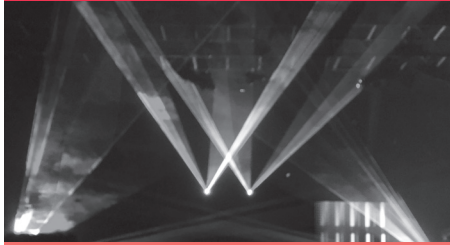


**SPORTS** Page 6



Winter Break basketball recap

**FEATURES** Page 8



Rave stuns reviewer

**EDITORIAL** Page 2

<b>Sidney Kochman</b>	President-elect Trump gaslights country
<b>Brookelyn Parslow</b>	The next four years of environmental policy
<b>Staff Editorial</b>	The importance of our right to free press

**ADMINISTRATION**

# RPI welcomes new dean of students

*Former Cornell University dean and anti-hazing activist fills open position*



Courtesy of University of Virginia

**NEW DEAN TRAVIS APGAR BRINGS unique experiences to Rensselaer.**

**Peter Gramenides**  
Senior Reporter

AS WINTER BREAK COMES TO A CLOSE and students begin situating themselves yet again on RPI's campus, Rensselaer welcomes a new assistant vice president and dean of students: Travis Apgar.

Apgar stands to contribute an interesting mix of expertise in higher education focused on top tier universities, student services, and student involvement to RPI's campus. He boasts over 20 years of experience in higher education, including former service as associate dean of students, as well as assistant dean of students at Rensselaer.

Apgar also formerly worked as senior associate dean of students at Cornell University for over ten years. He most recently acted as senior associate director of campus and community engagement for fraternities, sororities, and independent living and led the areas of Off-Campus Living and Cooperative Living for undergraduate and graduate students. Apgar is considered an authority

on hazing prevention, and previously served as a representative to the National Hazing Prevention Consortium on behalf of Cornell University, and currently regularly contributes content to the resources section of HazingPrevention.org.

In addition, Apgar led the creation of the annual Being Engaged And Responsible walk in 2014 to encourage the proactive building of positive relations between the university, students, and local residents. According to Cornell's website, "The BEAR Walk brings together students, neighbors, city officials, Cornell staff, and local businesses with the goal of promoting a greater sense of community and connection in the vibrant Collegetown neighborhood."

At a time when tensions between RPI's administration and students — as well as local residents and the university — continue to remain shaky, the new Dean of Student's experience could be a much-needed touch. Apgar's appointment was effective January 15, 2017. ♦

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

# New appointments to Rensselaer's Board of Trustees generate attention

*EMPAC namesake among trustees honored with new Board appointments*

**Peter Gramenides**  
Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER HAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE election of three new leaders to the Rensselaer Board of Trustees effective January 1, 2017. Appointees include Wanda Denson-Low '78, Arthur F. Golden '66, and Curtis R. Priem '82, all Rensselaer alumni who have made notable contributions in their professional fields and have loyally served RPI.

"We are grateful for the wisdom and partnership of these dedicated Rensselaer graduates, who, as board members, have helped to guide Rensselaer in its transformation," said President Shirley Ann Jackson. "We look forward to working with them to develop our students into the leaders who will solve the great global challenges of our time. In order to do so, we must engender in them intellectual agility, multicultural sophistication, and a global view."

Denson-Low was elected vice chair of the Rensselaer Board of Trustees, succeeding Adm. R.J. Zlatoper '63. Low was formerly senior vice president at the Boeing Company, leading a legal staff for the company's \$30 billion defense and space development program.

The chair of the Rensselaer Board of Trustees position will be filled by Golden '66, and he will succeed the Honorable Arthur J. Gajarsa



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic (file photo)

**ALUMNUS CURTIS R. PRIEM '82 DONATED monetary funds to make EMPAC a reality.**

'62. Golden joined the Board of Trustees in 2005 and served on the Executive Committee, Investment Committee, and Audit Committee as well as the Student Life Committee.

Curtis R. Priem '82, inventor of the graphics processing unit, will also take over as the new secretary of the Board of Trustees. A holder of over 200 U.S. and an avid philanthropist,

Priem co-founded NVIDIA Corp. and was its chief technical officer from 1993 to 2003.

In 2004, Priem's remarkable donation to the Institute of \$40 million partially funded the construction of EMPAC, which was later named in his honor. Priem was also the recipient of the RPI Severino Center's Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2000. ♦

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

**Inside**

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

**Connect**

Visit us online at: [poly.rpi.edu](http://poly.rpi.edu)  
Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/thepolytechnic](https://www.facebook.com/thepolytechnic)  
Follow us on Twitter and Instagram: @RPIPoly

# Editorial

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

## STAFF EDITORIAL

# Freedom of press relieves fear of reporting the truth

## Journalists provide an unparalleled service to society

AT A TIME WHEN THE LEGITIMACY OF THE PRESS IS questioned and the term “fake news” is thrown around without regard to its impact, we must remember the irreplaceable role the press fills in our lives. We have the privilege of living in a country where the freedom of the press is protected. Journalists need not fear persecution for exposing the truth. We are privileged to have a diversity of news sources available to us, and to not have that news censored by our government. Undermining the credibility of reputable news sources practicing responsible journalism is detrimental to the health of the United States.

The press provides us with an exceptionally important service: the delivery of information to the everyman, and the representation of citizens’ interests to

our leaders. As individuals, we do not have the resources to ask the elected officials, businesses, or other groups of interest tough, well-researched questions. We rely on the press to investigate on our behalf and bring information to us. Without this information, we are left ignorant of the world around us.

This structure comes with a social contract of responsibility. It is up to news organizations to gain the trust and earn the respect of individuals. This means following the ethics of responsible journalism, most notably producing work that is well-researched and accurate. The contract also falls on the individuals, who should support news organizations producing the highest quality work, and reject those that mislead, over-sensationalize, or are otherwise unethical. ♦

## EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

# Questioning Trump’s actions

TRUTH IS UNDER ATTACK. DONALD Trump seems to believe that repeatedly shouting falsehoods makes them true. He aims to distort what is and is not truthful so that everyone is left in doubt as to what is factual. Trump’s goal is to convince you that reality is unknowable.

In just the past few weeks, we have seen the president-elect attempt to rewrite the record numerous times.

He mocked *New York Times* reporter Serge Kovalski by flailing his arms at a campaign rally, and denies that he has ever done or would ever do that (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/em7hq>).

He sparred with Jim Acosta, pointing at the CNN reporter while saying, “you are fake news,” as paid staffers (at a press conference!) applauded, twisting the meaning of “fake news” to mean anything that casts Trump in an unfavorable light.

He praised Director of National Intelligence James Clapper’s denunciation of the dossier outlining how Trump

may be compromised by Russia (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/uqmsj>), but Clapper’s statement (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/7ql1i0>) implies that the dossier was deemed important enough to national security to provide as part of intelligence briefings, and does not denounce it.

He takes credit for companies choosing to keep jobs in the United States, along with the recent increase in the Consumer Confidence Index, implying that he is responsible for positive economic trends that the United States is seeing under President Obama (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/3of97>).

He claims that he won the presidency in a “landslide” and that there were millions of illegal votes (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/b8czp>). In fact, Trump’s Electoral College victory margin ranks among the lowest in United States history (<https://poly.rpi.edu/s/6p99w>), and there is no evidence of millions of illegal votes.

As we’ve observed recently, when the truth is no longer an objective force that can be agreed upon,

understood, and disseminated, we begin to see a breakdown in discourse. We have descended to a level where there is less and less substantial debate based on concrete facts. Increasingly, it is the case that when something contrary to our own view is stated, then it is somehow wrong or fake.

It is easy to say that both sides of the political spectrum engage in this kind of information warfare, but doing so ignores the massive uptick in reality distortion from right-wing, Trump-supporting sources—and indeed the president-elect himself—that has been observed during the recent election. Many call it gaslighting, but lying is just as accurate. Trump wants to leave us questioning our own memories as he casually rewrites history through his Twitter account; the goal is to mold reality to fit his narrative.

As George Orwell illustrated in 1984, “The very concept of objective truth is fading out of the world. Lies will pass into history.” It is everyone’s job to search for the truth, no matter how badly Trump and his associates want to convince you that you are in a post-truth world. ♦



**Sidney Kochman**  
Senior Managing Editor

# the polytechnic

Editor in Chief

**Jack Wellhofer**

[poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu)

Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor  
Managing Editor  
Managing Editor  
News Editor  
Business Manager  
Features Editor  
de facto Sports Editor  
Editorial/Opinion Editor  
Composing Editor  
de facto Copy Editor  
Photography Editor  
Web Editor  
Associate Sports Editor  
Associate Composing Editor  
Associate Photography Editor

**Sidney Kochman**  
**Tyler Carney**  
**Rex Hu**  
**Peter Gramenides**  
**Peter Begonja**  
**Serge Piskun**  
**Rex Hu**  
**Michael Baird**  
**Ana Wishnoff**  
**Jack Wellhofer**  
**Jonathan Caicedo**  
**Joseph Lyon**  
**Jacob Kaplan**  
**Maria Kozdroy**  
**Stephanie Tan**

[poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu)  
[poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu)  
[poly@rpi.edu](mailto:poly@rpi.edu)  
[news@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:news@poly.rpi.edu)  
[business@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:business@poly.rpi.edu)  
[features@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:features@poly.rpi.edu)  
[sports@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:sports@poly.rpi.edu)  
[edop@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:edop@poly.rpi.edu)  
[composing@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:composing@poly.rpi.edu)  
[copy@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:copy@poly.rpi.edu)  
[photo@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:photo@poly.rpi.edu)  
[web@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:web@poly.rpi.edu)  
[sports@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:sports@poly.rpi.edu)  
[composing@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:composing@poly.rpi.edu)  
[photo@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:photo@poly.rpi.edu)

Coordinators

Advertising Director  
Graphics Director  
Web and Systems Director  
Sports Coordinator  
Foreign Correspondent

**Maria Espinosa**  
**Ana Wishnoff**  
**Sidney Kochman**  
**Joseph Saulsbery**  
**Nathan Dorer**

[ads@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:ads@poly.rpi.edu)  
[graphics@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:graphics@poly.rpi.edu)  
[systems@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:systems@poly.rpi.edu)  
[sports@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:sports@poly.rpi.edu)  
[news@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:news@poly.rpi.edu)

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

The Poly would like to welcome students back from the holiday break and wish everyone success this semester!

# Environmental policy at risk of losing attention

I REMEMBER WALKING INTO MY ENVIRONMENT AND Politics recitation last semester, two days after the election. I was still in a daze and hadn’t fully processed the results. Our TA had prepared an exercise for the class that would help us understand what a Donald Trump presidency would mean for the environment. We spent the next hour and a half filling the board with his proposed actions, comments, and tweets. The board was covered with words that blatantly contradicted almost everything we had learned. It was a sobering experience that I can’t help but consider as the inauguration approaches.

I hoped it would get better, and to some extent, it has. When Trump acknowledged that there may be some “connectivity” between human activity and climate change,

I was optimistic. That feeling was reinforced when Trump held a meeting with Al Gore, who later regarded it as a “very productive session.” When he referred to himself as an environmentalist, I desperately wanted that to be a reality. But, I know that an environmentalist wouldn’t pick a climate change denier to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. An environmentalist wouldn’t be “open-minded” towards environmental issues, or refer to them as “not something that’s so hard and fast.” It terrifies me that, on the topic of climate change, Trump has stated that “the hottest day

ever was in 1890-something, 98,” as if that nonfact could counter such a far-reaching and comprehensively studied issue.

I truly want to believe that I’m too focused on the negatives. I want this to just be another one of Trump’s inconsistencies, but his actions as president-elect have forced me to stop being so naive. While there are other aspects of a Trump presidency that worry me, this one in particular is not based in my gender, sexual orientation, or any other part of my personal life. It is based in years of scientific research. It has a timeline that is inflexible, and consequences that

are often irreversible. Everyone is affected by pollution, droughts, and the melting of glaciers, albeit sometimes disproportionately, regardless of that person’s political ideology.

When such a pressing issue is not a priority for the president, it becomes the responsibility of the public to ensure that it still reaches the political agenda. Climate change can be confronted on more than just a federal level. There are plenty of things that you can do. Whether it’s reducing your food waste, buying a reusable water bottle or travel mug, boycotting plastic bags, making your daily actions more energy efficient, or reaching out to the people that represent you in government, we do not have four years to wait. ♦



**Brookelyn Parslow**  
Associate Photography Editor

DERBY

# Payroll changes

WELCOME BACK FROM BREAK, AND HAPPY 2017! I HOPE EVERYONE enjoyed a great winter break and an even better start to the spring semester. Last time I wrote was in early December. I generated a long list of projects and goals the Executive Board has for this year and our progress so far. Nearly a week after that was written, the E-Board completed club budgets and budgeting appeals for the next school year, finalizing the Union's budget.

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some major changes to the Union's budget next year; several updates to federal and state law had a significant impact. In May of 2016, President Obama announced updated overtime rules for full time employees. These changes, along with the addition of two full-time staff members, increased our full-time payroll expenses by approximately \$170,000. In addition, beginning January 2017, the New York State minimum wage will increase from \$9.70 to \$10.40 per hour, increasing our total student payroll expenses from approximately \$385,000 to approximately \$410,000. The Executive Board also chose to prioritize \$20,000 in new funding for life guards in the Robison Pool. This funding will dramatically increase the amount and convenience of hours that the pool is available for recreational use by the student body. There was also a large increase in the Student Staff budget unattributed to minimum wage increases. Starting next year, all student staff expenses are to be moved to the single administrative budget, causing an increase from \$280,000 to \$436,000, although student staffing expenses were closer to \$385,000 for this year if staffing across all budgets is accounted for. Taking into account all factors influencing expenses next year, the E-Board's targeted increase in the Activity Fee is about 2.5%.



**Chip Kirchner**  
President of the Union

All of the information above, and a very detailed report on the Union's expenses, will be included in the *Union Annual Report*. Each year, the E-Board and the Student Senate produce the *UAR* as a commitment to the student-driven budgeting effort that the Executive Board undergoes each year. Using the information provided in the *UAR* and from the Executive Board, the Student Senate will vote to approve the Activity Fee, as well as the increase, and send it to be finalized by the Institute. Be on the look out for the finalized *Union Annual Report* in the next few weeks.

I hope to see everyone at the Mayor's Cup game on Thursday night! Red Army is providing free shuttles to and from the Times Union Center, so you don't even have an excuse not to go. The shuttles leave from the Union between 5 and 7 pm, and Red Army will be there with free rally towels for students who take the shuttles. GO RED! ♦

# Poly Snapshots

Interviews and Photos by Michael Baird

## The Question:

What kind of food from home do you miss the most?



Olivia King  
CHME '18

"My dad's burgers. He makes the best cheese-burgers."



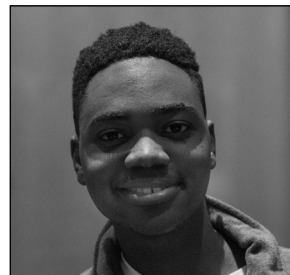
Andrea Duncan  
BMED, MTLT '17

"My mom did send me home with a pot pie and a dozen cans of soup."



Matt D'Arcangelo  
ELEC '18

"Chicken parmigiana."



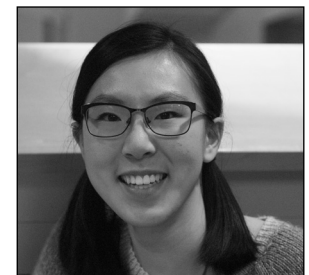
Raymond Abini-Agbomson  
BMED '18

"My mom makes this African dish. It's called jollof."



Zackery El-Mohandes  
ELEC '19

"My favorite food is my sister's homemade chicken nuggets."



Amy Lam  
ARCH '20

"My mom's cooking. She makes good Chinese soup."

**Converting your idea into a business can be a real grind!**

Avoid the typical grind. **Apply for a GRANT to fund your team.**



Students, faculty, staff and alumni from **ANY** Capital Region college or university are **eligible**.

Learn more at **rpi.edu/I-Corps**

**APPLY TODAY**



**DILBERT**

by Scott Adams

**TOP TEN LIST**

**New Year's Resolutions**

10. Go to class
9. Finish *The Poly* before 12
8. Do your homework
7. Love yourself
6. Eat more sweet potatoes
5. Go vegan and gluten free
4. Go to the gym
3. Drink more
2. Abstinence
1. Not abstinence

**WORD FIND**

by Ana Wishnoff

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

**Ice Cream Flavors**

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

- |           |           |            |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Banana    | Green Tea | Raspberry  |
| Bubblegum | Lemon     | Rocky Road |
| Cherry    | Maple Nut | Strawberry |
| Chocolate | Mint Chip | Vanilla    |
| Coffee    | Pistachio |            |

**SUDOKU**

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

**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.

**Solutions from Last Issue**

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



**ARRIVAL**

Friday • January 20, 2017  
7 pm, 9:30 pm, midnight • DCC 308 • \$2.50

**The Big Lebowski**

Saturday • January 21, 2017  
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](mailto:comics@poly.rpi.edu)**

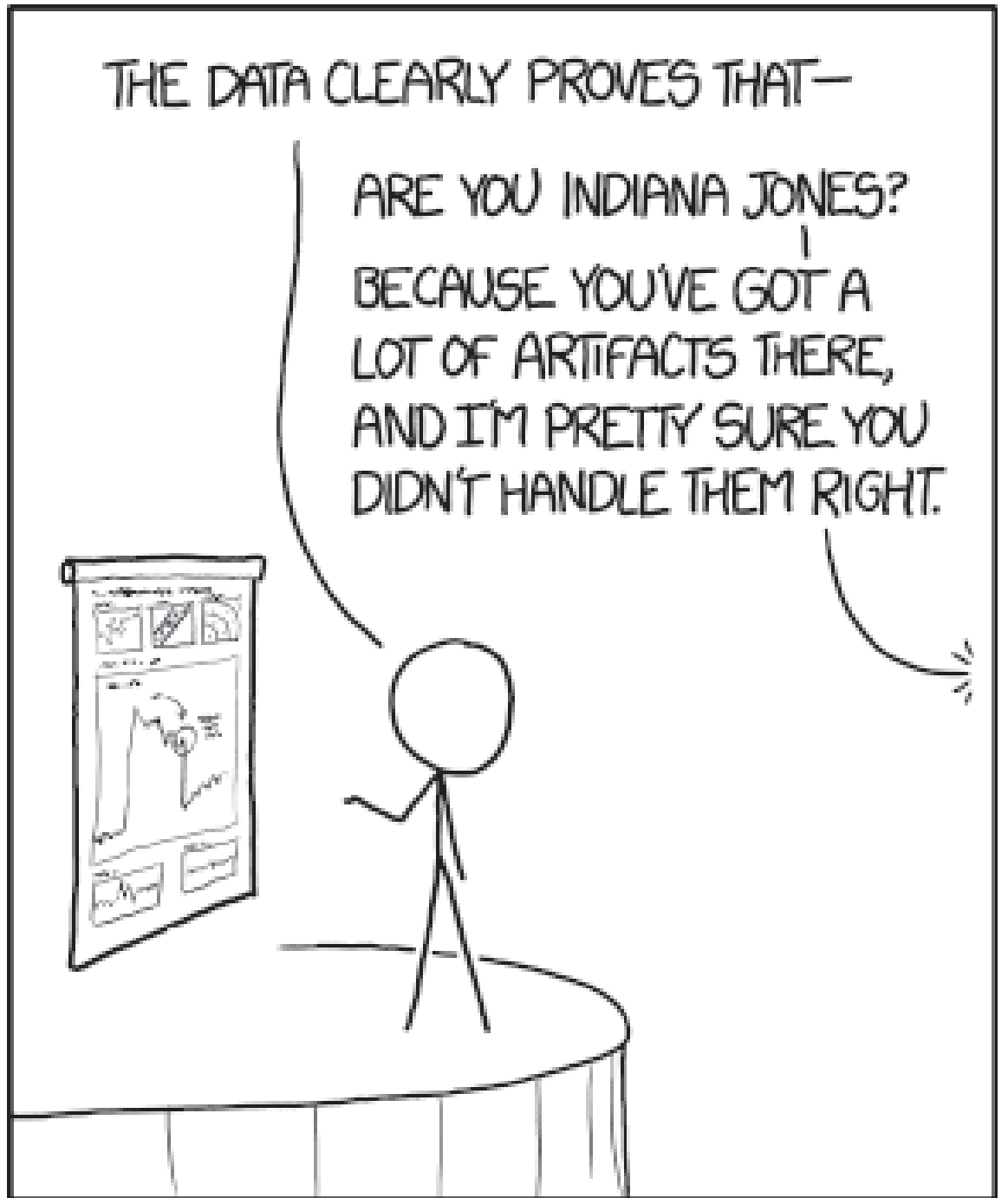
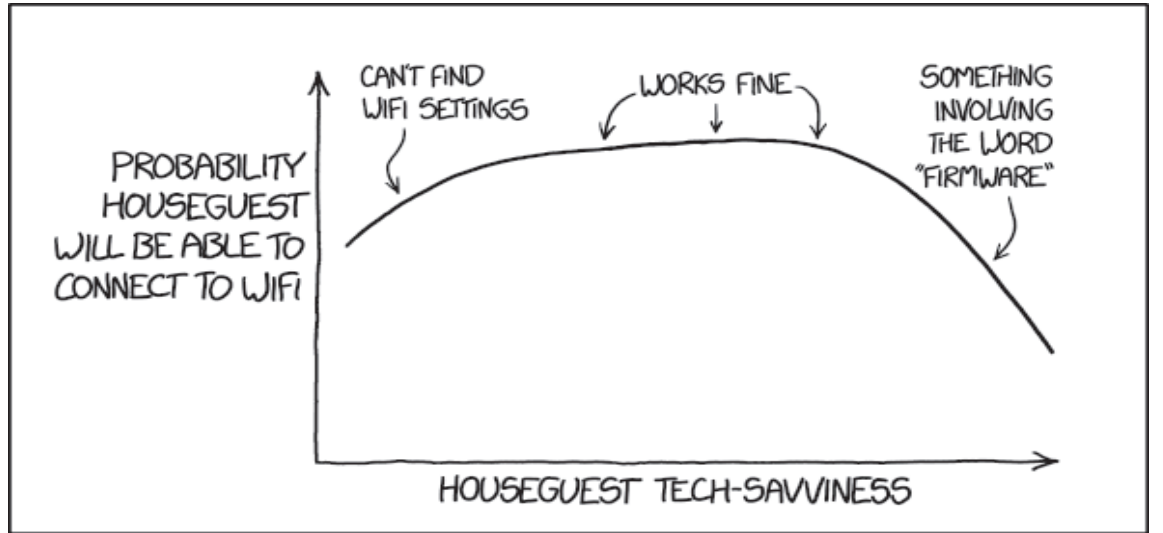
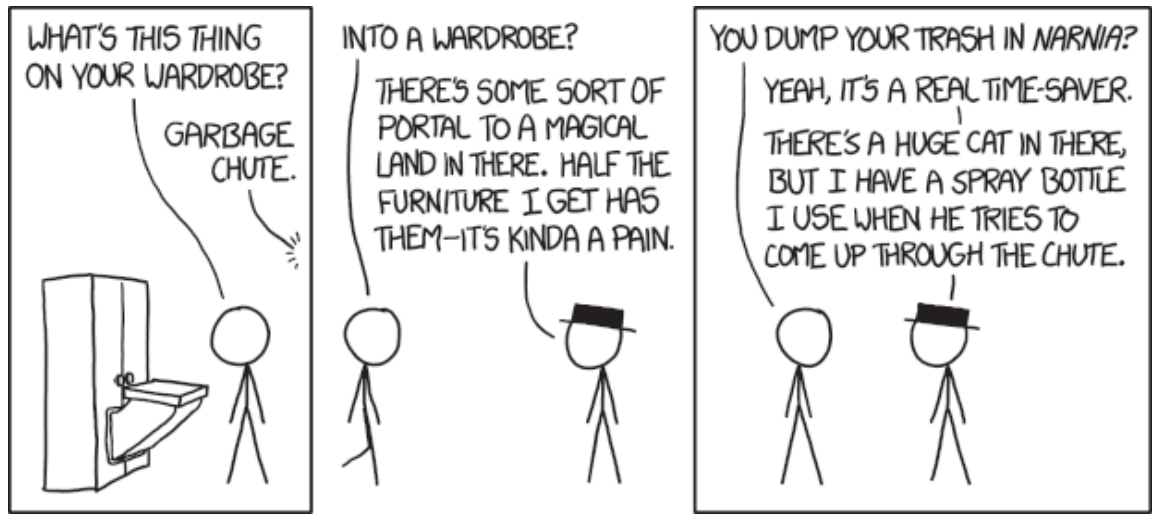
CRYPTOQUOTE

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

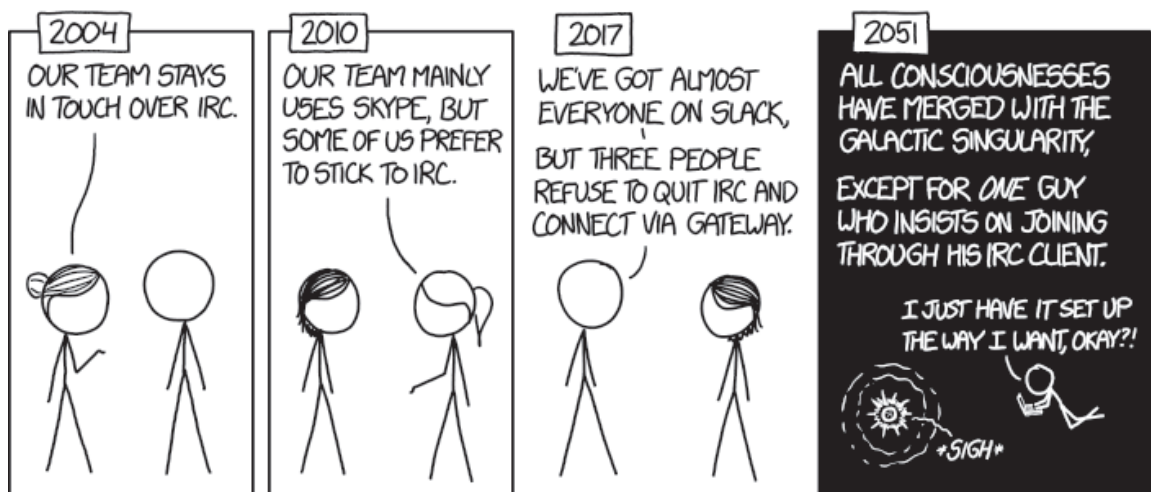
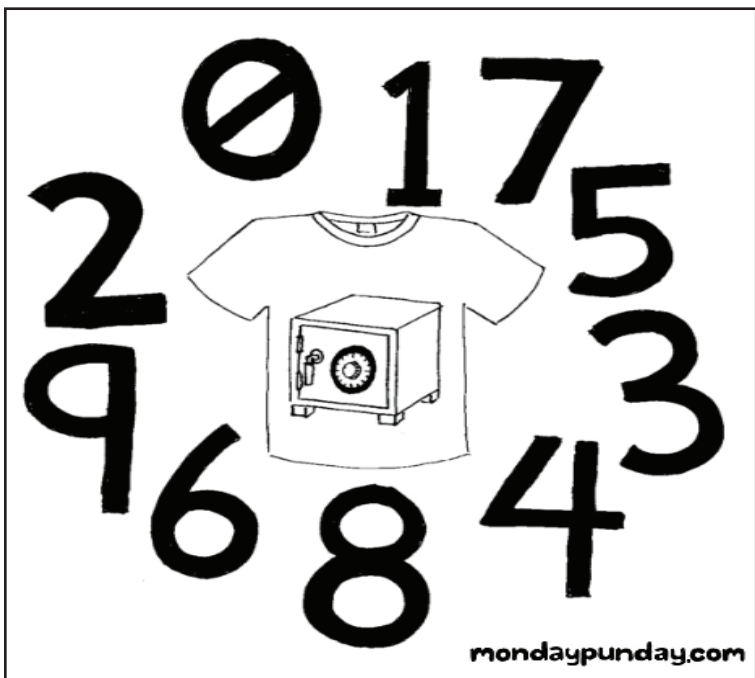
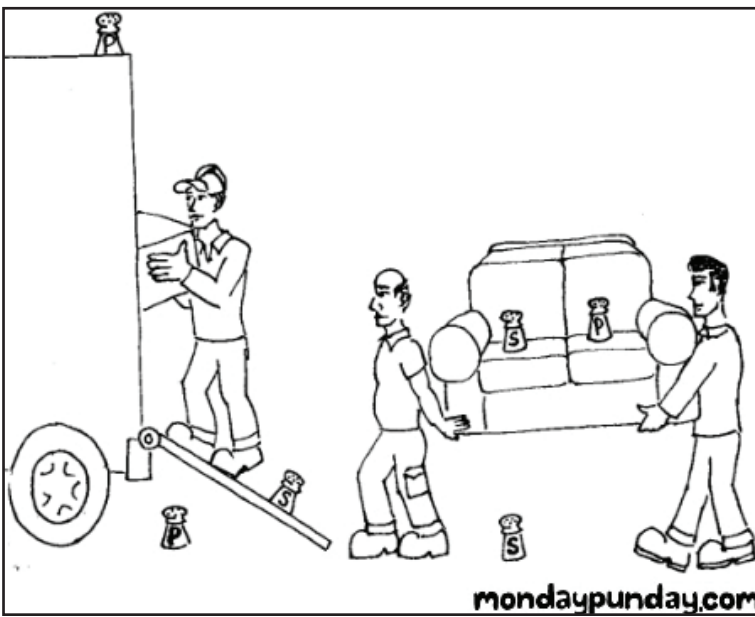
“Kfcfpfovo!  
Nrtdt bi. F  
bisk, osz ecsv  
zxr eskv sjxrv  
vci vikivo  
xn Ksvfxksp  
Oxdfspfob,  
Grgi, sv pisov  
fv’o sk ivcxo.”  
-Espviy Oxjdcst  
Vci Jfu Pijxeotf

XKCD

by Randall Munroe



MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



# Sports

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

## BASKETBALL

# Men split, women face defeat over Winter Break

*Men faced three wins, three defeats as women secured only one victory, losing five games*

**Maria Espinosa**  
Senior Reporter

OVER BREAK, THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S basketball teams played six games each. The men's team went 3-3, while the women's team struggled and only claimed one victory.

The Liberty League opener for both teams was home on the last Friday of December against Rochester Institute of Technology. The men's team beat the Tigers 74-70, while the women fell to the Tigers 58-48. The following day, the Engineers played their last game of 2016 at home against St. Lawrence University. Both the men's team and women's team fell to the dominant Saints, 76-63 and 69-48 respectively.

The following weekend, the Engineers were back in action, playing Clarkson University at home. With the crowd on their side, the men's team defeated Clarkson's Golden Knights 62-54. Unfortunately, the crowd did not have the same effect

for the women's team, who were defeated by the Golden Knights 68-47. The day after, the Engineers travelled to Skidmore College in Saratoga. The men's team found another victory once again beating Skidmore 69-66 in a close game, but the women were once again defeated, losing to Skidmore 62-53.

The teams went their separate ways the following weekend. The men traveled to Hobart College while the women traveled to William Smith College. The men's team fell to Hobart 67-52 and the women's team fell to William Smith 72-58. The following day was brighter for the Engineers as they traveled to RIT. The women's team won their first game of 2017 against the Tigers 66-64. The men came close, but were not able to beat the Tigers in a close nail-biter, losing 63-61.

The Engineers will be home this week. They will play against Skidmore College once again and also against Union College. ♦



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

FORWARD BRIAN HATCHER LAYS the ball up to the basket for the Engineers against SUNY Cobleskill.

## Scores from Winter Break

### Friday December 30

Men's Ice Hockey at Harvard L 1-5

### Tuesday January 3

Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass Lowell L 1-5

### Friday January 6

Women's Ice Hockey vs. Brown W 4-3

### Saturday January 7

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Clarkson at Lake Placid, NY L 1-6

Women's Ice Hockey vs. Yale W 2-1 OT

Women's Basketball at Skidmore L 53-62

Men's Basketball at Skidmore W 69-66

### Friday January 13

Women's Ice Hockey at Harvard W 3-1

Men's Hockey vs. Harvard W 4-0

Men's Swim at Union W 128-115

Women's Swim at Union W 139-101

### Saturday January 14

Women's Ice Hockey at Dartmouth L 1-2

Men's Hockey vs. Dartmouth L 2-4

Men's Track at Dartmouth 4th out of 4

Women's Track at Dartmouth 4th out of 4

The Poly would like to wish everyone the best of luck in their classes this semester!

## CHANGE THE WORLD CHALLENGE

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

OPEN TO ALL CURRENT RENSSELAER STUDENTS.

**\$10,000** IN PRIZES EACH SEMESTER.

LEARN MORE & APPLY FOR THE SPRING SEMESTER

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



eship rpi

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Latest *Star Wars* series addition renews hope

Stephanie Kern-Allely  
Senior Reviewer

THE *STAR WARS* FILM SERIES CONTINUES WITH THE first installment of *Star Wars Anthology*, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*. This newest lens-flaring, explosion-filled, action-packed movie in the franchise enters the scene as a quasi-stand-alone. The film details events immediately prior to *A New Hope*, the very first film in the series from 1977, and segues into the timeline seamlessly. However, the film brings an entire set, of shiny brand new characters, along with some CGI ones, to the screen. Nonetheless, this reviewer was giddy upon hearing that the simple “many Bothans died to bring us this information” line from Mon Mothma in *A New Hope* would earn its own full-length feature to answer their begging question.

The film centers on Jyn Erso, played by Felicity Jones, who enters the fray as a flash in the pan heroine alongside Rebel Alliance intelligence officer Cassian Andor (Diego Luna). The daughter of the Death Star’s engineer Galen Erso, Jyn is headstrong, outspoken, and handy with a blaster with the goals of finding her father and escaping the growing conflict between the Empire and the rebels. The *Star Wars* franchise unsurprisingly returned to a strong female lead for their newest installment after the success of Rey in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, to whom Jyn draws parallels.

Although both are solitary, roguish characters, in all honesty, Jyn is a much stronger character. It was refreshing to see a protagonist with such a clear-cut yet simultaneously complex design; her motivations and decision-making were fresh, her cause was easy to rally behind, and she didn’t have any movie gimmicks to her. She didn’t suddenly become a Force user or someone’s long lost sister, cousin, or mother. From her backstory, to her attitude, to her fighting abilities, she just made sense!

The movie’s other main crew included some of my favorite supporting characters in the *Star Wars* franchise, from Chirrut Imwe and Baze Malbus, to the sassy

K-2SO. The supporting characters made the film incredibly impactful as I rapidly became attached to each and every one of them. Of all of the supporting characters introduced in the film, the most outstanding to me was the defected pilot Bodhi Rook, played by Riz Ahmed. From Bodhi’s first scene I was hooked. Ahmed’s impassioned portrayal of such a small part was absolutely phenomenal. Upon exiting the theatre, I still could not believe that the most impressive and tremendous acting came from a character who had fewer than 10 minutes of screen time. Ahmed, if you’re reading this (a girl can dream), know that your acting in *Rogue One* blew me away. Fantastic job, sir, in breathing such life and meaning into such a small role.

*Rogue One* was, simply put, compelling. With a plot I, as an avid *Star Wars* fan, was already invested in, it was guaranteed to be superb. *Rogue One* earned its place among my favorite movies of 2016 for many reasons, but most of all for the gut-wrenching honesty and fast pace of the film. The movie was a breath of fresh air in a market saturated with space-centered action films. *Rogue One* single-handedly reinvigorated my faith in the film industry; it didn’t lean on clichés or tropes to move through a captivating storyline as many others do.

I finally got a taste of a sci-fi action film that brushed hands with bitter reality and I don’t really want to go back. The ending of the film, which I won’t spoil, is the reason I found this movie so unbelievably good. It had just enough realism and heartstrings pulling, and it was so utterly genuine that it brought the film above just being a good *Star Wars* movie. The movie went above and beyond my expectations with ridiculously spectacular cinematography, clever dialogue, and surprisingly heart-warming characters. Although its run is winding down, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* earns a glowing recommendation from the reviewer. ♦

Rating: 5/5



Courtesy of Lindsey Borgman

FELICITY JONES STARS as Jyn Erso, one of the protagonists in *Rogue One*.



## Rensselaer

### ADVISING & LEARNING ASSISTANCE CENTER

Academy Hall, Suite 4226 Phone (518) 276-6269

## Health Profession School Applicants

- ✓ Are you planning to apply for admission to professional health schools (**medicine, dentistry, veterinary, physicians’ assistants, and others**) for entry in **Fall 2018**?
- ✓ Are you planning to take the **MCAT, DAT**, or other tests for health professional school applications?
- ✓ Do you need advice, a source of recommendations, or guidance in choosing schools?
- ✓ Come and work with the **PreHealth Professions Committee**. Our job is to facilitate your application.
- ✓ Registration information is available from Patricia Tedesco at: [tedesp@rpi.edu](mailto:tedesp@rpi.edu) OR in the **Advising & Learning Assistance Center**.
- ✓ Deadline for submission of registration material is **March 10, 2017**.
- ✓ For complete program details go to:

<http://info.rpi.edu/advising-learning-assistance/advising/#PreMedicalandPreHealthAdvising>

# Features

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

## CONCERT REVIEW

# Rave balances sing-alongs, head-banging



Maria Kozdroy/The Polytechnic

ARTISTS PERFORM, LIGHTS FLASH, AND CROWDS DANCE during the Gud Vibrations Tour late last year.

**Maria Kozdroy**  
Senior Reviewer

NOT EVEN HOME FOR 1 WEEK FROM SCHOOL, I ATTENDED THE GUD VIBRATIONS Tour at the Oakdale Dome in Wallingford, Connecticut, featuring Slander and NGHTMRE.

Two and a half months earlier, I went to the Safe in Sound Festival at the same location. In my previous review of the Festival, I wrote, “Would I go back to a festival like this again in the future? Perhaps. I would like to go to one in which the artists play a majority of songs with lyrics that people can sing along to, whereas with this Safe in Sound Festival it happened only a few times.” My wish was granted at the Gud Vibrations Tour, in which the choice in music was more of what I looked forward to—songs to sing along to in between head-banging songs.

For example, I enjoyed when both NGHTMRE and Slander played “Promises” by Nero featuring Skrillex that led into their original banging music. This transition was very much unexpected yet enjoyable as it escalated the enthusiasm in the crowd. Overall, these transitions and drops throughout the entire night were phenomenal.

Even “Don’t Let Me Down” and “Roses” by the Chainsmokers were played that evening. After reviewing videos I have from both the Gud Vibrations Tour and the Chainsmokers concert held in the Spring 2016 semester, believe it or not, “Roses” at the Gud Vibrations Tour was much better overall because NGHTMRE and Slander played only a very quick glimpse of it and had much better lighting, mostly due to the venue. Even though the DJ duo asked the crowd to sing with them at the concert held at RPI, the crowd at the Gud Vibrations Tour didn’t need a reminder to sing along—it was just natural. Additionally, at both concerts I recall listening to older hits; however, two that stuck out at the Gud Vibrations Tour were “Yeah!” by Usher and “Under the Bridge” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Again, the crowd at the Oakdale made the Tour more invigorating than the Chainsmokers concert.

The Gud Vibrations Tour marked the end of my EDM year of 2016. I’m looking forward to the upcoming UPAC concert in a few months, as well as any more raves that may come my way! ◇

## GAME REVIEW

# Automation obsession manifests in *Factorio*

*Elements of modded Minecraft and Sim City combine, creating factory management RTS*

**Jack Wellhofer**  
Senior Reviewer

*FACTORIO* HAS BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE FEBRUARY 2016, and I can’t believe it’s taken me this long to pick up such an innovative game. The premise is simple—you’re stranded on an alien planet and need to build a rocket ship to escape. There are abundant resources with which to do this, and you (fortunately) have the knowledge and skill to build some mining machines to get it all rolling. But as the copper, iron, and coal rolls in off the conveyor belts, the player will quickly realize that manually collecting, smelting, and crafting everything is a bit too slow. That’s where the fun begins: automating *everything*.

Looking at the game’s full technology tree, huge list of craftable items, and spaghetti

networks of conveyor belts, pipes, railways, and machines of other players, it’s easy to be turned away by sheer complexity. What I think *Factorio* does extremely well is create an interactive, engaging tutorial that walks the player through the core of the game. A little bit of storytelling explains the premise, and the abundant, yet restricted area sets a comfortable scene to overcome the biggest hurdle in simulation and strategy games: familiarization. As the player progresses through the tutorials, new gameplay mechanics are added and taught. In some instances, the complicated stuff is already assembled, but with a few “breaks” in the automation chain. I found this endlessly helpful, as it took away the “what the heck is going on” and allowed me to tinker with what was there,

understanding how it works and why I should be building in a certain way. This gave me confidence as I entered my first playthrough. I felt like I had the basic tools to make my way into the game, but with plenty left to discover on my own.

I must say, I love the graphics for this game. The graphics are dark and grungy—entirely fitting for a game about mass resource harvesting and giant factory production. The 2D nature of the game allows there to be a nice level of detail without a performance hit. In addition, the animations for the machines are beautiful to watch. They are simple and fluid; their functionality is explained without over-complication, and watching a landscape of assemblers build parts for my factory is nothing short of captivating.

The open-world, creativity-focused nature of the game reminds me a lot of *Minecraft*, which is good, because much of the developer’s early inspiration for a factory management game came from the popular *Minecraft* mods *Industrialcraft* and *Buildcraft*. This game is one with extensive replay value. I’ve established the groundwork for my first factory, but looking at other player’s designs has shown that there are limitless solutions to the problems we face. I am excited at the prospect of exploring new strategies, from the efficient to the absolutely absurd. To anyone with a passion for real time strategy games, \$20, and a few (hundred) hours to spare, I’d recommend *Factorio*. ◇



Courtesy of Factorio

STRANDED ON A PLANET WITHOUT THE MEANS TO ESCAPE, THE PLAYERS MUST MINE, RESEARCH, AND BUILD themselves a rocket to safety, all while fending off hostile local wildlife.