

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

## Rose-Hulman Scholar

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Rose Thorn Staff

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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 10.0 \(October 12, 2020\)](#)

Additional information can be found on Rose-Hulman websites.

As of Saturday, October 17th, 2020...

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

### New Positive Cases from Past 7 Days

7 Students

0 Employees

0 Contractor/Affiliate

### Surveillance in Total...

Total Tests Performed  
Since May 2020 — 18,482

Total Positive Cases  
Since May 2020 — 58

# Senate Votes to Confirm Barrett

## Senate Schedules Confirmation for Nominee Amy Coney Barrett

Jonathan Kawauchi  
World News Editor

Last Sunday afternoon, the US Senate voted to end debate on the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett. This set the state for the final confirmation vote Monday evening, only a week before the general election.

In a floor vote along party lines, 51 Republicans advanced Barrett to fill the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

“By tomorrow night, we’ll have a new member of the United States Supreme Court”, said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) following the vote.

He added “A lot of what we’ve done over the last four years will be

undone sooner or later by the next election. They won’t be able to do much about this for a long time to come”.

The only Republicans to vote against the motion were Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). However, Murkowski spoke on Saturday that while she planned to vote against moving the nomination forward, she would vote to confirm Barrett, stating that she opposed the procedure but not the candidate. Collins has also stated in September that whoever wins the presidential election should fill the vacancy.

Vice President Pence intends to return from the campaign trail to Capitol Hill on Monday for the Sen-



**Debate over President Trump’s Supreme Court Nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, has ended in the Senate on Sunday, Oct. 25. Barrett’s confirmation has been scheduled for Monday, Oct. 26.**

Image Courtesy of Greg Nash

ate confirmation vote, despite recent positive coronavirus testing from staffers on Pence’s team.

“As vice president I’m president

of the Senate. And I’m gonna be in the chair because I wouldn’t miss that vote for the world,” Pence said.



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# You decide what’s newsworthy.

Tuesdays at 5:15pm, online

# Modern Monopolies

## A Look Into the House of Representatives’ Antitrust Investigation

Matthew Supp  
Flipside Editor

It does not take a rocket scientist to see that technology has become ingrained in everything that we do. This huge part of our day to day can be traced to four main tech giants: Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google. All of which are known worldwide, and all of which are part of an antitrust investigation. Over the past two years or so, the House Antitrust Committee has investigated these giants for violations of antitrust laws. The committee found that in 2019, around half of Google’s searches came from Apple devices, and that Google pays anywhere between \$8 billion to \$12 billion dol-

lars (or around 17% of Apple’s revenue) to remain Apple’s number one choice for search engine. This interdependence is something that the House considers protective of Google’s monopoly over the search market. This type of monopoly contrasts what the House has concluded about Facebook, which has been accused of buying or acquiring competing services to keep them from being serious opponents. The two clearest modern examples of Facebook’s marketplace dominance comes from Instagram and WhatsApp.

“One way of looking at this is that what we’re really buying is time,” Zuckerberg said, according to

the House Antitrust Committee’s report. “Even if some new competitors spring up, buying Instagram now... will give us a year or more to integrate their dynamics before anyone can get close to their scale again.”

In reference to the buying of Instagram and Whatsapp, a spokesperson for Facebook said that “...a strongly competitive landscape existed at the time of both acquisitions and exists today...” in an interview with CNBC. The House Antitrust Committee also investigated the retail giant Amazon, on claims on monopoly. The committee found that they have recently taken over more than half of all online retailing

in the US. This dominance in the market leads to third-party companies being subservient to Amazon’s monopoly. A perfect example of Amazon’s hold over their markets comes in the form of their Alexa-enabled product line. According to the report, Amazon has been running competitors out of their market by purposefully selling their Alexa line at price lower than the production cost. The investigations into these four mega-corporations is ongoing and expected to last longer than the current presidency, as the Justice Department took the majority of a decade in its battle with Microsoft.



## SteelSeries Arctis Pro Review

### High Resolution Audio for Gamers

Aidan Moulder  
Editor-in-Chief

The utter disappearance of compact discs from our daily lives is generally seen as a positive thing. The less people buy any plastic product means less damage to the environment, after all, and switching from one artist to another doesn't require a full CD change. Streaming services like Spotify and Apple Music now take up the time in our day-to-day operation that CDs once occupied, but it comes at a cost, which for some may be the greatest cost of all when it comes to music: sound quality.

Spotify Premium streams audio at 320 kilobits per second (kbps), and CDs hit a whopping 1,411 kbps. If you listen to a song on Spotify and then again on a CD, assuming you have a good set of speakers, you will likely hear how much is lost when songs are compressed to the MP3 format. There are formats above even CDs in quality, but because of extremely high bitrates (9,216 kbps for certified "Hi-Res" audio) and the problems associated with transmitting large amounts of data, they do not currently exist in very many convenient streaming platforms other than TIDAL. Frequency range is also important for overall sound quality. Most headsets I have owned max out at 48,000 Hz, which in a typical use case is just fine. Games will sound normal, and good sound engineers will make use of all 48 kHz. However, what if we have high bitrate audio with a much higher sample rate of 96 kHz (or higher!), what are we to do? In my case, that's where SteelSeries comes into play.

Steelseries is a relatively new fixture in the gaming industry. They got their start making unusual mouse pads, including one made from glass designed to improve roller ball performance. They rose to prominence and rebranded when they created a pad made from steel. Nowadays, they make mouse mats of all shapes and sizes, complemented by a wide array of ultra high-quality keyboards, mice, and headsets. I had been having issues with a wireless Logitech headset for several months when I finally decided to return to wired, and SteelSeries had some tempting offerings. When it comes to purchases that revolve around my PC, I go for the best possible experience, so I didn't want to just get a low-end or mid-range pair of cans that would need replacing in just months. Therefore, I decided to

invest in their top offering, the Arctis Pro.

The Arctis Pro seems like a typical high-end gaming headset on the outside. Its durable steel and aluminum construction makes the headset feel premium, and the overall design is very classy. It does not appear too "gamer-y", and even the RGB lighting is surprisingly calm and subtle. Something particularly interesting to me about this headset is what SteelSeries calls a "ski goggle" headband. Instead of the headset sitting on your head with a foam pad, there is an elastic band that fits like (you guessed it) a pair of ski goggles. Overall, despite there being no adjustability on the Arctis Pro other than a velcro pad on the headband, it is extremely comfortable after you find the right setting, and the elastic spreads out the already light headset's weight enough to be completely unnoticeable, even several hours at a time. I think the only complaint I have relating to comfort is that some of the included wires are a little bit short. Those really only pose a problem when I move around a lot, but there is still an adequate amount of slack to prevent the headset from being yanked off my head accidentally.



Photo Courtesy of Aidan Moulder

Since I play a considerable amount of first-person shooters, I find positional audio to be extremely helpful, so I have always made use of virtual surround sound features to give me the upper hand. The Arctis Pro supports Dolby's DTS HeadphoneX (version 2!) surround sound system, which is just a fancy version of their typical 7.1 system but with enhancements specifically for headsets. The surround sound is nice, but I have not really gotten to the real reason I got this particular headset. The most compelling reason to get the

Arctis Pro is the extra hardware in the box, the GameDAC. A DAC, or Digital to Analog Converter, is used to turn a digital signal from a computer into an analog format that we can recognize as sound. Most headsets have these built-in, but the GameDAC is a standalone piece that sits on the desktop and acts as an interface to allow the user to control the output volume as well as the balance between game and voice chat audio. I absolutely LOVE this thing. It is elegant and intuitive, and it allows you to play Hi-Res audio at the press of a button. If the physical controls are not enough for you, SteelSeries Engine 3 is an excellent interface software that blows other companies' peripheral software out of the water.

I absolutely had no idea what I was missing with high resolution audio until I used this headset. I have always thought that Spotify sounded really good with decent quality speakers playing very loudly, but I now understand what we lose in quality when we compress audio. I listened to a master quality version of Green Day's American Idiot, which is 192 kHz at 9256 kbps, next to the Spotify version, and the differences are often very subtle, but overall I feel there's so much more depth in the music. Bits of the audio on the very high and very low end come back into crystal-clear focus. Sounds that are normally drowned out by guitars, drums, and vocals are audible, like lightly played cymbals, and every part of the song that you are already familiar with is no longer muddy, meaning you can hear more of what made you love a particular song in the first place.

Overall, the Arctis Pro is an expensive offering at \$250 with the GameDAC, but it is comfortable and provides a great listening experience in every use case. However, this is absolutely not for true audiophiles. This system was not meant to and will not replace a high quality pair of studio monitors from groups like Sony or Audiotechnica paired with purpose-built amps and DACs. The entire purpose of the Arctis Pro is to provide a good audio experience for gamers, first and foremost. Gamers, as I mentioned previously, do not necessarily have the need for superb quality audio, so this headset is really designed for people who want to check all the boxes under the "nice-to-haves" category. For that purpose, the SteelSeries Arctis Pro with GameDAC is a stellar offering.

## Scientific History Book Club

### Intriguing Reads

Colin Beach  
Rose-News Editor

Throughout my time in high school and now here at Rose, I have had assignments and advice on certain books to read about science and its applications. Through the ones I have chosen to read, I have taken a particular interest in what I consider scientific history: research and stories about impactful topics in the natural sciences. What captivates me about these books, though, is not necessarily what information being told, but more so how it is told. The art of storytelling some authors have expertly incorporated around the facts and details of science make the history fun to learn and more likely to stick, unlike trying to read a standard textbook.

And so, from these readings, I have my own advice on what I have found so far as the most thought-provoking (and most fun) books to read about the history of science...

**The Great Influenza by John Barry** – Probably the most currently relevant, this book reflects on the deadliest pandemic to face the globe. Stories are told beginning with the development of modern medicine

and medical schools, then follows the paths of scientists that played major roles in handling the pandemic, and of course reflects on how influenza spread and destroyed global communities. Personal experiences and accounts of the major scientists is what makes these century-old events so relatable and understandable in the modern day.

**A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson** – Basically what the title says, this book is long but excellently written. Bryson combines his passion for travelling and critical thinking to create a log of personal research and interviews with scientists on practically every topic of science you can imagine: dinosaurs, outer space, plants, evolution, and more. The discussions are simple and easy to understand, and readers can jump around to whatever is of interest.

**The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks** – Though more on the detailed side of explanation, these short stories give insight into the workings of the human brain for those outside of the medical field. Dr. Sacks, a neurologist, reviews interesting cases of patients he worked with and the challenges they face because of their condition (the title of

the book refers to one such patient). Dr. Sacks firsthand experiences not only show the intricacies of mental health and disease, but also give a greater sense of humanity and how every patient is an individual needing of personalized care.

**The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean** – While focused on a specific topic, this book may come to interest of anyone who has taken a chemistry class. Kean effectively compiles his research and investigations into a tale of how every element on the periodic table came to be known. From accidental discoveries, to invention of radioactive unknowns, to just how some got their funny names, each element has a story behind it and why each holds an important place on the table and in nature altogether.

**The Universe Inside You by Brian Clegg** – This easy-to-read book is a quick way to learn about anatomy and physiology. Clegg takes "the extreme science of the human body" – hair, eyes, digestion, and so on – and breaks it down into the basics, telling stories of how our body relates to different parts of nature and the important developments we have made in becoming, well, us.



## Degradation of Political Parties

Aidan Moulder  
Editor-in-Chief

I had a discussion with my Resident Assistant this weekend about politics. My RA is probably one of the top ten nicest people I've ever met, but I'm surprised I even mustered the courage to talk politics with anyone, since as of late those conversations always devolve into the nonsense that Americans affectionately call politics in this day and age. To avoid such conflicts, I tell people I am apolitical and that I do not concern myself with the American political machine, but I in fact consider myself a Democrat in regards to most matters. However, where my political opinion differs from a large portion of Americans is that I do not exclusively uphold the views of my party, and in some matters I agree with Republican ideals more than Democrat ones. I am not going to go into the specifics of my beliefs, and I am instead going to focus on the bigger picture of the state of U.S. Politics.

Members of both primary political parties are guilty of exclusively pursuing their party's goals and not accepting good compromises. On a policy-maker level, this leads to gridlock in the Houses of Congress and the White House, but on a

voter level it leads to the toxic "sportification" of politics that another member of the Thorn staff discussed several weeks

ago. Just as you would expect at a football game, fans of one team are toxic (and on occasion, violent) towards fans of the competitor, especially when there is a particular rivalry between the teams. In American politics, a great deal of the voting population blindly supports their party regardless of how it affects them. I personally do not know if this support is based on precedent, principle, or misinformation, but I suspect it is a result of the last one. There are



Photo by Joshua Sukoff

many cases in which these die-hard supporters appear willing to accept lies and disadvantages provided by new laws or the repeal of old ones as long as their party's stamp approves it. In other cases that have occurred more recently, voters are not only not holding their candidates and representatives accountable for campaign promises, they are acting like those promises have been kept even if no sizable action has been taken towards them.

One particular thing I like to use as an example is President Trump's proposed border wall. In his campaign, the president

promised to build a wall along the border between the United States and Mexico, and he emphasized he was going to make Mexico pay for it. Regardless of whether you support Trump and the border wall idea, this example works perfectly for demonstrating my point. The president has not accomplished any part of his border wall promise, and Mexico has not given him a dollar towards that effort. However, Trump's supporters have bought into the propaganda and have started waving around signs talking about promises being kept, even though things like the border wall have yet to materialize.

At the end of the day, everybody seems not to care about what actually happens in Washington, and instead worries whether or not the people doing it supposedly represent them. The poor state of political parties in our country needs to be addressed in some way, but until then the only thing we can do is vote and promote better political education, while also taking it upon ourselves to make it clear that politics is not supposed to be a competition where somebody has to win and somebody has to lose. We can all win if we take the right measures now and wake up from the nightmare that has slowly been creeping into our lives.

## Dog Connection

Glody Mutebwa  
Opinions Editor

Prison is defined as a building in which people are legally held as a punishment for a crime they have committed or while awaiting trial (Oxford Dictionary). Prisons are known as rough places to live in. However, for some inmates, the ones who have good conduct and great moral, a rehabilitation program involving puppy training help them reconnect with the outside world. Through their responsibility and the impact, they can have on others' lives, prisoners train the dog with the intent to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The first dog training program for prison rehabilitation started in 1981. It was an initiative of Sister Pauline Quinn who thought that the program could bring hope and love into the lives of inmates, just as the fact of raising dogs did for her. In recent years, several researches have been done about the benefit of dog therapy and the link between recidivism rate and dog training. On the positive impact of the prison program, the Massachusetts Department of Correction wrote that "anecdotal reports from staff, inmates, and recipients of the service dogs are overwhelmingly positive." In a medium-security prison in Oklahoma, a decreasing number of aggression and depression case among the inmates has been registered according to Rhiana Kohl.

In the Journal of Family Social Work, a researcher said that "Participants believe that the dogs help them to deal with anger, teach them patience, give them unconditional love, and simply make doing time a little easier." The recidivism rate among the

inmates who participate in any kind of dog training program is significantly less than the others. The Pontiac Tribune, reports that the recidivism rate among inmates who trained dogs was around 12% while the national rate is 50%. Meanwhile, the result is not completely accurate. For Claire Bernish, because most of the time, the inmates who participate in a dog training program



Photo by Sarah Brown

are the ones who have the best morals. Hence, the conclusion is highly predictable.

The Massachusetts Department of Correction also shows that a dog training program in prison is much more effective than a typical dog training program, 30% more than typical training in Michigan and California, according to a prison reported by Capital Public Radio. One reason for the success is the time spent by the inmates with dogs. Financially, the benefit is also substantial.

There are several dog training programs and some of them are designed for social benefit. There are service dogs specially trained to help anxious peo-

ple, autists, blind people, bipolar or depressed people. But the service rendered by service dogs to veterans who suffers from PTSD is the subject of several pieces of research.

War is known as a very difficult situation. Soldiers usually see indescribable things which can deeply affect their mind for the whole life. PTSD, an

abbreviation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a very common disease among veterans and a major health issue. Between 2004 and 2008, the number of cases of PTSD increased by 60% (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2009). It is a severe psychological issue because it affects every aspect of life depending on the severity of the traumatism.

Modern medical science offers different treatment through medication and rehabilitation interventions. EMDR is one of these rehabilitation treatments, it is an eight-phase information processing treatment, which may enhance adaptive techniques for behaviors and emotional disturbances. And

between all of these rehabilitation interventions, service dogs are a great choice because of the love and the caring they bring to the veterans according to Katrena Heagwood.

Studies have shown that service dogs help people with physical, emotional, social, and economic functioning. A. H. Fine, a psychotherapist realized that dogs were ice breakers when he was greeting clients at the door.

A study published in the February issue of the Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology shows the positive impact of service dogs in lowering PTSD symptoms. O'Haire says that "this innovative study applied rigorous research methodology to an area that has historically been characterized by a reliance on anecdotal accounts and intuition rather than evidence-based science." The result of the study is positive, in the way that service dogs help to lower overall symptoms of post-traumatic stress, to lower levels of depression, higher levels of life satisfaction, higher overall psychological well-being, lower levels of social isolation, and greater ability to participate in social activities, higher levels of resilience, higher levels of companionship and we can even see less absenteeism from work due to health among those who were employed. (Purdue University News Service)

Pets, in general, and dogs, in particular, have always helped humans with their problems. The wonderful connection between the effort of the inmate who redeems himself toward society and the healing power of the war hero. The dogs in these special programs are a huge gift for every person who has them. They humanize the person and help them regain their sense of self. They play an integral role in the rehabilitation of these men and women.



## How About Them Cowboys?

Glody Mutebwa

Opinions Editor

Sunday is typically reserved for professional football for fans all over America and NFL teams across the nation strive to deliver for their fanbase and entertain. However, not all teams command the same level of respect and admiration. Some teams have more power and appeal than others. The Dallas Cowboys are among those appealing teams. With arguably the biggest and most dedicated fanbase in the country, you are almost certain to hear about them any given Sunday, win or lose. Considered the world's most valuable team, the Dallas Cowboys have continuously pretended to the title or considered a pretender without delivering.

At the beginning of the season, the Cowboys roster looked fine especially for their division. It is hard to underestimate the impact of their very weak division in their odds to attain the postseason. Some delusional fans went so far as to predict a Superbowl title. It was bold but we could not judge fans for it. Like the previous



Picture Source: CBS Sports

years, this team looked well equipped on the offensive side of the ball. Few Pro-Bowlers in the offensive line, an electrifying running back and a shiny new super-fast wide receiver. An offensive nightmare for the opponent surely, unfortunately it seems that the Cowboys forgot the other side of the ball. On draft nights, the Cowboys decided to use their top pick on an offensive player despite their long standing defensive issues.

Today, six weeks into the season. It is

safe to say that the team is a disaster. After losing the number one quarterback Dak Prescott to a season ending injury, Dallas flaws all surfaced. The defense is unable to stop anything and the O-line is ravaged by injuries. Zeke Elliott is trapped, and the game is usually over before halftime. Last week, the Cowboys put an embarrassing outing on film. Without Prescott coming out of the locker room to save them, the team looked powerless. For a team nicknamed America's Team, it sure was not

pretty to watch. This Sunday, the Cowboys lost to arguably the worst team in America. The loss against Washington is a symbol of a team deeply troubled and lost.

The problems of the Dallas Cowboys start with the hierarchy of the team. For years now, the owner and general manager Jerry Jones has called all the shots and it has hindered the team. His complete control of football operations combined with his executive power make him the central figure of the franchise. He has succeeded in his marketing of the team and in that he is a trailblazer. On the football side of the team, he has made many questionable decisions and he is integral part of the collapse of his team. The coaching staff seems detached from the locker room according to reports made public last week. Players blame their coaches for being unprepared. It is also not sure if the team will have their quarterback for next season. From all these facts, the Cowboys seem to be due for a rebuild. It's never too late to start over and finally become the worthy team that America deserves.

## How Long Will No Fans Last?

Caleigh Kintner

Sports Editor

Aggressive coronavirus testing made the restart of professional sports possible, but the financial pain of empty arenas lingers and plans for next year are up in the air.

Professional sports figured out how to sputter back to life over the past three months.

The N.B.A. finished its season with LeBron James on top again. The N.H.L. has a new Stanley Cup champion. The W.N.B.A. also delivered a title team, which included two of the league's biggest stars. The N.F.L. is charging ahead despite a series of positive coronavirus tests among some of its 32 teams. And Major League Baseball this week, if all goes as planned, will become the latest elite sports league to pull off the small mirage of completing a season that once appeared beyond hope.

Against all odds, and with their financial futures threatened as never before, the leagues deployed aggressive, rapid-response testing that remains out of reach for the general public. Keeping spectators out or severely limiting attendance, they apparently avoided the calamity of a virus death traced to an event. And they pushed through, their schedules overlapping as never before, while the country was reeling from the pandemic and politics, and was not necessarily watching.

When things looked dire, as when N.B.A. players refused to take the court in protest of the police killings convulsing the country, it took former President Barack Obama to step in and keep the action going, telephoning a group of players led by Chris Paul and James and persuading them not to abandon the season.

In a late-night call, after an acrimonious players' meeting on Aug. 26 appeared to leave the season hanging in the balance, the former president, a fan of the game who is friendly with basketball luminaries, stressed to the players that they would be giving up a powerful platform if they stopped playing. Seen as something of a wise elder of the sport, he urged them to demand specific actions from the league before agreeing to return (They resumed play in exchange for commitments from the league to work toward increased voting opportunities and to press for social change.)

Now comes the hard part. The leagues succeeded because they are enormously wealthy. They had enough money not just to administer comprehensive testing but also to pivot quickly and do things that would have seemed unimaginable in

the past, like relocating the Toronto Blue Jays to Buffalo and closing off hundreds of basketball and hockey players in bubblelike zones in two Canadian cities and at Disney World in Florida for two months.

Now the leagues have to figure out how to do it again as infection numbers have reached a record daily high in the United States, making it unclear how to protect players and other personnel without spending exorbitantly again.

Baseball recently released its 2021 schedule with an April 1 opening day, but Commissioner Rob Manfred last week essentially said the schedule was little more than a series of dates on a calendar. "The reality is all planning for 2021 for us, and for every other business in America, has to have an asterisk next to it in terms of what the course of the virus is going to be," Manfred said on ESPN Radio.

Resorting to bubbles seems unrealistic for an entire season. And going without ticket sales and all the money from overpriced hot dogs, beer, T-shirts and parking has produced plenty of deep red balance sheets.

The N.H.L., which should now be in the third week of the 2020-21 season, is targeting a Jan. 1 start date, but has yet to post a schedule, as the U.S.-Canadian border remains closed. On Thursday, the league announced it was postponing its All-Star Game and the Winter Classic, an outdoor game scheduled for New Year's Day.

The Lakers won the N.B.A. championship on Oct. 11, ending a season less than two weeks before the next one would normally start. League officials have yet to say when play will resume.

"We will react to the state-of-the-art science," Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said. "I can't say when, but I can say that whatever we do we will do with safety being our top priority."

Casey Wasserman, the owner of a sports marketing and talent firm who has close relationships with the leaders of several leagues, said he was confident the N.H.L. and the N.B.A. would aim to start their seasons by early winter, perhaps with slightly shorter schedules of roughly 70 games, and to complete their playoffs in June, as usual, so they can return to normal schedules for the 2021-22 season.

Major League Soccer is considering starting sometime in April rather than in early March. The W.N.B.A. played 22 regular-season games this year instead of 34, as in 2019, but it ended at roughly the same time, putting less pressure on scheduling for

next year.

Where allowed, teams will admit spectators in limited numbers, as some N.F.L. teams have done. The Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay Rays are playing the World Series at a neutral stadium in Arlington, Texas, that is about 25 percent full.

Still, as they so often do, sports are serving as a reflection of society. No one can say when most people will stop fearing large crowds, and the steps toward normalcy have had setbacks riddled with positive coronavirus tests.

Even with payment from media contracts, teams and leagues still stand to lose billions without the so-called bums in seats. Spectator spending brings in roughly 25 percent of the N.F.L.'s \$15 billion in revenue, about one-third of baseball's revenue and roughly 40 percent of the N.B.A.'s. For other sports, such as hockey, soccer and tennis, the share is substantially higher.

Also, for any number of reasons — including too much competition, an oxygen-sucking presidential election and a distaste for watching games in empty stadiums — millions of fans have largely rejected the version of pro sports that the pandemic has wrought.

Television ratings plummeted for nearly every league — 61 percent for the Stanley Cup playoffs compared with 2019, 49 percent for the N.B.A. finals, and more than 40 percent for the United States Open tennis and golf tournaments and for baseball's playoffs.

Ratings for the N.F.L., which did not have to alter its traditional schedule, have fallen the least, by 13 percent.

Throughout all the ups and downs, constant testing has been vital. Every league contracted with a private lab to perform multiple tests each week and produce rapid results, usually within 24 hours. N.F.L. players are tested and screened for symptoms every day.

Already the league has conducted more than 450,000 tests, and the handful of positive cases have come not from the gridiron but from off-the-field activities like dining, according to the league and the players union. In Major League Soccer, tests occur every other day and the day before each match.

"The only way any of this happens is with vigorous testing and the protocols working in tandem," said George Atallah, a spokesman for the N.F.L. Players Association. "Testing alone is not enough. It puts everyone in the right frame of mind,

but also gives a false sense of security. It's not a ticket to ignore the protocols and do whatever you want."

Agreements on testing, safety protocols and pay were crucial to persuading players to return for the 2020 seasons, but only the N.F.L. has figured out how to manage its finances beyond this year.

In July, the N.F.L. and the players association agreed to share the financial pain. The limit on each team's player salaries, known as the "salary cap," is currently \$198.2 million. It will probably drop next year, but it cannot go lower than \$175 million, with further adjustments possible in future seasons depending on how quickly life and pro football return to normal.

Other leagues still must find a way to get their players to share the burden of lost revenue without alienating stars like LeBron James, who is supposed to make nearly \$40 million next season. Baseball, which nearly called off its season in July as owners and players bickered for weeks over pay, may face another bitter labor fight during the winter.

In many ways, the fallout for the industry is just beginning.

In a note to investors, Chad Lewis, a senior director at Fitch, the ratings agency, wrote that "leagues, teams and facilities took action by expanding borrowing facilities, drawing down on lines of credit, managing expenses and delaying capital projects."

Leagues are considering loosening regulations to allow private equity funds and other, publicly traded financial instruments to invest in teams. Last fall, the Wilpon family, the longtime owners of the New York Mets, pulled out of a \$2.6 billion deal to sell their team to the hedge fund magnate Steve Cohen, only to agree last month to sell to him for just over \$2.4 billion after a calamitous year on and off the field for the club.

Steve Horowitz, a principal at Inner Circle Sports, which specialize in sports finance, noted that the potential prices of franchises appear not to have dropped substantially even though "in the pandemic, values of teams are down across the board because you have lost a tremendous amount of revenue." Wasserman remains optimistic.

"Everyone's interests are really aligned here," he said. "Right now everyone is just trying to grind through the year. In total, it's 18 months of pain, and sports will be back."



## WACKY QUOTES

“This is the kind of sophistication we get out of this!”  
\*said while waiving around a children’s toy\*  
-Dr. Tarrant

“The test was so bad that I went to go cry in the bathroom, but when I got there there was another girl already crying in that bathroom”  
- Random passing Student

“Have a Mc Wonderful Day!”  
-McDonald’s cashier

“Apparently, you all have other classes that take up time too”  
- Dr. Cracraft

“I told you you had two minutes three minutes ago, so that means you have one minute left.”  
- Dr. Grigg

Did your prof 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](mailto:suppmg@rose-hulman.edu) or fill out this nifty google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt1>

## Did You Know...

Now you can get a degree too! EVEn you can eaRn somethinG yOu are proud of. iNtroduciNg the new job ApplyinG aId: VERy YOUThfUl aPpli-cant, or vya for short. iN this nEw proVEN Remedy for beinG jObless, maNagers aNd employers Are LENt a verY imprOved reprodUction of your Decent resume. dOn’t Waste this opportuNity to land yourself a top job.

## BREAKING NEWS!!

### Another old white guy says some dumb sh\*t!!

OG Wutta Suhpryz

I never tire of reporting on the shocking field that is American politics. There is nothing in this world more infatuating than the old blubber piles that work in Washington DC. And just when you thought it couldn’t get any more exciting, there’s another surprise to rock your world.

The other day, the turtle of a man that is Mitchell McConnell, was seen with visible bruising and bandages on both hands after some Republican function that I don’t care too much about. What I do care about is what he said regarding his hands. After being asked, he looked at them and said in a deep, almost satanic voice: “Soon you will see, there is no need for concern, soon you will all see.”

## TOP TEN

### Things that The Simpsons predicted

1. Three-eyed fish showing up in nuclear waste lakes
2. People being afraid of Michelangelo’s David statue and putting pants on a replica
3. Fans receiving replies 50 years after they wrote a letter to the Beatles
4. Magicians Siegfried and Roy getting attacked by their own white tiger
5. The use of horse meat in school lunches
6. Autocorrect messing with people’s intended messages
7. Smartwatches that can be used as phones
8. The building ‘The Shard’ in London England
9. Robotic librarians being used instead of old grandmas
10. Using the Higgs Boson equation correctly before the equation was proven true
11. Ebola Virus being a thing
12. Disney buying 20th Century Fox
13. The Tomacco plant, a combination of tomato and tobacco
14. Faulty voting machines switching votes
15. The United States beating Sweden in Curling at the Winter Olympic games
16. Jagdish Bhagwati winning the Nobel Prize in economics
17. Lady Gaga’s aerial halftime performance at the Super Bowl
18. Daenerys Targaryen’s dragon burning the absolute crap out of King’s Island in Game of Thrones

## Meme of the Week

Me: Messes up drawing

Me: Scribbles all over it to start over



If you have any strong opinions on this meme or if you would like to send me a meme to put on here, read the thing at the bottom to figure out my email, then email me that meme and I will probably put it on here. Thanks in advance. \*If you are reading this and want to earn a prize, find the hidden meme within this page and email me\*

The journalist who asked the turtle-man about his hands was reportedly taken to the hospital, screaming something about the world being in the back of a weird giant tortoise. One can only hope that this maniacal yelling means nothing, and that the human turtle is just going off his meds. I, for one, don’t know if this is anything but insanity, but I do know that Mitch McConnell is not someone I want to ever talk to. Like, ever.