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CAMPUS EVENT

Changing science in a new presidency



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

PROFESSOR MILDRED DRESSELHAUS POSES for a photo alongside President Shirley Ann Jackson at a banquet in the professor's honor.

Jack Wellhofer
Rex Hu
Senior Reporters

THIS PAST WEEKEND, RENSSELAER hosted a meeting of the New York State section of the American Physical Society. A banquet for the event was held on Friday, November 11 in Sage Dining Hall, and featured the esteemed Professor Mildred Dresselhaus for an “after dinner” talk. Dresselhaus grew up in a poor family in New York City during the Great Depression. She received a scholarship from Eleanor Roosevelt to attend Hunter College, and later received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

In view of the recent election, Dresselhaus said that funding would likely be decreased significantly, despite the fact that, “The impact of science on the

world is increasingly important.” Though she cannot predict careers to come, she says that we must ensure the quality and accessibility of education for future generations. She also brought up six other points of interest for the future. First, she mentioned the study of complex phenomena. Second, she thought the study of physical properties between living and non-living systems would be interesting. Third, she expressed interest in equilibrium situations. Many situations in the universe that are out of equilibrium come back to the same state and we do not necessarily understand how that happens. Fourth, computers have gotten smaller and smaller in the last few decades while increasing functionality. She said, “Science advances to all kinds of things a decade ago we thought impos-

sible.” She raised the question of how the implementation of tech will happen. Fifth, she said the end of Moore’s law is the single molecule—we have reached that, and people are working on devices. What happens after? Sixth, when she started in the carbon field, they were figuring out how to emulate paper. What has happened since is not concluded. They are getting smaller and smaller, but have not finished. After speaking, Dresselhaus took questions from the audience. In response to a question about the change in interest in physics in America, she explained what happened in Bell Labs and why she thought it happened: “The field was moving forward, and they were committed to their product line. Their research was somewhat geared to their product line... Science moves forward. If you’re not

there, you’re out... Companies have to be very nimble.” She believes that it was a combination of their research focus and the board making decisions on what they can work on that lead to what happened—not only in the U.S, but all over the world for similar reasons. In response to Jackson’s question about the future of transition metal dichalcogenides, Dresselhaus said that one of the attractions of transition metal is the variety of properties possible; if you know one, learning another is not so difficult. The company has to change realignment, but it is not that much more difficult. However, it is still a finite lifetime, so the company has to have a research lab and think about the next 10 years. The economic support setup is difficult to achieve, but less so for

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FACULTY SENATE

Virginia Gregg addresses long-term debt

Rensselaer plans for \$100 million contribution to pension plan over eight years

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND CHIEF FINANCIAL Officer Virginia Gregg was in attendance at the Faculty Senate meeting last Wednesday to present an update of the financial status of Rensselaer.

“The biggest financial challenge for us is managing this legacy defined pension plan,” said Gregg. The plan has since been closed to new members, but the Institute is still liable for current members. Prior to the pension payments, Rensselaer is in a “slightly positive” position for 2016, but is “slightly negative” after the pension.

Gregg continued, “It’s always been a bit unusual that Rensselaer had a defined pension plan for everybody.” She said that the Institute plans to put \$100 million into the plan over the next eight to 10

years. “The board, the president, and I have plans for how we are going to manage this.”

Gregg outlined the Institute’s \$742 million in long term debt: \$134 million is towards the pension plan liability, \$328 million is from new facilities, including the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies, and the East Campus Athletics Village. Additionally, \$280 million is for deferred maintenance

“We actually are compliant with the Department of Education financial responsibility requirements,” stated Gregg, regarding the DoE’s requirement that Rensselaer post a letter of credit. The DoE considers the pension liability one which would need to be paid in full, which is not the case. However, “we want zero chance that our programs could be exposed.” Editor’s note: see <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/fhua3> for more details regarding the letter of credit.

Gregg encouraged the faculty to participate in academic performance planning, participate in Summer Arch and growing research, and “talk up” the school as ways to increase revenue. The Institute estimates that Summer Arch will bring in an additional \$15 million.

The Faculty Senate also heard a presentation from Folsom Library Director Andrew White. White recently joined the Rensselaer community and was presenting on his goals for library improvement. He expressed interest in improving the library’s website and how it is used. He also spoke about the protecting the items in the library’s archives, as its current space on the third floor is not climate controlled and close to water mains.

The Faculty Senate concluded with some committee updates before adjourning. ♦

Dresselhaus: Professor discusses challenges in science with new presidential administration

From **Page 1**

professors. “I always leave a little bit of money around for the crazy ideas. I think students should have some free time to work on the crazy ideas that interest them.”

One audience member asked what we might do to try to ensure access to education, considering the defunding of state universities. Dresselhaus explained that alumni are very important, and pointed out that Massachusetts Institute of Technology is supported by its alumni fund more than anything else.

When asked about the best decade in her lifetime of science in terms of barriers broken, Dresselhaus said 1960; it was declared a year of science, a science initiative was started, and it became much

easier to get a job as a woman. Dresselhaus herself became the first female tenured professor at MIT. The country went from a war economy to building new industries, stemming from science. She ended by saying that Moore’s law is ending, and that we need new ideas and interdisciplinary connections.

When asked how to address the lack of funding toward the “reproducibility” of studies, Dresselhaus stated that the US has less money compared to rest of most of world, and as a result, “We have to learn how to do more with less. As we look forward to the next administration, we have to look more to that concern.”

Another audience member asked about the best way for scientists to have an impact on public policy. Dresselhaus explained that “At all levels, there are opportunities to get involved in public service... The local communities start with the public schools in the neighborhood... Talk to parents about how important it is to support education locally.” It is imperative that our children be educated competitively with the rest of the world. Dresselhaus stated that “If you’re a permanent resident, you have a stake in the welfare of the country,” and your time is the most valuable thing you can offer—there is no price tag on that. More popular support at that level will

lead to more government funding; several members of the audience reiterated that APS has funds to give out—usually two research grants per year—and exactly one of those focuses is schools.

When asked if she had to prove herself, in a male-dominated field, beyond what men would have to do, Dresselhaus said, “Women faculty, women students do the same science as the men. Remember that. That is my motto.” History Shows ample data that, per capita, women contribute at least as much as men do. For a woman to make it and stay there, with distractions, requires dedication. “I have four children, a family, I have a lot of other responsibilities other than

my job,” and she still made sure nobody would be critical that she did not do enough high quality work. As the first female tenured faculty member at MIT, she felt that it was not only her right to speak up, but an obligation to future generations, whenever anything was not equal.

Dresselhaus has worked for the Clinton administration and has been awarded all possible awards in her field, with the sole exception of a Nobel Prize. She has been a role model for many scientists, especially women and minorities. To learn more about her accomplishments, visit <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/w13ih>. ♦

STUDENT SENATE

Core requirements receive student feedback

Removal of the distinction between humanities and social sciences are among the planned changes

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE STUDENT SENATE’S MAIN DISCUSSION OF THEIR MONDAY night meeting was on the changes to the core curriculum. The Academic Affairs Committee aimed to receive feedback which could be brought to Professor Lee Ligon, who is leading the committee proposing the changes.

The major changes that were discussed were the removal of the distinction between humanities and social sciences for HASS requirements, a larger HASS depth requirement, a data-intensive course requirement, required summer reading for incoming freshmen, and a leadership or civic engagement requirement.

Justin Etzine ’18 expressed discontent with the lack of exposure the document has, citing its absence anywhere online. He suggested publicly publishing the document so that students could provide more feedback.

Etzine also worried that students who bring in a large amount of HASS-related AP credits might be required to take more HASS courses than needed to fulfill depth requirements. He, as well as many other senators, was not pleased with the idea of required summer reading, as the freshman class does not take on a singular class to unite them around the book.

Graduate student Anthony Bishop called the leadership requirement a “pie in the sky,” with the opinion that students will only be going to events to check off a box. CJ Markum ’17 agreed, saying that the quality of events could be diminished with disinterested students in forced attendance.

“Is this for the students, or is this what they want to say you’re getting out of Rensselaer education?” questioned Markum. “Also, it is [sic] called *extra*-curricular activities.”

Bishop also brought up what the changes in HASS requirements would mean for graduate teaching assistants. He said that during their town hall, graduate students were concerned that more courses would need to be filled with TAs, putting increased pressure on them. AAC chairperson Varun Rao ’18 said that implementation has not yet been discussed, but that he would bring up the concern.

Nancy Bush ’19 told the Senate that many people she talked to were in favor of the changes when they understood them. She also said that too many people were thinking about the leadership requirement with a narrow mind.

Marvin Cosare ’18 made the case for Greek life fulfilling the leadership requirement. Grand Marshal Paul Ilori ’17 confirmed that Greek leadership positions would count towards the requirement.

The Senate’s suggestions will be brought back to the core curriculum committee for discussion.

Markum, chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee, presented on the report the committee was tasked to create. Last semester, the committee was formed to address the Preserve the Student Union petition. Since then, the AHC has been working to compile a comprehensive report which the Senate will soon vote on.

The report details the history of the Rensselaer Union, from its early stages in the ’86 Gym, to its present day location. It recounts the events that transpired this spring, starting with the removal of athletics budgeting from the Union, and ending with President Shirley Ann Jackson’s email to the community removing the Executive Director of Student Activities from the Student Life portfolio.

Markum and the committee members worked to provide data-backed recommendations of how to mitigate future issues with the Union. The committee recommends having current and recent graduates serve as junior members on the Board of Trustees, to serve as a voice for the current Rensselaer student community. There are also recommendations about communication and what steps can be taken to improve communication between students and the administration.

The full report can be viewed at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/report>.

The purpose of the evening’s discussion was wording in the report, as it would not be voted on during the meeting. Graduate student Kinshuk Panda called the use of terms “bait and switch” and “culture of fear” in the report “harsh and abrasive.” Graduate student Anthony Ashley agreed, worried that it would jeopardize their relationship with the administration and hinder progress on issues such as the graduate stipend.

There was some discussion regarding what the approval of the report would mean for the Senate-administration relationship, but Ilori said those opinions should be held for when the approval of the document is discussed. The Senate will be voting on the document in the coming weeks.

The last item of business was the Senate’s annual Light Walk. The Light Walk is an opportunity for senators to walk common commutes for students, looking for burned out street lights, broken sidewalks, or other hindrances that can be brought to the attention of the Department of Public Safety to be fixed. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Global Medical Brigades budget approved

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reporter

ON NOVEMBER 11, POLICIES COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON MATT RAND ’19 OPENED THE RENSSELAER Union Executive Board meeting with a review of the E-Board budgeting policies in its entirety. This detailed presentation touched on all aspects of a club’s budget, from travel to food. Rand’s presentation not only specified the items that are Union policy to subsidize, such as 40 percent of travel costs, but also described the items that are strictly not. These items include personal items that would become the property of an individual member, rather than a club. These are not to be confused with uniforms. A uniform, such as a swim suit, may have the life-span of only a year or few years, and may only be used by a single member, but the uniform is still the property of the club. A customized shirt or jersey that will belong to the individual member will not be subsidized by the E-Board.

The E-Board’s policy towards philanthropic events and functions is typically to not subsidize an amount that would in turn be made into a charitable donation. The case in which a charitable event may be subsidized by the E-Board is if the event would bring a “substantial benefit to campus, student life, or student development.” Events that require a mandatory donation will not be subsidized. Events with an entrance fee must use the fees collected exclusively to offset the cost of the event.

Rand continued leading the discussion with another policy-centric topic. Under the *New Club Classification Policy*, alterations have been made to the document. These alterations include the policy regarding members of the community who participate in Union clubs. Community members do not have any voting rights, may not hold officer positions, and do not have direct access to any Union funds. Another change in policy is the requirement that all organizations on campus, whether Union-recognized/affiliated or not, must register with the Union to be considered a club. Those who do not register will lose many of the privileges offered by the Union, such as participation in the Activities Fair, the ability to reserve rooms and equipment, and storage space.

The budget concerning Global Medical Brigades was also reviewed and was voted upon. According to Union policy, a starter budget should be within \$200. The revised budget, however, reallocates \$90 to cover the cost of travel to their local clinic, the Whitney Young Clinic, and \$270 to cover the cost of travel to the John. F. Kennedy airport for their international trips. Most of the E-Board were in favor of this new budget despite the breach in policy, due to past complications with Global Medical Brigades’ budgeting. The motion to reallocate the previously mentioned amounts was passed in a 12-1-1 vote.

A new ad hoc committee was formed to investigate clubs who participate in international travel. This investigation would go over the process of how clubs obtain funds, their reasons for travel, and a vast area of topics concerning international travel.

President of the Phalanx Honor Society Chris Hoskins ’17 reminded members to let their clubs know that nominations are open at the Phalanx website. The Phalanx society acknowledges members of the junior and senior class who play active roles on campus. Similarly, the White Key Society acknowledges members of the freshman and sophomore class. Nominate a peer today and check out the Phalanx website at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/6gzi3>. ♦

Events

Wednesday, November 16, 2016

WEDNESDAY

November 16

Red Cross Blood Drive

Mueller Center; 11:30 am–5:30 pm

If you weigh at least 110 pounds and have a donor card, driver’s license, or two other forms of ID, you can donate.

Open Skate

Houston Field House; 2–3 pm

A valid RPI ID is required upon entry. Please note that skate rentals are not offered during open skate hours.

Lally School of Management Seminar

CBIS Bruggeman Room; 2–3 pm

Harry Kolar Ph.D., IBM Distinguished Engineer and Michael Kelly, Senior Research Engineer, IBM Research will give a presentation titled “Application of the Internet of Things to Advanced Environmental Monitoring and Management: The Jefferson Project Partnership.”

Eastern NY Chemical Society

RSDH 2nd Floor; 5:30–9 pm

Professor Jacob Shelley will speak at the Eastern New York American Chemical Society meeting. The cost of attendance is \$10 for current undergraduates.

THURSDAY

November 17

Keyence 3D Optical Microscope Demonstration

Materials Research Center; 9 am–noon

Dan Marrash of Keyence Corp. will be conducting a demonstration of their latest 3D optical microscope in MRC-135 (Lenel Student Lounge) for any student, staff or faculty interested. Bring your own specimens if you wish to.

Biological Seminar Series

CBIS Bruggeman Room; noon–1 pm

Dr. Kaelyn Sumigray, Duke University, presents a lecture titled “Forming a niche: mechanisms of intestinal crypt morphogenesis.”

Public Communication Workshop

Library Fischbach Room; 4–6 pm

It is difficult to walk the line between connecting with friends online and maintaining a web presence that you want employers to see. This is one aspect of a phenomenon social scientists call “context collapse” wherein audiences and the presentation of self are misaligned. Participants will learn practical advice about how to prepare their social media presence for potential employers through preparing your social media accounts for the job market.

FRIDAY

November 18

USPS Passport Application

Academy Hall 4th Floor; 10 am–2 pm

Agents will be available for processing applications, passport photos, extra forms, and information. Bring all completed paperwork (available at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/bbbal>) for faster service, but forms will also be available. Payments can be made with cash or check.

Food Drive: Class of 2018 Hockey Night

Houston Field House; 6:30–9:30 pm

Free tickets to the raffle for one of two \$50 Bookstore gift cards will be given to those who support the food drive. All donations will be brought to Hope 7 Community Center. Canned soup is the preferred item.

2016 United Way 50/50 Raffle

Houston Field House; 7–9 pm

Cheer on the men’s hockey team as they face off against Ohio State University, and purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket while there.

West Hall Haunted?! You won’t believe what was found...

West Hall Auditorium; 7–9 pm

Join the members of the Tri-City NY Paranormal Investigators as they reveal their findings from an October 6 investigation in West Hall. Does “Betsy” exist? Are we not alone?

Café Society

DCC 308; 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight

In the 1930s, a young Bronx native moves to Hollywood, where he falls in love with the secretary of his powerful uncle, an agent to the stars. After returning to New York, he is swept up in the vibrant world of high society nightclub life.

SATURDAY

November 19

RPI PakSA Charity Dinner

Academy Hall Auditorium; 6–9 pm

Help orphans in Pakistan by enjoying South Asian cuisines from local restaurants. This year, money will be raised for the Edhi Foundation, in honor of Abdul Sattar Edhi, who passed away earlier this year. Entertainment includes a local cover artist Bilal Mian, rising comedian E’sa Hassan, and a traditional Indian dance troupe. Tickets are \$7 presale and \$10 at the door.

Step Brothers

DCC 308; 7 pm, 9:30 pm, and midnight

Two aimless middle-aged losers still living at home are forced against their will to become roommates when their parents marry.

Partial Credit

Chapel and Cultural Center; 8–9 pm

Fantastic Beats and Where to Find Them featuring Sound Logic and A Sharp Arrangement. The cost of attendance is \$5 in advance, \$6 at the door.

Union After Dark: Great Gatsby Night

Rensselaer Union; 9 pm–midnight

There will be student performances, movies, a costume contest, free food, games, and prizes, and as always, the annual Vermonster eating contest! The roaring twenties!

TUESDAY

November 22

Thanksgiving Break begins after your last class! Enjoy your break.

Last day to add Pass/No Credit designation to courses.

The Polytechnic

will be holding elections for the Spring 2017 term on December 4 from 11 am–3 pm in Mother’s Wine Emporium.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Significance of your vote

AS A GAY AMERICAN, I HAD everything at stake in this election. Muslim Americans, Hispanic Americans, women, and essentially every other minority group in this great country had everything at stake in this election. For a presidential candidate who stated that he wanted to register Muslims, end marriage equality, deport Mexicans, and “grab women by the pussy,” it seemed like every group that wasn’t straight, white, and male had something to lose over the course of a Trump presidency. At this point, I’m dumbfounded that so many Americans voted in a way that condones bigotry at worst and passively accepts it at best. I’m dumbfounded that so many Americans voted in a way that would signify that my civil liberties are less important than their tax breaks.

Over the last ten years, the United States has made leaps in terms of LGBTQ inclusivity, and I was optimistic for the future. When Donald Trump began his presidential campaign, I had

quietly hoped that America would have my best interests at heart and vote accordingly. I believed in an America that was empathetic and progressive enough to understand the gravity of this election for minorities. It is clear to me now that I was wrong.

A vote for Donald Trump was a vote for bigotry in nearly every dimension of the word—either deliberately or implicitly.

If you voted for this man because you want to build a wall, deport Mexican Americans, or register Muslims in the United States, you stand for an America where xenophobia and racism are a conscious norm. If you voted for this man because you like his economic or health care reforms, then you have given you implicit consent for legislation that discriminates against minority groups for the sake of your own economic gain. Frankly, if you voted for Donald Trump, it was because you had nothing to lose by voting for Donald Trump; your lack of empathy for minority groups is representative of an American ignorance that I had thought we long since moved past.

Over the last few days, I’ve seen people saying that it is our job as a country to accept the results from the election and move on as a unanimous body. You are naive to think that I will accept you for spitting in the face of the last 50 years of social progress in voting for Donald Trump. You voted for a man who wants to ensure that people like me can’t get married, and I will not forgive it. You voted for a man who aims to step on my civil liberties, and I will hold you accountable for it. You voted like a bigot, and therefore you can expect me to treat you like a bigot.

I believe in an America where we can scoop up the pieces after a Trump presidency and rebuild the progress that we’ll lose over the next four years. But I do not believe in an America where you shouldn’t be held accountable for the repercussions of your vote. You do not get to avoid the responsibility of Donald Trump’s social impact simply because you yourself don’t identify as homophobic, racist, or sexist. As a marginalized person, I was relying on you to maintain an America where my sexuality was accepted, and you failed me. I can, and will, take that personally. ♦



Nathan Dorer
Contributing Editor

Lost hope for United States

WHEN THE ELECTION RESULTS CAME OUT, I FELT NUMB. Everyone I spoke to that morning felt numb. All of the anger, the sadness, the disappointment, and the disgust meshed to form this feeling. The numbness turned into a pit in my stomach, and every time I thought of the fact that Donald Trump will be our next president, I felt physically sick.

While Trump campaigned under the idea that these are the worst of times, African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, and other groups have faced much worse conditions in the past. There has been a tangible uptick in racist incidents in this country during the Obama presidency. There are racists in this country who have used Trump’s name while perpetrating acts of racist violence—whether burning down black churches, physically assaulting women wearing hijabs, or screaming anti-immigrant slurs at Latinos. These types of attacks are not new in American history, and surviving in such an environment and prospering despite racism is what has defined the resilience of minority groups. From that resilience, they know they are not what the racists say they are.

Children, however, have the most malleable minds. They are the most vulnerable, the most curious. They are the ones I’m most afraid for. Children are going to grow up seeing that the highest elected official in their country—someone that the American people chose to be in charge—is a racist bully. Black children are going to grow up being told to be respectful of the cops at all times and do whatever they say despite whether they did anything wrong, despite whether the cops disrespect them. Muslim children will grow up thinking that their president thinks that they are terrorists—little girls will be warned by their families that they cannot wear their hijab in public due to fear of attack or assault. They will grow up thinking wearing their hijab is wrong. Children of Latino immigrants will grow up thinking that their president considers

their fathers rapists or drug dealers, and the rest of their family lazy, as they sit at home and wait for their parents to return after a 16 hour work day. All little girls in this country will grow up feeling like men have control over their bodies, and that sexual assault is not a big deal because the president says it’s okay.

These situations are not just speculation or mindless worry. The situations laid out above are real. They’re happening to my friends from high school who are worried to wear their hijab in public. They’re happening to my aunt’s second grade students, one of whom asked if her parents were going to get deported. It’s happening to the sons of a gay family friend who woke up after the election and asked if his daddies were going to have to get divorced. So many children in this country will grow up thinking that they’re inferior. They will be surrounded by an atmosphere of recrimination that they are considered as lesser than others and feel helpless to do anything about it. They will grow up to feel that they are considered lesser and feel helpless to do anything about it. They will grow up knowing that the country they grew up in, that they work in, that they contribute towards, thinks of them as unworthy to be here.

When I was in sixth grade, and President Obama was elected and he taught me to hope. He taught me that it was never the end—with hope comes change and a better tomorrow. While that message still stands true, it has gotten beaten down again and again throughout the years of his presidency. But hope is not enough. Saying everything will be alright is not enough. Getting angry is a start, but it’s not enough. Take action. If you have privilege, use it for good, for change. Donate to services that will get defunded, like Planned Parenthood. Volunteer at places that help human beings in this unprecedented change. Don’t just hope. ♦



Ana Wishnoff
Composing Editor

DERBY

Student unions coming together

Hi RPI! SOME EXCITING THINGS are happening all around campus but I’ll do my best to inform you on some of the bigger ones from the Executive Board and the Rensselaer Union. This weekend, members of the E-Board and the Student Senate will be traveling to Lowell, MA to participate in the Association of College Unions International (ACUI) Region VIII conference. This is a great tradition for RPI, students, and the Union for a number of reasons.

ACUI is an incredible organization that allows students and staff involved in student unions from around the world to meet, organize, advocate, and learn about operations and life on college campuses. Being part of ACUI Region VIII is actually particularly important to RPI because it allows us to interact with students

representing their student unions from the United Kingdom. At schools in the United Kingdom, student unions are required to be entirely student-run and separate entities from their universities.

In fact, many schools’ student unions are operated full-time by a group of recent alumni. These students are elected upon graduation and then serve a year in service to their peers. Obviously the Rensselaer Union does not function this way, but it does have key elements in common with student unions from the UK. We operate with a board of students who manage the Union in conjunction with professional staff. This is something very rare in our section of the United States and even rarer is that we are so intertwined with RPI. Examples of divisions within and institutions like RPI being managed and operated by



Chip Kirchner
President of the Union

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the polytechnic

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The Rensselaer Polytechnic is published weekly, except during holiday and examination periods, by the students of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as authorized by the Rensselaer Union. Opinion pieces in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or the Rensselaer Union. All submitted material becomes the property of The Rensselaer Polytechnic. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit for reasons of space, clarity, libel, or style and to compose headlines for all articles printed. “Letters to the Editor” must be typed, signed, and fewer than 500 words in length. “My Views” must be typed, signed, and between 500 and 700 words in length. The telephone number of the author is required for letter verification. All letters are due by 5 pm on the Friday prior to publication, and can be sent in a Word document attachment via email to edop@poly.rpi.edu.

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.

Union: Students worldwide reuniting

From **Page 4**

students are extremely scarce and something that makes us unique. So this weekend, all of us representing RPI and the Rensselaer Union will be at ACUI Region VIII to learn and grow as student leaders and make some lasting connections with students across the world.

Also happening this weekend, the UPAC will be hosting *Union After Dark: Great Gatsby Night* which will be filled with student performances, movies, a costume contest, free food, games, and prizes. And as always, the annual Vermonster eating contest will be held during the event from 9 pm–midnight throughout the Union. UPAC and all of

the clubs who work with them have put many, many hours into creating this event and they are excited to share their hard work with the rest of the student body!

I also want to take some time to thank the Systems Administrators in the Union for all of their hard work in creating a how-to video for club budgeting. This is just another example of how much they contribute to the Union and how much we rely on them to keep the place running year after year, so thank you!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me at pu@rpi.edu. ♦

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unneeded message sent out to RPI community

I RECENTLY READ CURTIS POWELL’S “POST-ELECTION MESSAGE” OF 11/10/16 TO THE RPI community, and I felt compelled to write to you. His message was, simply put, repugnant. I’ve always found RPI to be a relatively freethinking and normal home for education, research, and camaraderie. Different points of view could be shared and students could handle the world around them without the need for intervention or counseling. RPI has never struck me as a school like Vassar, where “special snowflakes” are kept in “safe spaces” from opinions and news that might damage their delicate sensibilities.

My message to RPI administrators such as Mr. Powell—you get paid in large part to train young men and women to be emotionally prepared for the real world. There are no grief counselors where I’m writing from (my office). There are no safe spaces in company boardrooms. Let’s not let the millennial-entitlement contagion infect our campus as it’s done to so many others.

RPI lowers its standing among its alumni when we hear about this sort of coddling. Fact, not opinion.

Michael Bruce, CIVL ’08, MBA ’10

Calling all CS Majors, ITWS Majors, or related fields!



is hiring for a full-time Mid-level Database Administrator in Albany, NY!

Job Description: The mid-level Database Administrator must have demonstrable knowledge and understanding of Microsoft SQL Server and multi-tier application development concepts. This includes direct experience using SQL Server Management Studio to develop scripts, generating reports, and manipulate data. Maintaining high quality and predictability while working with customer data is critically important.

- Essential Responsibilities:**
- Create and maintain processes and scripts for importing customer data
 - Create ad hoc reports
 - Maintain and monitor backup jobs
 - Work closely with DBAs and members of the Development team
 - Some data analysis, modeling and maintenance

- Qualifications:**
- Exposure to MS SQL Server administration, installation and troubleshooting concepts
 - Strong knowledge of relational database programming concepts
 - Highly comfortable with writing T-SQL
 - Good understanding of risks involved with running queries on production systems
 - Knowledge of MS SQL Server backup and recovery methods
 - Excellent written and verbal communication skills
 - High attention to detail and adherence to established processes
 - Strong project and time management skills
 - Understanding of MS SQL Server in a clustered environment
 - Strong troubleshooting skills and knowledge to adapt and learn quickly in a changing environment
 - Desire to succeed, grow skill sets, and a positive attitude

Education Requirements:
Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or related field; or equivalent work experience.

Contact: Kelly Rohrwasser 518-720-3500 ext 1850 or apply online www.autotask.com

Poly Snapshots

Interviews and Photos by Maria Kozdroy and Stephanie Tan

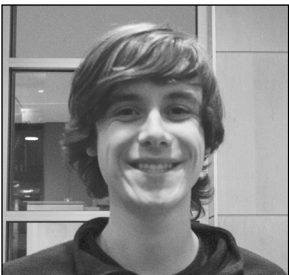
The Question:

What’s your favorite Thanksgiving food and why?



Rebecca Jackson
CHEG '18

“Mashed potatoes that my mom makes, because you can make a bowl of them and put gravy in it like a mini volcano.”



Dylan Whartenby
CSCI '18

“It’s the mashed potatoes, because it mixes so well with corn and gravy; it goes well with everything.”



Hannah Rabinowitz
AERO '18

“My bubbie makes some bomb ass mashed potato kugel.”



Antonio Pecoraro
MATL '20

“Mashed potatoes, because they’re so creamy! And cranberry sauce just because.”



Mike Zhu
CHEG '19

“Stuffing, because it’s so versatile. You can do so much with it like with turkey cranberry sauce gravy; you can have it with a drink.”



Lily O’Halloran
MATL '20

“I like *the* pumpkin pie because it is the only time my mom makes pumpkin pie.”



Jonathan Blumers
MECL '17

“I really like green beans, and I don’t know why.”



Alex Fearn
MECL '19

“Probably apple pie, because I like fall and apples!”

CROSS COUNTRY

Men, women make National Championship

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 20 YEARS, the now No. 9 nationally ranked Rensselaer men's cross country team received an invitation to compete at the NCAA Division III Championship Meet, the top meet in the country for Division III schools, following their second place victory at the NCAA Atlantic Regional Meet on Saturday. The meet will be held at Tom Sawyer Park in Louisville, Kentucky, this Saturday, November 19.

The women's cross country team, after being selected as an at-large team for their third place performance at Regional's, will be making their third appearance in school history at Saturday's National Championship. The women tied with Ithaca College in points, each team earning 121. Never before have both teams competed together at National's.

Out of 303 runners from 49 different schools, four-time 2016 Men's Cross Country Performer of the Week senior Ben Fazio led the Engineers in second place overall in the 8000 meter race, finishing five seconds behind the winner from the State University of New York at Geneseo, Isaac Garcia-Cassani, in an average mile pace of 4:54. Sophomore Grant O'Connor crossed in third in 24:23.6, just three seconds behind his teammate.



Courtesy of Peter Duncan

THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TEAMS WILL COMPETE alongside each other in the National Championship this Saturday. (file photo)

Also helping the Engineers earn 87 points were sophomore Sean O'Connor and senior Garrett Davis, third and fourth for their team, and 14th and 33rd overall respectively. O'Connor finished with a time of 24:50.5 and Davis clocked out at 25:13.0. Both athletes earned collegiate career personal records that day.

Junior Jaime Lord headed the No. 16 ranked women's team on Saturday, running the 6000 meter course in 20:46.8, a 5:35 average mile pace, to earn third out of 304 racers from 50 schools. Next for the Engineers was the pack of senior Maddie Dery, senior Mary West, and sophomore Karina Bolton,

each finishing within a second of each other and placing 23rd, 24th, and 26th respectively. Dery crossed nearly one minute after Lord.

Both the men's team and the women's team from SUNY Geneseo triumphed over the competition to earn first place regional trophies, earning 51

points on the men's side and 90 points on the women's side. The second place women's team was the State University of New York at Oneonta with 112 points, while the College of New Jersey won the men's team third place honor with 169 points. ♦

Basketball home openers



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OPENED their season with a 77-45 win against Southern Vermont College at home this past Tuesday, November 15th. The Engineers held control over the game from the fourth minute on, never trailing by more than a point. Both sophomore Elizabeth Eckhardt and senior Lauren Young scored career-high baskets of 22 and 15 respectively. Eckhardt, pictured above, made four of seven shots from three-point range and also had four rebounds and a steal. The women's team will continue their season at home on Tuesday, November 22 against Russell Sage College.



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

MEN'S BASKETBALL DEFEATED SUNY Cobleskill 84-53 in their season opener this past Tuesday November 15. Senior Brian Hatcher, pictured above, was one of the six players on the team to score in the double digits. Hatcher and sophomore Andreas Kontopidis both scored 13 points. The Engineers began their lead with a three-pointer by sophomore Tom Horvat and held their lead for the entire game. The men's team will be back at home on Tuesday, November 22 against Sage College of Albany.

Men's football



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE RPI ENGINEERS PLAYED the Union College Dutchmen to compete for the Dutchman's Shoes trophy. The Engineers won the game 21-12. The total record in the series is now 30-80-4. Union has won the series historically; however, RPI has won eight of the games in the past decade.

The Shoes contest is also traditionally RPI's last game of the season, and this year it was also senior night. Before the game, Director of Athletics Lee McElroy and President Shirley Ann Jackson congratulated seniors on their accomplishments in the football program during their four years here at Rensselaer.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Rensselaer trumped twice

Two losses bring season to 4-9-1

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

RENSELAER LOST 4-1 AGAINST SAINT LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY ON FRIDAY, November 11. After travelling to Potsdam, NY on Saturday, November 12, Rensselaer also lost to Clarkson University 8-3. The two losses dropped the Engineers to 4-9-1 overall for the season.

On Friday, after an uneventful first period, the Saints scored two goals within the first four of the second period. Junior Whitney Renn scored towards the end of the second period. However, the Saints scored early in the third period, and once more during the end, ensuring them a comfortable victory against the Engineers. Despite the loss, sophomore goaltender Lovisa Selander made 30 saves for Rensselaer over the course of the game.

Saturday's game started with a disappointing first period for the Engineers, with Clarkson University scoring three goals. During the second period, the Engineers scored twice with goals by sophomore Makenna Thomas and junior Marisa Raspa, but the Golden Knights also scored twice during this period. Sophomore Jaimie Grigsby scored an additional point for the Engineers during the third period. However, this was followed by three goals made by the Golden Knights, giving them an overwhelming victory against the Engineers. Sophomore goaltenders Selander and Kira Bombay, combined, made 42 saves throughout the game.

The Engineers will host Mercyhurst College this coming weekend. ♦

The Polytechnic wishes everybody a safe, happy Thanksgiving Break.

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DILBERT

by Scott Adams

I CAN'T DO YOUR URGENT TASK BECAUSE I'M ON DEADLINE FOR MY BOSS.

I CAN'T MEET YOUR DEADLINE BECAUSE I HAVE AN URGENT TASK FROM A CO-WORKER.

I FINALLY FIGURED OUT THE WHOLE "WORK-LIFE BALANCE" THING.

THE HUMIDITY IS WRECKING MY HAIR.

PLEASE DON'T STARE.

I CAN'T PROMISE THAT.

YOU'RE STARING!

I'M AFRAID TO TURN MY BACK ON IT.

NEXT MONTH IS EMPLOYEE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH, SO WE DECIDED TO HAVE A WEIGHT-LOSS COMPETITION.

WE'LL START ON THE FIRST OF THE MONTH, AND THE WINNER GETS A WEEK OF PAID VACATION.

WHEN HE THINKS BACK ON THIS, HE'LL REALIZE HE SHOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN US THREE WEEKS TO BULK UP BEFORE THE FIRST WEIGH-IN.

I'M TOO BUSY TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP CLASS, SO I'M SENDING ALL OF YOU TO A FOLLOWSHIP CLASS.

IS THAT SO WE CAN LEARN HOW TO **FOLLOW** SOMEONE WHO NEVER LEARNED HOW TO **LEAD**?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD QUESTION FOR YOUR FOLLOW-SHIP TEACHER.

CAN I COME IN AN HOUR EARLY TOMORROW AND LEAVE EARLY?

YEAH, OKAY.

HOW ABOUT FIVE HOURS EARLY?

UM... SURE.

LET'S SAY EIGHT HOURS EARLY AND YOU WON'T EVEN SEE ME.

TED, I HAVE TO FIRE YOU BECAUSE YOU SAID SOMETHING THAT OFFENDED THE JANITOR.

WHAT DID I SAY?!

I DON'T KNOW. THE JANITOR HAS A THICK ACCENT AND HE'S TERRIBLE AT CHARADES.

DID YOU TAKE CARE OF THE GUY WHO KEEPS PUTTING BANANA PEELS IN THE RECYCLING?

HE WON'T DO IT AGAIN.

SUDOKU

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

Instructions

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

Solution from 11/2 Issue

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

TOP TEN LIST

Things Trump has Ruined

10. The word “great”
9. Two marriages
8. Swamp reclamation
7. Spray tans
6. Nathan’s friendships
5. Jeb Bush
4. Thumbs-ups
3. Political Integrity (wait, no)
2. Making things great
1. This timeline

WORDFIND

by Ana Wishnoff

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

Thanksgiving Foods

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

Carrots
Casserole
Corn
Cornbread
Cranberries

Gravy
Green Beans
Ham
Pie
Potatoes

Rolls
Squash
Stuffing
Turkey
Yams



Cafe Society

Friday • November 18, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm. midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Step Brothers

Saturday • November 19, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm. midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Do you like drawing comics?
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CRYPTOQUOTE

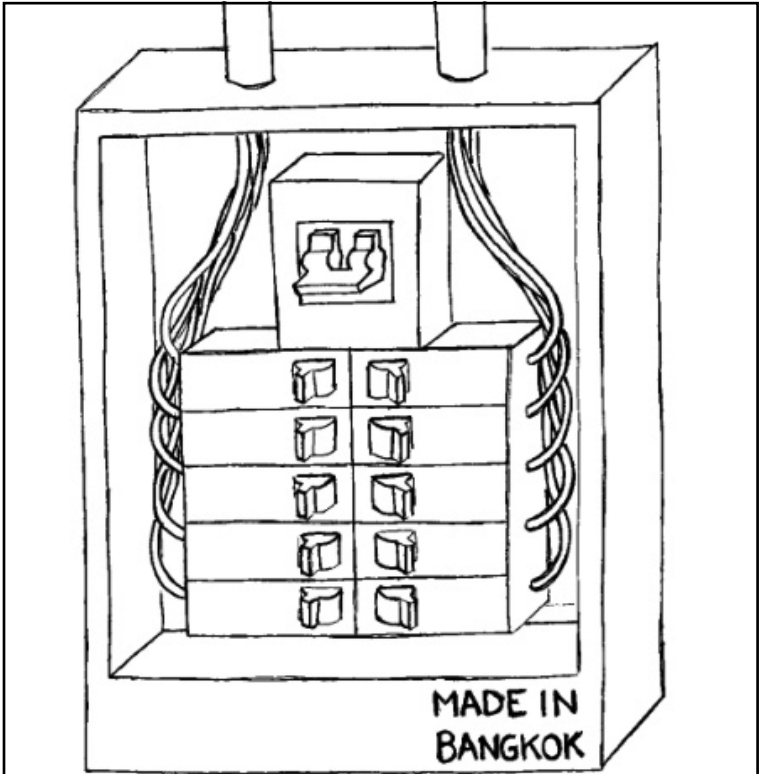
XKCD

by Randall Munroe

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: SIVOISSWC = ENGINEERS

“Frs gipm
wsdcgi mgb’ws
poloiv rsws oc
qsudbcs js dik
jm kdk ksuoksk
frdf mgbw jgj
edc wsdppm
rgf, dik jdmqs
es crgbpk hbcf
qgfr qdiv rsw,
dik es’pp abf
ba eofr frs
wsfdwk oi frs
jsdifojs.”
-Kdps Kgqduz
Cfsa Qwgfrswc

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



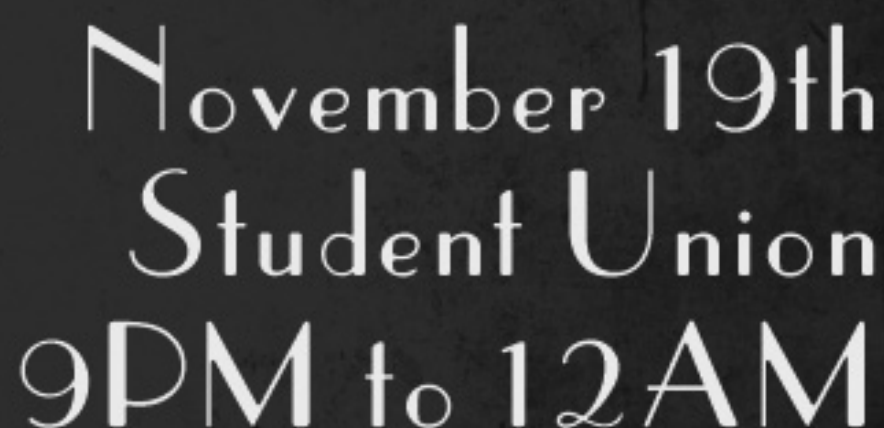
mondaypunday.com

THE NOVEMBER 2016
GUIDE TO MAKING PEOPLE
FEEL OLD

IF THEY'RE [AGE], YOU SAY:

"DID YOU KNOW [THING] HAS BEEN
AROUND FOR A MAJORITY OF YOUR LIFE?"

AGE	THING
16	GRAND THEFT AUTO IV
17	RICKROLLING
18	AQUA TEEN HUNGER FORCE COLON MOVIE FILM FOR THEATRES
19	THE NINTENDO Wii
20	TWITTER
21	THE XBOX 360, XKCD
22	CHUCK NORRIS FACTS
23	OPPORTUNITY'S MARS EXPLORATION
24	FACEBOOK
25	GMAIL, PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
26	IN DA CLUB
27	FIREFLY
28	THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN
29	THE IPOD
30	SHREK, WIKIPEDIA
31	THOSE X-MEN MOVIES
32	THE SIMS
33	AUTOTUNED HIT SONGS
34	THE STAR WARS PREQUELS
35	THE MATRIX
36	POKÉMON RED & BLUE
37	NETFLIX, HARRY POTTER, GOOGLE
38	DEEP BLUE'S VICTORY
39	TUPAC'S DEATH
40	THE LAST CALVIN AND HOBBS STRIP
41	TOY STORY
>41	[DON'T WORRY, THEY'VE GOT THIS COVERED]



Adjunct Professor David Aker of the Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center will make a presentation on these subjects. Professor Aker will tell the story of his background in electronics and physics, his work in the aerospace and other industry on Long Island, his decision to attend law school, and his career as a patent attorney and an adjunct professor of law. The law school admission process will also be discussed. Questions from students will be answered.

TELEVISION REVIEW

TV's dark, twisted fantasy

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

THE HIT TV SHOW *BLACK MIRROR* is like none other. Drawing themes from old Twilight Zone episodes and mashing them with this generation's general distrust for technology, Charlie Booker created a disjointed yet extremely interconnected TV series. Each episode is stand-alone, yet ties in with others, even those not necessarily in the same season. Constantly changing, yet retaining similar elements of sinister, almost realistic parodies of human culture, *Black Mirror* aims to create sleepless nights and terrifying views of the future alike.

Why talk about *Black Mirror* now? Season three was released just under a month ago, and now that most die-hard fans have formed opinions on it, I feel like it's fair to talk about it to those who have not yet heard of its magnificence. Season three is significant in that it's the longest season, with six episodes ranging from 40 to 80 minutes, and the fact that its owners have changed. Originally commissioned for Channel 4, season three

is the first group of episodes made for Netflix, with a fourth season on its way from the same team. With Netflix's backing, *Black Mirror* is accessible to many more people, which will only serve to heighten its popularity.

All episodes in season three are worth a watch, as even the weakest link is still a strong one. From the parody of social media and cellular culture in "Nosedive," to the exploration of the consequences that come from creating the ultimate horror game in "Playtest," the seemingly outlandish episode plots are, upon further consideration, very much possible on the near horizon. Nothing can compare to the shock I felt during "Shut Up and Dance" as it wove its tale of cyber logical havoc, or the confusion-turned-anticipation as "San Junipero" unfolded across 61 short minutes.

A fitting end to *Black Mirror* as it is now is the last episode of season three, "Hated in the Nation" is a tale of technology gone wrong. It touches on many familiar problems, such as government spying and ecological disasters, as well as the overarching cloud of anonym-

ity. Throughout the episode, the consequences of remaining purely anonymous are explored in great length, with citizens forming a metaphorical and literal hivemind in their quest for justice.

That is not to say that the rest of *Black Mirror* is weak, but on the contrary, some of the strongest episodes are from the older seasons. Whether you're looking for an emotional rollercoaster, seeking an experiencing detailing total amnesia, or even wondering how life would be in a post-apocalyptic society where exercise would transform into currency, *Black Mirror* has you covered.

In short, if you're looking for a break from the monotony of college life, I recommend watching *Black Mirror*. It will make you forget about the problems that you're facing now and focus on existential questions that will keep you up all night. Scratch that—watch *Black Mirror* when you have plenty of free time to consider your own existence. Trust me. Also, start with the Christmas Special. It's a great way to ease yourself into the twisted realm of *Black Mirror*. ♦

Drag: RPA show bends gender lines

From Page 12

Elisabeth Ryan
Senior Reviewer

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, THE RENSSELAER PRIDE ALLIANCE HOSTED THEIR annual Drag Show. This event was held in the West Hall auditorium. As students shuffled into the first few rows, clad in rainbow colored and glitter covered garb, music blasted through the speakers, setting the mood for a good time.

The red curtains parted and there before the crowd were two sassy and well-dressed queens. Melissa Capri, a lively blonde, enchanted the crowd with her spunky attitude and straightforward behavior. Pacifica Rim, a suave brunette with a smoky voice, seduced the audience with her breathy asides. Unfortunately, they were the only two performers that night. Fortunately for us, they were an absolute treat.

Melissa and Pacifica performed Broadway favorites, from old show tunes to Rent, all provocative and entertaining. Melissa wowed with her cartwheels and splits, surprising and pleasing the audience. She often came down to those present to interact. She claims that it was to stall for time while Pacifica was getting dressed. The two often worked on their feet to provide entertainment between their separate performances. While waiting for Pacifica, Melissa lead students onto the stage for the "Electric Slide."

Speaking of student performances, during intermission, junior queens graced the stage with their own performance. Three RPI students danced in drag to Lady Gaga's "Government Hooker" with a storytelling choreography.

The night proved to be an overall success for RPA and the illustrious Melissa and Pacifica. Be sure to catch it next year! ♦

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CAMPUS EVENT

Crossdressing monarchy takes RPI main-stage



Brookelyn Parslow/ The Polytechnic

ARTIST PACIFICA RIM PERFORMS as a part of the Rensselaer Pride Alliance drag show. The event hosted numerous gender-bending acts, including student performances.

See DRAG, **Page 11**

ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

From humble origins to breakthrough success

Tanner Vargas
Staff Reviewer

THE DYNAMIC FOLK-ROCK DUO OF Lewis Del Mar is based just three hours south of Troy, New York, their humble beginnings originating in a Queens basement. Danny Miller and Max Harwood dropped their sonically strong debut album last month, and its compelling indie rock aesthetics prove to be worth a closer look.

Miller and Harwood power past simple pop antics, reaching instead for a Latin-fused, percussion-soaked sound that brings each guitar strum and bold lyric to a vibrant life. Miller offers vocals and guitar; Harwood handles drums and production. The two grew up together as childhood friends, and claim their success as a duo stems from their bond and belief that friendship comes before fame. The two have experienced a steady rise in the alternative music scene recently, trading basement sessions for festival appearances.

It wasn't always easy for the two. They moved to Brooklyn and worked service jobs, throwing themselves into their music after hours. They began to feel the creative fire fading; an unknown group without a name. It was from this arduous low that they

began to discover and build upon their sound. Their vibe is essentially a blend of opposites; the familiarity of their culture and community, and the bold experimentalist rock-pop they hone so precisely. You can feel the Latin flavor in the sensory lyrics, and the bursts of percussion strike you with the heat of a habanero pepper. Oceanic vibes simultaneously flow in crashing chorus waves. Such brash and inventive sounds from this low point led the duo to their first break. The release of their first single, "Loud(y)," garnered immediate positive feedback. It earned the coveted top spot on Hype Machine, a music aggregator blog that calls out the best new acts and predicts future successes. The hype built instantly and lasted until the release of their self-titled debut album last month.

The track that brought them a chance, "Loud(y)," opens with simple strings, then gains some courage as it progresses into a bold, bass-punched first line. The chorus bursts into a lush percussion arrangement that sighs and screams to Miller's vocal "you got a semi-automatic mouth." It descends into descriptive spoken-word sections and keeps surprising with its constant twists and turns. The next standout track

feels like it was sung sideways. The lyrics are direct, the arrangement winding and reflective. "The party's alive at 5 am/But who's counting? Dance around like skeletons/cause we forgot what we wanted," strikes a different chord than their lead single. The vocals start to strain as the verses darken and chorus thickens, and you feel as if you're in the same dark room haze. The first track of the LP, "Such Small Scenes," opens in disarray before funneling into vocal synths and sharp-tuned percussion. This one is particularly candid, starting with a confession of "never felt at home in my hometown," then a brutal "I promise I'm fine, I'll call you if I cave in." The production is key here; the song progresses in waves, from the first descending synths to the final bass cutouts.

Lewis Del Mar's debut exhibits massive talent and promise. They own their signature sound from the first track on, and it feels as if they're ready to take on all that's coming their way. The two have been working hard, and with passion, to make their dreams a reality. Their eagerness to share their passions, and the ingenious honesty that flows from it, makes them uniquely likeable. ♦



Courtesy of Alberto Pezzali

LEWIS DEL MAR EVOKES Latin folk-rock vibes throughout their music.