working out new chemistry, players are playing new positions, and we're working on a new defense," said Reichle. "We've got enough talent that by the end of the year, if we keep working and keep improving, we'll have a pretty good season."

The Engineer women will play their next game Tuesday at College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati. After Tuesday's game, the Engineers will play a welcome six-game homestand, beginning with the Rose-Hulman Classic next Friday and Saturday. "We've been road warriors for the past three weeks," said Hill. "It's nice to be home."



Rose Hulman News
Senior Anna Guy receives the Clabber Girl Trophy.

2005 Little State Wrestling Tournament

Rose Hulman News

Five Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology wrestlers earned placements, highlighted by a second place for freshman Tyler Goble, to lead the host school's efforts at the 2005 Little State Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

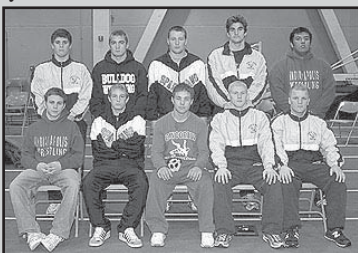
The Invitational featured 10 individual event winners from five schools, led by four individual champions from Mount St. Joseph. Indianapolis and Manchester had two winners each, while Concordia and Cumberland had one champion each. Mount St. Joseph's Jason Roush was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler, while James Parke of Manchester won the pins award.

For the host Engineers, Goble

fell just one point shy of being the first Rose-Hulman Little State Champion since 1991 with a 4-3 loss to Julian Hall of Mount St. Joseph in the 165-pound championship match. He finished 3-1 on the weekend as the No. 6 seed, with victories over No. 2 seed Joe Hoover and No. 3 seed Trey Myers.

Two Rose-Hulman wrestlers each earned fourth-place finishes. Senior Byron Sanders compiled a 4-2 record overall to capture fourth at 174 pounds, while sophomore Nick Klaserer matched Sanders at 4-2 with a pair of pins at 197 pounds.

Rose-Hulman sophomore Dan Goodwin added a fifth-place effort at 133 pounds with a 5-2 record and two pins. Freshman Jacob Wise finished eighth at 125 pounds with a 3-3 mark.



Rose Hulman News
Individual winners at the 2005 Little State Wrestling Tournament hosted by Rose-Hulman.

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The Rose Thorn

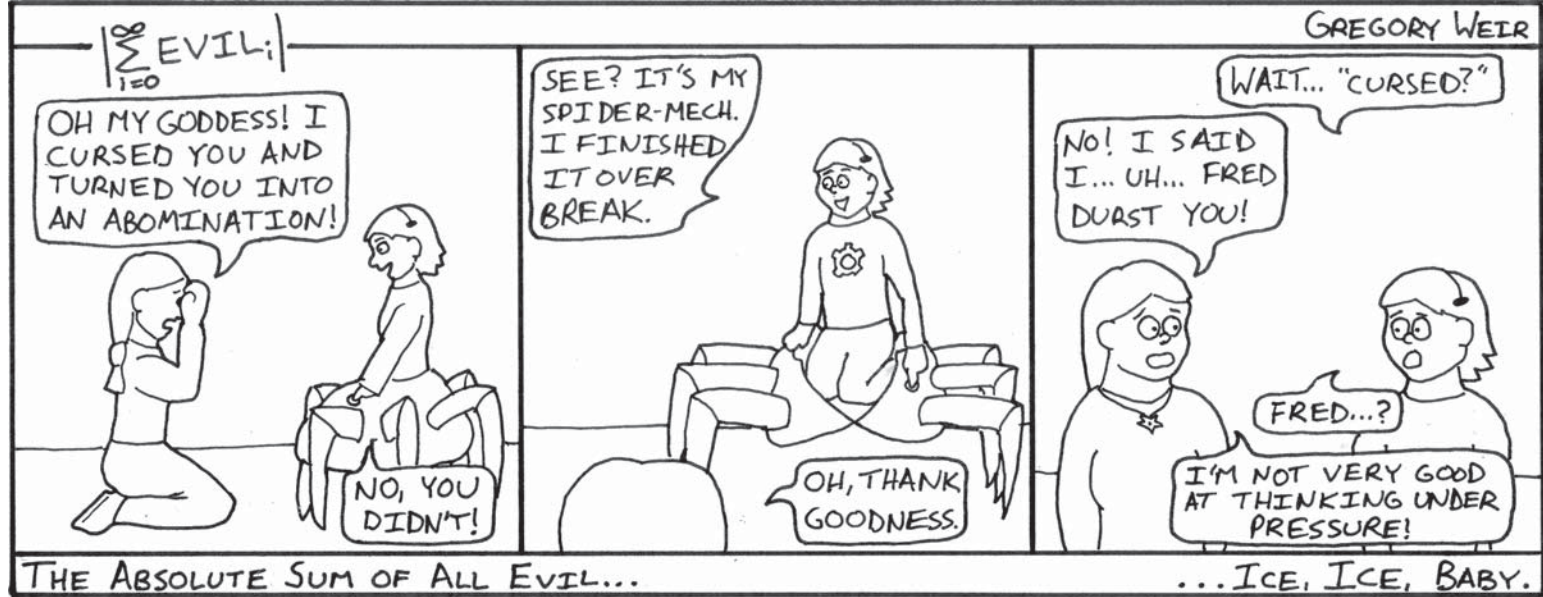
FLIP SIDE

This Day in History

In 1958, the John Birch Society is founded. This right-wing group continues to claim to this day that it is fighting the insidious socialism that threatens freedom. However, everyone knows that the Society is just an Illuminati front.

In Addition

In these dark times, it is important to remember how very much darker the times before have been. After all, we are better off now than we ever have been before, with the exception of those times when we were not, in fact, worse off, but instead were better.



Wacky Prof Quotes

"Maybe you can entertain yourself for about 15 minutes tonight pushing and popping."
-- Prof. Merkle, who knows how to have fun

"I need a volunteer. Have you ever seen this kinky stuff before?"
-- Prof. Puttappa, teaching the funky kind of physics

"Rose-Hulman: the place to feel stupid."
-- Prof. Ardis, I don't get it!

"I want my mommy!"
-- Prof. Bremmer, on trying to spell "various", guys

"We all make mistakes. I'm one of them."
-- Prof. Radu, we forgive whoever's responsible

"Sometimes I need more than bread crumbs to figure out where I left things."
-- Prof. Williams, who we've always cast as the witch

"I look forward to when we have chips in our head and we can run Maple mentally!"
-- Prof. Bryan, who is a total tool

"People study this stuff for years, go goofy, and then decide to be a professor somewhere."
-- Prof. Clifton, on the prestigious education of Rose CSSE professors

"Discuss the differences between genital and specific on-the-job training."
-- Prof. Bremmer, pushing the limits of typos, guys

"The guy is 80 and he is way cooler than I will ever be."
-- Prof. House, on B.B. King

"If everybody took Signals & Systems, there would be peace in the world."
-- Prof. Ferguson, who puts a little too much faith in Fourier series

"Today is Tuesday! It's today!"
-- Prof. Boutell, who really likes Tuesdays

"This is where you die."
-- Prof. Clark, threatening students

"If you kick your dog, then you know you've made an impact."
-- Prof. Williams, on alternatives to kicking computers

"If you start an e-mail with 'I'm sorry,' you're coming out of the gate a bit on the chihuahua side."
-- Prof. Zoetewey, on proper e-mail techniques

"The software is kinda designed by sadomasochists for sadomasochists."
-- Prof. Clifton, on the special joys of computer scientists

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

Alex Clerc
News Editor

Picture this: it's Tuesday at Rose-Hulman and the Fondue Club is having their second weekly meeting of the quarter in Percopo basement. The club of a few dozen students sets up the fondue pots when suddenly an AB major named Lindsey O'Leary, so laden with laundry that she can't even see where she's going, blunders through the event, kicking over fondue pots left and right. Pots of creamy cheese and luscious chocolate empty their contents onto the carpet. The room goes into a panic and tries desperately to stop her before she reaches the Fondue of the Week, but they are too late – the pot is spilled and the carpet is doused with the dip. And to make matters worse, the Fondue of the Week is *liquid hot magma*. The carpeting instantly bursts into flames. The fire alarm sounds and the sprinklers would

have doused the blaze, except that after the incident on BSB 2 all sprinklers on campus are considered drowning hazards and have been deactivated. The flames begin to grow... Meanwhile, Richard and Ronnie are spending a quiet spring evening in their room on Percopo 2 when all of the sudden, a shrill, sustaining note startles them from their homework-induced stupor. They had not heard this noise since fall term which was a very long time ago. "What the heck is that noise? Did you get a new ring tone, Ronnie?" inquires Richard. "Yeah, but that's not my phone. My phone plays the theme song to Duck Tales." "Yeah, it's awfully loud for a phone. Hey Ronnie, your ears are bleeding!" "Eeeew, they are! Gross... Is it getting hot in here?" "Wait a second. I remember what this means! It's a fire alarm!" Immediately Richard

stops, drops, and rolls across the room. "This is what we're supposed to do, right?" The flames burst up through the floor. "I'll put it out!" says Ronnie as he grabs the fire extinguisher from the hallway and attempts to beat out the fire. Thank goodness that will never happen! For we have fire drills every quarter, especially winter quarter, and will be perpetually reminded to go outside when the building is on fire.


The 1337 advice of John Dullard

Philip Becker
Staff Writer
(writing as)
John Dullard
Advice Columnist

source: on the Internet. I turned on Xbox Live like I normally do, and naturally in the first game someone was saying, "1^v3 b33nr34d1ng S0cr4t3s l4t3ly, 4nd 1t h4s pr0f0undly ch4ng3d th3 w4y 1 100k 4t 11f3." So I said "a2 + b2 = c2" to see if I could illicit a response. "4h, 1 s33 th1s f3ll0w 1s 4w4r3 0f Pyth4g0r4s' m0st 3xc3ll3nt th30r3m 0n th3 s1d3s 0f 4 r1ght tr14ngl3." I figured I should use a trick I learned during my time in Zimbabwe. "Ahhhhh! What does it all mean?" I screamed. One lone voice came back, "You don't know the lingo? I'll teach you." Soon I was speaking in numbers like the most Xtreme of them.

So I've compiled all the entries for my "1337 Dictionary," and was wondering if anyone could help me sort it? I mean, does "3" come after "d" or before I get to the section with letters? And what about cases where "M" is exchanged with "[V]"? Would someone help me?

Send your advice to flipside@rose-hulman.edu, subject: "Help for John!"



Valve Software
Counterstrike: Source allows scholars to examine 1337 foreign policy issues.

Top ten ways to trick professors out of assigning homework

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

10. Convince them that your intelligence exists in a finite amount, and expending it on busywork is a useless drain when you could blow it all in one shot by solving world hunger.

9. Inform them that your religion prohibits you from doing any homework until the 8th week of any quarter.

8. Get your entire class to chisel out their homework on stone slabs, then point and laugh at the antics that ensue as the prof tries to carry them back to his or her office.

7. Whenever they give you an assignment, assign them one right back.

6. Admit that if you receive more homework, you won't have enough time to take care of Hertz, and will have to release him back into the wild.

5. Try boycotting all homework. If the entire class does it, they won't fail you, right?

4. Threaten your prof by placing the severed head of your latest assignment in their bed overnight.

3. Since crying only feeds their hunger for student souls, starve them out by appearing to truly enjoy and relish every assignment they give.

2. Let them know you mean business by turning in your homework by first placing it on the end of a knife, then driving the knife into their desk, between their fingers.

1. Remind them that every time you use a fresh sheet of engineering paper, the terrorists win.

The Little Line o' Litigious Lard: The content of the Flipside is intended to be purely humorous, and it does not represent the opinions of the Rose Thorn or Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It doesn't represent anybody's opinions. The interrobang is the punctuation that will bring salvation to the earth? Facts in "This Day in History" courtesy of historychannel.com. All material is copyright of its owner. Any unattributed material was created by Gregory Weir.