Galipatian Station

WHILE YOU PEE IN LEE

COMPILER

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Friday Apr.5-Apr.12

Stroubles Creek

**Yahui Zhao
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Junior**

Living in Lee Hall for three years and walking across Drillfield tons of times, I first heard about Stroubles Creek flowing beneath Drillfield one week ago during my Technical Writing class. Here is a brief introduction of Stroubles Creek.

Location:

Stroubles Creek is an approximately 12-mile-long stream that runs through Virginia Tech, and Montgomery County until it empties into the New River. Most of the sections of Stroubles Creek that flow through Blacksburg and the Virginia Tech campus are piped underground, while the portion that flows through Montgomery County is above-ground.

Facing challenges:

Stroubles Creek has been designated an impaired waterway since 2002. That means, unfortunately, the water quality does not meet the standards. Previous major pollution incidents were from 1970 to 1978, chemical waste from the Virginia Tech chemistry labs was discharged directly into the Duck Pond; And in 1985, kerosene was spilled into the Duck Pond.

Currently, one of the threats that Stroubles Creek facing is the rock-salt spilling during the snow events. Rock-salt is also known as sodium chloride (road salt), which is composed of 40% sodium ions ($Na+$) and 60% chloride ions ($Cl-$). Chloride ($Cl-$) is completely soluble and there is no natural process by which chlorides are broken down or removed from the environment. Chloride is toxic to aquatic life and impacts vegetation and wildlife. Unfortunately, rock-salt is the main method to clear winter roads to guarantee safe transportation for people.

Potential Solution:

If you have any feasible ideas of improving the Stroubles Creek's water quality, please contact the Energy Management Department. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated!

Wellness App of the Week: Calm Harm.
Calm Harm is designed to help you resist or manage the urge to self-harm. It provides different categories of activities to distract and comfort users in difficult times. It also includes guided breathing rhythms.

Free Creative Software

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While I'm sure we are all busy with tests and schoolwork this time of year, don't forget to take breaks and enjoy yourself! Taking breaks to do fun and creative things is very beneficial and can help you focus after your break ends, making study time more productive. Here is some software you can download for free that might make your study breaks more interesting and help you enjoy creativity without pressure!

Autodesk Sketchbook

Autodesk Sketchbook is a fully realized artistic software that recently was made free for everyone. The user interface is simple and the features are very easy to get acquainted with- it's incredibly intuitive. Just download it onto your laptop and use your stylus to get creative! It contains a multitude of customizable brushes (which are pressure-sensitive to your stylus). You can use layers to edit different parts of your artwork at different times. It even has motion and animation capabilities.

Musescore

Musescore is an open source, professional music notation software. It's completely free to download and relatively easy to use. The website has well-documented handbook which can help you find what you are looking for on the software. Here's the bottom line: input instruments into your piece, write your desired notes on the staff, and Musescore will play back your composition. It will also play back more advanced musical notations, like arpeggios and glissandi (slides). Even if you have no musical experience, it can be fun to experiment with the different instruments and sound effects.

Educational Podcasts

Angela Ngo
Computer Science
Sophomore

If you want to continue learning while also taking your mind off of your engineering homework for a while, consider checking out these podcasts!
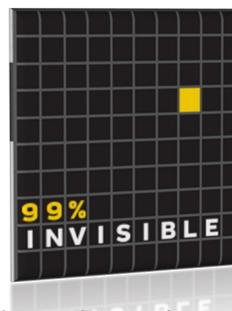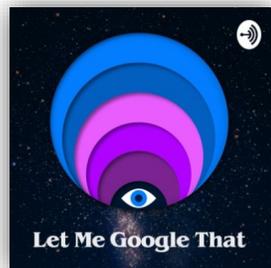
Let Me Google That

These podcasts are usually less than 10 minutes long and give you a brief overview of an interesting topic that you might have wondered about. These topics range from Daylight Saving Time to Bigfoot to the Myers-Briggs personality test, and is good for a quick information digest while walking between classes.

Philosophize This

This is an educational podcast that breaks down and explains philosophy in a way that is easy to understand. The episodes go in roughly chronological order, so you can get a pretty substantial understanding about the history of philosophy!

99% Invisible

This podcast educates you about factors in design and architecture that go largely unnoticed or overlooked. Even if you're not particularly interested in design, you may find it interesting to learn more about things that you might have overlooked in the past!