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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Professor Benjamin Benjaminov dies at age 82

On January 12, Professor Emeritus Benjamin Benjaminov passed away at his home in Terre Haute. He was 82. While at Rose, Professor Benjaminov was the founder of the Rose-Hulman Fine Arts Series. He has been the sole chairman of the committee in charge of planning the events of the Fine Arts Series since he first envisioned the series back in the mid 1970s. He also was heavily involved with the Terre Haute Symphony and served as the symphony president for many years. While at Rose, he taught organic and freshman chemistry and served as a Visiting Professor of Chemistry at Indiana State University

Twenty-seven new life-forms discovered

Twenty-seven new species have been discovered in a cave under Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California. The species range in size from the tiny, fluorescent orange Harvestman (a spider-like creature) to a daddy longlegs with a mouth bigger than its body. Joel Despain, an expert on the caves in the two national parks, says that “not only are these animals new to science, but they’re adapted to very specific environments – some of them to a single room in one cave.”

\$25,000 for Shatner’s stone

Goldenpalace.com, the gambling site that purchased Pope Benedict XVI’s VW Golf in 2005, has made another purchase, this time for Captain Kirk’s recently passed kidney stone. The gambling site bought the stone for \$25,000. It was Shatner who originally had the idea to sell the stone. He was inspired by his involvement with the cast of *Boston Legal*, which recently raised \$20,000 for Habitat for Humanity. Combining the funds from *Boston Legal* and from the sale of the kidney stone, Habitat has enough money for half a house. Shatner is currently fundraising for the other half. Richard Rowe, CEO of Goldenpalace.com said of the purchase, “This is a bold new addition to our fleet.”

A closer look at registration

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

Jessica Rogers
Staff Writer

Seven a.m. Tuesday morning. Many seniors log on to register for classes. In subsequent days and hours, other students scramble to get into the sections with the professors and hours that they want. It’s that time again! It’s time for Rose students to decide what they’ll be doing during the spring – time for registration.

Some students, like sophomore chemical engineer John O’Grady, didn’t have any problems scheduling and getting the classes they planned on. “I thought scheduling went just fine,” said O’Grady, who mentioned that the only issue was having to choose a different class when a conflict arose.

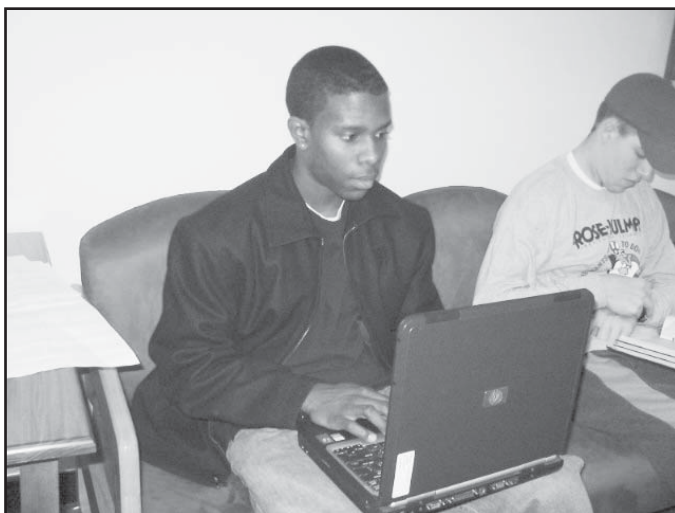
Other students had no problem registering, but were disappointed with the layout of their schedules. “I’m horribly saddened that I haven’t had a good schedule ever,” says junior mechanical engi-

neer Arron Foreman, whose schedule for next quarter is very spread out throughout the day.

Some students had problems registering for courses they were assigned to take this quarter due to prerequisites. Sophomore biomedical engineer Sami Dick had difficulty registering for BE 200. “According to the registrar, you had to take BE100. According to the department, you don’t,” Sami says.

So, how is registration order decided? Students are assigned a day to register based on their year at Rose, explains registrar Tim Prickel. This week, all seniors, along with some juniors that have senior standing, registered on Tuesday. After that, juniors had an opportunity to register on Wednesday along with a few sophomores, and so on.

But before all of that, a master schedule of courses must be made. The master schedule at Rose-Hulman is made out by hand, a process that, according to some students, could potentially be improved upon with comput-



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Sophomore mechanical engineering major Thomas Reives registers Thursday morning. He was unable to get into Mechanics of Materials, a class he wanted to take.

er science. “You could apply swarm [intelligence] and AI to it,” said senior math major Peter Fine. “One of the ways it’s done now in many schools is linear programming.” Linear programming basically consists of having a constraint space, or list of conflicts to try to avoid, and then it attempts to find an optimal solution by minimizing the number of conflicts.

To make the master schedule, “I start by asking all of the department heads what courses they will be offering this quarter,” explains Prickel. This information includes number of lectures, number and length of labs, prerequisites, and which instructors will be assigned to which course sections.

Continued on page 3...

Public Safety foils burglary

Alex Clerc
News Editor

Winter Break is usually a very quiet time on a college campus; most students leave to spend their holiday with family and friends. But, as Rose-Hulman Public Safety Officer Eric Gresham put it, “when the students are away, the crooks come out to play.”

On the night of December 26, two men trespassed into Speed Hall, covered the walls with graffiti and attempted to steal clothes. Fortunately for students, Public Safety officers had locked down the residence halls the week before this incident. “What lock down means is securing all the doors. Anything that had a doorknob was locked,” explained Gresham.

Had Public Safety not checked that all rooms were locked, the would-be burglars could have accessed valuables such as laptops and TVs.



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

The graffiti found in the laundry room and elsewhere in Speed Hall was cleaned off the walls before school resumed.

“The biggest concern for me when it comes to theft is that the student body is very trusting,” said Gresham. “There are many times when doors are left unsecured.”

On Monday, December 26 at 10:27 pm, Gresham noticed

a “very, very beat-up” blue minivan parked in front of Speed Hall. The van was not running and there were no occupants in the vehicle. The van was empty except for a skateboard.

Gresham continued his pa-

trol, heading on to Percopo Hall. When he came back fifteen minutes later, there was a man sitting in the van’s passenger seat smoking a cigarette. When Gresham questioned the man, he said that he was waiting for a friend inside Speed. The man claimed that his friend was looking through the building’s lost and found. “That was very suspicious because Speed has no official lost and found,” recalled Gresham.

The main door of Speed had been propped open. Gresham entered, locking the door behind him. As he walked down the east hall of Speed, Gresham noticed graffiti on the walls. He then heard the first suspect struggling with the front door, attempting to re-enter the building. At this point Gresham radioed Officer Joe Soeder, the only other officer on duty, for back-up.

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Pac-Man vs. Cthulhu!

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Classifieds

2006 - 2007 School Year Housing

Now renting for 2006-2007 school year. We have studios, efficiencies, 1-9 bedroom units. Call us about Sharp Flats East located next to Rose-Hulman (Wabash & Hunt Rd.) or our downtown locations on or near South Sixth Street.
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Rose-doku

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

		i			0		√2	
α	0	-1		∞		e	1/2	π
			π					
π						1/2		
	√2						-1	
		i						α
					√2			
∞	e	√2		-1		α	i	0
	α		0				∞	

Solve the puzzle by filling in the blanks but be careful not to repeat the symbols (**√2, e, π, i, -1, ∞, 1/2, α and 0**) vertically, horizontally or within the bold 3x3 sub-grid squares.

Erratum: In the issue of the Rose Thorn published on January 13, 2005, there was a statement in the article "Winter Activities Fair draws modest crowd" that Matthew Nothnagel is the President of SGA. This is untrue; Stephanie Vande Lune is the President of SGA, while Nothnagel is the Treasurer.

Interested in journalistic writing?
Want to write about sports?

Join the staff of the Rose Thorn on Wednesdays in Olin 157 at 5:15 for newspaper talk, pizza, soda, and a generally great time.

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THE DEADLINE FOR CONTENT SUBMISSION IS 5 P.M. TWO DAYS PRIOR TO PUBLICATION

All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the Rose Thorn Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).
The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.
All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).
The views expressed in the Rose Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Rose Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Speed, from Page 1

Soeder arrived on the scene within minutes. Gresham and Soeder confronted the first suspect and got his identification information and plate number. Meanwhile, freshman Chad Whitaker, who was staying on campus over break, approached the officers.

Whitaker, who was on campus that day to feed his fish, had witnessed the two suspects entering Speed a few minutes before. The main door to Speed was supposed to be locked. “It looked like they were jiggling on the door and it came open,” said Whitaker. Another possibility is that it was accidentally left unlocked: “it’s easy to forget [to lock the door] sometimes,” added Whitaker.

Gresham and Soeder escorted Whitaker to his room. “Public Safety was really nice,” said Whitaker, “and they were very focused on finding out what was going on.”

Gresham and Soeder split up, going down to the basement on opposite stairwells. Gresham heard noises in the laundry room and entered where he found the second suspect, crouched in the corner and going through laundry. Soeder approached the laundry room, sealing off the suspect’s chances of fleeing. The suspect relinquished the shirts and socks he was attempting to steal and gave the officers his information. “He appeared to be under the influence of methamphetamines,” recalls Gresham.

Instead of risking their safety and the safety of the students on campus by detaining the suspects, Gresham had the two men leave campus immediately. Then Gresham called in the Terre Haute Police to do a full investigation.

Detective Jeremy Sparks is handling the investigation. The graffiti in Speed depicted the same symbol many times, but Sparks stated that there have been no crimes related to this one to his knowledge. One arrest has been made so far: John Johnston of Terre Haute was arrested and charged with trespass and mischief.

Dance-A-Thon raises money for cancer

Angela Smiley
Assistant News Editor

On Saturday, January 14, Chi Omega held its seventh annual Dance-A-Thon. The Dance-A-Thon, which began at 6:00 p.m. and ran until midnight, drew substantial numbers of Rose-Hulman students as well as some Rose faculty and family members. Ticket sales and donations raised over \$750 to be donated to the American Cancer Society.

During the Dance-A-Thon’s centerpiece event, the Dance-Off, contestants freestyled to randomly selected music. Daniel Tardy, the first place winner, received a \$100 gift certificate, and smaller gift certificates were given to each of the finalists.

The rest of the evening featured open dances, but games, such as Dance Dance Revolution, and carnival activities, like the corn-hole and the football throw,



Ethan Murnahan/ Rose-Hulman
Women of the Chi Omega sorority play Dance Dance Revolution at the Chi Omega Dance-A-Thon.

helped give attendees a break when they needed one.

Local and national businesses donated everything from food and drinks, which were available throughout the evening, to

gift certificates, which were given away as door prizes in drawings every half hour. Campus organizations and community members also donated their time to the cause: local band Glass Halo

provided live music, and several hours of recorded music was DJed by freshman Chi Omega sister Sophia Percival, the Rose DDR Club lent equipment, and Leven Browne ran the sound system on behalf of WMHD, the Rose radio station.

Amanda Ferrell, one of Chi Omega’s event coordinators and their Assistant Director of Community Service, was pleased with the efforts of donors and also with students’ response. “In my opinion, Dance-A-Thon was very successful this year,” she remarked after the event was over. “Everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves, and I’ve heard that moving it to winter quarter and inside [the SRC] as opposed to outside really made a difference. We really tried to revamp it this year to make it something that people remembered and looked forward to seeing again in years to come... For all the late nights, it really paid off.”

Graduate registration

David Chen
StaffWriter

Comparing how Rose-Hulman graduate students register for their classes to that of undergraduates, there are some similarities. Both groups pick their classes on Banner Web. In addition, both can take each other’s classes with conditions. Undergraduates can take graduate courses as long as they meet the prerequisites. In turn, graduates may take undergraduate courses for graduate credit as long as the courses are accepted as graduate credits.

Unlike undergrads, grads don’t engage in a dog-eat-dog mouse-pounding competition to get the best class sessions every time the week of registration comes around. There are only 114 graduates enrolled here, many of whom are part-time and attend their classes off-campus.

In addition, grads generally take only 12 credits a quarter, register for classes the first day of registration in the morning, and have more freedom to choose the classes they want as long as it’s relevant to their graduate study.

The department heads, communicating with their respec-

tive faculties, are responsible for deciding which graduate-level courses are offered. Usually, there will be a certain block of courses that are offered each quarter. The department heads base their choice on the interests of students and the availability and interests of professors. As ME professor Dr. Darrell Gibson explained, if he has a little more time to teach aside from his senior design classes, he can offer to teach other classes.

The department heads certainly take student input into consideration. As long as there is a realistically big enough interest from students to sign up for the class they want, the requested courses will be offered as long as there are instructors available and academically suitable to do so.

All that graduate students need to do is to talk to their professors or department heads about the courses they want. The fall quarter is generally when there are the fewest grad courses offered since more professors are needed to teach incoming freshmen. However, in most instances, graduate students are generally accepting of whatever courses are offered to them.

Registration, from Page 1

Prickel says the next step is to go through the recommended plan for each major and make sure students can register for the classes they are scheduled to take that quarter. This task includes checking that all classes in all departments that a student needs to take are available in a particular quarter.

After that is accomplished, the registrar tries to make sure students with submitted double major plans are able to take all of their courses. “A department head and I spent two hours the other day trying to rearrange the schedule so one student with a conflict could take the required courses,” says Prickel. But, in the process of rearranging, care has to be taken so the schedule is not messed up for most other students.

All of this must be accomplished before students begin to register

for classes. Some students observed that freshmen Fast Trackers are already registered for classes. While they do have some say in what they are pre-registered for, they do not get to pre-register for humanities or choose their sections. Also, they still have the same priority as other freshmen when it comes remaining in the course.

But, even after registration is over, some schedules are still changed. Prickel empathizes with students that are bumped from their desired sections, but also wants to make sure every student is able to take every course they want. Anytime a student comes in, he says, he does his best to work out their scheduling issues.

Students needing certain courses that are full is not the only reason for section changes. Sometimes, there is a larger demand for a course than anticipated, or fewer students are able

to take a course and thus fewer sections are needed. Sometimes students come to change sections solely based on professor. Prickel says he understands, but “There are professors that don’t want to have certain students in their sections.” But, he doesn’t honor those requests either.

Many freshmen indicated they did not adjust their schedules for the most part, as they are already scheduled for the courses they need, and see that as a big plus. In general, they only add humanities to the classes to which they are pre-registered.

Freshman mechanical engineer Will Foraker says he was pre-registered for a class with one professor he wanted. However, when classes started, he found out it had changed. “When I got my schedule next quarter, it was a completely different professor,” says Foraker.

Third sorority approved

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

On Monday, January 16, 2005, the National Panhellenic Council notified Rose-Hulman of their vote to permit a third sorority to colonize Rose-Hulman. According to Donna Gustafson, Associate Dean for Student Services and Director of Student Services, the current plan is to have a third sorority selected and in place in time for Recruitment in the fall of 2006 to include all three groups. This is only the second time a sorority interest group has opened Rose-Hulman to colonization.

The process to bring this about has been one and a half years in the making, and is not yet completed. There are several exchanges of documentation that must be completed, including a document stating that the Rose-Hulman administration authorizes National Panhellenic Council to open the school for colonization by a third sorority. After the completion of this round of documentation, the Chairman of the Expansion Committee, Deanna Detchemendy, will notify the 26 sororities in Panhellenic—only 24 of which are eligible to colonize, due to the existing presence of Chi Omega and Tri Delta—that Rose-Hulman is open for colonization. Each sorority may have the opportunity to visit the campus and investigate starting a chapter here.

The Sorority Interest Group (SIG) has its own short list of sororities that they have researched, according to Gustafson. Gustafson was unsure of how the process will go, precisely, but at some point, those sororities will specifically be invited to visit campus to determine if they would have a good fit.

There were concerns surrounding the last on-campus Panhellenic Council vote about the possible detrimental effects of bringing a third sorority on-campus. Tri Delta did not, for instance, make quota during this year’s Recruitment efforts.

When asked about these concerns, Gustafson said, “The main concern is for the health of the organizations.”

When asked her opinion on the matter, Caitlin Pierce, the President of Rose-Hulman’s Panhellenic Council, declined to comment, stating, “Let’s let the dust settle first.”

Amber Brannan, Vice President of Panhellenic Council, however, said, “I do not believe that a third sorority could be blamed for any problems had by the other groups.”

SIG has been working for over a year to bring a third sorority to Rose. A vote in Rose-Hulman’s Panhellenic Council during the last academic year resulted in a tie. The decision was then passed up to the National Panhellenic Council, who took no action within the deadline given.

With a lack of input on the national level, a decision concerning a third sorority was placed in the hands of the Student Affairs Committee. The committee talked with SIG and the sorority chapter presidents, and decided to give the decision back to the Panhellenic Council shortly after Recruitment this year.

A vote in Panhellenic Council revealed that the sororities were still at an impasse, and so the matter was once again deferred to National Panhellenic Council. This time, the Tri Delta and Chi Omega delegates decided that, according to Patty Disque, the Chi Omega Delegate, “to add another group to campus would be in the best interest of all concerned.”

Brannan remarked that, “The women of SIG have worked very hard to become established, and I believe they have demonstrated their ability to successfully found a third sorority. I congratulate the women of SIG, and I look forward to the upcoming changes.”

Out In Theatres

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

Tristan & Isolde
Starring James Franco
Directed by Kevin Reynolds
Rated PG-13

Underworld: Evolution
Starring Kate Beckinsale
Directed by Len Wiseman
Rated R

Transamerica
Starring Felicity Huffman
Directed by Duncan Tucker
Rated R
Limited Release

Out on DVD

Lord of War

Underclassman

Venom

“Lois & Clark” 2nd Season

Box Office Tops

1. *Glory Road*

2. *Hoodwinked*

3. *Last Holiday*

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

5. *Hostel*

Strokes still paying for early success

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

Can the Strokes get a little credit? So *Is This It?* was wildly overrated and over-hyped, but that's really not their fault. One thing's for sure, though – they've been paying for the success of their debut with huge backlash since. The follow up, 2003's *Room on Fire*, was underrated enough to make up for past bloated reviews and mislabels. If only fans wouldn't have been hailing the band as saviors in 2001, which the Strokes never were, they could've realized that *Room on Fire* was really just as good as *Is This It?*.

So now they return with an album surrounded by about as much anti-hype as I've ever seen. *First Impressions of Earth* was getting slammed 3-4 months before it even came out, probably before most people had even heard anything off it except maybe “Juicebox”. So it's not surprising to see that many reviewers have given the album average ratings, lower than their two previous efforts.

Now I'm not going to defend *First Impressions of Earth* entirely. The Strokes made some strange decisions for this one, most importantly the length. Listeners get to hear 14 tracks on an album that's over 50 minutes long. This

easily surpasses the length of *Is This It?* and *Room on Fire*, and leaves extra room for mistakes from a traditionally tight band. So there are consistency problems. The album probably would've been better off without the last two tracks, “Evening Sun” and “Red Light”, both of which lack any sort of effective hook.

Also somewhat perplexing was the choice to work with producer David Kahne, who's generally worked with artists that aren't quite in the same position as the Strokes (Stevie Nicks, Tony Bennett, Paul McCartney). Although Kahne basically removes the unrefined and rushed sounds of earlier albums, his polished production actually isn't a black eye for *First Impressions of Earth*. Some tracks benefit greatly from the full sound. “Electricityscape” has some of the most upfront drum

The album isn't nearly the disappointment that some are making it out to be.

work of any Strokes song. Instead of the usual tight dual guitars, the rhythm section actually fills the background with sound instead of air, and with great

success. “Vision of Division” features some actual shredding after the first chorus (I'm not kidding), instead of simply strumming the same chords like “Last Nite”.

The most successful departure from the norm is “Ize of the World”. The opening sounds a lit-



<http://i.realone.com/assets/rn/rs/2004/medium/>
The Strokes playing one of their notoriously low key live show.

tle like some random band's noodling, but listeners will quickly know they're in for something different. Casablancas' vocals are the most effective on this track – listen for the scale climb during the second verse. Every line in the chorus ends with “ize”: desensitize, organize, vaporize, etc. Probably the most enjoyable section is the solo bridge, which uses the spaceship guitar effect from “12:51”.

But let me make this clear. About half of *First Impressions of Earth* is basically the same as their other stuff. The only difference is the production. If you can get passed that, you should like songs such as “You Only Live Once” or “Fear of Sleep” just as much as any of your old favorites. “Razorblade” jumps out as one of the catchiest tunes written by the Strokes. Casablancas sings

“my feelings are more important than yours” for the first two refrains before coming to his senses; “sweetheart, your feelings are more important, of course.”

So there are a few problems with *First Impressions of Earth*. It would be better with 2 or 3 tracks cut off. I think if the Strokes would've done that, it would easily be as good as their other albums. Even as it stands, it only slightly falls short, and the album isn't nearly the disappointment that some are making it out to be.

Then again, these are probably the same people who bashed *Room on Fire* for sounding too much like *Is This It?*. Now that *First Impressions of Earth* tries to move forward, people are complaining that they want to old Strokes back. Seems like a lose/lose situation to me.

A little dream for me

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

Over Christmas break, I dove into the minds of the strange inhabitants of Whispering Rock Psychic Summer Camp, collecting figments of their imagination and clearing out their mental cobwebs in order to collect merit badges and stop a madman from stealing the other campers' brains.

Yeah. It's a weird game. *Psychonauts* is one of those video games that everyone thought was cool but no one bought. It's a 3D platformer in a classic vein with outstanding plot, style, and humor. In the game, you play Razputin, a kid who has run away from home to go to a top-secret summer camp for training psychics. As you get to know the counselors and campers, you gradually learn more abilities and increase your psychic power. Gradually, a plot unfolds involving brain theft, psychic death tanks, and meat.

The level design in this game is amazing. Entering other people's minds is a major conceit of the game, and the environments don't let the player down. Some highlights are the conspiracy theorist's gravity-defying psyche, where even the fire hydrants have hidden cameras, and the brain of one bizarre creature, where you are a classic Godzilla-style movie monster, climbing buildings and chucking tanks around. Best of all, when you're not in someone's brain, the game has you exploring the *coolest summer camp ever*, with tightropes strung across the woods, hidden laboratories, a collapsing insane asylum, and one of the most fiendish scavenger hunts ever imposed on a poor camper.



http://www.igniq.com/images/psychonauts_270505.jpg
Psychonauts was developed by Majesco, who at one time had a dela with Sega to let them manufacture the Genesis III.

But how's the gameplay? Well, I'll say it's not up to the standards set by the rest of the game. Most of it is pretty normal platformer fare: jumping, fighting enemies, and performing acrobatic stunts (oh, right: you're the son of a circus performer). Everything's well executed, with a bunch of fun psychic powers, but when you get right down to it, there's nothing you haven't seen in games like *Prince of Persia: Sands of Time* or *American McGee's Alice*. The all-important collectibles so dear to the genre are well-handled, I have to say: there are seven different kinds, and they're all different enough that they're fun to collect.

The biggest flaw that I found with the game is a problem with its choice of audience. It doesn't

make one. The main character, Raz, is ten years old, and the summer-camp theme seems to be an appeal to children of about that age. However, the surreal and often-disturbing environments, cutting, complex humor, and sometimes dark themes really felt more suited to a more mature player. I also ran into some saved game corruption issues, which appear to be uncommon, but people using junior and senior laptops will want to make sure to patch the game before starting to play and make periodic backups.

Psychonauts is a wild, funny, weird experience, well worth picking up, especially at its current reduced price. The game is witty, touching, and great. Plus it's one of the best games I've played recently. Check it out.

It's Not Good: VI

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

Saw II, Big Mama's House 2, Deuce Gigolo: European Gigolo... this list is seemingly never ending. I'm referring to the number of worthless sequels that Hollywood has recently been unleashing. This is a habit that must stop.

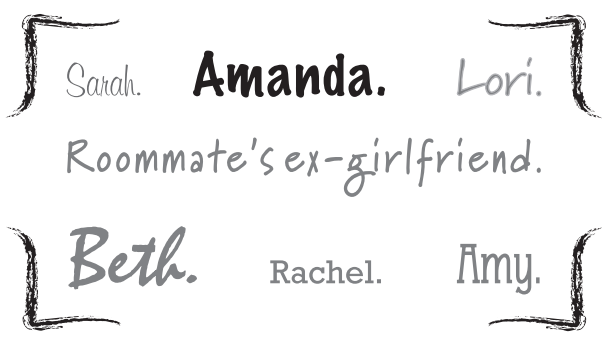
Granted, the film industry is a business, but rehashing the same junk just to play it safe keeps films that are actually worthwhile out of theatres. This week I took a look at the local movie times, expecting to see some of the films recently honored at the Golden Globes, only to see that the dismal *Cheaper by the Dozen 2* is still playing. What about next week? *Big Mama's House 2* is opening. After that? The sequel to another

sequel, *Final Destination 3* (which involves, of all things, an ill-fated roller coaster ride).

Not only that, most of these sequels weren't even good movies to begin with. *Anaconda* was a terrible movie, but somehow *Anacondas* was still made in 2004, and was completely unnecessary. Don't even get me started on *Rocky VI*.

Worst of all, sequels make it difficult for the film industry to evolve. It's not like the most influential and innovative movies are sequels. I mean, the last two *Matrix* movies didn't exactly have the effect of the first.

It's not that all sequels are bad, but there just aren't enough good ones to justify this trend. It's not good, and it probably wasn't even good the first time.



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The Drama Club does it again

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

“Galaxy Video”, the Drama Club’s latest hilarious play, was performed in its only two showings last weekend. The house was packed and folks laughed throughout the show.

“Galaxy Video” is an extended one-act play written by Marc Morales about the activities of employees and customers of the galaxy’s largest video store. Oh, and one guy who just needed to go to the bathroom.

The play’s cast was extensive, including Aaron Meles, Adam Reynolds, Andrew Kneller, and Danna Sheridan. Altogether there were over twenty cast members total and no one particularly “starred” in the show.

Scene transitions came complete with dancing ninjas. I be-



lieve the idea was that they would be very funny for viewers, but it seemed that their success with the crowd was only slightly above average. I didn’t find them all that interesting, myself; their antics were a bit too silly to fit the more adult humor of the rest of the play.

The rest of the play, however, was definitely above average, despite several flaws in the script. Meles gave a wonderfully bitter and introspective presentation; his outbursts were among some of the funnier moments of the play. Reynolds played the part of the cheerfully confused, short-term-memory-less employee hilariously, leading Sheridan’s character around the store in search of a single movie for the entirety of

the play. Their presences made the play come to life.

Everyone in the cast played their part well, even if I didn’t particularly like the role—like those of the two gentlemen fighting over which movie to rent, played by Matt Melton and Seamus Costello. Good acting, less than amusing part.

The subplots of the play were excellent, if pretty fractured. The witty movie-repartees seemed to amuse the audience, most of whom probably understood more of the references than I did. The initial lack of cohesion among the subplots caused what felt like *a lot* of scene transitions for a play this short. This probably explains the presence of the dancing ninjas.

One of the major flaws in the script was the frequent, abrupt transitions from colloquial conversation to stilted formal introspection. Meles and Kneller’s characters in particular did this, although others did as well. Each of their characters was exploring his place in relationships and society, which, naturally, calls for some pondering soliloquies. It’s an artistic choice to switch to a



Ken Meyer / Photography Editor
Near the end of the show, everyone on stage suddenly collapses. Don’t ask why; it’s complicated and involves narcolepsy and the government.

more formal tone for those, but I don’t think it succeeded here.

Another interesting aspect of the show—and this may also be a flaw, although I found it entertaining—is how the script showed its age. The play was filled with movie references, quotes, and comparisons, but if I am not mistaken, the newest movie reference made was the first Matrix film, which means the play was written in or before 2000. The

presence of a Matrix-style mock fight scene—a joke that tends to be a little old at this point—suggests that I’m correct.

In summary: the play was well worth the hour or so of time I spent watching it, largely due to the presence of actors such as Meles, Reynolds, and Sheridan. Despite some of the flaws in the script and the presence of overly-silly ninjas, I’ll say this play was pretty awesome.

Munich goes beyond events of history

Greg Joachim
The Daily Athenaeum
(West Virginia U.)

When it comes to epic filmmaking, one name stands at the top: Steven Spielberg. In a year that has seen him offer the loud (and largely hollow) *War of the Worlds*, he now turns toward his *Schindler’s List* side to give audiences a more human film about the aftermath of one of the worst tragedies of our time: The massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany.

Munich tells the tale of five Israeli agents, each with different specialties in the business of death, who are assigned to methodically track down and kill 11 Palestinians found to have a hand in planning the massacre at the 1972 Olympics. As the squad goes about their task, it takes a different toll upon each man -- including a very personal one on the group’s leader, Avner (Eric Bana) -- and gets more and more complicated with each new step.

Based on real events, the greater part of the film feels more like a dramatized documentary, making moments of true emotion feel awkward and out of place (no matter that they’re almost universally well done). There is a lot of emotion behind this story, but most of it never comes across for one of various reasons.

First and foremost, despite it’s almost three-hour running time, *Munich* throws most of its names and information at you before the first hour has rolled. By the time Avner and crew are set to make their first kill, you’ll be drowning in names so deep that it’s sometimes hard to distinguish the good guys from the bad. A smart film that never

questions the intelligence of its audience is a godsend, but *Munich* is sometimes too quick, too much.

Second, the plot becomes a victim of its own monotony at many points throughout the second act. As the squad plans and carries out kill after kill, things start to become a little repetitive. However true to the actual events this may be, seeing another faceless enemy killed by the same weapon as the previous enemies starts to make the audience feel each tick of the running time.

To this extent, the film never truly peaks. After over an hour of buildup, things end quite abruptly -- or do they? *Munich* ends a full 30 minutes after most would have expected to see the end credits start rolling, taking way too long of a third act to finish and using quite the awkward montage in the process.

All these complaints filed, however, *Munich* is still highly watchable -- it just may not be enjoyable. Bana is expectedly terrific in his role, convincingly giving Avner the level of depth and human emotion that few could have. Geoffrey Rush is also worth catching in a supporting role that seems to have been tailor-made for just his face and voice.

In the end, Spielberg’s latest is an interesting examination of one of the most secret episodes in modern history, giving it enough human emotion to make viewers understand that this really happened to five men in the not-so-distant past. The ultimate judgment of whether or not their mission was a success (or even justified) is left to the individual audience member -- a complicated one, indeed, in a world of blood-for-blood and made-for-TV wars.



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Separation: not so fictional



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Many people believe that the concept of separation of church and state in this country is fiction or even in question. This is a result of these people only reading the Constitution, and not realizing that there are other laws of the land that apply to the practices of the government. So, I am going to clear this up for everyone out there who is understandably confused: there is most definitely a separation of church and state in this country!

While all the devout are run-

ning for their copies of the Constitution, this is what they are going to frantically find: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." This is open to interpretation, but fortunately, the Supreme Court (the judicial body who is responsible for *interpreting* the Constitution) has made several rulings that clear up the muddy parts for those of you who like to be arm-chair justices.

First, the Lemon test. Based on the 1971 case of *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, the Court ruled that a practice or law was unconstitutional if:

1. It lacks any secular purpose.
2. The practice either promotes or inhibits religion.
3. The practice excessively (in the Court's opinion) involves government with a religion.

By this ruling, the government cannot foster, in Chief Justice Burger's words, "an excessive

government entanglement with religion".

The second test is the Coercion Test, based on the 1992 case of *Lee v. Weisman*. In it, the Court defined that unconstitutional coercion occurs when the government directs a formal religious exercise in such a way as to oblige the participation of objectors. Specifically in this case, the Court forbids "state-sponsored and state-directed

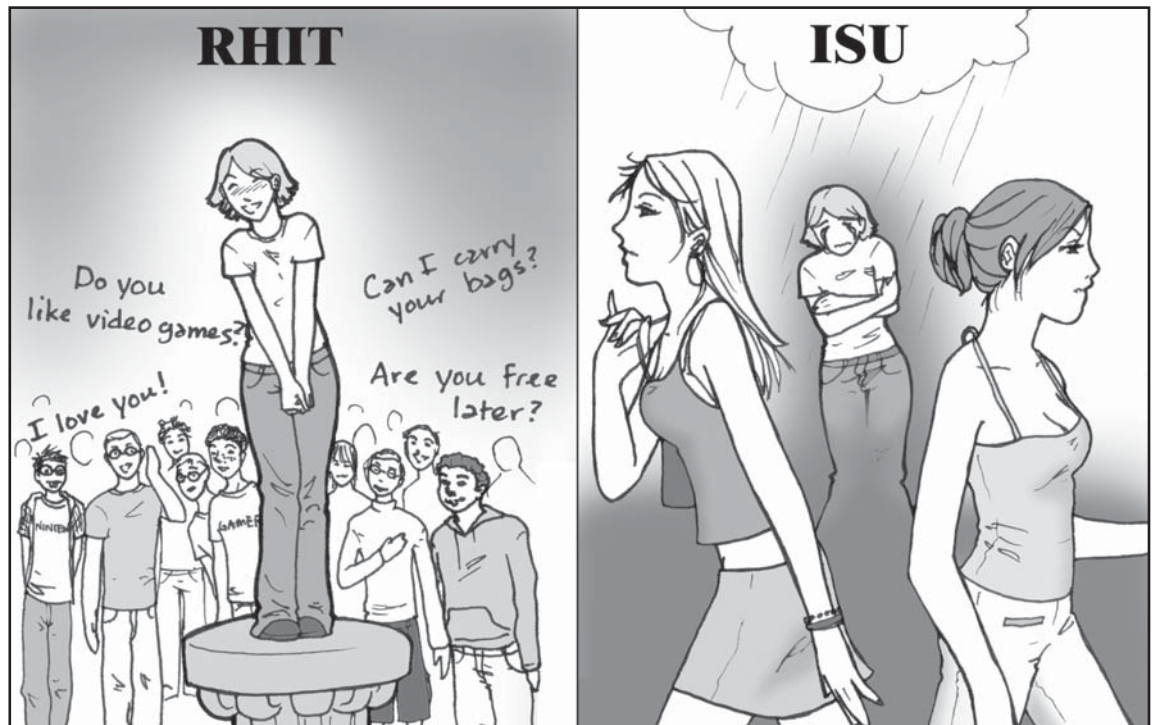
religious exercise in a public school".

Finally, in the 1989 case of *Allegheny County v. ACLU*, the Court defines government endorsement of religion as unconstitutional. It ruled that endorsement constitutes "a message that religion is 'favored,' 'preferred,' or 'promoted' over other beliefs."

So there you have it: the government cannot make laws or conduct practices that lack a

secular purpose, promote or involve the government with a religion, or oblige participation in a religion. That's a pretty solid list. From the looks of it, the Supreme Court thinks that the government should not have any connections with religion. And as always, any ruling of the Supreme Court is law, and they have made their decision clear: church and state are meant to be separated.

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



The national tap-dance

Jon Ogilvie
Staff Writer

Dancing on a thin line seems to be the specialty of this Bush Administration. Recently, it's been revealed that it specializes in tapping them, too. The Bush administration skirting the law—walking the fine line between legality and illegality, lawful and unlawful, right and wrong—is scarcely something to call home about.

But if you did, there's a fair chance that your communication would be listened in on by someone at the NSA. And they would no longer need a warrant to do it. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has stated that the program is entirely lawful under the resolution passed to authorize military force in Iraq.

What he neglects to mention, however, is that an explicit request on behalf of the president to allow domestic wiretapping was denied by Congress. However, that didn't stop the President from assuming that he had all the power he needed to do it anyway. President Bush has authorized the NSA to conduct wiretapping within the United States without a warrant.

"But," some may say, "doesn't getting a warrant require days, or making the wiretap a matter of public record?" Well, the answer to that is this: it used to, but no longer. After President Nixon's infamous use of unauthorized and unregulated wiretapping in the Watergate scandal, legislation was passed to enable quick, legal wiretaps, authorized by the court, but that would remain confidential.

This was the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (1978). It created a secret court where intelligence agencies could go, and, with minimal evidence, obtain warrants for wiretaps. In the event of an imminent crisis, the tap could be performed, and

the warrant applied for within 72 hours of the commencement of the wiretap.

It seems like this insubstantial evidence requirement was just too much for this administration; they needed a way to tap wires with no authorization, and no reasonable suspicion. Thus, the President signed the executive order authorizing the NSA to wiretap warrantlessly.

Aside from the fact that a request for legislation to that effect had been explicitly denied, the Attorney General, a close political associate of the President, claims that it is within the President's power as Commander-in-Chief.

Former Vice President Al Gore has called for the Attorney General to appoint an independent investigator—one with no ties to the administration politically, like Patrick Fitzgerald in the CIA leak scandal—and his request has been denied by repeated affirmations of legality from a man with close ties to the administration and the President; that is, someone far from objective.

In a speech on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, former Vice President Gore said this:

"The fact that our normal safeguards have thus far failed to contain this unprecedented expansion of executive power is deeply troubling. This failure is due in part to the fact that the Executive Branch has followed a determined strategy of obfuscating, delaying, withholding information, appearing to yield but then refusing to do so and dissembling in order to frustrate the efforts of the legislative and judicial branches to restore our constitutional balance."

In the late 1700s, the great Benjamin Franklin said, "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both." And he was correct.

Letters to the Editor

When I read Aaron's article on Intelligent Design I couldn't help but laugh. I believe ID is religious too, but the article totally missed the point – evolution is just as much a religion as ID. Let's take a quick look at the theory: About 10 or 20 billion years ago, a little dot exploded and created the universe. After a while, the earth cooled and formed a rocky crust. The helium and hydrogen created by the big bang somehow evolved into other elements and created an atmosphere, and there was rain for a few million years which produced a primordial soup. After sloshing around for a while, the soup managed to come alive. Self-replicating systems emerged, which evolved into bacteria, which evolved into multi-cellular organisms, which kept evolving for a while and, well, here we are.

Has anyone observed this happening? No. Has anyone run

tests that demonstrate that this could ever happen? No. Then should we be teaching this in science class? Heck no.

OK, I have another question – what has the theory of evolution ever done for us? Has it led to better medical devices, more efficient vehicles, or faster electronics? Nope. Even assuming it is true, the theory has no real benefit. On the other hand, evolution can easily be used to justify racism. If animals evolved into humans, then it's not much of a stretch to start guessing which races have evolved furthest, and are therefore the best. Why don't we see what good old Darwin has to say? "The more civilized so-called Caucasian races have beaten the Turkish hollow in the struggle for existence. Looking to the world at no very distant date, what an endless number of the lower races will have been eliminated by the higher

civilized races throughout the world." Charles Darwin, *Life and Letters*, p. 318. Hmm. It sounds to me like he thought we should take "natural selection" into our own hands, and it wasn't long before Hitler and others were doing just that. Is that the type of philosophy that we want to be teaching kids in school?

The bottom line is that evolution is a religion, just like ID. I believe that God made the world and everything in it. Evolutionists believe that a dot exploded, a rock soup came to life, and monkeys gave birth to men. Regardless of our personal views, neither side has the right to force their religious beliefs on students in the public school system. Students in science class should be learning just that - science.

Brian Thompson
Electrical Engineering
Class of 2007

I'd like to offer a bit of a response to Aaron Meles's "You Can't Prove God" piece in last week's Thorn.

The interesting thing about Mr. Meles' arguments is that, by and large, I can use the exact same argument to say that evolution should not be taught in public schools. First of all, evolution is just as much a religious standpoint as intelligent design. Atheism is a religion, and the early proponents of evolution set out to find scientific evidence that God did not exist. They wanted to discredit God's existence because they did not believe in God. Atheism is as much a religion as Christianity, Islam, or Zen Buddhism, because atheists take it on faith that God does not exist, and the "theory" of evolution was developed by people who had made a

commitment to making God scientifically not viable. Therefore, since the supposed theory of evolution was developed with a religious intent, it should no more be allowed in schools than the theory of intelligent design.

Next, macroevolution is not a theory. It has never been observed and cannot be reproduced, it is merely a hypothesis based on a huge extrapolation of data. Microevolution is a well-documented theory, but extrapolating from variations within species to alterations of a species is not scientific deduction, it is extrapolation, and thus open to debate.

Finally, the church and state issue. First of all, there is no such thing as separation of church and state in our constitution. There is only this restriction:

that Congress cannot establish a religion, disestablish a religion (there were several states with official religions at the time this amendment was passed) or prohibit the free exercise of religion. Essentially, Congress can't meddle; that's all. And if believing in God makes you part of a "church," so does not believing in God, and thus for the government to take a stand one way or another violates even the mythical separation of church and state. Government should stay out of it altogether, and if a local community wants its schools to include intelligent design in a curriculum then they have every right to do so.

David Korff
Computer Science
Class of 2008

Join the ranks of
the responsive!
e-mail:
opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Have we gone too far?

Ken Meyer
Photo Editor

"Aiiirrr-Baaaaalllll!" When a basketball player so thoroughly misjudges a shot that they miss the basket entirely, they deserve to be ridiculed for the rest of the game, right?

In the January 7th game against DePauw, one of the opposing starters was so strongly rattled, he refused to shoot for the rest of the game. But for Rose-Hulman CEO Bob Bright, this chanting was "the highlight of the game."

But what does this say about Rose's team and fans? Is our basketball team so poor that we need to humiliate opponents to have a chance at a win? Are we so mean-spirited that we find more joy in taunting our opponents than showing them sportsmanlike respect?

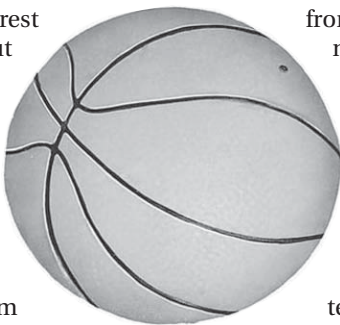
Certainly there is a place for the occasional call of "AIR-BALL" when a player misses the basket; it's part of crowd participation in the game much like

yelling "DEFENSE" or chanting about a bad call. It's a very different issue when we pride ourselves on our ability to humiliate opponents. When our school's leader and CEO deems our humiliating a player so badly that he refuses to shoot as a "positive difference" we have gone much too far.

I'm not calling for some sort of idealistic end to all chanting at basketball games; far from it! Rose-Hulman fans have made a positive difference at these games by showing up and demonstrating such strong support for our team.

Still, I wonder what it says about our community when we take pleasure in influencing the game by embarrassing the other players rather than simply supporting our own. Is this truly a "positive difference" or are we just pulling the game down to a competition between shameful provoking crowds?

(Picture of basketball from www.grace-collection.com/sports-patterns.html.)



Engineers earn SCAC honors

Munchie Muskeyvalley named SCAC Co-Player of the Week

Rose Hulman News

Senior Munchie Muskeyvalley was named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Co-Player of the Week for his efforts in last weekend's home sweep of Sewanee and Centre.

Muskeyvalley averaged 17.5 points, 5.0 assists and 3.5 rebounds per game, while becoming the 27th member of the Rose-Hulman 1,000-point club during the Sewanee victory.

He led the Engineers with 16 points, four assists and three rebounds in an 80-52 win over Sewanee, then pitched in with 19 points, six assists and four rebounds in Sunday's 71-60 victory over Centre.

Muskeyvalley has scored 1,029 career points and ranks fourth in

school history with 341 assists. He also ranks eighth in Rose-Hulman history with 139 steals.

On the season, Muskeyvalley is fourth in the league in assists (3.9/game), seventh in free-throw percentage (81.1%), eighth in three-point field goals (2.1/game) and 10th in steals (1.57).

Muskeyvalley shared the weekly honor with Andy Bates of Trinity, who averaged 16.5 points and eight rebounds per game in wins over Millsaps and Oglethorpe.

Rose-Hulman stands 7-8 on the season and tied for third in the SCAC standings at 3-2. The Engineers travel to Oglethorpe University on Friday and Millsaps College on Sunday.

Erin O'Connor named SCAC Swimmer of the Week

Rose Hulman News

Junior Erin O'Connor has been named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Swimmer of the Week for her efforts at last weekend's Engineer Senior Day Meet.

O'Connor earned individual victories in the 50-freestyle with a time of 25.58 seconds and the 200-breaststroke in 2:33.90.

In relay events, O'Connor helped the 400-medley relay team set a Rose-Hulman Natatorium record with a winning time of 4:16.83. She swam the breaststroke leg of the medley in a time of 1:09.07.

As part of the 400-freestyle team, O'Connor helped the squad earn victory in a time of 3:51.79. Her effort was a season-best 100 time of 55.28 seconds.

On a roll

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

If you haven't been to any of the men's basketball games since the beginning of the break, you've been missing out. In the New Year's opener, the Engineers lit up the court by shooting 66% from behind the arc. You've also probably read that career highs from Jared Moore and Munchie Muskeyvalley aided the charge. What you may not know is that the Engineers are showing that they are a complete team with scorers on the floor and off the bench.

With a big win over DePauw, great ball movement against Sewanee, and stifling defense against Centre, the Engineers are on a 3-game win streak with no signs of slowing down. In their latest game, Muskeyvalley – the team's leading scorer – went down late in the first half with a rolled ankle. Facing adversity, Phil Sundling and Ron George came off the bench to lead the team in Munchie's

stead. What's more, Muskeyvalley refused to stay on the bench. He showed great determination and team spirit as he treated his ankle and returned to the game in the second half.

Another thing that has helped the team cruise to victory is the crowd support in their last three contests. It's truly been intimidating for opposing teams to come into Hulbert Arena and play. The "airball" chants have been particularly devastating for visiting teams. On behalf of the team, I would like to thank the fans who come out and cheer.

With the team on such a roll, you won't want to miss any of the action. The Engineers will take a 2 game road-trip south to play Millsaps and Oglethorpe. When they return, they'll host the conference giants Trinity and Southwestern – the current first and second place teams in the SCAC. The team will be ready; just make sure that you're there to witness history in the making.



Rose Hulman News
Munchie Muskeyvalley at a recent basketball game

Four Engineers Place as Rose-Hulman Places 10th at North Central

Rose Hulman News

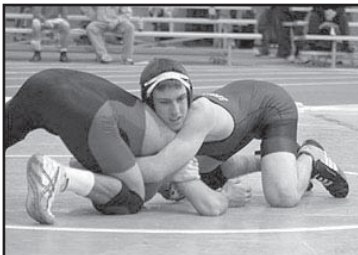
Four Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology wrestlers earned placements to lead the squad to a 10th-place finish in the 15-team North Central Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

Freshman Tyler Goble led the Engineers with a fourth-place finish at 165 pounds. Goble placed 3-2 overall with one pin to improve to 15-6 on the year.

Freshman Jacob Wise pitched in with a sixth-place finish at 125 pounds by tallying a 3-3 record.

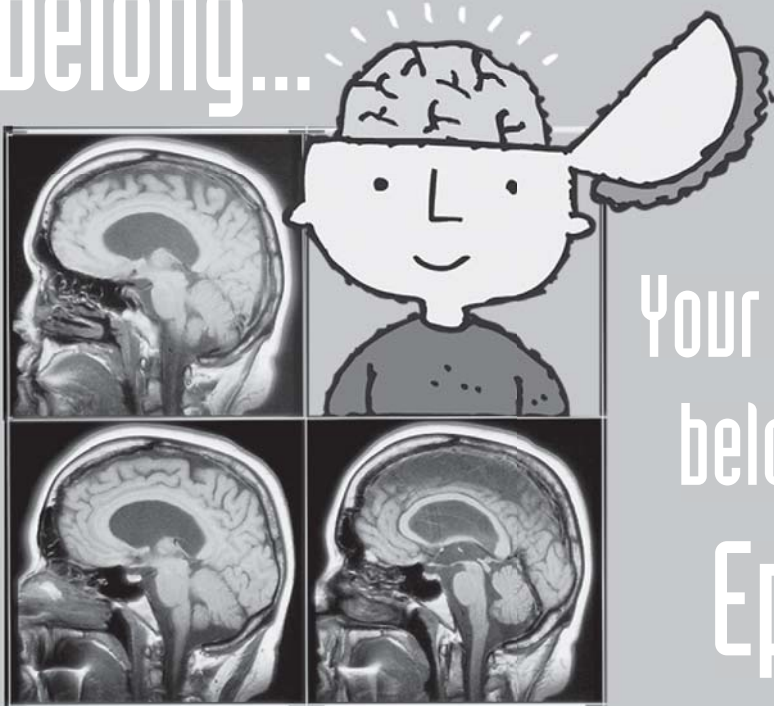
Freshman Ryan Schalk won a team-high five matches at 149 pounds with a 5-2 mark to earn seventh-place honors. Sophomore Nick Klaserner joined Schalk in seventh with a 3-2 mark at 197 pounds.

Rose-Hulman returns to action at the Manchester Spartan Classic on Jan. 21.



Rose Hulman News
Ryan Schalk won a team-high five matches to earn seventh-place honors at 149 pounds.

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One of these things does not quite belong...



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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE



This Day in History
In 1961, John Fitzgerald Kennedy is inaugurated President of the United States of America. A little known coincidence: on the same day in 1960, he is appointed High Shining Prince of the Illuminati Order.

In Addition
Dan, good work on defeating that cyborg elephant, but there are more pressing matters to attend to. They've gotten a generator online, and it's threatening our forces. You'll need to plant C4 at its weak points. I've marked them on your map.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"Just start doing things that feel good, and get it out of you."
-- Prof. Evans, giving advice

"That's one of the first calculus theorems they throw up at you...I guess I could say vomit at you..."
-- Prof. Richards, on calculus vomit

"That was kind of like a Colts field goal."
-- Prof. Martensen, after missing the trash can

"We're going to B.S. number 7 together."
-- Prof. Clifton, leading a group B.S. session

"Exactly, great! He died!"
-- Prof. Radu, on the inventor of integrated circuits

"Crazy Grimaldi notation."
-- Prof. McMurdy, describing Prof. Grimaldi's DE textbook

"That's interesting - your meat gets words on it."
-- Prof. Stienstra, on your meat

"My pens just randomly commit suicide."
-- Prof. Livesay, who lives in a cruel, cruel world

"The carbons will have to do some self-satisfying."
-- Prof. Mueller, on bonding

"There goes the neighborhood, because this is not Brokeback Mountain."
-- Prof. Stienstra, on salt bonds

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

The warm advice of John Dullard

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

I'm John Dullard and I've been doing this column for months now. And I'd just like to say, "Read with caution." Why is that, good reader? The other day in class I was thinking about my last article, and heard that little ping that Outlook makes when you get new email. I was startled and fell out of my chair. After regaining my seating, I straightened my shirt to play it off nonchalantly. Nobody noticed. Then I read this email I just received, and someone had written in with advice! I was ecstatic. Then I realized I wasn't wearing any pants and I was in maze built out of Calculus problems. That's when my friend poked me in the shoulder and woke me up.

"Dude, you're drooling on your-

self!" He informed me. And sure enough, it looked like I had just run a marathon. I didn't realize I had drunk so much water that day. The only thing worse than that horrible embarrassment was the heartbreaking pain of realizing nobody had written in.

I think my sleepiness in class can only be attributed to one thing: the lack of warm showers in the morning. I don't know if everyone's dorm has this issue, but turning the shower knob three times around still results in a *freezing* shower around here. And I don't want any of that "Oh, John, you silly Dullard. Only turn the knob to the hot instead of all the way around." Nonsense. I know this. But as I creep the handle around the dial I'm still given nothing but chilling water.

And that doesn't help the shower experience either. I live in constant fear of someone accidentally opening the curtain thinking my shower was available, only to find me with shampoo bottle gripped tight and me singing "Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson to myself. Awkward.

So the sleepiness, I think, is directly related to the fact I can't have a warm shower. Normally the warm water flows around me like a blanket and I half sleep, standing there in the shower... after a rousing performance of "Since U Been Gone." What should be a 10 minute ordeal

quintuples in time. But I arrive at class feeling refreshed, smelling nice, and looking like a raisin (The ladies love that).

So I figured it was me. I use warm water to brush my teeth out of habit. After washing my hands. So, using this trick I picked up in the Arctic, when I had only a single match and sunlight to warm our water with, I started brushing with cold water. I quickly recalled why I didn't stay in the Arctic. It was like shards of ice being stabbed into my gums.

But the shower was still cold. But in the middle of the night, I couldn't sleep and decided to use the little boys' room. As I entered the bathroom, I noticed that the shower was on, with steam curling out the top. I said, "Hey! Who is that! Don't use my hot water!" The sound of the water quickly stopped. Unsure if I was hallucinating (ARA food gets me on Buffalo Chicken Wrap nights), I pulled back the shower curtain. Empty. Then behind me I heard the door close. Surely, it was the notorious Hot Water Bandit! He had struck again!

So I was wondering if there were any good ways to get a warm shower around here? Anyone with any advice for my *advice* column?

Shaking the foundations of evolution

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

I was reading some things in this very paper last week, and there was some ridiculous stuff. I'm not just talking about that nonsense about robots in the Flipside.

I'm talking about evolution.

The whole debate about whether or not to teach evolution, or "evolutionism," as I like to call it, in schools is ridiculous. In my opinion, Intelligent Design™ is the only sane explanation for how things came to be the way they are, and a calm, polite discussion will show that I am right.

How was I finally convinced that the evolutionists were raving lunatics, suitable only to drool on walls, their hair matted to their stupid, stupid heads? I'll tell you.

I was sitting in the Student Commons, looking at all the miraculous complexity around me, and I realized that one of the primary doctrines of evolutionism, that of gradual development of complex structures, must be wrong. For I spotted something that surely demonstrated irre-

ducible complexity.

I'm talking about Moench Hall.

If you look at just one part of Moench, the supporting infrastructure, you can see a structure that could not possibly originate from cold, dead, random chance. This evolutionist theory

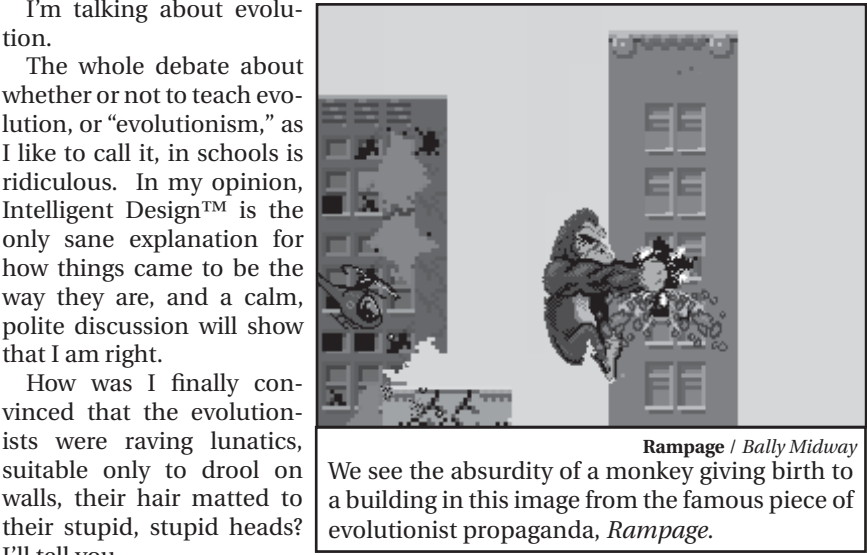
Additionally, evolutionism is a theory that has never been observed in a laboratory or in the wild. Has anyone ever seen a building evolving? Where are the transitional forms? Has anyone ever seen a structure halfway between a teepee and a building? No. Buildings are not the result of random arrangements of elements.

And speaking of elements, are we really supposed to believe that hydrogen and helium evolved into the elements of concrete and rebar, as evolutionism claims?

Now, I'm not saying that Intelligent Design™ has anything to do with the existence of any kind of Construction Worker. But there has to have been an Intelligent Designer™ to explain the amazing complexity and variety of structures in the world.

Intelligent Design™ is the only reasonable, logical, virtuous process by which these structures could have developed, and it should be taught alongside the horrid and deceitful "theory" of evolutionism.

And God Bless America.



We see the absurdity of a monkey giving birth to a building in this image from the famous piece of evolutionist propaganda, *Rampage*.

of abrickogenesis is wrong. Look at the columns that help support the ceiling, the ceiling itself, and the floor which supports it all. For the building to stand up at all, it needs all three things in combination; if any one of them were missing, the building would be useless.

Top ten things in my wallet

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

- Expired CPR certification that, in the heat of an emergency, no one will check the date on, but later, when I screw up, I can use as proof of my good intentions but total incompetence
- One pocket with one dollar bill to show my friends how poor I am
- Three gift cards with only \$0.09 on each of them that I just can't bring myself to throw away
- One pocket jammed full of twenties to impress women
- Burned copy of my draft card, for getting me in with the hippies
- Seven old high school IDs with progressively more embarrassing pictures of me
- Actual draft card, for getting the first drink free at the VFW
- Debit card receipts that link me to several Colombian drug cartels and crime families, yet I just can't seem to find the time to shred
- A picture of Hertz, which is my aid to induce vomiting
- A spare key to my car that pokes me in the ass every time I sit down as a reminder not to lock my keys in the car