Military Coup in Myanmar

Jonathan Kawcowski
World News Editor

On February 1, following a national general election, the Burmese military declared a year long state of emergency. The election was won by Aung San Suu Kyi of the National League for Democracy party (NLD). The opposition party, backed by the military, had been demanding a rerun of the votes due to claims of widespread fraud.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been campaigning to restore democracy in Myanmar for decades. Spending nearly 15 years in detention between 1989 and 2010, she organized political rallies calling for democratic reform and elections, even receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 while under house arrest. In 2015, she and the NLD won Myanmar’s first open election in 25 years.

Myanmar, also known as Burma, has had a tumultuous history over the past century, only gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The country was run as a military state for most of that time, from 1962 through 2011.

Currently, commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing holds the power as the leader of the military. He has long held significant political influence as the leader of the military, with Myanmar’s military being under his control well before the country transitioned towards democracy.

The Myanmar military had long been criticized for their brutal treatment of their Rohingya Muslim minority. A primarily Buddhist country, Myanmar considered the Rohingyas to be illegal immigrants and denied them citizenship for decades. Since the country’s independence, many have fled the country to escape religious persecution. In 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh after an army crackdown had killed thousands. However, in 2019, Suu Kyi appeared before the International Court of Justice and denied allegations of the military committing genocide.

In his initial comments after the coup, General Hlaing attempted to justify his action, saying that the military was on the side of the people and a true democracy would be formed. After the state of emergency is over, the military will hold a “freedom and fair election”.

Since the coup, tens of thousands of protesters have gathered each day in Yangon and Mandalay, Myanmar’s biggest cities. Despite public bans on protests and escalations in use of force by security forces, protests continue to demand the release of Suu Kyi and the rest of the NLD party leaders. Many protesters are concentrating around embassies to attract international pressure and interventions.

Until recently, police used water cannons and warning shots to clear away protesters. However, on Tuesday, police in Naypyidaw had supposedly used a mix of rubber bullets and live ammunition as a protester was wounded according to witnesses and footage found on social media.

President Joe Biden announced that he will impose sanctions on military leaders in Myanmar, with the conditions to relieve sanctions being that the ‘military must relinquish the power it seized’ on February 1.

The organization is running on sheer volunteer power while our Business Manager, Graham, has been trying to scrounge up ads for months. This issue, in fact, is the first one since the career fair that has had any sort of classifieds page to speak of! Anyway, if this piece sounds forlorn, that’s not because we’re not making any money, it’s because we’re sort of saying goodbye to two of our hardest working members: Jonathan Kawcowski, our World News Editor, and Caleigh Kintner, our Sports Editor, who will be graduating in May. It’s sad to see them go, as they are some of our most reliable writers and most consistent editors. While they’re leaving, I’m curious to see what Matthew Sapp, our Flipside Editor, will do for the Thorn as its new Editor-in-Chief, and I hope that Colin Beach and Alyssa Russell will fill Jon’s and Caleigh’s shoes until our next election.

To both our reader and staff, thank you for sticking with the Thorn through this time of uncertainty!

A Letter from the (Outgoing) Editor

Aidan Moulder
Editor-in-Chief

Just like any other campus group, the Rose Thorn holds elections, and with elections we see a transition of power from one individual to another. In the Fall, I became Editor-in-Chief after our organization held a special election prompted by my predecessor’s departure from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

It has been quite a ride, being Editor. The pandemic has made everything extremely difficult for me as well as the rest of the staff, but we’re still here and we still try our best to put out weekly issues.

In contrast to most on-campus organizations, the Rose Thorn is not funded by SGA, so we rely on advertisement revenue to stay afloat. If you’ve read any of our issues since last Spring, you’ve probably noticed that we have had next to no ads since transitioning to purely online content. It’s not necessarily a problem, since our printing-related expenses have disappeared, but it is nonetheless worrisome to consider that the organization is running on sheer volunteer power while our Business Manager, Graham, has been trying to scrounge up ads for months.

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To both our reader and staff, thank you for sticking with the Thorn through this time of uncertainty!
For the most memorable Valentine's Day gift, call Edible Bouquets by Janaki. Belgian chocolate and fresh fruit in stunning bouquets!

Please call to inquire: 812-917-2990

Calling All Writers!

Students...

Clubs...

Profs...

Our Mission Statement:
We are Rose-Hulman's independent student newspaper. We keep the Rose-Hulman community informed by providing an accurate and dependable source for news and information.

Aidan Moulder | Editor-in-Chief
Graham Hepworth | Business Manager
Colin Beach | Rose News Editor
Jonathan Kawauchi | World News Editor
Alyssa Russell | Entertainment Editor
Glody Mutebwa | Opinions Editor
Caleigh Kimmer | Sports Editor
Matthew Supp | Flipside Editor
Janine Dias | Staff Writer
Dr. Thomas Adams | Faculty Advisor

ISSUES of The Rose Thorn are published on the second through ninth Mondays of each academic quarter. WEEKLY MEETINGS occur at 5:00 p.m. on the first through ninth Tuesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend. SUBMISSION of articles, photographs, art, and letters to the editor is encouraged. Submission may be made by email to thorn@rose-hulman.edu or in person to Percopo room 031. The submission deadline is 5:00 p.m. Friday. THE RIGHTS to accept submissions or changes made after the deadline, to edit submissions in so far as the original intent of the submission remains unaltered, and to reject submissions deemed inappropriate for print are reserved by the editors. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED herein are those of their respective authors and with the exception of the Staff View do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or the Rose-Hulman community.
Lifestyle

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5 Reasons to Watch Avatar: The Last Airbender

Calegher Kintner
Sports Editor

Avatar: The Last Airbender is quite simply one of the greatest TV shows of all time, and now it’s on Netflix. Not only is it on Netflix, it’s quickly risen to the top of the streaming app’s most popular shows. Here are five reasons why you really need to watch Avatar: The Last Airbender.

1. It’s not just for kids (but kids love it).

My favorite kind of shows are ones that are good no matter what age you are. Smart, complex, interesting stories that appeal just as much to preschoolers as they do to kids. Avatar: The Last Airbender is the perfect example of this kind of TV show. It’s funny and exciting, with plenty of goofy humor for younger children. But it’s thought provoking and emotionally powerful too. It’s a lot of grownups think that cartoons are just for kids, or that the only cartoon adults should watch are the type with adult humor.

“Long ago, the four nations lived together in harmony. Then, everything changed when the Fire Nation attacked. Only the Avatar, master of all four elements, could stop them, but when the world needed him most, he vanished.”

Avatar: The Last Airbender is a story of magic. Powerful “benders” are able to manipulate the elements—Earth, Fire, Water and Air—and the Avatar can wield all four, though he has gone missing when our story begins. The Last Airbender takes place during a time of war. Four societies stand on the precipice as the Fire Nation seeks to take over the entire world. The Earth Kingdom and Water Tribes fight back, but it’s a losing fight. The Air Nomads are nowhere to be found.

2. The characters will win over your heart.

This story may be intended for all ages, but it focuses primarily on a handful of children out on a quest to stop the Fire Nation and discover the mysteries of their past. We’ll get into a little bit of spoilers here, but only surface level stuff that can be revealed in the first episode or thereabouts, in order to introduce the main characters. Other characters you meet along the way will win your heart just as surely, but it’s the three main characters (and their pets) who steal the show.

Aang is the Avatar. He’s been encased in ice for a hundred years, and his absence has been a disaster. Aang is a constant presence in the world, moving from body to body as he is reincarnated over the centuries. Without his balancing influence, the Fire Nation has gone astray. Aang is a friendly, loving character very much like the new Avatar thing. There was a lot of pressure to cast someone who is, what happened to his people and what he needs to do to bring balance to the Fonz. Or, well, you get the idea.

Sokka and Katara are two youths from the Water Nation who join Aang on his quest after discovering him in the ice. Katara is a watermaster. She’s smart and fierce and loyal and kind. Sokka is her brother. He’s... not as smart or as compassionate, but he’s every bit as loyal and while he’s not a full fledged warrior, he does his best to protect his friends. The three set out on an epic journey, meeting other memorable characters along the way, growing closer as friends and learning more about who they each are along the way.

3. Epic fantasy and deep world-building with an Eastern twist.

All this talk of magical creatures suggests nicely with Reason Number Three. The world itself is vast and wild, filled with colorful characters, interesting locations and an abundance of Japanese magic. This show is magical, and sometimes it’s very, very dark—and not just fireballs from tynical firebenders. This is a show that really is so starkly different from what we expect out of an anime—there are no elves or dwarves. No magicians with pointed hats and wands. There are dragons and magical symbols of fantasy, but it’s all distinctly asian in nature (though it’s a Western production). While you won’t really get into Buddhism directly in The Last Airbender, there’s definitely an Eastern Religion vibe. Aang is a vegetarian who shares his head and looks every bit the Tibetan monk. The magic system, while fairly simple and straightforward, leads to a lot of great action, exciting combat and even some cool puzzle-solving. Of course, it often plays second fiddle to characters figuring things out on their own—using their wits or their hearts to solve problems that magic can’t solve.

4. It’s anime for people who may not normally like anime (but also huge anime fans).

This one is a little harder to put into words. I’m not a big anime fan. I like some anime, but for whatever reason it just isn’t my thing. Maybe it just bridges that cultural divide between very distinctly Japanese anime and the kind of animated content we’ve come to expect on this side of the pond. For whatever reason, this is a show that I think can appeal to a very broad base. Anime fans and people who normally pass on anime both love this show. You will too. In any case, those are my five reasons to watch The Last Airbender. I could probably come up with five more, but I’d risk spoilers too much. It’s a fun, funny, heart-warming, action packed epic fantasy about benders who can manipulate the elements. It’s a story of magic and war, strange beasts and strange lands.

Colin Beach
Sports Editor

Rocky Vaccine Rollout

U.S. to be vaccinated by the year’s end. There have already been several records of over a million vaccinations in one day, but later outbreaks and general vaccine hesitancy in the United States have slowed the roll out.

Clear focus and plans have been taken to the elderly and healthcare workers, with some states also trying to include educators and those at high risk. But states with federal guidelines have stated that they need to focus on vaccinating the most vulnerable first. Clear strategies work in these settings, which many have seen struggle in effective administration (people are often tricking or paying others to get in line for doses). There have also been a few cases of anti-vaxxers, but they are naturally expected in a fraction of the population. This is just as sure as the nationalized policies under administration.

So where do students fit into this vaccine puzzle? Efficacy in those under 18 years old is currently under analysis, as vaccine trials on children are still in progress. And though likely safe, since children are at minimal risk of health effects from COVID-19, K-12 students are unlikely to receive the vaccine until the fall. For college students, the vaccines are typically available for adults, but again because of low risk, the general college population will likely not be vaccinated until the summer when those prioritized are taken care of. This means that students may be patient and continue to follow the health and safety precautions laid out everywhere. Stay hygienic and clean rooms regularly, showering daily is best, especially if having been out and about and highly active. WASH YOUR HANDS and wear reusable masks often (try not to wear a mask for more than two days, dispose included). When eventually having received the vaccine, keep following all rules through the first dose and a few weeks after the second dose. Coronavirus vaccines take time to prepare the immune system and build antibody levels, it is best to continue to be careful during the process. Even as Johnson & Johnson looks towards emergency approval of a one dose vaccine, immunity will never be immediate. The pandemic is far from over, and vaccines are not a single answer. We must considerate of others and their health, as there is still much more work to be done.

Government

President Biden has made a deal for another 100 million vaccine doses for the summer, which will hopefully allow for all of the
Being a college student is difficult. Being a college student at Rose-Hulman can make it more difficult. Being a college student at Rose-Hulman during a pandemic adds more to the challenge. Other things can pile on too, each one making pursuing a higher education harder. Rose serves merely as an example, where top-performing and successful places are also highly demanding. Stress can become a bigger factor in performance than a student’s actual abilities.

I am reminded of a saying from my mother’s friend who spent his fair share of time at a difficult college: “Party too hard and you’ll flunk out. Work too hard and you’ll burn out.” But this scale of fun versus work seems to continue shifting. Students are already spending hours on end on schoolwork and extracurriculars, risking sleep, relaxation, and social interaction. And what little time they do spend having fun may leave the impression that they are wasteful and could be working instead. I myself am already busy with high level classes, research, and the Rose swim team, but I now also have the opportunity for leadership positions in my fraternity and club. I would love to take part in all of these chances, and I know I would do well and help others out, but I also know that I would continue along the now-normalized path of burning out. Students now seem to be expected to overwork themselves in order to succeed.

I know I am with other students, here at Rose and elsewhere, when I say that no matter the amount of planning, preparation, and time allotting, the stress of everything to be done can be overwhelming. Some people call it a mental fog, I describe it as TV static in the brain, or that the gears are turning but they are not connected. In any case, it’s overthinking and overworking, and it puts a lot of pressure on mental health. I know barely anyone who actually fulfills the recommended eight hours of sleep per night. And people are often working so much that, when finally given free time, they spend it sit around and do nothing (often just looking at their phone for hours). It makes procrastination worse too, knowing the heavy workload that waits makes people want to extend the free time they have. But this relaxation, of course, may continue to be nothing but a cycle of fatigue and worry; hobbies during college seem to be a thing of the past.

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Bradly left New England behind and did not commit this season on the red America Great Again has seen his | his early career. In 2020, he did say | his relationship with President Donald Trump became "uncomfortable." As Trumpism took hold, he became one of the America's leadership. For Brady, even the most talented quarterback back who poses the most credible threat into a glorious career, Mahomes's was the NFL's most valuable player for the fifth time, a seven, the latest secured on Sunday | 378x1369|s Greatness | J. Trump became "uncomfortable." As | Trump's term came to a close, with | NFL struck a cosmic bargain: In ex- | it, inflicted it, even em | 2020 season. Their quest was rolling the Raiders for their only title | Antio | He added, "I think I'd have been smoking something illegal to really | the reg- | tion to coach the Buccaneers, rep- | Brunt of the most celebrated quarterback | Godfrey Glickman in profile that Black Lives Matter. | 43 years old, Tom Brady de- | a franchise with whom he had | 106x741|process | 106x640|ment to coach the Buccaneers, repre- | 106x627|s the stylistic antithesis of Bel- | 106x586|ans responded with a rhetorical ques- | 106x567|tion: "Do you sit and live in a closet try- | 106x546|Facing Brady's arrival in Tampa, reflected a cer- | 106x519|some fun?" He added, "I think I'd have | 106x499|Brady was Operation Shoeless Joe Jack- | 106x418|after the 2002 season. Their quest was | 98x223|in coverage and aggressive defensive | 98x197|the Chiefs' diluted offensive | 98x170|cleared his offensive line, reviled in it, | 98x170|his greatest campaign with a Super | 98x145|he would have beaten Drew | 98x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 98x815|Bill Belichick declined | 98x774|supporters leading an armed | 98x694|Barrett, who had four tackles and a | 98x667|on the U.S. Capitol, Patriots | 98x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 97x405|nicknamed Operation Shoeless Joe Jack- | 97x418|after the 2002 season. Their quest was | 97x432|attention, consider that he has now quarter- | 97x445|man rush. | 91x239|xter, and two of | 91x1369|and two of | 88x265|tions | 88x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 88x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 88x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 88x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 88x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 88x405|after the 2002 season. Their quest was | 88x486|inator, Todd Bowles, devised a masterly | 88x445|man rush. | 83x239|xter, and two of | 83x1369|and two of | 80x265|tions | 80x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 80x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 80x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 80x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 80x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 77x239|xter, and two of | 77x1369|and two of | 74x265|tions | 74x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 74x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 74x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 74x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 74x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 69x239|xter, and two of | 69x1369|and two of | 66x265|tions | 66x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 66x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 66x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 66x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 66x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 60x239|xter, and two of | 60x1369|and two of | 57x265|tions | 57x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 57x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 57x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 57x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 57x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 52x239|xter, and two of | 52x1369|and two of | 49x265|tions | 49x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 49x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 49x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 49x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 49x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 44x239|xter, and two of | 44x1369|and two of | 41x265|tions | 41x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 41x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 41x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 41x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 41x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 36x239|xter, and two of | 36x1369|and two of | 33x265|tions | 33x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 33x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 33x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 33x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 33x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 29x239|xter, and two of | 29x1369|and two of | 26x265|tions | 26x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 26x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 26x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 26x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 26x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 23x239|xter, and two of | 23x1369|and two of | 20x265|tions | 20x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 20x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 20x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 20x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 20x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 17x239|xter, and two of | 17x1369|and two of | 14x265|tions | 14x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 14x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 14x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 14x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 14x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 10x239|xter, and two of | 10x1369|and two of | 7x265|tions | 7x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 7x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 7x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 7x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 7x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 0x239|xter, and two of | 0x1369|and two of | 0x265|tions | 0x145|the latest secured on Sunday | 0x1154|too inconsistent and unreliable. | 0x1107|and there but were able to reach the | 0x640|Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had | 0x264|pen now, didn't we?" | 0x0
"In the spirit of science, here’s a thought experiment. Let’s give the kids a fork and point them at an outlet."
- Dr. Bryan

"I’ve done it before and I’ll do it again."
- Dr. Estrada

"Turns out I’m just a cold person. Might mean I have a cold heart."
- Dr. Eichole

"You guys are pretty blah right now. It’s almost like it’s a Monday or something."
- Dr. Classen, on a Monday

If you or a loved one has ever experienced a funny quote or something that sounds weird out of context, please let us know by filling out the small intuitive form here, and we will try our hardest to set that quote down the path of righteousness.

Rose Hulman to be set of Newest Superhero Zombie Thriller!!

The next step in the campus’ Mission Driven Campaign comes as a surprise to everyone. Rose Hulman Institute of Technology will be home to a Superhero Zombie movie, titled Night of the Living Civ E’s. It takes place in Terre Haute, with the majority of the movie revolving around Rose Hulman’s student body.

The main plot follows sophomore mechanical engineering student Beatrice Lombaster, who is working late one night in the Union. As she stands to leave, she notices that she is the only one in the building. Finding this odd, she walks around, searching for someone else. Beatrice finally hears a strange noise emanating from the rear of the student center. As she turns to leave, to the left of the room is a group of undead dead of the night. These undead dead of the night are zombies. The next day, Beatrice runs into her ME professor and asks about the zombie rays that shoot Anti Zombie rays from its palms.

It is currently unclear whether this movie is going to feature any actual students. What is clear is that this movie is going to require all of campus. On this need, President Rob Coons has this to say:

“We understand that this could pose as a very real and very annoying impact to student life and success. That is why we are asking students to step away from campus from June 1st to September 2nd of this year. These dates are in accordance of the movie studio, and will allow the most flexibility for all involved.”

The studio involved is none other than 20th Century Studios. It involves such notable names as James Cameron, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds, Millie Bobby Brown, Lil Wayne, Kristen Chenoweth, Robert Downey Jr., Barrie, Jack Black, among others.

Rob Coons is asking all faculty, staff and students to remain off campus and out of the way during this process. He wants this to be as smooth as possible and knows that this could draw in lots of money for the Institute’s Mission Driven Campaign.

No one yet knows when Night of the Living Civ E’s is going to be released, however, the first trailer is expected to drop soon. If all is to be believed, this movie has the potential to usher in a new genre of movie making. Only time will tell.

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The State of the RHIT

Rose Hulman just entered the ninth academic week of this quarter. That means different things for different people. For some, it means that stress reaches it peak, with projects being due, exams around the corner, and grades to salvage. For others, beginning of ninth week means absolutely nothing. For those lost souls, the days have blended into each other, the nights fade into daylights, and the hours pass by like the wind. There is, however, a small fraction of students who persevere during this tumultuous time. The weak wilted and soft hearted often find this time to be freeing. Why? Because they have simply transcended beyond the need to care. These chosen few, dubbed the Lucky 38, no longer need reminders for homework or alarms to wake up to. Ninth Week is when the strong are separated from the weak, and the juxtaposition of their mental health really shines.

Also, the ice on speed lake is still frozen BUT NOT ENOUGH TO WALK ON YOU IDIOTS STOP GOING ON THE ICE. unless its for ice fishing.

Meme of the Week!!

*If you are reading this and want to earn a prize, find the hidden meme’s within this page and email me. FTY there are many issues with undiscovered hidden meme’s*

TOP TEN

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The State of the RHIT

Rose Hulman just entered the ninth academic week of this quarter. That means different things for different people. For some, it means that stress reaches it peak, with projects being due, exams around the corner, and grades to salvage. For others, beginning of ninth week means absolutely nothing. For those lost souls, the days have blended into each other, the nights fade into daylights, and the hours pass by like the wind. There is, however, a small fraction of students who persevere during this tumultuous time. The weak wilted and soft hearted often find this time to be freeing. Why? Because they have simply transcended beyond the need to care. These chosen few, dubbed the Lucky 38, no longer need reminders for homework or alarms to wake up to. Ninth Week is when the strong are separated from the weak, and the juxtaposition of their mental health really shines.

Also, the ice on speed lake is still frozen BUT NOT ENOUGH TO WALK ON YOU IDIOTS STOP GOING ON THE ICE. unless its for ice fishing.

Meme of the Week!!

*If you are reading this and want to earn a prize, find the hidden meme’s within this page and email me. FTY there are many issues with undiscovered hidden meme’s*