Congress Approves Stimulus

A second round of stimulus checks was recently passed in the $900 billion economic relief package. Many in these categories could receive, which has gone up

The oversight of Social Security recipients, as well as Supplemental Security Income recipients, Railroad Retirement Board beneficiaries and Veterans' Administration beneficiaries. Many in these categories don't file tax returns, which the IRS relies on for distributing the stimulus payments. In order to correct this, the new bill ensures that those recipients will receive the $600 checks automatically.

Another change from the last round of stimulus checks is the amount that dependent children can receive, which has gone up from $500 to $660 from the CARES Act. Adult dependents, such as seniors or many college students, will still be excluded from this round of checks.

Gregory Daco, chief US economist at Oxford Economics, commented that while the deal may be later than expected and lower than many had hoped, it’s better than nothing and hopefully can prepare the economy to transition as the initial vaccine rollout phase approaches.

You decide what’s newsworthy. Tuesdays at 5:15pm, online

COVID-19 and Campus: Quick Updates

As of Tuesday, December 22nd, 2020...

New Positive Cases from Past 7 Days
1 Students
1 Employees
1 Contractor/Affiliate

Total Tests Performed
Since May 2020 — 27,620
Total Positive Cases
Since May 2020 — 131

Reminder 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 152 (December 18, 2020)

Additional information can be found on Rose-Hulman websites.

False Fraud and Foolishness:

Republicans Continue to Doubt Biden Victory

Mitch McConnell has congratulated Joe Biden on winning the US Presidential Election, making him the highest-ranking Republican to acknowledge the election results.

Jonathan Kawauchi
World News Editor

With the inauguration of President Joe Biden less than one month away, millions of Americans -- and a few members of Congress too -- seem still unable to accept the reality of a one-term Trump presidency. After the verification of the country’s votes by the Electoral College, Republicans of Congress have been more openly accepting of the Biden win, but several continue to cast doubt on the election results. Even after the rejection of over twenty lawsuits from ballot-atground states and highest authority of the Supreme Court, Trump loyalists are devoted to fighting on.

A major setback for those in disbelieve was Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s acceptance of the election. Though his new support for Biden carries little meaning to Trump. It is very unlikely to succeed, considering the massive text as multi-state supported lawsuit attempt bordering on treason and insanity did not. Reports about the Trump administration also describes talks of martial law (military take over of states) to force new elections, special counsel investigations led by conspiracy theorist lawyers, and of course debates of whether or not Trump will attend Biden’s inauguration or even leave the White House. All comes together in the closing of a historic (most would also say infamous) chapter of American history. Millions of Trump supporters are continuing their protests, caught up in so many lies that they believe they won and that fraud and theft are taking the election away. And even with the turn of McConnell, other prominent Republicans are saying the same. It is hard to tell when their viewpoints will change to see reality, or when stalls on work because of it will end, so until then most are just waiting it out until Biden is sworn in January.
Colin Beach
Rose News Editor

Last week, to help students relax and stay connected, Student Activities Board (SAB) hosted a virtual cooking class with professional chef Jyll Everman. The restaurant owner, chef, and former Food Network Star competitor also has a great talent for teaching others. Standing in the kitchen at home, I was able to follow along with other students spread across the country. Jyll had amazing tips and stories throughout the class, and in the end what we had cooked was delicious (not to mention easy to make). 5 stars.

As I go through school and prepare for life after college, I am slowly making sure to learn about more than careers and work. Cooking continues to be a major favorite activity of mine, and not just because I get to eat good food. The process of putting everything together and creating such amazing dishes is both relaxing and rewarding. And anything I can do to improve my cooking, whether asking my mom about family tricks and recipes or taking a cooking class—virtual or not—is a bonus to me. I feel good cooking is something everyone should know. Not just enough to get by, but also to share amazing food and memories with family and friends. With the holidays coming up, people may not be able to celebrate together in big groups, but families will have their traditional foods, and that will at least make it a bit better.

Food brings people together, no matter the kind or where it is. Hopefully this wonderful meal from the virtual cooking class I took can do the same:

(Much thanks to SAB and Jyll for the recipe!)

Creamy Tomato Tortellini

1 20 oz package refrigerated cheese tortellini
3 Tbsp butter
3 cloves garlic, minced
3 Tbsp flour
1 cup milk
3/4 cup heavy cream
1 can (14 oz) diced canned tomatoes, undrained
3 cups fresh spinach
3 links cooked Italian Sausage, sliced thinly
1/2 cup parmesan cheese
dried Italian seasoning

1. Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil.

2. In a large skillet or pot, melt the butter over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.

3. Sprinkle in the flour and stir until well combined. Cook 1 additional minute.

4. Slowly add the milk and heavy cream, again stirring constantly. Once the mixture has thickened (should be hot and slightly bubbling), stir in the can of tomatoes and stir until well combined.

5. Stir in spinach and cooked Italian sausage.

6. Season with Italian seasoning, pepper flakes, salt, and pepper to taste. Stir in the parmesan cheese until fully incorporated.

7. Drop the tortellini into the boiling water and cook until it floats (about 3 minutes).

8. Drain pasta and add to the sauce, stirring carefully. If sauce becomes too thick, add pasta water until right consistency again.

9. Let simmer for at least 5 minutes while stirring, and serve.
The Struggle of Studying While Working

Aidan Moulder
Editor-in-Chief

Pursuing a degree at Rose-Hulman is already a struggle. Now, let’s add in the less-than-controllable variables of online, from home learning: family, chaotic pets, lack of focus, and most importantly: retail jobs. Most people at Rose probably went home and stayed entirely focused on schoolwork, but I had an exceptionally bright idea: why not get on the schedule at my retail job while I’m home so I can earn some money for Christmas shopping? Great idea, right?

Uh, maybe not. The money is great and I can’t complain about that part, but you can probably imagine my frustration when a professor schedules a quiz for, say 7-9 pm Eastern, and it just so happens that my shift on the day of the quiz completely overlaps the quiz window. It’s easy enough to work things out and get things rescheduled, so it ends up not being that big of a deal. What ends up being a big deal is the fact that I use so much energy at work that when I sit down to watch lecture videos or start a homework assignment, I quickly lose focus and want nothing other than pure, blissful sleep, and before I know it, it’s time for work again.

To make matters perhaps worse, I told the people responsible for writing the schedule that I would be willing to work a very early morning shift or two, because I figured that might work better for my schedule on certain days. I guess something was lost in translation, because the entire next couple weeks after that conversation I was scheduled to come in at 4 o’clock in the morning and work until 9am or 11am pretty much every other day through Christmas Eve. That’s a timeframe in which I’m usually asleep, so having to work so early really managed to throw off my typical rhythm and get me into the habit of taking mid-day naps—something which really cuts into time I could use for watching lectures or doing homework, and which resulted in being nearly an hour late to a two hour lab meeting one time.

Basically, what I’m trying to say is that the "exceptionally bright idea" was actually a very bad idea and subjected me to additional unneeded stress in a time of abnormally high stress. I guess the good news is that after this Tuesday, I don’t have to worry about school and can instead focus on work, Christmas, and the highly anticipated 2021.

College Football Seems Fixed

Matthew Supp
Flipside Editor

Is there even a point in watching the college football playoffs anymore? This is a question that plays on repeat when the end of the football season nears. I know that I am not alone. This year’s playoffs, more so than any previous iteration of the CFB playoffs, needed to represent the teams that actually deserved to be there.

With some teams playing six games and others playing eleven games due to various reasons, this year required the Associated Press (the people who determine which teams make the playoffs) to be extra diligent with the decisions. Will they allow an undefeated Cincinnati team in, or will they allow a Notre Dame team that normally doesn’t have a conference and got walloped by Clemson in? Will they rank the teams by effort and talent, or will they rate them by how much money each program makes on TV? I knew I could count on the NFL for corruption, but AMI and Dishonesty, but to know that it’s something I can expect in the NCAA makes me so happy.

It seems as if the same teams get in every year, Clemson, Alabama, and Ohio State. Inception, the college football playoff system has had two of those three teams in them. Every, single, year. The whole point of the playoff system was to broaden the competition for the top spots and come the end of the season. Yet because of the limit of four teams to the playoffs, you see the same six or seven teams get a spot. As someone who lives in Cincinnati, it is a fan of the Bearcats. I knew that no matter what they did, they were going to be disrespected with the AP polls. Even with a 9-0 record, even with large victory margins, even with a conference championship, the AP polls were always going to turn a cheek.

It is the sad truth. I was very happy to see that Clemson beat Notre Dame, because it meant that Notre Dame wouldn’t get in. But I’m not sure I was made a fool by the gods of football and rekindled that money means everything to everyone. I will root for OSU because that’s another Ohio team, yet cognitive dissonance may prevail when I think about how OSU only played six games this year. It has been a charlie snot of a football season, and one can only hope Clemson doesn’t win it all.
In a season of blowouts, Alabama finally got tested. Against a team that just didn’t want to let go, the Crimson Tide required every last second. Points were scored, and the Gators fought to the very end. For Alabama's high-powered offense to score nearly 50 points on a 19-year-old quarterback, it was no easy task. Harris was even more dynamic in the passing game. He hauled in another 75-yard touchdown pass. Alabama's high-powered offense continued to roll. Harris ripped off a 20-yard run deep into Florida territory, and Smith finished it by hulling in a 15-yard scoring pass from Jones after a play fake to Harris. Both the Tide's star quarterback and Jones were on top of their games. Jones threw for 408 yards and three TDs. "We were rolling pretty good," said quarterback Mike Shula, who threw for 408 yards and three TDs. "We just ran out of time!"

This has been a year of blowouts, but the result was the same. Another win. Now, with one of his best teams ever, the 69-year-old coach heads to the playoffs in search of his seventh national title.

"We have been a year with a lot of disruptions," said Saban, who had his own problems this season. "There were certainly delivered tonight when we needed them to." The Crimson Tide (11-0, 1 No. 1 CFP) got its toughest challenge in a season of blowouts, but the result was the same. Another win. Now, with one of his best teams ever, the 69-year-old coach heads to the playoffs in search of his seventh national title.

Alabama recovered an onside kick and ran out all but the final 16 seconds. The final drive was all but a formality. Harris set an SEC championship game record with his five touchdowns, breaking the mark of four scored by Auburn's Tre Mason in 2013.

- Boy, did they ever.

The sprint move.

After Harris' lunged over from the 1 for final TD to extend Alabama's lead to 45-31, the Gators responded with a nine-play, 75-yard scoring drive that culminated with Dameon Pierce on 1 yard touchdown plunge. Alabama's high-powered offense continued to roll. Harris ripped off a 20-yard run deep into Florida territory, and Smith finished it by hulling in a 15-yard scoring pass from Jones after a play fake to Harris. Both the Tide's star quarterback and Jones were on top of their games. Jones threw for 408 yards and three TDs. "We were rolling pretty good," said quarterback Mike Shula, who threw for 408 yards and three TDs. "We just ran out of time!"

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WACKY QUOTES
From the North Pole

“Sometimes I give the elves lemon ice cream for dessert, except its snow the reindeer peed on instead of lemon ice cream.”
- Santa Claus

“One time at elf practice, my friend Jingle stuck his candy cane down the wrong hole.”
- Tinsel the Elf

“Every time it snows here Frosty gets a bit more powerful.”
- Ziggy the Elf

“We elves try to stick to the four main food groups: Candy, Candy Canes, Candy Corn, and Syrup.”
- Buddy the Elf

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 or fill out this nifty google form: https://goo.gl/forms/bB339sx6GHohggYt

Santa Claus Says No Delays, New Things for the Naughty Children

Despite the setbacks in recent years up at the North Pole, Santa Claus tells me to expect all gifts to be on time as usual this Christmas morning. He said that in the past few years he has earned some bad rep, and its now time to gain the public’s trust once again: “Especially in this crazy year, people need a stable beacon of hope to look to.” Claus believes that his ability to give gifts will bring the world together.

I asked him about the elephant in the room, Covid-19. I wanted to know if he was worried that the mass transport of so many gifts handled by so many different elves could bring the virus from place to place as he flies around the globe. “Coronavirus this, Coronavirus that. Ain’t nobody got time for that!! The people need Christmas cheer and so Christmas cheer they shall receive.” Subtlety in conversation never was his forte. I wanted to see a different perspective, so I called a well known elf, Legolas, to shed some light on the Christmas pandemic.

Buddy explained that while many of the elves had concerns, it seems as if the Coronavirus does not affect the elves in nearly the same fashion as it does humans. Buddy told me that when infected, the elves in the North Pole would develop an intense hunger for all things bitter and sour. They would act as if allergic to snow and would become violent when exposed to Christmas music. It sounded like the perfect anti Christmas Elf pandemic.

The top Elven nurses are working hard on a solution for this problem, Buddy said. But on the flipside, the pandemic symptoms make it perfect for the infected elves to make things for naughty children. No longer will there be coal in the stockings of naughty kids. One idea that has surfaced is filling the stocking with papers with pictures of the gifts the kids wanted on them. Another idea was to fill the stocking as normal, yet all gift boxes would explode with black confetti and have a list of all things the child did that was naughty.

Buddy closed by saying that while that Coronavirus poses no threat to speed of business, it poses an awkward moral question for Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

TOP TEN
Christmas Films

1. Die Hard
2. Die Hard 2
3. Die Hard 3
4. Die Hard 4
5. A Good Day to Die Hard
6. Independence Day
7. Batman Returns
8. LEGO Star Wars Holiday Special
9. Regular Star Wars Holiday Special
10. The Nightmare Before Christmas
11. Iron Man 3
12. Elf
13. Jim Carrey’s Grinch which is better than the original which is better than the newer animated one
14. The Shining
15. Batman and Robin
16. Edward Scissorhands
17. Home Alone
18. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
20. A Christmas Story
21. Just any Christmas story actually, not necessarily a movie
22. The Biblical Christmas story
23. It's a Wonderful Life
25. The Polar Express
26. Frosty the Snowman

Meme of the Week

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 on this page and email me*."