



Tech Collegian



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Bakken crude oil: safe to ship by rail?

By Lindsay McDowall
Staff Writer

In the early afternoon of Monday, February 16, 2015, a train carrying 109 tanker cars of Bakken crude oil derailed in the Mount Carbon area. 27 total cars derailed, resulting in a massive fire, evacuation of over 100 people, a shutdown of the Montgomery water system, and our own relocation to the former Mountain State University campus in Beckley, West Virginia. Unfortunately, West Virginia's derailment was one of many over the past few years. One of the first derailments of the Bakken crude oil was located in Lac-Megantic,

Quebec, Canada. The train derailed on July 5, 2013 and the result was a fire that burned for 36 hours, some 40 buildings destroyed, and 47 people killed. The cause of that derailment was determined to be excessive speed. Derailments of this nature have caused many people to question whether or not rail transportation is appropriate for transporting this type of crude oil.

So what exactly is Bakken crude oil, and why is it more dangerous than regular crude oil? Bakken crude oil comes from primarily North Dakota, and the Bakken formation is one of the largest reserves of crude oil and natural gas in

North America. While it was known that the Bakken formation existed as early as 2007, technology didn't allow for mass drilling into this formation until late 2012. Pipelines were much more difficult to build in 2008 when initial drilling efforts began, so the next option was to transport the crude oil by rail. In 2012 when the industry boomed, so did the rail transportation.

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A writer's journey

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

Writing a novel is no simple feat. It takes patience and a lot of hard work. Coming up with a story and the characters are hard enough. Yet, the creation of a story can be made simple if the author can find the right inspiration. That inspiration can come in all sorts of forms. Sometimes it can be watching the sunset or listening to the raindrops splatter against a tin roof. Other times it comes from life experiences or a story in history the author enjoys. Once inspiration has struck, no author can truly ignore the call of the pen.

Although creating the work of art known as a

manuscript is difficult in itself, the job does not get any easier once the writing has finished. For authors who wish to be published, the work next comes in the forms of editing, finding an agent, and finding an acceptable publisher. No matter how many times the author looks over his or her own work, there will be mistakes he or she misses. It is always better to have a trusted friend look over the drafted manuscript for errors the author may have missed. The problem with authors editing their own work is that they are too close to the work.

Finding an agent is no simple trick, either. It takes many tries and failures before the author receives the first letter of acceptance

After an agent has taken on the task of the manuscript, the next step is publication. Publishers everywhere are looking for the next big story, the next best seller.

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A writer's journey

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Regardless of the publisher the author chooses, there will be a fee for the publisher's time and effort into the book. In addition to that fee, the agent will get a percentage of the royalties to cover their expenses as well.

Marketing is the next step. Promoting the book can simply be word of mouth or it can be something expensive such as a billboard or commercial. Some publishers will even do a youtube video to promote the author's book. An author should not leave the marketing to the publisher alone. Sometimes promoting his or her own book is the best thing an author can do. Regardless, creating a book is never easy and the author's job is never done, even after publication.

Vining Library's poetry reading

By Rhea Calico
Staff Writer

The Vining Library is having an open house to celebrate and show off their remodel. The first floor has gotten new carpet and the computers have been moved to run along the center of the room. The open house also falls on National Library Week. To celebrate, the Vining Library is hosting a poetry reading among other events to take place the week of April 13th. Students are welcome to come and read from their favorite poems or ones they have written. Students who prefer not to read poetry but rather prefer to simply listen and relax to the poems of others are more than welcome to come, sit back, and enjoy the words of others.

The poetry reading will take place Thursday, April 16th in the Reserve Room of the Vining Library. The event will begin at 6:00pm and end at 8:30pm. Refreshments will be offered. For more information, contact Jewel Connell at ajconnell@mix.wvu.edu, 304-981-6247, or visit her in the

GREEK LIFE

Greek Women

By Lindsay McDowall
Staff Writer

Our Greek women have been very busy this semester! Delta Kappa Theta recently held a Zumba dance-a-thon to benefit St. Jude's Research Hospital. In all, they were able to raise \$204 to benefit cancer research! Way to go, ladies!

Alpha Sigma Tau hosted their annual Miss AST beauty pageant in early April. There was a good turnout and many laughs! The Taus will also be initiating three wonderful women into their sisterhood this semester; congrats to Brittany Beckwith, Alexis Branch, and Megan Blythe!

See Greek Men Update on page 7

Travel West Virginia

By Robert Liebel
Staff Writer

West Virginia, home of the "Wild and Wonderful," has so many beautiful and amazing places to offer. It can offer beautiful sights to see, tourist attractions, historical towns, and much more. One of the most photographed sites in West Virginia would be the Blackwater Falls State Park. The state park obtained its name from the falls of the Blackwater River. Located in Davis, WV, the Blackwater Falls are five stories high and then run through about an 8-mile long gorge through the Canaan Valley area. It gets the "black" water from fallen red spruce needles and hemlock, which produce tannic acid. Having personally visited this tourist hot spot in Tucker County, I found it to be one of the most stunning sights I have seen in my life. They have a deck towards the bottom of the falls where you are able to get really close to the water. One could personally stay there and gaze at the sight for an hour or two getting lost into the attraction. Not only are you able to view the waterfall, you are able to hike around the state park on their cleared hiking trails. Also, the Blackwater Falls State Park offers lodging, restaurants, and sled riding in the winter. Other than that, you are able to witness the gorgeous spring greening, the amazing summer evenings, or the leaf color change in autumn. And for the teenagers, you will be able to connect to WiFi access if you want to post photos of the breathe-taking Blackwater Falls to your social media accounts. If waterfalls, hiking, or just a calm, beautiful place to relax is your thing, this is a place you need to travel to in West Virginia.

Bakken crude oil: safe to ship by rail?

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What makes this crude oil more flammable than regular crude oil is the amount of natural gas mixed into the oil. In most cases, the natural gases can be separated from the oil through various engineering means. However, due to the newness of this industry in North Dakota, they do not yet have the infrastructure available to accomplish this, so the North Dakota companies just ship the oil mixed with the gas. This causes the explosions that we've seen with the derailments; it isn't the crude oil itself exploding, it's the gases in it. This raises concern, especially because these trains travel through big cities such as Philadelphia.

Many debates have started as to whether or not the crude oil should be shipped by rail, or through pipelines. The overwhelming amount of derailments and subsequent explosions have pushed many to say that pipelines are the safer option. However, many forget that pipelines also have their own issues to consider, such as leaks and explosions. Pipelines, like railroads, go through residential areas. However, with the advancements in pipeline

technology, it certainly is beginning to look as though it may be the safer option for the transportation of Bakken crude oil.

While many have suggested reformed safety standards for tanker cars and other such measures, a simple yet effective solution is often overlooked: remove the explosive gases. This is likely because of the cost to build the infrastructure necessary to accomplish this. Those who are producing this oil will often look for the cheapest solution rather than the safest, most effective solution.

Russia-Ukraine conflict

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

In the year since pro-Russian separatists rebelled in Ukraine, conflict has finally begun to lessen in its intensity. This past February, Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov died. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko told reporters Nemtsov was murdered because he had information and persuasive evidence about the involvement of Russian armed forces in Ukraine. Poroshenko believed someone was afraid of the knowledge becoming known and killed Nemtsov as a precaution as Russia had been claiming their forces were not involved with the pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine.

Since the first strike from the rebels in April 2014, more than 6,000 people have been killed, a Moscow-backed president was ousted in Kiev, and Russia has annexed the Crimea peninsula. Kiev and its allies in the West still claim the rebels are funded and aided with weapons by Moscow. In addition, they claim the rebels are also backed by Russian military units. Russia, of course, denies any affiliation with the rebels and claims that any Russian-speaking troops operating without insignia are not Russia's men.

Then, in late February, Ukraine's president signed a decree allowing for the formal request for international peacekeepers to be stationed along the eastern regions where Ukrainians are battling pro-Russian separatists. Poroshenko's appeal was sent to the United Nations and the European Union.

Although there was no timetable set on when an answer would be received or when peacekeepers would be stationed, Russia is said to be firmly against the idea of peacekeepers in Ukraine's eastern regions. In addition, Ukraine and Russia formed a cease-fire deal in February and have gradually decreased the amount of violence. However, the violence has not been completely eliminated as both Russia and Ukraine have complained of random violations of the cease-fire deal.

Supposedly, under the cease-fire deal, both Russia and Ukraine would pull back all of their heavy weaponry to somewhere between 50 and 90 miles away from the front lines. The drawback began the last week of February, yet the progress made is unknown. The separatists have claimed they have obeyed the terms of the peace agreement although the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the group overseeing the withdrawal process, has yet to confirm the separatists' claims and say that they have been blocked from conducting exhaustive verifications. Ukraine military spokesperson Col. Andriy Lysenko accuses the separatists of first withdrawing their weaponry to the agreed upon distance from the front lines before returning them to their original positions under the cover of nightfall. He says Ukraine will only continue with their withdrawals if the situation does not worsen. United States relations are being

strained with Russia as well. President Obama has been put under pressure to give more aid to the Ukrainian forces. Secretary of State John Kerry met with his Russian counterpart although previously telling Congress that Russian officials have lied to his face about Moscow's role in Ukraine. After the Russian foreign ministry rebuked Kerry's statement, U.S. official pointed out that Kerry did not specifically accuse the minister of lying. Also, although Russia denies having troops in Ukraine, the United Nations have "credible reports that indicate a continuing glow of heavy weaponry and foreign fighters." As a result to Russia's known involvement, Ukraine has begun increasing its war-readiness and the size of its military. Polish leaders have also voiced their support of Ukraine's forces. German Chancellor Angela Merkel continues to call for the addition of heavy weaponry to aid Ukraine, however, no other official has come to back the idea of adding weapons claiming the cease-fire deal is the way to move things forward. As it stands now, if a cease-fire agreement is fulfilled completely, it is likely for Russia and Ukraine to move from a hot war to a cold war much like the Cold War of Russia and the United States.

Men's swim team takes championship

By Rubhi Garcia
Staff Writer

On February 15, 2015, history was made for the West Virginia University Institute of Technology Men's Swim Team. It is clear that the WVU Tech's swim team had the correct winning mentality.

During their season this year they were portraying the university in a positive way through their competitiveness. Both the men and women's team prepared sedulously for every meet they had with different universities. Both teams did very well, but it was the men's swim team that had many of us talking. Being just a small team overall they still managed to demonstrate their ability in the water. With Head Coach, Chris Rogers, the team was directed to success. He knew exactly how to lead his team to many victories. Having the men's swim team achieving many school records and almost being undefeated until the end is a major accomplishment to be recognized. As they worked diligently throughout the season, it was the Appalachian Swimming Conference Championship

that was anticipated the most. Feeling hopeful, the swim team gave their best in the water and tried to maintain a positive mindset amongst themselves.

I interviewed one of the swim team's captains, Gabriel Grauwde, as well as Coach Rogers, and it was clear the happiness that this team still had after winning the Appalachian Swimming Conference for the first time ever. It was in my interest to know how this year's Champions stayed with the level of competitiveness, while still being a small team. Coach Rogers responded, "On our men's team we are extremely competitive, but you will see that in smaller school there will be smaller teams. But we're still very competitive, I believe we're in a good conference where we are where we need to be. As we move forward our competitiveness is going to increase." Every team can have their moments of pressure, but knowing how this team overcame its issues during, and still being able to reach their success was something that I wanted to know how they achieved it. things didn't go as we had hoped.

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THROWBACK 1964 BASEBALL TEAM



Welcome to the games

By Rhea Calica
Staff Writer

There are many clubs all over campus searching for new members. One such organization is Tech's very own Esports Club. Created early on this semester by a group of video game lovers, this new club is dedicated entirely to gamers. Their games include Halo, Final Fantasy, Guild Wars, League of Legends, Mario, Pokémon, and many more. Anyone interested in gaming as a serious hobby or just a way to pass the time and relax is welcome to join. For the players interested in competitions, there is already a Pokémon team and a League of Legends team in place

and ready to begin competing. A Heroes of the Storm team recently competed in their first competition as well. For casual gamers, WVUIT Esports offers a place to have fun, meet new people, and make friends with others who share the same interests. It is also a group through which solo players, by choice or circumstance, can learn to work together as a team in a variety of games.

An event held April 10th gave gamers a chance to compete in Super Mario Smash Bros. and Halo tournaments. Future events in the coming year will provide the same chance, with various games, to first years and other students

looking to have some fun and relax. Club members and other students may come together to have one-on-one and team tournaments. WVUIT Esports is not all fun and games, however. As part of their criteria, homework and classes always come first. Meetings are open to aspiring new students and held at 3:00pm every Wednesday in Engineering room 202. For further information, the current members and officers can be found on the WVUIT Esports Club Facebook page. Officers may also be contacted at wvuitesports@gmail.com.

It's On Us

By Lindsay McDowall
Staff Writer

April is Sexual Violence Awareness Month, and WVU Tech is participating by hosting various campus events surrounding the new campaign, It's On Us. The It's On Us campaign was started by President Barack Obama and his staff in April with the intention to eradicate sexual violence in schools. The campaign is meant to change the way that society thinks about sexual violence and inspire people to be active bystanders. Active bystanders are those that speak up and say or do something to prevent violence.

"It's important for Tech to have sexual and domestic violence awareness programs because

people may not be aware as to what (domestic violence especially) actually consists of," says student Lesli Taylor. "Most people assume it's just physical abuse, but it goes much deeper than that to emotional abuse and controlling behaviors."

Tech aims to help increase this awareness through planned events all month. The month began with an event titled The Clothesline Project. The Clothesline Project is a project that allows women who have had experience with or been affected by sexual or domestic violence to decorate a shirt representing how they feel. These shirts are then hung up as a visual representation of just how many lives violence touches. On April 15, Tech RAs Raul Torres and Tavon Johnson hosted Green Dot Bingo,

where students learned how to be active bystanders.

On April 20, there will be two self-defense sessions in the gym. The first session will be from 5pm-7pm and the second will be from 7pm-9pm. On April 30 after Spring Fling, Tech counselor Vicki Shawl will host an event titled "Express Yourself." This is a free art event where students can express themselves on canvas.

All students are encouraged to attend all of the events throughout the month. Preventing Sexual and Domestic Violence is the responsibility of all of us. It's On Us to end this violence. Take the pledge today at ItsOnUs.org.

Men's swim team takes championship

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After the first day we were 60-70 points back and that was because of our own fault, but we came as a team and focused on what we had to do. On our second day we had great swims and that put us back on track." There's always a determinant factor when a team wins, so I wondered what this factor was in swimming, Coach Rogers replied saying, "There were a lot of great events, but it was the event where Alexandre Quintao, Jesus Ballesteros, Matheus Montarroyos, and Quentin Cooper place second, third, fourth, and fifth. So to put four people into the Championship final is huge, where it took our competitors out of contentions for those points as well."

I then interviewed one of the men's swim team Captains, Gabriel Grauwde. I asked Grauwde a similar question to Coach Rogers to understand his perspective as a swimmer on how the men's swim

team overcame the obstacles. Grauwde responded, "We came together and talked how we had to make it to finals. Gathering points was very necessary for us, to be in the top 16 in every event was very important in order for us to win, and we did just that." I also wanted to know what was going through his mind and the minds of his teammates when they were waiting to know who had won Conference. Grauwde, "It was incredible we were all waiting for that moment because we already knew based on our scores compared to the other teams."

The WVU Tech Men's swim team led the Appalachian Swimming Conference Championship with a team score of 427. This is inspiring to know that everything that you set your mind to, you can accomplish it. There will be obstacles that one will have to learn to overpass. Best of luck to the WVU Tech Swim Team and hopefully they continue their success for many years to come.

Greek Men

By Robert Liebel
Staff Writer

One of the biggest stereotypes on campus, "the frat dudes", are more than what you see in all the different movies and television shows. Yes, there has been a lot of negative talk about fraternities from other schools that have messed up, however, the fraternities on campus have been doing their best to help improve the campus as well as the community. The two fraternities at WVU Tech are Sigma Pi and Phi Kappa Tau. Both fraternities have been working hard this year to help with the school and the surrounding community. They volunteer their time with doing community service as well as committing to raising money and

awareness for different philanthropies.

Sigma Pi has been helping clean up the Tech Trail with their usual spring clean-up. When the school had all the snow and ice on campus, the Sigma Pi brothers helped clear up the snow and ice off the sidewalks. Also, later this semester the brothers will be in Bear's Den with a table and computer to help sign people up who want to be an organ donor. They have been doing a lot of behind the scene work around campus as well.

Phi Kappa Tau has been helping with various projects this year as well. Recently, on April 7, they co-hosted the Pie an RA event where all the proceeds went to

Serious Fun Children's Network. They were able to raise \$324 for the charity that provides a fun, free week of summer camp for terminally ill children. They were able to raise/donate a little over \$800 worth of clothes to Goodwill and the Salvation Army. The brothers are also co-hosting the Habitat for Humanity Shack-a-thon, where they hope to raise money and awareness for the homeless. With already close to 250 hours of community service already, they have other plans to obtain more.

Both Sigma Pi and Phi Tau can be seen across campus wearing their Greek letters in pride. They have brothers that are RAs, OLs, Student Ambassadors, and are involved in other organizations.

Check out our issue next month for our special Commencement Issue!

April 2, 1908 -- Hans Christian Anderson was born

April 4, 1968 -- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot and killed by a sniper in Memphis, TN.

April 6, 1896 -- The first modern Olympics were held in Athens, Greece.

April 9, 1865 -- The Civil War ended.

April 12, 1961 -- Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space.

April 15, 1912 -- *Titanic* sank with 2,224 persons aboard.

April 20, 1999 -- Columbine shooting occurred in Colorado.

April 21, 1918 -- The Red Baron was shot down and killed.

April 30, 1789 -- George Washington became the first US President.

"Success is never so interesting as the struggle - not even to the successful."
- Willa Cather

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