ADMINISTRATION

RPI anticipates new capital campaign

President Shirley Ann Jackson poses with student leaders for a photo at an ice cream social, which was the first of many campaign kick-off events.

Brookelyn Parslow
Senior Reporter

In anticipation of Rensselaer’s capital campaign launch on Friday, October 13, President Shirley Ann Jackson released three emails to the RPI community, each detailing a main objective of the campaign.

The first email, released on September 29, focused on “bridging the gap” and “creating access and enhancing the student experience.” Jackson mentioned that the cost of a Rensselaer education has risen, and that currently 43 percent of the undergraduate population has financial needs that exceed the financial aid given to them. The gap between need and aid is currently $32 million per year. As a result, the campaign is largely intended to build a "student aid endowment" that could make RPI more accessible to people of different financial backgrounds.

In addition, the campaign will be used to continue down the path of “pedagogical innovation” so that once the “best students” are at RPI, they can receive the “best possible education.” This innovation currently includes The Arch; Clustered Learning, Advocacy, and Support for Students; and mixed-reality experiences, and will expand as research uncovers different methods for teaching and learning.

The second email, released on October 2, revolved around “The Faculty 500,” which includes “attracting top faculty” and “empowering world-changing research.”

The last email, released on October 6, focused on “creating access and enhancing the student experience,” and is, in the hiring process for the "director of the Union." The committee has done, and mentioned on-campus interviews, phone interviews, and said that students were involved throughout that process.

In response to further student concerns in a way that “is in line with civil discourse,” then they “shouldn’t face any retribution. He noted that “we made a decision some time ago that we would not approve demonstration applications for the dates of October 12–14, 2017.”

Apgar wrote that he welcomes a meeting with Johns to discuss alternatives and dates, but did state that “they did occur and none can happen reasonably proximate to it (as Apgar contends), no meaningful demonstration at any event is possible.”

Save the Union says that despite the administration’s denial of the demonstration, it is planning to hold a “lab safety class” on 4 pm on Friday on the field outside of EMPAC, which overlaps with the proposed protest from Johns’ original application. The campaign is largely intended to build a “lab safety class” at 4 pm on Friday on the field outside of EMPAC, which overlaps with the proposed protest from Johns’ original application.

Apgar responded to a question asking if students participating in the upcoming protest could potentially face retaliation from the school by stating that civil discourse is highly valued on the Rensselaer campus, and that if a student is there voicing their concerns in a way that “is in line with civil discourse,” then they shouldn’t face any retribution. Apgar also discussed the reasoning behind the denial of the protest application, citing a shortage of available staff to conduct the demonstration. In response to the denial, the Save the Union organization sent a campus-wide email decrying Apgar’s letter. “If no reasonably-defined form of demonstration can happen within an event (as the law provides) and none can happen reasonably proximate to it (as Apgar contends), no meaningful demonstration at any event is possible.”

Save the Union says that despite the administration’s denial of the demonstration, it is planning to hold a “lab safety class” on 4 pm on Friday on the field outside of EMPAC, which overlaps with the proposed protest from Johns’ original application. The campaign is largely intended to build a “lab safety class” at 4 pm on Friday on the field outside of EMPAC, which overlaps with the proposed protest from Johns’ original application.

Students should be able to shape Union

The Polytechnic®
RPI TV Ireland trip, KSA Thanksgiving approved

Jonathan Caicedo
Senior Reporter

Due to the absence of President of the Union, Matthew Rand ’19, the Vice President of the Union Rasika Ekhalikar ’18 opened the meeting on Thursday, October 5. The first item on the night’s agenda was RPI TV’s request for fund reallocation for a trip to Ireland this November. They plan to film a documentary on the men’s hockey team as it plays in the Friendship Four tournament. RPI Athletics agreed to fund the trip for two RPI TV members, but President Jason Lee ’19 came before the board to request funds to allow for two additional RPI TV members. Concerns were raised over whether the two additional members were truly needed, and after reassurance by Lee that they were, the motion to reallocate $2,447 from RPI TV’s Goal C, Program 2, which is the club’s income from sales and production, to fund this trip passed 15-0-3.

Afterwards, Graham Knowles from the Archer Center for Student Leadership and Success came before the E-Board to request the reservation of the McNeil Room on November 8 to accommodate a telecast talk by Simon Sinek. The talk will be presented by the Rensselaer chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and will be open to the RPI community. Knowles mentioned the McNeil Room as the prime location for the event due to difficulties in acquiring other space on campus because of scheduling conflicts with exam blocks. Discussion revolved around the risks in taking away the McNeil as study space for many students during that time. Mother’s Wine Emporium will be available as an alternate space. Nonetheless, the motion to grant the National Society of Leadership and Success a reservation of the McNeil Room on November 8 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm passed 16-0-2.

The Korean Student Association then came before the board to request money for an event celebrating Korean Thanksgiving, which would be open to the RPI community. This request was denied in previous years because club membership was lacking. Now that KSA’s membership has grown, the E-Board decided to grant the funds from contingencies with a vote of 18-0-0.

Director of the Mueller Center Steve Allard then gave the director’s report. He mentioned the continued search for the assistant director of the Mueller Center, and that phone interviews for the assistant director of student activities occurred last week. He also announced the Mueller Center’s intention to start offering an English as a second language course. Ekhalikar then moved on to the president’s report. On October 11, there will be a barbecue on ’86 Field from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. She also mentioned the completion of the Student Veterans Lounge and the ribbon cutting ceremony that will take place on November 8. (file photo)

Elena Perez / The Polytechnic
Interview committee memo leaked
No recommendation for Union director; flawed process cited

Tyler Carney
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, October 7, a memo from the Human Resources Interview Committee Chairperson Michael Cuozzo ’18 that was addressed to members of the Rensselaer Union Executive Board was leaked on Reddit.

In the memo, the Human Resources Interview Committee decided that it was unable to provide a recommendation for a director of the Union candidate to the E-Board. The search for a new director was run through William Spelman Executive Search firm. Several thousand applications were reviewed, of which William Spelman selected 50 that were given to RPI administration. The grand marshal and president of the Union gathered student feedback and forwarded that feedback to the Division of Human Resources to ensure candidates were chosen that aligned with student interests.

The memo states that, as far as the committee is aware, this feedback was never implemented into the HR’s scoring rubric, which is a tool used to rank the applicants. Assistant Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students Travis Apgar and Interim Vice President for Student Life LeNorman Strong video interviewed five of the 50 applicants. Of those five, two were chosen and those two were the people interviewed by the committee.

The memo states, “At this point, students had not yet been included in any aspect of the formal hiring process.”

No reasoning as to how these two were the selected candidates, or what happened to the other three that were video interviewed, was provided to the committee.

The committee at this point was given access to HR’s performance management tool which is used to determine how well a candidate aligns with the job description. The committee was alarmed with its contents, most notably “the director’s newfound budgeting authority and control in the direction of student government.”

Another point of contention was how the only reference to certain questions—and “whether or not there was an underlying administrative agenda due to so few candidates being presented, and a stark contrast in terms of experience and qualifications between the two.”

The memo states, in conclusion, that they were not able to recommend either of the candidates. They also recommended that the job description be amended, as well as the job duties in the performance management tool. Only after these issues are addressed, and their questions for the two applicants are answered, will they “deliver a detailed report of its findings and recommendations.”

The HR Committee memorandum can be viewed in full at https://poly.rpi.edu/s/fslg32.

No recommendation for Union director; flawed process cited

Capital: New Center for Science, increased financial assistance

More than 360 tenure and tenure-track faculty have been hired by RPI in the past two decades, and sponsored research expenditures have tripled to $100 million per year. Through the campaign, Jackson aims to raise those numbers to 500 faculty and $250 million, while also creating more endowed professorships.

The final email, sent on October 6, expanded on “building the third-century campus.” Jackson emphasized the need for academic facilities to enable “radically innovative” pedagogy through research laboratories with “cutting-edge capabilities.” The capital campaign in 2008 started this process, with renovations to the East Campus Athletic Village, the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, the Center for Computational Innovations, and the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies.

It will continue, through the upcoming capital campaign, with a “state-of-the-art Center for Science,” and the second phase of ECAV expansion. The Center for Science will focus on research, with an aim to raise “productivity, rankings, and visibility” while accommodating an expanding faculty. An “indoor Olympic-quality swimming pool, tennis courts, practice and playing fields for field hockey and lacrosse, and an indoor field house for track and field” are among the planned additions to ECAV.

Jackson briefly mentioned upgrading and renovating student housing, but did not go into detail on plans for such an effort.

This capital campaign was announced at the president’s Fall Town Meeting in 2016 with a brief account of its goals. At the time, Jackson stated that pursuing research grants, increasing financial aid for undergraduates, and expanding graduate enrollment to 2,500 students would be some of the goals of the campaign. The latter, however, was not explicitly mentioned in any of the emails that Jackson released.

On October 9, the pre-campaign launch began with an ice cream social in the Rensselaer Union, which included a brief description of the campus’s goals from Jackson. The pre-campaign will continue with a barbeque on October 11 on the ’86 Field. The official kick-off will begin on October 12 with a variety of events throughout the weekend.

FIFTEENTH STREET HOUSING

NOW IS THE TIME TO BOOK YOUR FALL 2018 OFF CAMPUS APARTMENT!

• Affordably priced apartments from studios to multiple bedrooms
• Fully furnished all utilities, TV, W/D Internet included
• Locally owned with full time management & maintenance staff on-site

We are the largest off-campus housing provider for RPI students - 100% of our apartments rent every year!

www.fifteenthstreethousing.com

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1985
**THURSDAY**

**October 12**

- **Passport to The New Polytechnic—Engineering: O.T. Swanson Multidisciplinary Design Lab**
  JEC 3232; 1–2 pm
- **Walking Tours of Campus**
  Heffner Alumni House; 2-3 pm
- **Passport to The New Polytechnic—Engineering: Biomechanics Class**
  SAGE 3713; 4–5:50 pm
- **Troy-Green Island Bridge: 1977, Before and After**
  RU 3510, RU 3511; 6–7 pm
  Presentation by George Christian '76 on the 1977 collapse of the Green Island Bridge. All class years welcome.

**FRIDAY**

**October 13**

- **Research Showcase**
  CBIS Atrium; 10 am–3:30 pm
  Research at Rensselaer addresses some of the world’s most pressing technological challenges—from energy security and sustainable development to biotechnology and human health. During this program, researchers will discuss their transformative work, and its potential applications.
- **Learning @ Rensselaer**
  Walker 6113; 11 am–12 pm
  This workshop offers an overview of the initiatives, learning strategies, and tools supporting active learning for our students at Rensselaer.
- **RED (Research, Education, and Discovery) Talks—A Transformative Rensselaer Confronts the Global Challenges**
  CBIS Isermann Auditorium, Bruggeman Conference Center; 1–3 pm
  At these “Ted Talk” style presentations, Rensselaer researchers will highlight solutions to societally important challenges where Rensselaer plays a leading role, and how this research was potentiated by the vision of The New Polytechnic and The Rensselaer Plan 2024.
- **Campaign Launch: Presidential All-Alumni Evening**
  EMPAC Theater and Folsom Library; 5–10 pm
  Join President Jackson, classmates, teammates, students, friends, family, and all returning alumni for a celebration of Rensselaer, and a look forward to the part we all play in the future of our transformative university. The evening will serve as the launch of a new campaign, designed to position Rensselaer for its third century of leadership in research and education. The campaign will support The New Polytechnic—our unique and transformative paradigm for research, teaching, and student life. Black tie optional—formal or cocktail attire.

**SATURDAY**

**October 14**

- **Softball Alumnae Game**
  Doris Robison Field; 9:30–11 am
- **Men’s Lacrosse Alumni Game**
  Renswych Field; 10–11 am.
- **Tau Epsilon Phi 3rd Annual Alumni vs. Undergraduates Floor Hockey Game**
  ‘87 Gymnasium; 10–11 am
- **Baseball Alumni Yarnold Home Run Derby and Softball Game**
  Doris Robison Field; 10 am–1 pm
- **Impact on the Global Challenges: Rensselaer Alumnae in Position to Create Change**
  EMPAC Theater; 10:30–11:30 am
  President Shirley Ann Jackson invites you to attend a panel discussion with Rensselaer alumnae who are top executives in major business and industry. In this intriguing discussion, the contributions of Rensselaer alumnae across all disciplines will be considered, as we work to address the global challenges.
- **FanFest**
  ECAV; 11 am–3 pm
  An all-new midway featuring games, student performances, carnival snacks, the Food Truck Food Court, and more!
- **Formula SAE Car Demonstration**
  Presented by Rensselaer Motorsport
  Edgehill Terrace; 11:30 am–1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY**

**October 18**

- **MANE Colloquium**
  DCC 330; 10:30–11:30 am
  “Thermochemical Energy Storage with Ammonia”, Professor Adrienne Lavine, University of California.
- **Civil & Environmental Engineerinng Fall Seminar Series Speaker—Robin Kemper ASCE President-elect**
  CBIS Isermann Auditorium; 2–3 pm
  All around the world, engineers are pushing the limits of ingenuity and innovation in unexpected, imaginative, and amazing ways. ASCE’s grand dream is for civil engineers to be global leaders in building a better quality of life for mankind. In this presentation, titled “Master Your Future,” ASCE President-elect Robin A. Kemper, will share how you can be part of this dream as well as how ASCE can help you grow and succeed in your career.
- **Class of 2020 The Arch Preparation Fair**
  Armory; 2:30–4:30 pm
  Get all the information you need about academic plans of study, financial aid, housing, finding an away semester experience and more! Every Department will be represented, so you can get help planning out your spring and summer schedule.

The Polytechnic will hold elections at 3 pm on Sunday, October 15 in our office, RU 3418.
DATA-DRIVEN INFLUENCE

Hear from an alumnus who mastered the art of technological engagement

Wednesday, October 11
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.
CBIS Auditorium
eship.rpi.edu/2017eoy
Songs for President Jackson to dance to

10. Electric Slide
9. Oops! I Did It Again
8. In Your Arms Tonight
7. Hips Don’t Lie
6. That song about saving the Union
5. Rensselaer Alma Mater
4. Never Gonna Give You Up
3. Chicken Dance
2. Get Low
1. Ms. Jackson

MONDAY PUNDAY by Matthew Broussard

DILBERT by Scott Adams

SUDOKU

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

Last Week’s Answers

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

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885
A Cryptoquote is a simple substitution code where each letter that appears may stand for a different letter. The substitutions are consistent throughout the puzzle. Punctuation is not translated.

For example: SIVRSWIC = ENGINEERS

Hint: Quote is from one of Union’s oldest traditions.

"Oe ock weko’z’n, heew. Pueok ne nck akon, I twsibk nctn. I’ak hen t jkr okpbkno ej sm erz. Ej tuu nck bktoezo I wiwz’n rtzn sm wtghcnkb ne wtnk! Dknkb, zencizh io sebk isdebtzn nctz jtsium. Meg otakw sm wtghcnkb’o uijk, tzv I peguw zkakb jebhkn oeskncizh uifk nctn, oe l’uu hiak meg ezk pctzpk. meg bktwm? Meg rtuf ncbeghcncok weebo, tzv meg jebhkn tzm ej ncio ctddkzkw. Tzv wez’n meg kakb, kakb iznnkjbkbk rnc sm lgiozkoo tthtz, lkptgok ij meg we, l’uu fiu meg, tzv kakbmezk nctn meg ueak. l’uu fiu meg wktw. nctn’o rtzn l’uu we ne dbenkpn sm jtsium. Dknk, meg gzwkbontzw? Ckm. I qgon otakw megb uijk. Zer, rtzn we meg otm?"

Twbitz Neesko,
Odiwkbstz: Ceskpesizh
WOMEN’S HOCKEY

Unfortunate plays against Maine

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

The Rensselaer women’s ice hockey team played two games this past weekend against the University of Maine. Unfortunately, despite a strong effort by the Engineers, they were unable to swing a win for either game.

On Friday, October 6, the Engineers lost the game with a final score of 2-1. The Black Bears took the lead near the end of the third period, with a goal by Madeleine Burnett ’21 who made a long distance scoring shot on goal. Shortly thereafter, the Black Bears took the lead once more with a shot that was unintentionally knocked in by another defender.

The second game, which occurred the following day, once again ended in a victory for the University of Maine. The first period saw more than half of the total scoring. The Black Bears again scored the first goal of the game very early in the first period. Rensselaer was able to quickly follow this as Marsa Raspa ’18 managed a shot just two minutes later.

During the final period, Sabrina Repace ’20 managed to tie up the game 2-2 with a shot into the net assisted by captain Shyana Tomlinson ’18. However, the Black Bears managed to gain and maintain the lead near the end of the third quarter, with a final shot by Maine off a rebound near the edge of the RPI crease, bringing the final score to 3-2.

The Engineers will be playing another two-game series on Friday, October 13, away at RIT.

FIELD HOCKEY

Yellowjackets sting

Darby Burns
Staff Reporter

On Saturday, October 7 the women’s field hockey team lost 2-1 to the University of Rochester Yellowjackets. The game opened with a shot from the Yellowjackets, starting them off with a 1-0 lead. Goalkeeper Mackenzie Reiningher ’18 blocked a shot attempt by Rochester at 22:05. A shot by Taylor Clink ’19 assisted by Megan Jones ’18 at 24:17 tied up the score to 1-1.

In the 49th minute, Engineer goalkeeper Rachel Kaufman ’19 made a spectacular diving save that deflected the Yellowjackets’ leading scorer and kept the game at a tied score. In the 61st minute, Kaufman made another, which was immediately followed by a goal by Lauren Hilde ’19. At 64:44, things took a turn for the worse and Rochester was able to make a tap-in goal which brought the score to 2-1. Although the Engineers put up a strong fight in the last five minutes with multiple shots made on the goal, including a final penalty corner just before time ran out. None of those shots made it into the goal, and the game ended 2-1.

The Engineers play again at 1 pm on Friday, October 13 at St. Lawrence University.

FOOTBALL

Statesmen sweep

Joseph Lyon
Senior Reporter

The Rensselaer Engineers took their second loss of the season and second consecutive loss this past weekend, when they played at Hobart College in Geneva, New York. The game was a total defeat, with a final score of 0-30. The Engineers were unable to make any scoring plays, putting up barely half of the offensive yards of Hobart.

In the first quarter, the Engineers managed to prevent any touchdowns, but the Hobart Statesmen managed two field goals and ended the first quarter with a score of 0-6. Following this, RPI managed to hold Hobart through the second quarter, keeping the score 0-6 for half time.

Through the third quarter, however, Hobart managed a touchdown with connecting kick, bringing the score to 0-13, and followed that just three minutes later with another field goal, furthering their lead.

Their momentum carried into the fourth quarter, where another two touchdowns were scored, combined with two field goals that brought the final score to 0-30.

Contribution to the Engineers, running back Mike Tivinis ’18 led in both rushing with 50 yards and receiving with 33 yards. Quarterback Ed Trimpert ’19 led in passing yards, with a total of 90.

The Engineers will be playing this weekend against Ithaca College for homecoming weekend on October 14 at 1pm.

MEN’S SOCCER

Engineers victorious

Jacob Kaplan
Senior Reporter

Rensselaer won 1-0 against Union College at home on Saturday, October 7. The victory puts the Engineers at 7-3-1 for the season. At the start of the game, Union had the first opportunity to score in the 6th minute, but the shot was saved by goalie Matt LaBranche ’20. Joe Di Miceli ’21 nearly pulled the Engineers ahead, but his shot was saved and the game remained scoreless. In the second half, Union had several chances to score but all shots missed or were stopped. An attempt by Brandon Pirog ’20 went high. Finally, in the 89th minute, Rensselaer drew a free kick at the edge of the penalty area. Miceli took the shot which rebounded off the right post and back to the penalty area, where Trevor Bissom ’21 kicked into the game-winning shot for his fourth goal of the season. LaBranche ended the game with four saves. Despite the win, Rensselaer did not have an advantage in shots or corner kicks.

The Engineers will face off against RIT at home this Friday, October 13.

Are you interested in co-term or the Lally MBA?

Eng/Sci+MBA Info Sessions:
9/19, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library 9/20, 10-11, Union 3511 10/17, 2-3, Fishbach Rm, Library 10/18, 10-11, Union 3511

Co-Term Info Sessions:
9/19, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library 9/20, 11-12 Union 3511 10/17, 3-4, Fishbach Rm, Library 10/18, 11-12, Union 3511

If you’re interested in attending, please RSVP: Email lallyrms@rpi.edu.

Contact: Shani W. Quinn 518 276-6947

Want to write for sports? Like taking photos? Email sports@poly.rpi.edu!
THIS PAST WEEK, MY MOM WAS IN TOWN TO bring me basically all that was left of my bedroom after I left for college last month. Naturally, as one does when a parent comes to visit, I suggested that she take me out to lunch downtown, and she happily agreed to it. So, we decided to go to The Greek House, located at the corner of 3rd and Broadway. This restaurant is family owned and operated, with lots of Mediterranean spreads and dishes to choose from. They are most known for their souvlaki—chicken or pork wrapped in pita with red onions, tomatoes, and tzatziki sauce—and their gyro, pita bread filled with red onions, tomatoes, tzatziki, and the choice of lamb, chicken, beef, pork, or vegetarian. They also have a gluten-free pita option for those with matching dietary restrictions.

Walking in, I immediately noticed the all-Greek atmosphere, including blue and white striped table cloths, a miniature Greek flag at every table, and a TV that showed breathtaking landscapes. The tables were pretty close together, which I believed to be on account of the homey nature of a family-owned business.

Ignoring how basic of a choice I had made, I ordered the chicken gyro due to its enticing aesthetic. My mother had difficulty deciding between the grilled octopus and a chicken gyro. So, like any reasonable and hungry person would do in her situation, she ordered both. We also decided to share a small plate of Greek fries. Though gyros are pretty straightforward in concept, it is very easy to make it distasteful by adding more or less of an ingredient. That was not a concern here. The chicken was lightly marinated, which tied well with the juicy roma tomatoes and red onions. No matter, the best part was definitely the bread. It was soft, fresh, and held everything together nicely. It was a little bit on the smaller side, so if you were like me and stupidly removed the foil holding it all together, some food may have fallen out onto your plate. As for the Greek fries, they were steak style, drizzled with parsley and parmesan. The flavors together were decent, but the texture was a bit dull. Overall, I was very pleased with the experience and I hope to make a habit of going there for my regular dose of Greek cuisine.

Delicious gyros from The Greek House

Anna Koenig
Staff Reviewer

Students catch glimpse of utility aircraft

MEMBERS OF THE RPI COMMUNITY EXPLORE a Sikorsky UH-60L Black Hawk after a morning landing on Friday, October 6. This event was sponsored by the School of Engineering.
Anahit Hovhanisyan
Senior Reviewer

DOWNTOWN TROY

DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES EXECUTES impactful research for global health.

One of RPI’s most impactful researchers is Dr. Dee B. Vashishth, Director of the Center for Biotechnology and Interdisciplinary Studies and professor of biomedical engineering at RPI. Recognized for his insightful work, Vashishth’s research group applies engineering concepts to biomedical research, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, starting an initiative to pair students with faculty not in their major. As a result, 20 to 25 students affiliated with CBIS participate in this opportunity each semester. This has allowed both research groups and students to gain new perspectives and further advance their knowledge. Vashishth encourages students to become involved with research, especially interdisciplinary research, as it is invaluable to determining the unknown.

CBIS investigation challenges the norm

Anahit Hovhanisyan
Senior Reviewer

DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES EXECUTES impactful research for global health.

We are pleased to announce that we’re welcoming a new column to the paper called “Research Spotlight.”

DOWNTOWN TROY

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.

Comic Jam draws out community creativity at Troy Library

Emma Goldman
Staff Reviewer

Walking into the Troy Public Library is always an adventure, and Saturday’s Comic Jam was no exception. Cartoonist and illustrator Ira Marcks has made it his priority to make the arts more present again in Troy, particularly with the constant budget cuts in arts departments across the country. Saturday’s display was just one example of the efforts he goes to in order to make these things a possibility.
Another look at eye contact

This summer, I discovered something huge about myself, and others. I rarely made eye contact with anyone. If I did, it was only for a few seconds and never meaningful. It was really just me looking when I knew someone was trying to look me in the eyes and I knew it would be awkward if I didn’t reciprocate. It seems meaningless, but let me tell you how important this realization was.

The moment I realized this was when I took a picture of my friend, really capturing his eyes. I finally noticed he has a green eye and a blue eye! I have no idea how, in the five years I’ve been around him, I never looked him in the eyes long enough to know that he had two different eye colors. Then I thought back and tried to remember the color of all my friends’ eyes. I couldn’t. I was ashamed.

Social signals, particularly eye contact, are criteria for trust and adaptation. Eye contact can express feelings, as well as motivations. It can help you understand how genuine or deceiving a person is, how sad or happy. Looking into someone’s eyes really is a window into their soul, or if you don’t believe in souls, it’s at least a deeper look into a person’s body language. The more eye contact someone holds, the more confident they are perceived, even more trustworthy. The more often someone looks away and breaks eye contact, the more they seem like they’re trying to hide something.

After I mentioned eye contact to my friend and how I really seemed to have been avoiding it all my life, he wanted to make eye contact and not look away at all, for ten minutes straight. I didn’t even make it three seconds before I felt extremely self-conscious and silly. I kept breaking the contact and tried to get him to drop the subject, but he wouldn’t budge. Finally, he gave in and agreed to lower the bar; he set the time to three minutes.

I started off by blankly staring into his eyes. I wasn’t really seeing anything; but I felt him seeing me. Not just looking at me, but really seeing me. It’s a feeling I can’t describe, and I encourage you all to try it out or even just research it. Making continuous eye contact for prolonged periods of time has been reported to have some very strange, even psychadelic effects. I know psychadelics sounds crazy; but I promise, just research or give it a try. After about 20 seconds of feeling extremely awkward and fighting the urge to break the stare, I had 30 seconds of feeling like I was naked and completely exposed. Finally, I decided to actually see my friend. Again. I don’t know how to explain it, and all I can say is try it, but I experienced a million emotions in a millionth of a second. I really didn’t say a lot about myself and a lot about my friend, so much that I felt the tears well up and a few slid down my face. On a river bank, in the middle of summer, with just nature and my best friend, I cried for a few minutes.

In that moment, I felt like a stronger connection was formed. He didn’t even need to break the stare to comfort me, and I felt as if he knew. A few days later, when I was feeling down, I decided to go on a hike and sit by a river; we then set a timer for ten minutes. He wanted me to make eye contact, and not look away all, for ten minutes straight. I didn’t even make it three seconds before I felt extremely self-conscious and silly. I kept breaking the contact and tried to get him to drop the subject, but he wouldn’t budge. Finally, he gave in and lowered the bar, he set the timer to three minutes.

I started off by blankly staring into his eyes. I wasn’t really seeing anything; but I felt him seeing me. Not just looking at me, but really seeing me. It’s a feeling I can’t describe, and I encourage you all to try it out or even just research it. Making continuous eye contact for prolonged periods of time has been reported to have some very strange, even psychadelic effects. I know psychadelics sounds crazy; but I promise, just research or give it a try. After about 20 seconds of feeling extremely awkward and fighting the urge to break the stare, I had 30 seconds of feeling like I was naked and completely exposed. Finally, I decided to actually see my friend. Again. I don’t know how to explain it, and all I can say is try it, but I experienced a million emotions in a millionth of a second. I really didn’t say a lot about myself and a lot about my friend, so much that I felt the tears well up and a few slid down my face. On a river bank, in the middle of summer, with just nature and my best friend, I cried for a few minutes.

In that moment, I felt like a stronger connection was formed. He didn’t even need to break the stare to comfort me, and I felt as if he knew. A few days later, when I was feeling down, I decided to go on a hike and sit by a river;
Union meaningful to student experiences

Existence of student-run Union valuable to Rensselaer community, worth supporting

Rensselaer Union is a student-run organization that has been in operation since 1885. It serves as a representation of the student body and provides a platform for students to express their opinions and interests to administrators. The Union has hosted various events and activities throughout its history, including Reunion & Homecoming weekend, which is a time for alumni from across the world to return to campus to reminisce on their time at RPI and to meet with current students.

The Union is an important part of the Rensselaer community, and it is important for current students and alumni to support it in order to ensure its continued existence. The Union has been a valuable resource for students and alumni alike, and it has afforded them the opportunity to represent their opinions and interests to administrators.

The Union is also a place where students can learn about RPI and its traditions. This year, the Union hosted a student ice hockey game on Monday, October 9, which was a great opportunity for students to get involved in the Rensselaer community and to see what the institution has to offer.

In conclusion, the Rensselaer Union is an important part of the Rensselaer community, and it is important for students and alumni to support it in order to ensure its continued existence. The Union provides a valuable resource for students and alumni alike, and it is a place where students can learn about RPI and its traditions.
Letters to the Editor

Ceasing donations

AS AN ALUMNI OF RPI, HISTORICALLY, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HAPPY TO DONATE TO MY alma mater because I value the great education and time that I spent at RPI. In addi-
tion, I consider it a way to "pay it forward," because both my husband and I were
fortunate to receive assistance to attend. As a result, for many years, I have been
giving at the “Patron” level for young alumni.

During my last years at RPI, I did not always agree with events that were happen-
ing on campus—most notably the suspension of the Faculty Senate and the resulting
tension between the faculty and administration. Regardless, I have still donated to
the school because I still felt strongly that it was a great cause.

Unfortunately, the past couple of years have made me rethink my actions. As more
and more stories came out about where money was being spent and the bond rating
of the school, my donations became more and more targeted. I moved from giving to
the Annual Fund, then to the School of Engineering and the School of Science,
then to specific departments—Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems and
Biology. Last year, I targeted it even more—the Newman Foundation and the RPI
Union. I also included a note with the checks that they were to be cashed only on
the condition that the Union remains student-run.

It is with great sadness that I can no longer donate to my alma mater. With the recent
events on campus with regards to the Union and the administration, I can’t support
the administration’s actions. And because I feel powerless, the only way I know how
to have a direct impact is to withhold my monetary contributions. In addition, all
the company matching that I typically gave to RPI will be given to a more worthy charity.

I look forward to attending the campaign launch on Friday night! It will be
interesting to watch as alumni are solicited for money, of which I no longer feel
compelled to contribute. I will also be attending the Patroon brunch, which I often
enjoyed, and hope to be able to attend again one day. And to show solidarity for
my peers, I will be wearing black the entire weekend. If our paths happen to cross
during alumni weekend, I will treat you with the utmost respect, which I pray you
will also bestow on those you were blessed to lead.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Peltz B.S.’07, M.S.’08

Seizing student-run Union unacceptable

ALTHOUGH OUR AUDIENCE TENDS TO BE shunned centuries of shared gover-
ment, the past couple of years have made me rethink my actions. As more
and more stories came out about where money was being spent and the bond rating
of the school, my donations became more and more targeted. I moved from giving to
the Annual Fund, then to the School of Engineering and the School of Science,
then to specific departments—Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems and
Biology. Last year, I targeted it even more—the Newman Foundation and the RPI
Union. I also included a note with the checks that they were to be cashed only on
the condition that the Union remains student-run.

It is with great sadness that I can no longer donate to my alma mater. With the recent
events on campus with regards to the Union and the administration, I can’t support
the administration’s actions. And because I feel powerless, the only way I know how
to have a direct impact is to withhold my monetary contributions. In addition, all
the company matching that I typically gave to RPI will be given to a more worthy charity.

I look forward to attending the campaign launch on Friday night! It will be
interesting to watch as alumni are solicited for money, of which I no longer feel
compelled to contribute. I will also be attending the Patroon brunch, which I often
enjoyed, and hope to be able to attend again one day. And to show solidarity for
my peers, I will be wearing black the entire weekend. If our paths happen to cross
during alumni weekend, I will treat you with the utmost respect, which I pray you
will also bestow on those you were blessed to lead.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Peltz B.S.’07, M.S.’08

Field weekend a resounding success

DURING THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 30, the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps
Department went on its biannual Field Training Exercise at Camp Ethan Allan
Training Site in Jericho, Vermont. The exer-
cise consisted of cadets navigating through
the rugged, unfamiliar Vermont terrain with
nothing but a map and compass, going to
the range to improve their marksmanship,
and practicing their skills in squad mis-
sons. Cadets slept outside, ate field rations
called Meal, Ready to Eat, and set up patrol
bases to defend at night and conduct mis-
ions during the day. At the range, they
learned about basic rifle marksmanship,
got to zero in their M4 rifles, and shoot to
qualify on the Army weapons qualifica-
tion course. They also did land navigation,
which consisted of plotting coordinates on
a map, then finding them in the woods. For
this exercise, cadets took into consideration
elevation change, bodies of water, and
time constraints into their route planning,
something they had been taught and got-
ten to practice before. This all culminated
towards the squad missions. Cadets had trained up to this point to prepare for squad
missions. Classes and practical exercises
gave cadets the experience and confidence
to perform tactical first aid, handle enemy
prisoners, move as a team, and much more.

The biggest takeaway for most cadets was
to be able to work and function as a team. There are a variety of jobs as an officer in
the United States Army, from being an in-
fantryman to a human resources officer, but
they all require that team-based mentality
as a foundation.

Rhys Jacobson '19

Do you have anything you want to write
about? Contact us at poly.rpi.edu/contact.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

Letters to the Editor

Ceasing donations

AS AN ALUMNI OF RPI, HISTORICALLY, I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN HAPPY TO DONATE TO MY alma mater because I value the great education and time that I spent at RPI. In addi-
tion, I consider it a way to "pay it forward," because both my husband and I were
fortunate to receive assistance to attend. As a result, for many years, I have been
giving at the “Patron” level for young alumni.

During my last years at RPI, I did not always agree with events that were happen-
ing on campus—most notably the suspension of the Faculty Senate and the resulting
tension between the faculty and administration. Regardless, I have still donated to
the school because I still felt strongly that it was a great cause.

Unfortunately, the past couple of years have made me rethink my actions. As more
and more stories came out about where money was being spent and the bond rating
of the school, my donations became more and more targeted. I moved from giving to
the Annual Fund, then to the School of Engineering and the School of Science,
then to specific departments—Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems and
Biology. Last year, I targeted it even more—the Newman Foundation and the RPI
Union. I also included a note with the checks that they were to be cashed only on
the condition that the Union remains student-run.

It is with great sadness that I can no longer donate to my alma mater. With the recent
events on campus with regards to the Union and the administration, I can’t support
the administration’s actions. And because I feel powerless, the only way I know how
to have a direct impact is to withhold my monetary contributions. In addition, all
the company matching that I typically gave to RPI will be given to a more worthy charity.

I look forward to attending the campaign launch on Friday night! It will be
interesting to watch as alumni are solicited for money, of which I no longer feel
compelled to contribute. I will also be attending the Patroon brunch, which I often
enjoyed, and hope to be able to attend again one day. And to show solidarity for
my peers, I will be wearing black the entire weekend. If our paths happen to cross
during alumni weekend, I will treat you with the utmost respect, which I pray you
will also bestow on those you were blessed to lead.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Peltz B.S.’07, M.S.’08

Seizing student-run Union unacceptable

ALTHOUGH OUR AUDIENCE TENDS TO BE shunned centuries of shared gover-
ment, the past couple of years have made me rethink my actions. As more
and more stories came out about where money was being spent and the bond rating
of the school, my donations became more and more targeted. I moved from giving to
the Annual Fund, then to the School of Engineering and the School of Science,
then to specific departments—Decision Sciences and Engineering Systems and
Biology. Last year, I targeted it even more—the Newman Foundation and the RPI
Union. I also included a note with the checks that they were to be cashed only on
the condition that the Union remains student-run.

It is with great sadness that I can no longer donate to my alma mater. With the recent
events on campus with regards to the Union and the administration, I can’t support
the administration’s actions. And because I feel powerless, the only way I know how
to have a direct impact is to withhold my monetary contributions. In addition, all
the company matching that I typically gave to RPI will be given to a more worthy charity.

I look forward to attending the campaign launch on Friday night! It will be
interesting to watch as alumni are solicited for money, of which I no longer feel
compelled to contribute. I will also be attending the Patroon brunch, which I often
enjoyed, and hope to be able to attend again one day. And to show solidarity for
my peers, I will be wearing black the entire weekend. If our paths happen to cross
during alumni weekend, I will treat you with the utmost respect, which I pray you
will also bestow on those you were blessed to lead.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Peltz B.S.’07, M.S.’08

Field weekend a resounding success

DURING THE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 30, the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps
Department went on its biannual Field Training Exercise at Camp Ethan Allan
Training Site in Jericho, Vermont. The exer-
cise consisted of cadets navigating through
the rugged, unfamiliar Vermont terrain with
nothing but a map and compass, going to
the range to improve their marksmanship,
and practicing their skills in squad mis-
missions. Cadets slept outside, ate field rations
called Meal, Ready to Eat, and set up patrol
bases to defend at night and conduct mis-
ions during the day. At the range, they
learned about basic rifle marksmanship,
got to zero in their M4 rifles, and shoot to
qualify on the Army weapons qualifica-
tion course. They also did land navigation,
which consisted of plotting coordinates on
a map, then finding them in the woods. For
this exercise, cadets took into consideration
elevation change, bodies of water, and
time constraints into their route planning,
something they had been taught and got-
ten to practice before. This all culminated
towards the squad missions. Cadets had trained up to this point to prepare for squad
missions. Classes and practical exercises
gave cadets the experience and confidence
to perform tactical first aid, handle enemy
prisoners, move as a team, and much more.

The biggest takeaway for most cadets was
to be able to work and function as a team. There are a variety of jobs as an officer in
the United States Army, from being an in-
fantryman to a human resources officer, but
they all require that team-based mentality
as a foundation.

Rhys Jacobson '19

Do you have anything you want to write
about? Contact us at poly.rpi.edu/contact.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885
TO: RPI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN ARTHUR GOLDEN

RE: THE HIRING OF AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

-To me, the hiring of an Executive Director cannot be justified without addressing the core mission and model of student leadership. The Union has operated independently from its inception over 100 years ago; it has clearly slipped using objective evidence of weakness in one’s position. If the president has the authority, even if somewhat questionable, simply state so and point to where the basis for that authority. By adopting this resolution, the Board is telling everyone that they do not believe the president has the authority to lead, are the heart and soul of Rensselaer.

Third, at the beginning of the fourth paragraph, Attorney Golden speaks of “our vision and goals for the Union.” What about the students’ vision and goals of their Union? The Union is what it is because of the vision and goals of the student leaders and Executive Board that have run the Union all these years. I’d have to say they’ve done a great job, so why the need for a change and why is Attorney Golden’s, the Board’s, or Jackson’s vision any better? Indeed, what is their vision? Where is the transparency? If not, it doesn’t, and one independent of RPI.

Finally, Attorney Golden speaks of the resolution that the Board adopted “confirming the authority the president has, and has always had.” All I can say is that in my law school days and in all my years of practice, I’ve always been taught, advised, and believed that one never exposes the weakness in one’s position. If the president has the authority, or even some prior student leaders, many current students and alumni, and even some prior student leaders with whom I have spoken, do not agree with Attorney Golden’s view of the role and authority the president has, and has always had. All I can say is that in my law school days and by the same token, couldn’t the very same comment have been made 50 years ago relative to the early 1960s? Its support of his position, Attorney Golden speaks of the need to ensure the “non-displacement of law” and “the same constitutional authority way.” Again, wasn’t that true of the Union 50 years ago? In fact, that is true of each successive year the Union has existed as our federal and state legislatures are forever adding new laws and revising existing laws. So, what’s new today? Further, I believe I have the belief in the Union has an attorney: if it doesn’t, should it, and one independent of RPI.

In an earlier path the student leadership of the Union takes, it should not amend its constitution or any other documents regarding its charter and operations to align them with RPI. Once the change is made, you and future generations will be stuck with it. The Union has funds, fight this! Go to Albany Law or elsewhere to seek help, seek donations from the RPI community, or even post a GoFundMe campaign. This is worth fighting for.

Edward K. Welch II ’77

Dear Steve,

I agree with your assessment of the Union and its role in the RPI community. The Union is a vital component of RPI’s culture and should not be understated in the decision-making process. The Union’s independence and autonomy are crucial to its success.

I have a few additional points to consider:

1. The Union has a unique role in the RPI community, and its leadership is essential to the student experience. The Union provides services and activities that enhance the college experience for students.

2. The Union’s financial independence is critical to its mission. The Union is self-funded, and its resources are used to support student programs and services.

3. The Union’s independence allows for creativity and innovation. The Union has the freedom to experiment with new ideas and programs that benefit students.

4. The Union’s independence is protected by the RPI constitution. The Board of Trustees cannot undermine the Union’s autonomy without clear justification.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and the efforts you are making to support the Union. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Student-run Union principles belitely

Board of Trustees

Chairman Arthur Golden’s Letter of September 27 regarding the hiring of the director of the Rensselaer Union was legally educational but totally missed the mark. He has made it clear to one and all that the president has absolute and final authority over hiring at RPI, which everyone always knew to be the case for the Union director, but in the spirit of self-deception and respect, not perceived. With this, the Trustees’ Executive Committee and the president reverse what is one of the long-term successes of RPI—a Union funded and managed by the students for the benefit and enrichment of the broad RPI community.

Why is this happening? We don’t really know, so at least share with us one good reason why over 50 years of working precedent cannot be fixed without usurping student power. Why is this happening? We don’t really know, so at least share with us one good reason why over 50 years of working precedent cannot be fixed without usurping student power. What is it now? It could be anything. The Union has funds, fight this! Go to Albany Law or elsewhere to seek help, seek donations from the RPI community, or even post a GoFundMe campaign. This is worth fighting for.

Edward K. Welch II ’77

Dear Steve,

I agree with your assessment of the Union and its role in the RPI community. The Union is a vital component of RPI’s culture and should not be understated in the decision-making process. The Union’s independence and autonomy are crucial to its success.

I have a few additional points to consider:

1. The Union has a unique role in the RPI community, and its leadership is essential to the student experience. The Union provides services and activities that enhance the college experience for students.

2. The Union’s financial independence is critical to its mission. The Union is self-funded, and its resources are used to support student programs and services.

3. The Union’s independence allows for creativity and innovation. The Union has the freedom to experiment with new ideas and programs that benefit students.

4. The Union’s independence is protected by the RPI constitution. The Board of Trustees cannot undermine the Union’s autonomy without clear justification.

I appreciate your thoughtfulness and the efforts you are making to support the Union. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Letters to the Editor

RPI Union’s original intent contextualized

The recent letter from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees dealt a blow to one of Rensselaer’s finest and longest traditions. It spoke of the Trustees’ and the president’s vision of what the Student Union should be—it would have been nice to have asked the students for their vision.

A year after Chairman Arthur Golden graduated in 1966, students supported, in the just-completed Student Union building would need a far larger operating budget to fully realize its great potential for improving campus life. It was also done to cement the tradition that the Student Union would remain in control of these funds and the supported activities. As noted just prior to this election, “…other schools across the country have had similar unions and their unions have, in many cases, drifted out of student control by neglect and misuse. This is something that must not happen here at Rensselaer. The Union must have competent leaders aware of its potential and scope in order to ensure that students retain full control of the facility they fought so long to obtain.” (The Polytechnic, 19 April 1967, page 13.)

To characterize the Union as just another experimental lab offered by the administration subverts what has been an essential element of RPI’s soul for over one and a quarter centuries. It was the students who raised the initial funds supporting athletics in 1883 that directly led to formation of this Union. Similarly, “In 1964, ground was broken for a new Student Union at Rensselaer. Construction of the building was made possible by the students’ decision to increase the student activities fee several years earlier. By 1964, the students had accumulated over a quarter of a million dollars, which enabled Rensselaer to acquire a 30-year mortgage to finance the building’s $3 million cost. As a result of continuing student support, that mortgage was burned in 1994.” (Phelan, Ross, & Westerdahl; Rensselaer: Where Imagination Achieves the Impossible.)

Renew Rensselaer is a team dedicated to preserving and strengthening what has made RPI special—and to improving its governance. Our newest member is “Stephen Van Rensselaer” who secured over 4,549 signatures to “Save the Union.” Why?

“The Rensselaer Union is an unusual, if not unique, student organization. Run entirely by students, the Union is a justifiable source of pride for the Institute.” Jared Cohen, President of Carnegie Mellon University, in the 2006 Middle States Accreditation Report to RPI.

You will be hearing more from Renew Rensselaer soon—and how you can help.

Bill Crisis ’68, ’69
78th President of the Union

Remediing imposter syndrome through meaningful collaboration, community

Overcoming a mindset, self-deprecation by getting involved in extracurriculars

“HOW DO I GET HERE?” WAS THE QUESTION THAT RAN through my head every couple minutes for the first few weeks of September.

My story is a little different from most students’ on campus. Coming out of high school, I did not feel ready to take the massive leap that is going away to a four year school. It didn’t help that my grades were average at best. I ended up making the decision to go to community college. After two years of getting my associates degree, I found myself staring at an acceptance letter from RPI.

In this moment, everything made sense. I had worked hard toward the goal of finishing my degree, and I had done it. But something felt wrong. I felt like I had been admitted by mistake. Or that, for some reason, the admissions office had let me in as a part of some cruel joke. This feeling of fraudulence is what I later learned to be known as “imposter syndrome.” I was convinced that I had only gotten into this school because I had somehow played the system by going to community college. I felt that, after my first rounds of tests, I would just fail and be found out as someone laughably unqualified.

This fear is something which most students can probably say they have felt at least once. Whether you’re a first year transfer student, freshmen up-perclassman, or even graduate student, I’m sure you can point to a time when you’ve questioned the legitimacy of your value by writing it off to simple luck. This is obviously a detrimental mindset, however, it can be difficult to break.

While this may sound clichéd, I believe that the most effective way to deal with imposter syndrome is to get involved in something other than schoolwork. Instead of perpetuating the self-fulfilling prophecy by constantly studying yourself to exhaustion, inevitably ending in you having “just scraped by again,” you might want to consider something that is more accessible and engaging than your classes. For me, this was joining The Polytechnic. Joining a club gave me the opportunity to prove to myself that I could succeed in a place that expects so much while simultaneously being easily accessible and accommodating. It also opened a door for me to start connecting with people who I would have otherwise felt alienated by. The Union soon became my second home where I would spend time studying, interspersed with a healthy amount of club activities.

While I still sometimes catch myself wondering how I got here, I no longer worry that I don’t belong. The Union’s ability to bring students together to work on things which they feel passionate about is truly unique from any other part of campus. Its ability to empower is why it is absolutely necessary. It ensures the mental health and cooperative nature of the student body, and provides a welcoming environment.

Serving the Rensselaer community since 1885

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 Ed/Op • 15 poly.rpi.edu
CUPHEAD IS EASILY THE MOST CHALLENGING GAME I have ever played.

The game starts by showing how Cuphead and his pal Mugman got themselves into their predicament—a lost bet with the Devil in his casino. After some pleading, the Devil agrees to spare their souls on the condition that they rough up some people who owe the Devil money. They agree to the Devil’s terms and set out on their journey.

The main purpose of the game is to beat all the bosses. These bosses are extremely well designed. From the character design, to the animations, to the mechanics, everything is perfect. They also vary wildly in those aspects. A few examples are a big, green dragon flying through the clouds, an insane clown on a roller coaster, a couple of bouncer frogs on a casino boat, a telekinetic carrot in a field, and a shape-shifting blimp lady. Every fight is different from the last, and a completely new challenge.

And what a challenge they are. The initial impression of a new boss is, “How in the world am I ever going to beat this?” Then the deaths happen, first a few right at the start of the match, then the deaths start happening later and later until the first phase is defeated! Too bad there are usually two or three more phases left in the fight. By the time the final phase is reached, the first phase is a breeze and the second phase an enjoyable challenge, but the final phase is pure torture.

At this point comes the majority of the deaths and retries. It gets so difficult because the first two phases have to be passed perfectly in order to have any chance of surviving long enough to learn the mechanics of the last phase. With so many projectiles flying across the screen, having to dodge them and still land on a part of the map that won’t instantly kill you, all while watching and listening for the next set of attacks, but still trying to dodge the first, the deaths rack up quickly.

Finally, by some stroke of pure luck, “KNOCKOUT” rings out and pops up on the screen. A rush comes as the realization hits that, after fighting this insane clown for two hours, he has been defeated—it makes everything so worth it. I normally have to take a break after this happens to just reset myself and prepare for the next one. I have not yet beat the game, but I am slightly scared of what is to come. It took me 80 deaths to complete the first island of five bosses. I am already at 100 deaths for the second island, and I have only defeated one of the bosses there. That is not including the hundreds of times I have restarted a battle after losing a health point early on. With a third island and a finale left, I know the difficulty is going to ramp up further to extreme levels that I am not sure I can physically beat. I am definitely looking forward to the challenge though.

A review of this game would not be complete without a discussion of its art style. It is a 1930s cartoon in a video game; nothing like it has ever been done in the gaming industry. Every character, background, and animation was hand drawn exactly as it would have been in the 30s—that means 32 drawings for a single animation. Every boss has a multitude of different mechanics and environments, which means that thousands, if not tens of thousands, of images were drawn for this game. Another important aspect of the art is the music of the game. Every piece of music was recorded using a live jazz band which, again, was based on the 1930s sound. This game has been a breath of fresh air for me. The gameplay and art style are so unique, and it does not have a single microtransaction anywhere in it—something I cannot say about many AAA games coming out this year. For only $20, it is a great purchase that I would recommend to anybody who likes an extreme challenge.