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SWIMMING & DIVING

Historical season for athletes

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

THE ENGINEERS PLACED SECOND AT the Upper New York State Collegiate Swimming Association Championship Meet. Ithaca College earned the first place trophy by accruing 35.5 more points than the RPI women. Stevens Institute of Technology bested the men by 278 points. Three school records were broken and three NCAA B-cut times were reached.

Both the men's and women's teams won every dual meet during the season. The men also captured first in every invitational they competed in.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

Senior Arthur Schick, Backstroke and Freestyle, Senior David Connor, Breaststroke, Senior David Gardiner, Backstroke

"There is no doubt that this season was one that will go down in history. This team remained undefeated throughout the entire regular season and placed the highest yet at our state competi-

THE ENGINEERS DOMINATED in every single dual meet this season for the first time in school history.

tion. As captains, we were proud to lead this talented team through every challenge that faced us. Going into this season, we upheld high expectations knowing the talent and commitment level of this team. Looking back on how we wanted to perform this season, we accomplished everything on our checklist. The

biggest goal was winning the Liberty League Championships for the second time in our four-year career. Finishing it up with a Top 2 finish at states was the cherry on top. Our favorite part of the season was the determination we held through all of it. There was never a competition that we went into doubting our-

selves, because we all knew that the difficult training we were put through would always pay off. The most interesting thing to notice was how the new freshmen class grew through it all. They came in as a collection of individuals from different states

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TRACK & FIELD

Ogilvie wins first vault for Engineers

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

IN HIS RECURRING ROLE AS CHAMPION THROWER, senior Tyler Yeastedt shattered facility records in the weight throw and the shot put at the Hutton Sports & Recreation Center where Utica College hosted their Pioneer Invitational on Saturday. In the new facility, marking 17.75 meters in the weight throw, he surpassed the former record by over a meter. Meanwhile in the shot put, he increased the record distance by 1.5 meters.

For pole vaulting, senior Nathan Ogilvie cleared the bar at a height of 4.35 meters, 30 centimeters above the three runner-ups, which included freshman Joseph Vetere. Conquering the women's high jump against 18 others was freshman Jillian Salkind in 1.58 meters.

On the track, junior Maddie Dery abolished the facility record in the women's mile by 2.4 seconds with her time of 5:09.2. Senior Alexa Sakorafos finished five seconds later in fourth place. The men's mile was won by Peter DeWierdt of Hamilton College in 4:25.0, but junior Garrett Davis and freshman Sean O'Connor flew in afterward, separated by less than a second to place second and third respectively.

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BASEBALL

RPI takes season opener 6-4

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

MANIFESTING THEIR STRENGTH ON THE DIAMOND from pre-season conditioning weight room sessions with RPI head strength and conditioning coach Joe Schoenleber, the RPI baseball team slugged Alvernia University in Ashland, Virginia, on Saturday, winning 6-4 in their first game of the season. With the close of the ninth inning, head coach Karl Steffen celebrated his 800th career win. Steffen, a player in his own right who was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1978, began coaching at RPI in 1985. He is one of seven coaches in Division III history to have achieved this status.

At the top of the third inning, junior Yahriel Jimenez took advantage of a grounder by sprinting home off of third with bases loaded, collecting Rensselaer's first run. Alvernia took the lead in the bottom of the inning with a two-run single, then increased it by another run in the bottom of the sixth.

Beginning in the top of the seventh inning, the Engineers scored four runs. Earning a walk, junior Jeff Sitarski was sent to first base, then proceeded to second following a single by sophomore J.T. Sawyer. Sophomore Christian Spagnuola bunted to move up his teammates, but was outed himself. Next up to bat, junior Matt Lawrence helped Sitarski home, and Sawyer went along to tie up the game. Jimenez and junior Sam Lawrence got the next two runs, bringing the score to 5-3.

In the eighth inning, Spagnuola doubled home Sawyer, but when Alvernia returned the favor, it merely mitigated their deficit.

"Coach Joe [Schoenleber] has always done a great job in getting us prepared for our season,"

said senior team co-captain Steven Schiavone, who pitched on Saturday, striking out six. "He always has high energy in the weight room which is transferred to us athletes as we step in to work out either early in the morning or after a long day of class. It is definitely a competitive environment in the weight room which is what we need in order to compete highly in a competitive sport such as baseball. After such a successful season last year, our intensity and willingness to get better was definitely evident in the weight room this pre-season."

Undefeated so far this season in all six of their games, the Randolph-Macon College Yellow Jackets, whom the Engineers faced on Sunday, came out on top in both games of the doubleheader, although the second was called in the fifth inning due to rain.

In Game one, the score was tied 3-3 in the final inning until Jeffrey Butler tripled, scoring the final run for Randolph-Macon. Game two spelled disaster for the Engineers when Randolph-Macon gathered ten runs in the third inning, winning 14-1 overall, but although the score wasn't so good, many rookie RPI pitchers got the opportunity to practice off a real mound for the first time.

"What's good to take away from Randolph Macon was that all the pitchers got to throw in a real game off a real mound," said senior co-captain Greg Echeverria. "Now I'm sure everyone has a better idea of what to work on for next weekend and the rest of the season."

The Engineers will be busy on Saturday when they challenge Oswego State in another non-league doubleheader in the morning, and then play Virginia Wesleyan College in the afternoon. To close out the weekend, they will compete against Oswego State on Sunday.

MUELLER CENTER

Weight room bears brunt of sprinkler pipe water damage



Courtesy of Steve Allard

THE LOWER LEVEL WEIGHT ROOM EXPERIENCED damage as a result of Monday's sprinkler pipe burst. In order to reopen to the public, all of the equipment must be fully dried and sanitized.

David Raab
Senior Reporter

THE MUELLER CENTER WAS CLOSED FOR A GOOD PORTION OF last week because of a sprinkler pipe burst in the entrance vestibule of the building on Monday, February 22. The incident is not believed to have been due to the abnormally cold weather over President's Day Weekend, but rather an unfortunate coincidence. The upper floor classrooms and main floor cardio rooms reopened on Friday, February 19. As of press time, the lower weight room is still closed for repairs. Although the Armory is connected to the Mueller Center, it was unaffected by water damage.

It took maintenance crews some time to initially discover and respond to the issue because the Mueller Center was closed for President's Day. By the time the issue was discovered, several inches of standing water had collected in the lower floor weight room. An investigation of the damage,

conducted after the situation was stabilized, revealed that water had seeped through the floor of the main floor cardio room down to the weight room and also flowed down the stairs.

Making the problem worse was the fact that water in sprinkler systems is legally considered to be contaminated. That means that, before the Mueller Center was able to reopen to the RPI community, the waterlogged carpets on the second floor needed to be taken out. On the first floor, all of the weight room's rubber tiles were contaminated and have been removed. The weights and strength training machines were mostly unaffected; however they just need to be professionally cleaned and inspected to make sure that they are still usable.

President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16 has been keeping the RPI community informed about the situation through a variety of social media outlets as new facts arise.

RENSELAER UNION

UAR approved by Senate, E-Board

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reporter

WITH THE RECENT CONCLUSION OF THE BUDGETING SEASON, THE *UNION ANNUAL Report* for Fiscal Year 2017 was completed. Dating back to 2009, the *UAR* was first created to describe in detail the budgeting processes taken by members of the Rensselaer Union and the Executive Board. "The *UAR* is a standing commitment to transparency in the budgeting process, and a right for students to know where their money goes," according to President of the Union Nick Dvorak's '16 letter on page seven. This year's document is no exception, containing thorough explanations of what the *UAR* is and where the funds of the student activity fee are going.

The report provides the history of the Union and of the Activity Fee. The narrative supplies the reader with perspective on how the original idea of a student-funded and student-made budget to cover the cost of recreational, student-led programs, still remains relevant to today and is evident in this *UAR*. The Union manages the budgets of over 160 clubs and over 20 Intercollegiate Athletic teams. Their funds come from the Activity Fee which was determined to be \$674 for undergraduates and \$361 for graduates. This includes the Union Activity Fee, class dues, and the athletics fee and is a 2.5 percent increase. The joint efforts of the Union Annual Report Committee, Business Administrator, and other Union Administration staff examining the club and athletic budgets, result in this newfound activity fee.

Included in the document is a budgeting timeline. This timeline makes plain what steps of the budgeting process are made during what time. However, due to a mid-year change of responsibility between former Senate-Executive Board Liaison Andrew Sudano '17 and current Senate-Executive Board Liaison graduate student Jen Church, there were differences in this year's process, according to current Liaison Church.

"Typically the *UAR* timeline begins at the end of the Spring semester when the *UAR* Chair, who is also the Senate-Executive Board Liaison, is appointed. The chairperson begins going to Senate and E-Board meetings and forms a committee. I'm not sure what happened over the summer and early last fall since Andrew Sudano was the chairperson at that point. I do know the Committee was researching reports from large companies to compare to our *UAR*. When Andrew resigned, I applied for the position and was selected. When speaking with the President of the Union, he mentioned a three-tiered approach to the *UAR*—a full report, condensed version and a brochure. The

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STUDENT SENATE

Union Annual Report, Student Activity Fee approved

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

LAST WEDNESDAY, THE STUDENT Senate met to discuss two of the most important motions of the year; the approval of the Student Activity Fee and the *Union Annual Report* for Fiscal Year 2017.

Graduate student and chairman of the UAR Committee Jen Church began the meeting with a presentation on the *UAR*, discussing its purpose and the information contained within. The full *UAR* can be found on Flagship Docs at <http://poly.news/s/q6dmk/>.

The first motion was to approve the Activity Fee, which for this year was calculated to be \$374 for undergraduates and \$329 for graduate students. This fee does not include the cost of Intercollegiate Athletics, which is an additional \$300 for undergraduates and \$32 for graduate students. Jennifer Freedberg '18 asked for clarification on how the athletics fee would factor in. President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16

explained that while the athletics portion is technically separate from the Activity Fee, when the bill is viewed on Bursar it will appear together with the Activity Fee on one line item.

Justin Etzine '18 spoke out against the plan to remove athletics from the Rensselaer Union's budgeting procedures. Etzine wants to "put the ball back in [the administration's] court" by "[omitting] all funding for RPI Athletics from the Fiscal Year 2017 Union budget and all references to athletics funding from the *UAR*." His reasoning was that the Union has been budgeting athletics successfully for decades and that the administration should sit down with the students and discuss the matter further. Church and Dvorak said that this had previously been discussed. The recommendation already took this into account. The inclusion of athletics in this year's *UAR* was minimal and only occurred because budgets had been approved before the decision to

move athletics was announced.

Graduate student Timothy Krentz moved to amend the motion, adding in a clause stating "the Executive Board and Senate request and recommend that the athletics fee be listed as a separate line item for billing purposes." After some discussion, Paul Ilori '17 added two clauses to explain the purpose of the addition, one stating that the Activity Fee represents the budget of the Union generated by members of the Union, and the other stating that since athletics is no longer budgeted by the Union, it should not be included in the same line item as the Activity Fee. This motion passed 21-0-1.

Shortly after, Etzine pointed out that the class dues also needed to be listed separately from the Activity Fee, for record keeping reasons. The change was ruled friendly, putting the Activity Fee as \$360.50 for undergraduates and \$317 for graduate students and the class dues as \$13.50 and \$12, respectively.

The motion then went up for a roll call vote. The senators voting in the affirmative were as follows: Thomas Alappat '17, Nancy Bush '19, graduate student Mike Caiola, Etzine, Alex Fox '16, Jennifer Freedberg '18, Michael Han '16, Ilori, Jessica Krajewski '16, Krentz, CJ Markum '16, Bill Mehner '16, Austin Miller '17, Samantha Notley '18, Victoria Phan '18, Cameron Riley '19, graduate student Spencer Scott, Steve Sperazza '18, Joe Venusto '18, Wilbur Velarde '19, and graduate student Amanda Youmans. Church abstained from voting and Caleb Caraway '19, Keegan Caraway '18, Josh D'Amato '18, and graduate student Benjamin Walcott were all absent from the meeting. The motion passed 21-0-5.

The second motion was to approve the *UAR* itself, as moved by the *UAR* committee. Etzine and Joshua Rosenfeld '16 expressed concern over many unanswered questions relating to the *UAR*. Church asked for clarification, wondering if it was relating to the document

itself or the athletics situation. With the latter, Church suggested producing a second document with a more thorough explanation of athletics. Freedberg supported the idea of a second document, but also advocated for keeping all of the current information in the *UAR* for clarity. After more senators agreed that athletics should be kept in, Krentz called the question, which passed 15-5-2.

The approval of the *UAR* was then voted on by a roll call vote. Those in the affirmative were Alappat, Bush, Caiola, Freedberg, Han, Ilori, Krajewski, Krentz, Markum, Mehner, Miller, Notley, Phan, Riley, Scott, Sperazza, Velarde, Venusto, and Youmans. Those against were Etzine and Fox. Church abstained from voting and Caraway, Caraway, D'Amato, and Walcott were all absent from the meeting.

In the essence of time, the Senate quickly moved through committee reports. The Senate then closed the discussion to the public for the remainder of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Club starting budgets discussed, EWB to host conference, SBE recognized by Union

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

FIRST ON THE AGENDA FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING LAST Thursday was the Society of Biological Engineering, presented by Erin Arthur '18. SBE plans to hold seminars and journal readings with the goal of expanding knowledge and awareness of biological engineering. Arthur explained that the society would be open to anyone who has an interest in the field and that there are currently chemical engineering, biomedical engineering, and biology majors participating. The group also has support from professors in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. In a unanimous vote, SBE became a Union-recognized organization, and their affiliation with the national society was approved.

Members from Engineers Without Borders came before the E-Board to seek approval to host the Northeast Regional Conference at RPI. Allison Luongo '17 and Elizabeth Kwon '18 explained to the E-Board that their current project in Panama is currently coming to a close. Without planning and fundraising to do for the project, they believed that this wrap-up phase would be an opportune time to host the conference. The Union would also not be financially responsible for the conference, according to the national EWB organization. Despite this, Jeremy Feldman '16 proposed adding that the Union would in no way take up financial responsibility because, in the past, the Union has had to pay for events that they thought would be covered. The motion to approve EWB to host the Northeast Regional Conference was passed unanimously.

Next, the Policies Committee prompted discussion on changes to club budgeting procedures. Matthew Rand '18 explained how, under the current system, a club can become funded and then receive funding indefinitely, with no checks on whether or not it is a valuable contributor to the community. The Policies Committee proposed that the club first become recognized, and then, after six months or a full semester, whichever is first, they could receive a starter budget. If all goes well with the starter budget, the organization could eventually become a fully-funded club.

Representative Ines Roman '16 asked about the proposed \$600 starter budget, and questioned why it wasn't the usual \$250 that they give to new clubs under the current system. Rand said that he was not committed to the number and that it was open for discussion. Joshua Rosenfeld '16 emphasized the importance of having a number in the motion, as someone unfamiliar with the process would be lost in creating a reasonable budget without some sort of benchmark. After strawpolls, it was decided that \$200 per semester would be an appropriate starter amount to give to clubs. Charles Kirchner '17 asked about whether the summer months, when most clubs are inactive, would count toward the six months require for getting a starter budget. Feldman said that it would be up to the President of the Union to not put new clubs on the E-Board agenda late in the spring semester. Rosenfeld also cautioned about the wording of the time frame before a club can become funded, because if a club starts at the wrong time it might take as much as a year and a half, with two different E-Boards before the club becomes fully-funded. Secretary Stephanie Kern-Allely '18 proposed taking out the wording regarding the semester. Another strawpoll was done, and the E-Board determined four months would be an appropriate time before a club can receive a starter budget. The E-Board passed the new club funding policies 14-0-0. With that, the meeting adjourned.

Report: Full version approved, small brochure still to be created



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

SENATE-EXECUTIVE LIAISON AND CHAIRMAN OF THE UAR COMMITTEE GRADUATE STUDENT JEN CHURCH PRESENTS the UAR for Fiscal Year 2017 for the approval of the Student Senate.

From **Page 2**

Committee began designing the full report and gathering information for the different sections. This continued over winter break. When we returned I was informed of the Institute's decision to remove the Intercollegiate Athletics budgets from the purview of the Union. At this point we were told we could not write about ICA at all in the UAR, and that the Institute would give us language to put in the report. Following several discussions with

Dr. Ross, he agreed it would fit the report to discuss the decision by the Institute in this year's UAR. The ICA discussion set our timeline for release back by several weeks, so the release had to be pushed out quickly to make the submission deadline. The Senate approved the document on February 17th. Following the Senate vote, the Committee began work on designing the brochure and condensed version," says Jen Church on the creation process.

The UAR Committee was a team comprised of a variety of different

students. Sarah Murguia '19 told *The Poly* of her experience of being a part of the creation of this document. "The UAR requires a lot of knowledge of the Union, so as a freshman it was a little challenging to work on because there was much I didn't know. Luckily, everyone on the team knew a lot about the Union and its processes."

The UAR holds line by line details of how much is spent and on what it is spent. For students interested in reviewing the document themselves, visit <http://poly.news/s/qh4rk/>.

- ? a) Depression is a bunch of symptoms exhibited by weak people.
- b) Depression is an unbearable suppression of brain activity that can strike anyone.

Straightening out all the misconceptions, the correct answer is 'b'. It's a concept we should all understand and remember, and here's why. Depression strikes millions of young adults, but only 1 out of 5 ever seeks treatment for it. Too many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide. Why not treatment? Partly lack of awareness. Partly the unwarranted negative stigma. This is what needs fixing. This is where we need you to change your attitudes. It's an illness, not a weakness. And it's readily treatable. Spreading the word and making this common knowledge is everybody's assignment.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAIVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education)

<http://www.save.org>

PLP

Application for 2016-17 is open to all undergraduate sophomore or first-semester junior students. Please submit the following materials in person at the Archer Center located in Academy Hall or scan and email to archercenter@rpi.edu by March 11, 2016:

- Resume
- Cover letter
- Completed faculty/professional reference form
- List of campus involvement activities

For more information, contact Terry Swett at swettt@rpi.edu or visit our website: archer.union.rpi.edu/leadership/plp.html

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- No grades, no homework and no tests.
- Mondays from 5-7 PM in the Student Union.
- Successful completion of the PLP will appear on your official

Editorial

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Considering the UAR's impact on students

WITH THE PASSING OF THE *UNION ANNUAL REPORT*, *The Poly* feels that it is a good time to encourage students to take an active role in the things that directly affect us. Reading *The Poly* is already a great start! We do our best to keep students informed about what's going on around campus and presenting that information in a clear, concise manner. This week features an article on what the *UAR* is and why it's important for students, so we encourage you all to read it. In addition, we write weekly articles summarizing the events that occur during the Senate and Executive Board meetings; these articles are a great way to understand what your senators are doing to help you.

One of the best ways to take a more active role is to join Student Government committees. These are smaller groups of senators and Rensselaer Union members that focus on specific areas of student life and how those areas can be improved. Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers '16 says that the real work done by the Senate happens in these committees. All of their information can be found on the student government's website, <http://stugov.union.rpi.edu/>. This website has a list of all the committees, their roles, and their meeting times.

Lastly, this is an election year for the United States and most of us are eligible to vote. It doesn't matter whether you vote for the Republicans, Democrats, Libertarians, Greens, or any other party. What matters is that you find a candidate and support them. The point of a democracy is that every voice is heard; it's critical that you vote. Go out, get registered, and participate!

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Remembering old pastimes

Revisiting a story written as a twelve-year-old

WHEN I WAS IN SEVENTH GRADE, I WROTE A STORY WITH all my classmates in it. First, let me tell you: there were only 23 other students at the time, so it wasn't too crazy. Anyway, I drew this extremely detailed map based in this fictitious world I had made. There were towns, and rivers, and coves, and train tracks that ran across bays, and mountains—the whole shebang. I brought this extremely detailed map to school and I would ask my friends to choose a town or a place for them to originate from. Some people thought it was weird—quite a few—but a lot of people got really into it, and even chose names and background stories for themselves. I would sit down every day after school and write pages of poorly constructed plots where my friends and I went on silly adventures. This went on for awhile. I managed to write 23 pages of size-ten Time's New Roman font, justified, single spaced. And one day, the computer crashed and it was all gone.



Liss Ryan
Features Editor

Honestly, my father was more devastated than I was when it happened. He came to my room with a sad look on his face, and told me the grave news of the computer no longer turning on. "Lissy, your story is gone!" He looked near tears. I consoled him, told him it was going to be alright, that I would write another story—better, I promised. But since then, I hadn't really written a story quite like it. The story I wrote was written with no expectations. I wrote it for

fun, letting my imagination take me and my friends on wild journeys. I wasn't worried about it making sense or having a deep and profound meaning. I certainly wasn't worried if I was grammatically correct, or even interesting. I wrote with abandon. The stories that followed after that were different. They had this delicate censure manipulating their course. I'm not saying that I didn't ever write anything as good; the opposite occurred. I wrote better plots, with better style, and with a mature sense of what a "theme" is. But I never finished one. Many times, if I told someone what the story was about, I was suddenly relieved of the story, and the need to write it down passed. Every story that I wrote began with the same title: Chapter 1. Many stories didn't pass one page, many grew to a length of 30 pages. However, none were ever finished.

The period of time between stories written grew, and soon, a whole year had passed since I had attempted to make another. I still haven't. Over the break, however, I drew a map—a map based in a fictitious world. It had rivers, and streets, and homes, and mountains, and oceans, and deserts, and wonder. I thought maybe growing up meant leaving those beautiful worlds behind, and so I must leave the stories there too. Maybe not.

the polytechnic

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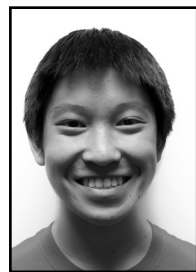
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Exploring in the bookstore

Shockingly, the bookstore carries reading material

ON THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL, I MADE a trip to downtown Troy to purchase the class notes for McLaughlin's Calculus II course. At the time, it seemed like pure evil; a textbook that would be revised every year and become outdated, thus lowering its resell value? One that couldn't be found on and downloaded off of the internet? And I had to walk through this ridiculous East Coast lack of temperature to go buy it at a small, local bookstore? As I dredged down The Approach, I grumbled to myself while my Californian soul slowly froze and broke off bit by bit, and my retired-for-a-year legs protested. You can imagine, then, my horror and dismay when I reached the front door and realized that I had another class on schedule



Rex Hu
Copy Editor

before the store would be open. I tried to make myself as small as possible on the walk back, hoping that nobody would see the flashing neon sign above my head that said, "this idiot near froze himself to death for no reason." But alas, I hadn't obtained a textbook. And so I waited.

That weekend, I made my second trip to the bookstore. It was open this time. I made a beeline for the counter, where I quickly received my textbook for \$50, no less—\$50! What mountains of food could I buy from Walmart with that, or at Father's price point even?—and I made a move to leave. But as I turned around, something caught my eye. Books.

Yes, there were books in this bookstore. I reached tentatively, gingerly even, for the first book that had caught my eye (a copy of *The Martian*, which I didn't realize was by the brilliant writer Andy Weir), and so I found myself walking out of the bookstore two hours later with \$17.28 less on my credit card, and

a fat bunch of glued-together papers in my backpack. Honestly, I was a little disappointed in the back of my head that the total hadn't been a dime more, but it didn't matter. As I walked back, there was a spring in my step, and my head was full of fantasy worlds I'd long forgotten about.

You see, in those two hours I had talked to one of the store clerks, sifted the shelves, and rediscovered a lost joy: reading. Over winter break, I had made plans with some friends to do monthly readings, but those never came to fruition; I had talked to another friend about how reading brings people together in the most uniquely intimate way. You're processing certain thoughts and ideas that are expressed in a very particular matter, and the permanency of those words and ideas has the potential to transcend any one individual's existence. Most of the ideas that have passed through our world have long been transcribed in written language. And if you're going to be a part of this world, what better way is there to connect to it and learn about it than through reading? I had left this crucial part of life behind for too long, and I was glad to welcome it back with open arms—and I think everyone should, so I leave you with this quote:

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read." - Mark Twain

**"Words bounce. Words, if you let them, will do what they want to do and what they have to do."
— Anne Carson**

DERBY

Activity fee revamp

Changes in athletics not shown in UAR

Hola Amigos!

This past week was filled with events and celebration galore! Last Wednesday the 46th Student Senate voted to pass both the UAR document and Activity fee recommendation. In the fee recommendation, it was stated that the activity fee recommendation was \$374.00 for undergraduate students and \$320.50 for graduate students. This figure includes the class dues portion of the Activity fee (\$13.50 for undergraduates and \$12.00 for graduates). This is a roughly 2.5% increase from last year's fees. If you would like more details on the fee breakdown and where your money is going, please check out <http://docs.studentsenate.rpi.edu/documents/2948/download>. We will also be releasing a one page summary of this document with infographics in the next few weeks, and will have a brochure available for students next semester! If you are interested in the process, or would like to get more involved with this fee, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

It should be noted that in the activity fee recommendation, the Senate and Executive Board requested the administration not include the new "Athletics Fee" in the "Activity Fee" line item for billing purposes in Fiscal Year 2017 and beyond. The Activity Fee is a long standing tradition of Rensselaer of a tax levied by students for students, for the services that the Union provides. With Athletics leaving the Union budget, and therefore leaving direct student control, both bodies of student government felt that it would be an inaccurate representation of the activity fee if a cost not

levied by students were to be included in it. Although we have received initial push back from the Bursar department, we hope that this information can be disseminated to students in a straightforward and simple manner. In addition, the "Communication Helps Inform the Public" committee has been established to provide regular updates about this situation as more information becomes available. If you



Nick Dvorak
President of the Union

are interested in getting involved with this committee, I again highly encourage you to reach out to me at any time and express your ideas.

On a lighter note, this past weekend featured Winter Carnival: a long standing and well-loved RPI tradition. This year's theme was Polar Bearadise, which came with such performances such as fire dancers and the RPI jazz band, and free food galore.

Each year this awesome campus event is planned by the students on the Winter Carnival Committee, I want to thank them for all of their hard work in putting together this awesome event. I hope everyone was able to pick up some free swag, and ultimately came out to support the Men's hockey team Saturday night in their last home game of the regular season. We were able to take out Princeton, and secure our place in the playoffs. I can't wait to catch the next game! As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns feel free to reach out to me anytime at pu@rpi.edu or stop by my office hours Mondays/Thursdays 12-1pm, or Pub Chats 6pm-8pm Wednesdays! See you around, RPI!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sensibility with drugs

SSDP fights to end the War on Drugs

Samrin Ali

A special to The Poly

Once upon a time, in the year of 1998, a man by the name of Shea Gunther founded what would become the only international network of students dedicated to ending the War on Drugs: Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP). Since then, SSDP has grown to roughly 200 chapters. Proud to join this network is RPI's SSDP chapter, a recently recognized RPI Club. The RPI SSDP E-board consists of Matthew Getzin (President), Zoe Steinsnyder (Service Chair), Jaad Coles (Social Media Chair), Anton Nekhai (Secretary), Nick Axline (Treasurer), Dylan Rees (At-large member), and myself (Vice President).

SSDP neither condones or condemns the use of drugs; instead, we encourage people to be active and informed decision-makers in their lives. We see a great importance in strengthening the involvement of RPI students on the topic of drug use/drug policy, which has undoubtedly had an impact on the lives of many people around the United States.

We, as SSDP members, believe that The War on Drugs is a topic highly worthy of attention, discussion and action. Just the same, we recognize and understand that the consequences of The War on Drugs, such as overincarceration, racism, and educational and economic injustice, are topics that must be brought to light.

We encourage and welcome the participation of any students on campus looking to get involved with SSDP. To gain a better sense of SSDP, please attend our panel discussion this Thursday, February 25th, which will be held in DCC 318, from 7-9PM. The panel will consist of Danny Bushe (Undergraduate Student, Activist), Janelle Fayette (Dean of the First-Year Experience), Dr. Leslie Lawrence (Resident Physician in RPI Student Health Center), Alli Morgan (Graduate Student in STS, RPI Undergraduate and RPI Ambulance Alumna), and Jerry Matthews (Director of Public Safety). This panel is designed to open the lines of communication between the students, for whom the institution exists, and the administrators tasked with keeping the students actively engaged in their own health, safety, education and development as young adults.

We hope to see you there!

"Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone." — Anthony Burgess

KICK OFF!

RPI Relay For Life Wellness Day

Feb. 27th @ 12 PM
Mueller Center

Come by for fitness classes, nutrition info, and other fun activities! We will have free smoothies, snacks, and chair massages!

12PM
High Impact Zumba
Boxing

1PM
PiYo - (High Impact
Pilates & Yoga)

2PM
Cardio Kickboxing

3PM
Yoga



SUDOKU

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

Previous Issue's Answers

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

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

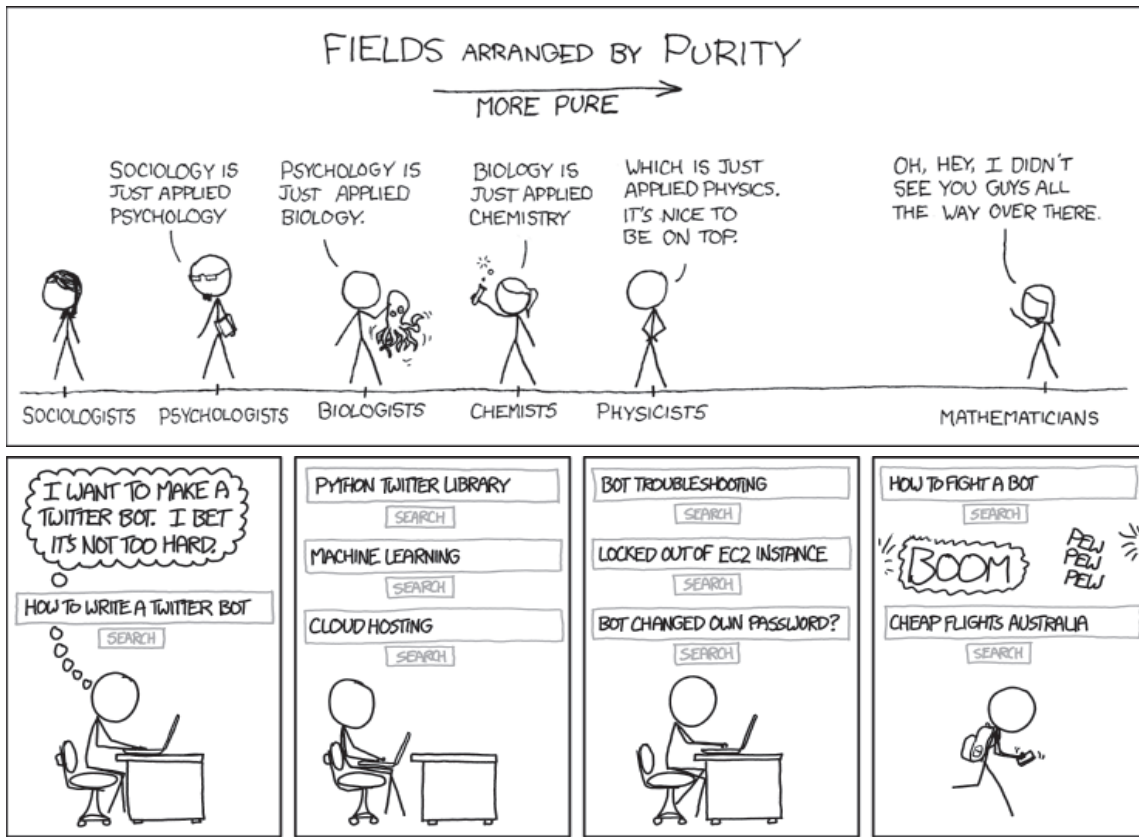
TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten /r/rpi Throwaways

10. /u/33554432
9. /u/jayjaywalker
8. /u/csgirl19
7. /u/slicedorange
6. /u/AutoModerator
5. /u/nonewlogo
4. /u/thepolytechnic
3. /u/halfdozeneggs
2. /u/aluminumoxynitride
1. /u/transparentaluminum

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

“Lnc h rkaoxhq hiapb,
snj'ca pnb uhwxpi
h wacs rkaoxhq
ehs, hca snj?”
—Dhwacqs
Bua Fhp lcnf J.P.O.Q.A



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safe environment

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- Around the clock public safety

IMPORTANT DATES

Greek Commons Waivers

Due Feb. 24th

General Housing & Dining Selection

Feb. 29th-

March 9th

Visit: <https://rpi.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

For more details on room selection and housing rates, visit the Residence Life website: <http://reslife.rpi.edu>

For more details on dining plans and dining locations visit the Hospitality Services website: <http://rpihospitalityservices.com>



Rensselaer

Swimming & Diving: Undefeated seasons

From **Page 1**

and teams, each with their own idea of how training works. To see them work from using PVC pipes in the weight room to challenging the upperclassmen in and out of the pool was extremely rewarding. Overall, setting goals for our team and then watching everyone rise up together and completely meet those goals has been a unique and unforgettable experience. To be able to call this team our family was the biggest honor we received this season. We don't know if there is any better way to end our swimming careers."

Junior Annika Lindstrom, Butterfly and Individual Medley and Junior Anna Drechsler, Freestyle and Breaststroke

"Starting this season I had no idea what it held in store for our team. We started out very disconnected by the months spent apart over the summer and overwhelmed by the amount of new freshmen. We didn't really know each other, as swimmers or as people. That would change drastically over the course of this season. With every tough practice and successful meet that passed, we grew closer and closer as a team. We began to see each other not only as teammates, but friends and family

too, and it became very evident in our swimming. We started swimming for each other and for our team, not only for ourselves. This past week we were at our state championship meet, the last meet of the season, and one we build up to for weeks. It was a week I will never forget; historically, the women's team has placed in this meet ranges from 7th to 4th, never really breaking top 3. We went into this meet determined to place top three, people were on edge and nervous, but we came together there like I've never seen before. We supported each other's swims; when one person faltered there was always someone there to pick them up. We laughed together, we cried together, and we swam together, many people swimming faster than they ever have before. While in the end we narrowly missed winning the meet, we still got second, a feat that RPI has never accomplished, and something I think all of us will remember for the rest of our lives. I walked away from this season not only as a stronger swimmer, but a stronger person, and I think that is something that can be said about the whole team, my family."

Senior Maddie Miller, Diving

"This year has been historical for the women's swim and dive team.

This is the first time ever that we have gone undefeated. Most people think of swimming and diving as an individual sport, but if you ask someone from the team, they will tell you it's not. Although there may only be one person in the lane or on the board, we are always competing as a team - we are getting points for our team. When we won meets, it wasn't just because of the people who placed first, it was also because of the women who came in second, the women who out-touched the opponents and the women who cheered and pushed their teammates. We won because of the hard work we all put in, even when we were exhausted.

"This year's dive team is the biggest we've had so far. We have five women and five men. When I learned that we had such a big team, I was a bit worried as to how we would get along. Divers tend to be a little on the crazy side; I mean, you kinda have to be when you are throwing yourself off a 3 meter board. I can't say it enough, but this team is my family. We have the mom, the annoying younger brothers, the crazy uncle, the cat lady, and the sisters. Our team has been a constant support system to each other as divers, and to the rest of the team. Without all their antics, I know I wouldn't be where I am today."

Track & Field: Looking forward to Championship

From **Page 1**

Junior Brian Crowley outran Henry Whipple from Hamilton to take first in the men's 5000 m with a time of 15:40.1. Junior Nolan Feola proceeded to cross next in third and freshman Shreyas Sriram followed in fourth.

Behind 800 meter winner Michael Warchol of Mohawk Valley Community College was junior Travis Taylor with a time of 2:01.3. Freshman Frank Sinapi came in almost simultaneously, placing third in 2:01.5.

Senior Joey Correia sprinted to a second place finish in the 400 meter in 52.1. Freshman Jason Hall also crossed as a runner-up in the meet, coming in after Erik Gleba from Utica in the 500 meter.

The moment of truth for the indoor portion of track and field is closing in on the Engineers as they gear up for the New York State Collegiate Track Conference Championship at Ithaca College this Friday and Saturday.

The Poly is proud to report on all the varsity winter sports that recently ended. We look forward to covering them next year.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Seniors made final court appearance last Sunday

Stephanie Kern-Allely
Senior Reporter

THE RPI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FINISHED THEIR SEASON WITH ONE win and one loss over the weekend. After a huge victory over Bard College, the Engineers closed their season with a tough season-ending loss to Vassar College. Despite Liberty League's Rookie of the Week freshman Sam Krumbhaar giving two outstanding performances on the court, Rensselaer was unable to capitalize in their second game of the weekend.

RPI traveled to Bard College on Friday to face off against the Raptors, who ended their season at 5-20. The Engineers showed that they were the superior team on the court that night when they ran away with a 65-49 victory. Right out of the gates, RPI sunk 23 points in the first quarter alone to Bard's six. They then tacked on another nine to end the first half up 32-21.

The Engineers held onto their lead in the second half and pushed their advantage to an 18-point lead by the end of the third quarter. Despite Bard improving from the first half and putting up 28 points in the second half, RPI steadily held them at bay, leading to a 65-49 win.

Freshman Krumbhaar led the team in points with 16, and also managed five rebounds. Another major contributor to the Rensselaer offense was sophomore Shaina Iton who nabbed eight rebounds. RPI was perfect from the free throw line and shot an average of 46.7 percent from the field to keep them ahead.

Coming off of their away win, RPI came into their end of the season game at home against Vassar with confidence. The Engineers showed their determination in the first half, outscoring the Brewers 43-36 at halftime. Rensselaer's defense held Vassar to only 38 percent shooting from the field and not a single three-pointer.

Once the teams returned from the locker rooms, the invigorated Brewers startled RPI with a 24-point surge in the third quarter while Rensselaer struggled to put 11 points on the board. Going into the fourth quarter, RPI immediately cut the lead to two points with Vassar up 60-58. However, the Brewers rallied and re-extended the lead to 11. RPI had no answer; the whistle blew with Vassar winning the game 88-74.

Krumbhaar led the Engineers with 19 points and five rebounds. Seniors who played in their collegiate women's basketball finale were Ellen Boucher who put up eight points and three assists, Bailei Tertrault with four rebounds and two points, and Ashley Clough, who added seven points, eight rebounds and a block. The team finished the season with an 8-17 overall record and 4-12 in the Liberty League.



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic
SOPHOMORE SHAINA ITON OVERCOMES defenders in season finale game against Vassar College.

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Thrilling weekend games round out home season

No. 1 nationally ranked Quinnipac narrowly defeats RPI

Joseph Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

COMING OFF OF A ROUGH FOUR LOSSES IN THEIR last five games, the men's hockey team entered Friday night's game against number one ranked Quinnipac University. But, regardless of their recent play, the Engineers played well, taking a 4-3 lead with 3:46 in the third period remaining when sophomore forward Viktor Liljegren collected the puck as it slid past him and flung it top shelf past Bobcats goalie Michael Garteig. Then disaster happened; Quinnipac pulled their goalie soon after the RPI goal and tied the game up with a long shot past senior goalie Jason Kasdorf by forward Devon Toews. 15 seconds into overtime, Quinnipac took advantage of a two-on-one breakaway with a game-winning goal by forward Soren Jonsson.

Quinnipac scored less than a minute into the opening period when forward Travis St. Denis deflected the puck into the RPI net off a wrist shot by defenseman Chase Priskie. Nine minutes later the top-ranked Bobcats increased their lead to two when defenseman Kevin McKernan grabbed the loose puck off a missed shot by forward Sam Anas and flicked it past Kasdorf.

Rensselaer responded with a goal of their own late in the first period when junior forward Jake Wood came free just seconds after the end of an RPI power play and drove the puck toward the Quinnipac net. The puck deflected off of the skate of junior forward Jimmy Devito and went past Garteig to put RPI back within one.

Freshman forward Alex Rodriguez found a clear patch of ice in front of the Quinnipac net and scored off a skillful wraparound pass by sophomore forward Kenny Gillespie to tie the game at two early in the second period. A minute and a half later, several members of each team began fighting after a huge hit away from the puck by Quinnipac. The incident resulted in three two-minute penalties, one on both Tim and Connor Clifton of Quinnipac and a third on RPI freshman forward Jesper Ohrvall. After the Engineers failed to



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

A FEW FIGHTS BROKE OUT at Friday's close overtime game against Quinnipac University as tensions ran high among the players.

take advantage of their five-on-three power play during the ensuing minute, another fight broke out. Senior forward Milos Bubela shot the puck at the Quinnipac net, but Garteig made a tremendous diving stop to preserve the 2-2 tie. In disbelief, Bubela tried to knock the puck out of Garteig's possession and hit the goalie in the head with his stick. Bobcat forward Tommy Schutt came to the defense of his teammate and shoved Bubela to the ice. As a result of the scrum, each of those players took two minute penalties and so did Devito.

Midway through the second period, senior center Zach Schroeder collected a loose puck in front of Garteig and managed to knock it in putting the Engineers in front 3-2. Both sophomore left wing Lou Nanne and junior right wing Riley Bourbonnais assisted by knocking the puck loose from the Quinnipac defense.

The Bobcats tied the game at 3-3 midway through the third period on a power play goal by Tim Clifton, setting the stage for the game's dramatic finish.

Kasdorf defended the net well in the loss, saving 37 of 42 shots that he faced as compared to 21 of 25 for Garteig.

On Senior Night against Princeton, the Engineers fell behind again when Princeton forward Ben Foster flicked a wrist shot past Kasdorf to give the Tigers a 1-0 lead. Rensselaer badly needed a win to keep themselves in contention for a spot in the NCAA Tournament in March. A loss in this game to a Princeton team that had only won five times all season would have meant their second 3-game losing streak in less than a month along with a certain drop in ranking. But before that could happen, the Engineers came to life. With 4:20 remaining

in the second period, Devito snuck a pass to Bubela in front of the Tiger net, and Bubela stuck it home to tie the game at one.

Less than two minutes into the third period, Devito made another beautiful pass to Bubela in between two Princeton defenders. Bubela then took the puck and backhanded past the outstretched stick of Princeton goalie Colton Phinney. To his credit, Phinney held the Engineers in check most of the night, saving 39 of the 41 shots that he faced. But the two goals were enough as Jason Kasdorf saved 19 of 20 that went his way in route to a 2-1 victory to close out the regular season home schedule for RPI.

Up next for No. 17 ranked RPI are away games at Colgate University and Cornell University to end the 2015-2016 regular season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Finishing the season strong

Stephanie Kern-Allely
Senior Reporter

WITH THE SEASON COMING TO A CLOSE, MEN'S BASKETBALL CONCLUDED THEIR SEASON on a high note with a 71-63 win over Vassar College on February 21. The team closed out the weekend with two wins: one in overtime against Bard College and one in their final season game at home against Vassar.

On Friday, RPI traveled to Bard College to face the struggling Raptors at home. On their Senior Night and final game of the season, the Raptors put up their strongest defense all season holding RPI to a halftime score of 20-23. Rensselaer found the rim more than the net, making only eight out of 33 shots from the field.

The third quarter saw the Engineers continue to struggle offensively and widen the score margin from three to 10 points. RPI found their strength to rally from an 11-point deficit late in the fourth quarter behind freshman Tom Horvat who led the team with 18 points. Junior Jonathan Luster's on-the-buzzer three missed the mark and took the game into overtime at 49-49.

The Engineers capitalized on Bard's loss of momentum in the overtime period where their defense did not fare as well as it had in the first half. RPI closed the game out 58-53 to win it with senior Tyler Gendron scoring seven of RPI's nine overtime points.

After the win on Friday, Rensselaer returned home to finish their season with a hard fought win over Vassar College. At the close of the first half, the two teams were neck and neck with Vassar edging out RPI for a 35-34 lead. Despite an RPI 10-point lead in the second quarter, Vassar rallied and squeezed by Rensselaer to outscore them in the first half.

However, the Engineers surged in the second half, outscoring the Brewers 37-28 and putting up a 60 percent accuracy from downtown with six three-pointers. Gendron added to his first half total of 10 points to give RPI the win, leading the team in scoring with 21 points. Gendron concluded his college career with a well-earned win and even put up three steals to help Rensselaer to victory. Another standout on the RPI side was Luster, who had two blocks and four assists.

RPI finished the season with two wins back to back to finish 12-13 overall and 6-10 in conference. The season brought a new star to the team in Horvat, who was recently recognized as the Liberty League Men's Basketball Rookie of the Week for the third time this season. The guard played an important part in the Engineers' wins this weekend and is someone to keep an eye on in future seasons.

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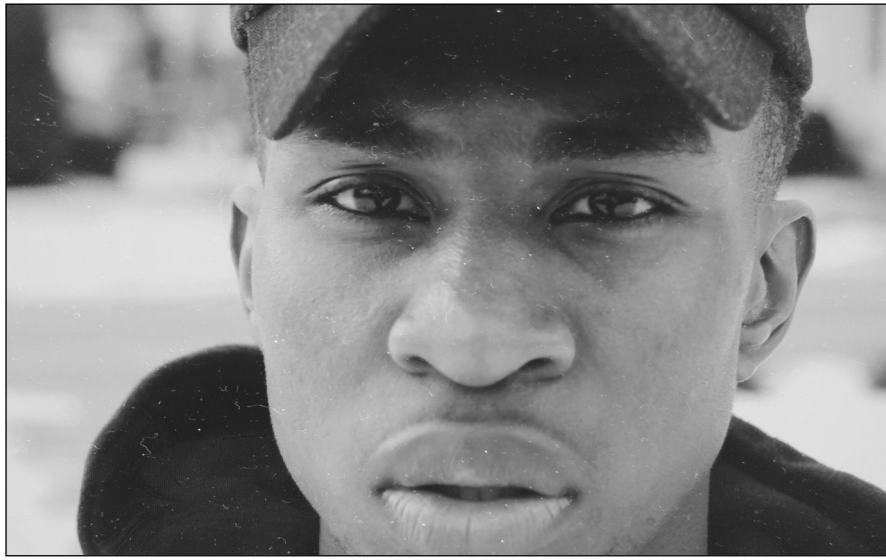
STEVEN MILLHAUSER, WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR FICTION, WILL PRESENT WINNERS WITH THEIR AWARDS AT THE MCKINNEY AWARDS CEREMONY ON APRIL 13, 2016. WINNERS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IN STATLER & WALDORF, RPI'S STUDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE.

Asoh: Creative lyrics add to music

From **Page 12**

When asked about his musical inspirations, Aiyevbomwan named Kanye West, Big Sean, Chance the Rapper, J. Cole, Kendrick Lamar, and Childish Gambino. He went on to explain that he sees Joey Bada\$\$ as inspirational for finding success from a similar situation from himself. Furthermore, if given the opportunity to collaborate with any artist, he believed that, if given “a day’s worth of recording sessions with either Jhene Aiko or Kehlani,” he could “really make something magical,” explaining that a perfect RnB-Rap collaboration “can make anybody love music.”

There is also meaning behind Aiyevbomwan’s stage name. “‘Asoh’ is Eghosa spelled backwards without ‘Eg.’ Its intentions were to show that it’s impossible to be yourself without an ‘Ego’ (you can remove the e and g, but that ‘oh’ still remains).” He admitted that this analogy could be viewed as a reach, but explained that “in [his] head it made sense when [he] made it, and [he] like[s] it.” As for the surname, Black., Aiyevbomwan explained that it is “just set to be a blatant apprecia-



Courtesy of Asoh Black.

UP-AND-COMING ARTIST, ASOH BLACK. REVEALS character through his work. tion for the culture that raised me.”

Although he is studying business and management, Aiyevbomwan intends to keep creating new music “for as long as [he has] a voice to speak.” He also expressed his intent to pursue a career in business, which forms his reasoning for choosing his major. “Business is where the shmoney is and I’m not growing in debt for no reason.”

For future releases and updates, Aiyevbomwan recommends that interested listeners follow his social media presence. Asoh Black. can be found on Soundcloud at <http://poly.news/s/3v3d6/>, on Twitter as @asohblackmusic at <http://poly.news/s/cw4sp/>, and on Facebook at <http://poly.news/s/ba5g4/>. 20/20 can be streamed and downloaded at <http://poly.news/s/pvflb/>.

FTB: Game sees remix

From **Page 12**

surface of what mod developers have to offer. I’m just now starting to get into drones and bee breeding. Genetics is still something I’ve been meaning to start, and the magic based mods are still completely foreign to me. There is just so much content that it’s impossible to be bored.

With a whole community of developers, these mods are constantly being updated and new mods are constantly being released to the community. Just when my favorite mods are starting to get a bit stale, something new comes out that I can get excited about.

If you have previously enjoyed playing *Minecraft*, I encourage you to try out Feed the Beast. There are so many options that there is bound to be something that interests you. Just be careful not to melt your CPU, *FTB* can be a hungry beast.

**Have an interest?
Review it in
The Poly! Email
poly@rpi.edu.**

Winter Carnival: Games, events celebrate winter

From **Page 12**

of the track and finally saw these smart and dedicated creatures shaking themselves and panting after heavy exercise. The trainers had to stop me from touching or getting closer to them at that moment. She explained: “You would feel uncomfortable being hugged or surrounded when you just finished running and feel really hot, right? I believe for dogs, it is the same.” I respected her protection for them greatly, since she was thinking from the Malamutes’ standpoint. But later, when I left ECAV, I saw more Alaskan Malamutes caged in less than one meter cubed. The darkness and limited room seemed to make them fluttered and upset. I started to doubt whether the trainers were really concerned about their mental health instead of racing capability; shouldn’t they try to create more comfortable spaces for the dogs, especially in the carriage? I didn’t question trainers face-to-face, but I have a strong impulse to write it down here. Hopefully, this concern of mine can be addressed by the readers.

Winter Carnival, conclusively, was a great success. Everyone there had fun either with helping out or enjoying games and the company of friends. But, to be honest, when our club first arrived, we were a bit confused, since we had no idea about the Union’s arrangement. The only reason for that is the lack of communication. Clubs also have numerous ideas about the design of activities and booths. Had the Union more actively communicated with the clubs, I believe the Winter Carnival could have been more interesting and colorful.

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Rex Hu
Senior Reviewer

AS THE LIGHTS DIMMED, THE AUDIENCE grew quiet, and I got ready to take fastidious notes on my laptop. Now, considering that there were nine groups—10 if you count the guest performers—at the Northeast International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella, it would be thoroughly impossible for me to review all of them in detail without boring everyone; in any case, I'm not an *a cappella* connoisseur, so there's no need for me to go into extreme detail. As such, I will be reviewing the sets that I found to have the most entertainment value and glossing over the others.

Serendipity, University at Albany: The first of two all-female groups, their set consisted of "Settle Down" by Kimbra, "Only Time" by Enya, and "Fallin'" by Alicia Keys, mixed a bit with "It's A Man's Man's Man's World."

Overall: this group had a solid swagger and nice feminine touch, and I can definitely see where they're drawing influence from Beyoncé, in both visual and vocal style.

Absolut A Cappella, SUNY New Paltz: Their outfits were coordinated in purple and black. As they walked in, they spread out over stage and started their first song, "Testify To Love" by Avalon. It started out with the softest of notes, with chilling, expressive movements. As they moved into square formation, their voices grew stronger in a beautiful harmony with no solo.

Later, a male solo did break out of the group, as they moved onto their second song, "Use Somebody" by Kings of Leon. I felt that their rendition of the song really reflected the original well. They made vigorous use of the stage, moving about and making formations of different sizes.

Their next song was "Breakeven" by The Script. It was loud and passionate, but, at the same time, I thought it wasn't as emotionally expressive as the original; the solo used volume, but didn't have emotional sharp hits on the loudest note of the chorus, at "what am I supposed to do?" While it was certainly riveting, especially combined with wonderful choreography, at the same time I felt that the solo's voice didn't allow for very flawless harmonizing.

For their final song, they performed "Cosmic Love" by Florence + the Machine. It was a nice take on the band's style, and I really felt their choreography truly expressed their understanding of the emotion in the music—they even made heartbeat movements to match with the sounds from the song. They reflected artistic expression in a fantastic combination of not only the solo and group voice, but visual presence as well. The solo ended on a high note, and everyone fell as the heartbeat from the song stopped.

Overall: they were beast, hands down. Amazing stage presence, coordination, and vocal performance. I felt like it was straight out of a movie (ahem, *Pitch Perfect*).

Rensselyrics, RPI: Their set consisted of "Stacy's Mom" by Fountains of Wayne, "Blue Ocean Floor" by Justin Timberlake, and "Survivor" by Destiny's Child.

Overall: they had nice touches of humor and an invariably smooth solo for "Blue Ocean Floor", but sometimes sounded rather immature.

Hooked on Tonics, SUNY Oneonta: Their set consisted of "Under The Bridge" by Red Hot Chili Peppers and "It's So Hard To Say Goodbye To Yesterday" by Boyz II Men. Their last composition was a Daft Punk medley featuring songs such as "Higher, Better, Faster, Stronger", "One More Time", "Get Lucky", and "Digital Love."

Overall: it was a solid performance with various unique qualities that were thrown into the mix. Thoroughly enjoyable. I'd just like to point out that their name is the bomb dot com, just like Hooked on Phonics.

Partial Credit, RPI: Their set consisted of "Bottom Of The River" by Delta Rae, "Eat That Up It's Good For You" by Two Door Cinema Club, and "Moon River" as performed by Audrey Hepburn.

Overall: I thought that this group's song choices were spectacular. Even though the vocal and visual performances were a little rough around the edges, they really captured and portrayed the emotions of each song accurately.

The Girls Next Door, The College of Saint Rose: The second of two all-female groups, The Girls Next Door were clad in diverse black-and-white outfits that managed to look coordinated despite the variety. After entering, the group stood in a



Liss Ryan/The Polytechnic

THE ALL GIRLS CHOIR, SERENDIPITY, GRACE the stage at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center.

picture pose with two members sitting on the floor. Their first song was "Don't Stop Me Now" by Queen. It had a slow start with a solo, before breaking out the beats. Like Absolut A Cappella, they commanded an excellent use of the stage, moving around in varying formations with awareness of the stage size, and they certainly had a large stage presence. The solo was fantastic: she was facially expressive with energetic and expressive moves, high kicks, and full of confidence. The group choreography was equally intense, with spins and squats in the mix. At one point the beatboxer broke out of formation, and her movements as she performed were interesting to watch. At certain points, they even paired up to do moves, like the bernie. They also performed "Winter Song" by Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson in a duet, and "Fly" by Nicki Minaj, with two rappers who were actually pretty good and reminiscent of Minaj.

Overall: everything came across as very practiced, smooth, and confident. Even the messier parts seemed like organized chaos. They were movie-like, as with Absolut A Cappella. Truly something that can be considered a performance.

The Other Guys, The College of Saint Rose: They started "Stutter" by Marianas Trench with an intense clap and stomp beat that was extremely energetic, and a solo with that naturally hoarse kind of voice. They also had a good command of presence and presentation, with strong, sharp movements and clean formations. The energy they possessed was the kind that only, well, a group of self-described ladies' men

could bring to the stage. As a result, it was a very fun set to watch.

They also performed a mashup of "Angel" by Sarah McLachlan and "Skin" by Rascal Flatts. The solo had a beautifully full and rich voice, though it seemed like they couldn't really hit their lowest note—it was more rumbly than clear. The transition was seamless, and the second solo also had a great voice; they broke out of formation and multiple voices mingled, which were all very solid overall, but the solo took a breath before the ending note.

Their finishing song was "Cmon Talk" by Jarle Bernhoft. They had some very nice falsettos, and the solo felt very boy band in a way that was almost professional.

Overall: the entire set was energetic, and they had smashing voices. It could be considered vocal sex appeal, if that's how you roll.

The Rusty Pipes, RPI: Their set consisted of "Where Are Ü Now" by Jack Ü/"Tonight" by Pitbull, "Isn't She Lovely" by Stevie Wonder, and a OneRepublic medley including "Apologize", "If I Lose Myself", "All The Right Moves", and "Stop and Stare."

Overall: this was another solid set with nice voices and very level performance. I was hoping for more stage presence, but their vocal talent overwhelmingly compensated.

Pitch Please, University at Albany: Their set consisted of "Hooked On A Feeling" by Blue Swede, "Wildest Dreams" by Taylor Swift, and "Found A Way" by Drake Bell.

Overall: this set left a refreshing feeling. The group has a

wonderful natural ability to make things upbeat, as their first two songs were significantly more energetic than the originals—in a good way.

Duly Noted, RPI's best and only all-male a cappella group. They didn't actually compete, but were guest performers to fill time as the adjudicators finished scoring. They had hodgepodge outfits, all wearing blazers with different solid-colored tees underneath. They performed "Animal" by Neon Trees, "Complimentary Me" by Elizabeth and the Catapult, and "Coffee" by Miguel, but their true value lay in their comedic presence. They brought water bottles on stage. Go them. And then... they performed "Robots" by Flight of the Concorde—a fun song about robots taking over the world when humans are dead—"Hey Laura" by Gregory Porter, and "I Want It All" by Queen.

They also sang "Shia LaBeouf" by Rob Cantor—God bless their souls—"Telegraph" by Childish Gambino, "Sleeping With The Television On" by Billy Joel, "Diner" by Martin Sexton, and "Just A Friend" by Biz Markie. They finished with "Another Irish Drinking Song" by Da Vinci's Notebook. Throughout it all, their presentation and commentary left the crowd reeling with laughter.

Overall: though it may seem unfortunate that they were the only RPI group that didn't make the competition, their performance convinced me otherwise. If you're looking for a musical night of entertainment and laughter, Duly Noted is the group you're looking for. After Duly Noted finished, awards were announced as follows.

Outstanding Choreography:

The Other Guys

Outstanding Arrangement:

The Rusty Pipes,
Partial Credit

Outstanding Solo:

Pitch Please,
The Girls Next Door

ICCA Semifinalists:

3. The Other Guys
2. The Girls Next Door
1. The Rusty Pipes

All groups left the stage, and the first-place winners, The Rusty Pipes, returned for an encore. They performed "Latch" by Disclosure, which was just as beautiful as everything from their original set. Congratulations and good luck to The Rusty Pipes as they move on to the semifinals!



Liss Ryan/The Polytechnic

SUNY ONEONTA'S HOOKED ON TONICS PERFORMED songs by the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Boyz II Men along with a medley of Daft Punk songs.

Features

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

CAMPUS EVENT

“Polar Bearadise” makes carnival success

Kay Sun
Senior Reviewer

GROUPS OF PEOPLE OCCUPIED WITH SETTING up and carrying things around, six Alaskan Malamutes pulling a wheeled slide along the track, and wind moaning lowly in the chilly weather were all I saw when I got there. Because of the great contrast between two small lonely white tents and the capacious East Campus Athletic Village field, I wasn't excited about Winter Carnival despite the inspiring and cheerful working atmosphere. I went straight into the tent and instantly plunged into my volunteering commitment with immense zeal, along with everybody else. People started to come earlier than I expected. Just one moment after my club booth settled down and everyone's jobs were assigned, the first two guests came into the tent and played our game.

The band wasn't completely ready until 11:30 am. When the orchestra started its play with a drum rhythm, the atmosphere in the tent suddenly climbed up to climax. Everybody moved their bodies to the beat, enjoying the high spirit brought by both the music and various games.

For people who missed Winter Carnival, I think I have to explain the way it works. Winter Carnival is organized by the Rensselaer Union with the participation of fraternities and clubs. They each hold a different booth or section, where you can win tickets by playing games. And then, by exchanging the tickets you earned, you can receive prizes like blankets, teddy bears, T-shirts and cups.



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

STUDENTS AND MEMBERS OF THE RENSSELAER COMMUNITY ARE ENTERTAINED by A Different Spin, a group of fire jugglers.

During my volunteer shift, I didn't notice time passing at all, since the passionate crowds continuously swarmed into the tent. Whispers—which actually sounded like yelling during that time—cheering, laughter, and the fiery mix of revitalized orchestral music with relentless drumming flew everywhere in the tent. I met people

who I lost contact with after Student Orientation and Navigate Rensselaer & Beyond. I also befriended new people and got to know them better. Such a great event enabled me to meet different people and see the energetic and amiable side of Rensselaer, which is definitely a defining characteristic that I never paid great atten-

tion to. Despite my first impressions, I had a wonderful Saturday this weekend spending time with club members, helping with the event, and talking to different people.

I didn't have time to see those lovely and fast Alaskan Malamutes until the very end of Carnival. I stood at the edge See WINTER CARNIVAL, **Page 10**

ALBUM REVIEW

RPI student artist highlighted

Asoh Black. talks about childhood influences, muses

Justin Etzine
Senior Reviewer

RPI STUDENTS ARE PROVING TO HAVE TALENTS THAT EXTEND far past the disciplines they come here to study. Eghosa Aiyevbomwan '18, better known by his stage name, Asoh Black., is a prominent example. A business and management major from Brooklyn, N.Y., Aiyevbomwan has been making waves with his hip-hop/rap tracks.

I've been a fan of Asoh Black. since I first heard him perform during Navigating Rensselaer & Beyond 2014, alongside other artists at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. Afterwards, I quickly discovered some of his productions on his Soundcloud account, a

link to which can be found at the end of this article. I believe one of his biggest draws is his utilization of intelligent lyrics and carried themes across his tracks, which is a refreshing change from some mainstream artists.

“[My brother] was a poet, and he used to have books full of written material lying around. I remember showing off to some of my classmates poems I had written using some of his lines in them.” – Asoh Black.

In June 2015, Asoh Black. released his free debut extended play, *20/20*, to Soundcloud and DatPiff for streaming and download, respectively. All eight tracks are well-produced and are good listens, but, in my opinion, the two most noteworthy are “Aposiopesis” and “Sway.” The lyrics of “Aposiopesis” definitely corroborate the track's title, which is defined as “the leaving of a thought incomplete usually by a sudden breaking

off.” The most prominent example of this speech device is quite literal: “College bound and this poetry's my thesis / I hope my English teacher loves my Aposio-... / *Mmm*.” Additionally, Aiyevbomwan's intuition and wide array of knowledge is shown through his creative and thoughtful lyrics on “Sway,” which has pegged it as my personal favorite.

Citing his brother as his initial spark for love of poetry, Aiyevbomwan explained that he's been interested in writing his own poetry since a young age. He explained that “in its most effective state, rap is really just melodic poetry,” which explains his link to rap music. “[My brother] was a poet, and he used to have books full of written material lying around. I remember showing off to some of my classmates poems I had written using some of his lines in them.”

As they were more traditional, Aiyevbomwan's parents did not play hip-hop music for him and his siblings when growing up.

“If it wasn't Nigerian music, then we were listening to radio news when we packed in the car,” says Aiyevbomwan.

His brother first introduced him to rap music using his iPod Nano to share a selection of Kanye West tracks with him.

“I listened to ‘Hey Mama,’ and instantly became drawn. A couple Big Sean, Childish Gambino, and Chance The Rapper tape drops later and here I am—an emcee myself.”

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GAME REVIEW

Feeding the beast

A reevaluation of old favored game

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

EVERYONE KNOWS *MINECRAFT*. IT'S PROBABLY THE MOST REVOLUTIONARY game to come out in the last 10 years. It took the definition of a sandbox game and completely blew it out of the water. It's my all-time favorite game, no questions asked.

But why, after all these years, has *Minecraft* kept my interest? That's a good question, because castles, villages, and bridges *do* eventually get stale, especially after years of playing. I can only build a city so many times before I shrug my shoulders and go “eh.” The key is that at this point, *Minecraft* is not *Minecraft* anymore. It's more of platform upon which a monster has been created. A community of dedicated developers have taken the game they love, made something spectacular, and aptly named it *Feed the Beast*.

FTB is the overarching name for a collection of modpacks mostly revolving around technical and magic based modifications for *Minecraft*. Let me give you an idea of what you can do. Right now, I'm working on a better mining system. Gone are the days of building branch mines or hiking through miles of cave systems; I can do better. I am setting up a huge quarry machine that will extract all the ores I need from the ground. Once extracted, they travel by automated minecart into a dedicated processing facility where a huge crusher pulverizes the ore into dusts. Conveyor belts move the dusts up to the furnace which smelts them into ingots. Finally, the ingots are sorted by type into chests, ready for use in even more machines!

Have I piqued your interest? It gets more exciting. I need to power all these systems, right? What better way to power something than a *nuclear reactor*! Yes, that's right, you can design and build nuclear reactors in *FTB*. They can be designed with efficiency or power in mind, producing thousands of Redstone Flux, *FTB*'s main energy units, per second. In past worlds, I even coded a computer system that constantly monitors fuel amounts, power output, and core temperatures, adjusting accordingly depending on my current power usage.

The best part is, even after all the countless hours I've spent designing and building crazy contraptions in my worlds, I've barely touched the

See FTB, **Page 10**