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ON CAMPUS EVENT

BSA fashion show wows reviewer



Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

THIS PAST SATURDAY, THE UNION’S MCNEIL ROOM PLAYED host to a fashion show held by Rensselaer’s very own Black Student Alliance. Called “Vanguards,” the show featured several local designers and many aspiring student models. Lasting two hours, the various fashion walks all correlated to a specific theme. One walk was formal themes, with men donning suits and overcoats while women showed off gowns and dresses of various materials and patterns. A different walk was themed on recycling. With the help of local designer Laura Andrighetti, models exhibited clothing that was created with reused fabrics and materials. Examples include an outfit whose top resembled a cloth net, a dress with a floral print reminiscent of either flour sacks or rolls of fabric, and a dress made out of a single sheet of flannel.

Yet another line was made up of couples who wore outfits complementing each other. Common themes included similar colors or similar aesthetics. For example, a guy and girl pair walked out wearing matching green pants and similar footwear, but with contrasting tops. Then, two girls modeling the nerd aesthetic walked out in high socks and overalls, arguing over a Nintendo 3DS. Yet another couple showed up in bathing attire, with the guy wearing a towel and swim trunks while the girl modeled a two-piece bikini.

During the intermission, to everyone’s surprise, members of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity put on a dance routine, syncing up their movements to sharp whistles and pumping hip-hop music. The contrast between two of them wearing suits and one wearing streetwear was much appreciated by the audience.

Overall, this fashion show, being my first, left me with a good impression. I urge more people to go similar events, as they are clearly put on with much preparation and love. ♦

Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE BSA FASION SHOW EXPOSED students to new, atypical styles of clothing.

OFF CAMPUS EVENT

Brain Candy draws very specific audience

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reviewer

ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, MY ROOMMATE OFF-handedly mentioned that a high school friend might be coming down to see a show that Adam Savage was hosting in Schenectady. And I said, “Adam Savage?” And he said “yes.” And I said, “in Schenectady?” And he said “yes.” So I rushed off to my computer, because like many of you out there, I have been a longtime fan of Adam Savage. His show, *Mythbusters*, which he co-hosted with Jamie Hyneman, has a special place in my heart. I was excited by the prospect of seeing his new show, *Brain Candy Live!*, which he co-hosts with Michael Stevens, who runs the YouTube channel *Vsauce*.

So after purchasing tickets, I was off to see *Brain Candy* at Proctor’s Theatre in Schenectady. Going in, I really had no idea what to expect. I knew that after finishing up the last season of *Mythbusters*, Adam had begun working on other science-related projects, but I didn’t know many details. The main theater was packed with people from elementary school age and up. The atmosphere was buzzing even before Adam and Michael stepped out onto the stage.

For those unfamiliar with *Vsauce*, Michael starts his videos by asking a question, which he explores in depth throughout the video. *Brain Candy* started a similar way, with Adam and Michael discussing the air around us. They started off with some demonstrations of smoke, discussing how it differs from vapor, and what exactly is going on around us. Adam had a few different kinds of particulate-creating machines ready to create a foggy atmosphere or a mysteri-

ous mist that floats across the ground, like in an ominous movie scene. They even created a giant air cannon out of a trash can and filled it with vapor to demonstrate the torus created by air rushing out of an enclosed space.

The rest of the show continued in a similar manner, with Adam and Michael showing off various toys and gadgets they had laying around the stage while explaining the scientific concepts behind them. And, quite frankly, I wasn’t that impressed. I mean, they did shoot a ping pong ball straight through a ping pong paddle, so that was sweet. But for everything else, I felt kind of “meh.” Adam and Michael are both charismatic presenters, and it was clear they captured their audience, but I was not as drawn in as I thought I would be. To sound as pretentious as possible, I probably could have told you most of what was presented during the show. I think that because I’ve spent so much time studying the sciences, the “basics” just weren’t as interesting to me.

Walking out of the show completely changed my mood. As I shuffled down the steps toward the door with hundreds of others, I overheard a conversation between two brothers in front of me. The younger one said something to the effect of “this was the best night of my life. I’m going to remember this forever.” In that moment, I realized that even if *Brain Candy* wasn’t what I was expecting, thousands and thousands of people had come to see the show during the tour and loved it. *Brain Candy* would serve as inspiration to kids, inspiring the next generation of scientists. And I think if ten-year-old me went to the show, I would have been calling it the best night of my life, too. ♦

VIDEO GAME REVIEW

Halo Wars gathers high praise with second title



Courtesy of Microsoft Studios

HALO WARS 2 IMPRESSES reviewer with its campaign, multiplayer, and new features.

Tyler Carney
Senior Reviewer

HALO WARS 2 IS NOT LIKE YOUR REGULAR *HALO*, IT IS A REAL-TIME STRATEGY GAME. YOU BUILD bases, command armies, and manage resources to play. This game scratches my *Halo* itch and has fun and engaging gameplay to boot.

I came in hoping that the campaign would be 10 or more hours; I beat it in five and a half. I did this playthrough on normal difficulty and did not go for all the optional objectives in each level. Making optional objectives a priority and bumping the difficulty to heroic would push the game to about seven hours.

Even though the campaign was short, it was thoroughly enjoyable. There was a wide range of gameplay styles throughout the campaign, my favorite being a level similar to a tower defense game. There was also a boss fight, huge battles with the game’s legendary units going at each other, covert operations, and of course your regular base building and resource management style. A couple of levels included some throwbacks to levels in *Halo Wars* that I appreciated.

I don’t want to go into the story too much as it should really be played and not read, but I liked it. There were grand moments, cool-as-hell moments, and even humbling moments. It has a bit of a cliffhanger akin to *Halo 2*, but it is set up to tie into the *Halo 6* story. Now, will 343 Industries incorporate the *Halo Wars 2* story into *Halo 6*? It remains to be seen, but I hope they do.

Halo Wars 2 is very much an enhanced version of the original *Halo Wars*. The same base mechanics are there, but more depth has been added to improve the game as compared to its predecessor. There is a second resource now, which is used for research upgrades and advanced units. I was at first worried about this change, but I had no issues with it while playing, and I think it was a good design choice. There are new turrets, new units—that I hope we get to fight against in *Halo 6*—a new stealth mechanic, and a vastly different new game mode called Blitz. Leader powers were also updated and they make the leaders unique from one another as compared to the first *Halo Wars*.

Blitz is a new fast-paced multiplayer game mode where the goal is to hold areas to gain points. There is no base building in this mode; instead, units are called in from a deck. This deck is player chosen and contains a set of 10 cards. The cards can be troops, vehicles, aircraft, or leader powers. Each leader has different cards unique to them, so it can be quite a strategic game mode. Games take about seven to eight minutes, so it is there to be an option if you do not have time for a 40-plus minute game of death match.

The Blitz cards are how *Halo Wars 2* has micro transactions. From my initial impressions, these do not seem pay to win. Playing through the campaign earned me over 20 packs to open, and I am currently only missing 13 cards out of 94 available. Getting the same card over again levels up the card, so the unit will have more health or a stronger attack. In comparison to *Halo 5*, I like that I am already much closer to card completion in *Halo Wars 2*. I’ve put over 450 hours into *Halo 5* and I still have not completed the collection. It remains to be seen how much of an advantage the leveled up cards will give, but signs so far seem promising.

My favorite multiplayer mode has to be Rumble. It is a 3v3 mode with unlimited resources and the tech level increases as the match goes on. The goal is to capture mini-bases across the map, and whoever holds the most at the end of the game wins. The unlimited resources leads to really large battles really quickly. In the beginning it is limited to mainly infantry units due to the tech level, but once everything is unlocked it gets insane. I’ve had matches where multiple Scarabs on both teams have been battling it out for control of a base while Pelican airstrikes, orbital assaults, and Sentinel swarms rain down carnage from the skies.

This is a good to great game, and I will be playing it for a good amount of time to come. If you want to join me, just add Foehammer189; I play the Xbox One version. If you are a fan of *Halo* or RTS games, I would definitely recommend picking up *Halo Wars 2*. ♦

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We are Creatives, Risk-Takers,
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Events

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

WEDNESDAY

March 1

Summer 2017 Registration Opens

Civil & Environmental Engineering Seminar Speaker
JEC 3117; 1–2 pm

Dr. C. Robin Lindsey gives a lecture titled “Tradeable Permit Schemes for Congestible Facilities with Variable Supply & Demand.”

Center for Financial Studies Research Seminar Series
CBIS Bruggeman Room; 2–3 pm

The Lally School of Management will host a Center for Financial Studies Industry Speaker Series/Finance and Accounting Event “Factor Models in Equity Portfolio Management,” by Vijay Chopra.

Douglas Mercer ‘77 ECSE Lecture Series
DCC 318; 3:30–5 pm

“Biological Rhythm, Physiology of Human Behavior, Computational Neuroscience” presented by Professor Daniel Forger, Department of Mathematics at the University of Michigan.

Gail and Jeffrey L. Kodosky ‘70 Lecture Series
DCC 324; 4–5 pm

The Department of Physics, Applied Physics and Astronomy presents The Gail and Jeffrey L. Kodosky ‘70 Lecture Series. John P. Perdew will present a lecture titled “Density Functional Theory for Materials Discovery: Systematic Approximation and the SCAN Functional.”

Pauline Boudry / Renate Lorenz
EMPAC Theater; 7–8 pm

Berlin-based artists Pauline Boudry and Renate Lorenz are in residence at EMPAC to produce a new moving-image work with multiple performers. For this Watering the Flowers film event, the duo will introduce a program of videos by themselves and others, providing context for, and insight into, their new project.

THURSDAY

March 2

Biological Engineering Seminar
CBIS Auditorium; 2:30–3:30 pm

Farshid Guilak presents a seminar titled “Engineering New Biologic Therapies for Arthritis.”

Wine Night
Clubhouse Pub; 7:30–9:30 pm

Relax, the week is almost over. Enjoy a glass of wine and a plate of cheese, crackers, and grapes. All wine is discounted.

FRIDAY

March 3

Center for Financial Studies Research Seminar Series
Pittsburgh 5114; 2–3:30 pm

The Lally School of Management will host a Center for Financial Studies Industry Speaker Series/Finance and Accounting Event “Credit Default Swaps and Bond Issuance Cost,” by Cihan Uzmanoglu.

Genericon XXX
DCC; Friday–Sunday

Genericon is an anime, science fiction, and gaming convention located on the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute campus in Troy, New York. It has been running for thirty years this year, and features events such as 48-hour anime and science fiction showings, guest speakers, role-playing games, board games, a 48-hour video gaming room, and more!

Mohammad Reza Mortazavi
EMPAC Concert Hall; 8–10 pm

A free screening of Mohammed Reza Mortazavi-Live at the Berlin Philharmonie, a live performance video featuring the Iranian hand drumming virtuoso. Mr. Mortazavi was originally scheduled to perform in the EMPAC concert hall before President Trump’s executive order preventing travel from Iran made this impossible.

MONDAY

March 6

Biological Sciences Seminar
CBIS Bruggeman Room; noon–1 pm

Brian Ho presents a seminar titled “Type 6 Secretion and Other Inter-bacterial interactions in Microbial Communities.”

Graduate Students Exploring Christianity
Union 2424; 6–7:30 pm

Come join fellow graduate students for a six-week study exploring Christianity: what it is about and what Christians believe. Dinner is provided.

TUESDAY

March 7

Mathematical Sciences Colloquium
SAGE 3510; 4–5 pm

All numerical calculations will fail to provide a reliable answer unless the continuous problem under consideration is well-posed. Jan Nordstrom will present a lecture titled “A Roadmap to Well Posed and Stable Problems in Computational Physics.”

Resilience I - Student Success Labs
Academy Hall Auditorium; 4–5 pm

Building resilience is a critical strategy in developing a self that is able to tolerate adversity. While many people can persist when things are easy or enjoyable, being resilient means having the ability to manage distress and to bounce back in difficult situations.

WEDNESDAY

March 8

Materials Science and Engineering Seminar
CII 3051; 11 am–noon

Dr. Kai Zhu, from the Chemistry and Nanoscience Center at National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), will give a presentation on “Recent Advances in Perovskite Solar Cells.” Light refreshments will be provided.

PLP		PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM	
Application for 2017-18 is open to all undergraduate sophomore or first-semester junior students. Please submit the following materials in person at the Archer Center located in Academy Hall or scan and email to archercenter@rpi.edu by March 10, 2017 :		2017-18 Academic Year.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resume• Cover letter• Completed faculty/professional reference form• List of campus involvement activities For more information, contact Christine Allard at bondc@rpi.edu		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 week, two-hour, co-curricular class• Practice becoming strong, resilient people who can translate that to a professional workplace.• Students engage with <i>corporate professionals, alumni/ae</i> and <i>community partners</i>.• Topics include <i>communication, workplace ethics, understanding corporate culture, leadership, effective decision making, networking and negotiating, and managing change and more</i>.• No grades, no homework and no tests.• Mondays from 5-7 PM in the Student Union.	

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

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

Editorial and Business offices are located in Room 3418 of the Rensselaer Union, Troy, New York, 12180-3590. Subscription and advertising rates can be forwarded upon request. Subscriptions are sent via first class mail. Address correction requested.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Low affordability of prototyping

Creative spaces available, yet costly

RENSSELAER STUDENTS ARE VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE ACCESS TO A NUMBER of facilities which can aid them in forming a startup company. These include, but are not limited to, some of the finest research facilities in the world, access to market funding opportunities through the Severino Center, and a driven student body. The only thing that is missing is accessibility and affordability, which are critical component in many projects.

At the moment, Rensselaer offers free access to machinery through facilities in the Jonsson Engineering Center as well as 3D printing services, but both require that students pay for supplies benefiting independent projects. Costs, however, can quickly add up to hundreds or even thousands of dollars. As a full-time college student, it can be difficult to cover such costs, and finding an investor for a project that students cannot even afford to prototype is nearly impossible.

We, the Editorial Board of The Poly, would like to see more done in terms of supplying students with fundraising opportunities to exclusively aid in rapid prototyping, as well as providing new facilities in which students can tinker, outside of class, and potentially create the next product that will change the way we live—the next Google, the next Microsoft, the next Starbucks.

Recently, President Shirley Ann Jackson voiced her desire to graduate the next disruptive innovator that will do just that and we feel that this can only be accomplished through introducing funding for personal technical projects. Our peer institutions, including MIT and Case Western Reserve University, have long offered these opportunities to students where entire buildings and facilities are dedicated for encouraging personal projects and business endeavors by undergraduate students. Recently, the Executive Board recognized the RPI Forge makerspace, a progressive move to encourage these disruptive projects, but would like more support from the Institute on this matter. ♦

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Broadening horizons by experiencing food culture

Meals mean more than eating, providing an atmosphere for conversation, passing many hands before the store



Peter Begonja
Business Editor

“WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD?” CHANCES ARE PRETTY LIKELY THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED this question before. Food is one of the essential things needed in life. It is necessary for you to function and allows you to go through with your day. Aside from a nutritional point of view, there is a greater significance of the food you eat. Every day, each person makes decisions on the foods that they are going to eat. They either decide to stay in and make something themselves or maybe go out with friends to eat. Either way, food plays a significant part in the decision making process. When you go out to eat with friends, food serves as the common bond among everyone. From a social aspect, food is one reason that brings people together. Think about all the meals you have had. I am sure that most of them have been with people you are close to (like your family and friends) or people you have met recently and would like to know better. Similarly, I am sure that you’ve been invited over before by someone for a meal or you have done the same for someone else. Either way, food allows people to interact with each other and share different ideas.

One of the best ways to learn about a culture is to try its different foods. All of us have grown up with specific foods that give us comfort when we eat them. However, trying new and different foods allows us to broaden our global view. Growing up in New York City, I have had countless opportunities to try many different types of foods. From different European, Asian, Latin, and Middle Eastern cuisines, I have enjoyed and learned about how people from those regions eat and why those certain foods are significant in their culture. It almost seems that food can be its own language in the sense that you can associate it with a region or people.

Food is not only important in the social and cultural aspect, but in the economic aspect as well. There are a significant number of jobs associated with foods. From the farms that raise the foods, to the transportation systems that deliver the food, to the stores that sell the food, many people are employed and depend on the distribution of food. There are also many different businesses dedicated to making foods. They include restaurants, fast food chains, food trucks, and even farmers markets. In fact, the food industry is the largest industry in the world, as the entire world population with the exception of subsistence farmers and hunter-gathers are included. So the next time you eat something, think about the food you are eating and what it means to you. ♦

Private prison practices profit driven, dehumanizing, unfair

Flawed, corrupt jailing system operated under guise of corrective service institution prioritizes money instead

THIS PAST SUMMER, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DECIDED to phase out its use of private prisons. I remember how happy this made me. I had spent my entire senior year in AP United States Government and Politics arguing for just that. The culminating project in that class was an oral argument and a thesis, and we were encouraged to pick topics we truly cared about. For me, the private prison industry was the obvious choice, and that was at a time when I really knew quite little. As my research of the topic continued, I only became more impassioned.

The four major purposes of prisons, theoretically, are retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, and rehabilitation. With the privatization of prisons, a conflict of interest arises. Private prisons are businesses, and they rely on incapacitation for profit. To the companies that run private prisons, like Corrections Corporation of America, high rates of recidivism are a dream. If these corporations allowed prisons to rehabilitate and deter people from crime, as they are supposed to, they would fail. What corporations would seriously work to keep people out of prisons if their high numbers of incapacitation directly corresponded to high profits? The act of making prisoners a medium for profit has dehumanized them, and has justified the adoption of a prison philosophy that does not work.

Former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates recognized this in her memorandum. She stated that “[private prisons] simply do not provide the same level of correctional services, programs, and resources; they do not save on costs; and ... they do not maintain the same level of safety and security.”



Brookelyn Parslow
Associate Photography Editor

So, with the recent replacement of this memorandum with one by Attorney General Jeff Sessions that showed support for the use of private prisons, I was disheartened, but not surprised. This came with a pledge to be more tough on crime, specifically with regard to drug and immigration laws.

This pledge comes at a time when crime rates are nearing historic lows and our federal prison populations are dropping. But now, with the new administration’s agenda, it seems as though we’re going to undo all of the progress we’ve made over the last eight years.

If the goal is to reduce crime rates, this will not be accomplished by the prisons we currently have in place. Our prisons are flawed. They have been turned into a business that profits off of the imprisoned. Far too many people are being thrown into a system that benefits entirely from their misfortune. This system is also prejudiced and treats some more harshly than others. People are being placed into “correctional facilities” that make very little effort to correct them, or to even help them reenter the society from which they were so abruptly and unfairly taken. The effects of such tragedy extend far beyond the individual, as they permeate families, schools, and communities. The private sector of our prison system perpetuates injustice. Our justice system perpetuates injustice, and this unquestionably needs to be changed. While, legislatively, progress may be limited, the least we can do is keep this in mind. ♦

DERBY

The role of the Union Annual Report in student government

President of the Union encourages all interested to participate in shaping the direction of the Rensselaer Union

HELLO RPI! OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS, the Student Senate approved the Rensselaer Union Activity Fee recommendation as well as the Union Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2018. These are two items critical to the student-run nature of the Rensselaer Union. Every year, the Executive Board prepares the budget for the following fiscal year. This budget includes money available for clubs, money spent to upgrade our facilities, money spent to hire our staff, money spent to maintain our equipment, and so on. It's a large undertaking that, in reality, involves many more students than the 20 of us who serve on the Executive Board. Over 100 clubs submit budgets to be reviewed every year. Each club has several officers and even more students who are directly impacted by the funding they receive from the Union for their operations. Once all of this is put together, the Executive Board and the Union Annual Report Committee work backward to develop an activity fee that every graduate and undergraduate student will pay.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who created budgets for their clubs this year as well as the Executive Board and the Union Annual Report Committee for a job well done and for working under an unusually tight schedule. The Union Annual Report is an exceptional documentation of the budgeting process and a great way to understand changes in the Union's finances year to year. It is also a commitment that our student government provide a clear, understandable, and transparent view of how the Union's finances

are managed and how students can be involved in this management. One great method is to join the Executive Board and take part in the decision making processes that shapes the financial future of the Union. Another is to become a club officer and manage the finances of your own group. If neither of these seem interesting to you, the Union Annual Report is a document written outside of the Executive Board. By that, I mean that any interested student can be involved in investigating and reporting on the budget that the Executive Board produces each year. Ultimately, the Union Annual Report Committee is responsible for recommending the activity fee to the Student Senate based on the budget that the Executive Board produces.

Since campaign season is fresh out of the gate, I encourage all students to get involved in student government and I encourage all students currently in student government to welcome newly interested students into the fold. These processes are important for shaping the direction of the Rensselaer Union as well as for the development of skills and knowledge that every student receives from participating in student organizations at RPI. If you have any questions about the role of student government in the Union or if you would like to know who to contact for more information about student government elections, please feel free to contact me at pu@rpi.edu. ♦



Chip Kirchner
President of the Union

GM Week Information

The Polytechnic's endorsement issue will drop on April 3.

Candidate information will become available March 15 at <https://poly.rpi.edu/gmweek>.

Portrait sign-ups will also become available on March 15. These will be held in our office, RU3418. Portraits are available to candidates running for any position who have submitted candidate profiles.

Endorsement meetings will be held on March 25 and 26.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pilot G2 07 rivaled by competitor

Attractive mechanical pencil easily refillable, always sharp, features sturdy clip, does not smudge, better than Pilot G2 07

LAST WEEK, THE POLY POSTED ITS ISSUE ANNOUNCEMENT ON the RPI subreddit and I went to check it out. Amongst the usual features, I found one article that truly stood out. What I found was so disgusting, so repulsive, so absolutely despicable that it makes me feel embarrassed for the unfortunate soul that wrote it. I am talking about, of course, Jack Wellhofer's misguided and ill-informed opinion piece, "Pencils are inferior to pens", published with the subheading "Pilot G-2 07 makes perfect line-width, doesn't require sharpening". The article in question can be found at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/pens>

I'm going to do you all a favor and say it straight up: the Pilot G2 is the single most overrated writing implement in the history of everything ever. Let me provide you with a little bit of history.

Around the year 1440 a German man by the name of Johannes Gutenberg created a device that would change the world forever: the movable type printing press. The printing press would be responsible for an incredible spread of knowledge throughout the world and revolutionized just about everything. But all of that pales in comparison to its original intention: to eliminate the need for the Pilot G2.

The Pilot G2 is the pen for people who don't know any better. It takes approximately ten years to dry so if you write with any speed you're going to smudge your work. The expected lifespan of the clip is two minutes after you put it in a pocket. It's so uncomfortable to hold that they had to put a gel grip on it to distract you.

The truly superior writing implement is the mechanical pencil. The basic pencil design hasn't changed much in hundreds of years, but the mechanical pencil has come leaps and bounds forward. All of the problems that Wellhofer (but with his judgment on pens one has to question exactly how well he actually hofers) describes with regular pencils—the need for sharpening, most prominently—are eliminated by a good mechanical pencil.

I present to you my writing implement of choice, the Mitsubishi Uni-Ball Kuru Toga Roulette. First off, it's gorgeous. Look at that metal tip, knurled grip, and metal clip. The only parts of the pencil that aren't metal are the body and tip so as to keep the weight of the pencil balanced. Second, it feels absolutely wonderful to hold. With the aforementioned knurled grip, you will never have to worry about your pencil slipping, but you will have to worry about constantly being distracted by how good the pencil feels in your hand.

Thirdly, it basically never needs to be refilled. It takes like two seconds to refill and the pencil taps into video game bag logic so that you can fit fifty pounds of graphite into it. Fourthly, it's always on the sharp side. You know what I'm talking about. You have to keep twisting the pencil in your hand to keep it on the scratchy-scratchy part of the graphite. Not with the Kuru Toga. It rotates while you write, no manual turning required.

Finally, it's even cooler to take apart than a G2. [A note for those astute readers who are already well familiar with mechanical pencils' superiority: I am aware that the Pipe-Slide model offers some improvements over the Roulette. I have both, and I find myself using the Roulette more often simply because it feels better to hold.]

If somehow you won't listen to reason, Wellhofer, and you insist on using an inferior implement (i.e. a pen), I'd like to take your challenge: "I dare you to find me a better pen".

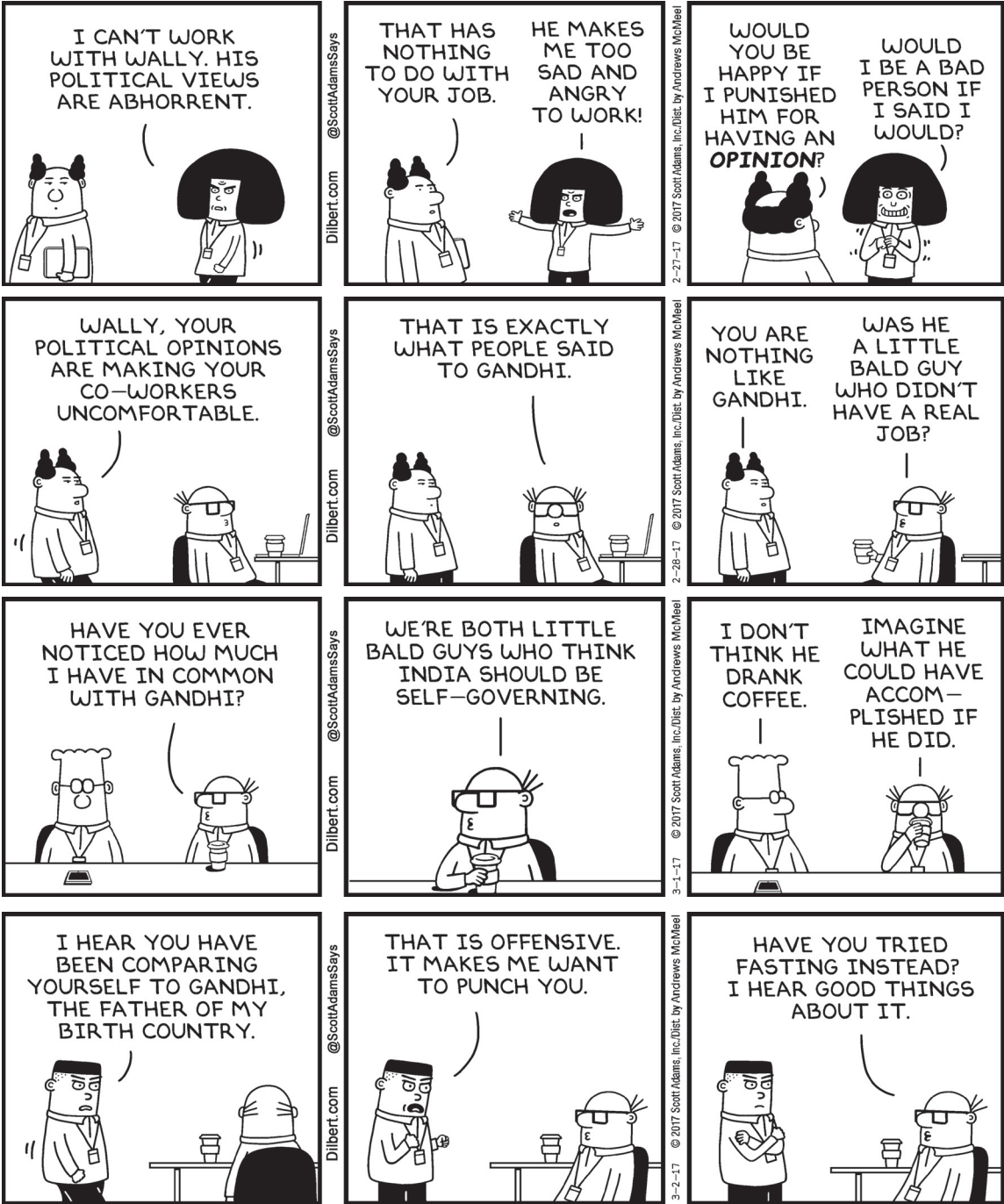
I present to you the best of the worst: the Zebra F-701 Retractable Ballpoint. It's almost all stainless steel and the only part that isn't (there's plastic around the plunger) can be replaced with the metal version from the Zebra F-402. As a matter of fact, you can even put Space Pen refills into it so you can write upside down underwater in space. If you're the type of person that takes their pens apart in class, you'll enjoy the process of modding a pen.

Gregory Bartell '17

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

TOP TEN LIST



Cakes

- 10. Cup
- 9. Cookie
- 8. Urinal
- 7. Chocolate
- 6. King
- 5. By the ocean
- 4. Yellow
- 3. Cheese
- 2. Bundt
- 1. Birthday

WORD FIND

by Ana Wishnoff

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

Car Brands

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

Acura	Hyundai	Mercedes
Audi	Jeep	Nissan
Chevrolet	Kia	Porsche
Chrysler	Lexus	Subaru
Ford	Maserati	Toyota
Honda	Mazda	Volkswagen

MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard

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CRYPTOQUOTE

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

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

“Vmwvtm qmm ahm
hwlqmums gq swiftm
Lwfzs Hwwyq, foa z
fmtzmxm ahmzl czlqa
gaagdk rgq ioqa g qma
ov cwl gs mxms fzppml
lmxmgt. Zc ewo ahzsk
ewo'xm qmms za gtt
agkm gswahml twwk.”
- Ahgyymoq Flgytme
Swr Ewo Qmm Um 2

XKCD

by Randall Munroe

CANYON RIVER NUCLEAR
LAUNCH FACILITY

REVIEWS (22)

★★★★★

GREATEST COUNTRY ON EARTH

★★★☆☆

LOOKS COOL BUT YOU CAN'T GET IN

★★★☆☆

WHAT IS THIS STORE

★★★★★

MY COUSIN WORKED HERE

★★★☆☆

WAITSTAFF HEAVILY ARMED AND VERY RUDE

★★★☆☆

STOP DOING CHEMTRAILS

★★★☆☆

THIS PLACE IS A SYMPTOM OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX STRANGLING OUR DEMOCRACY AND... (READ FULL REVIEW-1184 WORDS)

★★★★★

ANYONE ELSE NOTICE THE HOLE IN THE WEST FENCE?

★★★★★

WHOA, MISSILES!

★★★★★

GOOD IDEA BUT CONFUSING WEB SITE. HOW DO I PREORDER?

★★★☆☆

PLEASE DON'T LAUNCH THESE

I LOVE FINDING REVIEWS OF PLACES THAT REALLY DON'T NEED TO HAVE REVIEWS.

THERE! IF WE STEAL ONE OF THOSE CARS, WE CAN GET TO THE BASE AND DEFUSE THE BOMB!

HMM, THE ONE ON THE LEFT ACCELERATES FASTER BUT HAS A LOWER TOP SPEED.
OOH, THE RIGHT ONE HAS GOOD TRACTION CONTROL. ARE THE ROADS WET?

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GREGORY PARDLO, WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE FOR POETRY, WILL PRESENT AWARDS AT THE MCKINNEY AWARDS CEREMONY ON APRIL 12, 2017 AT 8 PM. WINNERS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION IN STATLER & WALDORF, RPI'S STUDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE.

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STUDENT SENATE

Senate, administration discuss brand imaging



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

DURING ITS PAST MEETING, THE SENATE DISCUSSED Rensselaer’s branding with the vice president for strategic communications and external relations (file photo).

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON FEBRUARY 27, GRAND MARSHAL PAUL ILORI ’17 OPENED the Student Senate with committee reports. Those reports began with Rules & Elections Committee Chairperson David Raab ’19 who recounted that campaigning would begin on Tuesday at 9 am and that R&E had held its first information session. Following Raab, Student Government Communications Chairperson Ellie Mees ’18 continued by stating that the committee is currently working to update the Senate, Executive Board, and Class Council websites with current contact information and photos. The SGC committee also reported that more members of the Executive Board were present at the prior committee meeting and that it would continue reaching out to Executive Board members to attend.

Following SGC, Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson Varun Rao ’18 discussed progress on the petition “Make Career Fair Day a Student Holiday,” in which the committee is meeting with Professor Schadler in order to discuss career fair day excuses from classes. In addition, Rao hopes to further discuss the academic misconduct policy in which he stated that the administration, overall, has been very receptive to the changes suggested by the AAC.

Facilities and Services Chairperson Austin Miller ’17 reported that a new water bottle filling station was recently installed in the Armory, and has since been used to fill over 1,700 water bottles. Following Miller, Student Life Committee Chairperson Justin Etzine ’18 declared that he has been in continued discussions with Director of Public Safety Jerry Matthews regarding a pilot program which he intends to launch sometime this semester to allow for multiple points of entry into on-campus dormitories. In addition, Etzine’s project to allow for more student use of the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center is currently being benchmarked as well as undergoing further research.

Following committee reports, Vice President for Strategic Communications Richie Hunter led a discussion in the Student Senate regarding recent accomplishments in RPI’s branding, web communications, and steps being taken to reduce miscommunication between Rensselaer students and administration. To begin, Hunter stated that Rensselaer is currently contracting out to the Thorburn Group, a marketing and brand consulting company, to try to reevaluate the RPI brand and get input from students, faculty members, and alumni. At the moment, the Strategic Communications and External Relations,

in partnership with the Lally School of Management, has conducted 50 focus groups with faculty and staff as well as had over 500 students participate in branding surveys and discussions. Strategic Communications plans to shortly hold an additional 10 to 15 focus groups for alumni regarding Rensselaer’s brand.

Hunter noted that the goal of the rebranding as well as prior branding and marketing efforts is to “get us to the point where where when we speak about Rensselaer it goes beyond what we do—it goes to why it matters.” Hunter hopes to develop a more emotional connection to Rensselaer’s brand image in order to further motivate and engage alumni, students, prospective students, and faculty. In addition, Hunter explained that branding is necessary in encouraging discussion amongst local, state, and federal officials so they are aware of research and educational efforts at the Institute that could potentially benefit from research grants, partnerships, or contracts.

Hunter concluded by discussing the need to synchronize Rensselaer’s brand en-masse, including through online communications and social media through Rensselaer’s website. At the moment, Hunter has set the ambitious goal to have the entire Rensselaer homepage and linking sites be updated to a modern, synchronic style by this fall. ♦

STUDENT LIFE

Controversial posters circulate RPI campus

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

MANY STUDENTS WERE ALARMED TO FIND POSTERS PROMOTING WHITE SUPREMACY SCATTERED around the Rensselaer campus on Monday morning, originally discovered on the Jonsen Engineering Center.

The posters seem to be from a group called “Evropa,” a white nationalist and fascist advocacy organization. One of the posters said “Protect your heritage,” accompanied by a picture of a Roman sculpture. Another, with the same image, stated, “Let’s become great again.”

The posters caused quite a stir amongst students and staff, many of which took to social media website Reddit to voice their opinions—with over 108 comments to date, many condemning the posters as “fascist” and calling for students to rally against the hateful message spread by the signs.

Rensselaer is not the first campus to apparently be targeted. The posters happen to be a part of a national trend targeting college campuses across the country by various hate groups in which institutions such as Purdue University, Emerson College, and the University of Michigan were also targeted.

In response to the postering, students across campus took to ripping down the posters, noting the racial underpinnings behind the signs, which were all but removed from campus by noon on Monday.

Many of the hateful posters were replaced with signs that read “Hatred ain’t free speech” and “RPI is against fascism.” Other posters also read “Protect Muslims” and “Protect Jews.”

On Tuesday at 2 pm, it was discovered that the signs had been defaced. Signs which had originally said “Genocide ain’t free speech” were drawn over en-masse with mocking messages such as “It’s free thought” or had the messages crossed out entirely. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Student Veterans Association visits E-Board

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

TO BEGIN LAST WEEK’S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION members Jason Aman ’17 and Stephen Onley ’19 came before the E-Board to talk about the proposed Student Veterans’ Lounge. Aman and Onley emphasized that “we want to feel like we’re a part of a community the moment we step on campus, and that’s what a veterans’ room can do.” They made the analogy of the freshman residence halls and how meeting people in similar situations helps with the transition.

Ciera Williams ’17 asked what a veterans’ lounge might look like, wondering if it would be more of a lounge or a study space. Aman said that it would be up to whoever was using it at the time, and that the only strict requirement is handicap accessibility. Conrad Moss1 ’17 asked what the busiest times for the space might be. Both felt that a veterans’ lounge would have utilization throughout the day, with members coming in before classes, between classes, and even using the space after class to work on group projects. Lastly, Grand Marshal Paul Ilori ’17 asked about their veterans’ lounge replacement. Currently, they have a system they call “veterans’ lounge of the day,” where one member will find a study space on campus that is used by the veterans association throughout the day as an unofficial meeting spot.

The E-Board thanked Aman and Onley for coming in to talk with them. There was no motion made regarding further progress on the veterans’ lounge.

Next, Lucas Miller ’19 and Nicole Clancy ’17 from Colleges Against Cancer came before the E-Board for the approval of a fundraising event to be held at Harkness Track on March 4. The group is calling this event Laps for Life, and will feature a raffle as the main draw. Each time a participant makes a lap around the track, he or she will receive a raffle ticket for the event. Colleges Against Cancer is charging an admission fee of \$20, which will cover the cost of the t-shirt received upon entry. The E-Board approved this request.

Medical Brigades came to the E-Board requesting a subsidy for a bus to the John F. Kennedy Airport, which turned out to be more expensive than originally estimated. Each year, the club takes a trip to Panama to help those in need. With the cost of the trip reaching just over \$1,900 per person, Medical Brigades did not want to impose any further cost on its members to cover the bus. The E-Board approved their \$1,644 subsidy request 14-0-1.

To finish out the meeting, Erica Lane ’18 motioned to withdraw the communications motion passed the previous week, which established a communications committee for the E-Board. The Student Senate, which is required to approve E-Board’s bylaw changes, ruled the motion out of order. Since the purpose for the communications motion is being resolved through other means within Student Government, the E-Board voted unanimously to repeal the motion. ♦



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

GLOBAL MEDICAL BRIGADES RECEIVED a subsidy for travel to JFK Airport (file photo).

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TRACK

Fazio sets facility, school, meet record

Michael Baird
Senior Reporter

ENTERING DAY TWO OF COMPETITION AT THE New York State Collegiate Track Conference Indoor Championship Meet, the Engineers ranked second out of thirteen teams. The men’s track and field team battled the opposition in sprints, distance events, relays, throws, jumps, and vaults, to ultimately emerge triumphant Sunday afternoon as the top team in the state. The Engineers compiled 196.5 points at the two-day competition hosted by St. Lawrence University to earn the first place title, ousting the runner-up Ithaca College Bombers by 50 points.

Six events were held at Newell Field House. On Friday night, the 5000 meter race took place, where sophomore Grant O’Connor set a facility record of 14:32.15. Sophomore Sean O’Connor placed third in 15:11.37.

“[M]y goal was to win and to run a qualifying time for NCAA’s,” said Grant O’Connor. “I’m fortunate to have accomplished both of those goals, and I’m pleased with my performance and my fitness heading into outdoor.

“My teammate, Sean O’Connor, helped pace me the first 3k and played a huge role in the race’s success. Sean went on to finish in third place, and I’m thankful to him for assisting me at the cost of his own performance.

“Up next, I will be racing the 5k at NCAA’s on March 10, where I hope to get experience competing at the national level.”

The men’s 4x200 meter relay team of freshmen Leighton James, Michael McNicholas, Patrick Butler, and Dale Kelly took second in the event to Rochester Institute of Technology with a time of 1:30.57. Placing third was the men’s distance medley relay team of freshman Noah Falasco, sophomore Zach Feuer, sophomore Frank Sinapi, and senior Garrett Davis. The relay contains a 1200 meter leg, 400 meter leg, 800 meter

leg, and 1600 meter leg, ran in that order. Senior Mike Pesanello won the weight throw with a distance of 16.10 meters.

On Sunday, senior Ben Fazio championed both the 1000 meters and the mile, finishing the mile in a record time of 4:10.24 not just for the school, or the meet, but for the facility. Fazio also crossed first of eleven in the 1000 in 2:29.99, trailed by senior Collin Smith.

Sean O’Connor and Grant O’Connor returned on Sunday in a 1-2 sweep of the 3000 meters, finishing in 8:43.58 and 8:44.58 respectively. Rookie of the Meet, junior Terrence Lawrence, conquered the 60-meter hurdles in a first-place time of 8.42, and freshman Alex Jonson took third. Lawrence later placed fourth in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.22.

4x400 relay runner’s sophomore Jason Hall, freshman Dino Martinez, senior Max Drexler, and McNicholas placed second in the event. The high jump featured four top five Engineer finishers, while the triple jump was won by junior Matt Vitagliano with a mark of 13.89 meters.

After day one of competition, the women’s track and field team rested in fifth place out of thirteen teams, defending their position on Sunday to finish fifth overall. Saturday’s events featured a third-place performance by seniors Jodi Wrzosek, Sabrina Ahamparam, Taylor MacEwen, and sophomore Maddie Sturm in the women’s distance medley relay.

Sophomore Vera Titze, a member of the runner-up women’s 4x400 meter team, placed second in the 500 meter dash in a time of 1:19.13. She was joined in the relay by junior Caroline Howes, junior Monica Mazur, and Ahamparam. Howes and Ahamparam also went 3-6 in the 500.

Sophomores Jillian Salkind and Lauren Parker took second and third in the high jump with respective heights of 1.60 meters and 1.55 meters, helping the Engineers accumulate 73.5 points for the meet. Ithaca College was the top women’s team, with 218.5 points. ♦

Men's Hockey



Brooklyn Parslow/The Polytechnic

MEN'S HOCKEY CLOSED out their regular season games this past weekend, facing off away against Cornell University on Friday and Colgate University on Saturday. The Engineers dropped their game against Cornell 2–0, with goals coming early in and midway through the second period. RPI was much more successful the following night, tripping up Colgate 3–2. The Engineers end their regular season 8–26–1 and will skate in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Hockey First Round series at Clarkson University for a best of three against the Golden Knights.

Women's hockey had a tougher weekend than the men's team, coming up against Clarkson for a best of three ECAC quarterfinals series. The Golden Knights took the lead just over a minute into the first period, and it was all downhill for the Engineers. The game ended 4–1. The Engineers struggled to hold on to their season the following night, but ultimately faltered to a Golden Knight juggernaut, losing 5–2. Women's hockey ended their season 10–24–2.

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7-8 pm

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Scores from the Week

Friday, February 24

Women's Ice Hockey at Clarkson University	L 1-4
Men's Hockey at Cornell University	L 0-2

Saturday, February 25

Men's Track at New York State Championship	1st of 13
Women's Track at New York State Championship	5th of 13
Men's Lacross vs. Keene State	W 17-10
Women's Tennis at Vassar College	L 2-7
Women's Hockey at Clarkson University	L 2-5
Men's Hockey at Colgate University	W 3-2

Sunday, February 26

Women's Tennis	L 2-7
Men's Tennis	W 5-4

Sports

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

CLUB HOCKEY

Team heads to nationals for first time

Dedication to the team, “metal to the pedal” motto provides momentum for hockey success

Jack Wellhofer
Senior Reporter

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR EIGHT-YEAR history, the Rensselaer men’s American Collegiate Hockey Association team will be making its way to Columbus, Ohio over Spring Break to compete in the ACHA nationals. “Getting to nationals is all about rankings. Wins, losses, ties, strength of schedule—everything is calculated together to rank teams,” said junior Ranger Beguelin. The top 12 teams in each of the four regions (Northeast, Southeast, Central, and West) get a chance to go to nationals. The top two slots automatically get in, and the rest duke it out. Club hockey defeated the University of Massachusetts 3–0 on Saturday and the University of New Hampshire 5–1 on Sunday to earn their spot. “It’s a dream come true,” wrote Beguelin. “From our club founders to our newest freshmen, we’ve all wanted what’s best for the club, a chance to play a high level of hockey, and to compete with the best of the best. This is our invitation to do just that.”

When asked about a season-defining moment, graduate captain Adam Hennick reflected on a weekend in November when the team squared off against then-number one-ranked New York University. “No one could have imagined we would go into their building and beat them by a score of 8–4, when the weekend before they beat us at home 5–2. That gave our guys an idea that we were capable of playing and beating anyone in our league,” said Hennick.



Courtesy of Ben Vreeland

GRADUATE CAPTAIN ADAM HENNICK BATTLES University of Vermont’s Peter Block for the puck during their climb to nationals.

The season-defining moment came a little later in the season for club president junior Louie Olivieri. “Hearing the final buzzer after beating a very talented University of New Hampshire team brought all of the emotions. In the middle of our celebrations, I made sure to look around at all of our awesome seniors celebrating with each other and the only thought running through my mind was that they aren’t done yet. We’ve all been there at some point, feeling like we’re doing that

one thing we love for the last time. And even though their competitive careers are almost over, giving them an extra couple of weeks of putting on the RPI red and white is an incredible feeling. Also, you could say that this is foretelling success, because we aren’t done yet, either.”

Members of the team agreed that what separates this group from the rest is dedication. “Everyone is on the same page with what the mission is, what their individual job is, and how all the pieces fit together,”

said Beguelin. With such a long season, it’s important to find players who are dedicated to the cause. “Whether a player plays a lot or a little, everyone understands that they have an important role to play. Everyone understands that it is about the team, not the individual player; and that makes a big difference in a long six or seven-month season,” said Hennick.

The Poly wishes the team luck as they head into nationals. As has become a rallying cry for the team, put the “metal to the pedal.” ♦

TENNIS

7-2 becomes unlucky score for women’s team

Men’s team opens with win against Rochester, sweeps doubles, wins three of five singles

Maria Espinosa
Senior Reporter

THIS PAST WEEKEND, THE ENGINEERS SAW SOME ACTION ON THE courts. On Saturday, the women’s team traveled to Poughkeepsie, New York, to face Vassar College. On Sunday, both the women’s and men’s teams hosted the University of Rochester at Tri-City Fitness in Latham, New York. While the women’s team struggled with two losses, the men’s team was able to capture a victory.

The Engineers had some success against Vassar. The team of freshman Allie Kallish and sophomore Erica Frommer captured the win in No. 1 doubles, 8–6, while the team of sophomores Nisha Rajamohan and Mailani Neal captured the win in No. 3 doubles, 9–8. Unfortunately, the team made up of freshman Tess Lubin and sophomore Andrea Valencia did not have the same luck; they were defeated 1–8.

Despite a strong start and a 2–1 lead over Vassar, the Engineers were unable to keep the momentum going. The Engineers; once again, were unable to capture a sole victory in singles. Last to play, Tess Lubin, came the closest to a win. She played a three set match against Tara Edwards, to whom she lost in the end, 6–4, 2–6, 9–11. The Engineers lost 7–2 to Vassar.

On Sunday, the Engineers were back in action playing against the University of Rochester. The women had the same outcome as the day before against Vassar. They suffered a 7–2 defeat. They once again led 2–1 after doubles, but were unable to perform in singles. The doubles team of Kallish and Frommer was victorious once again with a win of 8–6 over their opponents. After two consecutive wins, they became the top doubles team for the Engineers. Lubin and Valencia were also victorious; they beat their opponents 8–5.

For the men, it was the opening match of their spring schedule. They found success, defeating the University of Rochester 5–4. First, in doubles, freshman Sebastian Castillo-Sanchez and senior Zack Ebenfeld defeated a team

from Rochester, 8–6, while the freshman duo of Winston Yu and Xavier Oshinowo defeated another team from Rochester, 8–5. The Engineers also went on to win three out of their five singles matches. In singles, Castillo-Sanchez and Oshinowo defeated their competitors, 6–4, 6–2 and 6–3, 6–3, respectively. After this, it was 4–4 between RPI and Rochester. And with this even performance by both teams,

it was sophomore Suryansh Patel from RPI that broke the tie and gave the win to the Engineers. Patel won his No. 5 singles match, 6–2, 2–6, 6–4.

The women’s team will be back on the courts this upcoming weekend, playing against St. Lawrence University. The men will not play again until March 12, when they travel to Florida to compete against Colby-Sawyer College. ♦



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

SOPHOMORE ANDREA VALENCIA PREPARES to return a serve. Her doubles team suffered a 1-8 loss last week. (file photo)