Over the past six decades, the Carnegie Mellon-based Simon Initiative has been researching student learning outcomes, working to improve learning tools and optimize education systems and processes. As of over $100 million of research, the Simon Initiative has picked up coverage on their “learning-engineering” approach.

Web multiple grants from the National Science Foundation and several major foundations, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford, and MIT have supported the work of the Simon Initiative. The director of the initiative, Jacob Paul, has said “this isn’t in its belief that it can revolutionize learning.

While the Simon Initiative has worked to develop learning tools that can be used to assist educators and students, the initiative has also focused on improving the quality of life for students and faculty.

The Simon Initiative has been involved in various initiatives to improve student learning outcomes, including the development of a learning analytics platform, the creation of a student success dashboard, and the development of a student support system.

In addition to these initiatives, the Simon Initiative has also been involved in various research projects, including a study of the impact of online learning on student outcomes, and a study of the effectiveness of different teaching methods.

The Simon Initiative has also been involved in various partnerships, including a partnership with the National Science Foundation, and a partnership with the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In summary, the Simon Initiative has been involved in various initiatives and projects that aim to improve student learning outcomes, including the development of learning tools, the creation of a student success dashboard, and the development of a student support system.

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Related Links:
- Carnegie Mellon University: [Simon Initiative](http://www.simoninitiative.org)
- National Science Foundation: [Learning Analytics](https://www.nsf.gov)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology: [Learning Tools Initiative](https://www.nist.gov)

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References:
- Carnegie Mellon University. Simon Initiative: [Overview](http://www.simoninitiative.org/overview)
- National Science Foundation. [Learning Analytics](https://www.nsf.gov/)
- National Institute of Standards and Technology. [Learning Tools Initiative](https://www.nist.gov/)
**Corrections & Clarifications**

If you would like to submit a correction or clarification, please email The Tartan at news@thetartan.org or editor@thetartan.org with your inquiry, as well as the date of the issue and the name of the article. We will print the correction or clarification in the next print issue and publish it online.

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**SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR**

**CMU MFAs present “Above, Below, After, Until” in Miller Gallery**

On the second floor of the Purnell Center for the Arts Miller Gallery, Carnegie Mellon Masters of Fine Arts presented "Above, Below, After, Until," a showcase of their collective work. The exhibition closed Sunday, April 7.

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**STUDENT GOVERNMENT COLUMN**

**SHRAV GUPTA**

Special to The Tartan

This is an urgent call to all undergraduates at Carnegie Mellon University! The Student Senate needs your help! We have been working diligently this past year to help the student body enjoy their time here on campus. And now, we need your input.

We will be distributing a survey to see how students feel about their experiences on campus with regards to academics, campus experiences, housing, and much more. Here is just a small overview of what some of the committees hope to learn from your input:

The Campus Life Committee's major initiative is investigating the upperclassman experience. We all remember Orientation Week and how amazing that was, but what about juniors and seniors? Are they enjoying their time here at Carnegie Mellon? Or is more we could be doing to help them?

The Academic Affairs Committee wants your feedback on how you feel about the resources offered to you when navigating through your degree(s) here at Carnegie Mellon. Are you meeting with your advisors, and are those meetings productive? Do you use Stellar, Handshake, or the CPDC to help with your career and degree planning?

There is so much here on campus that is changing, and we need your input. This survey is a real opportunity to make an impact on the issue that the Senate tackles next. We are looking for your input, as our constituents, to alert us to issues on campus that are hindering your experience here at Carnegie Mellon. Go to our Facebook and fill out the survey. Who knows, you may also be the lucky winners of a brand new Fitbit, an incentive for participation.

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**Campus Crime & Incident**

**Theft**

March 30, 2019

Following reports of theft in the Cohon University Center Wiegand Gymnasium, officers made contact with a Carnegie Mellon student who reported that their wallet was unlawfully taken.

**Alcohol Amnesty**

March 30, 2019

Officers responded to Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity to aid an intoxicated Carnegie Mellon student. The student was provided medical assistance and no citations were issued due to alcohol amnesty.

**Theft by Extortion**

April 3, 2019

Officers met with a Carnegie Mellon student who was involved in a Facebook scam.

**Theft**

April 5, 2019

Officers responded to Alpha Phi sorority house in response to a theft. Officers made contact with a Carnegie Mellon student who stated that their laptop had been stolen from the common area.

**Underage alcohol use**

April 6, 2019

Officers responded to first-year dormitory Dodge House in response to an odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from a room. Officers made contact with several Carnegie Mellon students who admitted to drinking alcohol. No traffic citations will be issued for underage drinking.

**Theft**

April 3, 2019

Officers met with a Carnegie Mellon student who reported that their wallet was unlawfully taken.

**Underage alcohol use**

April 6, 2019

Officers responded to Alpha Phi sorority house in response to a theft. Officers made contact with a Carnegie Mellon student who stated that their laptop had been stolen from the common area.

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Next years’ student gov. now decided

Spirits “Apollo” fills Wiegand for first time

they did it in Rangos Ballroom last year, and the stage was different, it definitely seems like an upgrade (this year), probably a budget boost.” Kenny Gary, a fifth-year studying electrical and computer engineering, added that this year “they definitely went well.”

Spiritus Foundation show was funded by Apogee, Inc., University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Carnegie Mellon Students Affairs, Hugh’s Event Production Services, PNC Bank, and various Carnegie Mellon colleges, in addition to ticket sales.

After the show concluded at 10:30 p.m., Executive Director Meera Parker addressed the crowd, saying, “there were times where it was so despairing... but we made it. We still done it.”

Thanking Tiana Wicks, Legislative Direc- tor, who introduced him, Parker thanked aids to donors, donors, sup- ported, and everyone. He then said, “it takes so many people to get to where we are tonight.”

Parker continued that Speritus is literally meant to be a full service for multiple clients to have their designs, their art, their emotions, their personali- ties, their stories. This year, he said he received several hundred “very expensive” champagne by executive board members, Parker said the turnout and was “happy.” “just all of you guys,” he concluded in his address.

The plan now rests more in-depth as dis- of how organizations spend this money. Fan cited the Activities Board specifically as a body that could use more scrutiny, since all groups get up to 30 percent of ac- tivities fee funding. Fan is the Fi- nance Chair of ASR-Tech, which is an ASR organization that receives a lot of this funding.

Fan also wants to apply more scrutiny measures to the dis- of the SBVP, aiming to meet a quota for meetings with student organizations hold each semester during just holding open office hours.

Undergraduate Senators

The College of Engineering has 12 senators on the undergraduates senate, but following the election, two vacancies still remain. The winning 10 candidates for College of Engineering seats are Ethan Rich, sophomore in electrical and computer engineering; Abdul Raja, sophomore in material sciences and engineering; David Cohen, first-year in mechanical engineering and engineering & public policy; Alexandra Palma, first-year in mechanical engineering; Lekshmi Chandrasekar, first-year in mechanical and engineering & public policy; Adrian Kang, first-year in electrical and computer engineering; Rabin Srivanna, first-year in chemical engineering and engineering & public policy; Arif Tsvetov, sophomore in elec- trical and computer engineering; Shreya Gupta, sophomore in chem- istry; and Andrew Ohlson, first-year in mechanical and engineering & public policy.

In Diachron, the new representatives are Jeffrey Kuo, first-year in humanities and science; and Kayla Griffin, first-year in mechanical and engineering. Arif Tsvetov, sophomore in electrical and computer engineering; Shreya Gupta, sophomore in chemistry; and Andrew Ohlson, first-year in mechanical and engineering & public policy.

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Spiritus’s “Apollo” fills Wiegand for first time

Spiritus, from A1

Spiritus, from A1

Spiritus, from A1

the other colleges except Tepper and undecid- edness” before announcing a new board candidate centered on combating a harmful cycle culture and reducing “racism,” the treatment of different colleges at the start of the debate, transfer Fisher and Iheart the Tartan go at the top four “four- choice” votes.

Student Body Vice Presi- dent of Organizations

Elisabeth Gou, a first-year eco- nomics major, has been elected Student Body Vice President of Organizations (SBVP). The role of the SBVP is to oversee, coordinate for, and whose organizations.

The SBVP also serves as chair of the Committee on Student Organizations (CoSO), which is responsible for overseeing the recognition process for student organizations on campus.

Gou’s primary goal is to ensure that students don’t shy away from developing their ideas due to organizations for time and due to the time and effort required, or lack of resources. As someone who is “extremely passionate about participating in multiple activities,” she would love to know others to developing their ideas through the SBVP pro- gram.

Gou is also looking to provide some perspectives within CSSE, outside the process of recognition, to student organizations, and increase the level of communication between student organizations and CSSE.

As SBVP, she wants to fulfill her responsibility to the campus by remaining open and available as much as she can, and to fully devote her time and time to others to options to the other college.

Student Body Vice Presi- dent for Finance

Fan, a junior majoring in com- puter science, has been elected Student Body Vice President for Finance. Though he ran unopposed, Fan has some significant plans for reform. Most notably, Fan has proposed paying remaining members of the joint Funding Committee (JFC) in order to compensate those who have ex- perienced in allocating money to the organization of the undergraduate year after year. This would dedicate a significant sum of activities fee funding towards the funding of the JFC and as an annual payment. The JFC is in charge of allocating the maximum $1.5 million collected by the student activities fee. 

Fan has named that past SB- VP, in attempt to “extend the money” back to classes, since they take office, and create a more “continuity” or incentive to return to the job. Though continuity might not be seen as a traditionally appealing campus promise, most candidates highlighted the diffi- culty navigating the vast, multi- chambered bureaucracy of student government.

Fan has also proposed establishing principles for different categories of organizations to treat them more fairly and consistently.
Smart cities: looking beyond our idealized images

The United Nations projects that by 2050, 66 percent of the world will live in urban areas. These future cities will face challenges that we are only just beginning to see today, from climate change disasters to the strain of higher populations. To face these challenges, most major cities are adapting “smart city” technology, which is designed to collect data on how to make public spaces more livable and accessible, ensuring none of the hard work of managing human flow to make more efficient use of public resources.

Pittsburgh has often been at the center of these discussions. Pittsburgh applied for the 2015-2016 Smart City Challenge set by the Department of Transportation. Though the $40 million dollar grant ultimately went to Columbus, Ohio, Pittsburgh was selected to be part of the Smart City Collective, a group of 22 middle cities looking to improve implementation of technology in city infrastructure while avoiding what director of the collective, Russell Brooks, called in WESA “the shiny object syndrome” where cities look for the latest trend in tech. The Metro21 initiative was designed to discuss light pollution in Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh’s vision narrative for the Smart City Challenge cited the existence of Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh as a reason that the city accelerated the implementation of smart city technology. The proposal stated: “Carnegie Mellon has led the charge internationally in applying forward-thinking technologies to real-world urban environments, including the math-praised Traffic21, Remaking Cities Institute, and Metro21, which served as the inspiration for the White House’s new, NationalMuralHeritage.”

Though there have been many successes, and improving city infrastructure and habitability is a noble goal, there are essential considerations that those working to develop smart city technology should consider. For instance, privacy concerns over the introduction of Internet of Things devices into the home do not disappear when these devices inhabit public space. Take, for example, the Smart Neighborhood Project, developed by Sidewalk Labs. It is past press attention after its director of privacy, Ann Cavoukian, resigned due to concerns that the data collected would not be deidentified.

Furthermore, it is important to ensure that smart cities make the city home for all inhabitants. This will not be true if developments that truly improve the lives of residents are centered in wealthier areas, or neglect residents whose disabilities might render public spaces harder to access. An article in the MIT Technology Review pointed out that the replacement of workers like “vandals and receptacles” makes it harder for those who have trouble using a touch screen to complete necessary everyday tasks such as riding the subway or getting directions.

For instance, New York City has recently implemented LinkNYC kiosks, that offer WiFi and charging stations at various locations around the city. The more garnered criticism from some, as the stations became places to hang out and surf the internet for the homeless or for those who may not otherwise have other locations to charge their phones. This led to the banning of accessing adult content over LinkNYC WiFi and discussion about removing charging ports from the kiosks.

This immediate backlash against use of the kiosks by homeless people is indicative of the broader problem: who are smart city developments meant to serve? Is it wrong with people using the resources available to the public, when they might be the cases who are in need of them? Why are people comfortable with public charging ports and WiFi when the users are young urban professionals who just don’t want to be nagged by finding a drink at the nearest Starbucks, but not comfortable when those who want to surf the internet at the shitty kiosks are homeless? Smart city initiatives also often include modernization of policing, which has manifested in the use of artificial intelligence to create predictive algorithms informing where police should occur. This ‘predictive policing’ has been criticized as perpetuating past police biases, as the algorithms are trained on past policing and past arrests. Any previous bias in policing is thus reinforced when an artificial intelligence algorithm tells police which neighborhoods or blocks to hang out at.

Last year, the Tartan reported a Metro21 smart cities initiative that was cited as justification for implementing predictive policing in Pittsburgh. The work cited by Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto as the stations became places to hang out and surf the internet for the homeless or for those who may not otherwise have other locations to charge their phones. This led to the banning of accessing adult content over LinkNYC WiFi and discussion about removing charging ports from the kiosks.

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Though both efforts were initiatives to moderate cities, and both came from the same research department at Carnegie Mellon, tools like the fire-prevention algorithm and the neural-network being used by the Pittsburgh police create completely different outcomes and are clearly disparate in their openness and accountability.

Smart cities initiatives run the risk of being akin to the bright murals painted in a city’s least liveable neighborhoods—attempts at betterment without
Betsy DeVos proposes significant changes to Title IX

The obvious goals of the graduate employee union are to honor legal agreements as teachers and to create a better functioning university system. As undergraduates, our education is distrusted in full potential because professors that don’t have a terminal degree are teaching classes. Not to mention, the professors may not be doing research across the field they’re teaching. Graduate students may be doing research on a very specific thesis on the relationship between a species of frog in Costa Rica and its local ecosystem, while teaching an intro to biology class that spends only part of the semester on macrobiology.

This is an obvious issue at Carnegie Mellon because of the “liberal arts” modality, that suggests we pay our adjuncts more while keeping a smaller number in our faculty. But this is a systemic issue that lowers the quality of higher education on the board.

The other event was Flickinger’s op-ed last semester in The Tartan. In it, she writes, “Only when history, English, and modern languages are associated with statistics, psychology, [and] computer science are they good enough. It goes without saying that the system often is not made to question the theories of the day. Right now, in English often stops at the hip of the study, but it is systemic.”

Interdisciplinarity means you can learn about the world in a more comprehensive way, rather than the “liberal arts” modifier, as many people’s misguided views, lead to the inflation of the problem of false accusations. There must be more courses where students can choose who the claims for the system’s own personal gain and those who are driven by creating initiatives that further entrench the system itself will naturally strengthen with time, while those who are adapt at delivering that knowledge can easily disgrace their life’s work.

Only when this is truly understood should we consider the accused in the way that they deserve to be considered, not before. To do so is an obvious first step in major back and further enriching the understanding of the current norms. Hopefully, the resulting proposed regulations will be channeled to move forward towards greater openness and accountability.
Young People How to Not Be Offended,” caught me off-guard. Although seemingly all online media appears to be clickbait-driven, I still fell for Time’s hook and was immediately intrigued. However, Manji’s use of the term “offense” kind of brought me back. Her argument about teaching people to listen to various perspectives and be willing to listen to diverse voices seemed to say that “offense” in this context means more of a conflict with our personal beliefs than being hurt by someone else’s beliefs. She even gives a disclaimer at the end that “we shouldn’t clam up or be offended when we disagree” — is perhaps the awkwardness of the term, essentially fighting a well-ingrained instinct, but that activity is hard, but that actively seeking out these conversations is hard. On campus, our Humanist League strives to engage the student body in events and discussions that provide a platform to present and exchange thoughts and beliefs. However, we have seen over the years the kinds of censorship that can arise from these conversations. This three-minute clip was a pleasant surprise, although I am disappointed in myself that I fell for a title that was more inflammatory than the content. Learning to not be defensive in the presence of an opposing viewpoint is essentially fighting a well-ingrained instinct, but it is a vital skill, and something that I hope that can be instilled in future generations. It’s easier than ever to be stuck inside an echo chamber exacerbated by online algorithms and laziness in the news, but, on the flipside, it is so much easier to branch out. Information is more easily available online. Factors like distance are often, we see cheap “diversity,” that characteristics such as race, socioeconomic background, and gender can all play pivotal roles in ideology, the two are not interchangeable. Finally, “It’s a life skill.” Our arguments in life aren’t limited to “is a hot dog a sandwich?” or “does pineapple go on pizza?” (to which I would have to answer “yes” and “no,” respectively). Again, it’s tough, and too often we are told to shy away from these kinds of conversations. They can get touchy and derail, so avoiding them altogether is safer. However, safer is not always better. Understanding the complexity of individuals can help us get to know others and even appreciate others even more.
CMU launches air pollution monitoring app nationally

TRENTO VON LINDENBERG
Staffwriter

It’s no secret that Pittsburgh has less-than-stellar air quality. Even though the region has improved dramatically since the 1940s, when coal and steel production left the city under a perpetual haze, Pittsburgh still ranks as the 10th worst metropolitan region in the US for particulate pollution.

How can a city that has improved so much still be one of the worst in the nation? Well, according to Matthew Mehalik from the Energy Innovation Center’s Breathe Project in the Hill District, it’s because the benchmark is made in comparison to other modern-day metropolitan regions. In a country racing to improve emission standards, Pittsburgh just isn’t catching up fast enough.

In fact, at a meeting with the Pittsburgh City Council this past Tuesday, local health officials and scientists discussed the impact that pollution was having on the community. Carnegie Mellon Chemical Engineering professor Neil Donahue spoke at the meeting and highlighted the number of deaths per year caused by pollution, noting that the number of deaths were “about equivalent to the opioid epidemic.”

For years, organizations and activists have been working to make a dent in the pollution issue. Here at Carnegie Mellon, the Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab, led by director Illah Nourbakhsh, has pioneered programs to combat pollution. One, Breathe Cam, is a network of cameras that monitor the visible pollution levels in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

The other program is a free application, available for Android and iOS, named Smell PGH. Using human noses as “sensors,” Mr. Nourbakhsh has effectively crowdsourced pollution reporting to build real-time awareness of Pittsburgh’s air quality. By sending reports directly to the Allegheny County Health Department, users can help build high-quality air pollution data, just by rating the quality of the air around them.

Since the app’s release in 2016, it has grown successful enough that the CREATE Lab has partnered with the eco-conscious company Seventh Generation to take Smell PGH to the national scale as a new app: Smell MyCity. It will first roll out in Louisville, Kentucky, and then Portland, Oregon, but the goal is to bring Smell MyCity to communities across the U.S.

So, if you’ve ever noticed a foul smell in the air, consider downloading Smell MyCity and help contribute to the fight against pollution. The more users that contribute to the database, the faster health officials can pinpoint the source of the pollutant.
Mars may have deep groundwater

ASHWIN SRINIVASAN
SciTech Editor

The red planet might not be as red after all, at least on the inside. A new study from the University of Southern California and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in a statement. “We and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, in a statement. “We suggest that this conclusion of the research follows ‘The system shuts down during winter seasons, when the ascending near-surface water freezes within fault pathways, and resumes during summer seasons when brine temperatures rise above the freezing point,’ the paper explains.

In order to explore how Mars’ groundwater arrives on the planet’s surface, the researchers used high-resolution optical imagery and computer modeling to investigate the walls of large impact craters, attempting to correlate the presence of fractures with the sources of dark streaks on the surface. This is different from previous work, which has focused on interpreting electromagnetic echoes returned from radar-probing instruments aboard the Mars Express and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. However, the existing methodology was not sufficient to determine that there is groundwater in a broad geographical range outside of Mars’ south pole.

According to Heggy and University of Southern California postdoctoral researcher Abotalib Z. Abotalib, their experience studying a similar phenomenon in the Sahara Desert on Earth helped them achieve their goals. “The experience we gained from our research in desert hydrology was the cornerstone in reaching this conclusion,” Heggy explained.

“The experience we gained from our research in desert hydrology was the cornerstone in reaching this conclusion. We have seen the same mechanism in the North African Sahara and in the Arabian Peninsula, and it helped us explore the same mechanism on Mars,” said Abotalib. Heggy added, “Groundwater is strong evidence for the past similarity between Mars and Earth — it suggests they have a similar evolution, to some extent.”

Heggy is excited about the intrigue his study has created within the scientific community. While some disagree on this paper’s explanation for recurring slope lineae on Mars, the debate furthers extraterrestrial water science and water science education in the public and could fuel development of more advanced probing systems.

“Understanding how groundwater has formed on Mars, where it is today, and how it is moving helps us constrain ambiguities on the evolution of climatic conditions on Mars for the last three billion years and how these conditions formed the groundwater system. It helps us to understand the similarities to our own planet and if we are going through the same climate evolution and the same path that Mars is going,” Heggy explained. “Understanding Mars evolution is crucial for understanding our own Earth’s long-term evolution and groundwater is a key element in this process.”

Interested in Mars? Air pollution? Science and technology in general?

Write for SciTech at The Tartan!
Email scitech@thetartan.org
Two private badminton clubs that University, and plan to travel to other universities they meet, club organizes tournaments with. This past weekend, they traveled Team Badminton Championships. of the YONEX Eastern Collegiate recreationally).

The CMU badminton team finds After Sunday, four teams will remain in the NCAA tournament. The Final Four is played on the next Saturday. loss, the food will come to you instead of walking around the in-stadium food delivery. Now, in-picture invention of the Internet age: Corrections. They have had multiple issues where food is often ill-prepared or frankly, not even food at all. Yet, Pittsburgh has the biggest scandal yet in its hot dog buddies: is a hot dog a sandwich? Frankly,condoning that much food for one night takes a lot of planning to work properly, and a lot can go wrong. Everything from a car accident to a missed can make the team run out of buns, so there’s probably not some conspiracy about a stingy Pirates organization. The two truths — cheap Pirates owners and a lack of buns — may be more than enough to explain why the Pirates aren’t the greatest team in baseball. But the man is now retiring to serve with just one brain cell before the NFL consumes whatever is left of his brain.

For reference, it’s been found recently that the number of NFL players with chronic traumatic encephalopathy is far higher than anticipated. It’s a neurodegenerative disease that is characterized by memory loss, dementia, and other brain insults. A study showed that out of 111 brains that NFL players donated, 104 of them had CTE. Over time Ty Jerome was fouled, he hit double dribble is misplaced for next year. I don’t think you could have done what Brady did and played until your ego was sanctified, but you stopped a year premature. May you be blessed with a long life, a lot of spoons, and everything funny in the sports world. For reference, it’s been found recently that the number of NFL players with chronic traumatic encephalopathy is far higher than anticipated. It’s a neurodegenerative disease that is characterized by memory loss, dementia, and other brain insults. A study showed that out of 111 brains that NFL players donated, 104 of them had CTE. Over time Ty Jerome was fouled, he hit his first foul shot when he intended to make it a three pointer. The second when he wanted to miss it and make a three. In the reboud and try to tie the score, Michigan State got the ball, were promptly fouled, made the inbound pass, and ran the clock out.

In the Final Four, Texas tech defensive Michigan State. Luckily, there were moments when Michigan State gave up five or six points, Texas Tech jumped out to the early lead and kept it. The final score was 65-52 in Virginia. Although Texas tech had the easy win, the game played before was everything but easy. In perhaps the most controversial and crazy game, Virginia managed to score any points in eight seconds to win by one Johnson; the NCAAM update for the CMU student. For reference, it’s been found recently that the number of NFL players with chronic traumatic encephalopathy is far higher than anticipated. It’s a neurodegenerative disease that is characterized by memory loss, dementia, and other brain insults. A study showed that out of 111 brains that NFL players donated, 104 of them had CTE. Over time Ty Jerome was fouled, he hit his first foul shot when he intended to make it a three pointer. The second when he wanted to miss it and make a three. In the reboud and try to tie the score, Michigan State got the ball, were promptly fouled, made the inbound pass, and ran the clock out.

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A short NCAAM March Madness update: Final Four

GRAFT LI
Assistant Copy Manager

The final game is set! Texas Tech will play the University of Virginia for the championship. Let’s take a look at what happened on the court this past weekend.

The Elite Eight finished while The Tartan was in office adding the finishing touches to one previous issue. Assistant managing editor Ian Suzuki, a junior in mechanical engineering, and biomedical engineering, selected materials and aerodynamic shapes are essential to achieve peak performance with sports equipment. But one change, sometimes overlooked when thinking about innovation in sports equipment over the past decade, are safety upgrades made to protect the people playing the sport. This was the main focus of the second annual “Rethink the Rink” Make-a-thon, held by the Pittsburgh Penguins, Carnegie Mellon School of Engineering, and Covestro, a materials manufacturing company.

Safety in ice hockey became a more prominent issue after the tragic death of three “enforcers” during the summer of 2011. The NHL ruled a body check was against them. The people playing the sport needed to keep those safety rules updated.

The first “Rethink the Rink” Make-a-thon held last year focused on how students could come up with ways to improve the boards and the glass that surrounded the ice hockey rink, which often take a massive amount of time and money. Students were encouraged to rethink the materials and designs for these boards, with the safety of the hockey players at heart. Penn State junior at Temple, Donato Torelli, told the Boston Globe last year that his goal as a Make-a-thon participant was not to dramatically change the sport of hockey: “As a lifelong hockey fan, I don’t want the experience to change. I don’t want puck play to change. It was about getting ideas on how to improve these issues.”

Two students, Alex Duncan, an alum who graduated this past year with a master’s degree in mechanical engineering, and Ian Suzuki, a junior in mechanical and biomedical engineering, put their work to good use. The Carnegie Mellon Design Competition was in Cranberry, a public event that included a competition for best overall design. They worked on their projects over a week of work and received awards on March 15. The awards ceremony took place at the same rink where the boards developed by Carnegie Mellon Duncan and Suzuki were tested. The teams focused on redesigning helmets to protect players by reducing the likelihood of brain injury. The team, which included Suzuki, won the prize for the best overall design worked on a prototype which redesigned the helmets that goalies wear, with a focus on making them more absorbent and adaptable to various impact.

When first-year business administration major Angela Li arrived at Carnegie Mellon University last fall, she knew she wanted to join the badminton team. After spending her four years of high school on the badminton team and her senior year as co-captain, Li wanted to continue that experience in college.

Carnegie Mellon has a long history of club sports, from fencing to frisbee to figure skating. The Tartan was in office adding the finishing touches to one previous issue. Assistant managing editor Ian Suzuki, that won the prize for best overall design. The team, which currently has 21 members, practices for six hours a week in Skibo Gymnasium, in addition to optional conditioning workouts some members organize outside of regular practice. But as a club sport, the team doesn’t have an official coach. Instead, two members with the most badminton training put on workouts and organized drills, led by a graduate student, who is responsible for marketing first-year player when necessary. “We’re a very self-run student organization,” Li said in an interview with The Tartan. “We take it really upon ourselves to make sure we’re taking care of.”

We are Treasurer of the club, and it is poorly involved with many other on-campus and off-campus activities. The club has been a part of several tournaments in Pittsburgh. Previously, the club was both a competitive team and a recreational club, with many more members. Recently, the club was重组, and the club sport of badminton is now a competition team.

The safety of hockey goalies is one of the most important issues in hockey gear today. They are constantly in a vulnerable position in front of the net. The safety of hockey players is one of the most important issues in hockey gear today. They are constantly in a vulnerable position in front of the net. The safety of hockey players is one of the most important issues in hockey gear today. They are constantly in a vulnerable position in front of the net.

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THE TARTAN PLAYLIST: Carnival Edition

“Paper Planes” - M.I.A.
“Grown Up” - Danny Brown
“I Ain’t Got Time” - Tyler the Creator
“By Myself” - Christian French
“Winnebago” - Gryffin ft. Quinn XCII + Daniel Wilson
“Gas Station Burrito” - Ballyhoo!
“Please Don’t Leave This Town” - Ty Segall, White Fence
“Big Time Sensuality” - Björk
“Puff Daddy” - JPEGMAFIA
“One Beer” - MF Doom
“Love Cry” - Four Tet
“NeverKnocked” - MIKE
“Low” - Flo Rida
“Good Day” - DNCE
“I Took a Pill in Ibiza (Seeb Remix)” - Mike Posner
“Old Town Roads (Old Town Roads Remix)” - Lil Nas x Billy Ray Cyrus

“Middle Child” - J. Cole
“Twist Barbie” - Shonen Knife
“As Long As You Love Me” - Justin Bieber
“Focus” - Charlie XCX ft. Yaeji
“One of the Drunks” - Panic! At the Disco
“This is Why We Can’t Have Nice Things” - Taylor Swift
“Youth” - Troye Sivan
“Crazy, Classic, Life” - Janelle Monáe
“Drop the Game” - Flume
“Sucker” - Jonas Brothers
“Juice” - Lizzo
“Woman” - Kesha
“Africa” - Toto
“Peace of Mind” - Boston
“Tom Sawyer” - Rush
“The Number of the Beast” - Iron Maiden

recommendations by Anna Boyle, Matthew Benusa, Wilson Ekern, Madeline Kim, Tracy Le, Grant Li, Nora Mattson, Adam Tunnard, Sujay Utkarsh, Marika Yang, Alexandra Yu

layout by Alexandra Yu | Pillbox Editor
SO I WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT CARDI B BUT I ALSO REALLY WANTED TO WRITE ABOUT THE NEW JOKER TRAILER AND JUSSIE SMOLLETT. SO INSTEAD OF DOING THESE AS SEPARATE ARTICLES, I FIGURED I’D THROW THEM INTO ONE SINGLE POP CULTURE ROUNDUP.

Cardi B and her controversy

There was an interesting tweet from a fan who told Cardi B that she was a role model for young girls out there. Cardi B replied back that she has hasn’t been herself the past two years because of this and that she will go back to her authentic self since people like to throw her past back in her face. This comes soon after an old video of her saying she used to drug and rob men resurfaced. My immediate reaction was, “Who even thinks that Cardi B is a role model?” But I digress.

On the subject of Cardi B’s alleged crimes, I think that at the end of the day, she should face the backlash of her actions and she should have done a better job of owning it. It’s a bit much to compare her to R. Kelly or Bill Cosby since those were men in power abusing said power, whereas Cardi B was a desperate woman trying to get by. But at the end of the day, an admission to a crime like that shouldn’t be defended. As for whether her career should end, there isn’t much merit to that argument. She has built herself up since then whether you like her music or not (I certainly don’t) and it should be up to the public whether they want to accept or reject her following these revelations about her past, which they haven’t seem to have rejected her overall.

I also think it’s interesting that celebrities are held up as role models when they absolutely shouldn’t be. They should behave like good members of society like everyone else and be expected to not take advantage of their status. But the notion that we should hold them to a higher standard for the sake of our children is pure nonsense and bad parenting too. Idolatry does not equate to role modeling, and we seem to live in a world where the two are now closely associated. These celebrities are not making the important decisions for our society. They’re entertainers and shouldn’t be expected to have to watch their words just because our kids’ feeble minds will be at risk. It’s on parents to help their kids distinguish right from wrong, not Cardi B’s. If anything, her attitude in her music should inherently disqualify her from even being a role model.

The new Joker

DC surprised everyone with a trailer for a new grounded and gritty origin story of Batman’s most iconic villain, who is now being played by Joaquin Phoenix. There is a lot to unpack from this new footage, but the first thing everyone noticed about it is how good it looks, both visually and in terms of quality. The film is being made by the same guy who made the Hangover movies and if the film is as good as this trailer, then he really has found his calling making dark, gritty movies.

The film doesn’t look like a comic-book movie at all. It looks like a psychological character drama/thriller with elements of horror. The film’s plot
synopsis on IMDb is “a failed stand-up comedian is driven insane and becomes a psychopathic murderer,” which shows just how different the film is going to be in comparison to the usual superhero genre fare. The trailer was just as unsettling as the plot synopsis, with some very memorable shots of Phoenix’s Joker in full makeup.

The most interesting angle the trailer showed was how society can create a villain like the Joker. This Joker is a man with a name: Arthur Fleck. He is shown to have mental illness and cast aside by society. This is shown in a chilling shot where he is writing jokes in his notebook, and one of the jokes says “the worst part about having mental illness is people expect you to behave as if you don’t.” He is gaunt. He is constantly beaten down, both figuratively and literally. The film prompts you to ask how a man like that wouldn’t snap one day. It’s an interesting take, and after watching this trailer several times, I’m on board to watch this film the day it comes out in October.

**Jussie Smollett protests**

The curious case of Jussie Smollett continues with the prosecutor Kim Foxx having to defend dropping all hoax charges against Smollett. Smollett was charged with staging a racist and homophobic attack on himself in order to further his career. Protests outside Foxx’s office continued for the week as well as counter-protests from her supporters. It is unlikely the controversy surrounding the case will go away anytime soon as the Smollett case has now turned into a sort of proxy battle between the police union and the prosecutor’s department. Smollett will also likely be sued by the city since he failed to pay a fine of over $130,000.

First, I will address Smollett himself. I think that the case is complicated but in the end, I don’t think it’s really fair to pass judgment on him because nothing is clear anymore. His career has likely taken a huge hit, but he’ll find some work later and push his way past this controversy within a few years. Any press is good press, and the entertainment industry loves a good comeback story for someone with a controversial past (see Mel Gibson). The only thing we can do is see if anything else develops from the story. Smollett got the attention he wanted at the end of it all, so in the long run, he’ll be the real winner from all of this.

The decision to drop charges is difficult to understand and no one really knows why it happened. The prosecutors said they could prove the hoax charges against him too, despite Smollett maintaining that he didn’t lie. It’s likely nothing sinister, but the entire case is just odd. At this point, the Chicago Police should spend their time on something better than waging a war against the prosecutor’s department over a bizarre case that no one understands. Smollett’s case will be a footnote eventually and in the future, it’s likely many people won’t care too much about what he has allegedly done.
Blood red gowns, gauzy drape tunics, and patched letterman jackets were just three of the many different pieces gracing the runway at the SPIRIT Fashion Show on Saturday evening. Some lines played with color, others with fabric combinations, and some with choreographed presentations, but all represented this year’s theme, Apollo, named for the god of light and knowledge from Greek mythology, who has come to symbolize the phrase “know thyself.”

Hosted by SPIRIT, a multicultural organization at Carnegie Mellon University that aims to celebrate black awareness, the show featured 17 different lines by unique designers, worn by models of all different races, ethnicities, and backgrounds. The event was held in the Wiegand Gymnasium and welcomed a large audience.

As the last light of the day faded from the gym’s windows, the first line kicked off the show, Keegan Barone’s Headswing. Under the blue and orange lights, Barone’s line featured pieces inspired by athletic equipment and exploring the degradation of self in athletics and entertainment, with heeled shoes made from cleats and garments with metal football shoulder pads. With masks, headpieces, and splashes of red, the line had an intense atmosphere that lent itself well to the warrior-like designs.

Tragic Twenties, by Sharrell Rushin, who describes herself as “an introvert,” used deconstructed pieces of quilted, cotton, and plastic textiles, creating a thematic connection from one piece to the next. With a multitude of colors, materials, and shapes, the line had a stream of consciousness quality to it.

Next was Faster than Light by Arthur Brown, who calls the line an exploration of “education and faith.” Featuring the phrase “Borrowed Time” on shirts, bags, and pants, the pieces were quirky and unique, with graphic tees and white lab coats. The models, like they did throughout the night, felt free to pose and move around the runway, to large applause. All the pieces from Faster than Light reminded me of high-fashion streetwear I wouldn’t be surprised to see on the streets in Brooklyn.

Performances bracketed every two or three lines, breathing energy into the audience. The first was singer Emily Wu, with a bluesy performance. Sabrina Clarke performed a modern jazz/contemporary dance that moved from one end of the runway to the other. SPIRIT Dance also lit up the stage with 13 dancers in synchronized choreography. And later, Malcolm Udeozor went under the lights for a rap and singing performance, and was later joined by three other singers, who just had a great time on stage singing and dancing together, ending by jumping into the audience.
Bria Petite Miles’ Super Nova explored the competition between ego and self. In a sea of shiny pinks and sleek metallics, the collection had a young, metropolitan feel. From a structured shirt and pant combination to ruffles and fringe to matching prints, the designs were an eclectic mix.

It was all tulle in Patricia Yu’s Bubba. The collection popped on the stage with white and tan hues and circular shapes, the four models looking like delicate clouds in the different designs as they floated across the stage in one of the most memorable lines of the night.

In contrast, Brownmill (“Crafted and Engineered since 2009”) by Kwaku Agyemang and Justis Pit Goodson used slick colors and prints in effortlessly cool jackets of all kinds — letterman, bomber, and plaid — paired with on-trend fanny packs. From denim to sweatshirts and quarter-zips and pantsuits, this collection all had the slanted “Brownhill” logo that gave it a hip and modern vibe that I could easily see all over campus.

Jobert Sauray’s Preval collection had a similar aura, with contemporary sweatshirts and long-sleeve shirts and sweatshirt dresses in tan, red, blue, and green. With graphics and a loose fit on the models, Preval oozed comfort, color, and cool.

The last collection before the intermission, Fine Tragic Sorrow by Daryl Deon, was definitely the most choreographed of all the lines in the show, with models staying on stage in large, hooded black coats painted with images of a heart, dripping blood, lips, and the sun. Two of the models shed their coats to reveal matching red bodycon dresses, strutted around the runway and interacted with the other models. By the end, all the models took off their coats to reveal models wearing red bedazzled masks that covered their whole face; this changed to half-face masks, mouth masks, and then headpieces, with the face uncovered. As the later pieces moved to more contemporary colors and streamlined designed, more personality shined through.

Sarika Bajaj’s Itihaas aimed to tell the stories of iconic Indian heroines through the collection. The models entered the runway in all-black garments with black coats on top, and the audience didn’t see the focus of the line until the models turned around. On the back of the coats were painted images of the Indian heroines, in bright colors against the black.

Partially inspired by artist Mary Corse, Mad Recital by Richard Ramirez and Sean E. Matzus was an ethereal collection of gauzy white fabrics put together to form uniquely complex designs. With cotton, tulle, lace, and chiffon, the white colors (with slashes of yellow and black) reminded me of Ancient Greece, with the gods in their draped and flowing togas.

In Fashion Not Fear, Kristie Glenn emphasizes the colors red and pink, with dresses in recognizable silhouettes in solid and floral print fabrics. At the start, the models wore red bedazzled masks that covered their whole face; this changed to half-face masks, mouth masks, and then headpieces, with the face uncovered. As the later pieces moved to more contemporary colors and streamlined designed, more personality shined through.

Obed Appiah-Agyeman describes KORDES: “A Dream” as “a dream I had about humanity.” All the models wore headdresses around their foreheads that had hanging pearl drops that fell near their eyes. With handbags and structured shirts and stiff scarves and fanny packs, the collection did conjure a dream-like quality with pastel colors and interesting combinations, all brought together by the shining headdresses.
Torn, by Catherine Mondoa, was understandably split into two sections. The first was the two designs of flowing chiffon, over the models’ heads like veils, as if showing a half-blind, unknowing and idealistic perspective on the world. The following two dresses were bold. Under a bright, sunshine yellow cape adorned with matching feathers was a black floor-length dress. The other dress, modeled by Mondoa herself, was royal blue, with a sweetheart neckline and the velvet corset divided by a sheer lace panel. The first two angel-like designs moved places throughout the presentation, acting almost like gatekeepers for the second two designs.

The final collection of the evening was Yaramo Dione’s Töranè Hôreh Môn Kadi. With the models barefoot, the designs had flowing sleeves, low necklines, high hems, and wide cutouts that showed openness and quiet simplicity. From a white shift dress to a pink floral dress to a maroon gown to dark blue satin pants, this line had a dream-like quality to it that was matched by the stoicism of the models.

With the theme Apollo, SPIRIT asked its designers of the 17 different lines to look within and consider themselves and express themselves through their work, through their art. In this way, the lines were deeply personal, moving towards the goal to say, “I know who I am.” In bringing people together to take part as a cast or audience member, the SPIRIT Fashion Show helped all who attended understand one another across backgrounds, cultures, and experiences.
Bands playing on a Tuesday night love to remind you that it’s a Tuesday night. But I know it’s a Tuesday night; I took a late day on my 15-150 homework to be here!

“Here” being the Mr. Roboto Project in Bloomfield, where Guerilla Toss, Rave Ami, and 1980 Special Twin were playing on, you guessed it, a Tuesday night.

I had seen the flyer for the show around the neighborhood, and was excited to see the show for a band whose ear-splitting songs I thought would be pretty fun live. Guerilla Toss is currently based out of Brooklyn, so I had meant to go see them, like, ten times when I was home this summer, but I did not because I was pretty lazy back then.

1980 Special Twin was the first opener. I thought I might miss him because I arrived nice and late, which I was bummed out about because I had googled him and was excited to see what a live violin show from Joey Molinaro, Pittsburgh Techno Guy, might look like. Luckily, he waited for me to start. His set was just him, with, as promised, a live violin, a Toca seed shaker strapped to his leg, and a nice board that was all mic’ed up to pick up his stomps. The board was truly very nice, and I wondered where he got it, and where I might acquire a similarly nice board. A hardware store? A music store? Construction Junction?

He sang, periodically through a headset reminiscent of one used by telemarketers or fast food workers that have to listen to the drive-through speakers.

The next band, Rave Ami, which Molinaro introduced facetiously as a techno act, called themselves the “boring” act on the ticket. One band member told the audience to get ready for some “dumb rock songs,” and another member piped up in response, “they’re really dumb.” Self-effacement aside, they were pretty good, and it was nice to see that they weren’t taking themselves too seriously, especially in a genre that can quite often be kind of dumb.

Finally, Guerilla Toss made their way onto the stage, which became cramped with their drummer, bassist, guitarist, vocalist/violinist, lights guy, as well as lots and lots of gear. Though their newest album, *Twisted Crystal*, came out fairly recently towards the end of 2018, they played a mix of their more recent crowd-pleasers. This ended up being a little confusing, as in the song “Realistic Rabbit” off the 2015 EP, *Flood Dosed*, vocalist Kassie Carlson asks the audience: “Calculator! What does it equal?”, while “Multibeast TV” from the 2016 album, *Eraser Stargazer*, explicitly tells us: “Do not calculate, plus OR minus.” Either way, I was pretty glad I didn’t do my 15-150 homework because I bet they would not have approved.

For a group I had thought of as more of an experimental noise/disco group, the influence of the Grateful Dead is stronger than one might expect. The only adornment on the keyboard player’s stand was a Grateful Dead “stealie” sticker. The lights guy had a baggy, tie-dye, Jerry Garcia Band shirt on. And when they jammed in between songs mid-set, the spacey freedom of jams like live 1972 “Dark Star” were channeled (Grateful Dead takes powered by my fellow concert-goer).

There was one moment when Carlson picked up her violin, which had, in previous instances of their set, been drowned out in the mix as she messed with the various knobs and pedals that made the violin sound like an otherworldly replacement for her voice. But this time, the sound ripped from the speakers in an accidental distorted roar that was building before it was cut off by another frantic button smash. While that abrupt cut off was much appreciated by my young and tender growing ears, my friend, as we were waiting for our ride back, noted the same thing that I had thought when I first felt the screechy build of the accidentally distorted violin: that it probably would have sounded cool and on purpose had they let it come to its ragged, likely ear-splitting finish.

They closed with a shout out to how nice playing shows in Pittsburgh is, which might be something they say everywhere, but I am choosing to believe is true because it was a really nice show and I hope they come back.
Singer-songwriter Christian French was an accidental find for me. While shuffling through Spotify’s recommendations for my monthly favorite playlists, his song “love ride” was suggested. Immediately, I was hooked by the poppy synths, feel-good vibes, and French’s smooth voice. It wasn’t until I found out he was opening for Quinn XCII and I heard him live that I fell in love with his music. Out of sheer curiosity, I sent him an Instagram private message asking if he was willing to do an interview. Not even a day later, he replied.

French started off on SoundCloud “doing piano/singing covers...that I had learned to play from YouTube” back in high school. Although his original SoundCloud account appears to have been terminated, his music career has not. He used the skills he crafted from covers to write original music. Since then, he has “stuck with it” and now has amassed 1.9 million monthly listeners on Spotify.

Until recently, French had been juggling school and music. Music had mainly been a side thing that skyrocketed on Spotify, but he had previously dedicated two years to pre-med at Indiana University. However, when singer-songwriter Chelsea Cutler asked French to tour with her in 2018, French took the leap to drop out to pursue music. “I can always go back & finish school, but I can’t always go on tour & pursue my music career. I would do it again a million times.”

Currently, he is on tour with Quinn XCII and even got to kick off his birthday with his first crowd surf. Although “being on the road for so long takes a toll” on him, the joy he gets out of meeting fans he connected with through social media and pursuing a career that might have appeared to be a pipe dream even a year ago makes it more than worth it to him. I can’t speak for his other performances, but he was fantastic in Nashville. The crowd didn’t know all the lyrics to his songs, but the crowd was still rallied up. Even for “heavy snow,” which had not been released at the time of the performance, the synergy continued.

Although French’s music may sound generic based on a mere description (how many pop singers and synth tracks are there?), there’s a unique element infused in it that I can’t quite put my finger on. Music is a way for him to connect with people and express himself, which makes him and his music come off as relatable. He makes performing and singing appear to be so effortless and natural. His beats are energizing and bound to lift anyone’s spirits, and this is only amplified live. In his Nashville performance, he casually wore a flannel shirt and could probably have blended in with the concert crowd if he weren’t on stage. When he talked, it didn’t matter what he said. It could’ve been about how happy he was to be in the music city or how his life turned when he dropped out to pursue music. Even if we didn’t necessarily go through his story ourselves, he brought it to us and related to us. He didn’t feel like some remote idol who just says that he gets his crowd; he really does.

Although most of his tracks are much more uplifting, the kinds of songs you’d play on a road trip with friends, his most recent release is a bit more somber. “heavy snow” describes his long-term struggle with anxiety and a time period in which it was hard for him to even turn to music. “It’s the worst thing in the world,” he recalls about his overall struggles. In a tweet, he described his experience as “a fog between reality and what was going on inside my head.” Although “heavy snow” was cathartic for him, he wanted the song to be “another outlet to show people that they aren’t alone.” Like the artist he opened for, Quinn XCII, French also wants to use his art to help expand the talk of mental health and encourage people to “be more conscious of their states of mind and be able to better control how they are feeling.”

For those getting into his music, my top five picks would have to be “By Myself,” “heavy snow,” “love ride,” “Fall for You,” and “someone new.” Although he hasn’t come to Pittsburgh yet, he liked my message where I requested him to stop by, so I hope that’s a sign he’ll keep us in consideration.
Roasted Chicken, Brussels Sprouts, & Potatoes

When you’re a college student, sometimes cooking gets boiled down to what’s cheap or what’s easy, and most of the time, both. That’s how I usually end up planning my meals when I’m at the grocery store, but that doesn’t mean the cheap and quick food you make has to taste bad, or even average. It should taste good!

For this week’s menu, I present a twist on one of my classic go-to recipes. I always resort to roasted chicken and veggies when I’m tired and busy. It’s not only a great meal but also something you can make in bulk for meal-prepping. It’s a win-win! This week, Brussels sprouts were on sale at the store, so I thought I’d go for them instead of my usual broccoli or carrots. I absolutely adore Brussels sprouts, though they usually end up on most hated vegetable lists. I think people are just cooking them the wrong way. For this recipe, I also added potatoes for the much-needed starch component of a balanced meal.

Ingredients
- 2 cups of Brussels sprouts
- 2 lbs of chicken (I used thighs, but any kind works)
- 4 potatoes, chopped
- 4 tbsp of vegetable oil
- Salt, pepper, preferred spices
- 1 tbsp hoisin sauce

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 425 °F.
2. Toss the Brussels sprouts in a mixing bowl with 2 tbsp of the oil and a dash of salt, pepper, and whatever spices you prefer (I love to add garlic powder or paprika).
3. Repeat Step 2 for the chicken and potatoes in separate bowls.
4. Place the Brussels sprouts in a parchment paper-lined pan. Place the chicken and potatoes together in a separate pan. Put both pans in the heated oven and bake for 30-40 minutes, or until browned.
5. About five minutes before you finish baking, take out the pan of Brussels sprouts. Pour the hoisin sauce over the Brussels sprouts in the pan, and lightly mix, so that the sauce covers all of them. Put the pan back in the oven, and bake for the rest of the time.
6. After baking, let the chicken and veggies rest for five minutes before serving.
“What if you were only allowed 140 words for an entire day? What could you still say?” How do you say love?

Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons, written by Sam Steiner, is a story about two lovers’ life before and after the passage of a preposterous law that set a 140-word cap on how many words each person can speak a day. This love story has a unique opening. Bernadette, a young, ambitious lawyer, meets Oliver, a hot-blooded musician, at a cat’s funeral in a pet cemetery. A few more dates in the pet cemetery quickly progresses into living with each other. However, the more they reveal to each other, the more conflicts arise. The imperfections in their personalities — Bernadette’s inferiority complex and Oliver’s insensitive nature — bury an entire minefield between them. After the word-limit law is put into the public eye, Oliver fights against it fanatically, while Bernadette thinks that it would never pass and regards Oliver’s protests as childish. During an important protest Oliver organized, he reunites with his ex-girlfriend, Julie, who was as passionate as him. On that day, Oliver cheats on Bernadette.

This secret becomes a time bomb that Bernadette vaguely senses but is terrified to address, thus the daunting silence continues to haunt their lives after the passing of the word-limit law. How can they move past it if they only have 22 words for each other at the end of the day? How could they move past it if they’d failed to do so in the past when they had the freedom to say whatever they want?

The narrative is interspersed with flashbacks. One scene would be their date in the pet cemetery, and the next one would start with Bernadette and Oliver reporting to each other their remaining word counts. In one scene they passionately argue or humorously entertain each other. In the next, they painfully communicate through fragmented sentences and abbreviations — “Talk?” “Lovu” “Lovu”.

At the beginning, the quick shifts not only add complexity to the story, inviting the audience to solve the puzzle, but also display the contrasting dynamic of Oliver and Bernadette’s relationship before and after their words were limited.

Ava Yaghmaie as Bernadette and Arthur Langlie as Oliver performed for one hour and a half in perfect synchronization and brought the play to life. They guided the audience into their own rhythm: their romantic pauses, their anxious waiting in silence for the voting result of the word-limit law, and their changes in physical distance in coordination with the fluctuation of their relationship.

“19,” says Bernadette.

“2,” says Oliver.

“Choose carefully,” says Bernadette.

“I apologize.”

“For what, Oliver? For what?” Bernadette throws her hands in the air and leans into the already muted Oliver in frustration.

In the program pamphlet, there were a few lines commenting on the magic of words: “We use our words to explain our quirks, our inadequacies, our failures. We use them to explain our joys, our triumphs, and our happiness. We use words to be our true selves.” Words give depth and intricacy to life, allowing communications and connections transcending time and space.

This coffee shop smells like the one in my hometown, right around the corner near my middle school.

The spring wind feels as good as the French dessert Mont-Blanc.

You are a day in May.

...

Words that make you laugh until your stomach hurts, words that make you cry with immense joy, words that pierce your heart, words that solidify into permanent wounds. Words, magical creatures in different languages and different forms, weaved into each other to map out the multifaceted and perplexing reality of our humanity. “We use words to be our true selves.”

In the play, the government limits words so that people can focus on essential things, but Bernadette and Oliver come up with a system of abbreviation — “tricks and stuffs” — to combat the law. They save their words for each other. So the system that attempts to force people to focus on work and productivity only prove to Bernadette and Oliver that love is the truly essential thing. Slowly, they become acquainted with each other’s silence and talk through their eyes. Occasionally, they use all their 140 words to sing a song together, jump around the room and laugh like they used to.

At the end of the play, Oliver confesses his betrayal.

“I think I know,” Bernadette says through sobs.

“I think...I knew... you knew,” Oliver replies.

In the absence of words, they find themselves in each other’s arms. Then the lights dim, two bodies merge into one dark mixture, and the audience enjoys a final moment of silence.

I called all the people I cared about that night. “I just want to talk to you,” I said.
This week, McConomy will be screening two films during carnival: Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse and Mary Poppins Returns. Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse was reviewed in a previous issue.

**Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse**

Sujay Utkarsh | Pillbox Editor

Saturday, April 13, 12 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Sunday, April 14, 8 p.m.

Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse is one of the best animated films in recent memory, the best film associated with Spider-Man, and one of the very best films of last year. It’s funny, creative, action-packed, filled with humor and heart, and has a killer score and soundtrack apart from two odd musical choices. The animation is unique and fresh, with every frame looking like an insane comic book. The voice acting is superb from everyone. There is almost nothing wrong with this film. It’s a work of art, and it completely deserved the Oscar win it got. It’s a movie made for everyone, and I can’t think of a single demographic who wouldn’t enjoy this movie because it’s packed with so much detail and love. See it as many times as you can.

**Mary Poppins Returns**

Madeline Kim | Forum Editor

Sunday, April 14, 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Mary Poppins Returns continues the story of the Banks children. George Banks is now a widower, and his sister Jane helps him tend to his three children. Due to George’s grieving and lack of financial skills, he finds himself in a position of potentially losing his childhood home: the one in which Mary Poppins had visited him and his sister when they were younger. Mary Poppins finds herself in a perfect opportunity to be the nanny of the Banks children, or rather, a new generation of Banks children. Through imaginative tales, music, and storybook adventures, the film is enjoyable to both those who have and have not grown up watching Mary Poppins. Come not only for a cinematic treat, but also to support a Carnegie Mellon alum, Rob Marshall (College of Fine Arts, Class of 1982).
horoscopes: the signs as wholesome celebrities

Aries
march 21 – april 19
Keanu Reeves.

Taurus
april 20 – may 20
Bob Ross.

Gemini
may 21 – june 20
Kristen Bell.

Cancer
june 21 – july 22
Tom Hanks.

Leo
july 23 – aug. 22
Terry Crews.

Virgo
aug. 23 – sept. 22
Amy Poehler.

Libra
sept. 23 – oct. 22
Chris Pratt.

Scorpio
oct. 23 – nov. 21
Mark Hamill.

Sagittarius
nov. 22 – dec. 21
Sandra Bullock.

Capricorn
dec. 22 – jan. 19
Steve Irwin.

Aquarius
jan. 20 – feb. 18
Jameela Jamil.

Pisces
feb. 19 – march 20
Emma Watson.

sudoku

3 8 2
8 7 9
4 2 6
5 3 7

5 1 3
2 3 9
7 8 4

9 6 3
4 5 1

sudoku courtesy of www.krazydad.com

last week’s solution

4-1-19

3 9 2 7 6 8 1 5 4
1 5 7 2 4 9 3 8 6
4 6 8 3 5 1 9 2 7

2 7 9 1 8 4 5 6 3
5 1 3 6 9 7 2 4 8

8 4 6 5 2 3 7 9 1
7 8 4 9 1 2 6 3 5

6 2 1 8 3 5 4 7 9
Roomba
by Meg Quinn

Would you ever want to get a Roomba?

We already own one...

artbymoga.tumblr.com
Miserable
by Sarah Andersen

I have been so miserable lately. Everything sucks.

Why is it so hard for me to find joy? How will I reach happiness?

Analogies
by xkcd

While I’m up, does anyone want a sandwich? Is “sandwich” a metaphor?

No, I’m bad at metaphors. But I could try a simile.

I guess that’s like a metaphor. I sure.

Well, “a simile is like a metaphor” is a simile.

Is that simile itself a metaphor for something? Maybe it’s a metaphor for analogy.

Similes are like metaphors in that they’re both analogies.

Analyses are like sandwiches in that I’m making one now.
ongoing

Spring Flower Show: Gardens of the Rainbow (Phipps Conservatory)
Ongoing until 4.21.19

Da Vinci The Exhibition (Carnegie Science Center)
Ongoing until 9.2.19

newly added

Tartan Tuba Band in TuBahemian Rhapsody: A Queen Sing-a-long (Midway Stage)
4.11.19 5 - 5:30 p.m.

AB Presents: Jimmy O. Yang (McConomy)
4.11.19 7 - 9 p.m.

Scotch’n’Soda Presents: MAMMA MIA! (Rangos Ballroom)
4.11.19 - 4.13.19 7 p.m., additional 11 p.m. show on Friday and 2 p.m. show on Saturday

Co-Opera (Pittsburgh Opera)
4.13.19 - 4.14.19 7 p.m. on Saturday, 5:30 p.m. on Sunday

Carnegie Mellon Percussion Ensemble (Alumni Concert Hall)
4.15.19 8 - 10 p.m.

KPDC Spring 2019 Showcase: Reputation (Rangos Ballroom)
4.19.19 8 - 10 p.m.

JSA Presents: Matsuri 2019 (Rangos Ballroom)
4.23.19 3 - 8 p.m.

Stop Motion Animation Week (Row House Cinema)
4.26.19 - 5.2.19

April Night Market (Market Square)
4.26.19 5 - 10 p.m.

BOUNCE: CMU SENIOR ART EXHIBIT (Miller ICA)
5.4.19 - 5.18.19

2019 Ex-Change Year-End Show (CFA 201)
5.6.19 - 5.19.19

May Market (Phipps Conservatory)
5.10.19 - 5.11.19 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday

week of 4.8.19 - 4.14.19

Spring Carnival & Reunion Weekend
4.11.19 - 4.13.19

Tekko 2019 (David L. Lawrence Convention Center)
4.11.19 - 4.14.19

Holi 2019 (The Mall)
4.13.19 12 - 3 p.m.

AB Presents: DRAM with Special Guest Vanic (Wiegand Gym)
4.13.19 7 - 10 p.m.

Mother of All Pottery Sales (Union Project)
4.14.19 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The PGH Flea! (The PGH Flea)
4.14.19 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Taste of Lawrenceville (Bay 41)
4.14.19 12 - 5 p.m.

Campus Superstar 2019 (Stage AE)
4.14.19 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

week of 4.15.19 - 4.21.19

School of Drama: Atlas of Depression (Studio 201)
4.17.19 - 4.19.19 8 - 9:30 p.m., additional 4 p.m. showing on Friday

School of Drama: The Comedy of Errors (Philip Chosky Theater)
4.18.19 - 4.27.19 8 p.m., additional 2 p.m. showing on Saturdays

Reception: CMU School of Architecture Thesis Exhibition (Miller ICA)
4.19.19 6 - 8 p.m.

Made & Found Spring Market (Made + Found Pittsburgh)
4.21.19 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

week of 4.22.19 - 4.28.19

School of Drama: Marisol (Helen Wayne Rauh Studio Theater)
4.24.19 - 4.26.19 8 - 9:30 p.m., additional 4 p.m. showing on Friday

School of Drama: New Works Series, Cosmo St. Charles is Dead and Someone in this Room Killed Him
4.25.19 - 4.27.19 6 - 7:30 p.m. (Thursday, Saturday), 9 - 10:30 p.m. (Friday)

School of Drama: New Works Series, Something Massive Looms Overhead
4.25.19 - 4.27.19 9 - 10:30 p.m. (Thursday, Saturday), 6 - 7:30 p.m. (Friday)

Show and Sell: a pop-up market presented by Handmade Arcade (Construction Junction)
4.27.19 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

August Wilson Block Party (August Wilson House)
4.27.19 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

PGH Photo Fair (Carnegie Museum of Art)
4.27.19 - 4.28.19 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

week of 4.29.19 - 5.5.19

Carnegie Mellon Chamber Series: “The Clarion Quartet” (Kresge Theater)
4.29.19 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

The PGH Flea! (The PGH Flea)
5.5.19 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.