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ADMINISTRATION

Sophomores fear housing shortage



Brooklyn Parslow/*The Polytechnic*

QUADRANGLE RESIDENCE HALLS WILL BE for sophomores next year, unlike previously-sophomore housing this year on Freshman Hill.

Peter Gramenides  
Senior Reporter

ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, STUDENTS APPLYING FOR ON-CAMPUS HOUSING through the Office of Student Living and Learning discovered that all sophomore housing was filled for the Fall 2017 semester. Students were informed following the closing of all open positions that “Rising sophomore students who cannot select a room via the StarRez Housing Portal will be automatically placed on a waitlist. Rising sophomore students are guaranteed housing and every student will be placed in Institute housing by the end of the spring 2017 academic semester.” Students who have applied for on-campus housing are currently unable to view room selection information following submitting their application.

The Office of Student Living and Learning is currently preparing for the incoming Class of 2021, which is anticipated to be larger than the current sophomore class which will no longer be guaranteed housing in Fall 2017, further increasing enrollment and demand for on-campus housing at Rensselaer. According to data retrieved by *The Poly*, Rensselaer received a record total of over 19,000 applications for the Fall 2017 semester and the Office of Student Living and Learning will not be aware of final housing demand until May 1—the regular decision enrollment deadline. The Office of Student Living and Learning is anticipating changes in on-campus housing demand from the current freshman class, saying that “The waitlist is necessary as a number of our rising sophomore students will be registering for sophomore Greek waivers, applying for co-ops, and studying abroad. This waitlist process is not unique to this year, and we will be able to place every rising sophomore in Institute housing.”

In response to the housing situation, some Greek students have called for the elimination of the 2.5 GPA requirement to live in Greek

Commons, creating an online Senate petition titled “Greek Sophomore Housing.” Currently, Greek-affiliated students make up 22 percent of the Rensselaer student body.

Last summer, Rensselaer made renovations to the North and E-Complex residence halls, which were closed at the end of the Spring 2015 semester. Renovations occurred over the summer to accommodate the Class of 2020, the largest incoming freshmen class in RPI’s history. More information about the renovations is available at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/wx1gk>.

The Office of Student Living and Learning has not yet assigned a deadline for contacting sophomore students currently on the housing waitlist, but stated in an official release that the Office of Student Living and Learning will be calling all students on the waitlist as space becomes available to discuss their preferred housing location and to assign them a room.

In response to an inquiry from *The Poly*, Dean Cary Drescher of the Office of Living and Learning issued the following response: “Our office would like to thank *The Poly* for covering this issue and providing additional information about this process. The Student Living and Learning Staff are working with rising second year students who have not yet received housing. These rising sophomore students have been placed on a waiting list and will be contacted as space becomes available. We have had waitlists in the past, however due to the large size of this year’s rising sophomore class more students have been affected. Spaces will become available through the Greek Waivers process, students going on Co-op or internship, and students studying abroad. Housing for Second Year students is guaranteed and required. The Office of Student Living and Learning is committed to personally assisting each student who is on the current wait list.” ♦

STUDENT SENATE

Apgar talks student inclusion in hiring

Peter Gramenides  
Senior Reporter

ON MARCH 6, GRAND MARSHAL PAUL ILORI ’17 opened the Student Senate with committee reports. Those reports began with Rules & Elections Committee Chairperson David Raab ’19 reporting that student government elections have been going on for a week and campaigning is in full swing. The R&E committee also recently made a decision regarding poster in on-campus dormitories

and concluded that candidates may poster on the outside of all dorms.

Following Raab, Student Government Communications Committee Chairperson Ellie Mees ’18 recounted that the Student Senate survey is out with the intent of gathering information from the student body including student living and learning, multiple points of entry, and sources of information about student government. Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson Varun Rao ’18 continued to discuss the co-terminal project

being worked on by the Senate in which they are drafting a letter to the administration regarding a recent change that would prevent co-terminal B.S/M.S. students from holding positions as resident assistants or directors.

Facilities & Services Committee Chairperson Austin Miller ’17 stated that he has been meeting with Director of Public Safety Jerry Matthews to discuss social media for public safety as a potential means of bridging



EXECUTIVE BOARD

# New starter budgets for student clubs pass

Jack Wellhofer  
Senior Reporter

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN OF Students Travis Apgar joined the Executive Board for the start of their meeting last Thursday. Apgar was there to answer questions from the E-Board in light of the resignation of Dr. Frank E. Ross III. As requested by President Shirley Ann Jackson, Apgar told the Board that he would be taking on some of the responsibilities of the vice president for student life while Rensselaer searches for a replacement. Ines Roman '17 asked about the status of the vacant director of the Rensselaer Union position. Apgar said that the school is working with William Spelman Executive Search to fill the position. There are currently candidates the school sees as good fits, and Apgar said he would follow up with President of the Union Chip Kirchner '17 to coordinate on-campus interviews involving students.

Next, Louie Olivieri '18 and Ranger Beguelin '18 from club hockey came to the E-Board to ask for funding to attend nationals in Ohio over Spring Break. The total cost of the trip for the team was calculated to be \$13,710. The cost was reduced to \$3,896 due to club contingencies and money club hockey raised themselves and did not spend the previous fiscal year. Member of the E-Board were excited about how well the team had performed this season, and, given that members of the team already pay around \$1,000 in club dues, voted to fund the trip.

Members of Sangam Club Priyanka Raju '17 and Shruthi Perati '17 came to the E-Board seeking to become a fully

funded club. Sangam is a form of traditional Indian dance, described as “ballet of Indian classical dance.” The purpose of becoming recognized is to help offset the cost of traveling to both competition and events in the area, including the Festival of Nations in Albany. The club was asking for \$300, \$100 more than the traditional starter budget. The \$100 was to help pay for the traditional costumes worn during the performance. The E-Board approved a \$200 starter budget for Sangam, and an additional \$100 to purchase costumes for the club.

With club business satisfied, the Board moved to discussion about the Activities Fair in the fall. It was proposed that the Activities Fair be moved to the second Saturday of classes, and also be moved to the East Campus Athletic Village, rather than the Armory where it has previously been held. The reason for moving date and location is due to increasing class size. It is expected that more students will be taking evening classes, causing a Thursday night Activities Fair to be an inconvenient time for many freshmen. In addition, the Armory was filled to capacity during the last Activities Fair, requiring a larger space for next year’s event. Marketing and Publicity chairperson Conrad Mossel '17 explained that, while not ideal location-wise, ECAV is the only campus facility that could contain all of the Union’s clubs in one event. The proposed date, September 9, does not conflict with any athletic events, and, says Chris Hoskins '17, shuttles from the Union to ECAV should be available. The Board unanimously approved the change. ♦

# Senate: Sustainable policies discussed for Rensselaer Union

From **Page 1**

the communications gap between students and the department. Miller also is currently requesting ideas on how the Senate can make Earth Week “bigger” on Rensselaer’s campus. At the moment, the committee is planning to propose a formal definition of sustainability to the Senate and broad goals for the next four or five years so that the Union can increase campus sustainability and environmental awareness. The Senate is also currently preparing a letter to Dr. Frank E. Ross III, former vice president for student life, thanking him for his service and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

Travis Apgar, assistant vice president and dean of student life, came in to speak to the Senate following constituent reports regarding the reorganization of student life and new infrastructure projects. Apgar anticipates a “soft opening” of off-campus commons for

students to congregate and create new student programming, and is “currently looking to collaborate with other areas” to provide the same level of programming for students on-campus as students currently living in off-campus dormitories or Greek housing.

Apgar also noted that he wishes nothing less than to support the Union through the director of the Union position, which will answer to the vice president of the Division of Student Life, and students will “first and foremost be involved to see who to bring to campus.” Apgar hopes that as many students as possible will be involved in the hiring process and iterated, regarding the Spring Town Protest last spring, that he is “incredibly committed to making sure that student’s voices are heard and are involved in the selection process.” Further, Apgar said “We are here to serve you,” in reference to the Student Life portfolio. ♦

*The Poly* wishes everyone a safe,  
but not too safe, Spring Break!

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EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

Photography combines art, technology, adventure

Benefits of taking photos: improved photo editing capabilities, connections with people, community exposure

PHOTOGRAPHY GETS ME INVOLVED IN EVENTS ALL OVER campus and the world. In fact, the reason I first got involved with *The Poly* is photography. I started out by taking photos of events around campus, like hockey, football, and Student Government meetings. Photography got me to go to the campus Holi celebration, where I foolishly attempted to remain unscathed by color (that didn't last long). Last spring, I talked to many students, alumni, and faculty about why they were there and what they hoped to change at RPI, while I photographed the Spring Town Protest.

If I'm photographing with a group of other photographers, it's interesting to compare our photos after the event and see what each of us chose to emphasize. Everyone has a slightly different perspective, and it informs the way we take our photos. When my dad and I take photos together, we can share our work and talk about what one of us saw that the other may have missed. We learn from each other, and our photos get better and better every year.

Of course, going out and taking photos is only half of the job. After I've taken my photographs, I can spend hours going through them, picking out the best ones, editing them, and eventually putting together a group of photos that represents and communicates what I experienced while I took them. I can share these photos with family—especially my mom—and friends who are curious about what I'm up to, and sometimes I print my favorites out



Sidney Kochman  
Senior Managing Editor

and hang them up as a physical manifestation of a previous experience. Photography allows me to share experiences with people who might not be able to experience the same things as me.

One thing I always try to keep in mind is who I'm photographing for. If I'm covering an event for *The Poly*, I'll be mindful of the perspective that my photos are giving our readers, and I'll attempt to make sure that they present as unbiased and accurate a perspective as possible. Those photos need to be palatable and captivating to a wide audience. If I'm photographing for myself, I can try all sorts of weird things, like using an off-camera flash to freeze falling snow in the middle of a storm. It doesn't matter to me what anyone else thinks about the photos I take for myself, because I just take them for my own benefit.

Overall, photography is a combination of art, technology, and adventure that few other hobbies can provide. Through it, I can have interesting conversations and experience different perspectives to refine my own opinions about the world. Photography, to me, is more than just a singular activity. It is a window to all sorts of other interactions, both anticipated and unexpected. It leads to meeting new people, trying new things, and experiencing the world through different perspectives. ♦

the polytechnic

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Networking unlocks doors for successful careers

LAST WEEK, MEMBERS OF THE TECH Valley Young Professionals Network, an initiative of the Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, visited my marketing class. They came for a panel discussion. First, they gave a presentation and answered some questions they had prepared themselves. Then, they spoke to us in small groups. The main idea they got across was that the real world is much different than what we expect, and not in a nice way.

Speaking from experience, the panelists explained that it will be difficult for us, college students, to transition from college into the

workplace. They explained that the work we will be doing and the environment in which we will be doing it will be different. Also, that in the real world there will be more responsibilities, and that they will most likely shock and overwhelm us. But, didn't we already know this? I think that's why we come to college, not only to learn, but to prepare for the real world adults talk about. According to https://adaa.org, 85 percent of college students already feel overwhelmed.

I do agree, however, that we should help ourselves, and make this transition easier. It's good

to have experience working and paying bills. My parents made sure I learned that in high school. I have a credit card, and I mostly pay for my own stuff, including my car insurance and tuition.

I guess, after everything they said, what really scares me isn't the real world, but the fact that I have no idea what I want to do after I graduate. I feel a great deal of pressure trying to figure this out. "You have time," people keep telling me, but I'm not so sure.



Maria Espinosa  
Advertising Director

As a student majoring in business and management and trying to decide which field to concentrate in, I paid close attention to what the panelists had to say. Each of them had much advice to give with regards to their particular career paths in the business and management fields. "Networking" was the word that stood out the most when they spoke about successful careers. All the panelists I asked about the importance of networking answered by say-

ing that they had never actually obtained a job by just applying. Instead, they had to make connections and get referred by people they knew. This answer really opened up my eyes. This Wednesday, I will be going to one of the Young Professionals Network's events. The main purpose of their events is to connect young students with local companies and businesses, in order to help them build those essential networks early in their careers. I have come to the conclusion that I must start meeting people and prepare to succeed in the real word. ♦

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 <a href="mailto:archercenter@rpi.edu">archercenter@rpi.edu</a> by <b>March 10, 2017</b> :		2017-18 Academic Year.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resume</li><li>• Cover letter</li><li>• Completed faculty/professional reference form</li><li>• List of campus involvement activities</li></ul> For more information, contact Christine Allard at <a href="mailto:bondc@rpi.edu">bondc@rpi.edu</a>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 week, two-hour, co-curricular class</li><li>• Practice becoming strong, resilient people who can translate that to a professional workplace.</li><li>• Students engage with <i>corporate professionals, alumni/ae</i> and <i>community partners</i>.</li><li>• Topics include <i>communication, workplace ethics, understanding corporate culture, leadership, effective decision making, networking and negotiating, and managing change and more</i>.</li><li>• No grades, no homework and no tests.</li><li>• Mondays from 5-7 PM in the Student Union.</li></ul>	

DILBERT

by Scott Adams

THE COMPANY HAS A NEW POLITENESS POLICY.

OUR NEW POLITENESS POLICY IS HAVING UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES.

OUR NEW POLITENESS POLICY FORBIDS ME FROM GIVING YOU AN HONEST OPINION OF YOUR IDEA.

THE COMPANY'S NEW POLITENESS POLICY FORBIDS YOU FROM TEXTING WHILE I AM TRYING TO TALK TO YOU.

IT IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO TURN AND WALK AWAY WHILE A CO-WORKER IS IN THE MIDDLE OF TELLING YOU SOMETHING.

I JUST SPENT FOUR HOURS LISTENING TO TINA TALK ABOUT HER HEALTH PROBLEMS BECAUSE THE COMPANY SAYS IT IS RUDE TO JUST WALK AWAY.

SO, INSTEAD, I WILL TALK ABOUT AN UNRELATED TOPIC AND YOU CAN DRAW YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.

I'M NOT USING A TEXTING APP. I'M REPLYING TO PEOPLE ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

THAT WILL ADD MONTHS TO MY PROJECT.

I'M SELLING ALL OF MY COMPANY STOCK.

HOW DID YOU ESCAPE?

SHE HAD A HEALTH PROBLEM. I GOT LUCKY.

SO... DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MANURE FIRE THAT BURNED DOWN A PIG FARM?

YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT.

WHEN DID MY HAPPINESS STOP BEING THE POINT?

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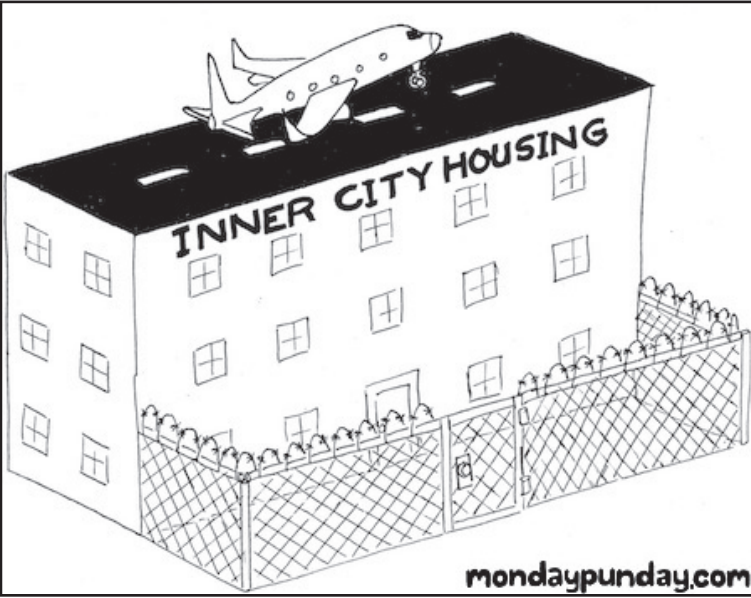
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MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard



WORD FIND

by Ana Wishnoff

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

Types of Pasta

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

Bucatini  
Campanelle  
Farfalle  
Fettucine  
Fusili

Linguine  
Macaroni  
Orzo  
Pappardelle  
Penne

Ravioli  
Rigatoni  
Rotini  
Spaghetti  
Tortellini

A Vollmer Fries Lecture

The McKinney Writing Contest

READING

Poet and Memoirist  
**GREGORY PARDLO**  
reads from his work and responds to questions.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 12th,  
at 8 PM  
**WHERE:** Biotech Auditorium,  
Biotechnology &  
Interdisciplinary Studies Bldg.,  
Rensselaer (RPI), Troy



Gregory Pardlo is the winner of the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for his book of poems, *Digest*, and Winner of the 2007 APR/Honickman Prize for his first poetry book, *Totem*. His other honors include fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. He is also the author of *Air Traffic*, a memoir in essays forthcoming from Knopf.

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SUDOKU

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

Instructions

Solutions from Feb. 22 Issue

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

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



CRYPTOQUOTE

XKCD

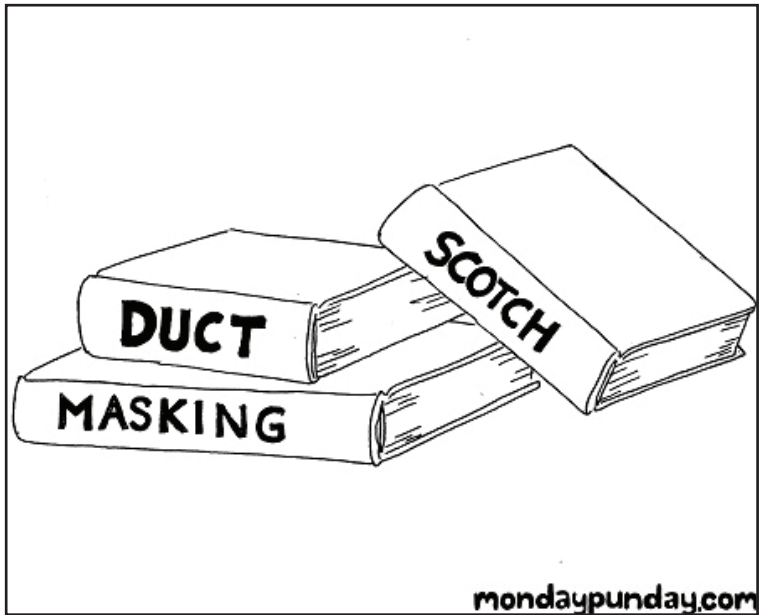
by Randall Munroe

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

“Fxl rt B? Kly  
mypn kly frgh  
hl dglf? Hxn  
mhlpk lu tk jbun  
bm glh ulp hxn  
urbgh lu xnrph.  
Bu mltnclik mrbi  
bh frm r xrook  
jbhhjn hrjn... bu  
mltnclik hlji kly  
B frm eymh klyp  
rznprwn lpibgrp  
kwyk, glh r qrp  
nbg hxn flpji...  
mltnclik jbni.”  
-Onhnp Orpdnp  
*Robin-Ptrg*

MONDAY PUNDAY

by Matthew Broussard



HELLO, WELCOME TO OUR HOUSE!

THANKS FOR INVITING US!

ALEXA, ORDER TWO TONS OF CREAMED CORN.

ALEXA, CONFIRM PURCHASE.

WHEN VISITING A NEW HOUSE, IT'S GOOD TO CHECK WHETHER THEY HAVE AN ALWAYS-ON DEVICE TRANSMITTING YOUR CONVERSATIONS SOMEWHERE.

CAN I LOAD IT UP ON YOUR LAPTOP?

SURE!

OH, JUST HIT BOTH SHIFT KEYS TO CHANGE OVER TO QUERTY.

CAPS LOCK IS CONTROL.

AND SPACEBAR IS CAPSLOCK.

AND TWO-FINGER SCROLL MOVES THROUGH TIME INSTEAD OF SPACE.

AND—

ONCE I'VE USED A COMPUTER FOR A WHILE, NO ONE ELSE WILL EVER USE IT AGAIN.

WHEN YOU MAKE A BIG SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, IT TAKES A WHILE TO GET IT PUBLISHED.

RIGHT?

MM HMM.

SO THERE ARE PROBABLY SEVERAL RESEARCH TEAMS OUT THERE WHO ARE SITTING ON NOBEL-PRIZE-WORTHY DISCOVERIES, BUT HAVEN'T TOLD THE REST OF US YET.

MAKES SENSE.

WHEN YOU MAKE A BIG SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY, IT TAKES A WHILE TO GET IT PUBLISHED.

RIGHT?

MM HMM.

SO THERE ARE PROBABLY SEVERAL RESEARCH TEAMS OUT THERE WHO ARE SITTING ON NOBEL-PRIZE-WORTHY DISCOVERIES, BUT HAVEN'T TOLD THE REST OF US YET.

MAKES SENSE.

RESEARCH SHOWS YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE YOUTUBE, SO WE SHOULD PRESENT NEWS STORIES AS VIDEOS INSTEAD OF TEXT!

GOOD IDEA!

THEY'LL LOVE THAT!

INSTEAD OF ARGUING WITH NEWSPAPERS ABOUT THIS, WE SHOULD JUST TELL THEM HOW MUCH YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE MAKING OUT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

I'VE DECIDED TO SCORE ALL MY CONVERSATIONS USING CHESS WIN-LOSS NOTATION.

I DON'T KNOW OR CARE WHAT THAT MEANS.

FINE.

FINE.

1/2 - 1/2

Do you want to write for *The Poly*?

For sports, email: [sports@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:sports@poly.rpi.edu).

For features, email [features@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:features@poly.rpi.edu).

For news, email: [news@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:news@poly.rpi.edu).

For opinion pieces, email: [edop@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:edop@poly.rpi.edu).

If you like to draw comics, email: [comics@poly.rpi.edu](mailto:comics@poly.rpi.edu)!

# Sports

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

## RACQUETBALL

# Championship within sight

Club racquetball has established itself as a force over the years

**Maria Kozdroy**  
Senior Reporter

THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 24–25, THE RPI RACQUETBALL TEAM traveled to Warren, New Jersey for the 2017 Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference Regionals Championship. This marked the last racquetball tournament before Nationals.

During the tournament, the 2016–2017 regular season standings were announced; the RPI Racquetball women's team placed second, the men's team placed fifth, and the team overall placed fourth. Coincidentally, the teams ranked the same during the tournament for the regular season standings.

The fourth place overall finish was not a concern for sophomore team president Alex Stevens, who noted that “our whole team was very well balanced, with each player winning at least one match at regionals. It is amazing to see our entire team eager to go out and compete at such a high level.”

For events meet three and four at the tournament, both men's and women's teams posted the highest overall team totals since the 2008–2009 season; the team has not only improved over the last 10 years, but altogether over the season.

Coach Kevin Mitchell recalls, “when I joined the team as a student, it was only five players. It was always a struggle to compete as a small team from a smaller school in the ECRC. Now, with a team of 16 competing last weekend, we are able to challenge Pennsylvania State University, University of Connecticut, and Rutgers for the Regionals Championship.”

“Nationals this year will be bittersweet. It will be the last time these seniors get to compete for RPI in a tournament together,” said Coach Michael “Special K” Kowalczyk, an alumnus who wishes to take the great level of improvement to next season.

The team will be traveling at the end of March to Fountain Valley, CA to compete in the 2017 USA Racquetball Intercollegiate National Championships and looks forward to defending



Courtesy of Coach Kevin Mitchell

MEMBERS OF THE RACQUETBALL TEAM POSE for a photo at the Eastern Collegiate Racquetball Conference Regionals.

## TENNIS

# Tough week

**Maria Espinosa**  
Senior Reporter

THE RPI WOMEN'S TENNIS TEAM TRAVELED TO CANTON, New York this past weekend to face St. Lawrence University in their third Liberty League match of their spring schedule. Unfortunately, the Engineers were defeated once more by a score of 7–2, this time by the currently undefeated Saints. With this loss, the Engineers fall to 2–4 and 0–3.

The Engineers picked up wins in No. 2 and No. 6 singles. It was sophomore Erica Frommer who won it for the Engineers in No. 2 singles, crushing her opponent 6–3, 6–1. Later, at No. 6 singles, fellow sophomore Andrea Valencia was also able to defeat her opponent in straight sets, 6–2, 6–3. Sophomores Nisha Rajamohan and Mailani Neal put up a good fight for the Engineers in No. 4 and No. 5 singles, respectively. Rajamohan fell 7–5, 7–5 while Neal was defeated after three sets 4–6, 6–4, 10–7. In doubles, the Engineers didn't capture a single victory.

The women's tennis team will be back in action this weekend and next week. They will travel to Orlando, Florida, where they will play at theUSTA National Campus. They will face Trinity University of Texas on Sunday, and Ithaca College on Tuesday. ♦

*The Polytechnic* will be releasing its Grand Marshal Week 2017 Candidate Information Packet on March 15.

If you would like to be part of our GM Week issue set for April 3, read the packet for full details at [poly.rpi.edu/gmweek](http://poly.rpi.edu/gmweek).

## BASEBALL

# Engineers falter during ninth inning

*Despite holding the lead for the majority of the game, RPI lost game one at the last minute*

**Jack Wellhofer**  
Senior Reporter

BASEBALL CONTINUED ITS REGULAR season last Sunday with a double header at Stevens Institute of Technology. The team had a rocky start and, unfortunately, this weekend was no different. They lost 5–6 in the first game, and 0–7 in the following one.

A home run for the Ducks at the bottom of the second started off the scoring for the afternoon. The Engineers answered in the next inning, with an RBI double from senior Yahriel Jimenez that sent senior Sean Welling home. In that same inning, sophomore Michael Arboleda batted in Jimenez to bring the score to 2–1 RPI.

Stevens tied the game again in the bottom of the third, but it was the Engineers who had the momentum. Rensselaer put up three runs in the top of the fourth,

scored by junior Ethann Meister, senior Jason Ramos, and senior Sam Lawrence.

The Ducks picked up two more runs in the top of the fourth, and the scoring stopped there. Neither team could get a man around the bases, and it was looking good for the Engineers. Like a classic baseball movie, with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Stevens scrapped together two more runs to put the final score 6–5 in favor of Stevens.

The disheartening last minute loss for the Engineers did not leave them with much momentum going into the second game of Sunday's double header. The Ducks walked all over the Engineers, scoring runs in the first, third, and eighth, for a 7–0 game. With the losses, the Engineers are now 0–5. The team will be traveling to Lake Myrtle, Florida for Spring Break training. ♦



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

THE ENGINEERS WILL BE flying down to Lake Myrtle, FL for spring training games. (file photo)



GAME REVIEW

# Barebones indie game delivers A+ simulation



Courtesy of Dinosaur Polo Club via Wikimedia

SIMPLE, YET IMPACTFULL DECISIONS DICTATE the pace of a game in Mini Metro.

Jack Wellhofer  
Senior Reviewer

A FEW WEEKS AGO, I PICKED UP THE LATEST DEAL on Humble Bundle 47 games for just \$30, a deal that no one could pass up. Out of the pile of untouched games in my Steam library, I plucked out one that interested me: *Mini Metro*. I went into *Mini Metro* expecting a complex, sophisticated public transportation simulation. What I got was completely different, and yet it was quite appealing.

What struck me first was how everything was just... simple. No fancy loading screen, no intro sequence, and no cutscene to set the stage. The game loaded in quite literally two seconds and all I had to do was click play. I got dropped into the game without so much as a tutorial to hold my hand. But I didn't need one. My path was clear. Before me was a white screen divided by a wide blue line, the color of water. On one side of that line were three shapes: a square, a triangle, and a circle. Next to the square appeared a small circle. I clicked on the square and dragged my cursor from the big square to the big circle. A yellow line connected them. A yellow rectangle appeared, collected the tiny circle next to the big square, and moved along the yellow line to the big circle, where the tiny circle was deposited. There, I've explained the entire game.

Game mechanics wise, it just doesn't get more complicated. Strategy wise, it does. As the player connects more "stations" with metro lines, a few events occur to spice up the gameplay. Periodically, new stations will pop up, either as one of the previously mentioned shapes or, occasionally, as a star, pentagon, diamond, etc. With the new stations come new passengers, who will want to get to the stations in a hurry. For every in-game

week, the player receives two bonuses, one picked by the player and the other picked at random. The player can choose a new train, a train carriage, a new train line, a tunnel (for going under rivers), or a station upgrade. It seems trivial at first, but, as the game progresses, it becomes evident that every decision is important.

I did, by mistake, find out it is possible to lose playing *Mini Metro*. If the player (me) builds a metro network that resembles spaghetti or a neglected server closet, a loss is imminent. If the little shapes can't get to their station quickly enough, I guess the shapes get angry and cause you to go out of business. It's an effort to push efficiency and resource management, which I found quite enjoyable. Pausing the game to delete and rework my layout was quite a bit of fun, even if I still was overrun by passengers in the end.

To go along with its minimalist design is a minimalist soundtrack. The music is there, but not overpowering. Any more than a few soft notes would ruin the atmosphere. Passengers also make little melodic pings as they get on the trains, creating a somewhat random, tranquil soundtrack to listen to as you play. Although I haven't yet, I think this would be the perfect game for catching up on some podcasts or listening to a new album.

I would say I enjoyed playing *Mini Metro*, but I'd never purchase it as a standalone game. At \$10, I feel like that money could be better spent elsewhere. There are some maps to unlock through playing, and I can see how strategy needs to be developed to handle metro lines. But it's not enough, for me, at \$10. I think I would recommend getting the game through a bundle, like I did, or if it goes on sale and can be bought for \$5 or less. ♦

GAME REVIEW

# Facebook's dragon tales

Serge Piskun  
Senior Reviewer

"IT'S EXTREMELY ADDICTING AND eating my life" says Gavin Mays '20, when asked about his latest addiction. He's not talking about anything illicit however; just the latest mobile craze in the form of *Everwing*. Developed by Blackstorm Labs in 2016, the Facebook Messenger exclusive game has taken my contact list by storm - transforming pleasant conversations into tallies of scores and achievements. The premise is simple, and maybe that's why it's so addictive. Like the *Space Invaders* of old, *Everwing* is simply a race to outlast your friends and acquire the ultimate reward: bragging rights.

The game's main menu allures you start playing the moment you load it in. By dragging your character, a fairy on a mystical quest, you are immediately thrown into the game as hordes of dragons advance toward you. Comets whizz by, trying to end your quest prematurely, and scattered bosses attempt to hit you and cause you to restart. One shot is all it takes to doom a run, which instills a sense of caution in the player. Everything is changeable between runs: your character can be swapped, your dragon companions, who hatch from eggs that are bought with in-game currency, can be swapped in and out for others, and your character's bullet damage is always upgradable.

Despite the competitive nature of the game, there is also a cooperative mode that forces players to work together in achieving a common goal. The Boss Rush game mode has players all fighting a singular boss, who is upgraded in terms of lethality and health. It offers prizes and legendary grade dragon companions to players who damage it, and it is a nice step outside the original game.

All in all, *Everwing* is just a messenger game, and might fade from the general view in a month or so. Similar crazes, like *Flappy Bird* and *Pokemon Go*, were immensely successful in the short run, but never ended up lasting in most people's lives for any significant time. However, if *Everwing* is updated constantly and keeps growing, who knows how big it could become? ♦



Courtesy of Blackstorm

CLASSIC AND MODERN ELEMENTS COMBINE to form Everwing: the latest Facebook craze.

## Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Business Model Competition

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# Features

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

## ON-CAMPUS EVENT

# Genericon draws crowds for 30th anniversary

*Cosplay, art sellers, and panels galore decorated RPI during its annual anime convention*

Rex Hu  
Senior Reviewer

THIS PAST WEEKEND, GENERICON XXX WAS held across campus—walking into Darrin Communications Center on Saturday afternoon, I received quite the shock. Genericon is an anime, science fiction, and gaming convention hosted by volunteers from the Rensselaer Science Fiction and Anime club, in collaboration with the Rensselaer Union. It runs for 48

hours, with the majority of the events being held in the DCC. Now, the XXX doesn't mean what you think it does—there were 18+ events, but the name comes from the fact that this is the thirtieth year that Genericon has been held. As a first-time convention-goer, walking into the DCC Great Hall was quite a culture shock. I stood there for a few minutes trying to digest it all, and I was lucky enough that I ran into familiar faces not too long after. There were all sorts of events and showings you'd expect from a convention, including merchandise, panels, and 24-hour showings, but my review will largely focus on one overarching thing that ties together the experience of being at a convention: cosplay.

I'm going to build off of my Snapchat story, which had play-by-play updates for curious friends. The main event I went to was the cosplay contest; there were cosplay characters from shows, movies, and games, such as Steven Universe, Harry Potter, and Zelda. To start things off, there were a series of skits. This included a comedy skit from Naruto; Steven Universe dances, including Ruby and Sapphire, and a

Lapis Lazuli solo; the Overwatch reaper belly dancing with silk fan streamers; Rick from Rick and Morty winning a wrestling match; a romantic duet between Pacifica and Mabel from Gravity Falls; an Aperture turret from Portal singing opera-style; a Harry Potter spoof where Harry tries to convince Hermione that Ron is in love with him; an emo

enactment of Rey and Kylo Ren from Star Wars; and Ursula from The Little Mermaid rocking to metal. In the middle, the MC stepped in and led the crowd in singing Let It Go

and the Pokémon theme song. Afterwards, the contest continued with franchise showcases, including Appa from Avatar: The Last Airbender, a cast of RWBY characters, and of course, Sailor Moon—what cosplay contest would be complete without her? At the end of the contest, awards were announced, and the winners walked away with a variety of gift bags.

I felt like I was in somewhat of a limbo, because I recognized a fair amount of the cosplays, but I'm not very invested in most of them. This led to a general state of mixed feelings, where I couldn't decide whether I



Left, Top Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

GENERICON WAS a weekend that drew people out of their dorms and onto campus.

wanted to laugh or cry. I think this was simply because I was unfamiliar with the culture, and it seemed almost absurd, like I was stepping into an alternate reality. At the same time, however, there was something extremely heartening about being there; seeing everyone congregate to share their passion and enthusiasm through cheering, cracking jokes, and taking pictures

with their favorite cosplays was definitely exciting. Although it was a step out of my comfort zone, I would certainly recommend that everyone go to Genericon at least once in their time at RPI, simply for the worth of witnessing a side of pop culture that isn't often expressed in person. ♦

## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# RPI Ambulance provides for the community

Crystal Vejar  
Staff Reviewer

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S A CLUB ON CAMPUS THAT could save you hundreds of dollars in an emergency? RPI Ambulance is a completely student-run Basic Life Support transporting ambulance agency that is funded entirely by the Rensselaer Union. If you call 911 or Public Safety on campus and EMS is needed, RPIA will most likely be dispatched. An ambulance ride to the hospital can cost anywhere between \$100 to \$3000. With RPIA, the ride and any materials used are completely free.

There are no requirements to join RPIA, and riding along requires only a short Occupational Safety and Health Administration training. However, RPIA offers more training than most ambulance agencies around. You can start out as an observer, and move up reaching various ranks that each require the completion of different training

checklists. Students in the club dedicate a lot of their time to training. With monthly drills that vary from stretcher ops to splinting methods to snow training, the students of RPIA are prepared to offer the best patient care around.

During the last weekend in February members attended the 24th annual National Collegiate Emergency Medical Services Foundation Conference. The conference was held in Baltimore, MD and consisted of over 80 expert lectures, skills labs, and discussions. Students who attended were able to learn many new or updated skills as well as refresh and practice old skills that may not be used often. This conference is an example of the continuous training that members of RPIA go through to ensure they are able to serve the community.

Members are encouraged but not required to be certified as EMTs. There is an EMT certification course offered once a semester on campus for students and members of

the community. The course consists of 180 hours of training and to be officially certified you must pass a county and state written exam as well as a practical exam.

Apart from training its members, RPIA also strives to educate the community by offering various classes to the public. There is an upcoming American Heart Association CPR class being offered on March 26. The class itself is free but the card is \$15 fee to cover the cost. Contact [cpr@rpiambulance.com](mailto:cpr@rpiambulance.com) to register or for more information.

Volunteering in EMS is not easy but is very rewarding. If you or anyone you know is interested in emergency medical services, I highly encourage you to go for it. For more information about how to join or about the club in general you can visit <http://rpiambulance.com>. ♦