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CAMPUS EVENTS

Dan Savage speech surprises and stuns



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

SPEAKER VISITS RPI campus for discussion about sex, love, and relationships.

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

Editor's Note: This article contains explicit language. Reader discretion is advised.

THIS PAST FRIDAY, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHERED FOR A QUESTION AND answer session hosted by Dan Savage, an author, columnist, and activist for the LGBTQ community who is widely known for his shameless approach to talking about sex. Upon entering the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, each audience member received a pencil and a small slip of paper that prompted a question about sex or relationships. A few minutes after the slips were collected, Savage entered the stage and spent the next two hours answering as many of them as he could.

Within the first few questions, Savage had already touched on his “big sweaty gay agenda,” the state of LGBTQ rights under Donald Trump, and his campaign ITMFA, where he implored the audience to “impeach the motherfucker already” by donating to organizations like Planned Parenthood through the purchase of ITMFA apparel. He also spoke on the controversy surrounding transgender women using their respective public restrooms, stating that it was the “same bullshit in a brand new package” that the gay

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ADMINISTRATION

Planned improvements to School of Science

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

DEAN CURT BRENNEMAN OF THE RENSSELAER SCHOOL OF SCIENCE announced several key strategic initiatives during the spring town meeting that will be culminated over the coming years while celebrating recent successes in scientific research and expansions within the School of Science.

According to Breneman, several faculty members have recently received national and international recognition for their work. These faculty members include Dr. Chulsung Bae who received a \$2.2 million grant as a part of an ARPA-E effort to overcome current battery and fuel cell limitations. In addition, Dr. Heng Ji was invited to join the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council and Dr. Fran Berman was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Council of the Humanities. Six new faculty members have also recently joined the Rensselaer School of Science in the fields of Computer Science, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, and Mathematical Sciences.

In future expansions, Breneman plans to focus on diversity and inclusion in recruiting both faculty members and prospective students. The School of Science also hopes to attract diverse groups to science and focus on expanding student retention and graduation rates by 2020 through expanding the Calculus Virtual Bridge Program.

At the moment, the computer science and physics programs, both within the School of Science, are only 16% and 11% female, respectively. Breneman states that current averages are already a sizeable increase, as the computer science program was only 14% female in 2015, and the physics program was only 8% female in 2014. Breneman hopes to further increase female enrollment in the School of Science and continue to attract ever more diverse graduating classes.

Breneman also envisions an increase in total enrollment in the School of Science in order to expand Rensselaer’s global impact and vision, looking to enroll 1,800 undergraduate students in the School of Science by 2020, as well as 375 graduate students. For the 2017-2018 academic year, Breneman expects the current undergraduate enrollment in the School of Science to rise to 1,700 undergraduates and 335 graduates—an increase of less than 1 percent.

In order to accommodate increased class sizes, Rensselaer will aggressively hire new faculty members, with the intent of expanding the number of faculty members in the School of Science from 101 in the current academic year to 105 by 2020. This increase would allow for the number of under-

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STUDENT SENATE

Sodexo contract, mall shuttles discussed

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON DECEMBER 31, GRAND MARSHAL PAUL ILORI ’17 opened the Student Senate meeting with committee reports. Those included a discussion led by Chair of the Hospitality Services Advisory Committee Jenna Freedberg ’18 who reviewed the committee’s current objectives including reviewing the online petition “Do Not Extend Sodexo’s Contract,” which has garnered 387 signatures since its inception two years ago.

Freedberg is currently working with the committee to create a response to the petition as well as offer future recommendations to Hospitality Services and the Rensselaer Board of Trustees. As such, the Committee is also pursuing changes to meal plan proposals and expanding access to foods and services that students desire most. Following Freedberg, Student Life Committee Chairperson Justin Etzine ’18 continued

committee reports with a discussion regarding the reinstatement of the student peer alcohol monitoring program in which students would attend parties as additional sober monitors and watch for any potential hazardous situations and policy violations.

The proposed version of the previously instated policy is meant to fill in the void left by the program being removed last year due to liability involved with students being paid to participate in the program. In response to a question regarding TIPS training, Etzine said that “TIPS is very useful, but doesn’t serve the exact same purpose,” calling for both TIPS and the revived peer alcohol monitoring proposal to exist “in tandem.”

Web Technologies Chair Sidney Kochman ’19 continued to give an update on the current state of the RPI shuttle mobile phone application, stating that recent downtimes in the shuttle tracker may be resolved through the recent update of the hardware hosting the

application’s server. Community Relations Committee Chairperson Leo Gallo ’19 followed with describing upcoming plans to host a Lupus walk in Downtown Troy in collaboration with Russell Sage College. Gallo hopes that the collaboration will boost community relations between the RPI community and Troy as well as further encourage cooperation between Russell Sage and Rensselaer.

In addition, Gallo mentioned a recent proposal to the committee regarding a potential event in downtown Troy. referred to tentatively as the “Puckman Walk,” which would include a “school spirit-themed Troy night out” inspired by Cornell’s BEAR walk. Gallo is hoping to work with his committee and the Rensselaer community in order to make the project a reality. In addition, Gallo hopes to meet with RPI’s new Dean of Students Travis Apgar in order to discuss the logistics behind the proposal, as he was involved in the initial

See SENATE, **Page 3**

Science: Improvements to infrastructure

graduate students in the School of Science per tenured or tenure-track faculty member to fall from 16.7 to 16.2.

Under current retention and graduation rate goals for 2020, the Institute also wishes to increase the number of Bachelor’s degrees awarded per tenured and tenure-track faculty from 3.0 to 3.8—an increase of nearly 27%, representative of an expansive increase in the number of students graduating. The same expectations also apply for graduate and doctoral students, where the expected number of degrees awarded per tenure or tenure-track faculty is expected to increase from 1.0 to 1.1, and from 0.43 to 0.57, respectively.

In conjunction with increases in enrollment and faculty hiring, Rensselaer’s School of Science aims to increase total research expenditures to reflect the number of tenure and tenure-track faculty and to expand total research activity within the School of Science from \$25 million in 2017 to \$30 million by 2020. At the moment, Rensselaer’s School of Science does comparatively less research than its peer institutions, with the ratio of total research volume in millions to tenure and tenure-track faculty currently at 0.22, in comparison with 0.71 at MIT, 0.72 at CMU, 0.37 at Rice University, and 0.34 at Georgia Tech. By 2020, aimed increases in research expenditures could potentially increase this ratio to 0.29, an increase of nearly 32%.

Breneman stated that, “We will accomplish our mission by maximizing existing synergies with the other four Schools while simultaneously focusing on only the most impactful areas of research in basic and applied science.” This will be accomplished through leading developments in IDEA, the Jefferson Project, CISL, TERM, cMDIS, and other Global Challenge-Linked Research, as well as Next Generation Teaching (TLC), Cognition and Learning, the Innovation Ecosystem, CLASS, and Resource Generation.

The Institute also hopes, through increased research expenditures and expanded faculty, that Rensselaer can move both undergraduate



Michael Baird/The Polytechnic

THE CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY AND DISCIPLINARY STUDIES IS the newest science building on campus. (file photo)

and graduate science rankings from top 50 to “top-25 status” amongst national research universities in the US News & World Report. “In order for Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute to fully realize our vision as a world-class technological research university (“The New Polytechnic”) with global reach and impact, Science at Rensselaer must grow in capacity and reputation to a level that meets or exceeds that of our traditional strength in

Engineering. Meeting this fundamental goal on behalf of the University is at the heart of the School of Science Performance Plan.”

In addition to expanding enrollment and research, the administration also aims to construct a new Center for Science, which was named in 2013 as one of the five Institute-wide priorities. It is unclear whether construct will occur, however, since its completion relies on funding from the upcoming capital campaign. Until the

capital campaign is funded, there will be a new planning focus to accommodate expansions in the School of Science in the physical capacity through renewal projects. The administration expects to develop a statement on the future of the Center for Science and related science facilities on campus as early as 2018. ◇

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Clubhouse Pub to recieve new ID card scanners

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

THE RENSSELAER UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD HAD TWO MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR ITS MEETING LAST Thursday: changes to the Union’s email system and purchase of a new ID scanner for the Pub.

Rasika Ekhalikard ’17 and David Raab ’19, both systems administrators for the Union, came before the E-Board to discuss the migration of the Union’s emailing system. In short, the Union is currently using extremely outdated software to host the mailing lists that the student government and clubs utilize. The current system does not comply with anti-spam best practices, and creates problems when sending to Gmail addresses. As Raab put it, “the only reason it works right now is because it’s whitelisted and bypassed on checks [by the Division of the Chief Information Officer.]”

With the changes, mailing addresses ending in union.rpi.edu will change to union.lists.rpi.edu. Systems administrators will be emailing club leaders to migrate any existing mailing lists they might have to the new system. Club leaders will also be able to request new mailing lists through system administrators, as well as having the option of a shared inbox. List management will remain under the Club Management System. Justin Etzine ’18 asked about what would happen if a club failed to respond to the system administrator’s email about migrating mailing lists. Raab told the E-Board that the club would be put on hold until the club contacted them, at which time they would be able to migrate their lists. The E-Board approved the change 16-0-2.

The main discussion of the evening was about new ID scanners for the Pub. The current ID

scanner used in the Pub is getting old and, while still effective, will need to be replaced as new ID technology enters use. Chris Hoskins ’17 presented options to the E-Board.

The first option is a mobile, independent unit. The device would scan the barcode on the back of the ID to determine its legality. The device would cost between \$1,000–1,200. The second option is similarly portable. However, it is simply an Android app with a \$50 per month subscription fee. This app also scans the barcode on the back of the ID. The worry about the more portable devices is that they can be easily misplaced.

Aaron Davis of Advanced ID Detection presented the third option to the E-Board. The device has a scanner and display screen, and is capable of scanning both the front and back of IDs to determine legality. Davis explained that this scanner is able to catch what 95 percent of other scanners will miss, such as small security details on the front of IDs. Advanced ID Detection works with companies that develop security for IDs, so they are able to update their system quickly and reliably. Davis demonstrated the effectiveness of the system using confiscated fake IDs, that had fooled members of the E-Board.

Although the price of the scanner is in the \$3,000 range, the E-Board determined that it was best to reduce risk as much as possible. This scanner would also be able to scan the IDs of the many international patrons the Pub receives. The E-Board voted 18-0-1 to purchase the scanner from Advanced ID Detection.

The E-Board concluded their meeting with committee reports. ◇

U.S. NEWS

Trump’s executive order prompts discussion

Sidney Kochman
Senior Reporter

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNED AN executive order titled Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States. The order prohibits refugees from entering the US for the next 120 days, and it disallows nationals of seven majority Muslim countries—Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen—from entering the US for a 90-day period.

The Polytechnic has contacted the Office of Admissions and the International Services for Students and Scholars office, and is working to determine how many RPI students, faculty, and staff this order currently affects.

In response to the order, President Shirley Ann Jackson sent an email to the Rensselaer community. In it, she said that RPI is “a welcoming community that embraces the immeasurable benefits of diversity and inclusion.” Additionally, she said that RPI will be taking steps to reach out to community members who may be affected by this order, and advises them “to postpone international travel until broader travel guidance is developed.”

Vice President for Student Life Frank E. Ross III sent an email to RPI students shortly after Jackson’s; he reminded students about the Rensselaer Union’s Brave Space initiative, where they may discuss the order and other pressing issues. The next Brave Space will be in the Union Multicultural Lounge at 5 pm on Tuesday, February 7.

He also encouraged students who have questions about visas to contact the International Services for Students and Scholars office at ISSSOffice@rpi.edu.

Last week, the Student Senate discussed a letter that was circulated among university student governments, which calls on President Trump to continue to issue visas to international students. As it was simply a discussion, the Senate did not make a formal response or take any official action. The Poly’s coverage of last week’s Senate meeting can be found at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/jqls4>.

A rally in support of international students is planned for Wednesday, February 1 at noon. It will start at the ’86 Field and end at Monument Square in downtown Troy. ◇

Senate: School spirit walk through Troy proposed



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

TWO 2017 SENATORS GAVE their formal resignations following a motion to begin impeachment procedures.

creation of Cornell’s BEAR walk and has expressed interest in participating in a potential pilot program.

Following committee reports, constituent reports were delivered beginning with Greek Senator Marvin Cosare ’18. Cosare went over coming events and deadlines, stating that bid lists for all campus fraternities are due February 7 at 11:59pm and the Greek block party will be held on April 30th.

Executive Board member Thomas Alappat ’17 also delivered a report, stating that the Union Clubhouse Pub’s ID scanner has been recently updated to prevent the use of fake IDs. In response to a question regarding potential incidents with the former scan-

ner, Alappat stated that “I doubt we’ve had one recently, but this will filter everything 100%.” Alappat also delivered a summary of an update from Rules & Elections Committee Chair David Raab ’19, stating that the Student Senate’s email address has been updated in compliance with a request from DotCIO and has currently been changed to union.lists@rpi.edu.

Following Constituent reports, Jenna Freedberg ’18 provided a presentation regarding the Capital District Shuttles Proposal, which would provide free transportation to Crossgates Mall on the weekends. Freedberg began by stating, “I believe that it’s very important to

student development. This allows people to go and hang out with their friends, and is really geared towards freshmen since they are not allowed to have cars on campus.” Freedberg noted that events like Troy Night Out do not occur during winter months, and it would take roughly two hours to reach Crossgates Mall using CDTA buses. Ultimately, Freedberg hoped that the proposal would “help incoming freshman form study groups and friend groups that will help them succeed at RPI.” According to statistics provided during the presentation, 7.5% of students have used the mall shuttle over only 10 recorded runs since Spring 2015.

Following the presentation, the Student Senate entered into a discussion regarding the mall shuttle motion. C.J. Markum ’17 began the discussion by stating “the future of this project, as stated by this report, is not something I would be behind.” Markum continued to raise concerns behind the monetary cost of the program as well as the necessity to use such funds to create new clubs to support the CLASS initiatives of the Institute.

Freedberg responded by claiming that, after last year’s spring protest, students wish for student programs to be student-run and relinquishing funding from the Union in favor of funds from Auxiliary Services would add yet another critical student program to the list of programs currently supported outside the Union’s activity fee.

Following further discussion, the Senate voted to end discussion regarding the proposal. Votes for the motion were tied, requiring Ilori to make the deciding vote, in which the motion failed 9-10-5. The Senate then continued with proceedings to bring a motion to impeach former Class of 2017 Senators Joe Venusto and Austin Miller, who reportedly missed two class council meetings. Miller claimed that both him and Venusto had conflicting responsibilities with their fraternity house, in which their fraternity’s weekly meeting time changed with class council meeting times, leading to a schedule dispute. Miller also claimed that both hold leadership positions requiring them to be present for such events.

Following brief discussion, the Senate voted on motions to continue proceedings to impeach Miller and Venusto, which passed 21-0-1 and 21-0-0, respectively. Both Miller and Venusto gave their formal resignation following the motion. ♦

Savage: Honest answers to necessary questions

male community experienced 40 years ago. He did note, however, that the way the media approaches these issues has progressed. They now talk to the people involved in the controversy, rather than just about them, and this largely affects the timeline of such issues. When the public can put a face, personality, and life to a subject that may be foreign to them, it makes room for compassion.

Throughout the session, Savage returned to the subject of monogamy numerous times. It was initially brought up by a question from an audience member that noticed her boyfriend looking at other women. In response to this particular question, Savage stated that, in a monogamous relationship, “you will still want to fuck other people,” and that this doesn’t invalidate the feelings involved. It is about the commitment, the willingness to abstain from such urges out of respect for the other person. The relationship between two people is more important than the preservation of monogamy. Savage shared that he views monogamy as a societal construct, citing one theory that claimed this can be seen through the differences between the male and female orgasm. This theory makes women out to be less monogamous, referencing their ability to orgasm multiple times and their copulatory vocalizations that serve to let other males in the area know that while a woman is “having sex with this male right now, he will [orgasm and] be asleep soon.”

Savage also touched on one-night stands, polyamorous relationships, and the NoFap movement, referring to the latter as a “huge chastity fetish roleplay.”

He also dispelled what he called the “funeral home guarantee” while elaborating on the qualities of a successful long-term relationship. A relationship should not be deemed successful when one partner dies, but rather when the relationship ends and everyone involved can look back on it fondly and acknowledge the growth that arose from it. In his advice for successful relationships, he emphasized prioritizing sex early, and not taking each other for granted or making monogamy a default setting. Savage urged the audience to find a different definition of success that focusemore on joy, connection, growth, and positive change rather than length.

In response to one audience member’s question regarding why people have sex even when it isn’t pleasurable, Savage attributed this to poor sex education. He elaborated on this topic more when asked about its potential for progress, and his view was not nearly as optimistic. In today’s political climate, he regards its preservation as a political fight. Sex education is now, more than ever, in the hands of parents and it is their responsibility to cover the kind of sex that people are actually having. Nobody teaches children that sex is about pleasure, intimacy, connection, and release. Schools teach terror and biology, and this simply is not practical. It’s the reason that girls have sex even when it hurts and that so many couples do not know how to communicate about their desires and discomforts in a healthy way.

To hear more of Dan Savage’s insights into sex and relationships, his weekly column “Savage Love” is available online at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/8eud2>. ♦

Hong Kong Students Association

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LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Celebrate the Year of the Rooster with Us!

Saturday, Febuary 4th

7:30-9pm

Shellnut Gallery, Union

\$3 for members

\$5 for nonmembers

Take Down: 2/5/2017

Editorial

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Let no worker go unnoticed

Engineers depend on the skills of many individuals

THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF OUR MODERN SOCIETY IS an amazing and beautiful thing to behold. Many processes mesh to bring us modern technologies. My favorite example of this, and the reason why I want to be an aeronautical engineer, is the plane.

Every plane has started out as something pulled from the ground. The base ore is extracted from mines and transported to smelting facilities. The high-grade metal from the smelting facilities is then formed into the parts needed for the plane. Those parts are taken and riveted and welded together to form the skeleton of the plane. This is just for the metal; it does not include the cloth, plastics, composites, glass, or other materials needed. Nor does it include all the tools that were used at each step, like trucks, mining and smelting machines, or computers. Each of those tools has an interconnected process behind them and behind those the same.

At each step of the above process is people. Each doing their individual job to work together to create something much larger than themselves. There are people with doctorate degrees that design the parts, but without the miners or smelters, there would be no material for those parts to be made. Without the airport staff, engineers, factory workers, software programmers, pilots, and others collaborating, flying on a plane would be impossible at today's scale.



Tyler Carney
Managing Editor

In each of those positions, different skill sets are needed. I am thankful for the diversity of thought that humans have. I have no love for electricity, but I am glad others do so that I can enjoy all the benefits that come with it, and in turn, they can enjoy the benefits that I bring to society. Everybody has their own strengths, and place in this world; it just needs to be found.

I remember what my uncle told me before I left for college. He said, do not think just because you have a degree that you are all-knowing and better than the people on the shop floor. Those people have years of practical experience which I should learn from and work with. That has stuck with me, because it is completely true. Without them building what I design, I would not have a job. It also shows the trust needed between people of different roles in order to accomplish the bigger picture.

When you look around, these huge systems are everywhere; the power grid, food at the supermarket, healthcare, the oil industry, and your smartphone are all examples. It is quite humbling to think about the great things that humanity has done, and I am excited to be a part of it and further what humans are capable of doing. ♦

Questions asked of a Greek student

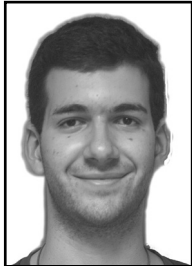
Employer emphasis on alcohol, drugs disappoints interviewee

I WON'T LIE, I'M IN A FRATERNITY AND I AM SICK and tired of being judged. I'm tired of being asked if I consume massive amounts of alcohol on the weekends or if I've ever committed sexual violence. I'm tired of people not believing that I've never smoked weed, gone on an acid trip, or taken pills to help myself study. I'm tired of potential employers asking questions about whether I frequent kegs on the weekends or cheat on my exams, instead of asking about my internships with Fortune 500 companies and data startups.

What's even scarier is that this plague is not just common with random employers and uneducated raffle, but with Rensselaer students. Are they so ignorant that they don't realize what they're doing, categorizing 25 percent of the student body this way?

I'm not going to focus on what a fraternity is, but on what it is not. A fraternity is not a place where students drink more than the average RPI student or do drugs until they faint. Fraternities are not places where the sole goal of every member is to hook up with every girl in sight. In fact, I would like to point something out; many of these Greek-deniers are probably guilty of having done these things too.

They're guilty of underage drinking, drug use, and every other ailment that plagues college campuses. They just don't see it themselves since they're too busy immersing themselves in their



Peter Gramenides
News Editor

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Residence hall activity unites students in exchange of ideas

BEGINNING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 23, I was sitting around in the wonderful Cary Residence Hall. I was thinking, "let's start something new for everyone who lives here." Let's make posters that ask a random question or prompt each week. Then we'll tape it into the corner of where the girls' wing meets the guys' wing.

The first prompts that started this ongoing endeavor was "Cary 3: Write something good!!!" and "What are you looking forward to this weekend?" That Sunday night, students flocked to the poster to write responses such as "You are unique and special in your own way. Just like everybody else", "Maria's pancakes didn't kill me!!" and "I slept 1.2 hours." These are only three responses out of dozens.

With the success of the first week came the second, "Update your status" poster. The three foot by

three foot poster was flooded with purple, black, and silver metallic marker. The hysterical updates include someone writing "Just back from ND [Notre Dame]" and then changed to "Just got back from bondage." Additionally, there have been many shoutouts to friends for doing good things, and even shoutouts for just being awesome!

The poster ideas are not just mine, but created by the residents of the hall. After I tape the poster up to the wall, I go around asking if anyone has any ideas; I get many great ideas, just like the idea to write this article!

"Who is your role model?" and "What are your goals this week?"

are among the more serious poster topics. Many students had similar answers of passing calculus exams and sleeping more than three hours. With the written answers often come conversations around the poster. So many times when I have been quietly studying in the Cary study room, everybody busted out laughing at something written on the poster.

The energy and participation with this start-up project has continued to this week's prompt of "Draw your favorite constellation," which is on a yellow poster cut into the shape of a star. I take pride in the posters' ability to brighten the vibe of the bland walls of Cary Hall. ♦



Maria Kozdroy
Associate Composing Editor

STAFF EDITORIAL

EMPAC underutilized as a space for student media

THE RENSSELAER COMMUNITY IS blessed to have a beautiful campus. There are countless scenic views—and sitting upon a hill is the grandest of them all: the Curtis R. Priem Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. It's a breathtaking building, and it provides students with one of their favorite aesthetics. Despite

its appearance, however, it has historically seen lackluster usage.

We, the Editorial Board of *The Poly*, would like to see more utility from Troy's architectural wonder. Things are certainly on the right track: there have been whisperings of more reservation availability, and the recently-implemented EMPAC+ program offers students

free entry to EMPAC-curated events. But there's still more that could be done. On one hand, we would like to see students make an active effort to go to EMPAC; *Poly* reporters attending the recent Dan Savage and *Tesseract* events found that their company was

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the polytechnic

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TOP HAT

Quality of political discussion easily digresses

Difficulty of holding calm conversations about national issues increases due to election

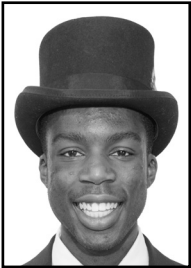
HAVING LIVED OUTSIDE THE US FOR NINE YEARS BEFORE COMING TO RPI, I WASN'T REALLY ready for the media maelstrom called the 2016 Presidential Election. While my friends and I followed the news—my parents normally would go through the process of scheduling times to go into the embassy to send in their absentee ballots—there's a totally different level of fanfare, drama, and coverage that surrounds you when you're actually in the States. And I definitely am not one of the people who predicted one, let alone all, of the different twists and turns that took place over the course of this election cycle.

I tend to keep my political views pretty much to myself. Part of it is being a person who's in a position where I'm supposed to be a neutral voice representing the views of the members of the student body who elected me. The bigger aspect of it is that I genuinely don't really identify with any political parties as a whole or with the hyper partisan nature that is most discussions about politics, on a national or local level. However, one thing that I think most people can agree on is the need for less heated argument and more discussion of ideas surrounding politics in America. And regardless of how you feel about the election results, I think everyone can agree the small amount this has increased is a definite positive result.

There's been a lot of talk and controversy surrounding President Trump's administration. It seems to have crystalized around his recent Executive Order barring travel from specific nations, among other measures. Having grown up away from my home and having parents who both moved to the United States as adults, to an extent I understand the

importance of safety and the importance of knowing that you're welcomed somewhere. Uncertainty in events, especially when it relates to the government and your ability to be in, or travel in and out of, the country are huge sources of strain on a person. Starting my eighth semester here at RPI, I'm pretty comfortable saying this place feels like home to me. Rensselaer's always been an interesting place, where we've paid more attention to our mutual pursuit of knowledge and thoroughness than any differences in origin, ideology, or beliefs.

While the Student Senate is the elected student legislative group on campus, we aren't a political group. Any public stance we take or decide on has to be looked at through the lens of whether or not it's our job to take public stances on national issues that some of our constituents will agree with, or not. It's a hard position for a student, who probably wanted to be involved in projects improving campus or classes to be placed in. However, we did ask to be considered leaders in our community, and leadership does come with certain weight and expectations. It is important for us to always show our support for international students, and all members of our community, rather than when it's just "hot right now." Senators and the other students working on Senate committees are in a unique position to do this, in the projects we work on and pursue along with our individual actions, which I urge all senators and members of student government to do. ◇



Paul Ilori
Grand Marshal

DERBY

Club officer training summit yields high turnout

86 students attend workshops as part of campus event hosted by the Executive Board

HELLO RPI! HAPPY THIRD WEEK OF CLASSES! I HAVE A FEW UPDATES and things to share from the Executive Board of the Rensselaer Union. This weekend, we held a club officer training workshop in the Union; at the E-Board meeting last week we replaced the ID scanner for the Clubhouse Pub, approved new email lists for clubs, and began planning for future projects in the Union.

The club officer training summit took place Saturday morning from 10 am—noon. We had exceptional attendance of 86 students. A total of 48 students attended bystander intervention training, which is required to be completed for all club presidents by the end of the semester. The other 38 students in attendance participated in financial and travel workshops for club treasurers, "Let's Talk" workshops, and a program by the Center for Career and Professional Development on how to add your club officer skills to your resume. The Union is planning a

similar training day in late February so that all clubs have an opportunity to meet their training requirements.

At the E-Board meeting last Thursday night, we voted to replace the ID scanner in the Pub. The new scanner works with an incredible number of international IDs, a must for the RPI community, and is very straightforward to use. This scanner also goes above and beyond in ID verification. The Executive Board approved a move of email lists from the Union managed union.rpi.edu server to a server managed by DotCIO at union.lists.rpi.edu. There are many technical issues with the Union's current server which warranted the migration to a new one. Moving forward, the system administrators in the Union will be in contact with all clubs using union.rpi.edu email lists in order to help them transition to using union.lists.rpi.edu email lists. By this summer, the union.rpi.edu email list server will be turned off and all clubs will have been

transitioned to union.lists.rpi.edu. The E-Board also spent time planning for future programs and facility upgrades for the main Union building. This will be a months-long process extending late into the semester. By creating a comprehensive plan for the long-term outlook of the Union's facilities, we hope that future E-Boards will have a starting point for making their own plans and updating the plans we have laid out.

Finally, I would like to thank the international members of our community for all that they bring to the RPI campus, and especially the Union. I have never met a more open and inclusive group of students than the international and cultural organizations at RPI. They continually show us that adversity and hate can be met with cordial, intelligent dialogue, that cultural insensitivity can be challenged by words and thoughtful action, and that our community can learn, accept, and love those around us who are different from ourselves. Now more than ever, to any student who feels like their community doesn't have their back, I can tell you that we do, and that we always will. ◇



Chip Kirchner
President of the Union

Greek: Interview should focus on accomplishments

FROM **Page 4**

own naive narratives. The problem is not in the begotten oak walls of Greek houses or the poor heating of the freshman dorms, it is within ourselves. We are the problem.

Our prevailing mentality does everything but solve the problem that is a rampant culture of alcohol consumption, drug use, and disrespect for women's rights that is found on every college campus across the country. RPI students tend to think we're above that, that we've moved on to something better. The criminalization of fraternity members for engaging in activities common amongst the general populous is not acceptable, and shows that we are in fact not ready to deal with the issues facing our own campus.

Open your mind, RPI! Problems don't go away through talk, but through diligence. Many of us are engineers. We should know this best. Just like we've helped solve the most pressing engineering problems of the 19th and 20th centuries, we must continue in our legacy of free enterprise and innovation to strive towards something better—an inclusive campus accepting of people of all nationalities, genders, sexualities, and fraternal affiliations. ◇

Media: Concert halls could be used for UPAC events

FROM **Page 4**

largely comprised of adult residents, and not students. On the other hand, student apathy isn't entirely to blame. Events could be more directly catered to students, and we have a few suggestions.

One potential use for EMPAC could be video game nights. While EMPAC+ offers the chance to play video games on the mega screen after attending 10 events, one night per month for such recreational activities wouldn't eat into time for other curated events. In addition, UPAC Cinema's current venue in DCC 308 seats many viewers—but an occasional, tasteful showing in the EMPAC Theater would be a pleasant change. And, most significantly, we believe that all student concerts should be hosted in the EMPAC Concert Hall; Priem intended for the building to be a space where students could freely indulge in the arts. What would better suit EMPAC's design than that? ◇

Join *The Poly* today!

Visit us on social media!

Website: poly.rpi.edu

Facebook: @thepolytechnic

Twitter: @rpipoly

Reddit: u/thepolytechnic

Poly Snapshots

Photos and interviews by Michael Baird

The Questions:

What award that you’ve earned are you most proud of?



Anthony Spinelli
ELEC '18
“Eagle [Scout].”

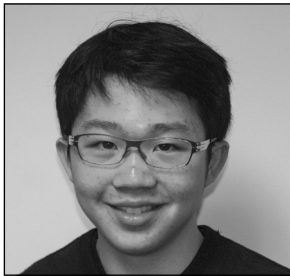


Mariam Naviwala
CHME '18
“The Rensselaer Medal.”

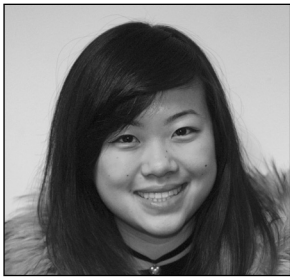


Arman Alpar
GEOL '19
“The Gay Straight Alliance at [my] school won an award. We planned a community event and invited a lot of speakers. It was pretty awesome.”

If you could be any vegetable, which one would you be and why?



Jason Lee
ITWS/CSCI '19
“Chinese broccoli.”



Sindy San
PHYS '18
“Strawberries are technically a vegetable.”



Ally Schwarz
CHME '17
“Onion, because it has many layers and it goes with anything.”

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



DILBERT

by Scott Adams

NEVER GO TO A ROBOTIC HAIR TRANSPLANT CENTER ON THE SAME DAY THEY UPGRADE THE SOFTWARE.

IS THAT THE SURGERY WHERE THEY TAKE HAIR FROM THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD AND FILL IN THE BALD SPOT?

THAT'S HOW THE OLD SOFTWARE WORKED. THE NEW ONE DIDN'T RESPECT BOUNDARIES.

WE REPLACED OUR COMPANY LAWYER WITH A ROBOT.

IT ALREADY REWROTE ALL OF OUR CONTRACTS INTO GIBBERISH.

DO WE WANT THAT? I TRIED TO ASK, BUT IT THREATENED TO SUE ME.

THE ROBOT LAWYER

DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS ON THE CONTRACT I EMAILED TO YOU?

ADJUDICATE THE CONTINUANCE OF DUE DILIGENCE UNTIL AN INJUNCTION REPUDIATES THE COVENANTS.

I WAS HOPING FOR COMMENTS THAT MAKE SENSE. YOU'RE THINKING OF A MORE EXPENSIVE ROBOT.

DID YOU GET THE FILE I SENT BY EMAIL?

NO.

IF I OPEN EMAIL, I'LL SEE THIRTY URGENT MESSAGES THAT WILL RUIN MY ENTIRE DAY.

CAN YOU OPEN IT TOMORROW? YOU SHOULD TRY TO LIVE IN THE MOMENT.

WHY CAN'T WE INNOVATE AS QUICKLY AS OUR COMPETITION?

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OUR MANAGEMENT IS LIKE A FAMILY OF SQUIRRELS THAT LIVES INSIDE AN OLD TIRE.

CAN YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC? IT'S A GOODYEAR TIRE WITH FIVE GREY SQUIRRELS.

WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE MORE DAYS OFF OR MORE PAY?

DAYS OFF. DAYS OFF. DAYS OFF.

YOU WERE RIGHT — WE'RE PAYING THEM TOO MUCH.

WORD FIND

by Ana Wishnoff

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

U.S. State Capitals

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

- Albany

Atlanta

Bismarck

Denver

Lincoln
- Nashville

Olympia

Phoenix

Pierre

Providence
- Raleigh

Sacramento

Salem

Santa Fe

Springfield

MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard



UPAC

C·I·N·E·M·A

UPAC

C·I·N·E·M·A

UPAC

C·I·N·E·M·A

Dr. Strange

Friday • February 3, 2017

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

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

Saturday • February 4, 2017

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

SUDOKU

Instructions

Solutions from Last Issue

9 4 7 5

8 6 1 9

1 9 8

2 1 7

5 2 8

8 3 9

9 2 7 8

7 9 3 1

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

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

CRYPTOQUOTE

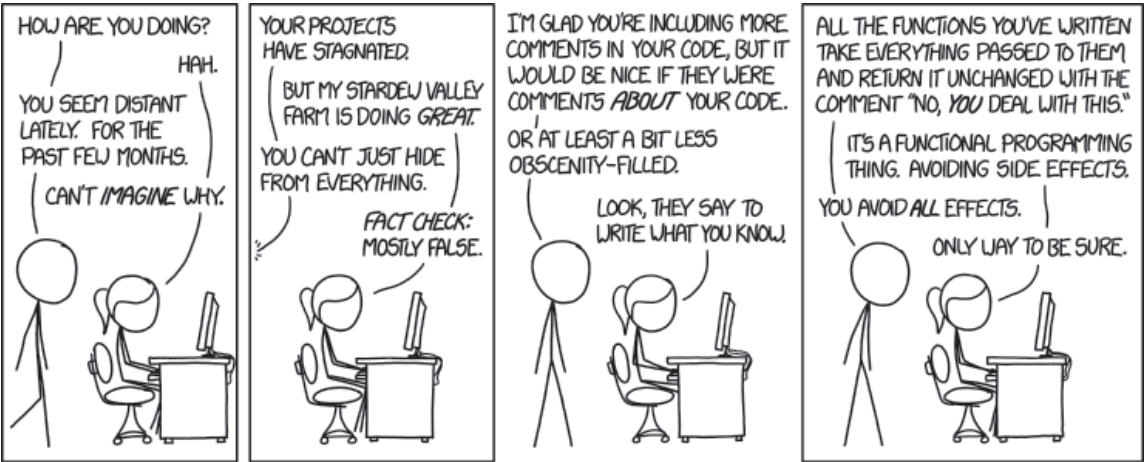
XKCD

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

“Cko vjecnu hyce
nwfdafo pyhgnws
owoysj tydv
pnvowendwe hwp
ukhwwoaanws
nc tdy jdmy dgw
meo. Tdy h adws
cnvoe, ckoeo hyo
rwdgw he eioaae.
Zmc nt jdm tnwp
ckhc gdyp cdd
hwcnxmhcop, go
uhw meo “iydsyhv”
dy “edmyuo
udpo”.
-Cko Hwunowc Dwo
Py. Ecyhwso

	BIRD	PLANE	SUPERMAN
CARRIES PEOPLE		✓	✓
OFTEN FLIES IN GROUPS	✓	✓	
CREATED IN 20 TH CENTURY		✓	✓
USES MAGNETIC NAVIGATION	✓	✓	
ENTHUSIAST COMMUNITY OBSESSES OVER SMALL COLORATION DETAILS	✓	✓	✓
PREYED ON BY CATS	✓		
OCCASIONAL MID-AIR SEX	✓	✓	✓
EATEN DURING SEASONAL FEASTS	✓		
PROPELLED BY FLAPPING	✓		
SOMETIMES LOSES ABILITY TO FLY, NEEDS TO SUNBATHE TO REGAIN IT	✓		✓
CAN TAKE A PUNCH		✓	✓
MATING BEHAVIOR OFTEN OBSERVED BY A HIDDEN DAVID ATTENBOROUGH	✓		NOT THAT WE KNOW OF
CAPABLE OF INTENTIONALLY RELEASING POOP MID-FLIGHT	✓		✓
CHASES AND EATS BUGS	✓		ONLY WHEN BORED



The Rensselaer Union Speakers Forum Presents:



Ndaba Mandela

The Village Idiom:

Empowering Youth through
Education, Interconnectivity and Employment

Thursday, February 9th

7:30 PM | EMPAC Concert Hall

Register for a seat at: union.rpi.edu

UPAC Cinema presents 'Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom'
Saturday, Feb. 4th - 7pm, 10pm, 1am



CCPD SPRING CAREER FAIR 2017

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8TH
10:30AM - 3:30PM IN THE ARMORY**

**RSVP & VIEW EMPLOYERS IN JOBLINK
DOWNLOAD RPI CAREER FAIR+ APP**

GET YOUR RESUME CRITIQUED &
QUESTIONS ANSWERED

● **WEDNESDAY 2/1: RESUME DAY!** ●

9-11AM: SCE RESUMANIA IN THE CCPD

1-3PM: RESUMANIA IN THE CCPD

5-7PM: LATE NIGHT WALK-IN'S IN THE CCPD

6-9PM: LATER NIGHT WALK-IN'S IN ECAV

RESUMANIA THROUGH TUESDAY 2/7
ALL 1-3PM IN THE CCPD

FINAL LATE NIGHT WALK-INS
MONDAY 2/6 5-8PM IN THE CCPD

Center for Career and Professional Development
DCC 209, {518} 276-6234



Saturday, February 4 11a - 3p at ECAV

Free Food Inflatables
Sled Dogs Stuff-A-Plush
Magnet Man Carnival Games

starts
at 1p

Winter Olympics
Scavenger Hunt
Puckman

<http://tinyurl.com/hnwo887>

Come celebrate your favourite season at the annual RPI Winter Carnival! It's free for everyone, and you could win fantastic prizes! There might even be dinosaurs, maybe!

Sponsored by the Rensselaer Student Union

Take Down Feb ~~###~~

Events

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

WEDNESDAY

February 1

Open Skate

Houston Field House; 2–3 pm

A valid RPI ID is required for entrance. No rentals are offered during this time.

Center for Automation Technologies and Systems Winter Open House

Russell Sage Dining Hall; 4–6 pm

The Open House will include a short presentation, hors d’oeuvres, beverages, and a chance to network with CATS staff and colleagues.

Kill the Overseer!

EMPAC Theater; 7–8 pm

In a video game demo and talk, Sarah Juliet Lauro will discuss how resistance to slavery is represented in video and computer games. Lauro will profile many games that feature this narrative and will demo an art game being developed by students at the University of Southern California called Thrall’d, which focuses on a runaway slave in Brazil.

RPI Curling Open House

Mueller Center; 10 pm–midnight

At the open house attendees will be taught the rules and basics of curling from members of the club.

THURSDAY

February 2

Engineering Ambassadors Info Session

JEC 3210; 7–8 pm

They work with local schools to promote STEM exploration and make engineering more accessible to a younger audience.

Join *The Poly*,
we meet
Tuesdays at
7 pm and
Sundays at
4 pm in
Union 3418.

MONDAY

February 6

Open Skate

Houston Field House; 11:30 am–12:30 pm

A valid RPI ID is required for entrance. No rentals are offered during this time.

Civil and Environmental Engineering Seminar Speaker

JEC 3117; 12:30–1:30 pm

The title is “Creating Community Resilience through Elder-Led Physical and Social Infrastructure.” Natural disasters and aging populations are chronic problems for societies worldwide. They investigated the effects of an intervention in Japan known as Ibasho, which embeds elderly residents in vulnerable areas within social networks and encourages them to participate in leadership activities. This project sought to deepen the connections of these residents to society.

TUESDAY

February 7

Computer Science Colloquium

Troy 2018; 4–5 pm

Avi Pfeffer presents “Probabilistic Programming: Past, Present, and Future.”

ROC Wall Indoor Rock Climbing

’87 Gym; 7–10 pm

No experience necessary and all skill levels are welcome.

WEDNESDAY


February 8

Materials Science and Engineering Seminar

CII 3051; 11 am–noon

Susan Babcock will present “Near Atomic-Scale Investigations, Microstructure and Stability of Metastable GaAs1-xBix Solid Solutions.”

Clubhouse Pub Upcoming Events





Grad Social Games Room

Feb 2 / 5-9 pm

90’s Karaoke Night

Feb 2 / 9 pm







Black History Month Happy Hour

Feb 3, 10, 17, 24 / 4-6 pm

Super Bowl Party

Feb 5 / 6-10 pm







All Ages Trivia to benefit Clothe-A-Child

Feb 7 / 7:30 pm

Valentine’s Trivia

Feb 14 / 7:30 pm







Painting at the Pub

Feb 16 / 7-10pm

Mardi Gras Trivia

Feb 28 / 7:30 pm





Rensselaer Union 3rd Floor

21+

Features

Wednesday, February 1, 2017

CAMPUS EVENT

RPI Ballroom social dance teaches waltz

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

LAST SATURDAY, INSTEAD OF STAYING HOME and doing Data Structures like most of my classmates, I went out and about to explore the world of RPI Ballroom. I had first heard about this event a week before, when I missed their first social dance and was scrambling to find their next one. This led me to arriving to Academy Hall at 7 pm, with nothing but a lack of dancing experience and five dollars to my name. After paying the toll and gaining

admission—gaining access to a selection of snacks—I was ushered into the Academy Hall Auditorium for a brief lesson on the waltz.

When I entered, there was a bit of downtime to talk to friends or club members before any actual dancing began. After a bit though, the club leaders brought everyone into the center of the auditorium. We were lined up in two lines facing each other, one row of leaders and one of followers. First, the leaders would learn their part, which started with the style of the simple box. Then, as the followers learned their steps, the leaders would practice with

them. Finally, the leaders were requested to ask a follower to dance, and both would attempt to execute their dance moves, with varying degrees of success. Since my talent was virtually non-existent, I found the lessons a great way to learn a basic waltz. As the night progressed, I became more and more comfortable with my waltzing, and managed to achieve a comfortable pace. My partner, who changed numerous times during the night, and I eventually ended up doing laps of the ballroom, interchanging box steps with an occasional turn.

The event was a good mix of members from RPI’s various dance-related clubs and commoners such as myself who were searching for a fun night. I danced with club members and those who had as little experience as myself. I talked with people about both the intricacies of dance, and just about school in general. The social dance was a good time to, well, be social. Overall, I was glad that I went, and encourage everyone to try to attend a similar event in the future! ♦



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

MEMBERS OF THE RPI COMMUNITY CAME together to learn and practice dancing the waltz. Club members helped out newcomers in learning the basics of this dance.

PODCAST REVIEW

Pod Save America draws from creator’s past jobs

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

LAST YEAR, I FACED A TERRIBLE CONUNDRUM, WHICH NO ONE should have the horror of facing: I was out of backlogged podcast episodes to listen to. Since I’m fairly new to this whole podcast thing, I’m only following a handful of podcasts. With months—and sometimes years—of prior content to listen to on these podcasts, the distress of waiting for new episodes never crossed my mind. So you can imagine my horror as I realized the release date of the latest episode of *The Adventure Zone* was uncomfortably close to the current

date. But, since it was the end of the semester, I decided to push that problem off until the new year. Just like many other school-related problems.

When I got back to school and returned to my 15-minute walks to and from campus each day, I had to face reality. I needed to venture beyond safe harbors, into the untamed wilds of the podcast ocean, and find something new. Or, at least check out what podcasts are trending this week. When I did, one in particular caught my eye. Sitting at number one on trending was *Pod Save America*. Seeing a portrait of George Washington wearing Apple earbuds and “Crooked Media” as the company name, I was interested.

Pod Save America aims to have “a freewheeling conversation about politics, the press, and the challenges posed by the Trump presidency.” Having become much more interested in politics over the last year, I welcomed the opportunity for further discussion and analysis in a humorous, light-hearted format. I was immediately impressed by the extensive knowledge the podcasters possessed. Not only were they enjoyable to listen to, but they knew their stuff. These were no armchair political pundits, but individuals who spoke from both knowledge and experience. No wonder *Pod Save America* was trending!

See PODCAST, **Page 13**

Podcast: Educates through humor

FROM Page 12

I was probably two or three episodes in before I fully understood the extent of Crooked Media’s resume. The creators of *Pod Save America*, Jon Favreau, Dan Pfeiffer, Jon Lovett, and Tommy Victor, aren’t Washington nobodies—in fact, all four were aids to former president Barack Obama. Favreau even served as Obama’s head speechwriter as far back as 2005. To say the group knows their way around White House politics is a bit of an understatement.

In my opinion, this is what puts *Pod Save America* a step above the rest. Listening to individuals discuss White House politics from the perspective of those who actually lived it is unquestionably more in-depth and interesting than any other political discussion one could have. Their ability to say “I remember when we had a media nightmare during my time with Obama, so I have an idea of what Sean Spicer is experiencing right now” is what makes this an exceptional podcast. They are able to take headlines that are, at their core, disheartening, and make them entertaining, while still conveying the implications of such developments. In addition, their Washington connections allow them to interview those who are still in the trenches, bringing even more experience and insight to the show. *Pod Save America* is a golden light in the midst of a barren political landscape. ♦



Courtesy of Pod Save America
POD SAVE AMERICA AIMS to educate Americans on political issues.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Mods revitalize older games into masterpieces

Chris Leong
Senior Reviewer

MORE THAN A YEAR AGO, I WROTE A REVIEW ON THE FRESH release of *Fallout 4*. I want to make it clear, I absolutely loved the game when it first came out. There was so much potential, so much possibility in *Fallout 4* over *Fallout 3* and *New Vegas*. But after a couple of months, I guess I just ran the game out of content. Even with the downloadable content, it just wasn’t enough. So now, after buying a cool NVIDIA GTX 1070, I’ve bumped everything to ultra and installed a ton of mods, giving me probably another hundred or so hours of fresh gameplay. But before I go into the mods, let’s touch on why it all became stale.

The settlement building mechanic and sheer size of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in *Fallout 4* made exploration feel limitless. But after I put in about 80 hours in, the gameplay felt repetitive. “Go defend this settlement” or “rescue this settler” became boring after the tenth time. I also exhausted all the points of interest in the game (isn’t that something, considering the size of eastern Massachusetts). It also didn’t help that, beyond the main storyline, there was no reason for me to create a new character and choose a different faction. The sides were so polarized that picking one felt like a personal choice and choosing anything else would be wrong. This one fights for freedom or this one seeks mankind redefined. Almost parallel to today’s politics, now that I think about it; that’s I why I said to heck with it and joined none of them. Which probably explains why I found little replay value.

Now that I have a powerful GPU, I bumped the settings and downloaded over 30 different mods—all of which can be found on nexusmods, a hub for Bethesda game mods. The first two that are, in my opinion, absolutely worth it if you have a hefty GPU, are The Enhanced Wasteland Preset by razed and Vivid *Fallout* – Landscapes. For EWP, you’ll have to

download ENB separately and finagle the EWP files in your steamapps folder. It’s a bit of work, but they both make the wasteland look absolutely gorgeous. Another mod I installed was Ellen – The Cartographer. This is what I love about the modding community; someone out there voiced over a thousand lines for this character, Ellen. She’s available to be a companion and even has her own personal quest when you adventure with her. She’s been all over the former United States and even makes references to previous *Fallout* installments, which I find immersive. And hey, she’s not too shabby at using a rifle.

The last mod I think is worth noting is almost like a completely different game; it’s called *Frost Survival Simulator*. If you’re up for a challenge, then this is your cup of tea. The mod is relentless. Like actually surviving in a post-nuclear apocalyptic world, the player must worry about eating and drinking, more serious injuries from wounds, and even mental health. Taking place not long after the bombs went off, weapons and especially ammunition are scarce. You will always feel like you are on the edge of your seat when playing this mod. I know I jumped up from my chair when my half-starved, paranoid character rounded a corner and was immediately clobbered by an insane, bat-wielding raider.

If you’re feeling bored with your installment of *Fallout 4*, *Fallout 3*, *Skyrim*, what have you, just slap on some mods and you’ll probably be good for another hundred hours of gameplay. ♦

Vanilla *Fallout 4*:
8/10

Fallout 4 with Mods:
9.5/10

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MEN’S HOCKEY

Mediocre weekend for men’s ice hockey

After losing to Saint Lawrence on Friday, the Engineers defeated Clarkson 2-1 Saturday

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

MEN’S HOCKEY SAW A MILDLY successful weekend this past week, losing their Friday game 2–1 against Saint Lawrence University, but coming back on Saturday to beat Clarkson University 2–1.

Although both teams started off with three early shots on goal each, neither team was able to slip past their respective goalies in the first frame. It wasn’t until the second period that the Saints made their way onto the board. Alex Gilmour, assisted by Ben Finkelstein, slipped one past freshman goalie Chase Perry.

The Engineers responded with haste, returning the favor just four minutes later. Senior captain Riley Bourbonnais scooped up a pass from freshman Will Reilly to bring the teams even.

Despite shots from both teams, neither was able to edge out a lead. The remainder of the second period went without another goal, as did most of the third period.

As the clock ticked down, the game looked to be heading for overtime. However, at 17:04 into the third, Carson Gicewicz, assisted by Ryan Lough and Mike Graham, scored. The Engineers, despite pulling Perry, were unable to get a shot off and tie the game.



Stephanie Tan/The Polytechnic

FRESHMAN GOALIE CHASE PERRY DEFENDS the net, assisted by teammates junior Mike Prapavassis and junior Jared Wilson. (file photo)

Saturday’s game against the Golden Knights proved to be much better for the Engineers, although it did not seem that way at the start. Clarkson outshot the Engineers 12–4 in the first half of the first period, culminating in a goal for the Golden Knights.

Senior Jake Wood, assisted by freshman Jake Marrello and

freshman Max Reisinger, brought the Engineers even again with a late goal in the first period.

Tied at one each, both teams battled it out through the second period, but to no avail. As the game entered the final period, memories of the previous night crept into the minds of

fans. Fortunately for the team, Bourbonnais came through for them once again, scoring midway through the third period to put the Engineers in the lead.

RPI fought back against Clarkson for the remaining ten minutes, preventing the Golden Knights from tying up the game.

With the win, the Engineers advance to 3–12 in the league, and 5–22–1 overall. They will take on Colgate University and Cornell University at home on Friday and Saturday, respectively. ♦

Scores from the Week

Friday January 27

Women's Ice Hockey vs. Clarkson University	L 2-4
Women's Basketball at St. Lawrence Uni.	L 57-76
Men's Ice Hockey at St. Lawrence	L 1-2
Men's Basketball at St. Lawrence	L 81-88

Saturday January 28

Men's Track at Middlebury College	2nd of 9
Women's Track at Middlebury College	3rd of 11
Women's Basketball at Clarkson	L 70-74
Men's Swimming vs Hamilton College	W 178-113
Women's Swimming vs Hamilton	W179.5-13.5
Women's Ice Hockey at St. Lawrence	L 2-5
Men's Basketball at Clarkson	L 65-74
Men's Ice Hockey at Clarkson	W 2-1

Tuesday January 31

Women's Basketball at Bard College	W 69-37
Men's Basketball at Bard College	W 56-48

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

Weekend losses against two tough foes for RPI

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

THIS PAST FRIDAY, THE WOMEN’S HOCKEY TEAM LOST TO THIRD-RANKED CLARKSON University. The game began with a scoreless period, in which sophomore goalie Lovisa Selander rejected all 14 shots. The Golden Knights ended the tie with two goals in the second period.

Senior captain Lindsey Hylwa and freshman Blake Orosz answered, with their first and second goals of the year, respectively. With 13 seconds left in the period, the Golden Knights regained the lead, 3–2. The Engineers never recovered, and the game ended with a final score of 4–2. Selander finished with 37 saves.

On Saturday, the Engineers fell to St. Lawrence University. The first period ended with the Saints up, 1–0. Senior Katie Rooney brought this to a tie 32 seconds into the next period, with her second goal of the season. Junior Shayna Tomlinson and senior captain Laura Horwood assisted her on the play. The Saints then scored and were answered by Tomlinson, bringing the game to even for the last time before the game ended with a score of 5–2. Selander finished this game with 34 stops.

Women’s hockey will be playing away games against Colgate University on Friday, and Cornell University on Saturday. ♦



Brookelyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

JUNIOR WHITNEY RENN POWERS down the ice toward the opposing goal. (file photo)

Super Bowl pre-game: by the numbers

An in-depth analysis of this year's Super Bowl matchup of the Falcons and the Patriots

Joseph Saulsbery
Senior Reporter

TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE SUPER Bowl, during week 13 of the regular season, was the last time either of the National Football League's two finalists lost. That week, the Atlanta Falcons lost by one to the eventual American Football Conference West division winners, the Kansas City Chiefs. Since then, Atlanta has won six straight games, its last of which was a rout of the previously red-hot Green Bay Packers in the National Football Conference Championship Game on Sunday, January 22. That being said, they are not the betting favorite to win the Super Bowl—the AFC champions of the New England Patriots are. New England has even more momentum than the Falcons. Since losing to the Seattle Seahawks in week 10 of the regular season, the Pats have won nine games in a row by an average of more than 16 points. Last week's AFC Championship Game was perhaps New England's finest performance of the season as quarterback Tom Brady threw for 384 yards and three touchdowns. The Patriots' defense stifled the Pittsburgh Steelers potent, star-studded offensive attack, holding them to just 17 points and taking the ball from them twice. These two teams certainly proved last weekend that they are without a doubt the best two in the league. The question is, will the Patriots dynasty earn a fifth championship in the last 16 seasons and add further evidence to the argument that it is the greatest ever, or will the Atlanta Falcons, in their first Super Bowl in nineteen years, walk away with their first Lombardi Trophy?

The Patriots defense, led by astute defensive coordinator Matt Patricia, an RPI alumus, has allowed the eighth-least yards per game, 326.4 yards, and the least points of any team in the league, 15.6. They have only allowed 20 or more points one time during their winning streak and just five times all season. When they have allowed 20 or more points, the Patriots offense, which has scored 27.4 points per game—the third-best in the NFL—has stepped in to pick up the slack,

scoring more than 20 points in each of those five games as well. The Patriots only defeat during those five games was to Seattle, a tight 31-24 finish in which the Seattle defense stuffed the Patriots on four straight plays from inside the Seattle five to preserve the win. That game also marked the only time the Patriots lost this season with quarterback Tom Brady in the lineup.

Brady was suspended for the first four games this season due to his role in the alleged deflation of footballs prior to the 2015 AFC Championship game against the Indianapolis Colts. The Patriots won the first three of those games on the strength of their

defense and backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo but fell 16-0 to the Buffalo Bills in a week four game in which New England managed just 277 yards of offense. Fortunately for the Patriots, that was the last game of Brady's suspension and they have scored more than 20 points in all but one game since.

Brady has performed magnificently since his return, throwing for 4,225 yards, 33 touchdowns and just four interceptions. Running back LeGarrette Blount rushed for over 1,161 yards this season and scored 18 touchdowns. Wide receiver Julian Edelman caught 98 passes for 1,106 yards. In addition, like many other postseasons, less heralded players have stepped up in these playoffs for New England. In the Patriots divisional round matchup against the Houston Texans, running back Dion Lewis scored three touchdowns,

one rushing, one receiving, and one kick returning. Then, in the AFC Championship, wide receiver Chris Hogan caught nine passes for 180 yards and two touchdowns to give the Patriots a needed offensive lift. Indeed, while the loss of star tight end Rob Gronkowski to a back injury back in week 12 seemed like a severe hit to the Patriots title hopes, their offense has once again shown its versatility and resilience in the weeks leading up to the big game.

While the Patriots come into Super Bowl 51 with the league's best defense, the Atlanta Falcons enter Sunday with the NFL's most prolific offense. The Falcon offense is led by Matt Ryan, their quarterback and presumptive NFL Most Valuable Player front runner, who has

including a 180-yard outing in the NFC Championship despite a toe injury. At six feet, three inches in height, he is a matchup nightmare for every opponent, even the Patriots solid defensive backfield. The Falcons also have two other receivers who surpassed 500 receiving yards this season. Mohamed Sanu, a solid mid-range passing game option who has caught a touchdown in each of Atlanta's last three games, and Taylor Gabriel, an explosive deep threat option who is always a big play waiting to happen.

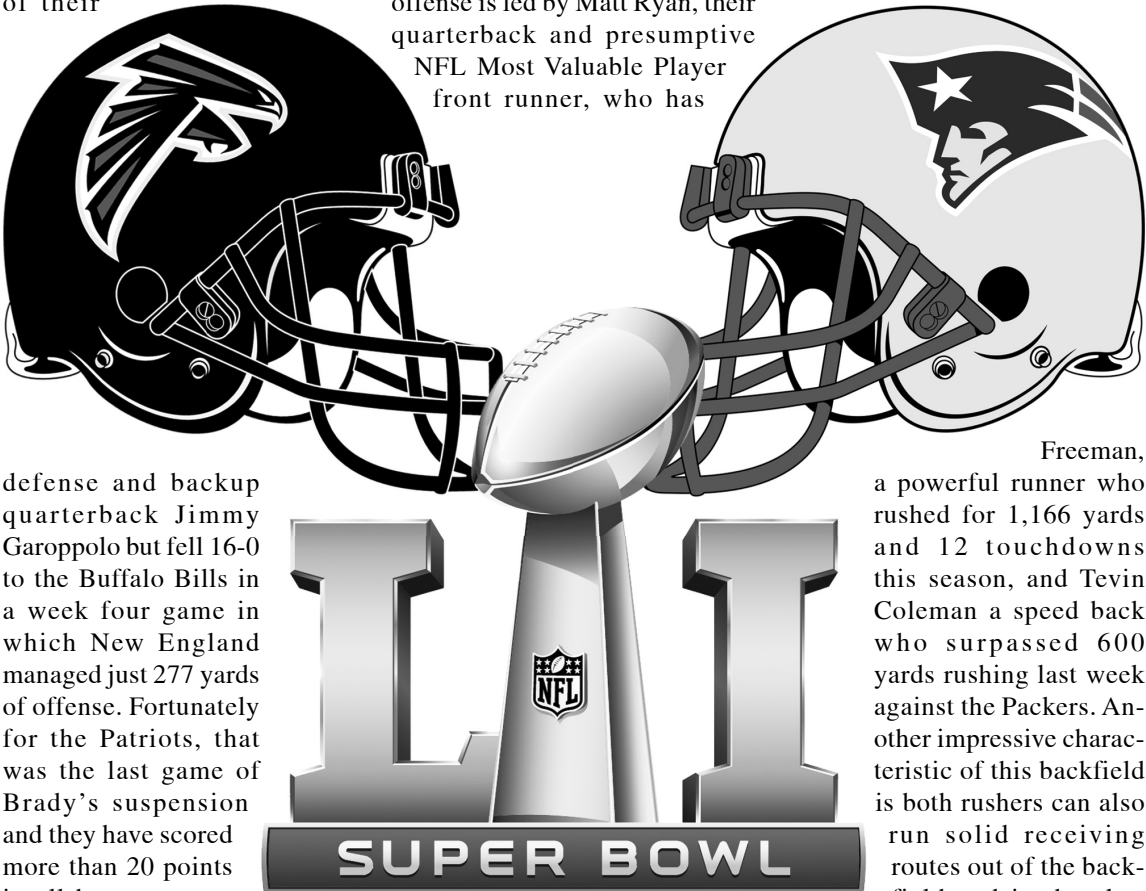
Behind Ryan, the Falcons have one of the best running back tandems in the league in Devonta

to stop drives. A forced fumble by defensive back Jalen Collins in the NFC Championship last weekend stopped a Packers drive that likely would've resulted in a touchdown for Green Bay and a shrinking of Atlanta's lead to three. Instead, the Falcons took the turnover, drove the ball 80 yards, and went up 17-0 in route to a 44-21 win. In total Atlanta's defense has forced four turnovers in the playoffs as well as a safety while the Falcons' offense hasn't turned the ball over so far. This will be the key for Atlanta on Sunday. Their best hope for stopping the Patriots dominant offense will be forcing turnovers. They will not shut down Brady or the Patriots running corps. But, if they can force turnovers and give Ryan and the rest of the offense good field position, then they stand a chance.

No team reviews game film as thoroughly and effectively as the New England Patriots. They find their opponents weaknesses and exploit them. The pressure will be on Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and Patricia to figure out how to make Ryan uncomfortable in spite of his sturdy offensive line which has only allowed three sacks so far in the postseason while at the same time committing enough defenders into pass and run coverage. The game plan will likely rely on confusing Ryan with a number of different blitz packages and press coverages. They won't be able to stop the Falcons offense like Denver stopped the Panthers in last season's Super Bowl, but they will be able to slow them down in the red zone and force them to kick a few field goals.

On the other side of the ball, Brady should have little trouble moving the Patriots down the field. The issue will be not turning the ball over and making the most of their offensive opportunities, given the large time of possession the Falcons have a tendency to accumulate.

The game should be close, the Patriots' Super Bowls always seem to be nail-biters, but in the end, the experience and confidence of New England should be enough to carry them past the Falcons. The final score: Patriots 31, Falcons 30. ♦



Freeman, a powerful runner who rushed for 1,166 yards and 12 touchdowns this season, and Tevin Coleman a speed back who surpassed 600 yards rushing last week against the Packers. Another impressive characteristic of this backfield is both rushers can also run solid receiving routes out of the backfield and in the slot.

The two of them have combined for over 1,000 receiving yards this year. If there is an offense that can break through the Patriots stalwart defense, it's this one, arguably the league's most versatile.

The trouble for Atlanta will be slowing down the Patriots offense, which scores the third-most points of any in the league. This matchup will likely determine the outcome of the Super Bowl. While the Falcons' defense ranks 27th in points against with 25.4 and 25th in yards allowed with 371.2, they have done a terrific job of forcing turnovers

put together his best season. He has thrown for 5,674 yards, 45 touchdowns, and only 7 interceptions in 18 games thus far. While those numbers are great, he has elevated his game even further during the Falcons current six-game winning streak, throwing 18 touchdowns to zero interceptions in that span.

Ryan isn't the only star on the Falcons offense, though. Wide receiver Julio Jones put together another Pro-Bowl year with 1,409 receiving yards during the regular season and has 247 more in the postseason,

Watch Super Bowl LI in DCC 308 starting at 6:30 pm. There will be free food, including pizza and wings.

A full-page background image of a swimming pool. In the foreground, a swimmer is in the water, wearing a black swim cap with a pink and white logo. Lane lines with red and white floats are visible. In the background, another swimmer is visible, and the water is splashing. The word "SPORTS" is overlaid in the top left corner in a large, blue, outlined font.

SPORTS

Victorious season

Stephanie Tan
Senior Reporter

This past Saturday, Rensselaer's men's and women's swimming and diving teams had their last dual meet of the season against the Hamilton College Continentals. Both teams conquered the Continentals with the women at a score of 179.50-113.50 and the men at 178-113. The men are finishing their regular season undefeated with a record of 8-0 and the women finishing with a 7-1 record, falling only to Ithaca College.

The Engineers took all but two events against the Continentals. The women brought multiple individual wins in their respective strokes. Junior Jessica Suave brought three wins in the 1000 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, and 100 Individual Medley. Her sister, junior Danielle Suave secured the 200 and 500 Freestyle. Sophomore Amanda Wang conquered both the 100 Backstroke and 200 Backstroke. Senior captain Siena Sara won both individual breaststroke events and junior Shanny Lin won both individual butterfly events. In diving, freshman Jessica Kugelman conquered both one meter and three meter diving with scores of 239.15 and 241.65, respectively.

On the men's side, freshman Trevor Maxfield won both distance events including the 500 and 1000 freestyle. In shorter distance freestyle, Sophomore John Alberta won the 200 and 50 while Senior captain Andrew Klobucher secured the 100. Senior Richard Dong had a very successful meet taking both the 100 and 200 breaststroke and the 100 Individual Medley.

Overall, this meet was very successful for the Engineers as they close their dual meet schedule of this season. The swimming and diving team also honored all of their graduating seniors at this final meet. The Engineers will be heading to Ithaca on February 15 for the New York State Championships.