

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Spring 5-14-2010

### Volume 45 - Issue 26 - Friday, May 14, 2010

Rose Thorn Staff

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# THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2010

ROSE-HULMAN.EDU/THORN/

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 26

## News Briefs

By Alex Mullans

### Elena Kagan nominated to U.S. Supreme Court

On Monday morning, President Barack Obama named his pick to replace Justice John Paul Stevens on the U.S. Supreme Court; that person is Elena Kagan, Obama's solicitor general. As her credentials begin to be examined by the Senate Judiciary Committee, rumors have continued to circulate about Kagan's sexual orientation; the White House has acknowledged the rumors but has not issued any comment on the matter. Some in the media, including journalist Stuart Taylor, Jr. are reaching the conclusion that Kagan's appointment would shift the court in a conservative direction, but a concise summary of her political and ideological views has not yet been given.

### David Cameron confirmed new British PM

After the results of last Thursday's national elections in Britain, Conservative party leader David Cameron has accepted Queen Elizabeth's invitation to take over the job of Prime Minister. Those elections resulted in a hung parliament – a sight unseen in Britain since 1974 – leaving no one party with enough votes to control the House of Commons. That has led Cameron and Liberal Democrat leader Nick Clegg to discuss a coalition government; both sides have expressed desire for such a government, and a deal is expected in the near future. Before stepping down, outgoing PM Gordon Brown tried to create a similar coalition between his Labour party and the Liberal Democrats, with no success.

### Senate launches oil investigation

The breach at the Deepwater Horizon well continues to spew oil into the ocean, prompting a Senate investigation into the operation of the well and the circumstances surrounding the accident. In hearings on Tuesday, each company's executives pointed the finger of blame at one of the others. BP owned the oil well itself, while Transocean owned and operated the Deepwater Horizon rig; Halliburton cemented the well. Aside from the bickering between companies, the Senate hearings have also caused the Obama administration to subdivide the agency that was up to this point in charge of regulating oil and gas operations into smaller government organizations.

# Countdown to Commencement

*Seniors reflect on four years of Rose-Hulman*



Mike Lanke / Rose-Hulman

The Rose-Hulman senior class of 2010 gathers at graduation practice Thursday, May 13.

Tim Ekl

Co-Editor in Chief

While not immune to the crush of homework and project deadlines that accompany a typical ninth week, Rose-Hulman seniors have some extra light at the end of the tunnel: graduation.

This year's commencement

takes place at 11 a.m. the morning of Saturday, May 29 in the Field House of the SRC. 475 seniors will graduate, making the outgoing class the largest one in Rose-Hulman history.

Seniors met in the SRC Thursday to rehearse for the commencement ceremony. Campus officials provided a

picnic after the rehearsal.

In addition to commencement, the Senior Soiree, a more casual event commemorating graduating seniors, takes place at 6 p.m. the night before the ceremony itself.

This year's commencement speaker will be Robert Metcalfe, an electrical engineer and Harvard Ph.D. gradu-

ate. Metcalfe is credited with inventing Ethernet, the networking technology that has since become ubiquitous. Metcalfe will receive an honorary degree of engineering at commencement.

The current graduating class entered Rose-Hulman with 525 students – a 90% graduation rate.

## What are seniors saying?

"It's awesome to be moving on, but sad to be leaving something behind."  
-- Brenna Fullin, chemical engineering

"I'm looking forward to finally being able to go to grad school and [medical] school. I love Rose a lot, but I'm ready for the next step."  
-- Eric Smith, chemistry/biochemistry

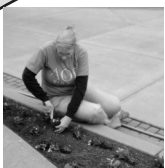
"I've had some great times here and I met a lot of friends that I plan on keeping with me for the rest of my life, but I am really glad to be getting out of this city. It's been fun, Rose!"  
-- Ally Cross, chemical engineering

...

"I can't wait for graduation. I love Rose-Hulman and this place will always feel like home, but I'm ready to try something new for a while."  
-- Kyle Schmelz, mechanical engineering

"It's nice to be moving on to bigger and better things, I guess."  
-- Mitch Garvin, computer science

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

**The Rose Thorn is published on Fridays  
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The *Rose Thorn* welcomes and encourages comments from its readers. We request that all letters to the editor be less than 600 words in length.

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

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

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

The views expressed in the *Rose Thorn* are those of the original author and, with the exception of the Opinions Page 'Staff View', do not necessarily represent the views of the *Rose Thorn* staff or the Rose-Hulman community.



# Freshman influx complicates fall housing situation

Alex Mullans  
Co-Editor in Chief

“I’m extremely optimistic that we’ll be able to accommodate all the upper class housing requests,” said Erik Hayes, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs. Those words should come as a comfort to upperclassmen who have heard the rumors claiming that seniors will be “kicked out” of the Apartment Residence Hall. In fact, the housing situation isn’t nearly as dire as it could be. Hayes noted that he, like many students, thought that this year would be a “breather” year, with Rose’s largest ever graduating class heading off the stage in a few weeks; such thoughts were quickly erased when the Admissions Office noted that they had accepted 590 students. Even with the expected drops in that number (the housing and laptop deposits tend to cause some drops, for example), Student Affairs is predicting 535 incoming freshmen next year, which leaves spots for 585 upperclassmen on campus. This week, 614 upperclassmen filled out appropriate forms and turned in the deposit for on-campus housing, which seemingly leaves 29 people without housing. When asked about this gap, Hayes noted that options like housing students in the Deming

Attic lobby were always possible to reduce the gap. Additionally, Hayes said that the number of upperclassmen expecting to live on campus usually drops somewhat after spring quarter grades arrive as students transfer or leave. “We’re one of the only schools that still does [housing selection] by hand,” Hayes noted. According to Hayes, most schools leave housing to computer selection, instead of taking the time to look at individual students’ requests. The final housing numbers were not available by press time; Hayes said that students should know more by sometime next week.

By the Numbers

1120

On-campus housing capacity

535

Expected freshman population in fall 2010

585

On-campus spots available for upperclassmen

614

Housing deposits received as of press time

# Students come together to beautify campus



Photo courtesy of Lea Dekker

Lauren Christensen, senior biomedical engineering major, plants a flower outside Hadley Hall during campus beautification. Dozens of students turned out for similar outdoors and gardening work Saturday morning.

Alex Mullans  
Co-Editor in Chief

Last Saturday was the Saturday to be on campus. Not only was there a huge concert on campus, Skinnerfest rocked away the afternoon before the concert started. Amongst all the excitement, it’s easy to forget that the Facilities

Department’s annual Campus Beautification Day happened early in the morning. Students from fraternities and sororities, residence halls, and campus organizations all pulled together to help restore the campus to its rolling-green, admissions brochure look before school lets out for the summer. Even at the early hour of 8 a.m.,

students across campus could be seen painting curbs, planting trees, and cleaning around the lake. The day was chilly, but that didn’t stop many people from joining in the beautification effort. In fact, from the amount of people who turned out Saturday, it’s pretty clear that a lot of people at Rose-Hulman care about the community grounds and facilities.

## THE HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE OUR 2010 ECONOMICS MAJORS, TECHNICAL TRANSLATORS, AND MINORS:

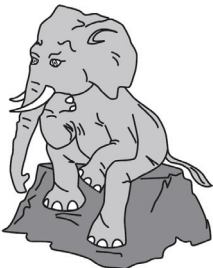
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# “Dragonball Evolution” doesn’t understand evolution

Eli Baca

Staff Writer

Released in the spring of 2009, “Dragonball Evolution” (“DBE”) was supposed to be the live action film adaptation to end all live action film adaptations. It was supposed to give all those “Dragon Ball” fans a sense of pride and be a nice treat for watching the cartoons for years. It was supposed to have good actors and was supposed to be generally awesome. It was supposed to be a good movie. Yeah, it was awful.

Having never really seen one of the original cartoons (yes, my nerd health just took damage), I was sort of in the dark during the whole movie. So I got to watch it in seemingly blissful ignorance, and yes, it still sucked. From a general movie standpoint, it was one of the most atrocious films I’ve ever had to sit through. The acting was completely over the top. The lines were cliché. The action sequences weren’t that bad, but did nothing to assuage the pain I felt during

the rest of the movie.

The special effects are what saved this movie from being complete trash. The final climactic battle had some nice images, and the fan boy watching it with me was pleasantly surprised to see Hollywood captured some part of the cartoon, but whenever either character spoke or tried to act... let’s just say it was a train wreck.

James Wong (“Final Destination 3”) directed “DBE” and he did the best he could do. He had good action, and tried to get the actors to deliver on those key scenes. However, with a script lacking in every aspect, there wasn’t much for Wong to work with. Some of the action sequence cheers can go to producer Stephen Crow (“Kung Fu Hustle”), but so can some of the jeers for the weird dubbing that went on.

I sat through the movie and was never captivated nor turned away. If anything was done right it was how the scene flowed. Each piece fit into the disaster and it was

an easy watch. Once viewers absorbed the shock of just how bad the movie was, the film managed to make the experience bearable. The make-up was also well done. It was interesting to try and find James Marsters (“Buffy the Vampire Slayer”) under the Piccolo costume-mask-thing, but once he spoke things became clearer.

The rest of the cast were put into some nice cookie-cutter roles and did well to stay within their dotted lines. Emmy Rossum needs to have a stern talking to since she hasn’t done anything of value since The Phantom of the Opera, and Chow Yun-Fat (“Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon”) should never have taken the job—he took over-the-top to an entirely new level, and a bad one at that. “War of the Worlds” veteran Justin Chatwin played the lead, Goku, and seriously should never be cast in a lead role (or any emotional role, for that matter) ever again.

Fans of the original: Stay away! You will get your hearts broken! If you’ve already witnessed this aberration, I’m terribly sorry, but for those still thinking about it, do yourself a favor and go watch more of the original (or pick up a comic). This movie will leave you wondering how you managed to sit through the entire thing without breaking something, and really?! It’s not even worth downloading or streaming.

Review rating: 1 elephant



<http://www.dblegends.com>

The poster for “Dragonball Evolution” only hints at the awfulness.

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## Eyes on IFC



Here’s what your Greek community will be up to:

Alpha Tau Omega will be holding their quarterly Highway Cleanup this weekend on Sunday, May 16th. They will also be sponsoring a hole and a team in the Brandon Couch Memorial Golf Outing next weekend on Saturday, May 22nd. Lastly, they

received second place at this year’s Greek Games.

Triangle recently sent a group of brothers with a group of ISU AOP girls to Indianapolis Ronald McDonald House to cook and clean for about 10-15 families staying there at the time.

Sigma Nu will be hosting Volleybash Saturday, May 15th starting

at noon. If you would like to register please email [olsoncp@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:olsoncp@rose-hulman.edu).

Lambda Chi Alpha received first place at this year’s Greek Games. Delta Sigma Phi held their annual Carnation Ball in Indianapolis this past weekend and received third place in this year’s Greek Games.

## Meet your Greeks

**Name:** Jordan A. Goslee  
**Fraternity:** Delta Delta Delta  
**Year:** Senior  
**Major:** Biomedical engineering major  
**Hometown:** St. Joseph, Michigan  
**Future:** Project management position at Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin  
**Accomplishments while at Rose:** Co-Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Finance,

and Chapter President  
**When asked “What was the biggest benefit you received from going Greek here at Rose-Hulman?”:** “I’ve loved having the opportunity to lead TriDelta and represent the Chapter on campus. Being President has shown me how to be a successful leader and how to gain and maintain the respect of a group. And as an only child, being Greek has shown me



what I was missing out on for 18 years without any sisters!”

## Iron Man 2 does not disappoint

Bennie Waters

Guest Writer

In 2008, Marvel Comics decided to do something almost unheard of: they were going to make superhero movies, and they were going to make them more than successful. They were going to make them cool. This bold effort was a success, and Iron Man became the next big thing in comic book movies. Here we are, two years later, and Marvel has returned to Tony Stark, played by Robert Downey, Jr. (“Sherlock Holmes”), for a sequel. Was it any good? In a word, yes.

The film begins at the end of the first Iron Man movie with Tony Stark revealing his identity as Iron Man to the world. Jump forward six months and we find that Stark has used his superpowered persona to not only skyrocket his wealth and popularity, but also to help bring peace to the Middle East. In doing this, Tony Stark made a number of enemies in the U.S. government and military, people who want to analyze the Iron Man suit and use it to benefit the country as a whole. The adversaries that Tony creates for himself present both the strongest and weakest parts of the movie.

Ivan Vanko, played by award-winning actor Mickey Rourke (“The Wrestler”), represented the wrongdoings of the Stark family in the past. A former physicist, Vanko made for more of a criminal mastermind than an actual supervillain, due to the fact that

while his work in developing technology to rival the Iron Man suit was tremendous, he repeatedly failed when it came to actually fighting and defeating Stark in battle.

The other key “villain” in the movie was Justin Hammer, played by Sam Rockwell (“Moon”). Hammer’s character threw me for a loop, as I was expecting him to be some kind of diabolical bad guy bent on killing Tony Stark and taking over the world. Instead, Stark’s other opponent is an arms manufacturer who, after being relentlessly belittled by Stark, decides to retaliate by stepping up his efforts as a weapons manufacturer. Because Stark has refused to develop exoskeletons for the government’s use, Hammer hires Vanko to build giant robot suits.

While the villains in the movie were well-written and their actors gave great performances, the true antagonist of the film was Tony Stark himself. Between his constant verbal abuse of Justin Hammer and his refusal to cooperate with the U.S. government, it’s safe to say that just about all of his problems were his own fault.

Iron Man 2 was a pretty epic movie, judging from both a storytelling standpoint and a technological aspect. The film took advantage of its blockbuster-quality budget and did not disappoint. Until the Avengers assemble in 2012, Iron Man 2 is the comic book film to beat.

Review rating: 4 elephants





# A look back on freshman year

**Kurtis Zimmerman**  
*Webmaster*

Ninth week of Spring Quarter is winding down, with group projects suddenly coming together and finals just around the corner; it's strange to realize that just a year ago I was finishing up AP exams and waiting – rather impatiently, I have to say – for graduation to roll around so I could get out of high school forever and move on to, well, “bigger and better things.”

By that point in the year I had already confirmed my choice as Rose-Hulman, a school I had only learned of a year before and had visited just once. I had been contemplating my options, mainly crunching the financial numbers and considering which choice would be the greatest investment. I'm happy to say that, with my first year here winding down, there is no doubt that I made the right choice; the benefits accrued here far outweigh the costs.

I remember when I visited

campus the fall of my senior year; I was impressed by the campus and intrigued by the closeness of everything. The union was just a hop away from the academic buildings and each of the dorms was basically an arm reach from most spots on campus. I appreciate that even more now, having had a few close encounters when I was running a bit late for a class and was able to grab my book bag and hurry over to Crapo just in

“Just a year ago I was finishing up AP exams and waiting for graduation.”

time for the bell to ring.

Even more impressive than the physical closeness is the personal closeness this small school provides. When my tour guide said that I would really get to interact a lot with my professors

and that by the end of my first year, I would know most of my class, I was a bit skeptical, but it's true. I feel more than welcome to talk one-on-one with my professors when I pass them in the hallways, and the number of people I've met and come to know over the past thirty weeks is still mind-boggling to me.

But when it comes down to it, the relationships formed in college are important but the main stress is on learning and growing mentally. Although the classes here range from material most of us saw in high school to new and pertinent topics in our fields of interest, every class has its way of challenging us to reach further than we ever did in high school. While high school sometimes felt like rote learning and memorization to get through the next test, the professors here at Rose have developed challenging classes that force you to apply everything you've learned; dropping something you learned in an early class will only hurt you later when it pops up in

another class. There are days I long for those simple differentiation quizzes in high school, but I wouldn't trade a day at Rose for an experience to learn at any other school.

“There are days I long for those simple differentiation quizzes from high school.”

Rose has seen its ups and downs this past year; a couple deaths rocked campus, swine flu kept dozens of students from class for some time, and the administration has seen its share of changes. Matt Branam became the permanent president and Art Western announced that he was retiring from his position as Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Greek organizations have

continued to make a difference across campus and the outlying communities, and the local organizations continue to do what they do best: bring us all together to put out a fantastic product to enrich the school community and people across the world.

Our graduating seniors are leaving room for what has been deemed a very large incoming class of freshmen, and by this time next year I hope they are feeling what I'm feeling: a tremendous amount of pressure to get everything wrapped up by the end of next week and an even greater amount of pressure to enjoy life here at Rose and take advantage of the opportunities afforded to me.

If the first year is any foreshadowing of the rest of my time at Rose, I am excited for the friendships I will make, the professors with whom I will have the chance to work with and learn from, and the difference my peers and I will make here on campus and hopefully across the world.

## What we're doing before the end of the year

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| I'll finally be decorating my room in my apartment, just in time for me to move out...               | Getting an apartment and thinking about getting a car. And maybe getting my driver's license so I can drive said car. |
| -Melissa Schwenk, Living Editor  | -Carly Baehr, Opinions Editor   |
| Finish up those side projects that have been tabled since around December.                           | Attempting to move into an apartment.   |
| -Tim Ekl, Co-Editor in Chief   | -Colin DeClue, Entertainment Editor   |
| Finishing Battlestar Galactica. I only have ten episodes left. I may also be learning the harmonica. | I'd like to grade me the crud out of some Tech Comm.  |
| -Scott Gallmeier, News Editor  | -Dr. Minster, Staff Writer  |
| I'm living on the perpetual high that comes from being named an SA.                                  | Sleeping.   |
| -Alex Mullans, Co-Editor in Chief  | -Emily Asman, Copy Editor   |
| Finishing the Modulus. Someone's gotta do it.  | Going swimming in the fountain. Floaties will be involved.  |
| -Matt Melton, Staff Writer   | -Noël Spurgeon, Flipside Editor   |

## Reflections before Germany

**Melissa Schwenk**  
*Living Editor*

The last Thorn of the year: yet another reminder that the year is drawing to a close and that in a couple months I won't be back for classes. It's a weird feeling, knowing that you won't be coming back in the fall. It's even weirder knowing that when you come back after a year, everything will seem the same on the outside but will just feel different. I'm going to miss American Culture while I'm in Germany: the food, the parties, the TV. There are definitely some things I will miss more than others though.

First of all, I'll miss the food. Instead of cooking a bag of frozen vegetables with an egg and calling it a day, I'll have to buy fresh food every couple of days from the market. And fast food will be out of the question; there's no way I'm spending seven Euros on a meal that's four dollars in America. Worst of all, there will be no Taco Bell for me after I cross the ocean; my late nights will be filled with bratwurst and sauerkraut. Unacceptable.

Another thing I'll miss about America will be the college parties. I love being in a crowded

room with no air conditioning and getting mystery liquids spilled on my shoes. I guess I'll just have to make do with the clubs in Berlin. It will be a tough transition from Rose-Hulman to the Universität Magdeburg, especially since the ratio won't be so skewed. I don't know how those German students survive with so much estrogen around campus.

“You have no idea how cool Dragon Ball Z can be until it's been dubbed over twice.”

It's going to be hard living without my TV shows. I'm lucky that a few of my favorite shows like gLee are available online but how will I keep up with What Not to Wear? How will I know what kind of cake was made on Cake Boss? If German TV is anything like Italian TV, all my shows will be shown two years behind the current season. At

least I'll be able to practice my German by watching dubbed TV. You have no idea how cool Dragon Ball Z can be after it's been dubbed twice.

Leaving friends behind for a year may seem like a bad idea, but most of my friends are happy for the opportunity to visit me next year. A year abroad really weeds out the fake friends from the real ones. Not everyone will remember you when you come back; don't take it personally, since you probably didn't make much of an effort to keep up with them either. Making new friends while abroad will be doubly difficult; while it will surely be easier to make friends with other English speakers, I will have to push myself to meet native German speakers.

In reality, it's pretty easy to adjust to a new environment. You forget your old routines as new ones replace them. This applies not only to studying abroad but also to those who will be graduating this year. While campus will surely be more and more changed every year you come back to visit, Rose-Hulman will always hold your memories. Do not be afraid as you start your journey into the real world; remember that you can always come back for grad school.

## Ladies' Man

**Elliot Simon**  
*Staff Writer*

Dear Ladies' Man,

As members of the class of 2010, my girlfriend and I will be graduating this May but have yet to address how we each fit in the other's plans beyond Rose; how can we work it out without anyone feeling slighted?

-Career-Driven

Dear Driven,

The only sensible answer? Marry her. Now. Once she gets out the door, she's gone for good and things will never be the same!

If you're more rational like the rest of us, start with plans for continuing the relationship long-distance. Depending on your plans for the coming year, you should be able to find enough flexibility in your schedule to visit regularly (unless you are really, REALLY far away, in which case you're going to have

to settle for national holidays).

Yes, the internet and programs like Skype have made long-distance easier, but if all you want is an online girlfriend, there are easier ways to go about it. On the plus side, at least your guild won't suffer; you'll both have free time!

A good way to start off this new chapter is to spend the summer with your significant other before you both head off to reality. Whether it's a road trip to some national landmarks (Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone, or somewhere famous east of the Mississippi if you can find one), time on the beach (pick a coast), or just time together before you leave, you'll both appreciate some time to relax from the stress of Rose and have an attempt at a real relationship. If the sun makes you burn and the thought of a real relationship has you scared; good luck with the real world, and don't forget that Rose offers grad school.

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# STAFF VIEW: Hall bathrooms create community

Grimy. Messy. Public. These words probably bring to mind the common floor bathrooms that define BSB, Speed, Deming, and the triplets. Those bathrooms, along with the general age of most the buildings, make a strong argument for their eventual replacement. In fact, rumors of plans to demolish Speed and BSB and construct a larger new hall in their place have circulated around campus for quite a while now.

The demolition will happen eventually; at this point, it's simply a matter of when the Institute finds a large enough donor. And when it happens, the style of the residence hall is undoubtedly going to be discussed. There will be many advocates of making the new building suite style (like Percopo) or even apartment style. However, doing so would be hugely detrimental to the floor community that marks a fresh-

man floor.

Open door policy and floor bathrooms go hand in hand; having to leave your room to get to the bathroom makes a good case for just leaving your door open all the time. It's not uncommon for a quick bathroom trip to turn into 20 minutes of socialization because many people stop and visit with their floor mates as they go towards the bathroom. To some, that might seem like a waste of otherwise productive time, but it builds valuable community, especially in fall quarter when everyone is still new to campus and to the floor. The community that is built by those simple conversations is a huge part of the "Rose family."

Contrast the atmospheres in Percopo and the Apartments to that of a typical freshman floor. Some people still keep their doors open, but far fewer people

CONCURRING: 8

DISSENTING: 3

ABSTENTIONS: 0

are out and about in the hallways. Smaller groups of friends develop within suites/apartments, but the floor community is largely lost. This isn't necessarily a bad thing for upper class res halls, because the Rose community has already been established, and those who might struggle with the Rose course load are either already gone or know how to get academic support.

None of those assumptions hold true for freshman floors, though; freshmen (especially some of the quieter, more withdrawn personalities) would lose a lot of community support if they were sequestered into a suite or an apartment with a small group of people. In the worst case, 3 or 4 introverts might all end up together and never be seen except in the academic buildings.

Should Speed and BSB be updated? Absolutely. They're old, lacking central AC, and generally nearing the end of 40-50 years of abuse from (mostly messy) college students. But, the new res halls should be designed with the Rose community in mind; it's that community that differentiates Rose-Hulman from other campuses.



Carly Baehr / Rose Thorn

Hall bathrooms promote community on freshman floors and should be kept for the next generation of residence hall buildings.

# How SGA works, and why it isn't an effective democracy

Matt Carberry

Guest Writer

I'm going to guess most of us don't know how SGA works. I didn't until I read the constitution, which led to a lot of misgivings, so I'll give you the quick and dirty explanation. SGA based itself off of the U.S. representative style of government pretty much verbatim with a few simplifications. Unfortunately, these simplifications entirely change the structure of power, which when added to implementation problems, make SGA a democracy in name only.

SGA only has a single legislative chamber (the Senate), and, at first glance, it makes sense. There simply aren't enough people at Rose to have both without everyone being a direct part of the government. Unfortunately this makes it so that once the Senate introduces a bill, it is voted on and passed by them, barring the veto of the president. In a climate without real political parties, policies or platforms this veto is unlikely, as the president is socially much closer to his fellow SGA members than the people he represents (who tend to be generally politically apathetic).

There is another piece though,

the Judicial Council, which also has the ability to veto an action. However, there isn't any real constitution for them to base their decisions on. If they base their decisions on the SGA Constitution, they really only can quibble over points of procedure, rather than whether the Senate should actually be doing what they're doing. Otherwise, their judgments are based entirely on personal prejudice. Since there are no lower courts to handle cases brought up by students, the Judicial Council should fill that duty as well. However, there's no process for us to force the Judicial Council to inquire about anything.

So, the SGA Senate really has most of the power in SGA, and there's no real formalized process for students changing that. All amendments to the constitution need to be introduced and formalized by the Senate, and no organization gives up power voluntarily. Real political parties aren't going to arise; the current districts change every year. Since the seats are based on residence halls and the representatives are elected the third week of school, it is pretty much guaranteed that the students only have the faintest idea of who we're voting for.

The only reasonably accurate representatives are the ones elected by fraternities. They already have regular meetings, and their group stays together over a longer period of time compared to residence halls.

We need to make some drastic changes in order to make the student government better serve us.

We need a referendum system by which any group of students can bring either a change in the constitution or a general proposal to the Senate.

We need to change the concept of districts, so that representatives can be held responsible for the same group over multiple elections.

We need to limit the power of the Senate by expanding the power of the judicial council.

We need the judicial council to truly be an arbiter, whether that be by expanding the constitution or introducing the election of judges.

We need a new SGA constitution; the current system prevents its own improvement.

All in all, we need to abandon the current framework in order to establish a truly democratic government. If we don't, we're only hurting ourselves.

# SERIOUSLY. Mark Minster

Knowing I'll be on sabbatical next year, knowing this is my last "Seriously" for a year or forever, I still don't know what to say with my last words.

So let me say something, while quaking a bit, on behalf of following the heart. I know we're in Reason Central, here at the Institute of Technology. But I also know reason takes us only so far. "Tis not contrary to reason to prefer the destruction of the whole world to the scratching of my finger," Hume wrote, which partly explains why computer modeling and econometrics can't prevent climate change and starvation. We evolved emotions for good purpose, and we're fools to forget that.

I don't follow my heart nearly enough, so you should know I'm a hypocrite. I don't do it enough because I'm flawed, and I tire and

flinch too easily. But when I do, it's like singing from the diaphragm, and I know I've done it twice this year. Maybe three times.

I did it once by sparking controversies in this column, mostly over religion. America is decidedly not a Christian nation, I said. I said the Bible may reflect cultural prejudices against same-sex love, but we should reject those in the name of decency and sense the way we reject slavery and genocide, the way we reject imposing the death penalty for mixing cotton and wool. It's not like we don't already pick and choose: why keep the hateful parts? Keep baby, dump bathwater. And I said—this was aimed at right-wing Christians—that the gospel proclaims love of others and condemns provincial loyalties and easy moralizing. What right-wing Christians trample in the mad rush to rescue fetuses or traditional marriage or personal, individualized salvation is respect for women, wonder at the breadth of human love, and the powerful, beautiful idea that no individual can be "saved" unless the world is saved, where "saved" may just mean "freed from bigotry and fear."

Or it may mean singing full-throated.

When I was a hospital chaplain, there was an older woman, a patient, a drug dealer and a lesbian and a liar, and she would hold my hand an hour at a time while weeping through the pain: an infected hip, heroin withdrawal, remorse. I wheeled her to the chapel one Sunday for worship, where I was minister and musician both, and she was the congregation. And after I sang "Come, Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing," she asked me to sing it again, "but not that proper little voice. Sing it out, boy."

The second time I've really sung

this year came this spring, when I finally learned how to teach. In the middle of the quarter, I exploded my religion class and started over. I'd been lecturing and leading anemic discussion for a month, and it was fascinating, to me, to explain how Lurianic Kabbalah and the Ecumenical Councils came about, or why Reform and Orthodox Judaism were born at the same moment. Some of my fascination emanated, and a good handful of students were attentive, and may have even done the reading. But most listened politely, then went back to equations.

But with students' help—I should thank Sarah Erhart for applying our readings on pedagogy—we

turned the class into a series of case-studies. We role-played the Second Crusade and the English Civil War. Some of us became French

Muslim women with headscarves, some French officials who voted to ban headscarves, some experts on the history of hijab. Overnight, the class transformed. Everyone speaks intelligently now, out of their roles, but also out of themselves. We've started learning together. It's ninth week, and we look forward to class. That elusive skill I've always wanted to inculcate in students, the ability to connect seemingly disparate phenomena—we're doing that. It's not perfect, but it's alive, and we're learning from the inside out.

Early this quarter, when I celebrated the teacher John Dewey in a column, one person responded with an insipid smear about secular

humanism, which he used to try to discredit Dewey's concern for the social implications of what we learn. I'd galled the same writer by using a fraternal

nity's tight-lipped discrimination against a gay pledge as a hypothetical example of hate that may not seem like hate, and he lashed back that I didn't understand the gospel. This is not the place to dismantle that claim.

But if you continue to think about religion, or diversity, or teaching, I hope you won't think about me, or that respondent, at all. I hope you think about Victoria Gilmore. That was her name. Her arms were riddled with track marks and bullet wounds and IV bruises. She'd sold to kids, stolen electronics, and shot at cops. And the one thing that made her finally weep, the one thing she was ashamed of most, the thing she wanted to hear me say, holding her hand by the hospital bed, was whether she was accepted, because she loved a woman.

"Sing it out, Victoria," I said. I squeezed her hand. "No proper little voices now."

I know we're in Reason Central, here at the Institute of Technology. But I also know reason takes us only so far.

When I was a hospital chaplain, there was an older woman, a patient, a drug dealer and a lesbian and a liar...

Got opinions?

You have all summer to think.

thorn-opinions@rose-hulman.edu



Rose upsets #1 seed Anderson in first round of HCAC tournament



Rose-Hulman News

Tim Tepe led the Engineers offense with a home run and a double while scoring four runs and batting in three more.

Rose-Hulman News

Anderson provided a scare in the late innings but Rose-Hulman hung on to upset the top seeded Ravens 15-13 in the first round of the 2010 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference baseball tournament on Thursday.

Eight Engineer hitters had multiple hits and six had three or more. Senior Tim Tepe, led the way at 4-5 on the day with a double and a home run. He also contributed four runs scored and knocked in three more.

Senior Keenen Long led the team with four runs batted in, including a two run triple. Long also scored twice while junior Chris Stemple chipped in three runs on three hits, including one double.

Seniors Andrew Bilse and Chandler Kent both scored two runs on the day. Kent also hit his second home run of the season.

Junior Michael Kovacs added to the effort with three runs batted in.

On the mound, senior Derek Eitel recorded nine strikeouts in 7.2 innings of work to get his sixth win of the season. The win also ties him with Eric Tryon (1997) for most wins with 29.

Junior Andrew Oakley recorded his first career save as he came in to finish the game for the Engineers.

The Engineers took a 3-2 lead into the sixth inning before Rose-Hulman racked up a six run inning to push their lead to 9-2. The rally featured seven straight hits for the Engineers, starting with a single by junior Kreigh Williams. Williams scored from second of a Bilse single, while Bilse ran in off a Kent single. With runners on first and second, Long tripled to score two runs, followed by a Tepe homer after a pitching change to add two more.

The Engineers then added four more runs in the seventh to answer an Anderson run. With Bilse and Stemple on base, Long singled to score Bilse. Tepe followed with another single to score Stemple. Singles by sophomore Derek Dauenbaugh and Kovacs scored Long and Tepe.

Anderson then made their late inning scare as they picked up seven runs in the bottom of their eighth inning to pull to within 13-10. Rose-Hulman scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth which proved enough for the win as Anderson mustered three runs in their ninth for the final score, 15-13.

With the victory, Rose-Hulman will now face the winner of Manchester/Franklin Friday morning at 9:30. Anderson will face the loser of Manchester/Franklin Friday at noon.

Best of luck to the baseball team,  
and congratulations to all our graduating athletes!

Engineer Scoreboard

Baseball		Track and Field	
27-11 (14-8 HCAC)		May 7	
May 13		Rose-Hulman	Two NCAA
Rose-Hulman		at Billy Hayes	records
at Anderson			
	15		
	13		

Sports Briefs

By Kurtis Zimmerman

Big Ten expansion rumors denied

The Big Ten Conference has been looking to expand its eleven members in order to extend its cable network and add a conference championship in football, but this past week rumors that four teams were already offered expansion spots in the league were squashed. Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith confirmed to the press that Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany e-mailed the conference officials to deny any truth to the story that Missouri, Nebraska, Notre Dame, and Rutgers were offered spots in the league. Smith went on to say that the athletic directors in the league are scheduled to meet next week in Chicago but that these would be routine meetings and that “there won’t be any action next week.” Officials at the four schools supposed to have been extended offers have always confirmed the false nature of these rumors, claiming they are nothing more than gossip at this point.

Orlando remains undefeated in playoffs

Phoenix and Los Angeles swept their conference semifinal series with a perfect four games in a row to face each other in the conference finals. Orlando also swept their series to remain perfect in the NBA playoffs and will face the winner of the Boston and Cleveland matchup. The Celtics currently lead the Cavaliers 3–2, and either team could still clench the series by the end of this weekend. If the Celtics advance they would have a shot at facing the Lakers for the twelfth time, a matchup the New England team has long dominated. Of the eleven meetings in the NBA Finals, Boston has won nine times. The Phoenix Suns are edging in for a chance at their first championship, as are the Orlando Magic, the former trying for their first shot in the NBA Finals with an unmatched perfect postseason record.

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Top “10” Ten Things you should learn before entering the ‘real world’

Matt Melton Perpetual student

10. You have no homework! You can sleep 10 hours a day now! **Don’t sleep 10 hours a day. You used to miss out on homework for it. Now you’ll miss out on life.**
9. Remember that awesome senior project you did for a Rose grad, or that fantastic internship you got from one? Return the favor. **Network with your Rose friends and the stay in touch with the school, for everyone’s sake.**
8. Laptops/smart phones in class, usually ok. Laptops/smart phones in board meetings, NO. **(Seriously, multiple Rose grads have gotten fired for this one...)**
7. No matter what you may be doing later on in life, **Grad School is pretty much never a bad idea.** But much like your Systems homework, **the longer you put it off, the harder it is to do.**
6. Ever seen a tombstone that said “I wish I had spent more time at work?” Me neither. **Work is a part of your life, not vice versa.**
5. You didn’t give up the sleep, lack of work, and easy A’s of state schools to be underpaid and overworked. **You’re a Rose grad. Never settle. If you don’t like your job, get a new one.**
4. Musician Ke\$ha actually got “near-perfect” SAT scores. The voice of Elmo is done by a 6 foot tall, rather large man. **It’s really easy to make assumptions that make you look really stupid.**
3. Just for fun, expecting nothing of it, I put a joke in the Flipside about laking my former SA. He was laked the afternoon the issue came out. **Never underestimate the power you have over anything – especially the power you don’t even think you have.**
- 2.Chances are, you’re in your early 20’s, unmarried, with a degree that can earn you lots of money. **Now would be the time to take an exciting risk such as starting a business, moving to Europe, or for the really adventurous, marriage.**
1. The biggest complaint employers have about their newly hired Rose grads? Arrogance. **Get a promotion, then talk.**

Wacky prof quotes

- “My God, I don’t have pants on!”  
— Dr. Livesay, living the dream that most people don’t want to think about.
- “OK, so this table’s columns are out of order, and I’m going to ahead and blame that on my husband...”  
— Dr. Mrs. Holder, indulging in the age-old tradition of ‘if it’s wrong, blame someone else.’
- “Human meat is tasty.”  
— Dr. Sriram Mohan. Context? Anyone?

- “I think if you’ve got a pointed knife in your gut, your gut is interested in absolute value.”  
— Dr. Gibson, because you have to think about SOMETHING after your life is done flashing before your eyes.
- “This rate will change as the concentration of time changes.”  
— Dr. Nicholson. So if I dilute my time, does that mean it’ll last longer?

- “When you’re sketching this out, avoid MS Paint, unless you already hate life.”  
— Dr. Clifton on the root of most visual evil on the Internet (after Java cursors).
- Rose professors are known for saying wacky things, so write them down and send them in to **thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu**

Point Counterpoint Pants

Noël Spurgeon Clothed crusader

Nudist Spurgeon Breezy and free

Ladies and gentlemen, I come before you today to address the most important issue of our times, one that threatens to rip society apart at the seams if it is not resolved. I am speaking, of course, about the sudden lack of pants in our society.

When did this institution we held so close to our hearts and loins fall out of fashion? For many a year, trousers were in vogue among men of any class, an essential for both business and pleasure. In more recent days of socio-political enlightenment, women fought long and hard for the right to sport slacks in public. I ask you, ladies and gentlemen... what happened?

The frauds masquerading as pants today hardly do justice to the breeches of our forefathers. Today’s young women have no respect for the fashion battles fought by their foremothers. Tights and sweaters? For shame! Leggings? A lackluster substitute at best! Our young men do not fare much better--the manhood-mashing Modal monstrosities masquerading as mainstream might well be better defined as hosiery.

Join me, ladies and gentlemen, in taking back our country! Boldly stand tall against the threat to our great nation’s fashion! Together, we can fight this foul fad, and stitch our society back together!

Let’s face it people, pants are overrated. They’re one more piece of clothing to wash, one more thing to injure yourself putting on in the morning, and one more thing to have anxiety dreams about forgetting. While arguably useful in the winter, pants are hardly mandatory, and in today’s climate-controlled comfort, they’re not even necessary provided you spend most of your time inside. Sure, pants have a long and storied cultural history, but really, does our society need to keep everything from when men were men and women knew their place?

Ladies and gentlemen, I propose an alternative to this rigid fashion institutionalism, a place where pants and pantlessness alike are equally welcomed and accepted. Plenty of societies have flourished without the use of pants, and I firmly believe that the equal treatment of all types of clothing can only advance our already diverse society. Did great men like Caesar, Pythagoras, Jesus, Alexander the Great or Buddha wear pants? No! But this didn’t stop them from making an indelible mark on history.

So join me, ladies and gentlemen, in a future where all types of clothing are accepted. From lederhosen to jodhpurs to kilts to nothing at all, we can welcome all fashion choices with open hearts and minds to build a better future.

Professors spend sabbatical in movies under aliases

Starring in movies from Harrold and Kumar Go to White Castle all the way to blockbusters such as Avatar, Rose-Hulman faculty has weaved their way in and out of the big screen and on stage. Masquerading around under false aliases, they finally come out with their true identities. Keep an eye out for them in future flicks.



Fred Willard

Dr. Stamper

http://fredwillard.com

Dr. Stamper has a distinguished and long career in super stardom as his alias Fred Willard.



Jim Gaffigan

Dr. White

http://buddytv.com

Dr. White has been the root of many laughs as he has been the root of much despair as a professor of systems classes.



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