

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Rose-Hulman Scholar

The Rose Thorn Archive

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News Briefs

By Alex Clerc

ASEAN and China form strategic partnership

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China joined in a “Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity” this week. The agreement lays out plans to harmonize southeast Asia’s economies.

“The ASEAN countries – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – will continuously reform, restructure and integrate their economies toward the creation of a single market and production base in 2020. China, on its part, is making the same effort and is doing that at a remarkably rapid pace,” said Wanandi, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Hwang admits to faking data

The editors of Scientific American have announced that they are immediately removing Woo Suk Hwang from his honored position as Research Leader of the Year on the 2005 Scientific American 50 list.

The announcement follows admissions from Hwang that much of his evidence was faked and the discovery that Hwang’s Seoul National University laboratory did not follow ethical standards in choosing female egg donors – eggs from women researchers working in the laboratory were used.

“Dr. Hwang’s deceit misled Scientific American along with the international scientific community. We regret, in writing about his work and awarding him a place among key technology leaders, having unknowingly misinformed readers about his actual accomplishments. We are also deeply concerned about the lasting damage that this fraud may do to the reputation of stem cell research, which we continue to regard as a highly worthy endeavor generally pursued by scientists keeping to a far higher standard of honesty and ethics,” said a statement released by the editors of Scientific American.

Presidential field narrows to 13

Angela Smiley
Assistant News Editor

On December 8, Rose-Hulman’s presidential search committee announced that it had produced a short list of 13 candidates for the Institute presidency. According to William Fenoglio, chairman of the Presidential Search Committee, the candidates were chosen for “educational background, teaching and administrative experience, a proven track record of success, fundraising experience, a passion for undergraduate education, a stated desire for student interaction and strong personal attributes.”

At this stage, the committee is refraining from disclosing direct information about the 13 candidates, due to concerns about how their current positions would be impacted by public knowledge that they are considering the Rose presidency. Instead, consultants from Korn-Ferry International will be performing reference checks and gathering additional information about the

candidates so that the committee can further refine its choices in January of 2006.

This selection process began in June 2005 with the resignation of Jack Midgley, who had been selected during 2004 to replace former Rose president Samuel F. Hulbert. Many campus groups expressed concerns that the controversy surrounding Midgley would dampen candidate interest in the current search process; however, the committee took steps to fight this by pursuing candidates through more diverse means, such as placing advertisements in educational publications and retaining Korn-Ferry to make contacts on behalf of the Institute. During the past four months the committee has received over 140 formal nominations for the position, many of them from students, alumni, faculty, and staff. Of these, 44 actively pursued candidacy; it was from these 44 that the 13 remaining candidates were chosen.

In theory, the search is more than half over: since the beginning of the process, the com-



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

All students on campus will have the opportunity to help choose our next president via a survey on BannerWeb.

mittee’s stated goal has been to complete the selection by March 2006. The next milestone in that timetable will occur in mid-January when the 13 candidates are further reduced to a group of six to eight. After that, interviews will begin, and the campus will take a more active role in the search: the three to four candidates selected through

interviews will meet with constituency groups on campus and a poll will eventually be held on BannerWeb to gather the campus’s input. The Board of Trustees will make the final hiring decision in March, and the new president will assume office at the beginning of July relieving Robert Bright, Board of Trustees chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Trying out the tablet

Bill Waite
Copy Editor

Professor of Computer Science David Mutchler is leading an assessment involving about 180 students to determine whether tablet PCs and software called DyKnow Vision are useful in the classroom. Participating students will fill out surveys at the beginning and end of the quarter to evaluate the technology.

Though Rose-Hulman has had tablet PCs since 2003, and Professor of Physics Sudipa Kirtley has been using DyKnow for almost a year, this quarter is the first in which so many students have been able to participate.

DyKnow is a program that shares many of PowerPoint’s slideshow features, but also lets students and professors connect in a live session. DyKnow can also act as a makeshift whiteboard; professors can create slides on

the fly using the pen feature of the tablet PC.

When the session is over, the presentation can be saved on a student’s computer or on the DyKnow server. “That way, you’re not just always

looking at the board and having to write it down, because you can actually take it back to your room and look over them later,” said freshman chemical engineer Chris Fox.

Students can also take



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Freshman Brandon Woodward uses a tablet PC in CSSE220. Students in this class will be required to use tablets for a portion of their work.

notes on the slides using the pen feature of the tablet PC. “It’s a lot easier to get exactly what you want..., and it’s easier to add editing notes right on the sheet [Kirtley]’s writing on, versus with the typing, you have to add it off to the right-hand side,” said freshman chemical engineer Erinn Sheridan.

Most students liked the pen feature, but still saw some problems with the tablets. “The tablets are noticeably slower and a pain in the ass when you want to type,” said junior mechanical engineer Mike Wessel, “but they work very well for taking notes in class and their small size is very convenient.”

“The pen is nice for writing notes, but its use as a mouse is terrible,” said junior mechanical engineer Joshua Rich. “The clicking features of it are much, much harder to use and rather awkward.”

Continued on page 3...

News

Christmas time is here!

Page 3

Entertainment

We saw dead people.

Pages 4 & 5

Opinions

Just try spelling Christmas without Christ.

Page 6

Sports

A victory for men’s basketball.

Page 7

Flipside

One word: chocolate chip cookies.

Page 8

Classifieds

2006 - 2007 School Year Housing

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Crossword Puzzle

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

1					2				3	4
		5		6					7	
						8				
9			10							
		11				12	13			
14					15					
		16								
17							18	19		
							20			
21								22		

Clues

Across

- 2 Some telescopes have this kind of lens, which is the "center of attention"
- 5 In terms of your education it is very large; also a theme of this puzzle
- 7 Not further than a few cornfields south of MN; used as a suffix, it can mean disease
- 8 Commonly embroidered on one of a set of matching towels
- 9 Adorable pink Nintendo character, also retired MN Twins Hall of Famer (2001)
- 11 Closest large moon to Zeus' planet
- 12 This country includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 14 Most students have at least one this week and plenty on finals week
- 15 Ten things I hate about this TV show, according to Dr. Kohr, forensic pathologist
- 16 The _____ PC is a "slab of stone", in my opinion, although some disagree
- 17 You'll be begging for these after buying your textbooks for class
- 18 According to some, soft-core punk music which makes emus cry
- 20 A former French coin worth just about nothing
- 21 When gambling poorly, it is best to cut these instead of cards
- 22 Could be found in the middle of a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant drinking arsenic

Down

- 1 Last week Rose beat SMW at this; this week we take on Earlham College
- 2 An abbr for a palisade only 12 inches high
- 3 It is 79% nitrogen, 21% oxygen; but more importantly it's an awesome guitar type
- 4 A lengthy way of saying lewd, lecherous and/or obscene
- 5 Carolers love this kind of music, with its bells and jolly red gentlemen
- 6 A large blue thing that computer scientists rarely see and civil engineers often do
- 8 The Thorn advisor who played Wednesday with his band "Whisper Down"
- 10 Bags for holding wine and Spanish boots
- 13 Charlie Brown never any luck with these, mainly because of The Tree
- 15 I'm giving you one of these now, and 15 across uses them to solve murders
- 19 Abbr for America's largest indoor mall (in MN), or a big extinct bird

Do something on Wednesdays.

Join The Thorn
Resuming after Winter Break.
Free pizza and sodas served at every meeting.

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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Tablets, from page 1

DyKnow also allows live interaction; students are able to submit slides, and professors are able to poll students with multiple-choice questions. “The tablet itself is a neat thing for me to have, because I can draw pictures, and they get saved electronically..., but it’s the collaboration that DyKnow allows that I see as the real new thing,” said Assistant Professor of Computer Science Larry Merkle.

“In one of my classes, instead of just presenting prepared notes, we had a discussion during class, and we built the presentation together,” said Assistant Professor of Technical Communication Meredith Zoetewey. “I didn’t just show them the answers, we got to the answers, and I think that’s a little more engaging.”

In her Physics I class, Kirtley uses the polling feature to ask

questions to assess students’ understanding without putting them on the spot. “If there’s a shy student that doesn’t want to raise their hand, they don’t understand it, I think they benefit more from this,” said Fox. “Once they answer, then she can see that the majority did not get it right, and she knows...she’s going to have to go over the material again.”

Access to tablet PCs was made possible by an Applied Mobility Technology Solutions grant from Hewlett-Packard, which was awarded to Rose-Hulman in April 2003. HP provided Rose-Hulman with 85 iPAQ pocket PCs and 70 tablet PCs, valued at \$200,009, along with \$20,500 in additional money. In February 2004, Rose-Hulman was awarded an extension grant, which included 52 tablet PCs and an additional \$10,500.

So far, the licensing fee for DyKnow has been paid for with money from the HP grants. It is not clear what will happen with DyKnow when the money runs out. “If the institute is going to start paying its own money, as opposed to grant money, there’s got to be a lot more evidence than there currently is. There would have to be very positive assessments and just more volume of study,” said Mutchler.

Mutchler hopes to win a Microsoft grant to continue assessing tablet PCs and DyKnow. The grant is being offered to assess the use of Tablet PCs in education. “To win a grant like this, you need a niche, something that makes you different than everybody else,” said Mutchler. “I’m personally convinced it’s that combination [of tablet PCs and DyKnow] that works.”



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn
Ian Rogers and Matthew Peter covered the walls of their room in Percopo Hall with aluminum foil and Christmas lights, turning their room into a majestic display of holiday cheer.

*‘Twas the week before Christmas,
and all through the dorm,
all the students were dreaming
of reading the Thorn.*

*While I in my peejays
was ready to roam,
just waiting for Tuesday
so I could go home!*



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn
Santa waves hello, spreading Christmas joy to all in the lobby of Scharpenburg Hall. A Christmas tree and a snowman stand by, offering moral support.

**The Rose Thorn wishes
you all happy holidays and
a wonderful new year!**



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Air guitarists: keep on rocking

Nikke Wee
Minnesota Daily (U. Minnesota)

Rock star wannabes and air guitar enthusiasts can finally create their own music solos without ever having to pick up or know how to use a guitar.

Virtual instruments are increasing in popularity as more people are being introduced to the concept, said J. Anthony Allen, a University of Minnesota Ph.D. music student and electronic music instructor. Allen said he is one of a handful of people who have blended music and technology, allowing instruments to be played virtually.

Allen uses the instruments he creates to perform with his musical group, Ballet Mechanique.

“Electronic music is definitely growing in popularity,” he said. “But to make a performance is fairly unique.”

Allen uses a pair of gloves to play his virtual instruments. He made the special gloves as a student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The gloves contain sensors that were created for NASA. The sensors send hand and finger movement information through a wire Allen runs under his clothes, out of his pocket and into a briefcase full of circuitry. Finally, the wires connect to his laptop, where the sound is produced.

Though it might sound like a complicated task, Allen said it is a fairly easy process.

“You would be surprised at how easy it is to build,” he said. “Pretty much anyone could do it.”

Allen said he hopes to see a new kind of virtuoso emerge.

“I would love it if people started playing electronic music more,” he said. “I’d love to see it catch on.”

Air guitar enthusiasts now have an interactive program to look forward to.

A team of computer science students at Helsinki University of Technology in Finland created a virtual air guitar program that adds electronic guitar sounds to any passionately played air guitar.

“Anyone can play it,” said

Teemu Mäki-Patola, a doctoral student at Helsinki University of Technology and one of the three members of the team.

A video camera, a computer hooked up to a set of speakers and a pair of bright orange gloves is all a person needs to sound like a rock star.

Instead of sensors, computer vision software detects hand movements, he said.

The students created a library of sounds based on a pentatonic minor scale in order to create the right sound for their virtual instrument.

“We were lucky to produce the sounds we wanted to,” Mäki-Patola said.

The team spent more than eight months working on the air guitar, as well as an air drum and a virtual xylophone set, he said.

Heureka Science Centre in Finland is demonstrating these projects, Mäki-Patola said, and people have played them thousands of times. The team now is looking into expanding into the business world with its newest creation.

“Companies have approached us about working with them,” Mäki-Patola said.

Mäki-Patola said the team is thinking about creating a game similar to “Dance, Dance Revolution” that people could find at an arcade or buy at a video game store.

This idea came as a result of the popularity of the air guitar concept.

For the past three years, Air Guitar USA has had a national air guitar competition to find the country’s best air guitarist.

Kriston Rucker, co-founder of Air Guitar USA, said air guitar is “growing a lot.”

“I think it’s something everyone does,” Rucker said. “When you listen to guitar music, it’s pretty inevitable. We look at it as our unofficial national pastime.”

In 2006, 15 cities, including Minneapolis, will have regional competitions.

People who go far in the competition will usually practice for hours, choosing the right song, choreographing their performance and selecting the right costume, Rucker said.

But the virtual air guitar isn’t something that people can find at any of these competitions.

“Air guitar isn’t about creating music,” Rucker said. “It’s how you set yourself up to look.”

Music to their ears?

Mechanical engineering junior Jack Petty said that while the concept of a virtual air guitar is interesting, it defeats the actual meaning of an air guitar.

“In a sense, all air guitar is, is you not being able to play an instrument or wanting to be in a band,” Petty said. “Now that music’s coming out, it kind of defeats the purpose.”

Aerospace engineering sophomore Jeromie Hamann said air guitar is a way for people to let loose.

“Air guitar is kind of a way for those of us who can’t really play an instrument to have a good time,” Hamann said.

But Hamann, who actually plays the guitar, said a virtual instrument would have its limits.

With an actual guitar, there are many minute details that are used to personalize how a guitarist sounds, he said.

“You lose a lot of that with a virtual guitar,” Hamann said.

First-year biology student Malory Voss said she has secretly played an air guitar before.

“I think it’s funny because people make themselves look like fools,” she said.

The idea of an arcade or video game is varied among students.

“There’s definitely a market for it,” Petty said. “You have a whole group of middle school and high school kids that have nothing else to do but play video games. I would definitely give it a whirl.”

While Voss said she would steer clear of playing the air guitar in public, a home version of the game would be something she would consider trying.

However, not all students are excited about the idea of a virtual air guitar game.

Math senior Jamie Johnson said that while he has never really rocked out on an air guitar before, it is an interesting concept. But a video or arcade game that would allow him to do so isn’t something that he said interests him.

Out In Theatres

King Kong
Starring Naomi Watts
Directed by Peter Jackson
Rated PG-13

The Family Stone
Starring Claire Danes
Directed by Thomas Bezucha
Rated PG-13

Memoirs of a Geisha
Starring Suzuka Ohgo
Directed by Rob Marshall
Rated PG-13

Out on DVD

Airplane! “Shirley” Ed.

Bad News Bears

Valiant

“Gilmore Girls” 5th Season

Out on CD

Beck - *Guerolito*

Box Office Tops

1. *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

2. *Syriana*

3. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Songs you should’ve grooved to

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

This is the first part of two bringing you my favorites of 2005. Check out the next issue for my suggested albums of the year.

The Raveonettes
“Somewhere in Texas”

This track was slightly difficult to adjust to at first, as was most of *Pretty in Black*. The acoustic guitars and country influence didn’t sound anything like the rest of the Raveonettes’ arsenal. Once you let the greatness of “Somewhere in Texas” in, it actually shifts the image of the band around it though.

Filled with twang and reverb, the guitar solos fit extremely well with the rhythm section. The harmonies of Sun Rose Wagner and Sharin Foo draw some attention from the somewhat typical lyrics. I never thought noise and country could actually mix together, but the Raveonettes really did it.

Wolf Parade
“We Built another World”

When I reviewed Wolf Parade’s amazing debut *Apologies to the Queen Mary*, I spent an entire

paragraph praising another song from the album, “Fancy Claps”. Of course I still adore that song, but “We Built another World” has overtaken it as my favorite from an album full of gems.

Heavier and meaner than most of *Apologies*, it features some fantastic drum work, especially during the second chorus. Dan Boeckner’s vocals are always good, but he really gets everything right on “We Built another World”. And of course, Wolf Parade’s ever present keys fill the song with beautiful synthesizer blasts.

Stars
“Your Ex-Lover is Dead”

“When there’s nothing left to burn, you have to set yourself on fire.” The opening to Stars’ *Set Yourself on Fire* was a sure inclusion on this list. The monumental crescendo at the end at the close of “Your Ex-Lover is Dead” nearly approaches Coldplay ridiculousness.

What really makes the song is the vocals and lyrics. Amy Milan and Torquil Campbell share singing responsibilities, and both completely nail it. The song deals with typical subject matter – breaking up. The lyrics, sung from both sides (the man and the



<http://www.underexposed.org.uk/raveonettes/raveonettes12.jpg>
The Raveonettes play a mix of 50s rock and distortion.

woman), describe the situation much better than other songs. Milan sings, “I’ll write you a postcard; I’ll send you the news from a house down the road from real love.” If you’ve ever been in a relationship that ended, you will relate to this song.

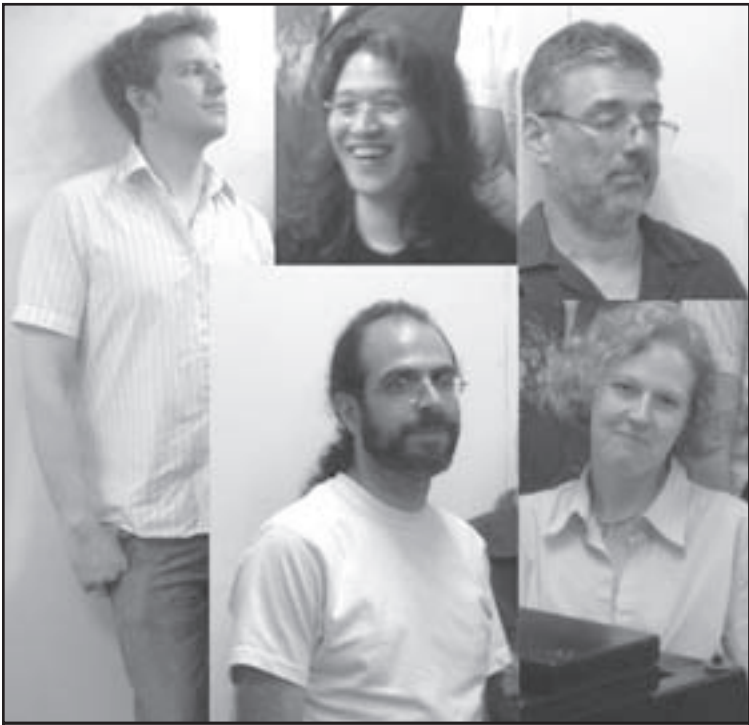
Sufjan Stevens
“Come on! Feel the Illinoise!”

Let me just get this out in the open. Sufjan Stevens is the man. He’s absolutely ridiculous. The guy writes more than 20 tracks for an album loaded with details about Illinois, plays around 20

instruments, and still manages to release this masterpiece only a year after his prior album.

“Come on! Feel the Illinoise!” is the focal artistic statement on *Illinoise*. Peanuts piano parts combine with huge instrumentation for a musical experience unlike any other. The lack of structure makes the track feel even more significant. Stevens describes the rise and fall of industry in the city of Columbia, but eventually switches to a story about poet Carl Sandberg’s ghost. Sufjan asserts his genius throughout all of *Illinois*, but “Feel the Illinoise!” is the most impressive.

Whisper Down proves profs have many talents



http://launch.groups.yahoo.com/group/whisper_down/
Whisper Down, a band consisting of Rose professors Richard House, Richard Layton, and Joshua Holden, played their first on-campus show this Wednesday.

Angela Smiley
Assistant News Editor

This Wednesday saw the collision of the 50s and the 80s with the international, Ph.D. style. No, I’m not talking about a new GL elective; I’m talking about the International Student Association’s monthly coffeehouse and a band featuring Rose-Hulman professors called Whisper Down.

For those of you who haven’t heard of them (yet), Whisper Down is a local band born of a genre probably best known as ‘eclectic rock’ - it plays an unusual mix of country, rock, oldies

and other genres which seem to loosely follow whoever’s serving as the lead vocalist at the time. Its members are Lana and Joshua Holden, Richard Layton, and Richard House, with Andrea Layton handling sound. If some of these names sound familiar to you, it’s probably because you’ve taken a class with them: Joshua Holden, House, and Richard Layton are Rose-Hulman professors of mathematics, literature/rhetoric, and mechanical engineering, respectively. And it shows: their performance was punctuated by delightfully offbeat humor, mostly self-directed.

Despite their Rose-Hulman roots, the group hadn’t performed on campus until December 14, so I wasn’t sure what to expect. After the concert, I still wasn’t sure what to expect. The Grateful Dead surfaced briefly. So did Bob Dylan. When the band was playing these classics, you could tell that they were the songs they’d grown up with; unfortunately, while the group’s unusual composition (two guitars and two keyboards, all doubling as singers) made for a refreshing change of pace from standard cover bands, the high volume meant that some of the more laid-back songs felt overbearing.

But despite all this, the band was definitely at its best when it was playing its original music. The classics were worth the listen, but with the possible exception of House’s truly creepy rendition of “True Faith”, none of them showcased the band’s vocal talent or eerie sound in the way that Lana Holden’s more intricate harmonies did. For these songs, the diversity and quality of voices available became a clear asset. Also the synthesizer interactions between both the Holdens and the whimsical guitar interventions of House and Richard Layton were particularly well written.

My conclusion: these aren’t the people to go to for canned music, or canned stagecraft, or canned anything. But if you want a fresh experience, a rich vocal performance, and a tour through some original music you won’t have heard before (or at least some covers you may not have heard in quite some time), go see Whisper Down the next chance you get.



<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/listes.sf/vonnegut/03kurt.gif>
Vonnegut really is that good.

Vonnegut pens what might be final novel

Anthony Gonzalez
The Collegian (Hillsdale College)

Kurt Vonnegut is a very old man. After turning 82 in November he released *A Man Without a Country*, his first new novel since 1997’s *Timequake*.

Radio host and author Studs Terkel represents many readers on the book’s back cover, “Thank God, Kurt Vonnegut has broken his promise that he will never write another book.”

In the book, Vonnegut diverges from his normal route. He does not bury autobiographical elements in characters because there are none. Instead, Vonnegut gives himself to readers. He is cranky, melancholy and advisory while discussing the Bush administration, war in Iraq and environmental issues.

Vonnegut writes as if responding to questions that his readers have always wanted him to answer. As an aged writ-

er he writes unabashedly and delivers directly.

I, too, wanted these answers, but reading was sad, as though Vonnegut has announced the game and the joke is over.

My recommendation comes with reserve. Read *A Man Without a Country* if you are a serious Vonnegut fan, but if you are not, read his other novels first. Fans should beware. Although you will reap wisdom, insight and quotable material from reading, you will also dread the end of a momentous career.

Although Vonnegut has mentioned that another book could possibly be in the works, he has hinted through *A Man Without a Country* that this might be the end.

“I really don’t know what I’m going to become from now on. ... I’m startled that I became a writer. I don’t think I can control my life or my writing. ... All I really wanted to do was give people the relief of laughing ... and I urge you to please notice when you are happy.”

C.S.I.: Terre Haute

David Chen
Staff Writer

This past Tuesday, Roland Kohr, the coroner of 15 counties in Indiana including Vigo, gave a presentation at Hatfield Hall titled “The Top Ten Things I Hate About C.S.I.” A board-certified forensic pathologist, Kohr talked to a crowd of approximately 150 people on what is and is not true about C.S.I.

À la David Letterman’s Top 10 List, Kohr opened his speech with ten things he “de-tests” about the show, mainly due to inaccuracies. He does realize that the show had to be made the way it was in order to make it more exciting for viewers. Nevertheless, he’d still rather watch other shows.

His speech he was quite funny, with an abundance of anecdotes along with the flaws he sees in the show. He even threw in some O.J.

He was quite funny, with an abundance of anecdotes along with the flaws he sees in the show.

references, like Johnny Cochran’s “you-must-acquit” spiel.

The second half of his presentation explained what a coroner really does. A plethora of pictures from past cases were shown with extreme gore. They ranged from burn victims to gunshot wounds to victims with postmortem conditions beyond imagination. It was definitely not a sight for the faint-hearted.

To accompany the images, Kohr presented a wide variety of techniques he uses on his job. For example, he stated that real bad guys actually try to cover up the evidence, which he supported by showing bodies burned beyond recognition. He also explained that murder crime scenes are not typically in nice places, after which he showed photos of an utterly filthy house of a victim. As for techniques used, he would use rigor mortis, body cooling,



<http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/j/msnbc/Components/Photos>
Dr. Kohr rated the excessive use of flashlights as the worst thing about C.S.I. Why don’t they ever turn on the lights ?!

chemical testing via vitreous fluid, anatomy, microbiology, and thermodynamics to help him determine the time of death.

Before wrapping up his talk, Kohr fielded questions from the audience. One particular question that stood out was asked by a male student. He asked what was the weirdest case that Kohr has ever encountered. In response, Kohr related the case of a man who died in a bathtub after drinking chloroform and attempting to cut his penis off for an unknown reason.

Of the several students I talked to, all said that Kohr’s lecture will change the way they watch C.S.I.

Andy Shold, a BE graduate student, stated that the speech was “really good and straightforward.”

To which another BE student, Adam Haste, said Dr. Kohr gave “a very good presentation [and] is a really smart man”.

Top five things Kohr hates about C.S.I.

- 5) They never go to court. Even if suspects are guilty, they still could walk free after a trial.
- 4) They interrogate witnesses. Kohr leaves interrogation to the police.
- 3) The public actually believe this stuff, so the show influences the media, and possibly juries.
- 2) David Caruso.
- 1) FLASHLIGHTS! As stated by Kohr, don’t they know what light switches are? And why is the morgue so dark?



http://www.dreamstation.cc/images/image/reviews/playstation_2/gun/images
Gun also features some historical Wild West figures.

Gun a twist on same ol’ song & dance

Jay Him
Iowa State Daily (Iowa St. U)

An ugly (but profitable) occurrence in the current generation of gaming is the fad of adult-themed games marketed to immature “thugs” -- namely impressionable kids not yet in high school. This unfortunate trend has given us gems like *187 Ride or Die* and *Crime Life: Gang Wars*.

Gun, which comes to us from the developer and publisher of the Tony Hawk series, is yet another one of these adult-themed games. At its core, *Gun* is a *Grand Theft Auto* clone set in the Wild West. Instead of skyscrapers, there are saloons, and instead of cars, there are horses. There are still prostitutes, though, and they play a major role in the story.

The story of *Gun* is told through excellent cut-scenes and dead-on voice acting. Both of these factors really bring the characters to life. Featuring prostitutes with hearts of gold; corrupt, prostitute-addicted mayors; and cowardly, “ed-jicated” Northerners, the universe is never short of, well, character.

The plot is supposedly a tale of brutality, greed and lust in the hell-like West, but really it’s a basic revenge story where the main character, Colton White, is avenging the deaths of some minor characters. This includes,

again, prostitutes. Still, it’s a very engaging story, rife with twists and revelations.

The game play of *Gun* is less impressive than the story. On one hand, the missions that advance the plot are some of the most entertaining bits of game play ever. Blowing up forts, protecting wagons and the almost puzzle-like nature of the boss fights -- all these missions are varied and executed well.

Unfortunately, the open-ended missions are the definition of cookie-cutter. The player can choose jobs as a bounty hunter, town deputy, federal marshal, Pony Express rider, and even a rancher. Pretty much all that these jobs require is to find the wanted character, then mash furiously on the “shoot” button until that wanted character is nothing but ground beef scattered in the wind. The critical flaw is that the player is forced to play these drab missions because it is the only means available in upgrading character stats and being paid.

But overall, despite being a game in an overcrowded genre, *Gun* presents a unique twist on the same old thing. The engaging missions, intense action, interesting story and memorable characters make *Gun* a solid title.



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Saddam must die



Here's your new opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

The ongoing trial of Saddam Hussein recently adjourned for several weeks, and I'm wondering why it is taking so long for them to kill this man. If I had it my way, he would have been dropped into the middle of Dujail (the town where Hussein ordered mass killings after the attempt on his life) the minute they yanked him out of that pitiful spider hole and let the victims of his tyrannical, oppressive reign stone, shoot, cut, and otherwise maim him until their thirst for vengeance was either satisfied or his corpse was too unrecognizable to serve as a focus for their rage. Unfair? Only to the Iraqis who didn't get a shot at him.

Saddam ruled Iraq as dictator for 24 years, killing, torturing, incarcerating, abusing, oppressing, and ruling with the iron fist of his secret police force. In 1982, after experiencing an assassination attempt in the city of Dujail, Saddam ordered the immediate deaths of 148 of its inhabitants and the imprisonment and torture of around 1,500 others.

During the Iran-Iraq War, Saddam unleashed poison gas and nerve agent weapons, not only on the Iranian army, but on Iraq's own Kurdish town of Halabjah,

killing an estimated 5,000 Iraqis. He also used military force to violently put down Shiite revolts in 1991 and 1999.

It is these crimes against humanity, among others, that Saddam and seven of his most trusted ex-officials are being charged with in a special tribunal. Throughout the course of the trial, the defendants have tried their best to make a mockery of the court, but what they've really been doing is proving how deluded their recently lost power has made them.

During the trial, the defendants have repeatedly interrupted witness' testimony screaming, "It's a lie!" and "He should act in a cinema!" Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother, captain of his secret police, and co-defendant even went as far as to spit, shout at, and hit a guard with his notebook.

During the prosecution's questioning, Saddam himself yelled at the prosecutor, screaming, "Hey, you in the glasses. Don't you recognize your leader of 30 years?" The disrespect these men have shown in a court of law is just another indicator of how little they care for the rights of anyone but themselves. They should be held in contempt of court every time they so much as sneeze out of turn during this trial.

Many others besides the ones on trial have accused the tribunal of being biased and ineffective, such as the group Human Rights Watch. Who cares if it is a perfectly fair court? Do you think the 148 dead Kurds in Dujail got a trial before they were unceremoniously shot?



www.denverpost.com
Saddam Hussein and his half-brother Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti in court acting like fools and giving us one more reason to kill them.

Because Saddam is now deposed, 26 million inhabitants no longer have to live in fear of torture and death because of one crazed man's tyrannical whim. Freedoms we enjoy every day, like being able to voice an opinion about the government, were denied to the Iraqis on a daily basis. While Saddam built lavish palaces and numerous bunkers, most

of his citizens lived on the other end of the spectrum. And while the news networks can scrounge up all the quotes they want from the few favored Iraqis who loved Saddam, the truth is that mil-

lions lived in squalor, especially the Kurdish minority who also served as Saddam's favorite gassing subjects.

The trial of Hussein and his upper administration doesn't have to be organized well, nor does it have to be up to par with other more conventional courts. What is important is that Saddam Hussein dies in the end. If you have any doubts as to whether he committed the crimes charged against him, you should look at pictures of the mass graves in northern Iraq where Kurdish political prisoners were buried. You should read the chilling accounts of the prisons where survivors described seeing meat grinders with blood and human hair under them, and where the screams of the tortured lasted through all hours of the day. Only then can you tell me that this man does not deserve to die.

Saddam himself has loudly proclaimed in court that, "If you want my neck you can have it," and "I am not afraid of execution." I hope the judge grants him his wish and does it in a fashion so that those who lived in his terrifying shadow for nearly a quarter of a century can finally be assured that this monster of a man will no longer threaten the safety or freedom of their families ever again.

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



Happy holidays

Benjamin Mann
Staff Writer

The three wise sages sent by the king Herod made their way across treacherous terrain in hopes of finding the blessed babe wrapped in swaddling cloth. They traveled long and far and finally came to the city of David where the savior was born. They then came across a Nativity scene with three open places to stand. But, lo, the sages were not pleased by the lack of holiday spirit there. With a slow, somber shake of their heads, the sages packed up and went traveling around Bethlehem in search of another son-of-God-prospective with a little more Christmas spirit. Meanwhile, the shepherds were having a heck of a time following the Star of David through the streets when all the windows flashed with merry reds and greens.

Why are there Christmas decorations? There were no icicle lights decorating the ceiling of the stables. There were no tinsel covered evergreens in Jerusalem. There were no giant, inflatable snowmen holding 'no vacancy' signs at the inns. None of that. There was a baby. Whatever happened to him?

These decorations are one of uncountable traditions having to do with Christmas. Out of those uncountable, there are only a

few I can find to make any sense at all. The giving of presents as done for Jesus by the three wise men is one tradition that makes sense. The singing of hallelujahs for the birth of Jesus as sung by the choirs of heaven makes sense. Alternatively, some things are a little bit more boggling to me.

Hymns and carols about the birth of Jesus are alright, but most Christmas songs are just ludicrous. "The Christmas Song"? It is about burning nuts and frostbite, not Christmas. How about "Deck the Halls"? It is a wonderful song about trolling Yules and wearing gay clothes, and has nothing to do with the beginnings of the Christian faith – I hope. These songs and many like them are very sane in comparison to some of the other garbage around.

For example: "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer". Have you ever seen a reindeer with a red nose? That is what makes it so magical, right? No, that is what makes it ridiculous and nonsensical. Besides, even if this used to be a good song, children have bastardized it for decades, yelling random phrases in between verses to make it sound like an unorganized orgy of Christmas cheer.

Next up is "Frosty the Snowman". If I put a hat on a pile of snow and it came to life, the only dancing and singing I would be

doing is dancing far, far away and singing, "the power of Christ compels you to leave this place!" The worst part about these songs is people and convenience stores across the country started playing them all the time on the first of November!

Oh, and do not forget about the traditions of pre-Christmas. Families gathering around to open the next day of the advent calendar to feast upon the next hidden chocolate delectable (just like Mary and Joseph did) or making plate upon plate of expertly cut cookies depicting Santa Claus carrying a sack of goodies, red and white striped candy canes, and Caesar Augustus forcing his subjects to return to their home towns to be counted. And then the night before, the children leave these cookies with milk for when Santa makes his rounds, because the last thing that gargantuan monstrosity needs is sugar and the last thing he wants is spoiled dairy products.

But Christmas is not about all of this jazz; it is about the symbolism, right?

The Christmas tree is an ever-

green which is a symbol of eternity, and with the birth of our Lord Jesus we are granted life eternal through his sacrifice. Alright, that one is reasonable. The bright lights can represent... uh... the light of salvation that burns brightly in our hearts and though some lights may flicker (if you get a cool clear bulb with the red tip) our salvation will always return just as bright and full, unless of course one of the bulbs is bad and the whole strand dies and you have to work at it for 20 minutes to get it working again. Yeah, sure – I tried. The impossible feat of a big, fat guy hopping down chimneys is symbolic of the fantastic-sounding story of the

virgin birth and through faith (or a lot of eggnog), any deed of the heavens can be believed.

I could go on, but I have limited space here. For Christians, Christmas is a time to reflect on the story given in the books at the beginning of the New Testament. It is a time to remember the fantastic story of the birth of Christ – you know, that guy who is the entire basis of the religion. But it would just be unconstitutional to neglect and alienate different religions with our religious holidays, so for you non-Christians, it is a time to go shopping at any place open on this hallowed day because none of us Christians will be there to take all the good parking spaces.

Someone out there has to love Santa...

e-mail: opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Puttin' it down

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

It's hard to be an athlete at Rose. What's more, it's hard to play basketball during what's arguably the worst quarter to do extracurricular activities. The men's and women's teams do so without flinching or faltering in any way. I'm a manager for the men and I've seen the hard work that they put in to prepare for a game. Furthermore, when you play for Coach Shaw, you must make the commitment to excellence on the court. Generally, 20 or so players try out for the team and only a lucky 12 make it, some of whom may not play more than ten minutes the entire season. Still, they understand the bigger picture and make sure that they do their part to help the success of the team. They truly are selfless people, on and off the court.

In last night's action, the men's team shined as they cruised to victory with ease. Early in the game, they scored quickly and traded baskets. Then, in a burst of offensive strength, they took a 4-point lead and never looked back. They finished the first half up by three, after a last second Muskevalley lay-up, 27-24.

After the break, they went to work with solid defense and superb post play by senior Brennan Dunville. Throughout the game, Dunville imposed his will on the lesser players with speed and power as he slammed the ball home on numerous occasions. He stated after the game

that it was excellent guard play and perfect passing that led to his career-high scoring game as he had 22 of the Engineers' 67 points.

The action of the second half can be characterized as just plain grimy. Earlham, in their will to win, recorded a few questionable fouls and even took a few cheap shots. It's just the unfortunate aspect of competitive sports.

Nevertheless, the Engineers proved to be too much for the Quakers as they finished the game on top 67 to 59. Excellent play also came from Jason Bednarko and Munchie Muskevalley as they spotted themselves on the floor to hit a few key three pointers. On defense, When Dunville needed a breather, Nate Hendrick came in and stifled the Quaker offense. Also off the bench, Ron George and Phil Sundling provided rest for Muskevalley and Jared Moore, with George adding 9 points to the Engineer's tally.

All in all, the team is coming together as they have increased their record to 4-6. They are getting hungrier as the season moves on and it shows in their play. If you weren't there last night, you missed an incredible game. They will travel to Rock Island, Illinois and then Indianapolis as they play Augustina College and Tri-State Univ. on their two-game road trip before the break. Then they play our long-time rivals Depauw when we return. You can be sure that that'll be a great game.

Trey Buck earns historic honor

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology sophomore goalkeeper Trey Buck (Austin, Texas/ Ohio State) became the first Fightin' Engineer men's soccer player to earn all-region honors, in results released by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Buck captured second-team all-Great Lakes Region recognition for his school record setting season as Rose-Hulman's goalkeeper. He set school marks with 11 victories and a 1.17 goals against average by allowing just 21 goals in 18 starts.

Buck earned the first Rose-Hul-

man all-region honor in men's soccer history. Jessica Farmer became the first Engineer to earn women's soccer all-region accolades following the 2003 season.

Earlier this season, Buck was honored as the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Newcomer of the Year and captured first-team all-league honors for his efforts in goal. Rose-Hulman finished 12-6-1 overall to sur-

pass the previous school record of nine victories in a season. The Engineers, who move into the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference next season, open the 2006 campaign against Greenville on Sept. 1.



Rose Hulman News
Trey Buck becomes the first all-region selection in Rose-Hulman men's soccer history.

Forsyth, Carlson lead Rose-Hulman in win against Mt. St. Joseph

Rose Hulman News

Junior Rebekah Forsyth scored 32 points and junior Suzy Carlson added 25 to lead Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology past Mount St. Joseph 85-66 in women's college basketball action on Tuesday.

Forsyth crossed the 30-point mark in a game for the fourth time in her career and the second time this season by finishing 13-21 from the field with 13 rebounds and six assists.

Carlson finished 7-10 from the field and 5-6 from three-point range, highlighted by a 21-point first-half performance.

"I thought Suzy's 21 in the first half was a big key for us. Rebekah did a great job on the inside also. She capitalized on some mismatches, and took her opponents to the basket," said Rose-Hulman head coach Tony Hill.

Sophomore Katie Tharp also reached double figures with a career-high 13 points on 5-7 from the field. Sophomore Jill Floyd added nine points on three tri-fectas.

"We defended really well tonight. The reason they had so many points was because of put-

back baskets. Our defensive goal per night is 60 and we were close tonight," said Hill.



Rose Hulman News
Suzy Carlson scored 21 first-half points to propel the Engineers to the victory.

The Engineers shot 60% from the field in the contest, including a 67% second-half performance to turn a 40-29 halftime lead into

the win.

Krystal Clark led four Mount St. Joseph players in double figures with 23 points. Kiley Oberlander added 15 points, Christina Marsh contributed 12 and Maria Eichhold added 10 for the Lyons.

Rose-Hulman jumped out to a 40-29 halftime lead, courtesy of 21 first-half points by Carlson.

Rose-Hulman turned a 4-4 tie into a 15-6 lead on a three-pointer by Carlson at the 13:06 mark. Another Carlson trey expanded the lead to 24-15 with 9:20 left in the half.

Mount St. Joseph closed within one point at 28-27 on a layup by Clark at the 4:21 mark. The Engineers closed the half on a 12-2 run, with two Carlson three-pointers ending the first half scoring.

In the second half, Mount St. Joseph brought the deficit within 12 points on two occasions, while the Engineers pushed the lead as high as 21 points.

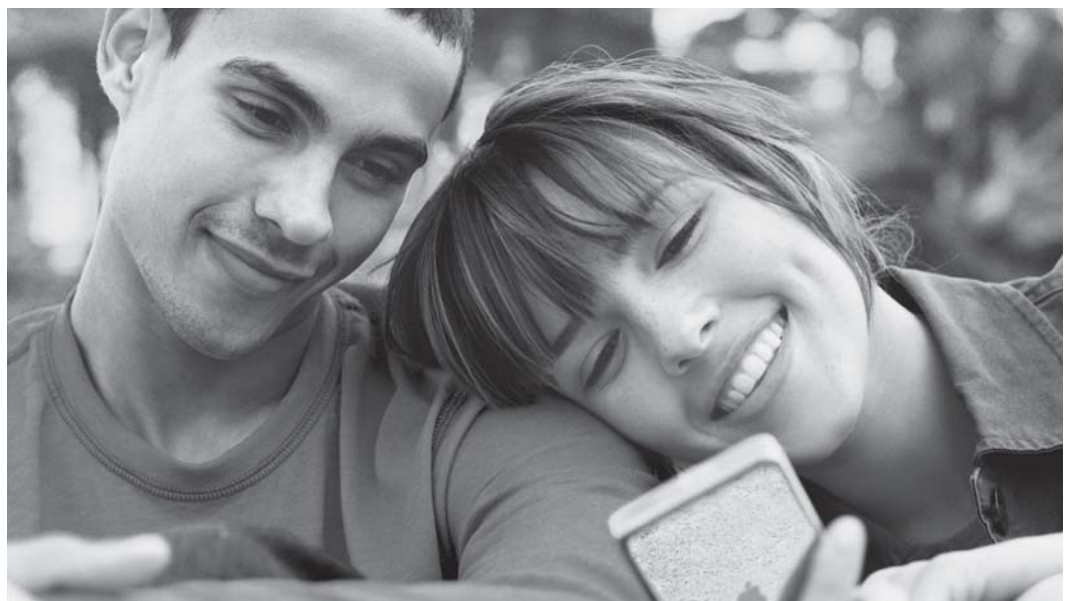
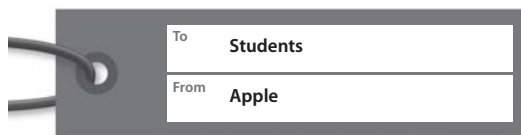
Rose-Hulman improved to 4-5 on the season, while Mount St. Joseph dropped to 2-6. The Engineers host the Rose-Hulman Invitational this weekend, beginning with an 8 p.m. Friday matchup against Earlham.



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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

This Day in History

In 1773, a group of disguised terrorists in Massachusetts board three British ships and steal 342 chests of tea intended to be sold at reduced prices to colonists. The tea is wasted by being broken open and thrown into Boston Harbor.

In Addition

So I was totally throwing down a 24-man run on the Forge when I popped both crits on my epic blade and did massive AOE on this elite, and I was hoping it'd drop blue. But I ended up having to spliff the roll and counter on my next fort rez to keep up my DOT.



Wacky Prof Quotes

"You know, if you bang yourself on the head with a hammer and then stop, it feels pretty good!"
-- Prof. Hoover, who knows the meaning of pain

"After you say something like that, if someone asks you, 'Where did you go to school?' Always lie. Tell them Purdue."
-- Prof. Stienstra, on not shaming the school

"What are those things you saw people's arms off with? ... oh yeah, chainsaws."
-- Prof. Inlow, being scary

"I was going to give them back to you today, but a deer hit my car."
-- Prof. Minster, who's good with excuses

"The input of this filter might be Mariah Carey singing. What do we want the output to be?... Blissful silence."
-- Prof. Ferguson, on filtering out noise

"Give me a couple of beers and I can work anything out."
-- Prof. Carvill, on the solution to life's problems

"I get on there and I'm like a little crack whore."
-- Prof. Ferguson, on his Homeworld addiction

"Behind all things, the flying reptile will figure it out."
-- Prof. Livesay, explaining how MATLAB works

"Don't steal trays. I hate it when I'm sledding down that hill and I run into one. It hurts."
-- Prof. Stienstra, on sledding hazards

"Perhaps the reason we aren't great physicists is because we don't have mistresses."
-- Prof. McNerney, with a master plan

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

Happy Holiday Safety Tip #45: When greeting loved ones from out-of-town, it is important to do so with empty hands. Many a holiday gathering has been ruined by a busy mother who forgets to set down the carving knife before embracing Grandpa, resulting in a perforated lung and many hurt feelings.

Note: According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, the word "wacky" means "eccentric or irrational" or "crazy; silly." The Wacky Prof Quotes section of the Flipside is dedicated to quotations from professors that meet these criteria. Please note that it is not just for any prof quotes. If Professor Puttappa says "Don't make mistakes," ask yourself, "Is this eccentric? Is this irrational? Is it crazy, or even silly?" If the answer is "no," you can probably keep it to yourself. If the answer is "yes," then of course send it in. However, in this example, recommending that students not make mistakes, while a bit obvious, is not particularly eccentric. Thank you for your attention.

The colorful advice of John Dullard

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

amongst all these 'colorful' articles. Oh well, at least my article isn't upside down like the rest of the paper... Who proofs this thing?" Then it struck me. "Colorful."

Using this trick I picked up while spying for the British government in Soviet Russia, I tiptoed over to the Thorn Rack. I reached in and grabbed as many copies of the Thorn that I could. Some guy sitting on the couches in the Union looked at me and said, "What are you doing?" In a panic I threw my watch down on the ground. I looked at it for a moment, and was rather disappointed that it didn't release a smoke screen.

After narrowly escaping from the guy lethargically sitting on the couch, I took the Thorns back to my room. I pulled my markers and crayons from my desk and got to work. Wielding the marker-sword had seemed so much cooler in kindergarten. But after breaking it over my roommate's head, I got down to coloring. Apparently nobody wants to buy a full color Rose Thorn for a dollar. Just a dollar! I think it's the marketing. Does anyone know a good way I could market my full color Thorn?

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

Oh well, at least my article isn't upside down like the rest of the paper...Who proofs this thing?

Вы будете жениться на моем этаже?

Alex Clerc
News Editor

So I was in my room looking for a spoon to eat my roommate's pineapple upside-down cake when it occurred to me that none of my spoons were fit for eating with because I hate doing dishes. In fact, I hate cleaning in general. The housekeepers do wonders in keeping my room straightened up, but they do not clean my grungy, crusty spoons – nor should they have to. There's only one kind of woman in the world who should ever consider the repulsive task of cleaning a man's spoons: his wife. But where on earth am I going to find a wife? At Wal-Mart? Toys-R-Us? Rose-Hulman? No, no, and no... Then, my genius genes kicked in and I had it: I could order a Russian mail-order bride off the intarweb! She would clean my spoons! She could even clean my roommate's forks! "Hey, dude, wanna go in with me on a Russian mail-order bride?" I said to Pears, my roommate (he likes eating pears). And then I thought, why not let the whole floor in on this? If we could find a single Russian woman willing to marry our floor, we could all split the cost and she could clean all of our spoons and then cook things for us to eat with them! Sharing a Russian wife with the thirty other guys would make a big difference in morale. Wouldn't it be nice if everyone on the floor could come home to a steaming pot of borsch and a tall mug of vodka after class- es? Wouldn't it be fun to get your ass whooped in chess anytime you wanted? And if your floor buys a bride around the holiday season, some firms will throw in a dancing bear for free. Now that

would be устрашающий. What was your floor planning to spend its money on this year? A party boat for the pond? Matching belt buckles? A time machine so you can go back in time and stop your floor from wasting its money on a stupid time machine? If you buy anything but a Russian mail-order bride, you're totally wasting your money.

No, really... I read in Cosmo that the phenomenon of the "Russian mail-order bride" is very real – a recent census has estimated the male to female ratio as 88:100 in Russia, a country in which women are under great cultural pressure to marry. Combine this with a growing fear of commitment among Russian men, and you have women who have to compete fiercely for the few good men who actually do want to settle down. This competition is so great, in fact, that the legalization of polygamy was recently discussed in the Russian parliament.

- Top ten worst Christmas gifts ever
- Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor
10. Mini-Project 2. Thanks, Dr. F!
9. A letter from Santa Claus's union stating that landing on roofs and falling through chimneys is a health risk to him, therefore all your presents will be FedEx-ed to you at a later date
8. Jumanji
7. Hertz's wine cooler tab
6. Your parents accidentally leave to visit relatives without you, and you are forced to defend your house from two bumbling burglars using nothing but paint cans, lighter fluid, and a box of grenades
5. Do-it-yourself suicide kit
4. The book that will change your life: *Dianetics*
3. The Gas-Powered Sharp Thing ®
2. A note sent to you from the future from yourself telling you to use the suicide kit
1. French Riot Police Heroes Action Figure, able to pose in both the cowering and fleeing position