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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Speed Hall Break-in

On December 26, 2005, Rose-Hulman Public Safety officers stopped two individuals who were in the process of vandalizing and burglarizing Speed Hall. Public Safety officers noticed a grey Chrysler minivan in front of Speed at 10:30 p.m. One of the men was discovered in the van, and another man was found inside the building attempting to steal clothing from the laundry room. Officers also found graffiti in several locations. The men have been positively identified and the Terre Haute Police Department is handling the investigation. No new information will be released until the case is closed, probably early next week.

Stardust coming home

After a seven-year mission, the Stardust probe is within days of Earth. When the probe's payload touches down early Sunday morning, it will contain a tennis-racket sized aerogel collection unit filled with particles from the tail of comet Wild 2 (pronounced Vilt 2). NASA scientists hope that studying the particles from this 4.5 billion-year-old comet will help them learn more about the beginnings of the solar system. The scientific analysis of the thimble-sized amount of material is expected to take years.

Intel in new Macs

Earlier this week at MacWorld Expo in San Francisco, Steve Jobs, CEO of Apple Computer, unveiled the company's first two models with Intel supplied CPUs: the new iMac and a new laptop, the Macbook Pro. Both new computers feature the Intel Core Duo processor, a dual core processor designed for high performance and low power consumption. Both computers also feature a built-in webcams, iLife '06 (Apple's creative media suite), 802.11g, Bluetooth, gigabit ethernet, Firewire 400, USB 2.0, and a DVD burner.

Friday
T-Showers 51 Hi / 28 Lo
Saturday
Cloudy 40 Hi / 25 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

Winter Activities Fair draws modest crowd

Angela Smiley
Assistant News Editor

On Tuesday, January 9, Rose-Hulman held its first-ever Winter Activities Fair. The event, designed to give freshmen and others a chance to learn about clubs and activities that they may not have been exposed to at the beginning of the year, was sponsored by the Student Government Association (SGA). Student attendees were rewarded with everything from candy to cup holders by the 44 organizations represented, and many clubs showcased projects, photos or demonstrations of club activities.

The Fair was originally proposed in the SGA Senate, largely to give freshmen who might have been forced to restrict their activities while acclimatizing to Rose a second



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Junior Justin Hutchings talks to freshman Josh Cartwright about joining SAB and explains how the wheel will be used on Mom's Day to play the "Price is Rite" game.

chance to learn about clubs and other groups suited to their interest. Organizations represented ranged from SGA-

sponsored clubs such as the Astronomy Club and Drumline to professional or service societies such as Alpha Chi Sigma and Alpha Phi Omega to independent groups such as the Residence Hall Association and the Sorority Interest Group. However, despite the diversity of interests present, student attendance at the event did not rival that of the fall counterpart.

There are many possible reasons for comparatively low student turnout. Matthew Nothnagel, senior mechanical engineering/mathematics major and president of SGA, suggested that timing and other outside circumstances played a major role. "I was very impressed by the number of clubs," he remarked, "but I guess I was disappointed that we didn't have more other students, and I think the weather didn't help us there."

He also cited the heavy 5th week workload of many freshmen and sophomores as a likely contributor.

Others suggested that the shorter lead time, uncertainty about the event's size, or even reluctance to join clubs in mid-year led students not to attend.

Prior to this Fair, the possibility of annualizing a winter or spring version was discussed, but most parties agree that a greater student response would be necessary to justify the change. "They [club members] seemed to be having fun amongst themselves... but I think for it to happen again we would have to publicize more," suggested Rachel Howser, sophomore civil engineer and SGA Club Relations Director. "And we should try to get a better feel for whether the freshmen are going to show up."

The sounds of physics

Alex Clerc
News Editor

"Have you ever played with one of these?" asked Uwe J. Hansen, ISU Professor Emeritus of Physics, as he picked up a long, pink plastic hose and began twirling it above his head. The hose soon began to resonate at a constant pitch. Hansen then spun it faster, and a new, higher-pitched harmonic was produced.

This demonstration was the first in "Science and the Art of Music" which took place in Hatfield Hall Tuesday and also featured the St. Mary of the Woods Jazz Ensemble.

Hansen continued the program by using a 20-foot-long spring to demonstrate a standing wave and using a single guitar string suspended over a block of wood to demonstrate harmonics. Harmonics, he explained, is when one makes new nodes in a string to shorten the wavelength, thus increasing the frequency. These nodes can be created on integer ratios of the string: half the length, a third of the length, a fourth,

etc. For example, if you place a finger on the midpoint of a string and pluck with another finger, a node will form in the middle of the string and the wavelength will be halved. This will cause two antinodes to appear on either side of the new node. The frequency of the new wave – the second harmonic – will be double the fundamental frequency.

Hansen played the open string and then the second harmonic – a musical interval of an octave. He then played the first harmonic followed by the second – the interval called a fifth. Playing the second harmonic followed by the third is a musical fourth. As this pattern continues, the major third and minor third can be produced. "So the most important intervals in music," said Hansen, "the octave, the fifth, the fourth, and the major and minor third correspond to these mathematical ratios – one to two, two to three, three to four, etc."

Next, Hansen had musicians from the Jazz Ensemble each demonstrate their instrument's tone quality.



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Professor of Physics Mike Moloney, left, and Uwe Hansen, right, create the second harmonic on a very long spring as the St. Mary of the Woods jazz musicians watch.

One at a time, the musicians played a single note on their instruments – violin, clarinet, saxophone, flute, trumpet, and trombone. Hansen recorded each note and then ran a frequency analysis on each tone. This created a graph displaying magnitude versus frequency.

A musical note, explained Hansen, is not composed of just one frequency. Every instrument produces "overtones" – additional notes with higher frequencies – that mix

in with the sound of the base frequency to produce the overall tone. For example, when a violin plays a middle A (440 Hz), there are additional sound waves produced simultaneously at 880 Hz, 1320 Hz, 1760 Hz, and so on. How loud each overtone is compared to the others creates the tone quality a listener hears and "makes a trumpet sound like a trumpet and a clarinet sound like a clarinet," Hansen said.

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News

Rose students aid in Katrina relief.

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Entertainment

We've got your hidden frontiers.

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Point/Counterpoint: Intelligent Design.

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Sports

Rose takes on DePauw.

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Flipside

I don't demand many things.

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Classifieds

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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			

Clues

Across	Down
2 If larger, this striped sweet could be used to trip people	1 They apparently laugh and call their unpopular members names like “Pinocchio”
5 Term for Japanese comic books	2 This optical “cheese inducing” instrument not to be confused with a similarly sounding Greek lion/goat/serpent monster
6 ___ Apps has been known to “trick” many students in the past	3 This “sister” is not afraid to slap you with a ruler if you curse
8 Think the opposite of subtracti... what was I talking about again?	4 The Chinese Zodiac has one of 12 signs for each of these; our current one is “of the Dog”
9 It's like red and white put together, or French for pink	6 Students have this to get them to and fro from home, the Haute and other places
13 One can buy either an artificial or a real one for Christmas	7 Beethoven set to music one of these: a famous one dedicated to happiness
14 Over break, people gathered with this to celebrate the holidays	10 Bad phonetics would have you finish a prayer with what should be a harbinger
15 Only two weeks ago we encountered the ___ of both 2005 and December	11 Songbirds like to do this almost all day; so do the Three Tenors
16 Usually wilder, larger and older than Piglet, but maybe “less interesting”	12 Someone who, according to aphorism, you should respect
19 The lion for its prey as it works on its thighs for its Pilates class	14 Taco Bell claims to make you feel this way, but if they fail you might feel “empty” and used
20 The Smallville, Reba and Loonatics Unleashed station	17 All-nighters are best achieved by a night, or someone who stays up late
21 “Delight” for one of Rose’s old red-sweater-wearing musical clubs	18 Could be the original protagonist in Oddworld, or the Honest “Rail Splitter”

Do something on Wednesdays.

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

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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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Andrew Stroh / Rose-Hulman
Freshman Bryan Ruiz cleans out debris from a parish in New Orleans over the winter holiday. Along with junior Andrew Stroh and senior Nick Switzer, Ruiz spent five days aiding the recovery.

Rose students lend a hand in New Orleans

Jessica Rogers
Staff Writer

Most students used their winter break as an opportunity to see their family and friends and relax. However, for three Rose students, break wasn't a time to relax. It was an opportunity to do something great. Instead of enjoying the comfort of home, Bryan Ruiz, Nick Switzer, and Andrew Stroh spent five days in New Orleans sleeping on a gym floor.

They were working with an organization called Louisiana Mission Hope, a Catholic-based group dedicated to helping repair parishes in New Orleans. The idea to use the break to help out came from a retreat Switzer attended during the fall break. Through keeping in contact with people from the retreat, he heard about the mission trip over the winter break. He then shared the idea with others and a small group was formed.

Ruiz, who is from the Dominican Republic, was actually staying with Switzer, his Resident Assistant, over the break. When he was told about the trip, he went simply because he did not want to stay at Switzer's house by himself. However, when he arrived in New Orleans, his outlook on the trip instantly changed. He realized that Hurricane Katrina, which hit in August, was still going on for the people from the area. Originally, he had the same idea that many people share: if we aren't hearing about it, it must be over.

In fact, the horror of the disaster is far from over for the former residents of New Orleans. The town seems to be abandoned: "Is this a ghost town? You looked outside and all you saw was nothing... You feel like Oh my god, where is the people?" Ruiz

commented. The scenes of emptiness, said Ruiz, will remain with him for a long time.

The people on the trip did see some residents cleaning out their houses and trying to recover what had not been destroyed. One woman they encountered mentioned that her house had seven feet of water inside and ten feet outside. In addition, there were families that just rolled in trailers on their land in front of their destroyed houses and had seemed to give up on restoring what they had lost.

Andrew Stroh had a slightly different take on the situation. "Overall, the damage was pretty devastating, but if you look at what each individual family needs to come back and take care of, it's very doable." All it will take is time, patience, and encouragement. He also said that it is important to remember that it isn't about how much you accomplish but showing that there is still faith that the area will be restored.

The trip wasn't all hard work though. Each night, the participants had dinner on a steamboat donated to Louisiana Mission Hope and got to see the sights that were still intact, including a visit to the famous St. Louis Cathedral. The nighttime trips were definitely viewed as rewards for all the hard work. "It was their way of paying us back for the work we did," said Ruiz.

Another reward of the trip for Ruiz, a civil engineering major, was getting to see his major at work. He got to see the levy that broke and see first hand precisely how his future profession can impact thousands of lives.

A second trip is currently being planned for the next quarter break. The spring trip will also include working during the day and touring the city at night.

Hansen has been studying acoustics for over 25 years. He chaired the department of physics at ISU and created a popular class about the physics of music (the class is referenced as Physics 440).

After the presentation, Hansen continued a more detailed discussion of acoustics with students and audience members who stayed around. Hansen explained the concept of a mode. A mode is like a two-dimensional node. The air inside a violin, for example, resonates when the violin is played. Inside the violin are the modal regions which, like nodes, are stagnant as the rest of the standing wave resonates around them. The shapes of a violin's modes help determine what the violin sounds like. By mapping the modes of very old, high-quality instruments, there has been success in making new instruments that have close to the same modal pattern and hence mimic the sound of the high-quality, older instrument.

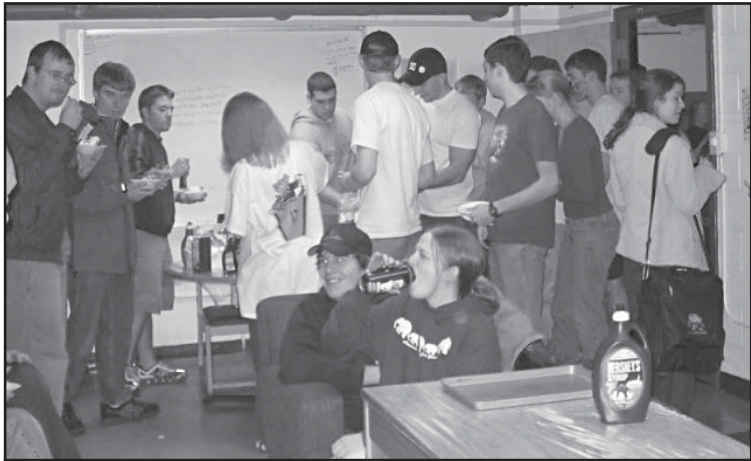
What the science of acoustics has not yet done, however, is discover the secret behind what makes a particular instrument sound really good. Why, for example, does a Stradivarius sound more pleasing than an ordinary violin? While science can be successful in analyzing and reproducing the sound of a Stradi-



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
The St. Mary of the Woods Jazz Ensemble, directed by Professor Steve Prescott, performs at the Science of Music presentation.

varius, there is no equation to make the tone of the instrument sound more pleasing to a person. Though acoustics has come a

long way, there are still mysteries in music that have not been, and may never be, unlocked to science.



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn
An estimated 300 students stopped by the Halfway Done Party in BSB basement Wednesday to eat brownie sundays. The party-goers consumed 29 pounds of brownies and eight gallons of ice cream.

Team Trashtastic triumphs

Alex Clerc
News Editor

This year's Recyclable Engineering competition, held Wednesday in the Kahn room, drew 33 teams consisting of about 130 students total. The goal was to use material generally considered trash - plastic bags, old newspaper, etc. - to design a device that could free-fall for the longest time before hitting the ground. The competition was won by Team Trashtastic, whose members were Dave Mumaw, Dave Frucht, Michael Haughney, and Matt Neisen. Team Sharp Nails took second place and Team Whiplash claimed third.

This year, the competition was organized by Graduate Assistant Mike Martin. "I think it's a good opportunity for students to get out of their rooms and socialize," said Martin.



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
Jordan Meehl and Kyle Overmyer enjoy Thursday's high of 57 degrees.

**Missed the Activity Fair?
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Hoodwinked
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Directed by Cory Edwards
Rated PG

Last Holiday
Starring Queen Latifah
Directed by Wayne Wang
Rated PG-13

The New World
Starring Christian Bale
Directed by Terrence Malick
Rated PG-13
Limited Release

Out on DVD

Hustle & Flow

Red Eye

The Transporter 2

Out on CD

The Strokes - *First Impressions of Earth*

Box Office Tops

- 1. *Hostel*
- 2. *The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch and the Warbrobe*
- 3. *King Kong*
- 4. *Fun with Dick and Jane*
- 5. *Cheaper by the Dozen 2*

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Today, I will admit the full extent of my geekiness to the Rose community. Today may be the day that I overshadow my DDR- and RPG-lovin' peers and take a pedestal labeled "One Really Sad Geek."

I love *Star Trek*. I love *Star Trek* in just about any form — except, of course, the show *Enterprise*. We're talking fan novels, watching those god-awful even-numbered *Star Trek* films, and yes, watching fan films.

It's one of my secret shames. Whenever I hear that a group is in the process of recording either a fan film or a fan series, I find their website and try to see how good it will be. How good is the writing? How true are they to the *Star Trek* universe? I love creativity, but are they flying off in ludicrous directions? How dedicated is the team? The people that produce fan films do so as a hobby and have to stay under Paramount's radar—it's gotta be hard work to produce a show with such limited resources. Not many fan films meet my criteria to get more than about ten minutes of my time, excluding downloading time.

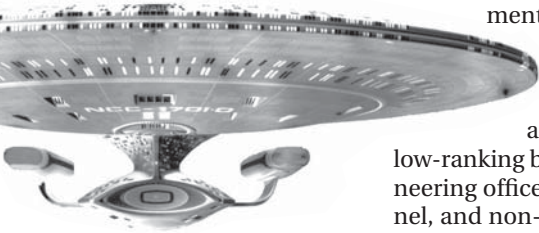
But a couple of weeks ago, I found a gem. *Star Trek: Hidden Frontier* (<http://www.hidden-frontier.org>) is a series currently in its seventh and last season

that is amazingly well produced. Each season has six episodes (see above about this being a hobby), and although the first season's episodes are short, they get longer as the seasons progress. The series begins just after the Dominion War in *Deep Space Nine* and introduces a new enemy to the *Star Trek* 'verse that the main station (*Deep Space 12*) and starship (*Galaxy-class U.S.S. Excelsior*) in the series work to learn about and defeat amidst the usual social drama of a *Star Trek* show.

One of the fun things about fan films is that there's the possibility for excellent, relevant, edgy writing that might not make it onto a network television show. In the second season of *Hidden Frontier*, they introduce a gay character and have an extremely well written episode titled "Encke" in which he deals with his attraction to a crew member who finds the idea of homosexuality repulsive.

There's another second-season episode in which a character deals with being clinically depressed. It is skillfully delivered despite its rather transparent attempt to provide social commentary.

The second season also starts an excellent and well-executed plot arc that continues for future



ment. The show has a pretty full crew of actors, so there are a full set of high- and low-ranking bridge officers, engineering officers, security personnel, and non-Starfleet aliens that interact smoothly and as realistically as in any big-budget *Star Trek* series.

Last but not least of the highlights of the show: the special effects and music. The computer graphics are, quite frankly, amazing for a show of this budget. There's a problem with green halos that persists as far into the series as I've watched, but the computer graphics-rendered backdrops and segments of the show are very professional.

I found myself blown away by the opening sequence even on the first episode — the music and style of the opening sequence is dead-on perfect for the series. The music has that quality that Paramount's *Star Trek* songs have — once you hear the song and its style, you immediately associate it with that flavor of *Star Trek*. I was very impressed.

Give *Hidden Frontier* a try. The website is <http://www.hidden-frontier.org> and all episodes are available for download. I give the series a 4.5 out of 5. Definitely worth the download and viewing time.

(Starfleet communicator courtesy of <http://www.xscapesprops.com>; U.S.S. *Enterprise* courtesy of <http://www.startrekdesktopwallpaper.com>)



Albums from '05 you should hear in '06

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

Welcome to part two of my summary of music in 2005. Here's a list of albums from last year you should hear this year (if you haven't already).

M83
Before the Dawn Heals Us



"What I love the most in music is melody and melancholy"

- Anthony Gonzalez

Listening to M83's work, it's obvious that Anthony Gonzalez loves melody and melancholy. Those two words sum up a lot of the French electro-pop mastermind's style. But there's one word missing when describing *Before the Dawn Heals Us* — melodrama. The album has much more vocal work than 2003's *Dead Cities, Red Seas, and Lost Ghosts*, most of which is spoken (or barely sang).

The whole album is filled with some of the iciest reverb around. But probably the most important

aspect of the *Before the Dawn Heals Us* is the drum work. Gonzalez's decision to use live drums instead of more programmable sounds is always successful. If you like Pink Floyd and music from the *Castlevania* game series, chances are you'd enjoy *Before the Dawn Heals Us*.

My Morning Jacket
Z



"People like to name check for us. I just like to say we're a weird rock & roll band."

- Jim James

Z is home to two of the best songs with horrible names in 2005. Opening track "Wordless Chorus" is exactly that, a chorus filled with only ohhhs and ahhs. Even worse in the name category is "It Beats 4 U". I'd expect this kind of naming from any number of acts, but not My Morning Jacket. The upside is that all the songs on *Z*, including the poorly named ones, are very good.

Leave it to a band in a genre that has notoriously stuck to its guns - southern rock - to release one of the most synthesized records of the year. My Morning Jacket combined elements of ambient, reggae, electronic, dub, and, of course, southern rock. All of this is done with remarkable

results.

The first half of the album is jovial and relatively straightforward. The last half of *Z* doesn't follow suit, and is generally more mellow and adventurous than the first half. Southern-ambient-electronic-reggae never sounded very good until *Z*.

Wolf Parade
Apologies to the Queen Mary



"You really feel like you're in this high tech system, but it feels like something's going to collapse. Well, we're interested in the collapse."

- Arlen Thompson

A few times I wondered if I had overrated *Apologies to the Queen Mary* when I gave it a 9.5/10. Sure, I still can't get the vocals of "I'll Believe in Anything" out of my head after 3 months. True, the epic crescendo of "Same Ghost Every Night" is of *OK Computer* magnificence. "You are a Runner and I am My Father's Sun" really is better than anything from Modest Mouse's *Good News for People who Love Bad News*. But is *Apologies*... really 9.5 good?

No, these things aren't enough to make this album that good. But what is enough is the one-two punch of "We Built another World" and "Fancy Claps" right in the middle. These are probably

my favorite two songs of the year, and together they raise *Apologies to the Queen Mary* above almost every album of 2005.

Sufjan Stevens
Illinois

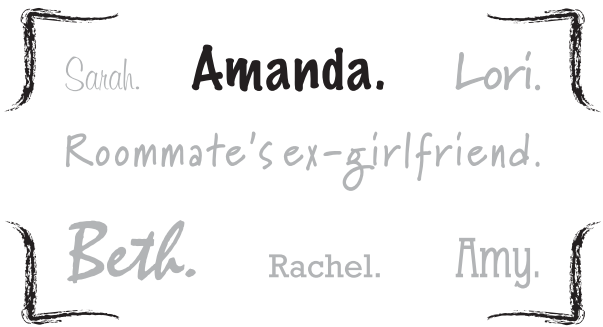
" 'Universal critical acclaim' sounds like hyperbole. I'm not Lance Armstrong here."

- Sufjan Stevens



Oh great *Illinois*. It truly echoes more profoundly than any album this year. Sufjan Stevens may attempt to be modest about the success of the album, but he must realize that the musical and lyrical scope of *Illinois* has never been matched. It's hard to say even if he can match it with later albums.

Disregard, for a minute, the fact that the album is named *Illinois*. I mean, it's not even really about Illinois. It's more of a thoughtful reflection on the great/strange/terrible things people do, simply using the state as Stevens' vehicle for exploring these ideas. His attention to detail is astounding, but what really makes *Illinois* the best album of the year is Stevens' ability to mold those details into something meaningful to the listener. Here's to hoping he doesn't stop, even if he finishes every state.



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Gaming on a budget: *Scaler*

Phillip Meiser
Staff Writer

It's time for another installment in my guide to budget gaming. As you may recall, I find games available for twenty bucks or less, and I waste my money so you don't have to.

This week's game is a strange little platformer simply called *Scaler*. Now, being the engineering student I am, the name immediately gave me flashbacks to vectors, matrices, and scalars, but it seems the people at A2M were thinking more about scales as they pertain to lizards. This is one of those games where the plot was probably an afterthought, so I'm not real clear on how the main character gets turned into a lizard and sent to an alternate dimension, but fortunately they made the plot pret-

It's not a great game, but it's not a money sink either. You're probably better off buying it used.

ty easy to ignore.

In traditional platformer style, you go around from level to level completing tasks, collecting stuff, killing all the things that move, breaking half the things that don't, and generally causing a ruckus. *Scaler* does not stray far from that. It feels a lot like a cheap version *Jak and Daxter*. As a lizard, your primary attack is obviously punching things, though you do get a handy tongue attack for when you want to taste your foes. You also earn the ability to change into other creatures on some levels. Their powers range from throwing bombs to rolling into an armored spiked sphere, all of which can be mildly amusing.

However, the most entertaining part of the game comes in the vine sliding sequences, where you jump on a long track and

slide along it - jumping, ducking, and dodging obstacles while collecting currency and building up your static electricity (which powers your special attack). On the later levels, the dodging becomes quite frantic and difficult. Your twitch skills better be up to snuff to jump the barriers, duck the gates, and dodge the giant fly traps. If it weren't for the forgiving continues the game hands out, the vines might become very frustrating, but I actually enjoyed every minute I spent riding them.

The bosses aren't too bad, and they are their own levels, so if you don't want to deal with them you have the option of ignoring them completely, at least for a while. There are a couple gimmick levels, like racing and flying a simple rail shooter, which help break up the monotony some. Also, the alternate forms are fun to play with.

Unfortunately, the game really doesn't have much staying power, even though there are some entertaining aspects. Even though pretty graphics (and they are pretty, in the weird, drug-induced *Alice in Wonderland* kind



http://www.consoleob.com/images/scaler_3_big.jpg
Bobby Jenkins is transformed into a lizard and teleported to an alternate dimension by a machine invented by accident. Plot? Cohesion? Who needs 'em?

of way) look good, they can't really help the fact that this game doesn't do anything remotely new. Not only that, the things it does don't work particularly well either. I would say it is worth exactly what they charge for it. It's not a great game, but it's not a money sink either. Xbox, PS2, Gamecube, \$15-20 new - but you're probably better off buying it used.

Brokeback Mountain breaks boundaries

Gerrick Lewis
The Lantern (Ohio State U.)

Over the past few months, Hollywood has been abuzz over a couple of films that are not the typical big blockbuster film. One of those films is *Brokeback Mountain*.

The film stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as ranch hands Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist. Set in 1963 in the state of Wyoming, *Brokeback* tells the story of the forbidden romance these two men share.

Ennis (Ledger) is a loner looking for work who meets Jack (Gyllenhaal), an amateur rodeo rider. Both men need to make ends meet and they set off for the mountain, anxious to work and herd sheep. Jack is assigned to sleep near the flock in order to protect them from the coyotes while Ennis remains at camp. They spend their free time sitting around a campfire heating canned beans, sharing stories and drinking whiskey. Then, one cold night, the nature of their developing friendship changes when the two have sex in a scene that raises eyebrows and conjures gasps.

Both men establish that they aren't "queer," yet they continue acting on their lust toward each other. The two quickly fall in love. Ennis seems to resent his feelings for Jack and they only consider themselves "friends", and nothing more. The men go their separate ways at the end of the season and, in one of many touching scenes, you see Ennis succumb to his new feelings for Jack.

Both men marry and start their own families. Michelle Williams and Anne Hathaway give strong performances as the brides of the two men.

What makes the story of Jack and Ennis such a tragedy is that they live in such a closeted time where no one accepts their love

for each other, making it impossible for them to be together. They have to resort to living unhappy lives, seeing each other only a few times a year. Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*) does a brilliant job directing this strong cast in the film adapted from Annie Proulx's 1997 short story of the same title.

Viewers might find this film hard to watch. The pace of the first half is at times dragging, but quickly picks up once the men begin their separate lives. Ledger and Gyllenhaal are nothing short of amazing in these roles. Ledger gives a solid performance and his dialect is so dead on that he is hard to understand in some scenes.

Gyllenhaal's performance cannot be ignored. Jack is the character that tears at your heart. He loves Ennis with every ounce of blood in his body and the fact that he cannot spend a life with Ennis destroys him. Jack hates the secrecy of his life and even suggests to Ennis the two should get a ranch together. Jack, deep down, is the hopeless romantic in us all. As a viewer, you want so bad for the two of them to be together even though Ennis knows it will never be.

Ennis' marriage soon falls apart. Williams is well aware of her husband's infidelity and homosexuality but does not confront him until after the marriage is over. Both men share one last trip together where they can be seen coming to terms with what they are and what they will be.

Brokeback is a film about love. It is not a story of homosexuality or of two men having an affair. It is about a love that is shared between two people that cannot be. The story is at its best in the final minutes of the film when you see Ennis show his emotion toward Jack that he's been trying to hide the whole film.



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Point-counterpoint: Intelligent design in schools?

You can't prove God



Choose
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

The easiest reason why the theory of intelligent design should not be taught in public schools is that it is first and foremost based more on religion than on science. Its supporters can tell me all day that there is scientific evidence behind it, but the fact remains that intelligent design implies the existence of God. Who else could serve as the “intelligent designer?”

Perhaps a chicken-or-the-egg argument would prove useful to drive home this point. It is hard to imagine the theory of intelligent design coming into being without first making a commitment to making God scientifically viable. It is very hard to believe that the creators of the theory were merely collecting evidence on the origins of life and stumbled upon the conclusion that an omnipotent figure must have been carrying out Olympian machinations throughout history in order for our existence to be possible. On the contrary, they must have started out

trying to prove God's presence in the existence of humankind.

With this accepted, one must begin to question the “intelligence” of God's design capabilities. A close inspection of many species will reveal the inherent flaws in the anatomy of the animal. For example, the nerve that connects the brain to the larynx does not run directly to the larynx itself, but first runs past it down to the lungs, where it wraps around a ligament and then proceeds back to the throat. And what about the purpose of male nipples? What does God see in those?

Also, if life was designed by an all-knowing being, how does one explain the extinction of species? Evolution's explanation covers this: mutation and adaptation result in unfit species, which are naturally selected out of the picture. It hardly seems likely that a benevolent God would engineer such tragedies into his blueprint of the world.

According to webmd.com, one in four women who become pregnant has at least one miscarriage in their lifetime. The religious folks who believe that human life begins at conception must have a hard time believing that a perfect, immortal intelligence would make the human reproductive system so grossly murderous.

Supporters of intelligent design theory will insist that if evolution is such a strong theory, then it will be able to withstand a competing theory in school rooms. This is the argument of a losing side. If ID supporters cannot muster enough reasons why their theory is substantial, then falling back on a dead end argument such as this is the only way to seem somewhat victorious.

So finally, we return to the original question: Should intelligent design be taught in public school biology classes? The answer is most certainly no. Anything that is not founded in science should not be taught in biology classes. Evolution theory was created from scientific observation and deduction, while intelligent design theory was formed around a need to project God into science. There is a separation of church and state in this country, and it is applicable to this situation. However, the larger, more encompassing reason is that intelligent design is not a scientific theory. A theory isn't science just because it uses scientific observations. One must question what such theories are trying to demonstrate, and trying to prove the existence of God seems quite a bit less than science to me.

Knowledge is power



Fred
Webber
Staff Writer

In public schools across America, children are taught evolution in their biology classes. If that's part of what parents want their children to be taught, then great. In a recent decision, the Pennsylvania Middle District Court permanently prohibited the Dover Area School District from requiring teachers to “denigrate or disparage the scientific theory of evolution, and from requiring to refer to a religious, alternative theory known as intelligent design.” This is as inane as passing laws that ban the teaching of evolution. Just because someone makes a law or court ruling doesn't prove or disprove the veracity of the material.

Every person could benefit from learning more about intelligent design. By ordering the termination of the curriculum, judges are cheating Dover High School children out of valuable knowledge. Students who are indoctrinated with evolution as being flawless will never seek to learn more about the theory. They will not be interested in either researching the flaws in the theory to make it more robust or in exam-

ining the current theory to determine other areas in which it doesn't hold true. They have no background or qualifications now for rejecting or accepting it (other than that he or she was told so), let alone voting on public policy.

Opponents object to ID because they claim the research that has come out in favor of ID was biased work. There are many biased scientists out there, and I am sure that some ID supporting scientists biased their work; however, has anyone cross-examined the Darwinists on who was biased towards atheism prior to his or her research? The quality of the work should stand by itself, independent of the researcher.

It's not that the intelligent design camp has no scientific concepts and material to offer students. A plethora of information in the fields of biology, archaeology and paleontology, to name a few, is available that should be made known for consideration to these students, many of whom will be our future scientists. An example of how our knowledge has evolved in the field of biology is vestigial organs, or organs thought to have no function. Vestigial organs are often discovered to have uses, sometimes a long time after being declared useless. In the case of male nipples, before a fetus's gender develops, both

females and males develop them, which has been suggested is efficiency in prenatal growth design. Some philosophical questions have been raised related to biology, such as the frequency of miscarriages. Causes for miscarriages vary, but risk greatly increases in the cases of various diseases, pain-relieving medication, and consumption habits. Many of those habits can be controlled.

Give ID equal time with evolution in public schools? Absolutely. If the scientific case for evolution is robust, it should have no problem holding its own when additional material is presented. Current curriculum is biased towards a model that presents neither its flaws nor scientifically-based alternative theories. The worst that will happen? The students will learn more about the world they live in and the fallacies and truths of either topic. The more knowledge these students have, the better equipped they will be as scientists and citizens. To not do so is to indoctrinate rather than educate, and to withhold valuable information from future generations. It'll be great when students start studying science and stop having their education restricted by people that ban evolution, ban ID, or mandate that Pi is 3.2. Here's to hoping.

Letters to the Editor

Two weeks before break, the Thorn ran a front-page article on grade inflation. The article provided very interesting reading, but the comments of a certain faculty member interviewed shocked me. This faculty member believed it was silly for the Thorn to be investigating this matter, as it is “not a student issue.”

I would like to know, since when are grades not a student issue? This is one of the most ridiculous comments I've seen. That is like saying, “teacher salary is not a faculty issue” or “the score is not an athlete's issue”. Grade inflation has the possibility to affect Rose students in very real ways. In a way, like it or not, grades are one of the most important things to a student at an institute such as ours. We are paying a fortune to come here, and we'd like to know that our grades mean something when we get through. How would you like to invest tens of thousands of dollars into something, and spend four years working at it as hard as you can, only to be told at the end that it was all worthless, and nobody will appreciate what you have done? If our grades are truly being inflated, the students themselves would like to see that

rectified.

On the other hand, there is a very real possibility that grades here are *not* being inflated. Rose students could truly be performing above and beyond their counterparts in previous years or other institutions. If this is the case, Rose students have a very real interest in the grade inflation issue in a different way. If some higher-up decides that grades are inflated and something has to be done about it, then Rose students will be unfairly given lower grades or more voluminous or difficult homework and classwork. I can say, as a student, that the current workload is already incredibly intense, and I often find it nearly impossible to actually finish everything on time. I do *not* want to have the additional stress and sleep deprivation that would result from more and harder homework without a very good reason.

Grade inflation is, and always has been, just as much a student issue as otherwise. Anyone saying otherwise obviously doesn't remember what it is like to be a student.

Ben Fritz
Computer Engineer
Class of 2007

One of Rose-Hulman's greatest strengths is its sense of community. Our students, faculty and staff support each other in ways that allow achievements which would otherwise be impossible. Students who perform in fine arts, athletics and other campus activities receive a boost when they have support in the stands. A wonderful example of this trend happened at last weekend's basketball game against DePauw.

In front of a vocal and proud crowd, the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team gained an early advantage against our archrival and never looked back. The highlight of the game for me came when a DePauw starter shot an airball in the first half and received a chant “AIRBALL” every time he touched the ball after that. When the same player shot another airball in the second half, he refused to shoot for the rest of the game. You can, and did, make a positive difference in the Rose-Hulman victory.

You can make a positive difference in any Rose-Hulman ac-

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



tivity. Tonight, for example, the men's and women's basketball teams play against Sewanee in another conference matchup; the play “Galaxy Video” will be presented in Hatfield Hall; and a concert will be held in the Student Union, sponsored by WMHD and the Student Government Association. Performers in any of these activities will

be more enthusiastic with a large and proud crowd.

Please do your part to support the activities that we bring to campus for your enjoyment. Playing your part allows the term “Rose-Hulman Community” to have a true meaning.

Keep Up The Good Work,
Bob Bright

Rose-Hulman basketball teams take on DePauw

Nationally ranked Tigers top Rose-Hulman

Rose Hulman News

DePauw University, ranked ninth in the nation according to the WBCA, defeated Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in women's basketball action 87-64 on Saturday night in the Hulbert Arena.

DePauw won the initial tip off and struck first as Liz Bondi of DePauw shot a layup in the first 14 seconds. DePauw never fell behind after that. At 16:39, senior Anna Guy tied it up at four apiece, assisted by sophomore Jill Floyd. But the Engineers never gained the lead. Bondi of DePauw scored again 18 seconds later to bring it to 4-6. With 4:29 left in the half, the Engineers began a rally to bring the score from 16-34, to 28-36 at halftime.

After halftime, the Engineers came out scoring on all cylinders, bringing the score within two with 18:33 remaining, holding the Tigers scoreless during the

run. But following a coach's timeout by the Tigers, DePauw began a three-quarter-court press that gave the Engineers quite some trouble. Rose-Hulman fell to 52-80 with six minutes left. The Engineers started a drive that would bring the DePauw lead down to 64-87, but it was too little too late.

Junior Rebekah Forsyth led the team in total points and rebounds, with 19 and 10 respectively. This was her 37th career double-double and her sixth this season. Also in the double figures for points, Floyd scored 15 points, with two assists. Freshman Lindsey Reichle had a team-leading five assists and six points, playing the full 40 minutes.

The Engineers fell to 7-6 on the year (0-3 SCAC), while DePauw rose to 13-1 for the season (3-0 SCAC). Rose-Hulman returns to action this Friday in a conference match against Sewanee at 6 p.m.



Rose Hulman News
Lindsey Reichle led the team with 5 assists, giving her a total of 39 assists on the year.

Muskeyvalley, Moore career-highs lead Rose-Hulman past DePauw

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology defeated DePauw University in men's basketball action with career high efforts by senior Munchie Muskeyvalley and sophomore Jared Moore, in a 69-52 game on Saturday night at the Hulbert Arena.

Muskeyvalley put up a shattering 28 points and eight assists to lead the Engineer offensive effort. Moore also put together an outstanding all-around effort recording a career high 16 points, with nine rebounds and four assists, leading the team in rebounds. Junior Jason Bednarko had eight points and five assists to help offensively.

Muskeyvalley and Moore could not be stopped. They both shot over 50% from the field making a combined 10 of 16 three-pointers and 17 of 29 total field goals. As a team, the Engineers made 13 three-point field goals. Rose-Hulman has not done that since 1999 against Centre. In the second half, they shot 63.6% at the

three point line, while holding their opponent to 16.7%.

DePauw won the tip off and scored first on a three pointer by Reid Sakel. They brought the score to 0-6 before Engineers returned with a jumper by freshman Lorenzo Rice, bringing the score to 2-6. With thirteen minutes left in the half, the Engineers brought the game within one point on a three pointer by Muskeyvalley, 10-11. With 12:31 in the half, Muskeyvalley unleashed another three point shot to give the Engineers the lead 13-11.

With 8:23 left till halftime, DePauw tied it and regained the lead on shots by Stephen Schott and Brian Oilar, bringing the score to 13-15. The lead changed five times in the next five minutes until the Engineers reclaimed the lead at 3:06 to go in the half on a jumper by senior Shane McCue, to bring the score to 22-21. This was the final lead change of the half and eventually the night.

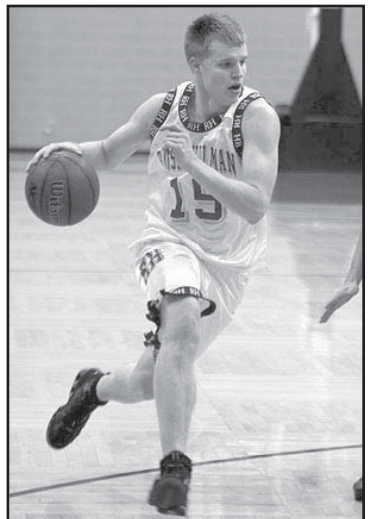
At halftime the Engineers led

32-25, and only built to that lead, scoring eight unanswered points to begin the half. By 8:05 left in the game, Rose-Hulman gained a 22 point lead with a 59-37 score on a layup by Moore. The last score came at 0:19 left when Alex Stewart of DePauw sank a three point shot, bringing the score to 69-52.

The Engineers rose to 5-8 (1-2 SCAC) on the season while DePauw fell to 5-8 (1-2 SCAC) on the year. Rose-Hulman returns to action next Friday January 13th in a conference game against Sewanee at 8 p.m. in the Hulbert Arena.



Rose Hulman News
Munchie Muskeyvalley led Rose-Hulman with a career high 28 points and eight assists



Rose Hulman News
Jared Moore recorded a career high 16 points with four assists and nine rebounds.

Women's basketball team leads NCAA Division III statistics in two categories

Rose Hulman News

The women's basketball team leads the nation in two NCAA Division III shooting categories in this week's first set of national statistical rankings.

Rose-Hulman ranks No. 1 nationally in free-throw percentage (83.5%) and three-point percentage (44.2%), while standing No. 2 in field-goal percentage (49.6%). Junior Suzy Carlson leads the nation in free-throw accuracy at 100% on 54-54 from the line.

Carlson's free throw mark trails the all-division national single-season record of 61 free throws by Valerie Kepner of Baldwin-Wallace. She has hit 55 consecutive free throws dating back to last season, trailing the career mark of 69 by Jamie Visness of Concor-

dia-Moorhead.

Ironically, a player in Carlson's hometown currently leads the nation in consecutive career free throws made. Adrienne Squire of Penn State has made 57 consecutive free throws dating back to last season, including 47 straight this year.

Other individuals among the national leaders in the first set of NCAA statistics include Carlson standing sixth nationally in three-point field goal percentage (55.8%) and 21st in field-goal percentage (57.1%).

Junior Rebekah Forsyth joins Carlson in the national rankings in three categories. Forsyth stands fifth nationally in scoring (23.0 points per game), 35th in field-goal percentage (54.8%) and 36th in rebounds (9.9 per game).



Rose Hulman News
Suzy Carlson leads the nation in free-throw accuracy.

Charlie Key, Paul Spreen named honorable mention All-Region

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior tailback Charlie Key and freshman linebacker Paul Spreen were named to the honorable mention portion of the NCAA Division III South Region Football Team by Don Hansen's Football Gazette in results released Wednesday.

Key finished his career ranked fourth in school history with 2,741 rushing yards and second at Rose-Hulman with 38 rushing touchdowns. He added 980 receiving yards on 78 receptions and set a school record with 4,400 career all-purpose yards.

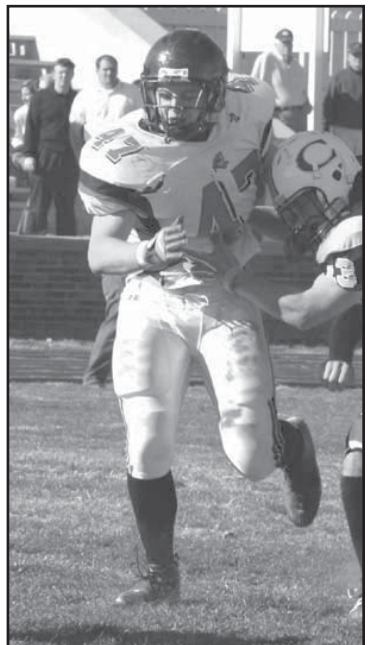
This season, Key recorded a pair of five rushing touchdowns performances to tie Rose-Hulman's school record. He ranked among the national leaders with 15 scores and rushed for 823 yards on the season. Key also led Rose-Hulman with 21 receptions for 249 yards.

Spreen ranked second on the Engineers with 91 tackles, including a team-high 50 solo efforts, despite not starting until the third week of the season. He paced the Engineers with three forced fumbles and added 3.5 sacks and a pair of pass breakups.

He earned SCAC Player of the Week honors for his work in the

victory at Millsaps, and recorded 17 tackles against Trinity for the most by a Rose-Hulman football player since 1991.

Rose-Hulman placed 5-5 overall on the season and 2-4 in SCAC play, after being picked to finish last in the league's pre-season coaches poll. The Engineers open the 2006 campaign at Earlham on Sept. 1.



Rose Hulman News
Paul Spreen led the Engineers in forced fumbles (3) and recorded 91 tackles in 2005.

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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

Volume 41, Issue 13

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Friday, January 13, 2006



This Day in History
dies, in Switzerland, from a perforation, operated to continue vitae and circulation of blood to heart and environs. James Joyce, Rathgar author, fr'th land of Éire, ceased writtenscratched his nuggy authorworks in 1941.

In Addition
I don't think you comprehend what I'm trying to say here. There seems to be a bit of miscommunication, you know what I mean? Please try to understand. Grok? The internalization of this transfer of knowledge is known to me, and I want you to get that.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"You guys are the most important thing that I'm doing in my job."
-- Prof. Bagert, who does students

"Seems like OD'ing is a bad thing."
-- Prof. Chenoweth, figuring stuff out

"Filthy is good!"
-- Prof. Stienstra, being filthy

"I only asked that to confuse you 'cause it confused me, and I wanted to pass it on."
-- Prof. McInerney, confused

"This was back when Macs had to be rebooted daily, just like Windows machines today."
-- Prof. Clifton, on the modern state of computing

"My hand behind here is giving you the finger. No really, I'm doing it."
-- Prof. Butske, having fun with the projector screen

"Matlab is so hot right now!"
-- Prof. Chambers, on Matlab's online help

"I'm not doing my job if I don't make you a little miserable."
-- Prof. Hoover, who does his job well

"Don't laugh at me! I'm a friggin' professor!"
-- Prof. Ferguson, who shall not be mocked

"I would say 'Bless You'... but I worship the devil."
-- Prof. Bryan, verifying our suspicions

"We'll go in and bust some h- Er, I mean we'll go in and resolve those conflicts."
-- Prof. Ferguson, on team management

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

Nazis: a love story for the ages

Lindsay Pethick
Staff Writer

Back in "the day" (circa 2004), a movie came out. Not just any movie. *Hellboy*, to be precise. This movie, like many movies and books made since the 1930's, had Nazis. It seemed a natural choice, really. I can just imagine the guy who came up with the comic sitting there, thinking. "Let's see. Creating an evil demon-creature... Meddling with the powers of Hell itself... Who would be mad enough to do such a thing?" (sound of epiphany goes here) "Nazis! *Brilliant!*" The same thing

probably happened with countless other media productions: *Indiana Jones*, *The Rocketeer*, *Schindler's List*... the names go on for some time.

The fact of the matter is that Nazis are the perfect villains. Why do you think two-thirds of the shows on the History Channel are about Nazis? No one comes close to Hitler's level of sheer despicableness. *No one*. Sure, Osama tried, but he's a total amateur compared to the big A.H. Frankly, I don't even think Napoleon's quite up to snuff, and I think that Hollywood agrees with me. I envision a chorus line of Holly-



Alexey Lipatov / <http://www.comics.aha.ru/rus/stalin/>
Hitler poses, in all of his evil glory, on the first page of the quintessential "Stalin vs. Hitler."

wood writers and directors, singing "Wind Beneath My Wings" to a picture of Hitler, holding their hands to their hearts and crying. "Did you ever know that you're my hero?" Beautiful.

Face it, kids. When it comes to bad, you can't beat the H-man.

Alex Clerc
News Editor

Dear McDonald's franchise owner,

Enclosed you'll find information about an exciting new development from McDonald's Burger University: McRobots. The full McRobot system includes a master computer to coordinate the robots and over a dozen McRobots. Below is an FAQ on McRobots:

Can robots really do that?

Modern robots are capable of all the skills needed to work in fast food:

- Moderate dexterity and vision
- Ability to follow instructions and perform repetitive tasks
- Ability to love (still in development)

Will McRobots be worth it?

While the overhead costs of

McRobots and you!

McRobots are steep, they're never late to work, make fewer mistakes than humans, and are 100% sanitary. That's right – no more hair in the salads or boogers in the milkshakes. The McRobot won't even use deadly motor oil – the greasy nature of its work makes it self-lubricating.

Who will still work at McDonald's?

Since there will be no workers left at McDonald's, there will also be no need for a manager.

The only employee each McDonald's franchise will need is an engineer to maintain the robots and computer software. They should be compensated with a generous salary (think about \$6.25 an hour)

But where will all the high schoolers work during the summer?

The artistic advice of John Dullard

So I set off on my journey to New York City. Using a trick I picked up in Siberia, I stuck my thumb out as I stood by the road. All manner of friendly people assisted me on my journey to New York City. I walked into the Museum of Modern Art and sat by the first shape painting I could find.

When a well-to-do person came by and stared at the painting for a moment and said, "Wow. I've never seen anyone express what I feel so vividly," I made my move.

"I've got a canvas and black

paint right here," I told them. "I'll give you the same thing for half the price!"

They were outraged, so I offered the same thing for just \$50. How could they refuse? They didn't. Security took care of it for them.

I must know. Is black too strong a color? Should I use more pastels and maybe some different hues of black?

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

Top ten New Year's resolutions

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

10. Get around to chiseling off the once liquid hot magma from your fondue pot
9. Continue your secret spree to ruthlessly murder all the trees outside of Speed in revenge for the one that killed your parents
8. Be firm this time when you tell Wayne down the hall that it is your turn with the Russian mail order bride
7. Finish plans to picket the next Presidential Search Committee meeting with signs proclaiming "Hail to the Keith"
6. Go back through and weaken the sprinkler heads on BSB 2 again
5. Perfect your ice throwing technique so you can be ready the next time a prof decides that the only way to ace a test is through Mortal Combat
4. Explain to your RA how Wayne down the hall disappeared because people ignored him enough that it came true, not because you unleashed the hall's dancing bear on him
3. Figure out that since they come once a week, these references run at about 1.653*10⁻⁶ Hertz
2. Build a bigger, more obviously fake missile silo in one last attempt to impress your role model, Kim Jong Il
1. Use your time machine to go back and stop all those terrible time travel jokes from ever happening in previous issues