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Rensselaer's curling team puts on exciting exhibition for all

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The Weeknd's new album *Starboy* praised after recent release

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The Editorial Board Holiday celebrations and how they're accepted

Staff Editorial Disappointment in administration's actions

RENSELAER UNION

Union Director posting sparks outcry

Position was posted without knowledge or approval of student leaders



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE RENSELAER UNION HAS BEEN RUN by elected student officials since its founding, which is something students take pride in.

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON NOVEMBER 29, WILLIAM SPELMAN EXECUTIVE SEARCH POSTED A JOB opening for a position in the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Division of Student Life, the Director of the Rensselaer Union, after nearly a year of heightened tensions following a protest against proposed Student Life changes this past April.

The posting was removed two days later on December 1 before 6:30 pm. In an email sent to *The Poly*, President of the Union Chip Kirchner said, “[the position posting] has been taken down from Spelman’s website until they are able to post a version that Paul and I edited and sent to HR. That posting was the result of a miscommunication somewhere in the line of people communicating between us and the search firm, though not really the fault of any particular person.”

The content of the job description included management of the Union budget, which is currently under the control of students serving on the Executive Board, directing student programs and activities, management of non-residential facilities, and providing “direction and administrative support” to student-led clubs and organizations. The Director of the Union would report to a newly-created Assistant Vice President for Student Experience and Dean of Students in the Student Life portfolio.

The move to initiate the search process for the Director of the Union position came without notice to student leaders and Union staff alike, with Grand

Marshal Paul Ilori ’17 remarking “this is the first that [President of the Union] Chip and I have heard of the posting being completed and any clear schedule for its release. We have started communicating with administrators, sharing student concerns with the posting, and emphasizing the issues around the miscommunications that took place with this.”

The clear lack of communication between student leaders and administrators is nothing new and has garnered substantial attention from students. Most recently, this occurred with regard to athletics budgeting and the posting of the Executive Director of Student Activities Position last spring.

The Rensselaer Union is unique in its structure and autonomy and is one of the greatest sources of pride at the Institute, recognized as incredibly valuable by students, alumni, and outside analysts. The Middle State Accreditation Board in 2006 described the Union as “a justifiable source of pride for the Institute.”

Students and alumni have been quick to respond to the issue, posting on social media shortly following the introduction of the new position. Although no changes have been made to the Union’s budgeting process, many feel that the administration is attempting to assert control over the Union. Recently, this has led to a response from alumni with the creation of the RPI Union Fund, which hopes to disburse funds donated from alumni directly to Union clubs and activities. In addition, alumni expressed their concerns through an open letter addressed to the administration last year. ♦

STUDENT SENATE

New solutions to enhance on-campus safety

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON DECEMBER 5, GRAND MARSHAL PAUL ILORI ’17 opened the Student Senate meeting with committee reports. Those reports included a discussion led by Student Government Communications Chair Korey Prendergast ’17, who is currently updating Senate profiles for the Spring 2017 semester. Senate profiles are posted on the Student Government website and are used by students to learn who their elected officials are as well as their contact information.

Facilities and Services Chair Austin Miller ’17 continued committee reports by stating that the committee is currently pursuing the expansion of water bottle filling stations throughout campus. Water bottle filling stations were originally installed in Spring 2016 and have since been met with positive reception from students.

Web Technologies Chair Sidney Kochman ’19 also delivered a report in which he discussed an investigation currently being done by the committee, exploring the possibility of offering free VPS services for students. This comes as a result of the phasing out of MyRPI, a legacy shared hosting service offered to students,

which will be terminated at the end of this semester. The committee hopes that it can create a sustainable and secure replacement, with no expected release date for the service.

Senate continued with presentations regarding campus safety and student concerns about recent break-ins surrounding the RPI campus. Zining Liang ’19 gave the first presentation, discussing her ideas for a new campus-wide safety alert system and current issues with the ways that students are receiving information regarding recent crime. Liang specifically cited

See PUBLIC SAFETY, Page 2

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

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STUDENT SENATE

Senate passes resolution in response to petition

Students created petition in hopes that the Rensselaer Union can be kept a student-run effort



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE STUDENT SENATE GATHERS for a long meeting to discuss a variety of issues, ultimately voting unanimously regarding the *Preserve the Student Union* petition.

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

AFTER APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, THE STUDENT UNION Senate passed a resolution 21–0–0 responding to the student petition *Preserve the Student Union*, which has received 470 signatures—the highest count found on an online student petition to date. The resolution included a brief description of the Rensselaer Union’s history, remarking that the Union, since its founding over 126 years ago, “has been widely hallmarked for its unique, student-run structure and continues to serve as a source of pride, spirit, and admiration for students, faculty, administration, and the greater Rensselaer community.”

Students have expressed concerns regarding “planned changes to the organizational structure of the Division

of Student Life” and “the potential for planned changes to impact the Rensselaer Union’s student-run structure.” Recently, a posting of a Director of the Union position to William Spelman Executive Search was met with widespread controversy as students were not informed of the posting, which was later removed and edited by Grand Marshal Paul Ilori ‘17 and President of the Union Chip Kirchner ‘17. *The Poly’s* coverage of this is available at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/o8hbd>.

The Rensselaer Union currently stands as one of the last student-run student unions in the country and the resolution hopes to preserve the Union’s student-run structure, reaffirming that under Article V of the Union Constitution “the Director of the Union shall be

employed by the Union” and “the Vice President for Student Life shall act as adviser to the Director.” The Senate also recommends that the hiring process involve the participation of students.

Further, the Senate “reaffirmed the importance of the advisory role of the Director of the Union in a student-run Rensselaer Union” and emphasized the Senate’s intent to continue its commitment to representing the interests and concerns of the student body.

The Student Senate also recognized the importance of “maintaining open dialogue with the Rensselaer administration” and expressed gratitude to the Division of Student Life for quickly removing the job posting until it could be reviewed by Ilori and Kirchner. ♦

Public Safety: Improvement of communication with students

New platforms assist making campus safer, but student vigilance continues to be most effective

from **Page 1**

the limited use of the RPIAlert system, as well as Public Safety’s absence from social media. Student surveys, also released by Liang, show that students would prefer hearing about campus crime incidents via SMS or social media.

Students also only thought Troy was “somewhat safe” in response to the survey, with results averaging only 5.2 out of 10, with 10 being the safest and one being the least safe. Overall, students felt safe being in Troy, with an average response of over 6.0 on the same scale.

Concerns were also raised about the gap between public safety learning about a potential event and the time at which students are alerted through on-campus posting. In response to this data, Liang recommended increasing collaboration between students and administrators, calling for an increased use of social media platforms for communicating with students, and potentially implementing a new safety alert system. The new system could either be an expansion of the current RPIAlert system or a new application featuring a campus crime map.

Following Liang’s presentation, Director of Public Safety Jerry Matthews began a speech to the Senate by stating “we have to work as a team.” Matthews spoke about campus safety as a shared responsibility,

inviting students to be proactive about campus events by reporting incidents to Public Safety and practicing good safety measures.

Matthews also acknowledged the divide between students, administrators, and individual departments at RPI, stating that Public Safety does not receive enough feedback and is sometimes unsure of how receptive students would be to change. This comes after many students have expressed concerns over the limited amount of communication that has occurred between Public Safety and the student body, as well as transparency within Public Safety.

In response, Matthews hopes to create more clear lines of communication between student leaders and on-campus organizations that could assist Public Safety in meeting student requests. Matthews also noted that “my office is open at any time,” and if students cannot reach him directly, they can request to set up a meeting to discuss their concerns and suggestions.

Following recent incidents at universities across the nation, including Ohio State University and Wayne State University, the director also reaffirmed Public Safety’s lines of communication with local, state, and federal officials to ensure the safety of students on Rensselaer’s campus. Safety measures are also currently in place to alert students in the case of emergency situations such as the

campus-wide emergency alert system, sirens, and RPIAlert.

Matthews also discussed a new system in use by the Department of Public Safety called Social Sentinel, a social media intelligence solution meant to get alerts to threats shared on social media. Public Safety is currently using the tool to collect aggregate data via key phrases, hashtags, geofences, and public social media posts on Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to help identify and mitigate threats relating to campus safety and security. This signals a shift in Public Safety enforcement from local safety patrols and enforcement to online surveillance and web crawling. Matthews identified this method, additionally, as a useful method for identifying potential threats to RPI security and reaffirmed that the data being assessed is already public on social media.

Concluding his speech to the Senate, Matthews stated that the greatest way to deter crime and for students to protect themselves is not to avoid certain areas, but instead construct a personal safety plan, travel in groups, and “feel out” areas they are traveling to. If at any point students feel uncomfortable with a certain area, they should not be pressured into traveling to such a location. In addition, the student population should be trustful

of Public Safety and be open to interaction with Public Safety officials.

Matthews acknowledged that Public Safety interventions regarding noise complaints and other offenses around campus may lead students to affiliate Public Safety with “bad news,” but this should by no means impact students’ relationships with the organization, and it should overall “be a good experience.” Matthews reiterated that Public Safety’s goal is to keep students safe during their years at RPI, and that this time should be as seamless as possible.

Following Matthews’ presentation, the Senate voted on a resolution to respond to the *Preserve the Student Union* petition (see page 2 for more information). The resolution passed overwhelmingly, with a response of 21–0–0.

The Student Senate also voted on a resolution that would dissolve the Ad Hoc Committee which is currently tasked with working on a response to the *Preserve the Student Union* petition, the highest signature count student petition to date, with over 450 signatures from students, faculty, and alumni. The resolution failed 7–14–0, with members of the Senate noting that the committee’s findings were not limited to the Director of the Union position or the petition in general.

If you would like to offer your thoughts or suggestions, you can contact Facilities & Services Chair, Austin Miller ‘17 at millea11@rpi.edu. ♦

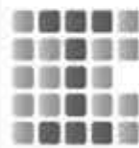


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Editorial

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

EDITORIAL BRIEFS

For this week's editorial page, editors were asked to prepare a short summary on what upcoming holiday they celebrate, if any. How do you celebrate it? And how is it accepted in society?

Going home for Hanukkah



Sidney Kochman
Senior Managing Editor

HANUKKAH IS AN INTERESTING HOLIDAY. I'VE FOUND THAT NON-JEWS TEND TO MAKE a bigger deal out of it than Jews, which is probably because it typically falls in the same part of the year as Christmas. Usually it involves lighting the candles, saying blessings, and making and eating latkes, and spending time with family as we give each other gifts. My family usually lights a hanukkah in our kitchen, and we have an electronic one that we place in the front window of our house. It is bright enough to catch your attention from the street, which I've always been taught is the purpose of putting it in the window. However, since I've been living at school instead of at home for the past few years, I've pretty much been limited to celebrating Hanukkah on my own. But this year, I'll be able to spend Hanukkah with my family, and I am looking forward to it. ◇

Traveling to be together

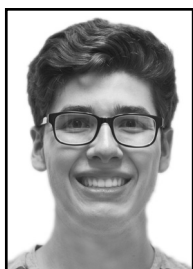
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, I WILL BE RETURN- ing home and celebrating Christmas with my family. I hope to go to church after returning home and spending time with my family members. Much of my extended family is scattered across the country so Christmas is always a special time since they will be flying to visit in New York City everywhere from Atlanta to Florida to Michigan. Christmas is always special to me because it is now one of the only opportunities for me to

spend time with my friends and family. I feel very fortunate to be able to practice my religion during this special time and share time with friends and family without discrimination from others. I hope that everyone in the Rensselaer community during this special time, including myself, will practice good judgement and support others who may not be as fortunate. ◇



Peter Gramenides
News Editor

Sharing time with loved ones



Jonathan Caicedo
Photography Editor

CHRISTMAS IS SWIFTLY APPROACHING. LIKE MANY, I CELEBRATE THAT WONDERFUL TIME OF year with my family and friends, wherever happens to feel like home at that time. Coming from a military family, I've had the opportunity to celebrate Christmas everywhere from Hawaii to Germany, and I must say, it's amazing how, no matter where you are, there's always a common theme of the holidays bringing people together, which is unique to this time of year. No matter what you celebrate during this holiday season, whether it be Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or the many more that I've missed, remember that we're all essentially celebrating the same thing: the very human nature of togetherness, and sharing time with the ones we love; that's something that can be easily forgotten in today's society. So, take time this holiday season to appreciate — no matter where you are or whom you're with—that very human nature, and enjoy it to the fullest. ◇

Christmas vs. christmas

I STRONGLY BELIEVE IN CHRISTMAS AND FOR the way it's supposed to be celebrated— Jesus Christ's birth. Additionally, it's a great time to be with family to gather around the Christmas tree and sip on some hot chocolate while listening to Christmas songs, or even having some carolers come by the house.

The real meaning of Christmas seems to be hidden when it comes to the days leading up to while living your daily life. For example, the constant advertisements for toys. I believe that this social way of celebrating this holiday

should be referred to as "christmas," yes, without the capital "C." Therefore, non-Christians can celebrate their holiday the way they want, while Christians can celebrate the actual Christmas.

Lastly, Santa Claus alludes to Saint Nicholas, yet today's Santa Claus is thought of to many as simply Santa who delivers gifts and the name given to the secret person that gives you a gift in a gift exchange. This depiction of Santa should go with the christmas holiday, not the original beloved Christmas. ◇



Maria Kozdroy
Associate Composing Editor

STAFF EDITORIAL

GM and PU not told of job posting

Search for new Director of the Union starts behind the backs of students

IT IS CLEAR THAT STUDENT- administration relations have been strained this year, and it is clear why. It should be clear that administrators have a moral obligation to inform students of changes that are being made, particularly when those changes are likely to have long-standing effects on student life. For all the work that has been done to improve the situation between students and professionals at RPI over the past two semesters, it's disappointing to see just how little things have changed for students.

On November 29, Rensselaer students discovered that a listing for Director of the Rensselaer Union had been posted on the William Spelman Executive Search, and it seemed for a moment that history was beginning to repeat itself. While the position now includes some recommendations given by Grand Marshal Paul Ilori '17 and President of the Union Chip Kirchner '17,

neither was notified before the listing was posted. This position bears significant weight in the daily functioning of the Union, and the two students that we, the student body, have elected to uphold our interests were not informed that the search had begun.

This is precisely the situation that ignited the Spring Town Protest in March, and it seemed like the administration had made earnest efforts to learn from the toes they had stepped on and the lines they had crossed. There is complete disjoint in what the administration is doing and what they are telling students. Evidently, we were wrong, and the work to make the student voice heard is not finished. It is our obligation to ensure that students have a say in the way that the school is run, and we have an obligation to make sure that administrators follow through on their promises. ◇

the polytechnic

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

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The Polytechnic wishes everyone a successful final exam week and a wonderful Winter Break.

DERBY

Veterans lounge for students underway

HAPPY END OF THE SEMESTER! WE ALL managed to make it to the end, just two weeks left until we can all head home for Winter Break. Since this is the last time I'll be writing to you this semester, I would like to wish everyone happy holidays and good luck on their final exams and projects.

This year has been a busy one for the Executive Board and its committees. So far, the Board has approved several new clubs and has begun funding several more.

We've added additional policies protecting groups of students who form organizations focusing on certain aspects of their identity. We hired new staff members and by the end of the semester we will have completed the Rensselaer Union's budget in its entirety, two months earlier than our previous timelines.

The Executive Board's committees have done even more work. The Business

Operations Committee completed plans for a renovation of the Class of '09 lounge in the Games Room. They also began preparations for renovations in Mother's Wine Emporium, the Student Government Suite, and the Publications Suite. The Policies Committee has been working diligently with new clubs and newly funded clubs. They have been rewriting almost all of the Executive Board's policies and procedures to improve their thoroughness and, amazingly, their simplicity. The Marketing, Advertising, and Publicity Committee has collected thousands of

photos to cover the walls of the Union, and picked promotional materials for campus next year, more specifically the Class of 2021 orientation. UPAC has hosted dozens of movies in DCC 308, comedians and concerts in the Union, a successful Union After Dark program, and supported hundreds of other activities from clubs throughout the Union.

Most of these students will start all over again next semester and spend a good portion of their extracurricular time preparing events and creating environments for our clubs to flourish. So, I want to say thank you to the Executive Board members and committee members who helped us accomplish so much and will help us accomplish so much more.

Next semester we have a wide range of goals to follow through on. Mostly the continuation of projects I mentioned above, but there are a couple big items we continue to work on. One of the biggest has been the establishment of a Student Veterans Lounge on campus, and we are well on our way to meeting this goal! With the help of a few clubs and student organizations, we've been able to shift some rooms and start to make new space available. With luck, these plans will be cemented soon and we will have a new Student Veterans Lounge on campus. Big thanks to *The Poly*, *Statler & Waldorf*, and UPAC for their assistance in this project. ♦



Chip Kirchner
President of the Union

REWARD



The Delta Phi Fraternity is offering a \$1000 reward for the return of our President's Pin that was recently burglarized from a BARH room.

If you have any information about this incident, please contact Detective Burns at RPI Public Safety at 518-276-6656.

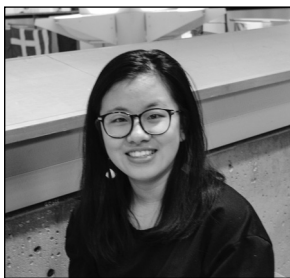
\$1000

Interviews and Photos by Maria Kozdroy, Michael Baird, and Stephanie Tan

Poly Snapshots

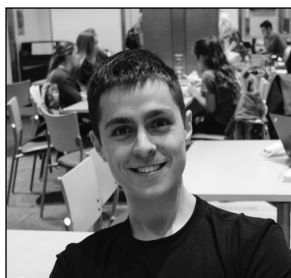
The Question:

How do you cope with finals' stress?



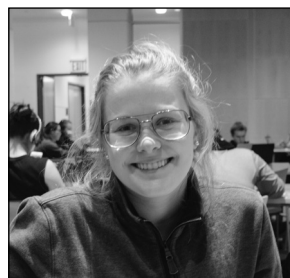
Kay Sun
ITWS, ELEC '19

"By eating and watching Netflix, mostly movies and *How I Met Your Mother*. Comedies also relieve stress."



J.D. Stark
BMGT '20

"I'm going to be taking a trip to Finland."



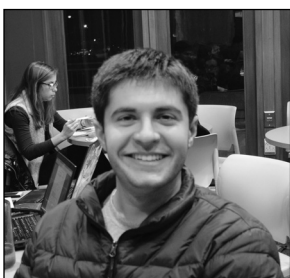
Maya Manchester
CSYS '20

"I pet my stuffed cat; it's a black cat with green eyes and red collar."



Zac Ravichandran
CSCI, ELEC '18

"I study with Varun Rao '18. I haven't really come up with a coping strategy. We'll figure that one out when the time comes."



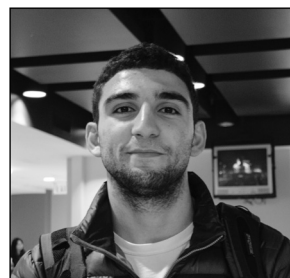
Frankie Aturi
BMED '19

"I try not to wait to the last minute to study. I try to spread it out."



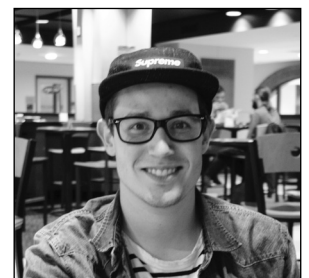
Michelle Samour
MGTE '19

"Study a lot and try not to die; study a lot to the point where I don't make myself sick."



Phil Nasrallah
BMGT '19

"I spread out my studying. I'll watch some Netflix, like *Madmen*—probably one of my favorite shows."



Matt Yale
ELEC '19

"I listen to albums in full. It helps me out; I focus and study better."

Features

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

ALBUM REVIEW

Starboy reinforces The Weeknd's stardom



Courtesy of Kayla Johnson

ABEL MAKKONEN TEFAYE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE WEEKND, EXHIBITS a vast blend of genres, including rap, EDM, disco, rock, and chill in his latest album, *Starboy*.

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

HAILING FROM OUTSIDE TORONTO, Canadian rapper The Weeknd has had a busy year. Fresh from his fame off of his first full album *The Beauty Behind the Madness*, the world eagerly awaited what Abel Makkonen Tesfaye might do next in his musical career. With the November 25 release of his new album *Starboy*, I feel like he has written a compelling argument as to why he deserves to remain at the forefront of the music industry. The Weeknd blends smooth rap verses with interchanged bursts of aggressive EDM synths and jumpy pop melodies, which makes for a unique listening experience.

The album starts off with the titular track "Starboy," which is a pop-infused low key R&B master-

piece. Tesfaye discusses the properties of wealth, and how he ascends through the materialistic world in the same sense one can ascend to heaven. Remarking how his "PI cleaner than your church shoes," The Weeknd draws a concrete distinction between past and present, between the growing divide in faith in religion and faith in money. Paired with a soft piano contrasting with a heavy-hitting drum pad, "Starboy" draws in listeners and doesn't let them go until the song comes to its conclusion.

Immediately following this is the darker and more ominous "Party Monster." Talking about girls who indulge their vices at social events, The Weeknd delivers a tune that would sound amazing when played on bass-boosted speakers. The slow nature combined with the foreboding synths leaves lis-

teners waiting for each individual bass line, as The Weeknd's voice lures them in with its constant pitch changes. This was one of the highlights of the album for me, and I can see it being played and soon overplayed on mainstream radio.

Another highlight of the album is the song "Secrets." Drawing elements from '80s disco and melding them with traces of modern EDM, The Weeknd makes a song that is both catchy and fun to listen to. Sampling the chorus from The Romantic's 1984 smash hit "Talking in Your Sleep" and remixing it with the 1983 UK hit "Pale Shelter" by Tears For Fears, Abel takes listeners on a rollercoaster through time as an omnipresent drum loop evokes images of dance floors. You can almost feel the flashing lights and the shifting moods as dancers stomp their feet and party the night away.

Skipping ahead even more, we come to my favorite single: "Sidewalks." A carefree electronic rhythm combined with a ska-esque beat is the underlying pitch while Abel rants about his childhood and how far he's come. Then, out of nowhere, comes Kendrick Lamar, and his rapid-fire rap creates a nice contrast with Abel's sing-song style. Personally, I think this song would appeal to everyone: fans of rap and fans of pop alike can revel in this masterpiece that The Weeknd has created.

Skipping to the end of the album, listeners are confronted with what Rolling Stone calls "a gem of Ibiza love" with "I Feel It Coming." Working with Daft Punk, who helped him with the album's first track, The Weeknd makes a slow song that

would ideally play when a club is wrapping down its party and wants the patrons to slow down and appreciate the simple fibers of their existence. The song is very much Daft Punk influenced, which works well with Tesfaye's slow and mellow voice. I like this song as an ending to *Starboy*, as it heralds the end of the album and the finality of an amazing music experience.

In short, I enjoyed *Starboy* a lot. The Weeknd has created a great album that will keep me entertained for a while. Many people obviously think the same, as it has broken Spotify's streaming record, with 223 million listeners in its first week. If you enjoy an album that contains a variety of music styles and a plethora of catchy tunes, *Starboy* is the album for you. ♦



Courtesy of Pedro Saad

NETFLIX'S LATEST ATTEMPT AT THRILLSEEKING RESULTS in *3%*, which tells the tale of fighting for a better life.

TV SERIES REVIEW

3% delivers thrills

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

AS THE NEWEST ORIGINAL RELEASE FROM NETFLIX, BRAZILIAN-PRODUCED dystopian thriller *3%* seems to be riding on the coattails of the popular *Hunger Games* franchise. The show debuted its eight-episode first season on November 25, and has quickly become the subject of binge-watches nationwide.

If you're familiar with *The Hunger Games*, you understand that the backbone of the show revolves around a competition that promises the winner a better life. In *The Hunger Games*, this competition is based around a fight to the death, where people from all rivaling districts struggle against each other in a gladiator-style pit of death. *3%* takes a marginally more intellectual approach: all 20-year-olds from a futuristic, impoverished version of Brazil work through a series of tests, and the top 3% are granted the opportunity to live in a perfect society, called "The Offshore," someplace in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

It's easy to see where the show could be called derivative; the concept of people pitted against each other in hopes of a better life has certainly been touched on in the last few years. In the wake of *The Hunger Games* or *Ender's Game*, the entertainment market was filled to the brim with minor spins on the format of young people fighting for a better life. There isn't an easy way to make *3%* sound groundbreaking

See NETFLIX, **Page 7**

CAMPUS EVENT

RPI film showing explores experimental media



Stephanie Tan/The Polytechnic

Ana Wishnoff
Senior Reviewer

ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, LAURE Prouvost showed six of her short films and discussed the inspiration and meaning behind her works at Rensselaer's Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. Her short films were very experimental, fitting the venue, and showcased a lot of different techniques with image, sound, color, and narration.

Although each film was very different, they all centered around the basic theme of technology. Her film *Bunker Communication Sequence* centered around a group of military workers, desperately trying to get in communication with someone named Graigor. The group was unable to do so as Prouvost exaggerated the mis-translation that occurs with modern technology. This film had an especially odd scene, as every person walking or moving in the shots were upside down while their surroundings were right side up. This was perhaps a metaphor as to how people feel when frustrated with technology, as if their whole world is upside down. This piece was the most technology focused, but the other films also exhibited a lot of quick scenes of text messages, and used a lot of abrupt sounds of text notifications and ringtones. *Bunker Communication Sequence* was the most straightforward of the films—it

had a clear plot while the rest of the films were more about a sound and image experience.

That said, Prouvost used a lot of interesting elements in the films to make them a truly unique experience for the audience. A common element in most of the films was the breaking of the fourth wall, or the film talking directly to the audience. In *After the End* as well as *It Heat Hit*, there was constant dialogue with the audience. The narrator of the film continuously addressed the audience members as "you," bringing them into the film experience. In *Object Vegetable*, the film interacted with live objects on stage. The film was only a few minutes, and the only scene in the frame was the narrator's hands, gesturing as she spoke about an experience she had when vegetables fell through her ceiling onto her bed. Prouvost actually brought those vegetables to the performance, and had them laid out on a table in front of the large screen. In the film, the hands on screen spoke about the vegetables and pointed to where they were sitting, physically, on the table in front of the screen, which brought the film to life and added an extra dimension to the experience.

Prouvost's artistic style was very intense and stayed consistent throughout the six films that she showed. Many scenes in her films were simply quick flashes of random, provocative images,

blocks of color, or short snippets of abrupt video. She overlaid a lot of visual effects over some of her short clips and images, giving the piece an even more artistic touch. The sounds were the key components that tied all six of these short films together. Prouvost uses her own voice to narrate all of her films. This was something she discussed during the talk portion of the performance. She said that using her own voice is not only practical, as it is easiest and saves money, but it also allows her to experiment more easily and find the exact sound and feeling that she desires. All of her films have her narration played over various types of scenes, and her narrative voice goes from a normal volume and calm tone, to a more angry tone, to very snippy and edited, to high-pitched and screechy.

Prouvost definitely created a unique audience experience with this performance. With it being unique, it was also very out there and hard to follow at times. It was a different and interesting aesthetic experience, but fell a bit short in actual substance and message. Her films were too focused on the art aspect that she let the message aspect fall short. With art, everything is up to interpretation, and perhaps I was just too overwhelmed by all of the flashing lights to take away a grand message. ♦

LAURE PROUVOST CREATED a unique experience through movies.

from Page 6

Netflix: Original show looks at human morals

or original in that regard, but that's not to say that it doesn't have its merit elsewhere.

Where the show excels is its interaction between characters. *3%* follows the experiences of five characters as they go through the process of becoming the 3% granted to live in The Offshore: Michele, Fernando, Rafael, Marco, and Joana. Michele is a shy, quiet girl who wants to follow her boyfriend to the The Offshore; Fernando is a wheelchair-bound genius who wants to be the first disabled person to reach The Offshore; Rafael is a compulsive narcissist who will do whatever it takes to make it; Marco is a well-off leader who comes from a long line of people who have successfully made it to the offshore; and Joana is an orphan who has spent her entire life fending for herself. Here, the show plays on some archetypes, but also makes a point to explore the humanity in each of the characters; these are people who need to decide where their morality ends and their will to survive begins, and the process to find the 3% is designed specifically to test those grounds.

Netflix programming has made a name for itself in production quality, and *3%* is no exception; the show is visually interesting in the dichotomy that it casts between the poverty-stricken inland and the wealthy, powerful Offshore. The show makes liberal use of special effects to draw the audience into their terrifying and perfect future. In the world created by the writers of *3%*, technology has a way of getting into a person's head and exploiting their flaws.

In the end, it's easy to write off *3%* as a clone of other popular franchises, but that wouldn't be giving the show the credit that it deserves. If anything, it's a well-constructed evolution of those types of the shows it's derived from. ♦



Courtesy of Pedro Sada

SET IN BRAZIL, 3% FOLLOWS the lives of five 20-year olds as they compete to win a new life.

Rensselaer
MUSIC ASSOCIATION

PRESENTS

WINTER
SMALL GROUPS
CONCERT

Chapel + Cultural Center
December 10, 2016 @ 7 PM
Free Admission

We hope you will celebrate
the holiday season with us!

TOD: 12/10/16
Contact: rma_publicity@union.rpi.edu

CHANGE THE WORLD CHALLENGE

A bi-annual contest to develop innovative ideas with the potential of changing the world.

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[HTTP://RPI2017CTWC.STARTUPCOMPETE.CO/](http://rpi2017ctwc.startupcompete.co/)



eship rpi

It's like **tinder**TM
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Wednesdays in the J-Building

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<http://bit.do/eshipRPI>

Contact: Ray Parker, parker5@rpi.edu



It's A Match!

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

WE'RE GETTING BAD PRESS BECAUSE THE BATTERIES IN OUR NEW LINE OF MOBILE PHONES KEEP EXPLODING.

LOAD THEM INTO A BIG TRUCK AND PARK IT IN FRONT OF OUR COMPETITOR'S BUILDING. TECHNICALLY, THAT WOULD BE DOMESTIC TERRORISM.

THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY LAWS.

CONGRATULATIONS, TED. YOUR JOB PERFORMANCE HAS EARNED YOU A NEW MOBILE PHONE.

ISN'T THIS THE MODEL THAT HAS THE EXPLODING BATTERY PROBLEM?

YOUR JOB PERFORMANCE WASN'T GOOD EITHER.

WE HIRED THE DOGBERT PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM TO HELP US WITH OUR EXPLODING PHONE PROBLEM.

WE HAVE TWO CHOICES. WE CAN EITHER RECALL ALL OF THE PHONES, OR WE CAN CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT HAVING ONE EAR IS COOL.

RECALLS ARE EXPENSIVE. OKAY, THE VAN GOGH STRATEGY IT IS.

THE PRESS SAYS I NEED TO RESIGN BECAUSE OF OUR EXPLODING PHONES FIASCO.

MAYBE YOU CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS BY SENDING THE PRESS OUR NEW MODEL THAT DOESN'T EXPLODE.

I ALREADY SENT THEM THE EXPLODING PHONES AND SAID IT WAS OUR NEW MODEL.

YOUR WAY LEFT TOO MUCH TO CHANCE.

WE NEED TO REGAIN CUSTOMER TRUST AFTER OUR EXPLODING PHONE FIASCO.

YOU NEED A CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENT. PEOPLE TRUST CELEBRITIES WITH THEIR LIFE-AND-DEATH DECISIONS.

MAYBE A FAMOUS CARTOONIST. I DON'T SEE HOW THAT COULD GO WRONG.

CONTINUED...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A CELEBRITY SPOKESPERSON, BUT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH BUDGET FOR IT.

ALL WE CAN AFFORD IS A CARTOONIST. CAN YOU DO THE JOB FOR \$75?

DEAL!

HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANYTHING ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT WOULD EMBARRASS US?

I THOUGHT THAT'S WHAT IT'S FOR.

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

LIFE SCORECARD

TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT...

"I'M NOT REALLY HAPPY HERE, BUT MAYBE THIS IS THE BEST I CAN EXPECT AND I'LL REGRET GIVING IT UP."

...IT TURNED OUT I...

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| SHOULD HAVE STAYED | SHOULD HAVE LEFT SOONER |
| | ### ## |

Geography challenge: Name all 50 states

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard

Hey! Songs like that aren't allowed here!

mondaypunday.com

SUDOKU

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

Instructions

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

Last Week's Solution

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

UPAC CINEMA

Sausage Party

Friday • December 9, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

It Follows

Saturday • December 10, 2016
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

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

Events

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

WEDNESDAY

December 7

ECSE Seminar

DCC 324; 3:30–5 pm

The IBM z13 Microprocessor and System presented by Timothy Slegel, IBM Distinguished Engineer, IBM z Systems Processor Development.

THURSDAY

December 8

Biological Sciences Seminar

CBIS Bruggeman Room; noon–1 pm

Dr. Amanda Zacharias, from the University of Pennsylvania, presents “Context Matters: A quantitative mechanism for the same signaling pathway to induce different cell fates.”

CAD to 3D Printing

JEC; 2–3 pm

Students participating in Summer Arch can learn to translate computer aided designs to 3D prints. Learn to produce prototypes to evaluate form, function, and fit of your designs—skills that will serve you as future engineers, designers, and inventors.

FRIDAY

December 9

Last day of Fall semester classes

Advising International Students

Folsom Library Fischbach Room; noon–1 pm

The Advising & Learning Assistance Center, OGE, and the Office of International Student and Scholars will present some of the challenges international students face along with paths and tips to assist them to be more successful.

Listening Session # 1

EMPAC Studio Beta; 4:30–6:30 pm

This session will focus on the compositions of Pauline Oliveros, Jean-Claude Risset, Donald Buchla and Alan Vega, along with additional artists. It will be followed by an informal discussion of the artwork.

Sausage Party

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

A sausage strives to discover the truth about his existence. It is \$2.50 to attend.

“Ipsa Dixit”

EMPAC Theater; 8–9 pm

“Ipsa Dixit” is an evening-length work of theatrical chamber music by American composer Kate Soper. Featuring texts by thinkers such as Aristotle, Plato, Freud, Wittgenstein, Jenny Holtzer, and Lydia Davis. The cost of attendance is \$6 for RPI students.

SATURDAY

December 10

It Follows

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

A young woman is followed by an unknown supernatural force after a sexual encounter.

Winter Small Groups Concert

C+CC; 7–9 pm

The Rensselaer Music Association presents the Winter Small Groups Concert. Listen to holiday music and jazz through brass and woodwind instruments. There is no cost to attend the event, and there will be free food.

SUNDAY

December 11

Scaredy Cat Brunch

Mother's; 10–11 am

You will be served a four course meal made up of 16 different food items. The catch? You don't know what the items are, you need to use riddles and clues provided to guess for yourselves. Tickets are \$6 at the door or \$5 in advance.

MONDAY

December 12

Study day — No classes

Biological Sciences Seminar

CBIS Bruggeman Room; noon–1 pm

Dr. Colleen Skau presents “Novel roles of formin actin nucleators in cell adhesion and motility.”

Mathematical Sciences Colloquium

Lally 104; 4–5 pm

Dr. Yi Wang presents “Data Analysis: From Oscillatory Patterns to Geometric Structures.”

TUESDAY

December 13

Study day — No classes

WEDNESDAY

December 14

Add/Drop reopens for Spring 2017

Final exams begin, good luck!

As you may have noticed, over the course of the past few weeks, the lights in the *Poly* office windows have been changing. This is part of our project to implement a web interface to control the lights. We are now excited to announce that the online interface for the lights has entered a public beta. Now you can change the lights to one of four colors using the webpage located at <https://poly.rpi.edu/lights/>. This project will be expanded throughout the upcoming semester, so keep an eye on the paper and our website.

CURLING

Largest bonspiel yields Engineer success

RPI 1 had an extremely successful weekend, defeating Hamilton in the finals to claim victory

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER HOSTED THE LARGEST collegiate bonspiel ever held in the nation in the United States Curling Association this past weekend, with 20 teams from 10 schools in attendance. RPI entered five teams into the three-day tournament which ran from Friday evening through Sunday morning at Schenectady Curling Club, where the team practices every Tuesday and Wednesday.

RPI 1 crushed SUNY 3 from the State University of New York Polytechnic 16-1 during the first draw time of the bonspiel on Friday with senior Chris Celi as skip, freshman Evan Mullaney as vice, senior Kirsten Cardinal as second, and senior Joseph Skulski as lead. The team of RPI 2, consisting of senior Alex Kelleher as skip, senior Zach Wietsma as vice, freshman David Dawnkaski as second, and senior Greg Stankewicz as lead, played against team Yale 1 at the same time, but fell 1-9. This was Stankewicz's first time competing in a curling tournament, and Dawnkaski's second.

On Saturday, RPI 1 faced the team from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and after a close game, won 7-6. This was the team's first of three games on Saturday, the second was against Hamilton 1, which RPI won 9-0, and their third was a rematch

against MIT, which was won 9-1. This knocked MIT out of the finals, and RPI proceeded into Sunday's semi-finals against Hamilton 2.

Hamilton 2 lost to RPI 1 on Sunday during the second-to-last draw time of the tournament. With only the finals remaining, if RPI 1 could manage to deliver the stone closer to the button in the house than SUNY 1 for eight ends, then RPI would win the competition A-event. Through accurate throwing and powerful sweeping, RPI 1 defeated SUNY 1 6-4 to win the event.

RPI 2 did not win any games over the weekend; however, the team of RPI 3 beat their first opponent, Rochester Institute of Technology, 8-7 on Saturday morning. Despite their initial victory, senior skip Jenny Amador, junior vice Kaitlin Fermano, senior second Dana Stevens, and sophomore lead Amy Reynolds did not continue to the semi-finals after losing to Villanova University and Bowdoin College in their second and third games respectively.

The team of RPI 4 incurred the same curse as RPI 3, winning their first game, but losing their second and third. The team of junior Anthony Naslas as skip, sophomore Gideon Bartlett as vice, senior Mark Stein as second, and sophomore Colin Higgins as lead lost to Yale 2 and the University of Pennsylvania after winning against SUNY 2.



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

RPI CURLING MEMBERS SWEEP ahead of the stone. The team closest to the button wins the end.

Finishing runner-up in the C-event was the team of RPI 5, with junior Mitchell Loser as skip, sophomore Zach Umstead as vice, freshman James Cassidy as second, and freshman David Palazzo as lead. The team lost its first game against Colgate University on Friday and second against Hamilton 2 on Saturday, but won its third and fourth against Colgate

and RIT 1 respectively, advancing to the finals. Once there, RPI 5 lost to SUNY 2 4-8.

"It was a fun weekend overall," said Stevens. "I think based on the results from this weekend, we will move up to be No. 2 in rank. We will get extra points for hosting, and I think we will pull ahead of SUNY Poly finally. I think we are in a great spot for qualifying for nationals."

Next semester, the club plans to send teams to the Yale Super Spiel at Nutmeg College from January 27-29 and to the Utica College Bonspiel from February 10-11, among others. The team looks forward to competing at the USA Curling College Championship at Utica College in March. ♦

Basketball home openers



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

Friday, December 1, Rensselaer had a 50-47 home game against Middlebury College. The Engineers played offensively throughout the entire game. Middlebury organized a tight defense line against the attack and struggled to block RPI out of the painted area. However, Rensselaer actively looked for opportunities for penetrations, layups, and three-point shots until the last second, keeping a consistent three-point shot percentage for four quarters. The picture shows sophomore Sam Krumbhaar being blocked by an opponent and looking for a chance to pass.

Scores from the Week

Friday, December 2

| | |
|---|-------|
| Women's Ice Hockey vs. Princeton University | L 0-4 |
| Men's Hockey at Quinnipiac University | L 1-4 |

Saturday, December 3

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Men's Track & Field at Utica Invitational | 2nd of 6 |
| Women's Track & Field at Utica Invitational | 2nd of 6 |
| Women's Hockey vs. Quinnipiac University | L 1-6 |
| Women's Swimming at Liberty League Tournament | 2nd of 10 |
| Men's Swimming at Liberty League Tournament | 1st of 9 |
| Men's Hockey at Princeton University | L 5-6 |
| Men's Basketball vs. Bridgewater State University | W 80-65 |

Sunday, December 4

| | |
|--|---------|
| Men's Basketball at Norwich University | W 65-48 |
|--|---------|