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News Briefs

By Kyle Kamischke

Peace wreath labeled satanic

In a rural subdivision in Colorado, Lisa Jensen has been receiving a lot of flak from her homeowners' association for hanging a peace-sign shaped wreath on the front of her home. The head of the association, Bob Kearns, stated that several residents complained that the wreath was satanic in nature. He also felt that it was an anti-war symbol. Because of these complaints, Jensen is now being fined \$25 per day. Her response was that, "Peace is way bigger than not being at war. It's a spiritual thing." The head of the association asked his committee members to force her to remove the wreath, but they objected after deciding that it was purely a seasonal symbol. Kearns later fired all five committee members.

Borat causes break up

Recently, Kid Rock and Pamela Anderson filed divorce papers stating that they were ending their marriage after four months due to irreconcilable differences. Reasons behind the divorce are surfacing stating that the divorce is due to Anderson appearing in 'Borat.' The movie was screened at the couple's house and Rock believed that Borat was on a quest to marry Anderson. This upset Rock and they argued over her appearance in the movie. Since then, their marriage cooled off and Anderson moved out with her two children.

U.S. blocks iPod sales to N. Korea

The U.S. government is proposing sanctions that would block the sale of items such as iPods, Segways, and other luxuries to North Korea. This is an attempt by the government to make Kim Jong Il's eccentric life more difficult. He is well known for enjoying expensive cars, alcoholic beverages, and even Harley Davidson motorcycles. This type of trade block is the first of its kind in that it blocks non-military buildups such as Rolex's, Plasma TV's, etc. from being sold to North Korea. The hopes is that if one form of control Il has is taken away, he might begin to lose control elsewhere in his government.

Weather

Saturday
Partly Cloudy 79 Hi / 69 Lo
Sunday
Mostly Sunny 81 Hi / 69 Lo

Provided by www.weather.com
Weather for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

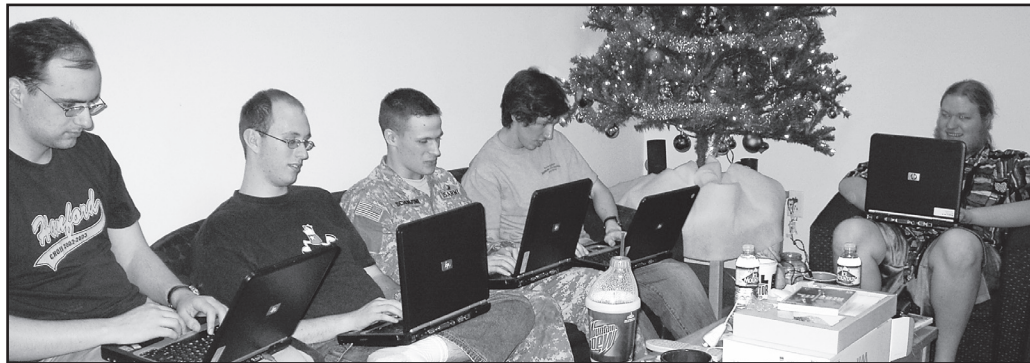
Virtual worlds, virtual lives

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 28, Engenius Solutions hosted a talk called "Virtual Economies and Societies in Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game" in the Myers Presentation Room. The lecture was presented by Edward Castronova, an associate professor in the department of telecommunications and director of graduate studies at Indiana University. The talk drew around one hundred people to it; some were there due to a professional development requirement.

The basis for the talk was from a project Castronova is working on, where he is doing a variety of research on online games. He talked mostly about the game industry and the economics behind it, but also had some input on how the online gaming industry affects people and society. "Some of the things you are doing will be helpful for you down the road," were his feelings towards people playing online games.

He included some basic statistics comparing golfers to gamers, where there is a ratio of four gamers to one golfer in the United States. His also had statistics stating that the average gamer is 30 years old, and that one in five is over fifty. This was a general comparison so he could provide a basis of how big an impact the gaming industry is having on society. "[There is] far more demand for this activity," stated Cas-



Christina Davis / Rose Thorn

Rose-Hulman students (from left to right) Matt Pitman, Jon Bergdoll, Steve Schiavoni, Eric Nees, and Ian Rogers play "World of Warcraft" during a study break this past Wednesday.

tronova when comparing the game industry to the movie industry. "It's communal; it's not by yourself [...] it's a social activity [...] no movie where five people need to go with you to see it [...] You don't need a healer to sit here." This caused the crowd to erupt with laughter.

After his basic introduction into the gaming world, he began his actual talk on what he calls the "Synthetic World", which is where most people play MMORPG's (Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game), which are like EverQuest, World of Warcraft (WOW), and others. According to research, there are over 10 million people that play MMORPGs, the average age is post college, around 24 years old, and most of them work full time. Twenty percent of these people feel that their life online is their real life.

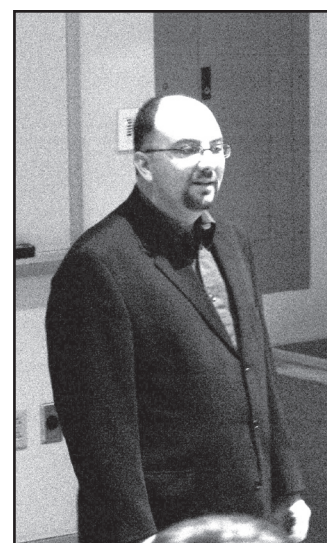
Most people, who have a comment about WOW or other games think it is a waste of time. Castronova summarized this attitude by

saying "who would give up their life to play in a fantasy life? That's crazy." He then said, "Real world sucks for a lot of people... [it is a] reasonable choice for a lot people," which is to turn to the alternative of online games such as World of Warcraft.

Curt Barnard, a junior computer science major, agreed with Castronova on this subject. "I really like how people use it as an alternative to sad lives."

His talk mostly covered the aspect of virtual societies in MMORPGs, but he had some relevant comments on the economy of the games. In poor societies, people play the game as gold farmers and make about 1 dollar and hour. "In low wage places, you can farm gold... [You] kill a [monster], loot the money, and then turn it over to the guy that runs the sweatshop and then he sells it on eBay," commented Castronova.

The next aspect of the talk was about Castronova's game project he and others were working on. He also



Andrew Carlson / Rose Thorn

Edward Castronova, a professor at Indiana University, speaks on the virtual societies and economies that have developed in MMORPGs like "Everquest," or "World of Warcraft."

let his co-workers talk about their aspect of the project. For more information about this, visit swi.indiana.edu.

Continued on Page 3...

And that's the way the cookie crumbles...

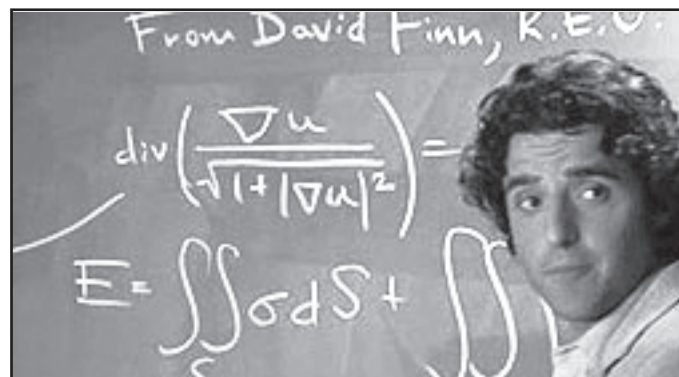
Tiffany Parrot
Staff Writer

The CBS drama "NUMB3RS," a show about utilizing math in difficult crime scenes, recently featured the formulas of David Finn, Associate Professor of Mathematics. The series of mathematical formulas was displayed on a recent episode. Finn's work was used particularly in scene where the mathematician Charlie Eppes explained how math can be used in the baking of cookies, justifying his skills as a cook to his female

confidant and colleague. "I'm using differential geometry to perfect the chocolate chip cookie," Eppes says.

"The formula explains how the cookie spreads once placed on the cookie sheet. The cookie starts out with a ball of dough, then flattens out as air releases," explains Finn. So why would such a formula be developed? "When hired to be a professor, we give [lectures] to show we can teach. I was baking cookies one day and I wondered,

Continued on Page 3...



Rose-Hulman News

David Finn's formula for the spreading of a cookie on a cookie sheet was recently featured on the CBS show NUMB3RS. Here character Charlie Eppes (played by David Krumholtz) uses Finn's formula to claim that he is perfecting the cookie.

News	Entertainment	Opinions	Sports	Flipside
What you all think of Winter Quarter	<i>The Fountain; Bond; Recipe; Warlocks</i>	Russian spy nuked; Turkey	Rose whooped Anderson	"It has features"
Page 3	Pages 4-5	Page 6	Page 7	Page 8

Upcoming community events

					Friday	Saturday
					December 1	2
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Final date to add a class •SAB's "Coin Wars" Fund-raising Event, Lobby of the Union •Deadline For 'Encore Engineers' Concert Auditions •Student Activity, Comedian, 7:00 p.m., Kahn Rooms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •American Society of Civil Engineers' Community Service Project Work Day, 9:00 a.m., Hadley Circle •National Society of Black Engineers' Talent Show, 7:30 p.m., Hatfield Hall
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	8	9
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •American Society of Civil Engineers' Community Service Project Work Day, 9:00 a.m., Hadley Circle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •IM Racquetball Registration Deadline •SAB's "Coin Wars" Fund-raising Event, Union •Business & Finance Office's Holiday Brunch, 9:00 a.m., Kahn Rooms •BCM's Conversational English for International Students, 4:00 p.m., BCM House 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Winter Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m., Kahn Rooms •SAB's "Coin Wars" Fund-raising Event, Union •College Bowl Competition, 6:00 p.m., Union •German Movie Night, 6:30 p.m., A-202 •Cancer Survivor & Entertainer Kevin Sharp, 7:00 p.m., Hatfield Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •IM Chess Registration Begins •Winter Blood Drive, 11:00 a.m., Kahn Rooms •College Bowl Competition, 6:00 p.m., Union •Men Basketball vs. Franklin College, 7:30 p.m., Hulbert Arena 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Study Abroad Symposium, 4:30 p.m., GM Room •SWE's Exploring Engineering Program, 5:00 p.m., Hadley Hall •Jess Lucas Alumni Leadership Award Presentation, Laura Tougaw Sanders '96, 5:30 p.m., Faculty Dining Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Last Day to Return Textbooks for Winter Quarter Classes •SWE's Exploring Engineering Program, 8:00 a.m., Vonderschmitt Dining Room •Performing Arts Series Show, Classical Pianist Edward Auer, 7:30 p.m., Hatfield Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Women's Basketball, vs. Bluffton University, 1:00 p.m., Hulbert Arena •President's Appreciation/Holiday Party, 6:00 p.m., Vonderschmitt Dining Room

\$6.50/hr

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Classifieds

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*"Working to keep the Rose-Hulman community informed
by providing an accurate and
dependable source for news and information."*

**The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays
first through ninth week each quarter.**

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

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

The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors. The editors reserve the right to accept content changes submitted after deadline.

All letters must contain the writer's signature (electronic form is acceptable) and contact information (e-mail address and/or phone number).

The views expressed in the Rose Thorn are those of the original author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Rose Thorn staff or Rose-Hulman community.

Supreme Court hears testimony on CO₂

Matthew Gross
The Daily Vidette (Illinois State U.)

The Supreme Court is hearing testimony this week as to whether or not the Environmental Protection Agency must regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

Over a dozen states, including Illinois, are cited as plaintiffs in the suit, but have met with opposition from the Bush administration.

Plaintiffs in the case, led by Massachusetts, argue the EPA must regulate the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from vehicles as a matter of public health.

However, the Bush administration argues that the EPA lacks the power under the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

"The EPA is in a position to make a judgment about this sort of thing," Tim Kelley, a professor of health sciences, said. "They can collect as much information as possible and deal with the public and private sector to come to some sort of a reasonable conclusion. They're as good of an entity as any to regulate these emissions."

"Carbon dioxide is one of several greenhouse gases, but as far as the EPA is concerned, it's the most important," George Byrns, an associate professor of environmental health at Illinois State

University, said. "It's the one that we are influencing the most."

Carbon dioxide is formed when fossil fuels, such as oil and natural gas, are burned.

"When we burn, we're converting carbon from a form that's sequestered in the ground, like

The case marks the first time the Supreme Court has weighed in on global warming. Its decision is due early next year and is expected to be one of the most important environmental decisions ever.

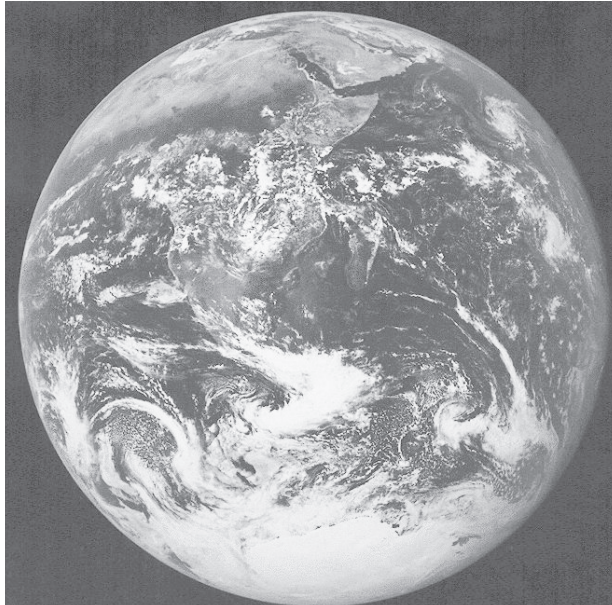
"There are fewer critics saying, 'Is global warming happening or not?' because we're seeing all these changes, things like melting glaciers and record high temperatures," Byrns said.

"There are still those that say 'it's a natural phenomenon, we're not doing it,' but there's a lot of evidence that we are. That's the debate right now."

Kelley said that contrary to many opinions, it is actually in businesses best interest to protect the environment.

"In the long term, it makes businesses more sustainable," he said. "I think a surprising number of major corporations are starting to realize what's good for the environment and what's good for business are actually the same thing."

"Sometimes we Americans need a kick in the butt to move in the right direction," Byrns said. "If all the scientists' predictions come true, and the sea is rising and we're flooding the coastal regions, it may already be too late."



What do you think of winter quarter?

Fred Webber
Staff Writer

I am not looking forward to the deep dark depths of Winter Quarter. I can't wait to see the light at the end of the tunnel, but if that light turns out to be a train, you're screwed.
Peter Lonjers, junior CS

Should be a tough quarter.
Mitch Yates, freshman ME

It's too bad that my bed is so much more comfortable than chairs. I wish I could learn from my room. Spring and fall, you don't mind leaving your room, but winter, no.
Sophia Percival, sophomore BE

It already feels like it's the middle of the quarter, which is a good thing.
Pat Ferro, Assistant Professor of ME

Winter quarter sucks. I hate winter quarter. I still want to do stuff outside.
Zac Blankenbaker, Junior SE

This quarter promises to be much less stressful once job hunting is over.
Alex Lamont, Senior ChE

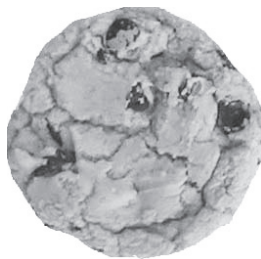
Second quarter of sophomore year is like taking Con Aps twice. The three credit hours of a class are quite deceiving because it's the equivalent of six or seven hours [of work].
Nathan Ingersoll, Sophomore EE

#s from Page 1

"Why do they form that way? Why do they take on that particular shape?" says Finn.

The mathematical model was derived from the manipulation of parametric equations that model the surface of the cookie and its curvature shape. Partial differentiation and analysis of wetting energy also brought Finn to the model.

However, the model is not completely accurate. "Everything is still being researched, but if the dough is stiff, such as a vanilla wafer, then it is a pretty good approximation," Finn states. The formula is mostly accurate while cookies are baking, but the cool-



ing effects on cookies after removing them are being researched as an undergraduate project.

Finn regularly watches the show, but says he does not relate much to the character Charlie Eppes, "There are your mathematical geniuses who work at MIT and Caltech to research new [methods], and then there are those who just like to teach, like me." The show demonstrates the connection of compli-

cated mathematical concepts and the real world, even in the simple process of cookie baking. At the same time, math can be equally or more fulfilling in the humble occupation of teaching.

RPGs from Page 1

The game they have in development is an educational MMORPG that focuses on Shakespeare. Their opinion was that if Shakespeare were made fun and interesting, students would want to learn about it.

The last point Castronova made was that his plans and his thoughts of the future were to use the virtual worlds to experiment with different ideas. For example, if a government were to change, how would that affect society? Castronova believed that people could change their virtual world to meet these new ideas; scientists could see how the world developed and use AI to improve the virtual worlds. In

other words, it was a transformation of real life in a virtual world.

Patrick Caffarel, a junior electrical engineering major enjoyed the talk. "It was interesting. Building worlds and testing theories sound like a pretty good idea."

Scott Ward, a junior computer science major also had similar feelings. "I thought it was really funny that this balding guy in his 30s was talking to us in speech we use." On the subject of creating more MMORPGs, "He's a little over-thinking it; it's not a MMO if only five people are playing. In other words, if lots of people are playing lots of MMOs, then there are no people playing."

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<http://www.supanet.com>
Daniel Craig's new Bond is considerably less suave and more violent than Brosnan's.

Odd Bond-age well done

Gregory Weir
Humor Editor

Real spies don't use secret spy surfboards, X-ray glasses, or crocodile mini-sub. Now, apparently, neither does James Bond.

The newest Bond film, *Casino Royale*, is a move away from campy spy-movie wackiness and toward gritty "realistic" action. It's the darkest and most brutal Bond film I've seen, and that isn't the only departure from the usual. Daniel Craig is the new James Bond, and he's not a pretty boy like Pierce Brosnan. The best way I can describe him is that he looks like a man who kills people for the British government.

Casino Royale is a reboot of the series; at its beginning, Bond isn't even a double-oh agent. It doesn't take him long to earn his license to kill, though. Of course, in this film, Bond takes almost as much abuse as he dishes out. He gets beaten up more often than he gets laid, which should send Bond fans into shocked seizures.

The only gadgets in the film are tracking devices and a better-than-usual-stocked glove compartment. There aren't any Pussy Galores or busty nuclear scientists named Christmas; the closest the movie comes is a femme fatale named "Vesper."

With all this, you might think that the movie's lost the essential nature of the Bond film, but somehow it's still got it. Even without the exploding ballpoints and nudge-wink misogyny, the movie does James Bond, and it does it well. The film's brutal, dark, and body-filled, and it's pretty awesome.

Garlic Parmesan Bread

Andrea Brown
Layout Manager

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

You will need:
Bread (Italian, French, etc.)
1 tsp Garlic powder
1/2 stick Butter (or margerine)
1/4 cup Parmesan cheese (grated)

To Prepare:

Melt butter. Mix in garlic powder and cheese. Spread on bread. Bake until brown.

"The Fountain" flows with compelling beauty

Chris Casillas
Staff Writer

After six years of not releasing a movie, Darren Aronofsky, the director of "Pi" and "Requiem for a Dream", released "The Fountain". This movie was amazing, regardless of its small budget. The movie starred Hugh Jackman as Rachel Weisz in both sixteenth century Spain and present day Canada. Jackman is a captain of the Spanish Conquistadors and is brought to see the Queen Isabella, played by Weisz who requested him to seek out the mysterious Tree of Life, which is located deep within the Mayan jungle in Guatemala.

Aronofsky also delves into the current life of Tommy and Izzi, who are married. Izzi has cancer and Tommy, now a scientist, is busy researching a cure for his wife. Tommy conducts experiments in his lab to try to find a cure to reverse brain tumors.

The way Aronofsky directs this movie and creates the two interacting stories simultaneously is moving, but also requires a bit of thought from the audience. The third parallel of Tommy floating in space towards a nebula is part of both stories at the same time, and the viewer must wait until the end to understand the entire

ing the story from Spain is impressive. For example, Tommy is walking down a hallway to the Queen's throne and all the lanterns appear to be floating in mid-air. Even though there was a small budget for this film, it did not show at all. There might be a small criticism about some of the repeating clips, but they had

relevance into the overall story.

The film greatly reminds me of works by David Lynch, such as "Blue Velvet" and "Mulholland Drive", and the story telling is similar to the way the ending of "Donnie Darko" explains the movie. "The Fountain" has a deep feeling of life, death, and rebirth to it. The complexity of the story will definitely keep you engaged. If you are expecting a sci-fi movie like "The Matrix", you

will definitely be disappointed, but this movie is one to see and will keep you thinking even after the movie has finished.



http://www.filmfodder.com/reviews/achievements/2006/11/review_the_fountain.shtml
Rachel Weisz as Queen Isabella in the Darren Aronofsky film.

movie completely.

The detail that went into this movie was amazing. The details and imagery he uses while tell-

Tenacious D rocks in 'Pick of Destiny'

Ally Melling
Daily Kent Stater (Kent State U.)

The self-proclaimed "greatest band ever" has finally made it to the big screen.

"Nacho Libre" star Jack Black is back with partner Kyle Gass to form the musical alliance known as Tenacious D, this time rocking your socks off in "Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny."

Black displayed talent that transcended media when he and Gass released Tenacious D's self-titled debut in 2001. The band's comedic and melodic rock 'n' roll style soon procured a widespread

popularity among listeners of various ages.

Like the HBO special episodes featured on their DVD "Tenacious D: The Complete Masterworks," "The Pick of Destiny" is a fictional, but funny account of the band's formation. In this film, Black and Gass discover the existence of a supernatural guitar pick that has the power to turn them into instant Eddie Van Halens. The dubious duo venture out to steal the pick in their quest to be rock-gods and pay their rent, but not before encountering a mysterious, if somewhat handicapped, stranger (Tim Robbins of

"Mystic River") who desires the pick for himself.

Lovers of movies such as "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle" and "Anchorman" will appreciate the air of intentional ridiculousness that accompanies the Tenacious D persona from album to film. The film's opening features Black and stifling father in an obscenity-riddled musical number. In a later scene, Black mistakenly eats many wild mushrooms and winds up flying through a Technicolor world with the Sasquatch.

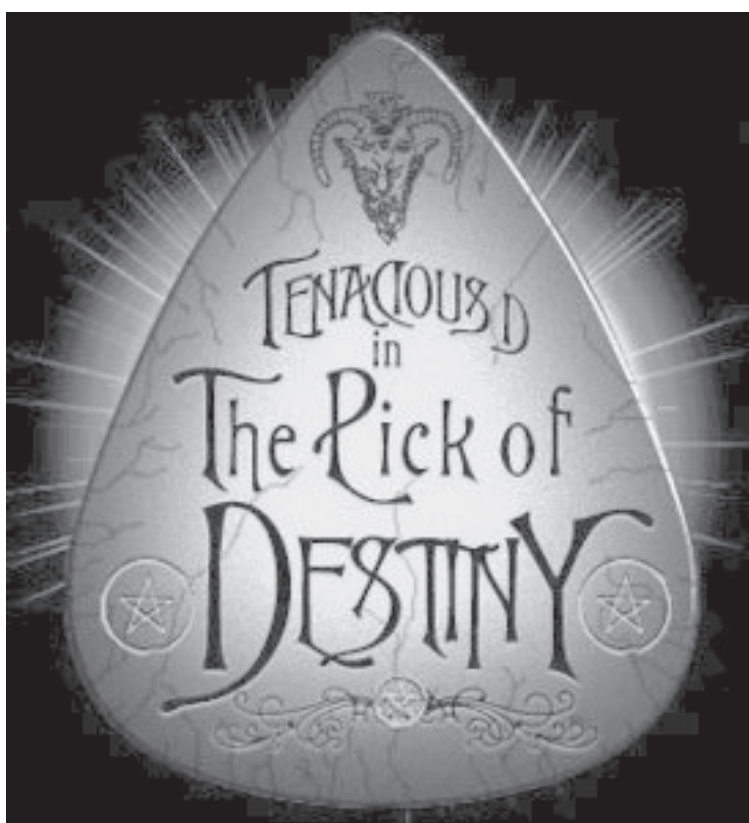
Despite its clever juggling act between absurdity and smarts, "Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny" has an obvious potential to be funnier at times. The film's ending is very abrupt and leaves the audience wanting more.

Either way, Black and Gass put forth the signature intensity that defines the D with Black especially giving the 100 percent effort. It's easy to see the love of rock 'n' roll that inspires these two, and the film is a kind of homage to the artists who shaped their lives.

"The Pick of Destiny" also rocks with a little help from Meat Loaf as Black's religious, anti-rock father. Rock legend Ronnie James Dio makes a cameo as himself, and Black and Gass face off against Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl as Satan, armed only with their guitars.

While it's certain Tenacious D fans will have the most fun throughout the movie, that's not to say the film is not great for newcomers.

When watching "Tenacious D: The Pick of Destiny," just keep one thing in mind: This isn't the greatest movie in the world. No, this is just a tribute.



<http://www.chud.com/index.php?type=interviews&id=3753>
This is not the greatest pick in the world, but it's pretty great.

Sweet potato casserole

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

Kitchen materials needed:
9x9 or 8x8 baking pan
1 mixing bowl
Measuring spoons

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Topping:
1/2 cup (packed) brown sugar
1/2 stick butter
1/2 cup crushed pecans

Mix the pecans and brown sugar in the mixing bowl. Melt the butter and add to the dry mixture. Set aside.

Sweet potato mix:
2 40-oz cans of sweet potatoes/yams
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup sugar
1 stick butter
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp nutmeg

Mix all ingredients in the baking pan. Add the pecan mixture on top of the potatoes in an even layer. Bake at 350 degrees until the topping turns brown and crispy. Let cool for at least five minutes before serving.

Pepper Steak and Rice

Andrea Brown
Layout Manager

You will need:
Skillet with lid
Mixing Bowl
1 Beef Round Steak
1 Can of stewed tomatoes
1 Onion
1 Green pepper
1 tbsp Soy Sauce
1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
1 cup Rice, uncooked
1/2 tsp Seasoned salt
1/2 tsp Garlic powder
1/2 tsp Black pepper

First, cut steak into cubes. Place into skillet and begin to brown until meat is tender. Season steak with seasoned salt, garlic powder, and black pepper.

While the steak is browning, drain the juice off of the tomatoes into a bowl. Save the tomatoes for later use. Add soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce.

Slice onion in half then slice into strips. Do the same with the green pepper. You should now have strips of onions and pepper.

Once the meat has browned and is beginning to tender, add the sauces that have been mixed and continue to cook, allowing the meat to fully tenderize. When meat is tender, add onions and green peppers. Cover and allow these vegetables to cook.

While this is cooking, cut tomatoes to a size similar to the steak. Once the onions and green peppers have cooked down, add the tomatoes. Cover and allow to simmer on low.

For Rice:
Bring 2 cups of water to a boil. Once it starts to boil, add the cup of uncooked rice. Bring the water back to a boil. Turn heat down to a simmer, cover, and let rice cook until it is tender (about 13 minutes).

The Warlock who wanted to be one

Lissa Avery
Editor-in-Chief

You know how when you read a book, you wonder about the motivations of the writer? How did they get that idea, and why did they run with it? Better yet, how in the world did that publisher know that idea would sell?

Honestly, the less easily I can answer those questions, the better. When I read authors like Lois McMaster Bujold, the motivations for the stories aren't immediately clear, yet the stories speak to me by revealing something about human nature. I find myself wanting *more* when I finish the story.

When I read Christopher Stasheff's "The Warlock in Spite of Himself" (Ace Books, 1986), which launched a lengthy warlock series, I find these questions too easily answered. The book felt simplistic. The characters were slightly better — after all, a computer/robot that has seizures is pretty new to me — but not much. Most of the women used sex and emotional manipulation to get what they wanted. Most of the men were equally stereotypical in their own ways.

I wanted more when I finished "The Warlock," that's for sure. I wanted more explanation and for more to make sense. There's a difference between incorporating fantastical elements into a well-woven plot and just throwing in crazy stuff that isn't connected.

Don't get me wrong: I laughed a decent amount while reading this book. The jokes were often pretty bad, but they were occasionally funny. It all felt rather dated, and not in a charmingly nostalgic-inducing way. (Not that I remember much from 1986, myself...)

Luckily, the book was a pretty quick read. The incessant harping on the need for democracy and insertion of political theory everywhere smacked of Poli-sci 101 reasoning. What romance was in the book was boring and inexplicable.

People often tell me that they don't expect "best-sellers" to be for more than entertainment; they don't expect them to reveal much insightful about the "human condition," so to speak. I beg to differ. My favorite authors are those who, with a nice turn of phrase or well-established scene can make me go, "Oh, that feels *right*." It's as though the author has succeeded in emulating humans in written form.

Stasheff didn't do that for me. I often found myself cringing at the responses characters gave and the thoughts evinced. I feel like I may have learned more about the author's frame of mind than anything more widely applicable in reading the book.

"The Warlock in Spite of Himself" seems to be well-received by science fiction readers, but it paled in comparison to works by David Weber, Bujold, Elizabeth Moon, and Julie Czerneda.

Gamer charities gear up for Christmas

Keli Goodson
The Crimson White (U. Alabama)

The Christmas season is a time when many people do their bit of giving back for the year, whether it is by donating to the cold Salvation Army bell ringers with red buckets or by donating through the Internet.

Fortunately, there are a few special options for those who'd like to donate things other than cash, such as video games.

There are a few charities through which the controller-bound group can give gifts of consoles and games to needy kids in hospitals around the world, namely Get Well Gamers and Child's Play.

Both charities were started by everyday gamers instead of corporations, so there are no "administrative fees," and both have grown rapidly since their starts.

Get Well Gamers is the charity to donate to if you have a few old consoles or games lying around. In operation since 2001, the

charity has expanded to include 41 hospitals across the United States.

Ryan Sharpe, the president of Get Well Gamers, in an interview on Oct. 18 with Gamasutra, a video game-developer Web site, said the idea was born from his many trips to the hospital with pneumonia. He said when the hospital got video games, it helped him forget everything that was causing him to be sick.

Donations for Get Well Gamers are sent off from donors to the charity's address in Huntington Beach, CA, where they send what they get to hospitals in their network.

According to their Web site, get-well-gamers.org, the organization accepts any console games or systems made after 1989, which means anything made later than the Sega Genesis. Controllers, wires and other extras are welcome donations as well. They also accept monetary donations.

The more recent gamer charity in the United States comes from

Want to get involved?

Get Well Gamers Foundation:
<http://www.get-well-gamers.org/>
Founded in 2001 with the goal of bringing video game systems and games to children's hospitals across the United States.

Child's Play:
<http://www.childsplaycharity.org/>
Founded in 2003 by gamers, for gamers. Child's Play donates game systems, games, toys, books, and videos to children's hospitals around North America and the world.

Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis is on the Child's Play Network.

one of the most popular Web comics, "Penny Arcade," written and drawn by Mike Krahulik and Jerry Holkins, better known by readers as Gabe and Tycho.

Child's Play was created in regards to negative press toward gamers in 2003. One editorial spurned the guys at Penny Arcade to set up a charity for gamers, in order to "give these kids what they deserve and give the newspapers a different kind of

story to write about gamers."

That first year there was only one hospital, located in Seattle, and by the time the drive was over, more than \$250,000 worth in games, toys and money had been donated.

Each year after that, they've expanded to include hospitals across the United States, as well as in Britain, Australia, Egypt and Canada, and have raised more than \$1,000,000 for their cause.

New "Call of Duty" tanks the competition

J.M. Friedman
Massachusetts Daily Collegian (U. Massachusetts)

According to the television, it's time for the holidays. While nature disagrees, we get 60-degree freebies after Thanksgiving, along with the constant reminder that video game season has entered full swing. The sight of that tiny man with the futuristic machine gun unloading into the giant robot-alien has been commonplace recently. They're out there, and if you know about Wiis and PS3s, not to mention something about an Xbox 360, then that image is probably ingrained in your skull. This December, next generation consoles, meet Generation X.

Last year, the definitive successor to the first-person WWII shooter legacy was Activision's "Call of Duty 2." This season brings the third installment to the series, complete with marked improvements in aesthetics and minor alterations to the gameplay. If you liked killing scores of Nazis last year, chances are "Call of Duty 3" will once again satisfy.

Graphics

Infinity Ward, the original developers of the franchise, passed the reigns to Treyarch, in order to get a head start on the fourth "Call of Duty." Visually speaking, Treyarch produced nothing short of a masterpiece. The first game in the series to be entirely designed for the Xbox 360's capabilities, cutting-edge eye candy is abundant. Particle effects and dynamic lighting allow rising smoke to mingle with rays of sunshine through holes in a bombed out ceiling. Changing focus between short and long distances in succession produces an uncanny blurring effect, while long blades of grass move independently in the wind. The level of detail in every object is truly remarkable.

Sound

Explosions, ricochets, echoes — they all do the graphics justice. Outstanding digital audio definitely adds to the intensity of war. While verbal commands and



<http://xbox360.ign.com/articles/717/717769p1.html>

Call of Duty 3 is scheduled for eventual release on Xbox 360, PS3, Nintendo Wii, Xbox, and PS2. No word yet on PC release. Gameplay will be identical for all systems, only the graphics will differ.

sound bytes get repetitive, hearing frantic German voices around the bend never gets old.

Gameplay

Adding more vehicles to the single player campaign mode allows for a nice change of pace. Additionally, Treyarch implemented an entirely new physics engine that allows for destructible environments, so that box you're hiding behind may not be there in another 30 seconds. "Branching mission paths" allow for a sense of freedom as the player decides which route is most appropriate to accomplish the task at hand. Despite looking and sounding fantastic, CD3 had more noticeable flaws than CD2. While you can survive grenade blasts mere feet away, jumping over a chair or short wall can be frustratingly

problematic. Fellow computer soldiers will endlessly fire at the enemy through a ceiling or wall, and dead bodies at times mysteriously float in space.

Multiplayer

CD2 was the most played game on Xbox live last year, and this time around they have made improvements. Class-based gameplay and larger maximums on team size mean more fun for online players.

"Call of Duty 3" takes place in the weeks following the allied invasion of Normandy, as you participate in American, British, Canadian, and Polish campaigns. The Canadian and Polish campaigns are a nice change of pace, but there is really little emotional investment in the characters as you bounce around from cam-

paign to campaign. Furthermore, all fighting takes place in France and culminates in the liberation of Paris, so there is no major change in scenery as there was in previous installments.

The overriding feel of "Call of Duty 3" is the same as its predecessors. The controls are identical, as is the tactic and style of the single player mode. While there were next-generation steps in aesthetics and minor additions in the gameplay, the fun factor may have taken a step back. With the genre getting flat and overdone, there seems to be a lot of "going through the motions" for the player, while bugs and hiccups offset the brilliance of the graphics and sound. At the end of the day, if you liked "Call of Duty 2," the third one will occupy too much of your time.

The greatest spy saga of our time



Here's
your new
opinion

Aaron Meles
Opinions Editor

I'm going to warn you up front that this is not one of my usual editorials about heavy-hitting political issues or pressing social problems. Nor is it about something that has been irking me lately that I just need to vent about. Instead, I want to tell you about how you can turn the simple act of perusing a newspaper into an emotional roller coaster ride that will keep you turning page after suspenseful page until the story's exciting conclusion. In fact, I give it two thumbs up.

If you haven't been following what is probably the most outrageous news story I've ever read, here's a brief update: Last week, Alexander Litvinenko, a former Soviet KGB agent turned Kremlin critic, died in a London hospital while investigating the untimely death of Russian investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya. The cause of Litvinenko's death? Exposure (likely ingestion) of

polonium-210, an isotope usually only found in specialized nuclear facilities.

In a heart-wrenching plot twist, on his deathbed Litvinenko accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of ordering his death: "You may succeed in silencing me but that silence comes at a price. You have shown yourself to be as barbaric and ruthless as your most hostile critics have claimed... the howl of protest from around the world will reverberate, Mr. Putin, in your ears for the rest of your life."

Because polonium-210 isn't something the average person encounters every day, it's safe to say that Litvinenko was poisoned intentionally – especially when he had ingested enough to make airplanes and restaurants he had visited radioactive enough to be detected weeks later.

Furthermore, polonium-210 can only be obtained from special nuclear processing facilities, meaning that there is a very short



www.npr.org

Alexander Litvinenko before being poisoned with polonium-210 (left) and in the hospital shortly before his death, where he blamed Russian President Vladimir Putin for his death (right).



www.cbc.ca

list of organizations that could get their hands on it. If that's the case, why would the Russians use it to assassinate Litvinenko when it would be so easily traceable to them? Maybe someone else is trying to frame the Russians! Whoa! Another twist! What a wild ride!

To further thicken the plot, later investigation by British authorities revealed that on the day of his poisoning, Litvinenko met

with an old friend, Italian security expert Mario Scaramella, who showed Litvinenko confidential e-mails naming possible killers of Anna Politkovskaya and discussing other assassination targets – including Litvinenko and Scaramella themselves! These guys are hardcore!

I mean, they are not only discussing suspected assassins, but the uncompleted hit lists of those assassins of which they

themselves are on. What's more, these two are chatting about this over lunch. When most people are talking about yesterday's game or office politics, people like Litvinenko and Scaramella are discussing their imminent deaths. You can't make this stuff up.

Well, you can. I guess spy novelists do it all the time. But the fact that this story is actually true and unfolding as you read this makes it that much more exciting. Each day I read the news, some questions are answered and new questions arise. Will the British investigators find Litvinenko's killer? Or will they themselves suffer untimely deaths just as they are about to uncover the truth? Were the Russians framed? Is Scaramella really the "trusted friend" of Litvinenko or is he a double agent? Has Putin set a chain of events in motion that will destroy the Earth?

We will all have to read on to find out.

Constantinople, not Istanbul

Andrew Klusman
Staff Writer

Some Muslims in Turkey apparently are not a very modest people, and they seem to think that the world revolves around them. Pope Benedict XVI is in Turkey this week to meet with the Orthodox Church's Patriarch Bartholomew I (the Orthodox Church split from the Catholic Church in 1054, yet remains close to Catholicism, and in recent history, steps have been furthered to reunite the two Churches).

His trip to Turkey, however, has an added component, something that was added after his September remarks in Regensburg. He will now be meeting with the leader of Turkey, some clerics of Islam, and he will be traveling to the famous Blue Mosque in Istanbul, making it the second time in history that a Pope sets foot inside a mosque (Pope John Paul II was the first).

Adding to all of this, Pope Benedict XVI caused some controversy by letting it be known he was to visit the Hagia Sophia, a formerly Christian church that was violently turned into a mosque in 1453 (it has been a museum since 1935).

To make it more visibly known, Pope Benedict XVI is traveling to Turkey for one prime reason, and that is to meet with the head of the Eastern Orthodox Church. At the start of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI was given an invitation by the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople to visit him in Turkey. Seeing as how Pope Benedict XVI's goal is to resolve schisms and promote dialogue among Christianity, he accepted.

By doing this, he is working towards repairing the 1000-year rift between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. In September, however, the Muslim com-



www.cnn.com

Pope Benedict XVI is greeted outside of the ruins of a house near Ephesus, Turkey where the Virgin Mary is believed to have lived.

ponent became a larger issue, and moderate Muslims called for meetings with him.

This event led to a small panic among radical Muslims, because they perceive the Pope's trip as a way to "pull Turkey" out of the Islamic world. This, of course, is not such an easy task, especially noting that only 99.8% of Turkey's population is Muslim. Then the protests began, and the lack of proper historical education in Turkey becomes evident. One protestor outside the Hagia Sophia carried a sign that said the Hagia Sophia is "Turkish and will remain Turkish." Of course, it is known the Emperor Justinian I had it built, as a church no less, before Islam (and even Mohammed) existed! In the face of that, Benedict XVI visited the former church, and then proceeded to meet again with the Patriarch Bartholomew I.

Upon meeting Patriarch Bartholomew I, the two heads of the Orthodox and Catholic Churches signed a common declaration. Among other things, they called for a wider acceptance of Christians in Muslim countries – a response to calls by Muslims that the West be "more accommodating" to Muslims. One point that

should be made, however, is that Christians are not exactly allowed to freely exercise their religion, especially inside of Turkey. For example, they cannot run schools of theology (the Orthodox seminary has been closed since 1971), they cannot have crosses on the outside of their churches, and the Turkish government states that it does not recognize the title of Ecumenical Patriarch of Bartholomew I.

If what Muslims seek is true equality and treatment in the historically Christian West, then they should see to it that Christians are afforded the same treatment and equality in the Muslim countries. The way to do this is to let Pope Benedict XVI peacefully meet with another Christian leader in a spiritual home of Christianity for many (so far they have done so, but not without threats). They should also take care to be open to criticism, and prove that they truly are a religion of peace, and not of violence. To further show that Islam is a peaceful religion, they should strongly condemn the violent statements made against the Pope, and treat him (and his fellow Christians) as they desire to be treated.

Security scholarships may be dangerous for colleges

Staff Editorial
The Oracle (U. South Florida)

If you're interested in "Middle Eastern and South Asian language studies, engineering, computer science, analytical thinking, Islamic studies and other specialties," you might want to go to the CIA for school money instead of a bank.

According to USA Today, college students pursuing those skills have been awarded more than \$16 million in funds over the past two years. The money comes from a host of intelligence agencies: The CIA, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Homeland Security and others.

The funds have helped hundreds afford tuition costs and have even caused some schools to set up classes that cater directly to students interested in careers in national intelligence.

Needless to say, the intelligence community's goal is to assure it will have a sufficient number of skilled employees in the future.

"We want to hire an engineer that understands world cultures and religions and speaks Urdu and Farsi or maybe Korean," said Lenora Peters Gant, head of ODNI's program.

Interestingly, the intelligence community is also using the funds to belie the image of the stereotypical intelligent agent -- usually a black-suited white man with sunglasses and an earpiece.

"Three of the 10 schools backed by (ODNI) are historically black colleges. More than 90 percent of students at a fourth college are women," according to a USA Today article.

The intelligence community has certainly thought this through. Urdu, Farsi and Korean are spoken in Pakistan, Iran and North Korea, respectively, so it's a safe bet they will be relevant in future national security issues. The fact that the funds are going to minorities and women is even better and will more fully integrate those groups in a profession historically considered to be the domain of white males.

There's a problem, however, even with this otherwise constructive, mutually beneficial plan: academic freedom.

It wasn't long ago that the intelligence community used such scholarships to spy on the politics of professors on college campuses. David Price, an anthropology professor at St. Martin's University in Spokane, Wash., said the intelligence community keeps the identities of its university beneficiaries a secret in some cases.

Price told USA Today, "I've looked at far too many old FBI documents to ever be comfortable with the idea."

It's a shame, really. The intelligence community legitimately needs workers in the future, and their ideas are good ones. The funds they have made available are helping hundreds. But it's still a little scary, and academia's cold feet are justified. After all, classrooms can hardly be considered a safe haven of ideas if the CIA is tuning in.

Send letters!
email: [opinions@
rose-hulman.edu](mailto:opinions@rose-hulman.edu)

Sports Briefs

by Mike Ferguson

76ers lose Randolph to injury

Philadelphia 76ers forward Shavlik Randolph broke his ankle during practice on Thursday. Chris Webber, who has missed the 76ers last six games due to a back injury, will play in Randolph's stead on Saturday against the New Jersey Nets. There is no indication as to how long Randolph will be out with his injury.

Indiana downed by Duke

Duke University beat Indiana University by a final score of 54-51 in ACC-Big Ten Challenge action Tuesday night. Duke dominated early and held out for the win despite a late Indiana run during which Indiana came within one point of Duke. Armon Bassett, who was instrumental in Indiana's second-quarter surge, led the Hoosiers with 16 points. Duke's DeMarcus Nelson led the Blue Devils to their narrow victory with his 19 points. The ACC won the ACC-Big Ten Challenge by a score of 8-3.

Monson resigns as Minnesota head coach

Dan Monson resigned as Minnesota University's men's basketball coach after the Golden Gophers lost their fifth straight game on Wednesday night to Clemson University. The skid began when the Gophers lost at home to Division II Winona State in exhibition play. Monson led the Gophers to an 118-106 overall record and a 44-68 record in Big Ten action.

Bibb lifts Rose past Anderson

Rose Hulman News

Senior Brian Bibb scored 16 points and had 19 rebounds to lead the Engineers past Anderson University 63-50 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball action on Wednesday.

Bibb's 19 rebounds were the most by a Rose-Hulman player since D.J. Cordero grabbed 24 caroms against Pace in 1971.

Senior Jason Bednarko and junior Jared Moore joined Bibb in double figures with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Other key contributors for the Engineers included junior Ron George with nine points and three rebounds; and junior Phil Sundling with seven points, six rebounds and five assists.

Anderson held a narrow 25-24 advantage at halftime, before the Engineers outscored the hosts 39-25 in the second stanza to hand the Ravens their first loss of the season.

Rose-Hulman shot 50% from the field in the second 20 minutes and outrebounded Anderson 44-34 in the victory.

Anderson jumped out to an 8-2 lead in the first four minutes, before a 10-4 Engineer spurt knotted the score at 12-12 on a three-pointer by freshman Jeff

McCartney.

The Ravens gained another six-point edge at 18-12 midway through the first half, but a three-pointer by Bibb and a layup by junior Ron George brought Rose-Hulman within one point at half-time.

In the second half, a layup by Bibb 14 seconds into the period gave the Engineers their first lead at 26-25. Anderson regained a

four-point lead and held a 34-33 margin at 15:44 of the second half, but the Engineers relied on a 12-2 run to capture a nine-point edge at 45-36 with 10:25 left.

The Ravens fought back to within three points at 45-42 with 6:49 left, before a strong defensive effort propelled Rose-Hulman to the victory. The Engineers outscored Anderson 14-3 over a five-minute span late in the second half

to gain a 59-45 lead on a three-pointer and two free throws by George.

The Engineers improved to 3-1 on the season and 1-0 in HCAC play, while Anderson fell to 3-1 and 0-1 in league games. Rose-Hulman is off to its best start since the 2003-04 squad started with a 6-1 mark. The Engineers return to action at Hanover College tomorrow at 3 p.m.



Rose Hulman News
Brian Bibb snatched 19 rebounds at Anderson.

Women's basketball off to record start

Rose Hulman News

The women's basketball team continued its best start to a season in women's basketball history with a 62-48 victory over Anderson University in the Engineer home opener and first ever Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference game on Wednesday night in the Hulbert Arena.

Senior Suzy Carlson led the offense with 27 points on the night with four assists, three steals, and a pair of blocks.

Also in double digits in scoring, senior Rebekah Forsyth scored 12 points with 17 rebounds, marking her second double-double of the season and the 48th of her career. Forsyth also led the team with four steals on the night.

Junior Brittany Moline led the Engineers with five assists and pulled down five rebounds in the game. In a strong Engineer defensive effort, Rose-Hulman forced 21 Anderson turnovers and made them pay with each turnover, massing 22 points from the turnovers.

After the Ravens jumped to a 2-0 lead off a jumper by Anderson's Kayla Martin, the Engineers responded with a jumper by Forsyth to tie the game at two a piece. With 19:01 left, a layup

and free throw shot by the Ravens Mandy Seward gave Anderson a 5-2 lead.

The Engineers responded and drove hard with a pair of jumpers by Carlson, bringing the score to an Engineer lead, 6-5 at 18:09. With 17:52 left, Raven Melenda Hawthorne hit a 3-point shot to give Anderson the lead back, 8-6.

But this was Carlson's night. With 16:12 left, Carlson hit a 3-

point shot on a pass from Moline and what would be the game winning shot, as the lead never left the Engineers.

The Engineers carried a 29-26 lead into halftime. The three-point lead was the closest the Ravens came for the rest of the night.

The Engineers came out shooting, scoring 33 points in the second half and bringing the lead to as much as 16 with less than a minute left with a layup and free throw shot by junior



Rose Hulman News
Suzy Carlson led the team with 27 points, moving within one point of the 1,000 mark.

Katie Tharp.

The Engineers rose to a season mark of 5-1 and 1-0 in the HCAC, the best start in school history, as the Ravens fell to 2-4 on the season and 0-1 in the HCAC. The Engineers return to action tomorrow afternoon at Hanover College at 1 p.m.

Yaw Aning named MVP as six Engineers capture All-League honors

Rose Hulman News

Senior Yaw Aning has been named Most Valuable Player of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference to lead six all-league men's soccer honorees in results released today.

Joining Aning on the first team were senior Eric Hoiland, senior David McIlwaine and junior Matt Trowbridge.

Second-team honorees included senior Chris Banner and junior Trey Buck.

Aning becomes the first Conference Player of the Year in the history of Rose-Hulman men's soccer. Jessica Farmer was named League Player of the Year in 2003 for the women's program.

Aning led a Rose-Hulman defensive effort that resulted in just 17 goals scored against the Engineers in 20 matches this season. The team finished 15-4-1 and second in the HCAC regular

season and conference tournament to established school records for wins (15), fewest losses (4) and highest placement in the conference.

The honor was the fourth career all-conference award for Aning, who previously earned Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference first-team recognition in 2004 and 2005 and third-team honors in 2003. He also becomes just the second men's soccer player in school history to earn all-league honors for four seasons.

Hoiland claimed first-team honors after scoring three goals and recording six assists this season. He capped his career with 11 goals and eight assists in 75 matches, including 73 starts. Previously, Hoiland earned third-team all-conference recognition in 2004.

McIlwaine led the HCAC in

scoring this season with 13 goals and 30 points. He completes his Rose-Hulman career with 30 goals to rank third in school history and added 13 career assists for 73 points. McIlwaine added eight game winning goals for the Engineers this fall.

Trowbridge paced the Engineers with seven assists and added eight goals in 2006. He will enter his senior campaign ranked third in school history with 15 assists and ranks fifth all-time with 24 career goals. Trowbridge previously earned all-league honors in the SCAC in 2004 and 2005.

Banner tied the career school record with 19 assists, highlighted by a career-high six this sea-

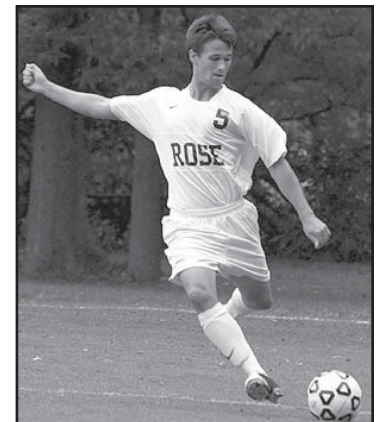
son. He started all 71 of his career matches and pitched in with four goals as primarily a defensive midfielder.

Buck allowed just 13 goals in 17 matches to record a school record 0.83 goals against average this season. The 2005 all-SCAC honoree also established a school record with 12 victories on the season and holds Rose-Hulman's career goals against average record with a mark of 1.01.


The men's soccer team has compiled a 27-10-2 mark over the past two seasons, and this year's senior class tallied a record of 43-31-2 to set another school mark.



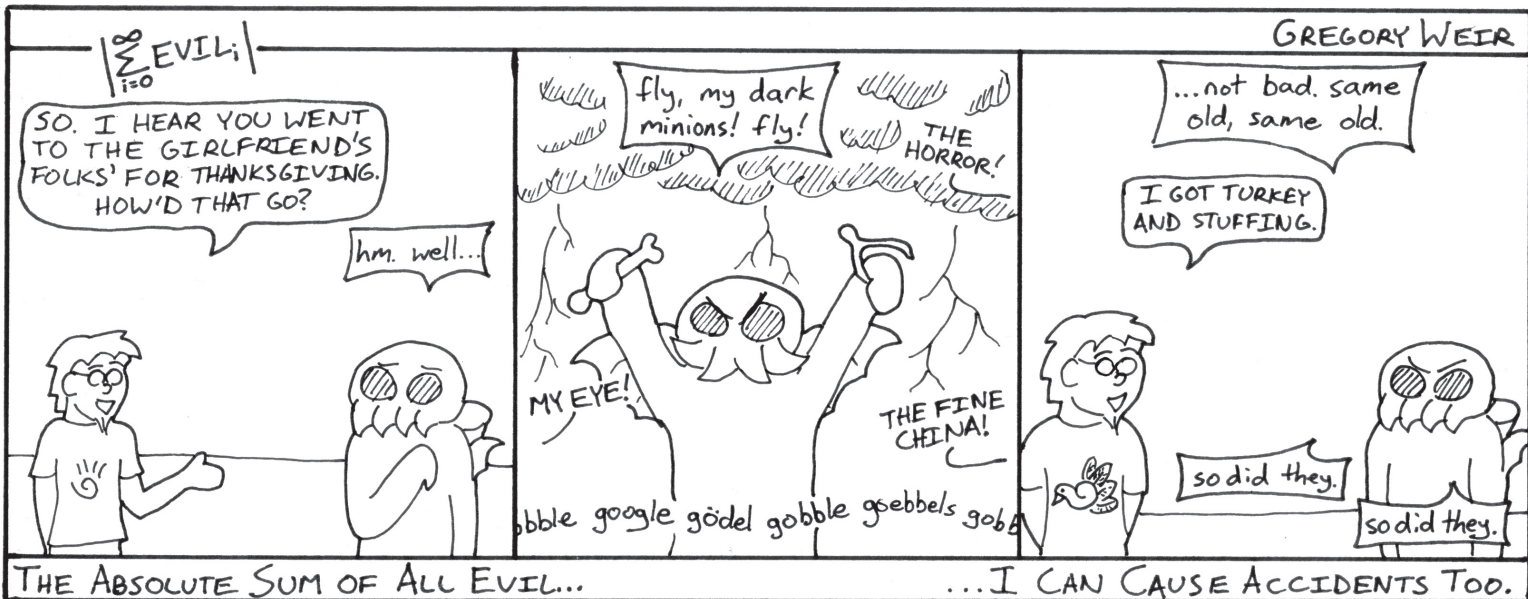
Rose Hulman News
Yaw Aning was named the 2006 HCAC Most Valuable Player.



Rose Hulman News
Matt Trowbridge earned first-team all-HCAC honors for his efforts in the 2006 season.



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This Day in History
 Rosa Parks is jailed on this day in 1955 for violating segregation laws in Montgomery, Alabama, allowing our enlightened time, where the only time we care about racism is when Kramer demonstrates it.

In Addition
 I know I left it around here someplace. Have any of you seen a little metal thingy? About so long, with a knobby bit on the end? I wish I could remember the last time I saw it. It's gotta be somewhere.

Wacky Prof Quotes

"Put your hands up high! I'm deaf!"
 -- Prof. Throne, requesting participation

"I drank a lot of beer just for this."
 -- Prof. Hoover, prepared for a demonstration

"I want to just drive this pen into your head."
 -- Prof. Williams, expressing her feelings

"This will take great control of the force, but as you probably know, I'm very strong with the Dark Side."
 -- Prof. Throne, Sith Master

"All that being said, Dr. Artigue isn't all that important."
 -- Prof. Carlson, sabotaging the competition

"I'm not so good at making up joints... I'm better at rolling them."
 -- Prof. Evans, on joint probabilities

"WTF. What does that mean? That means something to you people... Oh. I know what it means now."
 -- Prof. Mutchler, learning the facts of life

"They didn't pay Microsoft their royalty fees."
 -- Prof. Mellor, explaining the absence of windows in a computer graphics project

"I have never sucked on a Mach 1 thing before."
 -- Prof. Mech, on sucking

"I want to find the dollar damage of the Terre Haute stink."
 -- Prof. Bremmer, showing local pride

"A, E, I, O, U... and these are called 'vowelss.'"
 -- Prof. Galinaitis, using creative whiteboard spelling

"I'd like to apologize that I told him he was an idiot, an inferior human being, and that he should get out of my office before I vomit."
 -- Prof. Ferguson, being gracious

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

Pain-filled Wii tragedy

Gregory Weir
 Humor Editor

Part of my regular Thanksgiving visit is the traditional laundry list of reminders from the parents. Do grad school applications. Make Christmas plans. Remember to bathe. Normal stuff, really, but there's one that always gives me trouble.

"Come up with something you want for Christmas." This was accompanied by a subtle reference to my sister's birthday present, a brand new iPod. They were either giving me a target price or telling me about their empty bank account.

Anyway, I was looking at prices on the Interblag, and I couldn't help noticing that an iPod had the same price as another sleek, white, sexy piece of electronics. The Wii.

Of course, I don't really need a Wii. I can always be a bum and use the one in my ex-roommates' room. Besides, I'm not sure I have the physical fitness for this new-fangled entertainment device.

I tried out the nifty *Wii Sports* game that comes with the system. Boxing, golf, Tai Chi... it was all pretty cool. But about halfway through a rousing game of Jai-Alai, I noticed that the room had become uncomfortably hot. I was breathing like an asthmatic basset hound in Darth Vader armor.

Now, I've always known I wasn't in the best shape, but I didn't think I was that bad. There was something about the Wii, though, that left me winded. Maybe it was the strain of the advanced technology, or the extreme weight of that remote. Regardless, my girlfriend wasn't all that sympathetic when I ended up flat on my back with my muscles on fire.

Oh, I'm sure she was trying for a look of sympathetic concern, but her expression made it clear that she was holding back laughter of the I-told-you-so variety. She wants me to go on walks, you see. Outside.

Out of doors.

So I'm not sure about Wii for Christmas. Maybe I should stick with my backup plan of a Gas Powered Party Blender, complete with handlebars. I'll be able to make piña colodas and daquiris, even on those dreaded walks.

Organ-filled turkey tragedy

Lissa Avery
 Editor-in-Chief

This Thanksgiving was my first one away from my family. I'm not a freshman; it was just the first time I didn't spend a day of travel to get to family for two weeks of boredom and face-stuffing.

Instead, I stayed home and cooked my own Thanksgiving dinner. My immediate family never cooked turkey; we tend to go pretty light on meat, and not many of us like the idea of handling cold animal carcasses.

Yum, carcass.

Anyway, I collected advice from everybody on cooking turkeys. My favorite housekeeper offered advice. The cashier at Kroger reminded me to cover the entire bird in aluminum foil. Several people told me to make sure the bird was completely thawed before cooking it. I got recipes for gravies and suggestions for stuffing. My friend Tyrone bought a turkey injector and scrounged up a butter injection recipe. I was all set to produce a wonderfully cooked carcass.

I faithfully removed the bloody, watery bag containing the neck, rooted around for the organs and didn't find them, and injected my bird after smacking it playfully on the breast. My lovely, dead bird. Yum. After a few hours of sitting in the fridge, it went in the oven, covered in foil with a thermometer carefully jabbed into the leg.

After a total of about 5 hours, I took out the bird and we cut it. It was an oddly colored bird. Parts were definitely cooked. Others were less clear, with ambiguous carcass-juice colors and very dark dark meat. I'm dubious about any meat that isn't burnt to a charred crisp. There was no way I was making any kind of gravy from that stuff.

Digging around looking at the meat revealed... the organ bag! Cue Link's "I got the thing!" music. I was warned about that, but it wasn't where it was supposed to be! It broke the laws of both biology and physics for that huge bag to have fit in that tiny neck carcass crevasse.

After gingerly dropping the steaming mess of organs in the trash, I turned around, convinced nothing else would go wrong. Then I heard Tyrone's voice. "What I want to know is why that stuff is green!"

Dust-covered candy cane tragedy

Philip Becker
 Staff Writer

"A candy cane is a hard cane-shaped candy stick. It is traditionally white with red stripes and flavored with peppermint."

That's Wikipedia's (transient) definition, which in no way captures the amazement of the candy cane. It's like Christmas rolled into a stick of sugar that leaves my breath smelling potently fresh. Not to mention that its design is brilliant for conveniently carrying it hooked around one's ear.

My friend was given a treat bag for Christmas and I asked for a piece. I was eyeing his sumptuous bite-sized Snickers. He said "no" and I walked away, no hard feelings. But then he stopped me and said, "You can have the candy cane..." My eyes grew three sizes that day. I was baffled by the notion of giving away such a sweet treat. I immediately snatched it from his hand, unwrapped it, and began creating the tastiest, pointiest, most inner-cheek-stabbing device in human history.

I enjoyed the peppermint flavor to my car, where, before beginning my journey home, I decided to pick a good traveling CD. As I reached into the armrest to make my selection, gravity did its foul deed.

I remember the event in heartbreaking slow motion. The sugary cane slid from its place pressed between my right cheek and teeth, and, pulled by the weight of its crook, fell off my lips. My heart pounded violently as my sweet treasure was lost. It fell perfectly vertical between my seat and armrest, into the forbidden zone of lost coins and hamburger-bun crumbs.

I quickly squeezed my hand into the crevasse worked my

pinched hand so that the furthest stretch of my fingers touched the tip of my candy. Each attempt was met with cold, sticky fingertips. I tried harder, but only managed to push the candy farther away. A tear came to my eye as I thought of the little crumbs and hairs the sticky tip could be collecting, and my efforts doubled. I couldn't bear the thought of my beautiful confection being lost!

A hard push let me retrieve it by reaching under the seat. All seemed lost as the point of the can had collected clutter and the rest of the cane was fractured. As I began to throw my sweet away, I stopped. I looked at the candy cane for a moment, broke off the dirty tip, and ate my candy piece by fractured piece. The memory of that candy cane will not be forgotten this December 26: National Candy Cane Day.

Top ten tragic freshman quotes

Matthew Melton
 Staff Writer

1. "Why do some people around here look like zombies?"
2. "Rose doesn't know how to have any fun..."
3. "I only got 6 hours of sleep last night. It was horrible."
4. "Why do you have 30 24-packs of Mountain Dew?"
5. "All right, where are the ladies?"
6. "Do Civils get harassed a lot?"
7. "Is Con Apps really hard?"
8. "I'm not worried about finals."
9. "Let's go to the Woods! There's like 5000 girls there!"
10. "Can you show me what laking is?"

The Little Line o' Litigious Lard: The content of the Flipside is intended to be purely humorous, and it does not represent the opinions of the Rose Thorn or Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. It doesn't represent anybody's opinions. Apparently, I'm called "GS" now. Good to know. Facts in "This Day in History" courtesy of historychannel.com. All material is copyright of its owner. Any unattributed material was created by Gregory Weir.