

Winter 12-16-1999

Volume 35 - Issue 12 - Thursday, December 16, 1999

Rose Thorn Staff

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THORN

Volume 35, Issue 12

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Terre Haute, Indiana

Thursday, December 16, 1999

Four campus organizations give their time to build 'Bikes for Tikes'

Walt Flood
Staff Writer

Last Saturday December 11, the Exchange Club of Terre Haute sponsored a bike building party. The party took place in a hanger donated by the local Air National Guard. The Rose-Hulman end of the project was organized by Dale Long, the Associate Director of Communications here at Rose.

The Bikes for Tikes Project, new to Terre Haute this year, was organized and adopted by the Exchange Club of Terre Haute. The goal of the project is to provide bicycles and tricycles to needy children in the Wabash Valley area.

The Exchange Club collected donations from the Terre Haute community and used the money to purchase various types of bicycles directly from the manufacturer. A total of 152 bikes were purchased. However, these bikes were not completely assembled and needed to be put together.

Dale Long, a board member of the Exchange Club of Terre Haute, suggested that he could try to get some students from Rose-

Hulman to help assemble the bicycles and tricycles. The response was incredible.

Last Saturday over 50 Rose-Hulman students and faculty arrived at an Air National Guard hanger located at nearby Terre Haute International airport. They unloaded the packaged bikes off of a truck and began to assemble them in groups of 4 or 5.

The workers included a variety of Rose-Hulman clubs and organizations. Some of the participating groups were Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity, Circle K, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE).

The volunteers constructed tricycles, bicycles with training wheels, and various sized 18 speed mountain bikes. "After all the bikes were put together, we put them through a quality inspection to make sure that the brakes and gearshifts worked and everything was put together securely," added Matt Lepinski of Alpha Phi Omega.

With the unexpectedly large turnout, the bicycles were con-

structed quickly. Scott Walshon, also of Alpha Phi Omega, said, "It took under two and a half hours to construct the 152 bikes."

The volunteers finished their work by tagging each bike with the name and address of a child whose parents had requested a bike. The bikes will be delivered to the unsuspecting children on Monday, December 20 and Tuesday, December 21.

If anyone is interested in assisting with the delivering process feel

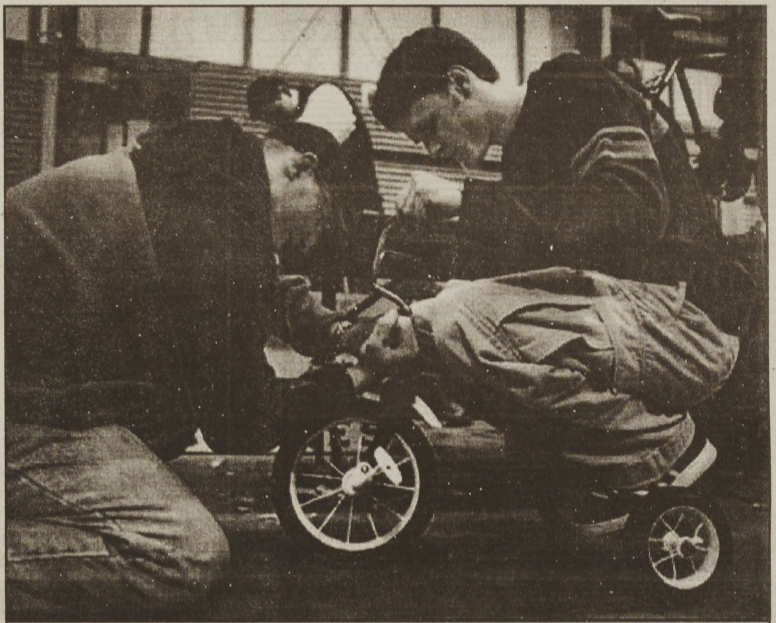


photo courtesy Tribune-Star
Screw This! - Rose students Jason Strobel and Josh Clough take time out to help build one of the 152 bikes that will be delivered to unsuspecting children next week.

free to contact Dale Long at extension 8418. According to Mr. Long, "Without the help of the

Rose students the project couldn't have been done."

A Reason to get Dressed up

SAB plans premier winter formal dance in January 2000

Contributed by Katie Weiss, SAB Encore Committee

Need a date? Try the SAB matching service.

The first winter formal dinner and dance will take place January 15, 2000. The theme for the Dance is "Under the Stars and Dreaming."

A set up service between Rose-Hulman and St. Mary of the Woods College is being established. The service is intended to increase the interaction between the two schools in addition to eliminating the excuse of no one to take for the guys. A short survey will be used to provide possible dates for the guys. It is the responsibility of the male to contact the suggested date(s). Stu-

dents are welcome to attend without a date.

The dinner will consist of Chicken Cordon Blue or Fettuccini Alfredo catered by Aramark. It will be served at 7 pm with the dance following at 8 pm.

The dance will take place in the Main Dining Room of the Student Union. The dance will end between 11 pm and midnight; in time for people to make fraternity parties. the same evening.

Dress for the even will be semi-formal. Decorations will be in the colors of navy and silver.

Tickets will be available in the commons after break. There is no charge for dance tickets; however, tickets for the dinner cost \$5 per person.

Drop your books, you don't even want to miss this game!

Rose-Hulman Women's basketball to battle rival St. Mary of the Woods tonight

Craig Pohlman
Editor-in-Chief

As the holidays approach, the Engineers are ready to deliver their present of a first blow to the Pomeroyes of St. Mary of the Woods College tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Hulbert Arena.

Last year, over 2,500 packed the arena in last year's 65-57 loss to the Pomeroyes. Some people in attendance brought homemade signs to cheer on the team.

Those who read the signs know what a rivalry this has become between the two colleges - those who have seen the lack of spectator space at St. Mary of the Woods know why so many come to this local con-

test.

This will be the tenth matchup between St. Mary of the Woods and Rose-Hulman. The Pomeroyes took home the last nine Clabber Girl trophies. They might not be so lucky this time.

"Our team has been working hard days and weekends," says Rose-Hulman women's head basketball coach Brenda Davis. "They have made a commitment to the team and work on their own time."

The dramatic improvement in the Engineers this season was evident in last week's home game versus Macmurray College. Carissa Hasselbring scored a double-double and set a new school record of seven

blocked shots in the contest.

In addition, the continuing effort could be seen in their game at Earlham College on Monday when Christina Forsyth and Molly McKeown reached double figures in scoring.

Tonight, SGA will also be sponsoring a halftime contest of "Singed Out." Contestants will have a chance of winning a free date.

So you have three tests tomorrow and that assignment due before break; take a little time out and show St. Mary's what is meant by "Rose Pride."

"We're excited for the game [tonight] as any other game," says Davis. "We have a big crowd to back us up as well."

125 Years



Rose-Hulman
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

News

NSBE Happenings

Campus Briefs

Page 3

Opinions

Tradition or Life?
Which has more value?

Response of a "quiet hall"
Page 6

Sports

Men's basketball enjoying
5-game winning streak

Track sees new records
Page 7

Weather Watch

FRIDAY

Scattered Showers
Low 30 - High 44

SATURDAY

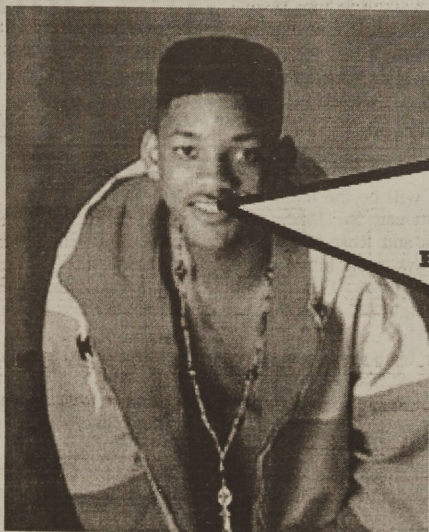
Cloudy - Low 28 - High 38

information courtesy The Weather Channel

CAMPUS CALENDAR

		December 16		17		18	
		Hulman Union Holiday Celebration 11:00 a.m.		Holiday Break Begins			
		Women's Basketball Clabber Girl Trophy game vs. St. Mary's of the Woods SRC 7:30 p.m.		After Last Class			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Holiday Break - No Classes						Christmas Day	
Winter begins							
26	27	28	29	30	31	January 1 New Year's Day 2000 A.D.	
Kwanzaa						New Year's Eve	
Holiday Break - No Classes							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Winter Quarter Resumes 8:05 a.m.				Men's Basketball vs. Rhodes College SRC 6:00 p.m.		Women's Basketball SRC 8:00 p.m.	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Men's Basketball vs. Hendrix College SRC 1:00 p.m.						S.A.B Under the Stars and Dreaming Formal Dance 7:00 p.m.	
Women's Basketball SRC 3:00 p.m.							

**S.A.B. WANT YOU...
AND
WILL SMITH
TO GET JIGGY WITH IT!**

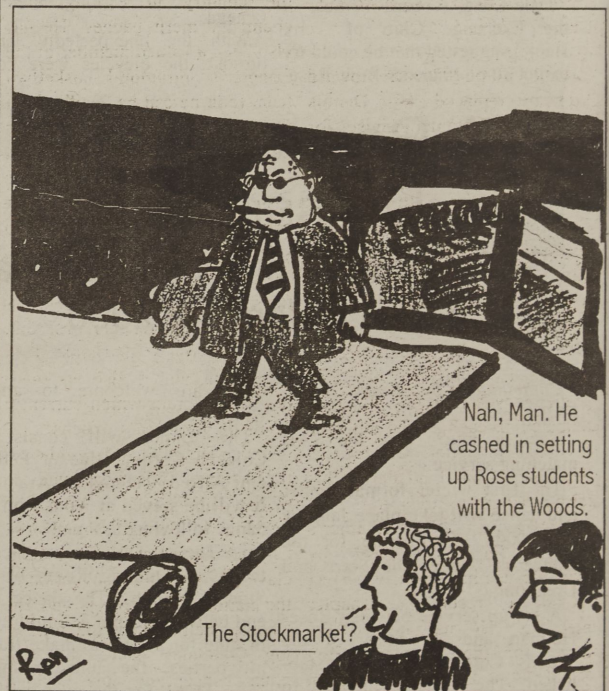


**ROCK IN THE
NEW WILLENIUM WITH
SAB AT THE WINTER
FORMAL. YO! ITS GONNA
BE FUNKY FRESH**

**JANUARY 15th
at the**

WINTER FORMAL

THE ROSE



SUBMISSIONS

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

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

Booming computer job market greets grads

Ray Henry & Jessica Van Sack
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)
(U-WIRE) BOSTON --

Graduate student Jeff Considine is a man in demand -- a major corporation is offering him a starting salary of \$63,000.

But, he is not sure if he wants the job. To Considine, who will graduate with a computer science degree, the \$63,000 offer from Compaq is a run-of-the-mill starting salary in the computer field. Compaq is one of many companies courting Considine. Mitre, another computer company, may pay him up to \$52,000 a year to design software.

Facing a variety of offers, he expects to have his pick of jobs upon graduation, but hasn't made a decision yet.

And he is not alone.

According to a recent University of Michigan survey, Considine is one of many students facing a rich job market, where starting salaries are up three to five percent. The study also found that the college labor market is expected to expand 10 to 15 percent in the upcoming year.

"In general, salaries are up," said Boston University Career Services Director Richard Leger.

The job market is especially hot

for graduates with computer science degrees, since recent surges in technical innovations have made computer experts highly prized by employers, Leger said.

Scott Savarese, another GRS student, has an offer pending with General Dynamics, a high-tech corporation. But he is not sure if he will take the job because he may wait for an offer from a start-up company, which could hold more immediate benefits.

"If I were to work for Compaq, I'd have safety and benefits," Savarese said. "But with a start-up company, you can earn a lot more money in a shorter amount of time."

While a number high-tech companies are offering Savarese the chance for a large salary, the benefits to work in a computer-related field extend beyond money.

In addition to the \$800 a week he earned as a software developer, Savarese's employer, Compaq, offered him a variety of extra benefits, including flexible hours, the use of a health club and the option to work at home.

Through the combination of extra benefits and high salaries, Leger said, corporations hope to lure top candidates, especially Internet operators, designers and

security programmers.

"Anything that clicks into the Net seems to be doing very well right now," Leger said. "My guess is technology is...going to command top dollar and be competitive."

Leger says two factors typically determine a starting salary -- geographic location and job type.

According to the Electronic Engineering Times, engineers working in Northern California make more money than anywhere else in the nation.

To have a shot at earning some of these high wages, Leger said, an increasingly large number of graduates are exploring alternate ways to get a job, such as working as temporary employees.

"There are lots and lots of folks around who are hiring students on a temp basis," he said.

Leger urges students to begin their job search as early as their freshman year to familiarize themselves with job search resources available on campus.

"Get an idea about what you like doing," Leger said. "Ultimately, you're going to be good at what you do because you like it."

NSBE Happenings

The Gift of Giving - Clothing Drive

A clothing drive is currently underway to help benefit others. All articles will be donated to charity to help spread the gift of giving. Boxes and articles will be collected during the 5th week of the quarter at which time they will be packaged and delivered to a charity.

Boxes are located in the residence halls and in various buildings throughout the campus.

If you are unable to find a box, articles can be delivered to the NSBE office in the Union building.

Seniors visit Rose for weekend

A couple of Fridays ago, the National Society of Black Engineers in conjunction with Admissions hosted a weekend devoted to minority students. The weekend began with the prospective student learning about Rose and with a tour. Other activities included a game night, attending a college basketball game, and having tons of fun. Although only a handful of students could attend, the enthusiasm was enough for hundreds. Not only did they enjoy the weekend, but they gained a priceless experience that can make Rose-Hulman special.

Campus Briefs

Continuous Improvement report released

Institute president Samuel Hulbert recently distributed a report that compared current data with that collected five years ago. Among the improved numbers:

- \$53 million in new facility improvements
- Increased freshman retention rate from 86.6% to 92.3%
- Improved graduation rate from 73.6% to 78.4%
- Student involvement in industry-related projects increased from 100 to 850
- \$10 million for laboratory and computer equipment
- Fulbright Scholars increased from four to ten
- Endowment value increased from \$69.9 million to \$159 million

New electrical and computer engineering faculty

Two professors have joined the ranks of the electrical and computer engineering department: Jianjian Song and Tina Hudson. Song, who once worked here as a visiting professor, received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota and will take an associate professor position. Hudson, who will be an assistant professor, attended Georgia Tech and Berry College.

Lilly Endowment pleased with hotline

Lilly Endowment officials are reportedly pleased with the success of the expanded Homework Hotline, which has recorded a 300% increase in calls from October to November. It was the Endowment's \$1 million grant that allowed the hotline's expansion into the Indianapolis metro area.

Dow Chemical puts Rose in select group

According to alumnus Mike Gambrell (CH '76), Rose-Hulman has made a list of only 40 institutions nationwide where Dow Chemical will still recruit students.

Fundraising sets new record

During the first four months of this fiscal year, Rose-Hulman has received \$23.5 million in cash gifts, which exceeds the former record for cash gifts in an entire year (1970-71).

The Decade of McLean AXΣ Chapter Advisor Reaches 10-Year Service Milestone

Contributed by Chip Bennett
'97, Iota MA

In the Fall of 1989, Dr. Howard McLean replaced Dr. Dennis Lewis as the Chapter Advisor for the Iota Chapter of Alpha Chi Sigma. He has served in that capacity ever since. In that time, Dr. McLean has repeatedly gone above and beyond the call of duty. He has participated in nearly all of the Chapter's initiatives during the past decade, including the two held during his sabbatical during the 1997-1998 academic year. He has also participated in each of the ten Professional Induction Ceremonies the Chapter has held during his term as Chapter Advisor.

With respect to the Chapter's activities, Dr. McLean has led by example. He has a nearly perfect attendance record at Chapter meetings. He has carried the torch for the Chapter's Boy Scout Merit Badge program; in fact, he helped write the guide book the boy scouts use across

the country in earning their chemistry merit badges. He has also been a valued member of the Chapter's intramural basketball team (and he can be deadly from three-point range). Dr. McLean hosts a pizza party annually at his house as one of the Chapter's rush events. He is also a member of the E. E. Dunlap Scholarship selection committee. Dr. McLean has been instrumental in the success of the Chapter's Chemistry on Wheels program. He has actively participated in the shows, and is also responsible for the grant which currently funds the program's expenses.

Under Dr. McLean's guidance, the Chapter has continued to thrive. The Chapter received the Fraternity's Best Non-House Chapter Award at the 1990 Conclave (the biannual convention of the national fraternity), and the Chapter helped host the following Conclave. Since the program's inception, Iota Chapter has received the Three Star Chapter Award 9 out of 10 years.

During his term, the Chapter has continued to grow in size, reaching an all-time high of nearly 60 active brothers last year.

Dr. McLean's dedication has not been limited to service to the Chapter. In addition to helping write the Boy Scout chemistry merit badge guide book, Dr. McLean has traveled to Florida, Indianapolis, Arkansas and Atlanta in order to maintain a Conclave tontine (consecutive-attendance record) dating back to 1990, the first Conclave after his initiation on May 13th, 1989.

Certainly, some of Dr. McLean's success as Iota's Chapter Advisor comes from his experience in the Marine Corps. Dr. McLean has effectively determined when to push the Chapter, and when to let the Chapter learn on its own.

Dr. McLean's influence on the Chapter is evident, not only in the Chapter's consistent success, but also in his relationship with each of the Chapter members. The Chapter wouldn't be the same without him.

**The First
Annual Rose
Community
Art Exhibit**

Sponsored by Rose-Hulman Women's Club will be held the week of March 19, 2000. It is open to Rose students, faculty, staff, and spouses who wish to exhibit their paintings, photographs, drawings, sculptures and other works of art. Entry forms will be available in February at the Student Union Office.



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**TERRE HAUTE
FIRST NATIONAL
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Always Close to Home

King's *Green Mile* almost as good as *Shawshank*

Matthew Walter
Editorial Staff

The Green Mile

Tom Hanks
Michael Clarke Duncan
MPAA: rated R
for violence, language and
some sex-related material
running time: 182 minutes
*** 1/2

Opening Notes: Last Saturday, I decided to watch *The Green Mile*. Over the past decade, Tom Hanks has been one of the few actors to consistently put out excellent film after excellent film. This movie was also directed by Frank Darabont, whose *The Shawshank Redemption* ranks among my favorite movies of all time. Both of these prison movies have the coincidence of being based off of writings by Stephen King.

The Plot: *Green Mile* is set in a death row prison in Depression era Louisiana. The death row section of the prison becomes known as the green mile because of its green tiled floor.

John Coffey, played by Michael Clarke Duncan (*Armageddon*), is a death row inmate convicted of killing two young girls. Coffey is a huge man, but it is evident that things may not be as they seem. Coffey is afraid of the dark and cries, hardly the personality of a convicted killer. Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks - *Saving Private Ryan*), the head guard at the prison, senses this and over the course of the film finds out that Coffey has healing powers that are truly amazing. He can remove the suffering of a person and simply spit

it out.

It is the moral dilemma of the guard that is the major point of this film. Can the guards kill someone they know to be an innocent man? Hanks' character questions how God will judge him for killing a true miracle.

Totally opposite to Coffey and Edgecomb is the character of Percy Wetmore (Doug Hutchison - *Batman & Robin*), another death row guard. Wetmore is the nephew of the governor and uses this fact to control the people he works with. His character is meant to be despised for the wickedness he embodies.

The Good: Every actor in this movie plays their parts wonderfully. Although a serious film, humor is added in places where it is appropriate. What I found most incredible though is the fact that I actually felt more compassion for the inmates in this film than I did for the Percy. These men, at least, were sorry for their actions. I also liked the fact that every question (one of which had to do with the age of Hanks' character) that arose in my mind was answered.

The Bad: Some of this film is a bit predictable. I mean, you have a character will astonishing healing powers and a character that is deathly ill. The end result of this deathly ill character is not that hard to figure out. Although what is interesting is what Coffey does with this suffering, that he seems



photos from movieweb.com

The Green Mile is told as a flashback through the eyes of Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks), the head guard of a death row prison in Louisiana known for its green floor.

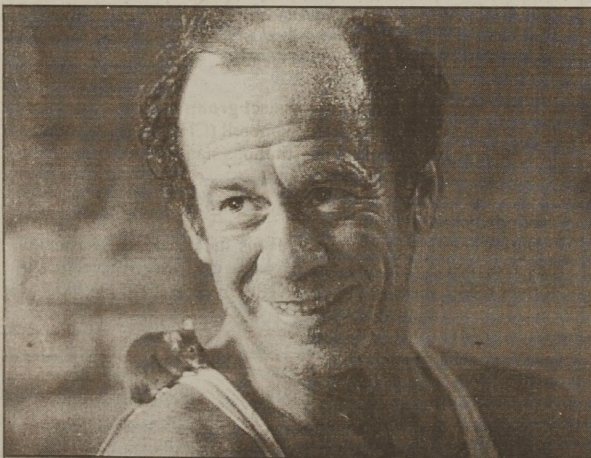
to be choking on (at first, I thought it was because the suffering of the character was so great).

This film is also very long (3 hours in length plus the fifteen minutes of previews I had to sit through). The pace of the movie is not slow, though. It will not feel as long as some other three-hour films, such as *Waterworld*. Many moviegoers today, though, are put off about sitting through such a long film.

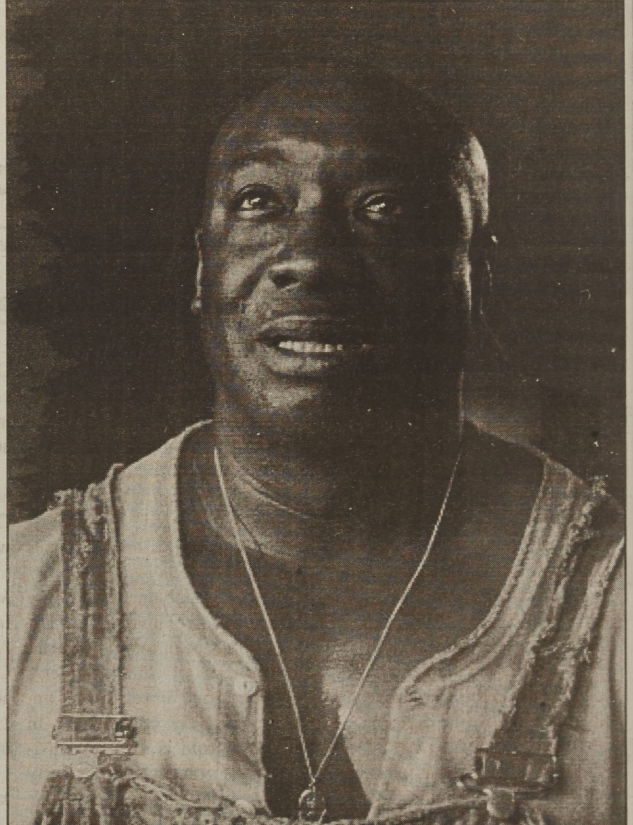
The Ugly: There is a scene where an execution goes horribly awry, because of the actions of one of the characters. This is one of the few graphic moments in a film that is generally heartwarming and awe inspiring. This scene does not detract from the movie, but serves to show the true depth to which Percy will go to engage his own vindictiveness.

The Bottom Line: *The Green Mile* is an excellent film, truly worthy of a Saturday afternoon viewing. It pulls at your heartstrings at some points and makes you think at other points.

On a scale of zero to 4 (with a 4 being classic and a zero being *Caged Heat 3000*), I give this movie a 3.5.



Inmate Eduard "Del" Delacroix (Michael Jeter) with his pet mouse, Mr. Jingles.



Michael Clarke Duncan stars as John Coffey, the incredibly large death row inmate imprisoned for the murder of two young girls.

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief Craig Pohlman
News Editor Matthew Walter
Entertainment Editor Travis Holler
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Events Editor David Shafer
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Administrative Staff

Business Manager John Gardner
Office Assistant Brandy Hardwick
Advisor David Piker

The Rose Thorn

5500 Wabash Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47803-3999
Phone: (812) 877-8255
Fax: (812) 877-8166



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

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Thorn Staff

Staff Writers Alison Bailey, Nat Bowe, Ted Chan, Don Cole, Walter Flood, Jessica Huggins, Robert Kober, Jason Koch, Dave Korman, Dan LaBar, Donnie McGaughey, Ian Myers, Michael Reavey, Alex Song

Photographers Amanda Garrelts, Susan Hare, Mike Shaul

Cartoonists Brian Ball
Kanishk Priyadarshi

Webmasters Andy Engle, Andy Schott

The Rose Thorn welcomes letters and comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 300 words long. The editors reserve the right to edit letters for grammar, clarity and length (if over 300 words). All letters to the editor must contain the writer's signature, class year and phone number. All submissions will be confirmed before publication. Letters may be sent by electronic mail to Thorn@Rose-Hulman.Edu, but still must contain the writer's phone number for confirmation. For prompt publication, letters should be typewritten or printed by computer. All letters for an issue of the Thorn must be received before noon on the Tuesday prior to publication.

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

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn>

Wrestlemania 2000 rules... "and that's the bottom line"

Brian Cudzilo & Paul Monusky
The Diamondback (U. Maryland)

(U-WIRE) The World Wrestling Federation teaming with THQ has come out with the most innovative wrestling game ever, *Wrestlemania 2000* for Nintendo 64. Taking the same basic format from *WCW Revenge* -- a older THQ game -- and adding additional extras, including new and improved wrestler entrances, *W2K* is a sure fire hit with wrestling enthusiasts and video gamers alike.

The whole line-up of the WWF superstars, from veterans Stone Cold Steve Austin and The Rock to newcomers the Hardy Boyz and Chris Jericho, is jammed into this game. THQ captures each and every move in all of the wrestlers vast repertoire.

All of the wrestlers' taunts, like the people's eyebrow, titan-tron entrance videos and even foreign objects from the stands have been jammed into this cartridge.

If all those wrestlers are not enough for you, you can "unlock" seven other superstars or make your own wrestler. The edit mode is the biggest improvement that THQ made after *WCW Revenge*. You are able to design your on wrestler physique, taunts, moves and entry music. Although this process is a bit long and tedious, especially editing all of the wrestler's moves, it is well worth it in the end.

From all the options this game offers to "in that very ring," almost every style of-match from the real life ring is playable. Ranging from grudge matches, tag-team matches and steel cage matches. For the hard-core WWF fans, sorry, but there is no inferno match or hell-in-a-cell style match. Although the best bonus of the game for those missing out on those kind of matches is the "Road to Wrestlemania" mode.

"Road to Wres-

tlemania" allows you to pick your favorite wrestler and work up the ladder from the lowest rank of the WWF.

Once you reach *Wrestlemania* and if you defend or win the WWF heavyweight title, then be prepared for the game's best surprise, a special challenge from the Heartbreak Kid himself, Shawn Michaels.

The motion captured movements of every wrestler and all of the game options THQ has included will win your heart over in a matter of seconds. The game could have included the voices of the ringside announcers, but it still is the most desired game on the market.

WCW Mayhem, the video game that depicts WWF's rival faction is also an enjoyable play, and provides different excitement for the average wrestling fan. The sound in this game is phenomenal: You hear the wrestlers hit the mat, you feel it when they get hit by the steel chair and while you are playing you can actually hear real life ring announcer Tony Schavonie's comments. The entry music is also identically copied to fit real life.

These effects put you right at ringside, a viewpoint one does not fully receive watching Nitro or Thunder. All of the WCW arenas are represented in this game. If you are tired of dueling it out in Nitro or Thunder, hop to Starrcade, Bash at the Beach, or any of the other pay-per-view venues. There are also 13 backstage areas, if you want to take your wrestler

out of the ring. This is one of the most intriguing options in the game. For the first time ever in a video game you can take your wrestler to a city street to duke it out.

Another option of *Mayhem* that *W2K* does not have is the "Quest for the Best" mode. Bearing a slight resemblance to *W2K's* *Wrestlemania* mode, you have to fight your way to a title. However, in *Mayhem*, after you win a title you have to defend it. This "King of the Mountain" mentality gives the player something to strive for after the title has been reached.

There are drawbacks to *Mayhem* as well. The difficulty levels are very inconsistent. Easy and medium are really easy, but hard is nearly impossible to beat. This does not pose much of a challenge to the player. After the initial luster of the cool options wore off, the game became less fun because it wasn't as challenging. The "Quest" mode is a perfect example. It was boring after completing it once, but *W2K's* "Road to *Wrestlemania*" allows for challenges and has different matches to mix things up.

Also, the edit wrestler mode is not as complex as *W2K*. *Mayhem* allows less options for clothing and physique as well as moves. *W2K* allows you to choose from a whole database of moves, music and taunts, where as *Mayhem* only lets you choose another wrestler's move to use for the one you created.

Wrestlemania 2000 is a better game than *WCW Mayhem*. If there was a way to morph some of the good portions of *Mayhem* with the overall quality of *W2K* we would be interested. At the end of the day, the wrestlers' personalities do make it better. That is why *Wrestlemania 2000* wins in the end.

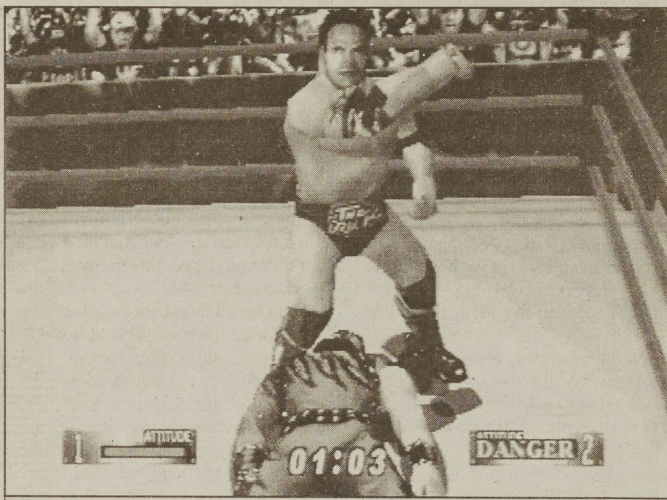


photo from thq.com
The Rock goes for the People's Elbow in THQ's *Wrestlemania 2000*, which features signature moves for most of the WWF's superstars.

COLLEGIATE WORD SEARCH

Home For The Holidays

O A C G G B O Y Z S J N O W C
H A K K U N A H A O E T R E E
N K T S S B B N I V F R N M N
M I S T L E T O E C A E A F L
O P D N R A T E H A Z E M U N
O C H L G W B G Z Q W D E L S
Q H A M S L N N G R V N N U N
E R R V K T A Q E E J I T P L
F I O A M W N A S D K E U E F
D S N R K F T E Z E Z R D O N
C T E A B H J X S H K I S G G
J M M N M B C Q A E E T R V Y
B A X I A G A Z P R R I A V J
B S Z K T Y D T D C H P R L D
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Y2J strikes as Chris Jericho challenges the Undertaker to a steel cage match.

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The Rose Thorn reserves the right to refuse advertising which the editors judge to be discriminatory on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender.

Also any advertisement which promotes violence, illegal activities or is in bad taste will not be considered for publication.

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

Tradition or Life: Which has more value?

Nat Bowe
Staff Writer

I stepped off the plane on November 18, 1999, glowing with cheerfulness, because my exams were over. My happiness was soon ruined when I heard that one of my friends from high school had been injured in the bonfire accident at Texas A & M and was in critical care at a hospital in Bryan, Texas.

The rest of my night was filled with worry and frantic searching on the internet to check the condition of my old high school chum. I called my girlfriend at home and talked to others from home on the internet. The general attitude of my fellow graduates was shock, and disbelief that anything this tragic and freakish could happen to one of ours. My Friday was filled with intense praying and hoping that he would survive the tragic injuries to his young 17-year-old body.

At about 8:00 p.m. on Friday,

November 19, 1999, Timothy Doran Kerlee Jr. became the 12th man to die from the bonfire accident.

I heard talk on the radio about what a travesty it would be if they canceled the bonfire tradition. The radio commentator said that he understood that people had lost their lives and many were injured, but this was just too long standing of a tradition to discontinue it over a freak accident.

When I heard this, I about drove off the side of the road. This radio commentator was sitting happily in his soft chair in the studio, commenting on things from a very non-partial, non-involved view. I was listening to him knowing that I had just lost a friend due to an accident that could be prevented in the future.

Okay, now to my whole take on the deal. I think that there is absolutely, positively no good reason why A & M should ever have the bonfire again. Saying that it is a 90 year old tradition as a rationaliza-

tion for keeping it is like saying we have eaten raw meat every Flag Day for the past 25 years in our family so we should continue. You are probably confused. Here it is: bonfire, bad idea.

The bonfire has fallen in the past at A & M. This was just the first time that anyone was critically injured or killed. The engineering department at A & M has been saying that this type of structure is unsound ever since they started using this particular design. Now that the bonfire structure has collapsed and people have died, the tradition should be ended.

When this happened, being the quick witted person that I am, I thought, "Hum, Rose has a bonfire every year too." I did some research on the bonfire here and it turns out that there are people on campus that have stories of our bonfire collapsing in the past too. Sure the collapses have been small, but with the size of the bonfire growing year by year, there is no telling how big a collapse we

could have in the future.

I am all for tradition and all for cool displays of fire, but when lives are at stake, I choose the life of the individual over the fire any day. If I had heard about this accident and my friend wasn't involved, it is quite possible that I would say, "That's too bad. What a tragedy. Maybe better precautions should be taken next year."

Tim dying in the accident made the whole accident real-life to me. It wasn't some college students dying, it was a friend of mine. This guy wasn't some regular plain college guy, this guy was one of the most influential and thought-provoking people that I have ever and may ever meet.

Sometimes in life we need a reminder that people are involved in tragedy. They aren't just objects that die. The people that die in tragedies are brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, etc. They are human beings that once breathed the same air as you and I. We need to understand that

when tragedies occur and there are things we can change to prevent them from happening again, those changes need to be made.

We all need a reality check sometimes. The bonfire is a cool tradition, but lives were lost. The tradition should be ended. You can sit back and say that I am crazy but what if you lost a friend due to this or a similar incident? Would you really want to go to the families of the victims and tell them the tradition was going to continue? Could you really say that you wouldn't mind if they continued the tradition even though more lives could be lost?

Your friend is dead. Could you really say that more lives could be lost, but this was just a tragic one-time incident? From the depths of my heart I have tried to rationalize the continuation of this tradition at A & M and Rose. It isn't possible; just because I have some slight hint of human compassion and decency for the dead.

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

As the people responsible for propagating the "stir" in Blumberg, we would like to address the concerns, and clear up the misconceptions which appeared in last week's issue.

First of all, the suggestion of a "quiet dorm" was not based off the living conditions in any one hall.

Moreover, some of the points made in last week's letter are correct, but do not apply to the situation we are proposing.

We are not suggesting that anyone should be confined to his or her own room, not

able to interact with the outside world. However, we don't see the logic behind the idea that being quiet limits social interaction.

As for stereotypes played at maximum volume (for even one song)--is that really necessary for a sense of community? Doesn't that violate the rights of anyone who happens to be doing work at that instant?

The issue of enforcement is in our opinion, non-existent. We are only suggesting that those students who are and want to be quiet live

together.

We would not be forcing "quiet" on anyone, so there would be no need to determine what is too loud or shoot anyone. (Our definition of "too loud" would be that the noise could be heard in the next room -- make all the racket you wish, as long as you also have an equally good containment system.) Leaving the door open and the radio on would hardly cause someone to be driven out.

Lastly, we are not in any way set on Blumberg. It just seemed to be the most logical choice and the easiest switch to

make. Depending on the number of people interested in our proposal, any sufficient area would be fine. Off campus housing is not an acceptable option, though. If enough people are interested in being "quiet" to fill a floor or hall, why should we be forced off campus to enjoy our preference?

Isn't that equivalent to what the residents of Blumberg are afraid we want to do to them?

Becci Merow, Nathan Peterson, and Bill Richardson

If enough people are interested in being "quiet" to fill a floor or hall, why should we be forced off campus to enjoy our preference?

Return sprinkle of meaning to season

Diya Gullapalli
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. -- (U-Wire) Holidays in kindergarten were great. They were sponsored by the colors red and green and by the numbers 2 and 5. December was all about making popsicle stick and glitter tree ornaments, exchanging gifts and being blatantly ecstatic that Christmas was approaching whether you celebrated it or not because, hey, Santa was coming to your classroom and you were getting a new coloring book.

But by the time I got to high school, while there was snow on the ground, it was hard to tell that the holidays were approaching. The walls were bare of the tinsel and holly that once graced my elementary school and all that was left was the awkward "Wonder Years" gesture of strategically placed mistletoe in hallway doors and walking by the chuckling boys who waited below.

Few people wore red in anticipation of the upcoming break, and no one mentioned specific holidays, carefully wording their regards as "Seasons Greetings," as if Christmas and Hanukkah were spelled with four letters.

What happened to the bold and cheesy excitement that once made December so exciting? Who put the damper on Christmas parties and dreidel-making? And most importantly, where did all those little sugar cookies with sprinkles on them disappear to?

I have trudged up the educa-

tional ladder sadly because I know holidays become more and more detached from the school setting as you get older. Now that I'm in college I've almost forgotten that they exist. Scared to offend the politically correct teenagers bred in the 1990s, school administrations have nixed faith from their winter agendas, determined to create a vague and nondescript annual "Happy Holiday." In order to do this, along the way from kindergarten to college, popular holidays like Christmas and Hanukkah evolved from the icons of Santa and menorahs to abstract hall displays celebrating "the diversity of the festive spirit," and diverting attention from the original intent of these religious holidays.

But there is such a thing as too much political correctness. The specific images that once made holidays so endearing have become lost as the season is generalized to cater everyone. Gone are the dreidels, wreaths and Yule logs that once made school so festive, and in turn, the rich and distinctive tradition behind each icon is lost as well. Even holidays like Kwanzaa, which isn't even celebrated enough to warrant the amount of attention it receives, have stopped being acknowledged at school.

Desperate to appease all students, the melting pot on which America prides itself stops being celebrated. If diversity is so important, especially in schools, then why highlight what makes each holiday similar rather than

what makes them different and unique? It's almost as if schools are appealing to their diverse student bodies by pretending that they aren't diverse at all.

I have never been offended that we have a break during the winter months, recognizing that America, as diverse as

it is, is Christian by majority. And although my family is Hindu, we have always celebrated Christmas in the festive sense, happily putting up a tree and squeaking out carols through our tightly bundled up hooded jackets in the station wagon each year. When I was 10 years old, we even attended midnight mass at the local church. Although this caused great confusion among my friends, who were convinced that my family had converted to Christianity, we simply went to understand the religion behind the holiday we embraced so readily.

It's disheartening to see that schools have tossed these icons because it means they have dismissed the culture behind each one as well. Instead, it would be nice if schools would re-embrace the originality and depth that lies behind the holiday season. Start by putting up Christmas trees and lighting nine candles on a menorah. And what the heck. Begin handing out those little sugar cookies again. It certainly doesn't offend me. We should bring back these diverse traditions because it reminds us again that these holidays mean much more than a generic "Season's Greetings."

INDIANA THEATRE
7th & Ohio 232-8076

End of Days
Arnold Schwarzenegger
7:00 & 9:15 R

MEADOWS
232-5536

Superstar
Molly Shannon, Will Ferrell
7:00 & 9:00 PG-13

The House on
Haunted Hill
7:15 & 9:15 R

The Members of the Thorn staff wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Celebrate responsibly, if you drink let someone else drive. See you back next year.

Engineers head into break on five-game win streak

Don Cole
Staff Writer

The Rose-Hulman men's basketball team shows no signs of slowing down as we head into the holiday season. Now on a five-game winning streak and 2-0 in conference play, the Engineers will head to the Hinkle Classic in Indianapolis this Sunday to take on Franklin at the historic Hinkle Fieldhouse at 5 p.m.

Franklin was a powerhouse last year, going 23-5, winning the HCAC title, and advancing on to the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament, losing by one to Gustavus Adolphus.

This year, they have not started out so well; they are sitting at 5-3 overall and are stuck in the middle of their conference. At this point last year, they had won eight in a row. The team is by no means an easy mark however; they recently won the Coca-Cola/Kroger Championship and lost a heartbreaker to Marian in the championship game of the Goaltenders/Bankers Classic.

Franklin is undoubtedly led by their talented senior center Billy Scott. Scott has doubled his scoring

average from the last two years, pushing it to over 20 this season. He recently tied a career-best in the team's 129-68 drubbing of IU-East with 29 points and eight rebounds. In addition, he was named the tournament MVP at both that Franklin has played at this season.

Another formidable opponent will be senior guard Bart Hunter. Hunter, a Pioneer comeback, holding the visiting squad to a miserable 24% from the field, including an 0 for 5 effort from behind the three-point arc. The Engineer offense continued to score and a number of players came off the bench for some playing time in the second half.

The aforementioned Harris once again led the Engineer scoring effort with 16 points, two blocks and five rebounds. Both Ryan Harris and Brad Fetters reached double figures with 10 and 11, respectively; this was the first time Fetters had reached that level in his career.

Rose dominated the boards all night, outrebounding the Pioneers 48-25, while pulling down 21 on the offensive side. T.J. Holmes led the way with six boards, while Siefert and Grace both added five. Grace

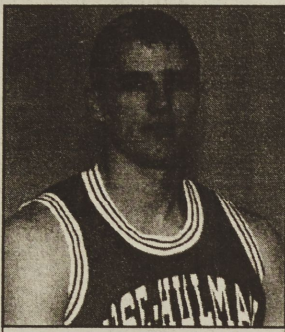
proceeded to go on a 19-2 tear with Michael Harris and Patrick Grace each scoring four during the run. With 8:10 left in the first half, Rose led 29-13 and would not relinquish the lead again.

Great shooting (52.6% from the field in the first half) propelled the Engineers to a 46-30 lead when the first buzzer went off.

The defense stepped up big in the second half to erase any thoughts of a Pioneer comeback, holding the visiting squad to a miserable 24% from the field, including an 0 for 5 effort from behind the three-point arc. The Engineer offense continued to score and a number of players came off the bench for some playing time in the second half.

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Patrick Grace

Women's BB edging closer towards their first win of the season

Donnie McGaughey
Staff Writer

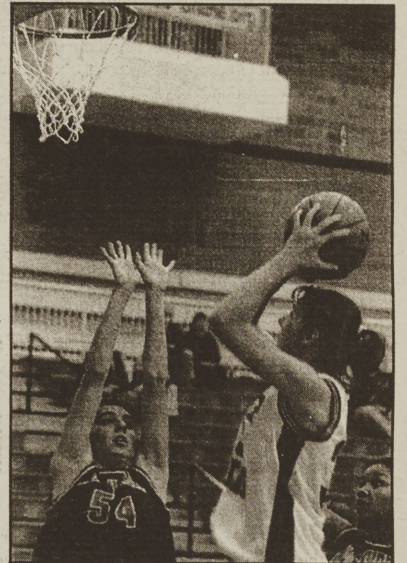
Continuing the amazing effort put forth in the previous game against MacMurray, the women's basketball team played Earlham this Monday, and will play St. Mary of the Woods College for the Clabber Girl trophy tonight.

Despite a significant effort, the women lost as Earlham was able to gain the advantage in pure field goal percentage. The Engineers made 35 percent of their field goals, while Earlham made 50 percent.

However, the real strength that the Engineers possessed was its ability to make the free throws. Rose Hulman made 67 percent of their free throw attempts, against Earlham's 57 percent. The game ended with a score of Rose Hulman 48, Earlham 78.

However the next game against St. Mary of the Woods looks extremely

promising. Tonight at 7:30 the Engineers will play them for the Clabber Girl Trophy. The meeting, which occurs every year around this time, is likely to be an action filled game that should not at all prove disappointing. The game is often marked by a large turnout from the Woods College, so a large Rose turnout would be a huge benefit.



Carissa Hasselbring goes up over MacMurray down low. Don Harrington

Reksel, Schipper open track & field season with individual titles

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior Phil Reksel and freshman Andrew Schipper opened the indoor track and field season with individual championships at the Eastern Illinois University "Early Bird Meet" last Thursday evening.

Reksel won the 600-meter dash individual championship with a time of 1:23.45. Reksel topped 12

other athletes from Eastern Illinois, the University of Indianapolis, Indiana University-Southeast and Butler University to claim the title.

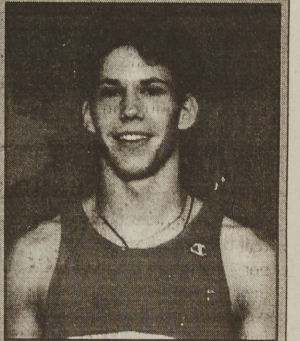
Reksel became Rose-Hulman's sixth two-time All-American in track and field last winter by finishing fifth in the 400-meter dash at the NCAA III Indoor Championships. He previously earned All-American honors with a fifth-place

finish in the 400-meter hurdles at the 1998 NCAA III Outdoor Championships.

Schipper claimed the pole vault individual title with a leap of 14' 6". Schipper won sectional and regional pole vault championships last spring before recording a seventh-place finish in the state finals. He cleared 15' in the sectional, 15' 6" during regional competition and

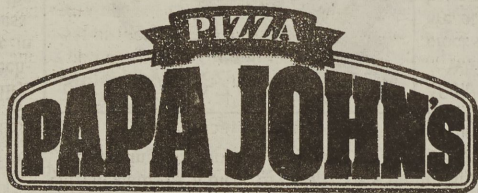
recorded a vault of 14' 6" at the state championship.

Other Rose-Hulman athletes in the Early Bird Invitational included senior Mark Stetzer who finished 15th in the 200-meter dash (23.56); sophomore Matt Cosby, who placed 26th in the 200-meter dash (25.59); senior Brian Wickham, who finished 12th in the mile run (4:43); and freshman Richard Hale,



Phil Reksel

who placed 13th in the mile run (4:44.20).



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Upcoming sporting events

Women's basketball: Clabber Girl Trophy
Thursday vs. St. Mary of the Woods at 7:30 p.m.

Men's basketball:
Sunday vs. Franklin College
at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 1st at University of the South.
Monday, Jan. 3rd at Centre College



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The Rose Thorn Flipside

Volume 31, Issue 12

Hose-Rulman Institute of Technology

Home of Elvis, Indiana Thursday, December 16, 1999

"<Insert filler here.>"

Y2K Looms On the Horizon, Hose-Rulman Unprepared

**Biff Wellington, III
Mama's Boy**

With the year 2000 around the corner, everyone seems to be living in fear of the "Y2K Bug" (a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation), and rightfully so. The Hose-Rulman community, although at the frontlines of technology, is horribly out of date in terms of Y2K preparedness. Everything on campus, from the computers to the recently erected Knew residence hall, is expected to be effected by the bug and revert to a "year 1900" state.

Everyone knows that the most obvious target of the Y2K Bug are the computers used across the campus. The majority of the laptops owned by students are safe, with the exception of the senior laptops. According to laptop coordinator Perry-Anne Mice, the "AMS Power CD Scald-O-Matic '96" models owned by the seniors are obviously not Y2K compliant, due to the fact that "many tools created during the Stone Age were more technologically advanced than those pieces of crap." In an effort to correct this, the seniors received a memo in their campus mailboxes with the following note:

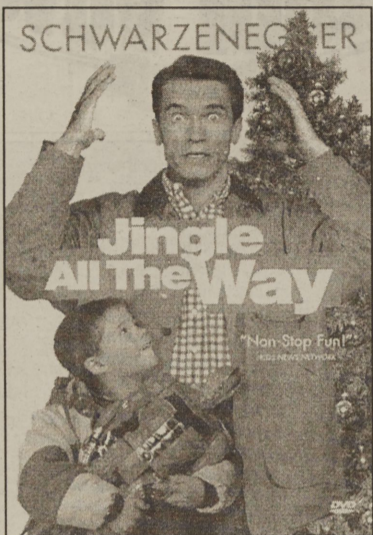
"Our records show you have an

AMS Power CD. A BIOS upgrade is available to make the Power CD Y2K compliant, but will not upgrade your computer from its current status of 'a piece of crap.'"

According to famous Hautian

Claude VanDerBeek, many more things are at risk than computers. VanDerBeek, who bills himself as a "Y2K Expert Consultant" from his dumpster in the alley behind the Institute of Healthiness, claims to have first discovered the Y2K bug, and warns of the hidden dangers.

While the internal clocks of the computers are at risk, many people have overlooked the standard clocks that we use everyday. According to VanDerBeek, the earth actually had a smaller orbit in the year 1900. He explained, "Details from that era are sketchy at best, but we believe that clocks didn't go past 11 o'clock." So, does that mean that current clocks will change to the 22-hour day? "You had better believe it, Skippy." VanDerBeek then proceeded to dig beer bottles out of the dumpster and bite them in half, "for fun." With VanDerBeek lying unconscious in the alleyway, other expert opinions were sought.



The results of Y2K on Hose-Rulman will be worse than a Schwarzenegger comedy.

computer geek/physicist/astronomist/out-of-work-homeless-guy

Maimes McMimmie, head of the Civil Engineering department has

long held discontent with the construction of the Knew Residence Hall. "Hose-Rulman went with a the lowest bidder, and they weren't even Y2K compliant," he explained. Further inspection of the materials proved that he was right: on January 1st, the bricks and concrete that compose the Knew Residence Hall will revert into a pile of sticks and mud. On the brighter side, however, it will be the largest pile of sticks and mud on campus, housing almost 200 students.

McJimmie added, "the construction isn't completed, because it doesn't matter! It's all going straight down the crapper in two weeks!" This explains the long delayed completion of the hall, and it makes much more sense than other excuses provided, including the old worn-out favorites, "We need green wire for the network connections and absolutely can't use the thousand feet of blue wire that we already have," and "There are plenty of other clothes washers and dryers on campus already."

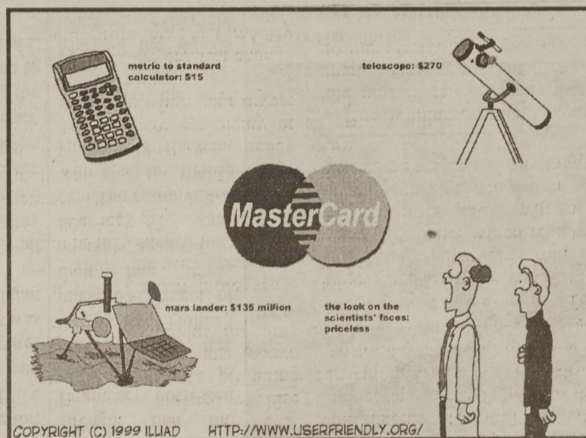
But perhaps the greatest change to emerge from this great travesty

will occur in ARAMARK, as the food reverts to a natural, fresh state. "We're very excited," said Farm Marker, head of Dining Services. "The lettuce will be green, the tomatoes red, and the hamburgers uncharred by repeated grilling!" However, other people will look for excitement in other areas, as Barrel Frown, head of the Chemistry department explained. "Now, we'll finally learn the true origins of chicketti!"

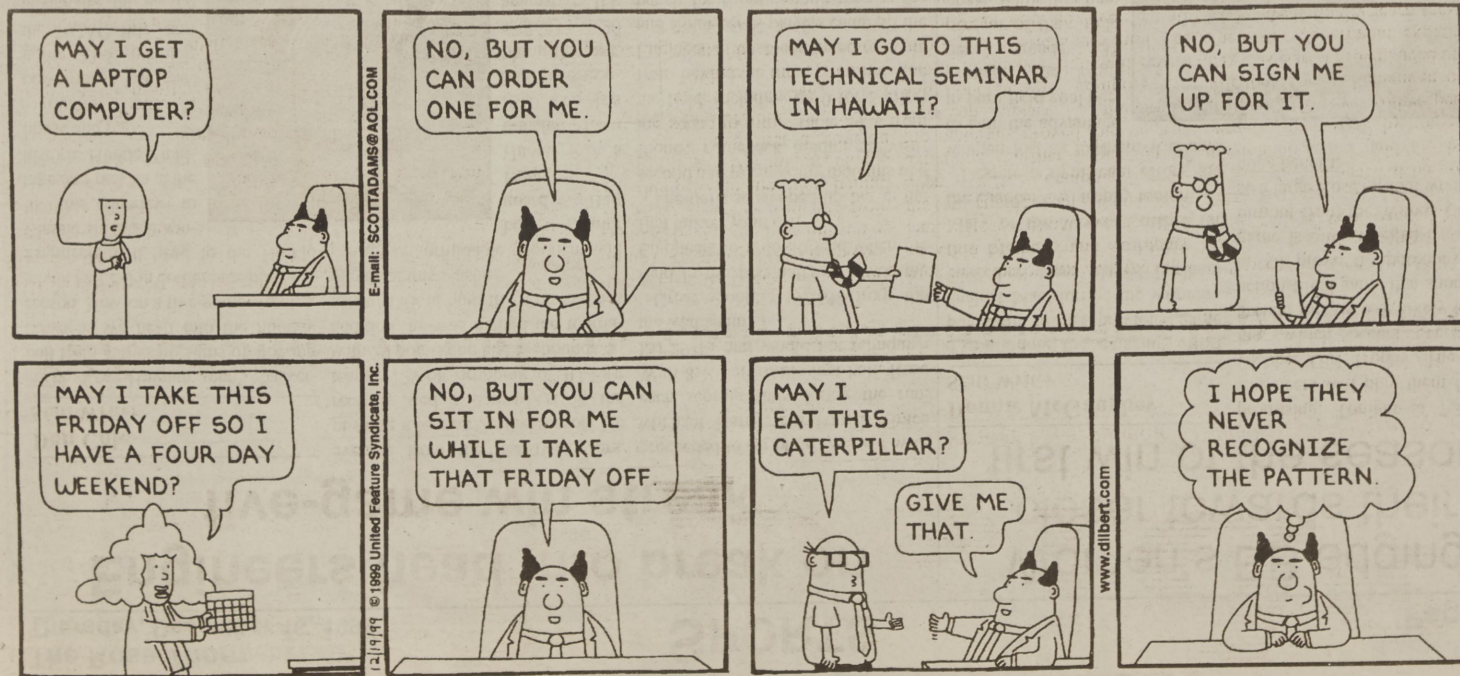
In addition, other minor changes are expected around campus. The reintroduction of "Power by Coal-Engineering in the Future" to the curriculum will allow Hose-Rulman to stay at ahead of the academic programs of other colleges. The Physics department's Dr. Boloney will only be considered slightly older than dirt. And of course, any major which requires electricity in its studies will have to readjust to the concept of magic elves as the reason to "why things work."

Biff Wellington didn't have the guts to tell everyone that there weren't girls at Hose-Rulman in 1900.

Now, relive all the fun of "Ask the Swedish Chef" online, in audio form! Visit www.rose-hulman.edu/thorn (Click on humor, MP3 player required.)



DILBERT



BY SCOTT ADAMS