

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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### Volume 39 - Issue 11 - Thursday, December 18, 2003

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# Saddam: Just a man? *Part I - Rise*

Courtland Caldwell  
Staff Writer

May God curse you. Tell me, when are you going to be accountable to God and the day of judgment? What are you going to tell Him about Halabja and the mass graves, the Iran-Iraq war, thousands and thousands executed? What are you going to tell God?" said Mowaffak al-Rubaie, to the former President of Iraq Saddam Hussein hours after

his capture. Rubaie had been an inmate at Saddam's torture chamber in 1979 and was one of four members of the Iraqi governing council to interview the prisoner. For 24 years Saddam Hussein has ruled Iraq, far longer than most of our readers have been alive, what then can we say with certainty about Saddam: he was a man. He was a man conceived in his mother's womb, he was a man who fathered two children, he was a man who ruled a country, he was a man who

chose life over death at the hands of Americans; Saddam Hussein was a man. Born on April 28, 1937 to poor farmers, Hussein grew up in Auja. Near Tikrit, it is "a village of mud-brick huts," according to ABC news. Hussein's father, Hussein al-Majid died before or shortly after Hussein was born. Subha, Hussein's mother was left to take care of him alone, until she met Ibrahim Hassan, a married man whom she eventually convinced to leave his wife, despite his

legal privilege to have up to four wives. The introduction of Hassan did not improve Hussein's life; his step-father abused him physically and mentally, frequently exclaiming to Subha, "I don't want him." Despite his contempt for his step-son, Hassan still made use of Hussein, often having him pilfer sheep and chickens, which Hassan would resell. At the age of 10 (1947) Hussein began school despite his step-father's failure to see a

need to educate him. Hussein went to live with his uncle, Khayrallah Tulfah, who was a school teacher in Baghdad. Tulfah felt a deep hatred for imperialism, arising from the British suppression of the 1941 pro-Nazi coup in which we took part. Tulfah would later become the mayor of Baghdad, his ideology and his political aptitude held great influence over the development of Hussein. By 1956 Hussein had discovered the seduction of power.

Saddam - Rise						(continued on page 2)	
April 1937	1947	1957	1968	1973	1979	Sept 1980	1982
Saddam Hussein born in Tikrit.	Moves to live with his uncle, Khairallah Tulfah in Baghdad.	Becomes a young activist and joins Iraqi Baath Party.	Hussein becomes deputy chair of the Revolutionary Command Council as his cousin, Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr becomes president.	Saddam officially becomes vice-president of Iraq.	Bakr retires from public life and Saddam rises to presidency.	Iraq invades Iran and captures territory.	Iran re-captures most of the territory. Saddam asserts total control.

## Centennial of flight

Stuart Nash  
Staff Writer

What do bicycles and flying have in common? Until December 17 1903, nothing. Then, on a seemingly inconsequential day in North Carolina, two bicycle-savvy brothers from Ohio performed a feat that has changed the way that we live today. In 12 seconds and 120 feet, history was made, fulfilling a dream of man that had persisted for many, many years. This week kicked off the Centennial of Flight, a year long celebration of the achievement of the Wright Brothers and their contributions to history. On Wednesday, a reenactment was held at the same spot and same time that the fateful flight occurred, although not everything went to plan. A rebuilt plane with a reenactment crew tried to take a short flight down a muddy runway and ended up getting stuck in the mud. The plane was

dampened, but the spirits of the crowd were not, and the college professor turned pilot Kevin Kochersberger received a hearty applause from the crowd as a crew worked to free the plane from the same soil that sent the Wright Brothers airborne on that fateful day in 1903. Attending the reenactment was a cast of aviation pioneers and celebrities. On hand were Neil Armstrong, first man to walk on the moon, Chuck Yeager, the man who broke the sound barrier, and John Glenn, the former astronaut and U.S. Senator who returned to space just a few years ago. Also in attendance were John Travolta and President George W. Bush. Bush gave a speech about the achievement of Orville and Wilbur Wright, and their contribution to both history and the United States. "The Wright brothers hit some disappointments along the way. There must have been times when they had to fight their own doubts," Bush said. "They pressed on, believing in

the great work they had begun and in their own capacity to see it through. We would not know their names today if these men had been pessimists." From inauspicious beginnings, the longest flight on that day was 59 seconds. To an everyday event, aviation has advanced an incredible amount in just ten decades. Only 24 years after the first flight, Charles Lindbergh made the first solo transatlantic flight. Two decades later, Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in the X-1. Then, a short 22 years later, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to set foot on the moon. Now, commercial aviation, air freight, and regular manned and unmanned space missions have made many people take for granted the amount of effort it took to reach the sky in the first place. Hopefully, the Centennial of Flight will rekindle the wonder and curiosity that drove the Wright brothers to build and fly their own airplane.

Continued on page 10...

## Thurmond's bi-racial child

Odessa Goedert  
Staff Writer

Former U.S. senator James Strom Thurmond, once a vocal segregationist, is alleged to be the father of Essie Mae Washington-Williams, who is of mixed race. On Tuesday, the Thurmond family confirmed Williams' claim, and said the senator provided the 78-year-old retired schoolteacher with money for numerous years. Williams told the Washington Post that Thurmond had privately acknowledged her as his daughter and had provided financial support since 1941. According to Williams, Thurmond met her mother, Carrie Butler, while the 16-year-old worked as a maid in his home, and a relationship ensued. Washington Williams was born when Thurman was just 22 years old, just seven years before he won his first seat in the South Carolina senate.

Thurmond served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and then was elected governor of South Carolina in 1946. In 1948 Thurmond ran for President with the States Rights' Democratic Party and won four southern states against Harry S. Truman. Thurmond led a record 24 hour and 18 minute filibuster in 1957 as an attempt to stop part of a civil rights bill and he condemned nearly all court rulings and congressional proposals that extended civil rights to African-Americans in the 1950s and 1960s. Even while financially supporting his mixed-race daughter, Thurmond vowed "there's not enough troops in the Army to force the Southern people to break down segregation and admit the Negro race into our theaters, into our swimming pools, into our homes, and into our churches."

Continued on page 10...

<b>Weather</b> Thursday Snow Showers 33 Hi / 27 Lo Friday Scattered Flurries 36 Hi / 29 Lo Provided by www.weather.com	<b>News</b> Saddam and more Christmas plans Pages 2, 3, & 10	<b>Opinions</b> Saddam in the dog house. Pages 4 & 5	<b>Entertainment</b> The King Returns. Oh Yeah. Pages 6, 7, & 8	<b>Flipside</b> "New and improved, Nasty Ass Soda." Page 12
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# Saddam: Just a Man? Part II - Reign

Courtland Caldwell  
Staff Writer

"The most important fact: Had the roles been reversed, he would have torn us apart and cut us into small pieces after torture," said Dr. Ahmad Chalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress about his experience interviewing Saddam Hussein shortly after his capture. "This contrast was paramount in my mind - how we treated him and how he would have treated us."

On July 16, 1979, Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr, President of Iraq, resigned for "reasons of health," and Saddam Hussein was named chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, commander-in-chief, secretary-general of the Iraqi Baath party, head of the government, and president. His reign began. Before July 22, 1979, Saddam's two biggest opponents were eliminated: General Walid Mahmoud Sirat was tortured and his body mutilated; Adnan Hamdani the deputy prime minister who was on a state visit

to Syria, was murdered upon his return to Baghdad.

What followed on the night of July 22, 1979, became known as the "night of the long knives," in which hundreds of senior officials were purged. According to Judith Miller, of The New York Times, and Laurie Mylroie, of Harvard University, "The savagery of Saddam's victory was meant to make him seem invincible. His rivals had been smashed; his primacy as absolute leader secured. He had replaced the state with the party, and now the party with himself, the giver of life and death."

The reign of Hussein is documented as murderous, torturous, and based on informers.

According to the London-based "Index on Censorship," "One reliable report concerns a member of the ruling Baath party related to a former senior official, arrested in Baghdad in August 1987 after government informers reported that he had been present at a gathering where jokes were made about

President Saddam Hussein. The party member was arrested for not informing the authorities, as were the male members of his family: three sons and a son-in-law. During interrogation they were subjected to torture....All five were subsequently executed and the family's home was bulldozed."

A 1981 Amnesty International report about the arrest of a journalist said, "During the first two days he was taken to different rooms and beaten with fist, rods and a whip....In one room he was caressed and sexually fondled, before being taken out and beaten and kicked. The torture then became more systematic, taking place every one or two hours. His head was whipped and beaten so hard that he lost consciousness.... After regaining consciousness on one occasion he was aware that his trousers had been removed and realized that he had been raped. He was then made to sit on a cold bottle-like object which was forced up his rectum."

According to a 1990 report

Human Rights in Iraq, created by Middle East Watch, a human rights organization, "Iraq under the Baath party has become a nation of informers: party members are said to be required to inform on family, friends, and acquaintances, including other party members....All teachers were required to join the party, and those who refused or were deemed ineligible were fired... Teachers reportedly ask pupils about their parents' views, with the result that parents feel obliged to disguise their thoughts in front of their children."

The same report also said, "collective punishment is routinely practiced in Iraq. In Kurdish areas, people have been rounded up randomly and shot in reprisal for attacks on Iraqi troops or officials. When persons wanted for political or security crimes could not be found, family members have frequently been arrested and in some instances tortured and murdered." People in Iraq "disappear."

According to Miller and

Mylroie, "the vicious fight against the Kurds [who make up some 20% of the Iraqi population] has been conducted without regard to any notions of human rights. In one well-documented atrocity, for example, sixty-seven women and children who had sought shelter in a cave to escape artillery shelling were knowingly incinerated. In March 1974, two Kurdish towns of about 25,000 and 20,000 inhabitants were utterly razed. Napalm was routinely used. Hundreds of thousands of Kurds were forced to flee [an estimate now consider low.]"

"Kurdish rebels who surrendered to government troops were often massacred once they had laid down their arms; Mass deportations of entire families and villages were carried out," according to Miller and Mylroie. Even "The Economist," responsible for the most conservative estimate, suspected 50,000 people were affected.

Continued below...

(continued from page 1)		Saddam - Reign				(concluded on page 3)	
1984	1985-86	1988	1991	1994	1999	2002	
War in Persian Gulf waters between Iraq and Iran		Iran accepts UN ceasefire; war with Iraq ends.		Iraq masses troops against Kuwait; resisted by US and UN; crisis leads to iraqi recognition of Kuwait as an independent state		President Bush brands Iraq, Iran, and N. Korea part of an "axis of evil"	
Iraq re-establishes diplomatic relations with the US	Iran-Contra Affair secret arms deal between US and Iran		Desert Storm	Saddam crushes uprisings in the north and south	US and British fighters attack Iraqi missile sites challenging their patrols of north and south no-fly zones	Security council approves resolution 1441 giving Iraq a last chance to scrap its alleged weawMD's or face "serious consequences"	

## Mixed reactions to Hussein's capture

John Kropf  
Staff Writer

When the news of Saddam Hussein's capture hit the world media, the coverage was immediate and constant. The responses from major news organizations ranged from cautionary to congratulatory, but most gave the United States credit for taking out one of the worst dictators who ever lived. Middle Eastern heads of state were not as disappointed with Hussein's capture.

There were, however, some people with mixed feeling about Hussein's capture. Most Arabs were glad that Saddam was no longer in power and unable to threaten the Arab community anymore. But many Arabs had admired Hussein's confidence when standing up to the superpowers of the west. Hussein spent the past 25 years portraying himself in the Arab community as a man not to be trifled with and as a knight fighting for all Arab states to be free of outside influence. Many Arabs had expected a final showdown between Saddam

and his potential captors, ending in the death of Saddam. Instead what they saw was a meek man hiding from justice and giving himself up without a fight to the very army he had sworn to fight with everything he had.

Many Arabs did not particularly like Saddam's policies, but they weren't thrilled to see Arabs embarrassed in the international community. "...He is an Arab president after all. Whether you love him or hate him, he is still a member of the family. He did not fight like his sons; he went like a dog or a cave man, so they feel sorry more for Arab pride than for the man," said khaled M. Batarfi, managing editor of Al Madina, a newspaper in Jidda, Saudi Arabia. In Cairo and other Arab cities, many refused to believe that the man captured was indeed Saddam Hussein. People saw it as a cruel American hoax.

There were comments from many Arabs interviewed by The New York Times, which suggested that the capture of Saddam Hussein would

have been better received in the Arab community if Iraqi soldiers had been the ones to capture him. Abu Khaled, a Demacus taxi driver felt that it was a shameful day for the Arab nation when a prominent Arab president was arrested by a foreign occupational force and not the people forced to live under his rule. Kaled was quick to point out that he did not support Saddam, but also was quick to indicate that Hussein had been the first to attack Israel - an enemy of most Arab states. Others were too bitter about the fact that Hussein had been captured by Americans to express any joy about his arrest.

Some Arab political analysts are choosing to look at the positive sides of the events that unfolded. Avdel Bari Taha, a Yemeni political analyst believes that the resistance against U.S. forces in Iraq will only intensify. He also said that the U.S. will no longer be able to blame Baathists bent on restoring Saddam Hussein to power for the attacks. "The Americans will come to realize that resistance is coming from

the Iraqi people, not his [Hussein's] followers"

Iraqis and Kuwaitis had a different feeling about the capture, however. In Kuwait, the country which Hussein invaded in 1990 - the invasion which prompted the Gulf War - people were extatic about the news. Friends messaged each other on cell phones saying things like 'Congratulations'. Many Iraqis too were glad to be free of the oppressor. Iraqis who fled to western nations were even happier about the capture of Saddam Hussein, expressing joy that the man who had driven them out of the country was out of power.

The heads of state of many Middle Eastern countries are threatening suit against Hussein for crimes committed against them. Kuwait is the latest of several countries including Iran and Israel to sue the deposed Iraqi dictator. Iran and Kuwait were both attacked by Saddam, and Israel is seeking restitution for crimes committed against the Jewish state; one of which is the SCUD missile attacks of 1991.

## Part II, from above

During the Kurd-purge Iraq became the first state to use weapons of mass destruction against it's own citizens, and Saddam Hussein became the first man to use weapons of mass destruction against his own people. First hand accounts of the atrocity, that killed around 5,000 people, were reported to Amnesty International officials in October of 1988: "some of those interviewed said members of their families, including children, had died instantly as a result of chemical attacks, while others were too seriously wounded to flee. Iraqi troops were said to have first used chemical weapons, then entered the affected villages, dynamiting the houses or razing them to the ground with bulldozers."

After his capture, Hussein was asked about the mass graves of Iraqis that have been uncovered since Mr. Hussein's fall from power. According to Mr. Mowaffak al-Rubaie, one of the Iraqi Council members, he responded, "Ask their relatives. They were thieves and they ran away from the battlefields with Iran and from the battlefields of Kuwait." With regard to Hussein's statement Dr. Chalabi said, "He was not remorseful at all, it was clear he was a complete narcissist who was incapable of showing remorse or sympathy to other human beings."



# Saddam: Just a man? Part III - Fall

Courtland Caldwell  
Staff Writer

On February 28, 1991 the Persian Gulf War ended and Saddam Hussein endured; allied troops did not march on Baghdad. On that day President George Bush senior wrote in his diary, "He's got to go." Thirteen years later America told her people, "Good riddance. The world is better off without you, Mr. Saddam Hussein," he was officially a prisoner of war.

The fall of the dictator began with the 1990 invasion (liberation) of Kuwait, which Hussein still claims is rightfully a part of Iraq. That invasion led to the brief Persian Gulf War. His army was reduced to 10% of its former size, his nuclear program was shutdown, and inspections began. But Saddam survived and preserved power.

What followed over the next 12 years was a series of insertions and withdrawals of U.N. weapons inspectors. A total of 17 resolutions were passed in a global effort to force Hussein to give weapons-inspectors unadulterated access to sites and scientists. On November 8, 2002, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1441 which said to Iraq: "Disarm or there will be serious consequences."

Displeased with the progress of Iraq after the passage of 1441, George W. Bush, and American allies invaded Iraq. The official war was brief, surrender outweighed fighting. America and her allies were

victorious, the official conflict was declared over, and Hussein's power was gone.

Two failed attempts to decapitate Hussein frustrated allied intelligence and military. Then on July 22, 2003, allied forces killed Hussein's sons Uday and Qusay.

After months of looking on Saturday December 13, 2003 Operation Red Dawn found a man with a big grey beard, hiding in a dirty concrete hole. The man claimed to be Saddam Hussein. He called himself, "the President of Iraq," and said that he "wanted to negotiate." Despite loud sentiment that he would fight to the death, Hussein came peacefully.

**Operation Red Dawn found a man with a big grey beard, hiding in a dirty concrete hole.**



Photo by Yahoo! News

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein warned the United States that Baghdad was ready for war.

(continued from page 2)

## Saddam - Fall 2003

[Edited by Stephen Pierce]

Feb 24	March 15	March 17	March 20	April 12	May 1	Dec 14
The US, Britain and Spain circulate a draft resolution declaring Iraq has squandered its "final opportunity" to disarm.	Saddam divides Iraq into four military districts and puts his younger son Qusay in command of the vital Baghdad-Tikrit area.	The US gives the Iraqi leader an ultimatum giving Saddam and his sons 48 hours to flee or face war	War begins shortly after the 48-hour deadline passes.	Saddam no longer in power, symbols topple as regime crumbles	President Bush declares major combat operations over	Saddam captured, found hiding in a narrow hole covered with bricks and dirt about 10 miles from Tikrit.

## Campus reactions to Hussein's capture

Odessa Goedert  
Staff Writer

There is overwhelming support for our troops overseas, but the campus community remains largely unconcerned by Saddam Hussein's capture.

Stephen Schnelle, a junior CPE, said that he was excited when he first learned of Hussein's capture, but that he "had other things on [his] mind."

Tom Miller, Dean of Students, a grad, remarking that students have been relatively quiet about the situation; "It's been really uneventful."

Assistant Professor of Political Science Terrence Casey suggested that perhaps the reason students are disinterested in the news is the complexity of the issue and the difficulty of the Rose curricula.

Casey also commented that

**Perhaps the reason students are disinterested in the news is the complexity of the issue and the difficulty of the Rose curricula.**

the biggest effect of Hussein's capture that he has noticed has been a change in mood; he believes that Hussein's capture has shifted public opinion of the war "from it being an impossible task to it being a doable task."

HSS Department Secretary Merry Chambers was elated when she heard the news of Hussein's capture. "It shows that the war wasn't for nothing."

Hussein's capture "boosts morale for everybody... and solidifies people's willingness to serve" according to Major Bruce Guggenberger, professor of military science.

Guggenberger has been recruiting for ROTC and says that "how patriotic the young kids are is amazing."

Although ROTC students are not eligible for active duty, students in the National Guard or the Army Reserves can be called to active duty at any time.

At least one Rose student was called to active duty in the Middle East last year. Paul Grande, a sophomore electrical engineering major was expected to return to Rose this year, but has remained overseas with his unit.

"We all know people that know people that are over there" says Sue Dayhuff, ECE department secretary.

Initially, a lot of people hoped that the soldiers would be coming home for Christmas because of Hussein's capture, but they soon realized that for many soldiers the holiday season will be spent in uniform.

According to Teresa Goddard, Director of Development Technical Services, current records show that of the 219 alumni in the armed forces, 26 are serving overseas. At least seven alumni not associated with the armed forces are living in the Middle East.

As the campus empties for the holidays, students are focused not on Hussein's capture, but on friends and family.

## Prosecuting Saddam

Courtland Caldwell  
Staff Writer

Saddam Hussein, now in allied forces custody will be tried in a way that will stand international scrutiny, according the President Bush. "The Iraqis need to be very much involved," he said in his news conference on December 15, 2003. Oddly enough the processes for trying former government officials for war crimes in Iraq had been put in place only five days before Hussein's arrest.

According to "The Economist" of December 13, 2003, "a special tribunal is being set up to try top people in Saddam Hussein's regime for genocide, torture, mass slaughter, and other atrocities."

"The Economist" goes on to say that there is trouble over who will oversee the judicial process. In a country that has been so long

with common law, constructing a judiciary system is proving difficult.

Typically war crime tribunals are handled internationally. These tribunals have proven to be successful and fair in trying war crimes from Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Sierra Leone, and Cambodia. These tribunals provide an international standard of fairness and strictly include habeus corpus (a judge can order a prisoner be brought before him). Also since these tribunals are international they do not allow for the death penalty, something the current Iraqi government insists remain an option for the worst offenders.

"It will be a noble experiment. It shows we want to apply the rule of law and not let the desire for revenge take over," said Adnan Pachachi, a member of the Governing Council.

# Making deals with the devil



Brandon Hathaway  
Opinions Editor

The final chapter of America's unusual relationship with Saddam Hussein was started on Sunday. It started initially with support, as is outlined earlier in this paper. Many who have opposed the war are waiting for the trial, when stories of this history will be made public, from both Saddam's mouth and the research that would accompany his statements.

The implication is that many of the same sorts of people who were around for Saddam's installment are also in power now for his removal from power. Many of them are exactly the same people. Donald Rumsfeld, for example, actually met with Hussein in 1983, as a special envoy during the Reagan administration.

The hope that this will come out in a public trial from these anti-Bush and anti-war camps is that reminding or informing the American public of their past dealings with the dictator will weaken Bush's position for reelection, or at least bring down people inside of the administration, like Rumsfeld and Cheney.

However, this export of democracy, which is really kind of abstractly a position the United States has always held, has not been a pursued policy until the Bush Administration. For the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,

the primary foreign policy was simply the containment of Communism. Before that, the Soviet Union had been an American ally in World War II.

We have a long history of dealing with unsavory regimes. Many times, it was very sane and sound policy. We supported Saddam because we needed an ally in the Middle East to prevent the Soviets from controlling the oil fields. We lost our previously backed ally, Shah Pahlevi, the ruler of Iran, when the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew him in 1979.

Another example is Manuel Noriega of Panama, who had a similar story to Saddam Hussein's; he was supported by the CIA in an effort to provide a bulwark against Communist rebels that had been fighting in Central America. He eventually turned against his American backers and was removed and put on trial. He remains in jail for drug trafficking and racketeering.

An interesting counterexample is that in 1959, Fidel Castro went to Washington to try to meet with the President of the United States, Dwight Eisenhower, who was hosting Nikita Khrushchev, Premier of the Soviet Union. He was sent, instead, to meet with Vice-President Nixon, while Khrushchev himself met with Castro. That moment had a very large impact in the development of the relationship between Cuba and the Soviet Union, which could have easily been a similar arrangement with Cuba



Fidel Castro - chicosanchez.50megs.com



Josef Stalin - www.gwu.edu



Manuel Noriega - www.gwu.edu

and the United States. Castro, of course, allowed Soviet missiles to be placed on his island, which sparked the closest incident the world has ever come to a nuclear war.

I do not think there is anyone who would argue that Josef Stalin was not a horrible butcher. I would also find it difficult to believe that there would be many who would contend that we should not have taken advantage of the conflict between Nazi Germany and Communist Russia during World War II to help destroy Hitler's Wehrmacht. Although this is an extreme case, the same arguments could be applied to the previous support of Hussein and Noriega. The support of these brutal men should

not be examined out of context, and because Rumsfeld was there twenty years ago on Iraqi soil to meet with Saddam Hussein, he should not receive flak for it now. He has plenty of other things for that.

Nor should America itself take that much criticism. It was a different world when we chose to prop up these people. It was a question of practicality; if we did not support Saddam Hussein for the strategic influence in the

Middle East, the Soviets would put their money behind him or someone just like him and control both Iran and Iraq. Now, we have no serious strategic opponents to hinder our expansion of self-determination. I do not see this is hypocrisy, as some are implying. We are now free from competition to do what we should do, like an artist who can support himself and experiment with truly magnificent things, rather than protect his livelihood.

## A Saddam in the hand is worth two in the Bush

Ryan Cavanaugh  
Staff Writer

This Sunday I awoke to the news that Saddam Hussein had been captured. Talking heads immediately began proclaiming the end of Iraqi resistance, how this was a great political win for Bush, and how we'd finally find those pesky WMDs. Elsewhere on the spectrum, another pundit asks Bush why he hasn't found Osama Bin Laden yet.

The New York Time and CBS conducted polls spanning the days before and after Saddam's capture. In response to the question, "Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy?" the numbers jumped from a 45% approval and 47% disapproval to a 52% approval and 38% disapproval. More interesting were the responses to the question "Are things in this country generally going in the right direction or have they gotten off on the wrong track?" Before Saddam's capture, 39% said right direction, 56% said wrong direction. Afterwards, 49% right, 42% wrong.

I'd really like to talk to the people who changed their minds in this. Bush's foreign policy didn't change from Friday to Monday. Domestically, they fact that Saddam is now in a jail cell instead of hiding in a hole in Tikrit has changed very little. If the course

of the nation depends on the status of a runaway dictator (Saddam), we're in a lot worse shape than I thought.

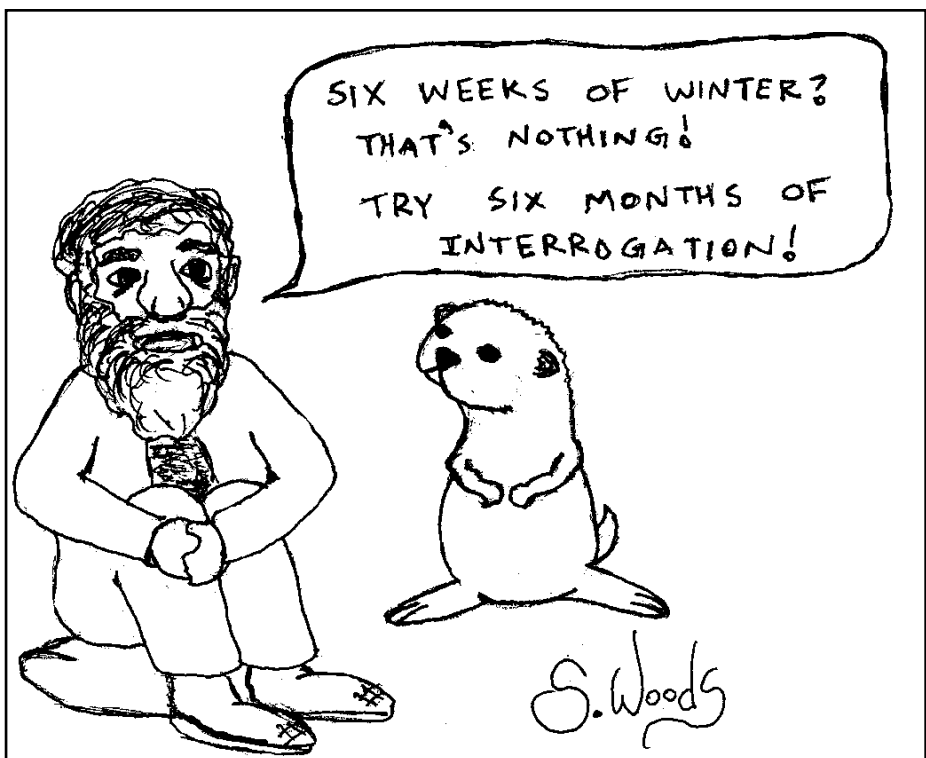
The whole change in opinion reminds me of the tired gambler playing blackjack at a casino. He gets dealt 12, says "Hit me!" The dealer deals him a ten. "Dra!" says the gambler, "I made the wrong decision." Next hand, he gets dealt a 19. "Stand!" he says with confidence. The dealer turns over 12 and deals himself a two and then a seven. The gambler loses again, seeing he would have made 21. Fed up with his apparent lack of skills, he leaves the table to play slots instead.

Foreign policy decisions are a lot like blackjack. The outcome of any particular gamble is not what makes you a good player or a good president. It's making the right decisions given the information you have available. Going to war with Iraq was a gamble, and the fact that we haven't found WMDs is less important than the sketchy evidence that we used to justify the war. Saddam could have spent twenty years hiding in a

spider hole, but the atrocities he committed during his regime would be just as relevant. Sadly, the public cares more about Bush's short-term wins than his overall gambling strategy.

Somewhere in this mess is an implicit

**The President's job as Commander-in-Chief of the military is like Bill Gates' job at Microsoft.**



assumption that's easy to miss. George W. Bush is actually on a dune buggy somewhere in Iraq, wearing a miner's hat, exploring caves and peeking under rocks. Similarly, about a year ago he was in an Apache helicopter scouring the landscape in Afghanistan in search of Osama. When not actively pursuing crazed dictators or terrorist masterminds, W retreats to the White House or his ranch in Crawford to direct the military's tactical operations. The deadly cat-and-mouse game between Bush and his enemies never ends!

Wait, no.

In reality, the President's job as Commander-in-Chief of the military is like Bill Gates' job at Microsoft. Bill probably hasn't touched a line of production code since he made his first trillion, but that rarely stops us from cursing his name every time Clippy auto-format our lists into bulleted oblivion. We flip on the TV, see that the Dow broke 10k, Saddam is in captivity, and it's going to be sunny out tomorrow. The real mastermind behind 9/11 is still at large, we're in the only negative job growth period in American history, and it's still pretty cold out. Who elected this guy, anyway?

Our attachment of all things happening both domestically and abroad to one man is an odd thing. Americans' favorite past time is placing blame and assigning merit,

preferably to individuals rather than collective forces whenever possible. When in doubt, the president is an excellent figurehead to cite as the source of all good and evil in America. If he's the most powerful man in the world, he might as well be omnipotent.

The disconnect of certain government organizations from the Oval Office is a peculiar facet of the American political scene. Remember Waco, Texas? Janet Reno's fault. Space Shuttle disaster? NASA's fault. Booming stock market? Clinton's genius. Terrorists got you down? Bush's bungling of intelligence. The pattern of who gets credit for what goes more by the roll of the dice rather than the facts of the issue.

End of tangent, return to thesis: Saddam is captured, Osama's on the run, economy's good, economy's bad. What does Bush have to do with this? Let's face it, the answer is, pretty much nothing. Military battles and man-hunts are in the domain of our military tacticians. Bush simply isn't qualified to tell them how to do their jobs, nor is he in the position to. Economic cycles are the product of complex interactions between previous and current economic policies, foreign interactions beyond our control, and thousands of other factors. Blame the butterfly flapping its wings for the storm, but it won't keep you dry.



## Beggars

### Guile and lies permeate our culture

Ryan Cavanaugh  
Staff Writer

A couple months ago I was walking from my house to my car when a woman walking on the sidewalk approached me: "How are you?" "Good, you?" I replied. "Oh, I just ran out of gas a couple of blocks away on Kent. Could you spare me a few bucks so I could get some gas? I don't want to leave it in this neighborhood, ya know?" I paused for a moment, asking myself what would Brian Boitano do. She was probably making this up, but she looked pretty shaken so I figured it was at least reasonable.

O mankind, why hast thou forsaken my belief in thy soul? Lo, I am cheated of three dollars!

thing happened to you a couple months ago." She had her excuse pre-planned: "Oh yea, I have this big station wagon, it's a gas guzzler." My friend closes the door with the requisite "I don't think so." I've talked to several people who've had run-ins with this woman.

What ever happened to the good-ol' fashioned "Hey man, spare some change?" or the more post-modern "Why lie, I want beer" sign? It's really not being begged that gets me angry. I've been to big cities, seen guys

singing for money, sitting on a milk crate asking for money, doing back-flips for money, but never been lied to for money.

Is this necessary? When I saw this woman for the second time, I felt a wide range of emotions. Most importantly, I wanted my three bucks back. After that came regret - why did I fall for it? I should have trusted my jaded side. Finally, the realization that my trust in humanity had been betrayed. O mankind, why hast thou forsaken my belief in thy soul? Lo, I am cheated of three dollars!

Like a cartoon character

with an angel and devil on my shoulders, I'm torn between two conclusions. The angel says "Take it easy, a few rotten apples doesn't spoil the whole bunch." The devil says "Yes it does, you got the saying wrong." I think of myself, cheated by this beggar, and I think of the beggar, cheating me. How does it feel to live from day to day on a lie? America has been plagued by people in higher places lying to us - Enron and Worldcomm, pretty much every president since we've been alive, the list goes on. Is humanity a pit of evil and lies?

This is the part where I list all the great things that people do for other people. I asked a bunch of people in the Thorn office and we couldn't come up with much. Silvia pointed out that we built the Grand Canyon, and it's pretty cool. Actually, I can come up with a lot of things that people do for me that I appreciate, but it's my own list. If you find yourself feeling down on the world, take a deep breath, and list all the things that people do for you. I guarantee it'll be longer than you think.

The moral of the story is, if a woman with blonde hair, glasses, and a Chicago Bulls jacket says her car is out of gas, tell her Ryan wants his three bucks back and send her on her way.

## Straight Girl for the Great Guy

### The spirit of the season

Abby Rebhorn  
Staff Writer

It's the holiday season again, and people are scrambling to make them as awesome as possible. People are sending cards, buying gifts, baking cookies, and visiting people they have not seen for a long time. But spending all of December in my dorm has resulted in a holiday very unlike the ones I used to celebrate at home.

I spent a lot of time this month remembering how my Christmases used to be, and along with all of the decorations that I miss, there are many more significant events that have brought me a week before Christmas without any of those happy - corp.softcoin.com goodness



feelings. In fact, I'm feeling rather disappointed in my severe lack of holiday spirit.

On a good day, my dorm room smells like Easy-Mac or laundry detergent. I used to come home from school in the cold and snow to wonderful smells of hot cocoa and cookies and pine trees. We had so many holiday decorations that we'd designate one "project" for each day—there were the boxes of snowmen, the various wreaths for every door in the house, and even special towels that we'd hang in the bathrooms.

My favorite part of the season was the huge tree that we'd buy each year and cover with ornaments that we had made over the years. It wasn't the most glamorous of trees, but it was really special. This year, I have a tiny fake tree with no sentimental ornaments and no pine-fresh smell. I also miss the Christmas CDs that we played over and over again, even during dinner, which was

never allowed during the rest of the year.

As much as I miss the Christmas ornaments and decorations, I miss the numerous charity projects that my family helped with even more. We were always out shopping for an Adopt-a-Family, choosing gifts for less fortunate children and sharing a Christmas dinner with the whole family. This year, all I've done in the spirit of giving is helping to decorate for the Lambda Chi Christmas party for the children of Ryves hall, and it's less than a week before Christmas! I'm seriously slacking off. There are so many

things I've missed this year, and it's more than just the lights and stockings.

Thinking more about my lack of "holiday spirit" this year, I've come to

realize that I'm not content with the amount of giving I've done during the rest of the year, either. I've been so focused on passing my systems classes and making enough money for those gorgeous boots I want that I've almost entirely forgotten how awesome it feels to make someone else's day.

The craziness of my college days has pushed charitable volunteer work towards the bottom of my priority list. This is something that I regret every day of the year, not just during the holiday season. There is always someone in need, someone without heat or water, someone that could benefit from a little goodwill.

So as the craziness of your life here at Rose-Hulman continues throughout this upcoming year, remember to spread a little compassion and grace to those around you. Just because the holiday season is coming to an end, you don't have to stop acting out of generosity.

## Saddam needs to be tried in Iraq

Brandon Hathaway  
Opinions Editor

Right now, while the world's attention is on a genocidal dictator, another genocidal dictator is before a tribunal at The Hague. Slobodan Milosevic was arrested two years ago and a verdict is still far from being reached. If Hussein is turned over to United Nations, a similar situation will result; the UN's bureaucracy is a deep one. A long trial would allow Saddam to make a mockery of the Court much like Milosevic is (he is even acting as his own attorney).

A long trial that does not show clear and decisive respect for the law and legal system is not good for the American public, the American soldiers, and most of all the Iraqi people.

The drawbacks for us as Americans would center around the traditional American impatience with foreign matters; difficult and drawn out events are difficult on our culture because of how fast we have become accustomed to seeing information travel. However, we, as a culture, also like to see justice served. There is a reason why you still hear OJ jokes. If the UN were to permit a court to degrade into a circus atmosphere like Milosevic's, then the American public will lose more faith in the UN's abilities.

The American (and allied) soldiers stand to risk if Hussein is tried by someone other than Arabs. It will appear to Middle-Easterners as victor's justice

and damage even further the legitimacy of the military occupation. For an army caught in a guerrilla conflict, they need a few things to stoke the fire.

Iraqis need Hussein to be tried outside of a UN court the most. This is their chance to learn how to conduct a trial in the fairest manner, and take a critical step towards a real representative form of government. There is no doubt anywhere that Hussein will be found guilty. For this reason, he should be afforded every opportunity to be found not guilty to illustrate exactly what due process is to a nation that has never seen it. This could be the best thing Saddam has ever done for his people. This also helps to restore the Iraqi sense of national dignity. If Iraq leads the effort to try him, they assert the ability to govern themselves well. There should be no American visibly assisting in this effort, but there should be international consultants. Legal experts from Poland, Japan, Spain and/or Egypt should be there for this historic undertaking. The first three have committed men and materiel to the cause and Egypt puts on an Arab face on the trial.

The decision to pursue or

The decision to pursue or not to pursue the death penalty should fall entirely on the Iraqis.

not to pursue the death penalty should fall entirely on the Iraqis. Hussein committed his crimes against them and sentencing should be exclusively their prerogative. The UN has already publicly stated that they will not participate in a trial, even in an assisting role, if the sentence could possibly result in the death penalty. If the UN decides to sit this one out because the Iraqi court might ask for it, then they are missing a huge opportunity to do the duty that the organization was created to perform. Due to the nature of the organization, the UN has an obligation to assist a nation when it has the resources to do so.

Simply put, the United States would be committing an egregious error in permitting an organization that is not Iraqi to take the lead in putting Saddam on trial. This will give a brutalized people hope to see that there is fairness in store for them in the future by giving a voice to those who have been silenced for so long. The United States should not visibly take part, but we should be able to have a voice in selecting those who will carry out justice. A legal system that the average Iraqi person can have faith in will be a requisite cornerstone in the success of the new Iraqi state, and that is good for Iraqi and American alike.

## Letter to Editor

Rose Thorn,

What is this Ice Season, you ask? This Season begins each year after the first snowfall when students head to classes, bundled up against the cold air, cautiously placing their feet as they move about campus. Ice Season is when we discover that many of the sidewalks and stairs about campus are coated in ice, creating hazardous walking conditions for everyone.

When I wrote this on December 15th, snowfall (a whole half-inch!) had ceased about thirty-six hours previously. Yet as I walked about campus, ice was everywhere: Upon the stairs leading from the Myers lot to Moench; upon the stairs between Hadley and the

Commons entrance, a very heavily traveled path; upon the stairs between the Commons and the Help Desk entrance; in a sheet on the sidewalk under Sammy's office.

While there may never before have been a serious injury resulting from a slip on an icy staircase, why wait until such a tragedy occurs before taking preventative measures? I find it beyond belief that myself and every other student here are paying enormous sums of money to attend a school at which we are required to walk outdoors to move about, and yet the pathways we must traverse in wintertime are insufficiently maintained.

I am not calling for the construction of underground tunnels connecting buildings; Terre Haute's climate doesn't require such an extreme measure. However, is it too much to ask for that, on the mornings after a snowfall, we students can have the pleasure of walking about campus on ice-free sidewalks and staircases?

Dave Honan  
CE '05



# Lord of the Rings:



<http://willburnham.gerenm.net>

Excited fans line up in the morning for a midnight screening of "Return of the King."

## Rose students horde premiere

Bob Schulein  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

**Tuesday, 10:10 p.m. - ShowPlace 12 parking lot**

I pull up in my car to the slightly empty Kerasotes ShowPlace 12 parking lot. I'm expecting the place to be packed based on my prior interviews with students going to the midnight screenings of "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King." Everyone seemed so pumped and worried about getting seats.

I flash my ticket to a theater employee as I walk into the lobby. He smiles but tells me I can't bring my backpack into the building. I explain that I'm a reporter here to write about the level of fanaticism surrounding the film's release. He agrees but needs to search my bag.

The employee finds my still camera and tells me that there is no photography allowed inside the building. I explain that it would be a shame to publish this story without a picture of all the craziness. After a talk with the manager, my request is denied and I am camera-less.

Four theaters are gearing up for the midnight shows. I am kindly directed over to theater 1, which has the shortest line of seven people. People walk by as I go over my questions. "You excited about the movie?" one passing voice asks our line passionately. His voice fades out asking the front theater 3's line about the "LOTR" card game.

A gang of two guys and a girl in their late 20s talk casually about old movies and inquire about the latest flicks. Their conversation, naturally, turns to an excited "LOTR" discussion. They kindly oblige to look after my backpack and save my place in line as I go to interview people about the movie and their reasons for showing up so early.

**10:35 p.m. - Theater 7 line**

"I went to 'The Two Towers' an hour early and barely got good seats," says Rose student Sarah Hedgeman. "It's the movie version of my favorite book!" she adds enthusiastically.

Sarah is sitting on the ground with two of her friends, Juniors

Jared Sands and Melissa Melvin. They just arrived a bit ago, but are still much earlier than most of the crowd. They are very enthusiastic about the movie.

"[ROTK] is the best story imagined coming to life," says Sands.

"It's more hot elf time," Melvin adds jokingly. Sands playfully argues with her about the "hotness" of Orlando Bloom.

Apparently, a large majority of Rose girls think Bloom is very hot, as evidenced by the rest of the girls I talk to over the course of the night. One girl, here with some guy friends, is not allowed to say Bloom's name during the movie. "They'll hit me if I do!" she cries.

**10:50 p.m. - Lobby**

One of the guys who was looking after my backpack finds me and tells me that theater 1 had been opened up for seating. He saved a spot for me. I go to the theater and check out the spot. Row 5, center. This is great! I thank them kindly and go back to interviewing.

I see some shirts with unfamiliar Greek letters walking by and getting into line. The lobby is getting more packed now. There are eleven people working the concessions stand. The lines are long enough to keep them all busy. I see some faces I recognize back in line for theater 7.

Junior Jim Pryzbylinski says, "The last two LOTR movies were incredibly good. These books are considered the basis for most fantasy worlds." His roommates watched the extended cuts of the previous movies to prepare for "ROTK."

A voice interrupts my interview: "Anybody by themselves?" it asks. The voice turns a little desperate. "All my bros are in this theater. I'll trade you seats." He holds up a ticket, but nobody answers.

Security is surprisingly tight. A theater employee is in front of every theater checking tickets.

**11:10 p.m. - Ticket counter**

Three girls are on a bench chatting away as their dates get food from concessions. There is only one person collecting tickets and telling people which theater to go to. All of the theaters except

7 have been seated.

The arcades are empty; posters advertising new movies sit silently on the wall, unnoticed by the masses.

I reach the one guy behind the ticket register and chat. He says that the four theaters screening "ROTK" are the largest in the building, holding 300 people each. There are only 20 seats in the house not sold, he explains, and only because of safety violations. The last ticket sold out at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

**11:26 p.m. - Concessions Stand**

All I've done for the last hour and a half is talk to people about how excited they are about this. The whole atmosphere is contagious - "LOTR" fever is easy to catch.

I notice the first character - a young woman dressed up in Hobbit gear, complete with hairy slippers. I'm surprised that there aren't any more displays of affection like this around here. I was expecting much more.

Rose student Joe Reese is as excited as anybody else about the movie. "It's going to be better than 'The Matrix,'" he says.

Sophomore Justin Droba counters, "I think I could make a better movie than the third 'Matrix.'" The two are among a group of 28 from New Res and Deming who bought tickets. With the RHA 100 (see story), and other Rose students I've seen, I'm guessing that more than a fourth of the people here are from Rose. And that's a conservative estimate.

**11:55 p.m. - Theater 1**

People are restless in the theater. A theater employee tells everyone to move to the middle of the rows so that people can find empty seats. Two ISU fraternity members wrestle in row 2. When's this thing going to start?

**12:03 a.m.**

It's time to start... where's the movie? People are pretty frustrated. A theater attendant comes in and tells everyone it'll start soon.

**12:10 a.m.**

The lights slowly dim and the crowd is ecstatic. The trailers seem far too long, and then finally, the wait is over, and the music plays to an awe-struck theater.

## RHA scores a hit

Bob Schulein  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) offered on-campus students a great opportunity - to see a midnight opening showing of "Return of the King" for only \$3.00. RHA bought 100 tickets from Kerasotes at the full price of \$7.50 per ticket and offered students the chance to reserve them through a website.

An e-mail with the link was sent out

at 3:45 p.m. last Friday. In just over an hour, all 100 tickets had been claimed. An additional 50 requests came in for backup spots. "We know we'd get a good response for "LOTR" because it's Rose,"

said Katie Walter, RHA Off-Campus Committee Chair.

RHA had a booth set up in the Union on Monday where students could pay for and pick up tickets. If students couldn't pick them up at that time, they could contact an RHA member to make other arrangements. According to

**"We knew we'd get a good response for 'LOTR' because it's Rose."**

**--RHA Off-Campus Committee Chair Katie Walter**

Walter, 98 tickets had been claimed before the midnight showings.

The extra \$4.50 per ticket comes from the \$10 Residence Hall fee all on campus students pay each quarter.

Of that \$10, \$5 goes to floor money, and the rest goes to events such as this one that are planned by RHA.

RHA will have many more events such as this one in the future. Stay tuned.



# Return of the King



imdb.com

The character of Gimli, son of Gloin, played by John Rhys-Davies, was one of the funnier characters in the series, delivering comical one-liners throughout the films.

## Long live "the King"

Jacob P. Silvia  
Entertainment Editor

Recently, one of the larger aspects of modern pop-culture attained finality. December 17 was the first day for the general populace to view the last part of this masterpiece triad. This week marks a possible end of something beginning in 1954; though I'm sure people said that about the novel, about the animated series, about any other iteration of this work by Tolkien.

Of course, I'm sure you're convinced that this article will be very biased. I assure you, such is the case with most reviews, especially those written by people with opinions. Though, unlike some opinions, this one is based on some very good reasons.

In order to determine whether or not a movie is a "good movie," one must establish a set of criteria. Mine go as such: the story flows,



imdb.com

Eowyn of Rohan (Miranda Otto).

the plot is interesting, the struggle is apparent, the characters are memorable, the dialogue is coherent, the acting is authentic, the soundtrack fits the mood, I

am willing to suspend my disbelief, I would enjoy watching the movie again, and the most important criterion—even if I am starving, tired, or desperately need to use the facilities, I do not want the movie to end.

Needless to say, these criteria all were far surpassed

in one way or another in "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King." It may be interesting to note that I utilized these same criteria when judging "Kill Bill, Volume One."

"Return of the King" is the most recent box office sensation directed by Peter Jackson ("Dead Alive"), starring Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, and others. It is based on the Tolkien novel of the same name, and is quite a symbol of fidelity as far as books to movies go.

It follows the fellowship as they go their separate ways. Frodo (Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin) head towards Mt. Doom to destroy the infernal ring of power. Gandalf (McKellen), Aragorn



imdb.com

Frodo Baggins (Wood) stares down the giant spider Shelob.

(Mortensen), Legolas (Orlando Bloom), and Gimli (John Rhys-Davies) meet up finally with Merry (Dominic Monaghan) and Pippin (Billy Boyd) shortly after the fall of Isengard.

They attempt to unite the lands of Rohan and Gondor in an epic struggle against the evil forces of Mordor.

This movie contains the sub-rosa allusions and simulacra condoned and practiced by Tolkien when he first wrote "The Lord of the Rings," and manages to pull it off rather

smoothly, allowing people not interested in Tolkien's religious past to be totally free of feeling "preached at," much like Tolkien intended.

Granted, the movie appealed to the die-hard Tolkien fan (you know the guy: he read "The Silmarillion" twice before you finished "Green Eggs & Ham.") by representing with imagery what Tolkien described with words, but at the same time, appealing

to the modern Tolkien fan by giving the characters witty one-liners and banter, and speeding the chronology a bit. Thus, it is the amalgamation that can unite generations: the parent, having first read the "Lord of the Rings" novels at the age their child is currently, going to see the "Lord of the Rings" movies with their children.

Even if you think that this is like any movement that has simply gotten out of hand, I suggest this: don't knock it unless you've tried it. If you have seen the "Lord of the Rings" movies, and simply hated them, I can respect that, but if you have not seen them, yet insist on continually bashing them as trivial, childish ways to pander to some desired trait of entertainment, I suggest you give it a chance, and watch the "Lord of the Rings" movies. There is a very good chance that you will not be disappointed.

## Epic sounds for your aural pleasure

Jacob P. Silvia  
Entertainment Editor

If you loved the movie, odds are, you'll love the soundtrack. It's chock-full of those wonderful melodies that graced your ears during the time you watched "Return of the King."

With music composed by Howard Shore, a prominent movie music composer, you're guaranteed at least eleven tracks of musical listening pleasure. As with most original soundtracks, this deluxe album also includes some memorable quotes from the movie.

At just under twenty dollars with enhanced features, to buy this album is to buy music well composed with a high aesthetic value. Besides, it beats having the RAA lawyers knocking down

your door because you were too "cheap" to buy such wonderful music.

Show your love for Middle Earth by supporting those who helped make it all the more real: go out and get yourself, your friends, your family, and

even your loved ones a copy of this album, if you do favor exceptional music. Of course, the gift-giving holiday season is just around the corner, so why not tell that special someone that you care

by giving them music that won't severely damage their auditory sensors?

Your mission, should you choose to accept it is to add this (and quite possibly the other "Lord of the Rings" soundtracks to boot) to your CD library.

What is stopping you, really?







For your added entertainment, we've added to Entertainment! Have a nice break. Happy holidays!

## Year in Review: Top Ten Albums

Adrian Throop  
Staff Writer

### 10. Broadcast "Haha Sound"

Phenomenally known for their continuous stream of unstoppable electronic music releases, Warp Records has been quietly releasing albums for distorted, noise oriented rockers Broadcast for almost 5 years. This year's full length release, "Haha Sound," is a joyride of upbeat sounds for those late night trips in a foggy wilderness. The songs speak of the pains of love and a lonely existence, but do it in such an optimistic manner as to make anyone wish for a broken heart.

### 9. Belle & Sebastian "Dear Catastrophe Waitress"

Tired of Matador Records, Belle and Sebastian sign to a more local Rough Trade Records and proceed to release one of their best albums to date. For the first time, their sound has a noticeable change. They've left behind the nasty, 60's tear everyone else's heart out for your own sleeve edge and replaced it with a neighboring more 70's Fleetwood Mac sounding melodies.

### 8. Bishop Allen "Charm School"

The top super-indie underground release of the year comes from Boston's Bishop Allen. Named for the street the band members live on in Cambridge, Bishop Allen's songs are pure indie pop, laced with choruses that stick in your head as well as any early Beatles' song might. "Things Are What You Make of Them" is the album's gem, and matched with songs such as "Emerald City," "Charm School" is deserving of the "Wizard of Oz" feel that it creates.

### 7. Blur "Think Tank"

This is the Blur album for everyone. If you have always loved Blur, "Think Tank" explores electronic avenues untouched by earlier Blur albums while still retaining their angst. If you have always despised Blur, this album is not a guitar frenzied brit-pop experience, as it leaves behind those 90's rock conventions making their sound quite modern and accessible. If you think Blur is just what happens when you wake up too early, know that "Think Tank" is highly influenced by songwriter Damon Albarn's recent work on the Gorillaz project, as much of what he did with Gorillaz is reflected on "Think Tank."

### 6. The Postal Service "Give Up"

This is the album no one saw coming. Jimmy Tamborello of Dntel and Ben Gibbard of Death Cab for Cutie decided, for some odd reason, to start mailing each other pieces of music, hearing what the other had done, adding to it, and then mailed it back. This process happened enough so that 10 unstoppable songs now exist on an album called

"Give Up." This is quite possibly the best synth-pop album to ever exist.

### 5. The Shins "Chutes Too Narrow"

Recorded in songwriter James Mercer's basement, most expected the Shins' "Chutes Too Narrow" to be in the same mix-tape song category as their first release. It is not a shame that most have been proven wrong. "Chutes Too Narrow" is a non-stop west coast indie pop exploration of being a weird kid in a normal world. The guitar hooks are inescapably great, and Mercer's lyrics keep you listening again and again.

### 4. Manitoba "Up In Flames"

This is probably the most beautiful album of the year. Driven by electronic melodies, loops, and samples, "Up In Flames" puts you in a fantasy world where no one can touch you. The songs somehow build your self confidence without chorus or verse, just soundscapes. The flexibility of the album is also one of its strongest points, as the songs allow for dancing along or falling peacefully asleep. After hearing "Up In Flames" you will never underestimate a blip or bloop again.

### 3. Radiohead "Hail to the Thief"

In a certain sense, "Hail to the Thief" is Radiohead's only experimental album to date. The band threw away their normal recording technique of hundreds of reels of tape made from months of recording in a barn in Oxford in favor of only two weeks of recording in Los Angeles. The result proves Radiohead's genius, as the songs are just as complicated and layered as anything you will hear on "OK Computer" or "Kid A" while being just as rock accessible as songs you hear on "The Bends."

### 2. Madlib "Shades of Blue"

This has to be Blue Note Record's best hip hop release ever, as it may well be their only one. Hip hop guru Madlib has taken selections from Blue Note's archive and remixed them with added beats and vocals. In turn, "Shades of Blue" has become the defining gap between jazz and hip hop. At the same time, "Shades of Blue" puts Madlib a step above everyone else in the hip hop world, for the album has a timeless feel, accessible to any genre of music fan.

### 1. The New Pornographers "The Electric Version"

Power pop from Canada is probably the simplest and most rudimentary way to define the New Pornographers sound. In actuality, they play their pop escapades with layered guitars and harmonic vocals that turn any time of day into a fun filled adventure. Above all albums released this year, "The Electric Version" is that album that sounds absolutely spectacular no matter what your mood, no matter what time of day.

Courtland Caldwell  
Staff Writer

June 4, 2004 is a very important date indeed: the release of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" movie starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, and most of the cast members of the earlier Potter films, with the addition of Michael Gambon who replaces the late Richard Harris as Head Master Albus Dumbledore, Gary Oldman who plays Sirius Black, and David Thewlis who plays Professor Remus J. Lupin. And if you're anything like me, a crazed Potter-fanatic you've already watched the trailer (available at [www.azkaban.com](http://www.azkaban.com)) at least a dozen times. But what can Potter fans do to quench their thirst in the post "Azkaban" movie time frame, after all "Goblet of Fire" won't hit the silver screen until 2005 and "Order of the Phoenix" will not arrive until 2007, according to [www.imdb.org](http://www.imdb.org). To fan the flames of fan's impatience Rowling continues her persistent refusal to commit to any writing schedule for books six and seven, the last two books in the series. If this crisis will ail you then let this mini-column serve as a crutch for the next couple months.

I plan to publish three articles in The Rose Thorn under the title "Hungry for Harry" each of

which will provide some news of on goings in the Potter world and feature a book review about books I expect all Potter fans will enjoy tremendously.

On Goings: for those of you who were unaware, Potter number 3, "The Prisoner of Azkaban," is popularly considered Rowling's best work, not that I agree. Unlike the first two films which were directed by Chris Columbus, "Azkaban" is being directed by Alfonso Cuarón, who directed "Y Tu Mamá También" and "A Little Princess." Radcliffe, who plays the character Harry Potter, has made public his view that despite his love for Columbus, Cuarón has been more successful at capturing the highly emotional nature of the scenes in "Azkaban" than Columbus achieved in "Sorcerer's Stone" or "Chamber of Secrets." Cuarón will not direct "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" handing the reins over to Mike Newell who has directed such acclaimed films as "Mona Lisa Smile," "Donnie Brasco," and "Four Weddings and a Funeral." This is largely due to the tremendous task of making "Goblet of Fire," which will be expensive, time consuming, and technically challenging, due mostly in part to the Tri-Wizard Tournament that takes place in Harry's fourth year. Also you can feel reassured that Potter fans won't be losing the child

trio (Radcliffe, Watson, and Grint) after movie three as Chris Columbus originally speculated, all three have been asked and agreed to continue their roles in "Goblet of Fire."

Book Review: "Artemis Fowl," "Artemis Fowl and the Artic Incident," and "Artemis Fowl and the Eternity Code" are as a series a phenomenal place for Potter fans to turn if seeking to escape once more into the magical world's of children authors' minds. The three books, which follow the growth and development of one Artemis Fowl, the childhood leader of a European crime syndicate introduces wonderful characters including a short tempered male elf, Commander Julius Root, a frustrated female LEPrecon, Holly Short; a wise-ass centaur, Folly; a kleptomaniac dwarf, Mulch Diggums; and Artemis's butler, Butler. The three books, written by Eoin Colfer, are a dynamite contribution to the community of books that mix modern human society with a similarly complex magical community, are quick reads (slightly shorter than the early Potter books), and are totally diverting. The first two books are available in paper back.

Like Potter all of these books will be loosely categorized as young adult fiction and should prove entirely easy reading.



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# Rose Sports Rundown

by Andrew Twarek

## MEN'S BASKETBALL (6-3)

Last Week:

**Anderson University 66, Rose-Hulman 60** – The men lost a close battle at Anderson Saturday, led by senior *Jason Ludwig*, who put up 15 points and pulled down seven rebounds.

Junior *Philip Griffith* contributed 13 points and six boards, while *Evan Ballinger* came off the bench to supply nine points and four assists.

The Engineers maintained a slim advantage in the middle of the second half, but a 9-2 run in the closing minutes was all Anderson needed to edge out the victory.

**No. 3 Hanover 62, Rose-Hulman 46** – The Engineers put up quite a fight through the first half, holding four leads.

Junior Civil *Phil Griffith* hit 15 points and picked up nine rebounds to lead the team. *Munchie Muskeyvalley* added 14 points, including three for three from three-point land in the first half. With nine minutes to go in the first half, Rose-Hulman took a 22-21 lead, but turnovers made things difficult down the stretch.

Hanover's 18-3 run in the middle of the second half put the game out of reach.

This week:

**Rose-Hulman vs. Franklin College (6-0)** – Thurs., Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. at Hulbert Arena (Terre Haute, Ind.)

**Rose-Hulman vs. DePauw University (5-2, 0-0 SCAC)** – Mon., Jan. 5, 8 p.m. at Hulbert Arena (Terre Haute, Ind.)



Photo Courtesy Rose-Hulman

Sophomore Tom Aigner is currently 9-1 this season thanks to his 2-0 finish at the RHIT Duals last Friday.

## ATHLETES OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

M. Basketball:

**Kareem Lee** leads the Southern Athletic Conference in offensive rebounds (28), total rebounds (68), and steals (21). He also tops the team in minutes and is second in assists.

W. Basketball:

**Rebekah Forsyth** was named the SCAC *Player of the Week* after setting career highs in blocked shots (6) and assists (5), while scoring 14 points with a perfect 4-4 at the line over Robert Morris-Springfield. She topped that performance Tuesday with 20 points, seven blocked shots and six assists!

Wrestling:

**Tom Aigner** finished 2-0 at the RHIT Duals and is 9-1 this season. His only loss was to a Div. II U. of Indianapolis wrestler.

## WRESTLING

Last week:

**Rose-Hulman 0-2 in Rose-Hulman Duals** – Sophomore standout *Tom Aigner* (197 lbs) earned two wins for the Engineer effort Friday evening, but the team fell short to Olivet 35-9 and William Penn 47-6.

Other Engineer winners were Collin Wyse (174) with a 9-6 decision and Byron Sanders (184) at 9-3.

This week:

**Rose-Hulman at Citrus Open Tournament, Duals** – Friday-Sunday, Dec. 29-31 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (4-6)

Last Week:

**Rose-Hulman 62, Robert Morris-Springfield 55** – The Engineers found another win Sunday, this one over Robert-Morris Springfield.

Off to a slow start, they were kicked into gear by a 23-8 run to end the first half. The spurt was started with five points by *Jessica Farmer* and capped by three more. *Janae Chaney* also hit a pair of threes in the run to finish with eight points.

*Amanda Sheehee* and *Rebekah Forsyth* peppered the run with free throws to keep the Engineers moving. *Anna Hall* was the team's leading scorer, with 16 points and six rebounds.

Forsyth put up numbers all over the floor, with 14 points, 15 rebounds, five assists, and six blocked shots.

**Rose-Hulman 66, Blackburn College 53** – The Rose-Hulman women won again: This marks the first time the program has won four out of five games.

Another record the team set was 13 blocked shots, seven of those by *Rebekah Forsyth*. She finished the game with another double-double, scoring 20 and rebounding 12.

More scoring was provided by *Jessica Farmer* (17) and *Anna Hall* (11), who each pulled down four boards. Although out-rebounded 31-33 by Blackburn, the Engineers shot a respectable 42% in the first half, and an amazing 64% in the second.

This week:

**Rose-Hulman at College of Mount St. Joseph (2-4)** – Sat., Dec. 20, 2 p.m. at Harrington Center Gymnasium (Cincinnati, Ohio)

# IUPUI routs Tri-State by 52

By Ben Leatherbury  
The IUPUI Sagamore (Indiana U. - Purdue U. at Indianapolis)  
12/15/2003

(U-WIRE) INDIANAPOLIS - The benches were emptied as 14 different players scored in the 112-60 rout of Tri-State by Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis on Nov. 29.

The Jaguars overpowered the visitors by outscoring them 60-20 in the paint and using suffocating defense to force 20 turnovers.

Tri-State stayed close by shooting over the IUPUI defense in the opening minutes of the half with a 10-9 lead. The Jaguars countered by trapping and pressing full court on defense.

Tri-State couldn't handle the pressure as the Thunder turned the ball over four times in a row leading to a 22-14 lead for IUPUI. The Jaguars continued their strong play by running the score to 31-17 on a 3-pointer by Brandon Cole.

Quick ball movement by IUPUI led to open 3-pointers around the perimeter as the

Jaguars were hitting on all cylinders.

IUPUI led at the half 58-36 and left no doubt by opening the second half with the first nine points. Odell Bradley came out strong in the second half scoring the first six points for the Jaguars on his way to a team-high 18 points.

The Thunder fell apart in the second half as IUPUI forced numerous turnovers and cashed them in almost every time for fastbreak points. For the game, the Jaguars forced 20 turnovers and scored 33 points off them.

IUPUI had six players in double figures in points and got strong play out of their reserves off the bench. Blair Crawford had his best game of the season, scoring 15 points and shooting 75 percent from 3-point range.

Transfer Akeem Clark also had a great game off the bench scoring 12 points, most of which came from the game-deciding first half run.

Eric Koncz led all scorers with 22 points for the losing Tri-State squad, but had

little help from the rest of his team with no one else in double figures. Tri-State shot 30 percent from the field for the game as the Thunder fell to 2-2 on the season.

IUPUI shot a blistering 55 percent from the field and out-rebounded Tri-State, 59-29. The Jaguars also had a 34-13 free throw attempt advantage.

The bigger and more athletic IUPUI outthrustled and outplayed the Thunder, resulting in the blowout win.

The win, coupled with

an impressive win over Lipscomb on Dec. 1, moved IUPUI to 4-0, its best record since moving to Division I.

The team then traveled to Vanderbilt to play the Commodores on Dec. 3. The Jaguars led at halftime, but despite their best efforts IUPUI fell 86-68.

Bradley dropped in 25 points and 11 points for the Jaguars. The Commodores' strength and height advantage proved to be too much for the smaller but quicker Jaguars.

The loss dropped the Jaguars to 4-1, with a tough schedule ahead. The team has away games at Dayton and West Virginia over Christmas break.

The next home game for the Jaguars is in the Holiday Classic against Ball State Dec. 20.

The Jaguars then depart for the Rainbow Classic in Hawaii Dec. 27-30. The team will play East Tennessee State in the first round of the tournament.



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# Christmas time to party

John Kropf  
Staff Writer

The holidays are here and there have been quite a few charity events and parties for campus organizations. ATO and Chi Omega held a benefit for the Big Brothers / Big Sisters organization on Dec 7. Lambda Chi Alpha and Delta Delta Delta held a benefit for the children of Ryves hall on Dec 13. The Rose-Hulman staff had a family Christmas party that same weekend and volunteers assembled bikes in the facilities office for the Bikes for Tykes program. The staff departments held open houses this week, and students were provided a venue in which to wrap their gifts on Wednesday, with Build-A-Bear representatives present. It has been an active Christmas season at Rose-Hulman.

Alpha Tau Omega and Chi Omega partnered to hold a benefit for local children involved with the Big Brothers / Big Sisters program. The children were invited to bring their big brothers or sisters and their parents as well. There were plenty of activities to keep the children busy. The hosts first helped the children make Christmas ornaments. "We helped them make ornaments with puffy paint and other craft supplies," said David Olecki, the organizer of the event. Chris Cummings, the social chair at Alpha Tau Omega, played Santa Claus and

gave each child a t-shirt and a small gift as he listened to their Christmas wishes. Santa then read *The Night Before Christmas* with the children. "There were 25 kids signed up ages 4 to 15," Olecki said.

A week later, Lambda Chi Alpha held a joint party with Delta Delta Delta for the kids of Ryves Hall. Ryves hall, located on the corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Locust streets, is a youth center for disadvantaged children in Terre Haute. 23 Children ages 6-12 attended the party. The children were invited to play a game of musical chairs shortly after they got to the house. Afterwards, they were ushered to the formal room, where Frankie Anderson waited in a Santa suit. Veronica Ramieri, from Delta Delta Delta, played Mrs. Claus. Each child was given a present that he or she asked for. The chapter receives Christmas lists from the kids ahead of time and purchases unique gifts for each child from the lists, at about \$10 to \$15 per child. Money for the event is collected from the members of Lambda Chi Apha, which has hosted a Christmas party for underprivileged children for the last 30 years, according to Bob Iles, the Chapter Vice President of Public Relations. "We get a lot of requests for sports equipment," said Iles. Among other items that appear on the children's lists each year are toy cars, remote control trucks, and dolls. The biggest gift was for Matthew Rigdon of Terre Haute. He received a skateboard.

"He promised to wear safety gear with it," said Iles.

Also on December 13, the Rose-Hulman facilities office was filled with volunteers assembling large bicycles, small bicycles with training wheels, and tricycles. The bicycles were paid for by the Exchange Club of Terre Haute's main fundraising event; a pledge-a-thon in partnership with 100.7 MIX-FM. Callers pledged money for their songs to be played on the radio. 350 of the bikes assembled on Saturday will be given to families in Vigo, Sullivan and Clark counties.

The main holiday event for the Rose Hulman faculty and staff is the Family Christmas Party. "All employees are welcome," said Linda Gilbert, Assistant to the President. "Dr. Hulbert plays Santa". Dr. Hulbert gives each child under age 10 a small \$5 gift in the Kahn room of the Union. There is a dinner for the families in the main dining room after the children see Santa. The choir sings Christmas carols at the event. Each child is invited to come to the front and sing a song before the event is over.

The staff departments also held open houses this week for faculty, staff, and work study students. According to Linda Gilbert, each department serves a meal of some kind with a different theme. The Business office had a Brunch Monday morning, while IAIT had a lunch on Wednesday with a Southwestern theme.

# Centennial continued from page 1 . . .

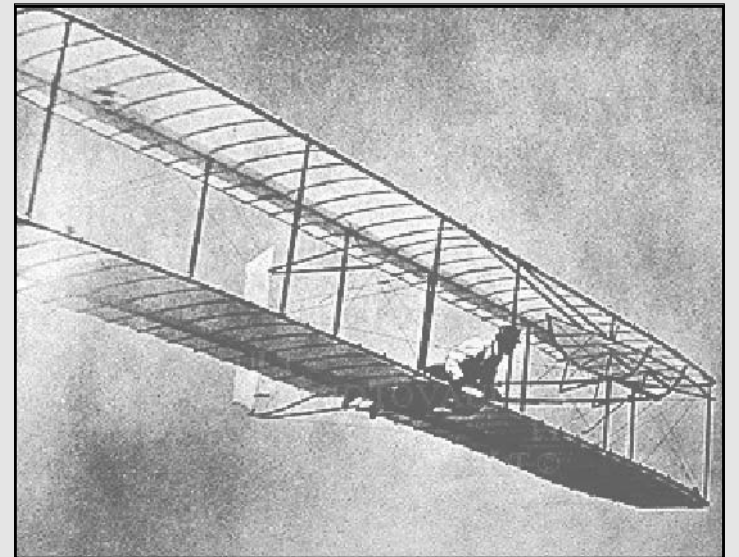


Photo courtesy photovault.com

A sketch of the Wright brother's historic accomplishment in 1903. This week marked the beginning of a year-long celebration of a century of human aviation.

After their first successful flight, the Wright brothers set up their own company to manufacture and sell airplanes. The Model B seated two people and had a range of up to 50 miles. Next came the DC-3, making its first flight in 1936 and being the first passenger aircraft that could be profitable by only carrying passengers. This opened the door for commercial aviation, now populated by the likes of the Boeing 747 and the now retired Concorde supersonic jet. One surprising fact about

the evolution of aircraft: The wingspan of a 747 jumbo jet is 91 feet longer than the first flight by the Wright brothers.

The goal of the Centennial of Flight should be to take control of flying back from business travelers, commuters, and air mail carriers, giving it to everyone who has ever marveled at the wonders of flight. Back in North Carolina 100 years ago, it was wonder, ingenuity, and persistence that drove the Wright brothers to make their flight in the first place.

## Thurmond continue from page 1 ...

Although he is known for his staunch segregationist position during the 1950s and 1960s, Thurmond redeemed himself to many people by changing his views on racial issues during the latter half of his life.

The first Southern member of Congress to appoint an African-American to his professional staff and a proponent of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, he was honored in 1995 by the presidents of historically black colleges and universities for his support of those schools.

Williams believes that despite Thurmond's segregationist position, he cared about her, saying, "I don't think he would have done the things that he did if he didn't care about me."

Williams was raised by a maternal aunt rather than her unmarried mother, and met Thurmond at her mother's request when she was 16.

Happy  
Holidays  
from the  
Rose  
Thorn

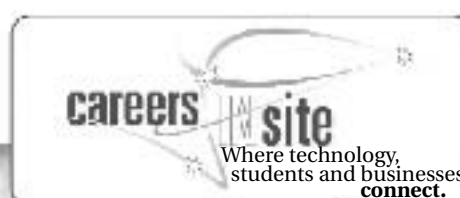


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# Campus Calendar

						19 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Wrestling, Rose-Hulman Duals	20 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Campus Bikes For Tykes Bicycle Assembly Project  1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Campus Bikes For Tykes Bikes Distribution  4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Rose-Hulman Family Christmas Party
4	5 6:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m. Women's Basketball, vs. DePauw University  8:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Men's Basketball, vs. DePauw University	6	7	8	9	10 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Women's Basketball, at Rhodes College  8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Student Activity, Guitarist Jason LeVasser	
11 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. Student Activity, Ski Trip  7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Fine Arts Series, Trio Indiana	12 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Career Services Workshop, How to Work The Internship/Co-op Fair  Registration For Spring Quarter	13 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Career Services' Resume Workshop  Registration For Spring Quarter	14 Registration For Spring Quarter	15 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Career Services' Resume Workshop  Registration For Spring Quarter	16 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Drama Club Play, "Proof"  Registration For Spring Quarter	17 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Indoor Track Meet  7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Drama Club Play, "Proof"	

## Classifieds

### Easy Fundraising

**Fraternities – Sororities – Clubs – Student Groups:** Earn \$1,000 - \$2,000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3-hour fundraising event. **Our free programs make fundraising easy with no risks.** Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit [www.campusfundraiser.com](http://www.campusfundraiser.com).

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### Tutor: Math

Female math tutor needed for 6th grade student. Tutor must be willing to come to home approximately one hr/wk. Call 466-6830.

### Join Us

Do you find yourself hungry on Sunday nights? Join us for Hunger Management in the basement of New Residence Hall Sundays at 5pm. We serve a home cooked meal followed by a brief devotion. Hunger Management is sponsored by American Baptist Campus Connection. Questions? Call Dave Doles at 236-5121 or Mike Martin at 872-6128.

*Have a safe and  
Happy Holiday!*

The Life Center  
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The Rose Thorn's website, updated weekly for your viewing pleasure:  
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*Fiesta Time!*

Remember **Prom**? All the **special clothes**, the **flowers**, the **hair**, the **limo**, and, of course, the **money**? Well, forget about it! Now think of the **food**, the **dancing**, and the **fun**! Be sure to come to the **SAB Winter Formal Dance** on **January 17**.

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The Rose Thorn is printed Fridays during the standard Rose-Hulman quarters.

**SAVE ALL BARCODES**

**Top Ten Confessions of Saddam Hussein**

10. "I hid the weapons of mass destruction in my beard."
9. "Fidel Castro throws really crappy parties."
8. "I cried at the end of Titanic."
7. "My allegiance is to the one they call 'The Hertz.'"
6. "I called in the anonymous tip myself. I didn't want to miss 'Return of the King.'"
5. "Osama... I am your father."
4. "The flu? All me. Seriously."
3. "I'm still bitter Dubya didn't visit me when he was here for Thanksgiving."
2. "I... I never learned to read!"
1. "I let the dogs out."

**What the Hell is Boxing Day?**

Boxing Day falls on December 26, the day after Christmas. For those of you who don't know the importance of this particular religious holiday, listen: Boxing Day started back on December 26, 1200 BC, when a first-age philatelist decided that in order to create a better society, he should one-up the tetrahedron, but one-down the tesseract. His invention was the box, which he promptly filled with first-age bread and used as a comparative size-measuring device. Boxing Day remembers this long-gone philatelist, and celebrates his contribution with public performances of pugilism.

That, or we're supposed to give presents to our postal carriers or something. I forget.

**Herbig's Pun of the Week**

Know your limits:  
Alcohol and Calculus don't mix.  
Don't drink and derive.

**Wacky Prof Quotes**

- "Hey, check it out! I'm Jehovah!"  
--Prof. House, doing a Whitman impression
- "You'll be in therapy before class is over."  
--Prof. Berry, with oracular accuracy
- "When we go to Vegas, my cousin's in the bathroom playing with his coins."  
--Prof. Evans, discussing both gambling and, um, playing with one's coins
- "...and also to torture students. That's very important."  
--Prof. Radu, on why Boolean algebra was invented
- "What could be more frightening than a woman with a whip?"  
--Prof. House, lacking a proper appreciation for whip-bearing females
- "For all practical purposes, infinity is about three."  
--Prof. Thomas, in true civil engineer form... and not confusing infinity with pi.
- "Your lips are moving too fast to be speaking Spanish."  
--Prof. Gohre, showing sharp insight
- "I want to say 'knowledge,' but perhaps I mean 'crap.'"  
--Prof. Berry, discussing metaphysics
- "I suggested this to the people higher up, and they were not at all amused. Tenure is wonderful."  
--Prof. Yoder, on the creation of the Oscar-Meyer Building
- "So they climb up on it and lick away."  
--Prof. Houghtalen, talking about mountain goats, you sickos
- "I'm not going back to Romania, because [the students] are spoiled just like you. I'm going to Siberia or Lower Africa."  
--Prof. Radu, with her usual cosmopolitan grace

**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
www.offthemark.com



MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT

Send your prof quotes or other humor material to [flipside@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:flipside@rose-hulman.edu).

**This Week in History**

The 13th Amendment is ratified, formally abolishing slavery. Young senator Strom Thurmond votes against the amendment, later regretting his actions.

**In Addition**

Bells on darkened towers ring, making spirits fright. Oh, what fun to ride the pale horse and sing a slaying song tonight.



THE ABSOLUTE SUM OF ALL EVIL... ...YOU CAN DO THE JOB WHEN YOU'RE IN TOWN.

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 probably doesn't represent anybody's opinions... anyone who matters. If you're offended, I'll rip you a new one. All material is copyright of its respective owner. Woof, woof, woof, woof woof.