

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

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Mr. Zuss (Jeff Koechling) . . . plays God & Nickles (Bill Sutton) is Satan in the drama-within-a-drama of J.B.

Club performs J.B.

by Eric Blair, Jr.

The Rose Drama Club production of Archibald MacLeish's "J.B." continues tonight and tomorrow at 8:00 p.m. in the Rose Auditorium. Admission is one dollar and tickets are available at the door or from club members.

The play is a serious drama which takes its theme from the Book of Job. Jeff Koechling and Bill Sutton play Zuss and Nickles, two aging actors forced by hard times to work as circus vendors.

The big top, deserted at night, becomes their universe as they assume the roles of God and Satan and begin to act out the eternal drama of Job.

"Job" in this case is the successful businessman J.B., as played by Joe Gaines. J.B. is a pious and God-fearing man, "one that fears God and turns away from evil." He's blessed with a lovely wife, played by St. Mary's student Cindy Schnell. He's also fantastically rich and he thanks God who has given him this wealth.

"Doth Job fear God for naught?" asks Satan. J.B. is devout only because it pays — or so says Nickles. Zuss disagrees, and allows J.B. to be tested.

J.B. is quickly wiped out. In rapid succession, a series of disasters — very modern disasters occur which wipe out his family and wealth and leave him wracked by painful disease.

Three "comforters" come, as played by Gene Jones, John Rasp, and Dave Wasil. They advance ideas that science, society, and organized religion have all the answers. J.B. rejects their notions, however, still seeking for his truth in God.

And in the end, God rewards Job's faith. Everything that was destroyed is returned, and J.B. emerges from the experience a changed man. His faith in his God has been altered. It's deepened, filled with knowledge of God's power and of love.

Also appearing in the cast are John Paulus, Rich Robbins, John Seghers, Dave Steele, and Bryan Weber.

the Thorn

Vol. 14, No. 8

Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

November 3, 1978

Freshmen applications declining

by Jim Weber

The Admissions Department has been recruiting freshmen for the class of 1983 since early this summer through the Catapult and Retupmoc programs along with information sessions at various schools and metropolitan centers.

Despite their labors, the applications for places in next year's freshman class are down approximately 20% from last year's level.

The reasons for this decline are many. For one, last year was a record in the area of applications. Dean of Admissions Duncan Murdoch feels that this record can be equalled however, and that the major factor in the decline is that it is harder to get information about Rose to high school seniors.

With the uproar about sinking SAT scores, high school principals are becoming increasingly reluctant to let students out of class. Because of this, many of the personal questions, such as finances, go unanswered.

"One has to realize," said Murdoch, "that the majority of our students (55%) come from families where neither parent attended college. We need to make these people aware that, though Rose is expensive, financial aid is available to just about all who need it."

"It doesn't bother us if a kid says he's not interested in Rose after we talk to him. What bothers us are the ones we can't get to who might be interested."

Murdoch also attributes part of the decline to state universities, such as I.U. or

Purdue, publicizing their housing shortages. This prompts a student to apply and make a down payment before his mind is actually set on the school. At that point he has a financial stake in the school and is less likely to consider what other schools have to offer.

The major part of the applications decline is in students from Indiana. Murdoch is confident that he and his recruiters, Joe Miller and Chuck Howard, can bring this up to par in the near future.

Whatever the results, the department will have only a temporary respite. Experts predict a 25% drop-off in college students by 1982. This will mean increased competition among all colleges, large and small, and with it a few more headaches in the Admissions Department.

Debaters victorious again

by James Abram

Rose-Hulman's Debate Team scored its most impressive success in its three-year history by finishing fifth in the Kentucky Colonel Tournament last weekend at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Rose's varsity squad of sophomore Mark Bates, Lafayette, and junior Dwight Dively of Spokane, Washington, compiled a 4-2 record against tough competition to finish fifth in the field of 27 schools. They were eliminated by the eventual winners, Harding College of Searcy, Arkansas.

The team hadn't planned to

compete at Western Kentucky until they won at Millikin University the week before. Despite the short time available for preparation, they managed to beat some of the best teams in the Midwest and the South.

After losing a questionable decision to Berry College of Georgia, Rose beat cross-state rival Butler University, Murray State of Kentucky, and Southeast Missouri. The squad then lost in the quarter finals to Harding.

Besides those teams they beat, Rose finished ahead of Illinois College, Vanderbilt, Emory, David Lipscombe, Tennessee,

Western Kentucky, Hardin-Simmons, and Arkansas State.

For their efforts, Bates and Dively won a team trophy for the second straight week, and Dively finished sixth among the 54 speakers with 142 points. Bates, debating in the difficult first negative position, compiled an excellent total of 130.

A four-man unit of sophomores Bates, Kevin Bowen and John Schuster, along with freshman Kevin Liekhus will travel to Ball State tomorrow for the Gavel Debate Tournament. It will be the squad's last meet until after Thanksgiving.

Triangle is stricken with food poisoning

by George Sand

Nineteen students living at the Triangle House were stricken seriously ill last week, the victims of food poisoning. While lab tests were still being conducted at press time, a bad batch of tuna salad was apparently the cause.

Triangle president Kevin Barrer reported that students started getting sick Thursday night. The school nurse was called very early Friday morning, and about ten students went to her office that morning.

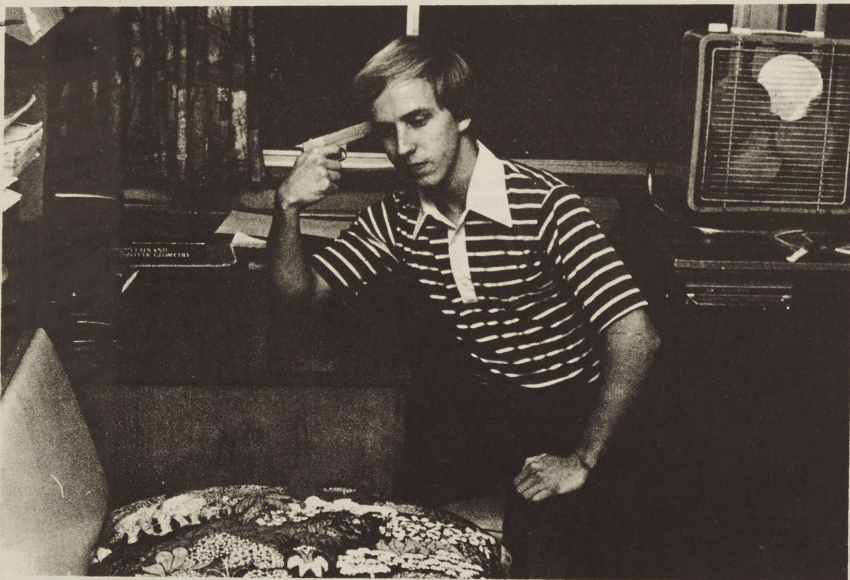
At this time, Dr. Lucas, fearing the possible outbreak of a contagious disease, sent a memo to all faculty members explaining the situation, listing the affected students, and requesting that their absence from classes be excused. As Lucas explained, this was not to have sounded like a quarantine, but he didn't want students running around until it was known what was the matter.

The Board of Health was

called Friday morning. They went through the fraternity's kitchen, took food samples, and interviewed the affected students to see what they had eaten. On the basis of these interviews, they concluded that something served Wednesday at lunch, probably tuna salad, was at fault. The food samples have been sent to Indianapolis for further testing.

While most students went back to school on Monday, some were feeling well enough by Friday afternoon to return to classes. A few who were affected later were out early this week. Students were generally sick for one day, but needed another day to recover completely.

Triangle activities were severely disrupted by the outbreak. Formal rush parties, scheduled for Saturday, were postponed to Sunday afternoon. However, the fraternity's main party of the quarter, the Voodoo Dance, was held as scheduled Saturday night.



Bob Synko contemplates his mid-term grades.

Frosh mid-terms not lowest

by Dwight Dively

Since mid-term grades came out, rumors have been circulating to the effect that the average grades for the freshmen had hit a low point.

Dr. Jess Lucas, Dean of Students, reports that although the freshman grades were lower than hoped for, this year's mid-terms were actually higher than last year's. Only 63 students were below 2.00, versus 92 last year.

As usual, Calculus, Chemistry and Graphics presented the most problems. These courses require the most preparation and

homework, and have traditionally proven to be the greatest challenges for new students.

Dr. Lucas outlined several new programs being used to help students. The Chemistry Department has added a Chem I section which meets four days a week instead of three, so students can get extra help with problems.

The Math Department has already implemented a program of help sessions and afternoon calculus "labs" to assist students. However, attendance so far has been sparse.

Dr. Lucas puts most of the blame for the poor showings of the last two years on the high schools. He outlined the de-emphasis of math and science skills and a mistaken attempt to teach "advanced" knowledge rather than the basics as principle mistakes of the school systems.

It is hard to tell whether the freshmen grades will go up at the end of the quarter, according to Dr. Lucas. Many of the mid-terms were based on just one exam, and he thinks some of the students have already solved their grade problems.

Seniors: 'Beware the purge'

Any senior wishing to stay at Rose for the remainder of the school year is urged to save at least one graduation requirement until spring term.

Upon completion of his degree requirements, a student is considered to have graduated, and any scholarship assistance he has will be terminated.

As Dr. Lucas explains it, all financial aid a student receives is intended to help him acquire a B.S. degree. Once this is accomplished, a student is no longer eligible for aid. This is true not only of Rose scholarships, but also for state and federal programs.

Macke Food improves

by Eric Dansker

Macke has improved its food service program since this subject was last discussed in the THORN ("Students Pan Macke," but Macke Fights Back," Thorn, September 15, 1978).

An early complaint was that "they don't keep sugar, drinks, milk, dishes, etc. refilled in the cafeteria." One student said that the problem was improving, although he thought it might be partly because students were spreading out their mealtimes instead of very many arriving at the same time. Another thought that the staff was simply being more attentive than before. This refill problem has been noted by the Food Service Committee; also discussed has been the problem of insufficient quantities of some foods, such as omelets with the meat on a taco night. This was because the number of students who would come to the cafeteria for a particular meal was occasionally underestimated during Macke's first few weeks at Rose.

The quality of the food has not always been good, some students said. Meat is sometimes not juicy, dishes made with noodles tend to be either sticky or soggy, and Italian foods are frequently dry. Some students thought that more good meals were being served, while others saw little change in the food service as a whole since the start of the school year.

A student said that even when there is no line of students, it sometimes takes several minutes for him to be served and that empty trays are not always replaced promptly. The staff was credited with keeping the dining room cleaner than last year, although many flies are present. Much of the remaining cleanliness problem is due to students not taking enough responsibility for cleaning up spilled food and taking their trays back.

One ice cream lover suggested that when popular flavors, such as chocolate chip, are served, more than one carton at a time should be in the case. Another

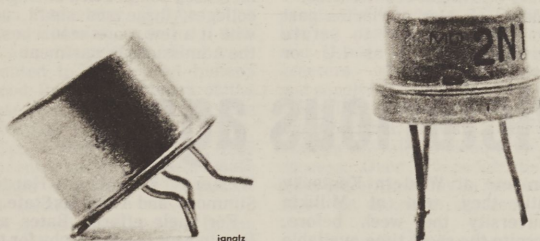
student wondered why bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwiches were limited to two strips of bacon at a time, yet half pizzas were served one day for lunch. It was also suggested that Macke try to respond to nonverbal feedback, for example, "If the peanut butter dishes empty very quickly one night, that could be an indication that the meal was not well received." Longer breakfast hours on Sunday were also suggested. One student had this to say about the food service:

"I think the major problem is that students here don't know how good they have it. I don't say that Macke has no problems right now, but look at the variety we get. And we get unlimited seconds. Even the furniture — isn't it a lot more pleasant than the plastic-and-metal dining rooms at many schools? Also, I'd rather have friendly workers like ours who have time to say 'hello' than ones who only tell you to hurry up so they can feed everyone else and then not have to work so hard for awhile."



Decent Chick of the Week: Janet Speer

DOC JET, I DON'T THINK AMPUTATION WILL REALLY HELP MY COLD.



Map men leave to Columbia, Missouri

by Peter Kehoe

The Orienteering Club prepares for a two-day meet in Columbia, Missouri, this weekend. It is sponsored by the Wilderness Adventures Orienteering Club of the University of Missouri. It is a class "A" orienteering meet, so several hundred competitors from around the nation will be present. The maps that will be used on Saturday have the distinction of being the first American produced photogrammetric orienteering maps. These maps are more accurate and clearer than most maps.

The following weekend is the 1978 U.S. Orienteering Championships. The New England Orienteering Club is hosting the meet which will be held at Boxford State Forest near North Andover, Mass.

The Orienteering Club is working on a project which

would bring a major orienteering meet to this area by spring of 1980. The Yellowwood State Forest has been proposed as the site of a class "A" meet. A meet of this type usually draws 300-400 competitors. Members of the club are now busy obtaining maps of the area so that a proper orienteering map can be obtained.

Bruley looking into foreign study

Dr. Duane F. Bruley, vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculty at Rose-Hulman, is travelling in Europe with the purpose of broadening the horizons of the school's students in engineering and science.

Dr. Bruley chaired a session and was invited to give a paper at the Xth World Conference of the European Society for

Microcirculation in Cagliari, Italy, last week and is spending this week visiting European engineering colleges for the purpose of investigating the possibilities of a Junior Year Abroad Program for Rose-Hulman students.

Dr. Bruley, a chemical engineer whose research has included numerous biomedical applications, presented a paper entitled, "The Probabilistic Modeling of Oxygen Transport in Brain Tissue" at the world conference.

The Rose-Hulman academic dean also co-chaired the session on Oxygen Transport Tissue with Dr. Haim Bicher of the Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Mich.

While in Europe Dr. Bruley is meeting with officials of Hannover University in Germany, the Danish Institute of Technology near Copenhagen, and Imperial College in London. Dr. Bruley has previously worked with junior year abroad programs for engineering

These additions will complement the new laboratory and classroom building included in the Master Plan.

Also in the planning stage is the method to be used to raise money for the Master Plan improvements. Cost studies are being made to determine how much some of the later additions will cost in future years.

Monies for scholarship support are included in the estimation of total revenue needed. Once the total needed is decided, a fund-raising method will be chosen.

Priorities and phases for carrying out the Master Plan are also being set. Although the new classroom/laboratory building seems to have priority over the chapel, performing arts center, dormitory, and swimming pool, any order is still possible.

Much of this decision depends on how donations are received.

To help the administration in their decisions, a committee of students has been formed. Included on the committee are juniors Don Umpleby and Bob Pease and sophomore Scott Lindner.

A freshman member will be

added in a month or two.

These students will aid Ron Reeves, Vice President for Development and Public Affairs, by privately dispensing information and talking to major gift donors.

Thus the Master Plan is proceeding. The decisions being made now are which way to go with the plan and how to finance the improvements.

Broadway a la carte

Music, nostalgia and comedy will be the themes of the evening Tuesday, Nov. 7, when members of the Eastern Opera Theatre of New York perform "Broadway a la Carte" as the fifth feature of Rose-Hulman's fine arts series.

"Broadway a la Carte" is a fully-staged tribute to American Musical Theatre, featuring the best-known and most-requested songs and moments from the Broadway musicals from 1925 to the present.

The Eastern Opera Theatre, producing organization for "Broadway a la Carte," is the opera company in residence at the world-famous America Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford, Conn. The company's most recent production at Stratford was acclaimed by the New York Times as "another link in the widening chain of cohesive productions by Eastern Opera."

The cast for the production at Rose next week includes Elliot Finkel, music director and pianist; Joyce Andrews, soprano; Douglas Dunnell, tenor; Janis Eckhart, mezzo-soprano; and Johathan Reinhold, baritone.

Curtain time will be at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

teaching assistantship at the University of Tennessee, an 11-year tenure at Clemson University from September, 1962, through December 1973 and the chemical engineering chairmanship at Tulane University, 1974, through July, 1977.

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Fall Road Rally ends in confusing spectacle

by John Sparks

Confusion marred the end of the Racing Club's Fall Rally.

A "hare" car led the field of eight "hound" cars over more than a hundred miles of western Indiana and eastern Illinois roads.

The route passed north of West Terre Haute, through Paris to Kansas, Ill., and back to Terre Haute through Paris again.

The "hare" car dropped bags of flour at intersections where the "hound" cars were forced to make a decision on which way to continue. An on-course marker indicated a correct decision.

The confusion resulted when three of the "hound" cars caught the "hare" car before the rally was over. As a result, the rally was brought to a premature close.

Scoring was based on the mileage of the "hound" car vs. the actual mileage of the "hare" car and on the time it took the individual "hound" car to complete the course.

After much deliberation by Racing Club president Bill Rush and vice-president Steve Kontney, the winners were announced.

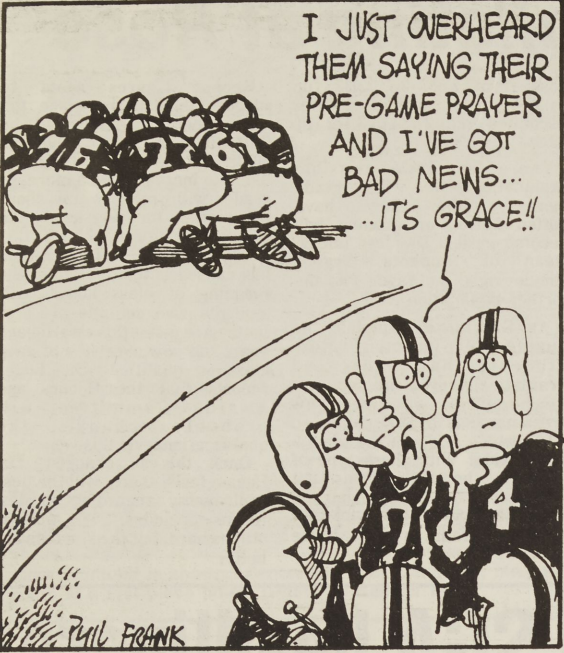
In first place, and rewarded fifteen dollars, were Lee Fisher and Tim Daniel in Fisher's Saab. Second place and ten dollars went to Rich Anderson and Bill Atterbury in Anderson's Bonneville. Finishing third, and receiving five dollars, were Rick Kirchner and Dan Wente in Kirchner's Pinto.

The rally was the first in the 1978-79 series. The next rally is tentatively scheduled for the winter quarter.

Oops!

We were sorry to learn that last week's registration story was in error! The article stated that there had been no registrar at Rose until the present one, Mr. Louis Harmening, took over several years ago. In fact, Mr. William Sisson, Director of Placement and Corporate Relations, preceded Harmening in the job, and Rose has had registrars at least as far back as 1920. Thanks to everyone who pointed this out!

FRANKLY SPEAKING ...by phil frank



Rose slips past Centre in last second victory

In an important and exciting game as Rose has played in a long time, the Engineers rallied from way back to steal a 31-29 victory from conference rival Centre. The loss drops Centre out of title contention with a 2-2 record, while Rose is still unbeaten in conference play with two games remaining.

With only 6½ seconds remaining, Rose-Hulman trailed the Colonels by a 29-13 tally. However, three touchdowns and three missed extra-point conversion attempts later, the Engineers had pulled off an even bigger come from behind victory than against Olivet. The last and most surprising touchdown came with only nine seconds remaining.

The only first half scoring came on a nine yard rush by Paul Schum and an extra point and a field goal by Curt Greider for Centre; and a three yard run by Jay Cassidy and a Greg Peak

extra point.

However, in the second half there were seven touchdowns, four by Rose. Mark Ripple scored first to give Rose-Hulman the lead briefly. Centre then countered with three touchdowns by Paul Schum to gain full command of the game. Unfortunately for the Colonels, only one of the extra point attempts was good. Mike Codington blocked one attempt and a bad snap was the cause of the other miss. Those two points proved costly.

Then with 6½ minutes remaining, Dan Haas raced 27 yards and cut the lead to ten. Had the conversion pass been complete Rose would have been a touchdown and two point conversion away from a tie, but it wasn't. Or had the conversion run been good following the Haas to Young touchdown pass, Rose would have been a field goal away from winning, but again it wasn't.

The Engineers then attempted an on-sides kick. It failed, but this time the defense refused to yield a first down. After a poor punt, one of several of the day, Rose started a one minute drill that ended with a 22-yard touchdown pass.

The pass took Rose's hosts completely by surprise. Haas threw what appeared to be an incomplete pass to Jim Enloe. It was, however, a lateral that Enloe picked up on the bounce and threw to Ben Young for the score. The trick play fooled the Centre defense for just a second, but it was all that was needed. Rose won 31-29.

Coach Touchton commented that he had notified the officials before the game of certain "trick" plays they might use.

The play came as no surprise to the officials. He also said he was glad the team "didn't give up. They forced the game to the end, and we got lucky."

Turnovers hurt the Rose cause as they set up 17 of Centre's points. Twice the Engineers turned the ball over inside their own ten, and one interception was returned to the Rose 35 yard line.

As for the special play, it had only been practiced once and Pfanstiel quarterbacked it in practice, not Haas. In the game the cornerback was forced to come in for Enloe leaving Young to beat just the safety. Had it failed, Touchton said he probably would have gone to Kaufman.

Rose's next game is against Sewanee, currently 2-1 in conference play. Coach Touchton said this away game is critical since the winner owns at least a share of the conference crown. Sewanee has already beaten Southwestern by a 28-13 score.

Sewanee used to be a passing team but this year they're using their outside speed to give them a strong running attack. They may also use the shotgun.

For the year Rose has outgained their opponents 2689 yards to 2222 yards. They have outscored their opponents 169 to 135, 61 of these points coming in the second quarter.

Defensive leaders thus far for Rose are Lindner with 89 tackles, Schramm with 77½, Wheeler with 61, Matovich with 57, Fiscus with 49½, and Hodson with 49.

Rose's last game will be against Southwestern of Memphis at home on November 11.

CC Team prepared

"The team is exactly where I wanted it to be at this time in the season," said cross country coach Hargis. The cross country team has come off one of its best meets two weeks ago at Purdue in the Little State. Rose place 11th of 17 among Hoosier schools. The team's last meet is this Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in Sewanee, Tenn.

"We hope to get second or better," said Hargis about the conference meet. The competitors in our conference are Principia (the meet favorite), Centre, University of the South, and Southwestern at Memphis.

One thing coach Hargis could not control was injuries. All season long the team had injuries to runners. Running positions have been competitive all season also. Four runners have been in close contention for the top spot on the team most of the season.

One of the team's weaknesses was inexperience of the freshmen in the five-mile races. The young team will be better with more maturity and experience next season.

There's only one way to be happy after you become famous and that's to be happy before you become famous. — Bea Arthur.



Rose worked hard on their passing skills this past week. Teamwork has been the key to most of Rose's victories against more established teams. The team is currently preparing for the CAC meet at Principia. (Photo by Marcadis).

Rose soccer team plays for win in conference

The Rose-Hulman soccer team played two games last weekend. In the first game, a JV game against Greenville, Rose lost by a score of 5-0. In the varsity contest, however, the Engineers fared better beating Franklin 2-1.

In the JV game none of the top 12 Rose players participated, since the top 12 were saved for Sunday's more important varsity contest.

In the varsity game Rose took control early in the first period and was able to score at 16:42 in the first half. Rose forward Bob Froetscher scored the goal. Rose was not satisfied with a one-goal halftime lead, so they pressed hard and scored at 43:30 in the period, just 90 seconds before the end of the first half.

In the second half the Rose offense was unable to score. The Rose defense took up the slack for most of the second half, but

with 50 seconds to go Franklin scored. Then with only seconds remaining Franklin had a chance to tie the game on a penalty kick. The kick failed, but it was a close call for the team, who had led the game 2-0 for over 45 minutes.

The two fullbacks for Rose, Steve Wirtz and Tom Roetker, also played a good game defensively, and were partially responsible for holding Franklin to no goals for 89 minutes.

In the game, Rose was able to overcome its aggressiveness problems but Rose seemed to have ball control problems. The team worked on passing and dribbling last week during practice so this weakness should be improved.

The strong point for the team was again its teamwork and cooperation. It was mainly this cohesiveness that won the game, since man for man the Franklin

team had more talent.

Today, Saturday and Sunday the Rose team will be participating in the CAC tournament. Yesterday afternoon Rose took on a strong Principia team, and today Rose will play Sewanee. Finally Rose will finish the tourney with two Saturday games against Centre in the morning and Southwestern in the afternoon. The two strongest teams in the tournament should be Principia and Sewanee with Principia favored.

Rose is hoping to win all four games, but realistically the first-year team would be pleased to finish second or third.

The games will be played at Principia, and will contribute to the conference all-sports athletic trophy. The points will be the same as those given for football, making the tournament very important.

Football Statistics

CATEGORY	ROSE	OPPONENTS
First downs	113	111
Rushing attempts	400	398
Yards rushing	1456	1021
Average rushing gain	3.64	2.57
Passing attempts	197	198
Passes completed	89	97
% completed	45.2	49.0
Interceptions yielded	18	15
Yards passing	1233	1201
Total yards	2689	2222
Punt average	44.0	31.5
Fumbles yielded	15	16
Yards penalized	521	431
Points scored	169	135



Don Wyatt is shown here in a recent practice working on his kicking skills. The team won their match against Franklin in varsity competition, but lost to Greenville in a junior varsity match. (Photo by Marcadis).

Editorial

"Gradeflation" has become a dirty word on many of the nation's campuses, as parents, teachers, and employers decry the rapid escalation of grades while actual student knowledge declines. While the symptoms may exist at Rose, it seems that such a diagnosis would be incorrect.

The average G.P.A. at Rose has been climbing consistently for about fifteen years, but so has the quality of the student body. By almost any indicator, today's Rose undergraduate is a better student than his predecessor in the mid-60's.

On admission, new freshmen now rank much higher in their high school classes and have better test scores than in the past. At graduation, seniors are in much greater demand than ever, which shows that employers, at least are convinced of the quality of their education.

Since this improved quality has increased G.P.A.'s, it is only reasonable that standards for class honors should go up. As it now stands, it is more of a dishonor to those who don't receive it than it is an honor to those who do.

An increase from the present 3.1 to the range of 3.3 to 3.4 would seem to be reasonable. Such a level would once again recognize those who are truly above average in their class.

Laboratory expansion important

by Eric Dansker

Rose-Hulman's plan to purchase nearly one and a half million dollars' worth of new laboratory equipment (Thorn 9/29/78) raises questions as to the procedure for determining specifically what equipment is needed. In addition, the projected emphasis on computer graphics puts attention on the entire graphical communications program that Rose offers.

"We asked every faculty member to look at the laboratories that he was responsible for," said Rose president Dr. Samuel Hulbert. "We asked them to tell us what they felt they would need to do the best job in each lab."

"We had to decide what equipment would be reasonable to consider, then we eliminated duplications. The division heads then reviewed the proposal and went back to the faculty members, asking them to eliminate equipment that they would have no specific use for, or no specific experiments planned."

"They were asked not to select things that would only be used, say, once a year. The guideline was to select equipment for maximum lab utility. The revised proposal was reviewed by the Dean of Faculty and the President."

Most of the money for the new equipment will come from industry, Dr. Hulbert said. There are also government programs that provide matching funds in some cases.

"One of the things that we have trouble in is funding for lab equipment," Dr. Hulbert said. "The thing I am most concerned about in our curriculum is the lab situation... I really believe you learn to be an engineer by being in the laboratory."

"Over the years, the number of labs in some of our curricula has decreased, and I think we

have to go in the other direction. This has been a major concern of mine, to completely upgrade the laboratories, and it is a very high priority."

Dr. Hulbert said that almost every engineering course should have some lab experience associated with it. This could be anything from a short demonstration of fluid flow in a pipeline to a full three-hour experiment.

"You see something on the board and you understand its mathematical representation. Maybe you see a slide or a diagram. But these do not have the same impact as when you actually observe the phenomenon," said Dr. Hulbert.

"I think that's the thing we can do to most improve our curriculum: giving more classroom and laboratory demonstrations, and more laboratory experience."

Dr. Hulbert discussed plans that have been made for instruction in computer graphics. One terminal has been ordered, and others are included in the list of equipment for improving Rose's labs. In December, a new faculty member with computer graphics experience will arrive at Rose from Penn State University.

Samuel Dupree, Jr., will help Professor Herman Moech with the introductory computer courses and develop both an elective computer graphics course and computer graphics lectures to supplement the existing course in graphical communications.

"I find, as an engineer, that graphical communications are very important. In my own particular area, the first thing I do when I have an idea for a prosthesis is try to sketch it out. This is an important thing, and we need to do more of it... we have to continue to emphasize these things."

"For example, if we were to teach calculus and then not show

Grades inflating at Rose

by Dwight Dively

Many of those attending the Fall Honors Convocation commented on the remarkable increase in the number of students receiving class honors. This increase has prompted questions about "gradeinflation," or whether it has become easier to get good grades at Rose.

According to statistics compiled in the Student Affairs Office, grades have unquestionably risen over the last fifteen years. The All Men's Average rose from 2.429 in 1964 to 2.702 in 1969, to 2.788 in 1974, and finally to 2.967 last spring.

The gains in grade point averages have been consistent for every group of students.

Since 1964, freshman grades have climbed from 2.304 and 2.896 (up 25.7%), sophomore grades jumped from 2.254 to 2.963 (up 31.5%), averages for juniors

rose from 2.567 to 2.933 (up 14.3%), and seniors' scores escalated from 2.732 to 3.112 (up 13.9%).

There are two possible explanations for the grade increase: either students have gotten better or grading has become easier. Dr. Jess Lucas, Dean of Students, argues convincingly in favor of the former explanation.

As Dr. Lucas explains, the quality of incoming Rose students has increased dramatically over the past few years. The average new freshman has a 1200 combined SAT, which ranks in the top 6% nationwide. With these type of students, he feels it is not reasonable to expect a normal grade distribution, and thinks the average grade will stabilize around a 3.0.

Recent figures seem to support this thesis, since the grade increases seem to be flattening out. The average quality of new students is not likely to increase much more, so grades will probably stay about the same for at least the foreseeable future.

One problem the escalation has caused is the dilution of the meaning of class honors. All students who compile a 3.1 or better are given this award each year, and now over 40% of each class is qualified. Dr. Lucas reports that the Honors and Awards Committee will probably change the qualification level this year.

Once this is changed, Dr. Lucas feels there will be less controversy regarding grades. As he concludes, "The work is still as hard, but the students are better."

SGA headlines

by Mike Sterling

The information packets for freshmen are scheduled to be distributed next week. All sorts of nifty information about Terre Haute has been scratched up and hopefully it will help the freshmen adjust to our fair school and community.

Closer communications are going to be kept with the various Faculty Committees with the hopes of finding out more information that will be of value to the students. Student members of those committees are urged to participate in their meetings and contribute their views.

Rumor has it that the Astronomy Club and the Ski Club have recently begun operations. Keep watch for any notices of meetings, activities and trips.

It may not be too far in the future that the traffic fines system is revised. Once a final plan has been approved, the student body will be notified; however, one thing that will not change will be the appeal system for fines. Any student who receives what he (or she?) thinks is an unfair ticket can fill out an appeal form in the Student Government/Athletic Secretary's office. At a later date, a meeting will then be set up between the traffic court and the student to review the matter. After that the court will reach a decision on the case. So, be sure to appeal your fine if you feel it is unfair.

Only 12 refrigerators are left — get yours today. Make inquiries to SGA business manager John Rasp, Box 782.

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Future headlines

by Ben Bradley

Once again the Thorn's special correspondents obtained a copy of a future issue. So the Thorn scoops itself as we report the headlines from the Friday, Nov. 3, 1989, issue.

Dean of Students Jess Lucas announced at Fall Honors Convo that 85% of the student body earned Class Honors the previous year. He admitted that the figure was high, but observed that for the seventeenth consecutive year this was Rose's best student body ever and that grades should be correspondingly high. Several persons noted that Dean Lucas has given the same explanation at every Honors Convo.

Meanwhile, the freshmen class reported an average midterm GPA of -1.823, the highest in three years. The rigor of the Military Science courses at Rose is generally blamed for the poor scores.

The Macke Company is completing negotiations on a deal that would enable them to

purchase large quantities of tuna salad from Triangle fraternity at bargain prices.

Peter Ivan Priest, Professor of Glorious Russian Language, announced the discovery of linguistic evidence that linked Macke Food into a vile, warmonger capitalist plot to demoralize loyal proletariats Rose students via their digestive tracts. The similarities between the Russian verb 'pitat' (to feed) and 'pitat' (to torture) conclusively prove, claimed Priest, that we are gradually being poisoned at suppertime.

Former American spy James Peter (alias John Birch) spoke in Worx last week. He discussed the increasing Soviet threat to Terre Haute, pointing out that the Russians could completely annihilate the city without suffering any damage in retaliation. It was not mentioned that the Russians could completely annihilate Terre Haute without incurring any damage to the United States.

Art talk planned

An inquiry into where art is headed in the twentieth century will be the topic of discussion at the final Ian Fraser lecture at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The lecture is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m. in the auditorium.

The lecture is part of a three-part series by Fraser, research curator of the Clowes Fund Collection. Fraser's previous lectures dealt with "The French Salon, Tradition and Innovation," and the "Fathers of Modern Art."

Born in Achimata, Ghana, West Africa, Fraser has lived in Jamaica, Scotland and England.

He graduated in 1950 as a commercial artist from London Regent Street Polytechnic. Since then he has worked as a window designer and a designer for a contemporary furniture company which he also owned. Fraser has been an Indianapolis resident since 1957.

The Fraser lectures are part of Rose-Hulman's fine arts series for the 1978-79 academic year. The various programs are designed to expose students to the arts. The lecture is open to any interested students, faculty members, and Terre Haute community residents.

The

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"First get the facts; then you can distort them any way you want."
— Mark Twain

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Weight 10 lb., 2 oz.; 22½ inches.

Date appointed: 10/27/78, 2:22 p.m.