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RENSELAER UNION

Collegiate Store officially opens



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATION CUT the ribbon to the new Rensselaer Collegiate Store. Pictured (L-R) are Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds, Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers, President of the Institute Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, President of the Union Nick Dvorak, and Vice President for Student Life Dr. Frank Ross III.

Justin Etzine
Senior Reporter

IN ADDITION TO THE TRADITIONAL SET OF IMPORTANT events during Alumni Weekend, this past weekend saw another major milestone: the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Rensselaer Collegiate Store. The newly renovated store, which is now managed by Follett Higher Education Group, replaced the RPI Bookstore at the start of the 2015 fall semester with a major renovation and a facelift to the connecting hallway.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was well attended including many members of RPI's administration, such as President Shirley Ann Jackson, Vice President for Administration Claude Rounds, and Vice President for Student Life Dr. Frank Ross III. All three were present, along with Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers '16, President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16, and Follett Corporation Chief Financial Officer John Fitzgerald.

Rounds spoke first at the ceremony, and praised the new store's appearance

as a product of "months of hard work and planning." Dvorak also commended the Collegiate Store as "a testament to the cooperative efforts of both student leaders and administration." He proceeded to thank those who were involved in the process. "We owe a debt of gratitude to the Institute, especially Dr. Jackson and Claude Rounds for their dedication, commitment, and support throughout every step of this process, and to Follett for their willingness and passion to partner with us."

Jackson then spoke after a short introduction from Rounds. She thanked Rounds and Fitzgerald for their work towards the establishment of the new store, along with many members of the administration who contributed to the project. "For three years, student leaders, including past Presidents of the Union and members of the Executive Board, as well as Grand Marshals [...] have been involved with the process that has brought us to this day." She proceeded to commend Dvorak and Flowers for their commitment to the project. "We believe our students should have access to a Collegiate Store as sophisticated as their classrooms," said Jackson of the new store. "Gone are the days when the sole tool for learning [...] was a massive, printed textbook."

Finally, Fitzgerald was greeted with applause when he asked, "What do you think of the store?" He then proceeded to explain that Follett "make[s] it easier for schools to run, teachers to teach, students to learn, and fans to celebrate."

Following the speeches, the ribbon was cut, and those present at the event were free to shop as the first official customers of the Rensselaer Collegiate Store.

INTERPLANETARY NEWS

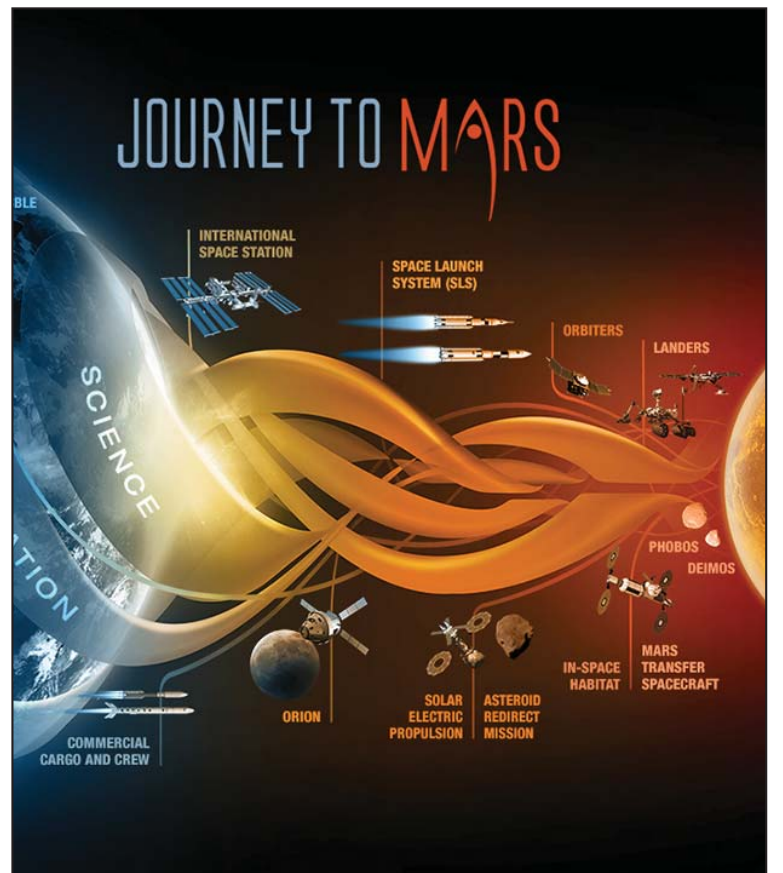
NASA administrator talks Mars

Elisabeth Ryan
Staff Reporter

LAST FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, individuals packed into the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies Biotech Auditorium. Students, professors, and alumni alike filled the seats and lined the walls; the close and intimate auditorium was not large enough to accommodate all who had flocked to listen to NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden Jr. speak. Bolden was a NASA astronaut from 1981-94 and was appointed by President Obama in 2009 to be a NASA Administrator. His accolades and military experience are lengthy. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy with a degree in electrical science and has eight honorary degrees. Undoubtedly it is his notoriety along with the groundbreaking project he is proposing that drew such a crowd.

Journey to Mars has been an ongoing project to bring humans to the Red Planet since the 1960s. A series of probes and rovers have been sent to the neighboring planet, but NASA believes that they can push the extent of their reach even further, and in a relatively short time. Plans to send humans to an asteroid by 2025—and to the surface of Mars in the 2030s—were made plain in Bolden's presentation. Discovering the secrets of Mars and exploring what it has to offer is helpful in understanding more about our own planet's history as well as answering an age-old question: Does life exist beyond Earth?

NASA's course of action begins in the low-Earth orbit, aboard the International Space Station. There, astronauts are busy developing and experimenting with the new technologies essential for sending humans



Courtesy of NASA

See NASA, **Page 3**

NASA DETAILS its upcoming plans for missions to the Red Planet.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

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STUDENT SENATE

Locked tuition, Summer Arch details discussed



Jack Welthofer/The Polytechnic

SENATOR JOE VENUSTO '17 EXPLAINS the Facilities and Service Committee's two upcoming projects to the Senate.

David Raab
Senior Reporter

THIS WEEK'S MEETING OF THE STUDENT Senate consisted mainly of reports from the committees from the Senate and a further discussion from Grand Marshall Marcus Flowers '16 of the Summer Arch program. Furthermore, Paul Ilori '17 and Thomas Alappat '17 provided an update on benchmarking for the student submitted locked tuition petition from a few meetings ago.

Graduate Spencer Scott, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, discussed progress of AAC on getting information from the five academic schools about

research opportunities for students. AAC is also working on providing a means of scholarship application assistance as well. Joe Venusto '17 presented about the Facilities and Service Committee's work since Michael Han '16 was absent. They have been making progress on their two projects: installing water bottle filling stations and getting tables in the Darrin Communications Center, Sage Laboratories, and the George M. Low gallery. The committee is meeting with campus hospitality services to discuss the possibility of having water bottle filling stations in campus dining areas. Venusto also reported on the progress of the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee. He encouraged all students to fill out the open survey about campus

dining they have from last semester. The committee is also hard at work making formal recommendations for meal plans for the 2016-17 school year.

Victoria Tong '16, chair of the Rules & Elections Committee, discussed the upcoming freshmen elections. Due to lackluster interest in comparison to prior years, info sessions have been extended through the end of the week. They will be held from 5 pm-6 pm in the Student Government Suite on the third floor of the Rensselaer Union. The deadline for freshmen to turn in all elections paperwork is Tuesday, October 12 and elections will be held on Thursday, October 14. She encouraged all interested freshmen to run, and noted that there are still several positions with no

candidates. Ilori, chair of the Student Life Committee, discussed progress on their three projects this year: accessibility of on-campus jobs, class cancellation for inclement weather, and residence hall issues, with a focus on wifi coverage and the restoration of universal access to buildings. He will be meeting with Vice President for Student Life Dr. Frank Ross to discuss these issues later in the semester. Justin Etzine '18, chair of the Web Technologies Group, told the Senate that the new elections site is in the planning stages. He expressed concern that the single sign on site for RCS IDs was changed over the summer, and their applications, such as RPI Petitions and Flagship Docs, will be updated to handle the new change.

Alappat and Ilori researched the locked tuition petition that was charged to the Senate earlier in the semester. The idea would be that the tuition freshmen pay would be the same for all four years they attend Rensselaer. Research found that no private universities offer such a program, and that only state schools with significant public funding offered anything similar. They suggested that such a proposal would not be taken seriously, and most of the Senate reluctantly agreed.

Flowers ended the meeting with a further discussion of Summer Arch. He received an email from Ross saying that members of RPI administration are interested in holding an open forum discussion between students and administration regarding implementation of the program. Ross is also going to be sponsoring a fact-finding trip to Northeastern University and Dartmouth College for four to five students to understand how both institutions implement similar programs. He ended his remarks with suggesting that senators should particularly reach out to interested freshmen and convince them to get involved, as the Senate does its best when it has as many diverse viewpoints as possible.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Hearthstone, weights become recognized

Elisabeth Ryan
Staff Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION EXECUTIVE Board was called into order by Vice President Charles Bittner '16 last Thursday, October 1, in the place of President of the Union Nick Dvorak '16. The first issue on the agenda came from Zach Shute '16, president of the Weightlifting Club, who appealed before the E-Board to reinstate his club's status as a Union-recognized organization. Before, the club's popularity had dwindled when its leaders had adopted a cliquish standpoint, making entrance to the club difficult and intimidating. Shute plans to recreate the club so that the environment is inviting and students of all levels of experience have a place to participate. The motion to reinstate the Weightlifting Club as a Union-recognized club was passed with a vote of 12-0-0.

Representing the Hearthstone Club, Matthew Lindsay '16 petitioned the board for Union recognition. The purpose of the club is to create a forum for gamers to congregate and play. Beyond playing against each other, Lindsay has plans for their club to participate in The E-Sports Association organized events. TeSPA is a nationwide organization that has

individuals ranging from the high school to the collegiate level come together to play competitively; and, as of this summer, RPI has an official branch of TeSPA. The E-Board approved Hearthstone Club as a Union-recognized club and acknowledged the club's affiliation with TeSPA in a 9-0-1 vote.

As the meeting drew to its close, a final presentation was led by one of the board members, Gregory Bartell '17, representing WRPI. Alongside him were Chief Engineer and Chief Operator Katharine Morrison '18 and President Jonathan Greeman '17. Bartell, business manager for WRPI, went before the board and stated that WRPI was not receiving the money they had requested in the past. The station and its equipment are currently in disrepair. The highest priority is their transmitter, which is over 30 years old and they are in the process of acquiring a new one. In the meantime, equipment such as the emergency alert system's weather alert function also needs repairs and replacement. The details over how much money is spent and on which particular items were laid plainly by Bartell, and he determined the overall expenses of the station. The club requested \$4,000



Jack Welthofer/The Polytechnic

MATTHEW LINDSAY '16 PRESENTS to the E-Board in his petition to have the video game club, Hearthstone Club, become Union-recognized and to approve their affiliation with TeSPA.

as a precautionary measure in case more equipment needs repairs or replacement in the future.

Before the E-Board decided to vote, they wanted to discuss any possibility of the club budgeting. The E-Board was reluctant at first to sign off \$4,000 without a definite idea of where and what the money would be used for. They suggested using the money that wasn't used for sending reporters on the away

games for sports. Every year nearly \$26,000 is allocated to the transportation of equipment and reporters to broadcast away games, yet a quantity in the high thousands is sent back due to the fact that the sports teams don't always make it to those away tournaments. The club's members stated that at that point, even if the Board was expedient in supplying the money, the station would have spent too much time

off-air. In the instance, explained by Morrison, of a delay in the airing of a show, call of complaints would be the immediate response.

After back-and-forth debate, Bartell would not let the E-Board table the discussion for a later date, reiterating that the need was imminent. The motion to reallocate funds, capping at \$4,000 from club contingencies to WRPI's budget, was passed in a 6-1-3 vote.

WORLD ECONOMY

Interest rates worry after Chinese crash



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

AFTER THE CHINESE MARKET'S RECENT SLUMP, INVESTORS BECAME increasingly worried about interest rates. The Federal Reserve is looking to make a decision in December.

Sofia Raziq
Staff Reporter

TWO HOT TOPICS LATELY IN GLOBAL MARKETS have been interest rates and China. Over the past few months, interest rates have been teetering on whether or not to be increased, while China's economy has been on a downward slope.

Since late 2008, the Federal Reserve System has kept close to a zero interest rate due to the housing market crash that caused the financial crisis, and nearly caused the United States to experience an economic downturn similar to the Great Depression. According to the Fed, a low interest rate is kept primarily used to

promote stimulation in an economy by encouraging economic growth specifically through consumers borrowing money.

When they gathered in June of this year for their annual policy meeting, the Fed had many uncertainties about increasing rates. When they issued their meeting minutes, they wanted a more concrete indication of economic growth, along with other worldly issues before deciding to go ahead with an increase. Then, a few weeks ago on September 17, 2015, Janet Yellen, the chairman of the Fed, once again postponed an increase on interest rates.

William Dudley, president of the New York branch of the Federal Reserve, believes that the increase in rates could

potentially be "disruptive" on a global scale. Investors have been nervous about rates rising, and now they're watching China due to the global market chaos recently created by its slowing economy. China is still the world's second largest economy and has been a key driver of global development. The Fed says that the U.S. economy is looking good, but what's happening overseas created a pause regarding rates. China is wary and Europe's rebound isn't exactly emerging. This, in turn, might not be good news for U.S. companies doing business overseas.

Overall, yes, the U.S. economy has improved since the financial crisis in '08 and raising interest rates is a sign that the

Fed believes markets are healthy enough to launch the process of expansionary policy. Analysts have said that for the first rate hike, it is expected to only increase about 25 basis-points. Another topic on Wall Street is stimulus policies and their termination; some say that stimulative policy has intensified the financial crisis rather than solving it.

For now, the Fed is waiting until December to make a call on interest rates. The prolonged interest rate issues are largely due to worries involving world markets, and the takeaway is that even though investors were happy with low interest rates continuing a little longer, the global stance has offset the favorable news update.

NASA: Future missions planned within decades

From **Page 1**

into deep space. It is also an ideal place to study the human anatomy and how it deals with the stresses of living in orbit. The next step after the space station would be deep space. A robotic mission will be deployed to capture and redirect an asteroid to orbit Earth's moon, and the astronauts piloting the Orion spacecraft will explore and take samples of the asteroid. This plan to have humans, rather than probes, explore the asteroid is set to

take place in the mid 2020s. This project will also contribute to the human-led Mars exploration, as the asteroid exploration will yield data concerning NASA's new systems and capabilities in space beyond low-Earth orbit. Currently, there are already probes and spacecraft orbiting and upon Mars's surface, such as the Mars Science Laboratory Curiosity rover, which is communicating a drastic amount of information that is aiding in our further understanding of this planet. In the case

of the Curiosity, it has measured radiation on its way to Mars and is currently sending back information concerning the radiation upon the surface of the planet. Plans to send another Mars rover in 2020 have also been scheduled.

Of the countries participating in the attempt to reach Mars, only the United States has managed to settle probes successfully on the surface of the planet. Bolden emphasized the importance of nations working together, for this is not the endeavor of a

country, but the endeavor of a species. A member of the audience brought up the idea of colonization rights for different countries. Bolden emphasized that the Journey to Mars would be a joint-effort.

Bolden charismatically presented this project, answering questions along the way, evoking laughter every now and then. He capped off his presentation with an invitation to follow your heart's desire, no matter where you are in your life.

INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTIGATOR TERRANCE BURNS

Saturday, October 3

Sunset Terrace
Illness: Public Safety was called because an individual was having a seizure. Troy Fire Department transported the patient to Samaritan Hospital for further examination.

Tuesday, October 6

Cogswell Parking Lot
Drug Overdose: An individual was found unconscious in the parking lot of Cogswell Laboratories, and it was determined by responding personnel that they were suffering from a drug overdose. RPI Ambulance transported the individual to Samaritan for examination.

The last challenge of a socially conscious society?

Depression strikes millions— indiscriminately. Depression is simply a suppression of brain activity that makes life unbearable. And even though depression is readily treatable, only 1 in 5 ever seeks treatment. Why do so many just drag themselves along or eventually seek relief through suicide? First, there's the lack of awareness of depression— as an illness and as the threat that it is to each and every one of us. Second, there's the unwarranted negative stigma attached to it. You know, the 'mental' thing. It's time to collectively face depression. To know it's an illness, not a weakness. And it's a challenge that's long overdue. It's taken too many of us already.

UNTREATED DEPRESSION

#1 Cause of Suicide

Public Service message from SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) <http://www.save.org>

Editorial

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

You can be your own chef

Cooking for yourself can be more rewarding and healthier than eating the food provided at the dining halls. Not only is cooking a life skill, but it brings people together, creating coveted memories and times with friends and family alike. However, cooking on a college campus, considering the underclassmen kitchen capabilities, is difficult.

Almost all of the freshmen residence halls—Bray, Cary, Crockett, Hall, Nason, Davison, Burdett Avenue Residence Hall, and Nugent Halls—only have one full kitchen, and they're all also fully electric. Sharing a kitchen with an average of 200 other students per hall is not convenient; the kitchen always seems to be in use during convenient hours. Additionally, Barton Hall does not even have a full kitchen; it only has sinks and microwaves. There is no oven or stove top at all. Therefore, it is inconvenient to cook an actual meal, and those that want to use a kitchen must overflow into another residence hall. To make matters worse, there are no grocery stores near campus. Price Chopper and Walmart are a 20-minute bus ride or 45 minute walk away. The trip to downtown Troy and its local grocery markets is also a 20–30 minute walk from freshman hill. However, there is another option for those without a car.

Field Goods is a service that delivers local foods to counties from Queensbury to the Bronx and Fairfield County in Connecticut. The main bag subscription includes fruits and vegetables with enough food for up to five people. Additionally, there are also add-ons that include bread, cheese, extra fruit, herbs, and etc. The main subscriptions are priced reasonably at \$20–\$30 and the extra add-ons at around \$5 each. A local branch of Field Goods delivers to the Mueller Center every Thursday and is open from 3–8 pm. Orders must be made by Monday at 11:59 pm and can be made online at <http://www.field-goods.com>. Just be sure to find the RPI Mueller Center Lobby option under private locations.

The Poly encourages you to learn how to cook and cook healthily. It is a fulfilling and fantastic life skill to possess.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Why photo is the best section

More work than simply holding a button down

THINK OF A NEWSPAPER, AND THE FIRST THING THAT comes to mind is article—big blocks of text full of (hopefully) well-researched information and thoughtful inquiry. But anyone who's turned the page in a textbook only to find two full pages of text knows the saving grace that is photography. And our section editors know it specially well.

For the past years, I've taken somewhere around 80 percent of the photos for *The Poly*. But if you think all I do for the photo section is to go to an event, take a few pictures, and leave, you are far from the truth and the struggle.

The types of photos I take fall into two categories: sports and not sports. Personally, I like shooting sports. I get to pull out the big lenses, including our 300 mm, which make me look cool and professional. I get to carry around a press pass, and best of all, I get to be right up next to all the action. Now, the struggle

comes in a few parts. I can't just yell to the players, "Hey! Do something amazing so I can leave! It's cold!" I have to stand around and wait for a pass, shot, tackle, or whatever, to happen. And it has to be something good, because it needs to bring some action to the page when we print. Now maybe you're thinking, "Okay, well, lots of cool things happen at sporting events, that isn't so hard!" That's true! But I'm kinda bad at my job sometimes. This past weekend, I missed a whole bunch of shots because I was checking my phone, observing the crowd, or daydreaming. Everyone would shout and I would see that, yes, I had missed another opportunity. Even when I was paying attention, I would miss stuff. I have the option of either relying on the autofocus, which can get confused in the heat of the moment, or trusting my highly developed reflexes to manu-

ally focus the shot. So, many good shots have been ruined because I wasn't quick enough and ended up focusing on some guy in the background eating a hotdog.

This brings us to the other category: not sports! Most not sports events I go to are either Senate or Executive Board meetings. Sometimes there is a



Jack Wellhofer
Managing Editor

features show thrown in, maybe a news event that I need something for, but Senate and E-Board are consistent, and it wears on me. As I mentioned above, I've been doing photo for a long time now. One of the first events I started shooting was Senate. Senators tend to sit and not move around a lot while discussing business. You can see where this is going. The fact that I have to get a different, sometimes front page worthy photo of student government officials week to week is infuriating. And when I go onto Adobe Bridge to look at the images, of course the only decent ones have people staring at the camera, or

making a weird face, or looking beyond bored. So that brings us to editing. Forgot about that part, huh? I'd say it's the most important part of my job. This is the time when I get to say things like "Wow, I'm a great photographer" and "Whoa, who let this guy handle the camera?" Also, I get to cheat using *Photoshop* and make it look like I'm better at photography than I actually am.

Now we're done the photo with section, right? Nope. I would hope so, but someone, usually that annoying features editor, always tells me things like "I need a vertical image, not a horizontal one" or "this picture is way too dark, find something else." But after *that* is taken care of, photo is done and can save the rest of the section editors from huge, boring blocks of text. Photo is the best section.

the polytechnic

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

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Mastering the art of writing

Tips for getting that 'A' on your next HASS paper

AS SOMEONE WHO USUALLY WRITES an article, sometimes multiple, weekly. I often get asked a lot how I'm able to write so much. To be honest, sometimes I'm not even sure. Writing 400+ words a week has become somewhat easy, and in turn, it has made me a better writer for not only the newspaper, but for my classes and professional work. So I think giving some tips on how to create fully formed and unfluffed text could be a huge help to a few readers.

First, I find I write best about things I enjoy since I know more about them and it makes the process of writing less like pulling teeth. Even if the focus of the work is not based on what you like, I usually find ways to connect what you enjoy to the work to make the piece more enriching, like showing a con-

nection between Shakespeare and West Side Story, or even recursion with Inception. This doesn't just help to make the writing process more fun, but it also helps the



Geoff Rosenthal
Associate Features Editor

reader in getting more interested as well. I think any teacher will find the paper that makes a meaningful connection to some movie or TV show more enjoyable than the countless dry and dutiful works in their pile. But, a caution with this approach is that the connection must mean something; do not ramble about

Breaking Bad for the sake of trying to get your reader to say, "Oh, I get that reference." You want them to rethink their perception of the original work through retrospection of the connected material, in the process strengthening or clarifying your argument.

If the point of the work, however, is to be factual, one strategy is to simply give the viewer what they want. Present the facts clearly, without repeating your findings just to pull it into a paragraph. Some see this as a great way to pad a paper, but anyone can see right through this strategy. Instead, you should explain the significance of your findings, how it relates to the project, and though it may not be text, think of using diagrams or visuals to illustrate your point. In short, explain why the facts are important to your point.

Words are supposed to be enriching for the author and connect the author to his or her audience. If you treat your writing like a boring job, then how do you expect your audience to take their time to read it? Enjoy the writing process and in turn the reader will enjoy your work. It gets easier, trust me.

Interested in writing, drawing comics, or hanging around with awesome people? Join *The Poly* today!

TOP HAT

Petitions considered

HELLO RPI STUDENTS,

We are just coming back from our homecoming weekend, and I hope you had the chance to enjoy it as much as I did. It was great to see people who have passed through RPI and faced the academic challenge that we do today, as well as the unique situations of their time. Hearing their stories has really inspired me to take new perspectives, strategies, and ideas into the rest of my term. As such, I hope to run into as many people as I possibly can in the coming weeks and have a real discussion person-to-person on what you need on your campus. That's something I think people can sometimes forget: that this is your place of higher education. As a student here, you have the right to the resources you need to succeed, and if those are not being provided for you, we, the Student Senate, are obligated to fix that. We are a bright and earnest body of students, each of us with a goal to succeed in our lives, and the foundation; we get today will set the standards we hold for the future. So take charge of that foundation, speak out on what you need to succeed, and make sure your questions do not go unanswered.

We still have a lot of opportunities for our freshmen to get involved, even though many are likely focusing on their first series of exams still. If you know someone in the Class of 2019 who is trustworthy and strong-willed, tell them to look at Student Government. The people who get involved today will shoulder the decisions for students just a few short years from now, and when that time comes, experience is the best thing that they can bring to the table. Here's my message to the freshmen: there are over 1,400 students who came into RPI with you, each of them with a unique set of talents, experiences, and ambitions. Some of you will have the responsibility of doing things such as choosing a tree to plant for your class, the design of your class ring, and the like. Some will

have the opportunity to bring a new event to campus for your class to enjoy. All of you, however, will be working towards graduating with knowledge to set yourself up for success. Being able to say that you worked to the benefit of all those people is a rare opportunity, and I encourage you all to consider it.



Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

This week in Senate, we looked at more data related to the petition involving locked tuition, and further discussed how to act on it. For those who do not know or remember, the petition came from the Student Senate's petition website, <http://petitions.rpiwtg.com>, which allows for students to log-in, and post or endorse petitions that go directly to the floor of the Student Senate!

We have gotten a lot of great projects from our petitions base, such as our preferred names petition project (see the petitions website for a description). This site is a tool for students to take a stance in how they address their life on campus, so be sure to make full use of it. The Student Senate is working on putting together our regular survey for our current students, so talk to us now about what your priority issues are, so that we can take this opportunity to gather enough data to investigate them thoroughly.

In related student government news, the Rensselaer Collegiate Store in the Rensselaer Union is officially opened under its new title, and came forth from the hard work of many students on the Executive Board, led by the Presidents of the Union over the last few years. I want to take this time to acknowledge their hard work and continued dedication to the students of RPI, as it took years of work and numerous students to accomplish. Let it stand as a testament to what we can do to help ourselves.

We are only a few weeks into this school year, but we, the students, have a lot of opportunities and challenges ahead. Keep your minds sharp, and be ready for anything.

DERBY

Birth of two new clubs

WHAT'S COOKIN' RPI?

Alumni weekend has come and gone with Homecoming & Reunion, and I sincerely hope you had a chance to meet some of the amazing individuals who have walked these same halls. It is hard for me to pin down the highlight of my weekend, or who was the most interesting person I met; there were simply so many great events to attend and individuals to meet. From a President of the Union who still had the pants he wore the day he was elected to an astronaut who returned from the International Space Station, Rensselaer truly produces students of the highest caliber with a good deal of character. If you didn't get the chance to come out and see some of the events yourself, you can still catch the sports events through the RPI TV website (and congrats to men's football on another hard fought win). There are also photos abound on any of the social media

outlets of the Rensselaer Union and other groups on campus.

On Saturday, Grand Marshal Marcus Flowers '16 and I held a special event for the 125th anniversary weekend, in which we hosted a brunch and invited all past GMs and PUs to join us and share their memories. We were fortunate to have many in attendance, as well as two previous Directors of the Union and a former Vice President of Student life. We heard stories of everything from the tin towns that used to populate the hills where the East Campus Athletic Village now stands, to a PU who was almost impeached, to a PU that threatened to defund the *Poly* for cutting his column. (Don't worry *Poly* editors, we're cool.) The 125 years of student leadership and activism was truly represented on Saturday, and it shows the incredible pride

that burns in the hearts of all those who love our student-run Union.

A quick update on the Executive Board side of things: as I'm sure you'll see in greater detail from our *Poly* correspondent, the executive board approved two new clubs this past week for Union Recognition! Congrats to RPI Weightlifting (and their sweet "Reps for Shirley" shirts) and RPI Hearthstone club. To those that may not know, there are various levels of affiliation for groups with the Union. Affiliation simply allows a group to associate with the Union and use basic resources such as the Club Management System. Union recognition allows clubs to use the purchasing power of the Union, reserve rooms, and utilize many of the recruiting resources available. Union funded clubs are just that, organizations funded wholly or in part by the Union to pay for their functions. This comes in the form of many club athletic teams, Union Programs and Activities Committee events, and much, much more. If you're interested in starting a group, please get in touch with me,

Amy Corron in the Admin office, or my Policies chair Jeremy Feldman '16 and we can help you out. With over 250 clubs recognized, over 150 clubs funded, and both lists growing, there is something for everyone! And if you can't find something for you, we can help you create it.

I would also like to announce that I am forming a group of student leaders to research and investigate how the Summer Arch program will be affecting the Union and how we can best adapt to the situation. If you are interested in assisting, please email me at pu@rpi.edu as soon as possible. The sooner work begins, the more groundwork we can lay to better the experience for all students. As always, let me know if there's ever anything I can do for you. I'm always looking for new ways to help the students I serve every day, and I am only ever just an email away.



Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

Want to run for student government?

Class of 2019 Elections for Class Council and Senate are next week. Candidate Info sessions are all week 5-6 in the SGS (Union 3120)

Contact Victoria Tong and Paul Ilori, RnE Chairs at rne@union.rpi.edu



Events

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

WEDNESDAY

October 7

Destination Imagination sells pie slices for \$2 in Darrin Communications Center's Great Hall from 9:30 am–5 pm.

The Center for Financial Studies hosts Bill Tomljanovic. The title of his lecture is "Efficient Frontier and Optimization of Insurance Investment Portfolios." It will be held in Pittsburgh 4224 from 1–2 pm.

The Entrepreneur of the Year Celebration takes place in the Biotech Auditorium from 2:30–4 pm. The award salutes successful entrepreneurs who, in turn, are important role models for the students of Rensselaer.

The Civil and Environmental Engineering department presents speaker Preetam Biswas. It will be held in DCC 324 from 3–4 pm.

The Gail and Jeffrey L. Kodosky '70 Distinguished Lecture Series continues with Dr. Charlie Kane. The lecture is titled "Topological Boundary Modes from Quantum Electronics to Classical Mechanics." It will be held in DCC 337 from 4–5 pm.

Tau Beta Pi presents Major Panels. It is a panel discussion to help undeclared engineering students. The honor society has panelists with good grades and practical experience representing every engineering major. It will be held in Mother's Wine Emporium from 4–6 pm.

The Rensselaer Union hosts "Let's Talk: Active Listening & Communicating for Understanding." Come learn skills towards effective listening and the benefits of communicating for the purpose of seeking understanding. It will be in Union 3202 from 6–7 pm.

THURSDAY

October 8

The Isermann Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering presents Hendrick C. Van Ness. His lecture is entitled "Why do we need single crystals of soft matter? — How controlling structure leads to useful function." It will be held in the Biotech Auditorium from 9:15–10:15 am.

Jianfeng Lu speaks on crystal image analysis using synchrosqueezed transform and variational approach. It will be held in Amos Eaton 214 from 4–5 pm.

The Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center presents Mark Fell. His performance is titled "Recursive Frame Analysis." It will be held in EMPAC Theater at 8 pm. The cost is \$6 to attend.

SATURDAY

October 10

The center portion (south side) of B Lot will be barricaded from 9 am–5 pm. There will be parking for B lot permit holders in the single row on the north side facing the Houston Field House and the west side by Burdett Avenue Residence Hall entrance.

MONDAY

October 12

No classes held due to Columbus Day. Follow Monday schedule on Tuesday.

TUESDAY

October 13

EMPAC presents Jon Dordick. In this talk, Dordick will highlight Rensselaer's recent efforts to exploit the interface of biology with materials science. It will be held in EMPAC Theater at noon.

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TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten Mothers

10. The Poly's Business Manager
9. Theresa
8. Trucker
7. How I Met Your
6. Wine Emporium
5. Nature
4. Lover
3. Alex Trebek's
2. Board
1. Your

SUDOKU

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Previous Issue's Answers

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

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

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

UPAC C-I-N-E-M-A

Tomorrowland

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

APOLLO 13

Saturday • October 10, 2015
7 pm, 10 pm, & 1 am • DCC 308 • \$2.50

2015 William F. Glaser '53 Rensselaer Entrepreneur of the Year Celebration

software healthcare innovation

Wednesday, October 7, 2015
Biotech Auditorium
2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
scte.rpi.edu/2015eoy

Sports

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

MEN'S ICE HOCKEY

Engineers lose in tiebreaker overtime

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

IN THEIR OPENING EXHIBITION match of the season, the Engineers fought tirelessly against the St. Thomas University Tommie's of New Brunswick, Canada, at the Houston Field House last Saturday. Bereaved of victory during the five minute overtime, a consequence of the 2-2 tie at

the conclusion of the third period, the RPI men endured a 3-2 loss.

Throughout the first period, RPI had its act together. Despite several missed opportunities to score, the puck spent well over half its time on the ice in the offensive zone. RPI forwards brought the puck down the ice towards the Tommie's goal, only to shoot too wide or get blocked by the goaltender. St. Thomas played defensively

the first period, often icing the puck just to remove it from their defensive zone, which caused many face-offs to take place.

The first big scare for RPI came at 10:19 into the first period when STU forward Anthony Latina snagged the puck in the neutral zone and ushered it towards RPI's goal. Meanwhile, freshman forward Lonnie Clary came barreling into the net just

as it looked like a goal might be made. Though Clary received a penalty for his action, he helped RPI avoid a deficit.

Immediately following the faceoff at 12:31, there was a brief scare as the Tommies claimed the puck and STU forward Bryce Milson, sandwiched between two RPI defensemen, walked right up to the goal for the shot. It was skillfully blocked by senior goalie Jason Kasdorf.

Clary took another penalty at 16:31 for bodychecking Latina of STU along the Tommies' back wall. Clary's crashing into Latina caused the first major altercation on the ice of the evening, as Latina's teammates expressed their displeasure against Clary by crushing him into the wall.

The first goal came at 16:53 when senior forward Milos Bubela knocked the puck out from underneath forward JC Campagna of STU after he tried to shoot.

In the second period, no goals were made, and to the extent that you can say gameplay was quiet for men's hockey, gameplay was quiet. At 11:36, senior defender Chris Bradley took a slap shot and broke his stick in half. At 17:18, sophomore defender Bradley Bell also snapped his stick in the course of performing a slap shot, yet play was not stopped. By the end of the period, RPI had attempted 19 shots, while STU had only tried for 12.

It was in the third period that RPI's well-maintained 1-0 lead was lost. Unlike the strategy in the previous two periods, STU took to the offensive. Following a faceoff called for icing of the puck by STU, a play went awry for the Engineers when the puck bounced off of junior forward Riley Bourbonnais' stick in the defensive zone. Campagna was able to snatch the puck and tap it past freshman goalie Cam Hackett into the net at 3:49.

Minutes later, at 6:17, senior forward Travis Fulton dumped the puck past STU to score another point for the Engineers. Then, with only 6:09 remaining, forward Jason Cameron of STU snuck the puck into Rensselaer's net, retying the game. The score remained tied for the rest of the period.

The game went into overtime with a shootout looming. But when the tiebreaker shootout ensued, Milson made the winning shot with 38.5 seconds to go. Everyone thought RPI was safe when Hackett miraculously blocked Milson's runaway shot with 47 seconds to go, but STU still had a trick up their sleeve.

Coinciding with Reunion & Homecoming Week, the match gathered many RPI alumni to the Field House who hadn't visited in many years. Next Friday night, the RPI team will journey to the Tsongas Center in Lowell, MA, where they will enter the rink against the River Hawks of the University of Massachusetts Lowell.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

DEFENDER MILOS BUBELA EARNS RPI the first point of the Homecoming game against St. Thomas.

WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY

RPI hockey team has no luck with the puck

Kay Sun
Staff Reporter

REPEATED MOVEMENTS AND JUMPS OF REFEREES and linesmen, echoing sounds due to the collision between players and boards at full speed, and high-pitched shouts both from the hockey rink and grandstand all attributed to the enthralling and intense women's hockey game.

At 4 pm on Saturday, October 3rd, as the puck fell from the referee's hand, the women's hockey game between the University of North Dakota and the Rensselaer Engineers launched with the faceoff between senior forward Shannon Kaiser of UND and senior forward Alexa Gruschow of RPI, won by the Engineers. Both teams were aggressive and energetic, while both made mistakes. After UND pressured the puck into their offensive zone for seven minutes, the Engineers started a power play at 7:01 due to a penalty on UND's freshman forward Rebekah Kolstad for checking. However, instead of seizing this opportunity with a step-by-step organized strategy, the Engineers failed to take possession of the puck and missed an excellent opportunity to give themselves a lead in the game.

A second chance for a power play in the first period quickly fell on the Engineers at 12:35, beginning with the faceoff won by North Dakota. Despite the fact that the Engineers should have held an obvious offensive advantage, RPI didn't pose a



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

JUNIOR RENSSELAER FORWARD KATIE ROONEY AND SAMANTHA HANSON OF NORTH DAKOTA COMPETE for control of the puck in the first period of the game.

strong threat to the visiting team in these two minutes. In the last 30 seconds of the power play, UND's defense stood strong against the Engineers, despite the Rensselaer team having an extra player at the time. At 14:06, the last 19 seconds of the Engineer's power play, UND's senior

forward Layla Marvin scored, assisted by Kolstad and junior forward Amy Menke.

For the majority of the second period, the visitors still dominated, leading the game with its second goal at 6:28 by senior forward Meghan Dufault, until the Engineers earned their first point at 15:28.

In the third period, UND scored twice more: once during a power play, and once in the last 15 seconds of the game. RPI took the risk to put an extra forward in the rink with an empty net at 17:33. However, Rensselaer failed to capitalize with its additional player. UND won the faceoff to the defenseman who wrapped the puck around the boards at 19:32. North Dakota's senior forward Becca Kohler broke the Engineers' 6-on-5 offense in empty net goal, shooting in the neutral zone.

The Engineers finally ended the game 1-4. However, the save percentage of RPI's freshman goalie Lovisa Selander, 91 percent, was still impressive relative to that of UND's 95 percent, and allowed only one goal during the game. The 41 saves made by Selander in the 57:46 of gameplay were truly highlights of the game.

It is true that the result weighs heavily for games as competitive as ice hockey. However, scores are not the only measure to judge a game. Many alumni came to watch the game. Bill Bernstein '65 commented after the game, "It is my first time watching an RPI women's game. Back then, there was no women's team at RPI."

"There were only two women graduated in four years when I was in RPI, I remember," said Barry Freedman '55, "I am so delighted and excited to see that RPI can have so many ambitious, powerful and high-spirited young ladies to make this community a brighter and more colorful one."

FOOTBALL

Rensselaer defeats the Mariners 27-7

Joe Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

SENIOR QUARTERBACK JEFF AVERY threw for 382 yards and three touchdowns as the Engineers rolled over the United States Merchant Marine Academy Mariners by a score of 27-7 on Reunion & Homecoming Weekend.

The Rensselaer defense set the tone early by plugging the rushing lanes of the Mariners' option-read rushing attack. After the Mariners went three and out on their first possession, Rensselaer marched 76 yards down the field and sophomore kicker Christian Kapp drilled a 20-yard field goal to make the score 3-0 RPI.

After the go-ahead field goal, RPI senior linebacker Anthony Pilla made a big open field tackle on 3rd and four to force a second Merchant Marine punt. Then, on the next play Avery found senior running back Matt Lane on a crossing route for a gain of 53 yards down to the Mariners' 14-yard line. After a penalty pushed the Engineers back to the Merchant Marine 40, Avery found senior wide receiver Logan Gaddar open near the sideline for a gain of 29 yards down to the Mariners 3. But, poised to score, the Engineers fumbled and the Mariners recovered.

A missed field goal by RPI and another forced fumble by the Mariners inside their own twenty kept the score at 3-0. With less than two minutes remaining in the first half, Pilla came up big again, forcing Merchant Marine running back Devar Jones to fumble. The ball was recovered by

sophomore defensive lineman Diego Cuitino at the Mariners 31 with 1:10 left in the first half.

Senior running back Nick Schlatz ran for 12 yards to the Mariners 19. Then, two plays later, Avery threw to an open Gaddar for an 11-yard touchdown pass to give RPI a 10-0 lead.

After both squads failed to get a first down on their opening drives of the second half, Rensselaer found its rhythm midway through the third quarter. Starting with the ball at the Merchant Marine 45 after a 29-yard punt, Avery hit Lane out of the backfield for a pickup of 11 and a first down. Then, on 3rd and eight, Avery scrambled, eluding several tacklers, and found Gaddar open in the flat near the right sideline. Gaddar did the rest, beating his pursuers to the end zone for a 33-yard touchdown.

Quarterback Matt McDaniels powered through the Rensselaer line on two consecutive 4th and ones and lead the Mariners to the RPI 25. But the drive stalled on 4th and four when the Engineers snuffed out a fake pitch and forced McDaniels out of bounds for a loss of one.

Late in the third, Avery hit sophomore running back Nick Esposito on a short crossing route and Esposito scampered down the sideline for a gain of 30. Then sophomore running back Ethan Wells broke through the Merchant Marine front line on a run past the left side for a gain of 10. Later, at the beginning of the fourth, Kapp tackled on three more points to the Engineers lead, bringing the score to 20-0.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

RPI FOOTBALL SNATCHES victory from the Mariners with their third and final touchdown. This brings their record to 4-1 for the season as they prepare to play against St. Lawrence on Saturday.

The Mariners took advantage of a 33-yard burst by running back Robert Moore to score their first and last points of the afternoon, a two-yard run by running back Wiley Martin.

After a 31-yard kick return by sophomore running back Johnny Ramsdell, Gaddar tallied his third receiving touchdown of the game, a career high, to give the Engineers a 27-7 lead.

Gaddar's third score was the last of the afternoon for either squad and Rensselaer won in convincing

27-7. In addition to his three touchdowns, Gaddar caught five additional passes and totaled 131 yards to lead all receivers.

The Engineers struggled in the running game, amassing just 105 yards off their 32 carries. Schlatz led all RPI rushers with 39 yards on the ground. The Mariners didn't fare any better, rushing 59 times for 191 yards. The difference was passing yardage. While Avery threw for 382, McDaniels managed just 55 yards on five of 15 throwing.

Junior defensive lineman Thomas Bennett led all defenders with 15 tackles and also registered a sack, his first of the season. Meanwhile, Pilla and junior linebacker Alexander Greenidge each tallied 14, including one and a half sacks for Pilla and one for Greenidge.

Next up for the now 4-1 Engineers is a trip north to 4-1 St. Lawrence this weekend. St. Lawrence has won four in a row heading in, including a 20-0 shutout of the University of Rochester last Saturday.

SOCCER

Soccer suffers first defeat of the season

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

MEN'S SOCCER FACED OFF AGAINST ROCHESTER Institute of Technology in their third league game of the season this past Saturday. The Engineers, with an 8-0-2 record going into the game, were trying to keep their undefeated streak going against what was expected to have been an easy match against the 3-6 RIT Tigers.

From the beginning it was clear that this would be an emotional game. Both teams continuously fought hard, but no side was able to take the upper hand. Senior midfielder Devon Baughen and sophomore Dan Graybill worked the left side of the field throughout the game, performing give-and-gos and overlapping runs, allowing Graybill to work his way past defenders and make crosses into the box. Unfortunately, it seemed like every time RPI made a cross, the Tigers were the first ones there, heading or volleying the ball safely away from the goal.

The lack of progress showed in senior captain Nathaniel Gundersen. Multiple times his attempted shots were blocked by RIT. He struck the ball with such a force that the ricocheting ball sometimes flew into the stands, and even managed to break the corner flag in half after a failed cross attempt.

In the last minutes of the first half, freshman forward Evan Schulze attempted to put the Engineers ahead. He managed to beat the Tigers in a two

versus one, allowing him to make a break for the goal. His shot did not make it to the back of the net, and RPI was unable to follow up with the rebound before a foul by the Engineers allowed RIT to clear the box. The first half ended 0-0 with red, exhausted faces on both sides.

Five minutes into the second half, both teams received yellow cards. Both had been very physical, to the point of multiple fouls each. It was clear that the referee wanted to remain in control of the game, but that was not the case.

Twenty minutes later, senior defender Paul Lentine received the only red card of the game, forcing the Engineers to play down a player for the remainder.

Despite this, Gundersen continued to work hard, megging an RIT defender, and allowing senior forward Matt Carberry to make a cross inside RIT's goal box. Fortune was still not on their side as RIT was able to clear the ball away.

While both teams fought with adrenaline-fueled rage, and RPI had not one, but two consecutive shots on goal bounce off the crossbar, the second half ended 0-0 and the teams went into overtime.

The game was over for the Engineers when the Tigers received a penalty kick in the 96th minute of play. Sophomore goalie Ryan Nealon was unable to save the shot that went low in the right corner. The game ended 0-1, and it was the Engineers' first defeat of the season.

CROSS COUNTRY

Men and women sprint into top four in points

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

THE MIKE WOODS CROSS COUNTRY INVITATIONAL, HOSTED BY THE GENESEO KNIGHTS OF the State University of New York at Geneseo, attracted 39 teams to New York's Genesee Valley last Saturday. A needle in the haystack, the Rensselaer men's and women's cross country teams competed at their meet last Saturday.

Despite this being the largest meet of the season for our teams, it didn't manage to keep either of them from scoring in the top five for points. The women scored third out of 32 teams in their 453-person 5-km race, while the men placed third out of 38 teams in their 534-person 8-km race. Much of the credit for the men's elevated rank goes to the victor of the 8-km race, junior Ben Fazio.

Striking again for the second time this season, Fazio won his race in 24:46.6, averaging a rapid five minute mile pace that put him 6.5 seconds ahead of second place finisher Isaac Garcia-Cassani of Geneseo. Three weeks before, Fazio won the men's 6-km race at the Engineers' home meet in Saratoga Springs.

"This weekend was another big step forward for myself and for the team, and we're all very excited about moving forward into the championship season," said Fazio. "This race was by far the biggest one we'll go to all season, so I think it presented a new challenge for some of our younger guys and they really stepped up well. The plan going into the meet was to run the first 5k at an even pace and then start to get quicker from there and move up in the pack. For me, this meant staying towards the front and waiting for other guys to make moves in the first four miles of the race, and then taking the lead with about half a mile to go, which worked perfectly. The course was in good condition...and that lead to a lot of our guys running personal bests."

Second for the Rensselaer men was freshman Grant O'Connor, who finished in 20th place in 25:33.1. Next came sophomore Matthew Stewart in 49th place in 25:54.7, then in 79th and 82nd place, freshman Sean O'Connor and junior Garrett Davis with times of 26:19.0 and 26:20.4, respectively.

The women enjoyed fast times and diverse competition as well. Senior Shannon Trant crossed the line in sixth place in 22:00.5, trailed closely behind by teammate sophomore Jaime Lord in seventh in 22:03.0. Junior and girls team co-captain Maddie Dery finished in 15th with a time of 22:15.8.

"We were really proud that our hard work paid off and put us in the top three teams in attendance," said Dery. "Most of the teams from our region were there, which is a good sign for when we face off against them again at regionals. We also beat many teams that are ranked above us, so we are expecting our national ranking to go up this week."

BOOK REVIEW

School for Good, Evil conveys influential message

Elisabeth Ryan
Staff Reviewer

IN THE NOVEL *THE SCHOOL FOR Good and Evil*, there is a village surrounded by woods, where every four years a mysterious entity, known as the School Master, comes along and snatches two children over the age of 12 from their beds. One of them is pure and kind and will be placed in the School of Good; the other is morbid and dark and will be placed in the School of Evil. Legend has it that upon arrival at these schools, students learn to be princesses and heroes or witches and hags—and then are placed into fairy tales, written by the illustrious Storian, a magical pen.

Sophie is a beautiful girl with long blond hair whose favorite pastimes include applying face masks and taking pity on her much more unfortunate and ugly friend, Agatha. All Sophie has ever wanted is to be a princess, to live a fantastic and magical life, like one found in a story book. Agatha, on the other hand, has only ever wanted to be left alone. She only ever agrees to spend time with Sophie due to her

belief that Sophie is lonely. The two are an unlikely pair, and the entire town believes that they are the two fated to be stolen by the School Master. Unlike Sophie, the rest of the town's children cower in fear of being taken away from their homes, never to see their family again; the good dirty their clothing and the bad brush their hair.

This book, though a middle grade read, is an impressive analysis of how appearance affects how we treat each other and how we think of ourselves. When Sophie and Agatha are taken and placed in the schools, the two are swapped, with Sophie going to the School of Evil to become a "Never" and Agatha going to the School of Good to become an "Ever." Sophie keeps insisting that there has been a horrible mistake and attempts to switch places with Agatha. Agatha only wants to go home and be free from what she deems a nightmare. The two undergo lessons that are typical of either side. Sophie learns to cast dark spells and acquire henchmen, committing dark deeds without

batting a perfectly maintained eyelash; Agatha learns to talk with animals and how to waltz, all the while discovering secrets of the Schools and the School Master. The two are sore thumbs, seeming so out of place in their respective schools. Sophie is accused of being weak and, because of her obvious distaste for her environment, alienates her peers. Agatha is feared and ridiculed by hers.

The two girls are foils of each other, but neither is purely good nor purely evil. Their friendship and their story illustrates the important themes of this book: the shades of gray found between dark and light; the capacity that all beings have for both selfishness and caring; and how you are as beautiful, smart, caring, good, or evil as you believe yourself to be.

This well written book is the first in a trilogy filled with vivid descriptions, scintillating dialogue, and lessons applicable to all ages. I highly recommend it to all, despite the young audience it is directed towards.



Courtesy of Soman Chainani

THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD AND EVIL FOLLOWS Sophie and Agatha, best friends, as they are separated into unlikely magical schools.

BEER REVIEW

World-famous beer brew delivers taste of Oktober

Chris Leong
Senior Reviewer

FOUNDED IN 1810, OKTOBERFEST IS A 16-day folk festival that runs annually from late September to early October. In Munich, where it originated, the event is host to 14 large tents and 20 smaller tents, with a huge variety of amusement park rides, traditional foods, and vendor stalls. And what would this German event be without its self-named drink of choice, the Oktoberfest beer? Over six million people attend and are served over 7.7 million liters of this beer every year. The festival is nearing its end, so I have decided to review Paulaner's Oktoberfest Märzen beer.

When I poured the beer into a pint glass, I noticed its clear hue and amber color, and after holding it up to the light, I noticed an appealing golden tint. A small head formed at the top when it was initially poured and persisted for a couple of minutes. Swirling the glass around, I caught sweet and toasty notes, results of the prepared malts in the beer. I took a sip and let the balanced, crisp

notes pervade my mouth. Just like its smell, it had a malty and toasty taste with a hint of sweet. Rolling the festive beer over my tongue, I felt light carbonation with a smooth texture. Man, this is something I feel I could drink easily and in large quantities. I've sampled my fair share of craft beers and not-so-craft beers and this Oktoberfest Märzen is something special; nothing else quite hits the taste buds in the same way.

Overall, this beer is fantastic. The Oktoberfest beer has a significant amount of history behind it and I wish that sometime in my life, I'll be able to experience it on tap, in person. Knowing the history and traditions behind the beer kind of makes me wish I were there, eating some quality wurst with other backpackers in a loud, crowded Bavarian biergarten. But for now, I've got this fantastic snapshot in a bottle that I can share with my friends here at RPI.

Chris' rating: 4.25/5



Courtesy of Serendipity Catering

OKTOBERFEST BRINGS OUT a cultural staple in the special Paulaner's Oktoberfest Märzen beer.

Email: Professional writing is valuable

From **Page 12**

to coordinating club events, to sharing valuable pieces of information. Amongst this jumble stand the highly important career emails. Realistically, not all emails are created equal and these in particular need to be treated with the utmost care. There are millions of articles on how to write a professional email but they all come down to the same two points: be respectful and remember who you are talking to.

Whether you are introducing yourself to a potential business partner, a recruiter, or an investor, some consideration needs to be given to the formulation of that email. This is where the real application comes into play. What is your relationship with the person? How would they react to a jumble of text-speak and mixed capitalization? (Hint: not favorably.) Understanding these things will set you well on your way to success. Additionally, respect the person and their time. Long-winded emails are almost as bad as abbreviation-littered ones. Be concise and if they want more information, let them ask for it. Remember, they are the ones with the power to invest in you with money, time, or a job/internship/co-op. It is up to you to make first impressions and you can only present yourself for the first time once so make it count!

Alumni: RPI puts on events for graduates

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there at first, but several more came to this informal networking event just as I had to leave to prepare for my own event. My event, the inaugural SustainAffinity Panel and Reception, was more fun than expected for me. I got to listen to the four RPI alum panelists whom I had selected to talk about their experiences working to further environmental sustainability. Their answers to my questions were much more thorough and insightful than I had anticipated.

Afterwards, I went to the tail end of the Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening of the Rensselaer Collegiate Store. I rarely used the bookstore when I was a student, but I was struck by two huge differences: the bright lights and the increased space. I then joined

friends in the Clubhouse Pub for dinner; afterwards, I went to the a cappella show in the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. The Rusty Pipes and Partial Credit performed and were great. I went back to the Rensselaer Union for the Sheer Idiocy show afterwards, which was full of hilarity as usual.

Reunion & Homecoming was a good weekend filled with friends I hadn't seen in a while, some since they had graduated several years before. There were almost too many events; I missed several events that I would have loved to attend, because something else was going on at the same time. Running an event was a great experience, and I'd advise anyone interested in starting an affinity group to talk with Alumni Relations about doing so, and to host an event next year!

ALBUM REVIEW

Electronic artist drops hard-hitting LP

Shane O'Brien
Senior Reviewer

WITH SOME OF THE BEST PRODUCED drums and most outstanding vocals in recent memory, *Occult Classic* is certainly one of the best and hardest hitting electronic albums of the year. *Occult Classic* is Jake Stanczak's first full Long Play since he unveiled his stage name Kill The Noise in 2007, and it certainly doesn't disappoint. Stanczak hits the listener hard with brilliant sound distortion and drum patterns that are a joy to both listen and dance to. However, some of my most anticipated songs on the album fell a bit flat, as several collaborations struggled to be anything more than mere novelties.

The album starts off extremely well with the hit "Kill It 4 The Kids (feat. AWOLNATION & Rock City)". The track doesn't wait more than a few seconds before the listener is smacked with a repetitive yet catchy vocal by AWOLNATION's Aaron Bruno and an aggressive liquid bass. The second drop especially is undeniably fun to dance to; I could definitely see it playing well at an electronic music concert. The first song on *Occult Classic* is one that I'll be listening to for several months.

Stanczak's first LP as Kill The Noise, however, falls a bit flat near the middle of the listen. Two of the

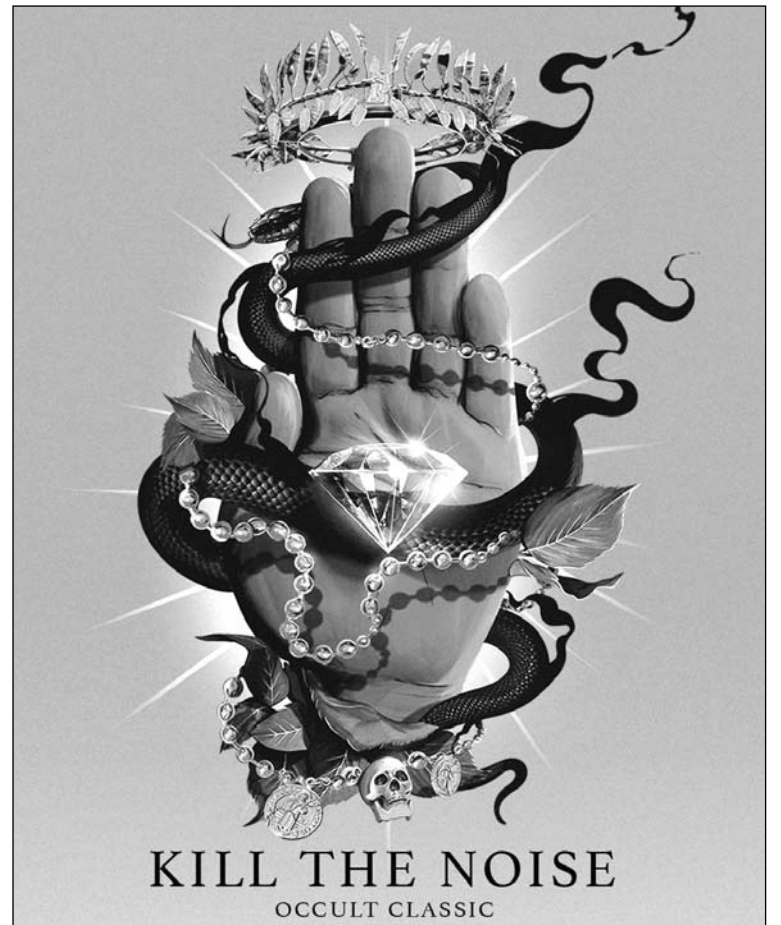
collaborations I was most looking forward to, "I Do Coke (feat. Feed Me)" and "Dolphins On Wheels (feat. Dillon Francis)", just didn't live up to what they could have been. Although they were fun gimmicks, the tracks failed to warrant more than a play or two. The vocals and sound effects within them, although quite funny, weren't enough to set them apart from the myriad of other electronic songs in today's scene.

Where *Occult Classic* really shines is in its last three tracks. The concluding songs, "Lose Ya Love," "Spitfire Riddim (feat. twoton)," and "All In My Head (feat. AWOLNATION)," all exemplify the best dance floor bass music in today's scene. The first of the three, "Lose Ya Love," exclusively a Kill The Noise track, perfectly combines screeching melodies and insane vocals to make one of the best electro/dubstep tracks I've heard in years. Very reminiscent of Skrillex, the owner of the label this album was released on, this track does not disappoint.

The following track, "Spitfire Riddim (feat. twoton)", takes the listener by surprise right from the start. It jumps right into a reggae feel that is similar to that of a Major Lazer song. Then, at 25 seconds in, some drums hop in and suddenly the listener

is assaulted with frightening vocals and vicious sounds. By the second drop, the pace of the song picks up and it takes the listener on a ride like no other. To conclude the trilogy is the second AWOLNATION collaboration of the album. With more beautifully crafted and edited Aaron Bruno vocals and sound engineering, "All In My Head (feat. AWOLNATION)" is perhaps the most audibly pleasing track on the LP. The last minute of the song beautifully fades out to complete the album in fantastic fashion.

Overall, I was very satisfied with Stanczak's first full LP release. Typically, heavy bass and high intensity albums struggle to have a cohesive feel throughout, but such is not the case for *Occult Classic*. *Occult Classic* stayed strong on its daring drum patterns and absolutely stunning vocals throughout while continuing to give each song individuality. Perhaps my biggest gripe of the album would be the gimmicky songs that just didn't live up to what they could have been. Seeing a collaboration with both Feed Me and Dillon Francis on the track list perhaps gave me more excitement than actually listening to the tracks. Although they weren't bad songs through



Courtesy of Kill the Noise

KILL THE NOISE'S FIRST ALBUM HIT hard with blaring vocals, daring drum patterns and a hint of eccentricity. It drops October 9.

and through, they weren't good enough to warrant more attention once the gimmick wore off. Despite this downfall, *Occult Classic*, Jake Stanczak's first studio album under the moniker Kill The Noise, is in

the conversation for the best electronic album of this year.

Shane's rating: 8/10

EVENT REVIEW

Alumni return to campus for jam-packed weekend

Elizabeth Anderson
A Special to The Poly

IF YOU'RE A FRESHMAN OR A SOPHOMORE, ALUMNI Weekend is probably barely on your radar. If you're a junior or a senior, this past weekend was probably a fun time to see your friends who have graduated. If you're an alumnus like myself, then you spent the weekend catching up with friends and going to events. My Saturday especially was filled with over 12 hours of events.

Saturday morning, I went to the NASA Program with NASA Administrator Charles F. Bolden and Reid Wiseman '97. President Shirley Ann Jackson moderated, and it was really quite a fascinating discussion. Bolden said that visiting RPI helped him realize how very important and big the recent discovery of water on Mars is. Wiseman and Bolden also talked at length about the changes the human body faces during extended periods

of time in space. Bolden said he felt that being in space made him realize how small and interconnected Earth is. On the International Space Station, Bolden once saw a dust storm from Africa that was blowing into South America. He said that being on the ISS also helped him realize how much of the Earth is water. I was able to ask Bolden how they were translating technologies used on spacecraft to reduce energy and water use in civilian life. Bolden explained that they were working with the West Coast to fund how to conserve water and fight fires.

Next, I went up to East Campus Athletic Village for FanFest. There was a great deal of free food, but it was also noisy and busy. I was able to find a good number of people I knew and got to briefly catch up with them. Then, I went down to the Rensselaer Union for the LGBT Affinity Alumni and Student Reception. Only a few people were

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Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

PRESIDENT JACKSON JOINS alumni from the classes of '45 and '65 at the weekend football game.

Martian: New film filled with quality science, comedy

From **Page 12**

portrayed NASA chief quite well, always visibly struggling with science versus public image. I felt that the dynamic of the Ares 3 crew was great, combining the humor of Rick Martinez, played by Michael Peña, and the military stoicism of Melissa Lewis, played by Chastain. Damon did a superb job becoming the character of Mark Watney, combining his technical know-how with a stick-it-to-the-man attitude necessary to survive alone on a hostile alien planet.

I was also pleased with how they handled explaining his process. The movie could very easily have been Damon monologuing over clips of him working, which would have led to an extremely boring movie. Instead, Ridley Scott sparingly used monologues and, to the delight of high school English teachers around the world, showed the work instead of telling us about it.

I only truly have two complaints about this film. The first is that I would have liked to see a bit more science being done. The entire premise is that Watney needs to "science the shit out of it" to survive, and yet the actual science was only lightly touched on. I get that a big budget film can't go deep into the science of taking fecal matter and using it to sustain life, but I was left wanting more.

Small spoiler alert warning before you read on. The fact that the romance between Chris Beck and Beth Johanson was thrown in the last ten minutes of the movie appalled me. Yes, it was mentioned in the book, but up until that point there was absolutely no context at all for their relationship. The entire romance was literally a kiss on the helmet of Beck's spacesuit. I'm already not a fan of throwing in unneeded romance to appeal to certain crowds, but this was just bad. I would have cut it completely.

Would I recommend *The Martian*? Yes, I definitely would. I would tell you to watch this movie and then, if you enjoyed the technical science and space exploration, I would strongly encourage you to read the book by Andy Weir. For a two hour movie, I thought they covered everything quite well, and it turned into a great film. However, for those craving the science, I recommend you pick up the book.

Jack's rating: 9/10

Features

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

PODCAST REVIEW

Listeners drawn into mysterious murder

Nathan Dorer
Staff Reviewer

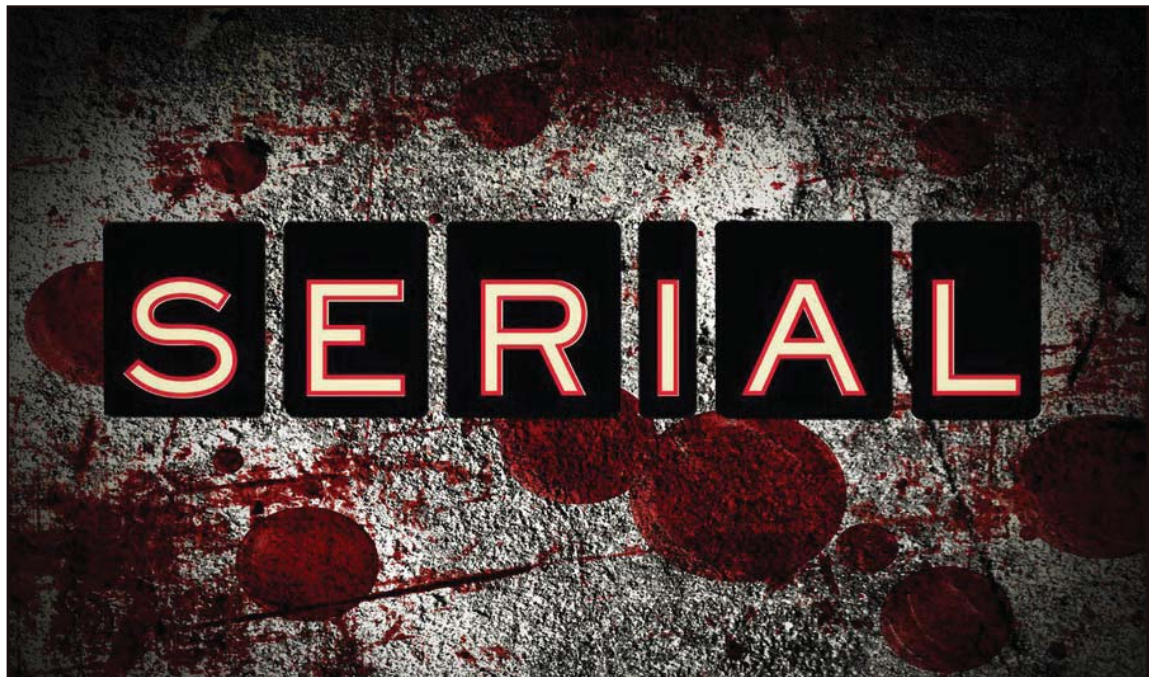
AS THE SENSATIONAL PODCAST *SERIAL* begins, the show's host, Sarah Koenig, poses an intriguing question: could you, as a listener, recall a day in your life six weeks back? Or, more specifically, could you recall exactly where you were for 21 minutes after school?

In the inaugural season of the podcast, Koenig explores these questions with painful scrutiny for Adnan Syed, a Baltimore teen accused of murder in the late 1990s. Syed was sentenced to life in prison following the disappearance of his ex-girlfriend Hae Min Lee in February 1999. Koenig battles with two contrasting images of Adnan: the community golden child and the vengeful victim of a high school breakup. Ultimately, the prosecution managed to paint Syed as the latter, with the entirety of their case resting on the fact that he could not account for the aforementioned 21 minutes.

The fundamental testimony used by the prosecution came from Syed's acquaintance, Jay Wilds, who occasionally sold marijuana to Syed. Wilds testified that, on the day of Lee's murder, he received a phone call from Syed in

which he was told to assist Syed in burying the body. Wilds outwardly held the opposite image of Syed; he was known to be involved with drugs, frequently skipped class, and was generally seen as a troublemaker in the community he grew up in. However, Wilds was able to lead law enforcement officers to Hae's then-missing car, and his testimony aligned with facts that had been established but not released. But, the question remains as to whether Wilds would be a reliable source—it's his word against Syed's.

Koenig's piece becomes a careful presentation of the interesting, and seemingly contradictory, information on the case: one girl who claims to have seen Syed at the library at the time when he was supposed to be murdering Hae, a series of phone calls that indicate the location of Syed's cell phone on the day of the murder, and several students who claimed to have heard Syed asking Lee for a ride home on the day of the murder. Through the 12 episodes of the podcast, Koenig approaches the evidence with the same cautious objectivity; she presents the information with a calculated portrayal of the evidence and a



Courtesy of Mashable

POPULAR PODCAST *SERIAL* GUIDES listeners through the twisting details of a 1990s murder case.

charming, quick, and intelligent personal interpretation of it.

The entire radio show gained a massive following; who doesn't want to play detective? Who doesn't secretly hope that they'll find the one disjoint in logic that will condemn or free Adnan Syed? Koenig has carefully crafted a piece that allows the listener to take an active role in something

as large as a murder case and the immense following base she has developed is a testament to that. According to the *New York Times*, *Serial* was downloaded nearly 5 million times, and, on average, 1.5 million listeners took advantage of Koenig's broadcasts.

At the end of the broadcast, *Serial* doesn't have a clear answer as to whether Adnan Syed

murdered Hae Min Lee—and it's not supposed to. Sarah Koenig has created a piece that appeals to the listener's innate sense of self-righteousness, but doesn't give any conclusions. Maybe someday one of those 5 million listeners will be able to free Syed, but until then, *Serial* will simply be an example of novel reporting and a brilliant idea.

MOVIE REVIEW

Sci-fi takes turn into humor

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

LEAVE IT TO NASA TO PULL SOMETHING LIKE THIS. Seriously, they discover liquid water on Mars and *less than a week later* they've already got a guy stranded up there. I mean how does that even happen?

Everyone around me is saying "bring him home!" but I have my doubts. I saw *Interstellar* a few months ago, and I'm pretty sure this is not the guy we want to be bringing home. It's Dr. Mann! He was evil in *Interstellar*! Doesn't anyone remember that he tried to kill Cooper?

All jokes aside, I was psyched to see *The Martian*. I had read the book over the summer and it was 370 pages of nerdy humor, which I loved. I was excited to see how a book described as "that scene from

Apollo 13 where they have to fit a square air filter in a round hole" would transition to the screen.

My first impression of the film was that it was absolutely, stunningly beautiful. Whoever was in charge of the sets, graphics, and special effects hit this one out of the park. Mars itself was wonderful and terrifying, perfect for an alien planet. The Mars Ascent Vehicle and the Habitation Module were both everything I could want in a Martian home. I had these impressions throughout the entire movie and was always looking forward to the next piece of space-age tech they would show off.

I thought that the movie was well cast, despite Matt Damon and Jessica Chastain playing similar roles in another recent space movie. Jeff Daniels

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Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

MATT DAMON STARS as Mark Watney, the stranded scientist, in the sci-fi adaptation of *The Martian*.

SEVERINO CENTER

Learning to write masterful emails

Andrew Rainville

A Special to The Poly

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD, NETWORKING AND CONNECTIONS ARE A LARGE part of what will help make you successful. Introductions are the currency of this business world. Say you are networking and someone offers to introduce you to an acquaintance of theirs. Great! If, after 24 hours, you don't hear from them, just send a friendly email to the person saying how nice it was to meet them and thanking them for their offer to connect you and their acquaintance. Not only will this show that you appreciate their offer but it will also serve as a subtle reminder.

Now, you get the email introducing you to their acquaintance. What comes next? Reply to all so the introducer sees that you promptly acted on their generous gesture. Thank them in the first line and then present yourself to their acquaintance. Tell them about yourself and your objective in a succinct manner. Respect their time and offer to buy them a cup of coffee if they have 15 minutes to meet with you. This varies situation to situation, but all of this applies to recruiters from the career fair, too.

Since the career fair is over and (hopefully) you've made contact with a few companies, be smart with the next steps. Once you've been introduced, that does not give permission to launch into "kthksbai" and "roflmao." Maintaining your professional self is critical, as ignoring these small details is enough to topple an employment opportunity or future business relationship.

In regards to "ty 4 ur help," this odd-looking "statement" is the product of our ever-quickening society in which we look for shortcuts to help us move on to the next task. When it comes down to it, typing out "thank you for your help," takes an extra second or two but goes a long way in building relationships. It seems as though there is a new BuzzFeed-esque list every day that shows the deterioration of our communication standards. I'm not saying that text-speak isn't okay, because it is, just in the right situation. Some emails need to be more professional where it wouldn't hurt to dust off the elementary school grammar skills.

We all have emails going in and out every day, sometimes by the hundreds. They can be anything from homework questions,

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