

Inside

Comics.....	3
Editorial/Opinion ...	6
Features	4
Sports.....	8

Connect

Visit us online at:
poly.rpi.edu
 Like us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/thepolytechnic](https://www.facebook.com/thepolytechnic)
 Follow us on Twitter and Instagram:
[@RPIPoly](https://twitter.com/RPIPoly)

FEATURES
Page 4



Superior Merchandise Company offers hip vibes, great coffee

SPORTS
Page 8



Women's soccer continues streak against Sage Colleges

EDITORIAL
Page 6

Rex Hu

Mindfulness, balance, and productivity

NRB Editorial

Protecting Rensselaer's DACA students

RENSSELAER UNION

Memo: RPI president can pick Union director



Elena Perez/The Polytechnic

A RECENT MEMO STATES that the director of the Union is appointed by the president of Rensselaer, as per the bylaws of the Institute and the *Union Constitution*. (file photo)

Nathan Dorer
Sidney Kochman
Senior Reporters

THE RENSSELAER UNION HAS LACKED A DIRECTOR since former Director of the Union Joe Cassidy's departure in January 2016. In an effort to fill the position, the Division for Human Resources has been conducting a search for candidates. On Wednesday, September 13, the on-campus portion of the search for a director of the Union begins as two candidates will be coming to RPI. During their time here, each will be interviewed for an hour by a committee of 20 students. Ultimately, according to the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*, the next director of the Union will need to be approved by a vote of the Rensselaer Union Executive Board.

In a memorandum issued by Vice President for Human Resources Curtis Powell (poly.rpi.edu/s/dotumemo), the Division of Human Resources states that the director of the Union position as outlined by the *Union Constitution* will be appointed by the president of Rensselaer. Powell wrote that the president is entitled to "approve annually the terms and

conditions of employment and salary policies for all staff, faculty, and administrators and other employees of the Institute." However, Article I of the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* (poly.rpi.edu/s/rpibylaws) declares that "the Board shall carry out" that function. Furthermore, the president is allowed to "exercise a general superintendence over all the affairs of the institution" as per Article VIII.

Powell continues by quoting the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*, Article V, which states that the director must exercise her duties "in accordance with the policies of the Rensselaer Board of Trustees." Powell asserts that this fragment indicates that "the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* must fall within the bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute."

Historically, the director of the Union has reported to the Executive Board, and members of the Board vote to approve anyone taking up the position. In 2011, however, the Executive Board did not vote before Cassidy was appointed director of the Union. In Spring 2016, proposed changes to the Division of Student Life (poly.rpi.edu/s/tgnei) sparked a protest outside of the president's Spring Town Meeting (poly.rpi.edu/s/sh2q7). ♦

STUDENT HEALTH

Counseling Center to revamp this semester

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

AT THE END OF THE SPRING 2017 SEMESTER, THE STUDENT Senate released Counseling Center survey results and areas for recommendation. The survey results included both quantitative and qualitative data on the student experience summarizing the general findings of the year-long study. Due to the sensitive nature of the counseling and the feedback provided by students, anonymity was guaranteed by the Senate subcommittee, led by Nathan Dorer '18, to all survey respondents. The survey was shared with the Rensselaer community via social media from November 3 to November 15, 2016.

According to the results from the survey, the vast majority of respondents claimed to have gone to the Counseling Center more than one time in a semester, with nearly 50 percent of students claiming to have gone 2–5 times throughout the semester and over a quarter having gone 6–10 times. Of those who use or have discontinued using the Counseling Center, 32.3 percent stated that they continue to use the center, 17.2 percent stated that their condition has improved and they may go back as needed, and 31.2 percent said that they had a bad experience at the Counseling Center.

Of those who never used the service, 32.4 percent chose not to use it since they heard about a bad experience, 36.8 percent had never needed counseling services, and 7.4 percent had difficulty scheduling an appointment. In terms of overall satisfaction with the Counseling Center, with 10 being the highest and zero being the lowest, survey recipients expressed an average of 5.4. According to the report, 47 percent of all those who responded to the survey gave the Counseling Center a rating of 5 or below.

See COUNSELING, **Page 2**

STUDENT SENATE

Title IX coordinators visit senators

Peter Gramenides
Senior Reporter

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2017, GRAND Marshal Justin Etzine '18 opened the meeting with his weekly report, stating that the hiring process for the new director of the Union is ongoing. Etzine conceded that he cannot share more about the process, except that interviews are currently being conducted. Following the GM report, the Student Senate received a presentation from Title IX Coordinators Elizabeth Brown-Boyette and Larry Hardy.

In a guided discussion, the Senate jointly conversed with the Title IX coordinators about the provisions of Rensselaer's *Student Sexual Misconduct Policy* including strict rules against sexual harassment, sexual assault, intimate partner violence,

and stalking. Senate members also asked questions regarding social media stalking, in which the coordinators explained that social media stalking is also a violation of RPI's policies. The Senate discussed the specific definitions and situations regarding consent in which the legal definition was given as "words or actions that create clear permission." Consent does not apply under the physical or mental inability to make informed, rational judgements and could be revoked at any time.

Senators also shared concerns that their constituents may not seek out help for sexual harassment, out of fear of repercussions if they were under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In response, the Title IX coordinators stated that no individual participating

in the complaint or investigation process will be subject to conduct charges based on their admission to alcohol or drug use. A person's prior sexual activity with individuals outside of the situation at hand will also not be considered and cooperation by the victim is not required in an investigation. All victims are also entitled to bring a confidential advisor and emotional support person with them to all meetings, interviews, and proceedings. These individuals may include, but are not limited to, a roommate, legal counsel, or member of the Rensselaer staff.

The Title IX coordinators also provided statistics on sexual assault allegations at Rensselaer from February 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017. During that time, there were 11 cases on intimate partner violence, 33

cases on sexual assault, 13 cases on sexual harassment, and 8 cases on stalking, totaling 65 cases. Of the 33 cases involving sexual assault, 19 complaints, or over 57 percent of complaints involved the use of drugs or alcohol. "We are pretty sure the number is a little higher than that," stated Brown-Boyette.

At the time of the presentation, 51 cases were closed out of 65 total cases. Of the outcomes of those cases, 43 percent had no policy violation. Of the remaining individuals, 6 were subject to expulsion, 3 were subject to suspension, 7 were subject to disciplinary probation, 3 were not applicable since they were not RPI students, and 8 received other disciplinary actions including written warnings, educational programs, or no contact orders. ♦

EXECUTIVE BOARD

E-Board approves pharmacy delivery service

Sidney Kochman
Senior Reporter

ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, THE RENSSELAER Union Executive Board held its first meeting of the Fall semester. The E-Board discussed proposals related to an on-campus pharmacy, RPI Ballroom Dance, UPAC Sound, and Rensselaer Outing Club. Associate Director of Procurement Services Rachael Capo and Executive Director of the Health Center Leslie Lawrence presented an update on bringing a pharmacy to Rensselaer’s campus.

In response to student demand, the Student Senate began investigating how to provide an on-campus pharmacy service and brought the idea to Procurement Services years ago. Presented with this idea, Procurement Services began researching the best way for RPI to provide a pharmacy service, and has narrowed it down to one primary choice: Marra’s Pharmacy.

The outline of the service that Marra’s aims to provide places an emphasis on directly connecting with the students through, for example, text messages, instead of through the Health Center. They plan to deliver prescriptions to a central location on campus, which will be a room in one of the Union’s facilities. As Marra’s would bring in the prescriptions whenever they are scheduled to be on campus, and since all they would require is a table and chair, they could tear everything down before they leave, and the room could

be used for other purposes outside of pharmacy hours. Capo said that Marra’s hours could be flexible and adjusted to the demands of the students. For instance, they could initially start with a service that delivers to campus on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, due to each day usually having a different class schedule. If this proves to be inconvenient, Procurement Services would work with Marra’s to determine other times that prescriptions could be brought to campus.

Representative David Raab ’19 asked why the plan is to have Marra’s deliver to the Union rather than the Health Center. President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19 said that it should be in the Union since it is a student-demanded and -initiated project. Additionally, Lawrence said that space in the Health Center is at a premium, and it is unlikely that they would be able to find a room that Marra’s could use. Also, the Union is open later than the Health Center, which closes at 5 pm on weekdays, leaving open the possibility of evening pharmacy hours.

Ultimately, the E-Board voted 18–0–0 to allow a prescription delivery service in a Union facility. The E-Board unanimously approved RPI Ballroom Dance’s requested reallocations in order to cover a lack of participation in their Argentine tango branch, along with increased dues and 1000 pages of color printing. UPAC Sound was seeking approval for bylaws changes, such as adding a webmaster and only requiring a two-thirds

vote by their voting members to change their bylaws. Rand ruled the motion out of order due to confusion over how the changes might affect bylaws ratification in the future. In the president’s report, Rand noted that the RPI Badminton Club’s operations have been suspended until September 17 due to members of the club entering an RPI building without proper supervision. Specific officers are suspended until October 2. Rand does not plan to bring the matter to the dean of students.

Steve Allard, director of the Mueller Center, shared that the search for an assistant director of the Mueller Center is nearing its end. Four candidates have been interviewed by a panel of 20 people, of which eight or nine are students, according to Allard.

At this point, the E-Board voted unanimously to close the meeting to the public. During this section, they voted 18–0–0 to approve a motion to suspend operations of the Rensselaer Outing Club if any alcohol is found or “unsafe activity is happening as determined by certified Union staff members” during their Fall Lake George Trip. On Monday, this trip was canceled by the Outing Club, which cited “concerns from the Executive Board of the Union and Mueller Center employees about the risk and liability” of the event. Additionally, the E-Board voted 18–0–0 to place the Outing Club on probation.

The E-Board will meet on Thursday at 8 pm in the Shellnut Gallery. ♦

The Polytechnic will hold elections
at 3 pm on Sunday, September
17 in our office, RU 3418. Contact
Editor in Chief Sidney Kochman
at sid@poly.rpi.edu with any
questions.

Counseling: Center prepares additional staff

From **Page 1** On a scale from one to 10, students were asked what their satisfaction was with the Counseling Center website. Nearly 30 percent of all respondents chose a one, with an average satisfaction of 3.9 out of 10. In response, the Counseling Center revamped their website for the Fall 2017 semester, which went live during the summer. On the new health portal, students are currently able to make appointments online for both general medicine and gynecology. However, those seeking assistance at the counseling center must still call in order to make an appointment. According to the Counseling Center survey, 91.2 percent of students would prefer to make appointments online rather than over the phone or at the Counseling Center. ♦

Solve puzzles!
Find hidden objects!
Escape the room!

Lime Shirt Studios L.L.C. Presents:

 **nigmatic
escapes**

*10%
Student
Discount
Everyday!*

Troy’s First Escape Room
**Second floor of the
Troy Atrium**
Check us out at:
www.limeshirtstudios.com
[facebook/EnigmaticEscapes](https://facebook.com/EnigmaticEscapes)

**Come Join us at
The Clubhouse Pub!**

★ Upcoming Events ★

September 14: Pub’s 27th Birthday

September 28: Painting at the Pub



October 5: Hispanic Wine & Dine



Karaoke & Dancing Night-Latin Theme

October 14: Reunion Weekend Trivia

October 13-31: Paint Your Pumpkin



Also Check Out Our Weekly Events!

Monday: Guinness and Wing Night

Wednesday: Mug Night

Thursday: Wine Night

Friday: Happy Hour

Saturday: Trivia




DILBERT

by Scott Adams


YOUR IDEA WILL NEVER WORK.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO DUMB TO UNDERSTAND IT.




I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU TAKE A VACATION.

I TAKE MENTAL VACATIONS.



I HIRED AN ENGINEER WHO HAS NO SOUL.


THIS WAY, I WON'T FEEL SO BAD WHEN I MOTIVATE HIM WITH EMOTIONAL ABUSE.



THIS IS RANDY, OUR NEW EMPLOYEE WHO HAS NO SOUL.

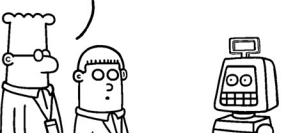
WOW. WHAT'S IT LIKE TO HAVE NO SOUL?

I FEEL ONLY EMPTINESS AND PAIN.



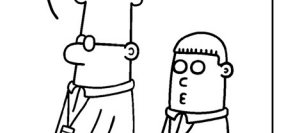
ROBOT, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET RANDY. HE HAS NO SOUL, JUST LIKE YOU.

WHAT'S THE ETIQUETTE FOR THIS SITUATION? DO WE HIGH-FIVE, THEN KILL THE SOUL-BAG WHERE HE STANDS?




HOW DID YOU END UP WITH NO SOUL?

I DIED DURING SURGERY AND MY SOUL WENT TO THE AFTERLIFE BEFORE DOCTORS REANIMATED MY BODY.




I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT.

THAT'S CONSISTENT WITH MY HYPOTHESIS.




SOUNDS DUMB. IS THERE ANY DOWN-SIDE?

THE LOCALS COULD BE FRIENDLIER.




YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

HA! YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEVER FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT STUFF.




I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TAKE THIS JOB TO GET AWAY FROM EMPTINESS AND PAIN.

NO, I JUST WANTED TO GET PAID FOR IT.




I CAN HEAR YOU.

HE MAKES A GOOD POINT. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SURPRISE HIM.



I THOUGHT THE SOUL RETURNS WHEN THAT HAPPENS.

YOU'RE THINKING OF HEAVEN.



WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

...

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY SHOW? DID YOU LIKE IT? BE HONEST!

IT WAS GREAT!

MY LEAST FAVORITE ASPECT OF TYPING NOTIFICATIONS

TOP TEN LIST

Memes of the Summer

10. MoCkInG sPoNgEbob

9. Crash bandicoot “woah”

8. The floor is lava

7. Boot too big

6. Cracking open a cold one

5. Understandable, have a great day

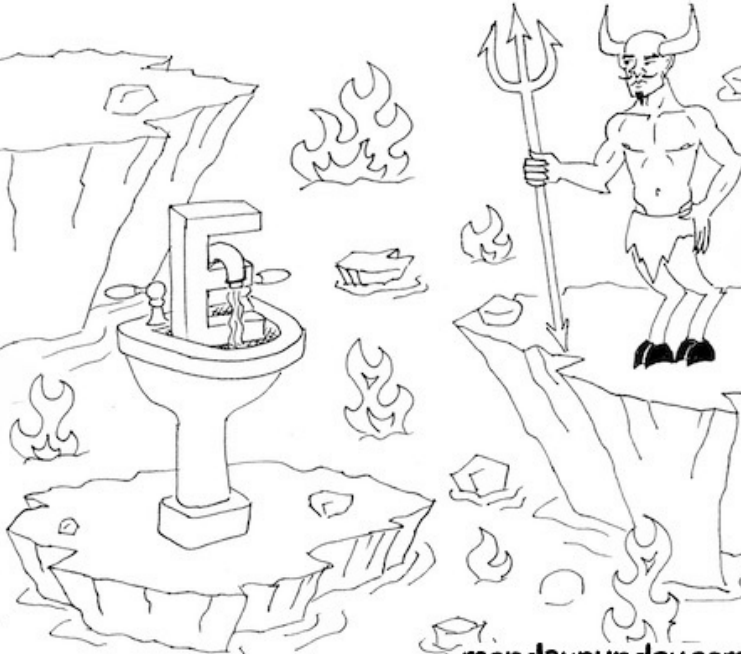
4. Distracted boyfriend

3. Snapchat hot dog

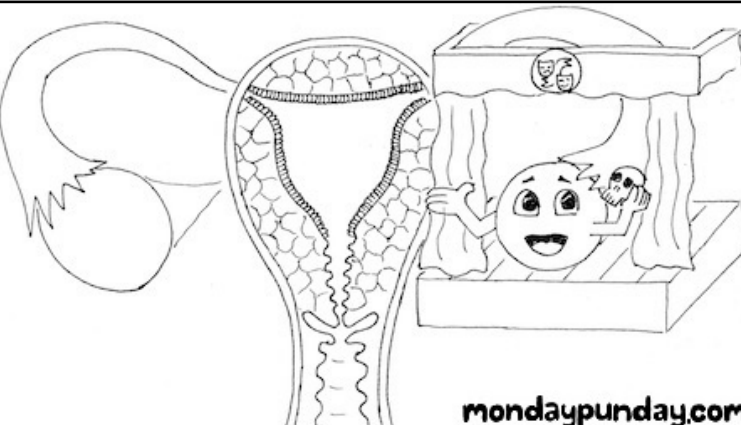
2. Babadook

1. Arch

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard



mondaypunday.com



mondaypunday.com

UPAC C I N E M A

UPAC C I N E M A

UPAC C I N E M A

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2

Friday • September 15, 2017
7 pm, 10 pm. 1 am • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Men in Black

Saturday • September 16, 2017
7 pm, 9:30 pm. 12 am • DCC 308 • \$2.50

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Shop caters to hipsters, reviewer thrilled



Courtesy of Superior Merchandise Company

SUPERIOR MERCHANDISE COMPANY BLENDS a coffee shop with a bar, and offers a unique experience for customers.

Joseph Lyon
Staff Reviewer

IN THE TWO WEEKS THAT I HAVE BEEN ON CAMPUS, I HAVE rediscovered why I love Superior Merchandise Company. Located at 147 4th Street in Troy, it ticks off all of the boxes on my list of why a shop should exist. It is a totally

unique experience in Troy that everyone should visit at least once. With curated goods ranging from craft beers to beard sculpting products, SMC gives visitors a friendly and enriching shopping experience. In addition to the craft goods, high quality coffee is served behind the counter on a rotating basis, with different roasts brought in regularly. The whole atmosphere of the store is unique, and strikes

me as the hipster college student’s paradise. Walking in, the first thing my eye is drawn to is the contrasting white walls and black accents that provide a modern feel and give off a high quality vibe. When you walk in, you can spend some time perusing the curated products lining the shelves. The merchandise at SMC has its own unique feel that, despite the wide array of products, seems well-put together. The soap bars fit right in next to the stylized towels and bags. Approaching the bar, you are greeted by friendly baristas who may be grinding coffee, preparing food, or serving craft beer. Although the food choices are limited, mainly toast and jam, everything gives off a cohesive feeling. I rarely feel limited in my options, despite the small menu. After ordering, the barista asks if you are taking that to go or to stay. At this point, I highly recommend staying, taking a minute, and looking around. Enjoy the company of the people you are with, enjoy the feel of the store. There is no Wi-Fi, and cell reception is abysmal if you are trying to do any internet-connected work. But, in my opinion, this really improves the aesthetic of the store, which seems to encourage you to slow down and appreciate where you are.

SMC regularly varies the coffee they serve, unlike many coffee places. I am not the biggest fan of the current espresso roast by itself—I feel it has more of a sweet taste compared to many other espresso roasts. However, it does make good lattes, mochas, and espresso beverages. The current iced coffee, a roast by The Coffee Collective, is extremely high quality, with a very bold flavor. All in all, SMC gives off a unique vibe that every student at RPI should experience at least once in their college career, regardless of their tastes in coffee. ♦

ALBUM REVIEW

XXXtentacion: edgy

Serge Piskun
Senior Reviewer

XXXTENTACION IS A CONTROVERSIAL HUMAN being. From multiple prison sentences, to troubling witness testimonies, to the sheer energy he puts into his shows and lifestyle, the man cannot be completely analyzed. He has been named “the most controversial freshman” by XXL hip-hop magazine, which described him as one of this year’s ten up-and-coming rap stars. That being said, his latest album, *17*, aims to shed some light on his state of mind and show the darker side of his personality. Dealing with topics such as suicide and lost love, XXXtentacion sometimes sings and sometimes rants about his struggles. Coming in at a grand total of 22 minutes long, the album is abnormally short by modern standards; each one of the 11 songs skips by before you realize you finished it.

Each song, therefore, needs to relay a specific emotion, or specific message, or just be a good song. Some songs do meet these standards, others do not. Take, for example, “Jocelyn Flores,” a song made in memory of one of X’s friends who committed suicide while with him in Miami. The song is dripping with emotion—a sad piano accompanies lo-fi background vocals while X raps about the dangers of depression and how it took him by surprise. In contrast,

“Dead Inside (Interlude)” misses all of its marks. Having a song with barely audible vocals over nothing but a piano playing a few simple chords doesn’t accomplish anything; the album’s sad vibe had already been well-established before this song, which does nothing but shove that down the listener’s throat.

The most “mainstream” song on this album, “Fuck Love” featuring Trippie Redd, is the only part of *17* I expect will make it to public radio, and even then, the name might hinder it. Its catchy drum beat combined with its relatable vocals and non-controversial message make it a hit, while its short length means it does not need cutting like some singles.

17 reminds me of emo rock, more specifically Bring Me the Horizon, but with rap or mumbling instead of the genre’s characteristic screaming. I enjoyed most of the album, but some songs felt redundant or out of place. I think this isn’t necessarily popular music, but rather niche music for fans of the genre. X is planning on releasing more albums in the near future, so I’m expecting them to take a different direction to compensate for the more intimate, personal route this album took. Give this album a listen, but expect to either love it or hate it—no in-between. ♦

Constitution Day

CONVERSATIONS & PIZZA

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
12 PM - 1 PM

SHELNUTT GALLERY

SPONSORED BY STUDENT VETERANS OF AMERICA

Interested in writing or taking photos?
Join *The Poly*!
Tuesdays at 7 pm in Union 3418!

ALBUM REVIEW

Melodrama loses signature Lorde magic

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reviewer

I SHOULD PREFACE THIS BY SAYING THAT I MIGHT BE the ultimate Lorde loyalist; I fell in love with the album *Pure Heroine* in the last minutes of my senior year of high school, and it served largely as the soundtrack for my transition to college. As an artist, she presented a sense of self-awareness in her writing that I wasn't quite familiar with. Here was a young girl—17 at the time *Pure Heroine* was released—who seemed to really understand the sleepless, manic life-style of young people just starting to grow into themselves. She became a smash hit almost seemingly overnight, and I will be the first to admit that I was swept in her image.

However, possibly the most shocking part about Lorde's debut was just how quickly she retreated into solitude. Following the release of her debut album, Lorde produced only a handful of singles over the course of a four-year hiatus. She maintained some semblance of a high-profile in her celebrity friendship with Taylor Swift and her active Twitter presence, but her music came in bursts and even then to mixed reactions. When Lorde finally announced her second album in the beginning of 2017, I had already bitten my nails to the quick.

Here is where I need to be frank: *Melodrama* disappointed me. For all of the tangible, relatable personality that Lorde had exercised in *Pure Heroine*, it seemed like she had lost touch in her five years in the limelight. The lyrics that she crafted weren't about capturing the multidimensionality of youth anymore—they had largely devolved into songs about being in

love and half-hearted attempts at reflecting on millennials as a generation. I suppose it's difficult for a person to write music that speaks to the layperson when you're fabulously wealthy and high-profile. After listening to the album once, I couldn't help but ask myself where the insight had gone, and who Lorde was trying to brand herself as.

That being said, I still haven't quite managed to stop listening to *Melodrama*. I had hoped for the smooth harmonies that Lorde had perfected with *Pure Heroine*, but her newest album presents a much more industrial feel. Songs like "The Louvre" play on clichéd themes about self-consciousness in the face of romance, but capture the listener with an entirely new, upbeat, and decidedly catchy undertone that comes largely out of left field. While the lyrics of her music seem to have lost some momentum in terms of impact, she has managed to create an entirely new, remarkably catchy sound in her newest album. "Hard Feelings" is a relatively typical breakup song, but captures attention in the painstaking detail of its grungy, emotional production. What Lorde has created in her newest album didn't have the emotional impact that I was hoping for, but it does serve as a perfectly respectable evolution for an artist I am perfectly respectful of.

For all its disappointments, I have to admit that *Melodrama* is full of surprises. Maybe this isn't an album that was meant for me; I'm not the person that I was when I fell in love with *Pure Heroine*, and that might explain why *Melodrama* doesn't resonate with me. Whatever it may be, the album is thoughtful and constructive, and I don't hesitate to recommend it. ♦



Courtesy of Liliane Callegari

IN MELODRAMA, LORDE TRADES the sound that made her famous for marketability.

ALBUM REVIEW

Oh Wonder brings emotion with *Ultralife*

Maria Kozdroy
Staff Reviewer

ONCE I HEARD THE NEW OH WONDER SONG "Ultralife," I looked it up to find out about it; to my surprise it is part of the new album *Ultralife*, released in mid-July of this year. The alternative-pop duo consists of Josephine Vander Gucht and Anthony West. Their music is relaxing and extremely catchy—it's great for trying to get your mind off school, falling asleep, going on a light run, or playing in the background when chilling with

friends. Their new album has songs a bit more upbeat than their first and only other album, *Oh Wonder*.

The album *Ultralife* makes the listener explore life in a different sense; the beauty and simplicity of life is interpreted in the lyrics and rhythms of the songs. The song that speaks out the most to me is "Waste." It's a slower song but has a deeper meaning, found in a chorus that repeats a bunch of times—"what a waste to be so alone." It examines the positives of memories and the negatives that have

spawned from a situation. These thoughts can really suck, and we can ponder them indefinitely. The song gradually picks up and then gives out abruptly, ending the entire album.

"High on Humans" puts me in another universe where you're going on a ride with the song, up and down. You're on an adventure finding out about other humans, and questioning what's around you. "We ride up, we slide up, we won't stop lighting our minds up," is a chain of events in exploring life and humanity.

Many of the songs examine the lows of life, but bring hope that everything will be okay, as seen in the song "Slip Away." The phrase "Oh my, my, my; Oh how I tried" is so prevalent and demonstrates that even though we may keep trying, we might still never get what we want. As sad as it is, we have to keep going. It's part of life—ultralife.

This album brings forth good times, sad after-thoughts, and hope, and for this reason, it is a fantastic. Be prepared for the mixed emotions that Oh Wonder's music will bring to you. ♦



Courtesy of Justin Higuchi

OH WONDER'S NEW ALBUM FOCUSES on songs that exhibit emotions, creating music that conveys good vibes, whether it be slow introspective music or upbeat positive bangers.

Editorial

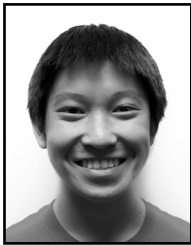
Wednesday, September 13, 2017

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK

Managing editor shares personal ideals, anecdotes

Mindfulness: why it matters to balance awareness and outreach, logic and emotion

I WAS SCARED TO WRITE THIS NOTEBOOK. I was afraid it would seem like I’m not chill, or like I have a sociopolitically charged opinion (I promise I’m not a social justice warrior). In the end, I decided to write it as part of a personal endeavor to speak up when it matters to me. I like to think I’m pretty good at being ambivalent, so I’ve done my best to write it in a way that balances emotional investment in culture and appeal to logic.



Rex Hu
Managing Editor

Here’s my case for mindfulness: two anecdotes and three dualities. This summer, a friend visited me in San Jose. We went to the park, because I thought that was a perfectly good way to spend time. When I got home, however, my mother presented me with another perspective: when someone visits a place, they want to know what makes it unique and what it has to offer. A better idea, she suggested, would have been to go on a hike or take him to try food that he wouldn’t see in his neighborhood. That made me realize that I had never considered genuinely getting

to know my surroundings or sharing it with others. And I felt bad. This past Friday, I stumbled across a Facebook event called Lantern Fest being hosted by Sack Lunch Productions—a for-profit company that runs the ‘fun’ events that you see in Facebook viral videos. But, intentionally or not, they’d appropriated two cultural phenomena: Holli (their Color Me Rad event), the Indian spring festival of colors, and sky lanterns (their Lantern Fest event), a tradition in both Asian and Latin American countries. The events were advertised for surface-level aesthetic and entertainment, with no mention of the cultural inspirations in the FAQs; I don’t expect each individual to be culturally aware, but a public influence like Sack Lunch Productions should be held accountable. Combined with the global dominance of western culture, which can selectively include parts of other cultures (explanation at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/cm8ra>), I believe these events qualify as appropriation. This organization was

making money from these events. And I felt angry. These anecdotes hint at something everyone can continually improve in: being mindful. There are two parts to that—coming into awareness of differences, and reaching out to communicate those differences and work with them. For example, I could’ve learned about my neighborhood, and that would’ve enabled me to share it with my friend. Sack Lunch Productions could take steps to research the background of the events they host. Reflecting that on their websites would allow these pop culture phenomena to help celebrate other diverse cultures, instead of stripping away identity. When I told my friends about the appropriated event, some reacted with apathy, and some with anger. This brings me to a second duality: logic and emotion. My friends came to the conclusion that these events only produced positive results (happy people) and not negative ones (tangible harm), whereas my angry friends couldn’t excuse the appropriation. Each has its reasons, but I’d like to argue for both. Emotion is the essence of the human experience—everyone

feels, and being able to understand where others are coming from is important. But they also get really messy. So, in order to handle them appropriately, it’s necessary to stop and logically step through the reasons for those emotions and the actions that should be taken to address them. This way, we can all constructively work with the things we care about and find compromise for all parties involved. That brings me to my third duality: passion and productivity (a job you love or a job that pays?), because it’s that emotional spark that brings people together and affects change. Honestly, when I say passion, I mean a combination of logic and emotion. If you’re trying to accomplish something, you need a motivation that has a sound purpose and strategy; but it’s not enough to just daydream. When you find a vision you need to, as a friend once told me, hit the ground running. Whether that’s hours of planning or grunt work, what matters is that your conviction is being transformed into real change. Otherwise, your dream deferred “just sags/like a heavy load.” These anecdotes also show that I’m still growing. They delineate my carelessness and passion re-

garding culture, and that’s how I’ve always thought of myself: I care, but I don’t put in the necessary effort. That needs to change, and that’s what I’m making now all about. (If you read my past notebooks, throwback! It’s time to leave ProcrastinatoRex in the past.) These are some of my most valued personal ideals and endeavors for a reason, and I’d like to share them in the hopes that others will consider them as well. So TL;DR: I believe that everyone has to care—that’s the first step. And then we need to move forward with that by being aware of differences, and reaching out with a balance of logic and emotion in order to communicate with a wider range of people, and then channeling that motivation into productive work. I think that keeping these key concepts in consideration can resolve a majority of our problems, whether in relationships, the workplace, or internationally. I know that’s heavy—but the start of a new school year is the perfect time to think about how I’m moving forward. And if you’ve made it this far, I hope you’ll join me. ♦

STAFF EDITORIAL

Commending Jackson’s comments on DACA

ON SEPTEMBER 5, DONALD TRUMP’S MOVEMENT ON DEFERRED Action for Childhood Arrival made it clear that American citizenship is what he holds essential to the American identity. Through this policy, people who came to the United States as children are offered opportunities like college education and work permits—opportunities that are denied to immigrants who enter the country illegally as adults. On an ethical level, this is a policy that provides people who were not old enough to be held accountable for decisions regarding how they entered the country some degree of normalcy as they transition to adulthood.

Bear in mind that this action has direct repercussions on Rensselaer as a community: on September 11, President Shirley Ann Jackson released a statement in which she made it clear that RPI will do everything in its power to help dreamers currently enrolled. In her statement, the president states that “Young people brought into the United States as children should be allowed to remain in the United States to learn, work, make a life for themselves, and contribute to our communities and our country, as many of them already are doing.” Rensselaer has made its stance clear: we need to continue to protect these students however possible.

As an editorial board, we think it is important to commend President Jackson for taking a strong stance on an issue that has direct influence on the members of our community. It takes courage to speak up in the current political climate, particularly when one is in the leadership of an institution that happens to contain many different political opinions on issues like immigration. We hope that RPI will stay true to its word, and we hope that we—as Rensselaer—can ensure the continued success of students that are here under DACA. ♦

ASK BROOKELYN

I’m a freshman and I’m thinking about breaking up with my high school girlfriend because I’m interested in someone I met here. My girlfriend goes to a school in Texas. What do I do?

I think that you should definitely tell your girlfriend how you’re feeling. Long distance relationships are not for everyone, and it’s natural to be interested in other people when you’ve been away from your significant other for a while. If you think pursuing a new interest—and losing your commitment to any single person—is worth leaving behind what you have with your girlfriend, that’s okay too. Your relationship isn’t automatically deemed a failure or a waste of time just because it’s over. However, if the two of you have an emotional connection and history that you don’t want to lose, then some sort of open relationship might work for you. The terms of being open can be unique to your circumstances—you just have to make sure that these terms are as specific

and clear as possible. And, if you give it a shot and it’s not for you, don’t hesitate to talk about it. Regardless of how you decide to handle this situation, prioritize being open, honest, and considerate of your significant other throughout the whole process.

I’m gay but don’t know how to tell my friends, or even whether I should. What do I do?

If you feel comfortable, I would highly recommend telling your friends. I was a little apprehensive about coming out when I got here, but I am glad I did. I wasn’t completely out at home during my freshman year, and being open with my friends here gave me support and confidence in who I am. Don’t feel like your sexuality has to be a defining characteristic of who you are to everyone you meet. Tell the people you feel comfortable with, and tell them at a time that you think appropriate. You don’t have to force

it, and it definitely doesn’t have to be an announcement. Most of the time when I came out, it was just a casual drop of “girlfriend” while telling a story, and nobody ever made a big deal out of it. Take it slow, feel things out, and then decide what you think is right for you. Also, if you’re ever feeling alone, don’t be afraid to check out Rensselaer Pride Alliance.

How can I meet new people? I have trouble socializing, but really want to do so more often.

I think the easiest way to meet new people is to join a club or attend events that give you something to talk about. Since everyone there has expressed interest in whatever you’re doing, you already have something in common and a handful of conversation starters. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there, even if you think it’ll be awkward. If you end up becoming good friends, a little bit of awkwardness isn’t going to be what’s memorable about your time together.

TOP HAT

Grand marshal responds to HR memorandum

Director of the Union subject to Executive Board approval vote, according to *Union Constitution*

FELLOW STUDENTS,

Yesterday, Vice President for Human Resources Curtis Powell sent a memorandum to President of the Union Matt Rand '19 and myself in regards to the director of the Union position. In essence, the memorandum expresses the Division of Human Resources' position that the president of the Institute ultimately appoints a candidate as director of the Union, per the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*.

The role of students in a final decision on the employment of the director is outlined specifically in the *Rensselaer Union Constitution*. The *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* are a grant of authority to the Trustees; the Union Constitution is a subsequent enactment that delegates that authority. A general and prior enactment, like the *Bylaws*, cannot override a later, more specific one, like the *Union Constitution*. The Board of Trustees may use its authority to rescind or revise the

Union Constitution, but, until that time, the final authority rests with those to whom it is delegated.

Article I of the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* states the functions to be carried out by the Board, including to "approve annually the terms and conditions of employment and salary policies for all staff, faculty, administrators and other employees of the Institute." In its approval of the *Union Constitution*, the Board of Trustees has delegated the authority to "approve the hiring and continuance of all administrative personnel of the Union" to the Rensselaer Union Executive Board.

We recognize that a hiring process would not be possible without the Division of Human Resources, which has both policies to facilitate the hiring process and the resources to screen candidates, invite them to campus for interviews, and ensure compliance with state and federal hiring

regulations. Human Resources has many policies defining the steps to be taken before an appointment can be made. In this unique case, approval by the Executive Board is an additional, necessary step which must occur before a candidate can be appointed as director. This approval occurs in full accordance with both the *Bylaws of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute* and the *Union Constitution*.

Matt and I met with Vice President Powell yesterday, where we collectively reaffirmed the importance and necessity of the Executive Board's approval of the hiring. We appreciate his commitment to an approval vote taking place. Additionally, we are excited to be participating, along with other student leaders, in on-campus interviews for the director position in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at gm@rpi.edu. ♦



Justin Etzine
Grand Marshal

DERBY

Taking part in two traditions at Rensselaer

HELLO EVERYONE, AND CONGRATULATIONS on surviving your first few days of classes. I hope that they are off to a good start, and wish everyone the best of luck as classes begin to ramp up. This week marked the beginning of two very important occasions on campus: Hockey Line and Greek recruitment.

Hockey Line is a tradition that spans back decades (we're currently in our fifth!), stemming from when hockey season tickets were first sold in the Union. In the early days of this longstanding tradition, students would line up to be able to have first pick for season tickets to RPI hockey games. As one can imagine, getting that coveted first selection for season tickets has been a point of contention since its conception. What started as an organic event soon became

a hallmark of the Rensselaer Union, Red Army, and RPI hockey fans everywhere. Each year, this week-long event ends in a festival that marks the unofficial beginning of the season.

This year, Hockey Line's final event, and the culmination of the festivities will take place today, where Red Army will host an annual cookout, with a speech from Grand Marshal Justin Etzine and performances from multiple Union music groups. I would like to invite you all out tonight to help us celebrate one of the largest campus events of the year.

Even if hockey isn't your favorite sport, I encourage you all to attend the event and check out all that's going on. This is one of the first major, campuswide, Union-sponsored events of the year and the more students that participate, the better.



Matthew Rand
President of the Union

The second major event that began last weekend was Greek recruitment. The Interfraternity Council kicked off the fall recruitment period with a "Meet the Greeks" event, and since then, the organizations that over 30 percent of campus claim membership to have been in full swing. There are events every day of the week at any of our 29 fraternities, so there's something for everyone on campus. I encourage you all to go and check out a rush event or two. Even if you have no intention of going Greek now, you may be pleasantly surprised by what you find. I, myself, am Greek, and I never thought I would be Greek when I got to campus. But I approached rush with an open mind and found my home, both physically and metaphorically.

You can find a calendar of events on the Interfraternity website at www.rpiifc.com. Recruitment ends soon though, so if you have any interest, I would suggest going as soon as

you can! For the female members of our community who may be interested in joining one of our fine sororities, the Rensselaer Panhellenic Association recruitment will begin Thursday, September 14. You can sign up for recruitment at <https://poly.rpi.edu/s/98jdu>. I'd like to also quickly recognize Rachel Blacker '18 and Vignesh Babu '19, the vice presidents for recruitment, and Jamie Reynolds '18 and Marvin Cosare '18, the presidents of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils, respectively, for all of their hard work in setting up these events and for overseeing their success this semester!

Thanks everybody, and as always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email pu@rpi.edu, or stop by my office in the Student Government Suite on the third floor of the Union for my office hours on Tuesday mornings from 10 am–12 pm! ♦

Poly Snapshots

The Question: Did you try anything new this summer?



Jared Tesone
CSE/CS 20'

"I went to San Diego with a friend."



Savannah Henry
BME '20

"I tried sushi with raw fish in it."



Kristen Weatherbee
CSE '20

"I built a giant ballpit with my best friend."

the polytechnic

Editor in Chief
Sidney Kochman
poly@rpi.edu

Editorial Board

Senior Managing Editor	Tyler Carney	poly@rpi.edu
Managing Editor	Rex Hu	poly@rpi.edu
Managing Editor	Nathan Dorer	poly@rpi.edu
Contributing Editor	Brookelyn Parslow	poly@rpi.edu
de facto News Editor	Nathan Dorer	news@poly.rpi.edu
Business Manager	Peter Begonja	business@poly.rpi.edu
Features Editor	Serge Piskun	features@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Sports Editor	Joseph Lyon	sports@poly.rpi.edu
Editorial/Opinion Editor	Crystal Vejar	edop@poly.rpi.edu
Composing Editor	Ana Wishnoff	composing@poly.rpi.edu
de facto Copy Editor	Sidney Kochman	copy@poly.rpi.edu
Photography Editor	Jonathan Caicedo	photo@poly.rpi.edu
Web Editor	Joseph Lyon	web@poly.rpi.edu
Associate Photography Editor	Stephanie Tan	photo@poly.rpi.edu

Coordinators

Advertising Director	Brookelyn Parslow	ads@poly.rpi.edu
Graphics Director	Ana Wishnoff	graphics@poly.rpi.edu
Web and Systems Director	Sidney Kochman	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Systems Coordinator	Jonathan Caicedo	systems@poly.rpi.edu
Operations Coordinator	Jack Wellhofer	jack@poly.rpi.edu
Copy Coordinator	Maria Kozdroy	copy@poly.rpi.edu

Production Staff: Evan Barr, Darby Barns, Peter Gramenides, Ana Hovhannisyian, Nicholas Luczak

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

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

Photos and interviews by Crystal Vejar

SOCCER

Women's soccer slams The Sage Colleges

Darby Burns
Staff Reporter

THIS PAST WEEKEND IN WOMEN'S SOCCER, the Engineers played The Sage Colleges for the first time since September of 2007 when they achieved a 2-1 win. The Engineers have remained undefeated by the Gators for the past 22 years, with 13 games happening in that time period. They continued that streak with a strong 5-0 win. The game took place at home on Sunday at the East Campus Stadium.

The first goal of the game came from Emily Kaplan '21 in a left-footed shot fired in the 15th minute of the game. This was followed shortly by a brilliant save by goalkeeper Joey Lyons '20 that had the crowd up and cheering. These early successes set a cheery tone for the rest of the game.

The Engineers followed through on their strong start with a second goal scored in the 31st minute by wing-back Jeanine Moreau '20 and a third scored by Alexis Castrellon '20, who reacted off a low pass by Katya Kradinova '19 in the 45th minute.

The second half of the game began with a corner kick by Dali Alarian '18 that resulted in a goal. RPI ended the scoring at 5-0 with a goal by Olenka Soko '21 in the 85th minute that was assisted by Kradinova.

This was a game of firsts for the Engineers as both Moreau and Castrellon scored their first goals of 2017. Kaplan, with the opening goal of the game, also



Sidney Kochman/The Polytechnic

THE RENSSELAER WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM CONTINUED their 13 game winning streak against The Sage Colleges this past weekend.

scored the first goal of her collegiate career. In addition, the two assists made by Kradinova were the first two points of her own collegiate career.

The Engineers' success brought them up to a final score of 3-2. They successfully outshot Sage 19-5, with the majority occurring in the first half.

They will be away for the next two games, playing at Smith College on Wednesday, September 13 at 4 pm and at SUNY Cortland on Saturday, September 16. ♦

FOOTBALL

Engineers' vengeance



Nathan Dorer/The Polytechnic

THE RENSSELAER FOOTBALL TEAM RECLAIMS the Transit Trophy at WPI.

Nathan Dorer
Senior Reporter

AFTER A HARD LOSS TO WORCESTER Polytechnic Institute last year, the Engineers managed to bring the Transit Trophy back to its rightful home in Troy with a strong 36-14 win in Worcester Massachusetts.

The first quarter put the Engineers in the lead off the bat, and by the end of the quarter, the scoreboard read 14-0. After each team had held possession, linebacker Brandt Beck '18 captured an interception from the WPI offense, and provided a return starting at the WPI 49. RPI managed to put the the ball in the end zone with only three plays, ending with wide receiver Danny Calabro '19

taking a pass from quarterback Ed Trimpert '19 with 3:11 remaining. Defensive back Sean Egan '18 then secured another interception at the RPI 34, and Johnny Ramsdell '18 caught a 26-yard pass to complete the 66-yard drive.

In the second quarter, the Engineers faltered, while WPI managed to put numbers on the board. To begin, the teams exchanged punts, but ultimately WPI completed a 52-yard drive when WPI's Corey Coogan carried a 17-yard pass into the RPI end zone five minutes into the second quarter. The rest of the quarter was relatively quiet; five other drives were made by the two teams, but to no avail. With a minute left in the second, WPI's

Dereck Pacheco recovered an RPI fumble, only for defensive lineman Paul Marinan '19 to recover a WPI fumble moments later.

At the beginning of the second half, RPI punted the ball to WPI possession, but the ball was luckily recaptured by Egan once again. WPI's Lou Garcia forced RPI to fumble, and his teammate defensive back Brian Mahan captured the ball in the end zone. Luckily, a fumble caused by Beck allowed defensive lineman Cole Valinoti '19 to bring the ball back to RPI, and Marc Meishlahn '19 managed to score once again for the engineers. To round out the third quarter, Christian Kapp '18 ran the ball in for two more for RPI.

With the scoreboard reading a strong 22-7 lead for RPI, the Engineers headed into the fourth quarter with victory in sight. Just a minute into the period, running back Nick Esposito '18 brought in another touchdown for the Engineers. Quickly, Egan allowed for his third turnover of the game, which ultimately opened the door for Rob Law '19 to bring another touchdown on a 10-yard catch. In an act of mercy, WPI managed to secure their second touchdown of the game with 2:38 left, bringing the score to the final 36-14 for the Engineers.

The Engineers are currently 2-0 for the season, and their next game will be a home game against Western New England University on September 16. ♦

Scores from the Week

Friday, September 8

Men's Soccer vs. Rhode Island 3-2

Women's Soccer vs. Plattsburgh 0-2

Saturday, September 9

Field Hockey vs. Endicott 1-2

Football vs. WPI 36-14

Men's Soccer vs. Oneonta 1-2

Sunday, September 10

Women's Soccer vs. Sage 50

Are you interested in writing about sports or going to games? Email sports@poly.rpi.edu and let us know!