

She Killed It! Thiel Players Perform She Kills Monsters

By: Colin Schroyer
November 27th, 2024: After a semester of rehearsals, Thiel Players performed Qui Nguyen's *She Kills Monsters* during select weekends in November, directed by Dr. J.K. Rogers. *She Kills Monsters* tells the story of the Evans sisters — Agnes Evans, a young woman in grief after the death of her family in a car crash, and Tilly Evans, who lives on in a homemade Dungeons & Dragons campaign. After Tilly's death, Agnes discovers Tilly's

game scenario and begins to play the game in the hopes of learning more about her sister. The Thiel Players — students involved in Thiel College's theatre productions — have worked extensively on bringing the show to life. Charlee May served as the assistant director, and Shalondra Santos, assisted by Sam Gembe '25, was the stage manager. And that is without mentioning the incredible actors who brought the play to life! Agnes and Tilly Evans were played by Bella Young and Savanna Welch, re-

spectively. In their D&D adventure, they are accompanied by the Lilith (Laci McCloe), Kaliope (Gianna Spreace), and Orcus (Connor Paolucci), as well as the human counterparts behind the fantasy characters. These lead actors, along with all the other students who did an outstanding job, “It was really looking at who we thought would be the best fits as well as for scheduling,” shared Dr. Rogers, regarding casting. “We did have some issues regarding casting only because stu-



Image credits to Dr. J.K. Rogers.

dent health needs to come first, but in the end, everything worked out well.” Thiel Theatre uses what Dr. Rogers described as a “leapfrog” method of casting, using two audition sessions — one in the prior semester and one...
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Opinion—Pittsburgh Penguins in Jeopardy

By: Jacob Walsh
December 3rd, 2024: The Pittsburgh Penguins have had a very slow start to the season, sitting in 24th place in the league with a 10-12-4 record. The Penguins' season opened with a foreshadowing blowout lost to the division rival New York Rangers 6-0 at home on October 9th. Pittsburgh ended up finishing October 4-7-1, capturing only 13 points in the standings. November continued the Pens' decline in success with multiple three-game skids. Pittsburgh only won six out of 14 games through the month, losing three straight in the second to last week. However, fortunes finally flipped as the Penguins sparked a three-game win streak to finish the final week of November. Pittsburgh beat Vancouver 5-4, Boston 2-1, and Calgary 6-2. On paper, the Penguins look like a middle-of-the-pack, under-.500 team in the league, but digging deeper reveals big problems. Pittsburgh is 31st out of 32 in the league for goals against/games played (3.77), and its combined goalie save percentage ranks 28th (.889). Specifically, the poor play by the defense overall, coupled with below-average goaltending, has begun to sink the Penguins. One of the main issues this season has been the performance...
(cont. on pg. 2)

Republican Party Sweeps General Elections

By: Hannah Stoughton
December 2024: After a tumultuous election season, Donald Trump has been elected as the 47th President of the United States. After winning the 2016 election against Hillary Clinton and losing the 2020 election to President Joe Biden, Trump is the president-elect for 2024. His opponent, Kamala Harris, announced her candidacy on July 21st, 2024, after President Biden announced that he was going to withdraw from the race. The decision came after President Biden's approval ratings dropped continuously in the midst of election season, particularly after the first presidential debate. Harris, who ran a campaign in just three short months, conceded the election results on Nov. 6th, 2024, concede this election, [but] I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign,” she stated in her address to viewers at Howard University. “The fight for freedom, for opportunity, for fairness and for the dignity of all people, a fight for the ideals at the heart of our nation, the ideals that reflect America at our best — that is a fight I will never give up.” Trump addressed supporters on Nov. 6th as well to discuss the win. He stated, “This will truly be the golden age of America” and “We overcame obstacles nobody ever thought we could.” He held his celebration of the election results at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida. “I will not rest until we deliver the strong, safe and prosperous America that our children deserve and that you

stat-deserve.” Trump won the election 291-226, with Nevada and Arizona still counting, though they are projected to declare Trump as the winner. The inauguration is set for Jan. 20th, 2025, where President Biden has promised a peaceful transition of power. As of December 2nd, the final count was 312-226 electoral votes, favoring Donald Trump as President. The Republican party also gained control of Congress, gaining four seats in the Senate to have a 52-47 majority over the Democratic Party, where the seats for Democrats include independents that tend to vote more Democratic than Republican. Republicans also have a slight majority in the House of Representatives, holding 220 seats opposed to the Democrats' 214.

Steelers Edge Bengals in AFC North Shootout

By: Jason Walsh II
December 1, 2024: Pittsburgh remains at the top of the AFC North heading into week 14. After Sunday's win against the Bengals, the Steelers are now 9-3 overall and 2-3 in the AFC



North. Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati 44-38 this past Sunday. Coming off a loss to the Browns, the Steelers were able to bounce back. Heading into week 14, Russell Wilson and the Steelers are now 5-1 under his leadership. Wilson received his sixth start this past Sunday and proved himself as a leader. After a week 12 loss to the Browns, Wilson and the Steelers headed into Cincinnati looking for a win. In the week 13

win, Wilson threw 29 completions on 38 attempts (76 percent completion), 414 yards, 3 touchdowns, and 1 interception. Wilson also rushed for 3 yards on 3 scrambles and had a QBR of 80.5. Throughout the victory, the whole offense was involved. Wilson connected to ten different players: Pickens, Freiermuth, Warren, Harris, Jefferson, Patterson, Austin III, Skowronek, and the Steelers Pruitt, and...
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Steelers Edge Bengals in AFC North Shootout

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...Washington.
Running back Najee Harris rushed for 75 yards on 16 attempts and had 54 receiving yards, along with a rushing touchdown. Running back Cordarrelle Patterson rushed for 16 yards on 3 attempts and had 37 receiving yards.
George Pickens had another big game with 74 yards receiving on 3 receptions, including a touchdown. Tight end Pat Freiermuth



had 68 yards receiving on 6 receptions and a touchdown.
Running back Jaylen Warren was effective in the passing attack, with 55 yards on 4 receptions. Wide-out Calvin Austin III only caught 2 balls on the day for 29 yards. However, one of those catches was for a touchdown. The Steelers' offense combined for 520 yards, 28 first downs, 7.9 yards per play, and 31 minutes of possession.
Moving to the Steelers' defense, DeShon Elliot led with 7 tackles and 4 assists. T.J. Watt tallied 3 tackles, 2 sacks, and a forced fumble. Patrick Queen had 4 tackles and 5 assists on the afternoon. Fitzpatrick had 4 tackles and 2 assists. Cam Heyward had 3 tackles, 2 assists, and a sack. Nick Herbig had 1 tackle and a strip sack that led to a Payton Wilson recovery for a touchdown.

Pittsburgh's defense allowed 375 yards of total offense, 25 first downs, 6.6 yards per play, forced 2 punts, had 4 sacks, forced 2 fumbles, and had 1 interception.
This Sunday, December 8th, the Steelers head into the final stretch of the season. They will face their fourth AFC North opponent in a row: the 3-9 Cleveland Browns. This will be the second matchup against the Browns this season; Pittsburgh lost 24-19 to the Browns at Cleveland in week 12. The AFC North Matchup will be a home game for the Steelers this time, at Acrisure Stadium on Sunday at 1 p.m.
Heading into week 14 against Cleveland, The Steelers sit at the third seed in the AFC, behind Kansas City and Buffalo. Both Kansas City (11-1) and Buffalo (10-2) won in week 13, improving their records. As the season continues, the Steelers will remain in a fight for the first seed in the AFC to get a bye for the wild card round and home-field

advantage. The current AFC Playoff picture is Kansas City (1st), Buffalo (2nd), Pittsburgh (3rd), Houston (4th), LA Chargers (5th), Baltimore (6th), and Denver (7th).
For the remainder of the season, Imogen DeBlois, Leary Studio
the Steelers have 3 home games and 2 away games. They will also face either an AFC North team or a playoff contender.
Pittsburgh Steelers Remaining Schedule:
Week 14: Cleveland Browns, HOME, Sunday, December 8th, 1 p.m.
Week 15: Philadelphia Eagles, AWAY, Sunday, December 15th, 4:25 p.m.
Week 16: Baltimore Ravens, AWAY, Saturday, December 21st, 4:30 p.m.
Week 17: Kansas City Chiefs, HOME, Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas), 1 p.m.
Week 18: Cincinnati Bengals, HOME, Sunday, January 5th, TBD

Opinion Piece: Pittsburgh Penguins in Jeopardy

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...of goaltender Tristan Jarry. Jarry is 3-3-1 this season and has served a stint in the minor league. Now, Jarry has only played 7 games, but he's signed to a 5-year, \$5.3 million contract. Jarry has been constantly outplayed by his counterpart, Alex Nedeljkovic, and has been switched in and out with the minor league starter, Joel Blomqvist. In Jarry's past few starts, he has played better, but it's insane that a 'starting' goaltender cannot play consistently and is constantly being swapped with two other goalies. General Manager Kyle Dubas missed his chance to ship Jarry off, and now he holds barely any trade value.
Another issue is the defense. Pittsburgh is old and plays slow.

Time and again, the defense gets beat in breakaways. A competitive NHL team should not give up anywhere near the number of breakaways the Pens do. It's all about the self-inflicted wounds. If the goalie plays bad, they lose; if the goalie plays good, the defense leaves him out to dry. The Penguins cannot help themselves, and they're destroying the team.
Look at Boston. They won a Presidents' Trophy and just fired their head coach. Mike Sullivan's plan for the Penguins has become stale, and he's missed the playoffs for two straight seasons. The Penguins haven't gotten past the first round since 2018. Personally, I would have given Sully the axe already, but if they keep up the bad play, it needs to be soon. The Penguins are failing Crosby, Malkin, and Letang. They



Image credits to Justin Berl..

got the three to buy into a team that was supposed to still be competitive, and they just do not have the pieces to do so. The argument of the three players' ages is moot as well; Sid and Geno lead the team in points. As for Letang, I think he should have retired last year, and I still think he needs to, but he deserves to go out on his own terms. It feels crummy to think that the three players who raised this franchise back from the brink of death are playing

meaningless hockey. The Penguins need a spark, maybe a trade, a coaching change, or something.
Update: At the publishing of this article, the spark has been found. The Penguins are on a four game win streak. Jarry has been playing better and so has the team overall. Three defenders scored against the Panthers in a 5-4 overtime win. Maybe the tides are turning for the Penguins...only time will tell.

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She Killed It! Thiel Players Perform
She Kills Monsters

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...semester of the production. “It also helps because then students can have a script, theoretically, to work on over the summer.” As for those behind (or above) the stage, plenty of Thiel students contributed to making the world of the play come to life. Mason Adams and Emmett Gill were in charge of props, Emma Cannata and Rose O’Reilly headed Hair and Make-Up, and Ireland Anderson and Christina Newman were responsible for Costume Coordination. Edward Ague handled Sound Design, and Fran Comstock was the Technical Supervisor. Alum got involved as well. Paul Miller ’69 served as the fight coordinator for She Kills Monsters. A regular at the William A. Robinson Theater, Miller has directed Thiel Players productions, taught a Stage Combat Class, and completed a three-

Combat Workshop back in 2001. Dr. Rogers’ Stagecraft class can be thanked for the set production. Students spent the semester leading up to production learning about the fundamentals of set building and applying their skills by helping to create the set used for She Kills Monsters. This included an impressive backdrop and moving platforms. Without this rag-tag group of students, alumni, and community members, this production wouldn’t have been possible, which makes it all the more impressive that many of these students do it out of passion. “I know a lot of students are still active with Dungeons and Dragons — 2024 is actually the 50th anniversary of the invention of the game,” shared Rogers. “I do this obviously because it’s my job — and I enjoy it — but for [the students], they’re not doing it necessarily for credit, they’re definitely not getting paid...

week they really do it because they love it,” she added, pointing out Newman, Gill, and Adams who were cleaning the stage at the time. Many of the students involved are part of Alpha Psi Omega (APO), the national theatre honors society. Rogers hopes that people will be able to recognize the hours of passion, dedication, and work that goes into bringing these plays to life and that people will come to see them. Auditions for Thiel Player’s next production, Murder Me Always by Lee Mueller, have already been held, but a second round of auditions will be held on January 27, 2025. For students interested in getting involved in other ways, Dr. Rogers is always looking for people to be part of the crew, or students can take one of the many theatre classes offered every semester. APO’s production of Puffs will be held on February 28 and March 1, 2025, at 7 p.m. in the William A. Robinson Theater.

Shell Corporation
Backtracks on Emissions, Moves Headquarters

By: Colin Schroyer
November 2024: As of Nov. 12, a significant court case regarding climate change, the Shell corporation is no longer legally required to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030. Initially declared in May 2021, the Hague District Court, located in the Netherlands, ordered Shell to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% compared to its emission levels in 2019. Milieudefensie first brought the case to court alongside several co-plaintiffs, stating that Shell should be responsible for emissions in every scope of influence, from those directly made by the company’s operations to those made by consumers who use Shell products. This development came after Shell had retracted its original energy transition strategy in...
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President Joe Biden Pardons Son Hunter
Biden After Pledging to Not Doing So

By: Hannah Stoughton
December 1st, 2024: President Joe Biden released a statement to the United States to issue a pardon of his son Hunter Biden after previously pledging otherwise. Up until post-2024 Election, the Biden administration has maintained that Hunter Biden was not to be pardoned, stating that they wish to abide by jury decisions and allow the legal system to do its job. Hunter Biden was prosecuted on federal gun charges and tax evasion that spanned from 2014-2024. After being charged in June of 2023 for misdemeanor tax charges of neglecting to pay over \$1.4 million in taxes, Hunter Biden’s plea deal was set to happen—then he was caught lying on a firearm purchase form. In October 2018, Hunter Biden was caught lying about his drug use on a form in Delaware. He used this form to purchase a .38-caliber Colt revolver. As the situation continues to develop in the media, many

viewers have asked what a Presidential Pardoning is. According to AP News, the Constitution states that a president can grant clemency, or pardons and/or commutations. While a commutation can reduce the penalties of federal offences, it does not necessarily forgive the offence. A pardoning does the latter; when someone is Presidentially Pardoned, their federal offenses are forgiven, and the expected criminal trials are no longer held. State offenses are not subject to pardons, nor are impeachment convictions. The original sentencing for Biden’s crimes was set to happen in December 2024, just a few short weeks away. It also comes just before the president-elect Donald Trump is to be inaugurated, leaving skeptics of the pardoning believing that it was not only a way for President Biden to pardon his son, but to leave a legacy that his opponent, with whom, historical

cally, President Biden has not been in good standing. Hunter Biden has a troublesome history with the American people. After disclosing his drug and alcohol abuse struggles, the image of Biden is vilified and negative across the majority of the country. The federal trials in which President Biden effectively canceled with his pardoning were also set to investigate the foreign business affairs that are rumored to be corrupt and traitorous to the country, as per Republican officials. He already faced up to seventeen years in prison for the tax charges and twenty-five for the gun charges. The politicalization of the Hunter Biden federal investigation most likely played a significant role in each side, prosecution and defense. After the

charges became a political discussion point, as President Biden cited in his pardoning. It became difficult for observers to draw conclusions without allowing politics to influence their decisions. The prosecution has since denied these allegations, stating that the case was not tainted by politics but instead driven by justice. Aside from the general controversy surrounding Hunter Biden, and added level of complexity is how President Biden has stated multiple times that he does not intend to pardon Hunter. Both in June of 2024 and just three short days after election day, Biden maintained that he had no intentions of pardoning Hunter during his administration.



Joe & Hunter Biden

Shell Corporation Backtracks on Emissions, Moves Headquarters

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...March of this year, abandoning its originally promised 2035 goal and reducing the additional goal for 2030.

As part of the ruling, Shell no longer has to follow the set guidelines established in 2021 and is now free to adjust its emissions policies and plans as the company sees fit. However, the court did clarify an innate duty of companies, such as Shell, to actually reduce emissions, though the placement of specific requirements could not be enacted.

Part of this discussion revolves around the three scopes of emissions: scope 1, direct emissions from part of or the whole company; scope 2, indirect emissions from third-party sources that power company operations; and scope 3: all other indirect emissions that are in some way or manner directly linked to the company, such as the

Milieudefensie, Dutch for “environmental defense,” and known in English as “Friends of the Earth Netherlands,” was founded on January 6, 1971. It is an organization focused on protecting the environment, but its focus shifted in 2016 to the current climate crisis.

Along with other groups, such as the Greenpeace Netherlands Foundation, National Association for the Conservation of the Wadden Sea, and now-dissolved Association of Young Environmentally Active, Milieudefensie tried to establish set requirements upon Shell for its carbon emissions reduction plan, which were ultimately overturned in this most recent decision.

In the aftermath of this overruling, Shell, which was formerly headquartered in the Netherlands, has announced plans to move its headquarters to the United Kingdom.

consumer purchase of gasoline.

Shell, a multinational company, will now not only have greater control over how it controls its emissions reduction but will also no longer have to abide by Dutch governmental authority.

Though given greater independence in the matter, the decision did come with an important caveat: concern for climate change is a concern for human rights. Part of a directive given as part of this new statement outlines “obligations for companies regarding actual and potential human rights adverse impacts and environmental adverse impacts.” Though this proposed plan by Milieudefensie et al. has been overturned, broader legislature, such as the Paris Agreement, re-

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Classes beginning at:	Final Exam Date:	Final Exam Time:
8:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Friday, December 13	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Thursday, December 12	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Wednesday, December 11	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
11:00 a.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Friday, December 13	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
12:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Wednesday, December 11	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Thursday, December 12	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. on Mon, Wed, Fri	Thursday, December 12	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
8:30 a.m. on Tues, Thurs	Wednesday, December 11	8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. on Tues, Thurs	Thursday, December 12	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. on Tues, Thurs	Friday, December 13	1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. on Tues, Thurs	Wednesday, December 11	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Evening Classes on Mon	Friday, December 13	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Evening Classes on Tues/Thurs	Thursday, December 12	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Evening Classes on Wed	Wednesday, December 11	6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Exams for TBA Classes	Friday, December 13	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
ACCT 113, All Sections	Friday, December 13	3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thiel College Fall 2024 Final Exams Schedule

Let’s Do Some Coloring!

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Hannah Stoughton
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Jason Walsh II
Colin Schroyer



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-H.S., J.W., J.W.II, & C.S.

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