

Restoring The Faith

— By STEPHEN BURKE —



Photo from thefuntimesguide.com

Toyota's brake pedals have been the cause of the recent recall.

A popular topic in the news lately has been Toyota, and it's massive recall of over 2.3 million vehicles. Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc., is telling dealers to suspend the sales of eight major models, and has completely halted production of them. The recall is related to a problem, which can cause the accelerator pedal to stick. This is obviously a major life threat, because if your accelerator pedal stays on, you will continue to speed up and be unable to stop.

The 2.3 million cars affected, were more than all the cars sold in the year 2009: 1.8 million. Toyota is legally obligated to stop selling the cars with this malfunction.

Toyota says they have not yet been able to find a way to fix this problem, but that owners need to be aware of this possibly life-threatening issue. Due to their inability to fix the problem, it is unknown how long the sales suspension will last.

Toyota's current marketing campaign is about restoring the faith people have in the company, and Toyota ads on TV and magazines have demonstrated this. "Helping ensure the safety of our customers and restoring confidence in Toyota are very important to our company," Toyota USA group vice president Bob Carter said.

Mr. Burns, who owns a red Toyota Yaris, was interviewed on the matter and responded as follows:

Q: When did you buy your Toyota?

A: "I bought my Toyota in October of 2008."

Q: Has it been reliable?

A: "It has been very reliable."

Q: How did you feel about your car when you heard about the recall? Were you worried about the dependability of your car?

A: "I was concerned, but when they didn't list my model (as one of the malfunctioning models) I felt much better."

Q: Do you think you will be able to trust Toyota in the future?

A: "Yes, I think so. Once they get through this process, they will probably be one of the best engineered cars on the road, because they will be so hyper-sensitive from this."

Toyota said that the situation is rare, but can occur when the accelerator pedal mechanism becomes worn down. The problem will usually develop gradually, after the gears have been used a decent amount. If this problem is presented to anyone on the road, the best thing to do is put the car in neutral, so that the acceleration no longer is connected to the wheels. After this, the brakes should be able to get the car back under the driver's control. After pulling over, simply turn the vehicle off.

Top Stories

— By RAPHAEL LEE —

Make-up and retake photos for yearbook.

There will be an opportunity for seniors to retake their pictures for this year's yearbook. The yearbook club will announce the deadline for retakes after this coming spring break. Seniors who are not satisfied with their school ID photos, will be able to retake and put a brand new picture in the yearbook. Make-up faculty and staff photos will also be done.

Facebook's news-feed patent could mean lawsuits.

Facebook this week was awarded a patent pertaining to streaming "feed" technology -- more specifically, "dynamically providing a news feed about a user of a social network," complementing another patent filing that has been published but not yet approved.

The implications for this, as AllFacebook.com pointed out earlier on Thursday, are far-flung: Facebook may choose to pursue action against other social-media sites that potentially violate this patent.

Twitter, as AllFacebook points out, is effectively one giant news feed, to the extent that it clearly has influenced some of the changes that Facebook made to its own feed technology. That reaction could be alarmist. And yet prominent figures elsewhere in the social-media world don't seem thrilled.

"There goes the neighborhood," quipped Chris Messina, an open-standards advocate who recently joined Google as a member of its new Social Web Team, on Twitter.

"Can I start screaming loudly about patent reform now?" tweeted Matt Galligan, who founded a streaming-feeds start-up called Socialthing and eventually sold it to AOL.

Cruise ship back in U.S. after 435 get sick.

A cruise ship returned to Charleston, South Carolina, on Friday after more than 400 passengers got sick during a trip to the Caribbean. The Celebrity Cruises' ship Mercury ended a voyage marked by an outbreak of a gastrointestinal illness that sickened 435 of 1,838 passengers, said Cynthia Martinez, a company spokeswoman.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia, said the outbreak was the result of norovirus, which can spread from contact with contaminated food or drink, by touching objects infected by people who are already sick, or through close contact with people who are infected, the agency says.

Norovirus is a common cause of viral gastrointestinal illness outbreaks on cruise ships, the CDC says. So far this year, three such outbreaks have occurred on cruise ships that docked at U.S. ports, according to the CDC. And in 2009, norovirus was the cause of two outbreaks on the Mercury, the CDC reported.

The Mercury left Charleston last week for the eastern Caribbean. In addition to sick passengers, at least 32 crew members became ill, Celebrity Cruises has said. Symptoms included upset stomach, vomiting and diarrhea, the cruise company said this week. The sickened passengers and crew responded well to over-the-counter medicine, it said. As reported on CNN.com

The Joke's On You

— By ARIAN HOLMAN —

April Fool's Day or All Fools' Day is a day celebrated in many countries on April 1st. The history of April Fools' Day or All Fools' Day is uncertain, but the current thinking is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year's Day was moved from March - to April 1 (new year's week) to January 1.

Communication traveled slowly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. Still others, who were more rebellious, refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on the last day of the former celebration, April 1. These people were labeled "fools" by the general populace, were subject to ridicule and sent on "fools' errands," and sent invitations to nonexistent parties, while other practical jokes were played on them.

This harassment evolved over time and a custom of prank-play-

ing continued on the first day of April. This tradition eventually spread elsewhere: to Britain and Scotland in the 18th century, and to the American colonies by the English and the French. Because of this spread to other countries, April Fools' Day has taken on an international flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.

In Scotland, for example, April Fools' Day is devoted to spoofs involving the buttocks, and is therefore referred to as Taily Day. The butts of these jokes are known as April 'Gowk', another name for cuckoo bird. The origins of the "Kick Me" sign can be traced back to this Scottish observance.

In England, jokes are played only in the morning. Fools are called 'gobs' or 'gobby' and the victim of a joke is called a 'noodle.' It was considered back luck to play a practical joke on someone after noon.

In Rome, the holiday is known as Festival of Hilaria, celebrating the resurrection of the god Attis,

and is celebrated on March 25th, also referred to as "Roman Laughing Day."

In Portugal, April Fools' Day falls on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. In this celebration, many people throw flour at their friends.

So, no matter where you happen to be in the world on April 1, don't be surprised if April Fools' fall playfully upon you.

Here at Hoosac, some of the students have also done some creative pranks to celebrate the holiday. "I woke up extra early and put some food coloring in the milk and when my siblings and parents were making breakfast, they were all freaked out because the milk was purple!," said Sewa Egunsola. "Before lunch I switched the salt for sugar and I watched everyone in my family make funny faces," said Joe Mueller.



Student of the Week

Charles Côté

— By JENNIFER FOSTER —

Q. Why do you think you were chosen for student of the week?

A. I'm working hard, and I'm never late.

Q. What are you doing over March Break?

A. Visiting my friend Jack and listening to Booba

Q. How are you liking Pitt Mason?

A. Really good, it's nice.

Q. If you were Mr. Lomuscio for a day what would you do?

A. Raise money for a hockey rink.



Photo by Yunru Wang

Wacky News

- By STEPHEN BURKE -

Two weeks ago in California, a man lost his hand after being dragged by a train. The man explained that he fell onto the tracks and the incoming train somehow caught onto his hand, severing it from the wrist after dragging him 87 feet. Luckily for the man, he only lost his hand, and not his life. Just last week, a northbound train hit the man again. When police arrived, he gave the same explanation that he fell onto the tracks. The first accident was investigated as an accident, but this second fall made police suspicious of a possible suicide attempt. If not, this clumsy man is very lucky to be alive. As reported on cnews.ca

A woman decided to sell her surplus breast milk via the online marketplace. The mother discovered her son was allergic to a protein found in cow's milk. She had been producing breast milk to feed her son, but he could not drink it because she was drinking cows' milk at the time of its production. She has cut dairy out of her diet, so she can now breast feed her baby, but as for the milk already produced, she kept it in the freezer, and is now selling it online. As reported on alldeaf.com

A woman tried to have her 5-year-old son and her 4-year-old daughter "adopted." She put up a flyer to have her kids adopted for \$2,000. A couple agreed, but said that they couldn't afford that price. The price was lowered to \$1,500, on the account that the couple would also give the woman a rare bird. The mom's attorney claimed that this was an "attempt to do a good thing that went wrong." The mom said that she was trying to help the children, and "get them situated." As reported on cnews.canoe.ca

Chile Hit Hard

- By ANNIE LYONS -



Photo from parmenides.wnyc.org

Rescue workers pull survivors from rubble.

On February 27th at 3:34 AM, an 8.8 magnitude earthquake struck off-shore of Maule, Chile. This earthquake was the seventh largest in 100 years to hit central and southern Chile. A large wave crashed later into the Chilean islands of Juan Fernandez, killing at least eight people and leaving another eight missing.

More than 1.5 million people were without power in and around the capital of Santiago, according to Chile's National Emergency Office. The hardest-hit areas were farther south, in the Maule and Bio Bio regions along the coast. Authorities said that 541 of the 708 reported deaths happened in Maule. Many people were without drinking water and gas service in Bio Bio, where 64 deaths were reported.

More than 90 aftershocks have been recorded ranging from 4.9 to 6.9 in magnitude. The quake struck destroying thousands of houses. The Chilean Red Cross reported that some 500,000 homes sustained considerable damage. David Brassard said that "I can't believe that another disaster like this has even happened." Jed Jones said that "none of these people deserve this once again and it's so horrible." Days have gone by since the earthquake has happened, but Chile is still struggling to get by.

Bianca's

Student Special

1 Large Cheese Pizza
12 Wings
(1) 2 Liter Soda

\$17.50

686-3000

M-Th 11am-9pm
F & Sat 11am-10pm

What would you like
to see in the Owlet?
Give written suggestions to
Ms. Roemischer.

Sudoku-Answers

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

School Sports

- By JENNIFER FOSTER -

Girls Basketball

Friday, February 26: Girls Basketball hosted Darrow and lost 20-30. Roxie Sun scored 10 points. The final stats for the season are 3-7.

Boys Basketball

Saturday, February 27: Boys Basketball won 54-40 against Arlington. Will Sims and Julian Jones led the team. Will Sims had a season high of 26 points. Wednesday March 3 won 61-48 over Redemption Christian. Top players were Julian Jones 25 points, Will Sims 17 points and Da Han Han 10 points. The season ends with 8 wins and 9 losses.

Hockey

Saturday, February 27: Hockey ended its season with a 3-2 win over Millbrook School. Hoosac goalie, Ian Richter, had a great game.

Antonian/ Graftonian

Monday, March 1: Antonian and Graftonian games started up again. Girls played basketball and the Antonians won over the Graftonian 18-14. Sewa Egunsola scored 10 for the Antonians.

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Blocks the telemarketers for 5 years.

Hoosac Oratory Contest

Top: The 2010 Oratory contestants - (L to R) Terry Zhang, Jake Perry, Carlo Longinotti, Jisang Min, Yunru Wang, and Arian Holman.
Inset: Mr. Kurland congratulating winner Terry Zhang.

Sudoku

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

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SPORTS

Winter sports are done. Spring sports schedule will start after spring break.

PEER WRITING ASSISTANCE

Every Monday & Thursday
7:00-9:00 pm
in Library Reference Room

PEER MATH ASSISTANCE

Monday through Thursday
7:00 & 8:00 pm
@ Library Reference Room
Must get a pass from dorm parents

LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

Every Thursday, 9pm-9:45pm
with Nurse Klein
in Nurse Klein's office
in Tibbits

ON DUTY

Duty Master - Mr. Randel
Chaperone 1 - Ms. Klein
Chaperone 2 - Mr. Lomuscio
Prefect on Duty - Han
Open House - Ms. Roemischer

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