Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs

Michael Arno, Travis Aggar, and Director of Human Resources Curtis Powell’s memorandum on September 12, discussion around the director of the Union hiring process has continued. On the same day, his memo was met with a joint response from Grand Marshal Justin Elzine ’18 and President of the Union, Matthew Rand ’19 that emphasized the authority of the Union Executive Board to approve a candidate for the position before an appointment can be made.

Elzine and Rand wrote that, by approving the Rensselaer 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.” The word “approval” is significant; it implied that the voice of the students was still not heard, while this was not explicitly “in opposition to the voice of the students.”

However, some people are concerned that this doesn’t fully capture the issue at hand. The appointment of Director of the Union Joe Cassidy was made without a vote of approval from the Executive Board, and while this was not explicitly “in opposition to the voice of the students,” it was still not in accordance with the Constitution.

On September 20, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Travis Aggar sent a letter to Elzine and Rand expressing that “there is no conflict between the authority of the Institute and that of the Union in this matter.” He detailed his perspective of the hiring process, stating that student involvement is required, especially through the “input” of the E-Board that is “formalized by a vote.” He added that “it is inconceivable that a decision would be made in opposition to the voice of the students.”

The Senate will meet on Monday, September 25 with Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Aggar, and Director for Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Affairs Michael Arno discussing recent revisions to the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. These policies were designed to update outdated policies, clarify existing ones, keep the Handbook in accordance with mandates from state and federal governments, and ensure consistency with the procedures and practices that various departments enact throughout campus. Some of the notable changes include changes in the Grounds for Disciplinary Action, the Record of Disciplinary Action, and the Non-Discrimination/Equal Opportunity sections. Aggar and Arno’s presentation slides that outline the Handbook changes are available at https://poly.rpi.edu/sj46q.

After the presentation, the Senate considered the motion to endorse the Handbook revisions. Senate Vice Chair Ellie Mees ’18 proposed to postpone the endorsement motion until the Senate’s next meeting, expressing concerns over not seeing the full text of the revised Handbook in its entirety first. The motion to postpone the endorsement to next week’s meeting passed with a vote of 19-0-1.

The Senate then proceeded to approve two new Executive Board representatives: Andrew Waltzer ’21 and Christopher Maris ’21. Both discovered the positions through email sent out by President of the Union Matthew Rand ’19. According to Rand, both have prior experience managing finances, qualifying them both for the positions. Waltzer was appointed as a Class of 2021 representative with a vote of 20-0-0, and Maria as a member at large with a vote of 18-0-1.

The final motion on the agenda was the appointment of Michael Cuozzo ’17 as the Interim Human Resources Interview Committee Chair, a committee the Senate formed at their last meeting, which will be tasked with organizing student involvement in future interviews that the Division of Human Resources will conduct. Cuozzo was appointed with a vote of 20-0-0.

The Senate will meet on Monday, October 2 at 8 pm in the Shelburt Gallery.
Increasing awareness of climate change effects

SO FAR, THE 2017 SEASON HAS FEATURED AT LEAST TWO CATEGORY-five hurricanes, which have occurred on a few times since records have been kept. It seems that hur-ricanes are forming within a few days of each other and there may be even more to come. The 2017 hurricane season is turning out to be one of the most destructive ones in history. It is estimated that there will be billions of dollars in damage, and some areas could take months to rebuild everything that was destroyed. Hurricane seasons fluctuate in intensity, but what made this season to be one of the worst?

In order for hurricanes to form, they need two main things: heat and water. This year, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the waters in the mid-Atlantic Ocean have been between 0.5 and 1 degree Celsius warmer than average this summer. Once the warm air rises above the ocean’s surface, it takes in heat and moisture. As the air hot rises, it leaves a lower pressure region below it. This repeats until air from higher pressure areas moves into the lower pressure area. This pro-cess heats up the air, allowing it to rise and produce swirls in the air. The air continues to rise until it gets high enough in the atmosphere to condense into clouds. These clouds become unstable and a vortex forms which is the start of the storm. The storm begins to build in the Mid-Atlantic and gains strength as it moves west. Sometimes, the storms are disrupted by the presence of the wind shear. The wind shears are winds that change in speed and direction. Now, many hurricanes that we have seen in recent years are disrupted by the presence of the wind shear.

One of the reasons that caused the hurricanes of the 2017 season to be so strong was the lack of wind shears. Along with the warmer ocean temperatures, this caused the hurricanes to continue to intensify as they moved west towards land. Hurricane Irma, which made landfall on Florida, was one of the largest and most powerful storms ever recorded in history. At its peak, Irma measured hundreds of miles across and reached sustained winds of 180 miles per hour. Many believe that climate change has to do with the recent severity of the hurricane season. While it is not entirely because of this, some seasons are worse than others, and the effects of climate change have an impact on the already present natural risks. Already rising sea levels cause the storm surge to become more catastrophic. Similarly, loss of wetlands and natural barriers cause more damage to infrastructure, which can be attributed to climate change. Even though it was not the main cause of the severity of the hurricanes this year, we must still be conscientious of the effects that climate change poses to us.

Benefits, drawbacks of NSBE/SHPE Career Fair

ON FRIDAY, I WENT TO THE RPI CAREER FAIR. AFTER navigating the long line, getting vetoed for the dress code, and figuring out where I wanted to go, I stepped into the Army and was immedi-ately overwhelmed. As a freshman, I didn’t really pay attention to the career fair, because my summer was already booked, so I didn’t fully grasp its magnitude or general astropho-bia. So many people, so many tables, so many displays trying to be unique and special, and on top of all that, so many recruiters that you are tasked with vetting applicants in insignificant blocks of time. I think something needs to change. Don’t let me get wrong, I think the career fair is a good resource for people looking to fur-ther their careers and improve their futures. It provides valuable lessons to college students: how to dress up, how to pitch yourselves, and how to create resumes that won’t get tossed immediately. It sets up connections between companies and RPI in ways that no other event can. It also allows for more personal networking by taking place—I have the emails of several recruiters that I plan on talking to that I wouldn’t have if I hadn’t attended. I also have a lot of goodies that, among other things, allow me to push the storm in either a northerly or southerly direction.

First, the smaller things. I feel like the area was too crowded. I did not like how the floor was laid out, with narrow hallways and large empty areas behind company tables. It was counterproductive, and a bit discouraging; students were packed in like sardines while waiting for recruiters to open up. Mean-while, recruiters themselves would try not to crush into their interviewees. This all happened while the area behind tables was sparsely populated, with a good portion of empty space hold-ing nothing but daisy chained power cords. Also, a sore point amongst my upperclassmen friends was the choice not to distribute bags. I felt like carrying stuff under resumee holders ended up being a hassle, which led to students crowding companies that gave out bags.
Hello everyone!

Last Thursday, President of the Union Matthew Rand '19 and I met with Vice President for Human Resources Curtis Powell, Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Travis Appar, and other representatives from the Division of Human Resources to discuss the Director of the Union hiring process.

The meeting was productive. We shared the student body’s perspectives about the process and clarified the importance of the Executive Board’s approval of the next director of the Union, as outlined in the Constitution. During the meeting, Matt and I clarified the student body’s position on the matter, which we felt a recent article in the Troy Record had mischaracterized.

We are working with Powell, Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong, Appar, and Strategic Communications and External Relations to produce a joint letter to the RPI community. This letter outlines the steps that have been taken, as well as the steps that will be taken through the completion of the hiring process.

This morning, we had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Institute Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson to further discuss this topic. We are excited to find a collaborative solution that both celebrates the Union’s rich history and restores the student body’s faith in the hiring process. Once we have updates, we will be sure to share them with you all!

On a different note, on Monday, the Senate was able to complete its agenda in one sitting. The first was from Vice President for Institute Advance- ment Grant Eastin, who shared some of the events that will be taking place during Reunion & Homecoming Weekend this year. Then, we heard from Mr. Appar and Director of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Judicial Af- fairs Michael Arno on planned changes to the Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Once the Senate has been able to review the draft as it currently reads, we will be voting on the Senate’s stance on the changes. We also confirmed the appointment of two new representa- tives on the Executive Board, completing the E-Board’s membership and providing representation for the Class of 2021. In the coming weeks, Mr. Strong will be presenting revisions to the Student Life Performance Plans to the Senate, resuming a welcomed tradition.

Finally, for those of you who celebrate the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, shana tova and g’mar chatima tova— happy new year, and wishing you an easy fast! These holidays, which equate to the New Year and the Day of Repentance, respectively, mark a time when we begin the round of 5778.

As we have shared before, we serve in our roles as grand marshal and president of the Union because of our love for our alma mater and our Union. The passion we see from the student body and the memories we hear from alumni motivates us. Most importantly, we are enlivened by the opportunities that our discussions on the hiring process will yield. Students and administrators will be working together for the benefit of our beloved home. As always, if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or ideas, please feel welcome to email me at matthew.rand@rpi.edu.

Justin Etzine
152nd Grand Marshal

Hello everybody, I hope that you’re all doing well.

By the time you read this, it will be officially one month since the start of the academic year. How exciting! Time really is flying by. I’d like to think, for a moment, about all the things that we have already seen this semester.

In the past month, we have met our new freshman class and had to introduce them to campus life here at RPI. Clubs and organizations have started up, kicked off by the Activities Fair where all of our organizations, club sports teams, student government branches, and more, all came together to ensure the greater campus community continues to get involved. All of these clubs have already started their operations, by recruiting new freshman members, as well as involving older students looking to try something new. It was an amazing start to the fall, and our clubs have already reaped the benefits. For example, the Dance Team has already qualified for nationals in their first competition of the year. Needless to say, we are off to a strong start with all of our club operations here at the Rensselaer Union.

Last semester, the Executive Board voted to approve the creation of a Student Veterans Lounge on the third floor of the Union. That project is finally coming to an end; by the end of the month the lounge will be open and available for our student population, specifically our veterans. We at the Union are eternally grateful for the men and women of our armed services, and are proud to be able to support them here at RPI. It is an honor to be given the integral part of our community and continue to support their efforts to integrate back into student life.

As many of you have seen, and I know Justin Eastin brought it up last week in his “Top Hat” article, the search for the next director of the Union is moving along. A representative group of students who have been able to sit in on the interviews of the candidates proposed by the administration, and continuously provide feedback in the process. Justin and I have been able to sit in on each interview closely with the Division of Human Resources and the Division of Student Life to represent that interview committee and continuously ensure that student voice is heard. I would like to thank those individuals who have been involved in the process, and to reiterate our thanks and excitement to the administration for their continued support of our involvement in the process.

I’m an engineering graduate soon, but it feels like it might have been better for me to pursue computer science. It’s too late for me to change my major, so what do I do?

Your major in college doesn’t have to define what you do for the rest of your life. Luckily for you, computer science is probably one of the best subjects to learn outside of the traditional setting. There are plenty of resources online; you just need to dedicate the time and work on projects that will force you to learn. Once you start to make some progress, your interest in computer science can be something you mention when looking for jobs. I know plenty of graduates who didn’t learn how to program until they were well into their careers. If it’s really something you care about, you’ll figure out something that works for you.

What if I find my professor attractive? Would it be appropriate to talk to them to see if they’re sending signals?

While these scenarios are often joked about, I think this is a huge decision that should not be taken lightly. It’s easy to romanticize a situation like this. Being wanted and pursued by a professor can be exhilarating. It feels good to know when anyone feels that way about you, let alone someone in a position of authority. However, I think that’s exactly the problem.

You have to think about why this person is choosing you. If this person is as good as they seem, why are they deciding to pursue a relationship that is strictly prohibited by the Rensselaer Handbook? Why are they willing to endanger their career for you? Do they not have any other options? Do they really want to be with you, or are they using you to get something out of you? What if this could be a red flag? If they are using your effects on their career and only your attractiveness for a relationship, then would they consider this a healthy behavior? Your relationship would have to be a secure; if they become abusive or if you feel unsafe cutting ties, you would have to think about the social and professional repercussions of getting involved. Furthermore, your attractiveness could be enough to convince you that it’s easier to deal with everything alone, which is never something you should have to do.

Ultimately, this is your decision. If it’s something you decide to go through with, please be as safe as possible. Tell a group of people you trust about your location with your friends whenever you meet with your professor. Constantly reflect on your relationship, and do your best to never make excuses for abusive, manipula- tive behavior.
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ad-hoc Interview Committee approved by E-Board

Darby Burns  
Staff Reporter

The most recent Executive Board meeting that took place on Thursday, September 21 opened with a discussion on the Black Students’ Alliance proposal requesting $1,158 to fund their 50th anniversary celebration. This money would go toward a bus ride to the event in Durham as well as a DJ. There was some discussion as to whether the money should come from the Black Cultural Center reserve account or the club contingencies fund. The anniversary celebration was eventually deemed to be a special event and it was decided that the money should come from club contingencies. The motion passed 12-1-2. A second motion was brought forward to reallocate $175 from club contingencies to the reception fund in response to the discovery of a bookkeeping error that had resulted in the zeroing of the account. The club fund in response to the discovery of a bookkeeping error to reallocate $175 from club contingencies to the reception fund. The motion passed 15-0-0.

The next order of business was in regards to establishing the reception fund. The motion passed 13-1-3. Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Appar, accompanied by Director of Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, arrived next and presented on changes that are in the process of being made to the Rensselaer Student Handbook. The changes largely addressed formatting and wording issues, and insert a policy that addresses threatening behavior. In addition, changes are to be put in that allow for the notification of parents for things such as disciplinary action—suspicions and expulsions—and group policies are to be extended to apply both on and off campus. At the end of the presentation, Rand stated that E-Board won’t be providing its feedback until the Senate has heard the presentation and provided their own feedback, because it’s under their jurisdiction. He also requested that individuals on the E-Board hold their feedback until after the Senate hears the presentation.

The final important point of business was the discussion of the former Budgeting Guidelines and Procedures, which have been in place since last September but have never been reviewed. A new policy recommends that E-Board together to interview the director for the Union position and will initially be comprised of the original members of that committee. The plan, however, is to open it back up to the student body. The Division of Human Resources has already agreed to train upwards of 80 students. The motion passed 13-1-3. Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Travis Appar, accompanied by Director of Judicial Affairs Michael Arno, arrived next and presented on changes that are in the process of being made to the Rensselaer Student Handbook. The changes largely addressed formatting and wording issues, and insert a policy that addresses threatening behavior. In addition, changes are to be put in that allow for the notification of parents for things such as disciplinary action—suspicions and expulsions—and group policies are to be extended to apply both on and off campus. At the end of the presentation, Rand stated that E-Board won’t be providing its feedback until the Senate has heard the presentation and provided their own feedback, because it’s under their jurisdiction. He also requested that individuals on the E-Board hold their feedback until after the Senate hears the presentation.

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Enrollment and representatives from the Division of Human Resources. During that meeting, the GM and FU expressed student concerns about the hiring process and emphasized the role of the E-Board in the appointment of the next director of the Union. As a result, they plan to release a joint letter to the Rensselaer community that will “[outline] the steps that have been taken, as well as the steps that will be taken through the completion of the hiring process.” Ezine and Rand also shared their plans to meet with President Shirley Ann Jackson on Wednesday, September 27. They hope to find a “collaborative solution” to the issue at hand.

When asked for comment, Ezine expressed, “Progress is being made by Matt’s and my efforts to make our position clearly known with administrators.” He then elaborated on the E-Board approval process, saying that, “the meaning of approval in this context is ‘to ratify’ or ‘to give formal sanction to’; though, of course, this is not the sole approval.” When the interview process is over, the Human Resources Interview Committee will propose a motion concerning the approval of a candidate to the E-Board, which will then be discussed and voted upon in a closed meeting. According to the E-Board’s bylaws, the motion and vote count will be released after the end of the closed meeting. Ezine hopes that the decision of the E-Board will be respected, and that if it fails to approve a candidate, the Division of Human Resources will find others to consider.

The Human Resources Interview Committee was only presented with two of the approximately 50 candidates that RPI received from William Spelman Executive Search, according to Interim Chairperson Michael Cuzzo ’17. Appar and Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong helped narrow down the list of desired qualities that was used as a pre-screening rubric, but Rand “would have loved to have more student involvement in narrowing the candidate field.” He continued, “I’d be happy to change anything, Rand would have asked for himself and Ezine to be more involved in the pre-screening, and "potentially to have more input on the final two interview stage." Regardless, he believes that the E-Board will be able to make an informed decision on whether or not to approve candidates for the next director of the Union position. The Human Resources Interview Committee is expected to bring forward a recommendation in the coming weeks, at which point the E-Board will potentially vote to approve the next director of the Union.

Violation: Outing Club found noncompliant

From Page 1

He went on to say that the Outing Club’s leadership has “provided constant pushback” and “unwillingness to comply with risk management and liability mitigation procedures.” This has led to a “rift between the Union and the club’s leadership,” he added. In a memo in response to Rand, the Outing Club expressed that they took great care to keep the event alcohol-free, saying that they “told every single student, as they signed up, that alcohol on the island would not be tolerated this year.” Despite their efforts to ensure that the event is dry, they canceled the trip, as they were unable to guarantee that everyone in attendance will adhere to their rules. The motion to suspend operations of the Outing Club if alcohol is found raises the question of whether the E-Board has the authority to issue judgments of policy violations. Representative Jared Segal ’19 spoke about this in the E-Board’s September 14 meeting, saying that the Rensselaer Union Constitution does not say that the E-Board can punish a club, but does say that it is the Judicial Board’s job. According to the Union Constitution, “the Executive Board shall act as the primary body of the Union.” The Judicial Board’s role is to act as a court of appeal, the Judicial Board’s role is not to act as a court of final judgment. Grand Marshal Justin Etzine ’18 also spoke on the issue during the September 14 E-Board meeting, saying that only the Judicial Board and the Senate’s Rules and Elections Committee can issue rulings on policies.

The Outing Club concluded by saying that their pushback against risk management and liability procedures is a proactive approach in the future while allowing members to grow their leadership skills. Rand wrote that “the Outing Club is in good hands and has a strong core of officers to help lead the club to a stronger future on campus.”

Like our lights on the side of the Union? Feel free to change them at poly.rpi.edu/lights!
Looking for mild entertainment at the end of my summer, I picked up Smarter Faster Better by Charles Duhigg. Little did I know, I wouldn’t be able to put it down.

This book motivates not by brute force and empty words, but by research and real life examples. As an engineer at RPI, Duhigg earns a gold star from me.

Duhigg’s writing style is clear and easy to read—unlike the plethora of overly complicated ideas in books I’ve perused in my spare time. He breaks down complex theories without overwhelming the reader with technical jargon.

This chapter hones in on the chief executive officer of General Electric seeking inspiration for preventing falling profits. A partial solution, responsible for more than tripling the company’s profits, was integrating SMART goals. This stands for specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timeline. I won’t go into specifics of this system, but even after many efforts, Jack Welch (the CEO at the time) sought a different answer—in Japan. The chapter continues to describe an effective goal-setting method responsible for the development of bullet trains in Japan. With efforts to rebuild Japan after the World War II, the head of the railway system called for a faster train to improve commuting between Tokyo and Osaka. By faster, he meant 120 mph. Engineers were baffled by this impossible request and could only make a prototype for 65 mph. However, because of something called “cognitive tunneling,” the pilot lost the ability to focus on the task at hand and carry out what he knew he needed to do. The warning alarm forced the pilot to point his attention at the command stick, causing the nose of the plane to point up. In this case, every pilot is trained to prepare for an aerodynamic stall and level the plane. However, by focusing on the autopilot for hours and each professional in the cockpit had their guard down, completely depending on the autopilot. The sudden alarm surprised the pilot and he reacted by pulling back on the command stick, causing the nose of the plane to point up. In this case, every pilot is trained to prepare for an aerodynamic stall and level the plane. However, by focusing on the autopilot for hours and each professional in the cockpit had their guard down, completely depending on the autopilot. The sudden alarm surprised the pilot and he reacted by pulling back on the command stick, causing the nose of the plane to point up. In this case, every pilot is trained to prepare for an aerodynamic stall and level the plane. However, because of something called “cognitive tunneling,” the pilot lost the ability to focus on the task at hand and carry out what he knew he needed to do. The warning alarm forced the pilot to point his attention at the first thing he saw and practice “reactive thinking.” The lesson learned here is to make mental models. The way to prevent falling into cognitive tunneling is to imagine the event internally first thing he saw and practice “reactive thinking.” The lesson learned here is to make mental models. The way to prevent falling into cognitive tunneling is to imagine the event internally.
Sports
Wednesday, September 27, 2017

MEN’S SOCCER

Men’s soccer claims weekend

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

Rensselaer won 3–2 against Bard College away on Saturday and 2–0 against Keene State College at home on Sunday. The two wins boost the Engineers to 6–2 overall for the season.

Austin Betterly ’20 began the excitement early, scoring a goal in the 12th minute of Saturday’s game after a long pass from Danny Corridan ’19, giving him his fourth goal of the season. Bard tied the game minutes later after scoring a rebounded penalty shot. The Engineers pulled ahead in the second half with a swift low pass from Dylan Confair ’20 to Brandon Pirog ’20, who scored his first goal of the season. Rensselaer maintained their lead until the last minute, when Bard tied the game with a shot that bounced off the wall, over goalie Matt LaBranche ’20, and into Rensselaer’s goal. The game went into overtime but ended after two minutes with another goal from Pirog, after a pass from Confair, giving Rensselaer the win. The Engineers ended with a 20–7 shot lead and two saves made by LaBranche.

Trevor Bisson ’21 scored the opening goal in the 20th minute of Sunday’s game at Rensselaer’s East Campus Stadium from a pass from captain Steven Collins ’18. Confair scored another goal for Rensselaer in the second half with a left-footed shot into the right post after a pass from Betterly in the middle of the penalty area. All of Keene State’s attempts to close the score gap failed. They had two opportunities late in the game but missed their shots, allowing Rensselaer a 2–0 victory. Goalkeeper Ryan Nealon ’18 did not have to make any saves for the Engineers but actively intercepted Keene State’s passes. The Engineers ended with a 16–4 shot lead.

Rensselaer will be away this weekend to face off against Skidmore College and again next Wednesday against St. Lawrence University.

WOMEN’S TENNIS

Defeats for tennis team

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

The Rensselaer women’s tennis team competed in the Northeast Division III Regional Women’s Championship in Saratoga Springs this past weekend. The tournament saw many of the top Division III tennis players come together to compete. The Engineers fought hard but failed to pull out of the first round. Mailani Neal ’19 had a strong show, defeating Natasha DeNuzio of the University of Scranton and winning her first round match. However, she was unable to complete her second match due to an injury, and was forced to retire against Alyssa Baldi. Neal also participated in a doubles match with Tess Lubin ’20. The two played against Skidmore players, however, Lubin and Neal were unable to claim a victory.

Nisha Rajamohan ’19, Makenzi Herbst ’19, and Lubin were defeated in their respective singles rounds. Herbst was also defeated in her first-round doubles match with Andrea Valencia ’19 against two players from the College of New Jersey.

Herbst continued to the quarterfinals in the consolation rounds, only to be defeated on the second day of the tournament. RPI will be in Saratoga next weekend playing against Skidmore College.

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**Dilbert**

**TOP TEN LIST**

**Things to Replace at RPI**

10. Phi Tau
9. BBB bond rating
8. Everything that says “Redhawks”
7. The Poly
6. Asbestos
5. The creepy SIS computer clipart
4. shuttles.rpi.edu
3. Joe Cassidy
2. Sodexo
1. Imujraf

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**Sudoku**

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

**Instructions**

**Last Week’s Answers**

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**XKCD**

**F'NOR**

**Thread: The Greatest Threat to Our Life on Pern 1/1**

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**Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885**
The Adirondack Balloon Festival celebrated its 45th anniversary from September 21 to 24, 2017, bringing upwards of 50,000 people over four days to the Floyd Bennett Memorial Airport in Queensbury, New York. The festival is a not-for-profit event run strictly by volunteers, that rely on sponsors and the local community for support and advertisement.

Throughout the years, the event has attracted pilots from all over the world, including cities like Saga, Japan, and Quebec, Canada. The event has received media coverage from Food Network, The Weather Channel, Associated Press, and The New York Times. The festival was initially held at Adirondack Community College, now known as SUNY Adirondack. As the event grew, a larger venue was needed, which led to the current location, the Warren County Airport.

The festival was founded by Walter Grishkot, who brought the idea the Warren County’s tourism and publicity office in the early 1970’s after balloonist John Marsden from Manchester, Vermont shared photos of his balloon. The office of tourism and publicity was looking for an event idea that would bring tourism to the region after Labor Day. At the time, there were relatively few hot air balloons in the nation, but the idea took off and the Adirondack Balloon Festival was born shortly after.

The festival has strived to keep the event free of charge, which is very rare for an event of its size. Funding would not be possible without the continued support of enthusiasts, the community, and volunteers. Apart from bringing a unique event and great memories to thousands, a memorial foundation was created after the death of Grishkot in 2011. The foundation raises funds to promote interest in education in aviation and aerospace sciences. You can visit https://poly.poly.edu/7u696t to support the scholarship fund.