

Wednesday, April 5, 2017





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Maria Kozdroy	Real-life applications of school curriculum
Serge Piskun	A hypocritical take on sleeping schedules
Staff Editorial	Vote in the elections, but don't stop there

TOWN MEETING Capital campaign: financial aid, faculty, facilities



PRESIDENT SHIRLEY ANN JACKSON DISCUSSES the opening of the Off-Campus Commons and the inspirations of the Summer Arch program.

Sidney Kochman

Senior Reporter

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INFORMATION SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY AND Chief Information Officer John Kolb '79 kicked off the president's bi-annual Town Meeting by referencing President Shirley Ann Jackson's recent public appearances, such as her participation in the World Economic Forum and her shout out on Saturday Night Live. A new initiative, the Center for Health Empowerment by Analytics, Learning, and Semantics, is a five-year, \$20 million collaboration with IBM to apply machine learning techniques across large data sets in order to better understand diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. A goal of the Center for HEALS is to provide individualized health recommendations based on one's lifestyle.

On Summer Arch, Jackson said that all participating students will be housed in Quad this year. Students will be provided opportunities to explore and engage in activities beyond the Troy campus. She also brought up a bit of history, remarking that this is not the first time Rensselaer has done these student excursions: Amos Eaton, a co-founder of RPI, used to take students on field trips that left campus at 4 am. "That is not our plan," Jackson quipped.

Jackson also discussed RPI's financial situation. She noted that RPI has "borrowed, in a total amount, less than [its] endowment," for accomplishing the goals of the Rensselaer Plan. RPI plans to accelerate the paydown of its debt, and projects that its endowment will exceed its debt within the next three years.

Jackson noted that the financial aid budget will increase by 5.5 percent in the future. In an email sent to the community on Tuesday, April 4, Jackson announced the appointment of Martin Daniels as Director of Financial Aid, effective May 15.

The Off-Campus Commons opens in May and is expected to provide a space for new programming focused on students living off campus or in Greek housing.

A record number of applications was announced for the incoming freshman class. According to Jackson, this year's total was 19,452, an increase of 5.3 percent from last year's 18,467 applications.

RPI plans to launch its new capital campaign on October 13. It will focus on raising hundreds of millions of dollars for three areas: "bridging the gap" with financial aid, hiring and retaining faculty, and building out campus and housing.

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ADMISSIONS

RPI receives record number of applications

Peter Gramenides

Over 51 percent of all applications were also Of nearly 2,500 students accepting their place

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technic

Senior Reporter

RENSSELAER RECEIVED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF TOTAL applications in its history for the Class of 2021-a total of 19,485 applications, 1,018 more than last year-according to Rensselaer's Office of Admissions. This represents a total increase of 5 percent from last year at this time, and an increase of over 28 percent over the past five years.

"This is the largest number of applications for one year that Rensselaer has ever received," said Jonathan Wexler, Vice President for Enrollment Management. "Last year, Rensselaer received 18,467 applications."

Admissions statistics so far represent a diverse student community. In addition to increases in total applications this year, Rensselaer's applicant pool also experienced a significant increase in the the total number of applications from women, international, and underrepresented minority students. Legacy applicants, who have a parent or sibling that attended Rensselaer, also made up a greater portion of the applicant pool than prior years according to the Office of Admissions.

received from outside the Northeast region, with significant growth in interest specifically from California, Virginia, Florida, Texas, and Washington. In 2016, 29 percent of all Rensselaer students were from New York, 31 percent were from the rest of the Northeast, with 19 percent of all students from New England, 23 percent were from outside the Northeast, and 17 percent were from outside the United States.

"Here on campus, we know that Rensselaer has historically been a top producer of future leaders and innovators, so it is very encouraging to see external evidence that more and more students value the high-quality academic and co-curricular programs that we offer," Wexler said.

Last year, Rensselaer enrolled the largest graduating class in its history, with over 1,690 incoming freshmen last fall. The increased class size was the result of many factors, including greater student demand for a Rensselaer education, greater number of accepted applicants, and the largest financial aid budget in Rensselaer's history.

on the waitlist for the Class of 2020, only four students were admitted, for a waitlist acceptance rate of less than 0.2 percent. The overall acceptance rate, however, reached a five-year high of 44.3 percent. During this same period, the lowest acceptance rate was 37.5 percent for the Class of 2018. The increased acceptance rate for the Class of 2020 was due to Rensselaer also admitting the largest number of students in its history.

Rensselaer's mean SAT score has also declined nearly one percent since 2014, falling 11 points in 2016 to 1370 from a peak of 1381 in 2014. In addition, although the number of undergraduate students has risen significantly over the past five years, the number of full and part time graduate students has declined by over 25 percent, from 1,561 in 2012 to 1,168 in 2016. During this same time frame, the number of undergraduates has risen by nearly 17 percent, from 5,300 to 6,200, corresponding with increases in the number of admitted undergraduate students. The size of Rensselaer's student body, additionally, rose by over six percent.

See ADMISSIONS, Page 2

Meeting: Three speakers announced

From MEETING, Page 1

Former Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz will speak at Commencement, along with Dow Chemical Company Chairman and CEO Andrew Liveris and TIAA President and CEO Roger Ferguson.

On the issue of communication between students and administrators, Jackson said that Pizza with the President and, later, Pizza with the Cabinet were ended because they "devolved" to little issues that are beneath the president's attention. The events were a chance for students to interact and have conversations with administrators.

Last spring, issues of communication catalyzed nearly 1,000 students to protest proposed changes in the Division of Student Life outside of the president's 2016 Spring Town Meeting, and pack the EMPAC Concert Hall to capacity. This "brouhaha," as Jackson referred to it in this Town Meeting, was a culmination of the breakdown in communication between students and the administration last year, something she has been working to improve since.

A recording of the first portion of the event is available from RPI at https://poly.rpi.edu/s/4eb0d. The question and answer portion has not been posted as of publication. \diamond

Rand, Ekhalikar win PU primary

Sidney Kochman Senior Reporter

ON APRIL 4, THE RULES & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE RELEASED THE RESULTS OF THE primaries, certifying that President of the Union candidates Matthew Rand '19 and Rasika Ekhalikar '18 will be on the final ballot. They received 998 and 779 votes, respectively. Keegan Caraway '18 received 544 votes and Harrison Leinweber '18 received 497 votes.

Rand, in a statement emailed to *The Poly*, said, "I want to thank the 2,964 students who took time out of their day to participate. It was a huge turnout and helped to ensure that our Student Union has a bright future with strong leaders." He added, "I would also like to thank the 998 individuals who chose me to be their President of the Union."

Reflecting on her campaign so far, Ekhalikar said, "It was an honor to be chosen in such a strong field of candidates. Their platforms and campaigns made me better."

Leinweber offered his thoughts on the race. "I feel as though Rasika's vision and actions most closely match my own; I would like to see her assume the role of President of the Union next term. This being said, I encourage everyone to attend or tune into the final debates in order to make an informed decision on their candidate of choice."

Another PU debate and a Grand Marshal question and answer session are scheduled

for 7 pm on Wednesday in the McNeil Room. Final voting begins on Thursday at 9

am, and polls will be set up in Commons, the DCC Great Hall, and the west lobby

At press time, The Poly was awaiting comment from Caraway.



Rasika Ekhalikar '18

Matthew Rand '19

President of the Union Primary Debates, April 3, 2017

of the Rensselaer Union until 7 pm. 👌



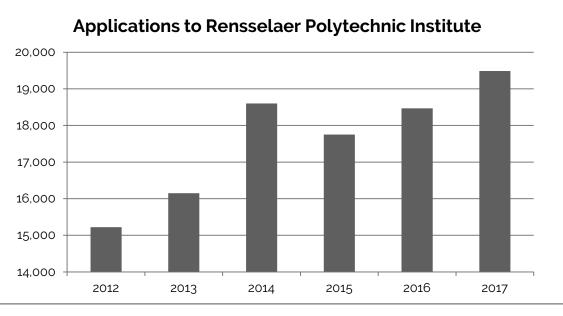
Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNION DEBATE HOSTED all four candidates answering questions as professionally as possible in order to gain the most student support.

Admissions: Record number of freshman applications

From ADMISSIONS, Page 1

According to the 2016–2017 Common Data Set, the Rensselaer student to faculty ratio declined to its lowest level in the past decade, falling from 15 to 1 in 2015 to 13 to 1 in 2016. During this same time frame, the number of faculty holding the highest degree in their field also rose to over 90 percent. Faculty resources account for 20 percent of the US News & World Report ranking index, and are an important determination in the Institute's rankings, even more so than admissions selectivity, which accounts for 12.5 percent. Increases in faculty can also impact other areas of the ranking index, including undergraduate academic reputation which accounts for an additional 22.5 percent of the ranking index. Rensselaer was ranked 39th among all national universities in the 2016-2017 US News & World Report.

Acceptance rate data for the Class of 2021 is not currently public, but assuming a class size similar to last year's of roughly 1,650 as well as a similar yield rate, The Poly estimates the acceptance rate for the Class of 2021 was between 39 and 41 percent with a margin of error of one percent for the range. For a slightly smaller class of 1,500 anticipated students, the acceptance rate was between 36 and 38 percent, with roughly the same margin of error. \diamond



APPLICATIONS TO RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE HAVE steadily risen over the past several years.

Ilori leads final Student Senate meeting as GM



Jonathan Caicedo/The Polytechnic

SENATE DISCUSSES Student Government Communications Commitee bylaw changes and passes motion to investigate making the career fair an academic holiday. (file photo)

Peter Gramenides

Senior Reporter

GRAND MARSHAL PAUL ILORI'17 OPENED THE STUDENT SENATE MEETING WITH COMMITTEE REPORTS. Those began with Rules & Elections Committee Chairperson David Raab'19, who reported that elections were running well with no major issues. In order to receive a mug, students must vote in both the primaries and general student government elections.

Following Raab, Student Government Communications Chairperson Ellie Mees '18 announced that she anticipates future bylaw changes to the SGC and hopes to spark future discussion about the future of the committee. Following Mees, Facilities & Services Committee Chairperson Austin Miller '17 stated that he met with Director Matthews as well as Vice President for Strategic Communications and External Relations Richie C. Hunter. Miller stated that the meeting "went well," and that both Hunter and Matthews seemed "very receptive" to the idea of integrating Rensselaer Public Safety with social media.

Student Life Committee Chairperson Justin Etzine '18 continued by stating that he had met with Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Apgar along with Hunter Sanchez '19, a representative of the Greek community, and Ilori to talk about the grade

point average minimum for rising sophomores to live in Greek housing. In addition, Etzine met with an undisclosed pharmaceutical company representative. Etzine hopes that a prescription delivery service can be established as early as next year in which students with ongoing prescriptions or in need of on-demand medicine could submit an order and have it delivered to a central campus location.

Following Committee reports, Greek Senator Marvin Cosare '18 delivered a constituent report in which he stated that an Institute-level committee is being formed to re-evaluate the 2.5 minimum grade point average requirement for rising sophomores to live in Greek commons. The requirement was temporarily suspended by Associate Dean of Greek Life Commons Meredith Bielaska.

Academic Affairs Chairperson Varun Rao'18 continued to present a motion that would make the day of the career fair an academic holiday. According to benchmarking done by the Academic Affairs Committee, roughly 4,500 students, over 60 percent of the student body, attended the career fair in the fall and nearly 1,300, over 15 percent of the student body, attended in the spring. MIT, the only peer or aspirant institution with a similar career fair structure to RPI, has already implemented a similar policy. The motion passed in the Senate, 9-7-4.

Following the motion to make the day of the career fair an academic holiday, the counseling center recommendations passed 21-0-0. Additionally, reforms to the Student Government Communications Committee passed 21-0-0.

EXECUTIVE BOARD Further look into Mother's renovation approved

Jack Wellhofer Senior Reporter

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OPENED ITS LAST MEETING of President of the Union Chip Kirchner's term on Thursday, March 30 with a full schedule ahead of them. First on their list was a presentation from Luke Kuprenas '18 about the proposed future renovations of Mother's Wine Emporium and the Games Room. Kuprenas displayed some of the suggested floor plans of the new space, which aim to make both spaces more usable.

Members of the E-Board asked for clarification of the motion regarding the space, which Joe Campo provided. "Right now. you're voting on an idea. Do you want to do this and does it sound like a good idea," explained Campo. Steve Allard added that this was for an approval of the concept, and that a professional architect would be brought in when the rooms are to be renovated. Graduate students Jen Church and Nick Thompson both brought up concerns about the capacity of the space. Many Graduate Council events are held in the Games Room because of its high capacity and can be closed off with relative ease. Church and Thompson wanted to voice their concerns for later considerations.

to be dealt with. The club was recognized in a 19-0-0 vote.

Next, Seongmin Kim of Rensselaer's division of the New York Historical Fencing Association came to the E-Board, also seeking recognition. The club focuses on historic European martial arts, including the broadsword, longsword, and warhammer. They currently practice on the lawn outside of the Armory, but would like to be able to reserve space.

Conrad Mossl '17 asked about risk management, as, at first glance, it appeared to be a dangerous activity. Allard was able to answer the question, explaining that the club is "100 percent approved as long as they do not use metal." Wood and plastic weapons are acceptable. The club was unanimously approved. The last club to come before the Board was Chabad On Campus, seeking Rensselaer Union affiliation. Chabad On Campus is a Jewish cultural organization that has been operating at Rensselaer for around 35 years. The group wanted to received affiliated status so that they can reserve rooms and increase membership. It is open to anyone who wants to learn more about Judaism. Chabad on Campus' affiliated status was approved by the Board 18-0-0. Last on the E-Board's agenda for the evening was a vehicle purchase proposal. The Union's cargo vans and the truck for the crew team, all 15-20 years old, in need of replacement. After receiving a number of quotes, the E-Board unanimously approved the proposal to purchase two new cargo vans and a new truck for a total of 69,000.

The Polytechnic will

The E-Board approved looking further into plans for the renovation of Mother's and the Games Room 14-0-3.

Culinary Club came before the E-Board to seek recognition so that they can fundraise and host events. The group will be working with Tofu Tim in Russell Sage Dining Hall to put on the events. Cameron McLean said that because the club was previously active at RPI, there should be no liability issues that need be holding elections on Sunday, April 23rd in our office, RU 3418.

Elections will begin at 11 am sharp!

Editorial Wednesday, April 5, 2017

STAFF EDITORIAL

Voting impacts students polyfechnic

Grand Marshal Week elections about more than mug

to plug voter participation.

Before you go to the polls on Thursday, take some time to review the candidates. Yes, you could go into the polls blind and vote for the person at the top of the list, a funny name, or even write yourself in, just to get the mug. What does that accomplish? What does that do for you? For your fellow students? The outcome of these elections will influence the student experience for years to come.

Go onto the elections website, https://elections. union.rpi.edu, and review the profiles of the people who you might vote for. Take some time to read over our GM Week issue, especially the endorsements on the back from the Editorial Board, Graduate Council, and Interfraternity Council, at https://poly.rpi.edu/s/gmweek2017. Consider the

ANOTHER ELECTION IS UPON US, SO THE STAFF OF merits of each candidate, and think about who has The Polytechnic would like to take the opportunity put time and effort into their platform and shows commitment to the direction you want student government and the Rensselaer Union to go in.

> And please, don't let voting be the end of your involvement. We have seen thousands of citizens energized by the 2016 presidential elections. Those people have become involved in politics at all levels, and we are better for it. Though student government's purview is much, much smaller, don't let that be a reason not to partake. Make sure that you know who represents your cohort, so that if an issue comes up you know who will voice your concerns. Take the next step, and participate in a student government committee. You don't need to be an elected official to get things done! Democracy works best when its members participate. Consider putting some time in for the benefit of us all. \diamond

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EDITORIAL NOTEBOOKS Sleep deficits unsustainable



As a freshman coming back to school from my first Spring Break, things sucked. Adjusting to life from an environment of constant sleep and catching up with friends, to one where I had tests the next week and the hardest Data Structures homework (possibly ever) due on my birthday, I felt terrible. I just wanted to go back home or curl up in a ball and never work again. But somehow, I persisted and I'm here. Break was fun, but you can't let the end goal out of your sight: we're all here to end the semester and continue on with our lives.

Serge Piskun Features Editor

With regards to my earlier notebook about setting goals, I'm proud to admit that those goals are in the progress of being met. The video games have been cut down substantially, even though I splurged and bought the most recent Humble Bundle and have played exactly none of it. The studying has increased in frequency; however, the one goal that's

See SLEEP, Page 5

Labs, field trips imperative

pick classes for the next semester! I'm going to try my hardest to avoid saying that time flies by and I'll be a senior next year, but I thought it'd be okay to mention it right at the beginning of this notebook. Instead, I'm on paper and not knowing the realgoing to explore how my classes have been up to this point and what I'd like to see in the last few semesters of my education here at Rensselaer.

I noticed this semester that none of my classes have any labs associated examine the connections with them, quite strange, I believe, and the members holding for a civil engineer who will be prac- it in place. This was very

ALMOST THAT TIME AGAIN-TIME TO hand to ask this question or whisper it to a friend next to me, yet there are times I'll leave class wondering for the rest of the day the reality of the problems we analyzed in class.

This barrier of analyzing structures life application of the structure is a bit aggravating. In my Introduction to Structural Engineering class, we took a field trip to the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center to

interesting but only happened once in the entire semester!

Additionally, as a member of the RPI Student Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers, I have listened to many guest speakers from various companies discuss what they do in their careers, and again the student attendance seems quite low.

I would love to see Rensselaer progress towards developing more well-rounded engineers inside and outside the class. To ensure most students take advantage of field trips,

> labs, and guest speakers, there should be designated times set within the syl-

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MY VIEW

Crack growth in aerostructures Poor aircraft analysis causes concerns

Lawrence Stoker A Special to The Poly

and whispered.

is responsible for the Comet crashes in the 1950s, F-111 in 1969, Aloha Airlines in 1988, Chalks Airlines "DON'T FLY IN 20 YEARS," MY in 2005, F-15 in 2008, Southwest college teammate leaned over Airlines in 2011, and a firefighting C-130 in 2012. In the Chalks and It was April 2010; I was on my C-130 cases, the failures were directly a result of poor repair design. These are just the cases which have gained some publicity. We actually find cracks on aircrafts all the time. With proper fleet management, we're able to deal with these before they become catastrophic. However, recent interactions have me wondering if not everyone is as concerned as they should be about this failure mechanism.

ticing in the field as part of my career. The three civil engineering courses I am currently enrolled in are Matrix Structural Analysis, Applied Hydrology and Hydraulics, and Concrete a larger focus on bring-Design. Each of these three courses is rigorously calculation-oriented. However, when I enter my full time career, I do not intend to just sit with a pencil and paper in my hand for eight hours straight. There must be another side to civil engineering, or engineering in general.

I guess a lab for MSA would be difficult as it is specifically on constructing matrices for analyzing structures, yet I hope to see in my future structural engineering courses a hands-on lab in which we get to build miniature structures based on the designs from class. In every lecture I go to, the thought of where this structure exists in real life often crosses my mind. I may raise my

Rensselaer should place ing the many calculations performed on pencil and paper, and even computers, to life; whether that be having more field trips, labs, or guest speakers. Currently,

the Civil Engineering Department tries to hosts one-hour seminars with professors and researchers from other universities every other week, yet the student attendance, as I have noticed in the few I have gone to, has been very low. These seminars should be incorporated into courses, to guarantee students attend them! In my Hydrology course this semester, Professor Young invited one of his past colleagues to speak about their career as a civil engineer.



Maria Kozdroy Associate Composing Editor

labus for these potential opportunities.

Another suggestion I have to build a more well-rounded engineer is to discuss failure more in class. As of right now, students at RPI who decide to skip a class usually skip because they don't want to attend a

lecture in which they can easily read the textbook to obtain the information from the lecture for that day. To avoid this, lectures should be more exciting, with information discussed that you will not find in the textbook—or specifically the discussion of failure.

In my Professional Development II course this semester, I needed to write a research paper

See HANDS-ON, Page 5

final leg of undergraduate education. This spring semester, we were watching half of our aeronautical engineering peers give final presentations for their Capstone Designs. The presentations ranged from excellent, to awful, to alarming.

To be fair, the school produced an impressive amount of excellent engineers. But those are not the people who stick out in memory. Perhaps that's one of my personality flaws. Regardless, that off-hand re-

mark is proving to be prophetic.

While everyone is handwringing about the events in Washington, DC, a real, insidious, and largely unknown threat is lurking in the bones of every aircraft.

Time-based failure, specifically crack growth in metals (fatigue), appears to be an afterthought in many analyses I've reviewed in recent memory. This failure mechanism

Companies keep asking the question, "What do Millennials want?" Apple was able to figure this out with the iPod. Most people didn't know they wanted an iPod until they acquired one.

I submit to you that what Millennials want is not coffee shops, not nap rooms, and not hammocks. They want safe spaces...to fly! They want aircrafts to stay airborne. They

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Ed/Op • 5

DERBY President of the Union commends Board

last time as President of the Union. This has been an incredible ride and year for me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who I have learned the most from this year, my team. Each and every one of Rasmussen, Dan Rogers, this year's Executive Board members brought unique skills, backgrounds, and experiences to our group and working with them will have a lasting impact on myself and hopefully on everyone on our team. So, in no particular order; thank you Ines Roman, Shannon Gillespie McComb, Amanda Youmans, Conrad Mossl, Erica Lane, Matt Rand, Ananya

Ekhalikar, Ciera Williams, Chris Union. Without the people I worked

Hoskins, Donna Grace Moleta, Ida Etemadi, John Fantell, Anissa Choiniere, Caitlin Kennedy, Majken Jen Church, and Tommy Alappat. These are the E-Board members that worked this year to create a lasting and positive change to the Union's operations. They all deserve

more recognition than I could have given them this year for all of our staff for putting in so much what they put into this team. Another time to help students every year.

HI AGAIN RPI! ONE YEAR AFTER MY Murali, Stephanie Kern-Allely, important piece of our operations first Derby, I'll write to you all for the Kay Sun, Luke Kuprenas, Rasika is the administrative staff in the

with every day, our jobs on the Executive Board, and especially my job as President of the Union, would be all but impossible. Thank you Cameron McLean, Steve Allard, Martha McElligott, Amy Corron, Rafael Gonzalez, Joe Campo, and Nicole Hayden for a great year and for helping me along the way. And thank you to

Chip

Kirchner

President of the Union

advice for our next pair of student government leaders. Approach this job with humility and never think that your opinion matters more than another student who is as well informed. Always be fair to the student body, to student organizations, to your teams, and to yourself. Just because you don't have a vote doesn't mean you don't have a voice. Your words should never be used to guide anyone in the wrong direction but it's your obligation not to watch on the sidelines when you know there can be a positive change. Ultimately, the buck stops with you. Anything that your team

To close out my year I have some does is your responsibility and you should own that and be proud of it. Your accomplishments are your team's accomplishments and your team's accomplishments are your own accomplishments. So never go alone and always respect and honor the advice of the people around you.

> Come Friday night I'll be forwarding all communications to the new President so please hold off on contacting me at pu@rpi.edu until then (just kidding!). Good luck to our primary winners and have a great GM Week. Thank you for a wonderful year Rensselaer! **◊**

Sleep: Class schedule | Hands-On: Lectures suffers from lack of rest

From SLEEP, Page 4

lacking is the sleep aesthetic, and that's what I want to touch on today.

I've seen a general attitude of "I don't need sleep" on this campus; from both close friends and random conversations I overhear at Russel Sage Dining Hall. People my age are constantly going to bed late, and their reasons are often ambiguous. For instance, some are catching up on work they procrastinated, while others often play video games into the night. I've caught my own sleep schedule going from nine hours to the present six I'm getting, and it's everything but fun. Naps are amazing, but they're unsustainable; some days and class schedules require you out and about for most of the afternoon, and thus you're running on a sleep deficit. I know the feeling of crashing into bed only to awaken four hours later, and trust me, it's not a good feeling at all. I was so much happier on days where I could get an over eight hour rest period.

That's not saying that people cut classes to catch up on sleep. Quite the contrary-they should plan around their sleep schedule when deciding what classes to take and vice-versa. The two should go in hand, and therefore people should be better equipped to tackle their upcoming days.

All in all, I have no idea what I'm saying. This was written at 2:14 am while I was procrastinating doing my CAD homework. People can be such hypocrites sometimes!



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not enough for success

From HANDS-ON, Page 4

on an engineering failure. You may have guessed it, but I researched the failure of a massive structure-the collapse of the Hartford Civic Center. With every article I read, it hinted that the problem with many undergraduate aspiring engineers is the lack of knowing about the potential for structures to fail, leading the young professionals into failure themselves. Failures and collapses exist, and should be incorporated somehow into the curriculum of more engineering courses here at Rensselaer.

With these suggestions, I wish to see a change in the next few years. Even if it does not happen, I am very thankful for my education at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and am looking forward to doing what the school prides itself on—changing the world! ♦

Flight: Flaws frighten

From FLIGHT, Page 4

want (whether they know it or not) engineering rigor behind every piece of aircraft structure.

Fellow engineers, we are the champiour task seriously!

Recent experiences have raised red flags. I am concerned with the analyses I see coming out of other offices and other companies. I have a common thought: "I really hope they don't deal with commercial aircraft this way." For some reason in military aviation, the thought levels of management and customers saying that "the pilot has a parachute" is enough to let some engineers get cavalier with their analyses.

A parachute may save the pilot, but it won't save my house as the abandoned plane right around the bend? barrels into the ground!

become a common denominator. If we don't focuses heavily on aerodynamics and very little address this problem now, we will either be on structure. I wish my own schooling had inpraying for luck or become statistics.

People don't like to be corrected. But you

to start. The engineer's lead or supervisor should have reviewed and pointed this out before providing the so-called analysis.

Fellow engineers: trust in new technologies is not your deliverance. Proper testing ons of airworthiness, and we need to take and characterization is required. FEA and 3D printing will not fix analytical holes in your assumptions and analysis!

> All this begs the question: why is there such little focus on aerostructures? It appears as if all you have to do is say the word "laser," or "synergy," for that matter, and you have all "take my money!" Maybe we should coin the term Laser-Focus-Analysis-Aerostructures.

Could it be that the next aircraft crisis is

Hook at our local universities. One is dropping In all seriousness, the "lazy way out" has many classes in fatigue crack growth. Another cluded more concerns with aerostructures.

Our next wave of engineers is going to can't ignore problems like poor analyses, be intimately familiar with composites, 3D lack of understanding the problem, and printing, the various computer-aided design tools, and the latest-and-greatest technologies. Yet when you address these, the engineer Like anything else, all these need some form of validation, testing, and understanding. Yesterday I read an article about Elon Musk's plan for space tourism. That's fantastic! Does intimately familiar with fatigue? It took us over 30 years to finally get the metals right. The composites field is getting to that point after nearly 30 years. We still learn something new every day. The task is far from complete. Some will accuse me of "standing in the way you fall out of the sky due to fatigue, I proudly stake my claim as that barrier. As the "graybeards" retire, the knowledge tends to go with them. I fear that in 10 years, we will have a group of un-mentored, and more dangerously, unaware engineers who are too proud to accept errors spotted in their analysis. I hope we can pull our collective head out of the clouds and start addressing these deficiencies before they address us. \diamond

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incorrect free-body diagrams.

or the lead gets defensive! Rather than listen to the substance of the concern, pride becomes the foundation of the analysis. Fellow engineers: be the mentor and provide his engineering team have a group of engineers correction to your subordinates!

I too was once a cocky, inexperienced engineer who thought he knew everything. Thankfully, I had a mentor who wasn't concerned with friendship. He was able to be painfully blunt and correct my attitude before I became dangerous. Leads, supervisors, and senior engineers: you of progress." If progress is gaining speed as must do this with your new engineers.

Without this mentorship or training, you end up with flat-out-wrong Finite Element Analyses, misapplication of newer technologies, and analyzing the wrong components! I just reviewed a document where an engineer "refined" the mesh of a Finite Element Model, and the stress went down 40 percent. Where did all that load go? That's not the way it works. Perhaps the model was wrong

Features

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

CAMPUS EVENT Indian Students Association hosts Holi festivities

Rex Hu

Senior Reviewer

ON SUNDAY, STUDENTS AND LOCAL to one myself before coming to RPI. community members alike celebrated which involve runners in a 5k or even barefoot. similar event being covered by people on the side with powder and water.

Growing up in the Bay Area, I'd seen friends and classmates post pictures of the celebration, but I'd never gone

The event was originally sched-Holi with an event hosted by the In- uled for Saturday, but was moved to dian Students Association. Holi is a Sunday due to poor expected weather traditional Hindu spring festival that conditions. That turned out to be a celebrates the coming of spring and good call, because Sunday was quite new beginnings, and is also known a beautiful day. While Robison Field as a festival of colors and love. The was still a bit muddy from rain the festivities are so popular that they have day before, students came out in large been appropriated as color run events, groups to participate, and some were

> Entry was \$3, and participants were See COLOR, Page 8



STUDENTS WAGED war amongst themselves using colored powder in the name of color and love (file photo).

CAMPUS EVENT Shark Tank-like contest draws entrepreneurs



DELOITTE CONSULTING SPONSORED the event, encouraging creativity and profits.

Serge Piskun

Senior Reviewer

ON SATURDAY MARCH 25, STUDENTS FROM ALL profit for the creators. walks of RPI life came together to form teams and compete in a Shark Tank style awareness module the could be installed on competition hosted by Deloitte Consulting. The event, which lasted for four days, had students prototype and attempt to sell an original idea to a panel of judges made up of RPI professors and Deloitte employees. The theme of this competition was tor that tracks how much water flows through "Improving Campus" and all of the designs

need two things: a purpose or otherwise concrete function, and a way to generate

The first group going proposed a watercampus to make students recognize how much water they use in an attempt to conserve future water usage. The device would be a small sensor that would be attached to both a faucet and a shower, and then linked with an LCD moni-See DELOITTE, Page 7

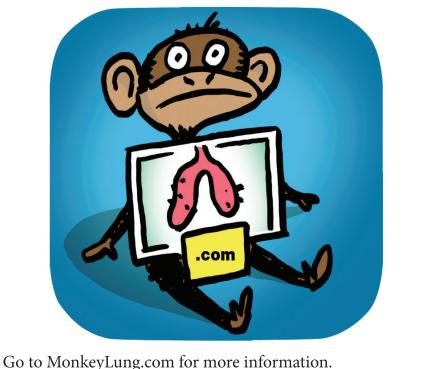


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CAMPUS EVENT Cheer raises funds, spirits

Crystal Vejar Staff Reviewer

THIS PAST SATURDAY, THE RENSSELAER raffle tickets and collecting donations Cheerleading Team held a fundraiser for a fellow cheerleader in need, Mya Hauser. Mya is a sophomore at Ballston Spa High School, who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma—a cancer that starts in the white blood cells. After going through many tests, biopsies, and surgeries, she was given a positive prognosis and began a process of six months of chemotherapy and three weeks of radiation.

As you can imagine, Mya had to deal with the many side effects of chemo, including hair loss, nausea, and fatigue. Through it all, she has remained positive and continues to fight; she completed her last week of radiation, and her doctors have said they are pleased with the results of the treatment show showcasing varsity uniforms plan. She is hopeful that she and cheer outfits. The models, conwill soon be cancer free and is sisting of RPI cheerleaders and planning to get back to the gym other student athletes around the

season as soon as possible.

The fundraiser consisted of selling throughout the week in the Darrin Communications Center as well as at the modeling event in the Rensselaer Union. Prize packages were put together from the various donations of clubs, local shops, and restaurants, including the Collegiate Store, The Flying Chicken, Muddaddy Flats Quesadillary, Daily Grind, and RPI Hockey. Some of the prizes included gift card packages, time at a pottery studio, earrings, golden hair bows, and the main prize, a 32" TV. I bought five tickets and was hoping to win some gift cards or the studio time package at The Pottery Place, but unfortunately all I came home with was a cookie. The guy next to me won the TV; so that was exciting.

The main event featured a fashion

to prepare for next year's cheer capital region, strutted down the catwalk, while Chey Thompson '20 announced the models' name, and the different components of the outfits. In the background, DJ Sean Lossef '20 was jamming out while playing the music for the models to walk to. The show was most likely more enjoyable for the cheerleaders in the crowd, but, since I don't need any cheerleading uniforms, my favorite part of the fashion show was definitely watching Sean quietly headbanging and dancing in the background while the models obliviously continued their modeling.

The event was well attended, and the team was able to raise \$600 that went directly to Mya and her family to help with the many medical costs. The Rensselaer Cheerleading Team will continue to post updates on Mya's condition on the team's Facebook page. You can also read updates from her family or donate to her GoFundMe page at https://poly. rpi.edu/s/mya. 🔇

Don't forget to vote this Thursday!

Voting locations include the DCC, Commons, and the Union's West lobby

Deloitte: Students tasked to help RPI FROM Page 6

each respective outlet. The group argued that any money that was saved would go towards green initiatives on campus, and would pay for itself in a short period of time. They also discussed paying for water usage, as collected data could be used by administrators to determine what to charge for water at institutions similar to RPI.

A second group worked on an expansion of the RPI Shuttle Tracker. Currently a system is in place which tracks shuttles through GPS and outputs that data to the shuttle tracking website. This team argued that putting all that data into an app would be both more efficient, and would draw more students into using school-provided public transportation. The current shuttle system is flawed because people constantly complain about shuttles not being on time and therefore causing students to miss classes or important exams. This app would be different from the existing system because it provides a centralized user interface based on what stop you are at, and based on when you would like to board a shuttle. It also has a feature that I would personally like implemented on campus: user-based shuttle destination generation. The group behind the shuttle app redesign introduced a mechanic where users of the app could vote on future shuttle locations to areas not currently offered on the routes. There would include both existing locations, like stores or alternate malls, and special functions, like day trips or concerts. The group also argued that this app could be used by businesses, like food delivery cars, to provide a real-time estimate of when they would arrive at their destination.

A third group marked their app as a Cafe-To-Go app which was targeted to college campuses. Its aim was to reduce lines and waiting times at campus cafes by providing a method of ordering food on one's phone. Similarly to the Panera to-go app, Cafe-To-Go would have a list of available cafes and a list of foods that could be ordered through them. A student would be able to pay in RPI Flex or RAD to have a meal made, and then left on a shelf for them so they could hurry to class and not be forced to wait in a line. The group estimates that RPI could profit between \$5,000-\$31,000 a year by eliminating lines at it's different cafes, and in turn, could help branch the app out to new schools.

The competition was a smash hit, with eight groups of three to five students working hard to pitch their dreams. I hope the students had as much fun developing their project as I did watching the reveals. \Diamond

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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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CONCERT REVIEW John Mayer's unique style enthralls crowds

Ana Wishnoff, Crystal Velez Senior Reviewer, Staff Reviewer

ARRIVING ON A SET WITH A VIBRANT PINK SCREEN, John Mayer immediately captured the attention of thousands this past weekend at the Times Union Center in Albany. Mayer kicked off the first night of his "Search for Everything" tour by opening with the smooth, jazzy rhythms of "Belief" off of his 2006 album Continuum. The show was uniquely structured, such that it was separated into chapters. Mayer began the show with chapter one, titled "Full Band," and proceeded to change the style of music with every few songs he performed. Mayer amazed the crowd as he took the audience on a "trip around the world" to places like California and India. Chapter two was "Acoustic," and

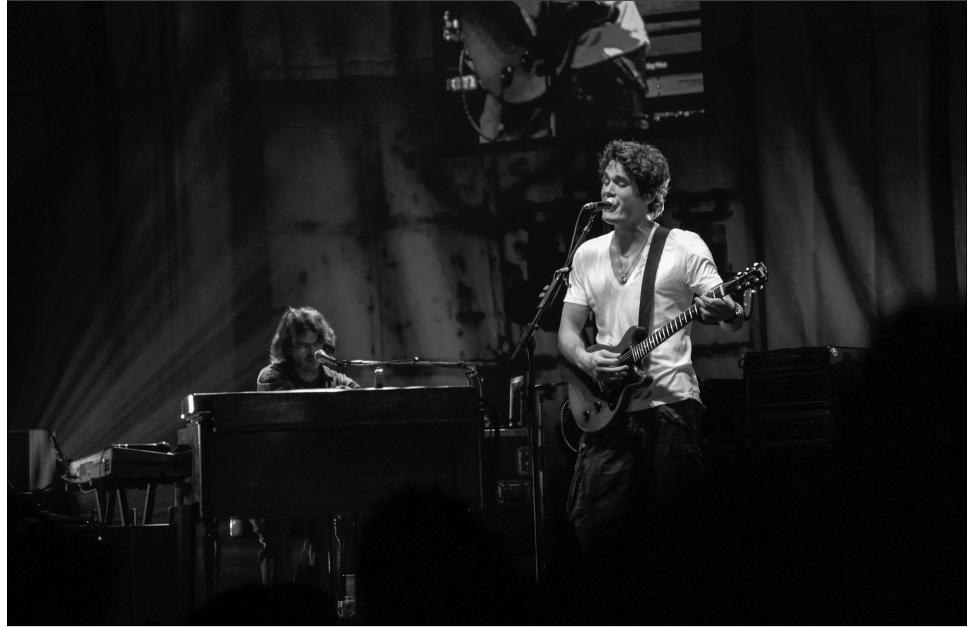
screen behind him, which Mayer referred to as "The Dream Screen." Digital cherry blossoms swayed with Mayer's mellow tone, as Mayer himself strummed his guitar next to a small wooden bridge. The props and the backdrop set the mood for songs like "Daughters," "In Your Atmosphere," and "Free Falling."

The show was a very eclectic experience-John Mayer's eccentric personality really shined through. It was clear that he had a lot of say on this tour, in regards to the set list, band, and stage decorations such as backgrounds and props. In the middle of his performance of "Helpless," Mayer stopped playing mid performance and addressed the audience, saying, "When we were recording this, I had

a beautifully illuminated backdrop of what so much fun dancing around like a fool in the appeared to be Japan was displayed on the studio to this part of the song. So I'm gonna replay this part, and I want to see all of you dancing like fools." Mayer proceeded to have his band replay the same verse three times until everyone in the crowd was truly dancing like an idiot, along with him on stage.

While it is no surprise that Mayer himself is a talented performer both instrumentally and vocally, the songs he performed live sounded just like their original recordings, if not even better. The show Mayer presents to the audience is mellow, like a walk in the park. One can look around the arena and see thousands of fans old and young standing, bobbing their heads with the beat, holding their significant others, and carefully mouthing out the words to all of their favorite songs.

With Mayer, one must go into the arena knowing what to expect. Mayer is a performer because of his melodic, smooth voice. His voice is both rich and relaxed. No one should expect the show to be crazy and full of rambunctious energy, but instead should expect a relaxed journey through two hours of happiness and nostalgia. With that being said, John Mayer does frequently spice things up with long guitar riffs at the end of songs such as "In Repair" and "I Don't Trust Myself with Loving You." Mayer's handwork was frequently displayed up on the "dream screen" for all to see. Mayer plays with passion-there is emotion and feeling that comes with every guitar solo. There is no doubt that regardless of where you are sitting in the arena, every single individual is captured by the beauty of his sound. \diamond



Courtesy of Eric Char

MAYER BLENDS his own unique vocal style with captivating visual effects to create a show that draws a diverse audience; all age groups and relationship dynamics were represented.

Color: Holi featured variety of colors and music

FROM Page 6

safe from the colored powder. (It's Between rounds, people casugiven a wristband and four tickets, a good thing he had his camera in ally walked about, mingling with which could each be traded in for a a plastic bag!) Spreading the color friends and strangers alike, sharing bag of colored powder. At the event, was fun and simple: you could grab there were also samosas (an Indian a handful and toss it, take a pinch fried dish filled with vegetables such of powder and sprinkle it, smear it across faces and arms, or even just and water guns for sale; the samosas cover your hand and press a good ol' five star onto someone's clothing. (Cleaning it off wasn't as fun-there was definitely residue left in my ears, and my clothes had a slight pink tint to them after washing.) But you could also save your powder for a round. About every 15 minutes, they would announce colors: pink, orange, yellow, green, over the speaker that there was blue, and purple. Once you got your another round. Everyone would proceed to split into two groups, line up on either the fire station ally anyone. You could throw it on side or the Mueller Center side, your friends, you could throw it on and then charge at each other to yourself, strangers would throw it throw color. Many people planned at each other-while greeting each for this, using their powder sparother a happy Holi!—and even a ingly so that they would have photographer that was there wasn't enough for the next round.

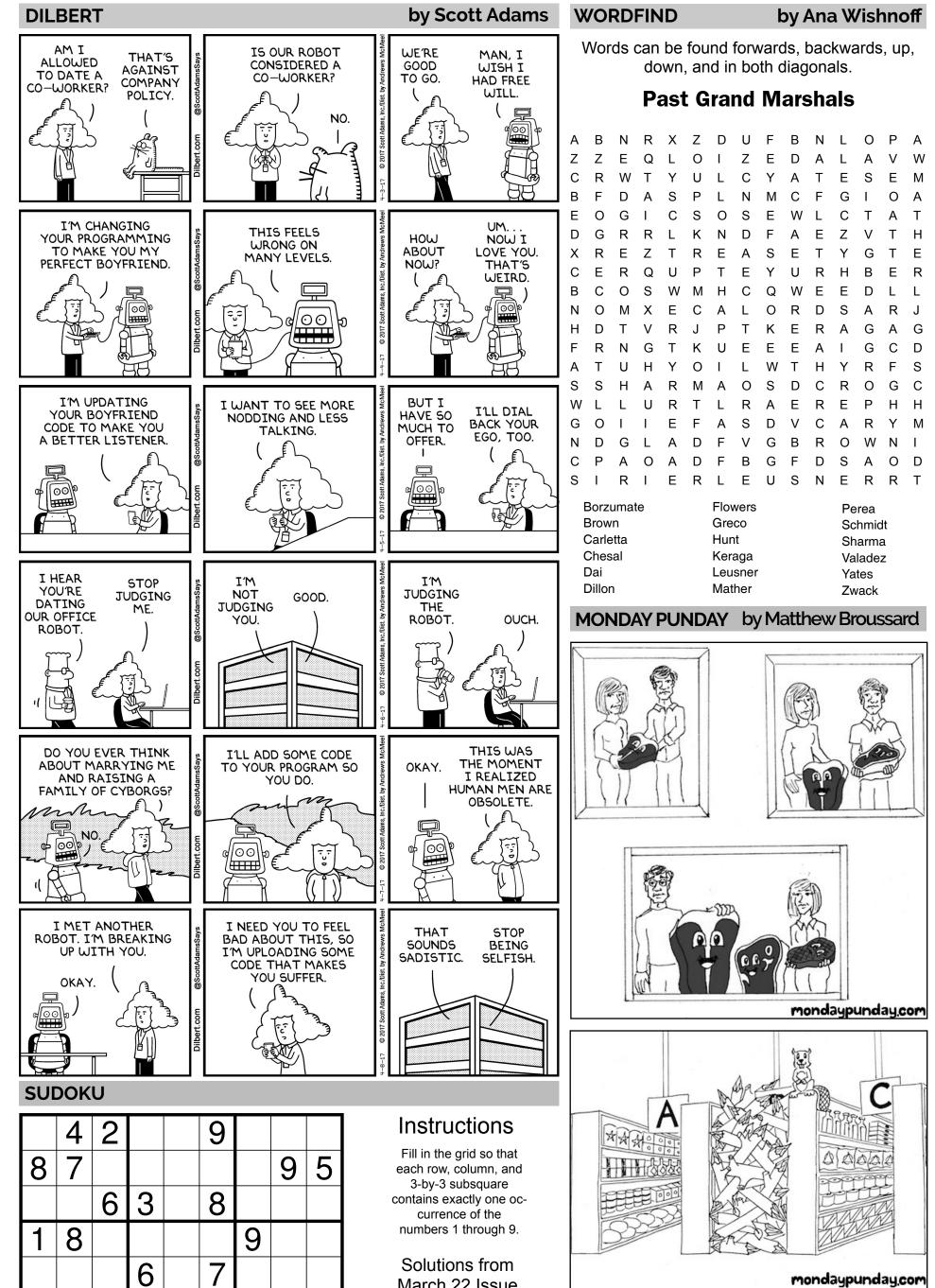


PARTICIPANTS EAGERLY DANCED to American and Indian music (file photo).

as potatoes, onions, peas, and lentils) were good, if a little cold, but I can't say much about the water guns. The few times I got collateral spray were bearable-in contrast, I saw ISA members drenching each other with tubs of water, and I can't imagine that'd be fun for the target.

The powder came in a variety of powder, you were free to throw it at anyone you wanted to... literin the joy of spring and color. Music helped create an atmosphere as uplifting as the weather. Both Indian and American songs were being blasted at a very high volume, per Indian culture, and people danced like it was middle school again, jumping up and down, fist pumping, and making conga lines. In all, Sunday was wonderful to begin with, and ISA's event made it that much more bright and colorful. It might not be everyone's cup of tea, especially if you're afraid of getting some powder in your eyes or mouth (the taste of the colored powder definitely isn't my cup of tea), but I would personally recommend going at least once in your time at RPI. College is the perfect time to have messy fun, and who knows when you'll come across a Holi event next? ♦

Comics • 9



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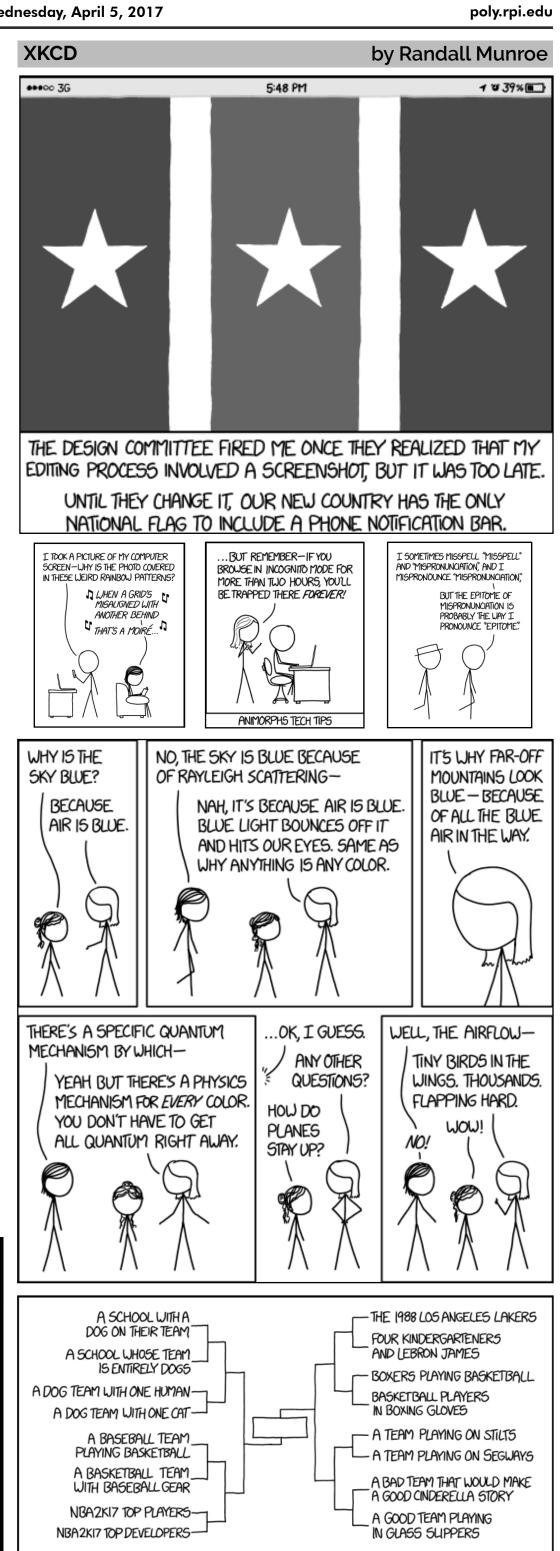
March 22 Issue

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BASEBALL Rensselaer falters versus RIT; drops to 6-12

Jack Wellhofer Senior Reporter

Rensselaer had a tough home opening weekend against Rochester Institute of Technology, losing both doubleheader games Saturday and splitting Sunday's games 1-1.

On the second pitch of the game, the Tiger's Navada Waterman tripled to center field, setting the tone for the rest of the game. Waterman was sent home during the next at bat, putting one up for RIT.

The Engineers matched RIT in the second, with a double from senior Thomas Desmond. A poke into right field from junior Ethann Meister allowed Desmond to get home.

From there, the Tigers became an unstoppable run scoring machine. RIT put runs on the board in every inning from the third through the seventh. During that same time, RPI only scraped together one run during the sixth, a solo homer from senior Sam Lawrence. At the end of the game, the score stood at 14-2.

RIT was again the first one out of the gate in the second game. Two runs in the first and two more in the second put them at a comfortable 4-0 lead. But the Engineers had learned their lesson from the last game, and were prepared to score some runs. Desmond lead off the bottom of the second with a home run. Later in the inning, senior Jeff Satiski managed to steal home.

But RPI's biggest inning was still on the horizon. In the third inning, the team's bats went wild. Eight men rounded the bases before RIT scraped together three outs. The runs came courtesy of singles from Satiski and junior Christian Spaguola, a triple from senior Justin Valente, and a two-run home run from Lawrence. The Engineers sat comfortably at 10-4.

As any veteran of the game knows, the game's not over until it's over. With only three innings gone, there was still plenty of time for RIT to come back. And come back they did. RPI expanded their lead by one in the bottom of the third, but RIT had their big inning in the sixth. The Tigers closed the seven run gap to only two, after three hits and two errors by the Engineers.

Going into the ninth, RIT was trailing by one. Just three outs and the Engineers would claim their first Liberty League victory of the season. A groundout to first and a strikeout put that goal within one. An error put a man on first, and a double followed that, putting two in scoring position. Unfortunately for the Engineers, another double sent both men home. RIT had secured a lead.



Jack Wellhofer/The Polytechnic

SENIOR SAM LAWRENCE SQUARES UP in the box. This season, he's batting .328, third-best on the team. (file photo)

The Engineers did not manage to scrape together a run in the bottom of the inning, just barely losing 12–11.

The teams returned to Robinson Field on Sunday for another double header. Unlike Saturday, Sunday's games were much lower scoring. The Engineers got on the board first during the fourth inning from a double by senior Sean Welling which sent Lawrence, who walked, home. RIT put up three in the next inning, and the Engineers only managed one more run before the game was over.

Fighting to not get swept by the Tigers, RPI entered the final game of the weekend. RIT scored one run in the

first, matched by Rensselaer in the second. The innings remained quiet until the sixth, when the bats came alive and the score came to 3-1 RPI.

RIT got held to just one run the following inning. One more run came home for RPI in the eight, marking the end of scoring for the game. The Engineers won 4–2.

The Engineers are 6–12 overall and 1–3 in the Liberty League. They have one game against St. Lawrence University on April 5, and then two make-up games against Clarkson University over the weekend. \Diamond

TENNIS RPI extinguishes Saints

Maria Espinosa Senior Reporter

IT WAS A SUCCESSFUL WEEKEND FOR THE MEN'S tennis team as they travelled to Canton, NY to play St. Lawrence University. The Engineers swept the Saints, 9–0, breaking their a win in singles. He beat his opponent in five-match losing streak. The Engineers won consecutive sets, 6–0, 6–2. Castillo-Sanchez all their doubles matches and all their singles and Wise also dominated their opponents, matches, only dropping one set.

SLU, 8–2. After this win, Castillo-Sanchez and Ebenfeld were selected as the Liberty League Doubles Team of the Week. This is the fifth time this freshmen duo has been awarded this honor. Previously, they were selected as the Liberty League Doubles Team of the Week three times in the fall and then again in February.

Next, victories by the doubles team of freshman Winston Yu and junior Sundar Devakottai and by the doubles team of junior Tristan Wise and freshman Xavier Oshinowo, further widened RPI's lead to 3-0.

Xavier Oshinowo was the first to capture winning 6–1, 7–5 and 6–3, 6–4, respectively. The No. 1 doubles team made up of fresh- Even though they had to go to tie breakers, men Sebastian Castillo-Sanchez and Zach Ebenfeld and Yu were also able to win their Ebenfeld gave the Engineers their first win singles matches in consecutive sets, finishing of the day. The duo won their doubles match 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 and 6-4, 7-6 (7-5), respecagainst Dean Sponholz and Eric Tecce of tively. Sophomore Suryansh Patel lost his first set, but was able to come back from behind and win his match 2-6, 7-5, 10-4. After this past weekend, the Engineers now stand with a 5-5 overall record and a 1-1 conference record. They will play again this Sunday along with the women's team. The Engineers will host Rochester Institute of Technology and Bard College at Sharp Courts. ♦

Scores from the Week Saturday, April 1

Women's Lacrosse vs RIT	W 7-5
Men's Lacrosse at Vassar College	L 9-11
Sunday, April 2	
Men's Golf at The Hershey Cup	T 9 of 15
Men's Track and Field at Tufts Snowflake Classic	2 of 18

Men's lacrosse takes on Union College this Saturday at 1 pm at home. We hope to see many fans cheering on the nationally ranked team there!

Women's Track and Field at Tufts Snowflake Classic	3 of 22
Men's Tennis at St. Lawrence University	W 9-0
Baseball vs RIT	L 2-14
Women's Lacrosse vs University of Rochester	L6-8
Baseball vs RIT	L 11-12
Monday, April 3	
Men's Golf at The Hershey Cup	5 of 15
Baseball vs RIT	L 2-3
Baseball vs RIT	W 4-2
Tuesday, April 4	
Men's Lacrosse at Oneonta	W 19-7

Sports

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

CLUB HOCKEY

First steps in future success for club team

Jack Wellhofer Senior Reporter

OVER SPRING BREAK, RENS-Hockey Association team traveled to the Division 2 national tournament in Columbus, Ohio. Although the team did not go all the way, it was an impressive top-ranked team in the country, showing for a club team that is [Lindenwood University, Belonly eight years old and having their first time appearance on the national level. The final rankings of the 2016-17 season put the club hockey team at number 12 in the nation.

similar to the Olympics, in that the 16 qualifying teams are divided into four groups, one from SELAER'S American Collegiate each division. The teams play three games, and whoever has the most points will advance to the next round.

> leville], and they played like it," remarked junior forward Louis Olivieri. "Losing 5-1 the first game was wakeup call for us."

"Drained, but not discouraged,

The tournament is organized Arizona University the next day and won 2-1 for our first National Tournament victory in club history," noted junior goaltender Ranger Beguelin. "The mood, tempo, and execution were worlds different than the first game."

Later that evening, Mi-"The first game was against the ami University of Ohio upset Linderwood, setting the stage for Rensselaer advancement. Rensselaer would need to defeat Miami the following day and hope that tiebreakers fall in their favor.

"As fate would have it, the team we regrouped against Northern came out looking worse than they

uelin. "By the time we were five flected Beguelin. minutes into the second period, we were down 4-0." The team called a timeout, made a goaltending change, and began the comeback. Club hockey got on the board just a few minutes later. At the end of the third period, the team was just two goals short of tying the game at five a piece.

"I think 10 more minutes of play could have evened the score. It's painful to think you have done something incorrectly for so long, realized your mistake and made the change, and then still not be able to make up for

[did in] the first game," said Beg- the damage done earlier," re-

"As a graduating member of the team, I am proud of what our class has left behind and have no doubt that you will see the RPI ACHA Hockey Team back at the National Tournament in the very short future," remarked graduate student Adam Hennick. "A special thank you to everyone who supports our program, from RPI Athletics, RPI TV and the Houston Field House staff, along with the great people at the Student Union and E-Board who made all of this possible." \Diamond



Courtesy of Ben Vreeland

ALTHOUGH THE TEAM WENT 1-2 during the national tournament, there are high hopes for future nationals success for the young hockey club in the coming years.