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The Last Straw

Plant-Based Straws and Six Sigma

Jared Gibson
News Editor

You may have noticed in the past few weeks signs and posters popping up all over the school with the fun little play on words: straws suck.

At first glance, it may just seem like the effort of one of the environmentally-friendly student organizations on campus to discourage the use of environmentally-harmful plastics, but do not be fooled.

This is actually a class project for an engineering management course called Six Sigma in Practice.

Six Sigma is a way to describe how well some process is performing, and it has been used by many companies to create a methodology for improving the quality of their products and services.

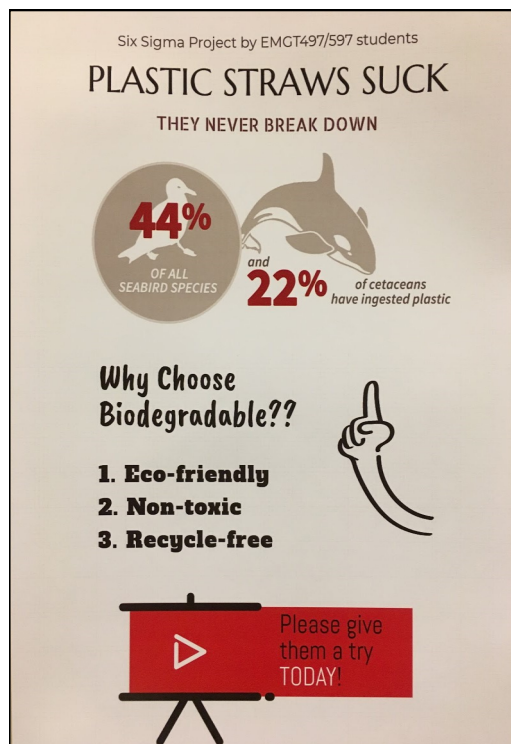
Some of these companies include Motorola and General Electric.

According to sixsigma.com, a process achieves Six Sigma when it does not produce more than 3.4 defects per million opportunities.

Essentially, if a process has achieved Six Sigma, it means we have a nearly perfect process, and this saves companies a lot of money.

This class, however, is taking Six Sigma, giving it a little environmental twist, and applying it to straws.

It all started when Dr. Diane Evans switched over to engineering management



Posters like this can be seen around campus.

Photo by Jared Gibson

and wanted to teach a course called “Six Sigma in Practice.” In Six Sigma, there are

“belts” that one can achieve by demonstrating their understanding of the Six Sigma process. One way to do this is through projects. Dr. Evans class starts the quarter by picking some process to improve.

In the past, the processes selected have included things like paper towel waste and food waste which, as one could imagine, are terribly messy.

So when Dr. Evans began to read about what straws were doing to the environment, she came up with a less messy idea: counting straws.

Not only is this less messy and helps to improve something on campus, but it is also a nice project to try and fit in to 10 weeks.

The students in the class broke up into teams and began to do a little research into straw usage and its effect on the environment.

According to Dr. Evans, this seemed to be what really sparked their interest. They made posters displaying a little bit of information about straw waste, and posted them around campus.

Next, the class researched the alternatives to plastic straws. There are straws made of metal, hay, bamboo, paper, and even plants.

While most of these alternatives are biodegradable, the plant-based straws seemed to have the best chance of being used by the students and faculty, and are now available for use in dining locations around campus such as Chauncey’s and

Subway.

A very important part of Six Sigma is that you improve whatever process you are dealing with, and in the next few weeks, the students will collect and analyze data on the usage of biodegradable straws and compare that to the usage of plastic straws using data collected in the first five weeks of the quarter to see if there has been any significant improvement in straw waste on campus.

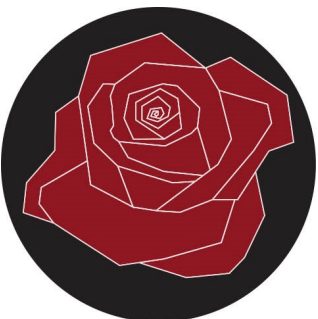
This, however, is where the class leaves off, and what happens next is uncertain. If their data indicates an overall improvement in straw waste on campus, there is nothing that says our food services will switch to biodegradable straws.

This task could, of course, be adopted by any of the student organizations on campus whose objective includes making Rose-Hulman a more environmentally-friendly place or even just a group of students who are passionate about waste production here on campus.

So, those buckets of straws with paper rappers that say “Straw Made From Plants” on them? You know what I’m talking about.

The ones that you would expect to open up and find a green-tinted plastic-like tube that you might think would make your water taste funny.

Give them a try. After all, it’s for a good cause and the water at Chauncey’s tastes like blue Powerade anyway.



Page 4: Chappaquiddick and Anime Wars

Page 5: A Purse that Outperformed the Stock Market

Page 6: Distracted Driving

Page 7: Sports!

The Rose Thorn Meets Tuesdays
O259 5:15pm

Day of Silence

Bullying and the Silence it Creates

Jared Gibson
News Editor

It all started with a homework assignment. Yes, that’s right: a homework assignment.

I’m sure that all of us are quite familiar with those, and so were the students at University of Virginia in 1996 who were responsible for the creation of Day of Silence.

Unlike the typical homework assignment here, this one was about non-violent protests, and the students’ response was what is now known as the Day of Silence.

The following year, there was an effort to make the Day of Silence a national event, and over 100 colleges participated.

The GLSEN Day of Silence is a nationwide event that happens in middle schools, high schools, and colleges across the country, including our very own Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

On Friday, April 27 students across the country will take a vow of silence in order to demonstrate the silencing effect that bullying and discrimination has on students of all sexual orientations.

It has reached all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and some foreign countries such as New Zealand and Russia.

GLSEN stands for Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network and is an organization that came to be the official sponsor of the GLSEN Day of Silence in 2001.

It was founded in 1990 by a small group of teachers in Massachusetts whose goal was to improve the school system and to discourage bullying or discrimination against LGBT students and anti-LGBTQ behavior of any kind.

According to glsen.org, it is now “... the leading national education organization focused on ensuring safe and affirming schools for LGBTQ students.”

Their goal is to make sure that every student is treated with respect, no matter their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

They work with the Department of Education and K-12 schools, doing research, providing “developmentally appropriate resources for educators...”, and supporting efforts led by students in order to carry out this goal.

As mentioned previously, they do sponsor events at the college-level, and one these will be coming to campuses all around the country this week, including Rose-Hulman, and if you would like to learn more, visit www.glsen.org.

Branam Innovation Center Expansion

More Room, More Innovation

Evê Maquelin

Editor in Chief

Last year’s announcement of a new academic building in place of the Rotz lab was nothing short of exciting. Every department had ideas for what they wanted with it, from new labs to additional study spaces.

This week President Conwell announced another information session for the new academic building, which may include discussion of a potential expansion to the Branam Innovation Center.

One of Rose-Hulman’s greatest treasures is the BIC. Home to a bevy of competition teams, capstone projects, and machining resources, hundreds of students go through its doors each week.

Its reputation of producing students with significant hands-on experience with industry skills makes it a popular stop for companies, some of whom are so impressed with the work Rose-Hulman students are doing that they freely hand out interviews and job offers.

Under former Rose-Hulman President Matt Branam, the vision was clear: give students a place to, as the name suggests, innovate.

Part of the mission of the BIC is to foster experiences and provide opportunities for students to explore and gain new skills. With the increasing popularity of the BIC, maintaining this vision has become increasingly difficult, even dangerous to some.

As an engineering school, a critical part of the educational experience is significant involvement in projects and design challenges.

Since use of the BIC is not a formal part of most Rose-

Hulman curriculums, the responsibility of realizing BIC use is key to personal development is left to the individual.

All of the amazing things that happen in the BIC are due to people voluntarily devoting their time and effort, and more and more students are seeing the value and getting involved.

With all the exciting projects and initiatives circling campus, it’s no secret that workspaces are getting harder and harder to come by.

This year the BIC launched a new area called the ‘X-Space’ where individuals who wanted a work space and storage for their projects could share resources.

Though it certainly alleviated the strain on space requirements for the BIC and Myers workrooms, students have recently been feeling effects of the space constraints through a series of crackdowns from higher levels of management.

From the removal or temporary bans of machining resources to an emphasis on the organization and cleanliness of a team over its productivity, the spirit of the BIC has changed over the past few years.

As such, an expansion or extension of the BIC is being proposed. This would provide additional room for new projects and capstone teams, but also allow existing teams that have outgrown their spaces a fresh start.

For more information on this potential project, a session will be held Wednesday, April 25 during 10th hour in Hatfield Hall.

This meeting will be an opportunity to present the future changes to Rose-Hulman’s campus to the community before presenting it to the board.



GLSEN Day of Silence will take place this Friday on college campuses around the country.

Photo Courtesy of gwhsnews.org

Events of the Week

Monday, April 23

- Environmental Photo Session - Quad: 10-12
- Multidisciplinary Capstone Design Information Session -G222: 3:25 - 4:15
- BIC Welding 2 - BIC: 5:30-7:30
- Open Mic Meeting - White Chapel: 7:30-9

Tuesday, April 24

- Blood Drive - SRC: 11-5
- Q&A Lunch Series - Accessibility RSVP Required - A202: 11:45 - 12:35
- Mindfulness Meditation - HMU262: 11:45 - 12:35
- Environmental Photo Session - Hadley Hall: 1-3
- Association for Women in Mathematics Students Chapter Informational Meeting - G219: 4:20 - 5:20
- BIC Shop Practices - Mill - BIC: 4:30 - 6:30
- BIC Shop Practices - Lathe - BIC: 4:30 - 6:30
- BIC Shop Practices - Bench - BIC: 4:30 - 6:30
- HERD Giveaway: Softball: 5:30 - 6:30
- SGA Senate - Lake Room: 5:30 - 7
- Anderson, Softball - Home: 5:30 - 9:30

Wednesday, April 25

- St. Mary of the Woods, Men's Golf - Home: 12 - 2
- Key Training: Skype for Buisness - L307: 9:55 - 10:45
- Blood Drive - SRC: 11-5
- Take a break Fika - 2nd Floor Meyers: 3 - 3:20
- New Academic Building Information Session - Hatfield Hall: 4:20-5:10
- Safe Zone Advanced Training - O231: 4:20 - 5:20
- BIC TIG Welding - BIC: 5:30 - 7:30
- DePauw, Baseball - Home: 6:30 - 8:30

Thursday, April 26

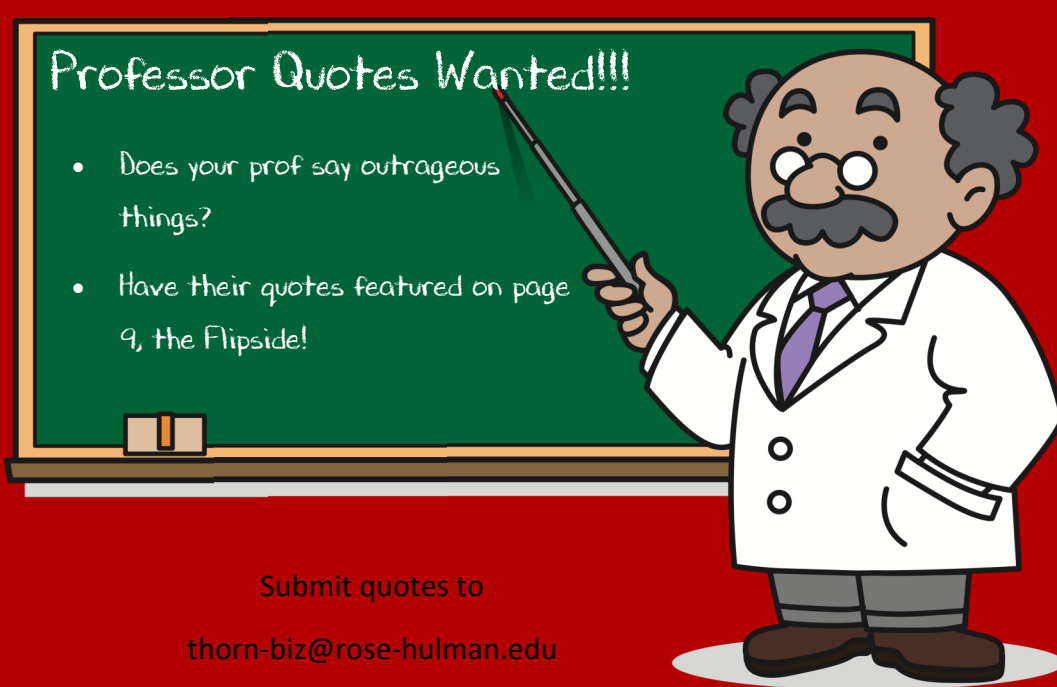
- St. Mary of the Woods, Men's Golf - Home: 12 - 2
- Mindfulness Meditation - HMU262: 11:45 - 12:35
- Exponential Technologies - Innovation Chair Presentation - M137: 4:20 - 5:10
- LEAD Org Track: Dynamic Recruitment - Preparing for next Fall - Lake Room: 4:20 - 5:10
- BIC Intro to Shop Practices - BIC: 4:30 - 6:30
- Learn a Language - O167: 5:30 - 7
- Greenville, Baseball - Away: 7 - 9

Friday, April 27

- Day of Silence: All Day
- HCAC Track Championship - Away: 12 - 2
- HEARD Giveaway: Track & Field - Cook Stadium: 5 - 7
- Legally Blonde the Musical - Hatfield: 7:30 - 10

Saturday, April 28

- HCAC Track Championship - Away: 12 - 2
- HCAC Men's Golf Championship - Away: 12 - 2
- Mount St. Joseph, Women's Golf - Away: 12 - 2
- Baseball, Bluffton - Away: 12 - 5
- Softball, Bluffton - Away: 1 - 5
- Men's Tennis, Earlham - Away: 12 - 2
- Legally Blonde the Musical - Hatfield: 7:30 - 10



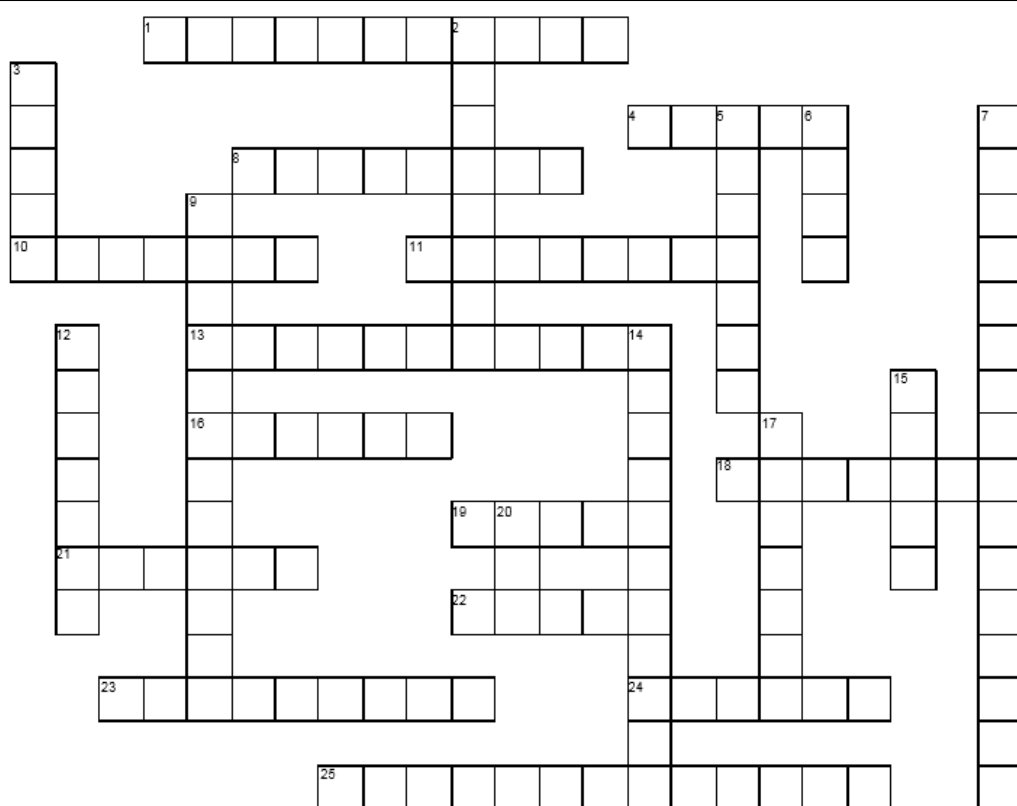
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Submit your completed puzzle
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Across

- 1 A place where garbage is hauled and burned
- 4 Many people plant these on Earth Day
- 8 April 22 (two words)
- 10 Turns fruit and vegetable waste into rich soil for gardening
- 11 A place where garbage is hauled and buried
- 13 Using a resource in such a way that it is not depleted or damaged
- 16 To use less
- 18 To contaminate the environment with man-made waste
- 19 Chemicals, industrial waste, and sewage are often allowed streams, rivers, or oceans, polluting this
- 21 Please put your trash in the trash can. Don't _____
- 22 A popular color on Earth Day
- 23 Resources that can be replenished or replaced through careful management
- 24 Turning off lights helps conserve _____
- 25 The destruction of earth's trees

Down

- 2 Polluted precipitation that can damage the environment (two words)
- 3 Poisonous; capable of causing serious harm or death
- 5 The study of the relationship between organisms and their environment
- 6 _____ pollution is a build-up in the earth's surface of toxins, chemicals, salt, and other substances that adversely affect plant life.
- 7 Raw materials supplied by nature (two words)
- 9 Planned management of natural resources to prevent waste, exploitation, or destruction
- 12 To process waste in such a way as to reclaim raw materials for future use
- 14 The physical conditions that surrounded and create a home for all living things
- 15 To use again
- 17 Gaylord Nelson, a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, is considered the _____ of Earth Day
- 20 Polluted by smoke and exhaust fumes

THE ROSE THORN

ROSE-HULMAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, 5500 Wabash Ave, CM 5037, Terre Haute, IN 47803-3920 • Thorn@Rose-Hulman.edu

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.

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- William Kemp • *Business Manager*
- Jared Gibson • *News Editor*
- Dara Nafiu • *News Editor*
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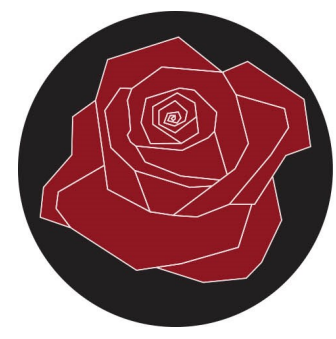
WEEKLY MEETINGS occur at 5:15 p.m. on the first through ninth Tuesdays of each academic quarter. All members of the Rose-Hulman community are welcome to attend.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be no longer than 600 words in length and must contain the writer's (electronic) signature.

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.



News Briefs

North Korea: A Step in the Right Direction?

Marc Schmitt
Staff Writer

North Korea made several announcements this past week in advance of proposed direct talks with the United States.

The headline announcement was the suspension of nuclear tests and long-range missile tests while talks are underway. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un delivered this message on Friday, April 20.

Additionally, Mr. Kim promised to not share any of the regime's research on nuclear weapons with other states and would only use nuclear weapons unless it was provoked.

Earlier in the week South Korea announced that it had established a direct telephone line with Mr. Kim. The move is intended to help build trust between the two nations and reduce tensions. There has previously been a military telephone line between the two countries, but it was severed in 2016 after diplomatic tensions flared. The military connection was reactivated earlier this year.

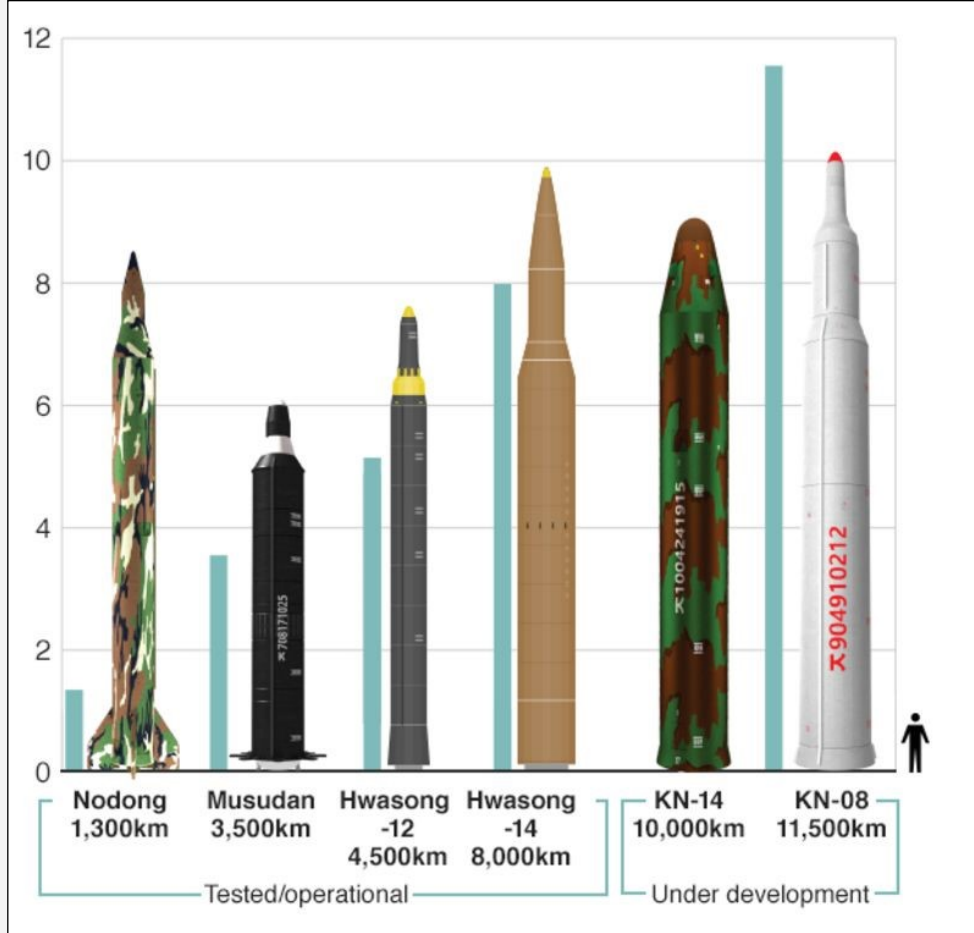
South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Mr. Kim are set to meet

in the demilitarized zone on April 27. Negotiators for South Korea have stated the focus of the summit will be the "denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula".

The summit is the first meeting in a series as both nations acknowledged the need for more talks to set the agenda and resolved complex issues. The United States is also using the talks to prepare for the meeting between Mr. Kim and President Trump.

The direct talks between the two leaders are set to begin the process of resolving long standing disputes with the North Korean regime.

United States diplomats have placed the elimination of North Korea's nuclear arsenal as the highest priority of negotiations. Officials have been quick to point out the obstacles that stand in the way of achieving this goal: Mr. Kim's reluctance to cede all his nuclear weapons and securing a deal that withstands domestic scrutiny.



U.S. Intelligence indicates that the North Korean arsenal includes missiles with ranges upwards of 11,000 kilometers.

Photo Courtesy of BBC News

Tesla's "Production Hell"

Marc Schmitt
Staff Writer

Electric automotive company Tesla has temporarily suspended production of its Model 3 vehicle. The move comes after continued difficulty ramping up production of the company's first mass market car.

Tesla released a statement on Monday, April 16 stating that the shutdown is meant to address production bottlenecks and "to improve automation". The statement added that a planned shutdown is "not unusual and is in fact common in production ramps like this."

This marks the second time production was shutdown this year, with the Fremont, California factory temporarily halting production in late February.

Tesla has been struggling with production issues that have forced the company to consistently miss production targets. The company

wants to increase its production rate to 5,000 cars per week in the next several months and is currently producing about 2,000 cars per week, which is short of its 2,500 cars per week goal.

Musk has acknowledged the company is in "production hell" and that "excessive automation" is to blame for the slow production progress.

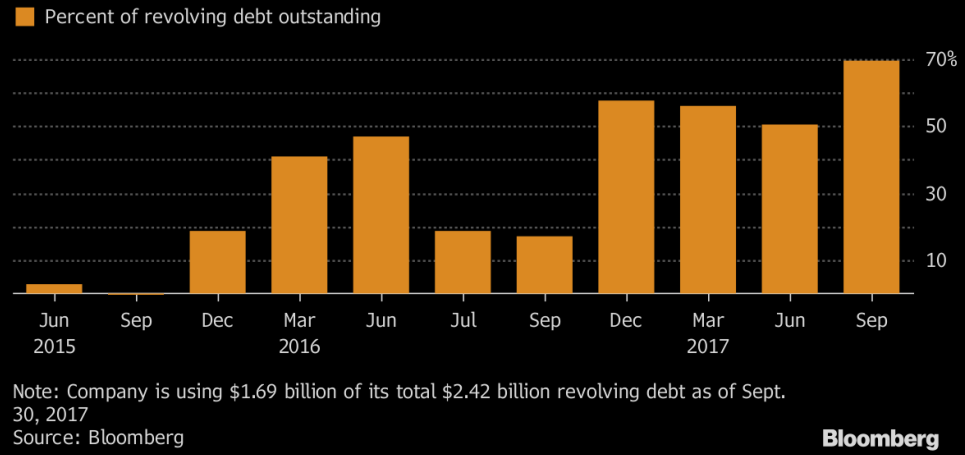
The automaker's stock price has been under assault over concerns that Musk will not be able to his production targets and of facing a cash squeeze by the end of the year. Musk has maintained that production rates are set to significantly increase and that the company will not have to borrow before the end of the year.

According to Bloomberg, Tesla spends about \$8,000 every minute and to have to borrow more money by August to continue to operate.

"This marks the second time production was shutdown this year."

Maxing Out the Card

Tesla is using the highest proportion of its revolving debt on record



Note: Company is using \$1.69 billion of its total \$2.42 billion revolving debt as of Sept. 30, 2017
Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg

Tesla's revolving debt seems to be spiraling out of control—and it just keeps climbing.

Photo Courtesy of Bloomberg

Unrest in Kentucky

William Kemp

Business Manager

"Governor Bevin's statements are as hypocritical as they are false."



Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin is the fourth worst U.S. governor, according to a mid-2016 Morning Consult survey.

Photo Courtesy of INQUISITIR

Teachers in Arizona, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Kentucky have been organizing protests demanding higher pay and retirement funds. In Kentucky in particular, teachers had signed a contract with the state to be paid a more reasonable salary and for a portion of that salary to be a retirement fund. The state's board of education recently announced that it was not willing to follow through on the wage increases or the retirement fund, essentially illegally breaking the contract. Matt Bevin, the governor of Kentucky, retaliated against the protests by saying kids will be sexually assaulted and do drugs if teachers protest. Bevin said, "I guarantee you somewhere today, a child was physically harmed or ingested poison because they were left alone because a single parent didn't have any money to take care of them." There were no sexual assault or drug cases found. It is utterly ridiculous to cut funding for teachers, who have children, then say that parents cannot take care of their children because they do not have enough money. Gov-

ernor Bevin's statements are as hypocritical as they are false, yet it does not stop there. Many teachers and parents have sent emails and quotes to newspapers saying, "He's a disgrace to our state."

Being the son of two teachers who happen to work in Kentucky, I couldn't agree more. How Bevin is a father to 10 children, yet blames sexual assault and drug use on teachers who teach his kids is mind boggling to me. Imagine if you signed a contract with a company saying they would pay you a full salary then that company coming back to you saying, actually, we don't really want to do that anymore. And when you try to do something about it, the CEO blames you for sexual assault and getting kids hooked on drugs. Teachers just want to do their jobs. They went to college to learn how to become educators. Cutting their salary only hurts the future generations—Matt Bevin's children! Teacher protests will most likely continue until people like Bevin realize how much harm they are doing in the community.

Make your voice heard. Tuesdays, O259 @ 5:15 p.m.

Chappaquiddick A Kennedy Cover-Up

Lauren Wiseman
Staff Editor

America went to the moon on July 20, 1969. It was a pretty big story, nearly big enough to overshadow a different incident that occurred two days before. The Chappaquiddick incident of July 18 followed Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy for the rest of his life, with many speculating it ended any chance he had of running for president. To this day, the events remain shrouded in mystery, as both occupants of the car are now dead; and even when Kennedy was still alive, it would be difficult to ask the “Lion of the Senate” about that dark, devastating day.

Directed by John Curran, it follows the week of events following the crash and the cover-up that ensued to save Ted Kennedy’s political career and the Kennedy family name. Supposedly Byron Allen, the CEO of the company distributing the film, was pressured not to release the movie, which made me want to see it even more. So how did *Chappaquiddick* measure up?

All in all, the movie was good. It had all the right elements, starting with the cast. Fronting the film as Senator Ted Kennedy is Jason Clarke. The Australian actor disappeared into the role and kept the film moving forward with his complex, engaging performance. And having never heard a Boston accent, it took a couple tries to get the hang of distinguishing words like “staffer” (which sounded like “stawffer”), but it was never so distracting it took me out of the movie.

In order to talk about Kennedy, it is also necessary to talk about Mary Jo Kopechne, portrayed by Kate Mara. Even with a short amount of screen time, Mara captured how warm and bright Kopechne was. She used her striking gaze to great effect, conveying the hurt of losing Robert F. Kennedy, the conflict of returning to Washington or remaining in New Jersey, and the concern for Ted Kennedy in the face of political challenges. Their chemistry was palpable, and so much of their relationship was left unsaid, with only lingering glances to leave a trail of breadcrumbs.

Comedian Jim Gaffigan gave a surprising turn as Paul F. Markham, United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts. Gaffigan is relatively new to the dramatic acting scene, but he gives a good performance here. Even more impressive is Ed Helms as Joe Gargan, a lawyer and the adopted brother of Ted Kennedy. Helms is primarily known for his comedy work; I wasn’t really aware of anything he had done outside the *Hangover* movies, but he was remarkable. He did a fantastic job showing Gargan’s disillusionment with the Kennedys and the whole situation surrounding *Chappaquiddick*.

The storytelling was smartly done, too. The opening frames spectacularly set up how Ted was the “other” Kennedy. The film cleverly disguised the



Jason Clarke stars as the “other” Kennedy in *Chappaquiddick*

Photo courtesy of IMDb.com

timeline of events by burying it inside Kennedy’s statement, leaving a lot of it up to speculation...but clearly indicating he was lying about portions of it.

The film had the difficult responsibility of balancing guilt with pure despicability. I spent the last third of the film watching through my fingers as any sympathy I had for Kennedy fizzled out with every poor decision he made. It took a significant amount of restraint not to yell at the screen, “Just call the police! You’re making it worse!” We see him belittled by his father (played with frightening, quiet power by Bruce Dern), and we can genuinely sympathize with the fact he would never be the war hero, the beloved president, or the brilliant senator. *How-ev-er, the movie does not shy away from the fact he left the scene of an accident, that he tried to tailor the accident in his favor, that he tried to paint himself as the helpless victim, and that he waited ten hours to call—hours that Mary Jo spent suffocating at the bottom of a lake.*

For a film that had all the right elements, a couple were out of place and hampered the execution. One of these was the score. Garth Stevenson’s score was slow, melodramatic, and unfortunately dragged down the film’s pacing. Sure, the idyllic, mournful piano is great, but as soon as the cover-up starts, the score should change to reflect that.

The other negative element was the dialogue. Some of lines were very clearly written for the trailer, and sounded obviously scripted in the context of the scene.

Even with those problems, it still is a worthwhile film to see. It is an interesting look at how politicians are protected, especially those who are well-connected. The film asks us to evaluate our own responses to situations like these, as we see citizen after citizen emphatically say they will vote for Kennedy, even after *Chappaquiddick*. How many politicians could be sitting in Washington today with their own *Chappaquiddicks*, so well-hidden we haven’t even heard about them?

Some people have called this a hit job as sitting Senator Joe Kennedy III rises to prominence. I don’t think that’s the case. This is just another political drama, one that does not have to indulge in conspiracy to be compelling. One of the most engaging aspects of the movie is the fact we still know very little about the incident. This movie doesn’t really answer any questions, but it does leave you curious to find out for yourself.



The Wars Within Anime

Anime fans get a bit too attached

Andrew Henderson
Staff Writer

One of this year’s most popular new anime has been the series “*Darling in the Franxx*”, a series about a group of children living in a post-apocalyptic world where they must find monsters in dual piloted (one female, one male) giant mechas to protect their homes. The series focuses heavily on the relationships between different characters and their pasts, as it slowly unravels the mystery of what is really happening in this apocalyptic world. However, because the series’ main character has two different girls romantically interested in him, a different kind of battle has erupted in the fandom, a “Shipping War”.

“It hurts the people who make the anime we love, and heavily taints how the fandom is viewed overall”

This fight between fans has mostly been between the camps for Hiro (the main character) and Ichigo, and the camps for Hiro and Zero Two. The Shipping War went hot though after the controversial 14th episode. To keep this spoiler free, Ichigo made a decision in that episode that greatly angered the Hiro X Zero Two camp and many supporters for Goro, another character. This has led to a lot of anger and vitriol thrown at Ichigo online; however many feel it may have gone too far. There have been reports that the voice actor for Ichigo in the show (Kana Ichinose) has been given death threats over the episode and the *Darling in the Franxx* animation producer Yuichi Fukushima has also seen death threats. This is sadly not an uncommon occurrence within anime fandoms; many other shows have seen similar vitriol and death threats, where fans take

Shipping Wars too far.

Neon Genesis Evangelion, one of the hallmarks of mecha anime, which heavily influenced *Darling in the Franxx*, also went through a similar.

Shipping War with death threats sent to producer and voice actors alike. That “war” funnily enough is still not over, with fans still fighting over which *Evangelion* pairing should be canon, over 22 years after the final episode aired. I understand that wanting certain character pairings to occur can create strong emotions (I’m a big supporter of Hiro X Zero Two, and had a deep dislike of Ichigo after episode 14), however fans of anime need to remember that while the characters we are fighting over do not exist, the producers and voice actors very much do. Hideaki Anno (the creator of *Evangelion*) saw a lot

of brutal criticism from fans after the controversial last episode of *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, and has reported he was put into a deep depression because of it. This is the reason Anno gives for why it took so long to finish the sequel series to *Evangelion*.

The Shipping Wars can be incredibly fun to take part in, and meme culture has really grabbed on to these proverbial fights; however we have to be careful that we do not let things get so bad that more death threats, like what was seen this year, happens again. Anger builds on anger, and can quickly grow out of control, so be careful that you do not push things too far. It hurts the people who make the anime we love, and heavily taints how the fandom is viewed overall. Nevertheless, the most important thing is that Goro is best boy, he deserves better.



The Anime behind the buzz, *Darling in the Franxx*

Photo courtesy of crunchyroll.com

A Look Into: The Birkin Bag

An Iconic Shape Turned Fashion Centerpiece

Thomas Hall
Staff Writer

The Birkin might be the most famous bag of all time. Somehow, this purse has been able to keep its status as the “it” bag since its inception in 1983- a feat that has never been accomplished by any other article of fashion. The bag was originally made for actress and singer Jane Birkin by the head of Hermès after the two shared a flight. In fact, the original sketch for the bag was created on the back of a throw up bag from the plane.

Since then, the Birkin bag has become the must have bag for women in power. Birkin owners include: Michelle Obama, Melania Trump, Hillary Clinton, Victoria Beckham, Angela Merkel, Margaret Thatcher, etc. The list is endless. The Birkin has become

the mark of powerful women everywhere. The bag is said to radiate to everyone that sees it that you are not someone to mess with.

Knowing this, you probably are guessing that Birkin bags are not cheap. You’re right; they aren’t. With starting prices around twenty thousand and some models nearing six figures, Birkin bags are some of the most expensive in the world. This price is partially do to the fact that it takes specially trained leather artisans over 48 hours to make a single bag. Although that does not worry any of the owners. They can afford it and Birkins are viewed as an investment. They have consistently outperformed on the stock market since their



Kim Kardashian surely is turning heads with her Birkin

Photos Courtesy of harpersbazarr.com



Victoria Beckham is strutting in the streets with her bags

Photos Courtesy of harpersbazarr.com

inception.

Let’s say you want a Birkin and you are at a point in your life where you could afford to go into a Hermès boutique and throw down tens of thousands of dollars on a purse. You would think it would be that easy right? You would majorly wrong. In fact, many people believe that the scarcity of the Birkins is what has allowed them to keep their status over the past 35 years. If you were to walk into a store, the odds of them selling you one is basically a million to one. Most likely, they would ask you to join the waiting list to get on the waiting list. This means you could probably expect the wait to be over 5 years.

Of course this means that people have tried to develop tips

and tricks to get one sooner. Apparently, it has been found that, as sexist as this sounds, apparently it helps if your husband is trying to buy the bag for you. Other people claim that if you go into the store and buy a whole bunch of Hermès’ other items, then, at the very end, while you are checking out, ask if they have any Birkins. They might just bring one out of the back. If you are going this route I suggest bulking up on their scarfs. I have heard nothing but good things about them.

If you or anyone you know has a Birkin and they would allow me to touch it please reach out. I have never had the opportunity and would really like to see the quality personally.

Music Corner: Goldlink

DC Rapper turned Hip-Hop Superstar

Seun Ladipo

Lifestyle Editor

DC Rapper Goldlink has risen to prominence in the musical industry after the release of his latest album, ‘And after That, We

audio clips of ex-lovers, Goldlink uses this alternative style in an album that embodies the feelings of lost love and all the challenges that come when people put their dreams first.

Goldlink uses alternative channels of musical release

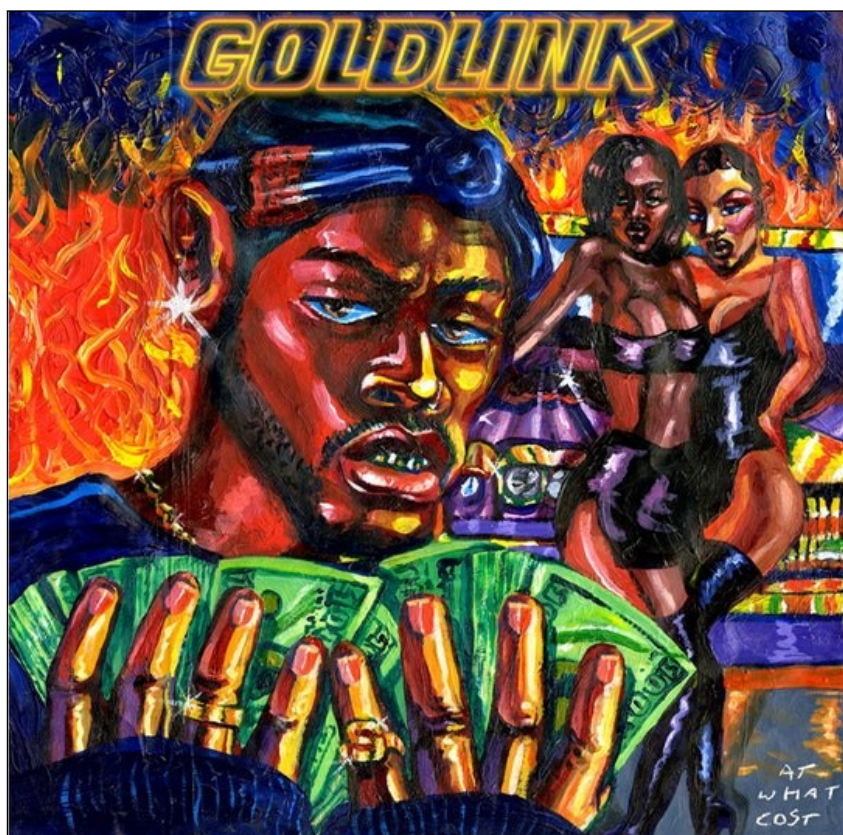
ing narrative with well-produced beats. His previous album, ‘The God Complex’, is his only other mainstream release album, as well as his first, and laid down the prototype for the experience desired from his latest album.

Goldlink’s Latest album “At What Cost” has really switched up his style and brought out a new rawer side of his music. We can see this in songs such as Kokomoe Freestyle while he also revisits his much lighter side with Some Girl with popular R&B artist Steve Lacy. He also shows his funkier side with songs such as Have You seen that girl on this album.

In all I feel that Goldlink has definitely set himself into a typecast of Rappers that have tragic love stories and affairs with multiple women of whom they have fallen into and out of love with but this does not necessarily mean that his music is bad. He

really adds a different electronic aspect to his music that is not seen in many other Artists that make music in this genre truly diversifying himself from the group. At the same time his music has a level of rawness to it with imperfect kicks and actual instruments that rally gives it a wholesome realness to it. I feel that he really gets inspiration from the Gogo music scene that has taken over The District of Columbia for so long and he is one of the first rappers to be this successful to do such.

If you’re looking for new music full of joy, substance, and emotion, look no further than Goldlink. You’ll find his music on your playlist whether you’re at a party, working out, or at home doing work. He is a great young rapper who will make you reconsider your take on the Hip-Hop genre.



The Album art for “At What Cost”

Photos Courtesy of Spotify

Didn’t Talk’. Given the recent success of established artists like Kanye West and Chance the Rapper, who initially released their music to media outlets other than Apple and Spotify, Goldlink composed his most recent album as a series of audio recordings in a long tape. Opening tracks like ‘Late Night’ with radio DJ introductions, or ending songs with

through internet streaming and promotions to more effectively spread his work. Goldlink takes advantage of the internet to spread an alternative style that may not reach Billboard’s Top Charts, but can reach people who’ve looked through mainstream media, yet still want to hear more music with an interest-



Artists Isaiash Rashad (Left) and Goldlink(Right).

Photos Courtesy of Vashtie.com

Parking Squabbles

Concerned Commuter

Guest Writer

Too poor to afford on-campus housing? We'll make you feel unwelcome here.

During Freshman Orientation, the incoming class was separated into groups based on residence hall. This made scheduling events easier because there was no ambiguity in saying "this hall goes to this place for this event at this time." One such event was the President's speech in the SRC.

The seating was organized by hall. As my parents and I, a commuter, were looking up at the stands, we saw that there was no designated space for commuters. Seeing as there were no seats left for us, and after a long, unorganized day, my parents and I had had enough for one day and drove home.

The following year, I received an email for the ROSEFIT Challenge. The email explained how students could scan a QR code whenever they exercised at the SRC, and whichever hall ended up with the most scans would win. I replied to this email to politely ask why commuters were not included in this activity.

Were there not enough commuters to qualify for this activity? Was there not enough interest on their behalf to in-

clude them? I eventually got a reply back saying commuters had simply slipped the activity planner's mind.

Throughout my entire time at Rose, parking has been an inevitable struggle. I have a theory that there are more faculty, staff, and students than there are parking spaces because there have been many times where I drive to campus 20 minutes early, only to have to circle around four different parking lots for 15 minutes before parking illegally in a white-lined spot or a made-up spot and still being late to class.

If this theory isn't true, my other theory is that many people who live in residence halls choose to drive from their respective parking lots to park in a commuter lot closer to the academic buildings. I get it. Sometimes the weather is bad. Maybe you pulled an all-nighter and don't feel like walking.

The issue lies in the fact that these people are able to walk to class but choose to drive, whereas commuters can only drive to class. To make the issue worse, Public Safety seems to think that the commuters choose to park in illegal places because we're too lazy to park in a more distant lot. If my second theory is correct, this is exactly what people living on campus do. As a result,

“There's this hourly rat race of on-campus and off-campus people fighting for legal parking spots.

there's this hourly rat race of on-campus and off-campus people fighting for legal parking spots. And if you're not willing to join the rat race at least 20 minutes before class starts (even though walking to class would only take 10 minutes), you're bound to lose and end up with a pricey ticket for parking illegally.

I have recommendations on how to fix these issues to make the campus more inviting towards commuters. The solution to the first issue is simple, and for all I know, has already been fixed since my freshman orientation.

Rose has a great orientation, but the coordinators should be more careful to not exclude the commuters. If it's an issue of the commuter group being too small to have their own group, they could be grouped in with a hall to give them the chance to interact with their soon-to-be-classmates and to get to experience the same activities as the on-campus students.

The second issue was resolved the following year after my email exchange. The commuters are now included in the ROSEFIT Challenge and, fun fact, won the challenge this year.

The parking issue is more complex. The most obvious answer is adding more parking lots or building a parking garage, but I don't see this happening anytime soon.

Perhaps, instead of just red parking stickers for faculty/staff and yellow for students, the student parking stickers could further distinguish commuters from non-commuters. This would discourage people living on campus from illegally parking in commuter lots, ending the dreaded hourly rat race. In the meantime, Pub Safe could be a little more understanding and chill it with the tickets.

Driver-less Dangers

William Kemp

Staff Writer

As we transition into the future, assisted and self-driving cars are becoming more prominent on the roads. This movement actually started in 2000 when the company Iteris introduced lane assistance to Mercedes Actros commercial trucks¹. The main concept of this project was to alert truck drivers if they were merging into another lane without a turn signal on. Today, this feature can be found in every large brand name car companies. Have you ever been on the road and been passed by someone who came within inches of clipping your side mirror? Lane assist was meant to prevent those heart racing moments to give you a safe, stress free environment to your destination.

Another big safety feature popping up around the world is automatic braking. Say for some reason the car ahead of you slams on their breaks, and you don't have enough time to react. Automatic breaking reacts to the change in speed without the human error, to keep you and your passengers from becoming trunk luggage.

You may be thinking these devices are revolutionary and have saved countless lives, which is mostly true. However, some drivers have viewed this as an opportunity to be on their phones and

relying on the car to keep them safe. That is, until you smash into an innocent woman crossing the street. Elaine Herzberg, the automated Uber victim in Tempe, Arizona² was a very unfortunate but needed lesson on why drivers should not drive distracted. This entire incident could have been avoided and Mrs. Herzberg could've been enjoying a nice evening in the park with her husband and kids if the driver put down her phone, and paid attention to her surroundings.

It's easy to forget that cars are essentially 4 ton wrecking balls with the power to cause major destruction to yourself or others. Being a distracted driver means letting that wrecking ball swing around a major city, indifferent as to what destruction it may brings. Approximately nine people are murdered everyday due to a distracted driver³. As an example, even though it is statistically impossible, it would only take 278 days to wipe out all of Rose-Hulman. With the 1000 injuries per day via distracted driver³, it would only take 2.5 days for all of us to be in the hospital. Even though this example is statistically impossible, there is a chance that you could fall victim to a distracted driver in your lifetime.

Throughout this article I've said, "you could get hurt," or "you might become



If your car isn't driving itself completely, this probably isn't safe.

Photo via: Lifetime Stock/Shutterstock

another statistic," let's turn that into you might be the distracted driver. I'm sure everyone has at least once checked their phone behind the wheel. I will be the first to admit that I have sent a text while going 50+ miles per hour, endangering myself and my fellow travelers on the road. However this is a rare occurrence and I very much dislike knowing that I could potentially cause harm to another human being. On the other hand I do know people that have no problem sending their wrecking ball barreling towards a family so that they can send LOL's and emoji's. In fact while traveling around Florida over spring break, one of my friends, a Rose-Hulman student, was on his phone when the automatic breaks activated and we stopped only a few feet behind the stationary car in front of us. I can't say if the people in that car knew we almost rear ended them, or if it weren't for the automatic breaks who would've been injured or worse. I can say though that I care about you, and I care about your safety, and I care

about the safety of those around you. It is an unnecessary tragedy that is easily preventable when someone decides to impede the safety of the drivers around them by driving distracted. For my safety and yours, please stay off your phone and save a life.

[1] en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lane_departure_warning_system

[2] www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/mar/29/uber-settles-with-family-of-woman-killed-by-self-driving-car

[3] www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/distracted_driving/index.html

“some drivers see an opportunity to be on their phones, relying on the car to keep them safe.”

RHIT SPORTS BOX SCORES

RHIT Baseball

Hailey Hoover
Sports Editor

In a shutout against Defiance The Rose-Hulman Baseball team added another win under their belt. Thanks to the pitching of Sophomore Luke Buehler, who threw the complete game shutout, the Engineers were able to get the victory. This was the first game in a doubleheader against Defiance with this win earning a split.

BASEBALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	FINAL
ROSE-HULMAN	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	1	X	8
DEFIANCE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Standout Performers

Luke Buehler : allowed only seven singles and one walk.
Davis Robeson: three hits with two RBIs.



Photo from Rose –Hulman Athletics

RHIT Softball

Hailey Hoover
Sports Editor

The Lady Engineers found themselves at a loss on the 19th in their game against Eureka. In their second game of the double header the team held strong with the final being 6–3 in favor of Eureka. Here's to the next game for the team to pull out a win.

SOFTBALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	FINAL
ROSE-HULMAN	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	3
EUREKA	2	2	0	0	1	0	1	6

Standout Performers

Cassidy Yeomans: two-run double
Maddie Struble: two-run double

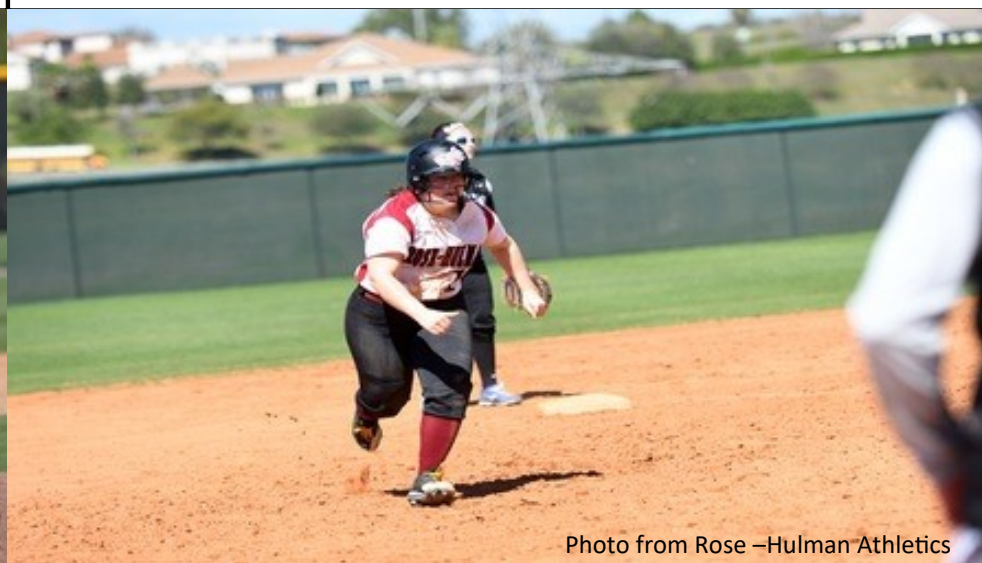


Photo from Rose –Hulman Athletics

IM Leagues Sponsors Their First Ever Video Game Tournament

Hailey Hoover
Sports Editor

In recent events, the IM Leagues organized a tournament for both Madden Football and FIFA Soccer. The event was open to everyone and the players played head to head in a number of games before being seated in a bracket for the finals. The finals games were held in the Lake room in the Union. The contestants had the opportunity to play on the large screen held in the room. There were four different games played to determine the places of first, second, third and fourth place. The winner of both the FIFA and Madden winners were able to pick any video game they desired and it will be purchased for them. Overall the event was a huge success and a lot of fun and hopefully they will continue to put it on in the years to come. Pictured below are the two winners— Jason Meyer (left) for Madden and Michael Boye for FIFA (right).

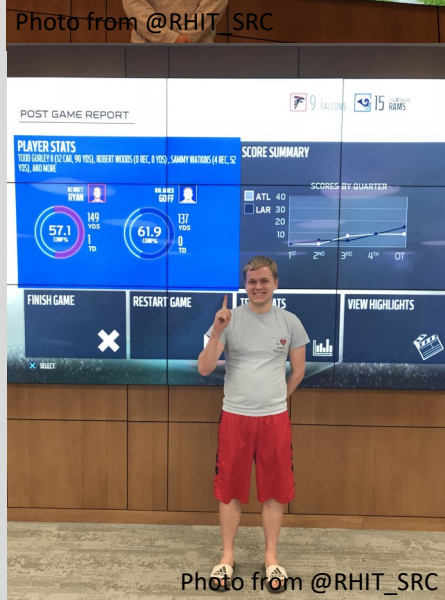
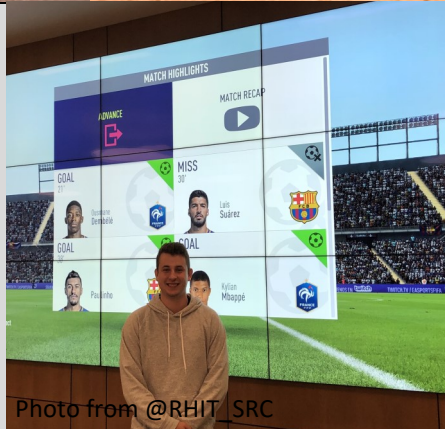


Photo from @RHIT_SRC

Photo from @RHIT_SRC

Sports Pun Of The Week:

“My tennis opponent was not happy with my serve. He kept returning it”

Overall Highlights:

- Women’s Golf: 4th after day 1
- Boys Tennis wins over Mount St. Joseph with a score of 9-0

Intramural Standings

Ultimate Frisbee

Softball

Greek A

TEAM NAME	W	L	T	GB	STREAK	STAND-ING
Legends of Speed	3	0	1	-	W1	1st
Pike A	3	1	0	.67	W2	3rd
ATO A	1	3	0	2.67	L1	4th
Phi Gamma Hamma	2	0	1	0.5	—	2nd
Triangle	0	5	0	4.17	L5	5th

Residence B2

TEAM NAME	W	L	T	GB	STREAK	STAND-ING
Beasts of Weast	4	1	0	1	W2	2nd
Soccer Moms	5	0	0	-	W5	1st
BSBackhand	4	1	0	1	L1	2nd
Flickin’ Dangs	2	3	0	3	L1	4th
Ultimate Flying Objects	3	2	0	2	W2	3rd
Bop It Pull It Disc It	2	3	0	3	W1	5th
Aggressively Average	0	5	0	5	L5	6th
Handiball Shrieks Joy	0	5	0	5	L5	6th

Combined B

TEAM NAME	W	L	T	GB	STREAK	STANDING
Chaz’s Children	2	1	0	1.5	W1	3rd
Sigma Nu	4	0	0	-	W4	1st
Pike Gold	2	2	0	2	W1	3rd
ATO B	2	2	0	2	L1	3rd
FAST	3	1	0	1	W3	2nd
Delta Sig	0	3	0	3.5	L3	4th
Fiji Ball Batters	0	3	0	3.5	L3	4th
Hurricanes	3	0	0	0.5	W4	2nd
Triangle	0	4	0	4	L4	4th

Residence B

TEAM NAME	W	L	T	GB	STREAK	STANDING
Becky Look at that Bunt	2	2	0	2	L2	3rd
Deming Dimes	3	1	0	1	W2	2nd
The Empire	4	0	0	-	W4	1st
Schoftballs	1	3	0	3	L2	4th
Don’t Bunt	0	4	0	4	L4	5th
Flippin’ Dingers	2	2	0	2	W2	2nd

National 7 Day Forecast

National Cherry Cheesecake Day	23	National Pigs in a Blanket Day	24	National DNA Day	25	National Audubon Day	26	National Devil Dog Day	27	National Kiss of Hope Day	28	National Peace Rose Day	29
National Lost Dogs Awareness Day		National Teach Children to Save Day		National East Meets West Day		National Help a Horse Day		National Babe Ruth Day		National Blueberry Pie Day		National Shrimp Scampi Day	
National Picnic Day				National Hug a Plumber Day		National Kids and Pets Day		National Prime Rib Day		National BraveHearts Day		National Zipper Day	
National Take a Chance Day				National Telephone Day		National Pretzel Day		National Tell a Story Day		National Great Poetry Reading Day		National Pet Parents Day	
National Talk Like Shakespeare Day				National Zucchini Bread Day		National Richter Scale Day		National Arbor Day		National Superhero Day			
				National Administrative Professionals Day		National Poem in Your Pocket Day		National Hairball Awareness Day		National Rebuilding Day			
						National Dissertation Day		National Day of Silence		National Sense of Smell Day			
										National Pool Opening Day			

Top 10

Things to Do When Tour Groups Go By

1. Start a banana gun Mexican standoff against members of an opposing res hall.
2. Scream "Get out!"
3. Pretend to give your friends a tour and spread misinformation.
4. Walk backwards with the tour guide in solidarity.
5. Hold up desperate signs in the res hall windows.
6. Add all the high school students on Fortnite so they have to come here.
7. Assimilate and join the tour. *Bonus points if you can get a professor to be your stand-in parent.*
8. Hug the tour guide for an uncomfortably long amount of time and then just walk away.
9. Give them a stack of textbooks, smack the books out of their hands, and call them a nerd. *Ooooh got 'em.*
10. Ask them for directions.
11. Be the token hippy. *Love yourself. Accept yourself.*
12. Stalk them like the wild animals they are. Record their movement, narrate the film an Australian accent, and win an award as a breakthrough film producer.
13. Give them coupons for the RHIT Gentlemen's Club.
14. Give them a pop quiz on derivatives. If they get it right, call them a nerd.
15. Walk out in tattered clothes. Whisper, "Is this what the sun looks like!?"
16. "FRESH MEAT!!!"
17. Walk up to them and promise to put in a good word for them if they give you \$5.
18. Give them a black box. Stare them directly in the eyes and whisper, "Don't do it."
19. Start a game of tag.
20. Walk up to one of the parents and reenact a touching reunion with them.

Insult like Shakespeare

Peter Quince

Bumbler

"Bless me, what a fry of fornication is at the door."

This witty insult is one of many written by the great William Shakespeare, queer icon and playwright. The line, from *Henry VIII*, is said to have been a burn so sick the Globe Theatre burst into flames at its utterance. Of course, Shakespeare was no one-hit wonder.

After they rebuilt the theatre to be slightly more fire-proof, Shakespeare went on to have his creations sling more zings such as "Your virginity breeds mites, much like a cheese," and "Your abilities are too infant-like for doing much alone."

In honor of National Talk like Shakespeare Day, here are three easy steps you can use to create insults that the Great Bard himself would give a standing ovation.

1. Start with something basic like "Your momma looks like a cheese puff."
2. Jazz it up with some old-English flair. The previous line now becomes "Thy mother dost look like a puff of cheese."
3. (Optional) Maybe throw in a bit of elaboration. Something that really builds on the idea you're trying to convey. Now, my insult becomes "Thy mother dost look like a puff of cheese, dry and tasteless."

Now depart and start making thine enemies weep!

WACKY PROFESSOR QUOTES

Slams door shut:
"Sorry, Buffalo is standing out in the hallway."
-Professor Amanda Stouder

"I went to college for a decade for this. To be surrounded by smart asses."
-Dr. Caroline Carvill

Student: "How many questions will be on tomorrow's exam?"
Dr. Hudson: "I have no idea."
-Dr. Tina Hudson

"It's not like you have to pull out a protractor and communicate with the Gods"
-Dr. Renee Rogge

"Try not to hallucinate in front of the class. It looks weird."
-Dr. Bill Butske

"Just like in Warhammer, we like to kill the mutants... brutally murder actually"
-Dr. Mark Hays

"If you die in the bathroom then nobody else will be able to use it. That's a bad deal."
-Dr. J.P. Mellor

Looking at ads for generic beer: "This was my childhood"
-Dr. Thom

"Birth is bloody and horrible. I think"
-Dr. Stephanie Hill

Did your prof say something hilarious or just great out of context? Did you hear something amusing on your jaunt about the fine halls of this institution? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to: thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu or fill out this nifty google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt1>

This week was a kicker. I kept forgetting which day of the week it was, which class I was going to, and which backpack was mine. If you are missing a pink Twinkle-toes backpack with football gear in it, let me know. I didn't mean to take it with me. Please send an email with questions, concerns, or content to the Thorn Flipside Editor <thorn-flipside@rose-hulman.edu> Disclaimer: The Flipside is purely for fun! Any uncredited work above can be attributed to me, Emma Oswood.