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Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Hanley speaks at open forum

Ryan Schultz
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Rose-Hulman played host to Thomas Hanley, Vice President and Professor of Chemical Engineering at Auburn University, one of the two final candidates for the position of President at Rose-Hulman. The auditorium was nearly filled to capacity with students, faculty, staff, and other institute personnel, all present to hear what the candidate had to say.

Hanley was an associate professor of chemical engineering and an assistant basketball coach at Rose-Hulman from 1979 – 1983. From Rose, he started working his way up in university administration, first at Louisiana Tech, then Florida State University/Florida A&M, the University of Louisville, and most recently at Auburn University.

To start the forum, Hanley revealed that although he had been questioned heavily during his visit here, he also had three major questions that he wanted to answer during his stay.

He wondered what the students were like at Rose. Were they the same as he remembered? “The one thing I remember most is that the students were talented. And [they] still are.”

He wondered how the facilities had changed since he last taught here 25 years ago. “I can’t tell you how impressed I am with the facilities.”

And he wondered how the social strata of Rose had changed, if at all. According to Hanley’s memory, it had not: “There’s no effective rank on campus.”

After he had finished revealing his opinion of the school to the audience, Hanley opened the floor to discussion. Questions came

from throughout the crowd.

The first question of the forum, asked by Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering David Mutchler, was, “You bring lots of interesting ideas with you to Rose; will they transfer to Rose and how?”

Hanley responded that he “actually did that backwards, I took Rose to Speed School,” where he was the Dean of Engineering.

In an answer to a follow-up question about how he would handle change, Hanley said that during his first few years here he would be adjusting to life on campus. He would let the system run and analyze ways in which it could be improved. From there, Hanley said that he would make changes, but would always make an effort to involve the people whom the changes would affect.

Throughout the presentation, Hanley emphasized the importance of academ-

ics. The father of a college sophomore himself, Hanley said, “I tell my son the number one priority is doing your best in academics.”

Dr. Hanley also addressed the future several times during his presentation. Lon Farr, a junior electrical engineering major who attended the forum, said that he was impressed by Hanley’s vision. “I liked his view on 2015. He seemed to be focused on how Rose can expand into the future.”

Another theme in Hanley’s speech was how to keep Rose competitive in the global market.

“We are going to have to compete on a global scale,” Hanley stated.

As to the candidate’s persona, Chris Casillas, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said that, “He seemed very outgoing towards making himself adjusted into the community and the people around him...the alumni as well.”



Christina Davis/ Rose Thorn
Thomas Hanley, the first of two candidates for the Presidency to speak at Rose-Hulman, answered questions from faculty and students Wednesday in Hatfield Hall.

Farr added, “Overall he seemed to be very personable. I was impressed how he remembered the underlying principles of Rose. It showed a lot how he took Rose’s community very seriously.”

Textbooks: “They’re outrageously expensive”

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Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

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978053438951	149.50
SUBTOTAL	\$409.50
TAX 6.000%	24.57
TOTAL	\$434.07
Mastercard	434.07

\$434.07

Alex Clerc
News Editor

“They’re outrageously expensive. I think I’ve spent over \$500 a term this year,” said sophomore Kenny Hurst.

“I think it’s terrible that you pay so much for a book and only use it for a quarter of a year,” said freshman Cory Salem.

“It bugs me when an expensive book is required only to do homework problems out of,” added junior Nathan Shomber.

All students interviewed think that textbooks are too expensive.

From the 1950s to the early 1980s, college textbooks cost an average of around \$60 in today’s currency. But starting in the mid 1980s, textbook prices began to steadily increase, reaching an average

price of over \$100 in 2004. The rising prices have shown no signs of slowing down: “Books generally go up a few dollars every year,” said Bookstore Manager Sheryl Fulk.

Many factors contribute to the rapid increase in the cost of college textbooks. One is a lack of price competition in the textbook industry. Once a professor chooses a book for a course, the students in that class have no choice but to buy the book. This gives the publishers a virtual monopoly on the students taking that course, so competitive pricing does not come into play.

“It would be different if I was able to say, ‘pick one of these three books to use for this class,’” said Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Mark Yoder.

The issue was even brought to Congress in a hearing led

by Representative Howard P. McKeon of California.

He and others claimed that the academic-publishing industry had insulated itself from traditional market forces to increase profit.

“If a student signs up for a class, they’re pretty much at the mercy of the publishers. It’s not like they have any other place to go,” said McKeon.

Another factor is the relatively small market for textbooks. Textbook publishers sell fewer books, so they must charge more per book to cover overhead costs.

“A graduate book may only sell a few thousand copies,” said Yoder.

Tom Robbins, a former employee of Prentice Hall publishing, agreed: “the cost of a physics textbook will always be more than that of a New York Times best seller.”

Additional costs include formatting, color artwork and printing, and a stringent editing process. Furthermore, publishers spend about 20% of all their revenue on marketing, including free copies of books for professors. Supplementary material for books is becoming more common, such as pre-made PowerPoint slides for lectures, CDs, or

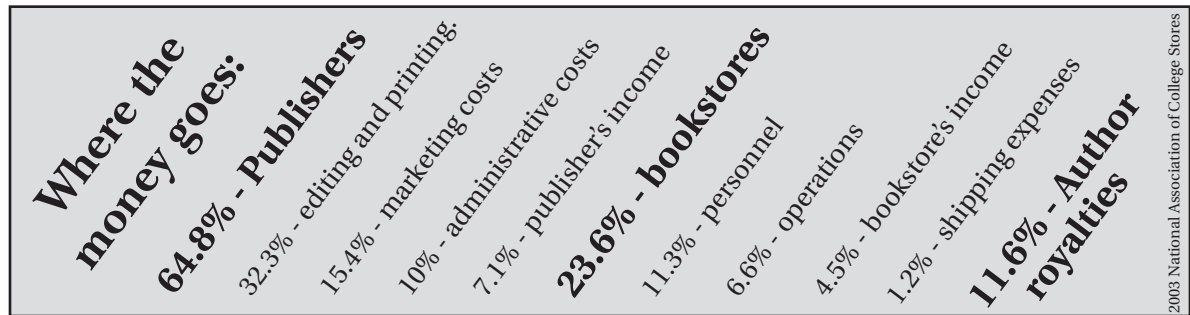
content on the web.

“I tend to doubt many of these supplements are worthwhile but are produced nonetheless to remain competitive,” said Robbins.

Finally, bookstore mark-ups add to the total price of the book. The Rose-Hulman Bookstore is owned and operated by Rose-Hulman and marks up books by 20%. The average bookstore markup nationally is 22.53%. The bookstore does not directly choose what textbooks to sell; instead, the professors choose the books for each class.

“To help out the students, we order as many used books as we can find,” said Fulk.

Used books can be sold at a much lower price than new books, but acquiring up-to-date used books is getting harder and harder because publishers are printing new editions of books at a faster rate. A study in 2004 by the California Student Public Interest Research Group found that the average release time between textbook editions is 3.8 years, regardless of whether the information has changed since the previous version.



News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
XBox 360 and InWIC	Mogwai's Beast, Webcomics, Belle and Sebastian	ARA redux, Bush kills us all, and Mohammed	Fans need to grow up	"It's not scatological."
Page 3	Pages 4-5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

Classifieds

Rose-doku

Jim Sedoff
Staff Writer

	R			ER	23	D	
		ER				RNA	B
		T		D	r		DNA
			B	T			r
	23					T	
DNA				R	D		
B		DNA		ER			
T	D				ER		
	RNA	23	R			DNA	

Level: Flora-ific

Solve the puzzle by filling in the blanks but be careful not repeat the symbols (**T, B, 23, R, r, DNA, ER, RNA** and **D**) vertically, horizontally or within the bold 3x3 sub-grid squares.

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PH112		0257/259/267
7-9pm		MA221
CHEM252		MA222
CHEM201		0167/169
8-10pm		8-10pm
MA112		ES202
MA113		O157/159
ES204		AB120
		O267
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Campus and Community Luncheon

Campus & Community Luncheon Series continues Wednesday, February 15, 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. at United Campus Ministries, 321 N 7th Street, Terre Haute. The theme of this semester's series is "The Nature of God." The topic of this presentation will be "The Nature of God: Relating to God" and will be presented by the Rev. Brian White, Pastor of United Methodist Temple. This is a brown bag lunch and discussion series. Students, faculty, staff, and community are all welcome.

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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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The *Rose Thorn* welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.

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.

News Briefs

By Ryan Schultz

The SUV of Olympic Torches

Even though the Winter Olympics haven't started yet (the opening ceremonies are tonight), controversy already surrounds the Games.

Contained in a 38-page report released by the WWF (the new name of the World Wildlife Fund) is a sharp criticism of the very symbol of the Games, the Torch. The WWF claimed that the torch will burn more than 3 million cubic meters of methane from the time it is ignited tonight to its extinguishing at the closing ceremonies.

The report also criticized the games for building brand-new bobsled runs and ski jumps on the sides of mountains, harming the local environment... especially when sites already exist in nearby France.

But the report was not all glum when it came to the games. The report roundly praised these Olympics for being the most environmentally friendly Games in history due to Torino's planned re-use of the facilities after the festivities have finished and the extensive use of clean public transportation to ferry both spectators and athletes.

New weapon to halt car chases

In Los Angeles, California, car chases are so common that the city has been dubbed "the car chase capital of the world" by CNN.

To stop these dangerous pursuits that put the lives of the officers, criminals, and innocent bystanders at risk, the Los Angeles Police Department has introduced a new high-tech weapon; an adhesive dart with a GPS beacon.

Police Chief William J. Bratton explained the benefits of the new weapon, "Instead of us pushing them doing 70 or 80 miles an hour, this device allows us not to have to pursue after the car. It allows us to start vectoring where the car is."

As to why there are so many car chases in LA, Chief Bratton had this to say: "There are a lot of nuts here."

Friday
Mostly Cloudy 40 Hi / 28 Lo
Saturday
Few Snow Showers / Wind 33 Hi / 23 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com

360 Recruiting

Benjamin Mann
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, February 8, representatives from Microsoft visited Rose-Hulman to try a new recruiting technique.

"It is a thing we have just recently begun to do," said Jill Jurenka, a representative present at the event.

What exactly is this new trend? Microsoft sent its employees from college to college with a handful of new Xbox 360s and an armload of prizes to host Halo 2 tournaments and do some recruiting on the side. Rose was their sixth stop this trip.

Several Xbox 360 consoles were set up in the Kahn Room for open play. Aside from the Halo 2 Tournament and a "Halo 2 practice area," six other games were set up so visitors could play at their leisure: Call of Duty 2, Kameo, Perfect Dark Zero, Project Gotham Racing 3, Tiger Woods PGA Tour 06, and Tony Hawk American Wasteland.

Microsoft provided free food, free drinks, free loot (like nerdy t-shirts), and blaring music. "The whole purpose is just for

all the students to come and relax," says Jeremy Briggs, another representative from Microsoft.

All the free play and swag aside, the main attraction was the Halo 2 tournament, with prizes including t-shirts, foam footballs embroidered with the Xbox 360 logo, and the grand prize of a \$50 Best Buy gift certificate. The game play included both team and free-for-all matches, stretched from classic "Slayer" to "Capture the Flag" to "Oddball" and included a wide assortment of playing fields so that the grand champion would need mad skill and versatility.

"Recruiting is not our main goal here," said Briggs. Microsoft's main goal was to raise awareness about the company using their newest console. Briggs continued, "There is so much technology in the Xbox 360. Over 20 groups came together to create this... obviously, the hardware and software developers, the marketing... the employment is so broad. Nine out of ten people who talk to me could probably find an area in Microsoft that he or she would be interested in."



Ken Meyer / Rose Thorn
Four students attempt to "pwn" each other playing Halo 2 at the Microsoft sponsored Xbox 360 event Wednesday.

Books, from Page 1

"It's pretty hard to conceive of any new developments in thermodynamics or linear circuits but each year more new books appear on these subjects," said Robbins. These new editions make used books obsolete and leave students with no choice but to buy the book new. Publishers justify the constant release of new editions with a need to stay current and to adjust teaching styles for a new generation of students.

Several Rose-Hulman professors have published textbooks, many of which are sold in the bookstore. Yoder, who co-authored *Signal Processing First*, uses his book in a class he teaches (ECE380: Discrete Time and Continuous Systems).

Yoder admitted that this could

be interpreted as a conflict of interest, but he has found a solution. "I take the profits and throw the class a pizza party," said Yoder.

The authors of college textbooks earn royalties on every textbook sold.

"The author typically gets 15% before the markup," said Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Bill Eccles, and author of *Microprocessor Systems: a 16-bit Approach*. While there are a few professors who make really good livings by writing textbooks that are very popular, most professors don't make great profits, noted Eccles.

"Dr. Eccles sometimes jokes that he was making about fifty cents an hour while he was working on his book," said Yoder. Yoder added that the money he

makes for his books isn't glamorous, either - "I couldn't retire on it," said Yoder.

As for what students can do to avoid high book prices, Robbins had a few recommendations.

"Don't buy a book until you're sure you need it. First try to borrow a copy from the library or a friend. Get recommendations from other students who have used the book. Some books are worth their weight in gold, while others aren't worth the paper they're printed on," said Robbins.

Students can also find copies of used books they need from other Rose students at SGA exchange (<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/SGA/exchange/>), an exchange forum set up by SGA last year.

Rose women attend computing campout

Frederick Webber
Staff Writer

The first weekend in February, Indiana women interested in computing gathered at a conference aptly known as Indiana Women in Computing (InWIC) which was held at McCormick's Creek State Park. Eight Rose students and professors attended the event.

"I was the honorary woman," joked Cary Laxer, Department Head of Computer Science and Software Engineering, who was the only man attending. Laxer served as the treasurer for the event. "It was to provide a forum for female students in computer disciplines," summarized Laxer. "To [help] build a network, to build a support group." Laxer

also noted his own department's gender gap. "We are way below even the Rose-Hulman average," he said.

The keynote speaker was Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering Lisa Kaczmarczyk. During her speech, Kaczmarczyk said she has heard female students say, "No matter how much I do, I don't feel successful enough." She wants these students to be successful. "Chase your passions," advised Kaczmarczyk.

Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering Archana Chidanandan organized an activity called Birds of a Feather. "The idea is to allow people who have a common interest to get together and talk." Some topics were

about various trends in technology, such as human interaction through the use of computers. "One of the topics was 'have you ever been phished before?'" said Chidanandan. Another discussed how to organize programs and meetings for women in smaller schools.

However, other groups discussed more serious social issues, such as experiences women have had as students or at work in computing professions.

"It's not one simple problem. I think it starts much earlier in high school, and you find you're the only girl in the class," explains Chidanandan, mentioning that some students thrive in that environment, while others do not. "You have to work doubly hard to prove to them that

you're as good as the rest," says Chidanandan.

Another event was Lightning Talks. "That was really good, because in about an hour's time, you'd heard at least 7 different topics," commented Chidanandan.

Sophomore computer science major Amanda Stephan presented a Lightning Talk that won the second place award. "Our presentation was about cooperation between schools and furthering of women in computing," explained Stephan. "I did the presentation with a friend of mine from Purdue." The two got together in high school, where they were some of the few girls in the computer classes.

Junior Sarah Hegeman, a computer engineering major, won

first place in the poster session.

Aside from InWIC, there are other organizations out to help close the gender gap in computer and engineering fields.

Stephan is the Vice President of Girls in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, known as gEECS. "We're trying to get more girls interested in computing at a younger age." Her friend is also starting one at Purdue.

These women aren't only into computers, though. On the first evening, "some people went caving, some people had ice cream," said Brittany McNeil, a sophomore computer science major. Some people even made 'geek' jewelry out of computer parts.

"The conference was a lot of fun. The whole inn was taken over by us," said Chidanandan.

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Out In Theatres

Curious George

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Directed by Mathew O'Callaghan

Rated G

Final Destination 3

Starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead

Directed by James Wong

Rated R

Firewall

Starring Harrison Ford

Directed by Richard Loncraine

Rated PG-13

The Pink Panther

Starring Steve Martin

Directed by Shawn Levy

Rated PG

Out on DVD

Elizabethtown

"Growing Pains" 1st Season

Out on CD

Belle and Sebastian - *The Life Pursuit*

Box Office Tops

1. *When a Stranger Calls*

2. *Big Momma's House 2*

3. *Nanny McPhee*

4. *Brokeback Moutain*

5. *Hoodwinked*

Don't dismiss *End of the Spear*

Phillip Becker
StaffWriter

I'll be up front with you. *End of the Spear* is a Christian movie. But whether it's Christian or not, it's still a movie and should be treated as such. But luckily, whether you're in love with Jesus or not, this movie is still pretty solid.

It is based on the story of a native Ecuadorian tribe called the Waodani. They were notorious for their excessive violence. Anthropologists who studied this tribe estimated that six of ten Waodani deaths were caused by homicide. They lived in a culture that revolved around killings followed by more killings. While we might remember ancestors for things they accomplished, they remembered family by how they were speared.

The story is centered around a missionary family. Their aim is to find the mysterious Waodani tribe and bring peace to them, through God's grace. The narrator of the story is Nate Saint's son, who watches as his father searches for and plans to make contact with the Waodani. When Nate finally does, he and four missionary friends land on a nearby beach and peacefully meet a few Waodani tribesmen.

When the tribesmen return to the tribe, there is a misunderstanding and the Waodani man who made contact says it was because "the foreigners" attacked him. So they do what Waodani do: they run down the missionaries and spear them.

The wives of the missionaries then approach the tribe, confident that the tribe wouldn't murder women on sight. They live among the Waodani with their children and administer medicine. Nate's son is their living among the Waodani with his mother, knowing that one of those men speared his father to death. Waodani tradition says that when a boy comes of age, he should go and spear the man who killed his father. So the pivotal Waodani character, Micayani, is always watching him with suspicion.

The movie has many powerful moments. The missionaries being speared is very dramatic. The film culminates with Nate's son coming face to face with the murderer of his father which is also a very gripping moment. These scenes, and a few more, really draw you into this story.

On the downside, this movie is clearly a low-budget production. It's handled well, except when it

So they do what the Waodani do: they run down the missionaries and spear them.

<http://www.hollywood.com/movies/gallery/id/3476361>
The Waodani tribe participating in their favorite pastime: mercilessly spearing people.

comes to some of the actors. A few of the minor actors feel like they were just guys from church who were excited to help with the film. The biggest travesty in the casting was the man who played Nate also playing Nate's son as an adult. And while they gave him a scruffy beard, it was easy to see through, and you spend a moment saying to yourself, "I can't believe that's the same guy..."

The director of this movie, Jim Hanon, captures the environment and the characters very well. I think this largely has to do with the fact he directed the

documentary on the same subject, "Beyond the Gates of Splendor." All the characters seem to capture their interviewed counterparts, and the film really becomes a narrative version of the true story.

Since this isn't the greatest movie ever made, I'm not going to recommend that you run out and watch it at this very moment. But it is a powerful story, and was presented very well. If you do have a chance to see it, you shouldn't blow it off as one of those "nutty Christian films." Instead, go ahead and give it a chance.

Belle and Sebastian still pretty

Mike Jones
Entertainment Editor

If there's one salient thing I can say about Belle and Sebastian's recently released *The Life Pursuit* it's that it's one of the prettiest albums I've heard for a while. From what I know about the band, "pretty" appears to be a common adjective used to describe all of their music. However, I'm actually not at all familiar with Belle and Sebastian's back catalogue, so you're getting a truly objective review, without expectations.

That being said, I can't say that I'm disappointed by *The Life Pursuit*. Belle and Sebastian are generally considered to be one of the best Scottish bands around, and I can hear where the praise is coming from. I won't say the album is a masterpiece, but it is certainly worth a listen, even if you aren't familiar with the band.

Nowhere is their ability to write sweet melodies more evident than in the album's highlight, "Dress up in you." Nothing is remotely abrasive. Drums are hushed, instrumentation sounds distant, and quaint piano and bass are the focus. Meanwhile, Stuart Murdoch's singing is very easy to swallow compared to some other places on *The Life Pursuit*.

Belle and Sebastian also hit the "sweet" mark with "Another Sunny Day." Murdoch's vocals are more prevalent as he sings about meeting an intriguing woman, and the eventual loss of feelings between them. "Another sunny day, I met you up in the garden. You were digging plants, I dug

<http://www.belleandsebastian.com/photo.php?gallery=live>
There's actually only 7 official members of Belle and Sebastian, but their music can require a little extra help from time to time.

you, beg your pardon".

Some of the tracks stray a little from the cute sound, but still succeed. "The Blues are Still Blue" and "Sukie and the Graveyard" are fun in a sort of a Partridge Family kind of way. An organ makes interesting appearances in both songs, along with a few other tracks. "Song for Sunshine" uses a funky bass effect to stand out from the rest of *The Life Pursuit*. The bridge breaks into a jam similar to My Morning Jacket's "Off the Record."

Most of the record sticks to pretty standard pop formulas. A few tracks get slightly more adventurous, though. "Act of the Apostle ii" changes times not just once but twice — not exactly a time-tested pop convention. Even so, it doesn't feel out of place on the album for two reasons. First, the instrumentation

from the rest of *The Life Pursuit* is still intact. More importantly, it's just a good song, and that always speaks for itself.

My only warning for new listeners is that Murdoch's vocals can take a few listens to get used to. He doesn't have a thick Scottish accent, but he tends to sing in a different style than you might be used to. A few songs in particular might bug you a little bit, including opener "Act of the Apostle" and "Funny Little Frog," which is probably the low point of the album with lines like "Honey, loving is the greatest thing. I get to be myself and I get to sing."

Belle and Sebastian have been slowly gaining n since *If You're Feeling Sinister* was released in 1996. Their rise to fame hasn't been hurried or abrasive, which is the only way music like theirs should be spread.

Indie's fire is dying

By Heather Seebach
The Diamondback
(U. Maryland)

Imagine this movie pitch: Harrison Ford portrays an average working man thrust into danger when his family is taken hostage. Sound familiar? It should, since Ford has played the role so many times.

In Richard Loncraine's *Firewall*, the 63-year-old actor is up to his old tricks with mediocre results. Ford portrays Jack Ryan ... wait, I mean, Jack Stanfield, the head of cyber security for a major bank. At home, he has a devoted wife, Beth (Virginia Madsen), and two children. Life is good for Jack until he meets businessman Bill Cox (Paul Bettany) who turns out to be a criminal mastermind.

Cox and a team of armed thugs hold the Stanfield family hostage until Jack helps them electronically rob the bank he works for. Unbeknownst to the kidnappers, the bank is undergoing a merger and even Jack cannot access the money without bypassing sophisticated anti-theft software. Under constant surveillance, Jack must devise a way to hack into the bank's accounts, save his family and clear his name.

If you enjoy this kind of tired plot line, you will not be disappointed. The movie packs enough guns, computer gadgets and explosions to satisfy most action film fans. Realism, however, is another issue entirely — like when Jack uses his daughter's iPod to electronically steal millions of dollars. Even

some of the movie's scenery looks fake, leading me to wonder if Loncraine blew the entire budget on Ford's salary.

Flaws aside, *Firewall* satisfies as a popcorn movie. The film abandons its potential to be a riveting high-tech caper about the dangers of relying on technology and instead sticks to what it knows: action. It maintains a fairly strong hold on the audience right up until its final moments, which are just plain silly.

One-trick pony Ford is sufficient as Jack Stanfield, but the weariness that comes with age definitely shows. Gone are the wit and charm that made him famous in the days of Han Solo, replaced now with a grumpy old man. As Jack's wife, Madsen is good but underused.

The film's best performance easily comes from Paul Bettany, who nails the charming-but-deadly persona of Cox, an otherwise stock movie villain. This bad guy is not only suave but smarter than the hero, for once. Bettany's ruthless performance has me hoping there is truth to the rumors he will play the Joker in the next *Batman* film.

Firewall offers nothing new with Loncraine sticking to a recycled formula. There is enough tension and occasional humor to entertain most filmgoers. If you are willing to suspend disbelief for a bit, you can find the fun in *Firewall*. If not, go rent *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and reminisce about a time when Ford had no problem taking on Nazis, let alone a few hackers with guns.

Mogwai's *Beast* is boundless, indefinable

By Rachel Dingfelder
The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh)

Walk to class and listen to this album. Let it mingle with your dreams. Study to it. Drink to it (alone). Make out to it — with your best friend. Any of these circumstances are equally ideal for this boundless and indefinable album. If translated into infinite particles, Mogwai and its new album, *Mr Beast*, could permeate all facets of life and human thought. This might sound like a radical view, but just ask any Mogwai fan. He'll tell you.

But if you like your Mogwai songs to travel unexpectedly from quiet to loud to quiet (and perhaps loud again) in the usual fashion of the Glasgow-based band, don't be disenchanted by this album. Mogwai has chosen either the loud or soft end of the audio continuum for the new songs, and, when possible, move delicately into different volumes of noise — basically, no song on *Mr Beast* will pull you out of Stage 2 of sleep like "Like Herod" from *Young Team*. As much as you may doubt the possibility that Mogwai can be the same band without

these wild, abrupt changes, don't worry. The other side of the overturned leaf is very, very good.

In a Matador Records interview, Guitarist Stuart Braithwaite said that his band, thinking that its sound was getting a little cliché, made a conscious effort to break that formula. This is huge for a band like Mogwai, who some people actually think started that whole sound — pounding the quiet dewdrops of a piano with a sudden swarm of guitars. That mood of tension that Mogwai so perfectly creates still exists in the latest album, but *Mr Beast* is impossible to place in any one situation, mood, season or setting, making it an album for all times and all feats.

Although the music's temper and its position in the art world is difficult to define, Mogwai, whose name means "ghost" in Chinese, uses some pretty typical instruments on this mostly instrumental album: Guitars, drums, drum machines, bass, vocals and keyboards. Only three of the songs use vocals, and there aren't any ethereal spoken-word recordings like on other albums.

Many of the songs are heavier

and structured completely differently than they might have been on previous albums, and much of the songwriting is slightly more conservative than usual; specifically, the transitions between rhythms and volumes in the songs are more natural and less intense. On many songs, Mogwai will begin with quieter guitar-plucking, layer in more instrumentals with drums and then rock full-force. One of the reasons the musicians changed their sound, according to the Matador interview, is because they enjoy playing the harder stuff live. The album blends rock 'n' roll and sheer ambiance with more abstract noise rock akin to their older material and bands like Explosions in the Sky, Tarentel and Godspeed You! Black Emperor.

The album's first track, "Auto Rock," eases into the album quietly with a piano and then builds into a repetitive but powerful mantra of drums, guitar and piano. The next track, "Glasgow Mega-Snake" is much more rocking with orchestral guitars; this song is considerably louder and darker than lots of the others, and groans with raw tension. The second-to-last track, "We're No Here," rocks out with a



<http://www.playinginfo.com/portraits/mogwai.jpg>
Mogwai are well known for playing one of the loudest live shows in all of music.

similar intensity.

One of the best songs, the multi-layered "Travel is Dangerous," features Braithwaite on vocals, but his voice is blended into the music in a very Appleseed Cast fashion — delicate and restrained. Another good one is "Folk Death 95," where Mogwai builds up the instrumentals from quiet, frosty guitars to a wild, layered zenith, after which the song mellows out little by little.

There's an occasional tendency to label certain albums as winter albums or summer albums, but *Mr Beast* is suited for all seasons and all places. From a functionalist perspective, it's the ultimate album for our needs and desires. If that's true, you don't need anything else right now more than you need Mogwai. Hands down, this is Mogwai's finest attempt and quite possibly one of the best albums in its genre.

http://catandgirl.com/extras/catgirl_large_girl.gif
Dorothy Gambrell also does the web comics *The New Adventures of Death* and *The Ralph Bunche*.

Cat and Girl witty, but nice

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

"I like security cameras. It's like I'm on TV!"

There are two kinds of web comics: those that are funny, and those that are witty. *Cat and Girl*, by Dorothy Gambrell, is one of the latter. Available Tuesdays and Fridays at catandgirl.com, the comic strip doesn't have punch lines as much as wry comments on society.

Cat and Girl features a paint-eating cat and a hipster girl, rendered in minimalist black, white, and gray. The comic shows them as they generally drift by interesting events and comment dryly on them. They go to elementary school, sell "Hipster Scout" cook-

ies, and are just so darn ironic about being ironic that it's, well... ironic.

Some days, I read the comic, and I love the point-counterpoint of pretentious culture and crazed non-sequitur. Other days, ten panels of philosophical discourse followed by a comment on a skeeball trophy feels self-indulgent, the kind of web comic *Penny Arcade* satirizes with their characters Twisp and Catsby. You can't criticize it; the comic says it's not *for* critics.

In the end, though, I read it biweekly. Where else can I get a comic about a band called The Upper-Middle Class singing about Nina Totenberg?

"Well, I saw her face... now I read *The Believer*..."

Sarah.

Amanda.

Lori.

Roommate's ex-girlfriend.

Beth.

Rachel.

Amy.

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The food service Cold War



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

Sometimes it seems that one of the most popular things to complain about at Rose is the ARA. Whether it is the quality of the food, the meal plan options, or the hours it's open, most of the student body seems to share the need to grumble about it, yet no one ever advances any plausible solutions to this conundrum besides profound statements like, "Make better food."

Well, never fear, for I have the answer to all of these problems.

After much careful thought, I decided that applying good old capitalism to this situation would remedy many of the most common complaints. Therefore, I propose this: let the ARA face a little competition.

The nature of the meal plan options at Rose suggests that Aramark has some kind of contract with the institute, allowing it to be the only food service on campus. Even Subway, the only food franchise on campus, is governed by the same entity that runs the ARA and Worx. Furthermore, Rose requires the purchase of a meal plan for every student who lives in any dorm on campus (with the exception of Skinner, which can only hold so many residents). Doesn't this seem a little fishy? Shouldn't a food service be confident enough in its capabilities that it could withstand the free choice of its customers?

In addition, available meal plan options are quite limited, especially early in a student's career here. Even upperclassmen living in the Apartments must purchase large meal plans, with the smallest being 80 meals a quarter. That's still eight meals a week! In an ideal world, students would be able to decide how few meals they would want to eat. And if this is impossible, then a student should be able to choose not to have a meal plan at all and just buy meals at the desk as they go.

Releasing the ARA's monopolistic stranglehold on the food ser-

vice options at Rose could only benefit the students. First of all, opening the playing field up for competition would make prices lower for students because opposing businesses would fight for our money. Plus, a second food service could follow a more economical serving format, such as offering a pay-by-item policy where you only pay for the specific food items you pick up, allowing you to control the amount you pay for each meal.

The quality of the food and service would perceivably increase, because discriminating students

would now have the option of choosing whichever eatery they felt served them best, and the businesses would have to adjust their practices accordingly to remain competitive.

There are, of course, space issues on campus with this plan, as well as the possible loss of whatever money Rose collects from granting exclusive food service rights to Aramark. However, I believe that a little variety and competition would go a long way in stimulating a more positive sentiment towards food service in the student body. Furthermore, it only seems fair that students should be able to choose whether or not they wish to eat at a place of business such as the ARA. Capitalism won the Cold War, and it can solve the food service complaints on campus as well.

(Image from <http://www.users.tsn.cc/cxs/capitalism.jpg>)



Playing with fire

Alex Clerc
News Editor

A set of controversial cartoons depicting the prophet Mohammed has sparked deadly riots across the Muslim world. The most popular targets of these riots have been European or, most recently, American embassies in nearly every Muslim country from Lebanon to Indonesia.

The cartoon that has caused the most outrage depicts Mohammed with a bomb-shaped turban. As I understand it, this is offensive on at least two levels. Firstly, Muslims never depict Mohammed in any way – most agree that doing so would be against the Koran. Secondly, the cartoon mocks the holiest prophet in all of Islam.

I'm sure that the average Rose student would agree that riots, destruction, and murder in response to a cartoon is wrong (understatement). But if I spent this whole piece saying that the Muslim world overreacted, I'd probably be preaching to the choir.

I'd rather say that what these

European newspapers did was completely out of line. The editors of those papers knew that this cartoon was extremely offensive, but printed it anyways, claiming they had the right to freedom of the press.

Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should do it. The newspapers had every right to publish this cartoon, but that doesn't change the fact that it was an extremely stupid thing to do.

Remember the subway bombings in London? Or perhaps the riots in France? Especially in France's case, the Muslims involved committed violent acts in response to a society that refused to welcome them. Discrimination against Muslims is a big problem in Europe, and publishing such a blasphemous cartoon is another slap in the face that the Muslim community has to endure. And as recent history has shown, the Muslim community in Europe won't always endure such hardships with quiet patience.

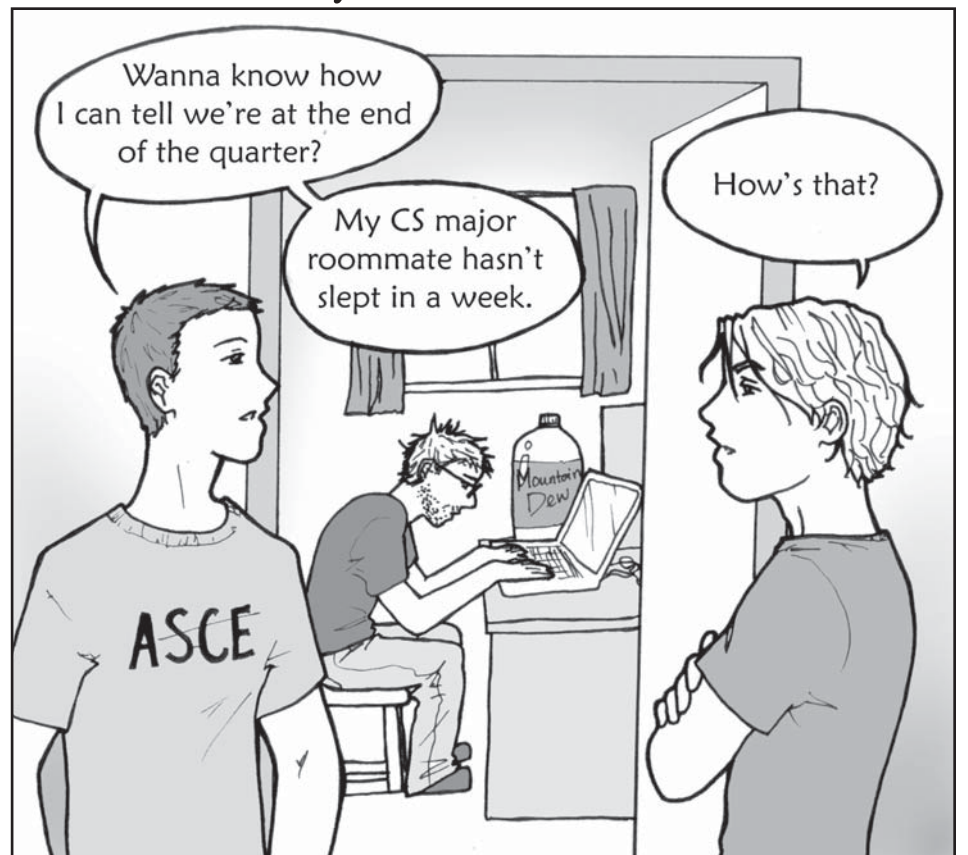
Finally, the cartoonist, who

chose to comment on Islam by defaming their holiest prophet, could have gotten his point across through an infinite number of infinitely more tactful alternatives. Why couldn't he have used Osama bin Laden or a member of Hamas in his cartoons?

Western society as a whole has a hard time understanding Islam and our foreign relations with the Muslim world is constantly strained. But if we can at least have the decency to restrain ourselves from blaspheming Islam's holiest of holies, things will get better. If instead we play with fire, we'll all just end up getting burned.

1000 Words

by Erin Hudson



Write in as long as it's not about [REDACTED]

e-mail:

opinions@rose-hulman.edu

Alito is sending us backward

Jon Ogilvie
Staff Writer

With Monday's confirmation of Supreme Court Nominee Samuel Alito by a vote of 58-42, the Bush administration has locked its sights on turning back time. After a filibuster attempt by twenty-five brave Democrats inevitably failed, the former conservative Reagan administration lawyer and 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals judge became Justice Samuel Alito. While qualified in a legal sense, with decades of experience in the court system, it is not his qualifications that are so troubling: it is the decisions which he has made during his tenure on the 3rd Circuit Court and prior to that as a Reagan-era Justice Department lawyer.

Alito's confirmation in place of the moderate many-time swing vote Sandra Day O'Connor gives the Supreme Court a dangerous shift to the right. He has a record of voting in favor of the govern-

ment and large businesses over civil liberties. There is nothing to show that he would not support a Unitary Executive; that is, far less restriction to the power of the Executive branch relative to Congress and the Courts. With the seizure of power by the Executive that is already taking place, the last thing we need is a Supreme Court willing to grant still more.

This does not bode well for America. If the President keeps us "at war," either with another country or with "terror," then he will continue to claim wartime powers in defense of our country, and Alito will continue to grant them.

Justice Alito has ruled in favor

of the illegal strip search of a ten-year-old girl by police in the context of a house search, a decision that did not agree with the scope of the warrant. The bodies of the persons in the house were not addressed by the warrant, and law enforcement must always err on the side of caution and civil liberties when performing searches granted by warrants, lest we become a police state.

As a lawyer for Reagan's Justice Department, he produced a memo detailing a strategy for weakening the controversial Roe v. Wade decision of 1973. He proposed attacking small details and clauses one at a time to get them overturned and never actually

confronting Roe v. Wade head on.

This death-by-a-thousand-razor-blades strategy was the only way he could see to overturn something he personally believed to be decidedly in error. It seems that the only reason that one could not challenge the decision head on would be that a substantial challenge could not be mounted. Therefore, circumventing the law in order to nullify it seemed the only way to impose the Reagan administration's ideological values on the people, who wouldn't agree. In fact, according to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll conducted two weeks ago, 66% say Roe should not be overturned.

A member of the controversial "Concerned Alumni of Princeton" group, notorious for its advocacy of setting and retaining strict limits on the numbers of minorities and women admitted to Princeton, his stances on minorities do not bode well either. His views on equality and Constitutional justice apparently only apply to affluent white

males, of which he himself is one.

Alito also failed to recuse himself from a case involving a company in which he had invested nearly half a million of his own dollars. He sat and ruled in favor of such a company on a case involving Vanguard, with which he had \$390,000 invested. When the plaintiff complained, Alito's boss stepped in and vacated his opinion on the case. During his confirmation hearing, he was questioned about it, and skirted the question; he was then directly asked if he would recuse himself from any further cases involving Vanguard, and did not, in fact, say that he would.

The integrity of America's justice system has just been heavily compromised, and the hands of the clock are beginning to wind backwards as a dictatorship begins to form. Roe v. Wade comes undone, women, minorities, and defendants are denied rights, and judicial conflicts of interest have no bearing. Alito's America is not my America. Not by a long shot.



<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/>
President Bush and his judicial time machine.

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

Steelers win Super Bowl

The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday in Super Bowl XL. The Steelers were led by Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward to a 21-10 victory.

Saints to play in New Orleans

The National Football League announced on Sunday that the New Orleans Saints will play their September 24th home game against the Atlanta Falcons at the Superdome in New Orleans.

Tocchet accused in gambling ring

Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet was accused of financing a nationwide gambling ring that took bets from current players. Tocchet was granted an indefinite leave of absence on Wednesday by NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

NBC gets Michaels

NBC received Al Michaels' contract from Disney on Thursday. In return, Disney received coverage of Ryder Cup golf events, the rights to the cartoon character "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit", and Olympics coverage.

Badgers roll past Hoosiers

The Wisconsin Badgers beat the Indiana Hoosiers on Wednesday night by a score of 72-54. The Badgers were led by a 29-point performance by Alando Tucker.

Fans need to grow up

Bill Waite
Copy Editor

During the women's basketball game last Friday, our fans were ruthless. Early in the first half, Rhodes senior Taylor Cook shot an airball, and the crowd never let her forget it. The crowd yelled "airball" every time Cook touched the ball, even after she started hitting her shots. If fans were already busy chanting "defense", they stopped the chant to harass Cook.

"I've honestly never been taunted like that in my life, and I've been playing basketball for as long as I can remember," said Cook.

I couldn't believe that our fans would stop in the middle of a cheer just to taunt one player, and their behavior killed our home field advantage. Whenever the crowd started getting into the game, Rhodes would pass the ball to Cook and stop the crowd's momentum.

Our fans wasted most of their energy taunting a player who wouldn't have played her best game anyway: "It rattled me at first, but I'm my harshest critic and after I airballed the first shot I knew my shooting was going to be off," said Cook.

The crowd's fixa-

tion on Cook hurt Rose-Hulman's chances, possibly costing us the game, and fans *did not care*. They weren't trying to help our team; they were yelling "airball" to settle a petty grudge against Ken Meyer. After Ken wrote an article against taunting a few weeks ago, fans reacted with anger. The *Rose Thorn* received several letters encouraging fans to yell "airball" to support our teams, but that message was lost on Friday night's crowd, who interpreted the letters as a license to be jackasses.

I have no problem with taunting an opponent to help your team, but taunting a girl just to piss off Ken Meyer is pathetic. Rose-Hulman fans have never acted like this before, and I hope they never act like this again. The next time you're at a game, don't be a jackass, and don't take out your aggression on your own team. Just show up, watch the game, and cheer.



<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/sports/facilitiesath.htm>
Taunting at the Rhodes game may have cost us our home-court advantage.

Karras resigns as head football coach

Rose Hulman News

Head football coach Ted Karras, Jr., has announced his resignation in order to accept the head coaching position at Marian College (Ind.).

Karras compiled a record of 14-16 and a winning percentage of .467 (fourth best in school history) in his three years at the helm of the Fightin' Engineers. His efforts included a pair of 5-5 seasons, the best two records for Rose-Hulman football since 1995, and National Rookie Coach of the Year honors from d3football.com in 2003.

Offensive coordinator Steve Englehart will serve as interim head coach for recruiting purposes while the head coaching vacancy is being filled.

Karras helped lead Rose-Hulman to a 5-5 record in its final season of Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference play in 2005. The Engineers will move to the

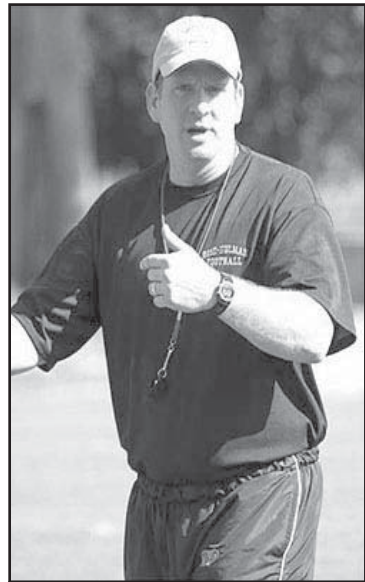
Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference next fall.

Karras will serve as the first head football coach at Marian, and Engineer defensive coordinator Marty Mathis has resigned to serve as Marian's first assistant coach. The Knights will take the

gridiron for the first time in the fall of 2007 and are currently beginning the recruiting process.

"We appreciate the efforts that Ted Karras and Marty Mathis have made to help the Rose-Hulman football program show significant improvement during the last three years. We wish them nothing but the best, and have confidence that will enjoy success at Marian," said Rose-Hulman athletic director Jeff Jenkins.

Prior to his three seasons at Rose-Hulman, Karras served as offensive coordinator at St. Xavier University for four years and the head football coach at Andean High School from 1996-98.



Rose Hulman News
Ted Karras recorded the fourth-best winning percentage in school history

Rose basketball squads roll past Hendrix

Women go on a 25-2 run to top Hendrix

Rose Hulman News

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology relied on a 25-2 second-half spurt to turn a 10-point deficit into a 78-68 victory over Hendrix College in women's basketball action on Sunday at Hulbert Arena.

The Engineers trailed 55-45 with 12:34 remaining after a three-pointer by Cacey Smith. Rose-Hulman responded with a flurry that lifted the Engineers to a 13-point advantage at 70-57 with 59 seconds left.

Junior Rebekah Forsyth paced four Rose-Hulman players in double figures with 24 points and 13 rebounds. Junior Suzy Carlson added 20 points, four rebounds and four assists.

Other Rose-Hulman players in double figures included junior Jill Floyd (Farmerburg/N. Central) with 14 points and senior Anna Guy with 10. Freshman Lindsey Reichle added eight points for the Engineers.

The game marked Senior Day for Guy, who has started all 98 games of her Rose-Hulman ca-

reer. She moved into fourth place on the Engineer all-time scoring list with 1,013 points during the win.

Tori Huggins led the Hendrix attack with 23 points, while Smith pitched in with 18. Kyra Schachmut contributed 11 points and Bonnie Hicks scored 10 for the Lady Warriors.

Hendrix led by as many as 11 points in the first half before earning a 42-37 edge at the break.

The Lady Warriors shot 62% from the field and 71% from three-point range in the opening 20 minutes.

Rose-Hulman's defense stepped up in the second half, however, holding Hendrix to just 29% from the field and burying 20 of 23 tosses from the charity stripe on the offensive end.

The Engineers improved to 12-9 on the season and 5-6 in conference play, while Hendrix dropped to

15-7 and 5-6 in league contests. Rose-Hulman travels to Sewanee and Centre next weekend and needs one victory to secure the first winning season in program history.



Rose Hulman News
Anna Guy had 10 points and five rebounds in her Senior Day performance.

Balanced attack puts men past Hendrix

Rose Hulman News

The men's basketball put all five starters in double figures for the second straight game as the Engineers defeat Hendrix College 82-77 Sunday afternoon in the Hulbert Arena.

Senior Brennan Dunville led the way with a career high 23 points, eight rebounds and a pair of steals, leading the team in all three categories. Senior Munchie Muskeyvalley scored 18 points for the Engineers, while freshman Lorenzo Rice tallied 14 points.

Junior Jason Bednarko and sophomore Jared Moore scored 11 and 10 points respectively, rounding out the starting five. Moore, Muskeyvalley and Bednarko led the team with three assists apiece.

After losing the initial tip-off, the Engineers struck first with a jumper in the paint from Dunville. Rose-Hulman built to that lead, accumulating a ten point, 11-1 lead off a Bednarko three.

The Hendrix Warriors battled back to a two point deficit, with a score of 13-11, but the Engineers built their lead further bringing the score to 28-19 on a three point shot from Rice, with 6:41 left in the half. Hendrix came back once again, this time taking the lead on a three from Matt Secrease of the Warriors.

After a back and forth battle between a small Hendrix lead

and a tie game, the Engineers took the lead by one on a Muskeyvalley free throw, 37-36 with eight seconds left in the game. But with two seconds left Ryan Wible of Hendrix dropped a pair of free throws giving the Warriors a 38-37 lead walking into the locker room at halftime.

A jumper by Dunville in the first thirty seconds of the second half gave the Engineers the lead back, at 39-38. The lead exchanged hands eight more times

in the next six minutes with neither team holding a lead of any more than two, until three free throws by Bednarko gave Rose-Hulman a four point lead.

Rose-Hulman built to the lead with the largest lead at six for the rest of the game at 80-74. A pair of free throws by Muskeyvalley put the final score at 82-77. The Engineers return to basketball action at conference foe, University of the South this Friday at 9 p.m. - Eastern time.



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The Rose Thorn

FLIP SIDE

Volume 41, Issue 17

Doing our best not to offend your delicate sensibilities

Friday, February 10, 2006

This Day in History

In 1763, the French and Indian War ends with yet another Treaty of Paris. Turns out the French and Indians lost. Who would have thought?

In Addition

According to our out-of-court settlement, we are required to inform you that the Flipside may be hazardous to your health. Please speak to your doctor about any sudden pain.

Fanfic dangers

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Ever think you just can't get enough of Wolverine's hot, adamantium-laced, well-muscled chest? Wish you could slowly peel Spiderman's clingy Spandex off of him, inch by glorious inch? You can't actually peel any Spi-dey-Spandex, but you can read about it. Oh, yes. I'm talking about fan fiction.

Harry Potter and Ron Weasley showing one another "friendly" affection. Wolverine ignoring Rogue's underage status to show us all how a *real* man would handle a girl—not like that popsicle from the movie.

Trust me, it's all been written about, and it's all available on the Internet. Some even have pictures, and while I'm sure Vin Diesel is well-built, the artifacts in the image prove that his Diesel Engine has been exaggerated. Just a bit.

The authors of this art post on fanfiction.net and cover Tripod pages with hip-shaking Cyclopes. Pshaw. Like that's how he would dance. *I* know my X-Men canon.

This is dangerous stuff, though. You find one interesting—I mean appalling. So you find what that author reads. After you read that one, it's horrible Photoshops of Will Smith in Wild Wild West garb.

The next thing you know, you haven't studied, your final starts in ten minutes, you haven't showered in days, and—worst of all—you're imagining Hermoine Granger, Professor X, and Lois Lane picnicking nude on Deep Space 9 in the middle of Luke Skywalker's destruction of the Death Star.

Dangerous.



Facial Hair February Photo Contest

Does the lust for fame among your peers haunt your waking dreams? Good news!

Photographs of the three most impressively bearded people participating in Facial Hair February will be printed on the first Flipside of Spring Quarter. No cheating!

Send 'em in to
flipside@rose-hulman.edu!

Wacky Prof Quotes

"If you get the pens wrong, the world ends... I'm killing the world!"
-- Prof. Butske, killing the world

"I saw it when it first came out. It was like being there for the Civil War."
-- Prof. Chenoweth, living history

"So you say to the guy, 'Nice pile of skulls.'"
-- Prof. Ferro, on skull etiquette

"If you would've raised your hand, I would've hacked it off."
-- Prof. Ferguson, encouraging participation

"Let's have relations!"
-- Prof. Evans, hitting on her students

"Homogenizationizing."
-- Prof. Martensen, making up words

"This is not about punishing the workers. It's about torturing them."
-- Prof. Ferro, the bourgeois pig

"Do I like my hair this long? Are you crazy? My head is too hot and I can't think!"
-- Prof. Livesay, overheating

"Don't do it, or you'll start down the road to the Dark Side."
-- Prof. McMurdy, on skipping class

"All right! I love illegal data, my favorite!"
-- Prof. Chenoweth, breaking the rules

"I love this kind of cheating 'cuz it's not really illegal."
-- Prof. Livesay, skirting the edge

"Old people are actually measured by their proximity to death."
-- Prof. House, who we figure has eighty years

"You need some hair on your chest no matter what your gender is, and this will give it to you."
-- Prof. Inlow, ensuring hairiness

"That Dilbert guy is kinda a pervert anyway."
-- Prof. Lugenbiehl, on the vagaries of cartoon characters

"Don't do it, or you'll start down the road to the Dark Side."
-- Prof. McMurdy, on skipping class

"You know, people have thought of better ways to commit suicide than this."
-- Prof. Mottel, helping end life's eternal torment

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

The tearful advice of John Dullard

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

Well, needless to say, John Dullard's super bowl party was a disaster. But I'm a soldier. I won't let that keep me down. I just keep on rolling, although it appears I have an arch-nemesis.

The day started like any other day. I woke up. I reset my alarm to give me another 10 minutes so I could eke out as much sleep as possible. I took a shower that was 10 minutes too long, because I dozed off. Then I ran to the ARA to compensate for time lost due to sleep.

I dropped my backpack, removed my coat, and had my card swiped like any other day. I grabbed a fork, I grabbed a knife, and then I grabbed a spoon. Finally, I grabbed a tray.

And not *any* tray. *The* tray. A tray like no other tray ever experienced. It lifted off the stack like a tissue from a Kleenex box. It glided swiftly through the air as a swan glides through the water. A sharp rap revealed it was as sturdy as an ox. There wasn't a drop of water on it, and its natural gloss reflected my uncombed head and nappy February Facial Hair. This tray made all other trays seem... inadequate.

I stepped up to Lucie's station to order myself the usual omelet. I slowly caressed the tray as I waited. Its smooth surface was like candy for my fingertips. As one man's omelet was done, I shifted down the trays in front of me, to make room for new omelet orderers. Those other trays were like sandpaper that grated against my very soul.

But then, being the expert omelet-orderer that I am, I went to grab my accompanying bowl of cereal as my omelet was folded over on itself. I came back to the line with my full bowl of Frosted Flakes and paused for a moment. Had I been cut in line? How did this tray with Fruit Loops get in front of mine? Then, as I realized my tray had been swiped, the owner of the Fruit Loops came back to stand by his ill-gotten tray. I glared at him. He turned to me and smiled that smile of innocence that only the most vile of villains can smile. I had been robbed.

And all day, that man managed to be in my classes. At first, when he noticed me he would offer me a friendly smile and nod. Using a trick I picked up during my time with the last remnants of the Ancient Greek Amazons, I smiled back. Soon his friendly nods and smiles were replaced with a look of awkwardness. He knew I was glaring. He knew.

But, the tray! Will I ever know this tray again? I need advice on coping with the loss of a tray so perfect. Please, *please*, send your advice!

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

Top ten geek Valentine's messages

David Chen
Staff Writer

Alex Clerc
News Editor

10. You fascinate me more than the Fundamental Theorem of the Calculus.

9. We're as compatible as two similar Power Macintoshes.

8. Let's convert our potential energy to kinetic energy.

7. How about you and I go back to my place and form a covalent bond?

6. You and I would add up better than a Riemann sum.

5. You're sweeter than glucose.

4. Why don't you spend some time with me; since like the inverse of the period in seconds is the frequency in Hertz, the longer you spend with me, the less frequently you want to be away from me.

3. Your body has the nicest arc length I've ever seen.

2. You're hotter than a Bunsen burner set to full power!

1. My love for you is like a concave up function, because it is always increasing.

STUDY BUDDY

A need for change

clothes on this campus. I myself am wearing this shirt for the third time this week, and I think I remember changing my jeans last time around Christmas. My sock supply ran dry a few days ago.

Job interviews can be rough, especially when the job you're interviewing for is Rose-Hulman president. It can be especially difficult to find an issue to speak on that really resonates with the student body.

So, presidential candidates, if you really want to be our president, I think I have just the issue you need to win over the hearts of Rose-Hulman. If there's one issue that burns and seethes within us all, it is this: the desire for change machines in the laundry rooms.

A crippling lack of quarters is causing a crippling lack of clean

United States Mint image

What the hell is that?

ing for decades for a president bold enough to bring us change machines. If you can offer us change machines, I'd say you're a shoo-in for president. Even better, if you make the washers and dryers free of charge, you're a shoo-in for campus deity.