Galipatian Station

~While You Pee in Lee~

11/15/19—11/22/19

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FOLDABLE PHONES

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In early October the Microsoft Surface Duo was revealed as the most recent addition to the growing list of foldable phones. With more and more companies beginning to explore the foldable route, it's likely that this will be a key feature for future phone innovations. However, many experts are not impressed with this development and claim that it's a fad that won't last long on the market and lacks true innovation.

So, what's the truth? Are foldable phones the future? Or are they just a gimmick that will not hold up to the test of time? To start, many people are of the opinion that foldable phones are impractical for the average person and that such a large phone screen is simply not needed. Another issue is the high cost of these products - the Samsung Galaxy Fold has a whopping price tag of $1,980 for the 4G LTE model. This means that the inevitable 5G version of it will be even more expensive. Due to the nature of the foldable phone, the screens are also made from plastic which is less durable than the glass display that has become the norm. There have been complaints of the screen breaking, and the crease due to the folding could be an annoyance for some.

However, it's not all bad news for the future of foldable phones. Despite the negative feedback from experts, commercial buyers seem to be happy with the product. On Best Buy, the average rating for the Samsung Galaxy Fold is a 4.9 out of 5 with 48 customer reviews. One reviewer even said that they will no longer consider buying a phone that cannot fold. Apple is also hopping on this trend. While they are a little late to the game, Apple has been filing patents for foldable technology that is to be expected to be available in 2021. With many who are loyal to their brand, Apple could produce the most popular foldable phone yet.

What do you think? Will you be buying a foldable phone for your next upgrade or will you be sticking with what you know?
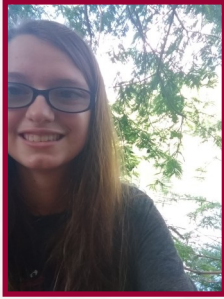
LIBRARY RESOURCES

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As a student, you have undoubtedly visited the library many times to study or meet with groups, but you are probably not aware of the extensive resources that the library provides in addition to book rentals and being a great study space.

On the fourth floor of the library, there are five group study rooms equipped with whiteboards and meeting tables that can comfortably fit at least six students. These rooms are perfect for working with your engineering group or with a study group before a test. The rooms must be booked in advance through https://vtlibrary.getconnect2.com/. You should plan to book rooms a few days ahead of time due to their popularity.

In addition to study spaces, the library has lots of rentable technology. Students can rent a variety of equipment such as projectors, cameras, Go-Pros, laptops, iPads and even drones! If you are planning a game night, the library also provides Nintendo Switches, Wii U's, and many games that are available to borrow for up to 5 days at a time. Or, if you prefer board games, the library has 24 different options.

On the fourth floor, the Virtual Environments Studio can be booked for up to an hour at a time if you want to try out virtual reality headsets. The library provides both equipment and software for both school and personal projects.

While not nearly as extensive as popular streaming services such as Netflix, the library does provide access to over 100,000 videos through multiple streaming services. In addition to numerous documentaries and other educational videos, you have free access to popular movies such as Back to the Future, Inception and The Bourne Identity. For movie nights, make sure to check out bit.ly/vtstreamingpopular before paying to rent a movie!

STAYING WARM IN BLACKSBURG
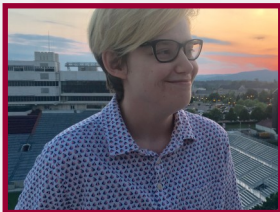
Ryder Fritz
He/Him/His

In the past week you may have noticed that temperatures are dropping, and fast. Staying warm and protecting yourself from elements is crucial in keeping you happy and healthy. Hopefully this guide is useful to those who aren't familiar with cold weather, or just haven't adjusted yet.

Tip #1: Always have a hot drink 🍵
This is a strategy that I use whenever I cross the Drillfield. A cup of hot tea, coffee, or coco can be a lifesaver when it's freezing out. On residential side you can pick up a drink to go at Deets, Dunkin Donuts, or the coffee station in Owens. On academic side you can visit Seattle's Best Coffee, Bruegger's Bagels, Starbucks or Au Bon Pain.

Tip #2: Layer up!
Wearing layers is the easiest way to keep yourself warm in the next couple of weeks. If you don't already have a winter coat, I would recommend taking the bus to Walmart and purchasing one ASAP. If that's not an option for you though, you should at least procure a hat and scarf. Last year the convenience store under D2 sold beanies and scarves once it got cold, so that would be the first place I'd look. If they don't have anything this year, the bookstore may have winter apparel as well.

Tip #3: Minimize your time outdoors
Walking through buildings instead of staying outside is an easy way to take a few minutes to warm up as you commute across campus. As an example, you can walk through Torgerson to get to Newman library. Or you can walk through Pamplin to get down to Hahn Hall North. Sometimes on the walk back to Lee Hall I'll go through Owens instead of walking up the hill next to it, just to warm up for a minute.

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