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THE ROSE THORN

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SGA presidential nominees aspire to empower students

Ranjana Chandramouli
staff writer

On Sunday, Jan. 22, Rose-Hulman played host to its first SGA Presidential Debate in the Faculty Dining Room, where four juniors discussed pertinent issues and answered questions from the audience in hopes of gaining support for Tuesday's Presidential Election.

The debate was moderated by the current SGA President, Mitch Pettigrew, who was elected after the resignation of the president-elect, Hobey Tam, late last school year. Tam was actually the driving force behind organizing the debate, saying that it was "time that students start taking charge and holding each other more accountable and selecting better leaders." SGA controls about \$300,000 every year in funds that they use and appropriate. Tam hoped that, in having this debate, students would have greater visibility of candidates than in years past. The questions concentrated on bridging the gap between the student body and student government, as well as the gap between the student government and the administration, in an effort to make communication within Rose more fluid. Presidential hopefuls involved

in the debate were juniors: civil engineer Nick Addante, chemical engineer Brent Gregory, biomedical engineer Carley Shumate, and computer engineer Bryan Correll.

Shumate, a three-year senator, has also spent two years serving the finance committee. She centered her answers on improving and communicating the budgeting for student clubs in the spring, remarking that "if clubs aren't happy, SGA isn't doing [its] job." She wanted complete transparency on what SGA was doing through quarterly reports and was emphatic about making herself personally available and accessible to students as SGA president. Shumate said she would like to continue to serve as a SGA senator and a member of the finance committee next year if she were not elected to the presidency.

Correll similarly emphasized the importance of an accessible SGA president for both big and small things, stating that he

would make a strong effort to make a personal relationship with the student body. He said that the "sole purpose of SGA is to get the opinions of students," and hoped, as SGA president, to harness the power of social media to spread the influence of SGA and gather input. Correll is the president of the Climbing Club on campus

mate both emphasized their willingness to personally go out and seek the student body's opinions, Addante and Gregory spoke to the power of delegation, which they both reiterated in their answers in Sunday's debate.

Nick Addante, who was a member of the SGA executive board for two years, has the most

experience out of the four candidates in running SGA. He says that he would use his experience from being on SGA, as well as being a Sophomore Advisor and a member of ATO and Greek life, to truly embody and empower the student body as a whole. He remarked that he had administrative ties from his experience and could use that to strengthen the connection between the student body

and the administration. He wants SGA to utilize its resources after saying that "the SGA president can't do it all." He gave examples of utilizing their resources as actually having a keynote speaker (Senate usually skips that allot-

ted time slot in their agenda) at SGA meetings and empowering the 40 senators at their disposal. He wants to re-evaluate the by-laws every year to keep them current and to make known that all the information involving SGA, such as the minutes from weekly meetings, are on the website.

Brent Gregory, a resident assistant and former SGA senator, wants to improve the quality of senators to make SGA run effectively without having the SGA president do everything. He wants to "boost the image of SGA" by making a presentation at Freshmen Orientation to increase the quality of the freshmen senators. He emphasized the importance of creating committees and delegations within SGA to address students' issues and complaints. He wants to make SGA more accessible and possibly have an honorary senator position where a campus leader sits in on SGA and gives input. He doesn't want to "bog people down with more meetings," but says that groups of people in committees would be able to address individual issues better than any single person could.

Gregory and Addante will face off in the Final Election this Tuesday, January 31, on Banner-Web.



Brent Gregory and Nick Addante remain in the race for Tuesday's SGA Presidential Election.
Student Government Association

and is working towards getting a climbing wall on campus within the next few years.

After the Primary Election held all day on Tuesday, the final two candidates were Addante and Gregory. While Correll and Shu-

'President Branam' wins Mr. Rose pageant

Alayna McNamara • guest writer

Last Friday AOPI held the Fifth Annual Mr. Rose Pageant in Hatfield Hall. The show's proceeds will be donated to Strike Out Arthritis, the sorority's national philanthropy. "Forty-six million Americans and 300,000 children have one of the more than 100 types of arthritis. There is no cure for arthritis, and it can be a highly debilitating disease," Dr. Richard House, the pageant's MC, said. The event raised over \$2,000 this year, and a wide variety of student groups were represented - including several Greek organizations, SGA, and Speed Hall. Of the event, sophomore Greg Frech said, "As a guy going to a male pageant, I found it more amusing than expected."

The show began with the contestants and their secret superhero identities, ranging from "Captain Civil" to "Hawkward." The contestants then moved to the talent portion of the show. Some acts, such as the Minecraft-

themed cover of a popular party song, focused on comedy; others, such as the performance of Iron and Wine's "Boy with a Coin," displayed more serious musical talent. After this round, the judges eliminated five contestants. The remaining participants then constructed devices to aid them in rescuing a hypothetical damsel in distress. Dr. Thomas Adams judged this portion of the event, after which the contestant pool was trimmed down to three. These finalists, clad in formal attire, concluded the show with a question-and-answer session hosted by Jillian Shuman, AOPI's Vice President of External Operations.

The show, Shuman said, "went pretty well. Dr. House did an absolutely amazing job, and I hope that in the future he decides to keep with us. We had a few problems with drunk people during the show, but there was nothing we could really do to prevent that. I just hope that in the future people remember that Mr. Rose is still a show

where professors can bring their kids and not be afraid of language that is too crude."

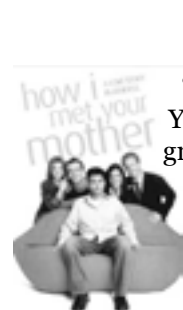
After the final round concluded, the judges chose Spencer Bohlander, otherwise known as "President Branam," to sport the winning sash and crowned him as this year's Mr. Rose. The Alpha Tau Omega fraternity sponsored Bohlander.



Bohlander gives his victory speech while sporting his crown.

Kayla Pence • Alpha Omicron Pi

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SGA elections are over... or are they?

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SGA Presidential Candidates



Brent Gregory

What are your goals as President if elected?

My goal as SGA president would be to increase the transparency and communication between the student body, SGA, and the administration. Recent administrative actions and innovations have left students baffled. SGA has failed to be the organization that empowers the voice of the student body and bridges the gap between the students and the administration. During the past few years, the effectiveness of SGA has gradually deteriorated due to the disconnect between the

student body and the organization. I would like to change the face of SGA so it once again serves the needs of the students. As president, I would ensure the concerns of students are heard by the administration. I would also like to create "honorary member" positions to allow people, perhaps from unrepresented organizations such as SAB, RHA, or the residence hall staff, to contribute ideas to meeting discussions. I would propose that SGA publish minutes from each meeting in the Rose Thorn. By speaking at Freshmen Orientation, I believe SGA can increase incoming student awareness about its functions and goals; a simple booth at the activities fair is not enough.

Why do you feel you are qualified for the position?

As a former SGA senator and member of the finance committee, I have a solid understanding of the purpose, functions, and current downfalls of the organization. I am an active member of the student body. As an RA, I can relate with the 50% of the student body that lives on campus, and as a member of the Fraternity of Phi Gamme Delta, I can relate to the 30% of students that are Greek. I am also a member of AXE and a former varsity athlete.

What cool event do you think Rose-Hulman's SGA should sponsor?

I believe SGA should play an active role in contributing towards more permanent on-campus projects that would benefit the student body such as installing a rock climbing wall in the SRC or a Frisbee golf course on campus.

Nicholas Addante

What are your goals as President if elected?

I hope to improve the image and effectiveness of SGA. I think the student government can be more involved in improving student life and have better interaction with the students through their senators. Overall I plan to have better communication with the student body as a whole.

Why do you feel you are qualified for the position?

I have served on the executive board for SGA for the past two years in addition to being a senator my freshman year. I have good knowledge on how to run the SGA efficiently and how to continue our efforts to improve the image, efficiency, and involvement of the SGA.

What cool event do you think Rose-Hulman's SGA should sponsor?

I would like to create either one large event or a series of events for students to break up the monotony of winter quarter. Some form of winter "Olympics" where any team of students can enter and will feature events like kickball tournament, dodge ball tournament, and possibly a family feud like event. Hopefully this event will be able to involve many different student groups.



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THE ROSE THORN

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The Rose Thorn is a weekly publication produced by the members of the community of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology published on Fridays first through ninth week each quarter. All students, faculty, and staff are welcome to attend weekly meetings, held at 5:15pm on Wednesdays in Olin Hall. We also welcome and encourage all community members to submit articles, photographs, car-

toons, and letters to the editor for publication.

We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length, and the deadline for content submission is 5:00 p.m. two days prior to publication. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, grammar, length, and factual errors, while preserving the original intent of the submission. The editors reserve the right to

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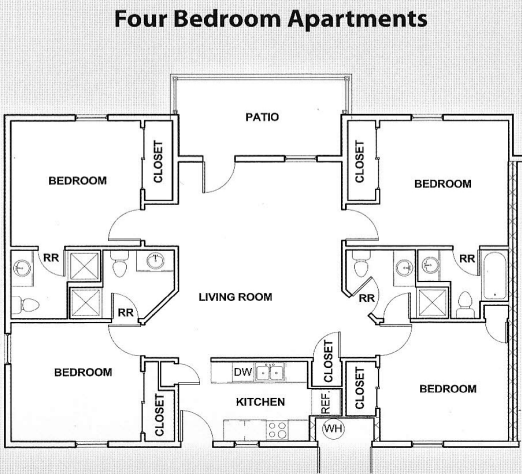
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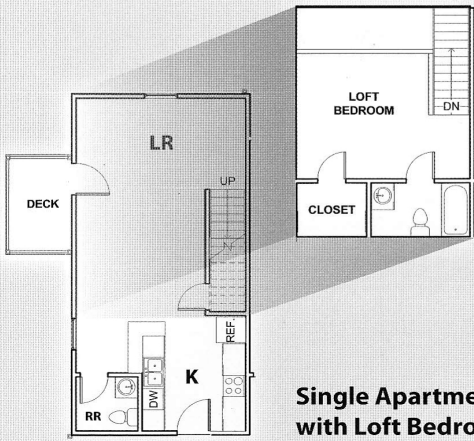
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Find out about “How I Met Your Mother”

Dan Maginot & Stephen Wuest
guest writers

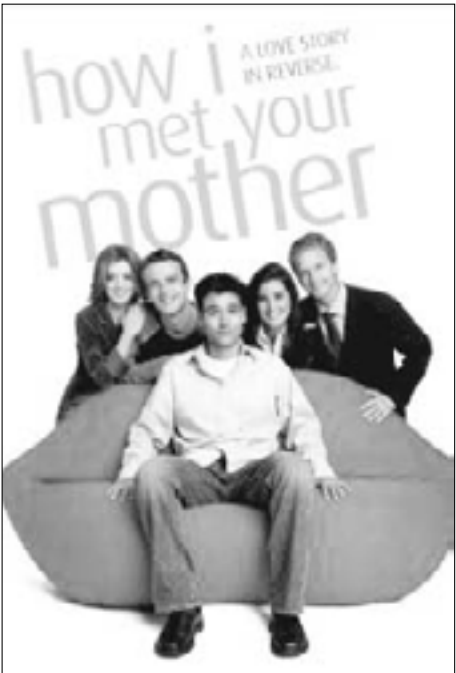
This review is going to be legen—wait for it... because I just wet my pants—DAIRY. The setting: yours truly and the saucy brunette sitting adjacent, lounging in your residence hall suite pondering a great activity to entertain, when your suggestion gets canned because she’s “Too tired...” and she proposes to watch “Jersey Shore.” You contemplate why you associate yourself with this woman. You then suggest watching “How I Met Your Mother” and in the most pompous tone, she has the audacity to utter the words, “I’ve never heard of that show.” Instead of exploding like a raging ball of fire, raining down upon her with the hammer of Thor (great movie or greatest movie?), you decide to educate her on the longest story a dad could ever tell his children.

The story began in 2005 as the main character, Ted Mosby—played by Josh Radnor—recounts the days he spent searching for his soul mate. The whole show is told in flashback format from 2030 by a married Ted Mosby, voiced by Bob Saget. The show revolves around Ted (Teddy Westside) and his four friends, Marshall Erikson (Big Fudge), Barney Stinson (The

Barnacle), Robin Scherbatsky, and Lily Aldrin... of whom neither have nicknames. Marshall and Lily are displayed as the perfect couple who have never wavered since they started dating freshman year in college. The gang meets Robin in the first episode of the show, and Ted, being the hopeless romantic he is, ruins any chance with her by confessing his love for her the first night they meet. For the next couple months, Ted hopelessly tries to push her to the back of his mind, but she won’t budge. “Oh... Teddy,” you might say condescendingly. However, he is adamant on convincing her to confront her feelings for him.

The episode that these reviewers believe best displays the dynamic character interactions along with its versatile format is the finale of the first season. This episode combines all of the loose ends that the whole first season had been building upon along with a twist that puts M. Night Shyamalan to shame. Through this episode we observe the character Ted Mosby, who would be better suited for a romantic comedy if he were

more androgynous. For example, he goes as far as having a blue string quartet, which goes back to an inside joke, in order



imdb.com

to ask Robin out. Although he may seem sensitive as a guy, his friends constantly shut him down for cooking up these “starry-eyed” ideas, which is probably the only way this kind of romanticism could be involved in a more male-oriented show. We can all relate to Ted due to the way he essentially friend—zoned himself in the

process of going after the girl of his dreams. However, in the end, his sappy, poetic sense of love succeeds when he is able to bridge the gap and define his relationship with Robin.

Now, we should detail the complimentary nature of Marshall and Lilly’s relationship. The show outlines the long-term couple’s insecurity that there are always things they missed out on and how others, including the viewer, do not see them until after the fact. It also labels how perfect they are for each other in how they pause during their fights, showing the viewer that the perfect relationship can happen and how they can put things out of their mind. This is broken, and we gain insight to their true character when Marshall shows that he is human and cannot pause their argument any longer. Lilly is crying while trying to pause the fight, and then right when they have the viewer ready to completely let down their guard and become emotionally involved in the show, they add in the comedy with Lilly pausing for sex. With this break of emotional vulnerability, the show brilliantly cuts away with a humorous line or action. This clearly depicts the versatility of the show by being both emotionally intimate and comical

within the same scene. This can be noticeably applicable to every relationship that occurs in the show, including not only Marshall and Lilly, but also Ted and Robin and even Barney in the later seasons. However, for now, Barney outlines his definition of a relationship as sex with the same girl more than once, relating to the bro which every guy wishes he could be. This so happens to also be the guy every girl stays away from, so they laugh at his apparent character failures. Robin is shown as trying to oppose the typical girl stereotype by attempting to ignore the whole string quartet that Ted conjured. However, she is drawn back to her feminine roots when she is forced to realize the intention behind Ted’s romantic tendencies. They capture the viewer emotionally when Ted and Robin finally get together but then scream, “GOTCHA!” when they show Marshall crying on the front steps to their apartment holding Lilly’s engagement ring. We finally comprehend the full magnitude of Lilly’s relational insecurities to the point of breaking off their engagement.

Review rating: 4.5 elephants



Not just another prog-rock band, Rishloo has its own novel sound

Ashton Wagner • guest writer


Rishloo is a little known prog-rock band out of Seattle Washington. Their sound is a unique combination of a few other well-known acts. Listening to their music brings to mind the progressive metal of Tool and The Mars Volta, the versing and song structure of King Crimson, and the celestial space rock of early Pink Floyd. Despite the similarities, their sound is still very much original. I regularly listen to many of the bands considered similar to them, yet I still found their sound to be novel and engaging. Thus far they have released three albums, “Terras Fames” (2004), “Eidolon” (2007), and “Feathergun” (2010). “Terras Fames” is great for those who prefer a more hard rock sound and is

very reminiscent of Ænima. “Eidolon” takes the rock aspect of the previous album and combines it with some more progressive and ethereal elements. Two stand-out tracks are “Eidolon” and “Omega.” “Feathergun” brings the ethereal elements to a whole new level. Songs alter-nate seamlessly between pounding rock and slow, reflective post-rock. “Feathergun in the Garden of the Sun” and “Sissorlips” are the capstones of the album. Rishloo is currently touring, and they plan on releasing their fourth album in 2012.

Review rating: 3.5 elephants




Rishloo is currently touring.



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Fixing your smile later in life

Jessica Reames
photography editor

Why would an adult get braces? At 21 years old, I have braces because I have needed them for a while, and now I finally have the ability to pay for them. I had been searching for an orthodontist for quite a while, but all of the ones that I had a consultation with wanted to pull out some of my teeth. I knew that couldn't be the only way to get straight teeth. I finally found an orthodontist who would do it without pulling teeth, and I was immediately ready to go for it.

For me, there were more benefits than drawbacks to starting orthodontic care. My teeth were hard to keep clean because they were crowded together in some interesting configurations. I had one tooth that was so far out of place that it was usually painful and unflattering to my smile. Braces, although uncomfortable at times, have straightened out my teeth and made them so much easier to keep clean, even while working around

the arch wires.

Keeping your braces clean is not really all that difficult, but it is time consuming. The usual dental advice of brushing twice a day and flossing once day will work great with braces, but it takes a lot longer to floss because you have to work around the wires. It used to take me about 5 minutes to floss, but now it takes close to 15. A proxy brush is great for getting food that gets stuck between the wire and your teeth. I often use one after lunch because it is

My teeth were hard to keep clean because they were crowded together in some interesting configurations.

quick and easy. An electric toothbrush works better, but I can't stand vibration in my head, so I use a nor-

mal toothbrush meticulously. Don't forget to see your dentist regularly while wearing braces.

Braces are not pleasant in the first couple of weeks after you get them and will hurt again after most adjustments. Rinsing with warm salt water helps immensely. I religiously carried Oragel around with me for the first 6 months. It is awesome, but don't get it on your tongue or it will make your tongue numb. Acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and other OTC pain meds will help, but please be careful with them. You can start to develop a resistance to them if you take them too frequently or accidentally overdose by taking just one more tablet than you should.

My neck was often really tense after an adjustment, sometimes to the point that I couldn't turn my head at all. I went to see a masseuse for help when I couldn't turn my head, and she got those muscles to relax after a lot of work on my neck and upper back. I can usually stretch out my neck by rolling it around in slow circles. There

are pressure points at the base of your skull that will relieve some of the tension if you press and hold for about 5 seconds. Rubbing the joints

Sometimes, I even have to show ID to see an R rated movie.

of your jaw will also alleviate some of the pain.

I often encounter people who assume that I am about 15 years old. This can be both flattering and frustrating. I have to show my ID a lot more frequently than before for all sorts of things that are not sold to those under 18. Sometimes, I even have to show ID to see an R rated movie. I know it's annoying, but have patience with people who assume you are younger than you are. They aren't trying to be rude; they are just doing their jobs.

I'm nearing the end of the

braces phase and will be moved into a retainer in a couple of months. The day that I get my braces taken off, I will be going to see the dentist to get my teeth cleaned. I drink a lot of coffee and tea and eat a lot of blueberries and red foods. These things can be very staining, and I'm pretty certain that there will be squares of white left where the brackets are mounted. If a thorough cleaning by your hygienist doesn't solve the issue, I would strongly recommend a professional whitening treatment performed by your dentist.

I cannot stress how frequently I am told that I should wear my retainers when I get them. Some of my friends did not wear their retainers like they were told. Consequently, they may need braces again in the future. Even after you don't have to wear the retainer all the time, you should still sleep with it in. If your retainer doesn't fit properly or you lost it, go see your orthodontist. You need that retainer to fit correctly in order to keep your teeth from moving out of place.

Buy a CityPASS

Melissa Schwenk
living editor emeritus

When my friend Chris and I decided to visit Philadelphia on our way back to Indiana from New York, neither of us had any idea of what to see besides the obvious American history sites. But we had two full days in the city, and you can only gaze upon the Liberty Bell for so long before security gets suspicious and kicks you out.

So upon arriving in Philadelphia, we purchased two CityPASSes with the goal of seeing everything included. This was my first time purchasing a CityPASS, and I must say, I was not disappointed. Here are a few reasons you should consider one for your next trip.

Take a look at the places on the pass for the city you are visiting. Most of the sites on it are places you'll want to visit, and you'll save money by buying it. Most of the time, the combined savings on the card is around 50 percent if you visit everything. This is a pretty good deal if you have a few days in a city.

Another reason to use the CityPASS is to save time. Museums and attractions tend to have huge lines on weekends, and the CityPASS will allow you to use the Members' or Will Call line, getting you in sooner. This was especially useful when a group of friends and I visited the building formerly known as the Sears Tower in Chicago. We arrived around 7 pm, finding a huge line waiting. Luckily, with our CityPASSes, we were able to bypass about an hour and a

half of waiting, getting up and down before 8:30 pm.

This wasn't the only time we passed a huge line; we skipped lines at the Franklin Institute and Adventure Aquarium in Philadelphia and the Shedd Aquarium and Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Another great thing about the CityPASS is that it's a great way to decide what to see. Most visitor centers have brochures of what's on the pass, so you can check out your options. Even if you don't decide to buy the pass, it can give you ideas for what to see. If you do decide to buy the pass, each ticket has helpful information on it. This includes the attraction's hours, phone number, address and how to get there using public

You'll be better informed about prices and options for your stay.

transportation.

All in all, I would recommend at least looking into buying a CityPASS if you are visiting a city that offers one. Even if you don't end up buying it, you'll be better informed about prices and options for your stay. Happy traveling.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN WRITING FOR THE LIVING SECTION, EMAIL THORN-LIVING@ROSE-HULMAN.EDU FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Finding a new roommate

Katrina Brandenburg • living editor

This school year is more than halfway over. For freshman, it might be time to start considering housing for next year. There are options, and for most these will include finding a suitable roommate. Perhaps this year's roommate is the per-

fect roommate for next year. Perhaps a different roommate is strongly advised. The roommate question brings to mind the senior prom.

Oh, is it that time of year again? Yes, for some the time for short, casual conversations ending in success has begun its approach. For others, the time for nervous thought, planning of details, and self-conscious uncertainty before perhaps even a first discussion of that important detail has begun to slowly creep nearer. Regular breathing is a healthy choice.

It seems like a major decision, and it can be. Unlike finding a date to the senior prom, this decision has the potential to linger for a whole year. However, if done carefully the decision could lead to a good experience. It is important to take time thinking through all the people one might consider having as a roommate, whose personality is best suited to one's own and whose lifestyle fits the best with one's own.

For those not in the comfortable group of already decided people, a nervous feeling may arise as the time slowly draws nearer. It is early yet. It is early enough to remain calm. Just as with the prom, it is not really the case that all the good choices will be made months in advance. Some decisions will be very last minute, and so time remains to consider.

For those not in the comfortable group of already decided people, a nervous feeling may arise.

As with choosing a date for the senior prom, one should take the time to dally on each consideration. Whom do I know? With whom can I easily chat? With whom would I not mind being in a confined space? Rooms are bigger than cars, but they are still not overly spacious. The next school year is longer than a car ride. Finding someone who answers the above questions is important because being comfortable will make the experience better for both people.

Confidence should come from the idea that this decision is in fact relatively minor. Each student here has already gone through the battery of decisions that led up to this point. Last year, each person who is now a college freshman chose a prom date or chose to skip the prom. Each person made the more major decision of selecting a college from the list of places where he was accepted. Now making the decision of a roommate for next year should seem small and achievable. Choose calmly, choose wisely, and remember that this decision is actually not the biggest one to have been made.

The other side of the desk

Not all tragedies are created equal



Corey Taylor • faculty writer

Tragedy has a millennia-long, geographically and culturally rich literary history.

Dramatists, poets, novelists, philosophers, theorists, and critics have written in tragic forms and about tragedy in myriad ways. A shared feature of tragedy is that such a work culminates with the protagonist's death. As a tragedy unfolds on the stage or on the page, other characters die or have their lives ruined before the protagonist meets his or her end. The protagonist exhibits a tragic flaw, fails to pass a crucial test due to his or her flaw, and these conventions conspire with plot points to destroy everything held dear by the central figure. It's the protagonist's fault, but once he or she realizes it, the damage is done.

An additional layer is that tragedy can be avoided, usually with clearer thinking and communication. The audience can see this, but the characters can't (this is called dramatic irony). For instance, King Lear doesn't listen to his Fool's advice, so he disowns loyal Cordelia while Goneril and Regan betray their father.

Audiences usually find tragedies instructive, cathartic, or—bizarrely, if you think about it—entertaining. These effects may be true when it comes to literary tragedy, but real life works differently.

Take the recent death of long-time Pennsylvania State University football coach Joe Paterno. Paterno's storied coaching tenure and reputation as an ethical figurehead ended in ignominy in November 2011 when he was fired by Penn State's Board of Trustees. Paterno failed to report quickly and fully to his superiors that Jerry Sandusky, his former defensive coordinator, allegedly molested and raped children—who were part of Sandusky's charity, the Second Mile—on university property. The details of the charges are disturbing, to put it mildly.

When I woke up this past Sunday morning, I turned on ESPN and saw that Paterno had died. A Penn State fan was interviewed by a local television reporter. The distraught fan said, at the end of the interview, that Paterno's death was "a tragedy."

This is an incorrect application of the word.

That Paterno died—physically—is not a tragedy. Everyone will die, but it's irresponsible and cynical to say that fact makes life itself tragic.

Paterno didn't die as a result of his own actions; he died of lung cancer complications, likely exacerbated by the end of his career and the circumstances surrounding it. We can point to Sandusky as an additional cause of Paterno's death, along with the coach's own blind loyalty to and unethical protection of his football program. Assessments of Paterno's career now have to include that he knowingly withheld information for years about Sandusky's abuse of young boys. The coach with the most wins in Division I college football history was complicit in multiple instances of child molestation that occurred over the course of fifteen years. These are facts, not tragedies.

Why Jerry Sandusky hasn't been burned in effigy on the streets of State College is beyond me. He faces fifty-two counts of molestation, rape, and associated charges—six more criminal charges than years Paterno coached at Penn State. Taking to the streets over that alone, not to mention the obvious university cover-up, would be warranted. Instead, students rioted when the Board of Trustees rightly fired Paterno. That November weekend, a man who protested that the Penn State-Nebraska game should not be played was verbally and almost physically assaulted (thanks, Curt Clifton, for posting a link to that news story). Emotions were running high at the time, but the emotions were misplaced with ugly results. These aren't tragedies, either.

One real tragedy is that Paterno didn't talk in a timely or complete manner to his superiors, for whatever reasons, and more children were harmed as a result. Paterno failed to act on the accusations against Sandusky due to his tragic flaw. Defining Joe Paterno's death as tragic is a mistake, however well-intentioned. Paterno had a clear record of doing great and right things, including mentoring thousands of players and giving millions of dollars to Penn State's libraries, but his complicity in the Sandusky scandal is inexcusable.

A second, larger tragedy is that the victims seem to be overlooked or ignored in discussions about Paterno's death and legacy. Scores of lives have been ruined by Sandusky and, in a less direct although no less severe way, Paterno. Football continues at Penn State and although high-ranking people have been fired and charged, the victims are still waiting for justice and additional support.

That is the greater, sadder, and ongoing tragedy at which Shakespeare would wince in horror.

Being an alumnus now

Alec Manke • staff writer

Being from the area, I was able to go to my high school's Christmas program, which involves the band, choir, color guard, and drama department. It is a favorite event for my hometown of Brazil. Sitting in the auditorium where I spent much of my high school career as a band member and theatre tech member got me thinking about the importance of being an alumnus. I came to the realization that, little by little, my connection with the school was fading away. As a freshman, I often went to marching band competitions. A few years later, I missed most of them. How quickly will I stop coming back for

alumni events at Rose? I hope not at all. Therefore, I issue a challenge: before the school year ends, reconnect at your high school. Go to a program or thank a teacher that made a difference.

Love it or hate it, high school shaped each Rose student. An excellent math or student teacher inspired us to go into the field of engineering. Isn't it worth it at the very least to thank them? Conversely, some might have found that certain subjects weren't their forte. While shaped by being in my school's band program, I realized that music wasn't something that I would want to do professionally. High school allowed me to find out that a number of things weren't for me, but some were, and for

that I thank my teachers.

One thing that hit me while at the Christmas Spectacular is that the school is still going on in my absence. Students are still keeping up the same traditions and participating in the activities. Sound familiar? It should. Rose homecoming helps remind us that many people learned here, and we will be back eventually to tell the student body about our days here. Some things change while others stay the same. Isn't it worth it to see the progress and revel in the nostalgia?

Start today. Connect with the past. Email a teacher. Catch up with an old friend. Go to an event. Making a habit of supporting one's high school establishes that behavior for supporting Rose as an alumnus.

AMERICAN SOCIETY & THE WORLD

Wasteful!



Bask in the sun, look to the seas, and enjoy the view of our mounds of garbage.

Viktor Goben • staff writer

Welcome to the grand and glorious land of the United States of America. Bask in the sun, look to the seas, and enjoy the view of our mounds of garbage. Wait... what?

American society is one of the most wasteful societies on the planet, throwing out millions of pounds of plastics, aluminum, steel, and paper every year, often sending it to landfills.

No sooner than we finish filling those big plastic bags and set them out to be taken away do we instantly forget about what we've just thrown away. Let's ignore the fact that our world's resources are dwindling and that we are slowly replacing thousands and thousands of acres of viable farm ground with mini malls, mega stores, and cookie cutter houses.

Some regions in our grand and glorious society have even gone so far as to allow these masses of garbage to essentially be put into a pit and homes build over top of

them, the soon-to-be owners often left in the dark.

This is why in three generations down the road, when the owners of that lot decide to put in a pool to their backyard and they start digging, they'll find their own private opening to the masses of undecaying garbage beneath their feet. Twinkies (still fresh in the plastic), diapers, cigarette butts, and newspapers aplenty will be there waiting.

When this author visited the Wiesbaden, Germany region, he was able to investigate and learn of the nearby garbage power plant. This power plant burns all the garbage it can, separating out those materials that can be recycled and keeping many of the pollutants out of the local water and air. This plant even tapped into the natural decay of the landfill and utilized the methane being produced to further produce power.

Many of the industrialized countries around the world have had their day with landfills and learned quickly that you can't simply cover it up and forget it. The U.S. still has this lesson to

<http://blog.brickhousesecurity.com>

learn. Our grand and glorious society still is promoting the throw away society, especially as that new brand name merchandise hits the shelves. Go ahead and toss that electronic device you bought last week. After all, some celebrity just plugged a similar electronic device that comes out tomorrow.

Maybe once you have to start planning for the future and considering burial plots, you'll have to start weighing the factors of with or without garbage. After all, one person's junk is another one's treasure. There you could be, surrounded by all the things in the world that made you happy for 0.5 seconds each. Junk all of it. Like the pharaohs of old.

So try holding onto those class notes until you can toss them in a recycle bin. Save that empty bottle for recycling day. And don't run out to buy that new piece of technology just because it's got that one extra USB port over your latest purchase of similar tech. We've got enough junk as is. Try using that money to pay off some student loans or taking your friends out to eat instead.

Second half spurt seals HCAC win

Kurtis Zimmerman • news editor

A 7 - 0 run by the Engineers brought the game to a tie, and tight defense against a three-point shot in the final nine seconds sealed a 56 - 53 win on the road for Rose-Hulman. They fended off conference opponent Manchester College to claim exclusive rights to third place in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

The contest started well for the Engineers with Rose-Hulman holding a 10 - 5 lead in the first seven minutes of play, but a 10 - 0 run by the Spartans led them to a five-point lead, and they never looked back in the first half. Shooting nearly 60 percent from the field in the first half, Manchester grabbed a 31 - 24 lead at halftime. Tough defense held the Engineers to just 40 percent from the field, but a handful of three-pointers kept them within striking distance returning for a second half.

Sophomore Julian Strickland and senior Jason Haslag powered up a few layups — Strickland sank one from the charity stripe — to score the first seven points of the game and bring the two teams to a deadlock. A three-pointer by junior Austin Weatherford meant a lead change in the Engineers' favor with just under fifteen minutes to play, and the two teams traded baskets for the rest of the evening. The lead changed five times, and the score was tied four times in the second half alone.

Strickland, Weatherford, and senior Blake Knotts combined

for five three-pointers in the second half, and tough defense held the Spartans to just 28 percent shooting from the field in the second half to key in on a big conference win.

Strickland led the offense with 16 points, seven rebounds and four assists, and Knotts sank four of the team's ten three-pointers on the night to follow closely behind with 12 points. Haslag and Weatherford each put up seven points for the Engineers, and junior Jon Gerken contributed five points and grabbed a team-high eight rebounds.

The HCAC win put Rose-Hulman one win over close competition Franklin College, who fell to conference leader Transylvania University Wednesday night. With an 8 - 3 conference record (14 - 4 overall), the Engineers sit behind Hanover College in the HCAC standings. The Panthers are 9 - 2 in conference play, but they beat Rose-Hulman at Hanover earlier this season. Hanover comes to Hulbert Arena on Saturday, February 18, to close out the regular season with what will likely be a pivotal game for the Engineers to seek a better seeding in the conference tournament.

The Engineers take off for a game against College of Mount St. Joseph (2 - 8 in HCAC play) this Saturday, and they return to Terre Haute for a pair of tough games, beginning with conference rivals Anderson University on Wednesday night and conference leaders Transylvania University a week from Saturday.

Track and field teams capture 15 first-place honors

Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor

Starting off the home season on a positive note, the Rose-Hulman men's and women's track and field teams won a combined fifteen events and broke four school records at the Friday Night Invitational last week. The men's squad convincingly won the team scoring, taking home eleven first-place honors. Recording four first place finishes, the Rose-Hulman women's team finished second on the day.

Some of the school records set on that day occurred in the 60-meter dash event. With a time of 7.01 seconds, senior Jeremiah Edwards

captured his second individual win on the season. Other record-setting performances were also put in by Sutton Coleman in the 60-meter hurdles, Liz Evans in the 60-meter dash, and Gloria Boxell in the 60-meter high hurdles. Coleman also recorded a first-place honor in the 200-meter event. This season, Rose-Hulman has already recorded five marks that rank in the national top 25.

This Saturday, the Fightin' Engineers will host the Engineer Invitational. The meet will feature twelve schools from seven different states. Events are scheduled to begin at 12:30 pm in the Sports and Recreation Center.

Athlete of the week Julian Strickland

Matt Dierksmeier • sports editor

With a 2-1 record since last January 18, the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team presently stands in third place in the HCAC after their win against Manchester College on Wednesday. Reaching double figures in the past three games, sophomore Julian Strickland has helped lead the way for the Fightin' Engineers. Strickland currently leads the team in scoring, averaging 12.9 points per game. For his performances throughout the season, this week's selection for Athlete of the Week is sophomore civil engineering major Julian Strickland. He was able to take a few minutes of his time to answer some questions for *The Rose Thorn*.

Rose Thorn: What is one thing you have learned from playing basketball?

Julian Strickland: From an academic standpoint, I have definitely learned how to manage my time. In general, basketball has helped my leadership skills as well as helped me realize and

grasp the fact that group/team success is more important than individual success.

RT: How long have you been playing basketball?

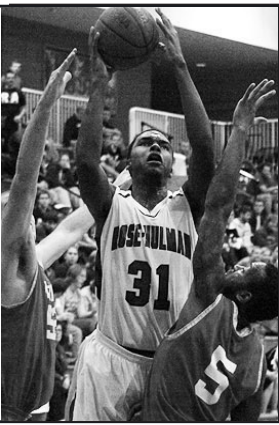
JS: I've been playing basketball since I can remember. Probably around 4 years old.

RT: What has been your favorite moment as a member of the Rose-Hulman men's basketball team?

JS: I've enjoyed just about every moment as a member of this basketball team. Our team has such good chemistry and bonds on and off the court so it makes it more enjoyable to play when you get along well with your teammates. It's even more fun when you can win games like we have as well.

RT: What are your goals for the team and also for yourself this season?

JS: The ultimate goal as a team is to win the conference tournament and go to the NCAA tournament. We've all been striving hard for a chance to play in the NCAA tournament and it would be a big accomplishment



for us to make it this year. As an individual, I would just like to continue getting better as a player and a leader on this team. My role as a leader is going to grow as the season goes on and as my time as a player progresses, so I would like to be able to fill that role and be able to help my team succeed.

RT: What is the weirdest thing that has ever happened to you at a basketball game, practice, etc.?

JS: During our international trip to France, we played one of the French teams and beat them. Once the game was over, our whole team was culturally shocked when they offered us all Heineken at the reception.

RT: How have the dynamics of the team changed since last season?

JS: Since last season our team has improved in many ways, but the most noticeable way would be our maturity. We only lost one senior last year, so we all came back better, stronger, and smarter from a basketball standpoint.

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The story of a failed SGA write-in candidate

The truth, the tragedy, Revealed.

Sean Gorsky • mediocre, at best

The SGA Presidential elections are over; the new president has been decided by the votes of the student body. The campaigns for presidency concluded on Sunday night with a debate between the four primary candidates. Some students, however, were discontent with this conclusion. One student in particular fought tooth and claw to become a part of the debate and election as a write-in candidate, but his request was coarsely rejected. The Flipside Editor, Sean Gorsky, sat down with attempted write-in candidate Shawn Gorsby in a completely unbiased and objective interview to get the unheard story of Gorsby’s failed presidential run.

Thorn: Hi Shawn, how is everything going?

Shawn: Fairly well, Sean, all things considered with the election. Your hair looks fantastic by the way.

Oh, you flatter me! But let’s get down to business. This interview

is about you, after all. When did you decide to begin your campaign for president of SGA?

Well it’s a funny story: I got an email last week saying there was a Career Fair this week. I looked at my resume and it looked pretty thin, so I was thinking, “Oh crap, I need to get something on here!” Anyway, I saw SGA elections were coming up, and I decided to throw my name in.

Wow, that’s pretty moving. What happened next?

I tried to get my name on the ballot, but I was told I was “past the deadline.” That’s some beauracratic BS if you ask me, right? *[hearty chuckle]*

I certainly agree. Well let’s give you the interview you deserve, shall we? As president of SGA, what would you do to improve SGA?

I would definitely fix the transparency issue. You see, SGA isn’t very transparent; I would describe it

as opaque, because its hard to see through. The number one thing that I would change is to make it more transparent, so people can see through it.

What does that even mean?

I have no idea.

Your honesty is appreciated. Let’s start a little easier, then. Can you describe the function of SGA?

Well SGA is short for Student Government Association; it does a lot of governing for the student body. This involves making many important decisions during each meeting that can have enormous impact on the students here at Rose...

[pause]

[laugh]**[laugh]****[laugh]**
[laugh]

You’re one funny guy. Handsome, too, if I do say so.

Please, you don’t have to remind me of anything my

mother’s already told me.

Absolutely, absolutely. Before we leave, I’d like to ask one more question to get to know you personally before we leave. If you could pick three song titles to describe your personality, what would they be?

Excellent question. It’s funny you should ask, I actually prepared for this one.

1. “Cuz I’m a Thug” by Trick Daddy
2. “Behind these Hazel Eyes” by Kelly Clarkson
3. “Ironic” by Alanis Morissette

I couldn’t have picked three better songs myself. I think that’s all the time we have, but I appreciate the time you’ve given me.

No, the pleasure’s all mine. I’m just glad I have the opportunity to get my story out. That way, people will hear the truth and things can change next year...

[laugh]**[laugh]****[laugh]**
[laugh]

Sexism runs rampant, kind of

Melissa Schwenk
Living editor emeritus

We’ve come a long way since the feminist movement began. Women can now wear pants with no bras in public, they can do the same jobs but for less money than men and they can run for office with little to no experience. But there is one place equality has just not been achieved yet: beauty pageants. As a frequent viewer of “Toddlers and Tiaras,” I know how pageants should run. First there is the formal round, then talent, bathing suit, and finally outfit of choice. Go to any Miss America Pageant and you’ll see skin galore during each round.

Yet something was missing from the male beauty pageant recently held on campus. All the contestants of the Señor Hose Pageant were wearing altogether too much clothing. Where was the skin for me? What was I supposed to imagine later?

I find the lack of a swimsuit competition appalling. If the contestants didn’t want to take their clothes off, they shouldn’t have signed up. This is a beauty pageant, and I refuse to judge the contestants on their thoughts.

I hope that next year, this sexism will not be tolerated. I will not rest until every contestant has stripped to his skivvies, until every woman has seen all, until this fair land we call America has equal sexism for all!

Top “10” Ten Things admin and profs do or say that irk students

Thorn Staff • at least we tried

10. Ask students if they’re ok with some homework for next class. We all know there’s no choice.
9. Solve a class’s inability to understand the material by moving on to the next chapter.
8. “You should get your test back before sometime before the final.” The same most definitely goes for homework, too.
7. Build more than one presidential parking space when we only have one president.
6. Put up chalkboards in the bathroom and don’t leave any chalk to write with.
5. *Classified*
4. “This test shouldn’t be too bad; it only took me 20 minutes!”
3. Have a vision and promoting its existence, but not telling anybody what it is.
2. Change the commons.
1. Change it back.

Wacky prof quotes

“Synthetic Chemists are the jocky, testosterone [filled] douchebags.”
— Dr. Weatherman, on the hierarchy or chemists.

“When you get to be my age, you get to experience the joy of something called a colonoscopy. They cost three or four thousand dollars, and they’re a real pain in the...actually, they’re not that bad once you get past the preperation. It’s a good joke though.”
—Dr. Mason. When my time comes, I think I’ll leave secret notes for the doc to find. That way we’ll both have something to laugh about.

“Oh you picked the sexy relay, didn’t you?”
— Dr. Grigg. For those of us who can’t find that special someone, the electronics are always there to admire.

“Professor Bremmer teaches a very nice econometrics class. Isn’t that right, ladies?”
— Dr. Kim, Exploring techniques to lure more men into economics classes.

Rose professors say crazy things. E-mail them to the Flipside at thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu

Breaking: Flipside needs writers

Still pays nothing

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT CONTENT ON THE FLIPSIDE?

PROBABLY NOT.

But seriously, if you’d like to try your hand at it, send me your ideas or writings to thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu. For bonus points, also give me answers to the following “interview questions”.

1. On average, how many laughs per joke do you get?
2. If you could assume the life of one celebrity, who would it be? Why? No perversions, please.
3. John P. Bilbrey, CEO of Hershey urgently appraoches you. Gasping for air, he says, “Quick! We just developed a nutty and delicious chocolate bar, but it needs a name. What should we call it? Please, the lifeblood of our company depends on it!” What do you tell him?