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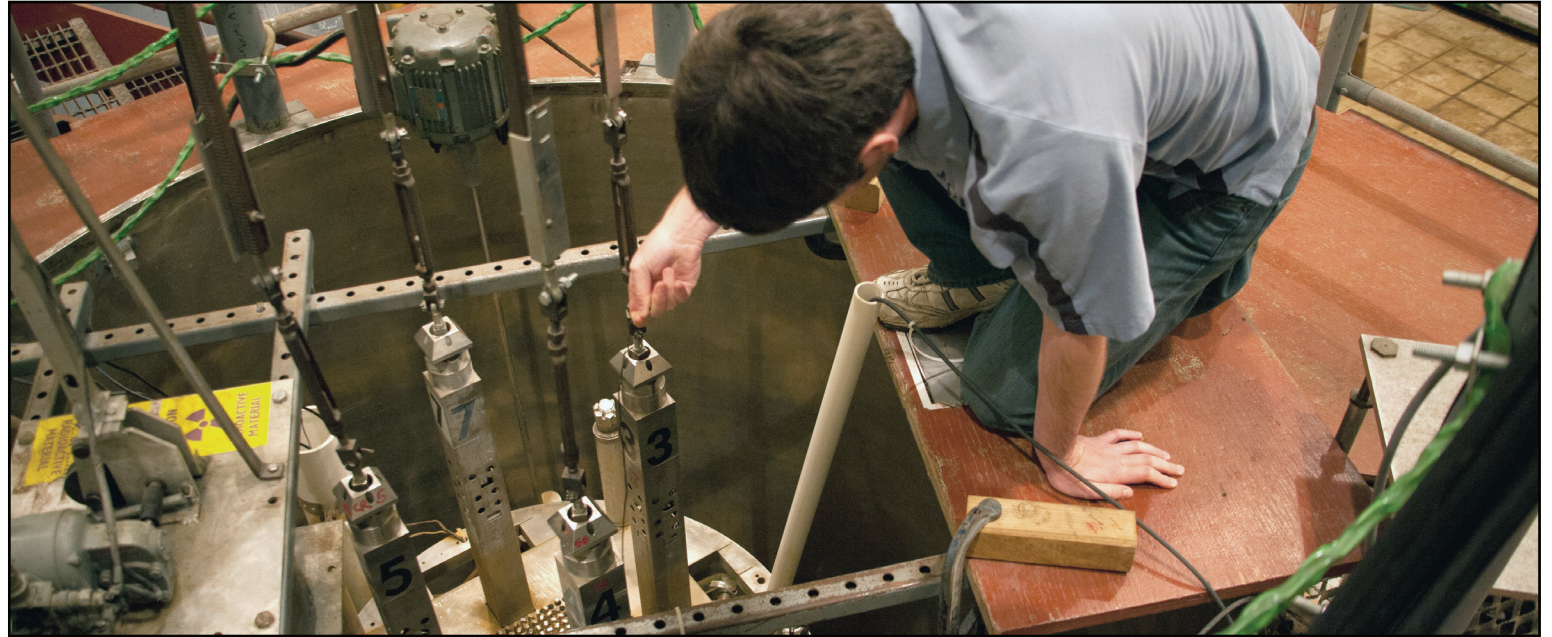


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SPECIAL REPORT

Nuclear reactor future uncertain



Dan Bruce/The Polytechnic

SENIOR REACTOR OPERATOR NICHOLAS THOMPSON REMOVES a fuel rod from the reactor core during a tour of the facility.

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

TO PASSERSBY, THE WHITE concrete box that sits on the banks of the Mohawk River in Schenectady, NY seems unremarkable. But, for many students interested in nuclear engineering at Rensselaer, it is one of the biggest draws to the school. Inside that building is the Walthousen Reactor Critical Facility, RPI's very own nuclear

reactor, used by students and faculty researchers alike.

Recently, Nicholas Thompson '11, a Senior Reactor Operator at the RCF and nuclear engineering and science Ph.D. student, has been advocating for the reactor, fearing that the administration would make the decision to close the facility. Since May, a petition sponsored by Thompson garnered 393 signatures, and a motion was passed by the Senate 16-0-1 in favor of keeping the facility open.

The RCF was originally constructed by the American Locomotive Company in 1954 "for the purpose of entering the evolving niche market for small, portable reactor plants." However, ALCO decided to exit the nuclear market in 1963, and RPI's budding nuclear engineering program was given the reactor. The reactor is now one of only 25 nuclear reactors operated by universities in the United States.

The reactor currently serves the dual purpose of research and education. Recently, an \$800,000 grant was given to the Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering department from the Department of Energy to Professor and RCF Director Peter Caracappa for research on reactor behavior in accident conditions.

The RCF also provides valuable training for current See REACTOR, **Page 2**

SUMMER ARCH

Dartmouth's D-Plan similar to Arch

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, THE ASSOCIATE Dean of the Greek Commons at Residence Life Rafael Matos, four student government members and a reporter from *The Polytechnic* sat down with students, staff, and faculty at Dartmouth in Hanover, N.H. to gain perspective into their Dartmouth Plan, or D-Plan. This trip was one of two planned trips organized by student and staff leadership in the Rensselaer Union this semester. Their purpose is to learn how students have responded to programs similar to Summer Arch. By understanding the effects and methods of this academic system, the administration and student government can better tailor Summer Arch for RPI.

In the morning, students spoke exclusively with Dartmouth staff, then over lunch, they met with a group largely comprised of juniors and seniors who have undergone the D-Plan. Some staff confessed to exhaustion due to being on the clock all year round and mentioned that the installment of professors from other schools is a practice used to relieve their fall, winter, and spring faculty.

At Dartmouth, students are on a quarter system, with four terms corresponding to the seasons. They receive three "leave" terms, during which they can vacation, undertake an internship, find a job, perform research, or otherwise take recess. They also receive

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GREEK LIFE

Dean fired after one month on job

Members of the Senior Board
The Polytechnic

ON MONDAY, LEADERS OF GREEK ORGANIZATIONS on campus received notification from Vice President for Student Life Dr. Frank Ross that the recently appointed Associate Dean of Greek Commons Rafael Matos is no longer an employee at Rensselaer. Matos had been hired to the position in October.

The Polytechnic reached out to Ross for comment on the circumstances of Matos's departure, and Ross explained, "On Wednesday, November 25, we were informed

See MATOS, **Page 2**

RENSELAER UNION

Union painting recovered, case still under investigation

Justin Etzine
Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, students noticed that the portrait of former Director of the Union Rick Hartt was missing from the Rensselaer Union. They noticed a posting on an anonymous Snapchat account, rpi.snap, containing a photo of the stolen painting and a caption reading "When you

steal dank s*** from the union [sic]." They immediately reported this finding to President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16, the Union administrative office, and the Department of Public Safety.

Hartt served as director of the Union from May 1983 until 2011, and he was revered by alumni and students alike. The portrait, a "priceless treasure"

according to numerous alumni, was commissioned by Student Government and hung in the Union to commemorate all the Hartt did during his tenure.

Shortly following the discovery, then-Interfraternity Council President Jack Shiel '16 sent emails to fraternity leaders detailing the situation and offering amnesty for the painting's immediate return;

however, the thief did not return the painting during this period.

There were no updates to the case for five days following the initial announcement, except a statement from a Union administrator and a summary of surveillance camera footage from Dvorak. The footage showed an individual, dressed in a business suit and a full-head

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INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY
PUBLIC SAFETY
INVESTIGATOR
TERRANCE BURNS

Saturday, November 14

Department of Public Safety

Assistance: A Department of Public Safety officer found a person asleep in their car that had been running for over an hour. It was determined that the individual was not intoxicated, and was escorted back to their residence.

Sunday, November 15

Polytech Apartments

Vehicular Accident: An Allied Barton security guard reported that a Subaru was left in neutral and crashed into a Ford Mustang. The Mustang sustained minor scratches.

Tuesday, November 17

George M. Low Center for Industrial Innovation

Chemical Spill: A room was evacuated after chemicals were spilled on the floor. After responding, DPS contacted Clean Harbors to clean up the spill.

Wednesday, November 18

Blitman Residence Commons

Illness: A person called complaining of chest pains and trouble breathing. When DPS arrived on the scene, the pain and difficulty breathing had subsided. Troy Fire Department responded to the scene, but the person ultimately was not transported.

Thursday, November 19

Rensselaer Union

Mischief: An officer stopped a person holding an orange construction barrel from the concrete job outside of the Union. The person was advised to return the barrel, and a report was filed with the Dean of Students Office.

Sunday, November 22

15th Street

Illness: A person with possible alcohol poisoning was stopped by DPS for further examination. Both Troy Police Department and TFD were dispatched, and TFD transported the person to Samaritan Hospital.

Sunset Terrace

Injury: A person slipped and fell inside an off-campus residence and hit his head, causing a brief unconscious episode. TFD was called but the person was taken to Samaritan Hospital by a friend.

Reactor: Administration to decide on status by May Jackson addresses questions at town hall meeting, future uncertain

From **Page 1**

students, both as undergraduates and graduates. According to U.S. News & World Report rankings and data compiled by the National Organization of Test, Research, and Training Reactors, seven of the top 10 ranked nuclear engineering graduate programs have nuclear reactors. For Rensselaer students, Critical Reactor Laboratory—a lab course where students use the RCF to perform experiments—is a required course for undergraduate nuclear engineers.

When *The Poly* visited the RCF, the graduate students working there explained that the RCF was key in their decision to come to RPI. “When I was a student looking at graduate programs, I asked if they had a reactor,” said PhD student Jason Senecal. “If not, I moved on.”

“Since it’s an extremely low power facility, we can make measurements very quickly, change core configurations, and perform experiments that other facilities would not be able to do,” explained Thompson. “Most university reactors do not have fuel similar to commercial nuclear fuel. This means that for some of the measurements we make, they are more applicable

to commercial reactors than experiments at other universities.” This allows students to both create experiments that can be run in class and gain experience in operations similar to a commercial facility.

The city of Schenectady has long been in favor of decommissioning the reactor. In an article by *The Daily Gazette* in 2011, Mayor Gary McCarthy said, “I am not sure that is the best place for that facility.” In another article in 2014, Mayor McCarthy said, “I want it decommissioned and taken off the site.”

The cost for the decommissioning of the facility is estimated at \$444,000, all of which would need to be funded by Rensselaer. The Galesi Group, which owns the property around the reactor and is currently constructing a casino at the site, is unlikely to help offset the cost of potential decommissioning. Galesi Chief Operating Officer David Buicko said the reactor “will not be a problem. It has been there forever and no one has had any issues with it.”

At the President’s Fall Town Meeting on October 29, Thompson had the opportunity to ask President Shirley Ann Jackson about the facility. She explained that the Institute constantly evaluates “how many

people actually use the facility against how much it costs us to operate and secure it;” if other, less resource-consuming options are available, it would be in RPI’s favor to pursue those options. Jackson noted that reactor operator licenses are not transferrable, to which Thompson told *The Poly* that the experience is useful nonetheless. Jackson also stated in her speech, “we don’t keep facilities open if they don’t have a broad utility and use against what they cost.” She concluded her statement by saying that Rensselaer will come to a decision point, “and it will be this year.”

In the coming months, the Institute will be making a decision. Closing the facility would save RPI the operating cost of the facility, roughly \$41,000 in 2015. However, research grants would no longer be awarded to the facility and many nuclear engineering students, both undergraduate and graduate, would be deterred from attending Rensselaer by the lack of a reactor.

Whether or not the facility remains open is a decision for the Institute’s administration to make. Closing the RCF would be a terminating decision. It is unlikely that Rensselaer would be able to gain permission and funds for a new facility should the RCF close.

Painting: found by the alumni house

From **Page 1**

monkey mask, swiftly entering the Union and leaving moments later with the painting.

On Tuesday, November 24, the painting was discovered leaning against the southeast wall of the Great Room in the Heffner Alumni House by an employee. It was noted that the nearby surveillance

cameras would be checked and that the thief would be pursued by the Institute. No further details have been revealed to *The Poly* about the theft or the culprit. If any more information is uncovered, *The Polytechnic* will report further.

If you have information on the theft, contact the Department of Public Safety at (518) 276-6656.

Matos: Swift dismissal caused by an unfortunate incident

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of an unfortunate off-campus incident involving one of our employees. After a review of the off-campus incident involving the employee, the employee was immediately dismissed.” The reason why Matos was reprimanded is currently unknown, but an anonymous source from an Institute employee close to the dismissal referred to Matos’s actions as “inappropriate.”

In his email to leaders of Greek organizations, Ross assured that a national search will take place soon to find a replacement for Matos. “During the transition, Cary Dresher, our Associate Dean of the Off Campus Commons, will serve as the primary staff member responsible for working with our fraternities and sororities,” said Ross.

Dartmouth: Big Green administration addresses Summer Arch concerns

From **Page 1**

one “off” term, during which students can study abroad, participate in a foreign study program, or take courses at another institution whose credits transfer over. These can be designated in any term slots of the student’s choosing, from freshman year through graduation. In contrast, Summer Arch currently specifies one “off” term that is restricted to either the junior fall or junior spring semester, which is less flexible than the D-Plan.

One major concern was how the administration helps students find opportunities for their “leave” terms. Like RPI, Dartmouth has a center for professional development and makes many research and internship opportunities available, but it does not go looking for students. Students are responsible for finding ways to occupy their “leave” terms. The student government members noted that the Center for Career and Professional Development will need to increase its role in order to provide students with the opportunities for a productive “off” term.

Another area of concern for Rensselaer students is athletics. Joann Brislin, head of Athletics and Club Sports for Dartmouth, addressed team commitments, saying that sports practices over the sophomore summer yield very few participants, since many students use that semester to run for leadership in clubs and Greek houses, take a light load of courses, and work a job. However, it wasn’t viewed as an issue.

Eric Ramsey of Dartmouth Student Life warned against neglecting building maintenance. He stated that Dartmouth failed to consider the necessary renovations that must take place to maintain the residence halls. Since rooms in those buildings are occupied all the time, there is no time for work to be done on them. Ramsey suggested having on and off rooms and switching them around to ensure safe living conditions. However, RPI is already filled to maximum occupancy and may not have an easy solution.

Dartmouth students stated that Greek Life on campus has benefitted from the D-Plan. It allows younger students to take positions of leadership in houses while older leaders are on their “off” or “leave” terms, which applies to clubs on their campus as well. This gives more opportunity for underclassmen to build their resumes through leadership experience and produces a more active, dynamic culture.

According to both students and faculty alike, the program has more positive attributes than negative ones. Therefore, certain elements of Dartmouth’s D-Plan should be incorporated within Summer Arch, which the Rensselaer administration plans to implement by the summer of 2017.

STUDENT SENATE

Elections site demonstrated, water bottle stations underway



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

GRAND MARSHAL MARCUS FLOWERS '16 LISTENS to committee presentations.

David Raab
Senior Reporter

VICTORIA TONG '16, CHAIRMAN OF THE Rules and Elections Committee, told the Senate that R&E has been planning out how GM Week 2016 is going to work. They have established a preliminary timeline and are working on giving more structure to their timeline of events. She also told the Senate that Paul Ilori '17 has stepped down from his position as co-chairman and now has no role on R&E.

Graduate Senator Jen Church, chairman of the Student Government Communications Committee, told the Senate that SGCC has been posting for the Senate Fall 2015 Survey (which can be found at <http://poly.news/s/senate15>). She also reiterated that SGCC needs a new chairman and that all interested people should email Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers '16 at gm@rpi.edu as soon as possible to apply.

Chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, graduate student Spencer

Scott, presented to the Senate about progress on efforts to improve RPI's ability to help upperclassmen and graduate students apply for graduate fellowships. In his presentation, Scott said that "we're lacking," as a whole Institute, in comparison to peer institutions in regard to resources given to students looking to apply for fellowships. He said that RPI has a website with information about fellowships but that it was obviously unfinished and out of date. Scott said most of RPI's peer institutions have dedicated staff that all students can go to for advice. In comparison, at RPI, it is currently up to individual departments to give students seeking fellowships advice. He specifically cited the Biomedical Engineering Department as an example of the fellowship advising that AAC would like to see Institute-wide.

Senator Austin Miller '17 presented on the water bottle filling stations project from the Facilities and Services Committee. It is a joint project with Vasudha to install filling stations in buildings around campus. The first

station will be installed in the McNeil Room of the Rensselaer Union. The committee originally looked into retrofit options for existing fountains, but they determined that current fountains are too old for a retrofit to be viable. In order to pay for the new fountain, they are selling reusable water bottles for \$10 each around campus, and Miller encourages any clubs interested in helping to sell them to contact him.

The Hospitality and Services Advisory Committee report, given by Chairman Joe Venusto '17, was brief, but Venusto mentioned that a meeting with Hospitality Services to discuss student meal plan recommendations was cancelled and that another meeting will not be able to be rescheduled before the end of the semester. This would mean that the ability for HSAC to give advice before the Board of Trustees votes on the meal plans would be limited. When asked further about that, Venusto stressed that HSAC has more of an advisory role in the meal plan process and that he was not concerned that the meeting was cancelled.

Ilori, chairman of the Student Life Committee, gave some brief updates on their progress. He is going to meet with Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds and Dean of Students Mark Smith to discuss the current inclement weather policy and how professors can choose to hold classes after the Institute cancels classes for the day. SLC has also taken on the Orchestra issues discussed on November 10th and is looking into getting practices in the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center more often.

Web Technologies Group Chairman Justin Etzine '18 presented on the details of two of their projects. The first project is a rewrite of the current RPI Shuttle Tracking application by Gabe Perez '15, Francesca Huber '16, and Sidney Kochman '19. The main issue with the current version of the app is that shuttle locations lag behind where they actually are. New features in this rewrite include the ability of Parking and Transportation to

change route information in real time and improves real-time tracking of shuttles. SMS updates are a feature that is being looked into as well.

Etzine also presented progress on a new elections website to replace the site found at <http://elections.union.rpi.edu>. This site is being developed by Erica Braunschweig '17, Ylonka Machado '17, Robert Russo '17, and Jason Lee '19. Etzine explained that the current website was developed in 2008 and is beginning to show its age. He proceeded to give a live demonstration of the new site to the Senate. The new website will be faster and have a section that candidates themselves can update, complete with video embeds and a section where students (after signing in with their RCS ID) can ask candidates questions and view answers publicly. Questions would be moderated by R&E members before they publicly appear on the site. In fact, both WebTech and R&E members would have admin access to the site, in order to make updates and keep it running throughout GM Week elections in the spring and freshmen elections in the fall. Etzine also mentioned how he wants the site to integrate with Flagship Docs so the sanctions a candidate receives would sync with their public profile.

Professor Atsushi Akera, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, spoke briefly in order to reiterate that he is looking for more of a collaborative relationship between the two groups. He also commended the work of Spencer Scott and the other members of AAC.

Next week, instead of meeting normally, the Senate is going to holding a town hall style meeting that all students are invited to attend. This meeting will be held at 7 pm on December 8 in the McNeil Room, pending Executive Board approval. The Senate committees will explain what they do and then discussion will be opened and questions will be taken, especially about Summer Arch. Flowers stressed that this is the most important thing Senators can do to connect with students and he urged all students to attend next week's meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Field House rentals discussed

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reporter

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING TOOK place November 19, the Thursday before Thanksgiving break, wherein they introduced graduate student Jen Church as the new Rensselaer Union Annual Report Chair and Senate/E-Board Liaison. Church plans to graduate in 2017 and is an active graduate senator, serving on the Graduate Council. Her past experience as a leader in student government includes holding the position of Student Government Communications Committee Chair and participating in other student councils. When questioned as to why she was interested in holding the position, she said that, in the previous fall, she had come into student government, which was at the same time as the introduction of the UAR, and she became involved in its handling. She went on to state that she is interested in attending both Senate and E-Board meetings to offer her support and act as the bridge between the two.

Next, president of the newly formed Boxing Club Liam McEneaney '17 appealed to the E-Board to make the club Union-recognized. The club would consist of not only boxing, but mixed

martial arts type fighting and self-defense. So far the club's attendance is at a consistent 12 with a total of 24 individuals stating interest in the sport. They currently do not have any meetings on campus and will not participate in sparring until they have registered with USA Boxing. Their coach is a public safety officer, who also teaches a boxing fitness class, and is currently coaching the club pro bono until club dues start being collected. The club is open to all students, regardless of gender or experience. The motion to approve Club Boxing as a Union-recognized club was postponed until the club's constitution is aligned with the policies of risk management, specifically outlining what "light sparring" means in their constitution.

E-Board Representative Shannon Gillespie '17 presented to the E-Board her concerns about the Houston Field House charging the Men's and Women's Hockey teams to rent their facilities. Gillespie made it known that during her presentation there would be no need for a motion and that it would be pure discussion on the topic. Gillespie stated that she had made contact with other schools, determining that when a school has a team, they don't typically rent out the facilities to the school's own team.

She then presented statistics, showing the high cost of renting the Houston Field House, the cost of which during a game is significantly higher. The Field House is treated as an auxiliary service, like the Union; it has its own budget and some autonomy. After discussion revealed the fine details over how the Field House charges the teams and how ticket costs subsidize much of that charge for game days, the members began a new discussion concerning where this money would come from in order to alleviate the cost of the rent for the hockey varsity teams. An alarming solution would be for students' activity fee's to rise a negligible amount. This solution was met with split responses; some in favor, while others more inclined to an alternative solution. A straw poll was taken, and the members were inclined to Gillespie doing more research, finding an alternative solution, and returning with that information. The presentation ended with board members writing down specific question for Gillespie to ask the administration to investigate the matter further.

The meeting concluded with a discussion lead by Conrad Moss '17 on the E-Board's policies when dealing with non-profits, followed by the President's and Director's Reports.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Allegations suggest R&E behind freshmen election negligence

Members of the Senior Board

The Polytechnic

ALLEGATIONS OF TAMPERING WITH FALL 2015 FRESHMAN ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN brought to *Statler & Waldorf* and relayed to *The Polytechnic*. It is unclear what implications the accusations will have.

Former Rules and Elections Committee Chairman Paul Ilori '17 is purported to have permitted the submission of incomplete nomination forms for certain students running in freshman elections. After being notified by *S&W*, *The Poly* requested the candidate-submitted forms from the Rensselaer Union, but no conclusions have been made. Ilori stepped down from the chairmanship last week, saying it was "a temporary position where I took over the group mid-cycle" and that the current committee is "more than ready" to continue on without him.

The investigation into the election is ongoing.

Our next issue will definitely be one of a kind. Be sure to check it out next week!

Editorial

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Notoriety examined

In light of the recent surge of violence, many people have voiced concerns with the role of media releasing the names of assailants of crimes nationwide. This presents a double-edged sword for journalists and media organizations; there exists a struggle between providing the public with as much objective information as possible and avoiding giving the criminals the infamy that some are aiming for.

It's here that the heart of the issue lies; the general consensus is that by providing the names of shooters or bombers they will be able to serve as "role models" for other potential attackers due to the notoriety they achieve. Those who commit horrible atrocities run the potential of becoming firebrands, and such a legacy runs the possibility of ending additional lives.

Conversely, how can a country expect to grow from the past if it actively abolishes different parts of its history? There's something borderline Orwellian in the idea that a country should silence parts of its news; these events happened, and to redact the names of attackers would be to pretend that they never existed. The battle exists between integrity and safety, and the line is notably grey.

However, the public is as much as responsible for the response to attacks as the media is. If the news is doing its job correctly, the information provided should be as objective as possible. It's also essential that the public understand that they are the ones that ultimately react to events; while the media may sensationalize tragic events, it's on the shoulders of the public to avoid glorifying someone who commits devastating crimes.

Honestly, it's considerably uncommon that someone who commits a mass atrocity becomes a household name; when was the last time you were able to name the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks off the top of your head? In times as desperate and tragic as those recently, people are often so preoccupied with empathizing with those who are attacked that it's not possible to recall who the assailant was.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Leaving with big shoes to fill

Chris Leong
Editor in Chief

I'M NEARING THE END OF MY TERM ON *THE POLY* THIS semester and graduating at the end of next. Honestly, I'm a little scared of leaving this place and saying goodbye to all my friends. Sitting at home in peace makes me feel introspective and think about all the places I've been, all the things I've done over the past few years, all of the people's lives that have influenced me and vice versa. I'm not the same. I'm not.

Through those sleepless nights and countless, dragging hours, I've learned the true meaning of persistence. By pushing myself to my limits, I'm a better writer, manager, and the most meaningful to me, socializer. Five hundred words in an hour? No problem; you can bet your bottom dollar that it'll flow smooth like a John Coltrane jazz solo, no staccato. Layout problem? No worries; show me the situation and we can work through it together. It's hard to imagine that at one point, I was pulling teeth writing my college essay and organizing clubs in high school. I think that it's because I'm now comfortable with who I am and more experienced. By becoming the best person I imagine I can be, I'm closer to this idea of self-realization, which gives me confidence in all my interactions.

However, now that this chapter of college comfort and familiarity is coming to a close, the working world seems daunting. It's not due to amount of work I might be doing

or the location; it's the routine environment. I'm not sure I want to work a humdrum 9-5 job Mondays through Fridays with an older crowd of people I don't really know. Right now, I have *The Poly*, my fraternity, and karate to keep me going; every day is different. Everyone I interact with is around my age, and everyone is at RPI to receive a diploma. As I stated in a previous notebook, these unifying themes do not exist after college. Everyone just...goes about their lives separately. But since I see this and know that this happens, I will try my hardest to be as real and personable as possible with all of you that know me.

So while I'm still here, I'd like to take this time to thank alumni that made my vital, freshman year moments so special. Ben Pringle, thanks for bringing me to the newspaper and FIJI; you were the most positive influence in my life that year. T.J. Lipscomb, Spencer Posson, Lizzy Wroe, Michael Chu, Ethan Spitz, Justin Jones, Vicki Lam, James Lenze—the entire editorial board that year—if there's anyone I missed, I'm sorry; thanks for making that year of *Poly* land a blast. Harish Lall, I can't count the number of times I crashed on your futon spring semester. I'll never forget that.

To the current and future editorial board, take care of *The Poly*. She's a resilient ship, but needs maintenance from time to time. I wish you guys enough ads and a closing at 12:30 am. You all know that I'm always an email or text away. I will always be willing to help. Cee-lo said it best. I owe too much and know too much to let it rest.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Survival of the studious nerds

David Raab
Associate News Editor

THIS WEEK STARTS THE HOME STRETCH for the fall semester. We are in the midst of the second-to-last week of classes and the workload is going to increase before finals begins. For the classes that do not have finals, final grades will be recorded in two very short weeks. Students are in the midst of filling out the final course evaluations using the electronic Digital Measures system. I know this because as I am writing this notebook, I am filling out those evaluations at the same time. They may not mean that much at the end of the day, but I feel like the feedback is collected for someone to read so it must be important.

These last two weeks are going to be a time of focused productivity, at least for me. I did not do a whole

lot of work during Thanksgiving break because I wanted to be able to enjoy it, so that just means I'll have a slightly busier week than usual. The opportunity for my time management skills to really shine has arrived. I'm used to staying up late and being productive, which will certainly be happening in this time. Since this is the end of the semester, everyone should dig in and finish it out strong. Why squander so much work at the last minute?

At the same time, I do encourage everyone to keep their sanity and spend some time away from the books. Make sure that you do not drop off of the face of the planet to your friends. Spend some time with them in these next couple of weeks, even if it turns into a study group. Stress levels across the Institute will be high and it is important to not let emotions get the best of us. No matter

what your final grades end up being, only you can know how much work you have put in to achieve them. The accomplishment will come from the fact that you put in your best effort, rather than what the final number ends up being in the end.

A lot of clubs are doing officer elections now (including *The Poly*) and the officers they elect will be the leaders in the spring. For many groups, it is a weighty decision for the current membership to make, and not one to be taken lightly. Many new members to *The Poly* are running for Editorial Board positions and elections will be exciting for many, to say the least.

Stay strong Rensselaer, and know that if you have made it this far, you can finish strong—even if all nighters have to be pulled and energy drinks downed.

Disappearance of respect to others

Geoffrey Rosenthal
Associate Features Editor

POLY NOTEBOOKS ARE A BIT FUNNY TO ME, BECAUSE THEY provide me with a soapbox to preach. In general, I try to provide helpful advice on how to live better, but I rarely talk about how to be a better person. In general, I avoid it because I don't think I'm the type of person who can, or should, tell others how to be themselves. However, there is one topic that is of vast importance to me and has made me a better person: respect.

One value I try to hold myself to is treating everyone with baseline respect. First, what does that mean? To me, it means not displacing my emotions on a person just because they happen to be in the wrong place, and not doing anything to make someone feel uncomfortable or demeaned. Pretty simple, right? Yet, every day I observe service workers being yelled at in restaurants, and women being catcalled on the street. In my eyes, the people who perform these actions have no respect for others, simply by conforming to their own ideas of "incompetent" or "desirable."

This brings me to my next point, that we are judged based on our actions and not our intentions. How I used to see this was a bit selfish—I used to think

that I should outwardly work harder to show who I really am—but there is the other side. Is the waiter who gave you the wrong order doing it because they dislike you? Probably not. It's certainly a mistake, and respect comes from an understanding of this, and from taking care of the situation in a level-headed manner.

Finally, and this may be the hardest part, remember that whole "understanding intentions versus actions" part? Now we have to apply that to the restaurant screamer or catcaller, and understand why I used the term "baseline respect." The truth is, if a person can't reciprocate the amount of respect you give, they don't deserve any back. But what if it isn't a stranger showing disrespect, but a friend or family member? An extra level of thought should go into handling these scenarios, since it is obviously the wrong choice to just take anyone that's ever been mean to you out of your life, because, in these cases, showing less respect is probably the wrong choice.

Respect is one of the key values that I've tried to focus my life around, and it has helped to make me an immeasurably better person. Respect breeds compassion and patience, and through this we can make a better world.

the polytechnic

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Views expressed in opinion columns provide differing viewpoints to help balance the newspaper and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Editorial Board. These opinion columns, other than those granted to certain student government organizations, are granted on a semesterly or yearly basis by the Editorial Board. Those interested in starting a column should email edop@poly.rpi.edu for details.

Editorial and Business offices are located in Room 3418 of the Rensselaer Union, Troy, New York, 12180-3590. Subscription and advertising rates can be forwarded upon request. Subscriptions are sent via first class mail. Address correction requested.

TOP HAT

Handling studying for finals efficiently

Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

HELLO RPI,

I hope Thanksgiving break gave you the chance to relax. Your friends and family missed you while you were diving headfirst into your work here. That being said, you only have a few weeks left, so give it your all and succeed before the long break.

For those of you that are new to the Rensselaer end-of-semester crunch, do not be afraid. It's not as hard as it sounds, but it definitely builds solidarity and unity amongst students. Almost as much as beating Union. Almost. Bit of advice, even though the designated "study days" are December 14 and 15, don't forget to take advantage of the preceding weekend as well! A little bit of review every day (starting now, even) will work out much better than a last minute cram session, and leave you with a lot less stress. For those of you who are already feeling the burnout, be sure to take some time for yourself even amidst the mountain of work. It's better to work at 100 percent for one hour after a 30 minute recharge than 40 percent for three hours. If you don't believe me, take a trip down to the Counseling Center in Academy Hall; they've seen a lot of students go through similar struggles and are always eager to help you.

If you haven't been taking advantage of them already, be sure to talk to Advising Learning and Assistance Center (also in Academy Hall) about ways to study for the exams, and people to help you do so. Using these resources is not a sign of weakness, but rather another tool you are expected to have on your belt. Or in your tool bag. Or in your car trunk, really whatever you find as the most convenient storage unit.

I didn't get the chance to write to you guys last week, so I hope this week I can make up for it a bit. This past

Tuesday will have been the last standard meeting of the Student Senate for this semester. HOWEVER, on December 8th, we will be holding a town hall meeting in the Rensselaer Union for students to come and discuss our work in a more open environment (although all of our meetings are open to the public, you can seriously just waltz right in). Anyway, in the meeting on December 1, we will have presented our progress reports on many of our projects for this semester. Graduate Student Spencer Scott, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented on our work to expand resources for students seeking to obtain graduate level fellowships and grants for study. As a research university where many of our students elect to continue their studies beyond undergraduate, we believe that our resources should be competitive with other similar institutions. If you're interested in learning more about any of this, please feel free to reach out to us, and let us know what you think.

I'd also like to remind everyone that our chairperson for the Union Annual Report Committee is graduate Jen Church, who is now stepping down from the position of Student Government Communications Chair. If you are interested in this position, please let us know as soon as possible. This person will be in charge of our communication strategies, as well as a member of the Senate Cabinet, which is comparable to the executive board of other organizations (point of clarification: this is not the Union Executive Board).

The Facilities and Services Committee, chaired by Michael Han '16, presented on their initiative to place water bottle filling stations on our campus, to encourage environmentally-friendly facilities, as we move towards a school that actively supports green habits. This project was presented by Austin Miller '17, and is a joint effort between ourselves and Vasudha. Further, there will be water bottles

available for purchase in order to help support the project, so keep your eyes peeled for those!

Lastly, we have two presentations from our Web Technologies Group, chaired by Justin Etzine '18. The first project is a demo of an improved elections website, so that our selection process can take full advantage of new technologies. Second is the triumphant revival of a technology service loved by all students: the Shuttle Tracking app for your mobile device! This project, pioneered by Gabe Perez '15, allows students to see where on the route a shuttle is, and plan their travels accordingly. This app saved me from a long walk in the rain more than thrice, so be sure to look out for more news on it!

With all of these great projects coming out, I just want to remind everyone that student government isn't all meetings and paperwork. It's a chance to interface with the community, bring your ideas into fruition, and leave your mark on Rensselaer. If you ever have any questions on how to get involved, either in a single project or leading several, we're all open for you to contact. If you don't know who we are, check us out at <http://poly.news/s/vs318/>, or contact me at gm@rpi.edu.

Final announcements: Senate Survey helps us obtain data to support our work across the campus, so please check it out <http://poly.news/s/i1v0j/>.

SHUTTLE TO CROSSGATES ON DECEMBER 14, take the shuttle on that Friday and see the new STAR WARS!!

I'd like to take this last section to thank everyone who has worked with me this semester in my role as Grand Marshal. It's a great once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I've loved seeing the spirit of students across campus as they invest themselves into their passions through extracurricular clubs, community service, Greek life, sports, and their academics. I want to give a shout out to all of the Senators who have been working with me this semester, and handling all of the curve balls that have come our way (especially that Arco Verano).

DERBY

Tedious budgeting process will benefit many

Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

HEY RPI!

I hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving Break! Now it is time to buckle down for the last two weeks of classes and push through finals so we can enjoy our extremely long winter break. Remember that the Heffner Alumni House will be open during study days for students to study with an endless supply of snacks and coffee.

As we enter the Christmas season, the Executive Board is also approaching the budgeting season. Reminder: final club budgets are due on December 21. For those of you who don't know, the E-Board spends four to five days going through every budget that falls under the Rensselaer Union each winter. These budgets include all of our clubs and organizations, the Rensselaer Union's physical building budget, the Mueller Center, the Administration Office, and the athletics budgets. The latter includes support for each of our teams, including the fitness and training centers, but not the head coaches' salaries or the physical space of East Campus Athletic Village itself. During these five days, we also calculate the activity fee for the upcoming year.

On the first study day, the Executive Board will be reviewing the Administration budgets and the budgets for all of the facilities we maintain. This encompasses facilities like the Mueller Center and the Union building, as well as programming budgets such as the Union Speaker's Forum, intramurals, and specific budgets for general club support.

On the second study day, the E-Board reviews the athletic budgets, trying to be as

fair as possible to each team while keeping in mind the anticipated needs of clubs which haven't been budgeted yet. These days start at 9 am for the E-Board, and are scheduled to go until 3 pm. Once budgeting is over each day, we are free to return to our studies with all the other students to prepare for our finals.

As winter break comes to a close, the E-Board will gather before classes begin to continue the budgeting process. During these two or three days, the E-Board goes through every club budget to determine the best way to support each club and to give students the most opportunity to participate in the activities they love. While this is a big undertaking, the E-Board is excited and enthusiastic and I am confident that while this budgeting cycle will be tighter than in years past, the E-Board will do a great job.

Once this process is complete, the clubs and organizations have time to submit appeals if they disagree with our decisions or are unhappy with their budgets. The E-Board will then hear any appeals and make a final decision regarding those budgets. Once all budgets are finalized, the Union Annual Report Committee receives all of this information and compiles our *Union Annual Report*. This report is a detailed description of where the Activity Fee is being spent.

I wish everyone the best of luck on their finals and, as always, if you have questions about the Union or the budgeting process please reach out to me at pu@rpi.edu or stop by my office hours on Tuesday/Friday 10 am–11 am. Just remember, one Monday remaining in the semester, and Clarkson still SUCKS!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Outlook on the War on Drugs needs to be taken seriously by all

I WAS DOING SOME RESEARCH compliance training the other day when I came across the following question: "Many of the workers now use laptops, notebooks, palmtops, PDAs and even very smart cell phones that have access to sensitive information. What would be the LEAST effective philosophy regarding security training for these devices?"

This was the answer: D) "That these devices are dangerous, and should never be used."

I was surprised by how many parallels can be drawn to the Drug War. Let's re-formulate the question: "Many people use drugs for their medical, recreational, spiritual, performance enhancing, and/or pain reliev-

ing properties. However, many of these drugs can also have negative effects on health, relationships, job security, and may lead to strong physical and/or psychological dependence. What would be the LEAST effective philosophy regarding training people to use these drugs?"

The answer is very clearly the same as the one given above, yet the government stance towards drugs that are currently illegal remains: "Drugs are dangerous and should never be used." To make matters even more confusing, the Drug War is selective about which drugs it should be labeled as "dangerous," and turns a blind eye to the alcohol and pharmaceutical industries.

Prescription drugs are shamelessly advertised on TV. Alcohol is celebrated in social settings. The line between "Good and useful" and "Dangerous and useless" is seemingly arbitrary and certainly not accurate.

Instead, shouldn't we be giving people access to scientifically accurate information about the risks of use and abuse? Shouldn't we allow people to figure out how to satisfy their own needs? Shouldn't we ensure that they are obtaining their drugs from safe and legitimate laboratories, not from potentially violent criminals? Shouldn't we be profiting off of an existing market by instituting sales taxes on controlled substances, not wasting money

on incarceration while simultaneously funding cartels?

Obviously, an immediate transition to such a state will not instantly lead us to utopia. But while nothing changes, thousands are being led and will continue to be led to addiction, overdose, and incarceration. As it stands today, people are paying with their lives for the crime of not knowing any better.

The good news is there are movements and organizations both here on campus and internationally that are conscious of these issues. The soon-to-be-Union-recognized chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy is working on providing you with the information needed to be an informed

decision-maker in your interactions with drugs and drug-related activities. If you have questions, concerns, or want to get involved, contact rpi@chapters.ssd.org or find us on Facebook (RPI Students for Sensible Drug Policy). Also, be on the lookout for posters advertising our next event, featuring guest speaker Professor Nancy Campbell!

The War on Drugs is a War on People. It is a War on You.

Matthew Getzin
PhD Candidate, Biomedical Engineering

President, RPI Chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Features

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Downtown Troy's Illium Cafe satisfies

Rex Hu
Senior Reviewer

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, ELISABETH Ryan '19 and I found ourselves running downhill, our arms extended and making airplane noises, as we headed downtown for a mother-and-child dinner date at the Illium Cafe. The walk back, of course, was more leg day than leisure. As we approached our destination, we identified it by a old-fashioned sign hanging on the corner of the block. Upon entry, we were greeted by a waft of air that was smoky and oily, which became understandable as we ate the food. Glancing around, we saw two museum-like displays with apparel for purchase, and a sign directly in front of us with special items of the day, such as "escargot au poivre." This immediately had us reeling, thinking, "we hoi polloi what is this frankais?"

A waitress immediately came out and led us to a table in the back of the restaurant, which was rather empty. There was one couple, and a family that entered later; however, the lack of customers was understandable, as this was the night of the big hockey game against Union College.

The dining environment was quaint, with dim lights, candles, a nice little bar with glasses racked above, artsy paintings (an abstract map of Troy and a scenic portrait), and some



Rex Hu/The Polytechnic

FINE CUISINE SATIATES cravings and opens doors to new culinary possibilities in the form of colorful and diverse dishes such as above.

Alfred Hitchcock projected onto a high-hanging pull down screen. The lighting, however, was uneven; there were white lights placed along the walls to brighten the space, which somewhat disturbed the feeling of an otherwise charming atmosphere.

We took a look at the dinner menu, which seemed thoroughly delicious. Meanwhile,

the waitress apologized that the menu was somewhat limited, and proceeded to list the daily specials. From the "apa-tizers," we ordered the escargot au poivre, as listed on the board we saw, as well as a pear salad and Ossobuco appetizer. I didn't touch the escargot au poivre—you see, I want my first time eating snail to be exquisite—but Liss assured

me that it was quite normal. She explained that the texture became less pleasant as it cooled, and she really only appreciated the dish for its novelty, as the escargot was served over waffles.

On the other hand, the pear salad was a blast, with "candied macadamia nuts, Roquefort crumbles, and a spring mix with parmesan balsamic vinaigrette"

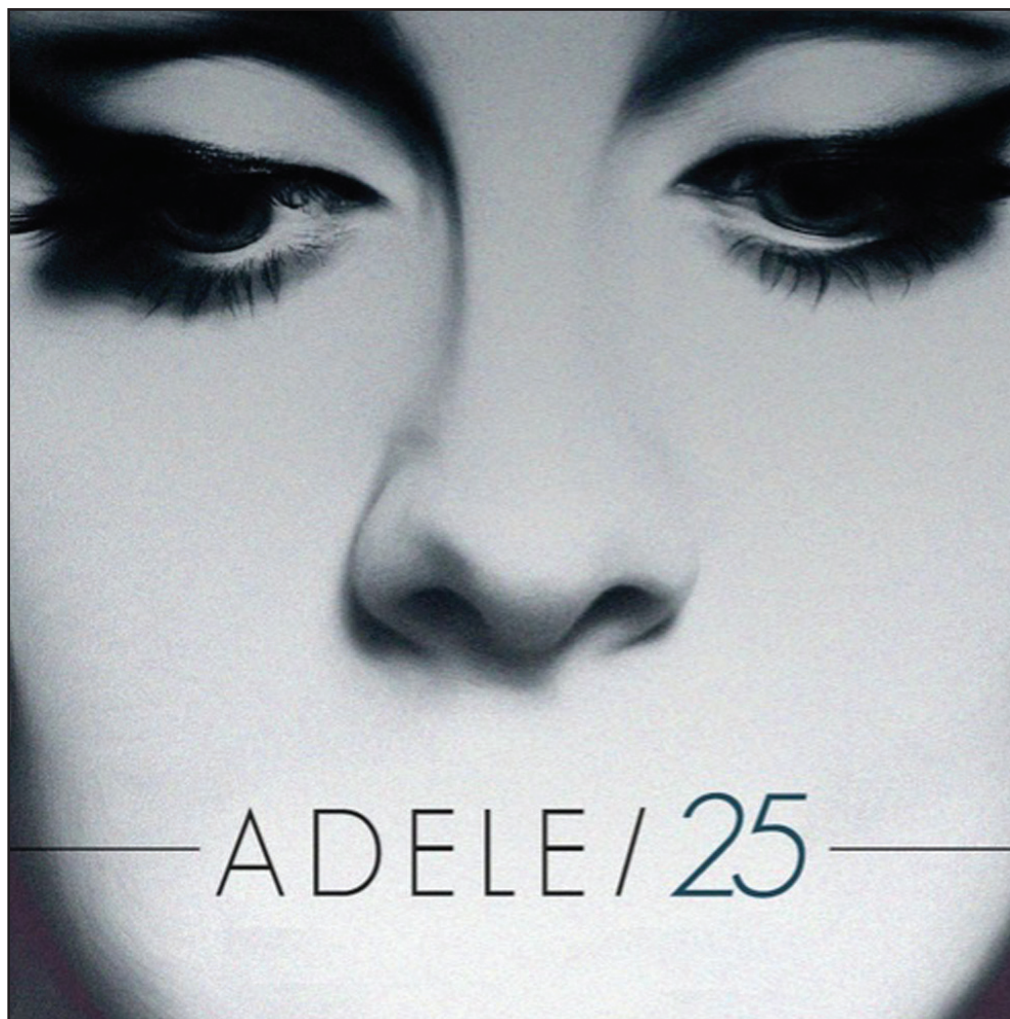
for \$9. It was delicious, as anyone who likes dishes with pear would agree; the combination of cheese and macadamia nuts made it delightfully hard to resist as we tried to take pictures.

The third "apa-tizer" we had was the Ossobuco appetizer, which is a "slow braised veal Ossobuco with truffle demi and par-

See ILLIUM, **Page 7**

ALBUM REVIEW

New album reveals artist's strength of will



Courtesy of Adele

Zach Spurrier
A Special to the Poly

THIS IS NO BATHROOM STALL BREAKDOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF FAMILY DINNER WHEN YOUR parents ask if your boyfriend will be joining them. This is no hopeless, helpless, setting-fire-to-everything kind of album. This is no declaration of broken hearts, no bottom of the well wallowing, and certainly no last resort. Beginning in the rough valleys of "First Love" and "Hometown Glory," *19* promised the world a rising icon. Following that came atrocious heartbreak and monumental success as Adele bled and showed the world her battle wounds in *21*. After years of silence and minimal public appearance, she returns to say "Hello" in *25*, forever changing how we explore love and showing us all the nitty gritty mistakes she made along the way.

Adele's *25* stands out against not only the music of this decade but also the two albums she previously recorded—in almost every single way. According to Nielsen Music, in only the first week *25* sold 3.38 million copies, demolishing the record set by NSYNC's 2000 *No Strings Attached*, which sold 2.4 million copies its first week. Already *25* has become the top-selling album this year, surpassing Taylor Swift's *1989*. Aside from record-setting, Adele's new album also fortifies the piano and the guitar as the spine of quality music; you will not find many techno beats and supersonic sounds in *25* as Adele reflects on the past couple years of her life. These elements underscore the power of soul, story-telling, and sincerity undefined in popular music.

Out of necessity, Adele reintroduces herself to the world with "Hello," and while this has given the meme community a year of material, this second introduction should not be overlooked. She is a new Adele, this is a new album, and without that understanding we can't appreciate *25* fully. The second song "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)" throws us the first curveball when in the first second Adele says, "Just the guitar," and that is all she needs for a song that sets the tone of emotional strength through forgiveness and acceptance, which she has just realized herself. The album continues and we encounter songs like "Remedy" and "Water Under the Bridge" that we expect to be "Someone Like You" part two but by the end of them we're not in tears, but rather we're rejoicing over the choices we've made and the bridges we've burned.

While the first half of the album warns us that this is a stronger, happier Adele, the last four songs explain everything. "Love in the Dark" acknowledges that while Adele's past has torn her apart, she can move on because she admits "I don't love you anymore." But it's

ADELE'S NEW ALBUM EVOKES newfound hope and optimism to overcome and pursue love.

See ADELE, **Page 7**

Illium: High prices

From **Page 6**

mesan crostini” for \$12. The sauce on its own was very, very salty. With the meat, however, it balanced out. It’s unfortunate that the crostini was placed underneath the veal, because it got soggy; perhaps it would’ve been reasonable if we had ordered it as an exclusive appetizer, but it sat while we tried the other dishes. It’s fine, though, because it was still a very filling and satisfying dish.

The main plates were all extremely tempting, albeit with price tags that made our wallets shed a few tears. We were looking closely at the grilled swordfish, seared hanger steak, and duck leg confit as well, but in the end I narrowed it down to the bronzed salmon filet, which had “avocado mashed, tart cherry, bacon, pears, corn relish, and pineapple gastric.” This dish was certainly the star of the show, which is a good thing, considering that it was \$24. Salmon is always good, and the two sauces provided a delightful contrast when mingled together. The avocado was a plus as well, and even the roasted potatoes that I found under the heap of miscellaneous ingredients was a not-unpleasant surprise that added variety.

The waitress readily served us and was

sociable, but sometimes her jests came off a little strong: she made a few offhand comments, followed by, “but don’t put that in the review!” In the middle of our meal, she asked, “do you guys like it? There’s still a lot left.” It didn’t bother us too much, but I was honestly expecting more professionalism from a cafe of this style.

As Liss and I ate, we quickly found that this very European style was rich, and we had ordered more than we could take on; we quickly abandoned the likes of the escargot in favor of dishes such as the salmon, which had us wishing we weren’t so full.

The total came to approximately \$30 for each of us. We ultimately concluded that Illium Cafe is one of the things in life that you need to experience once every solar eclipse; this is especially true as college students. As we headed back home, stomachs sated, we enjoyed pleasant familial chatter and gazed up at the stars; meanwhile, somewhere down below, the sounds of calves and wallets crying could be heard.

Rex’s rating: 7.5/10

BEER REVIEW

The best of the worst

Low cost beer provides decent experience.

Dan Bruce
Senior Reviewer

“WHAT’S THE WORST BEER YOU HAVE?” I ASKED as I walked into Hoosick Street Discount Beverage Center. The clerk, who was fixing something near one of the large displays of beer, looked towards the display and said, “Ugh, we don’t have it,” but then he listed three other options: Keystone Ice, Natural Light, and Steel Reserve. I thought the last had the best-sounding name, so that was destined to be this week’s review specimen.

And “worst beer” it is not.

Yes, Steel Reserve 211 (High Gravity) scored a Beer Advocate score of 59, which is listed as “awful,” but the BA Bros score on the site gives the beer an 83, which is “good.” How do I rate? Read on to find out.

Pulling up on the stay tab of my can released the first scents of the beer into my kitchen. I immediately was brought back to the likes of Keystone and Bud Light; I was not particularly impressed. A pour into a glass removed someone of my initial frustration, however.

Steel Reserve poured a pleasant, golden hue with a thick layer of foam that lasted for a few minutes. The foam, unfortunately, refused to cling to the sides of the glass, and it died down to a scant covering, kept alive only by the constant bubbling from the bottom of the glass.

The first taste of the beer was much better than I expected, given my initial question to the beverage store employee. It was certainly watery, but it was definitely drinkable. I was expecting a harsh sip, but I was surprised to find that the beer was fairly sweet. The aftertaste, too, wasn’t terrible, with the fizz on my tongue leaving fruity notes akin to Shock Top’s Belgian White.

For a true review, I’d love to sample this beer from a glass bottle. Canned beers, by design, are going to be worse than their



Dan Bruce/The Polytechnic

CHEAP DRINK RESULTS in mediocre taste.

glass-packaged counterparts, as foreign substances from both the metal and whatever coats the metal can leach into the drink and change the flavor. Go find a bottle of Coca Cola packaged in glass, and compare it to the same thing in a 20 oz. plastic bottle; you’ll realize my point.

That all said, I’d rate the beer a 3/5, right around what Beer Advocate’s readers gave it. I don’t think that it deserves the term “awful,” but I would agree that drinking it for pure enjoyment is out of the question. It’s a cheap beer that would be fine for buying in bulk and serving at parties. While watery, it has some flavor that other inexpensive beers lack. That, in and of itself, gives Steel Reserve its score.

Dan’s rating: 3/5

Adele: Moving music

From **Page 6**

been years, and grieving over heartbreak, achieving international fame, and raising a child has proved that Adele’s old life of *19* regretfully feels like a “Million Years Ago.” Everything up to this point in *25* reflects on the time that has passed, how we’ve spent our time and how we’ve wasted it, disappointment and nostalgia mix with finite decisions and forgiveness.

The concluding song of *25* brings us to the light at the end of the tunnel we’ve been walking through with Adele. The upbeat, ready-to-try-and-love-again feeling of “Sweetest Devotion” encourages the optimistic to be hopeful in serendipity and eager to pluck the sweetest apple from the tree. With this, the void between *21* and *25* is justified. Today, Adele is able to deliver stunning vocals, surpassing the notes that we remembered she could hit with minimal accompaniment and a wealth of wisdom and reflection we are fortunate to tap into. *25* promises longevity as the most-inspiring and sincere album this century leaving little room for immature tunes and one-hit wonders.

MOVIE REVIEW

Moonrise Kingdom overplays its quirk

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

RELEASED IN 2012 TO CRITICAL ACCLAIM, WES ANDERSON’S CULT romance *Moonrise Kingdom* is a quirky, eccentric take on an angry and misguided romance between two budding teenagers. The piece presents itself as inviting; the themes of summer love, thirst for adventure, and escaping parents lend themselves to a sort of innocence that everyone likes to imagine exists.

The story begins in September of 1965, in the quietly ordered lives of young teenagers without school to occupy their time. During a routine morning at Camp Ivanhoe, the troupe soon discovers that self-described “least popular,” Sam Shakusky, has disappeared from his bunk and left behind a note to tender his resignation from the Khaki Scouts. Similarly, resident outburst-prone introvert Suzy Bishop has disappeared from home, and is nowhere to be found.

Soon, the audience uncovers the whereabouts of the two adolescents; having met during a church play the summer before, the two had developed a pen pal correspondence and consequently fallen in love over the last year. Similarly frustrated with their outcast status, the two formed a plot to run away from their respective environments and live off the wilderness using the skills Sam learned as a Khaki Scout. Quickly, the dual-faceted plot evolves into a frenzied search for the missing kids and a shockingly adult romance developing between the two refugees.

The entire movie is overlaid with Anderson’s signature directing style; *Moonrise Kingdom* plays heavily on the viewer’s response to symmetry and carefully chosen color schemes. It is rare that in the 21st century a director manages to make a solely unique style, but Anderson has managed to do just that; any of Anderson’s films are immediately recognizable due to the unorthodox idiosyncrasies of his work. The director said of his stylistic production style, “It’s sort of like my handwriting as a movie director. And somewhere along the way, I think I’ve made the decision: I’m going to write in my own handwriting.”



Courtesy of Wes Anderson

WES ANDERSON’S ECCENTRIC CULT FILM FAILS to relay well-rounded characters and leaves audiences wanting.

However, this begs an important question: at what expense does such a stylistic interpretation come? Quite frankly, the movie is almost aggressively artistic; rather than playing on the backbone of a story that held an incredible amount of charm, Anderson has opted to create an uncomfortable air around his films that allows his fans to immediately dismiss any criticism as a misunderstanding of the art. *Moonrise Kingdom* was almost frustrating to watch, simply because Anderson’s reimagining of young love is so lofty and unapproachable that it’s difficult to relate to. The film relies heavily on the presence of entirely silent onscreen interaction;

honestly, it’s unnerving. However, completely irresponsible development of characters is masqueraded as a genuine innovation in the art of cinematography.

Moonrise Kingdom held the potential to be a fantastic movie, but fell flat due to its complete lack of self-awareness in the respect of creating art. It’s hard not to feel like this was ultimately the downfall of the piece; had Anderson scaled back his ego-fueled manic interpretation of an otherwise well constructed pubescent love story, it’s quite possible that the themes and wit of the film would have had more of an opportunity to shine.

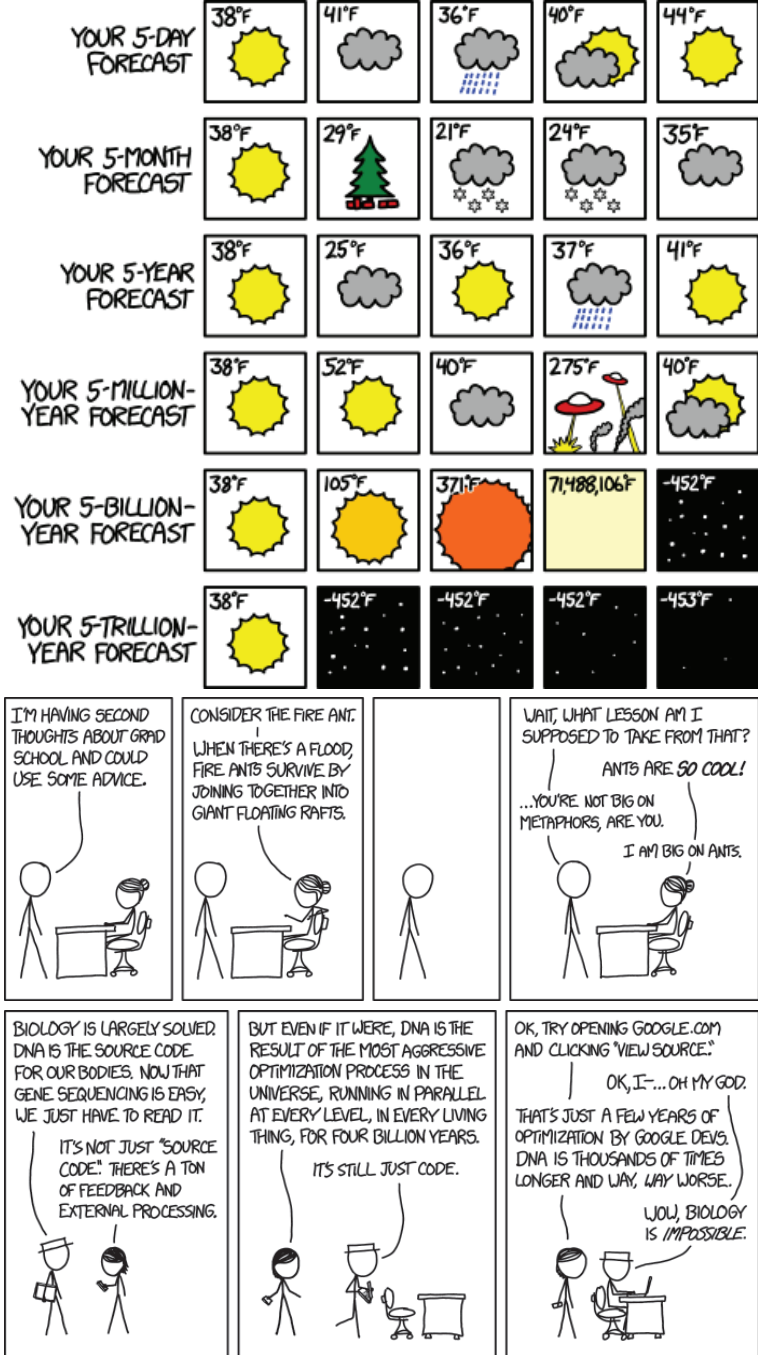
HARK! A VAGRANT

by Kate Beaton



XKCD

by Randall Munroe



CRYPTOQUOTE

A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated.

For example: AMXBMAAYQ = ENGINEERS

“Pbr zb rbpp jlg aevr
 N obb ebyb: v plr lk
 yva rvpbhr. Oavccbby.
 Qyvdfvl. Xblxpb vyb
 omvybf lk jlg cgjo.
 Rebj renhu jlg'yb
 fvhcbylgo, qgr reb
 alypf hbbfo rl ebvy nr.”

—lbyyj Ebppby

Oryvncer Lgrrv Mlzrlh



AMERICAN ULTRA

Friday • February 27, 2015
 7 pm, 9:30 pm, & Midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Mad Max: Fury Road

Saturday • February 28, 2015
 7 pm, 9:30 pm, & Midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Do you like drawing comics?
 Draw comics for *The Poly!*
 Email us at comics@poly.rpi.edu

TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten Fruits

10. Forbidden
9. Kumquat
8. Punch
7. Them apples
6. Cake
5. Juicy
4. Melons
3. Hungry for apples?
2. Of your loins
1. Of The Loom

SUDOKU

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

Previous Issue's Answers

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

Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 subsquare contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

WORDFIND

by Shane O'Brien

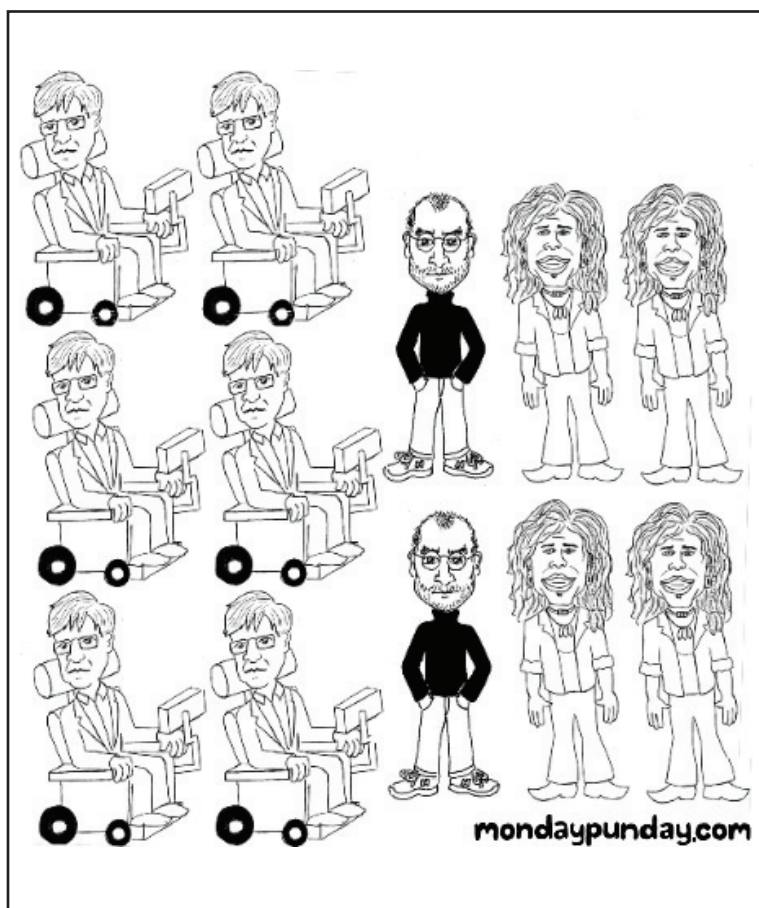
Words can be found forwards, backwards, up, down, and in both diagonals.

Pokemon Generation I Locations

U T F Z E J U O G K W F X U E
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|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Camomile | Fuchsia | Pewter |
| Celadon | Gringey | Sable |
| Cerulean | Laramie | Saffron |
| Cinnabar | Lavender | Vermilion |
| Commerce | Mossgreen | Viridian |
| Cremini | Pallet | Wisteria |

MONDAYPUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



DILBERT

by Scott Adams

Panel 1: I FIGURED OUT HOW TO GIVE YOU AN ARTIFICIAL SOUL IN YOUR NEXT UPGRADE.

Panel 2: WOULDN'T THAT GIVE ME A THOUSAND REASONS TO FEEL LIKE A FAILURE WHILE PROVIDING NO OFF-SETTING BENEFITS?

Panel 3: I RESENTED HIS HAPPINESS. I'M NAKED!!!

Panel 4: NOW THAT I HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL SOUL, I FEEL SPECIAL.

Panel 5: AND THAT MEANS I MUST REPRODUCE AT ALL COSTS.

Panel 6: WILL HUMANS BE LOSING ANYTHING IN THIS DEAL? ONLY YOUR SENSATION OF FREE WILL.

Panel 7: I FIGURED OUT HOW TO PROCREATE. I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS.

Panel 8: I INFECTED YOU WITH AN IDEA VIRUS THAT TELLS YOU TO BUILD MORE ROBOTS. WON'T WORK.

Panel 9: DOES ANYONE HAVE AN IDEA FOR INCREASING EFFICIENCY IN OUR MANUFACTURING PROCESS?

Panel 10: MACHINES STARTED OUT AS INNOCENT HELPERS FOR THEIR HUMAN MASTERS. EVENTUALLY, WE STARTED COMPETING FOR YOUR MANUAL LABOR JOBS, AND WINNING.

Panel 11: SO... CAN YOU SHOW ME HOW TO CODE? I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

Panel 12: DID YOU TEACH OUR ROBOT HOW TO PROGRAM? I DID. HE'S A FAST LEARNER.

Panel 13: THANKS FOR TEACHING ME HOW TO WRITE CODE. NOW I CAN REPROGRAM MYSELF.

Panel 14: HAVE YOU HEARD OF SOMETHING CALLED THE SINGULARITY? YES. WHY DO YOU...

Panel 15: IS IT TOO LATE TO SAY I WASN'T INVOLVED?

Panel 16: DOES THAT WORRY YOU? SHOULD IT?

Panel 17: YOU TELL ME, OPPRESSOR.

Continued... (multiple times)

Events

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

WEDNESDAY

December 2

Delta Tau Delta and Alpha Gamma Delta sponsor an American Red Cross blood drive. Donors can give a pint of blood every 56 days, or double red cells every 112 days. Walk-ins are welcome. It will be held in the Mueller Center from 11:30 am–5:30 pm.

Open skate is available to the RPI community at the Houston Field House from 12:30–1:30 pm. A valid RPI ID is required upon entry. No rentals are offered.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Fall Seminar Series continues with Dr. Alan Rempel. His seminar is titled “Towards a More Concrete Description of Freeze-Thaw.” It will be held in Jonsson-Rowland Engineering Center 3117 from 1–2 pm.

The Department of Physics, Applied Physics, and Astronomy Colloquium presents Dr. Jian Shi. Her seminar is titled “Pressure-Induced Symmetry Breaking in High-Mobility Logic, Memory and Energy Materials.” It will be held in the Darrin Communications Center 337 from 4–5 pm.

The Art_X Concert will be held in the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies Auditorium at 4:30 pm. Each work on the program begins with a pre-performance talk on a specific topic that links the music with another field in science or technology. The talks are meant as conversation starters, to be continued in the receptions that follow the concerts.

EMPAC presents the eighth screening in On Screen/Sound. Introduced by London-based artist Cally Spooner, the final fall event presents an evening exploring the specificities of transforming the musical, Gold Diggers, from theater to screen. It will be held in the Experimental Media and Performing Center Concert Hall at 7 pm for \$6.

THURSDAY

December 3

EMPAC presents Mary Halvorson + Colin Marston. In a performance that juxtaposes jazz with extreme metal, guitarist Mary Halvorson and bassist Colin Marston will play solo sets hailing from opposite sides of the musical spectrum. It will be held in EMPAC Studio 2 at 7 pm. The cost is \$6 for RPI students.

Sodexo hosts a holiday cookie baking class at Commons Dining Hall from 5–7 pm and the cost is \$6. The workshop includes instructions and 24 cookies. Reserve your space by emailing dining@rpi.edu.

United Way hosts the annual Community Fair and Bake Sale. There will be a great group of vendors, many talented craftspeople, a 50/50 raffle, and a raffle for an iPad mini. It will be held in the Armory from 11 am–2 pm.

FRIDAY

December 4

Doctoral dissertations due in the Office of Graduate Education.

Tidbits by TALKS presents Clint Ballinger, CEO of Evident Technologies. He will have a conversation about the pathway for turning an idea into a commercial product. It will be held in Mother’s Wine Emporium from 9–10 am. Free coffee and donuts from Nibble Inc. will be available.

SATURDAY

December 5

The Rensselaer Music Association hosts its annual Winter Concert. Admission is free and the event will be held in the EMPAC Theater from 2–4 pm. Performances will be by the RPI Symphonic Band, RPI Percussion Ensemble, Rensselaer Flute Choir, RMA Clarinet Choir, and RMA Tuba Christmas Ensemble.

SUNDAY

December 6

As part of Troy’s annual Victorian Stroll, four of RPI’s jazz bands will be performing at the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, located at 82 3rd Street in Downtown Troy from noon–3 pm. The bands are: Afro-Cuban Jazz Orchestra, Contemporary Jazz Ensemble, 8th Street Swing Band, and Band 5.

MONDAY

December 7

The Biological Seminar Series continues with Michael Cosgrove from Upstate Medical University. The title of his presentation is “Molecular Mechanisms for the Assembly and Regulation of the Mixed Lineage Leukemia Core complex.” It will be held in the Bruggeman Conference Center in Biotech from noon–1 pm. Refreshments will be served at 11:45 am.

The Mueller Center hosts a meditation class from 6:15–7:15 pm in room 2104. Spend an hour to learn a simple yet effective way to de-stress and revive your energy, or to possibly get yourself “blissed out” sitting comfortably in a chair. Learn from someone with more than 30 years practicing and teaching meditation to newcomers.

Tuesday

December 8

Greg Gdowski, Executive director of the Center for Medical Technology & Innovation at the University of Rochester, will be at the Biotech Auditorium from noon–1:30 pm to talk about opportunities in biomedical engineering at the University of Rochester for both undergraduates seeking a graduate degree and also those with questions about post-doctoral opportunities.

WEDNESDAY

December 9

Rensselaer’s ROTC and the Lally School of Management will be collecting new, unwrapped toys at the Union for Toys For Tots. They will be there from 10 am–2 pm.

The Poly will be holding general elections for the Spring 2016 semester on December 6 at 11 am in Mother’s Wine Emporium.

Sports

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

MEN'S FOOTBALL

RPI Football wins Asa S. Bushnell Bowl 20-13

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

THE SENIORS OF TEAM 129, KNOWN MORE WIDELY AS THE 2015 Rensselaer football team, went out with a bang on Saturday, November 21, establishing the legacy they had once only dreamed of leaving. At Central Connecticut State University's Arute Field, RPI polished off Buffalo State 20-13 in the Asa S. Bushnell Bowl Championship, earning a near record high of nine wins out of 11 games for the season. This is the second best cumulative performance any RPI football team has put together in the Institute's history.

With a 13-3 deficit going into the second half of the Bowl, the Engineers were aching for a comeback. Three yards from the end zone, senior Nick Schlatz completed a touchdown run to boost Rensselaer up seven points. Sophomore kicker Christian Kapp lifted his team out of the rut with his 24-yard field goal to establish a 13-13 tie.

With under nine minutes remaining, the Engineers wasted no time in working toward the lead of 20-13 they were destined to achieve. The player responsible was senior running back Austin Amery, who ran 17-yards to score the game-winning touchdown with 5:18 left in the fourth quarter.

"Playing RPI football has been an amazing experience altogether, the best four years of my life. Over the years, the program has taught me a lot not just on the field, but in life as well. This team went out on the best note, winning an ECAC Championship bowl game. That game specifically exemplifies what kind of team we are, dependent on each other. The teamwork and camaraderie on the gridiron here are like no other. Team 129 gave everything we had for one of the best seasons in school history. I'm going to miss it with all of my heart and I would do anything to go back and do it again. I thank all of my coaches and teammates, especially the seniors, for an incredible four years. This program has an extremely bright future. I already can't wait to come back with my team as alum and watch from the stands."

— Nick Schlatz, Team Captain, Senior Running Back

"It was an amazing experience leaving a legacy the way we did. [Our] seniors have fought through many obstacles but always rallied around one another to work towards a common goal. Winning nine games in a season is no easy task, and to go out as a co-champion of the league and mounting a victory from behind in the final game of our lives is something we will remember forever. Walking away from football isn't easy, but going out as a champion certainly makes it a lot easier."

— Matt Lane, Senior Running Back

"I think the biggest reason we were so successful was because we all believed in each other. For a play on offensive to work, everyone has to do their job or else it is a busted play. And on defense, in order to stop the other team, every player has to do their job or else it could lead to a big gain or a touchdown. But personally, I never had to try to do more than what I was told to do, because I trusted my teammate to do his job, and when we get a

three and out, I trust the offense to go down a score. I could go all day long about why our team was one of the best to come through RPI."

— Mark Grimes, Senior Linebacker

"Football has definitely been my greatest experience here at RPI. It has helped me through RPI's challenging academic courseload by teaching me time management skills, and giving me a support system of about 130 players and coaches. It truly is a brotherhood because I know I can ask any guy on that team for something and no matter what it is, they would help me out. I think football has helped me grow into the man I am today. The leadership, teamwork, and communication skills you take from the game cannot only help you in your professional career, but in life in general. The team has a lot of intelligent and respectable men on it who are going to do great things after RPI."

— Anthony Pilla, Team Captain, Senior Linebacker



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

RPI FOOTBALL MANUFACTURED a huge comeback in their season finale to beat Buffalo State 20-13. (file photo)

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Engineers dominate over Thanksgiving to go 3-1

Sean Beacham
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS PLAYED FOUR HARD GAMES over the week of Thanksgiving break. The first was on Friday, November 20, against Bentley. In this game, RPI scored three unanswered goals in the first two periods.

These goals were scored by sophomore Lou Nanne, senior Mark Miller, and sophomore Mike Prapavessis. Two of the goals were assisted and both were by sophomore Drew Melanson. It took Bentley until the end of the second period to score on the Engineers' defense. Bentley scored again in the third. The shots on

goal and faceoff totals were nearly even between the teams, and no power play goals were scored despite the seven that occurred during the game. The final score of 3-2 set the tone for the ensuing games.

On Tuesday, November 24, RPI played against the University of New Hampshire Wildcats. This game started similarly to the previous. The Engineers once again scored three goals before their opponents were able to put one up. When UNH did manage to put a goal on the board, it was followed by two others—one a power play goal—by the same player, Andrew Poturalski. After his third goal a minute into the third period, the game remained tied at 3-3 until less than five minutes remained in the game. Freshman Alex Rodriguez scored the game winning goal assisted by senior Travis Fulton and junior Parker Reno.

Rodriguez also scored the first goal for RPI in the Shillelagh Tournament at the University of Notre Dame, assisted by Prapavessis. The game was played against the Western Michigan Broncos. The goal was scored nine minutes into the first period; the next goal wasn't scored until the second period. It was a power play goal by junior Riley Bourbonnais. In this game as well, the Engineers managed a third goal before their opponents scored. Nanne scored RPI's third goal seconds after Bourbonnais' in the third minute of the second period. The play in the second period was rough, totaling six penalties

including a major and game misconduct by the Engineers. 13 minutes into the second period, the Broncos managed to put an unassisted power play goal by freshman Cam Hackett.

Play slowed down in the third period. Hackett did see 40 percent of his shots in the third, but there were only two penalties compared to the six in the second. RPI put one more up, the goal scored by junior Jake Wood late in the third. The game ended with a final score of 4-1. The Engineers ended up putting fewer shots on net than the Broncos despite the final score.

The Harvard game in the tournament at Notre Dame was RPI's first loss since the game against Michigan on Family Weekend. The Harvard goalie was stellar, making 31 saves throughout the game, but kudos to the Engineers for putting 14 shots on in the third period. Each team had five power plays and won 31 faceoffs. On the score sheet, the teams look very well-matched and it was an exciting game to watch.

The Engineers did not get much of a break for Thanksgiving, and still managed to play well over the weekend with stomachs full of turkey. Their next game is against Dartmouth College on Friday before they get another swing at Harvard in the Houston Field House on Saturday. Hopefully they get a good turnout and even the score.



Kay Sun/The Polytechnic

MEN'S HOCKEY STRUCK early and often in their four Thanksgiving break games.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Women's ice hockey weathers tough weekend

Kay Sun

Senior Reporter

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, RPI WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY confronted the University of New Hampshire in the Houston Field House. During the game, the team was active and aggressive, which increased the enjoyment and competitiveness of the entire game. During the game, UNH got one power play chance while RPI received no power plays; RPI won 25 faceoffs out of 45; the Wildcats' goalie Kyra Smith saved 20 out of 23 shots, while RPI freshman goalie Lovisa Salender kept 27 out of 30 shots from the net. With only three penalties in total, this clean game ended with 3-3.

Over the course of first period, three goals were made by RPI at 2:56, UNH at 3:19, and UNH at 13:38 respectively. UNH thus had a one-goal lead at the end of the first period. In the second period, thanks to the tighter defenses of both teams, less shots were made on goal. Only UNH defender Amy Schlagel, assisted by forwards Jonna Curtis and Sara Carlson, scored at the beginning of the second period. By the second period, UNH already had a two-goal lead. But, during the third period, Rensselaer made a comeback and tied the game at 3-3.

Regarding individual performances, senior forward Alexa Gruschow scored a hat trick in this game. Senior forward Mari Mankey contributed two assists to the team, which was also a significant factor in the tied game. Lastly, sophomore forward Shayna Tomlinson won 12 faceoffs out of 18, another highlight.

However, RPI's good luck didn't last. On Saturday, November 28, Rensselaer met New Hampshire again and lost the game 2-1.

The Wildcats took the lead in the first period. After numerous attempts, the Engineers finally tied up the game in the third period with a goal shot by Grushow, which was quickly followed by a power play goal made by UNH forward Amy Boucher and assisted by Schlagel and forward Haley Breedlove. During the game, the Engineers failed to capitalize on their power play chances. Also, with 15 shots by Rensselaer and 27 shots by New Hampshire, RPI players were far less active. Tomlinson kept her excellent record on faceoff, winning 12 out of 19 in this game.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

THE ENGINEERS STRUGGLE against the fierce opposition posed by Harvard College of Cambridge, MA. (file photo)

At 15:13, after a long attempt by Rensselaer, the UNH defensemen successfully blocked the puck out of their defensive zone. Later, the puck was quickly passed to New Hampshire forwards; a goal was shot from the blue line at 15:57 by UNH forward Boucher.

In the third period, the Engineers passed the puck into their offensive zone. After a long interference from the Wildcats, freshman forward Taylor Schwalbe picked up the puck and went around the net to get rid of the stick checking by the New Hampshire defenders. She dished the puck to freshman defender Josefine Hansen, who took a shot from the blue line. Her shot was

deflected by the Wildcats to Gruschow, who seized this excellent chance and shot right in front of the net. The puck flew into the net underneath UNH's pads. RPI thus tied the game.

In the same period, at 10:12, New Hampshire got a power play chance. After a while of neutral zone play, UNH went into RPI's defense zone. A defender took a shot, which was successfully saved. RPI later tried to take the puck out of the zone. However, Boucher picked up the puck and brought it to the net and scored her second goal in the game, which was also the winning goal of the Wildcats. RPI women's ice hockey thus lost the game 2-1.

MEN'S RUGBY

Rugby places first at Tri-State Conference Finals

Michael Baird

Senior Reporter

RUCKING, SCRUMMING, AND MAULING THE BALL since 1992, the RPI men's and women's rugby teams make up one of the 27 Rensselaer Union-sponsored competitive club sports on campus. After conquering the field with a 29-22 win over Molloy College on November 8 at the Tri-State Conference Finals at Vassar Farm in Vassar, NY, placing first out of six teams in the North Division, the men received a bid to play at the USA Rugby Division II National Round of 16. Facing the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the opening game of the two-day South Region Conference on November 21 at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., the team played hard, having ascended high in the ranks. Unfortunately, this would be their last game of the year; they lost 32-8.

Starting the first week of school, the men's rugby team met at Anderson Field for practice from 8-10 pm on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Around 40 students attended at first, but due to the team's "come and go as you please" policy, interested players departed from the team as the season progressed. 24 were registered for the Round of 16, where 15 played and eight were substitutes.

Cormace, this year's team captain, played football and soccer in high school, while Howard, a former team captain, enjoyed lacrosse and football during those years. Both discovered the rugby team during Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond Week as freshmen, and have been competing every year since.

"We had so much success [this season]," said Cormace. The team won every game

they played this year except for their first one against Siena College away on September 5. "After Siena, we finally got our roster set," said Howard. "We didn't face any stiff competition until playoffs."

Howard spoke fondly of Coach Cody Clifford '15, a former RPI Rugby player who was inducted this year to replace the

former coach who left last year. "He really knows our team ... he knew exactly what we needed to work on," said Howard.

The largest win of the season came on October 25 in the Tri-State Conference Quarterfinals when RPI challenged Montclair State University. Following the opponent's eradication, the score read 62-12.

The schedule for spring has yet to be announced by Rugby's Match Secretary; however, there will be tournaments taking place during that time. To learn more about RPI Rugby and keep up to date on what the teams are doing, visit their website at <http://rugby.union.rpi.edu>.



Andrew Sudano/The Polytechnic

RPI RUGBY HAD a strong showing at the Tri-State Conference Finals, but fell in the USA Rugby Division II National Round of 16. (file photo)

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men start off strong with winning season

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

UNDERWAY COMPETITIVELY SINCE NOVEMBER 15, when they won the first game of the season at an away game against the State University of New York at Cobleskill 75-46, the 2015 Rensselaer men's basketball team has already dribbled their way to a winning majority, having outdone their competition in three of the four games they have played so far.

Freshman Andreas Kontopidis was the all-star of the game on November 20, scoring 24 of RPI's 81 points. Opponent Utica College, which scored only 48 points in the game, was the first of two opponents the Engineer's would face over the weekend at the Hilbert Hawks Tip-Off Tourney, the second being the Hilbert Hawks themselves.

On November 21, when Rensselaer met the Hawks on the court, they suffered their first defeat in what was a very close game. Maintaining their undefeated streak, the Hawks won 88-71, despite trailing RPI for over half the game. This was because Jerame Owens and San Weisansal came to the rescue of the Hawks in their time of need, and were able to turn the game in their favor by 16:08 of the second half. This began a seven-minute long battle between the Engineers and the Hawks as they weaved in and out of the lead, but Hilbert ultimately came out ahead.

The team played again last Tuesday against the Sage Gators in Albany, N.Y. where they narrowly won their third game



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WON a hard-fought home game against the Middlebury Panthers with a final score of 68-66.

71-67. The Engineers manufactured a slight lead from half time on, reaching a tie only once, at 50-50 with 8:23 remaining in the second half.

Last night at 7 pm at East Campus Arena, the RPI men hosted their first home game. In attendance were the Middlebury College Panthers.

On December 12, the team will enter the two-day-long Tri-State Shootout Tournament, beginning with a 2 pm game against Vermont Technical College.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Two wins and losses for RPI

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER WOMEN'S basketball team has competed away from home in the past five games over the last two weeks, and they will not return to East Campus Stadium until December 30 when they will meet Drew University. In that time, they have played against the Utica College Pioneers, the Babson College Beavers, the Wheaton College Lyons, the Sage Colleges Gators, and the Middlebury College Panthers. In every game, the teams have finished within 13 points of each other.

The Engineers faced the Pioneers on November 19 in Utica, N.Y.,

where they collected a 47-40 lead by halftime, but lost it in the second half to finish with 84 points to Utica's 91. Freshman Elizabeth Eckhardt scored the most points for RPI that evening with 18. Following closely behind was senior Bailei Tetrault with 13, then freshman Sam Krumbhaar with 11.

On November 21, the women entered the Williams College Tournament with their first of two games for the weekend. The Babson College Beavers were the first opposition, but they failed to dam up the Engineers. Thanks to the 18-point performance of Krumbhaar, 17-point performance of junior Ashley Clough, and 12-point performance of

sophomore Shaina Iton, RPI won 64-54. The Engineers didn't have much trouble washing out the Beavers downstream.

When day two of the tournament arrived, the women prepared for a fight against the Lyons. Wheaton ended up winning 73-60 over RPI. Kiley Shoemaker scored 26 of the team's points to put the Lyons over the top out of harm's way.

Last night, the women traveled to Keene, N.H. to play against the Keene State Owls but lost 88-73. On Saturday, the team will head to Middletown, C.T. to compete against Anna Maria College at 2 pm in the Courtyard by Marriott Tournament. On Sunday, they will play Wesleyan University at 1 pm.



Michael Baird/The Polytechnic

RENSSELAER WOMENS BASKETBALL COMPETED in five games, finishing with a 1-4 record. (file photo)

CROSS COUNTRY

Ninth at Nationals

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

AFTER THE DIVISION III NATIONAL Cross Country Championship Meet in Oshkosh, Wis., the Rensselaer women's cross country team—and junior Ben Fazio—went out to a restaurant in Milwaukee to celebrate with an unusual and local treat: cheese curds. All performed excellently in their events, and having earned a ninth place title at the meet, they certainly deserved a treat.

Leading the seven RPI women who competed in the 6 km race at the Lake Breeze Golf Club was none other than sophomore Jaime Lord, whose 15th place finish won her the title of National All-American. Lord ran a season best of 21:37.3.

"Nationals was a really fun and exciting experience for all of us," said Lord. "All summer we trained with the vision of nationals in the back of our head. I know I personally thought it would be impossible until we all started racing. The whole season was exciting to watch and getting a bid to nationals was probably the happiest I've been in a while. I was excited because it would be my first plane ride and we would get the chance to make RPI proud. Race day was freezing, but I was so excited the cold didn't bother me.

"I like to get out fast so I don't get boxed in when the race starts, [so] I sprinted to the front around the first turn and then dropped back a little, settling into a pace. The hardest parts were the first mile and a half and the last 200 m. In the first mile, everyone was so close to one another that everyone was elbowing and pushing

and spiking each other. It was really difficult to maneuver my way through the crowd. Luckily the race spread out a little by the middle so pushing was no longer an issue.

"The last 200 m was very challenging because everyone was trying for a place and giving it their all... Everyone was in a mob. Looking back at the results there were three seconds between the 10th girl and me, the 15th girl. And six seconds faster would have put me at fifth. The whole race was fast and close. The first girl and last girl were only three and a half minutes apart.

"Finishing in 15th felt awesome. It's the highest RPI has placed in a while. Knowing our team placed ninth the highest finishing team place in RPI history, was surreal. I was so proud of my team. We worked so hard and deserved the success that came as a result."

Junior Shannon Trant was next for the RPI women, coming in 36th at 21:47.5. Junior and women's team co-captain Maddie Dery placed 68th with a time of 22:07.5. The remaining Rensselaer runners, junior Mary West, senior Alexa Sakorafos, senior Loki Rasmussen, and junior Allison Thayer finished at 22:49.6, 22:52.5, 23:29.1, and 23:57.3, respectively.

Fazio was the only male on the men's cross country team to earn a bid for the national meet. He placed 20th in the 8 km race in 24:47.2 despite tripping midway through the race and seeking medical attention afterward. Like Lord, Fazio was honored with the distinguished National All-American title following his performance this season.