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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

Pigeons observe pollution

To monitor air pollution in crowded cities, tiny pigeon-sized backpacks are being developed that will contain a GPS tracking receiver, air pollution sensors, and a mobile phone.

A test flock of 20 pigeons will be released into the skies over San Jose, California in August.

The pigeons' backpacks will analyze the air that the pigeons fly through and will send the information, in the form of a text message, via the mobile phone to a blog online.

The developers of the pigeon backpacks, researcher Beatriz da Costa of the University of California at Irvine and two of her students, hope to squeeze all of the components onto a single board that will be small enough to be carried comfortably by the birds.

Breathe LikeAFish

Alon Bodner, an Israeli inventor, has invented a machine that, up until this point, has only been found in science fiction. Bodner has invented a machine that can extract air from water.

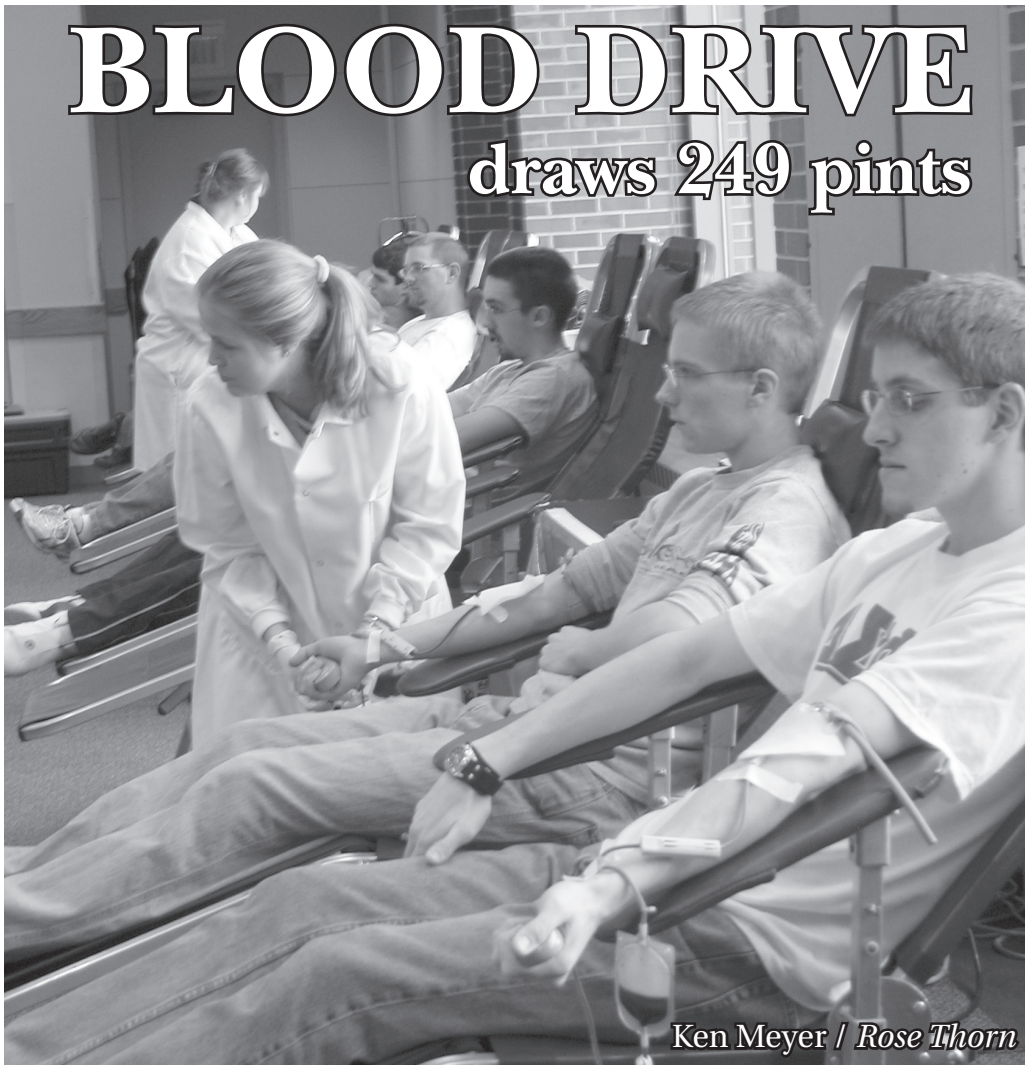
The LikeAFish spins a high-speed centrifuge to lower the pressure of seawater in a small, sealed chamber. The air that is dissolved in water is literally squeezed out of the water. Since a liter of water contains about 1.5% of dissolved air, the machine has to pump through 200L per minute to provide for the breathing needs of an average person.

Bodner points out that when the device is finalized, a diver will not be limited by the number of tanks, but instead by the number of batteries, which, Bodner says, are significantly lighter than the equivalent number of air tanks.

10th planet larger than Pluto

UB313, the supposed 10th planet discovered last year in the Kuiper Belt, is larger than Pluto. By measuring the thermal emission of the body, German astrophysicists at the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy were able to determine that the diameter of UB313 is 3000 km, about 700 km larger than Pluto. It takes UB313 more than 560 years to complete one revolution around the Sun.

BLOOD DRIVE draws 249 pints



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

This Tuesday and Wednesday students donated just under 250 pints at Rose-Hulman's third blood drive of the year. This blood drive came exactly eight weeks after the last, forcing students that donated Wednesday last time to again donate on Wednesday.

Blood drives at Rose-Hulman are scheduled by Donna Gustafson, Associate Dean for Student Services. But when it comes to putting the event on, it is largely student-led. "The Residence Hall Association [RHA] representative serves as the overall chairperson for the drive," she explained.

RHA Service Chair, junior mechanical engineer Arron Foreman said, "If there are any problems with things that need to get done, I take care of it."

The next step is to get students out to donate. "Most of the Resident Assistants work diligently to get the students out to donate," said Gustafson.

Continued on Page 3...

Buttry Elected SGA President

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

1) What sort of experience do you have with SGA? Have you served in SGA before?

I have been involved in and helped with many SGA events as a Resident Assistant and Sophomore Advisor, but I have never officially been a member of SGA.

2) What are your goals for your next term?

One of my goals is to make the transition between Bob

Bright and the new President as smooth as possible, while making sure all students are involved in the process. I would also like to increase participation and support in all Rose events, such as athletics and drama club.

3) What changes would you like to see made to the running of SGA?

I believe the SGA has been run very well in the past year, and I would like to keep SGA running as smoothly as it has. Once I have begun my term,

I will try to find areas to help SGA run more efficiently.

4) A big topic in this election was how SGA was going to help smooth the transition from CEO Bright to the new Institute President. What are you going to do to help make this transition smooth?

I think all students need to be involved with the transition to the new President. I also believe every student should have a part in the selection process for the new President.



Riley Buttry / SGA President Elect
Riley Buttry is the SGA President-Elect.

Continued on Page 3...

Frey wins SGA Vice Presidency

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

1) What sort of experience do you have with SGA? Have you served in SGA before?

I was the Blumberg SGA Senator my freshman year (2003-2004) and got appointed to Club Relations Director that spring for the 2004-2005 academic year. I have been serving as the Publicity Director this past year (2005-2006).

2) What are your goals for your next term?

One of my main goals is to make the transition between execs a smooth one. I hope to bring a lot from my past experiences with SGA to the new exec and get the ball rolling early on. As far as my Vice President term in general, I'd like to make the new President feel welcome at Rose and to show him what our school and community is all about.

3) What changes would you like to see made to the running of SGA?

I don't think that changes need to be made to how SGA is run but rather how SGA is perceived. SGA is not just an ATM machine for clubs to come get money from. Yes, we sponsor over 40 clubs around campus, but Senate needs to really evaluate whether a club is going to have a positive impact on the student body.



Jennifer Frey / SGA VP Elect
Jennifer Frey is the SGA Vice President-Elect.

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http://ucm.indstate.edu/

Rose-doku

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

Ω						C	I	
	A	R			C			
		Q			E	B		
I				V			C	
	C	A					I	R
	V			I				Ω
		C	B			V		
			Ω			Q	A	
	Ω	V						E

Level: Resistant

Solve the puzzle by filling in the blanks but be careful not to repeat the symbols (**Ω, A, R, Q, C, E, B, I, V**) vertically, horizontally or within the bold 3x3 sub-grid squares.

Rose-dokus or Crossword puzzles?

We’re soliciting your opinion. Do you prefer the Rose-dokus or the crossword puzzles that printed in the *Rose Thorn* several weeks ago?

Email thorn@rose-hulman.edu
with your thoughts on the matter.

Do you have knowledge that you want to share with others?

The Learning Center is currently accepting applications for the following paid positions:

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- <> Percopo Hall Tutors

Applications for positions for the 2006-2007 school year are available NOW in the Learning Center or online at www.rose-hulman.edu/lc/Employment.htm. The deadline for applying is Wednesday March 8, 2006. Visit the Learning Center, located in the lower level of Logan Library, or call 8876 for more details.

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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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All content should be submitted to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or to the *Rose Thorn* Office (Hulman Memorial Union room 249).
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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.

Happy Engineering Week!



President, from Page 1

If the students are able to get to know the new President, they will work that much harder to help him adjust to Rose and show him the incredible community we have here.

5) How are you going to work with the (SGA) vice president-elect to make sure that all students are equal in the eyes of SGA?

I think Jen and I will work fine together. We have worked together in the past as Sophomore Advisors and Resident Assistants. We will be a good team that will make fair and just decisions for all students.

6) What motivated you to run

for president?

I have always tried to be a leader on campus, but I really wanted to become more involved and make a difference on campus. I had been class president and honor society president in high school, and I missed being involved in leadership activities. I really thought that I could bring a new perspective to SGA, and help improve Rose-Hulman in the process.

7) Is there anything you would like to add?

I am looking forward to beginning my term; I think it is going to be an exciting year with a new President.

Vice President, from Page 1

I'd like to work with the Senators so that they can evaluate not just the monetary value of funding requests and clubs, but to look at the club's purpose and ensure that the club can bring something to our students.

4) A big topic in this election was how SGA was going to help smooth the transition from CEO Bright to the new Institute President. What are you going to do to help make this transition smooth?

I think the greatest leaders lead by example. Along with the SGA President and other members of the executive body, I'd like to show the new President what be-

ing a member of the Rose-Hulman community is all about by showing them what we do on a daily basis. I'd like to invite the president to SGA and other student-sponsored events around campus, and to involve them in anything possible that will make them an integral part of our community.

5) How are you going to work with the (SGA) president-elect to make sure that all students are equal in the eyes of SGA?

I'm planning on working closely with Riley to show him how SGA has been run in the past and to help him make changes where appropriate. Together, along with our executive officers, we will talk

about the goals of our term and what we'd like to do for the student body.

6) What motivated you to run for vice president?

I've been involved with SGA since I came onto the campus as a freshman, and I thought my experiences both with SGA and other campus leadership positions would make me a good candidate for the position.

7) Is there anything you would like to add?

Thank you to the student body for electing me as their Student Government Association Vice President.

Blood, from Page 1

Foreman explained that RHA gives students in residence halls an incentive to donate. Five hundred dollars are offered each drive for the floors with the most participation (by percentage). The winning floor gets \$125, the floor in second gets \$80, and third place gets \$50. The remainder is divided up among all floors that had over 40% participation, but none of these can get more than \$50.

Fraternities and sororities also lend a hand. Sophomore biomedical engineer Lizzie Speir served food on behalf of Delta Delta Delta on Wednesday. Speir

helped simply "because it's a good thing."

Cat Walker, a junior biomedical engineer, was also helping out on behalf of Chi Omega. "I usually can't donate blood, so I try to give back by giving a few hours of my time," explains Walker. "If you can, donate, or try to help out in some way."

At the front door, representatives from the men's social fraternities greet donors. "We're here to help out the community," said Adam Strom, a freshman chemical engineer from Sigma Nu.

"It's a great way to give back to

others," adds Brian Kronstedt, a freshman biomedical engineer, also from Sigma Nu.

The Terre Haute substation of the Indiana Regional Blood Center is always happy to come to Rose. "Right now we're really short of blood," said Jo Tevault, manager of the station, adding that the Rose-Hulman blood drive is by far the best school drive from Terre Haute. It started with only two collection days a year and has since expanded to eight since student response was so strong. "We have drawn a lot of pints here over the years."



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Rated PG-13

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada
Starring Tommy Lee Jones
Directed by Tommy Lee Jones
Rated R
Limited Release

The World's Fastest Indian
Starring Anthony Hopkins
Directed by Roger Donaldson
Rated PG-13
Limited Release

Out on DVD

Tim Burton's Corpse Bride

In Her Shoes

"Avatar: The Last Airbender"
1st Season

Out on CD

Richard Ashcroft - *Keys to the World*

Box Office Tops

1. *Big Momma's House 2*

2. *Nanny McPhee*

3. *Underworld: Evolution*

4. *Annapolis*

Alex Clerc
News Editor

"Wow... these are some really fashionable cowboys," I thought to myself as I watched the first few minutes of *Brokeback Mountain*. The film, which has been showing for over a month, has finally come to Terre Haute, and despite the one minor flaw I saw in it (cowboys don't shop at the Gap!), the movie was well worth the wait.

From what I've heard, *Brokeback Mountain* has developed a reputation for being racy or visually graphic (" *Brokeback Mountain*? Isn't that the gay Western porno?!"). If you're worried about seeing too much of man, don't be; the only frontal nudity shots in the movie are of the main characters' wives (Anne Hathaway and Michelle Williams).

Nudity aside, *Brokeback Mountain* is visually spectacular, capturing the breathtaking landscape of Wyoming and Texas. Well, actually, the movie was filmed in Alberta. Close enough...

Brokeback Mountain tells a story of two men – one a drift-

ing rancher and one an amateur rodeo cowboy – who find work one summer herding sheep on Brokeback Mountain. The two cowboys, Ennis Del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), are both young, poor, and inexperienced, but their similarities end there. However, In their short time together on the open range, they become friends and unexpectedly fall in love.

The movie is set in Wyoming and Texas in 1963. You might think this an interesting setting for a homosexual love story (who's ever heard of a gay cowboy before?), but this only helps make the movie more thought-provoking. In the society of the setting, the only acceptable lifestyle choices for a man were to marry a woman and have kids or to live alone. In this setting, practicing homosexuals were violently persecuted — Ennis spends much of the film in paranoia, worrying that he and Jack will be found out and killed.

Jack, the idealist, doesn't see the danger in their relationship and presses Ennis to move and

“Brokeback Mountain? Isn't that the gay western porno?!”



<http://www.cbsnews.com/images/2005/12/12/imageNYET10312121846.jpg>
Brokeback Mountain was recently nominated for 8 Oscars, including Best Picture, Heath Ledger (left) for Best Actor, and Jake Gyllenhaal (right) for Best Supporting Actor.

buy a ranch to settle down with him. Instead, Ennis is afraid to reveal his feelings for Jack, and goes back home to marry a woman instead, like is expected of him. After a few years, Ennis grows unsatisfied with his married life and renews his love affair with Jack. The two start going on monthly "fishing trips," alone on Brokeback Mountain.

By the end of the film, Brokeback Mountain represents a kind of paradise for Jack and Ennis – a beautiful place where they can be alone with the person they love. I won't spoil what else happens, but the conclusion of the film left some in the audience in tears.

My final recommendation is: go see this movie.

Trace Memory: Finally, a good reason for the DS

Lindsay Pethick
Staff Writer

Up until recently, I wasn't convinced that the Nintendo DS should exist. I'm the first to admit that Nintendo has done a great job so far with their crazy little invention, but I remained skeptical about its actual *necessity*. Let me give you a rundown of my biggest sticking points with the system.

You really only ever seem to use one screen or another predominantly throughout any game. The microphone is embarrassing to use in public. Most of the really good games seem to be playing too much off of the "gimmick" factor of the system, making them seem campy and childish.

However, last weekend I happened to have an evening to kill and ended up playing a beautiful piece of work called *Trace Memory*. Developed by Cing Inc., the story of *Trace Memory* doesn't seem terribly unusual at first (at least, not for a video game): 14-year-old Ashley Miyuki Robbins is on her way to Blood Edwards Island to meet the father she believed dead for the last decade.

In order to avoid ruining the game, I'll just tell you that Ashley ends up running around the island in the company of a spirit called 'D' who has haunted the island for the past 57 years after forgetting the circumstances of his life and death. Thus Ashley spends the game trying to solve the dual mysteries of D's life and death at the Edwards Mansion, while at the same time finding out what happened to her family 11 years ago. The two stories ultimately intertwine through the game's overlying theme of mem-



<http://www.armchairempire.com/images/Reviews/ds/trace-memory>
Trace Memory utilizes both screens using the top screen for *Myst* like still shots (left), and the bottom for game action (right).

ory, making for quite an engaging story.

What interested me most about this game was the way it really seemed to fully utilize the DS's capabilities. The player controls Ashley's movement on the lower screen, viewing the surroundings from a top-down angle. Meanwhile, the upper screen shows pre-rendered stills from Ashley's point of view, reminiscent of *Myst*. These stills can be focused on if there is something of note, and certain objects can be focused on from there, often yielding interesting puzzles that utilize the kinetic aspect of the DS's touchpad in surprisingly realistic ways.

My favorite bits of the game were the puzzles that utilize the DS's unique capabilities. Some require the overlapping of two different images, which can be managed either through a camera function in-game, or by partially closing the DS and using the reflection of one screen onto another. And, while I did initially find myself rather outraged at being forced to use the microphone for certain puzzles, its use made sense, and did not cause me to make too large a

fool of myself.

I do have a few gripes about the game. Firstly, D's history is optional, meaning that it is entirely possible to accidentally skip a key puzzle and finish the game without resolving half of the story. Second, usable objects can only be picked up after you've observed (read: closely examined) the puzzle they are meant to solve, meaning that you will need to re-examine entire parts of the house for the solution, which isn't always obvious. Finally, the game is painfully short, taking me only 6 hours to complete the first time through. While there is a new game plus type of mode, the changes in gameplay are so minor that it's barely worth doing.

So, my conclusion? *Trace Memory* is a promising game that shows the true capabilities of the system. If you had doubts about the system up to this point, you should at least take a look at it. Is this ground to run out and buy a DS? Not by itself, no. But if you already own a system, or have a friend who does, and like puzzle-solving games, check it out. If nothing else you'll have a way to avoid doing work for awhile.

Cat Power floats like butterfly on *Greatest*

David Moltz
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

Singer-songwriter Chan Marshall, aka Cat Power, is a dramatically crowd-shy performer. So much so that she darted offstage mid-song during her October stop at Charlottesville, Va.'s Satellite Ballroom, bewildering an audience and further warping her onstage persona. Hidden from the concert-going public, however, Marshall is an extremely talented songwriter with a beautiful voice. Her latest album, *The Greatest*, is an intimate portrait of a fragile artist performing at the peak of her oft-unrealized potential.

The opening track resonates with the warm sentiment of a pop standard. Over a string arrangement reminiscent of Henry Mancini, Marshall sings the part of a wistful boxer waxing on past glories: "Once I wanted to be the greatest/ No wind or waterfall could stall me." With a vocal styling that alternates between that of a soulful youth and world-weary woman, Marshall could either be narrating the plight of a young Cassius Clay or an aging Sonny Liston.

Other knockouts include the mellow romantic comedy, "Could We," which comes complete with a call-and-response R&B horn section. A lighthearted two-minute pop song about a first date, Marshall proves uncharacteristically charming as she sings, "Thank you / It was great / Let's make another date / Real soon."

Sequenced mid-album, the deceptive simplicity of "Willie" expounds upon this pop

song template. Over only three chords, Marshall weaves a lyrical epic about two renegade lovers. Augmented by a glitzy, muted trumpet line and a pensive, repetitious refrain, however, this song is more soulful ballad than folk dirge.

Still, as self-assured as Marshall sounds on *The Greatest*, the album wouldn't be complete without the self-inflicted black eye of a song, "Hate." Where most artists shy away from overtly disturbing statements, Marshall embraces the lines, "I said I hate myself and want to die," the song's alarming catchphrase. Incorporated among buoyant neighboring songs for shock value, the plodding lament of self-deprecation is doubtless a stark moment.

If Marshall truly wanted her audience to pity such antics and ask, as the song implies, "Do you believe she said that?" she wouldn't have included the hopeful palinode, "Love & Communication." A jazzy electric piano presides over a steady drum beat, providing the musical backdrop for a hymn of personal acceptance: "Hated to see you sad when I left/ There's just no good in that but the good part was/ That I came at all cuz I don't venture out."

After listening to *The Greatest*, fans needn't applaud Chan Marshall for releasing just another record. On the contrary, as the ambitious title implies, she has made the greatest album of her career. All while floating like a butterfly and stinging like a bee on her way to the top

She could make you talk too

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

The Student Activities Board here at Rose-Hulman has brought some interesting entertainers to our school — back in December they organized an event featuring a hypnotist. Last weekend they continued this trend when they brought Lynn Trefzger, a master of the art of ventriloquy.

I can pretty much guess most people's reaction to actively going to see a ventriloquist. It doesn't exactly sound humorous or entertaining to watch someone make lame jokes while at the same time using annoying puppet voices. Of course the portrayal of the profession on TV and in movies hasn't helped much either (Joey Gladstone, I'm looking in your direction).

Now you can make fun of me in whatever way you'd like, but I actually thought Lynn Trefzger was funny. On her flier, there was a claim that she was not only adept at being a ventriloquist, but also at being a comedian as well. Her comedic abilities are the primary reason she's more entertaining than a ventriloquist sounds like

it could be.

Her show was pretty much divided into sections, each one featuring a different sidekick (puppet), with the exception of Simon, who appeared twice. Some of the sidekicks were funnier than others. Luckily Simon was one of the more entertaining ones, since he was used multiple times. He tended to make the most references to actually *being* a dummy. Simon came to some interesting conclusions about his plight: "Maybe I'm making you talk. My mouth doesn't move when you talk."

Her camel sidekick, the appropriately named Camelot, was also one of the more effective features. This one was a good choice to open with, because he appears to be intoxicated and confused, which some college students can relate to.

The funniest helper was Judd, an old man who's been married for a very long time. Most of his section was humor about his wife, such as "I went to Victoria's Secret to find lingerie, but they didn't sell 36 long." You get the idea.

Not only that, Judd simply

looked funnier than the other puppets. While Lynn attempted to provide all of them with facial expressions, they didn't really add any humor because their faces were stiff. Judd, on the other hand, was made from latex, which allowed him to achieve some humorous looks (mostly frowns).

Not everything in the show was particularly funny, though. Emily, who popped up in the middle of the show, wasn't as effective as the other three sidekicks. She was a guy-obsessed adolescent who instantly fell in love with one of the audience members. Her jokes came out flat, mostly because they were exactly what you expected her to say and do. For example, she'd whisper to Lynn to ask if her new love interest was looking or not.

Unfortunately, she closed with probably the least entertaining section of the show. Trefzger had audience members choose three people to come on stage and participate in the show. I first thought this might be funny, but somehow the humor I was expecting just didn't emerge. The biggest problem was that she



<http://www.wearefun.com/catalog/images/LYNNETRE.gif>
Lynn Trefzger pictured with her cast of sidekicks. From the left: Simon, Judd, Emily, and Camelot.

was forced to play off the participants. Trefzger had done a fine job of playing off the audience for most of the show, but it seemed like maybe she ran out of ideas. This wasn't completely her fault though — by having audience members come on stage, she's trusting that they will be able to

help in some way. The participants didn't really do much to help her. Of course, since they're not professional comedians, it's hard to blame them.

Audience members aside, Trefzger's show was still good, and the claim that she was a comedian as well as a ventriloquist was



http://www.taleworlds.com/images/logo_mb.png

A stab wound could actually kill you

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

In most computer role playing games, you don't worry too much when you get hit by a sword. Healing potions or cure spells are just a few clicks away. In TaleWorlds' upcoming game "Mount&Blade," however, that wound could mean the difference between victory and the death of most of your soldiers.

The independently developed game isn't finished yet, but you can download a free 6-level trial of the work-in-progress, and at a heavy discount, get a license for the full version. For the moment, there's next to no plot. However, most of the gameplay is in place, with dramatic sword

fight on horseback and battles with twenty or thirty warriors on each side, and the player in the middle of it, firing arrows or swinging a mace.

The game's made by a lone husband-and-wife team, and unfortunately it shows. The graphics, while not ugly, are not up to modern standards of complexity. The art is well-handled, however, and the horse animations are especially pretty.

If you're looking to save money on a good, lightweight, medieval action-RPG, and you don't mind some missing city maps and an unfinished plot, check out "Mount&Blade" at <http://www.taleworlds.com>. If you'd rather wait for the full version, it'll be worth it at \$25.



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The sad state of politics



Here's your new opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Anyone who has ever watched the State of the Union address delivered by any President knows that the speeches contain only one punctuation mark: applause. Tuesday night's address stopped for applause somewhere in the neighborhood of 77 times. Assuming that the average round of applause was about 15 seconds long, that adds up to almost 20 minutes of applause in a 52-minute speech! Think about how much more efficient that address would be if the Speaker of the House requested that everyone

"Hold their applause until the end of the speech" beforehand.

If you paid particularly close attention to the applause, you would see that oftentimes only one side of the room was clapping. In fact, the other side of the aisle was often full of scowls and forced visages of boredom. Furthermore, in years past, this phenomenon occurs without fail, no matter who is President and what party is in control.

This partisan you-don't-deserve-my-applause-ism is symbolic of a problem that is inherent in American politics. The Republican and Democratic parties have become so polarized against each other that they cannot even tolerate hearing what the other side is saying. In their eyes, a victory for the other party must mean a staggering defeat for their own party. By refusing to give an inch on their established platforms, politics have degraded into bickering over issues of low

importance.

Examples of this permeate all levels of government. In Congress, legislators continue to file reports about why 9/11 happened, make public statements

a b o u t how we shouldn't have started the war in Iraq, and vehemently o p p o s e Supreme Court Justice nomi-

nations. On the state level, Indiana's legislature spent months deciding whether to change to daylight savings time and whether they should reverse city laws protecting gay rights.

Why does the government spend so much time debating such trivial issues? Because it draws attention from the fact

that they don't know how to deal with real issues like unemployment, deficits, and confusing and expensive tax laws. Everyone, regardless of political affiliation, can agree that these are the prob-

doing, as they filibuster and debate, convinced that they are acting in the best interests of the country by figuring out what to do with illegal immigrants and making it harder to make a day

trip to Canada. Yet the public continues to buy into smoke-and-mirror tactics like these.

The next time you vote or get into a po-

litical discussion with someone, stop and think. Are the issues you're considering what we should be dealing with right now? Or are they just another flag in the partisan semaphore designed to distract you from the important problems the career politicians are too afraid to try and solve?



www.kinomaniak.pl

The other form of the State of the Union. This one got less applause.

lems that need to be addressed. Until both parties agree to stop treating the other as their arch nemesis, these issues will remain unresolved.

This is why the constant applause at the State of the Union address disgusts me so much. It shows how the politicians are so proud of the job they are barely

Slow the %@&\$ down!

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

OK everybody, here's the scoop. Rose-Hulman is what many would consider a suburban or even residential college. Many students live here on campus and the primary mode of transportation to and from class is, quite simply, walking. The roads through campus are winding, with many dips and curves due to the beautifully rolling hillsides.

So please, anybody with a car, please, slow down as you're driving on the grounds. Even though Rose has these winding roads, some of you think (big emphasis on "think") you drive nice cars and can generally gun it through the twisties. Not safe! Hello! This campus boasts some of the best and brightest students from around the country, but some of you behind the wheel regress into adrenaline-driven speed junkies!

The two worst spots on campus are the straightaways in front of Percopo and the New Apartments. Some of you think Rose built a couple of drag strips or something.

Um...no. These roads, no matter how straight, should be considered residential streets. I know, the speed limit for a residential street is 35 mph, but for safety's sake, 20 should be the fastest you ever go.

Just imagine what would happen if somebody stepped into the street without looking and you hit them? Yeah, that'd look great on a resume.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever been convicted of a felony?

YOU: No...but I did hit somebody with my car once. Yeah, it actually was right over there in front of Speed...some dumb freshman who was late to class or something.

Small children frequent Rose's grounds for activities of all sorts, what if you hit one of them? What if you weren't paying attention and

you creamed your professor who was walking to his car after a long day of teaching you? Assuming your professor was sturdy enough to survive, I think your chances of surviving that class are as good as the chances of Paris Hilton becoming a transvestite.

I don't care what kind of car you drive...front wheel drive, rear wheel drive, four wheel drive, expensive, crappy, luxurious, sporty, whatever. N O B O D Y here drives a car so superbly awesome that it gives them

the right to tear around Rose's roads like a caffeinated banshee.

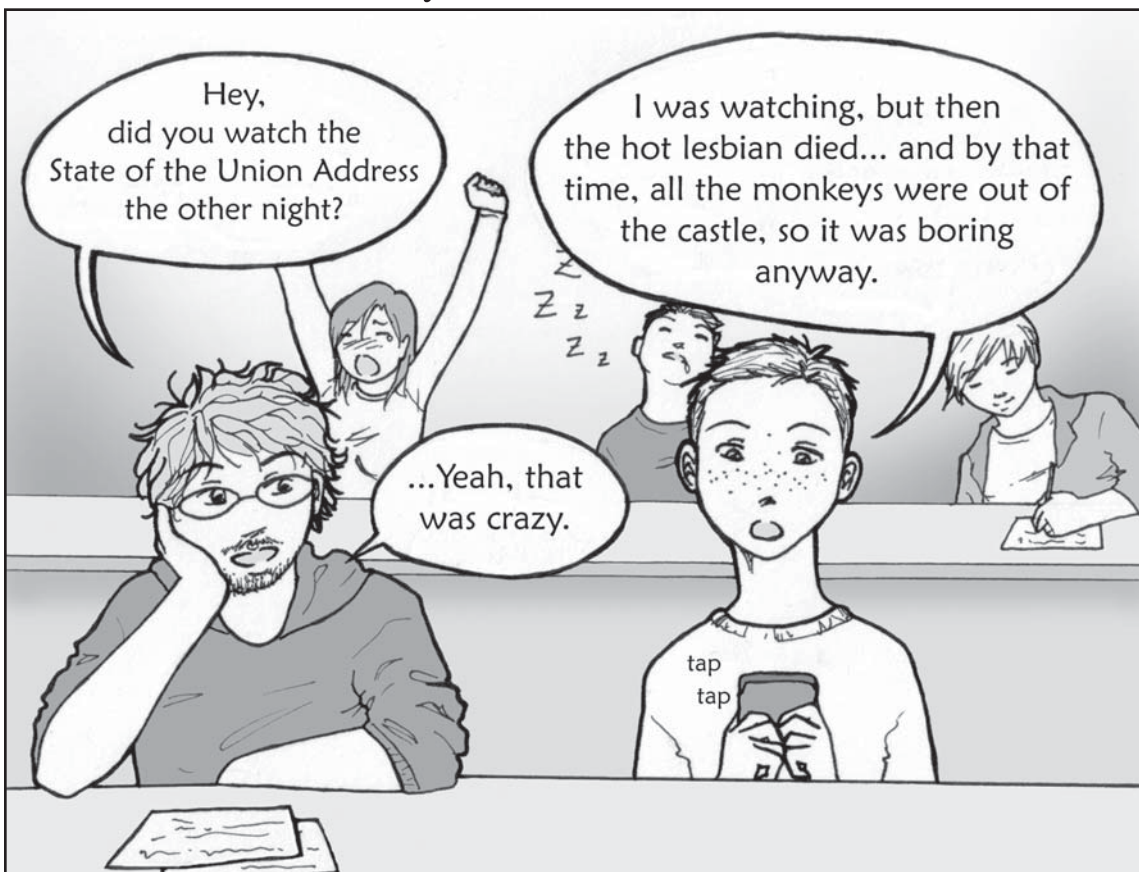
So please, slow down. Save the Hulman Hundred for US 40, not Percopo Lane.



www.brandonstone.com

Ever seen one of these?

1000 Words by Erin Hudson



Letters to the Editor

I have been attending Rose-Hulman sporting events for four years now and I am proud of the recent improvement of school spirit seen at basketball games. Over the past two weekends, Rose-Hulman students have shown up in full force to cheer on the teams. Those games included an exciting win for the men's team against DePauw, a great comeback win for the women's team against Sewanee and another solid victory over the Tigers for the men.

Recently, in an article in the *Thorn*, Rose students' school spirit was called into question as being "mean-spirited." Last year students were criticized for wearing "DePauw Sucks" t-shirts. I would like to know how much students are supposed to take before we just quit cheering completely.

In regard to Ken Meyer's question of have we gone too far, I would have to answer we haven't gone far enough. If you have ever attended a basketball game at a Big Ten school, you will see what school spirit is all about. The cheering and the ridiculing have become so strong that the RPI ranking system actually counts off less for a road loss due to the momentum that the crowd gives the home team. Student cheer-

ing at games can help out greatly in getting a team going and it can also help by getting in the heads of the opposing team's players. It is great to see the persistence of Rose students in their yelling and cheering at games.

I also appreciate the support we get from the administrators at Rose-Hulman in our efforts to support our teams. Our administrators haven't overreacted to complaints and support us in our effort to be normal college students. I appreciate that we are not censored at sporting events and can cheer like students at other schools. It is also great to see Bob Bright and all of the other faculty and staff supporting the students in whatever endeavors they undertake, be it sports or other student activities.

I would encourage more students to come down to the basketball games the rest of the year to cheer on our teams. The more people that are down there, the rowdier we can get and the more impact we can have on the team. I hope that everyone who comes down will be ready to cheer and be ready to chant "Air-Ball."

Mike Reeves
Civil Engineering
Class of 2006

Let me tell you what really irks me. Coming back from classes and having 50 spam e-mails for groups that I really don't care about. Now I'm not talking campus events, such as "Ice Cream on the Patio," but things like "Sock Found in Olin" or "SEMINAR!!!" or solicitations for the SAME club over and over and over... no thank you, I don't want to join the German Sausage club.

I propose a simple solution, creating opt-in groups such as 'seminar-lovers' for all those seminars that are offered seven times a week. How about a 'stuff-found-in-classrooms-or-hallways' group, just in case you lose your mitten. This way, the faculty or staff member that finds it doesn't

have to spam the whole campus for someone's found nail clippers.

Now, I'm not going to lie, I've already set up e-mail filters from some of the major offenders that send 17 emails a day. Unfortunately, there are always more seminars and always more things lost, and somehow, more faculty and staff members find out about them to clutter my inbox.

I admit, my solution isn't practical to have a group for every type of spam, so let's create a 'spam-fanatic' group for people that like those e-mails, but for the rest of us, please, don't bother.

David P Bander
Applied Biology
Class of 2008

**Somebody tell me more
about school spirit...
e-mail:
opinions@rose-hulman.edu**

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

Stojakovic makes Pacers debut

Peja Stojakovic made his Indiana Pacers debut on Wednesday night with a stellar home performance. Stojakovic scored 26 points and had 13 rebounds in the 105-79 blowout of the Los Angeles Lakers.

LeBron will not dunk

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James will not compete in the Slam Dunk Contest on All-Star Weekend on February 16-19th.

Piazza signs with Padres

The San Diego Padres picked up veteran free-agent Mike Piazza for one year with an option for the 2007 season.

Hornets to stay in Oklahoma City

The New Orleans/Oklahoma City Hornets will play most of their 2006-07 home games in Oklahoma City. The decision was made by Hornets owner George Shinn because they are drawing a far larger crowd for home games than they were in New Orleans.

Girl nets 113 in high school hoops

Murry Bergtraum High School's Epiphany Prince scored 113 points on Wednesday in a 137-32 win over Brandeis High School. The scoring spectacle sets a new prep record for most points scored by a player in a game.

Rebounding

Alvin Anassi
Staff Writer

The Engineers entered last weekend on a five-game winning streak and hit a brick wall. Don't get me wrong, they left a crater in the flat surface; they just didn't have enough to bust it down. They showed promise early on against Trinity and gave spectators a reason not to leave their seats. Munchie Muskevalley, a steady player, kept the Engineers close with the aid of Jason Bednarko and Lorenzo Rice and with great guard play and defense. Unfortunately for the guys, Trinity showed their strength in offensive versatility, as they were nearly flawless from the field and had an impeccable knack for finding the ball after their errors. Nevertheless, your Engineers never gave up or faltered. While the Engineers could not keep up with the Tigers' shooters, they were especially adept at filling the voids from the bench and recharging the game when they returned. All in all, while disappointing, the loss to Trinity showed the team that they would have to step up to the challenge in the next game.

Southwestern rolled into town Saturday afternoon in early anticipation of maintaining their place; and while that may have happened, the fight that the men put up was definitely more spectacular. I will say that in both

games last weekend, the guys didn't seem to have that spark in their shooting that gave them an edge in their earlier games, but despite the lack of flare, they played well. Southwestern didn't seem to be the type of team that Trinity was; they just played good possession basketball. On numerous occasions, the Engineer defense was stifling, but offensive rebounds gave the Pirates a second chance. While the first half was interesting, the Engineers would come back in the middle of the second period only to fall

short just at the end of the game.

It's games like these that define the type of player that you are. As an athlete, I can tell you that when you lose after coming so close to pulling off a huge comeback, it's frustrating. Furthermore, winners know what they need to keep and what they should discard from a loss to move on.

Your Engineers are winners in every aspect of the game and perseverance is the backbone of their creed. With all of the talk around the nation, as far as Division III athletics is concerned, Rose-Hulman is no longer a wimpy school. The men's basketball team is proving that they are to be respected, and they'll continue to earn respect this weekend against Rhodes and Hendrix. Come to the games and you'll see that those teams aren't ready for this Engineer team on the rebound.



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
Munchie Muskevalley in recent action against Trinity.

Not quite a repeat of 2004's basketbrawl

David Chen
Staff Writer

It was over a year ago that the infamous NBA brawl happened in Detroit, possibly tarnishing the image of the league for years to come. Now, just two weeks ago, another NBA player charged the stands at a game, but it was different this time.

Near the end of a January 18 game between the New York Knicks and the Chicago Bulls, Knicks player Antonio Davis went into the stands to protect his wife and kids, believing she was being harassed by a fan, 22-year-old Michael Axelrod.

In a statement issued after the game, Davis said, "I witnessed my wife being threatened by a man that I learned later to be intoxicated...I saw him touch her." The fan said it was a lie and that Kendra Davis tried to scratch him after he protested a call.

Unlike last time, no fights ensued; Davis was ejected and Axelrod was let back into the game after being escorted away by security. As a result of his action, Davis was suspended for five games by the NBA. Due to the 2004 brawl, stricter penalties are being imposed on any player who goes into the stands during a game, no matter how pure their intentions are. To add insult to injury, Axelrod planned to sue the Daveses for over \$1 million, though he later decided against it.



http://msn.foxsports.com/id/5259426_36_2.jpg
Antonio Davis during the incident involving his wife and a fan.

Davis should not have been suspended for five games since he ran into the stand to protect his family, rather than to cause trouble of any sort. There is no nobler cause than putting your family first, even if it means breaking a few rules. Yes, rules are rules, but even rules have exceptions. If something dire suddenly happened to one of your loved ones in California, wouldn't you drop everything right now to be there before informing your professors?

Another good example is what some police officers in New Orleans did during Hurricane Katrina. Choosing between showing up for work like they should and helping their families, many turned in their badges and forewent their duties in order to take

care of their families. Putting family ahead of everything else is something no one should regret.

This is the logic Davis followed and what did he get? A five-game suspension. Even his own teammates and Knicks coach Larry Brown supported him fully in what he had done. As the President of the Players' Association, Davis knew full well what his violation would cost him, but considering his family, he knew what he had to do.

One might ask why he couldn't just call security to check on his wife. Yes, he could have done that, but there were hardly any security near his wife at that time; otherwise, guards would have seen to it before Davis did. Even though Davis wasn't certain of the situation his wife and Axelrod were in from his court view, he knew he had to intervene just to assure she was all right. As Davis' teammate Maurice Taylor said, "If you send a security and something happens to your family, you gotta live with yourself."

Five games is too much for someone who was doing what he believed to be right without throwing a punch. Maybe one or two games, but certainly not five. Anyone who understands the situation would sympathize with Davis' decision. Davis should have no shame or regret for doing what he did: prioritizing his family ahead of everything else.

Pin Points Theater of Washington D.C. Presents

"1,001 Black Inventions"



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~~~~~  
Gain knowledge with an entertaining twist as we uncover the impact of African Americans inventions on our society.

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When: February 9th, 7:00pm

Why: Learn about and Celebrate part of Black History

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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

Volume 41, Issue 16

Your mom is having trouble with winter quarter.

Friday, February 3, 2006



Philip Becker / Rose Thorn  
Lindsay Pethick shaves for Facial Hair February. Remember, no shaving until March!

### The super advice of John Dullard

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

A couple weeks ago I was having trouble with the showers being frigid, and one man stepped up to help me out.

*I don't know why this is such a problem, John. Obviously, the solution to cold showers is to build a fire under the shower head. Some might worry that all the water would make it hard to keep a fire going, but those people don't remember that centuries ago, the Greeks invented a kind of fire that water won't put out.*

-Phillip Meiser

Brilliant. It definitely worked the first time. But then my roommate thought it would be funny to replace my body wash with some of this Greek Fire. Since I already had a fire going, I was soon engulfed in the unquenchable flames. It's really awkward when the housekeeper has to put you out while you are lying naked in the shower. But I was okay. John Dullard is, and always will be, a survivor. That is, until I die.

Anyway, I keep some non-Rose-Hulman friends on the side, to encourage my fantasy that I'm cool. They were all talking and they said, "Hey John, what are you doing for the Super Bowl? You know that's not a bowl filled with soup, right?"

"Har har. I know what it is, guys."

"What is it, then?"

I had been caught. "It's that one thing... you know... funniest commercials?" They bought it.

"Hah. You almost have a sense of humor, John."

But then I decided to keep it up. "Yeah. I'm throwing a party. Lots of TV... plasma TV... and... uh...girls and stuff."

Like it or not, I had procured invitees to my Soup Bowl party. And I had to acquire a plasma TV. So I went for the "buy it and return it" trick, but on the way to the register, I noticed a sign: "No returns on Plasma TVs bought this week." They had me.

So I went with plan B. I went to a blood bank and offered to donate some plasma. Then, after



### The nerd run: a scientific breakdown

Aaron Meles  
Opinions Editor

- **Head bob:** During acceleration, and occasionally when at cruising velocity, a chicken-like head bob is noticeable. This balances the runner during larger strides and aids in breaking up the turbulent air flow off the runner's prow. This results in a type of laminar slip stream that allows the runner to achieve higher velocities that would otherwise be impossible.

- **Payload module:** Casting aside the popular notion of a cumbersome backpack, the nerd runner prefers his equipment in a more mobile form. Completely separating the payload from the runner enables him to free up his back muscles for a larger head bob or more powerful strides. The nerd runner solves the problem of curbs and steps by taking these obstacles at high speeds, which forces the module to pop up into the air and over the curb.

When it does not land on its wheels, the runner will usually choose to continue running with higher friction rather than risk the loss of momentum caused by stopping.



Jon Carson / Rose-Hulman  
The canonical nerd run.

- **Large strides:** The tell-tale sign of a nerd run. The runner attacks the pavement in huge bounds, covering distances in excess of 1.5 meters with every gigantic step. This is not only the cause of the runner's tremendous speed, but also allows her to counter difficult terrain by bounding over it. In the case of stairs, three or four are often tackled at a time, lowering av-

erage staircase ascension time from 10 seconds to 9.5 seconds.

- **Chin to chest:** This allows the nerd runner to focus on the tricky and uneven terrain he must traverse: sidewalks, roads, and the occasional curb. The harmful rays of the sun that reach the runner's eyes are reduced to only those reflected off the ground. This position also prevents unnecessary neck strain by reducing the moment arm caused by air drag on the runner's head.

- **Arms to sides:** By locking the arms to the sides, the runner looks like she is walking leisurely, but don't be fooled. She is actually running. Placing the arms on the sides is a concept similar to the delta wing on supersonic aircraft, allowing the runner to achieve higher velocities and greater control at high speeds. The stiff arm placement also aids in alignment when multiple runners are drafting one another.

### The Hate Machine of the domestic goose

Lindsay Pethick  
Staff Writer

I saw something horrifying the other day. Something so evil, so despicable, that even in my sleep-deprived, eighth week stupor I stopped to stare in horror. The geese were returning. Yes, geese, those creatures full of rage and hatred, have returned to our campus with their reign of terror.

I hate everything about geese: their nasal honking; their hideous visages; their bowels full of putrid filth.

Unlike normal waterfowl, geese are born with an extra brain segment just below where the brain stem would be on most animals. This is what aviary enthusiasts refer to as the *odium profectio*

("Hate Machine"), as it seems to be what gives geese their schizoid dispositions. The Hate Machine is present elsewhere in nature, including in raccoons, feral cats, and every gerbil on display in a pet store ever, but those are nothing like those in geese. When an animal sees a person, it usually realizes that humans are big, loud, and scary, and leaves them alone. When a goose sees a person, it too realizes that humans are big, loud and scary, but it then proceeds to fly into a rage that causes it to attack anything that passes within 30 feet of it.

This is due to the Hate Machine. A little known fact about geese is that their scientific name, "*branta*", actually means "psychotically violent." In certain

areas where geese are especially common, *branta* is used as a youth slang term, synonymous with terms like "batshit insane." For example: "I told my girl she was gettin' flabby, an' she went all *branta* on me." This shows that there is no adjective too strange to describe the relationship between a man and a woman.

Oh, and that geese are crazy. That too. Right.

I honestly can't imagine what they're doing here. It seems that every year a few will take up residence and just... sit there. I mean, if it's a mating pair, shouldn't there be, I don't know, goslings? No, I think the real reason that the geese stay here every year is that they enjoy watching us squirm. Freaking geese.

### Top ten other uses for shaving supplies

Alex Clerc  
News Editor

10. Donate them to the local elementary school
9. Shave your scalp and eyebrows to accentuate that new beard
8. Horde all your friends' razors and build the 8th wonder of the world: Shavehenge
7. Raze the roof when you win that beard-growing contest
6. Stick it to the man with shaving cream graffiti
5. Discover a new bathroom use for razor blades: flossing
4. Get back at Hertz by waking up early and filling his shoes with shaving cream
3. Shave other places besides your face (it's not Phallic Hair February...)
2. Shaving cream fight!
1. Join Greenpeace and shave the whales

### This Day in History

In 1959, an unnamed plane crashes in a cornfield outside Mason City, Iowa, killing three great musicians and inspiring some weird song about pie.

### In Addition

LEAVE IMMEDIATELY STOP NOW BELIEVE ILLUMINATI INVOLVED STOP ABANDON WAXWORKS STOP RETURN TO GRENADA FOR BRIEFING STOP BRING PASTRIES STOP

### Wacky Prof Quotes

"Sometimes, even in my own language I say strange things."  
-- Prof. Radu, who is strange

"As bad as math is, it's still better than biology."  
-- Prof. McMurdy, establishing a hierarchy

"Look at the expression on his face! Pure terror!"  
-- Prof. Allison, tormenting a dying Gummy Bear

"And so I impaled myself upon a wall, which gives people great joy."  
-- Prof. Mech, pleasing the public

"Lithium aluminum hydride is our AK-47."  
-- Prof. DeVasher, getting the job done

"It should be obvious to you which tail you should be in."  
-- Prof. Inlow, being cryptic

"You will get 200*i* extra credit if you turn it in."  
-- Prof. Martensen, making up new grading systems

"My wife keeps me scared as hell. She still has relatives in the Mafia."  
-- Prof. Sherman, being a wise guy

"You're just using me for Scrabble!"  
-- Prof. House, for a triple word score

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu)



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn  
Another use for shaving cream: Abominable Snowmaaaan!