

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

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THE ROSE THORN

Vol. 33, No. 25

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Friday, May 1, 1998

Rose Show an entertaining educational experience

by Vu Thu Pham
Thorn News Reporter

The 70th Annual Rose Show will begin at 11 a.m. campus-wide Saturday. The Rose Show is hosted in conjunction with Family Day so that the families of the Rose-Hulman community can have a little peek into the academic lives of their sons and daughters.

This wonderful event, organized annually by Blue Key, boasts a variety of displays and activities provided by all the academic departments, as well as clubs and organizations on campus.

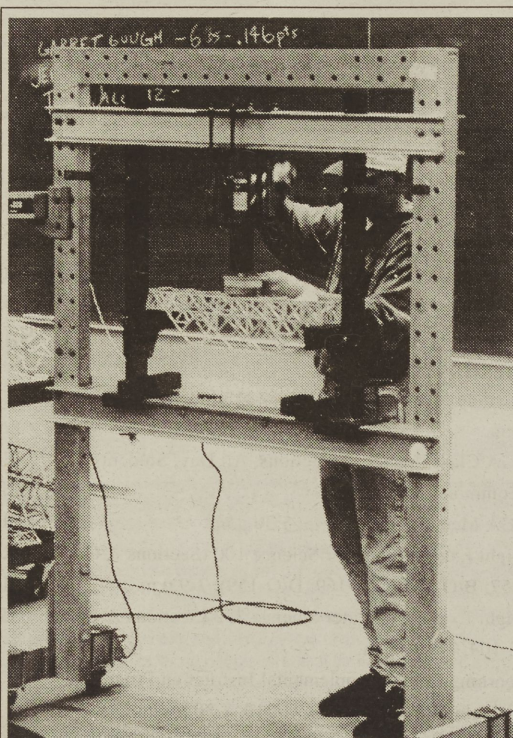
The Show will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. During this period, families can tour the campus and visit several laboratories from each academic department. Some special highlights of this year's program include the dedication of the Cecil Lobo Memorial Steel Sculpture by the civil engineering department at noon and the poster presentation by the chemistry department.

Rose-Hulman family members can also visit clubs and organizations, which will have displays set up throughout campus.

Visitors may come to the Alpha Chi Sigma booth in front of the chemistry department to make slime and silly putty or see the large setup of the model railroad in the lobby of Olin Advanced Learning Center.

The Solar Phantom team will show people the car that earned fifth place in last summer's competition. The SCUBA Club will also be present on the first floor of Hadley Hall. Rose bands will provide music for the event with a concert at the Root Quadrangle from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These and many other booths will be scattered throughout campus.

Families are recommended to stop by the Alpha Phi



A student at previous Rose Show prepares his bridge for the bridge building competition.

Photo courtesy of Public Relations Office

Omega Flower Sale located in Hadley Hall Lobby from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Society of Women Engineers will also have their raffle in Hadley Hall.

For volleyball enthusiasts, the Sigma Nu fraternity will present Volleybash '98, which will run from 9 a.m. to dusk on the sand volleyball courts.

If walking becomes a tiresome experience, family members can stop by the Art Nehf Field and settle down for a baseball game. The Rose baseball team will play against Anderson University at 1 p.m.

Visitors who are not in the mood for sporting events can enjoy an afternoon of comedy.

The Drama Club will host a musical matinee of their spring production, "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)," a stage version of the 1959 comedy with the same title starring Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe. The curtain rises at 2:30 p.m.

Two new events will begin at the Rose Show this year. Instead of the mouse trap cars seen in previous years, this year the mechanical engineering department will host the Electric Powered Car Races at 10:30 a.m. in the SRC. The other new event is Explore Engineering's Rube Goldberg Contest. The competition begins at 1 p.m. in Moench Hall near the GM room. The new contest is between teams of middle and high school students who made machines that do multiple mechanical steps before accomplishing their main goal, such as turning on a light bulb or turning a page in a book.

With so many activities occurring on campus this weekend, it would be unfortunate to miss out on such a learning experience. All members of the Rose community and their families are encouraged to come out and enjoy the events.

Olin roof needs replacement

by Kevin Kaminski
Thorn News Reporter

The buckets collecting water from the leaky roof of Olin Hall will hopefully be a thing of the past soon. The Olin roof is scheduled to be replaced by the end of this summer.

Wayne Spary, director of facilities, explained that the Board of Trustees was approached in February requesting funds to finance a roof replacement. Money for the replacement had not been budgeted, so the endeavor needed to be financed outside of

the normal budget before the project could commence. Spary estimated that total project costs for the replacement would be \$200,000. The Board granted the funding request.

Spary believes the source of the leak is the horizontal single portion of the Olin roof. He explained that water trickles down the peaked roof and onto the horizontal surface. Spary expressed that since the sloped roof is made of slate, the roof replacement will not be a simple task.

According to Spary, work will

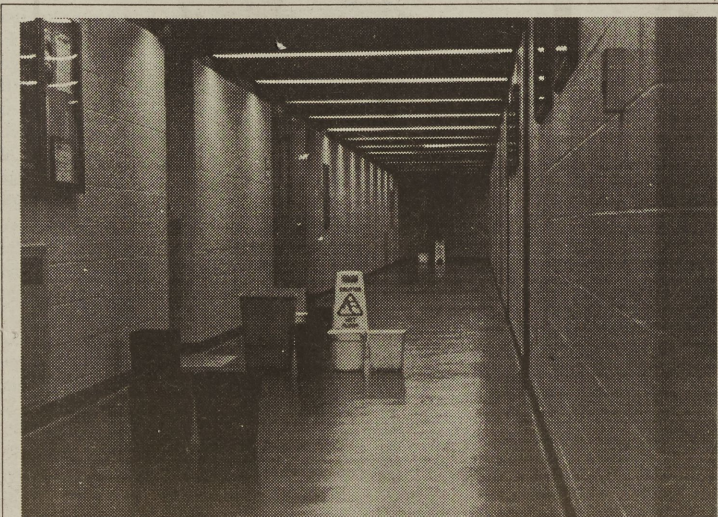
be completed on the roof replacement this summer. He estimates the project will take approximately six weeks to finish. No bids have yet been sought from contractors to begin the repair.

The roof replacement will be a permanent and cost-effective fix for the leaky roof problem. Spary said the installers will provide a guarantee of their workmanship, ensuring that the new roof will be leak-free.

Over the past several years, Spary said that despite the efforts of his department, the leaks always returned after a patching. Spary commented that the number of leaks varied from four or five to a dozen at any one time.

Spary estimated that \$35,000 has been spent in the past three years in futile attempts to repair the roof by patching.

Spary explained, "We would stop one leak, and another one would start somewhere...We have to replace [the roof]. It's the only way to solve the problem."



Buckets currently line the hallway in Olin to combat the numerous leaks in the roof. The roof is scheduled to be replaced by the end of the summer.

Photo by John Straigis

Recent thefts cause security concerns

by Craig Pohlman
Thorn News Reporter

Last Friday, three vehicles were broken into in the Moench parking lot. The intrusions occurred at night during the performance of the Rose drama production "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)."

One vehicle, belonging to Rose-Hulman student Rob Raque, had a window smashed in.

"They took my CDs that were inside, but not the CD player," Raque stated.

Raque was involved in the drama production at the time of the incident. The other two vehicle owners were unknown at the time of this publication.

Due to the open nature of the Rose-Hulman campus, the opportunity easily exists for criminals to take advantage of the Rose community.

Last Thursday, a residence hall night-host spotted a suspicious vehicle with its engine running in the upper-class parking lot.

While security does patrol the campus on a very regular basis every night, the possibility of criminal

activity is real and everyone should take precautions to prevent further criminal activity from occurring.

Crime has struck the campus several times this school year. During Thanksgiving break, three laptops were stolen from Speed Hall. In early December, a total of eleven vehicles were broken into one weekend. Over Christmas break, the Theta Xi house was also broken into. The recurrence of break-ins should remind the community to be more aware.

A new Safety and Security publication, "The Informant," recently described the situation that Rose-Hulman campus now faces. As Rose-Hulman continues to grow, the opportunity and occurrences of crime will continue to increase and students should be on the lookout for suspicious activity and persons.

Anything out of the ordinary should be reported immediately to Safety and Security so that action can be taken as soon as possible. Looking out for each other is a definite priority and crucial in maintaining the safety and openness that Rose-Hulman has had for many years.

Family Weekend Schedule
See Campus Events
on page 2

Saturday, May 2

- Bookstore Open, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Omega Spring Flower Sale, Hadley Hall Lobby, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 70th Annual Rose Show, Throughout Campus, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Music Concert, Root Quadrangle, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Dedication of Cecil Lobo Memorial Steel Sculpture, ASCE Plaza (North of Olin Hall), Noon

Family Day Activities

- Parents' Association Cookout, Fieldhouse, Sports and Recreation Center, 1-2 p.m.
- Baseball, Anderson University, Art Nehf Field, 1 p.m. (Broadcast On WJSH-AM, 1300)
- Drama Club Musical Matinee, "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)," Moench Hall Auditorium, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

This Weekend

Friday, May 1

- Thesis Defense, "Theoretical And Experimental System Identification Of A Model Helicopter And Design Of A Flight Control System," Ralf Brandt, B-108, 9 a.m.
- Drama Club Musical, "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)," Moench Hall Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- Delta Sigma Phi Basketball Marathon, Sports and Recreation Center, Starts At 7 p.m. (Through 7 p.m. Saturday)
- Golf, at ICAC Championships, Crawfordsville, Ind.
- JV Baseball, Lakeland College, Art Nehf Field, 11 a.m. (DH)

Saturday, May 2

Family Day / Rose Show

- Bookstore Open, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Alpha Phi Omega Spring Flower Sale, Hadley Hall Lobby, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 70th Annual Rose Show, Throughout Campus, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Music Concert, Root Quadrangle, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Dedication of Cecil Lobo Memorial Steel Sculpture, ASCE Plaza (North of Olin Hall), Noon
- Parents' Association Cookout, Fieldhouse, Sports and Recreation Center, 1-2 p.m.
- Baseball, Anderson University, Art Nehf Field, 1 p.m. (Broadcast On WJSH-AM, 1300)
- Drama Club Musical Matinee, "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)," Moench Hall Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.
- Drama Club Musical, "Some Like It Hot (Sugar)," Moench Hall Auditorium, 8 p.m.
- Sigma Nu Volleybash '98, Sand Volleyball Courts, 9 a.m. to Dusk
- ASCE Charity Golf Tournament, Idle Creek Golf Course, 2 p.m.
- Honors & Awards Banquet, Vonderschmitt Dining Room, Hulman Union, 5 p.m.
- Golf, at ICAC Championships, Crawfordsville, Ind.

May 3 - May 9

Sunday, May 3

- Greek Games, Throughout Campus, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Sigma Nu Volleybash '98, Sand Volleyball Courts, Throughout Day
- Baseball, Fontbonne College, Art Nehf Field, 1 p.m. (Broadcast On WJSH-AM, 1300)
- Learning Center Supplemental Instruction Program: IFYCSEM, O-257, 7-9 p.m.
- Review Study Session For Computer Science 100, O-267 / O-269, 7-9 p.m.

May 3- May 9 (continued)

Monday, May 4

- Mathematics Colloquium, "Some Studies Of Independence," Dane Wu of Pacific Lutheran University, G-317, 3:25 p.m.
- Learning Center Supplemental Instruction Program: Physics III (All Sections), BL-114, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- Review Study Session For Computer Science 100, O-257/O-259, 4-6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 5

- Institute Meeting, Kahn Rooms, Hulman Union, 4:30 p.m.
- SGA Class President Elections, All Day, Student Commons Area
- SGA Meeting, GM Room, 5:30 p.m.
- Night Exam, Computer Science 100 (Sections A/O-157; B/O-167; C/O-169; D/O-159), 7-9 p.m.
- Night Exam, Computer Science 332 (Sections A-C), E-104, 7-8:30 p.m.
- Learning Center Supplemental Instruction Program: Calculus III (Klebanoff), G-310, 7:30-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6

- President's Administrative Council, Faculty/Staff Dining Room, 8 a.m.
- Spring Sports Banquet, Vonderschmitt Dining Room, Hulman Union, 7:45 p.m.
- Learning Center Supplemental Instruction Program: Physics III (All Sections), BL-114, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; IFYCSEM, O-257, 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, May 7

- Learning Center Supplemental Instruction Program: Calculus III (Klebanoff), G-310, 7:30-9 p.m.

Friday, May 8

- Thesis Defense, "Testing For A Suitable Biomaterial To Serve As An Encapsulation Material For A Subcutaneously Implanted Glucose Sensor," Brian Cahill, G-313, 10:30 a.m.
- Baseball, ICAC Tournament, Site To Be Determined

May 3 - May 9 (continued)

- Thesis Defense, "Ultraviolet, Visible, And Near-Infrared Laser Induced Fluorescence Of Limestone," Joseph Bezouska, A-202, 2:30 p.m.
- Men's Tennis, at NCAA Division III Regional, Greencastle, 9:30 a.m.
- Men's & Women's Track, at Midwest Classic, Bloomington, 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 9

- Second Annual Science Rose Bowl, Throughout Campus, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Society of Women Engineers' Girl Scout Science/Engineering Day, Kahn Room, 9 a.m. to noon
- Baseball, ICAC Tournament, Site To Be Determined
- Thesis Defense, "Algal Turf Scrubber Nitrogen Remediation," Christopher Hintz, O-205, 1 p.m.
- Men's Tennis, at NCAA Division III Regional, Greencastle, 9:30 a.m.

Submissions To Campus Events

Events may be published in *Campus Events* by any organization or individual. Information on club meetings, lectures/speeches, and athletic events, including announcements of times and locations may be submitted to *Campus Calendar*, in care of Dale Long, associate director of communications, at Box 14 or extension 8418. More detailed articles containing plans, agendas, and specific information should be submitted to the *Rose Thorn*.

All submissions must be made by Wednesday, at noon, in order to be published in *Campus Events* in the *Rose Thorn* on Friday.

Graduates, reward yourself with a Pontiac!

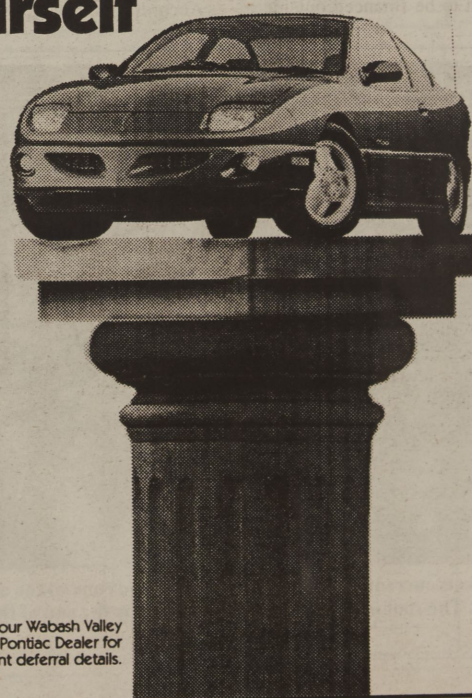
Grads get \$400 off from Pontiac!

1500 years ago Euripides declared, "In every work, a reward makes the pleasure twice as great." Old Euri must have been thinking of a 1998 Pontiac from your Wabash Valley Pontiac Dealer, the perfect reward for your hard work in college! Now your local Pontiac dealer makes it more affordable with the GM College Grad Program:

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*See your Wabash Valley Pontiac Dealer for payment deferral details.

Unity group working to obtain official club status

by Kevin Kaminski
Thorn News Reporter

Unity, the Rose-Hulman Gay, Bisexual, Lesbian, and Straight Alliance, petitioned the Student Affairs Committee for recognition as an official club last Wednesday, April 22.

Kevin Gaither, a senior chemistry major, is the founder and president of Unity. Gaither explained that he participated in the meeting with the Student Affairs Committee last week. According to Gaither, the meeting took about 35 minutes. During that time, the student and faculty members of the committee asked several questions regarding the constitution, future events for the club, and plans for the group's future. Gaither explained the group is currently awaiting word from the Student Affairs Committee as to whether or not the club has been approved as an official club.

Dr. Phillip Cornwell, associate professor of mechanical engineering, is the chairman of the Student Affairs Committee. Some roles of the committee include granting recognition to newly organized student groups and approving changes in the constitutions of student organizations.

Cornwell stressed that a club with "unofficial" status is not hindered from holding meetings or existing on campus. He expressed that the opposite is true. "As groups are forming, we would like them to show they're viable and...they're meeting prior to becoming an official group," Cornwell explained.

According to Cornwell, the process a group must undergo to become an officially recognized club has several steps. First, the group contacts Cornwell to initiate the process. Cornwell said the group must have a constitution to proceed. Cornwell circulates copies of the constitution to the other committee members. Next, the committee schedules a meeting and invites a member of the group to the meeting. The group member is present in order to answer questions and clarify topics relating to the group

and their constitution. The committee then discusses the issue and deliberates. Finally, the committee votes on whether or not to grant the group official club status.

Cornwell explained that there is not a predetermined set of criteria the committee uses to determine whether or not a group should be given official status.

There are several things the committee considers before making a decision, according to Cornwell. He explained a group should be a student-initiated, student-administered, and student-run club. In addition, he

Gaither wanted to ensure the organization had a strong foundation. He explained that he met with some of the people who suggested the club's formation to determine not only what such an organization could do for the members, but also what the club could provide to the Rose community as a whole.

Gaither said he started gathering information about the procedures for becoming an official club, and he began drafting a constitution. Gaither explained, "Writing the constitution helped us make our ideas concrete and gave us something to drive for."

Affairs committee will choose to recognize Unity as an official club. Gaither feels that "[not granting approval] makes it look like Rose-Hulman does not even acknowledge the existence of homosexuality here at Rose-Hulman and that has, I think, some very troubling consequences attached to it. Making the group official does not say homosexuality is right or it is wrong, it says simply that we are here. By not making it official, I believe it will send a very wrong message to people that they are alone, and they're most definitely not."

Gaither said if the club is approved

Gaither related the need for Unity's presence on campus to his own experience in coming to terms with his sexuality. "It's been a very long battle. Not only did I have to be able to admit to myself that I'm gay, I had to deal with the repercussions from various students, faculty, community, and family. It's amazing how much this really does affect a person. That's why there needs to be someplace where people can go to talk about these things in an informal format, which is exactly what Unity is. It's informal; you can talk about anything. By pooling [together] people who support GBL issues, they can pool the experience...and support from other people and help them realize that they're not alone and it's possible to get through it and come out stronger than ever before."

He elaborated, "I think the group will help people [by acting as] a life-preserver to hang onto during troubling times and have people to go to when they need help."

Gaither said the club will also offer services to the Rose community. For example, in the future volunteers from the club may serve on a panel to answer questions from a class that is discussing issues relating to the GBL community.

For the remainder of the year, the club will be working toward planning events for next year, Gaither explained. Unity plans to hold a movie and pizza night for the entire Rose community on Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. in the GM Room. Gaither said if they have official status, the club may also participate in the activities fair in order to promote the club to incoming freshman next year.

Unity meetings are held every Tuesday in the Student Union. For specific information, interested people may call x5013. To dial from off campus, call 877-1511 and request extension 5013. This number provides a means for obtaining information on meetings and a medium for expressing questions, comments, and concerns about the group.

"['Unity'] states exactly what the group is about: uniting all these people together [to] support issues of sexual orientation and identity, support their GBL friends in the Rose community or anywhere, and also to serve as an outlet for those people who feel strongly about the oppression, repression, and discrimination that GBL people feel on a daily basis."

said sufficient interest among students should be shown for the club. Another concern for the committee is the appropriateness for the group on campus. Cornwell stressed that none of the criteria he listed are firmly established, but they provide a means for helping to determine the viability of a club that is requesting "approved" status.

Unity began forming in November or December of 1997, explained Gaither, when a group of students and an anonymous faculty member contacted him in the hopes of him setting up a gay, bisexual, and lesbian (GBL) organization at Rose-Hulman. Gaither said he originally thought about organizing such a club on campus at the beginning of the school year but decided against it. That group of people convinced him that it was an important issue and he decided to do it.

Gaither elaborated, "['Unity'] states exactly what the group is about: uniting all these people together [to] support issues of sexual orientation and identity, support their GBL friends in the Rose community or anywhere, and also to serve as an outlet for those people who feel strongly about the oppression, repression, and discrimination that GBL people feel on a daily basis."

Unity is currently cooperating with Indiana State University's Alliance of Bisexual, Lesbian, and Gay Students and Allies (ABLGSA) and WTWO Channel 2 News in order to counteract some negative publicity for the gay community that may result from a recent news story. Gaither stressed that while Unity may be cooperating in some ventures with ABLGSA, Unity is not connected to the ISU club.

Gaither is optimistic the Student

as an official club, the members will continue to progress in organizing the club. Members are currently seeking a faculty advisor. Gaither remarked, "I really think the group needs a strong faculty/staff backbone."

Gaither is confident the group will survive even if it isn't recognized as an official club. He feels the club provides a valuable service to the Rose community. "Even if I didn't go to the group, just knowing it was there would help a lot," Gaither remarked.

The club has received support from various members of the Rose and Terre Haute communities, according to Gaither. He received e-mail from some faculty members stating that although they would be unable to act as advisors, they support the club and are willing to help in other ways. Gaither said the club also has received an anonymous monetary donation.

ASCE unveils steel sculpture

by James Tedrick
ASCE Chapter Secretary

A great professor and long-time member of Rose will be honored posthumously this Saturday, as the civil engineering department and the Rose-Hulman student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) dedicate the Cecil T. Lobo Memorial Steel Sculpture at noon.

Dr. Lobo was a professor of civil engineering at Rose for more than 30 years. In addition to his faculty position, he was also the faculty advisor for the Student Chapter of the ASCE for 27 years. During that span, he received the Zone II faculty advisor award in 1995, and the chapter received many awards, including the Zone II Vice-Presidential Award, declaring it one of the five best chapters in the country. Unfortunately, Dr. Lobo did not live to see his students receive that award. On May 20, 1997, after visiting the annual ASCE spring picnic, Dr. Lobo suffered a massive heart attack and passed away.

Shortly before his death, Dr. Lobo began working on a project to bring an educational steel sculpture onto campus. This sculpture, of a design sponsored by the American Institute for Steel Construction, provides an opportunity to educate students in joint types as well as

add to the aesthetics of campus.

This fall, the civil engineering students took it upon themselves to accomplish Dr. Lobo's dream. Brent Nemeth, former president of the newly renamed Cecil T. Lobo Student Chapter of ASCE, served as project chair.

"This was a completely student-run project. From surveying the site to placing the structure, to the design and fabrication of the members, to the construction of the plaza, it was all accomplished by student labor," stated Nemeth.

Students volunteered to work on the sculpture and were then broken into groups. The groups were tasked with the design of a section, and later the construction of that section according to the schedule devised by the student coordinators.

In addition to providing the students with an opportunity to design, the construction also presented a unique experience. Eric Haenlein, a sophomore civil engineer, said, "I thought it was really nice to have a hands-on, out of the classroom experience. You can talk about design, but to actually do it and then build the result was fun."

The steel for the project, as well as a location to work on the sculpture, were both donated. Benchmark Steel, a long-time supporter

of the ASCE steel bridge contest, allowed the project the use of their facility for fabrication and assembly.

The project started in November. Before winter break in mid-December, groups were given their tasks and the preliminary schedule. Actual construction started in January, and the sculpture was completed within four and a half months. The final plaza design was selected in February, and most of the activity in April concentrated on its construction just north of the Olin Hall Materials Laboratory. The plaza is a circle designed to complement the existing layout of Root Quadrangle, with sidewalks connecting it with the paths in Root. The sculpture will arrive and be placed in the plaza today.

The sculpture will be dedicated Saturday at noon, the climax of ASCE's schedule for Family Day. Before the dedication, there will be a statics display in Olin Hall, and the freshmen's balsa wood bridge busting contest. After the dedication and lunch, there is a concrete cylinder contest. In each contest the students must design and submit their own entries. Finally, at 2 p.m., ASCE is sponsoring a golf tournament for the Wabash Valley Chapter of Habitat for Humanity at Idle Creek Golf Course.

It's onset can be so subtle you don't notice it.

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DON'T RECOGNIZE IT.**

Depression strikes millions indiscriminately. Depression is MOST dangerous when it goes unrecognized. Always be aware of the threat, and don't always believe everything you feel.

**UNTREATED
DEPRESSION**
#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAIVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

CLASS PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

VOTE

**ANDREW
DAVIS
FOR**

JR. CLASS PRESIDENT

THIS TUESDAY, MAY 5

SGA announces student leaders for March and April

by Nick Hurlburt
SGA Publicity Director

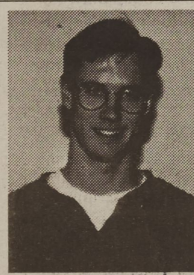
The student leader of the month is a Rose-Hulman student nominated by a faculty or staff member and chosen by the SGA President for leadership and service in the Rose-Hulman community. This March's student leader is Brett Kleeberger, and the April student leader is Michael Dean.

Brett Kleeberger has shown leadership in many ways at Rose-Hulman. He has served the campus through a Sophomore Advisor position, and is a valued member of the school's varsity soccer team. However, this award is given primarily in recognition of Brett's outstanding efforts as Pledge Educator for Triangle Fraternity. In response to pledges' concerns about drinking, Brett organized a program for the pledge class on alcohol aware-

ness, stressing respect for others' choices and personal responsibility.

Following Brett is the April student leader, Michael Dean. As SGA President, Dean accomplished a number of major improvements inside SGA and for the benefit of the student body. His Executive Council initiated the "Senator of the Week" award to recognize outstanding contributions of Senate members. The SGA also co-sponsored the first-ever "Evening with Industry" dinner with the Career Services office under his direction. Dean also brought motivational speaker Marlon Smith to Rose-Hulman for a successful convocation event.

Both of these students exemplify leadership and service to others through their involvement in campus organizations. The SGA is proud to honor them by this award.



Brett Kleeberger
(left), SGA student leader of the month for March.



Michael Dean
(right), SGA student leader of the month for April.

SGA class president elections next Tuesday

by Nick Hurlburt
SGA Publicity Director

Next Tuesday, May 5, elections for class presidents will be held in the Moench Commons. The winners of these elections will be representing their class in the Student Government and will be in charge of budgets for any class activities. There are four candidates for sophomore class president: Kris Chaney, Dan Costenaro, Timothy Moy, and Brian Smith; two for junior class president: John Basler and Andy Davis; and two for senior class president: Brian Leyes and John Rivard.

Kris Chaney is currently the treasurer for the Alpha Tau Omega pledge class. He has held leadership positions such as National Honor Society president in high school and captain of his high school basketball team. His goals if elected are "to provide a fresh outlook on pertinent issues and to organize at least one class activity during the year."

"I love making new friends and try my best to support them and help out as much as possible. As your class president, I will continue to administer these efforts, supporting your voice and helping to better the issues that concern you," says Dan Costenaro. Dan wants to express class-oriented concerns and conduct a successful class activity as sophomore class president. He has been chosen as a sophomore advisor for next year.

The current freshman class president is Timothy Moy. Tim also is the athletics chairman for Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, has recently been elected vice-president of SAB and has been hired for a sophomore advisor position. Tim believes he can do well in the position because, "I'm a hard worker and will work hard to make the class a better class. I think the class needs to relax at times and

have some fun and I will try to do that."

Last but not least is Brian Smith. Brian held several leadership positions in high school, including student body treasurer and student body vice-president. He has attended several leadership camps and clinics, and has competed regularly in public speaking. Brian's main goal is "to keep my class better informed of the decisions made by student government, therefore making it easier for everyone to take part in those decisions." He would also sponsor more recreational activities for his class.

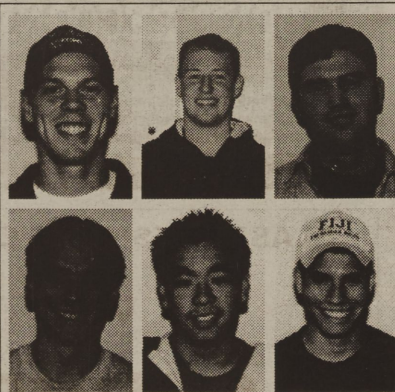
John "Boz" Basler is a candidate

increase in class-sponsored events. I would like to encourage more involvement in class events and in student government along with other campus events." He would like to hold large events that would encourage more student interest than in the past.

Brian Leyes is a candidate for senior class president. He has been active in Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity as pledge educator, house manager, rush chairman, and a member of the judicial committee. Brian has held many leadership positions, and feels that he can benefit the SGA. Brian feels he excels at organizing and planning activities, and remarks that, "My only goal for the year would be to plan and organize events and activities that would bring the senior class together. Whether it be a picnic, a senior trip, social service activities, or sports tournaments ... I want to give the senior class a memorable final year at Rose."

The other candidate for senior class president is John Rivard. John is currently the executive secretary for Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and a member of the varsity track and field team. In the past he has been an SGA senator for two years and has been a sophomore advisor. John says, "My goal is to get a more united class," and has such ideas as a senior tent at football games, senior drawings at basketball games, a campus improvement project by seniors, and class trips. John feels that with his knowledge and experience "I can be an effective representation of the senior class. I will fit in great with the new, enthusiastic SGA." And at the end of the year, "A killer picnic, maybe with a good band."

Be sure to vote for your new class president next Tuesday, May 5 in the



Row 1 (L to R): John Rivard, Brian Leyes, and Andrew Davis. Row 2 (L to R): Dan Costenaro, Tim Moy, and Brian Smith. Not pictured: John Basler and Kris Chaney

for Junior Class President. Boz is the treasurer for Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, and in the past was junior vice president in high school. If elected, his goals are "to become more familiar with the junior class" and "to make a major difference with the way SGA relates to students." He would also like to put on a function for the class. Andrew Davis is the current sophomore class president and is also the chairman of the SGA Special Events Committee. "If elected," says Davis, "I would like to see an

National and world news briefs

by Vu Thu Pham
and Alex Song
Thorn News Reporters

Friday, April 24

- Amelle Simpson, O.J. Simpson's 29-year-old daughter, was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving after her vehicle crashed through the window of an apartment building in Beverly Hills.

- Richard Mies, a navy submarine commander, was nominated by President Clinton to the post of Strategic Commander for the U.S. nuclear arsenal. Mies will be in charge of planning for potential nuclear confrontation, and does analytical studies for strategic nuclear policy as well as arms control matters. He is awaiting Senate confirmation.

Sunday, April 26

- Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien arrived in Cuba for an historic meeting with Fidel Castro. This is the first visit by the head of a Western government to Cuba since Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's trip in 1986. Canada does not have an embargo on Cuba like the US. The meeting set up a political rift between the U.S. and Canada.

Monday, April 27

- The new Volkswagen Beetle sustained the least amount of damage of any small car in a slow-speed crash test conducted for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The new Beetle's performance is the best in a slow-speed test since the 1981 Ford Escort, which sustained no damage whatsoever at 5 m.p.h.

- A Japanese court decided that the government must pay \$2,300 each to three South Korean women who were forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during WWII. Until now, the Japanese government has refused to pay direct compensation to an estimated quarter million sex slaves, claiming peace treaties after the war had settled the issue.

- The Navy named its newest submarine the USS Jimmy Carter, honoring the 39th President of the United States. The 353-foot-long submarine is currently under construction and is scheduled to join the fleet in 2001.

- Bitter over a dispute for custody with his wife, Larry Froistad murdered his daughter in 1995 by burning down the house with the girl trapped inside. He was arrested by Bowman, N.D. police after he confessed in a message he posted on the Internet.

Tuesday, April 28

- The Supreme Court ruled that federal judges have the power to sentence drug offenders as they see fit. The new ruling causes many concerns over racial injustice.

- Sixteen-year-old Erin Belcher gave birth to four baby girls without using fertility drugs.

Wednesday, April 29

- Tibetan activist Thupten Ngodup died after suffering severe burns when he set himself ablaze on Monday to protest police intervention of a 6-week-long hunger strike over China's rule of Tibet.

- In a 3-0 vote, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the public and news media have no constitutional right to view any execution.

Thursday, April 30

- IBP Inc. Plant in Joslin, IL must recall 280,000 pounds of ground-beef after the Agriculture Department found contaminated E. coli in the meat.

- Clinton gave his first news conference of the year boasting the nation's strong economy and praising Senate approval for NATO expansion. The news media was more interested in his personal life stories, which Clinton spent most of the hour brushing aside.

Delta Sigma Phi members play basketball for charity

by Alex Song
Thorn News Reporter

This Friday and Saturday, the members of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity will be conducting their annual 24-hour basketball marathon to benefit the March of Dimes. The basketball marathon has been an annual tradition of the fraternity for more than 15 years, with last year's event bringing in close to \$2,000 to the charity.

According to sophomore mechanical engineering major Brandon Marcum, engineering and leadership director for the fraternity, each of the 78 Delta Sigma Phi fraternity brothers will participate in the event sometime during the 24 hours, rotating in and out on an hourly basis.

The games will last one hour each, with typically five people per team. Marcum sees the event as primarily non-competitive; shown in some of the creative team match-ups that have occurred in past years, which include "Brothers vs. Girlfriends," "Students vs. Faculty," and "Fatman vs. Skinnyman" games. DJ's will provide music for the duration of the event. According to Josh Martin, freshman computer engineering major and activities director for Delta Sigma Phi, the money for charity comes from selling raffle tickets. Anyone may enter the raffle by making guesses on the final combined score of all teams during the 24-hour event. Tickets can be purchased for 50 cents per guess, or 3 guesses for a dollar. Last year the grand total came to be 2230 points after 24 hours of playing.

After the final combined score is tallied up, drawings will take place, with the ticket holders of

the 70 closest guesses winning prizes. Included among the 70 prizes are an Alpine car stereo system, limousine service for a night, gift certificates from area restaurants, and sporting equipment. The prizes, some of which will be on display during the basketball games, are all donations from local area businesses.

According to Marcum, if people wish to play during the event it would be best to schedule a game ahead of time, but it is not necessary to do so. "You can probably pretty much just show up on Saturday and be able to play," commented Marcum.

Anyone who is interested may sign up to participate by contacting Josh Martin, Delta Sigma Phi activities director. "It's open to the public, so anyone who wants to is invited to come down and watch....There's going to be music, basketball, and a whole lot of fun and it's for a good cause," explained Martin.

Raffle tickets for the event are currently being sold. Tickets can be purchased from any Delta Sigma Phi member, but the tickets must be bought by 6 p.m. today. The Delta Sigma Phi basketball marathon will be held in the SRC from 6 p.m. on Friday, May 1, until 6 p.m. Saturday, May 2.

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7:15 & 9:15 R

UNL physicists' work may provide stronger batteries

By Hui Chin Lim
Daily Nebraskan

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb. -- Even the coldest Nebraska winters could be powerless to weaken car batteries, thanks to some UNL physics researchers.

Led by Stephen Ducharme, the researchers are working to create a cold-proof electric storage device called a capacitor.

"The device called the capacitor is better than a battery in the sense that it works even in cold temperature," said Ducharme, an associate physics and astronomy professor.

A capacitor will be possible when UNL researchers finish developing the perfect crystal in a joint effort with researchers from the Institute of Crystallography in Moscow's Russian Academy of Sciences.

Such a perfect crystal, defined by its ultra-thinness, could lead to many significant innovations.

The crystalline structure being studied to create the perfect crystal consists of single-layered polymer films and is the result of five years of collaborative research between American

and Russian physicists.

This polymer material has existed for about 30 years, but research remains in early stages. Many engineering questions have yet to be answered.

Ducharme said he discovered the crystal project partly by accident about three years ago while working on another project.

He started developing the idea of an ultra-thin polymer film after meeting with Russian colleagues Vladimir Fradkin and Alexander Bune five years ago.

Although the car capacitor seems most promising, it's not the only advancement possible should the colleagues' breakthrough polymer research succeed.

Ducharme said the polymer also is extremely useful for information storage, because it is a lot faster to retrieve information from it than crystalline systems being used now.

Batteries also could become more efficient.

"The electrical storage capacity of batteries and capacitors depends on the surface area and

thinness of materials," Ducharme said.

Thinner materials would allow the manufacture of lighter-weight batteries and other energy storage devices.

According to Ducharme's theory, if the polymer film could be made 10 times thinner, it would produce 100 times more energy.

Should he finish creating the perfect crystal, it wouldn't be Ducharme's first patented success.

His most prominent is a patent on an optical device called an ellipsometer that tests material surfaces.

The device, created in collaboration with the J.A. Woollam Company in Lincoln, was a university project with NASA to invent an instrument to study the degradation of surface materials for shuttles in space.

UNL senior physics major Shawn Peibly said Ducharme's intensity keeps everyone on his research team focused and motivated to find the perfect crystal.

"Professor Ducharme is very dedicated to his job, and this makes him a success."

Amendment would abolish preferences in college admissions

Rebecca Wasieleski
Badger Herald (U. Wisconsin)

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis. -- The Riggs Amendment, a proposed addition to the Higher Education Act prohibiting preferential treatment in university admission procedures nationwide, is up for debate before the U.S. House of Representatives this week.

Introduced by Rep. Frank Riggs, R-California, the amendment would prohibit all federally funded universities from mentioning race, ethnicity or gender in the application and admissions processes.

Jenny Simon, coordinator of Associated Students of Madison's Higher Education campaign, said that if passed, Riggs' amendment would prohibit UW System schools from achieving their diversity goals.

"We could recruit minorities, but would also have to give the same treatment to white students. So it wouldn't increase diversity at all," Simon said.

In a letter to each of Wisconsin's nine U.S. representatives, UW System President Katherine C. Lyall urged them to oppose the amendment.

"Adoption of Rep. Riggs' amendment would set back our

efforts to provide equal educational opportunity on UW campuses," Lyall wrote. "Federal legislation stating that we cannot consider race, gender, national origin or ethnicity in admissions practices could effectively mean majority students attending our institutions would be denied the educational benefit of being exposed to diverse cultures."

Brian Campeau, secretary of the College Republicans, said he supports the banning of racial preferences proposed under Riggs' amendment, but believes it should be left up to the state or individual universities to decide whether or not to implement the legislation.

He said he also believes that eliminating racial preferences may be difficult at first but will force people to address the underlying problems and eventually help in the long run.

"I think that racial preferences create tensions between the races that are not needed," he said. "Whites tend to over-blow racial preferences. The perception of that is enough to create the racial tensions we don't need."

Campeau said problems with admissions start before college, and increasing racial equality in

the public schools is where we should start.

"Without the racial preferences, we will be forced to see the real problem," he said. "The problem isn't racial, is the bad school system."

Vicky Rateau, project director for the United States Students Association's Student of Color Strategy and Policy Department, expressed concerns regarding the national ramifications of the bill.

In 1995, 34 percent of the potential college population, ages 18-34, were African-American, Latino or American Indian, while only 18 percent of the actual college attendants were represented by these groups, she said.

"There's a significant number of minorities not getting to college," Rateau said. "Affirmative action is still really needed for diversity reasons. Colleges need people of different backgrounds talking to each other."

In an effort to protest the Riggs' Amendment, ASM is sponsoring a phone campaign on Library Mall this week. They are asking students to call their U.S. representatives and encourage them to oppose the amendment.

Graduate students to consider fall strike

By Sandra Zalman
Daily Californian

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. -- UC Berkeley's Association of Graduate Student Employees began voting last night on whether to strike next semester, likely late in the fall.

Because voting is scheduled to take place through the remainder of the week, results are not yet available. But several members said a graduate student strike is bound to happen next fall if AGSE members vote to approve the strike proposal.

During a closed-door meeting last night, AGSE members discussed the parameters of the strike. One member, who declined to give his name, said the strike would coincide with other UC campuses.

During the last school year, AGSE went on strike for three consecutive days in the fall and spring semesters. The strike before that was in Nov. 1992, when graduate student employees picketed for more than one month.

Members of AGSE said they are hoping to achieve collective bargaining rights with the university in order to negotiate better working conditions and wages proportional to the value of their work. But the university feels that GSIs are primarily students who learn from teaching the classes, members said.

"The main issue right now is that the administration is not legally forced to bargain with our union for a contract," said Tom Humphreys, a graduate student in physics and an AGSE member. "Right now, we're hired without formal job descriptions and no guarantee of what we'll be doing or how much we'll be paid."

If a strike is approved, AGSE's executive board will be allowed to set a strike date for next semester. Previous strikes have resulted in the cancellation of many discussion sections.

Last night's meeting enabled members of the graduate student union to discuss the details of a possible strike, including its duration and timing, according to junior Maria Villasenor, a tutor who is a member of AGSE. She added

that AGSE members also voted on whether to give the association's board the authorization to call on a strike.

The association is also trying to coordinate the release of voting results with the graduate student unions of other UC campuses, which are expected to hold similar votes in the next few weeks, according to one AGSE official.

Humphreys speculated that the strike could be "something of finite duration, but much longer than previously."

Because a majority of UC Berkeley graduate student employees signed cards supporting the right for the union to exist, the state Public Employee Relations Board formally recognized AGSE as a legitimate union last year.

Planning for the strike is expected to continue in the weeks to come in order to garner widespread support from students and faculty, Villasenor said.

During the time preceding the strike, members of AGSE said they hope to rally supporters for their cause in order to alert students and faculty to the university's treatment of graduate student instructors.

"If there is a strike, then we want students to know that it's the university (that is at fault)," Villasenor said. "Hopefully students will realize that if the GSIs are willing to do something as serious as a strike, then they will hopefully support them."

Because last year's strikes did not result in union recognition, AGSE is hoping that the threat of an impending strike will have more of an impact on the university.

"Basically, (a strike) would show how necessary GSIs, tutors and readers are to the workings of the university," Villasenor said.

Heather Elliott, a first-year law school student and AGSE member who voted in favor of the strike, said she hopes the university ultimately gives GSIs fair monetary compensation.

"The TAs should have a contract, and a strike is a good way to get the university to realize the right thing to do," Elliott said.



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Is 'Marky Mark' better as an actor or rapper?



**Travis
Holler**

Features
Editor

Opening Notes: With the dissolution of the "Funky Bunch" back in the early 90's, "Marky Mark," as he was known in those days, had to find another way to make a living (I mean he can't live off his brother Donnie's "New Kids" royalties forever). Thus, the movie career of Mark Wahlberg began. The newest link in the career chain of the former R & B standout is the new film *The Big Hit*.

The Cast: Wahlberg stars as Melvin Smiley, a likeable who just happens to be a highly-skilled hitman. He can't seem to say no to anyone, and is thoroughly exploited by everyone. Lou Diamond Phillips (*La Bamba*, *Young Guns*) revives his career as one of Wahlberg's fellow hitmen, while Avery Brooks (*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*) is their boss. Antonio Sabato, Jr., Christina Applegate (*Marry with Children*), and Lela Rochon (*Waiting to Exhale*) all

have minor roles in the film:

The Plot: Wahlberg is a well-trained hitman, yet how he became one is unknown. The plot centers around an "on-the-side" kidnapping organized by Phillips for extra money, where the victim turns out to be the Goddaughter of their boss. Phillips is then called in to lead the operation to rescue the kidnapped girl, and he betrays Wahlberg by singling him out as the head of the kidnapping. The rest of the movie runs the typical gamut of action scenes to reach the conclusion.

The Good: Wahlberg is excellent in this movie. I went in expecting him to be another musician-turned-actor, devoid of all semblance of talent. Amazingly enough, he actually has a decent screen presence and carries the movie. I haven't seen action scenes in some time that were as



"cool" as those involving Wahlberg and his dancing ability were. A scene in the opening where he "break-dances," spinning on his back firing off many rounds on a machine gun especially stands out.

The Bad: Lou Diamond Phillips was not very good in this film. Even overlooking the fact that his character was very dislikable, Phillips' performance was not very good. Another poor element was the use of flashbacks within

where the danger can be averted.

Perhaps the worst part of the movie, however, was the gratuitous use of stereotypical characters. Among the more glaringly unfunny portrayals were the Jewish mother-in-law, the inner-city "white boy Opie" and the stupid old Chinaman characters. These characters added nothing to the plot and made some of the scenes play like a bad episode of *All in the Family*.

the movie. Even though something happens that would make you assume someone had died, a few minutes later the movie would have a flashback to the earlier scene, and would show how that character had escaped. It was almost like watching an old TV show where the "To be continued..." flashes in a dangerous situation, and yet is picked up at an earlier place within the sequence.

The Ugly: There is a locker room scene early in the film that I didn't enjoy very much. Besides the discomfort of seeing several men's behinds, one of the men describes his first experience with masturbation, and how it is better than having a woman "because you only have to please one person." This becomes an ongoing topic throughout with this character, as he is seen doing wrist exercises and buying lotion later on in the film. Needless to say, not my favorite scenes.

Closing Notes: Overall, *The Big Hit* was not as good as it could have been. Some of the roles were cast and played well (Wahlberg, Brooks) while others weren't (Phillips). Even though it has its shortcomings however, Wahlberg gives a great performance in his second major lead role (*Boogie Nights* was the first), and is actually giving signs that he might become a prominent lead actor, if he continues to choose quality roles. We'll just have to see.

On a scale of 1 to 4 (with 4 being classic and 1 being Vanilla Ice's movie *Cool as Ice*) I give this movie a 2.5 on the strength of a quality performance from "Marky Mark."

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We would like to remind our readers that the views expressed in the *Thorn* do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone other than the original author.

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Rose-Hulman Horoscopes



Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)

It might be getting warmer outside, but it feels like a Blizzard for you tomorrow—a Dairy Queen Blizzard. Try their Breezes, too, as they are fat free. Watch out for invisible goats.



Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)

The stars forecast a couple of things for your future: backhoes and steamrollers. Whether they're for constructing highways or running your ass over, time will only tell.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

Oooh, that burrito dinner from Taco Bell is giving you some vicious heartburn, isn't it? There's no better time to see the new Kroger than now. Go buy some Tums, they also prevent blindness.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Having trouble finding something new to fix for dinner? Two ingredients will answer your problems: cottage cheese and artichokes. Sautéd, fried, or charbroiled, you can't go wrong.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Looking for a new car? Forget about those '98 Hondas and look for a mint '83 El Camino. What better was to spend a Friday night on the 'Bash then in a car with a truck bed? (couch not included)



Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)

If you gather enough jelly beans and peanut butter, you can trade in for that new pogo stick. Either that, or sell your liver. Well, that won't work either, you filthy drunk.



Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)

You know those stone birdbaths that people have in their front yards? Well, you might think they look cute, but they don't really belong in your dorm room. People have started to worry about you.



Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)

Many people think that Wolverines are cute and cuddly, but in fact they're real bastards. Next time you go to the zoo, take a fishing rod and some raw zebra meat and taunt them. They love it!!



Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

Plant some flowers this weekend! Daisies are very pretty, and they match any decor. Also, buy several large sheets of plywood and board up someone's house. They'll really appreciate it.



Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

Throw down that Nintendo64 joystick and break out your old Atari 2600. Good games to break out include: King Kong, Pitfall, Space Invaders, Combat, and Raiders of the Lost Ark.



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)

If you happen to visit the new Kroger this weekend, walk up to the manager with a couple of cantelopes and say "What nice melons you have here!" Make sure you have jogging shoes on.



Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)

Planning on taking a trip to a hot and fiery place this summer? Well, Hell may not be open for season just yet, but you've always got Terre Haute in the summer to look forward to.

Student's thoughts on visiting the site of the first atomic bomb test

Alex
SongThorn
Columnist

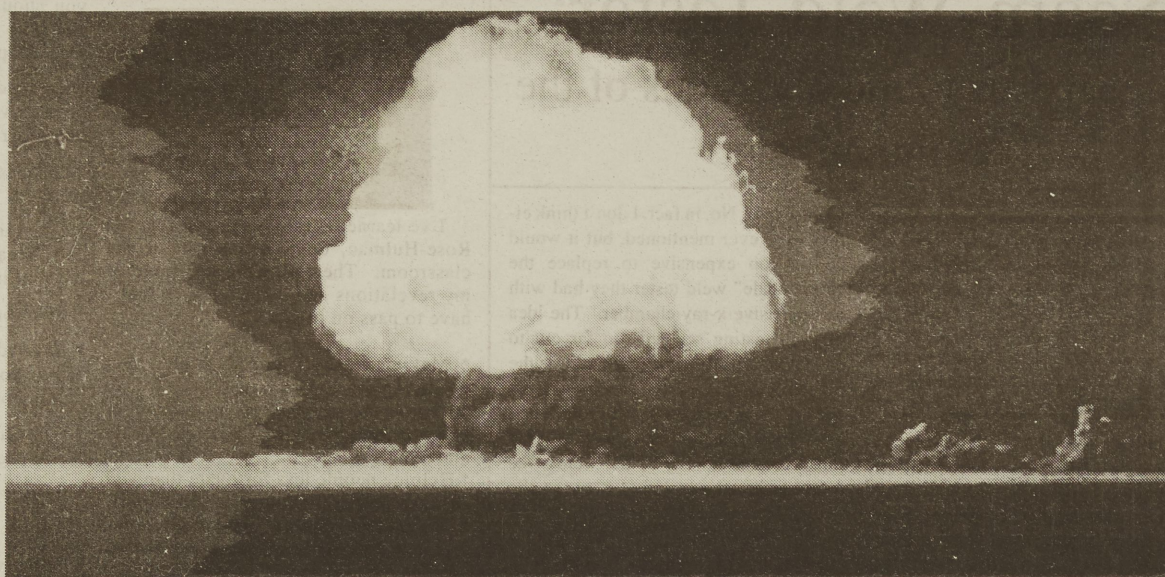
About a month ago, a section of New Mexican desert where the first nuclear explosion took place was open to the public. Trinity site, in the middle of what is now White Sands Missile Range, has an open house only twice a year; - once in October, and once again in April. Because I was on coop during fall quarter, I had the unique opportunity to visit this spot where one of the most significant events of our century took place.

Basing the site as one of the anchoring points of a two week long, 5,006 mile southwestern road trip, I started out touring around the state of New Mexico and eventually spending a couple of days in the town of Los Alamos. There, I was able to meet and speak with the official motion picture photographer of the test, Berlyn Brixner, at his home not far from Los Alamos National Labs where he spent his entire career.

Brixner, now a man in his late 80's, told me what he remembered of the test and the tense days leading up to it. Intimately involved with the Manhattan Project, he even claims to have had some say in the determination of the test site location. Recounting his tale to me, he recalled that while everyone else had to lie on their stomachs facing away from the blast, he was one of only a few people allowed to look directly at Ground Zero at the time of the explosion.

Speaking with Brixner for almost an hour and a half, I caught the last few words of our conversation on videotape. When I played it back for him to see, I found it ironic that this person who had manned over 40 cameras while taking virtually all of the footage of the first nuclear explosion, had a VCR in his living room that he didn't know how to operate. I showed him how to use it and popped the videotape in. It turns out that the VCR belonged to his wife, who had passed away the previous year.

After leaving Brixner's house I toured around Los Alamos in more detail, before heading 200 miles south to Alamogordo, New Mexico. Along the way I ate at the "Owl Bar and Cafe," a frequent "watering hole" for Manhattan Project scientists and engineers traveling between the lab and test site during the end of WWII. Rowena Baca, the owner, was too young to remember customers from the war years, but said that her grandfather frequently rented rooms to Robert Oppenheimer and other Manhattan Project scientists, who concealed their identities at the time by pos-



The world's first nuclear mushroom cloud erupts just seconds after the "Trinity test."

photo by Berlyn Brixner

ing as prospectors.

I gassed up my car in Socorro, New Mexico, where I got to talking with the station attendant. A middle-aged man living in the area his entire life, he recounted his tale of witnessing the light of that first nuclear explosion as a boy; and gave me some history of the surrounding area. I thanked him and continued my drive southward to Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Early the next morning, tourists in more than 300 separate vehicles met at a vacant parking lot at the fairgrounds and drove the remaining miles north through White Sands Missile Range in a military-escorted caravan; one of only two ways for tourists to enter Trinity site.

When we arrived at the site I found an oval fenced-in area about as large as a football field surrounding a huge, gradually sloping crater several feet deep in the center. At "Ground Zero" in the crater center stands a simple pyramid shaped stone monument, where there once stood a 100 foot steel tower that held the bomb. The intense heat of the explosion vaporized the entire tower down to the concrete footings,

which are preserved now as they were.

During my visit, the site was swarming with government vehicles and Military Police. Demonstrations and protesting were specifically prohibited, although several religious groups were allowed to hold prayer circles and sprinkle dust on the tower footing remains. A somber tone filled the whole area, as tourists walked around the site in absolute silence, pausing once in a while to read picture captions and reflect on history.

As I walked around, I occasionally saw what resembled bits of broken bottle. This desert sand, fused from the heat of the explosion into a green rocky glass, is now called Trinitite. Although most of it was removed in the 1950's, there are still little pieces scattered around. A tourist with a Geiger counter verified that even a half century later, they are still mildly radioactive. At "ground zero" these are about the only tangible evidence left of the first man-made nuclear explosion.

History was shaped on that exact spot 53 years earlier, during the final month of WWII.

On July 16th 1945, watching from as close as five miles away, some of the world's most renowned scientists smeared protective sunscreen on their arms and faces as they counted down the last seconds of the pre-nuclear age. Not knowing what to expect, they placed bets ranging from the explosion being a dud, to incinerating the entire state of New Mexico.

The actual explosion, equivalent in strength to 20,000 tons of dynamite, exceeded all expectations and lit up the early morning sky with an unearthly light seen as far away as parts of Texas. Not invited to the test, the wives of the scientists were still able to witness the explosion 200 miles north in Los Alamos.

Brixner explained that some of the shots in his photographic sequence were severely overexposed, with holes burned in the early frames showing the intense fireball. About ten seconds into the test, the onlookers were allowed to look directly at the blast through filtered glass, and they saw the first ever mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion.

Less than a month later an exact replica of the test bomb,

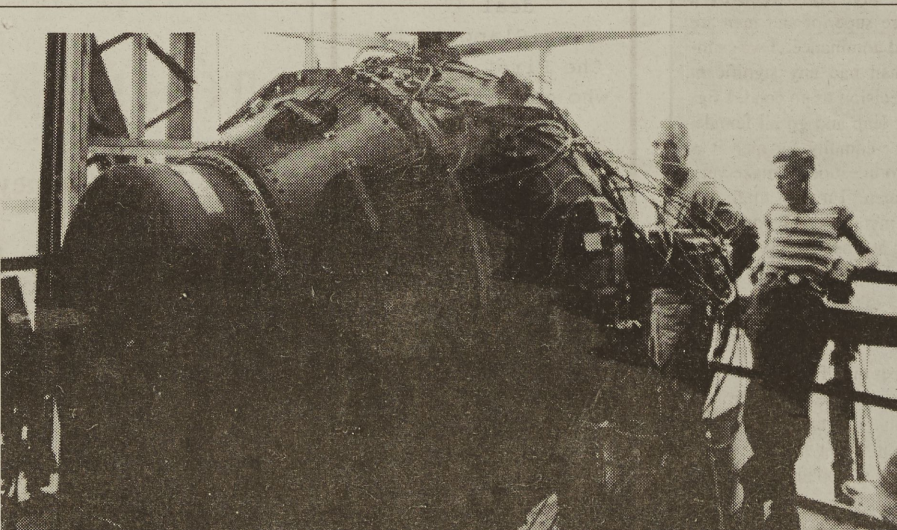
Fatman, ended WWII when it was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan. Four years later, an exact copy of this bomb was exploded; this time by the Soviet Union. The transfer of the bomb's inner dimensions sent Julius and Ethel Rosenberg to the electric chair and started a nuclear arms race that would last almost a half-century.

Brixner and others continue to defend their roles in the Manhattan project claiming that it saved lives by bringing a swift end to the war. Others argue that the amount of force used was unnecessary at that point in the conflict. Still others argue that nuclear weapons are unusually cruel and have no place in warfare. The moral debate continues, but everyone will probably agree that in some way or another, the explosion 53 years ago and its aftermath affected the lives of every person on this planet.

The Trinity test probably ranks as one of the most important events of the 20th century, and visiting the site definitely left an impression on me when I left. After reading several books on the subject and seeing hundreds of related photographs, it was an eerie feeling to actually hear the Geiger counter tick away at the harmless looking green pebbles, visit some of the historical sites that I had only read about in books, and finally get to walk on "Ground Zero."

Most importantly, I found out that many of the people who shaped the history of our century are still alive and eager to pass on their stories to anyone who is willing to spend the time to listen. That afternoon I left Trinity site and started my trip back home, taking with me an invaluable history lesson that I knew I would not soon forget.

Alex Song is a junior mechanical engineering major. More about his roadtrip can be found on his website at <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/~songsb>



Test Bomb on 100 foot tower prior to the July 16, 1945 "Trinity test."

Nine Dots and a Seam-Weld Tester: the Answer to the questions of the universe



Bob Voros

Thorn Columnist

Somehow the professors of my two most dissimilar classes have managed to similarly broaden my understanding of the world in very different ways. One professor suggested that my group and I use x-rays on a project, while the other drew three rows of three dots each on the board and told us to connect them. What? Is this some sort of twisted *Surrealist Perspective*?

I think I'll call the law I learned "The Law of Impracticality." It all began with a seam weld and a device which tore seam welds apart. It was a wonderfully simple device, the tearing one, that would grip the two welded plates and attempt to pull these plates apart. As a result of the tear, the weld quality could be assessed through visual inspection. It seemed a relatively simple, and perhaps poorly-designed, device that could quickly be modified or replaced with a much better tearing machine. So my group and I began thinking of all of the possible ways that we could possibly wrench these two welded pieces apart. We considered which would be better for visual inspection, which would put the most even amount of force across the weld, and which would be the simplest to create.

The project was as good as over by the fourth week except for choosing the final tear tester. We walked into our weekly meeting and were asked if we considered using X-rays or ultrasound.

Excuse me? No, in fact, I don't think either were ever mentioned, but it would be far too expensive to replace the "homemade" weld tester they had with an expensive x-ray chamber. The idea of such testing seemed too far out to even be worth our time, but that was the point. Some time later in the meeting, one of the group members questioned how closely the temperature of the weld related to the quality of the weld. We found a direct correlation between the two and a simple and cheap way to test for that temperature; a way that was far cheaper than the method currently used.

In class number two, the professor drew three rows of three dots each and asked the class to connect them with four straight lines that had to be made without the pen leaving the paper. I struggled a bit with this one until he drew the solution on the board. The solution went beyond the imaginary borders of the three by three box.

Too often as engineering and science students, we are asked to place restraints on the system in question. We are asked to assume in almost every homework assignment and carry this method into the real world. I would not go so far as to say that our creativity is stifled, but I would say that our desire for practicality does guide us away from considering other alternatives. Our learning, particularly in the realm of engineering, is mainly focused on the analysis of existent scenarios—not designing new ones. Analysis of existent systems requires that we simplify as much as possible. Designing and creating should require that we consider as many possibilities as we can. We should always consider the crackpot, far-out-there possibilities of life because we may find they contain the best answers.

Words of Wisdom...



Kent Bye

Thorn Columnist

I've learned a lot during my years at Rose-Hulman, both in and out of the classroom. The following are some of my revelations and bits of advice that I have to pass on to you.

- * Making a true friend is cooler than skydiving.
- * People are more likely to remember your name if they're aware that you know theirs.
- * Helping people less fortunate than you will always get you out of a bad mood.
- * The best way to establish e-mail correspondence is to send out good e-mail messages.
- * Don't leave a fun activity looking for something else that may be more fun.
- * If you say you're going to do something, then do it.
- * People won't trust you if you can't keep your promises.
- * When trying to motivate people, remember that they won't care if it doesn't benefit them.
- * Keeping a smile on your face can take you a long way.
- * Don't become content with your knowledge.
- * There are two sides to every story.
- * It is amazing how much a compliment can mean to a friend.
- * There is always a better way of doing it.
- * Don't pass the buck.
- * I tell myself to be thankful for adversity because I know it makes me a better person, but you can only have so many character-building experiences before you begin to hate life.
- * Pessimism sucks.
- * Talking and listening are simple fundamentals of communication, but few have perfected it.
- * In the grand scheme of things, learning is more important than going through the motions of making the grade.
- * Homework assignments are learning opportunities, not grade boosters.
- * If you study right the first time, then

you shouldn't have to cram for finals, but it is much easier to procrastinate, lose sleep, and go out and have fun.

* Planned procrastination is much more productive and effective than spontaneous procrastination.

* Imperfections put spark into relationships

* Don't live your life waiting on a phone call, because they'll leave a message if it's that important.

* Everyone has a hidden talent.

* Expand your comfort zone by going out of your way to do things that make you uncomfortable.

* When all is said and done, more is said than done.

* Envy will only get you depressed.

* Appreciate people who create.

* Success should be measured by the degree of your inner happiness and not by the magnitude of your income. It ain't all about the Benjamins.

* Be sure to wear SPF 40 sun tan lotion if you're going to be skiing on a sunny day.

* Brown nosers suck, but it usually pays off for them.

* Every individual knows something that I don't.

* Don't forget to leave time for yourself.

* Remember that some people in organizations will vote which ever way will make the meeting get over faster.

* Don't overestimate first impressions.

* It is fun to mess with drunk people.

* Don't go down to Florida during Rose's spring break looking for tons of people your age.

* Post your goals above or across from the toilet so you can read them every day.

* Seek out the good in people, and don't quit until you've found it.

* Live your life with no regrets.

* You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I myself was shocked at the reference that all men look for women who are cheap, good, and fast. This is 1998 and I am aghast that the *Thorn* would publish anything written by a male. In this day and age, women are superior and men are only slaves in their quest for power and dominance. I was simply shocked to hear that Rose-Hulman had any significant number of male students. After the decision to go coed, I figured Rose would make the next great leap and go all female. After all of these years of struggle for equality for men it is obvious that we are still not allowed to question or make very mild jokes at the superior gender, women. I myself think that to elevate this horrible and totally inconsiderate comment, President Hulbert and all men working at Rose-Hulman should resign in protest of the comment. I had heard that some women at Rose had something called a goddess complex. My only question is why all women at Rose don't. After all, we men are merely riding on their coattails. To all future men who contemplate finding a job, just remember that if you offend any women, your hunt for a job will be endless and your life will end as you know it. In finishing, I only wish that women will forgive our blunders and beat us so it won't happen again. After all, the next compliment you give a woman might result in a lawsuit.

Ryan Willis
ChE '98

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Free Slappy's to the First 50 kids who come in with a Parent!!!



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Cincinnati



Down to the wire for Rose baseball team

by Don Cole
Thorn Sports Editor

After thirty-seven regular season matches, with a sweep, and only a sweep, of first place Anderson (9-1, ICAC) the Engineers will win the regular-season ICAC championship that eluded them last year and host the postseason tournament, their last in the conference.

There are a host of activities planned for the doubleheader, sponsored by the team and WJSH radio, including free T-shirts to the first 50 students to arrive, free pizza for the group with the most members to show up, and prizes for groups with the best sign, most spirit, and who are the wildest dressed.

Wabash 13, Rose-Hulman 9

Rose lost a wild affair against Wabash last Friday at Art Nehf Field. Among the totals for the nine-inning contest were 22 runs, 31 hits, six errors, and ten total pitching changes.

The score was 8-0 by the bottom of the fourth, and despite. The team did make it interesting, narrowing the gap to 9-7 in the seventh, but they were unable to overcome four insurance runs by Wabash in the top of the ninth.

Jason Fox and Eric Baer both had two hits the day, with Fox driving in one run. Jimmy Costa racked up another RBI on a double and had a 3-for-5 day at the plate. Freshman Steve Krause, brought in to catch in the eighth, jacked a two-run home run in the bottom of the ninth, his first collegiate home run.

Rose starter Costa was stuck with the loss, surrendering three runs in an inning and a third. His record drops to 3-2 for the season.

Rose-Hulman 3, Manchester 2

Rose took the first of two of a critical

ICAC doubleheader last Sunday at home, defeating second-place Manchester, thanks in part to Rob Nichols' seventh home run of the year.

The scoring began in the bottom of the third when Nichols hit his shot over the scoreboard out in center field. The two-run homer put the Engineers up for good. An insurance run in the bottom of the fourth inning proved to be vital, as the visitors came back with two runs in the fifth.

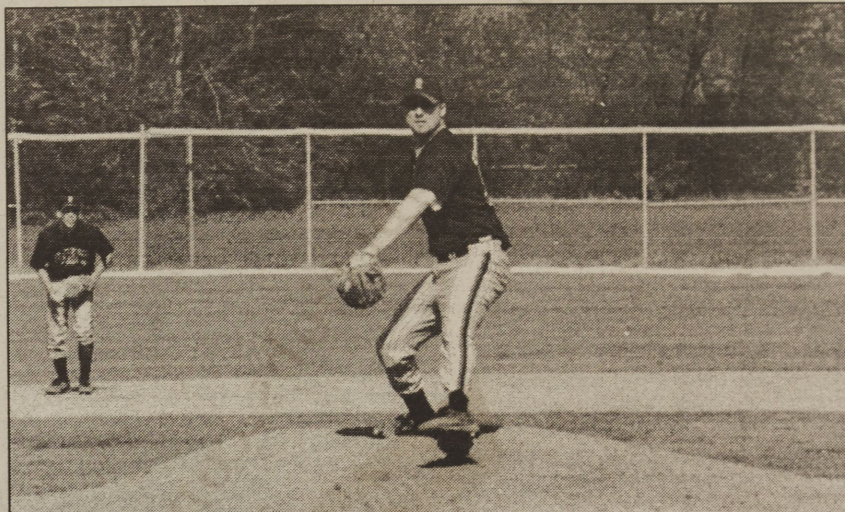
Phil Munzer accounted for the Engineers' third run, scoring Marc McCullough from third on a single. The Engineer defense must also be given credit who, despite committing two errors, turned a key double play to end a Spartan rally in the seventh. Ryan Pownall also rescued the Engineers in the fourth with a tremendous catch.

Andy Cain put together yet another strong ICAC performance, giving up two hits in each of the first five innings, but holding the visiting team scoreless until the fifth. Cain struck out four and walked none, improving his record to 6-3 overall, 4-1 in the ICAC.

Rose-Hulman 3, Manchester 2

The Engineers won another squeaker against the Spartans, vaulting themselves into sole possession of second place on the wings of Andy Tochtermann's third home run of the year.

The Tochtermann blast took place in the fourth. Mike Kreuger led off the inning with a walk. Then, with two outs, McCullough reached first on an error by the second basemen. Tochtermann capitalized on Rose's good fortune by knocking a



Brad Garret winds up to pitch against Wabash last Friday while shortstop Mike Kreuger readies himself.

photo by Don Cole

three-run homer which put the Engineers up once and for all.

The game itself came down to the wire. A one-out walk and wild pitch by starter Matt Sims resulted in a runner on third with two out. A Manchester player knocked a single into left field, which was picked up by Gates. As the runner on second rounded third, trying to score, Gates' throw was cut off by third basemen McCullough, who gunned it in to catcher Brad Garrett, who tagged out the runner to end the thriller.

Sims went the distance for the Engineers, scattering six hits in seven innings, while striking out and walking five. His record now stands at 6-1, tops for the Engineers, and matches Cain's ICAC record at 4-1.

Rose-Hulman 6, DePauw 5

Rose continued to roll, winning their third straight one-run game with a fifth-inning comeback in Greencastle last Wednesday.

The Engineers exploded for five runs in the fifth inning after trailing 2-0 to go up for good. Marc McCullough homered for the third time this year with two on and no out. A sac fly by Munzer scored the fourth run, and Engineer flood ended with Kreuger's single-season record 16th double.

Nichols tied another school record when he hit his eighth home run of the season, a solo shot in the top of the eighth.

Bryan Egli lasted until the eighth and racked up the win, his second of the year. Engineer misuses allowed two runs to score, but Tochtermann came in and only allowed a run in an inning and a third to notch his second save.

High hopes for women's soccer

by Don Cole
Thorn Sports Editor

This fall Rose will have taken a big step towards closing the gap between men's and women's athletic programs. According to Greg Ruark, head men's soccer coach, the women's soccer club should achieve full club status here by this fall and have already lined up an eight game schedule against ICAC opponents, ISU, Principia College, and Vincennes University.

In fact, if that goes over well, the club may be varsity as early as fall of 1999. "There is a timetable we have to follow," commented Ruark on those hopes. The fall of 1999 date is not official; much of it depends on how the club does in the fall, interest on campus, and other factors.

Interest in women's soccer will certainly not be a problem. The team has had two scrimmages, one in October and one last week, against ISU. Both had huge turnouts, a heartening sign for Ruark. "The idea is very popular amongst the athletes and the students here," he noted.

"I've noted considerable improvement," he said, referring to the performances against ISU. The squad played a scoreless second half against the ISU team last October, despite giving up four goals in the first. More recently, last week, the team was ahead 1-0 with twelve minutes to play when they gave up two goals and lost.

The formation of the soccer club was a result of interest among the female athletes on campus who had played it before in high school. The team formed about a year ago,

and Ruark has taken over himself only recently. Ruark said that he had also spoken to a number of visiting women to the Rose campus and many had shown interest in the team.

"I haven't dove in like I have with varsity sports," he said, "We've been educating them on what we have here."

Hopefully for the team, that will change within a few years. The coach and the team are excited about the opportunity to play varsity.

"We're very excited," said Ruark, summing things up, "The girls are working very hard...the commitment level is excellent."

With a good performance this fall and strong support from the school, that commitment will pay off.



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Rose-Hulman track teams at ICAC Championships

by Don Cole
Thorn Sports Editor

Rose-Hulman's men's and women's track teams competed at their final ICAC Track & Field Championships this past Saturday at ISU. The men's team placed fourth out of seven and the women's team placed sixth out of six.

Anderson took the men's title by a scant six and a half points over Wabash. DePauw took the women's title, finishing well ahead of Anderson's second place squad.

Rose's 4x100m relay team, the defending ICAC champion, fell to Anderson's team by three-tenths of a second, finishing in second place. Nate Subbert fared better, defending his hammer throw title with a throw of 49.94 meters, nearly a meter more than the second place finisher. Phil Reksel also successfully defended his title in the 400 meter intermediate hurdles with a time of 53.16 seconds, a meet record.

Another meet record was set by Ryan Loftus, who yet again came home with the pole

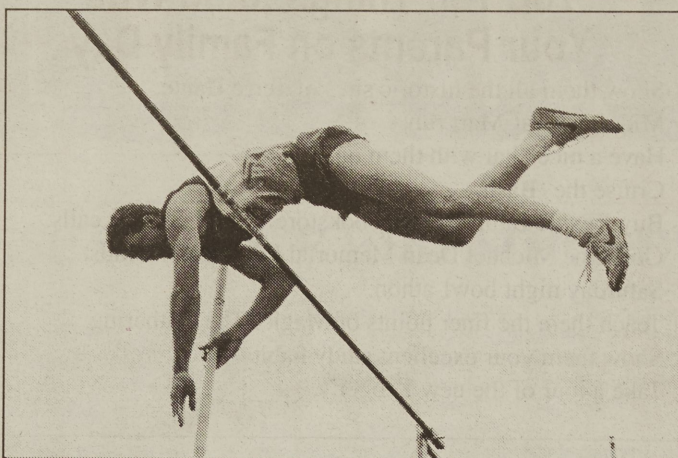
vault title. His vault of 15'6" was a foot higher than the second place finisher from Wabash.

Reksel added a new title to his mantle, the 110 meter high hurdles, which he won by 0.09 seconds over John Haug of Wabash.

Other notable finishes included Rose-Hulman's 4x400 meter relay team, who finished second to Anderson's team. Both Arvont Hill and Mark Dudley came away with fourth-place finishes in the 100 meter dash and the high jump, respectively.

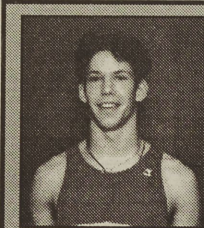
The women's squad did not gain any individual titles but managed to place in a number of events. While Bessie Fulk was unable to equal last year's fourth-place finish in the 400, she did finish sixth in the 10,000 meter run. Maggie Lowry and Beth Nixon placed fifth and sixth in the shot put, respectively, and eighth and ninth in the discus.

The Engineers' season is not over, however. Next Friday, they travel to Bloomington for the Midwest Classic, and a week later to Bloomington again for the Billy Hayes Invitational.



Ryan Loftus vaults his way to another ICAC pole vaulting championship last Saturday with a meet record 15'6"

File photo



Track standout Phil Reksel, a sophomore, distinguished himself last Saturday at the ICAC championships, winning two individual titles. He successfully defended his 1997 400 meter intermediate hurdles championship, setting a meet record in the process, and also won the 110 meter high hurdles. Reksel hails from St. Ignatius High School in Chicago and is majoring in chemical engineering

Rose golf team at Milikin

by Peter Anderson
Thorn Editor-in-Chief

The golf team finished fourth out of 16 teams with a two-day team score of 617 at the Millikin Invitational this past weekend. Sophomore Sean Ames led the Engineers with a 36-hole score of 151.

Junior Joe Miller and freshman Adam Summerlot were close behind with scores of 153 and 154, respectively.

Sophomore Zach Nicoson and junior Sam Giordano rounded out the score by shooting 160 and 164, respectively.

The University of Southern Indiana won the tournament with a team score of 592, while the host school took second with a team score of 594.

The Engineers are looking to compete for the ICAC Championship title this weekend at the Harrison Hills Golf Course in Crawfordsville. Rose-Hulman finished fifth last year, with Franklin winning the title.

Miller will be looking to recapture the ICAC title he won as a freshman after finishing fourth at last year's event. Nicoson notched a seventh place finish last year and also looks to vie for the individual title, as does Ames.



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Classified Advertisements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention Graduate Students: SCAMPS-Christian Campus Ministry, is offering a Bible study for graduate students. It will meet Friday night at 5:30. Call Mark Calhoun at 877-9353 or the SCAMPS house at 232-6853 for more details.

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church. Aaron Wheaton, Pastor. Sunday worship services 8:30 and 10:45. Sunday school 9:55. Located 3092 E. Davis Drive - just south of the Margaret Ave. and 25th St. intersection. 232-4808

FAREWELL PICNIC Saturday, May 2, to celebrate the end of the year with a cook-out off campus. We'll leave the Center at 5 pm and return by 8 pm. register by Fri., May 1 by coming by or calling to sign up. United Ministries Center, 321 N. 7th St., 232-0186

DivorceCare, a special help seminar and support group for people experiencing divorce and separation, will be held on Monday evenings at First Baptist Church of North Terre Haute beginning March 2. Child care is available. DivorceCare features nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics. Seminar sessions include "Facing Your Anger", "Facing Your Loneliness", "Depression", "New Relationships", "KidCare" and "Forgiveness". Meetings will be held at 2944 E. Hall Avenue. For more information, call First Baptist Church of North Terre

Haute or Gregg Durr at (812) 466-3148.

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Stereo Equipment Sale! NAD 705 Stereo Receiver \$300, obo; 1 pair BOSE 301's \$225, obo; \$500 for all. Call Matt Frantz, 234-0969 leave message.

Peavey bass amp, full stack (head and cabinet) for sale. \$500 for amp and I'll throw in a bass at no extra charge. 238-8579.

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BULLS TICKETS wanted - If you have two tickets to any Chicago Bulls home game, I'd like to buy them from you - any time, any opponent, short notice okay. Call x8061 or email David.Gibson@Rose-Hulman.edu.

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The Rose Thorn offers classified advertisements less than 30 words free to Rose-Hulman students, faculty, and student organizations. For submissions of more than 30 words, each additional word is \$0.10.

All other classified advertisements are \$3.00 for the first 30 words and \$0.15 for each additional word. Payments must be made in advance; corrections at our expense first week only.

The Rose Thorn reserves the right to refuse advertising which the editors judge to be discriminatory on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender. Also any advertisement which promote violence, illegal activities or is in bad taste will not be considered for publication.

Submissions may be made at the Thorn office, through campus mail addressed to the Thorn, by email-ing thorn@rose-hulman.edu, or by calling the Thorn office at extension 8255. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Wednesday prior to publication. Runs over one week must be renewed weekly by contacting the Thorn office, unless prior run arrangements have been made.

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- 10) Show them all the historic sites of Terre Haute.
- 9) Midnight Wal-Mart run.
- 8) Have a nice chat with them on ICQ.
- 7) Cruise the 'Bash.
- 6) Buy Beanie Babies at the bookstore. But please, no calls.
- 5) Go to the Michael Dean Memorial Pancake Breakfast.
- 4) Saturday night bowl-athon.
- 3) Teach them the finer points of Magic: The Gathering.
- 2) Show them your excellent study habits.
- 1) Take a tour of the new Kroger's.

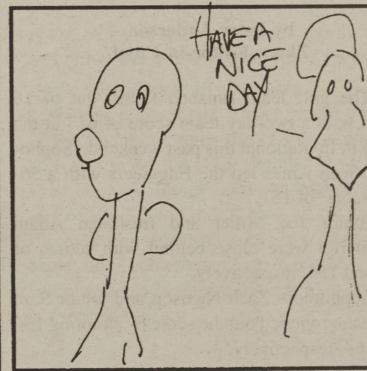
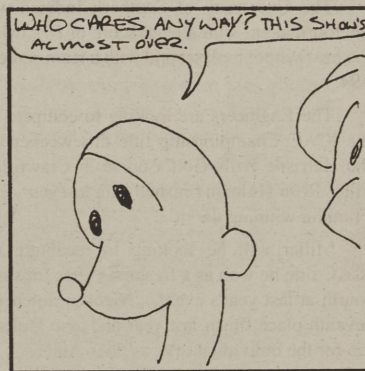
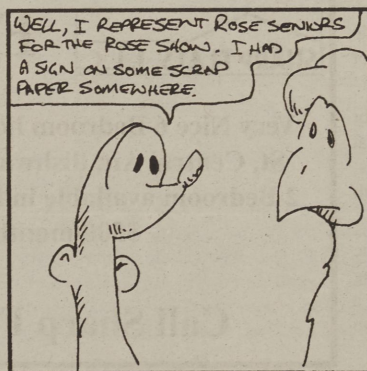
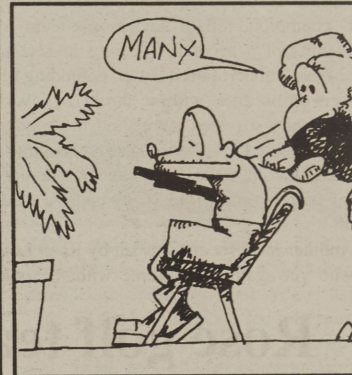
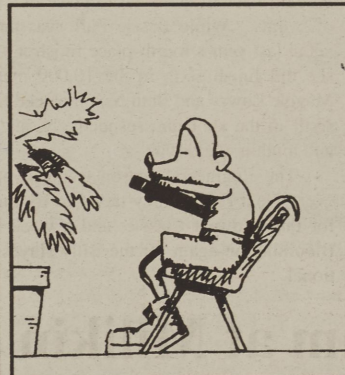
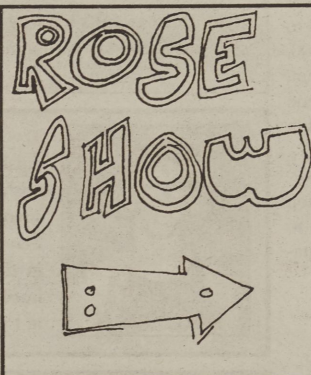
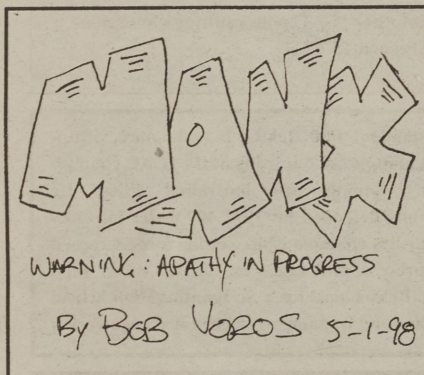
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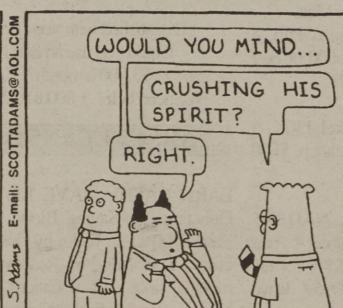
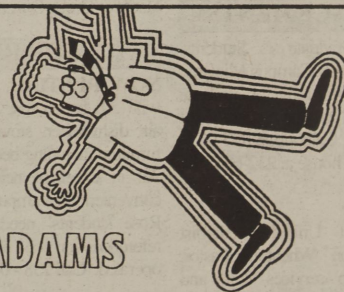
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