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OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

Worldwide marches support scientific research



Crystal Vejar/The Polytechnic

THOUSANDS, INCLUDING politicians, students, and locals, join the March for Science in Albany to rally for increased investments in science.

**Crystal Vejar**  
*Senior Reporter*

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 22, EARTH DAY, THOUSANDS CONVENED ON THE west lawn of the New York State Capitol building to march at one of over 600 marches for science across the nation. Before the march, volunteers coordinated over 40 educational displays, demonstrations, experiments, and crafts for those attending. The activities were tabled by science clubs, colleges, businesses, organizations, and museums. In addition to the family friendly displays, 100 science professionals participated in “Meet the Scientists,” a program where each science representative wore a name tag labeled with their area of expertise to allow kids and others to ask questions and get to know what they do in the science community. The expo on the west lawn was a great way to spend Earth Day, and brought many in the community together to stand for science, research, education, and the environment.

After these events, there was a rally with music and speakers in preparation for the march. The speakers included Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, New York State Assembly members Patricia Fahy and John McDonald, Dr. Dorcey Applyers, Dr. Elvarasi Joseph,

Dr. Amy Frappie, and the keynote speaker 20th Congressional District Representative Paul D. Tonko. The March for Science was a celebration of passion for science, as well as a call to guard and support the scientific community. The event aimed to increase the communication between scientists and the community as well as promote scientific education for both adults and children.

Tonko spoke on the importance of standing up for science and protecting facts and research, saying that “all across this nation from coast to coast, we’re making a statement today that science empowers us, science builds us, science gives us hope. Let us be resounding in our message, let us be a clarion call to invest, invest, invest in science. It is essential.”

Many at the rally expressed similar feelings through posters expressing concern in proposed budget cuts, denial of climate change by government officials, the destruction of the environment, and more. Melissa Helm ’20 said, “This was the first march I’ve gone to, and honestly it was a last minute decision to go with some friends. I went because I strongly believe in the importance of education, and Trump’s \$9 billion dollar cut for the Department of Education can’t be good for our future. I also believe that climate change is a huge problem

See SCIENCE, **Page 2**

CAMPUS EVENT

Diversity, race issues confronted in campus forum

**Brookelyn Parslow**  
*Senior Reporter*

ON MONDAY, A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM THE Race as a Global Challenge course hosted an event focused on race and diversity on campus in Mother’s Wine Emporium. The first hour was a seminar geared toward leaders of multicultural groups on campus, which then opened up to the public for general discussion.

Prior to the event, the student group released a survey that inquired about student opinions on topics like the administration and faculty encouragement of diversity on campus, the frequency of race-related discussions in the classroom, and the presence of multicultural clubs at Rensselaer. The survey ended with a free response question that asked for the participant’s thoughts on the state of current race relations at RPI. Of the 233 people that took the survey, approximately 100 people used that section to elaborate on their thoughts and experiences. Responses spanned all across the spectrum, ranging from people who thought of race relations as

“absolutely a non-issue” to people who, citing the “white nationalistic propaganda posterred around campus,” referred to RPI as “a hostile environment for students of color.”

Some people used the question to reflect on the limits of their experiences and their disconnect to the issue, as with one response that said, “I think [race relations] are pretty good. Then again, I’m a white male and am probably out of touch.” Another response included comments on how race relations should not be, and are not, an issue on campus. “One of the best parts of this school is the lack of [political activism]. People are here to get things done and actually [change the world],” continued the participant.

The survey results were shared during the open discussion portion of the night, and they garnered comments about how some people simply don’t see that there are issues, and how others can be generally apathetic to matters that don’t directly affect them. “People forget that we are people, but I still have a culture and a life outside of studying and being an engineer,” commented one student.

The discussion included undergraduate and graduate students, and even a few professors. Ria Shroff ’19, a student organizing the event, had reached out to members of faculty, encouraging them to join the discussion about race on campus and possibly get more involved. While doing this, she received a one-page email response from a professor that detailed why events about race and diversity on campus are unnecessary and irrelevant. One of the faculty members present was Steven Tysoe, a lecturer in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at RPI. He spoke about how the major difference between people of different races is the concentration of melanin in their skin. He stressed that it is “just a biochemical difference,” and that people should “be American first, and their culture second,” regardless of how they identify themselves. “America was built on my oppression, so I’m not going to put America first,” responded one student, who continued by stating that

See DIVERSITY, **Page 2**

# Diversity: *Professor reflects on unresolved social issues*

From **Page 1**

“everything [she] grew up to be was rooted in being a black woman.” Later in the discussion, another student added that “being an American and celebrating [one’s] culture are not mutually exclusive.”

Eddie Knowles, a professor in the Department of the Arts, also spoke during the discussion. Knowles teaches a course focused on the 1960s, where he works to connect the dots between what was happening then and what is happening now.

He urged everyone in the room to develop a full understanding of what happened in that time period and how people tried to address similar issues, and to use it as a guide. “It’s troubling to me that we’re discussing the same thing we did 40 years ago,” commented Knowles. He then continued, and addressed the room by saying, “but, I’m hopeful, because look at all you young people here.” He urged the people in the room to “speak to [their] truth,” and to “think outside the boxes of [their] disciplines and have a broader view of the world.” ◇

# Science: RPI students discuss scientific community

From **Page 1**

that shouldn’t be denied just because of the influence of big oil companies and politics.”

While walking through the streets of Albany, there were many mixed feelings. Some people marched angrily with posters bashing President Trump, while others simply marched to support science and the earth. However, the overall feeling was a sense of passion and community. When asked why she attended the march, Sydney Sobol ’20 stated, “I am a chemical engineering major who wants to go into sustainability, so I love science and the earth. With the EPA getting defunded and run by a climate

change denier, I felt like I had to stand my ground for the earth’s future. Science shouldn’t be this controversial, and I want the U.S. to believe in scholars rather than people with a lot of money and power.”

During the march, there was an overwhelming feeling of community. It was easy for participants to feel included and accepted, with many embracing the title of “nerd” or “geek” on their posters and referencing science puns or Bill Nye the Science Guy. As Natalee Ryan ’20 said, “It was great to see a sense of community and support within the science world.” Many of

the marchers who participated were people who aren’t usually involved in political activism, yet they showed up to show their support and love for science. The issues brought up at the march affect the whole world, not just a select few. “I went because I think it’s important to talk about and advocate for issues that affect all of us like climate change,” said Ariana Gerdis ’20. As she stated, science really does affect us all, and it is important to talk about these issues before it’s too late. ◇


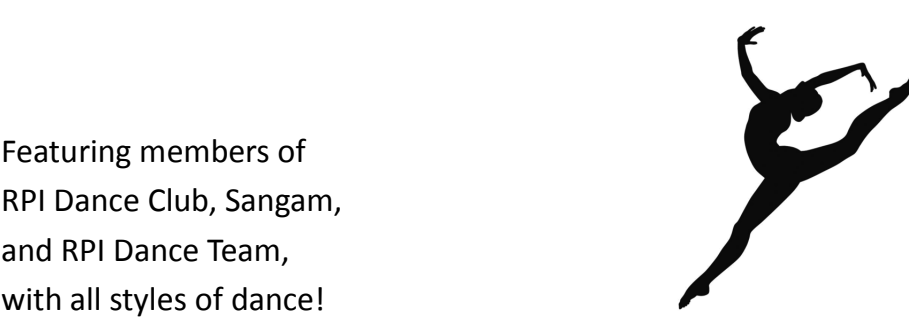


## RPI DANCE CLUB PRESENTS: JUST DANCE!

Featuring members of RPI Dance Club, Sangam, and RPI Dance Team, with all styles of dance!

**Where:** EMPAC Theater  
**When:** April 29th 4:30pm  
**Tickets:** \$3 for student, \$5 non-students.  
Can be purchased at the door, or from 10am-4pm at the following locations:  
—Union 4/20; 4/21; 4/26  
-- DCC 4/19; 4/ 24; 4/25; 4/27  
**Contact:** DANCE@UNION.RPI.EDU

[murphb5@rpi.edu](mailto:murphb5@rpi.edu) Take Down: 5/1/207





Crystal Vejar/ The Polytechnic



STUDENT SENATE

New members of Executive Board confirmed



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

THE STUDENT SENATE VOTES on the appointment of new members to the Rensselaer Union Executive Board, discussing qualifications and relationships between the bodies.

Peter Gramenides  
Senior Reporter

GRAND MARSHAL JUSTIN ETZINE ‘18 OPENED THE STUDENT SENATE meeting with committee reports. Those began with Academic Affairs Committee Chairperson Risheel Gabbireddy ’19 who stated that the committee is currently working on the process to appoint a faculty member to the Institute’s tenure committee. The committee will also be discussing upcoming projects that it will work on beginning next semester. Following Gabbireddy, Community Relations Chairperson Michael Gardner ’17 stated that he will be meeting soon with Chris Nolin, Rensselaer’s Director of Community and State Relations to discuss RPI’s relationship with the local community and how the Senate can help improve that relationship.

Rules & Elections Committee Chairperson Caleb Caraway ’19 stated that Greek elections will be this Wednesday from 9 am to 2 pm in the Mueller Center classroom. The Interfraternity Council President Marvin Cosare ’18 was told of the decision, and members of sororities affiliated with the Panhellenic Council are also able to vote in the election. Student Government

Communications Committee Chairperson Stefanie Warner ’19 also stated that Senate committee chairs will be working on interacting with the student body through Reddit Ask Me Anything posts. These posts will serve to update the student body on the progress committees are making and gauge opinions on potential new projects that the Senate can work on.

Following committee reports, the Senate moved into voting procedure on the appointment of members of the Executive Board. Appointments began with Joseph Vensuto ’19 who said, “Most of my experience with the Executive Board comes from the Rules & Elections Committee... E-Board is something I’ve always wanted to experience a bit.” Vensuto was appointed 21-0-0. Erica Lane ’18 was appointed to the position of Executive Board Class of 2018 representative 21-0-0. David Raab ’19 was appointed to the position of Executive Board Class of 2019 representative 21-0-0. Anissa Choiniere ’20 was appointed to the position of Executive Board Class of 2020 representative.

Following the appointment of undergraduate representatives to the E-Board, the Senate discussed the appointment of C.J. Markum ’17 to the position of Executive Board Graduate Representative. Markum stated

“the big reason I wanted to switch from being a one and a half term senator was since I was chair of the *Ad Hoc* committee, which was in charge of taking the Save the Union petition and making a factual-based document, unbiased towards what was going on. While working on this report, I kept learning more and more about the Union as I went. I really want to increase communications, which I believe the E-Board needs to take more responsibility with.” “You need to make sure that the minority, the little guy is actually heard.” Markum was appointed 20-1-0.

Following Markum, Rasika Ekhalikar ’18, Ida Etemadi ’19, Kay Sun ’19, Ciera Williams ’18, Majken Rasmussen ’20, Ananya Murali ’20, and Brookelyn Parslow ’20 were appointed unanimously to the position of Executive Board/ICA representative. Caitalin Kennedy ’20 and Caroline Ringel ’20 were appointed unanimously to the position of Executive Board Member at Large, while Jared Segal ’19 and Brian Mansaku ’20 were appointed to the same position 18-3-0 and 16-2-3, respectively. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E-Board approves Publications Suite renovation

Jack Wellhofer  
Senior Reporter

THE LAST MEETING OF THE 2016-2017 Executive Board began half an hour earlier than usual, to accommodate the extensive agenda set for the meeting. First on the list was a reallocation request from UPAC. The club has recently gained responsibility for hosting ECAV After Dark, and wanted to reallocate extra money in the UPAC budget to help with the event. The change was approved 10-0-5.

Next was a presentation from Thomas Alapatt ’17, who presented on behalf of Rensselaer Sports Car Association. The club used to host autocross events in North Lot, but due to changes in policy they are now unable to host those events. Instead, the club would like to pivot to become a car enthusiast club, with the intention of traveling to the Lebanon Valley Speedway to see races. The E-Board approved in a 15-0-2 vote to change their budget to allow the club to travel to the races.

After discussion from the previous week on what actions, if any, should be taken in regards to leadership training and RPI TV, President of RPI TV Jason Lee ’19 came to the Board to

discuss the matter. Last week, former President of the Union Chip Kirchner ’17 brought recommendations of leadership training for RPI TV to the E-Board, citing a number of incidents over the last year that would suggest a need for training.

During the meeting, Lee insisted that training would not be necessary for the club. Lee said that much of their leadership happens “in the field,” during the coverage of events, editing recordings, and contacting parties interested in TV’s services. Lee believes that training would not be helpful in this situation, and that the club has learned from the incidents that transpired over the past semester.

When Lee mentioned that he was “unhappy with the culture of the club,” Stephanie Kern-Allely ’18 pressed him on the topic. Lee explained that he was unhappy with the way members of the club treated one another and members of the community. He had previously left the club for a semester to seek leadership experience elsewhere, hoping to bring that knowledge to RPI TV. Speaking directly to the Board, Kern-Allely said, “This club has had two years of ‘disappointing’ behavior. We need to step in here and help out. This club is very important on campus.”

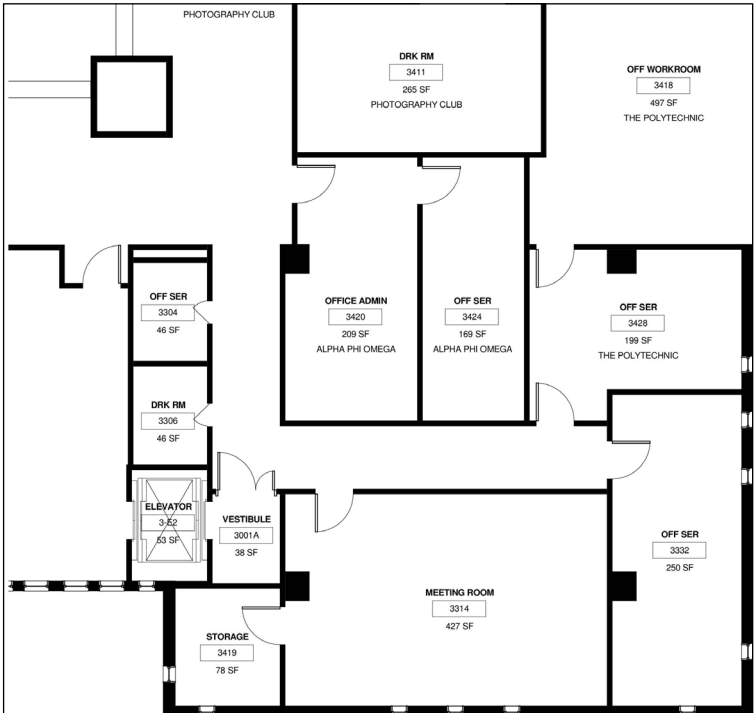
A motion was brought forward to require that members of RPI TV undergo leadership training through the Archer Center before October 31, 2017, and that equipment purchases would be restricted until completion. The motion passed 12-2-3.

As part of checks and balances, the E-Board needed to approve the appointment of the Programming Board chairperson, the governing body of the UPAC organization. Andrew Kiselik ’19, involved with UPAC Lights since his freshman year, and recently a member of UPAC Cinema, was nominated by the P-Board. During discussion of merits of the motion, members of the E-Board expressed concern about Kiselik’s communication skills, and cited it as a reason he would be unfit at P-Board chairperson. Other members of the Board felt that he would be a good fit, however, the motion failed to pass in a 5-6-6 vote.

Last on the agenda was a series of motion regarding the Publication Suite renovations. The current Statler & Waldorf office, as well as the unoccupied Transit office and a portion of *The Polytechnic*’s composing room will be converted to a lounge space for the Student Veterans Asso-

ciation and a new office space for either S&W or UPAC. The \$60,000 for renovations is coming from the facilities budget, which currently does not have any other large projects planned. Much of the current space is underutilized, and the E-Board believes that this renovation will allow better use of the space. The motion to renovate was approved 16-0-1. Next, the large lounge

space was officially approved as the Student Veterans Lounge 16-0-1. Finally, the Business Operations Committee was designated the task of ensuring S&W receives an office of comparable size to their current one, and that Business Operations investigates the possibility of relocating the SVL to the Welcome Lobby of the Rensselaer Student Union. ♦



ON THURSDAY, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD APPROVED changes to the Publications Suite as depicted in the architectural drawing above.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS

## Student course evaluations should be public

*Open course evaluations could help students in choosing professors for their next semester*

FOR MY SPEECH COMMUNICATIONS class, for our final two speeches, we have to talk about a change we want to see here at RPI. My proposed topic is that of publicizing course evaluations to students. This idea has been implemented in varying degrees at universities across the country, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, Stanford, and others. Through my research, I think that having some variation of open evaluations here at RPI would be beneficial to students.

The main benefit of implementing this would be the information provided to



**Tyler Carney**  
Senior Managing Editor

students. I know as a freshman, before I learned more about RPI, I perused the site Rate My Professor to see what a professor was like. This information, in most cases, was old and not a complete view of the professor. Releasing course evaluations would provide many more responses that are more current and accurate. This information would help students create better, more manageable schedules with professors that are the best for them.

Through my research and interviews, a couple of concerns have come up that I would like to address. The first is that some of the qualitative comments could potentially be sensitive and the

student may not want that publically released. I think a good option would be to have an opt-in button to say that they are comfortable with the comment being released to the student body.

Another issue is that releasing these evaluations could have negative effects on faculty member's careers. Even with evaluations being restricted to students with an RCS ID, there is potential that the evaluations could be leaked to the general public. Possible future employers, say at other universities, could look up this information and that could impact their decision to hire or not hire somebody. This is a valid risk, but I don't think it would be a large or widespread issue.

All the details surrounding this proposal would need to be made by a joint committee made up of students, faculty, and

administration in order to come up with a tailor-made plan that would fit RPI's needs and culture. I am planning on pursuing this during the 2017–2018 school year with the help of student government. The University of Michigan's student government proposed and implemented open evaluations during the 2015-2016 school year, and I think we could do the same here at RPI.

Evaluations aren't perfect, but they are better than any other resource that we, as students, have access to. They have been successful at other universities, the cons have solutions, and the pros are solid. Opening up the course evaluations to students is a proposal that should be implemented at RPI. ♦

## Transportation revolution found in elevators

WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT MODES OF TRANSPORTATION, WHAT IS the first thing that comes to your mind? It's probably along the lines of cars, planes, buses, and trains. However, one mode of transportation that has had a significant impact on human history, and one that may not come to our minds very quickly, is the elevator. Chances are, almost everyone has taken an elevator at some point in their life. Countless people every day use elevators to go to work, move supplies, construct buildings, and go home. Concepts of the elevators existed for a long time in history, with Archimedes creating a primitive elevator in 236 B.C. However, in 1852, Elisha Graves Otis invented a safety brake that revolutionized the vertical transport industry.

This invention allowed elevators to be used on a large scale and allowed for the transformation of many cities' skylines. Instead of being limited to constructing buildings of few floors, the elevator allowed workers to move supplies higher up. This allowed buildings to become taller and accelerated

the pace of urbanization throughout the world. More people moved to cities as more places became available to live and work in. This also changed the social standard and impacted where people wanted to live. Before elevators, the wealthiest individuals used to live on the first floor while the poor lived on the higher floors due to all the stairs. However, with the invention of the elevator, the higher floors became more valuable, and there was a change in the social standard. Now, individuals living on the higher floors are viewed in a higher status. This space was more valuable because it had easy access due to the elevator, allowed for a greater view of the city, and there was less noise from the city street. Elevators have other uses such as lifting boats, planes, vehicles, freight, and even a stage for an orchestra.



**Peter Begonja**  
Business Manager

Looking into the future, proposed ideas for elevators can change the way humans interact with the universe. The concept of a space elevator was proposed, and this would allow vehicles to travel along a cable directly into space without the use of large rockets. This proposed idea, if implemented, would change the way humans explore space and would allow a greater understanding of the universe. The idea is that there would be an anchor point on Earth and the other end would be in space, outside the geostationary orbit range. This allows for the competing gravitational forces to keep a cable under tension.

The uses of elevators are essential to modern life today. It allows us to save many stairs, transport items in a vertical direction, and they give great potential for the future. So the next time you take that elevator ride up or down, think about the great effect of the elevator. ♦

## Enjoy your summer vacation

Take advantage of your time away from Rensselaer

DURING THE SEMESTER, SCHOOL TAKES UP A LOT OF TIME. It can be extremely stressful to manage your own personal interests while succeeding in a rigorous academic program. The summer allows for opportunities to explore your interests, further your career, and do things you wouldn't be able to otherwise.

So please, take the time now to reflect on what those things may be. To you, that may mean learning a new skill, rekindling old friendships, going on an adventure, or simply doing something you haven't been able to do while in school. That could be reading the book that's been sitting on your desk collecting dust the past few months, creating pottery, going to the beach with your friends from home, or working for 12 dollars an hour at a factory.

The summer is also a time to reflect on what you've done over the past year: what went well, what didn't go so well, and what changes you

can make so that the next year is everything you want it to be. For those who are beginning the first stages in their new career or are graduating soon, the Editorial Board of *The Polytechnic* wishes you the best of luck and greatest success in all your endeavors.

For those who are beginning their educational careers at Rensselaer, we recommend you use this summer to have fun and enjoy sleeping long hours and eating good food before the start of next semester. Also remember that this will likely be one of the last times you'll spend with your family and friends before coming to college, so cherish those moments because it will never be the same. But don't let that take away from the fun you may have.

We wish everyone a happy, fun, and safe summer. The world is yours to conquer, and we can't wait to see you again in the fall! ♦

This is the last issue of *The Poly* this semester. Our summer issue will be released on July 17, followed by our *Poly Press Pass* issue at the beginning of the Fall semester!

## the polytechnic

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



TOP HAT

# Internal Reforms becomes Senate committee

The committee will focus on reviewing operational polices and procedures of the Senate, ensuring open lines of communication between constituents and their representatives

HEY ENGINEERS! I HOPE EVERYONE IS HAVING A STRONG CLOSE to the semester and that everyone’s projects, exams, and assignments are going well. As you’re preparing for finals, I recommend you make use of the resources available to ensure you perform as best as possible. The Advising & Learning Assistance Center coordinates tutoring, supplemental instruction, and other resources for free, and I highly recommend you visit the office in Academy Hall to learn more!

Student government has seen a busy end of the semester! In addition to normal activities for the spring semester, including the appointments of Executive Board representatives and student Senate officers, we have been working hard to achieve the promises we made to you during our campaigns.

Firstly, the Senate approved the formation of the Internal Reforms Committee, tasked with taking a critical look at all of the operational policies and ensuring that they’re the most conducive to ensuring accurate representation, promoting open communication practices, and presenting an approachable, inviting presence for student government on campus. The committee is being lead by Steve

Sperazza ’18, so if you have any ideas or questions, be sure to share them with him at speras@rpi.edu!

Additionally, I have been working with the Senate to enact some changes to the format and environment of general body meetings. We have instituted a new section of the agenda, called “invitation to speak,” which is an opportunity for any member of the Rensselaer community to speak to the Senate and raise any questions, ideas, comments, or concerns without having to worry about parliamentary proceedings. If you’re interested in speaking or presenting, you can email me in advance to be placed on the agenda, or you can simply attend the meeting and speak—no request or approval needed.

Additionally, we relabeled constituent reports as “peer body and officer reports,” so that we can prepare for true constituent reports to begin in the Fall. The constituent reports section will ensure that Senators regularly poll their constituencies for feedback and relay

that feedback to the Senate during this report. Because each constituency is represented by multiple senators, the duty of fulfilling the constituent report will cycle through the different senators.

Finally, I believe it is very important for the senators to maintain a tone of approachability, accountability, and professionalism for the Senate. At the first meeting of the term, I detailed expectations for the Senators and emphasized the importance of setting a high standard in fulfilling these responsibilities so that we can fulfill our duties to the student body. I have faith in this Senate to set a high standard for accurate representation, respectful administrative relationships, and advocacy for student rights. However, you—the student body—are the real judge of that.

As always, if you have any questions or want to get involved, feel free to reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu! ♦



Justin Etzine  
Grand Marshal

DERBY

# Renovations coming to Publications Suite

After extensive planning, the Executive Board approved renovations for a Veterans Lounge

HELLO EVERYONE, I HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING the end of the semester. As classes wrap up and we enter finals week, I wish everyone the best of luck on their tests, projects, and papers that will be due in the coming days. I know that I will be working hard, looking forward to the upcoming summer months myself.

Today, I wanted to give you a brief update on a big project that the Executive Board has been working on for the past few months. This past Thursday, we approved a motion to create a Student Veteran’s Lounge within the Union, pending renovations to



Matthew Rand  
President of the Union

the Publications Suite on the third floor of the Union. This will create a new space within the Union for our student veterans to hold programming for the veteran community, to interact with students, and to provide a safe space for veterans and their families to spend time together while balancing the life of a college student.

A number of members of the Executive Board, both past and present, have played a large part in this project. I would like to thank Shannon Gillespie McComb ’17, the former Vice President of the Union, who spearheaded this project from start to finish. She worked very closely with administrators, both within the Union and within the Institute, to help establish this space. Shannon also interfaced with our Student Veterans to speak on their behalf to the Board and fight for their needs as

members of the RPI community. I would also like to thank Rasika Ekhalikar ’18, the current Vice President of the Union and the former chair of the Business Operations Committee, who led the group within the Executive Board to finalize the renovation plans for the Publications Suite. There are a number of other individuals who put significant time and effort into allowing this effort to happen, so I want to thank all of those who contributed to this project for their continued support and dedication. And lastly, I would like to welcome our Student Veterans to their future home within the Union!

The push to create a Student Veterans Lounge is very important to both myself and the Executive Board. It is an honor to be able to help support members of our Armed Forces who choose to further their educa-

tion after providing such a selfless service to our nation. Our veterans deserve nothing but our respect and admiration for all that they have done, and the opportunity to give back to them and their families is something that we, within the Executive Board, hold near and dear to our hearts. The Union is a home for all of our students, from all walks of life. The Student Veterans Lounge will go a long way towards ensuring that this sentiment holds true.

As I mentioned before, best of luck to you all during finals. I hope that the semester treats you kindly, and that you enjoy your last few days on campus before leaving for the summer once again. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns! ♦

# ASK BROOKELYN

How do you deal with RPI when it’s got you down?

I typically force myself to go out and do things with friends, whether it’s going for a walk, going to an event on campus, or just getting food. Luckily, I’ve never really had a problem finding someone to talk to about how I’m feeling. Everyone here knows that RPI can be emotionally taxing at times, so I haven’t felt alone in my experiences.

If I don’t feel like I have the time to go out or see friends, I try to do at least one little thing for myself. I revisit my neglected YouTube subscription feed or watch a couple GIFs from the top posts of the PartyParrot subreddit. Sometimes I call my parents or my grandparents, because I know it makes them happy and that makes me happy too.

I’m really considering coming to RPI, but I’ve heard there aren’t a lot of parties. Don’t get me wrong, I’m not coming for that, but I want to know if there are any. Any advice?

You seriously have nothing to worry about. I don’t go out much anymore, but my friends are always deciding between a couple parties on Fridays and Saturdays, and sometimes even on Tuesdays. If you want to ensure that you know about the bigger parties held in fraternities, get to know the Greek community. I personally didn’t rush, but simply knowing people in sororities has helped me get into parties, listed or otherwise. There will be some more strict registered parties where you will need to be Greek to get in, but that really doesn’t happen often.

If you decide the party scene on campus doesn’t suit you, find a group of friends that would rather hang out in a dorm room or somebody’s apartment. This is what I prefer, especially after experiencing parties here, but there is definitely something for everyone.

My boyfriend won’t have sex with me, and I feel like my relationship is lacking physical intimacy. What should I do?

I would strongly suggest that you talk to your boyfriend about this first. Try to figure out why he doesn’t want to have sex. Hopefully, you can come to a compromise that makes both of you happy. If you can’t find something that works for both

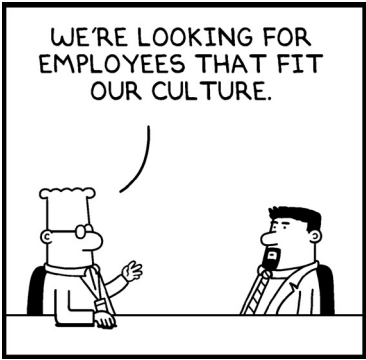
of you, don’t feel bad about ending a relationship over it. This question reminded me of something Dan Savage stressed during a talk he gave here. (If you missed it, you can read about it at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/avage>.) He basically said that sex is a huge part of relationships, and if you aren’t compatible with your partner sexually, that is a valid reason to break up. ♦

We are pleased to announce that we are welcoming a new column called Ask Brooklyn to the paper. It is a general advice column that we’ll be experimenting with for the next couple of issues. Be sure to ask your questions at <https://poly.rpi.edu/ask>.


DILBERT

by Scott Adams

WE'RE LOOKING FOR EMPLOYEES THAT FIT OUR CULTURE.

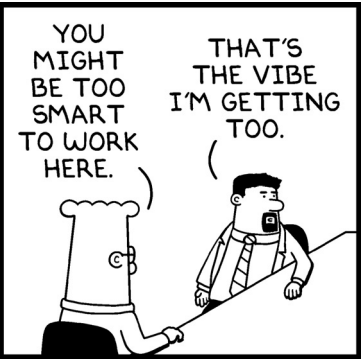


WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT YOUR CULTURE THAT IT CAN'T BE IMPROVED?




YOU MIGHT BE TOO SMART TO WORK HERE.

THAT'S THE VIBE I'M GETTING TOO.




OUR GREATEST STRENGTH IS OUR COMPANY CULTURE.



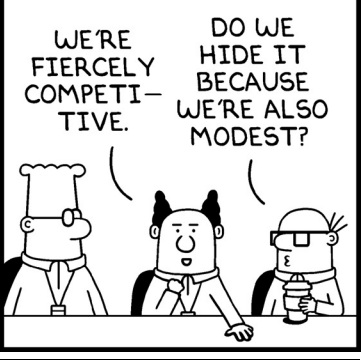
WHAT'S OUR COMPANY CULTURE?

GIVE US A HINT.




WE'RE FIERCELY COMPETITIVE.

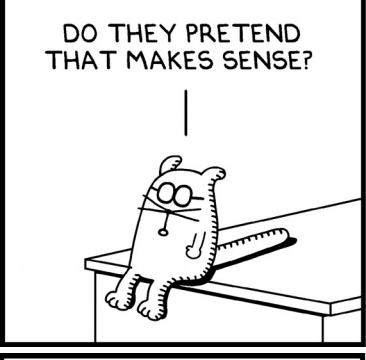
DO WE HIDE IT BECAUSE WE'RE ALSO MODEST?




I'VE BEEN TELLING EMPLOYEES THAT OUR CULTURE IS OUR BEST ASSET.




DO THEY PRETEND THAT MAKES SENSE?



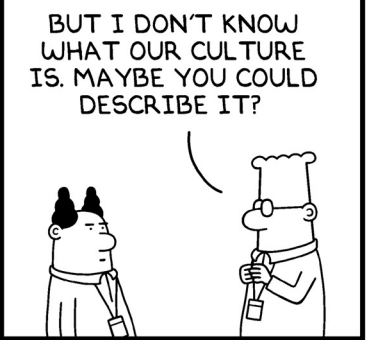
YES, BECAUSE WE HAVE A CULTURE OF LYING TO AVOID CONFLICT.



I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY PROJECT PLAN IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR COMPANY CULTURE.

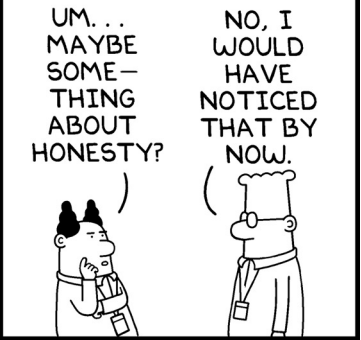


BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT OUR CULTURE IS. MAYBE YOU COULD DESCRIBE IT?



UM... MAYBE SOME-THING ABOUT HONESTY?

NO, I WOULD HAVE NOTICED THAT BY NOW.



CRYPTOQUOTE

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

“C’ax korg txhctxt gp ruc-ghm poy Vyctbw rhmx-toqx gp Lpjtbw, umchm lx-bjr gmbg gmx gxrg ux gbzxxbhm Vyctbw pj umbg ux qx-byjxt toycjd gmx uxxz ucqqjpu gbzx eqbhx pj Lpjtbwfxvpyx ux’ax qxbyjxt cg. Fogrcjhx gptbw cr Goxrtbw, cgtpxrj’g lbggxy cj gmx rqcd-mgxrg. Exjhcqr yxbtw!”

-Ly. Goyzxjgcjx

*Ucqqw Upjzb bjt gmx Hm-phpqbgx Vbhgpyw*

# SUMMER HOURS

## THE CLUBHOUSE

### PUB

#### TUES & THURS 4-9:30

# TUESDAY - TRIVIA

# THURSDAY - GRAD SOCIAL

# STARTING 5/15

i am an **artist** / entrepreneur

i am a **scientist** / entrepreneur

i am a **designer** / entrepreneur

i am an **educator** / entrepreneur

i am a **change agent** / entrepreneur

## Join the conversation!

[bit.do/eshipRPI-GoogleGroup](https://bit.do/eshipRPI-GoogleGroup)

[eship-rpi.slack.com](https://eship-rpi.slack.com)





# Rap: *Talks of emotions*

## The songs of *DAMN.* reflect Lamar's feelings

From **Page 8**

The album starts with some braggadocious songs such as the fan-acclaimed tracks “DNA.” and “ELEMENT.” At the midpoint of the album, he has his track “HUMBLE.,” the middleground between wickedness and weakness. The tracks toward the end become more emotional and soft, such as “LOVE.” and “GOD.” I personally enjoyed every single track on this album, and it is impressive to see Kendrick Lamar continue to write so masterfully. At the surface level, Kendrick provides great production and vocals on this album. But for those who care to delve deeper into the lyrics, song names, and the story, there are interesting themes and opinions to discover, which is a quality Kendrick has mastered. At 55 minutes, the album is on the short side, but each track is unique and, as a whole, the album is very enjoyable and can be listened to as one 55-minute song. I give *DAMN.* an 8/10. While still providing an excellent sound, it is on the shorter side and isn’t as influential to me personally as his two previous studio albums. ♦

## OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

# NROTC teams participate in MEC

**MIDN 3/C Michaela Bailie**  
*A Special to The Poly*

34 MIDSHIPMEN SET OUT ON FRIDAY, APRIL 7 to compete at the annual Villanova Military Excellence Competition in Villanova, Pennsylvania. This MEC, the largest that RPI attends, draws units from all over the East coast and hosts a multitude of events, including platoon and squad drill, athletic competitions, and color guard. Although RPI didn’t send as many competitors as other schools, it still held its own and competitors had a lot of fun!

The basketball team’s first game was a nailbiter as it cinched the win in the last few seconds. Some unfortunate calls during the second game resulted in a loss, but made it just as exciting to watch. The platoon and squad drills commanded by MIDN 2/C Carnes, MIDN 2/C Grocki, and MIDN 3/C Runyan, respectively, all looked sharp in their early morning demonstrations. Other events during the day included swim relays, running relays, a 5k race, and combat events. Those events, the

corpsman challenge, ISMT, and air rifle proved difficult yet rewarding for the midshipmen who participated. The color guard, commanded by MIDN 3/C Starasinic, along with the 4x400 relay team, swim medley team, and air rifle team, all came in just off the podium. Overall, it was an entertaining event worth experiencing, and one that the unit looks forward to attending each year. We hope to compete again and take trophies home next year! ♦



Courtesy of MIDN 4/C Walker and MIDN 3/C Arceo

RPI MIDSHIPMEN TRAVELED to Villanova to represent the school in a variety of competitions, ranging from basketball to drills.

Graduates—it’s all been leading up to this day, so get ready to celebrate and commence to change the world!

# COMMENCEMENT 2017

**STATUS CHECK** Thursday, May 4, 2017  
9 a.m.–7 p.m. | Heffner Alumni House

*\*Pick up your Commencement tickets here! To be eligible for tickets, you must file your Degree Application on sis.rpi.edu.*

**GRADUATE REHEARSAL** Tuesday, May 16, 2017  
2 p.m.–Undergrads | 3:30 p.m.–Grads | East Campus Arena

**COMMENCEMENT COLLOQUY** Friday, May 19, 2017  
3:30 p.m. | EMPAC, Concert Hall

**COMMENCEMENT** Saturday, May 20, 2017  
8:15 a.m. | East Campus Stadium



MOVIE REVIEW

The Void recreates '80s thrill with modern tech

Serge Piskun  
Senior Reviewer

OVER EASTER, I WENT HOME, BACK TO THE MYTHICAL LAND of Massachusetts, to partake in the age-old tradition that is watching horror movies at late hours with friends. This week, we watched *The Void*, a throwback to a different age of horror movies.

*The Void* takes place in what I can only assume is the rural '80s midwest. A police officer, Daniel Carter, is startled during his seemingly empty watch by a man stumbling out of the woods, a gunshot in his body and incoherent panic in his voice. Daniel rushes him to the only nearby hospital: one which had recently suffered a catastrophic fire and resulted in it being manned by only a skeleton crew as it prepared for relocation. There, in that dark hospital and in the middle of the night, is where the horrors begin. Cultists wearing white robes with triangles on them surround the hospital. Monsters spawn from the bodies of those trapped inside. A maniacal doctor is killed, only to come back to life and haunt those still living. A dark passage filled with hellish creations opens below the institution. And, of course, more characters are introduced, each with their own tragic backstory and fate.

*The Void* is an indie horror movie that expertly pays homage to the horror movies of old. Blending environmental spookiness from *The Shining* with chaos and lack of trust from *The Thing*, *The Void* aims to recreate '80s nostalgia on a relatively small budget. In doing so, it implements a few modern techniques into itself. The scene where the cultists start entering the hospital is beautifully executed, as it brings with it a jump scare and immediate gory death. Daniel experiences visions that are a CGI creator's fantasy, with vast, ominous landscapes and hazy red fever dreams. The movie masterfully blends blasts from

the past with the best of today's technology, and I think that is one of its high points.

That being said, there were a few areas where the movie was lacking. I felt like the story was incoherent at best, with not much being explained and a bit too much being left to interpretation. Some characters were simply not fleshed out, or purposely introduced simply to die mere minutes later. The demons were very '80s-like, where you could tell they were fake, but still feel fear from their appearance. When I say fake, I mean obvious fake heads and body parts, with very minimal CGI. The ending itself was inconclusive, perhaps posing more questions than it answered. The biggest one of them all though, was "now what?"—The movie brings with it no real sense of closure. Yes, two characters escaped, but they were two that were mediocrely well-explained. The two main characters, Daniel and his wife, were left to rot in the void, with their fate uncertain and their intentions and feelings towards one another unclear. The main villain himself was simply thrown away, disappearing without a real explanation as to where he had gone. Perhaps this was a stylistic choice, but I feel like it could have been done better.

With all that being said, I still feel like *The Void* was a good movie. It kept the viewer in suspense, and provided a good storyline up until its ending. If you are someone who doesn't really care about continuity and only wants to see a horror thriller that does an amazing job playing with atmosphere and emotions, then I'd recommend *The Void* to you. However, if you're someone who cannot rest until all plot holes are filled and all characters are accounted for, then I'd recommend you search elsewhere. ♦

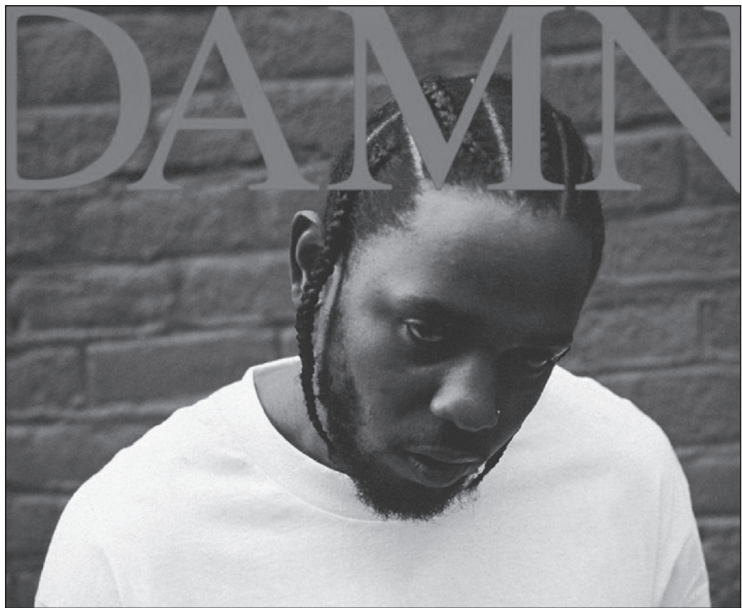


Courtesy of Cave Painting Pictures

TENTACLES AND HELLSCAPES COMBINE to scare viewers in *The Void*.

ALBUM REVIEW

Kendrick Lamar releases latest hit



Courtesy of Kendrick Lamar

**DAMN. BLENDS** Lamar's many musical styles into one coherent album.  
Daneel Rupert  
A Special to *The Poly*

KENDRICK LAMAR HAS BEEN ON A SUPER-STREAK SINCE THE RELEASE OF HIS first studio album, *Section.80*, and it doesn't look like he is running out of ideas anytime soon. On April 14, he delivered a new album titled *DAMN.*, featuring 14 tracks. The album presents a different style than Kendrick's previous works, highlighting his versatility as an artist. With new complex beats, fewer external artist features, and interesting uses of his own voice and storytelling, the album gives off a new modern sound. The story of the album at a basic surface level is of Kendrick overcoming his wickedness and going into his weakness.

See RAP, **Page 7**

OFF-CAMPUS EVENT

RPI students compete in steel bridge competition

Maria Kozdroy  
Senior Reviewer

FROM THURSDAY AFTERNOON TO Saturday evening, 10 members of the Steel Bridge Team, including myself, attended the Upstate New York American Society of Civil Engineers Regionals Conference. The conference consisted of competitions for building of steel bridges and racing of concrete canoes.

Thirteen schools competed in the bridge competition, and seven in the canoe competition. Schools included several State University of New York campuses, Hudson Valley Community College, and several Canadian schools; yes, Canadian schools attend ASCE conferences!

Rensselaer hosted only a steel bridge team this year due to a lack of interest in the canoe team. In fact, on Sunday, April 30 from 2–4 pm, past concrete canoe team members are holding an event at the Grafton Lake. Feel free to go visit the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Office on the fourth floor of the Jonsson Engineering Center for more details.

The Steel Bridge team this year consisted of five designers and six builders. The Design Team members

took a two-credit independent class in the fall in which they fully design a steel bridge, and in the spring the build team practices putting it together as efficiently as possible. Both teams must follow hundreds of rules in order to qualify throughout all stages of the competition—building, lateral load testing, and vertical load testing.

Rensselaer was the third team to build on Friday morning. The timer began and the builders were off, only to be stopped 10 seconds later! The judges questioned the way construction began with not setting the footing of the bridge first. This delay caused the team to huddle together and generate a new plan—one that was never practiced.

After 15 minutes of brainstorming, the Engineers were ready, and were off to the races again. A half hour later, the judges yelled out "that's 30 minutes, no rules apply anymore," including dropping any nuts or bolts. The Engineers continued to race to be under the 45 minute mark, as if any team goes over this time mark, the bridge is instantly disqualified. The Engineers completed construction in a little over 43 minutes.

The sweat and the condensation in the safety goggles, in addition to the

unexpected change in building plans, left the team in some disappointment. One of the judges came up to the team after and congratulated us for rebounding back quickly and working together as a team the entire time.

Team member Daneel Ruppert '20 recalls on his experience, saying that "It's intimidating to be around all these teams that know a lot, but it was fun to build the bridge and get it done." The intense competition in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University was summarized as "definitely tough there for a while, but I guess we powered through it," according to Anna Tiberi '20.

Design Captain Devan Naik '17 has been with the team for the last four years and stepped up because "no one else did. This has been a great learning experience, better than any class I have ever taken." The other four members of the design team are Lillian Kolehmainen '17, Pete Weekes '17, Julia McNamara '18, and Sabata Dalia '17. The build team consisted of James Hemond '20, Mouctar Bah '19, captain Tim Cremins '19, and Maria Kozdroy '18.

The Engineers look forward to next year's competition at RPI! ♦