

Inside

- Comics . . . . . 6
- Editorial/Opinion . . . . . 2
- Features . . . . . 8
- Sports . . . . . 4

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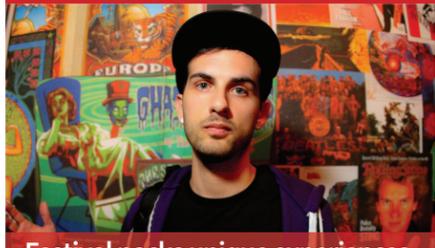
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**SPORTS** Page 4



Rensselaer tackles undefeated Hobart

**FEATURES** Page 8



Festival packs unique experiences, fresh music

**EDITORIAL** Page 2

Sidney Kochman Upholding our values in the coming election

Elisabeth Ryan Learning to grow from past experiences

**RENSELAER UNION**

# Union Fund holds potential for change

**David Raab**  
Senior Reporter

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, A NEW Reddit user, /u/rpiunionfund, posted a link to a new website <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/sjdr> describing a proposal by Rensselaer alumni to create a fund that would take donations in the name of Rensselaer Union clubs, and disburse them once a year to the Union. What makes this concept different from the existing mechanism to donating to the Union through WeRGold, or even through <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/werct> is that donated funds would only be disbursed to the Union if certain criteria related to student governance are met. In the current proposed charter on the [rpiunion.fund](https://poly.rpi.edu/s/rpiunionfund) website, conditions for dispersal of funds include significant student input in professional staff hiring, club and organizational budget formation, activity fee disbursement, and student say in major policies affecting student life at RPI.

Presently, the fund is still in the beginning stages of its conception. However, they are accepting non-binding pledges from RPI alumni to see what level of interest there is in sustaining the fund. There is also a proposed charter on their website that could potentially serve as the legal formation for the fund. In addition to criteria laid out on their website about disbursement of funds to Union, it also defines a Board of Trustees who would be

responsible for the maintenance of the fund throughout the year. The current plan is for the Board to have four current students and three alumni. Students would have two-year terms while alumni would have four. The Grand Marshal would appoint students to the Board, and alumni would be elected from donors to the fund. This way, students would form the majority of the Board and have the ultimate say on any actions the fund decides to take. The Board would also elect a president and a treasurer; the president would be the public representative of the fund, and the treasurer would be responsible for managing the assets of the fund.

A reporter from *The Poly* reached out to the movement via email and received a response back from August Fietkau '09. Fietkau elaborated on the reasoning behind on why the charter has been set up the way it has. He reiterated that the fund is only in the beginning stages of its conception, and that most of it is subject to change based on the feedback of people who pledge money to the fund. He wrote that the group behind the fund reached out "discreetly with a number of current and recent student leaders and club officers" in order to get the feedback needed to form the charter as it appears on the website currently.

Fietkau also discussed how the fund would be able to be an acceptable source of income for the Union. Union funds are ultimately controlled by Institute financial



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

**THIS FILE PHOTO PICTURES the Rensselaer Student Union prior to the protest that took place last March.**

processes so the fund would need to reach an agreement with the Institute in order for its contribution to be accepted by the Union. He said that as of now those responsible for the fund have not started these conversations because they are still focusing on reaching out to a wider net of alumni and more fully fleshing out their ideas. Fietkau made it clear that the fund is not meant to be "a vehicle for withholding money from RPI out of frustration or anger," but rather as way for alumni to "dogfood the sort of shared governance we are asking RPI to engage in vis-a-vis the Union." Fietkau said conversations with necessary Institute officials would happen when the fund as a

concept is more mature and closer to implementation.

Finally, he elaborated on the fact that fact while the RPI Union fund and the Save the Union student protest movement are not formally connected, that the alumni behind the fund "value the concerns brought up by a great many of the students" but that posting and letter writing themselves do little to combat the issue. He made the distinction that while students involved in Save the Union have their lives "intertwined with a student-run Union," alumni are more removed from the day-to-day operations of RPI but that they desire to provide perspective and support through the fund. ♦

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

# Protected Class Policy gains approval

*Executive Board votes to allow clubs to keep membership anonymous*

**Elisabeth Ryan**  
Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, THE RENSELAER Union Executive Board approved Union affiliation for The RPI Interplanetary Society, represented by President Edrick Drachenberg '17, Secretary Michael Crisci '20, Treasurer German Padilla '18, and member Geoffrey Thomas '19.

The RPI Interplanetary Society was created last year with the intention of conducting research that could be applied to space science. The club would provide a platform with a "multidisciplinary design experience" for students passionate about space to learn. The research that the participating students would compile is used in a competition that the Aerospace Industries Association hosts.

Members of the E-Board wondered at why this organization, a club unlike the kind usually seeking affiliation with the Union, would not try to align itself with one of the School of Engineering or School of Science. Drachenberg informed the Board that a club affiliated with the Union had a better chance of longevity and would receive a more diverse group of students and majors.

After approving their affiliation, the E-Board encouraged The Interplanetary Society to determine who their faculty advisor would be. Their constitution is being reviewed and will be voted upon in the next meeting.

In the recent weeks, the Policies Committee has been working hard to finalize the Protected Class Policy. A couple of weeks ago, the originally proposed policy had allowed organizations who identified as a certain protected class to exclude other students who did not identify as such.

The E-Board was not in favor of that policy, and consequently Policies made amendments to it. The first noticeable change would be the classification of these protected groups as "affinity groups." An affinity group is a group with a common belief or interest. However, when referenced in the Protected Class Policy, these groups of students need also be a part of a "federally protected" class as outlined by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Many clubs could classify it as an affinity group, and can request to be classified as such.

The primary purpose of the new Protected Class Policy is to guard the identities of students. Sections of the policy state that "a formal roster will not need to be kept" and club officers must submit contact information for the sake of

"internal use only." To complete the Union Annual Report, a club would only need to submit the number of students participating in the club, and from which class year they are.

Members of the E-Board were concerned about what protocol they were to follow in the event of an emergency. The identities of specific students might become necessary to have. After much debate, it was decided that the officers of the club would be in charge of maintaining an up-to-date roster of their members and no official roster would be held by the Rensselaer Union. This roster would be made available upon request of the Board or Admin Office. The motion to approve this policy with the added clause involving the officers maintaining their club's roster was passed, 18-0-1.

Destination Imagination's budget was approved for a total of \$530. This subsidy will help cover the cost of supplies for both competitions, their official challenge booklet, and vans for traveling to the regional competition. No money was allotted for travel to their global competition.

If you are interested in learning more about the Rensselaer Union Executive Board, their open meetings are Thursdays at 8 pm in the Shellnut Gallery. ♦

# Editorial

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

### Presidential antics arise over this weekend's drama More Republicans change their mind on Trump

DONALD TRUMP HAS MANY FATAL FLAWS THAT MAKE him unfit to be the president of the United States. I could talk about any number of them, including the biggest Trump news in the past week: his bragging of sexual assault. But, I also want to bring attention to a statement he made during Sunday's presidential debate with Hillary Clinton that stood out to me as particularly dangerous for the country.

Toward the beginning of the debate, Trump said that he would appoint a special prosecutor to look into Clinton's email server and eventually bring charges against and prosecute her. At a rally the next day, he doubled down on his intent to appoint a special prosecutor over repeated chants of "lock her up."

Trump has decided that Clinton is guilty of the crime he wishes to investigate, even after the Federal Bureau of Investigation recommended bringing no charges against Clinton. He said to Clinton during the debate that if he were in charge, "you'd be in jail." For the president to take a personal interest in the outcome of any specific investigation of the Department of Justice is a blatant transgression of presidential authority, and one which Trump seems particularly eager to carry out.

What makes the United States a bastion of stability in the world is that its governmental institutions are

not controlled by any individual person. Those in power do not have the ability to directly enforce the law, as this is done by law enforcement agencies themselves. The United States is not a country where the winners of elections imprison their political opponents, and Donald Trump does not appear to understand or appreciate this. He openly plans to abuse the powers of the office of the president to satisfy his political ends.

I am glad to see that many Republicans are publicly revoking their support for Trump's presidential bid. However, I wish that more people took action sooner, as the most recent Trump revelations are not at all surprising or out of character, and we've known for years just how terrible a president he'd make. It is important for Americans to put their country's interests ahead of their party's.

Our democracy is under threat. It is imperative that every eligible American votes in this election. Our democracy is strong, but it is up to each of us to reject attacks against it. This is just one example of the danger that Trump presents. The warning signs signaling what could happen under Trump have never been so clear. We have an opportunity to heed them and make sure a Trump presidency doesn't happen, and it cannot be squandered. ♦



**Sidney Kochman**  
Senior  
Managing Editor

### Considering life decisions leads to regrets, moving on Making formulas for happiness in past mistakes

I OFTEN FIND MYSELF DAYDREAMING about impossible scenarios. These scenarios always include me going back in my life and changing a decision I've made. This decision could have been yesterday, ten years ago, or last month. And I always believe that if I had simply made a different decision, or gone down a different pathway, my life would be so much better now. I mean, it's true, my life would most likely be better, but the irrationality of actually playing out the scenarios in my head must be early signs of dementia.



**Elisabeth Ryan**  
Associate  
Copy Editor

In all seriousness, I think that having this kind of mentality is a problem. When one is stuck on past mistakes, it is ironically harder to learn from them. In my head, I keep redoing the scene, like takes for a film. As I dwell on the perfection of

the scene, I am numb to the reality around me. My life is a dull imitation of the life I could have had, had I just not made those stupid decisions. Consequently, I am prone just to repeat those actions again, since I haven't really done anything to improve my habits or character.

Now, I'm going to tell you to live with no regret. It's going to be a very hypocritical time, since I'm not sure I will ever be able to obtain such a blissful existence (as I'm sure it will never really be so for anyone),

but stick with me. Some of the regrets I have are quitting gymnastics in the third grade. I could have been an Olympian! I regret not studying well enough for that Physics II exam last week. I could have maybe not tanked my

GPA this year (again). I regret telling that one guy back in high school that I liked him, because, wow, that ended badly. While I could go on for quite some time, the point is, you can't take it back. The moments are fleeting; don't let the regret of the decision become permanent.

I never read *Authentic Happiness* by Martin Seligan, so I'm no expert. But if I could make my own formula for being happy, it would be this: be kind to others, be hardworking, and live as if your past is not your enemy. That last one was kind of cryptic. Basically, don't hate yourself for messing up, but rather try to be better for having done so.

I think if I could follow this advice I could live a full and happy life. Yes, I have my regrets, but the only direction on this journey is forward. ♦

## TOP HAT

### Successful alumni admire GM, as GM admires alumni

THIS WAS AN INTERESTING WEEKEND. I've never been that involved in the events of Homecoming & Reunion weekend, so being thrown in the deep end to appear at events and meet so many alumni was both a great experience and very tiring. I have a lot more respect for Red & White after seeing everything they do all weekend, setting up and staffing events from early in the morning until late at night. All the work they put in helps us stay connected those who came before us and our history, which is a large part of what makes RPI special.

I learned a lot about these traditions this weekend. I learned that, apparently, my title is actually the Grand Marshmallow, and that while many things have changed over time, others have stayed the same. It was interest-

ing at dinner when I was talking to members of the Class of 1951 who grew up to work on the Apollo project, and had physics teachers who refused to teach this new "quantum physics theory." But they lived in—and went to classes in—the same buildings as we did, complained about homework or hard professors, and knew that the quality of mercy is not strained. Despite all the differences across time, life at the 'Tute is still the same in many ways.

I think the biggest surprise that I personally had was when the people we were seated with for the All-Alumni Dinner found out they were with the Grand Marshal and President of the Union; they were honored. How being seated next

See TRADITIONS, Page 3



**Paul Ilori**  
Grand Marshal

## the polytechnic

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**Jack Wellhofer**  
poly@rpi.edu

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**Sidney Kochman** poly@rpi.edu  
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**Rex Hu** poly@rpi.edu  
**Jack Wellhofer** news@poly.rpi.edu  
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**Stephanie Tan** photo@poly.rpi.edu  
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**Tyler Carney** composing@poly.rpi.edu  
**Elisabeth Ryan** copy@poly.rpi.edu  
**Jonathan Caicedo** photo@poly.rpi.edu

### Coordinators

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**Elisabeth Ryan** ads@poly.rpi.edu  
**David Raab** ads@poly.rpi.edu  
**Ana Wishnoff** graphics@poly.rpi.edu  
**Sidney Kochman** systems@poly.rpi.edu  
**Joseph Saulsbery** sports@poly.rpi.edu  
**Jacob Kaplan** features@poly.rpi.edu

**Production Staff:** Brookelyn Parslow and Geoff Rosenthal.

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# Traditions: Grand Marshmallow learns of past customs

See TRADITIONS, **Page 3**

to my 21-year-old self is an honor when you have the experiences these men told us of—attending college with WWII veterans, working directly to place people on the moon, getting Ph.Ds in physics, and many more accomplishments—is beyond me. But I guess that just ties into the importance of the roles we hold, which I'm still getting to understand and try to live up to.

RPI has a diverse and interesting student body with different issues, concerns, and ideas. So if you have something you think I can help with, don't be afraid to reach out to me or shoot me an email. I'm still, and probably always will be,

growing into the role over this year, even with all the help and advice I've gotten while adjusting.

One of the people who's worked the most to do this for me personally, and others over the past 30 years, is going to be leaving us at the end of this week. Linda Teitelman McCloskey has worked in the Union as the founding director of the Archer Center and previously the Director of Student Activities.

For years, she has helped members of the Union develop as leaders and people. While I'm still considering spending her retirement reception loudly whining at her for leaving, she's done a lot to help me and previous Grand Marshalls, so thank you Linda. A lot. ♦

Interested in writing an article for *The Poly* yet don't have the time to join us in the office? Check out <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/work> to fill out a quick survey!

## DERBY

# Health Center holding training for leaders

HELLO RPI!

I hope you all had a chance to meet up with old friends and greet our alumni as they made their way back to campus for Reunion & Homecoming this past weekend. I had an extraordinary time speaking with alumni from a broad group of class years, and I heard from so many about what nostalgia came to them upon returning to campus. As always, it's an incredibly humbling experience to see what accomplishments the alumni of Rensselaer have made. This is especially true this year with the presence of three very distinguished alumni: Dr. B. Jayant Baliga '74, power electronics innovator; Dr. Marcian "Ted" Hoff '58, inventor of the microprocessor; and Steven J. Sasson '72, inventor of the digital camera. Their accomplishments are a testament to what we all

can achieve with a world-class education at Rensselaer.

In E-Board related news, last week we funded RPI Destination Imagination for the rest of this school year. Their total budget allowance is \$530 and provides funds to attend a state wide competition and recruit members on campus. In addition, the new Protected Class Policy was adopted by the Executive Board to outline special allowances to groups of students forming clubs directly related to their protected status.

This was a weeks-long process with the Policies Committee and the E-Board spending time collecting feedback on, rewriting, and evaluating the full effects of the policy well into the future. We are happy to say that clubs directly related to their protected class are not required to have a full membership list on file with the Rensselaer Union. Instead, they are required to report the total number of students from each class year in the club. Big thanks to

Matt Rand, chairman of the Policies Committee, and the entire Policies Committee for working so hard to bring this policy to the Union.

The Executive Board will also be hearing from the Health Center on new By-stander Intervention training requirements for club officers during our October 20 meeting. Following the adoption of new legislation by the State of New York, club of-



**Chip Kirchner**  
President of the Union

ficers will all be required to undergo this training. On that day, the Executive Board will forego their normal meeting to receive this training from the Health Center and determine how to move forward with the training requirements. This way, the Executive Board can understand and attest to its effectiveness before reaching out to clubs.

Any club officers or students who have questions or comments on the implementation of this policy, please reach out to me at pu@rpi.edu. ♦

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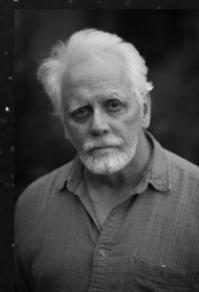
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...and  
more!

# Sports

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

## FOOTBALL

# Rensselaer ends Hobart's undefeated season

Joseph Saulsbery  
Senior Reporter

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, Hobart College more than doubled Rensselaer's offensive yardage output. The Engineers' defensive grit inside their own 20 kept them in the game. RPI's offense looked outmatched by Hobart's fast and physical defense for the majority of the game. Engineer rushers struggled against a stout Hobart line, gaining just 83 yards on 42 carries. In the fourth quarter, RPI found their rhythm, scoring touchdowns on two of their final three possessions and came out on top over previously undefeated Hobart, 21-17.

Hobart running back Tynard Barfield rushed 11 times for 72 yards during the game. Half of these yards came on Hobart's third drive of the game when he rattled off runs of 28 and nine yards, respectively, to position the Statesmen in RPI territory. Hobart quarterback Shane Sweeney took care of the rest, rushing once for seven yards and then completing a 15-yard touchdown pass to receiver Jack Pfohl to put the Statesmen up 7-0.

Later, with just under five minutes remaining in the first half, Hobart took possession at its own 48. Sweeney completed three passes for 30 yards and led his team to the RPI 10. Two plays later, junior linebacker Brandt Beck and



Stephanie Tan/The Polytechnic

**THE ENGINEERS UPSET Hobart College, winning 21-17 to end their formerly undefeated season.**

junior defensive back Bryan Hayes combined to stop Hobart rusher Zach Withers at the RPI one. This play forced Hobart to settle for a field goal and kept the Engineers within striking distance, down 10-0, going into halftime.

Freshman return man Delano Munoz Whatts ran the second half kickoff back 71 yards to the Hobart 29. After a pass interference on Hobart moved RPI to the Hobart 14, sophomore Ed Trimpert passed to junior running back Johnny Ramsdell for a touchdown, putting the Engineers back within three points.

Sweeney moved his offense down the field effectively for most of the game, completing 27 of his 44 pass attempts for 370 yards. Twice in the third quarter the Statesmen's drives stalled inside the RPI 20 and each time Hobart kicker Will McCool failed to convert on his field goal attempts. The first of his attempts came on the drive following RPI's first touchdown. From 34 yards out, McCool was blocked by RPI sophomore defensive back DJ Stefonsky.

Early in the fourth quarter, RPI moved the ball into Hobart terri-

tory, setting up a 37-yard field goal try by junior kicker Christian Kapp. Kapp missed wide, but Hobart was penalized for roughing him, setting up the Engineers with a first and goal from the Hobart 10. After a two-yard rush by sophomore running back Nick Cella, Trimpert threw an eight-yard dime to senior running back John Costello to give Rensselaer a 14-10 lead.

Hobart responded with a late touchdown drive, orchestrated by Sweeney, who completed seven of nine passes for 60 yards, capped off with a seven-yard

touchdown pass to Hobart wide receiver Matthew Woods with 1:10 remaining in the game.

Down 17-14, RPI earned excellent field position thanks to a 34-yard kickoff return by junior running back Nick Esposito and a 15-yard personal foul penalty against the Statesmen during the return. Trimpert completed passes of nine and 14 yards to put the Engineers inside the Hobart 20. But then RPI hopes were almost dashed when Trimpert's next pass over the middle sailed high and was intercepted. But the play was negated by a pass interference call against the Statesmen who held Trimpert's intended target.

With RPI hopes restored and a first and goal at the Hobart five, Trimpert weaved his way through the Hobart front and sped into the end zone to put the Engineers in front for good, 21-17.

RPI sophomore quarterback Ed Trimpert turned in his best passing performance of the season, completing 14 of 20 passes for 109 yards. Beck led RPI with nine total tackles, while senior linebacker Alexander Greenidge compiled seven.

In defeat, Hobart wide receiver Sean Cunningham caught nine passes for 149 yards and defensive tackle AJ McFarlane and linebacker Almamy Conde each recorded nine total tackles.

Next up for the Engineers is a road game at the United States Merchant Marine Academy this Saturday, October 15. ♦

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Engineers fall to Vassar College in overtime

Adam Rabinowitz  
Staff Reporter

VASSAR COLLEGE WAS TOO MUCH FOR RENSSELAER DURING SENIOR NIGHT THIS SATURDAY, as the Engineers, 9-3 this season, fell 1-2 in overtime.

The Engineers started the game strong, taking the lead in the 31st minute. A strong RPI defense kept Vassar scoreless through the first half, but a strong Vassar defense kept RPI from scoring again. The first half ended with RPI leading 1-0.

According to RPI Assistant Coach Shelby Stromerson '15, Vassar's ability to keep the game close ultimately led to RPI's loss.

"We needed to widen our lead while expecting their counterattack, all while maintaining our style of play. We had many goal scoring opportunities that we didn't capitalize on, which makes it easier for teams to equalize on us when we have such a narrow lead," Stromerson said. "While trying to achieve this we became a bit frantic and lost our rhythm, which allowed Vassar to equalize and draw ahead."

In the 59th minute, Vassar's Rebecca Andrews tied the game with a penalty kick. Freshman goalie Joey Lyons said that the kick caused a sudden shift in the game: "After that, momentum fell their way."

RPI had a chance to take the lead in the 77th minute when senior Cori Winslow took a shot, but missed the goal.

RPI and Vassar kept up their strong defense and the game went into overtime. 32 seconds into overtime, however, Vassar junior Amanda McFarland scored and clinched victory for her team.

As the season winds down and the postseason inches closer, the team will work hard on taking advantage of early leads, according to Stromerson.

"With our plans to go into the postseason, we'll have fewer chances to score goals against better teams, so every opportunity counts," she said.

With six games left in the season, Stromerson added that the team's goal is to make it to the Liberty League Tournament.

"We know that William Smith will take the top seed, so it's a fight for the remaining three spots," she said. "The ultimate goal is to reach the NCAA tournament, so recording wins for the rest of the season and performing well in the league tournament will surely get us there."

The Engineers have two games this weekend. They will travel to face Clarkson University on Friday at 4 pm and St. Lawrence University on Saturday at 2 pm. They will then face Union College at home on Tuesday at 7:30 pm. ♦

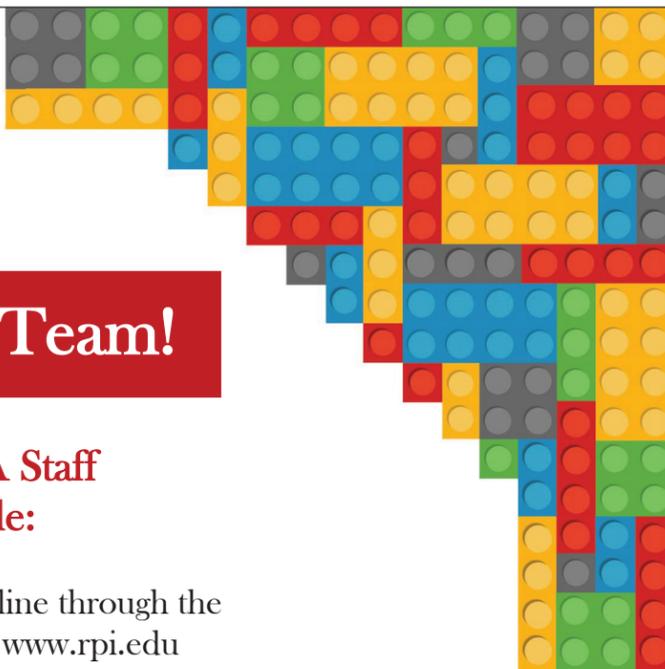


Adam Rabinowitz/The Polytechnic

**FRESHMAN JEANINE MOREAU ATTEMPTS to slip past the Brewers' forward Audrey Pillsbury.**



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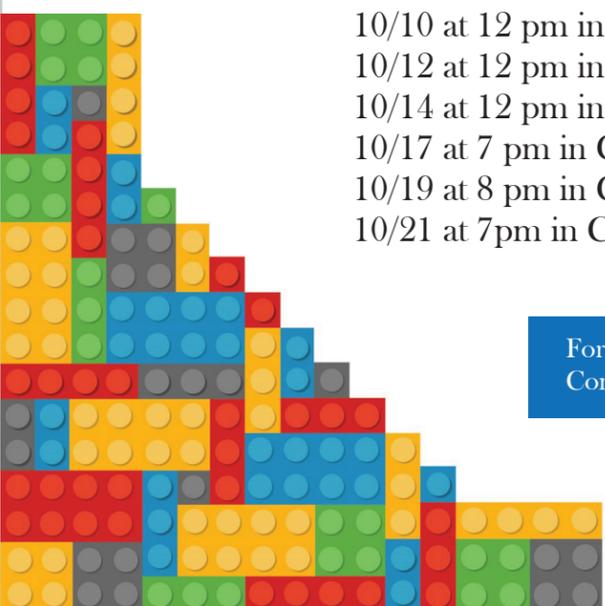
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10/14 at 12 pm in Union 3202

10/17 at 7 pm in Cary Classroom

10/19 at 8 pm in Cary Classroom

10/21 at 7pm in Cary Classroom

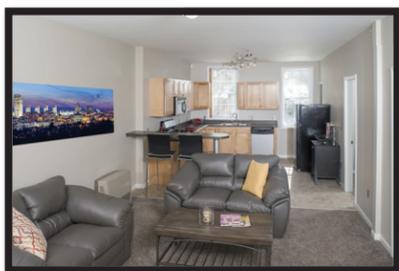


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by Scott Adams

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HEY, DON'T BLAME ME. I TOLD THE BOARD THAT SOMEONE SHOULD GOOGLE THEM.

I ACCIDENTALLY TALKED THE BOARD INTO BUYING A COMPANY THAT HAS A TAINTED REPUTATION.

HOW BAD IS THE TAINT? IMAGINE HITLER'S UNWASHED SOCKS.

THAT ISN'T SO BAD. I'M JUST GETTING STARTED. NOW IMAGINE I MAKE YOU EAT THOSE SOCKS...

THE COMPANY WE ACQUIRED IS MAKING US LOOK BAD.

HOW BAD? THE INTERNET IS DEMANDING THAT I DRINK POISON AND APOLOGIZE TO THE WORLD WHILE I DIE.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WELL, I'M NO DOCTOR, BUT I'D GO WITH SOMETHING FAST-ACTING.

I DECIDED TO CALL YOU MY WORK-WIFE!

GURK I'M CREEPED OUT! I'M CREEPED OUT! I'M CREEPED OUT!

JUST LIKE AT HOME. I NEED A SHOWER.

ALICE DOESN'T WANT TO BE MY WORK-WIFE. HOW ABOUT YOU?

AS YOUR WORK-WIFE, WOULD I BE ABLE TO JOKINGLY INSULT YOU IN FRONT OF OTHERS?

SURE, HA HA! OKAY, I'M IN. NOW RUN ALONG, YOU IGNORANT SACK OF WET FERTILIZER.

THIS IS FUN!

OUR CEO BLAMED THE SALES DEPARTMENT FOR OUR LOW REVENUE.

SALES BLAMED MARKETING AND MARKETING BLAMED ENGINEERING.

GUESS WHY I'M HERE. TO SHIELD ME FROM UNFAIR ACCUSATIONS?

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

LIKELIHOOD YOU WILL GET CODE WORKING BASED ON HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO INSTALL IT:

VERY LIKELY

APP STORE OR PACKAGE MANAGER

GITHUB LINK

SOURCEFORGE LINK

GEOCITIES/TRIPOD LINK

COPY-AND-PASTE EXAMPLE CODE FROM PAPER'S APPENDIX

ANYTHING THAT "REQUIRES ONLY MINIMAL CONFIGURATION AND TWEAKING"

UNLIKELY

WE SHOULD MAKE COFFEE FOR OUR GUESTS. / CRAP. I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT COFFEE. WE'RE BASICALLY FAKE ADULTS. / DON'T PANIC. WE CAN FIGURE THIS OUT.

WE JUST POUR THE COFFEE GROUNDS... / ...ADD WATER...

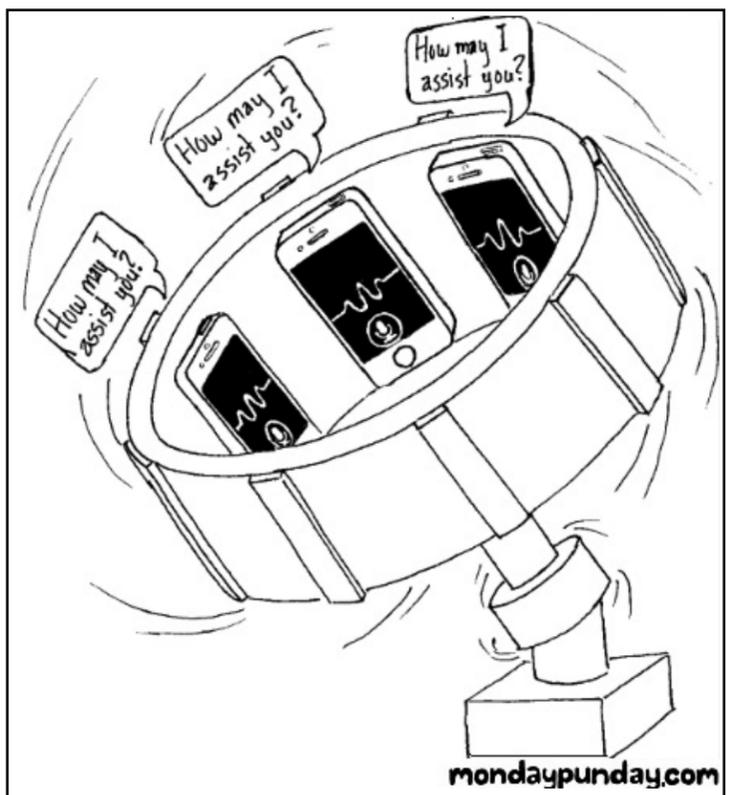
NOW WE JUST HOLD IT OVER THE BURNERS... / ANNNND...SERVE. NICE! I'M A REGULAR STARBUCK!

TOP TEN LIST

Phases

10. Emo
9. Lunar
8. Bieber hair
7. Panic! at the Disco
6. Larvae
5. Rebel
4. Plasma
3. K-Pop
2. Fandom
1. Telo

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



WORDFIND by Ana Wishnoff

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

Pizza Toppings

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

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Artichoke | Jalapenos | Pineapple  |
| Bacon     | Mushrooms | Proscuitto |
| Basil     | Olives    | Salami     |
| Chicken   | Onions    | Sausage    |
| Garlic    | Pepperoni | Spinach    |
| Ham       | Peppers   | Veggie     |

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# Pep band carries musical legacy for over ninety years

## Conductor talks about responsibilities and logistics



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

**PEP BAND MUSICIANS PERFORM** all over campus, not just at sporting events as many assume. (file photo)

**Elisabeth Ryan**  
Senior Reviewer

AFTER COVERING A WOMEN'S ICE Hockey home game, I came to have a deep appreciation for our RPI's Pep Band. At what was appeared to be a rather desolate game with an even more desolate crowd, it was the Pep Band that maintained morale and kept spirits high. They executed a series of songs on the fly under the careful direction of conductor Jacqueline Scanlon '19. The Pep Band not only kept me cheery and alert, but their energy and talent had me impressed. So impressed that I requested an interview with Scanlon to learn more.

The RPI Pep Band was formed in the early 1920s with a mere eight members. The band was managed and lead by A. Olin Niles from the club's creation in 1923 until his retirement in 1973. It was at this point that the band became a student run and lead organization. The leaders of the band are its two managers and conductor. Managers Dominique Roube '17 and Susan Zollinger '18 handle logistics such as bussing the band's

equipment from their practice room in the J-Building up to East Campus Athletic Village or the Houston Field House for games. Other managerial duties include coordinating trips to other schools for away games, copying music, and corresponding with our athletic department and with other schools.

The responsibilities of the conductor, as explained by Scanlon, are to lead rehearsals and maintain the band's set list. The Band's library has nearly 500 songs on record. Of course, band members do not have that number of songs in their binders ready to play. Rather, they have a mix of songs spanning from Scanlon's recent additions, "Shut Up and Dance," "Uma Thurman," and "Centuries," back to old originals, such as "Hail, Dear Old Rensselaer" arranged by Niles.

The Pep Band can be found at any home men's or women's hockey game and at any home football game. They follow the hockey teams once a year, each to an away game. If the men's team make the playoffs, the band will follow them for that as well. The

Pep Band itself does not host any concerts, but they are asked often to play for events around campus. These events include Welcome Fest, Relay for Life, and Hockey Line.

With such impeccable structure and organization, it is amazing when Scanlon claims that the club is "pretty laid back." Becoming a member is as easy as showing up to one event or practice with no audition required. To be a voting member, one simply must show up to several events and practices. It is noted which band members attend away trips is determined based on practice and event rehearsal.

The Band's objective is to support our athletic teams and our students in general. At the next campus event that you spot them, give them a cheer and let them know that you support them too.

"[We] just hope the teams do well this year. We really...hope they have a great season and hope that all the rest of RPI has a great year as well," said Scanlon when making her concluding statement. ♦

# Yates: Characters struggle through personality crises

from **Page 7**

The actual writing style of the piece is almost painfully matter-of-fact. Yates began his career as a journalist, and the influence on his writing style is apparent in *Revolutionary Road*. As the characters in the piece grow gradually more disenchanting and uninspired in their daily lives, Yates keeps a calculated distance from the emotional implosion. It's through the writing that Yates keeps a reader informed and involved in the events of the story, but leaves room for the judgements and experiences of the reader.

*Revolutionary Road* is considered to be one of the foremost examples of mid-century novels, and for good reason; Yates has proven himself to be masterfully aware of his writing, as well as his exploration of topical themes for the average reader. In 2005, Time selected *Revolutionary Road* as one of the 100 Best English Language Novels from 1923 to present, and frankly, the title is well-earned. *Revolutionary Road* is a wonderful example of a period piece that has remained topical as it has aged, and the themes of self-integrity and the pressures of conformity are as compelling now as they were in 1962. ♦

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Indie bands flock to Albany concert

**Serge Piskun**  
Staff Reporter

SEEING A CONCERT IS ALWAYS AN adventure. Whether one waits for months to experience their favorite band live or buys tickets to a band they have never heard of with no expectations, hearing live music always leaves concert-goers with a story. I happened to see Marian Hill live on October 10th, and I was part of the latter group: I bought tickets with several hours left until doors opened and went in completely blind. I am very glad I did; the concert featured three different, but equally stunning bands that blew me away with every new song. Although Marian Hill was the headlining artist, their two openers did just as good of a job of setting the mood and amping up the crowd.

First up, about half an hour after doors opened, a little-known band named Shaed took the stage. Composed of a singer, a keyboardist, and a drum pad, they quickly turned the room from a standing mob of people into a swaying collective of individuals. Featuring indie-pop-esque music, Shaed came off as lighthearted and fun to listen to. They did what an opener is meant to do: excite the crowd and get them ready for the main act. They sprayed foam and flashed lights during their songs, and gave out stickers to promote themselves. My only complaints during this set are not necessarily related to the band, but the venue. Numerous times, the band asked for the lights to be either turned off or dimmed, and their requests fell on deaf ears. I felt, had the lights been turned off, more people would have gotten into the music. Who wants to dance with the lights on?

The second band to come on stage was Vérité, and their approach was more somber. Vérité

is the brainchild of Kelsey Byrne, who writes her own music and hires live musicians to accompany her on stage. During her set, I noticed more people showing up and packing the dance floor, probably because she was better known than the first group. I found her voice to be much more mellow than that of the Shaed vocalist. She created an intimate atmosphere in which concert-goers could relax. For her first show in Albany, I think Vérité did a splendid job of keeping the crowd entertained. As an added plus, the lights were turned off as her set began.

The main act of this concert, Marian Hill came on at around 10 pm, and by that time, the small enclosure of the Jupiter Hall was packed. The band started off with their most famous song, "One Time", and the somber yet emotional saxophone set the crowd cheering. Samantha Gongol, the band's vocalist, sung in a hushed but powerful voice, while the DJ, Jeremy Lloyd, mixed and remixed her voice in live time. To top it off, live saxophone improvisation was provided by Steve Davit, who tours with the band and appears on their album. I liked Marian Hill a lot, and even though I knew next to nothing about them going in, I left a big fan of their work. Samantha's voice changed pitch and intonation several times through songs and contrasted nicely with the minimalist drums and infrequent bursts of sax. It was a no-brainer that the crowd clapped along and cheered at the end of every song and that an encore was both requested and speedily given at the end of the night.

Overall, I was very satisfied with my experience. I felt like all three acts were phenomenal, and look forward to overplaying their music on Spotify within the next few weeks. I expect that we all will be hearing more songs from these artists on popular radio. They are sure to be big. ♦



Courtesy of Lindsey Borgman

**SAMANTHA GONGOL SHOWCASED** her singing as one half of Marian.

# Features

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

## CONCERT REVIEW

### Safe in Sound festival leaves reviewer awed



Courtesy of Oliver Scherillo

ELECTRONIC DANCE MUSIC ELECTRIFIED crowds at Safe in Sound, with artists like Borgore contributing to both the growth of such events and to the genre as a whole.

**Maria Kozdroy**  
Senior Reviewer

BORGORE, SNAILS, BOOMBOX CARTEL, Terraviva—if you have ever listened to music from any of these artists and love dancing, you would probably love the Safe in Sound Festival! I had the opportunity to travel back home this past weekend and experience a concert like no other.

This festival came to Albany in September 2014, and has not come back since. However, it came to Wallingford, Connecticut on October 8 before heading to Boston, Massachusetts on Sunday.

Back in April, I went to the Chainsmokers concert at Rensselaer presented by UPAC, in which the crowd held light sticks

and jumped up and down the majority of the time. The Safe in Sound Festival was much different—head banging galore!

I entered The Dome to see laser lights of pinks, greens, and yellows shooting around the room, the crazy graphics behind the DJs, with the same number of a thousand or so people just as there was at the Chainsmokers concert. However, there was one main difference between the two concerts—one was with college students with jeans and tanks on at a concert, and the other with college students with exotic outfits at a rave.

Each artist had an hour long performance in line for the night. First was Boombox Cartel. I didn't know much of who this was or anything about their music. It came as no surprise what I would be

hearing, though—electronic dance music.

My favorite artist of the night was Borgore by far. Although I can't recall many songs I heard throughout the night, I can recall a few of Borgore's due to him singing along and amping up the crowd, as part of the last act of the night. The song that stuck out to me the most was "Decisions," his own song. Much of the music I heard that night was a mix of other artists' music, however, Borgore played the most of his own original tracks. The one thing I did not like was that, with the worked-up crowd at exactly midnight cheering for one more song, he unfortunately continued to exit off the stage.

In addition, Borgore and Snails had the most interesting graphic displays behind them, ranging from snails (obviously) to funky light patterns. Thinking of lights, several festival-goers

had special electric light gloves on; they would go up to others and perform a light show by moving their hands in different motions while their fingertips glowed.

Would I go back to a festival like this again in the future? Perhaps. I would like to go to one in which the artists play a majority of songs with lyrics that all people can sing along to though, whereas with this Safe in Sound Festival it happened only a few times. If I had been singing along the whole night, I would probably lose my voice, while also being extremely physically exhausted.

Overall, this experience was like no other, and very different from the Chainsmokers concert, yet I'm happy I could say I have been to one! ♦

## BOOK REVIEW

### Discontent runs rampant in *Revolutionary Road*

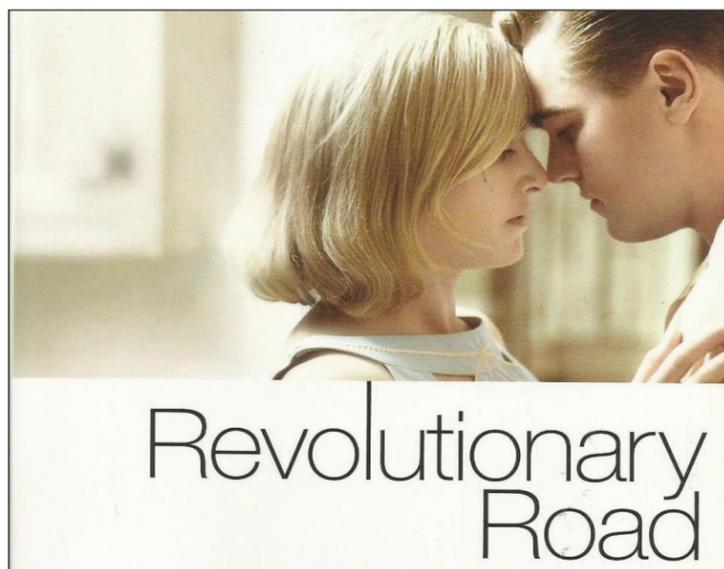
**Nathan Dorer**  
Senior Reviewer

AS RICHARD YATES' FIRST NOVEL, *Revolutionary Road* gained public notice after it achieved a place as a finalist in the 1962 National Book Awards. Yates is largely championed for his role amongst the disillusioned and fearful writers that came to prominence after World War II; during the so-called "Age of Anxiety," authors in Europe and the United States expressed a conscious awareness of the grim aspects of humanity, and ultimately shaped the themes of mid-century art and literature. The author imposes this careful introspection throughout *Revolutionary Road*, and the novel's keen introspection about the realities

of suburban life ultimately make the piece tangible, relatable, and deeply thought-provoking.

The novel follows the story of a young couple, April and Frank Wheeler, as they assimilate into life in a quiet Connecticut suburb of New York. The Wheelers' existence centers around their sense of irony; while outwardly they live the lives of any other happy suburban family, much of the dialogue between the two discusses harsh criticisms of their quiet, complacent life. *Revolutionary Road* draws much of its conflict from this dichotomy between the image the Wheelers hold for themselves and their outward actions—it's a battle between who they want to be and the actions they take as sensible human adults.

Throughout the piece, both of the Wheelers begin to make decisions that force them to contradict their values and what they believe in. Frank Wheeler, for example, hates his job as a typewriter manufacturer, but opts to sell out when the opportunity for upward mobility in the company arises. April, on the other hand, struggles with the idea of aborting her unborn child, but is ultimately persuaded to carry to term by Frank's wishes. In the narrative arc of the story, both of the characters become the clichés that they speak so poorly of, and Yates makes a point to pull the reader into the Wheelers' pressing sense of self-loathing.



Courtesy of Little, Brown and Company

See YATES, **Page 7** YATES EXPLORES the struggle of personal values versus personal gains.