Despite the global pandemic of COVID-19, the work of scientific communities is ongoing and now brings good news in this time of panic. Last month, the United Kingdom proudly announced the second patient ever to be cured of human immunodeficiency virus (better known as HIV). Current cases of HIV are kept under control by a combination of drug treatments, but eradicating the virus completely from the body is a whole step above.

HIV is responsible for the debilitating condition known as acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The disease is caused by HIV’s retroviral infection of immune cells, changing their genome and crippling the person’s immune system. Commonly classified a sexually transmitted disease, HIV rose to pandemic status in the 1980’s (38 million people globally now live with it) and still remains a major health risk in third-world countries. Though deadly if contracted, antiretroviral medications are able to limit destructive HIV replication and can prevent transfer to others.

However, it wasn’t until 2007 that a patient was completely cured of HIV. Timothy Ray Brown (known as “the Berlin patient” before allowing his identity to be released) was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia late in life and, upon stem cell transplant, was cured of his HIV/AIDS as well. The cells transferred to Brown came from a donor with a specific genetic mutation causing HIV resistance, allowing him to defeat the virus. He no longer requires drug treatments either, as all signs of the virus in his body are gone. Because of this past success, the same method was tried on the United Kingdom patient. The person suffered from Hodgkin lymphoma and also required a stem cell transplant. Seeing the opportunity, doctors provided cells with no CCR5 gene, eliminating production of a protein that HIV uses for host entry. After the transplant and a 30-month span of no antiretroviral drugs, blood samples declared the patient cured.

Stem cell transplants have proven successful in the treatment of numerous diseases and is a rapidly growing field of research. However, in the case of HIV, genetically-modified transplants remain high risk and are used as a last resort for patient who have other diseases (for example, the leukemia and lymphoma of the two cured). This method requires continued research in efficiency and compatibility, and in the meantime current medications allow for management of HIV/AIDS. There is still a long way to go to see if this treatment can become widespread, but scientists will strive for the cure of disease, no matter the crisis.
Some of you out there, like me, are probably getting a little burned out of the eat, sleep, work, play video games, eat some more... that whole cycle. I mean really, this same stuff is the same old, but with your friends a couple hundred miles away from you sitting behind a screen just like you. How I miss this, and this is just the case for everyone. I found myself quite lucky that I got to live with my best friend, Sarah Wood, a nursing student at Spalding University in Louisville, KY during this mess. I love her creative and fun ideas and thought I might share one with you.

Sarah is a definition of a plant mom. Right now, in the living room alone, she has 23 different types of plants. Her thumbs are so green it's incredible, but after that many plants and pots, the basic, orangish pots get pretty boring. So, Sarah, being her usual self, went for a specialty of her pots with paint. If you too are plant savvy and have some extra pots laying around, all you'll need are some paints, and maybe a best friend to be along too.

We went to our local park and, after walking around a little bit, found a spot to lay out our stuff and get creative. We had so much fun being outdoors (while practicing social distancing) and with out paint, her thumbs are even more green than before.

William Kemp
Editor-In-Chief

With the current global situation, I recently found myself to dive into Netflix’s flagship original science fiction series, Altered Carbon. Created by Trek co-legend Jonathan Nolan, the story follows an ambitious world establishment of the end of human transience. This leads to some initializing and actualized AI that are treated as second-class citizens. Altered Carbon’s first season touches on all these elements throughout the story, asking a variety of questions aimed at class and power structures.

By the midpoint, the show has so many points going for it. The side characters are magnetic and full of personality, with a highlight of the show being Chris Conner as Al companion. He is geared towards character drama as well as what I hear, simply because I wasn’t a train away from what had drawn me into the series.

That’s not to say I didn’t enjoy the series. Conner’s Poe is still around and gets his own subplot. There’s a larger emphasis on character dynamics, with plenty of contrasting motivations and ideologies that add more empathy and depth to many of the antagonists. This season closes all the lingering plot threads revolving around Kovacs from the first season, and brings them to a satisfying close. However, rather than outmaneuvering and outsmarting the antagonist like in the end of the first season, the second finale’s climax is literally just an almost comical hand to hand battle. So season two, not necessarily worse, just different and definitely not to my taste.

The end of the show sets up a third season and several details about it have been released, but I have no idea where the writers could take the show from this point forwards. I would have been happy with the end of the show being the season one finale. I would have been okay with the show ending from this point onwards. I would have been happy with the end of the show being the season one finale. I would have been okay with the show ending from this point onwards. I would have been happy with the end of the show being the season one finale. I would have been okay with the show ending from this point onwards. I would have been happy with the end of the show being the season one finale. I would have been okay with the show ending from this point onwards.
Positive Outlook on Project Classes

William Kemp
Editor-in-Chief

Two of my four classes were heavily group and project based and had us going to the KIC quite often later in the quarter. Now with us being online, I am somewhat nervous as to what tricks my professors are going to pull out of their sleeves. However, with some of the progress I've made in a few of my projects, it has turned out to be quite fun.

In ME321, Measurements, we expected two main projects for the quarter. Now with everyone being solo and stuck behind a computer screen, the projects had to adapt big time. Now you'd expect, measurement systems are all about taking measurements. I bet I just blew your mind, wow. Anyway, to adapt to the online lifestyle and still keep engaging projects, the professors behind this class offered five very unique at home projects and encouraged us to possibly think of our own. These projects included measuring internal energy of your body, speed of sound, ultimate flexural strength of wood, measuring Young's modulus using a three point bend test, and finding polar moment of inertia of an object using a trifilar pendulum. I don't know about you, but personally I've never thought about doing any of these with the stuff that's laying around my house. Nevertheless, each project task came with a recommended set up, all with things that you could probably find in your bedroom closet or bathroom. What Drs. Meyhew, Cloutier, and Constans have done is truly ingenious.

ME480 on the other hand I found to be quite a bit more challenging. From what I understand, all of the projects are to remain very similar to pre-online, but without the groups of four. These projects, as of right now, require no physical assembly or testing, nor is it as large of a scale as ME321, but it still requires a monstrous amount of analysis. This sort of work, though, is honestly quite expected at this point. It's also been quite nice to be feverishly busy, like usual, instead of stuck on the couch doing nothing all day.

Not So Positive Outlook on Classes

Aidan Moulder
Opinions Editor

Oh boy, let me tell you, this quarter is going to be really bad. I'm glad to be home, I truly am, especially seeing how this learn has been basically destroyed. My parents constantly tell me "school takes priority" but then turn around and make me go on a run, or walk with them on a local trail, even if I have an important assignment to do within a few hours. I also have responsibilities that pull me away from my studies that are taken care of for me at Rose.

Another factor, and probably the worst part about all this, is how uncomfortable I find my own house to be. When I was still living in Percopo, I built a huge desk that fit my entire desktop PC and basically every school supply I needed. Now, since I don't have the space back home, I'm confined to a micro-piece of furniture that's actually livable isn't even my own room, it belongs to my inconsiderate teenage brother.

Basically, it will be a freaking miracle if I make it out of this quarter with a decent grade in any of my classes. I guess if things don't work out I'll probably just start a podcast or something. I'll be sure to put my Twitch and Youtube channels in the Thorn at some point if it comes to that.
WACKY PROF QUOTES

“If only I could speak cat, I could learn the mysteries of the universe”
- Dr. Ludovici

“Okay new class policy: no kissing, no hugging, no smooshing, no contact of any kind. In fact, no coughing. Put your arms out and if you touch someone else, you’re too close.”
- Dr. Wollowski

“Let’s take a quick break and go spread some germs.”
- Dr. Hartner

“You know what wakes me right up? Meth.”
- Dr. Bryan

“I’m gonna have to be pretty thick, I think.”
- Dr. Rickert

“Children, don’t bother daddy when he’s in his closet.”
- Dr. Brackin

“I would like you all to get jobs, because by then you’ll be paying taxes and I’ll be paying much less.”
- Dr. Grigg

Did your pred say something hilarious or just great out of context? Did you hear something confusing or funny on your jaunt about the fine halls of this institution? We want to hear about it! Send your quotes with who said it to suppmg@rose-hulman.edu or fill out this nifty google form: https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt

Joke of the Week:

Why was the student immune to COVID-19?

He had just purchased McAfee’s new and much improved virus protection.

I was able to quickly speak with Danny Daniels, an Epidemiologist from the Phoenix CDC, about the dangers of this new disease. I first asked for a run down of symptoms and stages of this disease and here they are:

1. Patients will likely begin to twitch uncontrollably.
2. Patients will then enter a state of euphoria, with a loss of pain and awareness of surroundings.
3. Patients will then get the sudden urge to drink vast amounts of iced tea and lemonade.
4. Patients will then begin to lose feeling in their fingertips and will only be able to utter the word “moist”.
5. Patients will lay unconscious and quiet, except for the faint sound of buzzing coming from their ears.

According to Daniels, if the patient does not receive iced tea and lemonade while still conscious, they will die. So far they have barely been able to keep up with the spread of the disease. The CDC hypothesizes that this is a waterborne pathogen and are urging people to not drink water, but iced tea and lemonade instead.

Supplies from the National Stockpile of Iced Tea and Lemonade were stopped before shipment, with one White House ‘Official’ claiming that the National Stockpile is for the National Government and that the States needed to use their own Stockpile.

AriZona Beverages refused to respond to my questions.

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