

FAMILY WEEKEND 2015



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STUDENT SENATE

Course syllabus service unveiled, petition heard

David Raab
Senior Reporter

JON FINKE, SENIOR SYSTEMS PROGRAMMER for the Department of the Chief Information Officer, discussed the exact details of the syllabus catalog project of the Academic Affairs Committee with the Student Senate. Finke wrote the code for the project and explained how, for a seemingly small front end, there are a lot of back end moving parts. Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers '16 told the Senate that this demonstration is the culmination of a couple years of work for the AAC. The syllabus catalog will be a website where students can look at the syllabi of past classes, and it will be searchable by both course and professor name.

Finke stressed to the Senate that the scope of this site is only past classes, meaning that the syllabi for ongoing classes right now will not be available. He also added that only data from the most recent two years of a course will be available. The website will be accessible to students on the Student Information System, but Finke told the Senate, "I just write this stuff, I don't release it."

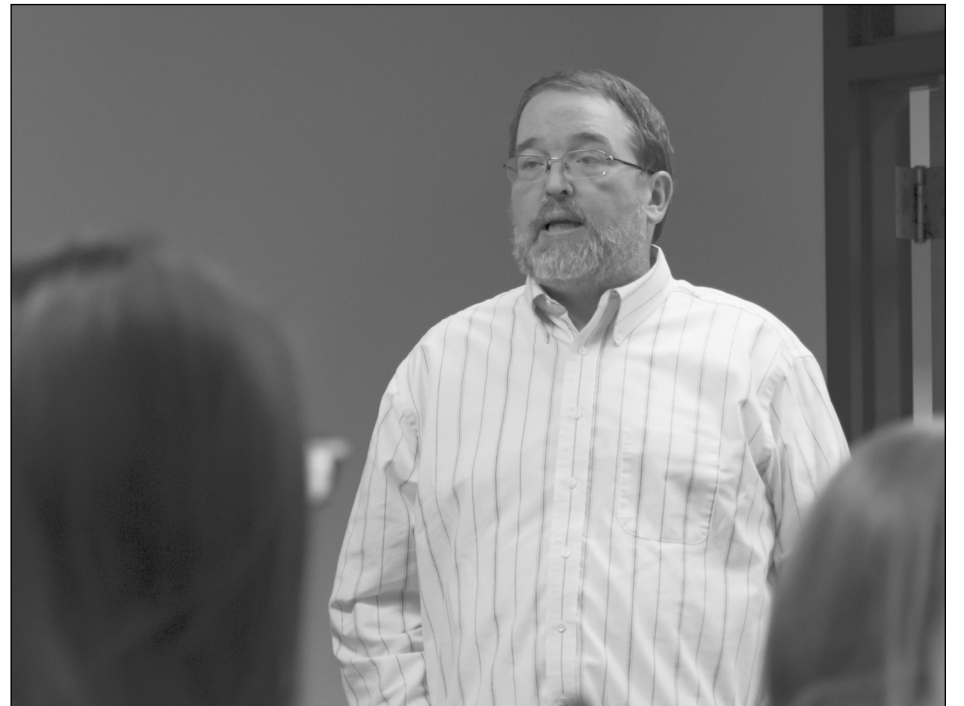
The source of the data will be the Digital Measures system where all faculty are required to upload their syllabi and course information to for the Rensselaer accreditation process. Finke also warned about the possibility for dirty data, because usually Digital Measures data has historically stayed private and he didn't "know if faculty know we're doing this. I

didn't tell them." This project is going to be released to the general student body as soon as the final bureaucratic red tape is cleared, according to Flowers.

The Senate also heard the petition from the Web Technologies Group petitions site, Stop Wasting Paper on Printer Cover Sheets. The sponsor of the petition did not respond to inquiries about presenting it. The Senate discussed it with "a pseudo blank motion," as Flowers said. Finke commented on the issue, telling the Senate that he is the one who wrote the current printing accounting system. He explained that the reason for cover sheets was to make sure people could find their print output and avoid needless double printing. Finke said that a move towards a PaperCut accounting system was being investigated.

If such a move were to happen, the current per job charge (regardless of how many pages are printed) would no longer exist. He also hinted at the possibility of a system where students would sign in at the printer, and their print jobs would print once they arrived at the printer. However, he stressed that the option was only in the most preliminary stages of investigation and that nothing has been definitively finalized.

Paul Ilori '17, co-chairman of the Rules and Elections Committee, gave the Senate an update on the constitutionality of the freshmen E-Board appointments from the meeting on October 13, and said that R&E decided that they weren't constitutional. That being said, Ilori publicly supported an exception to the



Sidney Kochman / The Polytechnic

JON FINKE FROM DOTCIO PRESENTS on the new course syllabus web application.

constitution as he wants to see freshmen involved on E-Board.

Michael Han '16, Chairman of the Facilities and Services Committee, told the Senate he was not confident that his projects would get done this semester like he had originally hoped. The project to put tables in the Darrin Communications Center and Sage Laboratories hit a roadblock due to budget pitfalls in replacing the current tables in the McNeil Room of the Rensselaer Union. The water fountain project has run into a few problems with miscommunication.

During the Grand Marshal Report, given by Vice-Chair Jessica Krajewski '16 because Flowers had to leave the meeting early, Ilori brought up concerns that the Senate has not been giving Flowers the respect he deserves. In his opinion, the Senate has been openly insubordinate to Flowers on numerous occasions. A particular point of frustration for Ilori was a noted lack of attendance at the annual GM/PU Brunch on Sunday, October 25. He implored members of the Senate to realize the commitment Flowers puts into making the Senate function.

WEIRD OFF THE WIRE

Underground "Hug Club" Discovered at Church Camp

In a nod to the famous movie "Fight Club," young boys at Camp Akita in Grandview Heights, OH were instructed not to talk about the "Hug Club." Concerned parents discovered that the one of the hugs practiced by the club involved "rocking your hips back and forth."

Identical Twins Denied Learner's Permit

Alicia and Alicen Kennedy were denied the ability to get learner's permits after software used by the Georgia Department of Motor Vehicles was unable to tell them apart. The State of Georgia has since contacted the teens, and is working to get them the permits.

Study Finds Cheese to be as Addictive as Drugs

A University of Michigan study has found that cheese is similar in its addictive properties to drugs. During digestion, a protein called casein, found in dairy products, releases opiates.

Subway to Begin Measuring Sandwiches

National fast-food chain Subway has agreed to start measuring their sandwiches to ensure they meet six and 12-inch lengths advertised. The measurement comes as a result of a lawsuit made by a disgruntled consumer whose sandwich reached only 11 inches.

Chicago Bulls Player Removes Rear View-Mirror in Vehicle

Following the signing of a five-year, \$95 million contract, Chicago Bulls guard Jimmy Butler reportedly removed the rear-view mirror of his car so he "couldn't look back." Butler claims to have performed the action as a symbolic gesture of moving on from his past.

Man begins camp out for Black Friday sales 33 days early

A Best Buy in central Florida has a new neighbor after radio host Kevin Sutton set up a tent and began living outside the store on Sunday in hopes of purchasing a new television and raising awareness for the homeless. Sutton is accepting gifts and donations, which will be sent to a foundation, and will only eat and drink what is provided to him by passersby.

Last week, we published an editorial on our concerns with Summer Arch. We recommend you read it online at poly.news.

Startuptechvalley.org

Start
Ups

+

=

StartUp
Tech Valley

Revolution Hall, 425 River St.
5:30 - 7:30 PM
Nov 4
FREE

where entrepreneurs and the community come together after hours

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E-Board hears requests for recognition, funding

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reporter

IN LAST WEEK'S EXECUTIVE BOARD meeting, Meher Dusi '17, Akash Mody '16, and Valeid Sheikh '17 presented themselves as the representatives of the future Rensselaer chapter of RISHI. Project RISHI, an acronym for Rural India Social and Health Improvement, is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to promote the sustainable development and growth of rural Indian communities. According to these three juniors, once their club of nearly 15 consistent members becomes Union recognized, they can begin the process of partnering with a rural village and implementing solutions toward the betterment of its community. The "solution process" is a multi-phase, several-year-long undertaking.

The first year's trip, which would take place either at the end of the spring semester or before the fall semester, would involve observing the situation in the village. This would not include living in the village or carrying out any ideas for changes, as the group would stay nightly in a city nearby, traveling daily to the observation site. In

subsequent years, the group would plan and implement those solutions focused on during the academic year. The chapter would remain with that village for years to come to create a long-term impact that would hopefully allow for a better standard of living. Throughout this whole process, the group would pay special attention to the community's health, water supply, education, power sources, and income disparity; these are the five concerns that all Project RISHI groups focus on. With a 14-0-0 vote, RISHI became a Union recognized organization.

Club Baseball returned, after previously becoming Union recognized, in hopes of obtaining funds. They had prepared a skeleton budget with a self-proclaimed "conservative estimate" of \$2,550 which would cover league dues, sports equipment, and travel expenses. After examination of their budget, the E-Board ruled that Club Baseball would need to do more research in order to create a more detailed budget, down to the mileage expense for away games, for approval of funds. The E-Board also went into detail over the fact that it does not usually allocate such a large sum of money towards a newly formed club, and if they were to do so, it would result in conflict in the future

with clubs interested in a similarly large budget. Representatives Stephen Munisteri '18 and Joseph DiBuonaventura '18 assured that their club had intentions of major fundraising and agreed to return next week.

Co-captains of Cheerleading Alisa Emag '17 and Elizabeth Alderman '18 appealed to the E-Board for funds to hire a coach. In

an 11-3-1 vote, \$2,060 was allotted to the purpose of paying a coach's salary with benefits included.

Following Emag and Alderman's presentation, Spencer Johnson '16, president of the Games Development Club, asked for permission to section off a portion of the McNeil Room for the night of Thursday, October 29, which

would offset 35 seats during the lunch hours Friday. The purpose for sectioning off such a large portion of the room is that the Games Development Club has plans to set up a virtual environment video game. To have it ready for Friday night, set up Thursday will be required. The E-Board approved this with a 15-0-0 vote.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS VOTE on a motion brought before the body for debate. (file photo)

INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION
PROVIDED BY
PUBLIC SAFETY
INVESTIGATOR
TERRANCE BURNS

Wednesday, October 21

Department of Public Safety

Harassment: A student living off-campus reported that another student was harassing them without any specific threats being made. The responding officer notified the Dean of Students Office and also notified the Lieutenant and Investigator for Public Safety.

Burdett Avenue Residence Hall

Fire Alarm: Student discharged a fire extinguisher and set off the fire alarm in the process. Everyone in the building was evacuated, and the alarm was reset by Troy Fire Department.

Cary Hall

Medical: TFD and RPI Ambulance responded to an EMS call for a person having difficulty breathing. The student was conscious and breathing when RPI Ambulance transported him to Samaritan Hospital for further examination.

Saturday, October 24

Sunset Terrace

Criminal Mischief: A group of men attempting to steal a stop sign was stopped by a Public Safety officer. Troy Police Department was notified and the stop sign was replaced.

Monday, October 26

Department of Public Safety

Medical: An employee complaining of chest pain was transported to Samaritan Hospital by TFD for further examination.

Tuesday, October 27

Nugent Hall

Tobacco: A Residence Life staff member caught a group of students smoking inside their room. The staff member warned them that smoking inside and right outside campus buildings is banned. Additionally, the students put plastic over their room smoke detector.

Barton Hall

Medical: A student was reported to have been breaking out into hives but was not reported to have difficulty breathing. The student was transported to Samaritan Hospital by RPI Ambulance for further investigation.

OFF CAMPUS STORY

12th Street mini staircase approach closed due to concerns about leaching

Justin Etzine
Senior Reporter

STUDENTS WHO PASS BY PEOPLES' AVENUE ON THEIR COMMUTES TO AND FROM SCHOOL MAY HAVE RECENTLY encountered a new, unexpected obstacle. The staircase, found near 12th Street on Peoples, was dubbed "the Mini Approach" by students because of its close semblance to the Approach, the marble staircase that connects Blitman and downtown Troy to RPI's campus.

In recent years, the stairs have fallen into disrepair; presumably after multiple student complaints, a sign was posted on the staircase that stated the stairs were "owned and maintained by the City of Troy." After the stairs were fully closed, students living off-campus received an email from Associate Dean Cary Drescher, who explained that the closing was because of a leaching problem behind the stairs and deterioration from freezing water.

Drescher called the decision "the best solution to a long term problem," and apologized for the inconvenience caused by the closing. The future of the staircase is currently unknown.



Courtesy of "Thr Ram"/Facebook

STUDENTS LOOKING TO TRAVERSE THE MINI APPROACH FOUND the stairs closed.

TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten Halloween Costumes

- 10. Disney Princess
- 9. Librarian
- 8. Teacher
- 7. Doctor
- 6. Cop
- 5. Maid
- 4. Flight Attendant
- 3. Nurse
- 2. Catgirl
- 1. Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson

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

“Xf kvm mfr, uc exoynoxmfr gmlsum uc solv mfmuc, uc solv mfmuc gmlsum uc gmzk noxmfr, sfr uc gmzk noxmfr gmlsum uc exoynoxmfr. Gqk, vmc, xk'z vxev zlvhhy.”
 —Ixyy Zkohfevhyr
 Zbc Vxev

WORDFIND

by Shane O'Brien

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


Dogs

H	A	G	O	W	K	E	T	G	U	R	E	E	I	T
C	H	K	B	Z	T	L	Y	W	R	T	Z	W	K	N
H	W	W	J	L	L	U	B	T	I	P	Q	D	N	A
I	U	L	D	A	L	M	A	T	I	O	N	L	J	I
H	V	F	S	B	E	E	B	L	O	E	P	I	X	N
U	G	T	F	R	I	Y	Q	O	S	D	E	H	I	A
A	O	O	G	A	N	C	K	J	J	N	A	C	C	R
H	D	Y	P	D	A	Y	E	S	A	U	U	O	V	E
U	P	S	A	O	P	K	A	D	U	O	T	D	X	M
A	E	O	N	R	S	P	T	W	V	H	E	N	B	O
H	E	R	J	Q	R	A	V	R	O	D	E	U	D	P
V	H	L	C	Q	E	C	T	U	W	O	W	H	N	J
N	S	D	D	R	K	R	N	H	E	O	V	S	U	K
X	M	P	G	O	C	D	E	X	L	L	Q	H	O	A
L	H	R	Y	G	O	D	L	L	U	B	G	C	H	J
M	C	Y	M	T	C	P	U	G	T	M	B	A	Y	P
U	W	O	B	Z	G	S	W	N	Y	U	I	D	E	W
G	F	F	I	T	S	A	M	X	V	T	I	G	R	B
Z	P	P	E	V	E	Y	L	E	X	D	A	W	G	G

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|------------|
| Beagle | Dalmatian | Mastiff |
| Bloodhound | Great Dane | Pit Bull |
| Bulldog | Greyhound | Pomeranian |
| Chihuahua | Hound | Poodle |
| Cocker Spaniel | Husky | Pug |
| Dachshund | Labrador | Sheepdog |

DILBERT

by Scott Adams



Poster Design Contest

—Hosted by Ecologic—

RE cycle design

NOW-NOVEMBER 14TH @ 11:59PM

Winner for crowd favorite & most informative!

→ SUBMIT YOUR DESIGNS! ←

PHILLF@RPI.EDU

Criteria:

- 8.5"x11"
- explains single-stream recycling

TD: 11/15

WORLD NEWS

Hurricane Patricia leaves little damage

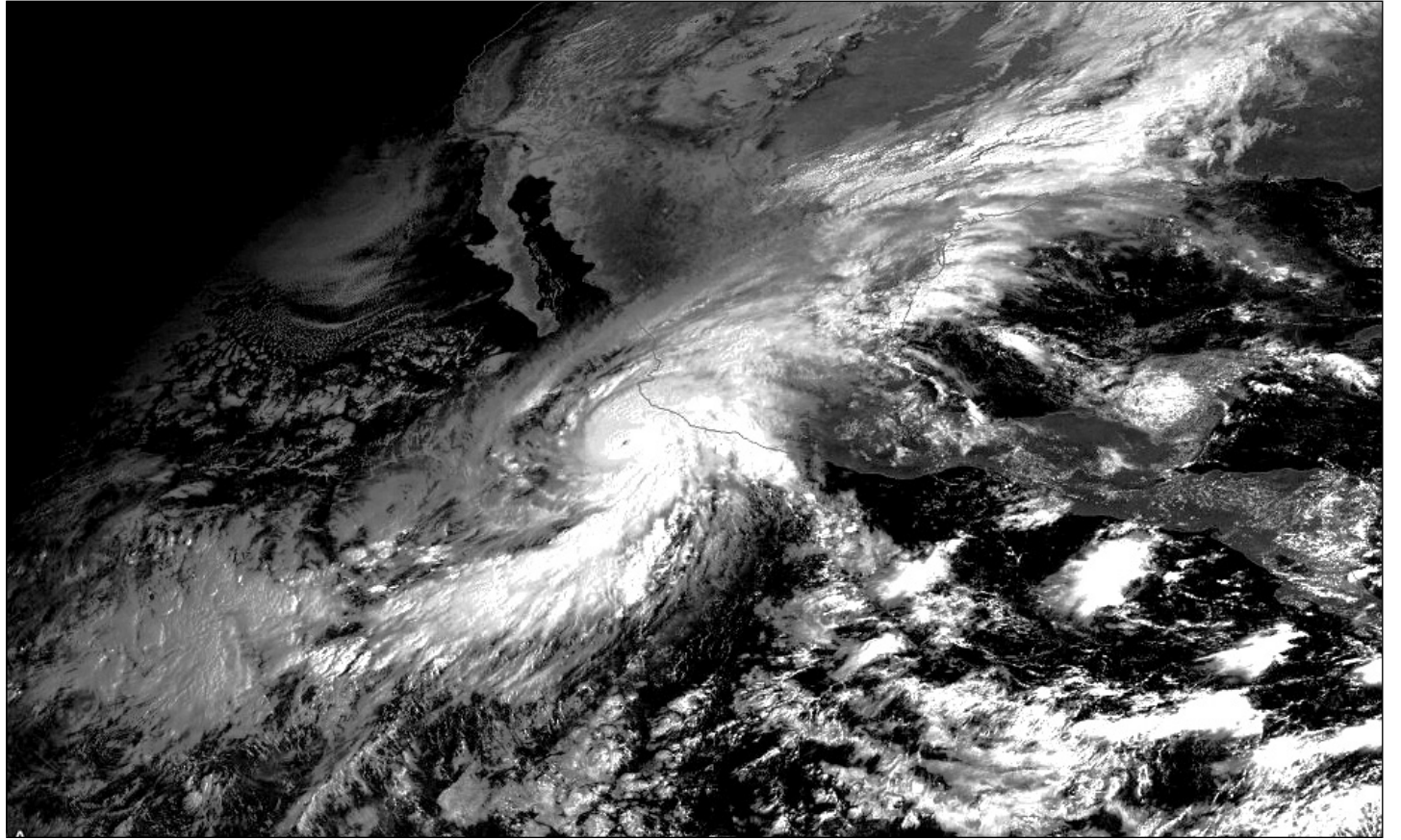
Nathan Dorer
Senior Reporter

HURRICANE PATRICIA TOUCHED DOWN ALONG the western coast of Mexico on Friday, October 23. Officials anticipated the storm to have catastrophic consequences for the country; the most powerful on record, Category Five storm had sustained winds of 165 miles per hour on land and held the potential to devastate densely populated resort towns as it moved inland. Patricia managed to topple power lines, uproot trees, and unleash mudslides across parts of the developing country.

By late Saturday afternoon, the storm had been downgraded to an area of low air pressure, but Mexico remained wary. The country was fortunate that Patricia moved through mountainous regions of the coast, as the rugged terrain broke up the large low pressure zone that fueled the storm. Ultimately, the storm lost power as it dissipated through the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains.

Officials credit the well-being of the country to both the preventative evacuations and good luck; in the words of Roberto Sandaval, governor of Nayarit state, “We as government are not supposed to mention faith and God, but the only thing I can tell you is that God helped and watched over us so this monster of a hurricane did not hurt us here in Nayarit and in Mexico.” The country has remained notably positive in light of the hurricane; Patricia avoided the nearby resort town Puerto Vallarta and integral shipping port Manzanillo. In such a case, the results of the hurricane could have been notably more expensive to the country.

Thousands of people were evacuated from nearby towns, but the storm ultimately touched down at Cuixmala—a private 25,000-acre estate of beach, jungle, and



Courtesy of NOAA

HURRICANE PATRICIA COLLIDED with the Western coast of Mexico on Friday, October 23, but didn't cause much damage.

nature reserves. The estate itself has been relatively undisturbed; in an interview with CNN, a representative from the estate stated that “The rain is intense and the wind picks up at times for about five minutes, then subsides. It comes and goes.” While Cuixmala has fared relatively well, authorities fear for nearby low-income areas where building regulations are lax.

Anthony Perez, a representative for Save the Children in Mexico, stated that “The rain is intense and the wind picks

up at times for about five minutes, then subsides. It comes and goes.” Between the oceanside resorts and impoverished villages, many families may encounter dramatic losses as a consequence of the storm, regardless of its diminished strength. President Peña Nieto has urged Mexico to stay conscious of the dangers of Patricia; “we still can't let our guard down.” Security forces have continued to patrol villages to ensure the safety of the population and protect homes.

Hurricane Patricia has proven to be far less detrimental to coastal Mexico than anticipated, but the repercussions of such a storm are bound to be powerful in a country that is so underdeveloped. There is still potential for the storm to cause fatalities and damage to infrastructure despite losing wind speed as it moves inland; the country continues to be in danger of flash flooding and mudslides. However, the public remains optimistic that Patricia will not be the disaster that was forecasted.



KEEP
CALM
AND
WASH
YOUR
HANDS



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

CS243041B

Sports

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Wolverines scar RPI in tough loss at home

No. 10 ranked University of Michigan builds three point lead on Engineers in recent RPI loss

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

THE HOUSTON FIELD HOUSE WAS PACKED SATURDAY NIGHT as the Engineers hosted the University of Michigan Wolverines, currently ranked No. 10 in NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey. Rensselaer won some battles but ultimately lost the war. At the end of the game, the scoreboard ominously read 5-2 Michigan. This is the RPI's fourth loss of the season, and the largest thus far; but with 31 games left on the schedule, the season is still young.

At the conclusion of the first period, the Wolverines were up 1-0. Responsible for Michigan's goal was forward Brendan Warren, who dumped the puck past senior goalie Jason Kasdorf from right in front of the net. The assist was credited to teammate Cooper Marody from off the back wall, receiving no interference from Rensselaer defensemen.

Only 28 seconds into the second period, Michigan forward Tyler Motte snuck the puck right past RPI senior goaltender Jason Kasdorf, much to the bewilderment of the crowd, to give Michigan their second score of the night. Motte came down the right side towards the goal, managing to evade senior defender Chris Bradley. Then, he made the shot while diving on the ice and sliding toward the back wall.

The first goal for the Engineers was made at 5:03 into the second period by senior forward Zach Schroeder. Wolverine's goalie Zach Nagelvoort successfully blocked Rensselaer's first two shot attempts, a slap shot by junior defender Parker Reno and a close-range sweep by senior forward Travis Fulton. But, in all the confusion in front of Michigan's goal, Schroeder was able to collect the puck and send it into the goal.

But RPI's retribution proved to be short-lived, for in a matter of about ten minutes, Michigan scored again, this time due to the swiftness of forward Tony Calderone. Calderone received the puck from teammate defender Joseph Cecconi, then maneuvered around sophomore defender Jared Wilson and slipped it past Kasdorf for the gain. This was the final goal of the second period.

Rensselaer's final goal of the night happened late in the



Emily Agoglia/The Polytechnic

MEN'S HOCKEY FACED another challenge this past weekend, falling 2-5 against the University of Michigan.

third period. In the minute preceding the goal by junior forward Jake Wood, RPI and Michigan were stalemated on Michigan's half. Movement among the players was limited as Michigan's defense was positioned in a fashion that made passing inconvenient for Rensselaer. The Engineers' break came when an observant Wood noticed Wolverines defender Nolan De Jong stumbling. Acting on the fact that De Jong was no longer impeding his ability to intrude Michigan's defense, Wood blew through the weak point

and made the goal that raised the score to 2-3 Rensselaer.

The last two shots of the evening were made by the Wolverines. First, with 2:56 left in the third, Warren made his second shot of the game by tipping in the puck shot by Calderone from the center line enter the net. Next, with 1:34 left, another repeat offender from Michigan, Tyler Motte scored again for the Wolverines, this time on an empty net.

Hockey will be away at Union College on Friday October 30, then home against Union for Black Saturday.

FOOTBALL



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

RENSELAER NOTCHED its sixth victory of the 2015 season against the Hobart College Statesmen (not pictured) on Saturday. Scoring 21 points, while Hobart scored only 20, the Engineers advance to 6-2 for the season. Hobart scored a dramatic touchdown with no time remaining, nearly stealing the game from RPI. (file photo)

MEN'S SOCCER

RPI falls to Vassar in heartbreaking 1-2 loss

Referee revokes two goals made by Engineers from indirect kicks, season record now 10-4-3

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

FIVE SENIORS WERE RECOGNIZED AT EAST CAMPUS STADIUM on Saturday when the men's soccer team competed against the Vassar College Brewers: senior Devon Baughen, sophomore Brett Pyscr, senior Esmir Hadzic, and senior co-captains Paul Lentine, Nathaniel Gunderson, and Matt Carberry. A general distaste for the Brewers and the chief referee was evident among the members of the audience, particularly on account of the muttering of vulgar language by certain Vassar players and the referee's supposed fallibility. Their true feelings became increasingly apparent as calls made by the ref seemed to favor Vassar over Rensselaer, including the revocation of two RPI goals made during the game. The final score of 2-1 Vassar especially enhanced their disapproval.

The first five minutes of the game were relatively quiet, as both teams warming up on that cloudy 50 degree day. The first chance came at 2:10 into the game, but the shot was blocked. Several corner kicks followed, each one unsuccessful for the Engineers as the ball went flying off in some decentralized direction.

Starting at 6:09, forward Devon Baughen entered the spotlight with his first close call on Vassar's goal, barely exceeding the net with his kick. Throughout the game, Baughen could always be found somewhere in the opposing zone ready to give Vassar their just desserts.

The first goal came at 14:06, when Alex Gonzales of Vassar, assisted by teammate Ben Glasner, maneuvered the ball past Rensselaer sophomore goalkeeper Ryan Nealon. RPI was playing conservatively, and they were not expressing the same energy the Brewers were putting forth. Forced into a deficit of 0-1, RPI needed a pick-me-up.

The pick-me-up came at 38:13 to go in the first half when Baughen kicked the ball right into the net. With a revised tie score of 1-1, the Engineers were revamped, and a sudden improvement in their performance on the field occurred. Several shot attempts in the ensuing final minutes nearly gave Rensselaer a lead heading into the second half. At 3:50 to go, the crowd gasped as the ball entered Vassar's goal zone, free of Brewers at the time. The ball's intended trajectory was not achieved, however, when the ball went screaming right over the net towards the football goalpost. With 2:54 left, Baughen took another shot, but Vassar's goalie captured it. Finally, at 1:54 left, there was a little squabble when Baughen, Glasner, and Vassar's goalie all collided to the left of the goal as Baughen sought to kick the ball towards the center for a shot.



Emily Agoglia/The Polytechnic

EMOTIONS RAN high when the Engineers faced the Vassar Brewers at ECAV this past Saturday. RPI lost 1-2.

At 6:20 into the second period, the clock stopped and RPI was given an indirect kick at Vassar's goal. The shot went into the net, but was not counted in the score. 8:40 in, the ball was being kicked around in Vassar's goal zone, but the goalie couldn't get his hands on it, giving the Engineers a chance to score. The Engineers missed both opportunities to give Vassar a deficit.

With 9:06 left, Vassar forward Tom Wiechert snatched the ball and brought in down the center of the field. Despite having two Rensselaer athletes running alongside

him, they were slightly behind him, so he was able to usher the ball right up to the goal and slam it in. The score stuck at 2-1 Vassar for the rest of the game, but what enraged the crowd the most was when with 7:10 left, an indirect kick was awarded to RPI, and they originally scored, but the score was shortly thereafter revoked.

Hopefully the Engineers have better luck when they challenge the Keene State Owls at home Wednesday, October 28 at 7 pm.

WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY

Kaufman leads as key player in road games

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

LAST WEDNESDAY, RPI FIELD HOCKEY OVERCAME A ONE-GOAL DEFICIT IN THE SECOND half at New Paltz and won 2-1. Then, in a second road game last Saturday at Vassar, freshman goalie Rachel Kaufman made seven saves but still the Engineers fell 1-0.

RPI attempted six shots on the New Paltz net before the home team was able to create a scoring opportunity for themselves. However, Hawks goalie Alayna Wageman made five saves and the sixth deflected off the post, keeping the game scoreless. Then, in the 30th minute Hawks forward Kayla Mckeveny found midfielder Dani Ackerman open at the top of the circle for the first goal of the game.

The momentum of the game switched back to RPI late in the second half when senior midfielder Celia D'Agostino bounced a shot past Wageman to tie the game at one in the 61st minute. The goal was assisted by senior forward Hana Murphy, her second helper of the season. Then, four minutes later sophomore defender Mekayla Wakeman scored her second goal of the season off a corner pass from freshman midfielder Casey Collette.

The game ended with Rensselaer on top, 2-1. Kaufman made five saves in victory while Wageman turned a stout performance of 13 saves on 15 shots.

In Saturday's game against Vassar, the Brewers dominated the first half, outshooting the Engineers by a count of 15 to three. Kaufman made seven saves to go along one defensive save by sophomore midfielder Kate Batzinger and two by sophomore defender Mac Reininger. Four others were off target. But one shot, by forward Lauren Wiebe, found its mark in the 33rd minute of the game after she collected the ball from a scrum in front of the Rensselaer net. The goal proved decisive as Brewers goalie Paige Amico saved all four RPI shots on goal in the contest.

RPI moves to a record of 9-6 following the two games and will finish its regular season this week with a game at Castleton State on Wednesday and a game versus Oneonta on Saturday at Harkness Field.

TIRED OF STUDYING?
SHOOT
STRESSED?
YOUR TEST

WHAT: 5\$ for lessons and equipment
(No experience necessary, bring an old test or shoot a target)

WHEN: Tuesday November 3, 4-6 pm

WHERE: Archery Range, the Armory
(Enter through the Mueller center, follow the signs)

Editorial

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Sweet addictions

Today, the editorial staff of *The Polytechnic* felt it was necessary to express our love for a certain chewy candy that we have come to adore in recent weeks. At the risk of sounding like an endorsement, we just can't get enough of Hi-Chew. As our weekly readers know, the *Poly* staff spends Tuesday nights, and some Wednesday mornings working to get the paper to print. It has been almost a year now since the pizza stopped flowing, and now we have finally found our energy replacement.

Originally Hi-Chew was invented as an edible gum, due to a Japanese cultural taboo of not wanting to remove food from your mouth, and is now produced by the Japanese company Morinaga & Co. The candy itself is individually wrapped, with packaging that looks a bit like that of Laffy Taffy, but Hi-Chew itself tends to be cylindrical than Laffy Taffy. It also comes packaged in bars like Starburst, but we haven't tried that yet—it doesn't stay fresh as long.

We were all a bit skeptical when Rex Hu '19 brought them to a Tuesday night closing. But, unwilling to let food go uneaten, editors began to try the variety of flavors, including strawberry, grape, and green apple. It was a perfect mixture of chewy, fruity, and heavenly. The gum-like nature allowed time for all the sweet juices to be extracted and tasted. Then, the candy could be eaten instead of thrown away, just as the Japanese intended! Immediately, we went back for more. And then some more. And even a little bit more. Before we knew it, all the Hi-Chew was eaten and all that remained were the corpses (wrappers) of Hi-Chews past.

We loved them so much that Rex graciously bought another bag for the next closing. Those poor Hi-Chews were devoured equally as fast, and with that a tradition was born, or so we hope. You're going to buy us more, right Rex? We need our fix.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Props to my second family

Group of the chilliest people that you wish you knew

WHEN I FIRST DECIDED TO COME TO Rensselaer, my main concern was that I wouldn't be able to make any friends. Those who know me would probably find that hard to believe due to my rather extroverted façade. But in actuality, I get homesick very often, and even back home in California, in the months leading up to my departure, I was missing my friends and family already. Fortunately for me, I found my niche, and as a "thank you," I dedicate this notebook.



Elisabeth Ryan
Associate Features Editor

Have you ever taken a hard, critical eye to this newspaper in your hands? Do you pay attention to the fine details of that high-resolution picture on the sports page? That's one of five hundred. Do you notice the evenly spaced margins and justified font in this article? That took nearly two hours to read the names just to the bottom left? To me they're more than just names. They are that family away from home I was looking for.

Upon walking into the *Poly* office, there is a distinct smell to the

room. It is a smell borne from the carpet, chairs, computers, and the white board. It is a fragrance hard to describe, but I can recall it now, though as I write this, I am nowhere near that room. Chris and Jack are laughing at something that Rex is showing them on his computer. Chris looks up and says, "Yo, Liss!" Steph walks in behind me, hugs me around my shoulders, and asks me how I'm doing. Today, she has a bow in her hair, and patterned socks that come up to her knees. Tyler

looks up from the paper in his hand that he's first-reading (because he refuses to do second reads) and smiles faintly. Maria is talking to him about her plans for tomorrow, with her hands and arms gesticulating wildly. She smiles and waves at me. Michael is sitting calmly at his computer, turning around every now and again to ask a question or two. David stands up, announcing he has a paper for copy, and hands it to me. Sean is sitting on that aged couch, pen and clipboard in hand, asking a question. Nathan answers it. He's

standing by the whiteboard writing #OccupyTheUnion on it. Justin enters with his salutary "Shalom!" and then places the palm of his hand on the crown of my head in a blessing of sorts. Dan and Shane are close behind; Dan has changed out of his ambulance gear, but he still has his radio. Shane is wearing pajama flannels and tomato-red headphones. Kay and Sid are crowded around Jack's shoulders as he makes witty jokes and shows them how to import files. We're all munching on snacks that Rex has bought through shady online companies, such as Amazon.

These names don't mean to you, dear reader, what they do to me. You don't see in these snapshot descriptions the vibrant characters and hard-working individuals that I do. Never could I manage to do them justice in a short five hundred word essay. But I love them, so I have tried. Thank you, *Poly* Family, for carrying out the arduous and thankless task of producing this paper; for the hours of hard work you have invested; for the blood, sweat, and other miscellaneous bodily fluids; and most of all for adopting me. That was real chill of you guys.

the polytechnic

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Realizing one's true interests

Cinematography fascinating in all film aspects

I'VE HAD A LOT OF DREAMS—BEING A JOURNALIST, A lawyer, a doctor, a movie reviewer, a composer, a scripter, an actress, a director, a grocery owner, a designer, a vet, a photographer, an exploiter, a traveler, a polyglot, a witch, and a prophet. The only reason that I hope to live as long as possible is because I want to learn different things, take challenging jobs, visit exotic places, and meet interesting people. I have already given up on some goals while still holding onto others. Fortunately, I now start to realize that the dumbest thing I have ever done is excusing myself from going for my dreams by being subjectively obedient to others' opinion.

Even though I am not sure what I am going to do and who I am going to be in the future, I acknowledge one solid and unchangeable fact of myself: I love movies. Due to this passion, I have extremely strict critiques for films.

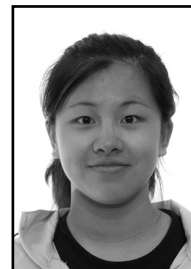
Film itself is a compound form of art, including story, music, acting, photography, and filming and so on so forth. Therefore, it can be extremely amazing when all elements are blended together perfectly. However, it is an extremely difficult job.

First, a story can never evoke people's emotion when it is trying to portray scenes while avoiding the trivialities of daily life. So the balance of story structure is a great challenge for all movie-makings. Also, good stories always have unique and different characters, whose complexion can be well displayed through only a few scenes in good movies. In those cases, the characters are all vivid and close to the audience, since spectators thus feel they are able to understand all characters' minds and see the whole picture clearly.

Second, music, as an incredible art, can work even better than words and motion pictures under certain circumstances. *Whiplash* fully demon-

strates my point. Listening to the background drum rhythm, I didn't even have to look at Miles Teller's expression during the movie sometimes, since I felt that intense emotion transferred by the jazz beat.

I don't touch performing at all since I don't want to criticize any actors or actresses. What's more, opinions about performing vary from person to person—I used to have no opinion on the Japanese acting scene simply because I did not know how Japanese people act daily.



Kay Sun
Associate Photo Editor

Here comes my favorite part—cinematography! I find it so attractive and amazing because the way a scene is shot can change everything! Yes! EVERYTHING! Different uses of camera techniques can even change the feeling of an entire story, like transformation of a romantic movie into a scary movie. All that changes is changes is lighting, angle of shots, people's makeups, and costumes. Directors always have preference for lightings,

colors and other elements to carry certain connotations they want their movies to express. For example, Tim Burton is keen on dimmed scenes with high contrast, while Quentin Tarantino is obsessed with bright and exaggerating images.

Some people may think I am talking about filming when I actually mean cinematography. The difference between filming and cinematography used in movie-making is a contrast between the elements that depict a scene and the technical camera work. Filming is more about motions and professional camera usage; I don't know as much on professional camera usage. I cannot critique film technique at the moment.

In conclusion, a good movie has to be at least fair in all with at least one outstanding feature that overweighs other weaknesses, so good movies are really scarce from my perspective.

TOP HAT

Advisors play critical roles in course scheduling

Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

HELLO RPI,

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend, especially those who had their family and friends visit and enjoy the events offered over the last few days. For those of you who didn't have someone visit, call home. Today. Seriously, I know half of you have been putting it off for over a month, just...DO IT.

Last week, I had the chance to meet with my mentee for my major, and talk to him about what he can do to put himself in the best position for his future. We talked about how to plan out his courses, what the real work load of different classes were, and

then some. After we finished, a parent came up to me to comment on what she had just heard us doing. She was impressed to see students working together across the class years, but was also curious as to why her son hadn't had the opportunity to have this. I explained that everyone has a faculty advisor to talk to, but apparently her son has been unable to get time to speak to his advisor about his specific career path. This particularly irked me, because I know for a fact that without the support of various faculty members, I wouldn't know how to graduate, as my advisor had left the school. That being said, if you do not feel you are getting adequate advising, I recommend that you first talk to a student in your major. In my

experience, this got me in contact with a professor who was willing to take the extra time to advise a student outside of her responsibilities, as well as other students to help work things out with. I've always said that academics come first when you're here, so if you need more assistance figuring out your coursework or career path, go raise hell about it! I can confidently say that there are professors who value the advising system more than others, so don't let yourself be the victim of that conflict. For those who don't know where to look for other students, find out the student organization for your major, and ask someone there.

A brief explanation for why I write my updates about the Senate on a delayed timeline: this article comes

out on Wednesday mornings, but the Senate meetings are on Tuesday evenings, so I write these articles before the meeting occurs. However, what I can tell you is that the Senate will have addressed a student petition regarding printer cover sheets. The basis of this petition is that the sheets printed at the start of every printer job are wasteful, and an additional expense to both students and the university. At the meeting, we will discuss the intent of the petition, and decide how we will proceed in addressing the situation. After that, stay tuned for updates on the progress of the project. If you're interested in seeing how we do these projects, our meetings are open to everyone, and you can talk to the people doing the work. If you're

interested in helping with any project we have going on, we welcome you with open arms and occasional homemade snacks.

Next week, we will be addressing a petition by students on the Senate-Executive Board Liaison, who works with both organizations and leads several projects. We will also be discussing our plans for a Senate Town Hall meeting, where we will organize a time in the McNeil Room when students can discuss their thoughts with us in a large, open environment. Once we have further attendance confirmation, we will hold discussions on both Senate projects and Summer Arch.

As always, please contact me at gm@rpi.edu with anything you would like to hear or know more about.

DERBY

Treat yourself to a super sweet Halloween weekend

Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT DAY IT IS, RPI?

Hump Day! It is officially test season, round two, so I sincerely hope you are getting enough sleep and taking time for yourselves. It's hectic and hard, I know, but you are strong and you can do this! Family weekend was a blast, and I want to thank all of the clubs, organizations, sports teams, and administrators who helped make this weekend possible. From the sports games, to music concerts and dances, to the International Festival, I always enjoy seeing the breadth of involvement here on campus. I would like to congratulate all of the students who were honored at this year's honors convocation on Saturday; you deserve to be in the spotlight for all of your hard work and dedication to your studies and to RPI. I would also like to congratulate Lauren Angelini '16, this year's winner of the Nussbaum Award, for her service to RPI and the surrounding

community. Lauren was described as "the definition of a good person" in her nomination, and has gone above and beyond for the community she serves. I am constantly amazed by my fellow students; it is always a pleasure to give recognition to your hard work and achievements.

This has been an interesting and busy week for the executive board, and the fun won't be stopping any time soon. We recognized the Project Rural Indian Social Health and Development club as a Union recognized club. They are dedicated to assisting impoverished villages in India through volunteerism and service. They plan to do a variety of fundraisers and events to send members to India. We heard from Club Cheerleading, and have allowed them the necessary funds to find a proper coach and continue performing for sports teams during games. We approved the starting of the Club Baseball team as a Union funded club. They have taken the old budget of the JV baseball club that was cut from athletics last year. We are looking forward to seeing them come together and enjoy a game they

know and love. The Game Development Club is also bringing the awesome Computer Augmented Virtual Environment to the McNeil Room on November 20. This is a virtual reality environment that immerses the player in a 3-D virtual world, and is being used for various research projects such as "The Lost Manuscript".

This weekend, you better be ready to show off your school spirit at the annual Blackout Hockey Game against Union College on Saturday! Every year we face the Dutchmen on Halloween, and it is your right as an RPI student to remind them they suck! The jerseys worn by the players are one-game-only jerseys which are raffled off during the game, and then presented to the winner directly after. The winner of the raffle gets to go out on the ice, collect their jersey, and meet the players. This is one of my favorite events of the year, and I hope to see everyone there! GO RED. Otherwise, I hope you have a safe and happy Halloween. Eat some candy and relax, you've earned it.

ALUM101

Embrace Rensselaer traditions

Larry Pulvirent '81, '82G
A Special to The Poly

TRADITIONS: RENSSELAER HAS QUITE A FEW, AND some have changed over the years. For example, as someone who was here in the late '70s and early '80s, I noticed that the Grand Marshal Week tradition of eight beers for a dollar is no longer in existence. The first tradition I was exposed to in my freshman year was Hockey Line. As an avid fan of the game, the existence of Division I hockey at Rensselaer was very appealing. A junior I knew from back home had a group of veteran Hockey Line sitters who allowed me to sit with them as a freshman. Back then, the line rules allowed eight tickets per person who sat on line 24/7. However, you were able to do whatever you wished to make it feel like home, which included pitch tents, lay out mattresses, setup foosball tables, add lights, and just about anything else. It was a great place to meet people and bond with a group of friends. In future years, each of my dorm floors participated as a group, and we became closer as friends and even ventured on hockey road trips together.

You might be wondering why I would spend an average of two weeks on hockey line each year when you can just walk into the Houston Field House and get a good seat. That was not always the case. As a current season ticket holder, I see that besides obvious rivalry games such as Clarkson (yes, they still suck) and Cornell, plus feature weekends like the Freakout, the crowd sizes are down from my days. At that time, hockey was much more front-and-center on campus. Everyone knew the players and buzzed about Steve Stoyanovich's booming slap shot and such; tests were even scheduled around the occasional weekday game. Today,

with all the technology and toys around, I think there are many other distractions and options for students. I encourage you to go and see a game if you haven't—hockey, football, or whatever sport you like. School spirit is important, and your classmates spend a lot of time and effort to represent Rensselaer in competition at any level.

I remember the biggest motivation for anybody to sit on the Hockey Line were the infamous steel poles in the Field House. Keep in mind, this building originally was a WWII airplane hangar in Rhode Island that was moved to Troy to become our arena. Unfortunately, down the sides obstructing views for a good number of seats were poles, roughly four more per side than now. People had seating maps of the Field House and would go scout unobstructed seats, put x's through seats that had a pole line up with a goal view, and use the map when selecting seats. Sitting on the Hockey Line ensured you got a good seat.

The Field House has undergone several renovations over the years, but in 1981, I was privileged to be the student rep on the committee deciding how to spend the allocated funds. I advocated that no renovation would matter unless the sight lines were improved by removing the poles. I am proud every time I walk into the arena and see a much better viewing experience. That change made Hockey Line unnecessary for choice seats, yet the tradition stands today for the fun and bonding experience that it is.


So I encourage you to learn and embrace some of the traditions at Rensselaer like Hockey Line. They will provide good memories, fun times, and lasting friendships. With progress and change, traditions might morph over time, but that makes the ones you experience as a student that much more special and unique.

WELLNESS

wednesday

at the mueller center

Wed. Oct. 28
Mueller Center Lobby
4 pm - 7 pm






Healthy Potluck Samples



Save Your Skeleton - Bone Health Nutrition Info.

Pumpkin Carving
Optional: Enter Contest to win prizes. Pumpkins and all supplies provided

Chair Massages

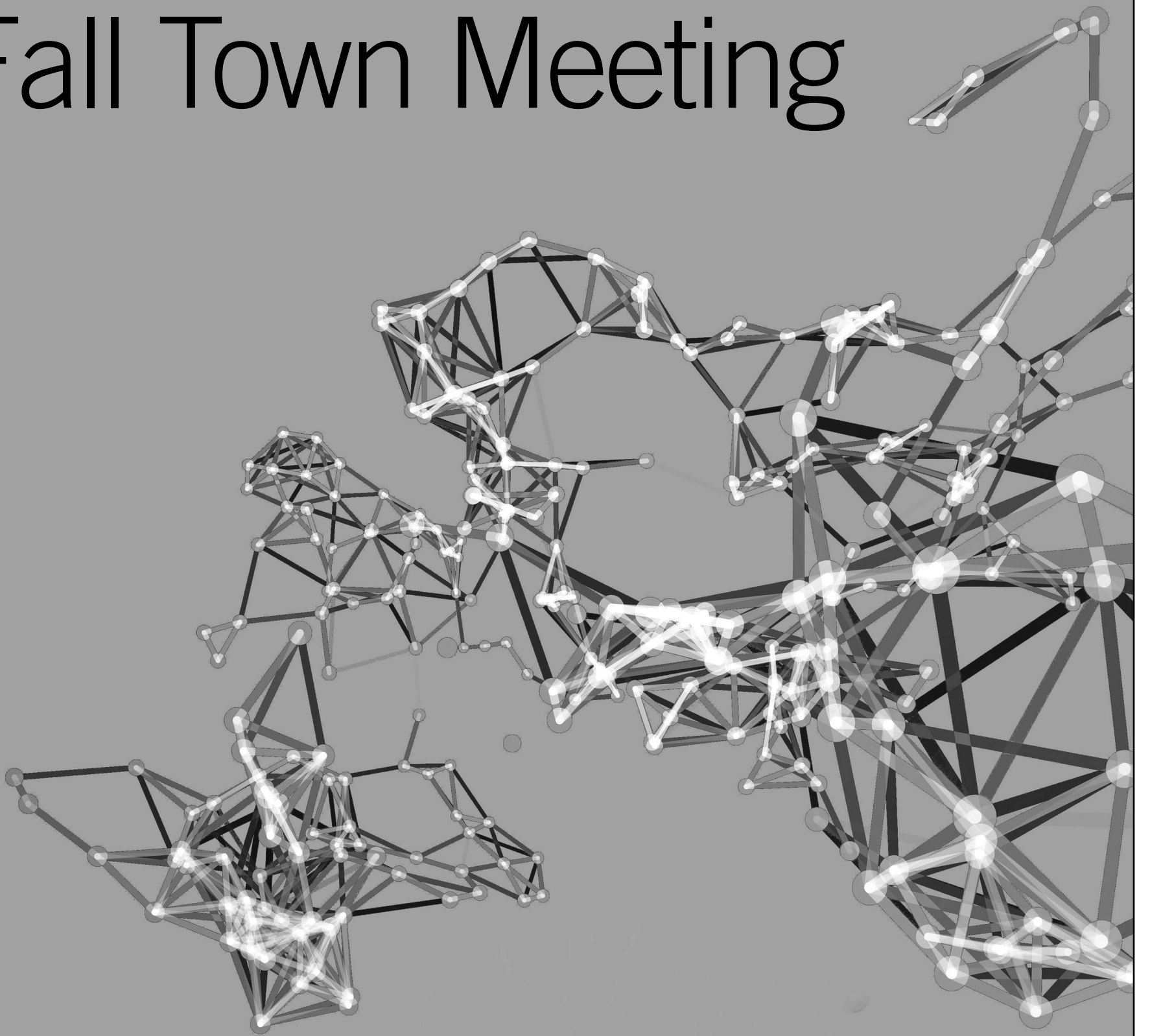




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PRESIDENT'S

Fall Town Meeting



October 29 | 1:00–2:00 p.m.

EMPAC Theater

FEATURING:

Institute Update | Q&A | Refreshments



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Int'l: McNeil Room goes global

From **Page 11**

In the corner of the McNeil Room, I saw the Muslim Student Association. As a religious club, it does not receive funding from the Union, but finally gained financial support from local churches after reaching out. The difference lies in that the group sells not only food but bracelets embossed with "Why not save the world?" Graduate student Wafaa Karaki and Leen Al madani '18 said that members in MSA designed this motto one month ago and made the online order. All profits earned in the festival would be donated to Islamic Relief USA for Syria

refugee assistance projects.

Similarly, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, as a nationally organized group, could not receive monetary support from the Union. However, as an incumbent student body with 50 branches nationwide, it still had difficulties allocating resources evenly to each branch. Fortunately, SASE at RPI finally gained sponsorship from a local Asian restaurant after a year-long negotiation. With gratis authentic food freshly made and delivered that morning, members in SASE sold out later, and managed to overcome the previous year's failure.

Thanks to the participation of not only students, but also parents and alumni, the international festival turned out to be a success. From the talk with two local alumni afterwards, I learned that racial diversity at RPI has grown significantly compared to how it used to be decades ago, and the gender ratio has changed. Given all these favorable differences, the developing diversity has enriched the campus tremendously. If you missed the festival this year, then you should definitely attend next year; it truly feels like you are travelling around the world.

Festevil: Fall event thrills

From **Page 11**

but we could donate some for the next meal, since we have eight fingers. Confused, I asked, "don't we have 10 fingers?" He then politely reminded me that humans have two thumbs (Go me!).

After that, we encountered a lady in a dress weeping. I asked if she was okay. In all honesty, she reminded me of Moaning Myrtle. That would explain her despicable trollish behavior, because when we reached the other end of the room, she ran toward us, screaming, "why are you here? You can't be here!" We ran out screaming, and after that it was a jumbled mess of corridors, plant decorations, and two more jump scares. But the group of girls behind us caught up, and their screaming sufficiently distracted and amused us so that we were not very frightened at all. For once, thank you basic white girls!

The last attraction we went to was a human rat race, in which two people got into giant wooden hamster wheels and raced from end to end of a track. The novelty of it was wonderful, and I couldn't help but chuckle at the sight of Cheryl and Omar pushing frantically. Afterwards, we headed for more donuts and cider, and called it a night. All in all, I would say that the Liberty Farms haunted attractions were enjoyable and worthwhile; the feelings of warmth, happiness, excitement, fear, and amusement all combined to create an excellent lead into the Halloween spirit.

Idiocy: Show is Sheer-ly funny

From **Page 11**

the fly, and their ability to characterize was genuinely very striking; the group was able to carve relatively intricate details into their on-stage presences in a second's time, and the communication between characters was remarkable. The on-stage chemistry of the group is notable, and the stories they managed to create together as they were speaking were admirable in consequence.

The group's performance evolved as the show moved on. In one sequence, cast members acted as different radio stations while another cast member dialed between them. If the stage-made radio was tuned to a particular performer, that cast member was expected to come up with dialogue fitting their particular station in a second's

time. When the radio was dialed into NPR, a cast member donned a grim monotone and discussed foreign politics. Meanwhile, the country station performed a ballad reminiscing dogs and trucks lost to the ages. This particular skit was incredibly clever in that it demanded a fair amount of knowledge on a particular radio station. Improv often plays on stereotypes and clichés, but the show did so in a dynamic and exciting way.

In short, the performance was quick, funny, and intelligent. Improvisational comedy demands an enormous amount of concentration and dedication from its performers, and the group managed to hit that on every level. Sheer Idiocy has proven dedicated to creating a unique and dynamic experience for the audience.

EVENT REVIEW

Clones in Gray area, treatment raises questions

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reviewer

ACADEMY HALL'S AUDITORIUM WAS PACKED WITH families and students alike Friday evening—the opening night to *A Gray Matter*. The lights dimmed to a pitch black and brightened upon a man in a cage, alone. He wore a black cap and hospital scrubs, and when he touched the cage, it shocked him and caused an alarm to sound. Surrounding him were unfeeling scientists; some poked and prodded at him, while others feared him, but all were fascinated with him. However instead of referring to him as "him," they used "it." The scientists varied in their awareness of the fact that in front of them was a living, feeling being, rather than a creature in a cage. Before the scientists stood CEBE-9, a clone with an exposed brain, intended for scientific research, and the solution to humanity's problems. More exposition is provided when the scene shifts to the lab where we meet The Scientist, who is identical to CEBE-9, and he tells us of eight other clones, each with its own set of disadvantages. CEBE-8, the most recent of the clones, developed a talent for voice-mimicking and is the reason why The Scientist ordered CEBE-9's mouth stitched closed. The Scientist goes on to explain that CEBE-8 was his masterpiece until it ran away, but now he finds new hope in CEBE-9, a perfect, identical copy of himself. A subtle debacle is heard through an intercom, and a Voice makes an order that The Scientist did not approve of. The first half of the play ends in a massacre in the lab, with a mystery figure gunning down all the scientists present.

The second half of the play opens on CEBE-9 once again, with the remaining scientists leaving CEBE-9 alone. From the fringes of the light, a hooded figure who speaks like the Voice appears and approaches CEBE-9, freeing him. He uncovers his hood and reveals his translucent cerebral "covering," displaying his exposed brain. He announces that he is CEBE-8 and has killed the scientists in the lab. CEBE-9 dissuades CEBE-8 from killing the remaining scientists, insisting that the two of them could make a real positive difference using the facility. In the climax of the play, CEBE-9 addresses the remaining scientists. They refer to him as a monstrosity and a science experiment, and, in a fit of rage, CEBE-8 crashes upon

the scene, killing a scientist and accidentally shooting CEBE-9 in the leg. CEBE-8 dies in the altercation when a scientist attacks him with a taser. Said scientist threatens to put CEBE-9 to death. A simple threatening advancement, he steals the gun from the scientist, pressing it to the scientist's head. "If I'm the monster, then what does that make you?" are the scathing, bitter words CEBE-9 says after dialing 911 and shooting himself in the brain.

This brief play raises a straightforward question: what makes us human? When inquired as to what she intended the theme of this play to be, author and director Talina Bastille '16 responded with "an exploration of ethics in science and what really makes somebody human...I think it is something that we won't be able to truly identify for a long time."

This Frankenstein-reminiscent play possesses nameless, "characterless" characters. cursory interviews with The Players themselves resulted in a more in-depth understanding of what becoming such a character is like. "It was an incredible journey. Fun to work with. The characters — they don't even have names — so it's completely up to the discretion of the actor or the actress to define the character, and being able to do that was really all an actor or actress can ask for," said Zach Spurrier '19, who played the role of a scientist.

CEBE-8, probably the most dynamic role of the plot, was played by Denver Overend '19. He talked about experiencing the traits of CEBE-8. "Basically, I took a really angry teenager and just quantified that by a magnitude of 50,000. It's like: 'You don't understand the hardships I've been through!' But it's technically for the good of humanity, so maybe the ends justify the means. But to [my character], you know, all the stuff [he's] been through, it's hard for [him] to see the big picture. CEBE-9 talks about that. He was going to help humanity, kind of be a martyr for the good of it. So I feel like it's sort of a parent/child relationship. I just took the teenager aspect of it and made it more violent."

Jeremy Feldman '16, who played both The Scientist and CEBE-9, discussed the process of taking on two separate and conflicting roles in the production of this play. "It was definitely a lot of fun to play these two separate characters, because I got to play with a lot of different physicality. And I haven't

gotten to be just a straight-up jerk on stage in a while, and I've got to admit, it's kind of fun to just play the jerk as The Scientist. Then it's also nice to have that contrast with someone who's a little more vulnerable, looks at the world with rose-tinted glasses only to have those rose-tinted glasses turned very dark at the end to the point where he can't really see anything. Playing with those arcs is always fun, and it's always a great challenge."

The overall performances done by The Players were impressive, especially those of Overend and Feldman, the two leads. While the play clearly pinpointed right and wrong,

it is still a controversy to define apathetic scientists as the absolutely evil ones. One could actually say that what has been done by the scientists is improving our standard of living and, therefore, is for the good of the world as a whole. The CEBEs could be considered innocents and their back-lashing a direct result of their mistreatment, but CEBE-8 killed nearly all the scientists. Vengeance may be his justification for murder, but his actions deem him equal with the scientists as far as morality is concerned. One of the favorable elements of this play is that no one is definitely good.

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Features

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

EVENT REVIEW

Local farm provides both tricks and treats

Rex Hu
Senior Reviewer

WHEN MY SISTER AND HER BOYFRIEND—CHERYL AND OMAR, WHO WERE STEPPING IN FOR MY PARENTS on the west coast—arrived at RPI, we headed to the FestEvil haunted attractions at Schaghticoke's Liberty Ridge Farm. We waited in the rain for what seemed like days, wondering when we would freeze to death. As we got closer to the building, we realized from the tantalizing scent wafting in the air that there would be an opportunity to purchase snacks before and after checking out the haunted attractions. Being the impulsive food addicts that we are, we couldn't resist the temptation of buying donuts and cider, which totally had what I like to call the ramen factor. If you've ever been to a dining establishment where you had the privilege of waiting in a long line outside in the freezing cold, you know exactly what I'm talking about; it's the misery of enduring the bite of winter makes the warm food that much more satisfying. That being said, the quality of the food itself was impressive.

The donuts were like the love children of churros, clouds, and foodgasm. They were fluffy, dusted, and not overbearingly sweet, but with just enough volume when it came down to the bite. There were little bits of what I assumed to be cinnamon or sugar, which added a nice contrast to an otherwise soft treat. In addition, we got them fresh out of the oven, and let. Me. Tell. You. It was better than fresh cookies. My first donut left me satisfied yet wanting more.

The apple cider was delicious as well, providing the perfect kick to balance out the aftertaste of the donuts. I also appreciated that it was warm but not hot, so I didn't have to worry about burning myself. In my humble, cold, and food-craving opinion, the two were a match made in heaven, like twin baby food angels frolicking on my tongue. In fact, all three of us thought the experience was worth it (also helps that they weren't overpriced, a donut for a dollar), so we returned for more after the attractions, and I even brought a box back for my fellow editors.

The line that trailed through the shop continued out the other end, where we waited, once again, for a trolley to take us to the the haunted attractions. But the trolley actually turned out to be one of my favorite parts, because as it made its way out to the fields, there was a generic Halloween voice playing over the speaker, imparting jewels of wisdom like, "We're taking you into the bowels of the farm" and "if you don't touch them, they won't touch you."

Our first stop was Fort Hunted: a maze with jarring knocking sounds, shooting sounds, and strobe lights. The maze went up to the peak, which signaled the midpoint of the maze, and back down. Then we came to a two-way junction, so we obviously chose the path where the strobe light was. The wobbling silhouettes of Cheryl and Omar looked



Rex Hu/The Polytechnic

LIBERTY RIDGE FARM HOSTS their annual Halloween festival that featured a haunted house, maze, human-size hamster wheels, and other attractions.

like zombies, and I was excited to see where this path would take us—it's not typical of a haunted attraction to turn something like this. But once we passed the still soldier at the corner, he told us to turn around. In any case, it was still fun to bust some moves under the strobe lights like we were back in middle school.

Next, we made our way out and got in line for the haunted house. A man in black with a pale face greeted us and gave us 3D glasses, and told the couple before us "please wait while we dispose of the bodies from the previous visit." Our turn came, and it was actually pretty trippy. It was really cool and pretty seeing everything through the glasses, but my eyes couldn't handle it, so I kind of stared over my glasses like a granny. Cheryl walked past a still man; once she turned around, he screamed and we both jumped. We continued to do so for the rest of the haunted house.

In the next room, a man entered with a platter and asked us if we were ready for dinner: a bloody skeleton hand. We politely asked if we could help ourselves. He said that we couldn't,

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EVENT REVIEW

Idiocy returns to Mother's

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

IMPROVISATIONAL COMEDY IS A UNIQUE CRAFT; THE SPECIALIZED art lends itself to the bizarre and unexpected flow that is unique to stories made up on the spot, and holds an enormous element of surprise over the head of the audience. At Rensselaer, the niche performance style is filled by the group Sheer Idiocy. Throughout the semester, the group puts on several shows to entertain the RPI community. In honor of Family Weekend, Sheer Idiocy opted to put on a two-hour performance for the benefit of visiting RPI friends and families.

Improvisational comedy is generally performed as a series of events or skits. Cast members will request input from the audience, and perform a story, song, or rhyme based on the response. Communication with the audience is an essential part of improv, and allows shows done in the style to be interactive and engag-

ing. Consequently, the performance demands that cast members be engaged, culturally informed, and dynamic in order to create a successful show.

At the start of the performance, the group prompted the audience for the names of visiting family members. The first skit was simple; the group competed to rhyme as many words as possible with the name pulled from the audience. Quite honestly, the game seemed too simple to be in the true spirit of improv. It wasn't mentally demanding, and didn't involve any particular set of skills outside of basic vocabulary. The performance was a fun and cute nod to the fact that a substantial part of the audience was visiting, but it could just as well have been performed by anyone who had written a poem in middle school, which is to say everyone.

However, as the performance moved on, the group did more to impress. Sheer Idiocy carefully crafted stories on

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Courtesy of Sheer Idiocy

SHEER IDIOCY POSES for the camera with this year's group of Idiots. The group is composed of nine.

EVENT REVIEW

Festival celebrates school's diversity

Kay Sun
Senior Reviewer

WHEN I STEPPED INTO THE MCNEIL ROOM IN THE RENSSELAER UNION AT 11 am on Friday, I instantly regretted having had my breakfast. I would like to quote the words I heard from a young man among the crowd "Wow, I feel like I am travelling around the world!"

International Festival is an annual event on campus that celebrates the many cultures present at RPI. Various clubs and associations gathered to display their diverse backgrounds in the form of stands and performances—the stands offered different foods and written descriptions of cultures, while the performances offered further examples of the culture. To better serve the event, the McNeil Room became a center stage surrounded by stands. The stage was set up for performances, while the stands were all bordering the wall so that people could walk around the room and have a thorough look at all of the different stands.

At the beginning of the event, there were only a few stands ready. As the event progressed, the increasing number of visitors and stands made the originally commodious McNeil Room feel smaller. The initial goal of the festival was to promote cultural diversity on campus with the help of students of different backgrounds. However, some clubs tried their best to convey the essence of unrepresented cultures, simply out of their thick interests in foreign cultures, which positively changed the original arrangement of the International Festival.

The Pakistani Student Association decided to offer not only local drinks, but temporary Henna tattoos as well. The tattoo looks like a sinuous wrapped on the hand from wrist to index finger with flowers attached to it, which displays the mysterious and aesthetic attractiveness of Pakistani culture.

The Philippine American League was no doubt one of the most popular stands in the McNeil Room. It offered chicken made through distinctive authentic methods and rice free of charge. I could not help trying every single kind. The perfect match of fresh chicken and local sauce completely fulfilled my appetite. Member Phil Vincent G. Castanares '19 said, "We discussed our schedule for this event really early in order to get fully prepared. By the way, we decided to try some new desserts this year, so we replaced bibingka with turon. Moreover, we prepared music and a speaker to offer lively performances." When asked how he liked the club, he gave a big smile and said it is awesome to share the culture and make great new friends simultaneously.

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