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SUMMER ARCH

Arch elicits strong response

Members of the Senior Board
The Rensselaer Polytechnic

RENSSELAER ANNOUNCED THE Summer Arch program last Thursday, which will eventually require rising juniors to live at RPI during the summer and have them go on a co-op or similar internship during their fall or spring semester. Students and alumni expressed their reactions across social media with mixed feelings. Some felt that this would be a great opportunity for students to have real world experience, while others questioned its implementation and effect on non-academic activities.

The Polytechnic reached out to students to hear their thoughts and opinions on Summer Arch. A student from the Class of 2017 who wishes to remain anonymous said that Summer Arch “is a great business move for RPI [but] how will this affect clubs? Sports? Greek Life?” Junior year is an important time for the non-academic aspect of the student experience. Jeremy Feldman '16 spoke to this, saying “the away semester separates juniors from the club at the time they need to learn about club operations to develop into the senior leadership of the club. This robs the clubs of the skilled senior leaders that they need to succeed. Club leadership also often comes from the junior class and the mandatory away semester robs clubs of



Courtesy of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

MANY STUDENTS HAVE VOICED their concerns and ideas about the new Summer Arch program.

those vital leaders.”

Alumnus and former Student Life Committee chair Lexi Rindone '15 explained that “summer internships or research opportunities can be essential for defining students’ career paths.” Rindone was able to get into a competitive PhD program because of experience she

got through the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates. “Summer Arch would inhibit students from opportunities like REUs since they are only offered in the summer. Without providing students equivalent or better opportunities during the academic year, Summer

Arch would become detrimental to students’ personal development by limiting their ability to expand their experiences beyond the Rensselaer campus.” The Summer Arch would need to offer lucrative opportunities to compete with what students can find elsewhere.

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WEIRD OFF THE WIRE

Crime on the rise across Bangkok

Woman swallows jewel; militants bomb shrine



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

TOURISTS FLOCK to shrine in Bangkok, Thailand for spiritual and cultural enrichment.

Elisabeth Ryan
Staff Reporter

NOT EVEN INSPECTOR CLOUSEAU COULD HAVE predicted the actions of this jewel thief. On Sunday, September 13, in Bangkok, Thailand, a Chinese woman had a six-carat diamond, worth \$300,000, surgically removed from her

intestines. According to sources of the BBC, the woman was thought to have exchanged this gem with a fake at a jewelry fair on Thursday. An airport arrest, hospital x-ray, and an attempt with laxatives later, authorities decided to have the woman undergo surgery. Not to alarm any sympathizers, the surgery

was a brief twelve minutes and our “heistress” is on her way to recovery.

While this seems like a scene from a 1960s comedic detective series, organized crime is a serious and rising issue in Thailand. Gangs operating at a high level of crime often control and corrupt the local government. These groups are called *chao pho*, which ironically translates to “godfather,” and act as a mafia. According to the Thai authorities, 39 of Thailand’s 76 provinces are experiencing the tumult of the local *chao pho*.

Whether or not this woman was a part of such an organization remains to be seen and speculated upon. The likelihood is low, however, due to the regularity of pick-pocketing and snatching in Thailand. On the other hand, beyond the statistical information, this far-fetched scene makes for a good Bond film.

Crime is a rather broad subject with multiple sub-groups: violence, theft, human-trafficking, smuggling, prostitution, and terrorism. However, the petty pilfering of jewelry pales in comparison to the abject destruction of

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Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

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STUDENT SENATE

New R&E chair appointed, Summer Arch discussed

David Raab
Staff Reporter

THE MEETING STARTED OFF WITH THE appointment of Victoria Tong '16 to chair the Senate Rules & Elections Committee. Following questions about the level of time commitment and her reasons for applying to be chair, the Senate voted unanimously to approve the appointment. Former chair and current senator Paul Ilori '17 will now be the Co-Chair of the R&E Committee.

Immediately after the appointment of Tong, the Senate discussed the Freshmen Elections Handbook for the Class of 2019. Grand Marshall Marcus Flowers '16 reminded the Senate that the handbook needed to be approved in order for freshmen to be elected to positions within the Senate and other student government bodies on campus. The handbook details the requirements and timeline of the fall freshmen elections this year. Starting September 22, there will be a series of information sessions run by R&E for all freshmen interested running for positions. It was emphasized that all political party members and campaign managers also have to be freshmen.

It was also mentioned that starting with this election, all political party funds have to go towards materials that promote all members of the party equally. Ilori detailed how the party system has been abused in the past by Grand

Marshall and President of the Rensselaer Union candidates in order to increase their campaign budgets above the officially allowed limits for their individual campaigns. Ilori said that the R&E would rather increase spending limits for PU and GM as opposed to letting the former political party practices continue. Some Senators also brought up concerns that any group of three members of the Union can bring formal complaints before the R&E and Ilori responded that the committee has discretion on which complaints it investigates. According to Ilori, that freedom prevents frivolous or malicious complaints from wasting the time of the RnE. Ultimately, the Senate approved the elections handbook and it is available here: <http://poly.news/s/94sdn>.

The Locked Tuition petition, which the Senate tabled last week so they could conduct background research, was discussed again. Flowers mentioned that he found that most colleges don't have a similar program and the ones who do are mostly public institutions who would not be peer institutes to Rensselaer. Justin Etzine '18 wanted to amend the original motion from last week, which was to drop the petition because it falls outside the jurisdiction of the Senate, and to instead notify administration that there would be student support of the concept of locked tuition. Questions were raised from several Senators about the

effectiveness of that course of action and Etzine's amendment ultimately failed. Ilori then motioned that the petition be referred to the Student Life Committee of the Senate to be furthered examined. Several Senators brought up concerns that such an action would be seen as punting it to committee to die of old age. Thomas Alappat '17 brought up the fact that RPI is a private institution and that it relies on tuition for a significant part of its budget. Jessica Krajewski '16 brought up concerns that the SLC already has several projects this semester and that talks about locked tuition have come up in the past but have never been taken seriously by RPI. Eventually, a motion to pass the Locked Tuition petition onto the SLC passed by a slim margin (9-7-5).

Andrew Sudano '17 then brought before the Senate the idea of creating a joint committee with the Union Executive Board to look into the Student Activity Fee. The Student Activity Fee task force is meant to look into the financial processes of the Union and look for fiscal efficiencies that could be introduced. Sudano explained that he wanted to be joint between the Senate and the E-Board because the Senate is meant to represent the student voice on life at RPI. All RPI students pay the activity fee so the work of this new committee ultimately impacts all students, according to Sudano. Michael Han '16 had questions about the exact role of the Senate in this committee and didn't see the need for the Senate to be involved. Graduate Senator Michael Caiola wanted to make sure that the Graduate Council was also involved in the work of this committee and Sudano personally assured him that their voice would be valued and sought.

A motion to remove the GM voting powers on the R&E was brought up next. Ilori explained that under the current rules that the GM is an ex-officio voting member of all Senate committees. He brought to light the inherent conflict of interest that would result if the Grand Marshall was ever the subject of inquiry of R&E. Theoretically, the GM would be able to vote on rulings and sanctions for himself. A brief debate then ensued about the Senate having the constitutional power to strip the Grand Marshall of voting, but it was eventually decided that it was within the Senate's

power. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded with a discussion about how the Senate will respond to the announcement about RPI's new Summer Arch program. The Summer Arch is a new initiative in which students would spend the summer between sophomore and junior year taking 16 credits. Students then have to take off either the fall semester or spring semester of their junior year. Options for what to do during the semester off include co-ops, internships, and community service. Flowers compared the Summer Arch program to the current programs at Northeastern University and Dartmouth University. Flowers also told the Senate that he has been personally assured by several top administrators that student input will be valued in working out the exact details of this program. The role of the Senate, according to Flowers, is to amalgamate all student voices on the issue and bring forward to administration a cohesive and polished opinion. He said "raging and yelling" will accomplish nothing and the Senate has a responsibility to future students to make sure this program is implemented in a way that makes sense. RPI administration will be forming four committees (Academics, Student Life, Infrastructure, and the Semester Away) to flesh out the details of the program and there are slots on all four committees for students.

Naturally, several Senators had several questions about the program. Jennifer Friedberg '18 asked whether students would have to pay tuition while away and Flowers responded by saying that under the current set of plans that students would not have to. Bill Mehner '16 asked how long the summer courses would be and Flowers responded that they would be 15 weeks long (the same length of a typical semester right now). Graduate student Jennifer Church asked how Reserve Officers' Training Corps would be affected by being forced to attend classes over the summer. Flowers responded that the administrative Semester Away committee would be charged with that issue in particular. Flowers wrapped up the discussion by emphasizing that the Senate really needs help from all students in order to put together the best response for administration.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

VICTORIA TONG '16 SPEAKS about qualifications before her confirmation vote.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E-Board discusses equipment, capsules

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION EXECUTIVE Board met for the first time this semester last Thursday to discuss Union Performance and Activities Committee Lights and extra money from the dues of the Class of 2015.

The first agenda item was one that Nick Dvorak '16 brought to the E-Board. At the end of the last semester, UPAC Lights ordered new cable ramps which protect the large wires from foot and vehicle traffic. Because UPAC Lights orders equipment frequently throughout the year, different members often go to pick it up from Martha Mcelligott's office, where the packages are delivered. For this particular shipment, someone not from UPAC Lights went into the office and took the equipment without signing out the package. Alex Kelleher '17, the equipment chair for UPAC Lights, said he asked other equipment-heavy clubs, like RPI TV, WRPI, and the other UPAC groups if they had mistakenly took their package to no avail.

Jeremy Feldman '16 asked if the \$510 needed to purchase new

cable ramps would come from contingencies or UPAC's budget. Kelleher said he would like it to come from contingencies. Gregory Bartell '17 made the point that up until the shipment is in the hands of a club member, it is the Union's responsibility to store and protect it. Shannon McComb '18 asked how a situation like this could be prevented in the future. Kelleher suggested creating an approved list of officers who would be the only ones allowed to collect packages. Ines Roman '16 suggested that clubs should not be permitted to order items over the summer, when fewer people are around to notice someone out of place. Conrad Mossel '17 asked about the scenario where the old set of ramps is found after purchasing a new set, but Kelleher felt it was unlikely the old set would be found; the E-Board felt they would deal with that situation if it arose. In the end the E-Board passed a motion 14-0-1 to spend \$510 from contingencies to purchase new cable ramps for UPAC Lights.

Next on the agenda was a proposal from the previous President



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

E-BOARD REPRESENTATIVES CONSIDER possible locations for the missing lighting equipment.

of the Union Erin Amarello '15. The Class of 2015 has \$2200 dollars remaining from their class dues. As an alumni officer, Amarello suggested that they buy a time capsule and put it on display in the Union and was seeking E-Board approval. Feldman pointed out that since the dues were levied by the Class

of 2015, it makes sense that they should be put to use for what the Class of 2015 sees fit. Mossel felt like a time capsule is too close to a class gift, and reminded the E-Board that the dues are meant to be used on activities for the class. Andrew Sudano '17 suggested that the discussion be tabled for the time being, and that the Class

of 2015 would need to submit a more concrete proposal to review before proceeding. The rest of the E-Board agreed.

Committee reports reminded members of meeting times and encouraged E-Board members and students to participate. With that, the first E-Board meeting of the semester came to a close.

Arch: New RPI program

From **Page 1**

Executive Board representative Gregory Bartell '17 had a more negative view of Summer Arch, dismissing any student input this late into the program's development as an appeasement strategy. "Asking for student direction at this stage of development serves only to belie its true nature as a fully-fleshed out, soon-to-be-mandatory requirement of all future RPI students. Had the program been presented as a new optional opportunity for students, it could have been heartily embraced by the community; instead it is yet another wedge driving apart students, faculty, and administrators."

Hannah Rabinowitz '18 feels a similar sentiment as Bartell. "I think it is absolutely ridiculous," she said. "Although it will not ever affect me, the entire 'program' sounds like a huge scam to require students to spend more money at RPI." This has the potential to cause issues for students who rely on scholarship, as their scholarship money might not pay for summer classes. Rabinowitz also believes that there will be a lack of interest in coming to RPI, as similar schools have a more flexible co-op program. A mandatory program puts constraints on when and what students can do.

Feelings of Summer Arch are mixed among the student body. Many students see the great potential that a co-op program would have for students. Having a longer block of time to dedicate to an internship, study abroad experience, or community service trip would work towards the Institute's goal of preparing students to meet the multifaceted challenges of the 21st century. However, many students feel that the program will be implemented in a way that would be detrimental to the student experience. Similar programs are popular at other engineering schools and are often huge selling points for the schools. It is safe to say members of the community, alumni, and reporters of *The Polytechnic* would like to see a more complete plan from the administration before passing judgement on Summer Arch.

Crime: Uighur group suspect in shrine attack

From **Page 1**

a shrine in Bangkok, for which the Thai authorities are blaming Uighur militants. Most of us have never heard of the Uighur, a minority ethnic group from western China. While this bombing is nearly a month old, only recently have the local police been able to pin the culprits as Uighur. The motive behind the crime is said to be revenge against Thailand for forced repatriation, or deportation, of Uighur refugees.

Historically, this would be the first attack outside of China the Uighur have

committed. Whether or not the Uighur were the perpetrators, the result remains the same: 20 individuals were killed at the bombing, most of Chinese citizenship. Speculation on the situation rises as the style of crimes committed by the Uighur are re-evaluated. Frequently enough, the Uighur have attacked with knives in sporadic, gang-like occurrences, rather than organized terror strikes. Hard evidence and explanations from the Thai authorities were scarce, and their public relations were not forthcoming with information

concerning the event.

To say that the supposed Uighur attack has any relation to the aforementioned *chao pho* would be extreme lateral thinking on the part of readers. Be that as it may, the crime in Thailand—especially Bangkok—is affecting the quality of life of its citizens, and the militant government is taking measures to cover up much of it in effort to preserve the lucrative tourist business.

From jewel thieves to terrorists, it seems Bangkok's crime situation is dire, and local government, as well as international government, is creating no positive effect.

UNION AFFILIATED CLUB

RPI Cru links article, sparks internet debate

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

A THREAD CREATED ON THE RPI SUBREDDIT early Tuesday morning included details about a Rensselaer Union-affiliated group's Facebook post, and the post is causing controversy among students.

A post on the Facebook page of RPI Cru, a local chapter of the organization "committed to helping take the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations," linked to an arguably controversial article written by John Wesley Reid, entitled "5 Trends Christian Millennials MUST STOP Doing." The article details "tolerance" as the first thing that Christian millennials should stop, saying it "flies in the face of the gospel because it is apathetic both to brokenness and holiness."

The Polytechnic reached out to the officers of RPI Cru about the post, the Reddit thread, and the ensuing discussion.

"In general, when I read the article the overarching message I took from it was that Christians shouldn't sacrifice what they believe just for the sake of staying relevant to society," said Cru Vice President Lauren

Angelini '16 "However, I didn't like how the author went about making his point and definitely disagreed with some of the examples he chose to bring up."

Cru President Jeremy Ang '16 said he "agree[s] that we as young Christians shouldn't be afraid to stand for beliefs that are rooted in love."

Ang went on to say, "We accept people as people regardless of their actions, political stances, sexual preference, favorite pizza flavor, whatever." Some Reddit users felt differently about the article, however. /u/TheExtremistModerate questioned if the article was written as satire, and /u/radi-antrasin simply said, "this is wrong."

The Cru officers said the article was posted to Facebook by "an advisor to student at RPI who works with Cru." The officers did not clarify or comment further.

"Cru represents a broad spectrum of individuals and spiritual journeys," said Angelini. "To say that everyone in Cru would agree with everything is impossible."

For more information about RPI Cru, visit <http://crurpi.com>.

EVENT

Fortune 50 leader offers helpful advice to students

Rex Hu
Staff Reporter

LAST WEEK, RPI RESIDENTS GATHERED IN the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center to listen to a speech delivered by Courtney Banghart, Head Coach of the Princeton Tigers Women's Basketball team. Last March, Fortune magazine included Banghart in its list of The World's 50 Greatest Leaders. This places her among the ranks of world-renowned individuals including Tim Cook, Taylor Swift, and Mark Zuckerberg. In fact, she is ranked 43—two places above Jimmy Fallon. Banghart started her college career at Dartmouth College as a psychology major, and had no idea at the time that her talents would carry her down a completely different path. She wrote her graduate thesis, however, on the subject of sports leadership, and at the same time she took on the role of women's basketball assistant coach at Dartmouth. Shortly after her graduation, she was hired at Princeton, where she turned a mediocre team into the best team among the Ivy League.

The premise of Banghart's speech was based on advice for how to take care of you, some of which is derived from Authentic Happiness. She says that a person is the conglomeration of the five people they spend the most time with. Her advice subscribes to some major points: college is a fertile ground, dive in; you have to find your zone of purpose, which is the overlap between what you're good at and what inspires you; how you present yourself is who you are; be kind, original, humorous, optimistic, and generous; focus on what's important to you; sleep before 3 am, be grateful that you're here (you can pay it forward by being someone's good one of five), and have grit—go out and

earn something while you're here at RPI. But no single piece of advice stood out above the rest. Instead, what makes Banghart such an impressive and inspirational figure is the sum of all these small things—the wisdom and advice that she has to offer—which are applicable to both an individual's and a leader's responsibilities. One small thing, for example, is that three people sneezed at the beginning of her speech, and each time she made sure to say "bless you." She never hesitates to give her all, whether she is coaching, giving a speech, or observing small acts of courtesy.

Towards the end, Banghart tied her speech together into one general message: a good leader takes care of themselves so that they can take care of others. She spoke at an exclusive dinner in New York for the 50 World's Greatest Leaders. Here's the plot twist: when she first received the phone call informing her that she was one of the World's Greatest Leaders, she thought it was a joke and suggested that they could talk about the award in detail over dinner. It wasn't until the lady on the phone said there actually would be a dinner in New York City that Banghart realized this was the real deal. She was asked to speak about the best life advice she had ever received, so naturally, she turned to her family for suggestions. After asking around, she realized it wasn't that she had ever gotten any particular life advice—it's that she had picked it up along the way. It was that life's about two things: who you are and who you help—and college is about those same two things, which is why Banghart's advice is so relevant. Her advice is so good, in fact, that she has been invited to speak at Fortune magazine's global event. However, she has yet to accept or decline the offer.

See **WEBSITE** for full article

INCIDENT BLOTTER

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTIGATOR TERRANCE BURNS

Wednesday, September 9

Barton Hall

Larceny: A bike was stolen from the Barton Hall bike rack. The lock securing the bike was broken and, therefore, the bike was not locked. The bike's owner put the lock around the bike to simulate the bike lock. The bike is lime green and has mirrors. A theft report was filed.

Friday, September 11

Heffner Alumni House Parking Lot

Burglary: A student reported a vehicular break-in between the hours of 8 pm and 6:30 am. The only item suspected stolen is \$5-\$10 in cash. No damage was done to the car or its windows. The owner believes that the locks were "jimmied," and then called back to add that a dremel tool and car emergency kit were taken from the trunk of the vehicle.

Crockett Hall

Fire Alarm: A fire alarm was activated in Crockett Hall and could not be reset. Fire Life Safety was contacted. Troy Fire Department reset the alarm.

Saturday, September 12

Crockett Hall

Injury: A student twisted an ankle earlier in the day and called to report swelling. The patient was transported to Samaritan Hospital by RPI Ambulance.

Sunday, September 13

Nugent Hall

Injury: A student slipped, fell, and possibly dislocated a shoulder, but was conscious, breathing, and alert. The patient was transported to Samaritan Hospital by RPIA.

Sports

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

SOCCER

Men's soccer continues undefeated streak

Joseph Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

RPI MEN'S SOCCER CHALKED UP TWO more wins this weekend to improve to a record of 5-0. The undefeated start is the Engineer's best since 2008.

Men's soccer played its first game of the four-team tournament on Friday against Stockton. The game started out slowly for both teams and the first shot on goal didn't occur until 15:33 in the first half from the leg of RPI sophomore midfielder Steven Collins. The shot was saved by Stockton goalie Bobby Varga. Later, in the 35th minute, Stockton University forward Chimaobi Ikwuagwu fired a shot on the Rensselaer goal, but sophomore goalie Ryan Nealon made a key save to keep it scoreless. Then, two minutes later, a second shot by Ikwuagwu careened off the post.

A foul on RPI inside the penalty area in the 40th minute allowed Stockton a penalty kick. Stockton back Clevon McPherson took advantage, drilling the ball past Nealon to give the Ospreys a 1-0 lead.

In the 58th minute, Rensselaer's luck changed for the better when McPherson was given a red card

and sent off for a violent tackle. Then, freshman midfielder Trevor McCaughey curled the subsequent free kick into the back of the Stockton net to tie the score at one. Later, Collins booted a corner kick into the Stockton box and senior back Paul Lentine headed the ball off of a defender into the Stockton net. The goal gave Rensselaer the lead with 25 minutes remaining.

Despite being down a man, Stockton managed a late rally that included six shots and two corner kicks. This time Nealon stood firm, sending back both shots that went his way and securing the win for RPI.

The next day, the Engineers faced off against William Paterson University in the winner's matchup of the tournament. In the 14th minute, Lentine looped a corner kick toward the Paterson goal and junior back Andrew Gondek thumped a header into the net to put the Engineers up one early.

Later, in the 33rd minute, Paterson earned a penalty kick. Nealon blocked the would-be equalizer, though, propelling the Engineers into halftime with a 1-0 edge.

Only 23 seconds into the second half, Paterson forward Jason Padilla launched a shot on Nealon,



Joseph Shen/The Polytechnic

THE ENGINEERS WON both games this past weekend, beating both Stockton and William Paterson University.

who once again preserved the lead. The shot by Padilla would be Paterson's last on goal in the contest. The Engineers subsequently padded their lead in the 73rd minute when junior midfielder Devon Baughen sprinted

ahead of the Paterson defense and kicked it past Pioneers goalie Mike Villegas.

The game ended in a 2-0 shutout for the Engineers, the fourth time they have held their opponent scoreless this season.

Next up for undefeated Rensselaer is a matchup with 3-1-1 Oneonta, Wednesday night at East Campus Stadium, and a second home game on Saturday against Potsdam.

CROSS COUNTRY

Engineers finish third in Saratoga Springs

Michael Baird
Staff Reporter

RENSSELAER JUNIOR MATERIALS SCIENCE ENGINEER AND MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY STANDOUT BEN FAZIO, showed his home course in Saratoga Springs, NY, who's boss on Saturday. He crossed over the finish line with a winning time of 18:51.5 for the 6K race, helping his team to a third place position out of 21 schools. Picking up where he left off last season with a second place finish in the Liberty League Championships and placing 26th in the National Collegiate Athletic Association National Championships, Fazio was named Liberty League Men's Cross Country Performer of the Week for Saturday's performance.

With six finishers in the top 15, St. Lawrence University attained the winning score of 33, followed by New York University with 47, then RPI with 99. Rensselaer's second finisher, senior and men's team co-captain Steven Hammar crossed in 17th place at 19:37.8 and was closely followed by junior Garrett Davis in 23rd place at 19:40.8. Trailing behind him was last week's top RPI runner, freshman Grant O'Connor, who took 28th at 19:49.6. Rounding out the top five was junior Matthew Ciccio in 30th place with a time of 19:52.5.

Continuing in the trend from last week's Ronald Stonitsch Invitational in Poughkeepsie, NY, the Rensselaer women's cross country team acquired another second place team victory for the season on Saturday. Although they had 22 points on Stevens Institute of Technology, who edged them out of victory last Saturday, St. Lawrence University clutched first place this time with 54:61 in the points despite RPI junior and women's co-captain Maddie Pery's performance. St. Lawrence also obtained first place last year at Saratoga.

First to finish for the RPI women in the 5K race was senior Shannon Trant in fourth place at 17:55.3. Behind her was sophomore Jamie Lord in fifth with 18:05.3. Maddie Dery came in eighth with 18:17.6, while senior Alexa Sakorafos and junior Allison Thayer placed 20th and 24th with 18:49.4 and 18:53.6 respectively.

Saturday will see the return of Rensselaer cross country to the course in New Gloucester, ME, at Pineland Farms where the Bates Super X-C Shootout will take place, hosted by the Bates College Bobcats. The men's 8K race, which will be the first of the season for RPI, will happen at 11 am, and the women's 5K will be at 11:45 am.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

JUNIOR COLLEEN FOWLER CHASES after the ball against Utica College last Saturday.

FIELD HOCKEY

Women's Field Hockey victory over the Pioneers

Joseph Saulsbery
Senior Staff Reporter

RENSSELAER FIELD HOCKEY WON 3-1 against visiting Utica College, scoring two of them in the second half. The win came on the heels of the team's first loss at Hamilton College on September 9, during which a late rally by the Engineers wasn't enough to erase the two-goal lead built early by the Hamilton Continentals.

Junior midfielder Colleen Fowler and sophomore attack

Megan Jones assisted each other's goals in the second half to lead RPI to victory. Fowler's goal came early in the second half to give the Engineers a 1-0 edge. Then, after a Utica goal in the 45th minute, a penalty corner by senior attack Angela Cascio in the 49th minute resulted in an open look for Jones, who put it away for the go-ahead score. The goal was Jones fifth in as many games this season.

Fifteen minutes later in the second half, sophomore

attack Jena Nawfel cemented the win for RPI with her second goal of the season.

Freshman goalie Rachel Kaufman stood tall for the Engineers, saving four of the five shots sent her way. On the Utica side, goalie Kells Casey also played well, saving seven of the 10 shots she faced.

The next games for Rensselaer are at home against Kean University and Keuka College this Saturday and Sunday at Harkness Field.

Events

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

WEDNESDAY September 16

The final club travel financial workshop will be held in the Rensselaer Union 3602. Every Union-funded club that travels must send their president and treasurer to one financial workshop. This will happen from 3–4 pm.

The Douglas Mercer '77 ECSE Lecture Series continues with Professor Jian Sun. His lecture is titled "Power Electronics for Future Energy Systems." It will be held in the Darrin Communications Center 324 from 3:30–5 pm. Refreshments will be served.

The Department of Physics, Applied Physics and Astronomy hosts Dr. Jinfeng Jia. His colloquium is titled "Majorana mode in the vortex core and single-layer FeSe on SrTiO₃ with a superconducting T_c above 100 K." This will be held in DCC 337 from 4–5 pm.

The School of Architecture presents Theodore Spyropoulos. He co-founded the New Media and Information Research initiative at the Architectural Association. He and his brother, Stephen, direct Minimaforms, an experiential architecture and design studio. This event will be held in the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center from 6–7 pm.

The Rensselaer Union puts on "Let's Talk: Debate vs. Dialogue vs. Discussion." This session, learn about key similarities and differences between three main communication styles and the drawbacks and benefits of each. It will be in the Union room 3202 from 6–7 pm.

THURSDAY September 17

RPI Ghost Tour Registration opens. Take a 90 minute guided walking tour of the lower campus while learning about the history of Rensselaer and the people who made it famous while possibly meeting a few spirited characters along the way. Register at <http://union.rpi.edu/node/680>.

EMPAC presents Flatform's "dotQuantum," a multimedia performance that manipulates moving image, programmed light, and objects to "see through" a static understanding of the world around us. It will be held in EMPAC Studio 1 from 7:30–9:30 pm and costs \$6 to attend.

The Rensselaer Union celebrates Constitution Day. Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. On September 17th, 1787 the delegates sent to the Constitutional Convention signed the Constitution. Celebrate with cake at the Rensselaer Student Union during lunch from 11:30 am–1:30 pm.

Dr. Mark Lewis presents "Dynamic Resource Management Policies for Parallel Queues with a Shared Pool of Servers." It will be held in Jonsson Engineering Center 3117 from 3–4 pm.

FRIDAY September 18

Dr. Manish Gupta gives a seminar titled "Data Analytics for Personalized Services and Transforming Lives." It will be held in Lally 104 from 4–5 pm.

The Capital District Printathon 2015 will be held at SUNY Poly at 5 pm. Listen to local experts in 3D printing technology share their knowledge via presentations starting at 5 pm on Friday, September 18th. Create a team and join the 24-hour 3D printing competition on Saturday. Or participate in a networking event featuring a variety of 3D printing companies on Sunday.

Union Programs & Activities Committee Cinema presents *San Andreas*. Screenings are at 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight in DCC 308. The cost is \$2.50.

SATURDAY September 19

The 20th Annual Run To Remember 5K starts at the East Campus Athletic Village at 8 am. All profits will go to the Wounded Warrior Project. Register online at <http://poly.news/s/y71q9> for \$25. You can also register for \$30 the day of the event.

Marketing workshops will be held in the Shelnutt Gallery from 10 am–noon. Review the tools and techniques for on-campus advertisement of student events.

UPAC Cinema presents *Gladiator*. Screenings are at 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight in DCC 308. The cost is \$2.50.

MONDAY September 21

The Biological Seminar Series presents graduate students Savanna Dorsey and Katherine Mezc. Their seminars are titled "The roles of Cln3 and Whi5 in cell size control" and "Localization of a Na⁺ binding site in the Na⁺-translocating NADH: ubiquinone oxidoreductase." It will be held in Bruggeman Conference Center in the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies from noon–1 pm. Refreshments will be served at 11:45 am.

The Class of 2017 Class Council invites the class of 2017 to the reveal event for the class ring. It will be held in EMPAC from 7–9 pm. Semi-formal dress is requested.

TUESDAY September 22

Chemistry and Chemical Biology Fall Seminar Series presents Professor Christopher Bowman. His seminar is titled "Clicking Polymers Together: Assembly of Complex Controlled Polymer Structures from Efficient Chemistries." It will take place in DCC 330 from 4–5 pm.

WEDNESDAY September 16

The Office of International Programs holds an information session for students who wish to learn more about the available international programs and opportunities. Students who want to study abroad in the spring 2016 semester are strongly encouraged to attend. It will be held in Academy Hall 3627 from 10–11 am.

The Center for Financial Studies presents Mr. Pankaj Patel and his seminar titled "Changes in Quantitative Investment." It will be held in the Pittsburgh Building room 4114 from 1–2 pm.

The Polytechnic will be hosting special elections in the Poly office on Sunday, September 27 at 4 pm.

SUDOKU

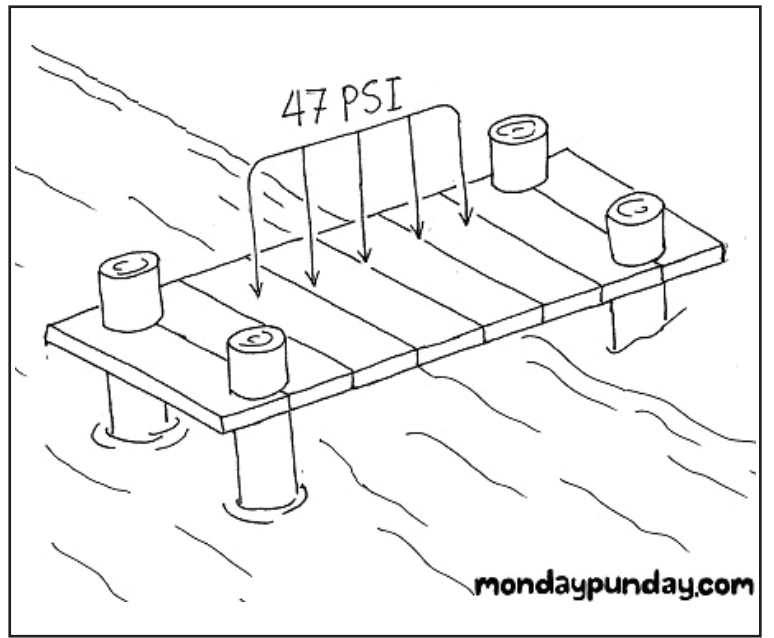
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		9	2			6	8	
6		8	9					5
	1		7					2

Previous Issue's Answers

6	4	3	8	7	9	1	5	2
8	1	7	2	4	5	6	9	3
5	9	2	6	3	1	8	4	7
9	5	4	7	8	2	3	1	6
7	8	6	5	1	3	4	2	9
2	3	1	4	9	6	7	8	5
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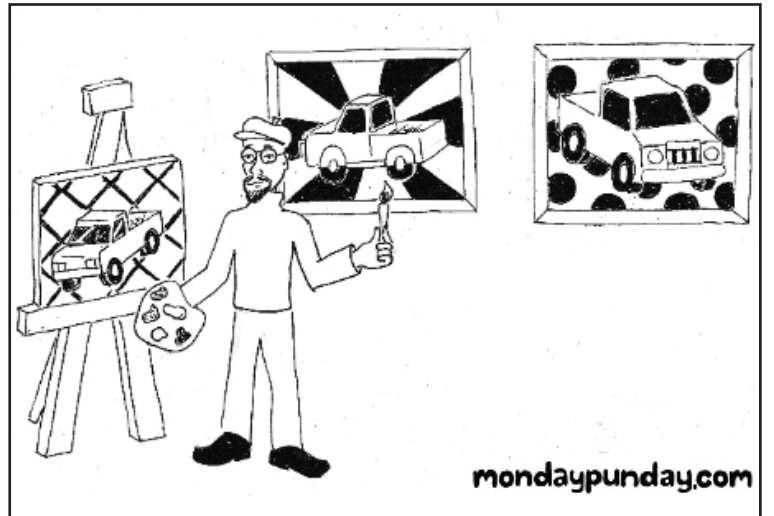
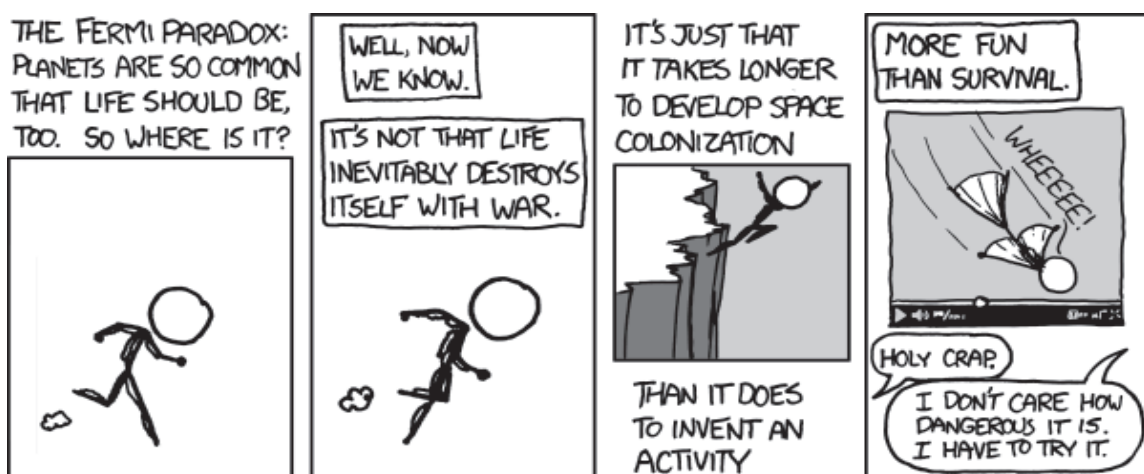
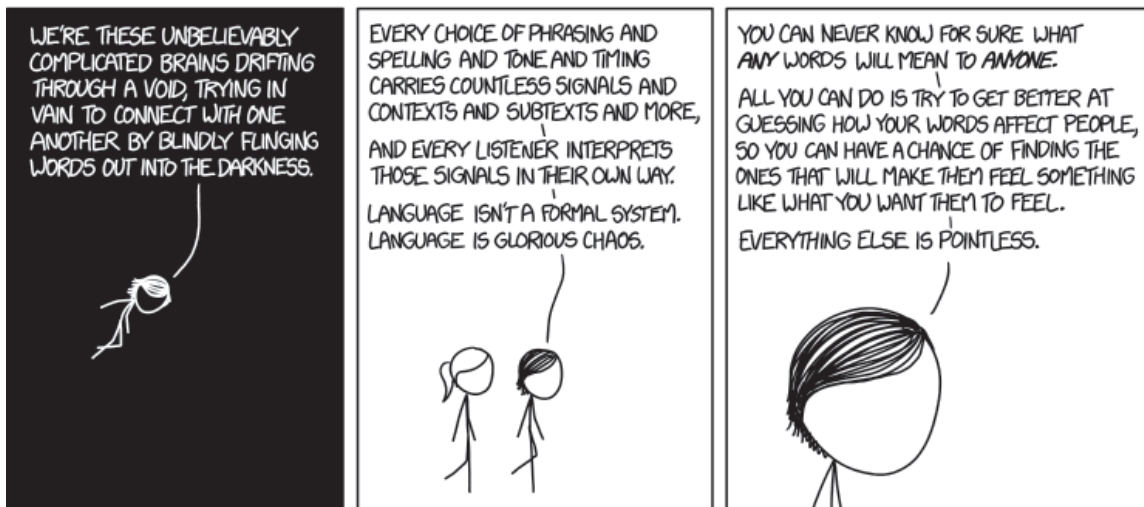
Fill in the grid so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 subsquare contains exactly one occurrence of the numbers 1 through 9.

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



XKCD

by Randall Munroe



CRYPTOQUOTE

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

“O djwqp, D rtp'w mnpw
hts eshj wt ldek w. Hts'zq
Cqvn npr Vkotq, wteqwkqz
hts'zq Ckotq npr qyqzhtpa
otyqj n ettr Ckotq.”

-Lnw Nuh

Adwvk Aqzlvw 2

UPAC CINEMA **UPAC CINEMA** **UPAC CINEMA**

SAN ANDREAS

Friday • September 18, 2015
7 pm, 9:30 pm, & Midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

GLADIATOR

Saturday • September 19, 2015
7 pm, 10 pm, & 1 am • DCC 308 • \$2.50

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

TOP TEN LIST

Top Ten reasons to miss class

- 10. Not feelin' it, Mr. Krabs
- 9. Fallen and can't get up
- 8. Antarctica-level blizzard
- 7. Daylight savings
- 6. Working at *The Poly*
- 5. Hittin' the gym
- 4. Meme-ing too hard
- 3. Burrito break
- 2. Class too far
- 1. Sleep

WORD FIND

by Shane O'Brien

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

Cereal

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| Apple Jacks | Crispix | Pops |
| Cap'n Crunch | Froot Loops | Raisin Bran |
| Cheerios | Frosted Flakes | Rice Krispies |
| Cocoa Puffs | Fruity Pebbles | Special K |
| Cookie Crisps | Kix | Trix |
| Corn Flakes | Lucky Charms | Wheaties |

ANSWERS

Here are the answers to last issue's cryptoquote and mondaypunday.

“The suit is the modern gentleman's armour. The Kingsmen are the new knights.”

-Harry Hart

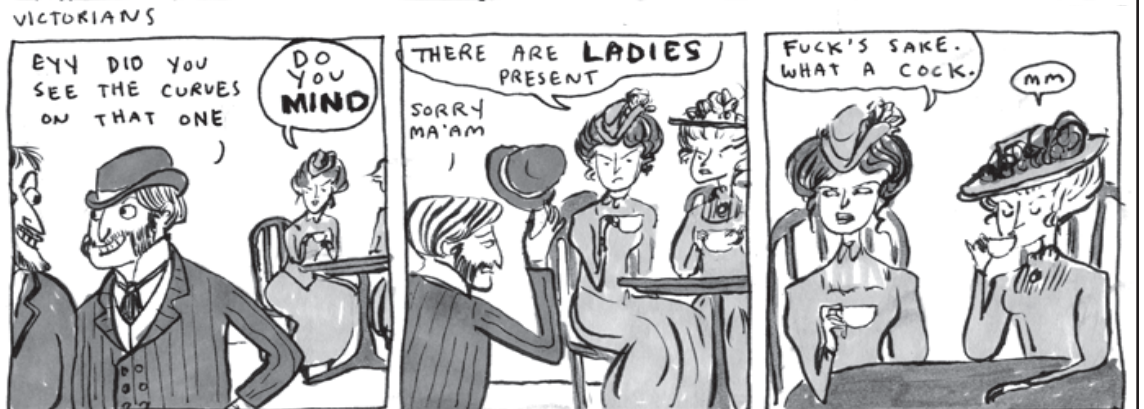
Kingsman: The Secret Service

mondaypunday answers:

- 1. Dane Cook
- 2. Pinky swear

HARK! A VAGRANT

by Kate Beaton



Editorial

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Students told to be “resilient”

Resilience has two meanings, the power or ability to return to the original form, position, etc., after being bent, compressed, or stretched, and the ability to recover readily from illness, depression, or adversity. Considering RPI students are not made of elastic material, it’s safe to say President Jackson was referring to the latter definition in her email to the Rensselaer community.

The Polytechnic thinks that the introduction of this concept is unnecessary and redundant. RPI students are already resilient, in addition to other buzzwords and adjectives, in how we go about our daily lives. Introducing resilience as a new school-wide concept begs the question: did RPI not make our graduates resilient before now? RPI alumni go on to live successful lives and often, fulfill the RPI mantra of changing the world, in some way or another.

Additionally, in the first of the two emails sent, President Jackson mentioned that every student will get a book. Not too long after, she sent out another email saying only first-year students will receive the book. Is the theme of resilience not relevant to sophomores and upperclassmen? Those upperclassmen are the ones leading student clubs, groups, Greek organizations, and receiving internships and co-ops, on top of managing a demanding course load.

The Polytechnic will be holding special elections Sunday, September 27 at 4 pm in the Poly office.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Wait, it’s a new year already? Rosh Hashanah kicks off bright future

So, I JUST GOT BACK TO CAMPUS LAST NIGHT AFTER BEING away since Friday. Why, you may ask? I was in Connecticut celebrating Rosh Hashanah! This holiday, which literally translates to ‘Head of the Year,’ is more commonly known as the Jewish New Year. It commemorates the start of a new calendar, which is marked by two days of prayer, introspection, and lots—and I mean lots—of good, home-cooked food.

You may be asking yourself, “Justin, that’s all great, but it’s only September; how could there be a Jewish New Year now?” And that’s a good question. Pat yourself on the back for that one. January 1 marks the start of the new solar calendar, while the Jewish New Year marks the start of the lunar new year.

This is also why the holidays fall on different dates on the normal calendar every year; last year, Rosh Hashanah took place September 24–26, and September 13–15 this year. Another interesting difference with Jewish holidays is that they begin the night before and end upon nightfall on the day of. So, although Monday, September 14, was the first day of the holiday, it actually began on the night of Sunday, September 13.

Rosh Hashanah also marks the start of a string of five holidays that occur within a month. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, takes place ten days after the first day of Rosh Hashanah. Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah take place shortly afterwards.

Yom Kippur, which will take place a week from today, is a day of repentance where we hope to come to terms with any and all mistakes we’ve made over the past year. It’s customary, and prob-

ably a good idea anyway, to apologize to anyone you may have wronged in the past year, in hopes of earning their forgiveness. Additionally, this holiday contains a 25-hour fast, which begins the night before the holiday starts at sunset, and ends the next evening an hour after sunset.

Sukkot, which means the Festival of Booths, serves to commemorate the time spent wandering the desert, where the Jewish people lived in temporary structures, known as sukkot. It is customary to build a sukkah, made out of three wooden walls and a roof of tree leaves, and live in it for seven days, but I’m not sure how Residence Life or Public Safety would feel about that on RPI’s campus. There are many variations on this custom: some just eat meals in the sukkah, some only fulfill the other customs of the holiday, and some do nothing at all. It’s all up to what people are comfortable with.

Finally, Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah, which are two holidays at the end of Sukkot. Shemini Atzeret, which means the Eighth Day of Assembly, is the first day after the end of Sukkot, and Simchat Torah celebrates the finishing of the reading of the Torah and celebrates the starting over immediately after!

I hope all the above-mentioned gives some insight into the crazy and exciting Jewish holiday schedule for the next few weeks! On that note, I want to wish my Jewish friends and family a good and sweet new year, *l’shana tova u’metukah!*



Justin Etzine
Contributing Editor

the polytechnic

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

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

New high score of memories The game of life through video games

PLAYING VIDEO GAMES HAS BEEN a large, influential part of my life. I started out with a Game Boy Color and *Pokémon Yellow*, and I continued to play Pokémon until the *Black* and *White* editions. *Pearl* was the edition I played the most with about 350 hours of gameplay. I remember all my cousins having Nintendo DSs and when we were at our grandparent’s house we would play eight player *Mario Kart* together. When it was time to go to sleep, we would use the PictoChat room to talk to each other long past the time we were supposed to be asleep.



Tyler Carney
Associate Composing Editor

My first console was the original Xbox and it came with *Halo: Combat Evolved*. I got it Christmas morning, and my mom and I played it nonstop. The first play-through was rough. We got lost on several missions and just in general had difficulty playing, as it was our first console game. My mom had a co-worker who also played, so when we got stuck she would ask him what to do and then she would come back, and we would beat the level. This

was the start for my love of *Halo*. My mom still played with me up until *Halo 3*. We didn’t have Internet at our house so all we would do is play co-op legendary or heroic campaign. After we finished one game, we would go on to the next and then restart the series after playing them all. It is, to this day, my favorite video game series and I don’t see it being anything other than number one for a long time to come. I branched out from just *Halo* games also and read all of the books available at that time.

I am now extremely excited for *Halo 5: Guardians* to come out. It will be the first *Halo* game I’ll have gotten on release and been able to play multiplayer. I bought the *Halo Master Chief Collection* near release also, but we all know how good multiplayer was then. I have been practicing on *MCC* in preparation for *Halo 5*. I mainly play the *Halo 4* playlist and am currently rank 19. If you want to play you can add my gamer tag Foehammer189.

Some other games I enjoy are *The Elder Scrolls: Skyrim*, *Witcher 3*, *Minecraft*, the *Call of Duty* series from *Modern Warfare* to *Black Ops 2*, *Hearthstone*, *Titanfall*, *Forza*, *Sunset Overdrive*, *Runescape*, and many others. I started playing *Runescape* my freshman year of high school. It is the game I have put the most time into of them all. Currently, I am at 320 days in-game time played. I have beat the game at this point, but I still log-on occasionally to talk to friends or play some of the new updates. At the beginning of this semester, I actually met a friend in real life that I met on *Runescape*. It was a weird experience after knowing him for three and a half years to finally meet, but it was one I enjoyed.

The amount of time I can play video games has decreased a substantial amount since starting college, but I still love to game. It has given me so many good memories such as destroying my cousins in every game we played together, finally beating *Heroic Blackrock Mountain*, owning a Completionist Cape, and just all the fun times throughout. In looking back at my history of gaming, I am even more excited for what will come about in the future.

You should write for the Poly!

TOP HAT

Change starts with you

Comments, concerns, questions seriously wanted

HELLO RPI STUDENTS,

The Student Senate is hard at work to ensure that you have the best possible experience here at Rensselaer. However, at the end of the day, we are all students, and have our limitations. This may be ridiculously cliché considering Troy is the Home of Uncle Sam, but the student body needs YOU!

Over the past few weeks, and the end of the last semester, we have begun work on many student projects and addressing future changes to the Institute, such as the Summer Arch. We have seen that many students have concerns, suggestions, and requests regarding the issue, and that's why I want those same people to be the ones we interact with on a regular basis. Feel free to come to my office, talk with us when we are gathered for our meetings, and help us voice the sentiments of the student body. You are the most vital part of this machine, and nobody's perspective on this is the same as yours.

The specific areas we would like assistance in are: Community Outreach Committee, Academic

Affairs Committee (which will be heavily involved in the work on Summer Arch), and our Web Technologies Group. The Community Outreach Committee will be working on involvement with the communities around us, including the University of Albany, Russell Sage College, and

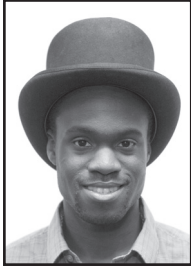
more. Please contact me with any questions you have regarding any of these issues. The Summer Arch is my top priority for this school year, and will have my full attention. As always, the Student Senate meets at 7 pm in the Shellnut Gallery on Tuesdays. This week we'll have discussed the Summer Arch and the handbook for the Freshman elections. If you want to stop by my office, I'm usually in the office most of Tuesdays, especially after 2 pm, as well as Wednesdays and Fridays.

On September 8, the Senate discussed two petitions by students: a petition to have locked tuition at Rensselaer and a petition to allow the use of preferred names at Rensselaer. For the first petition, we postponed addressing it until we presented more concrete

data, in order to make a more informed decision. As for allowing the use of preferred names, we unanimously agreed to work on this through the combined efforts of RPI TRANS and the Senate's Student Life Committee. These are ideas from students, for students, and ultimately investigated by students. If you have an idea, share it on our petition website at <http://petitions.rpiwtg.com/>, or talk to a member of the Senate.

All that being said, be sure to look to the future with the National Society of Black Engineers/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Career Fair, next week! This is a huge opportunity for all RPI students, and you would be wise to prepare your resume, attire, and pitch as soon as possible. If you would like assistance in this, look to campus resources, like the Center for Career & Professional Development, or student organizations that are offering tips and tricks to landing that job or internship.

As always, let me know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns at gm@rpi.edu.



Marcus Flowers
Grand Marshal

DERBY

Apply today to work with me

More opportunities in clubs and action needed by some

Hi RPI!

I hope your weeks are going well. First and foremost, I am looking to fill the remaining four seats on the Executive Board! Applications are live now until 11:59 pm on Saturday September 26, 2015 and can be filled out at <http://goo.gl/forms/CtAciFuJxg/>. I am looking for at least three freshmen and a member at-large. If you have already applied and would like to still be considered, send me an email at pu@rpi.edu and I will consider your application again. If you are not interested in being a rep but still want to be involved, there is always need for committee work! With a plethora of projects at our fingertips, the E-Board is always seeking help. Please see <http://stugov.union.rpi.edu/eboard/committees/> for contact information of each committee chair and brief descriptions of the committee work.

With the recent announcement of the Summer Arch program, I would also like to encourage students to lend their time to the Senate's efforts. Marcus Flowers '16 has organized a diverse group of students to thoroughly examine this program and to ensure that student input is heard about the change. One senator can only do so much, so help is always welcome. I am also seeking additional help on the E-Board side of things as we examine how this change will affect the Rensselaer Union's finances and club operations as a whole. A shift of this magnitude in campus culture will lead to many peripheral changes, especially when done on such a shortened timeframe. I want to ensure that all transitions are smooth.



Nicholas Dvorak
President of the Union

A quick note to clubs who had officers sign up for the Student Officer Summit: due to low numbers of signups the event was cancelled and I am working with staff to have it set up again at a later date. I know this program was beneficial to me as a rising leader, and I hope to see it come to fruition at a later point in the semester. To all club officers of Union funded clubs: at this point in time your E-Board Reps should have reached out to you and sought times to meet and introduce themselves, or introduced themselves at the Activities Fair. If you are unsure if this has happened, you can check CMS to find out who your rep is, or you can always contact me directly. One of the major themes of the E-Board this year is going to be proactivity, meaning that the reps will be there to help before issues arise. If for any reason you don't feel this is the case for your club or you have feedback, I welcome your comments as we are always looking to improve!

Lastly, as always, I can be reached anytime by email at pu@rpi.edu if there's anything you need or that I can help you with. I'll still be hosting regular office hours (Tuesday and Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm) and pub chats (office hours in the pub, Mondays and Wednesdays from 8:00 pm to 9:00 pm) as the semester continues. I encourage all groups to let me know about as many of their events/games/shows/etc as possible so I can experience as much of RPI as possible.

MY VIEW

New idea sparks concern

The news about the Rensselaer Summer Arch program, which will require all rising juniors to take summer classes followed by spending one of their junior year semesters off-campus, concerns me, an alumnus who wants to see her alma mater succeed.

Encouraging students to get internships, go on co-op, study abroad, and participate in their local community is a great idea. My issue is that this program will be mandatory starting with the Class of 2021, and I can see potential roadblocks for many students. Students come to Rensselaer for many different reasons and have many different needs, some which would be better suited spending their summer elsewhere. Listed below are my concerns.

Financial Aid. Some RPI students rely on financial aid to attend. Currently, students must apply to use federal financial aid during summer, and this takes away a semester of eligibility. RPI grants are not available during summer. It would be useful for students to know how this will work; there is currently nothing available online about this. My own experience was that I was always dangerously low on funds by the time the spring semester finished; I needed to work full-time during summer to be able to pay my tuition and other expenses during the following year. Monetary reasons would also make it difficult for most students to spend a semester doing unpaid community service.

Students who must take extra credits. For one reason or another, some students have to take extra credits to graduate on time. The summer term is currently capped to 12 credit hours, unlike fall and spring semesters, which are each capped at 21 credits. Students in certain dual majors must take extra credits to graduate on time. Students who have switched majors (nationally, 80 percent of college students change their major at least once) may also have to take extra classes to catch up, or they may have to take different courses from their cohort. Additionally, students sometimes take time off for personal reasons, such as family or illness, and many programs already make it difficult for them to not graduate any later. Students might also wish to graduate early or to get a coterminal degree, and therefore want to take more classes or be ahead of their program. Many of the coterminal students who I've known have been able to graduate in eight or nine semesters either through Advanced Placement courses and/or taking additional credits.

Course Intensity. RPI is not an easy school. A full-time internship or research program is less time-intensive than a regular RPI semester. Students use the summers to relax and breathe before another intense academic year; even those taking classes currently generally take fewer credits. Assuming the academic semesters remain unchanged, a rising junior will either have classes from late August to early August with one month break, or even late August to December of the next year with only a one-month break and a two week break. Unless RPI's intensity decreases, students will probably burn out—I know I would have. Summers for me were also a time to get outdoors and meet others in my community and explore the local area, all of which is hard to do if you are focusing on coursework.

Club and Greek Life leadership. Many club presidents and Greek Life officers are juniors. Typically, from what I saw during my eight consecutive semesters as a club officer, freshmen would join several clubs and take a lower-level officer position their sophomore year. By senior year, students are focusing on their senior thesis, project, or lab class and finding a full-time job or applying to graduate schools and have less time for club leadership. Gaining leadership skills through clubs and Greek Life is very useful for getting a job; additionally, both are a fundamental part of the RPI experience for many students.

Research. Students hoping to go to graduate school or medical school are going to want to get research. There are many great research programs only offered over the summer, including the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates. My own NSF REU was very helpful in developing professional and research skills, as well as allowing me to experience a different college and its professors and learning environment. There was a rising junior in my program, and some of the rising seniors had done an REU the previous summer as well. Additionally, these students would want to get part-time research during the academic semesters, which would be hard during a jam-packed summer. I was part of several RPI research groups and enjoyed the experience and mentorship I got from working with upperclass and graduate students.

Program Compatibility. Some degree programs are more compatible to Summer Arch. Engineering programs, for example, might be best suited, although I have heard students and alumni in some majors saying that the timing still would not work for them. Architecture students must already take a jam-packed schedule to graduate in time; additionally, the School of Architecture offers several semester abroad programs as well as a semester program at the Center for Architecture Science and Ecology in New York City. Science and social science students who are planning to go to graduate school are probably best served by research, discussed above.

Please visit <http://poly.news/> online to continue reading this article.

Elizabeth Anderson
STSS/EEVP G'14

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

TV SERIES REVIEW

Season 2 keeps it schwifty

Geoff Rosenthal
Senior Reviewer

THE FALL SEMESTER IS A BIT OF A drag. You've spent all summer relaxing and/or getting valuable work experience, then you have to go back to classes, and homework, and the general, crushing sadness that is RPI. And while I desperately want to follow the theme of resilience this year, starting out, I didn't know if I could make it. I wrote all the previous stuff in past tense because after watching *Rick and Morty*'s second season, I know I can wake up bright and early for my 8 ams knowing there will be an episode released once a week.

Those who've watched *Community* or *Rick and Morty*'s first season might know the creator's work, Dan Harmon. He's known for eccentric characters, episodes revolving around group dynamics, and the

struggles of the show's stars to overcome their weekly obstacle. I've found Harmon does it best through strong characters that are put through incredibly extreme scenarios. For example, being locked in a car that is ordered to keep you safe no matter what, meaning it is willing to use physical and psychological warfare against any passersby who present a "risk." The stars of the show are a quirkier version of Doc Brown and Marty from *Back to the Future*. By that, I mean if Doc Brown was an alcoholic and sociopathic he could be mistaken for Rick, and if Marty was incredibly insecure and spineless, he could be Morty. This dysfunctional relationship is furthered by Morty's parents, who always seem to be on the verge of divorce, and Morty's relatively normal teenage sister Summer.

The stories presented on the program, like the first season,

usually focus on sci-fi piercing into the heart of the human experience. As such, you'll have an episode where marriage counseling becomes more of an Alien movie, and others that show how religious extremism for giant heads can become reality. This is part of the reason I like the show so much—it's serious and deep commentary undercut with comedy. You get more out of this show than a simple sci-fi comedy, and in many ways I liken it to *Futurama* in that regard.

If you liked the first season, it's more of the same, but better. If you saw the first season and didn't like it, then first, you have bad taste, and second, this new season won't have anything you'll be looking for. But if you've never seen this show before and like what you're hearing, give it a look. All I can describe of it can be said in a quote by a giant head, "We like what you got."



Courtesy of Adult Swim

RICK AND MORTY CONTINUES its successful TV run in its second season. The TV series follows Morty and his grandfather Rick on their ridiculous adventures, complete with crazy twists.

Swan: Film mixes ballet, perfection

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film. The piece is primarily a juxtaposition of the carnal and the artful; the original Tchaikovsky arrangements for *Swan Lake* are used to backlight things as intimate as sex and self-mutilation. The reason that *Black Swan* stands out as a genuinely novel piece of cinema isn't simply its shock value, it's the fact that the director managed to make a would-be shocker into a moving, dramatic, and interesting experience for

the audience. The disturbing insight into the mind of the protagonist is made nearly romantic through the careful choices of music and scenery on the director's part.

Black Swan represents something rare; an original story that also manages to be well executed. The piece speaks volumes on duality, and presents itself as an example; the duality of the sinful and the saintly, the duality of the perfect and the passionate, the duality of the beautiful and the insane.

Smash: Institute club draws crowd

Black Fish continues tourney streak

From **Page 11**

competition and he doesn't know many people who play in Vermont, so he enjoyed coming to spend time with people who also like to analyze the game on a competitive level.

The organizers of the event would like to thank "Claim to Fame Entertainment" for donating a prize bonus of \$200, free Monster drinks for the players, and running a raffle at the event. They would also like to thank "Pastime Legends" for providing the majority of the equipment, including over 50 game setups with consoles, TVs, and copies of *Smash*, as well as <https://twitch.tv/pastimelegends>, and recordings of this event can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/user/pastimelegends>.

The *Smash* Club is always trying to improve the quality with each tournament, making each one bigger and better. Their current goal is to get storage space in the Union, which would allow them for easier setup and cleanup.

"These things are so self-fulfilling," says Garb (who took 1st in *Melee* singles, 1st in *Project M* singles, 1st in *Melee* doubles, 2nd in *Wii U* doubles, and 4th in *Wii U* singles), "I've practiced really hard, and it's payed off. I think that can be said for anything, if you work hard and practice, it's very fulfilling. It's also the camaraderie, friendship, and competition."

Anyone interested in participating in future *Smash* events should join "Capital Region *Smash* Brothers" Facebook group, where events such as this will be posted. The next large tournament, "Blue Fish," will be held on November 7 of this year in the Union McNeil Room.

ALBUM REVIEW

Rap album sends listeners to musical Rodeo

Daniel Kim
Staff Reviewer

AS SOMEONE WHO ONLY STARTED HIS MUSICAL journey in recent years due to conservative parents, there are many things that I have yet to experience in the vast, awe-inspiring universe that has come to exist as the music industry. Stemming from my concentrated Korean background, the only music I had any experience with was the disgustingly generic albeit, revolutionary genre of K-pop. If you haven't heard of this genre, do yourself a favor and stay away.

Now, one can hear music and enjoy the artistic intertwining of personal identity and musical integrity. But to truly understand any given album, one must look past the audio representation and look towards the artist and the circumstance in which they came to write the music. Jacques Webster, better known by his stage name Travi\$ Scott (the dollar sign is mandatory), is an American hip-hop artist and producer from the multicultural boundary-crossing city and home of Beyonce, Houston, Texas.

A college dropout and influenced by the works of Mase and Diddy, Scott first attempted his venture into the real world by couch-surfing in the land of forsaken dreams, New York City. He then migrated to

Los Angeles where he got signed by T.I and later Kanye West. Scott thereafter released his first mixtape entitled *Owl Pharaoh*, which put him on the map due to his unique sound that resembled a cross between Kid Cudi and Kanye West.

Aptly named, Scott's first official album, *Rodeo*, plays on the Southern imagery that comes to mind when one thinks of a traditional rodeo. Showcasing true artistic talent, Scott harnesses this country horse-riding visual and makes it his own with an ode to the "lean-sipping" culture that has permeated Houston with songs like "Antidote", a reference to the nonstop party attitude. A surprisingly pleasant song I personally identified with was "Maria, I'm Drunk", which personifies marijuana as Maria and its psychologically addicting effects.

With addictively vulgar lyrics and collaborations with numerous high-profile artists, *Rodeo* is a pantheon of what a debut album should be. No matter what mood you may find yourself in, you can always find meaning in the harshly true and meaningful songs that explore what it means to succumb to human impulses. Do not let the unorthodox genre of music dissuade you from taking this album for a tour. Put on some earphones, let everything escape your head, and succumb to Travi\$ Scott's *Rodeo*.



Courtesy of Travis Scott

TRAVIS SCOTT'S FIRST ALBUM MIXES everything a first album should have with celebrity features, hard hitting tracks, and experimenting with different influences.

Features

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

EVENT REVIEW

Another fish; more *Smash*

Thomas Wainwright
Staff Reviewer

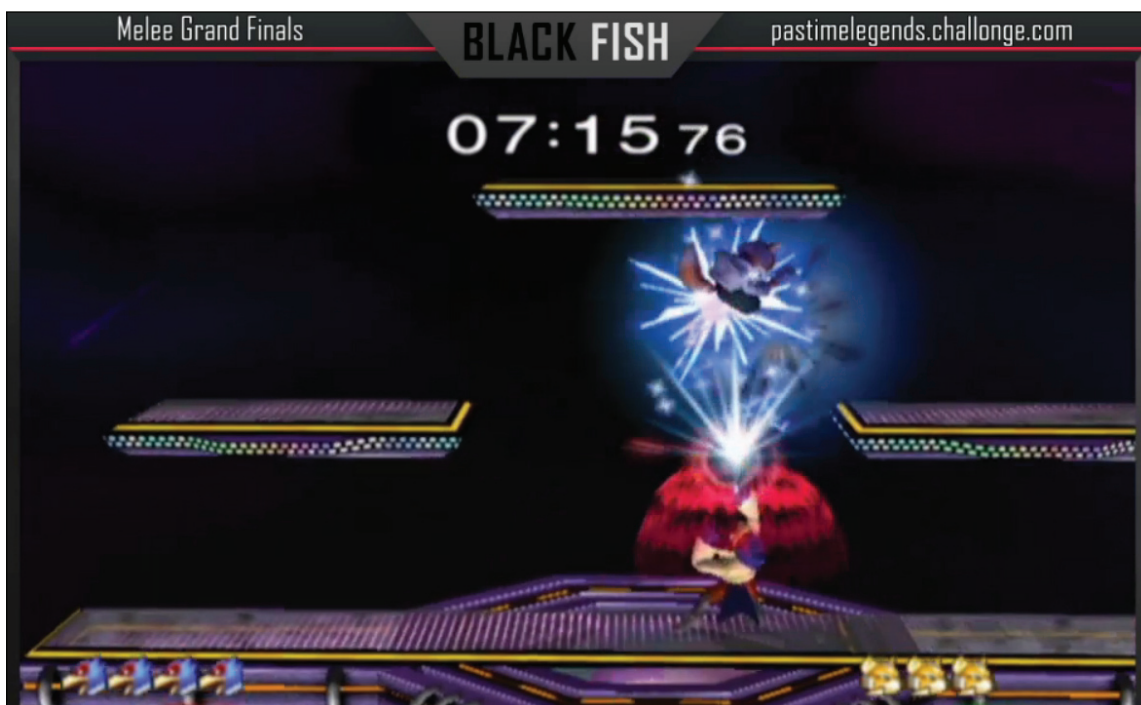
ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE from around the Capital Region gathered in the McNeil Room of the Rensselaer Union for the *Super Smash Brothers* tournament “Black Fish.” Over 130 participants came not only from RPI, but also from colleges such as Siena College, State University of New York Albany, Hamilton College, and Vassar College to compete in tournaments held in the various games of the *Super Smash Brothers* series. A total of \$1670 was at stake in the prize pools, with Eric “Manalord” Garb winning over \$500 in prize money.

The tournaments were split up among three games in the *Super Smash Brothers* series. *Wii U* is the most recent entry, featuring the largest list of playable characters and stages. *Melee* was the 2nd game in

the series, but is still considered by many players to be the best game of the series. *Project M* is a player-made mod of *Brawl*, the 3rd game in the series. It has the same characters and stages, but the physics and mechanics have been changed to feel more like *Melee*. Most of these games also had both singles and doubles tournaments, with singles matches consisting of 1 vs. 1 games and doubles matches consisting of 2 vs. 2. In total, this made for five tournament brackets: *Project M* singles, *Wii U* doubles, *Wii U* singles, *Melee* doubles, and *Melee* singles.

“It’s nice to meet up with people who like the same things you like,” said Rob Fagan, a competitor who drove all the way out to the tournament from Southern Vermont, and who took 3rd in *Project M* and 3rd in *Melee* singles. He says he likes the

See SMASH, **Page 10**



Courtesy of Pastime Legends

MANALORD TAKES ON Pikapika in the *Super Smash Bros. Melee* Grand Finals on Saturday, September 5 in the McNeil Room. Black Fish was the continuation of the *Smash Club's* tournament series.

SEVERINO CENTER

World Challenge kicks off new year

Andrew Rainville
Special to *The Poly*

EVERY DAY PRESENTS A SET OF problems, some serious, some trivial. No, this is not in reference to homework problems. Rather, the problems that everyone faces in life. Though few may talk about them, they exist and do not appear to have a solution...until now! If you think that you can solve such a problem, then you should enter the Change the World Challenge!

The Change the World Challenge provides a unique opportunity for students of all disciplines to form teams and develop their unique ideas into a viable business concept. Round one merely consists of bringing the idea to the table, stating the problem, and describing the solution to move your plan forward. Top ideas move on to a six-week, hands-on experience in which students perform customer discovery to better understand the problem. At the end of those six-weeks, the top ten teams are awarded \$1,000 each and are eligible for the \$5,000 “Best of the Best” prize at the end of the year. Many opportunities exist after the Challenge as well, should a team choose to pursue their concept. With a strengthened business acumen coming from the Challenge, teams will be well-

framed to work with one of the nine Entrepreneurs in Residence at the Severino Center to further their ideas. Next steps can be Demo Day, Business Model Competitions, or accelerator interviews.

In the past, students have submitted ideas for anything from mobile applications to medical devices to fire safety systems. The range of possibilities is undefined to allow for free and open creativity. Staying true to the Challenge name, the goal is to bring forward ideas that will have a significant impact on the world.

Registration for this semester’s Challenge closes on September 25th at midnight.

If you miss this year’s deadline but want to compete, have no fear! The Challenge is offered biannually, once each semester. Starting this semester, challengers have the opportunity to complete the program for one credit. In doing so, however, they forfeit the eligibility for the monetary prizes. The route also requires earlier registration which, for this semester, has passed, but look forward to it next semester!

The Change the World Challenge is organized through the Severino Center for Technological Entrepreneurship based out of the Pittsburgh Building. To learn more about the Center and the Challenge, visit <https://scte.rpi.edu/>.

CLASSIC MOVIE REVIEW

New-age thriller is *en pointe* about duality

Nathan Dorer
Staff Reviewer

DARREN ARONOFSKY’S PSYCHOLOGICAL thriller *Black Swan* lends itself well to the dark melodrama of cinema; the film isn’t so much a foreboding “In a world” scenario as it is “In a life.” Any piece centered around the world of elite ballet is bound to play on theatrics, but this Tchaikovsky-fueled nightmare speaks volumes about the duality of perfection and proves itself to be a haunting reminder of the dangers of mental illness.

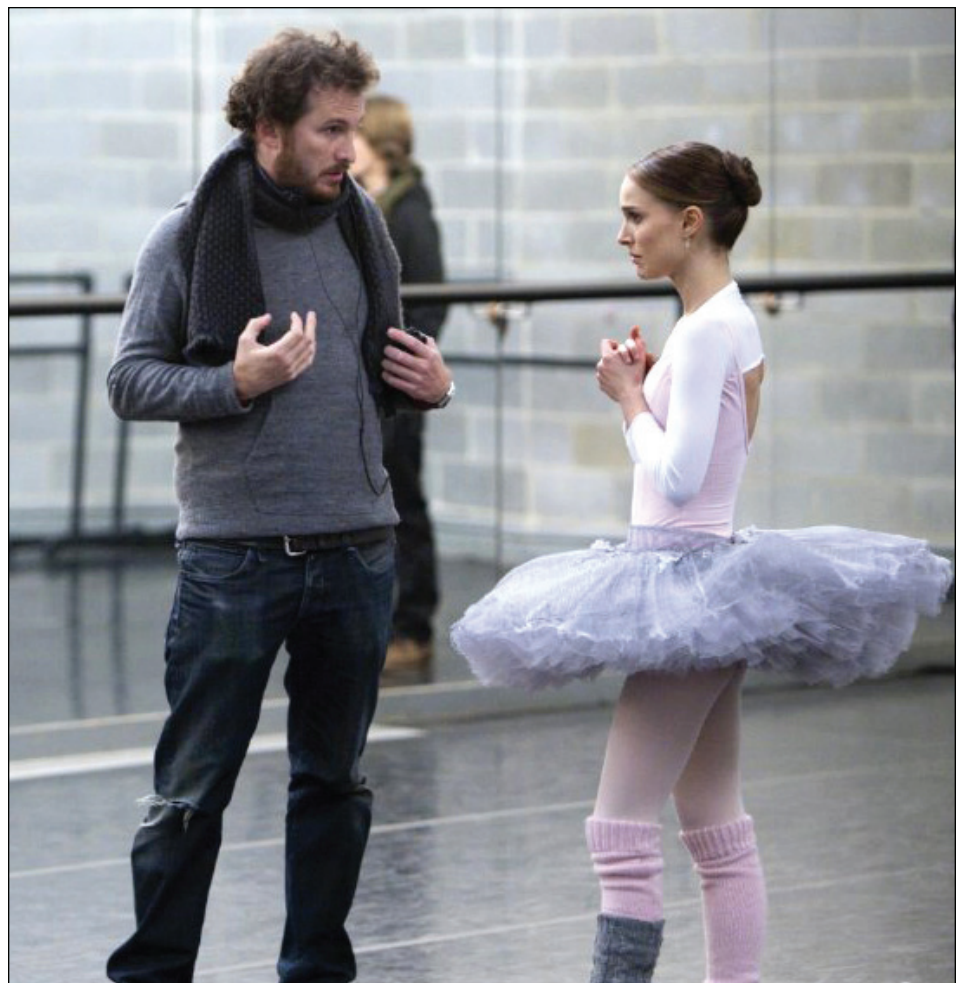
The film begins with the introduction of the coy, understated, but utterly devoted Nina, played by Natalie Portman. Dancing in one of the few remaining classical ballet troupes of New York City, Nina drives herself to extremes to perfect the art of performance. Throughout the first half of the film, the main plot is introduced: famed composer and Lincoln Center dictator Thomas Leroy will be producing his reimagining of the classic ballet *Swan Lake*. In the preliminary selections for the role of the Swan Queen, Nina is predictably chosen. However, the movie takes a turn when Nina’s drive for perfection falters during her tryout. She stumbles halfway through the dance designed for the nefarious Black Swan, and loses her chance to become the Swan Queen.

Distraught, Nina chooses to take matters into her own hands. In a personal

meeting with Thomas, she uses seduction to persuade the composer into giving her the part, and thus begins her descent from the innocence of the White Swan to the devious, sensual Black Swan. Nina quickly discovers what it means to be “perfect” in Thomas’ eyes. All her life, Nina has sought to keep complete control of herself, whereas Thomas sees the perfect dancer as one who can feel the innate details of the piece.

The central theme of the piece is the dual-faceted nature of perfection. The *Black Swan* represents perfection that is effortless, natural, and carnal; meanwhile, the White Swan shows perfection through dedication, precision, and concentration. Nina struggles with being too focused on her dancing to allow herself to feel the piece, and the film’s mantra, “lose yourself,” rings as clearly through the audience’s ears as it does Nina’s. As the protagonist allows herself to become lost in the art, her grasp on reality begins to fall apart. Nina’s breakdown is marked by absolute release in dance; as Thomas seems to approve of her performance, Nina finds herself in pressing danger as her mental health deteriorates.

The way the piece moves from interesting to elegant is due to the artistic liberty that Aronofsky took with the



Courtesy of Fox Searchlight Pictures

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NATALIE PORTMAN SPEAKS with director Darren Aronofsky during filming of psycho-thriller *Black Swan*. Portman portrayed the ballerina Nina in the film.