Thursday, January 30th was the opening night for Rose Drama Club’s (RDC) production of Almost, Maine. The curtains opened at 7:30 that evening, revealing a scene that would set the tone for the remainder of the play. A couple huddles next to each other on a park bench under the night sky of Almost, Maine, an “Almost-town” just south of the Canadian border. Bundled up in heavy winter clothing, Ginette (Julia Lucas) and Pete (Lucas “Loki” Strain) struggle to articulate their feelings for one another. Ginette clearly puts off by his ignoring her affection and cuts the scene, which ends with Pete alone on the bench in the cold winter evening.

This brief scene, featuring two characters fortuitously exploring their relationship (or the lack thereof), prepares the audience for more scenes all centered on one theme—the nature of human connection. Whether it’s cues discussing what went wrong, a marital couple trying to rekindle their love for each other, or friends negotiating the terms of a new relationship, the play works through our need for connection in all of its colors. Instead of a complex plotline and scenes full of characters, Almost, Maine hardly ever includes more than two characters (and after their scene is over, the characters do not make another appearance). Nevertheless, characters reference one another when talking about work or other friendships, giving us the impression that they are all connected in some way.

Of course, structuring a play in this way has its drawbacks, especially if you are used to traditional storyline structures. Each character’s development arc is left to one scene, and we must familiarize ourselves with a new set of characters each and every scene. As a result, the play can feel disjointed at times. Luckily for the audience, however, there are only two people to keep track of, and most of them want the same thing. Once you are accustomed to this rhythm, it’s easier to identify the antagonist force that appears in all of its scenes. This force that keeps the characters—and us—from achieving meaningful connection is our shocking inability to navigate the emotional distance between one another. In some scenes, this opposing force dominates, and the characters realize that the connection they wanted is not there. In other scenes, however, we witness the characters’ triumph, and the play well ends on a hopeful note.

The austere setting, complemented the simple scenes, allowing the audience to focus on the characters and their conversations. For example, a bar scene is represented by a small wooden table, a couple of stools, some empty beer bottles, and a soundtrack of ambient restaurant chatter. Additionally, all of the scenes feature the color red, which stands out among the lack of stage props and featherly white floor, resembling snow.

Occurring in the middle of winter quarter, RDC’s production of Almost, Maine is a heart-warming reminder of our need to connect with the people around us. The many ways in which the inhabitants of Almost achieve this connection reflect our own attempts to do the same.
The Pen is mightier than the sword
Tuesdays 5:00p O259.
Contagion: Tracking the Deadly Coronavirus

In another haunting development in the coronavirus story, the virus claimed the life of a 44-year-old man in the Philippines last Tuesday. This was the first recorded death outside of China. The Filipino health secretary confirmed that the patient seemed relatively stable in the week leading up to his death. In fact, he even "showed signs of improvement" at certain points. However, it took less than 24 hours for the virus to completely overwhelm his immune system. Officials later confirmed that the man had been a resident of Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the deadly virus.

According to CBS News, there have been over seventeen thousand cases of the viral infection worldwide, with the vast majority within Chinese borders. Additionally, all but one of the 853 deaths have also been Chinese citizens. This steep rise is more than basic epidemiology—China has taken several drastic measures to attempt to retroactively curtail the spread of the infection. In Wuhan, the capital, the growing list of travel bans from other parts of China.”

The White House released a proposed territorial map with border demarcations home to 400,000 Israelis along the West Bank. The plan is backed by 75% of Americans. It also involves a new U.S. embassy opened in “Eastern Jerusalem” for the Palestinian Authority. The plan is also backed by 75% of Americans. It also involves a new U.S. embassy established in “Eastern Jerusalem” for the Palestinian Authority. The plan is also backed by 75% of Americans.

As reported by the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the virus has spread to at least 23 other countries. Though the virus naturally spreads quickly through population dense countries like India, there have been cases in victims that had not even been to China. With several confirmed deaths surfacing across the globe, some worry that the United States will be next. The White House released a statement addressing these concerns, claiming that “there’s no reason for Americans to panic.”

You decide what’s newsworthy.

Tuesday at 5:00pm in O259

Proposed Partition Plans

Pattern image courtesy of The Washington Post

Medical workers transporting a coronavirus patient into an isolation ward in Fuyang, China, on Saturday. Experts fear a coronavirus pandemic, but its severity is uncertain.

President Donald Trump has shown interest in brokering a peace agreement. Many had declared the two-state solution dead, as U.S. support would be vital to the pro- cess. Last week, President Trump had released his plan of “Peace to Prosperity.” A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People” on the white house website (whitehouse.gov/peaceoptimprosperity). Many of the details on the site are vague, leading critics to claim that it’s a cover for an indefinite delay on the current one-state status quo.

At the minimum, it continues the U.S. diplomatic stance for a two-state solution, but indicates no real pro- gress. Certain details within the two-state plan are bold, but potentially troubling. The plan calls for the complete demilitarization of the future Palestinian state, instead allowing for Israel being in charge of security over both regions. The proposal also al- lows for Israel to declare sovereignty over the Jewish settlements along the occupied West Bank. Before the proposal was released, Pal- estinian leadership, which several diplomatic relations with the U.S. after a series of pro-Israel move, re- jected it.

The plan includes a new U.S. embassy opened in “Eastern Jerusalem” for the Palestinian Authority. Trump also stated that the plan involved a detailed territorial map with border compromises allowed by Israel. Both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas were outraged by the pro- posed U.S. solution, which Palestine’s President Mahmoud Abbas re- sponded to by holding an emergency meeting with Hamas and labelled it a “new phase of Palestinian dialogue and joint work.”

Earlier this week, Trump had met separately with Netanyah- u and Benny Gantz, the leader of Netanya- hu’s political opposition, both of whom approved of Trump’s plan. To Palestinians, the plan is the “smack of the century” according to Abbas, who continued by saying it was an attempt to “liquidate the Pale- stinian issue.” Hamas leader Ismail Hanjified further iterated on the plan by claiming that “the new plot against Palestine is doomed to failure and Palestine will.uniquely stand at the end.”

Trump has stated that the Pale- stinians “probably won’t want [the plan] initially,” but “I think in the end they’re going to want it. So we’ll see what happens,” he added, “Without them, we won’t do a deal. And that’s okay.”

It must be noted that ultimate- ly, this announcement is a good thing. Even if it is not enacted in its currently proposed form, a reminder that the two-state solution is dead, and that a two-state solution is inevit- able is an important step to peace.

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You decide what’s newsworthy.

Tuesday at 5:00pm in O259

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You decide what’s newsworthy.

Tuesday at 5:00pm in O259
A truly amazing film from the accounts of a WWI Veteran

Toss A Coin To Your Witcher

Game review

Witcher 3

Aidan Moulder

Entertainment Editor

In the modern gaming world, it's rare to find a game that can remain exciting long after its new entry. It's also uncommon for a game to take inspiration from a little-known Polish RPG developer. This is a world where most titles released recently and were successfully marketed and earned over a million sales. But let's talk about something that many people today are familiar with. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt.

The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt is the third installment in The Witcher series. The game was first released in 2015 by CD Projekt Red. The series is based on the novels written by Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski.

Quickly, smooth, challenging, and kids more like the old Witcher games. This is why the game is far from perfect. Whenever you begin a quest, you are given a list of possible outcomes. In my opinion, The Witcher 3 can be described as a game where the story is not very well optimized for it. There were some minor bugs that affected the overall experience due to the interesting Polish mythology, and each game, despite how poorly some entries may have aged, has something to offer. The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt is the increased amount of content in comparison to the previous entries. It's also packed with hours of gameplay, and there's no doubt that it can be quite demanding for players who are not familiar with the series. The game is not very well optimized for it, and there were some minor bugs that affected the overall experience.
Plastic: An Official Report

A look at one of the world’s most devastating substances

Colin Beach
Rose News Editor

Plastic – a material of everyday life, so abundant in our world that we barely recognize how much there truly is. You have to really step back and look at the big picture to see just how much our global market depends on this definition, plastics are synthetic or organic polymers often produced using petrochemicals (derived from oil) and additives. It is a combination of what we have found in our natural world and of materials we have made in the world of our own. Polymers are long chains of molecules – indi-

vidual units called monomers – that span minimal lengths but together make a huge impact. Depending on the temperature the monomers are heated at and the additives input (blame petrostates, dyes, and anti-oxidants – to name a few) the plastic can vary. Some can result in soft, mallea-

ble materials like a plastic grocery bag, or it can create a harder plastic, such as a phone case or computer tower. Plastic is everywhere. Due to the complexity of this material, which are the basis of most plastic polymers, compounds similar to petrochemicals can also be obtained from coal, natural gas, and even corn (though these natural alternatives are still inefficient). The common production of plastics begins with petrochemicals undergoing a “cracking process” that breaks them down into the monomers. These monomers undergo polymerization where they form resins and are mixed with the desired additives.

The end goal is to heat, mold, and cast the plastic for the purpose it must serve. It is clear that plastic is more than just water bottles and bags. It is a material of every-thing we use and depend on, it is in our homes, clothing, and personal use of plastic is the hundred or so people that make the issue worse. Petrochemicals can also be obtained from coal, natural gas, and even corn (though these natural alternatives are still inefficient). The common production of plastics begins with petrochemicals undergoing a “cracking process” that breaks them down into the monomers. These monomers undergo polymerization where they form resins and are mixed with the desired additives.

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If the plastic is already made, what happens then? We know that we can recycle plastic, but the true amount it does to save the Earth is surprisingly minimal. Recycling plas-

tic is not as simple and efficient as one might think. Because types of plastic differ at the molecular level, recyc-

lables must be matched and broken down into those of similar mono-

mers. Most types of plastic are ex-

tremely difficult to reuse and the re-

cycling process is extensive. The com-

position of plastics and additives are thus very important. It is a step of improvement.

Global Plastic: A Controversy

The compositions of plastics and their production process is not planet friendly, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t human friendly. Our market de-

pends on this product so much now, not just for consumer pleasure, as it has life-saving purposes and has made how we approach technology. Of course, though, it is time for the world to be responsible for what we produce and not ruin what we have. There are people out there trying to improve it, and there can always be more of them.

“An estimated 7 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans and seas each year... the clean-up process is minimal and mainly performed by small private organizations.”
Vegetables are a mainstay on most dinner plates, and for a good reason; consumption of vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet. There are tons of great ways to prepare vegetables: baking them, steaming them or even eating them raw (my personal favorite for most vegetables). So far as I'm concerned, there's one bad way to prepare them; boiling vegetables. It's quite common to boil vegetables, all you usually need is boiling water and a few minutes to have the item ready for serving. Yet I can't help but hate almost every boiled form of a vegetable. If boiling a vegetable doesn't outright ruin the taste of the side then it will be the worst way to prepare it. What makes most food great is its flavor and most vegetables have a great flavor. So the last thing I want to do is to have the flavor be drained out with the water. When I eat a carrot, I want to taste the carrot, not the water the carrot was cooked in. There's also no real way to season the vegetables during cooking if you're boiling them, which means that either the vegetables will have no seasoning, or the seasoning will be added after cooking which will mean the seasoning enhances the vegetable to a far lesser degree. I can't think of any vegetable where the best way to prepare it is by boiling. Even potatoes, which are so often boiled, are better baked or steamed instead. This is also true for peas, which I see mostly commonly boiled, but as far as I'm concerned are best steamed or straight eaten raw.

On top of tasting worse, boiling is also generally the least nutritious way to prepare vegetables. Many vegetables need to be cooked in some way to break down the cell wall, so that nutrients can be reached. However, boiling will often wash away the water-soluble nutrients like vitamin C and B12 from the vegetable. Most other cooking methods won't wash away water-soluble nutrients because the water doesn't have direct contact with the inside of the vegetable. This means that boiling in general can be healthier than eating certain vegetables raw, but it will almost always be healthier to cook the food in a different way.

Boiling has been a common way to prepare vegetables for a long time because it's just really easy to do. It's not hard to bring a pan of water to a boil and it can be really difficult to overcook most vegetables in boiled water. It doesn't help that a lot of vegetables now come in cans, which causes most people to decide to boil them; however, it's also become easy to prepare vegetables in most other ways. For me personally I almost never eat boiled vegetables. In the worst case I'll ask for them raw before having them boiled. I wish more people would come to the same conclusion, as boiled vegetables are really far too common at dinners. Vegetables treat our bodies well, so we should take the time to treat them well, and prepare them the right way.

Television in Turmoil

Aidan Moulder
Opinions Editor

I have previously written about television in Turmoil in the past, but as we enter the new era of streaming and digital media, the changes that have been occurring have changed considerably the past few years. Game of Thrones, for example, is one of the most notable shows I have ever watched with the new surge of streaming services in mind. What exactly happened? Did the viewers get lazy? Did the writers forget about the huge universe that they had been creating for so many years?

The thing with Breaking Bad is just the immense depth given to the plot and the characters. There’s so much attention to detail in the stories and action, but nothing ever got too crowded and convoluted. There was still an overarching story, but it was always a part of a much larger whole. However, with shows like Game of Thrones, the intricate storylines and characters can make it difficult for the viewers to keep up with all the different tales going on in the series.

The writers have to be careful not to overwhelm the viewers with too much information. They have to make sure that the storylines are clear and understandable, but also keep the viewers engaged.

In the end, it all boils down to the writers and their ability to keep the audience interested. If they can do that, then the viewers will continue to tune in and watch the show. But if they lose interest, then the viewers will move on to something else.

Overall, I think that television is still an important part of our lives, but we need to be careful not to lose interest and let it become a mindless distraction. Instead, we should focus on shows that are well-written and well-produced, and that give us something to think about and discuss. Only then will television continue to be a valuable form of entertainment.
Men’s Basketball

Caleigh Kintner
Sports Editor

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology honored its four seniors prior to the final weekend home men’s basketball game, and one enjoyed a career high scoring day as the Engineers defeated Mount St. Joseph 85-78 on Saturday at Hulbert Arena.

Eli Combs picked Senior Day for a career high scoring performance, finishing with 17 points and 10 rebounds on 7-10 from the field. Junior Craig McGee became the 31st player in Rose-Hulman men’s basketball history to cross the 1,000-point mark in a career with 12 points to increase his total to 1,003. Sophomore John Czarnecki, Michael Lake and David Saadatnezhadi also contributed to their final weekend home game. Czarnecki had six points and five rebounds, Lake had five points and three assists, and Saadatnezhadi tailed five points and two assists.

The balanced performance featured 11 players reaching the scoring column for Rose-Hulman. Vuk Djuric tallied nine points and three rebounds; and Jacob Back and Terry Hicks had eight points each to help the offensive attack.

Rose-Hulman jumped out early with a 2-6 lead after a layup by Djuric and a three pointer by McGee. The lead reached 20 points late in the half, after McGee scored on a layup to cross the 1,000-point mark and Hicks buried a three-point.

In the second half, Rose-Hulman built the lead as high as 18 points at 75-55 with 5:49 left after a three-point play by Combs. Mount St. Joseph reached single digits in the final seconds, but the Fightin’ Engi- neers held on for victory.

Rose-Hulman improved to 10-9 and 7-5 in HCAC play, while Mount St. Joseph dropped to 4-15 and 2-10 in league games. The Fightin’ Engineers traveled to Anderson University in Heartland Colle- giate Athletic Conference action on Wednesday night.

Track & Field

Caleigh Kintner
Sports Editor

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology won the women’s team title at the 2020 Engineer Track and Field Invitational, while the men had a second place performance on Friday night at the Sports and Recreation Center.

The women outdistanced a field of nine teams with 110 points. Kentucky Wesleyan came in third among 10 teams at the meet. Both the women’s and men’s teams had four wins on the evening. Individual women’s winners included Agustin in the 60 meter hurdles, Dara Smith in the 400 meter relay, Katrina Agostin, Emily Peterson and Rogers also won. The men were led by Nathan Schrader with a sweep of the shot put and weight throw. Cameron Prisby also won the pole vault with a personal best 15 1-1/4”, and Kristian Zadlo won the 400-meter dash in 52.78 sec.

Both teams also had two runner-up performances on Friday night. Shomba was second in the 200 and the 4 x 400 team of Peters- son, Claire Brown, Lois Cheatham and Rogers recorded a time of 4:38.71 for the women’s runner-up efforts. Dawson Allen was second in the 60 meter hurdles and Kyle Brownell came home sec- ond in the high jump for the men. Third place women’s performers included Agustin in the 60 me- ters; Kaia Johnson in the 3000 me- ters; Sydney Larson in the triple jump; Dana Smith in both the 400 meters and high jump; and Cassie Utley in the shot put. Both the men’s 4 x 200 and 4 x 400 relay teams were third, along with Zadlo in the pole vault.

Rose-Hulman returns to action with meets at DePauw next Friday and Illinois Wesleyan next Saturday.

Swimming & Diving

Men’s Basketball

February 5: @ Anderson
February 6: @ Transylvania
February 12: vs. Franklin
February 15: @ Defiance
February 19: vs Earlham

Women’s Basketball

February 5: vs. Anderson
February 8: @ Transylvania
February 12: @ Franklin
February 15: @ Defiance
February 19: vs Earlham

Swimming & Diving

February 13: HCAC Championship
February 14: HCAC Championship
February 15: HCAC Championship

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Alternative Mascots for Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

1. Bob the Builder
2. Rodney the Engineer
3. Pat the politically correct and ethically ambiguous science person
4. Danny the dolphin that traverses land and also does engineering all in one
5. Robby Raccoons
6. Safety Jim
7. Chauncey Rose riding Rosie the war elephant
8. The Greek Letter: π
9. Conan the Barbarian riding Chauncey Rose riding Rosie the war elephant
10. The Flying Spaghetti Monster
11. The Artistots
12. Pub safe riding Conan the Barbarian riding Chauncey Rose riding Rosie the war elephant
13. VODKA
14. Train Man
15. Dr. Moloney "Magic Mike" riding Pub Safe riding Conan the Barbarian riding Chauncey Rose riding Rosie the war elephant
16. THE Terre Haute Locomotives
17. The “Reply All” buttons
18. The Distinguished Dr. Thom riding Dr. Moloney "Magic Mike" riding Pub Safe riding Conan the Barbarian riding Chauncey Rose riding Rosie the war elephant
19. The dead-inside Biomathematical student who just wants to sleep
20. The Rose Hulman Fighting Polytechnic Engineer

Heard ‘Round Campus

“Communism is a Hawaiian shirt made of ladybugs”
-Percopo 3 resident

Joke of the Week:

What does one Rose student say to another Rose student?

I wouldn’t know, I’m too busy planning crimes that would get me enough money to pay off my student loan debt.

Because this is the winter quarter and because winter quarter is difficult as poop, please enjoy this fabulous looking puppy

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DISCLAIMER: Anything that you see on this page, the Flipside, can be taken to be false information, with exception to the Wacky Prof and Heard ‘Round Campus. Anything that is not attributed to a specific author can be assumed to be written by me, Matthew Supp. If you have any questions, comment, or content, do not hesitate to reach out to Matthew Supp, the Flipside Editor at suppmg@rose-hulman.edu. Thank you for reading!