

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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The Rose Thorn Archive

Student Newspaper

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Winter 2-22-2021

### Volume 56 - Issue 15 - Thursday, February 11, 2021

Rose-Thorn Staff

*Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology*, [library@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:library@rose-hulman.edu)

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## COVID-19 and Campus: Quick Updates

Remember to continue following campus guidelines and performing self-checks. Nearly all information on new campus policies and changes can be found in the Rose Ready document.

Most up-to-date version here —

[Rose Ready Guide, Version 16.0 \(January 14, 2020\)](#)

Additional information can be found on Rose-Hulman websites.

As of Thursday, February 11th, 2021...

(Data from [Rose-Hulman COVID-19 Dashboard](#))

### New Positive Cases from Past 7 Days

1 Student

2 Employees

1 Contractor/Affiliate

### Surveillance in Total...

Total Tests Performed  
Since May 2020 — 38,915

Total Positive Cases  
Since May 2020 — 177

# Military Coup in Myanmar

Jonathan Kawauchi  
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 Nation 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 Aun Hlaing holds the power as the leader of the coup. 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 of Rohingya 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, stating 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 'free 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 secu-

rity 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 intervention.

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.



Page 3: **Lifestyle!**  
Page 4: **Opinions**  
Page 5: **Sports!**  
Page 8: **Flipside!**

## You decide what's newsworthy.

*Tuesdays at 5:15pm, online*

# 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.

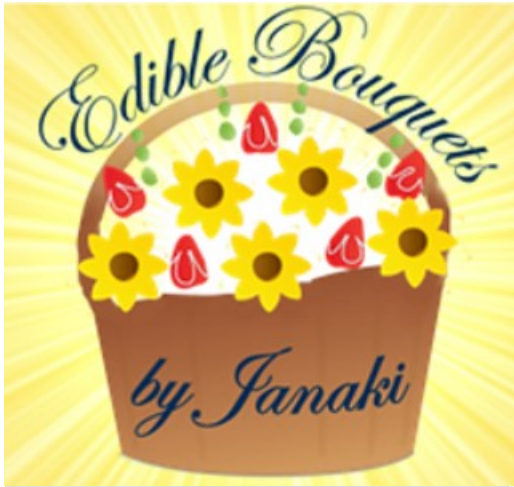
In contrast to most on-campus organizations, the Rose Thorn is not funded by SGA, so we rely on advertisement revenue to stay afloat. If you've read any of our issues since last Spring, you've probably noticed that we have had next to no ads since transitioning to purely online content. It's not necessarily 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. 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 soon saying goodbye to two of our hardest-working members: Jonathan Kawauchi, our World News Editor, and Caleigh Kintner, our Sports

Editor, 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 Supp, 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!



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## Calling All Writers!

Students...  
Clubs...  
Profs...

We want to hear from you, whoever you are! The Rose Thorn is always looking for more writers from the RHIT community to report on news or share their thoughts! If you're interested, email [mouldeaf@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:mouldeaf@rose-hulman.edu) for additional details!

# THE ROSE THORN

### 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*  
Alyssa Russell | *Lifestyle Editor*

Glody Mutebwa | *Opinions Editor*  
Caleigh Kintner | *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](mailto: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.

**The Pen is mightier than the sword**

Tuesdays 5:15p on Teams.



## 5 Reasons to Watch Avatar: The Last Airbender

Caleigh 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 grownups as they do 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. I think a lot of grownups think that cartoons are just for kids, or that the only cartoons 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.

The 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 very surface level stuff that will be revealed in the first episode or thereabouts, in order to introduce the main cast. 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

Aang is the Avatar. He's been encased in ice for a hundred years, and his absence has been a disaster. The Avatar 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 new to the whole Avatar thing. His is a Hero's Quest to find out who he is, what happened to his people and what he needs to do to bring balance to the Force. Or, well, you get the idea.

#### Sokka and Katara

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 waterbender. 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.

#### Appa and Momo

Every great animated show needs some non-speaking adorable animal companions, right? The creatures in The Last Airbender are all pretty fascinating. From Armadillo Lions to Buffalo Deer, most are a weird hybrid of familiar beasts. The two main creature companions in the show are Appa—a giant Flying Bison, and the primary means of travel for our heroes—and Momo, a tiny Winged Lemur. Both are flying creatures that hail from the Air Nation, Aang's home.

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

All this talk of magical creatures segues nicely with Reason Number Three. The world itself is vast and magical, filled with colorful characters, interesting locations and an abundance of magic. Sometimes this magic is beautiful, and sometimes it's very, very dark—and not just fireballs from tyrannical firebenders. What's wonderful about this fantasy world is that it's so starkly different from what many of us expect out of a fantasy—there are no elves or dwarves. No magicians with pointy hats and wands. There are dragons and other staples 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 shaves 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 out things on

their own—using their wits or their hearts to solve problems that magic can't solve.

### 4. It has a great, complicated villain.

Prince Zuko is the disgraced son of the Firelord, and a talented—albeit ruthless—firebender in his own right. He's made it his mission to capture the Avatar and bring him back to his father. His pursuit of Aang and his companions is an ongoing conflict throughout the show. But like our heroes, Zuko is far from a one-dimensional bad guy. I won't spoil the story, but Zuko is one of The Last Airbender's best, most interesting characters. Of course, Zuko isn't the only villain—or even the chief villain of the story—but he is Aang's nemesis early on.

### 5. It's anime for people who may not normally like anime (but also huge anime fans).

Okay, 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 often 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 spoiling too much. It's a fun, funny, heartwarming, action-packed epic fantasy about benders who can manipulate the elements. It's a story of magic and war, strange beasts and stranger lands.

## Rocky Vaccine Rollout

Colin Beach  
Rose News Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage on, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are still on the rise. However, with the long awaited distribution of vaccines these past few months, some areas are fortunately starting to get this global health crisis under better control. In the United States, at least 10% of the population has been or is in the process of being vaccinated. The popular Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna-NIH vaccines require two doses taken a month apart, so the path to vaccination does take time. But it is definitely worth it.

President Biden has made a deal for another 100 million vaccine doses for the summer, which will hopefully allow for all of the

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 outreach and general distribution will see difficulties. Clear focus and plans have been toward the elderly and healthcare workers, with some states also trying to include educators or those at high-risk. But even with federal guidelines, states must formulate their own plans for vaccinating the public, many of which have seen struggles in effective administration (people are often tricking or paying their way in for doses). There have also been a few cases of allergic reactions, but they are naturally expected in a fraction of people and overall do not overshadow the millions of normal vaccinations administered.

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. As for college students, the vaccines are clearly over 90% effective in 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.

Until that time, then, 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 wash reusable masks often (try not to wear one mask for more than two days, disposables 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 antibodies, so 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. Be considerate of others and their health, as there is still much more work to be done.



## Burning Bright or Burning Out?

Colin Beach  
Rose News Editor

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 extra-curriculars, 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, 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.

I have seen many students able to manage it all, and I have seen many who cannot. But, of course, some people internalize it all and don't express the true stress they face. It is difficult to judge the struggle each person faces. Taking naps, listening to music, and spending time online can only do so much. The narrative for college students needs to change, but where to focus the change is unknown. Busy with school, busy with extracurriculars, busy with jobs, busy with life, and now busy with the pandemic. Students take it all on, and though they may come up successful and with outstanding recognition in the end, they may miss the parts that end up mattering the most. And knowing that that may happen, it makes the present even more stressful than the future.

## Republicans: You're Gonna Lose, Almost Certainly

Graham Hepworth  
Business Manager

Dear Republican people in charge,

Who are the women of your party? It's not Carly Fiorina or Condoleezza Rice. It's Marjorie Taylor Greene, right? It's Lauren Boebert and Martha McSally and Kelli Ward and- Wow, you have a lot of women who really revile big parts of this country, don't you, GOP?

A lot of your most extreme and emotional and outspoken advocates who are extremists are women, aren't they, GOP?

Wow, I can't believe I'm saying this, but the GOP has a woman problem, doesn't it?

I mean, seriously, you opened the party to more and more powerful and high-ranking women after the Clinton administration, partially for idealistic reasons, and partially for cynical ones.

I mean, this was post-Clinton, the adulterous presidency, and we also didn't yet know that my personal hero, George HW Bush, was groping women as he got senile, which for all we know didn't start happening until like 2010. HW wasn't Strom Thurmond; he wasn't dubiously consensually banging black maids and fathering their children. In any case the presidency didn't seem to be some kind of perennially and morally dubious position.

You opened the party to Condoleezza Rice, Mary Peters, Susan Schwab, Gale Norton, Nikki Haley, Ann Veneman and Elaine Chao, who all had some policies I disagreed with, but who, at the time, seemed at least fundamentally pro-democracy, pro-decency, and pro-America.

Who's left of those women in pol-

itics? Let's focus on Nikki Haley.

Nikki Haley once commented on how the obstructionist actions of Mitch McConnell's Republican party has eroded American public trust, and how she was partially responsible, as a member of that party that went all in on absolute obstructionism during the 2010s. This was after, essentially, running the least conservative campaign of any gubernatorial candidate, running against candidates who compared the impoverished to stray dogs who become dependent on table scraps (only slightly paraphrased), endorsed a state government-produced license plate with Christian imagery, and one who, once he came to power to replace Haley, asked for \$5 million in federal infrastructure funding whilst also refusing to raise the gas tax.

Point is, Haley was, up through her appointment to the UN (a position in which she had spectacularly popular job performance), not an arch conservative. She was the quintessential American Neoconservative with a capital N and a capital C. She didn't oppose Social Security a la Paul Ryan, she wasn't a new isolationist a la Pat Buchanan, and she wasn't a Christian Heritage activist a la Roy Moore. She stood against Donald Trump and his paleoconservative campaign in 2016 and, again, expressed particular resentment for Mitch McConnell's obstructionist Senate in the official response to former President Obama's final State of the Union address.

Since then, Haley has moved significantly to the populist right. She has expressed opinions stating her belief in an absolute lack of evidence for any corruption by the Trump administration, opposing all parts of the 2019 impeachment, while also espous-

ing the cathartic nature of "owning the libs". She took months to come out against former President Trump's baseless claims of fraud, waiting until after the January 6th insurrection. She enabled some of his worst impulses: pulling out of the carefully crafted nuclear deal (which was even worse than entering it) and withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. Even positive decisions made during her tenure were hastily executed in ways that further damaged our diplomatic clout, like suddenly moving the US Embassy to Jerusalem. She, essentially, enabled the worst of Trump's impulses while successfully selling them to the public and continuously damaging our reputation with some of our closest allies.

She lined up with Trump when it was politically advantageous, became an enabler for some of the most blatant and damaging lies told in American history, and carefully crafted a populist public image in service of policies she knew were damaging to American Hegemony on the world stage, further advancing the rise of Russian and Chinese neocolonial influence.

She's a template for the modern longstanding female Republican politician: realign yourself, your views, and your values with a resurgent populist right or get yeeted to the sidelines.

She's also a good reminder to why much of the suburbs shifted towards the Democrats: the suburban women surrounding Albany, NY; Boulder, CO; Fort Wayne, IN; Atlanta, GA; and even New York, NY didn't have that same shift. They didn't want to transform in the same way that Nikki Haley did from 2016 to 2020, and your party has basically ceded these women to the Democrats.

Your women aren't Condoleezza Rice, Fiorina, Mary Peters, or even Elaine Chao. They're the types of young, white, hot extremist women who full on endorse QAnon and claim the election is rigged. They tell their voters that moderate democrats want to abolish the police and let violent offenders out of prison. They tell them that the democrats want to bus black people into their neighborhoods, and specifically position that as a bad thing, although they don't say it outright, mostly. They introduce impeachment legislation against Biden less than a week after his inauguration. The closest you have to a moderate is a modern Nikki Haley.

A modern Nikki Haley. The woman who didn't speak up against false claims of election fraud until after the January 6th insurrection, when it became personally advantageous, and managed to criticize Democrats for the insurrection in that same speech. A woman who talks about owning the f\*\*king libs.

She's your sane woman, right?

You're screwed. You lost suburban women because you have no moderate women left. They've jumped ship. Women outvoted men by 4% in this election, and shifted heavily towards Biden, including in states where their support is critical. Most down ballot wins in these areas came from Republicans your party probably wants to or is already censuring. Your minoritarian, senate focused strategy can't win a trifecta without these Blue Wall suburban women, and you should know it.

Sincerely,

Graham Hepworth, official Rose Thorn RINO



## Brady's Greatness

Glody Mutebwa

### Opinions Editor

For most people, 43 years old is a prime career year or a good time for a midlife crisis. People seem to know where they are heading and what they will be doing. It's a rather interesting time I suppose. For athletes, however, 43 is way past their primes. In the NFL and NBA, only three active players are over 40 years of age, Udonis Haslem, Drew Brees and Tom Brady. Maybe the secret resides in the weather who knows.

From the three, two have been with their respective team for a long tenure, at least fifteen years.

At almost 43 years old, Tom Brady decided to leave his longtime team the New England Patriots located in Foxborough, MA where he won 6 Super Bowls. The move seemed at the time like a preparation for retirement. His team of choice the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were not memorable in recent years. The team drafted a quarterback who showed glimpses of genius but was too inconsistent and unreliable.

The move made a lot of buzz and rightfully so. Tom Brady, six-time super bowl winner, considered by many as the greatest quarterback if not football player of all-time, was leaving his storied franchise and his brilliant coach Bill

Belichick for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. A franchise with less playoff appearances and less super bowl victory than the man himself. Tom Brady took the challenge to turn around a franchise with more than enough offensive talents but no success to show for.

The 2020-21 NFL was peculiar, due to a pandemic, games were played in nearly empty stadiums and the schedule was hard to follow. The Buccaneers had a rough start and rolled with bumps here and there but were able to reach the playoff led by Tom Brady, who helped attract back to the field Gronk and Antonio Brown, both of whom helped the Bucs on the offen-

sive side of the ball.

At 43 years old, Tom Brady defied the odds by not only bringing the Bucs to the Super Bowl but also going back to the Super Bowl without a dynasty and Bill Belichick. In a new conference, new division and a new playbook, TB12 can conclude his greatest campaign with a Super Bowl win. If on Sunday, Tom Brady wins, he would have beaten Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers and Patrick Mahomes and would forever cement his status as the greatest ever and close the door for Mahomes, arguably the most talented quarterback in modern history.

## Super Bowl Review

Caleigh Kintner

### Sports Editor

The NFL season persisted through challenges wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, political discord and a national reckoning on race to reach a familiar ending.

Every experiment sets out to prove a hypothesis, and Tom Brady formulated an outrageous one last March, when he chose to flee the empire he helped build in New England to sign with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Going from a franchise with whom he had won six titles to one that had won a total of six playoff games, Brady believed that, at age 43, he could master a new offense, acclimate to a new team and conquer a new conference, all while the coronavirus pandemic limited in-person activity.

The most precious of NFL baubles is the Super Bowl ring, and each of Brady's — seven, the latest secured on Sunday night — reinforces an indomitable truth: When he has something to prove, he is just about unbeatable.

Flicking away the Kansas City Chiefs' dynastic aspirations and the quarterback who poses the most credible threat to someday matching him, Brady guided the Buccaneers to a 31-9 romp that recalibrated his own standard for greatness in front of a partisan crowd at their home field, Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

This Super Bowl win was, for Brady, almost certainly his hardest, his sweetest and his strangest, too, captured at the end of the most improbable season in NFL history. The final game is always an exhausting, exhilarating conclusion to the NFL calendar, but never before had so many events surrounding the field of play threatened to pause the nation's most popular sport.

After the pandemic gripped the country last spring, the decision to play the regular season on time, as scheduled, was met with pushback and confusion. The NFL plowed ahead, establishing health protocols and reinforcing them as the virus upended schedules, postponed games and infected more than 700 players, coaches and staff members — as well as Brady's parents, Tom Sr. and Galynn.

Civil unrest over racial injustice roiled the country, emboldening players, coaches and owners to protest systemic inequality, with some players gathering to challenge the commissioner, Roger Goodell, to proclaim that Black Lives Matter.

Brady left New England behind and did not comment this season on the red Make America Great Again hat seen in his locker there in 2015, but he did say his relationship with President Donald J. Trump became "uncomfortable." As Trump's term came to a close, with some of his supporters leading an armed attack on the U.S. Capitol, Patriots Coach Bill Belichick declined to accept a Presidential Medal of Freedom from him, citing his conversations with the team "about social justice, equality and human rights."

For this untidy heap of a season even to reach Sunday's capstone, it was as if the NFL struck a cosmic bargain: In exchange for plowing through a full 256-game slate without creating a closed environment in which to play, it would be granted the most tantalizing quarterback matchup in the Super Bowl era, Brady versus Patrick Mahomes, the best of all time against the best of this time.

The last two Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks had never faced each other, and in some circles the game had been distilled in rather crude, and imprecise, terms as a referendum on each of their legacies — as if Brady's would be tarnished with a defeat, or if, four seasons into a glorious career, Mahomes's was somehow linked to the outcome.

In delivering Tampa Bay's second to win his seventh — more than any NFL franchise, more than John Elway and his boyhood idol, Joe Montana, combined, more than Michael Jordan in the N.B.A. — Brady joined Peyton Manning as the only starting quarterbacks to win Super Bowls with multiple franchises.

"We came together at the right time," Brady, who went 21 of 29 for 201 passing yards and was selected as the Super Bowl's most valuable player for the fifth time, said on the field afterward. "I think we knew this was going to happen now, didn't we?"

Mahomes had won 16 of 17 starts this season, but he and his team collapsed amid a deluge of penalties, drops and pressure from the Buccaneers, who, exploiting the Chiefs' diluted offensive line, reveled in it, inflicted it, even embraced it. At halftime, Mahomes had 67 yards, and Kansas City trailed by 21-6, its 15-point deficit tied for its largest during his three seasons as starter, according to Pro Football Reference.

"They beat us pretty good," Mahomes said. "The worst that I think I've been beaten in a long time."

The only other time Mahomes's team had been behind by that many points across his three seasons as Kansas City's

starter occurred in October 2018, in a loss to Brady at New England. Brady spent two decades there, where he and Belichick were the immovable objects of the postseason, winning six championships as the most famous quarterback-coach tandem of this generation.

What Belichick must have been wondering Sunday night as New England wept, watching Brady throw each touchdown to a former Patriots teammate — two to Rob Gronkowski, who came out of retirement for the chance to play again with his old pal, and one, just before halftime, to Antonio Brown.

Brady's time in New England will forever be a part of him, but now he wears a skull and crossbones on his helmet, can dress in shorts to practice in the winter and reports to a 68-year-old coach, Bruce Arians, who, coming out of retirement to coach the Buccaneers, represents the stylistic antithesis of Belichick. When asked recently about pursuing Brady during the off-season, Arians responded with a rhetorical question: "Do you sit and live in a closet trying to be safe, or are you going to have some fun?" He added, "I think I'd have been smoking something illegal to really imagine this."

Brady's arrival in Tampa reflected a certain harmonic convergence, a confluence of foresight, audacity and serendipity largely alien to the Buccaneers, who hadn't won a playoff game since steamrolling the Raiders for their only title after the 2002 season. Their quest was nicknamed Operation Shoeless Joe Jackson, a wink to the prophesy from the movie "Field of Dreams": "If you build it, he will come." Brady valued how General Manager Jason Licht had assembled a team that solved problems around him instead of asking him to solve them himself. "They were an organization ready to win," Gronkowski said of the Buccaneers. "The players here were ready to win."

The Buccaneers loaded up on playmaking receivers, linebackers who excelled in coverage and aggressive defensive backs who matured as the season progressed. Before it even started, their cornerbacks coach, Kevin Ross, wrote on a board all the quarterbacks they would be facing — Matt Ryan, Drew Brees, Aaron Rodgers and Mahomes, who torched them in Week 12 for 462 yards and three touchdowns. But that defeat proved to be an inflection point for the Buccaneers, who had moonwalked through the first three months, going 7-5, shuffling forward at the same time as they drifted backward.

They closed the season by winning their last four, then defeated three consecu-

tive division champions — and two of Brady's elite quarterbacking peers, Brees and Rodgers — on the road to advance to their first Super Bowl in 18 seasons. That team, like this one, teemed with defensive talent and needed an outsider, Coach Jon Gruden, to synthesize it into a champion. Brady conferred the Buccaneers with hope and credibility and possibility.

"Brady, there's nothing that he can't do," said outside linebacker Shaquil Barrett, who had four tackles and a sack. "New team, new scheme, first year, going to the Super Bowl and winning it all. He's the GOAT for sure."

In a measure of Brady's sustained excellence, consider that he has now quarterbacked not only the most recent team to win consecutive Super Bowls, with New England after the 2003 and 2004 seasons, but also the last two to ruin repeat bids. If a classic defensive play foiled Seattle after the 2014 season, then it was a comprehensive effort that smothered the Chiefs.

Heading into Sunday, Mahomes had finished 14 drives this postseason, excluding kneel-downs, and only once did the defense prevent Kansas City from scoring a touchdown or attempting a field goal. Tampa Bay's defensive coordinator, Todd Bowles, devised a masterly plan to neutralize Mahomes, erasing the sideline and deep areas while deploying a four-man rush.

The Buccaneers forced two turnovers, held the Chiefs without a play longer than 14 yards until the third quarter and prevented the team from scoring even a touchdown. The last time the Chiefs didn't breach the end zone, in Week 11 in 2017, Mahomes was backing up Alex Smith.

"I think he got a little tired of hearing how unstoppable they were," Arians said of Bowles.

Brady ousted three Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks during this championship run, but unlike Brees and Rodgers, Mahomes, 25, has plenty of seasons remaining to flaunt his exceptional talent. The league is now Mahomes's, and with the Chiefs' inventive coaching staff and nucleus of bountiful young talent, his time will very likely come again. But this championship belongs to Brady, who, 10 Super Bowls down, has already started plotting his off-season objective: He wants to get faster.

As he smiled the other day, Brady said he wanted to catch up with the younger generation of quarterbacks. Really, though, it is they who are trying to catch up with him, always and forever.



## Wacky Quotes

“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. Eicholz

“You guys are pretty blah right now. It’s almost like it’s a Monday or something.”

-Dr. Claasen, 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!!

Rows HoleMen

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 back of Chauncy’s. She walks in to find a group of zombies munching on the leftovers of that night’s dinners. She runs back to her room and sleeps, trying to convince herself that what she saw wasn’t real.

The next day, Beatrice runs into her ME professor and asks about their current work. Her prof explains that he is making a super suit that shoots Anti-Zombie rays from its palms.

I cannot talk too much more about the plot without spoiling the movie, but I was able to snag a copy of the movie poster:



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 had 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, Kristin Chenoweth, Robert Downey Jr., Barbie, 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.

## TOP TEN Episodes of Friends

1. The One Where Chandler Falls Down an Escalator
2. The One With Two Ross'
3. The One Where Phoebe is Funny
4. The One Where Joey Speaks French
5. The One Where Rachel Actually Does Her Job
6. The One Where Ross Goes to Jurassic Park 1, 2 and 3
7. The One Where Ross's Wife isn't Gay
8. The One Where Phoebe Makes Good Music
9. The One Where Joey Becomes Spiderman
10. The One Where Monica Dates Ross
11. The One Where Rachel Grew Up Poor
12. The One Where Ross Doesn't Have a Watching TV Bit
13. The One Where Chandler Marries Janice
14. The One Without Joey
15. The One Where Rachel Stays on the Plane
16. The One Where Marcel the Monkey Replaces Ross
17. The One Where Phoebe Kidnaps Her Own Kid
18. The One Where Chandler Falls in Love With His Left Hand
19. The One With Joey, Only Joey

## 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. FYI there are many issues with undiscovered hidden memes\*

## 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 its 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 daylight, and the hours pass by like the wind. There is, however, a small fraction of students who persevere during this tumultuous time. The weak-willed 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 it's for ice fishing.